

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

January 2016

Overview

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grants were closed in January 2016. Additional information on these projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Colchester	Moroch Property, Colchester	10.21
Town of Sprague	Robinson Property, Franklin & Sprague	125.622

Moroch Property, Colchester
Town of Colchester
Fee Acquisition



This 10.21 acre parcel will be added to the Ruby and Elizabeth Cohen Woodlands Park, a 2001 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant acquisition by the Town that protected 196 acres. The preservation of this parcel enhances the protection of the Deep River headwaters, a significant tributary to the Yantic River, which is part of the Thames River Basin and is vital to the ecosystem of the Dutton and MacDonald Swamps. Cohen Park is open to the public and provides passive recreational activities such as hiking, horseback riding, bike riding, mountain biking, wildlife observation and education, fishing and camping.

Robinson Property, Franklin & Sprague
Town of Sprague
Fee Acquisition



This property, located primarily in Franklin, is adjacent to the 278 acre Mukluk Sportsmen’s Club Property (renamed the Sprague Land Preserve) and the 230 acre Watson Farm, both purchased with OSWA grant funds. This will grow the Sprague Preserve to over 600 acres of contiguous open space. With over a mile of frontage along the Shetucket River, the Sprague Preserve provides public access for fishing, kayaking, birding and other water-related recreation. One of its most impressive natural features is the ridgeline of hemlock and pine that rises high above the banks of the Shetucket River. Its high bluffs along the river valley give rise to two significant waterfalls. The Sprague Land Preserve is an integral part of the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor and the Last Green Valley.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut’s primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State’s system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in January 2016.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

February 2016

Overview

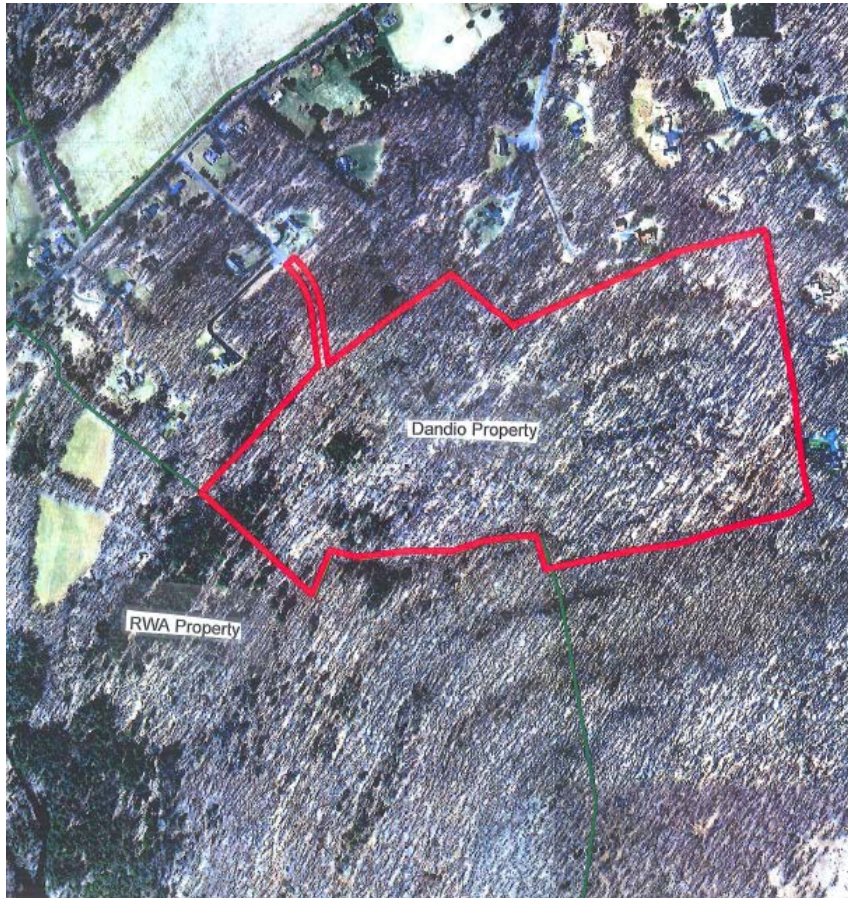
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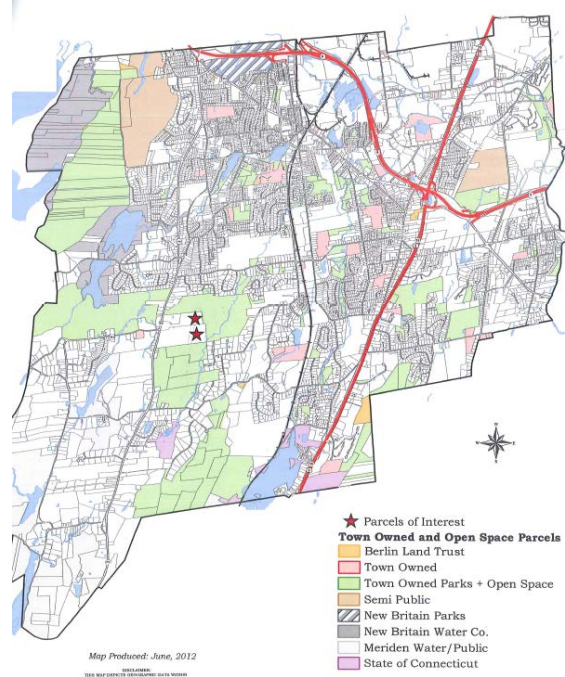
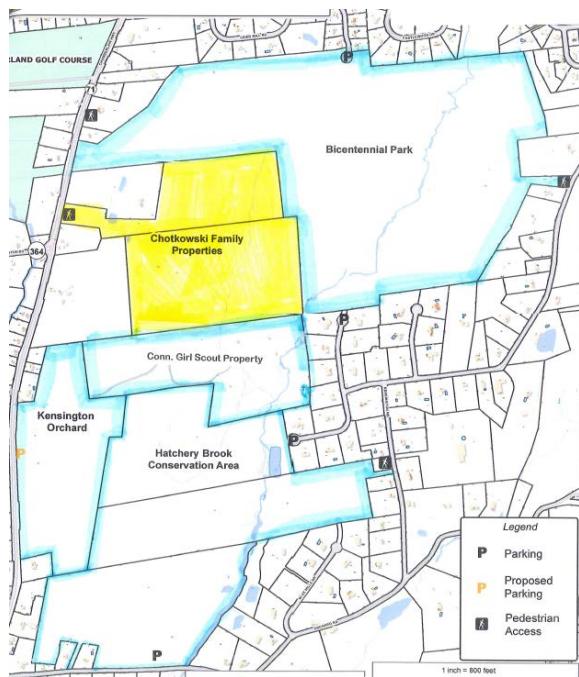
Sponsor	Project	Acres
South Central CT Reg. Water Authority	Dandio Property , Guilford	60.81
Town of Berlin	Chotkowski Property	71.1
Town of Westbrook	Horse Hill Woods Phase II	185.84

Dandio Property, Guilford
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Fee Acquisition



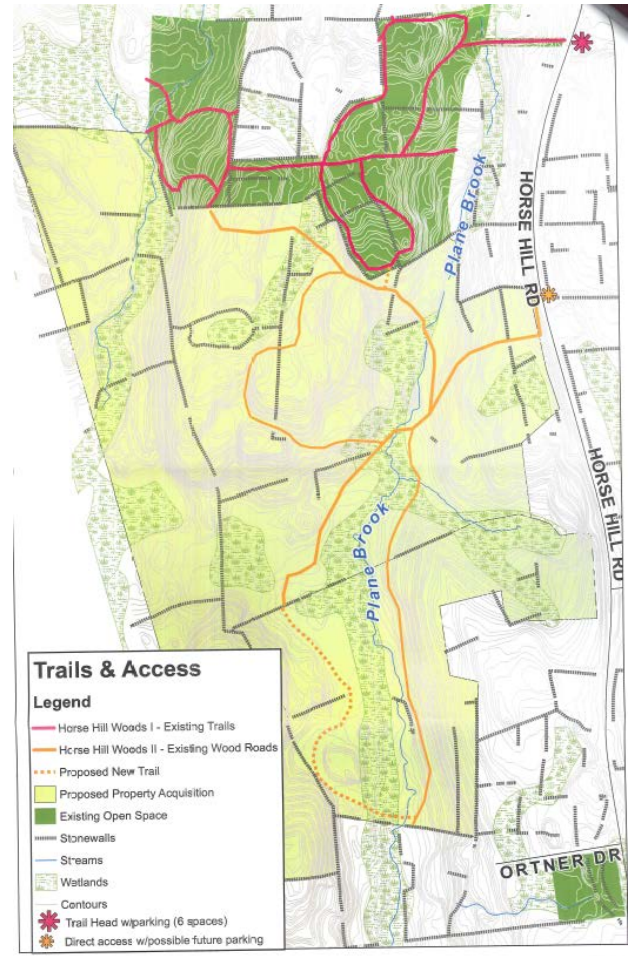
This 60.81 acre parcel borders other RWA watershed land to the south and Guilford Land Trust easements to the north on Great Hill Road in Guilford. Most of the land is within the public water supply watershed of Lake Menunketuc Reservoir. Approximately 36 acres will become Class I land, approximately 23 acres will become Class II land and less than 2 acres is located off the public water supply watershed and will be considered Class III land. Unnamed watercourses and a tributary to Lake Menunketuc flow through this property. The RWA has a very active recreation program and will evaluate this property to determine if recreational uses will be permitted on the property, subject to Department of Public Health approvals.

Chotkowski Property
Town of Berlin
Fee Acquisition



This 71.1 acre property, on the easterly side of the Chamberlain Highway, creates a 488 acre greenway with other Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisitions to the north (Bicenennial Park) and south (Girl Scout Property, Kensington Orchard and Hatchery Brook Conservation Area). This property contains former farmlands including hayfields and orchards and some wooded land. A hiking trail will provide direct access to this parcel and the Town recently approved a new parking lot at Kensington Orchard. The area is already extensively used for hiking, cross country skiing, birding, a community garden and other passive recreation uses. The Town of Berlin, various youth groups and the Connecticut Forest and Park Association have completed extensive restoration, trail blazing and bridge crossing projects, and is creating a new loop trail, which will connect to and become part of the Metacomet Trail, a nationally designated Scenic Trail.

Horse Hill Woods, Phase II
Town of Westbrook
Fee Acquisition



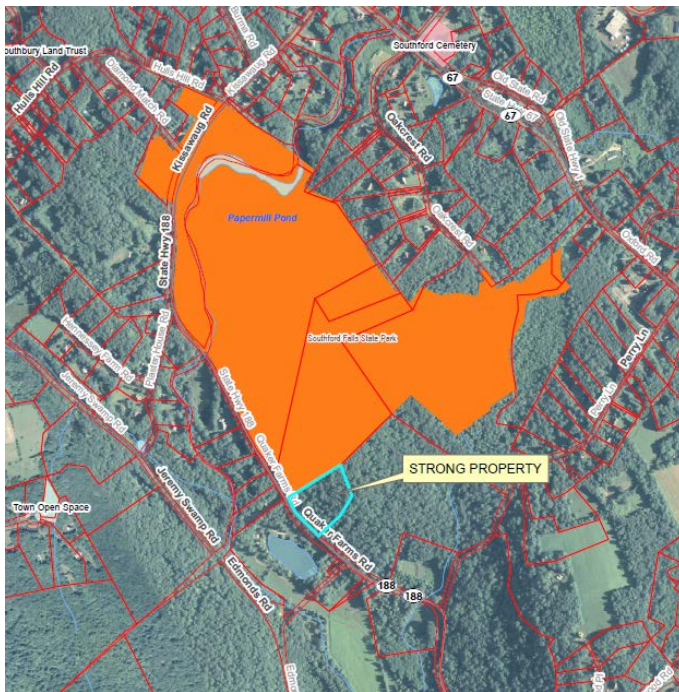
This 185.54 acre acquisition (highlighted yellow above) is located in the State-designated Menunketesuck-Cockaponset Regional Greenway and contiguous to Horse Hill Woods Phase I (highlighted green), a previous Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant. This trail hub, forest and wetland corridor extends further north into other sections of Cockaponset State Forest and east to the State's 421 acre Messerschmidt Pond Wildlife Management Area. Southerly of this acquisition, efforts are on-going to link with Westbrook's 83 acre Chapman Mill Pond Open Space (another OSWA grant) and the State's recently acquired Sciongay property (west side of Chapman Mill Pond, Clinton). This property's forest, wildlife and habitat resource values are high due to its location within a larger, unfragmented forest landscape and two structurally diverse wetland systems. The CT Audubon has determined that protection of these properties, adjacent to the Stewart B. McKinney National Fish and Wildlife Refuge Salt Meadow Unit (Refuge), and the undeveloped corridor between the Refuge & Cockaponset State Forest, ensures that the Refuge will continue to provide important habitat area for Saltmarsh sparrow, a CT threatened species, and protect the integrity of migratory flyways for many species.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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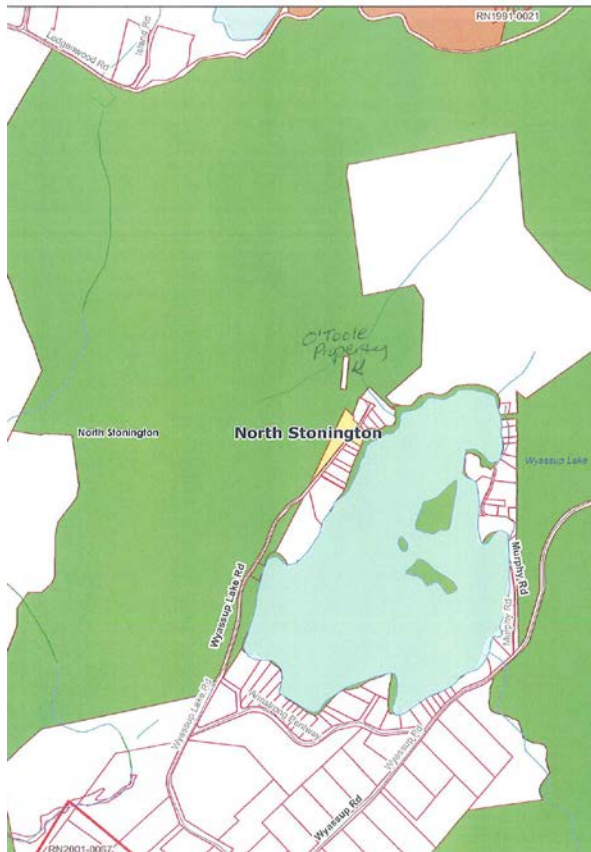
Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Strong	Oxford	--	--	5.62	--	\$0	Addition to Southford Falls State Park
O'Toole	North Stonington	--	--	0.35	--	\$20,000	Inholding Pachaug State Forest
Kennedy	Hamden	--	--	20.057	--	\$44,000	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park

Strong Property Oxford Fee Acquisition



The Strong property consists of 5.62 acres of land located along Quaker Hill Road, Oxford. The property abuts the Southford Falls State Park. The land was generously donated to the State by the Estate of Miriam Strong. The acquisition provides additional access into the southern end of the park, and gives opportunities for hiking, bird watching, and other passive recreational uses.

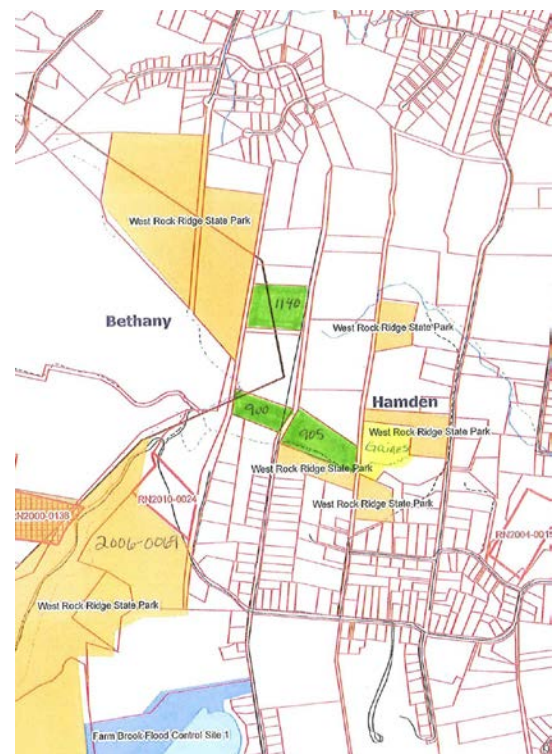
**O'Toole Property
North Stonington
Fee Acquisition**



This 50± by 300± foot parcel had a right of way over Pachaug State Forest for access. The prior owner had an old hunter's cabin which will be demolished. The acquisition eliminates an inholding and right of way over State property.

**Kennedy Property
Hamden
Fee Acquisition**

This acquisition consists of 3 parcels (highlighted green), 900 Hill Street, 905 Hill Street and 1140 Hill Street, totaling 20.057 acres. All three parcels will be added to West Rock Ridge State Park. The Blue Blazed Trail enters the northwesterly corner of 900 Hill Street and runs along the southerly boundary of 905 Hill Street, connecting to the recently acquired Gaines property Conservation Easement donation and additional West Rock Ridge State Park lands to the south and northeast. The Blue Blazed Trail is managed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.



Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

March 2016

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Northern CT Land Trust	Culver Woods, Stafford	113.20

Culver Woods, Stafford
Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc.
Fee Acquisition



This property has historically been used as a woodlot for local farm families and more recently as a source of harvested timber and fuel wood. It abuts Shenipsit State Forest, which is also managed for timber harvests. The NCLT plans to continue the forest management and timber harvest practices. The forested upland has a picturesque small steep valley, a pond and a cold water stream. A parking area will be created on Gilbert Road, providing access to existing wood roads to be maintained as hiking trails, and Rockadundee Brook, a pristine brook with native brook trout, which will be open for fishing. The marsh at the southern end of the property is an excellent site for bird watching. This property protects watershed and a feeder stream for the Scantic River that flows within the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Further, this property provides habitat for species that require large tracts of un-fragmented woodlands, ponds, streams and wetlands.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Cianci	Pomfret	--	--	53.5	--	\$230,000.00	Add to Mashamoquet Brook SP

Cianci Property Pomfret Fee Acquisition



The Cianci property consists of 53.5 acres of land located at 76 Wolf Den Road, Pomfret. The property is an irregular shaped parcel with about 930' of frontage along Wolf Den Road. Three sides of the property are surrounded by Mashamoquet State Park. The property features a flat open field along the road frontage, with light woods in the rear. The Mashamoquet Brook forms the northern boundary. This key acquisition rounds out the boundaries of the park, and gives opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting, and other passive recreational uses.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

April 2016

Overview

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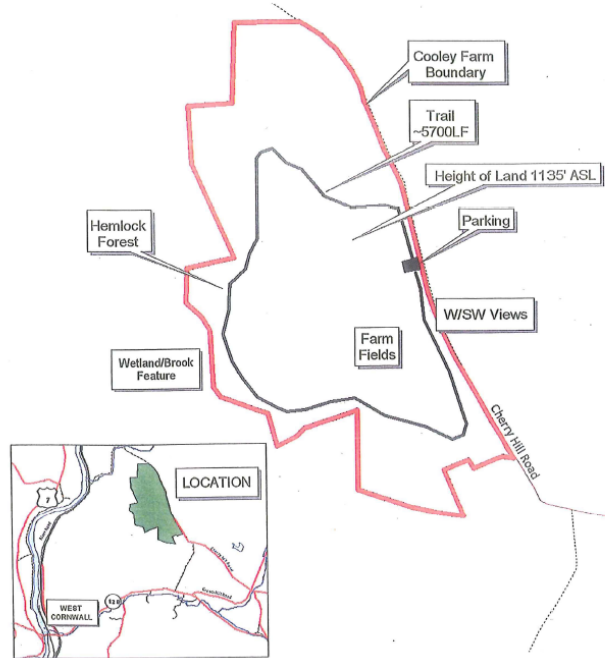
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Burlington	Taine Mountain Preserve II, Burlington	105.0815
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.	Cooley Farm (Easement), Cornwall	83.55
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.	Trinity Camp Project, Cornwall	304.5904

Taine Mountain Preserve II
Town of Burlington
Fee Acquisition



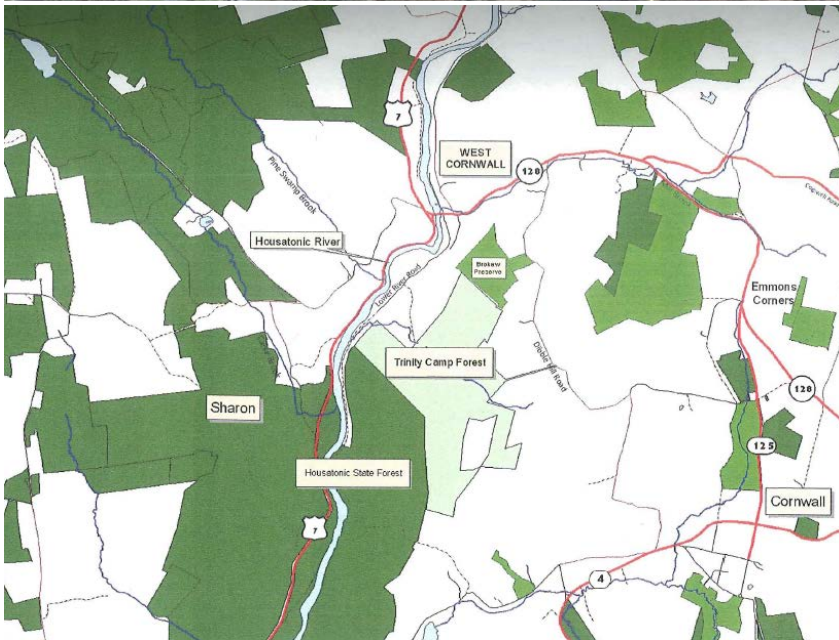
This property compliments the existing 210-acre Taine Mountain Preserve I, owned by The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and the Burlington Land Trust. The property contains trails that connect to Nassahegan State Forest and lead to miles of interconnected trails including the Tunxis Trail and the Blue Trail system. The parcel contains valuable wildlife habitat and the headwaters of Punch Brook, a tributary of Burlington Brook and the Farmington River. The Taine Mountain Preserve and surrounding open space are located within a relatively unfragmented forest block of 7,000 acres that includes state land, water company land and land trust property. It will be open to the public for hiking, exploration and nature study.

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.
Cooley Farm, Cornwall
Easement Acquisition



The Cooley property consists of open hayfields, wooded forests and wetlands providing a varied and high quality habitat for many wildlife species. The property is within the Housatonic River Outer Corridor and part of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Corridor, featuring stone walls and scenic views along a well-traveled tourist corridor to and from the popular covered bridge in West Cornwall. The Cooley Farm contains soils designated as both prime and important farmland. It has important historic value, having been in agricultural use continuously since the mid-18th century. The farm is surrounded on all sides by undeveloped land, much of it actively farmed. Some of these properties are permanently protected and planning is underway to secure conservation easements on much of the remainder. The Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc. partnered with the State of CT DEEP and with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program to preserve this property. A rudimentary trail network already exists but will be improved upon, providing a public access trail for hikers, birders, winter sports and environmental education.

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.
Trinity Camp Project, Cornwall
Fee Acquisition



The 304+ acre Trinity Camp property is located in a rural forest block of the Northeastern Highlands Region, one of the most important conservation areas in CT, encompassing the Appalachian Mountain Range. It is adjacent to the 665 acre Housatonic State Forest, the 47 acre Cornwall Conservation Trust Brokaw Preserve and proximate to numerous land trust protected properties. It is situated in a cirque formed by Mine Mountain to the south, Buck Mountain to the east and Green Mountain to the north. It contains upland forest, two upland wetlands, 8000 LF of streams, ridgeline and outcrop features. The landscape typifies the rural aesthetic of northwestern Connecticut with mountain and valley features, extensive forest cover, wetlands, open fields, working farmland and stone walls. It is situated a mere 150 LF from the main stem of the Housatonic River and rises over 800 vertical feet above it. This acquisition will protect upland wetlands and streams that flow directly into the Housatonic River. Because of its scale and topographic features, the forest block harbors an exceptional array of habitats, community types, rare species and old forest groves. An existing trail network will provide opportunities to connect to the Housatonic State Forest trail network, already attractive to hikers, birders, hunters, brook fishers and winter sports enthusiasts.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Prospect Hill Associates	Colchester	U.S. Fish & Wildlife	100%	108.65	--	\$450,000.00	Add to Meadow Brook WMA

Prospect Hill Associates, LLP Property Colchester Fee Acquisition



The Prospect Hill Associates, LLP property consists of a 108.65 acre parcel of land located on the southwesterly side of Prospect Hill Road, Colchester. The property abuts the new Meadow Brook Wildlife Management Area. Funding was provided by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through a Pittman-Robertson grant. The acquisition of this property provides an opportunity to expand the existing Wildlife Management Area and will enhance both recreational and hunting opportunities in the area.

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May 2016

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in May 2016.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in May 2016.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

June 2016

Overview

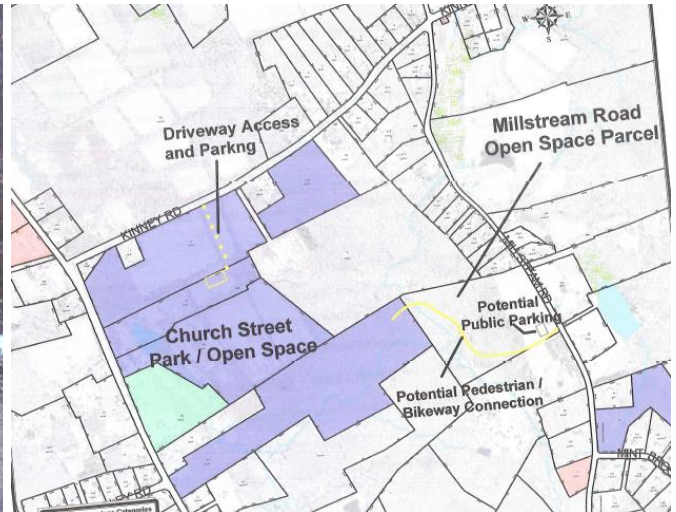
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Hebron	Millstream Road Property	19.0321
South Central Regional Water Authority	Loman Property, Killingworth	64.88
Connecticut Farmland Trust	Gunther Farm, Tolland & Vernon	19.72
Town of Mansfield	Meadowbrook Lane Property	58.198
Guilford Land Conservation Trust	Westwoods North, Guilford	15.20
Town of Glastonbury	Somers Property	24.24

Millstream Road Property
Town of Hebron
Fee Acquisition



This 19+ acre parcel, with 1000 feet of frontage on both sides of Raymond Brook will compliment a 95 acre parcel of Town-owned open space, providing access to the Brook for recreational purposes, hiking along the brook and fishing. Raymond Brook has long been recognized for its native brook trout population and its significant stratified drift aquifer. This subsurface resource protects the downstream Raymond Brook Marsh, a potential future drinking water supply area for the Town and wetland of statewide significance, which eventually merges with the Salmon River. The Town wants to create a bikeway that extends from Main Street through the Church Street and Millstream open space parcels, eventually connecting to the regional Airline Trail. The DEEP Natural Diversity Database identifies the presence of box turtles, a federally listed, threatened species as well as spotted turtles, recognized as a declining species.

Lorman Property, Killingworth
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Fee Acquisition

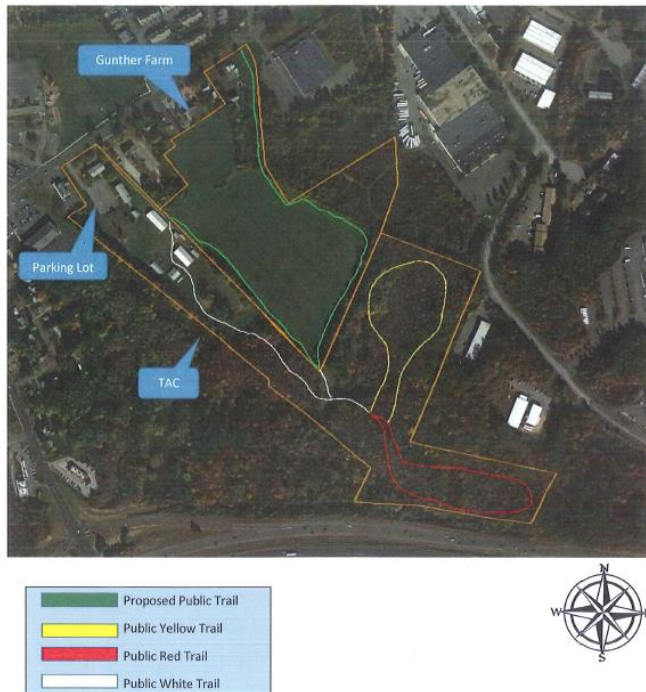


15+/- acres of this parcel will be Class I and 50+/- acres will be Class II Watershed land. This parcel borders Cockaponset State Forest and connects several existing protected parcels. This acquisition will protect streams, wetlands and a large block of wildlife habitat. The significant stream running through this property ultimately flows into Lake Hammonasset, a public water supply reservoir. The RWA will evaluate the property to determine if recreational uses will be permitted subject to Dept. of Public Health approval and it will be managed primarily to ensure the long-term health and viability of this public drinking water supply.

Gunther Farm, Tolland
Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT)
Fee Acquisition

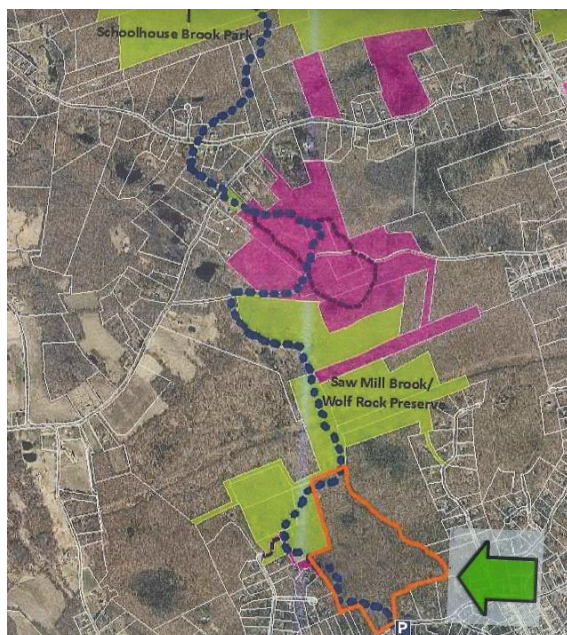
PROPOSED PUBLIC TRAILS

Gunther Farm, Tolland/Vernon



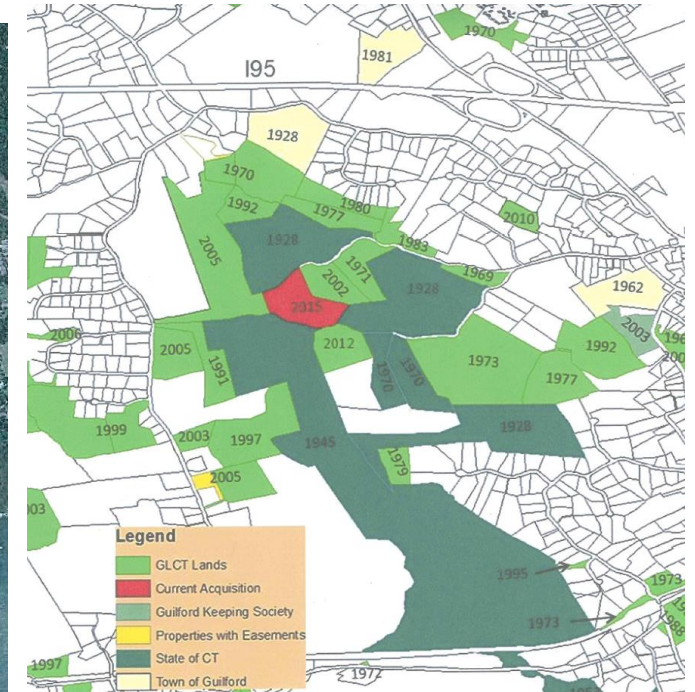
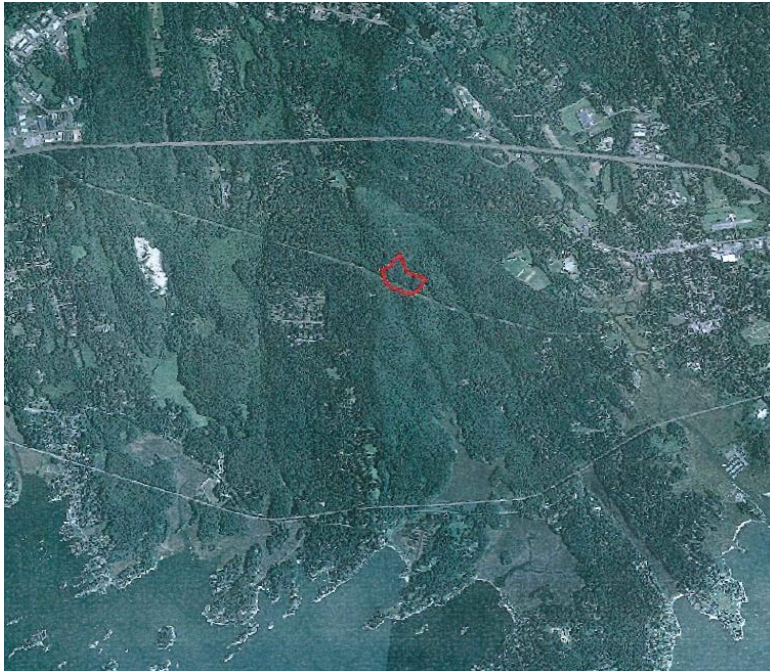
CFT purchased Gunther Farm with funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State of CT DEEP. Once purchased, CFT plans to sell the restricted property to the Tolland County Agricultural Center (TAC), to be managed as part of its 32-acre environmental and agricultural education facility. The property's most valuable natural resources are its grassland, wetlands and flood plain. 92% of the parcel is either prime farmland or statewide important farmland soils. There will be public access trails linked to an extensive network of existing passive recreation trails on the adjacent TAC property.

Meadowbrook Lane Property
Town of Mansfield
Fee Acquisition



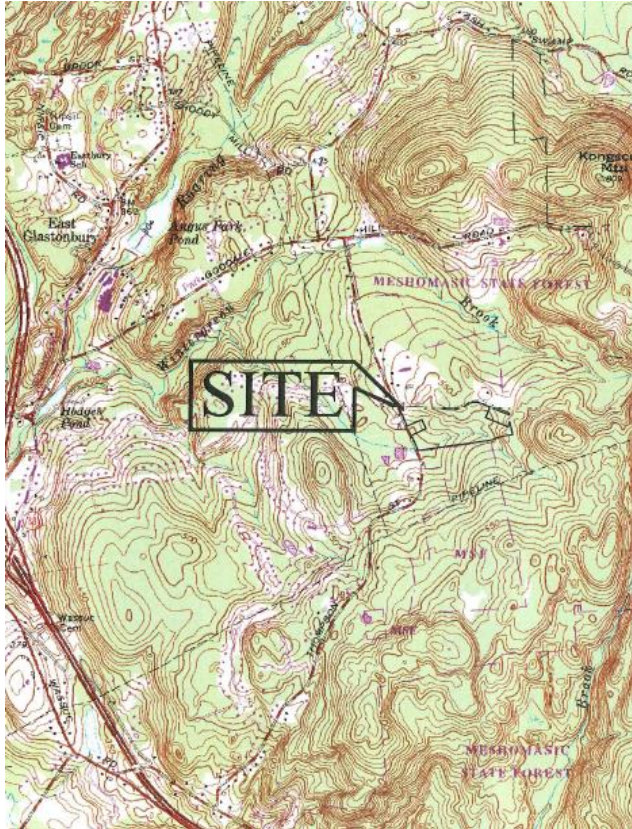
This property includes a 1/2 mile segment of the Nipmuck Trail and completes the protection of a project begun in 2001, to protect the interior forest between Crane Hill Road and Puddin Lane. It connects with the Town of Mansfield's Sawmill Brook Preserve (also purchased with Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant funds) and to Joshua's Trust's Wolf Rock Preserve, abutting 223 acres of town-owned and Joshua's Trust land, much of which is permanently preserved. The Nipmuck Trail is part of the CT Blue Trail State Greenway. This parcel protects valuable forestry, fishing, wildlife habitat and significant recreational and natural resources.

Westwoods North, Guilford
Guilford Land Conservation Trust (GLCT)
Fee Acquisition



Westwoods is an intact forest, adjacent to Cockaponset State Forest, and numerous GLCT and Town-owned and protected parcels. This forest plays an important role as a filter to the water flowing into the marsh complex to which it is connected and into Long Island Sound. The shellfish beds, crabbing, fishing, swimming and boating benefit from the quality of this natural filter. The forest lies within the New York/ Boston I-95 corridor. Westwoods is a large area of darkness at night that benefits migrating birds and nocturnal creatures. The intact, robust natural forest is important for wildlife who require large, interior forest habitat for survival. This 15.2 acre parcel has 4 trails that have been maintained by GLCT with landowner permission for nearly 50 years. The Westwoods trail system is one of the most popular trail systems along Connecticut's shoreline. Permitted uses will include hiking, mountain biking, birding, nature study, geocaching, photography, and picnicking, with horseback riding permitted on one of the trails.

**Somers Property
Town of Glastonbury
Fee Acquisition**



The Somers Property abuts the 32,000+/- acre Meshomasic State Forest to the north, east and south. It will protect a wildlife habitat significantly important to the one of the two largest populations of State-Endangered timber rattlesnake in Connecticut. The existence of a population to the south makes this the only location where populations can interact. This parcel will expand upon Meshomasic State Forest, recognized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a high-ranking special focus area within the Sylvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge for rare species, contiguous habitat, migratory landbird habitat, wetlands and waterbirds. This acquisition also protects a watercourse which flows through the southern section of the property.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

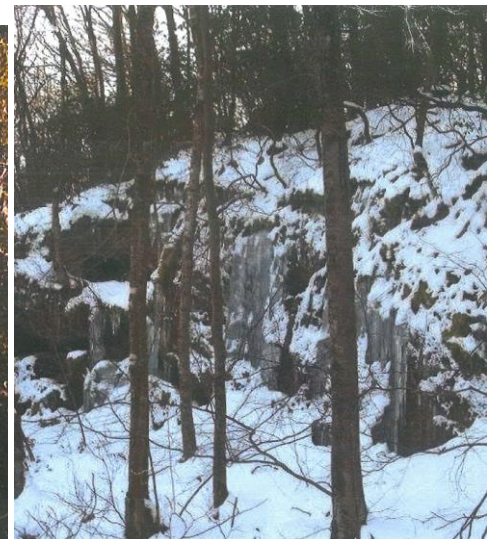
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Kuiaski Estate	Little Fawn & Reisman Trails, Haddam	N/A	N/A	39.75	N/A	\$200,000	Addition to Cockaponset State Forest
Kuzyk	Voluntown	N/A	N/A	15.97	N/A	\$120,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
Del Russo	Portland	N/A	N/A	102.97	N/A	\$590,000	Addition to Meshomasic State Forest

Estate of Constance N. Kuiaski Property

Haddam

Fee Acquisition



This 40+/- acre forest and marshland habitat is rich with wildlife and is an important source of water for wildlife. There are historic rock structures, profound scenery and pre-existing hiking trails which connect to Cockaponset State Park. The property is rich with flora, fauna, vernal pools and wildlife. Twenty-five percent of the property is in the headwaters of and drains into a public water supply area. The acquisition will expand the forest greenway and trail expansion opportunities.

Kuzyk Property
Voluntown
Fee Acquisition



The Kuzyk property consists of 15.97 acres of land located at 127 Bassett Mill Road, Voluntown. The property is a nearly rectangular shaped parcel with about 540' of frontage along the unimproved gravel portion of Bassett Mill Road. Three northern boundary abuts the Pachaug State Forest. The property was being marketed as a residential building site, which would have impacted the access and hunting setbacks within this portion of the forest. Acquisition of this parcel provides better access into the forest and additional opportunities for hiking, hunting, and other passive recreational uses.

Del Russo Property
Portland
Fee Acquisition



The Del Russo property consists of three parcels of land totaling 102.97 acres located off of Isinglass Hill Road, Portland. These key pieces fill in inholdings and reduce boundary maintenance within the Meshomasic State Forest. This area of the forest, along the Portland-Glastonbury town line, is identified as a key habitat for the endangered timber rattlesnake. Acquisition of this property helps improve access into this section of the forest, protects a variety of habitat, protects the watershed of the nearby Portland Reservoir, and provides passive recreational opportunities.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

July 2016

Overview

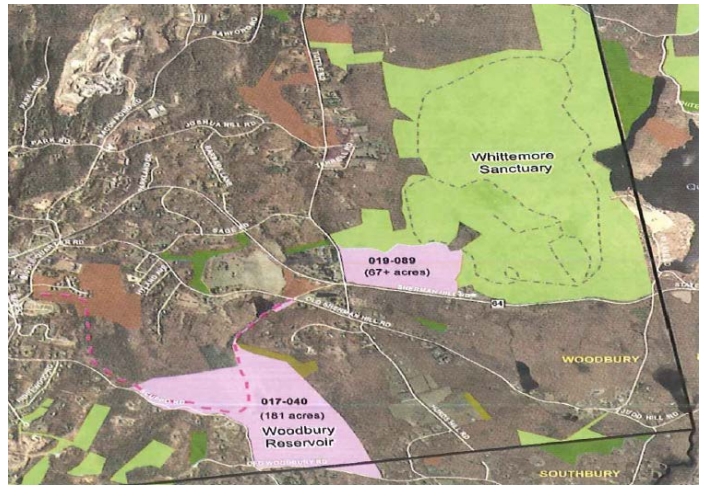
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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut receives a conservation and public access easement on property acquired to ensure that the property will be protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. The following grants were closed in July 2016. Additional information on these projects follows.

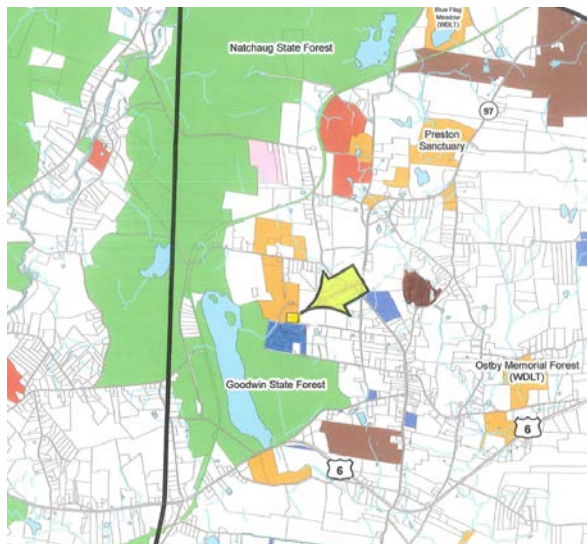
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Woodbury	Aquarian Water Company Land	245.5
Town of Hampton	Edwards Preserve	6.45
Town of East Haddam	Zeleznick Property	19.423
Old Lyme Land Trust, Inc.	106 Four Mile River Road, Old Lyme	40.76

Town of Woodbury
Aquarion Water Company Land
Fee Acquisition



This two parcel acquisition inter-connects other Town-owned open space parcels and trails within the Pomperaug River Greenway. The northerly 67± acre parcel is adjacent to the Whittemore Sanctuary, a 696 acre property with a network of well-marked and maintained trails with year round passive recreation including walking, hiking, wildlife observation, photography, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. The larger, 180± acre southerly parcel contains the 8.5 acre Woodbury Reservoir (disconnected in 1977). It is bisected by the former Trolley Line Trail Bed, which extends to other town-owned open space parcels. Both parcels contain wetlands and watercourses and the larger parcel contains forested uplands, steep slopes, ledges, outcrops and a significant pine stand. Both parcels will expand upon the existing sanctuary and enhance the existing pedestrian-only passive recreational opportunities. Other multi-purpose trails for equestrian and/or biking use and greenways for wetland and wildlife habitat protection may also be created.

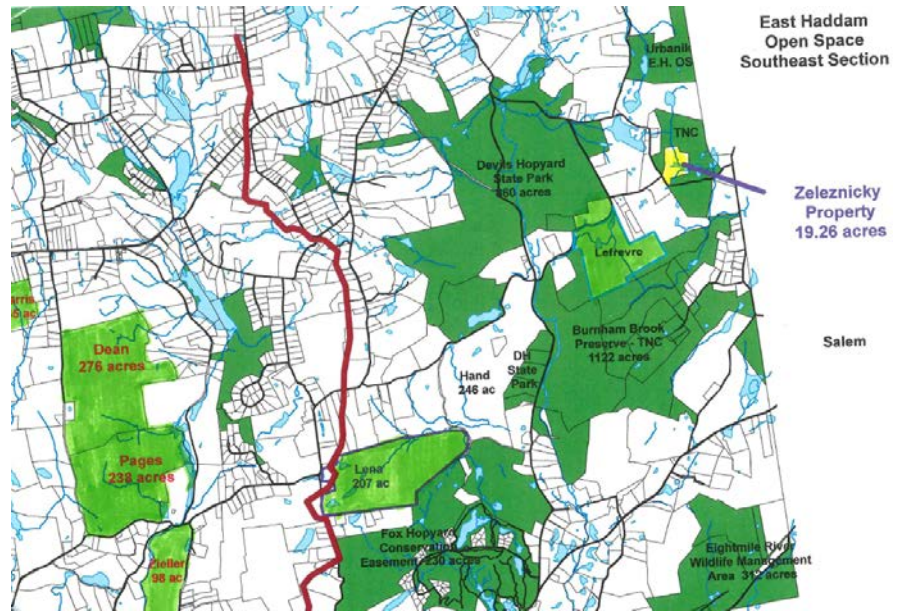
Edwards Preserve
Town of Hampton
Fee Acquisition



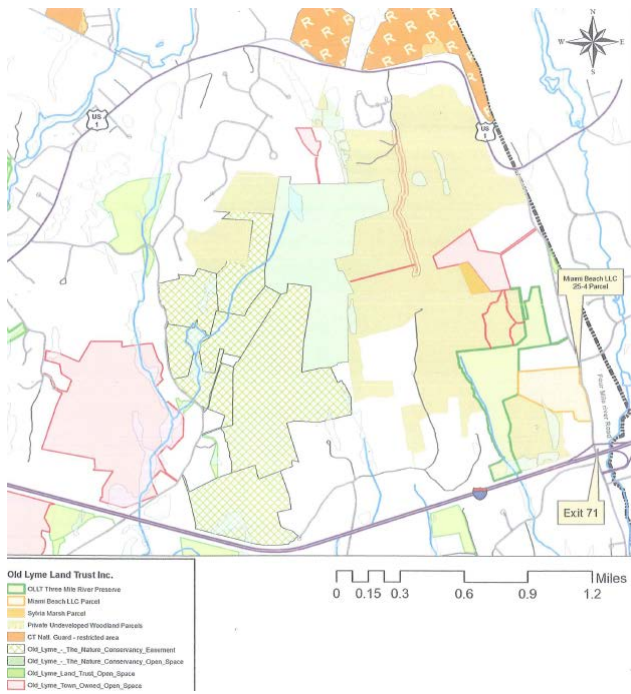
This parcel abuts a 50.8 acre tract purchased by the Town in 2013 with the support of a DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grant. It is adjacent to existing protected open space and will be contiguous with the James L. Goodwin State Forest. The parcel is mostly wooded and is ideal for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, birding, picnicking and landscape viewing. It is located on a discontinued road which can now be used as another pedestrian, bicycle and horse access point to the Goodwin State Forest trail system.

Zeleznick Property
Town of East Haddam
Fee Acquisition

This property is surrounded on three sides by The Nature Conservancy's Burnham Brook Preserve and contains 1,000 feet of Burnham Brook frontage on both sides. Burnham Brook is an important tributary to the Eightmile River. The parcel is forested and its protection will add to the large network of conserved properties in this area which together, contribute to the overall health and integrity of this Wild and Scenic River.



106 Four Mile River Road, Old Lyme
Old Lyme Land Trust (OLLT)
Fee Acquisition



For years, the OLLT has purchased parcels in this wildest and most undeveloped part of town, to protect the headwaters of the Three Mile River, an important feeder brook to Rogers Lake. Over several years they purchased parcels and this acquisition increases the size of this wooded watershed, now referred to as the Upper Three Mile River Preserve, to 147 acres. The property provides significant road frontage, enabling much needed public access to the Preserve. One of the OLLT goals is to create a town-wide system of walking trails. This parcel is an important link for this initiative, providing a trailhead in this southeast section of town, which will eventually connect to the center of Old Lyme with approximately 5 miles of trail.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes. The following acquisitions were closed in July 2016. Additional information on these projects follows.

Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Soltes	Cornwall	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	50%	55.65	-	\$250,000	Add to Wyntenok State Forest
Zachem	Ledyard	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	75%	54.24	-	\$300,000	Add to Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area

Soltes Property

Town of Cornwall

Fee Acquisition



The Soltes property consists of 55.65 acres of land located off of Dark Entry Road, Cornwall. The land is near the top of the road, just beyond the intersections of Route 4 and Route 7, and will be added to the Wyantenock State Forest. One of Connecticut's Blue Blazed trails runs up Dark Entry Road into the forest. Acquisition of this property helps protect the trail and provides habitat protection for birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and other wildlife. Fifty percent of the funding for this acquisition was through a Highlands Conservation Act grant administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**Zachem Property
Town of Ledyard
Fee Acquisition**



The Zachem property consists of 54.24 acres of land located at 61 Mathewson Mill Road, Ledyard. The property abuts the Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area. It's a generally rectangular shaped parcel with nearly a half mile of frontage on both Mathewson Mill Road and Rose Hill Road. The land is a mixture of forest and fields, and the acquisition will provide additional passive recreational uses including hiking, hunting and bird watching. Seventy-five percent of the funding was through a Pittman-Robertson grant administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

August 2016

Overview

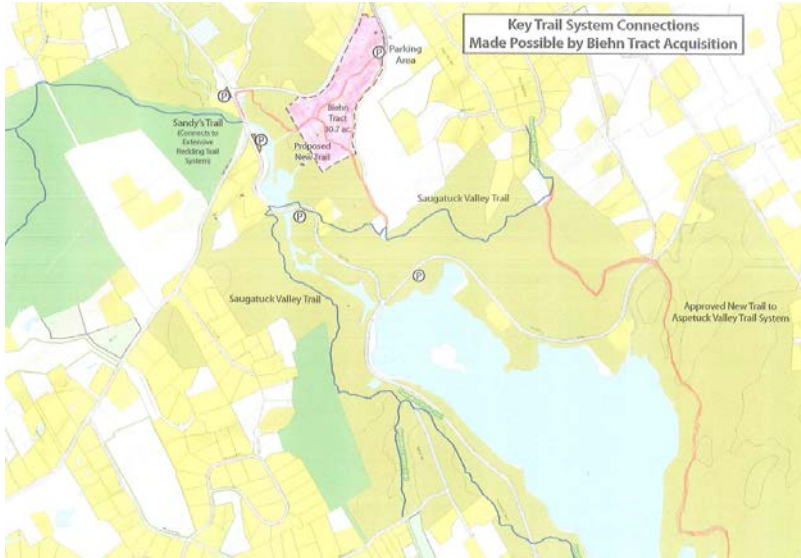
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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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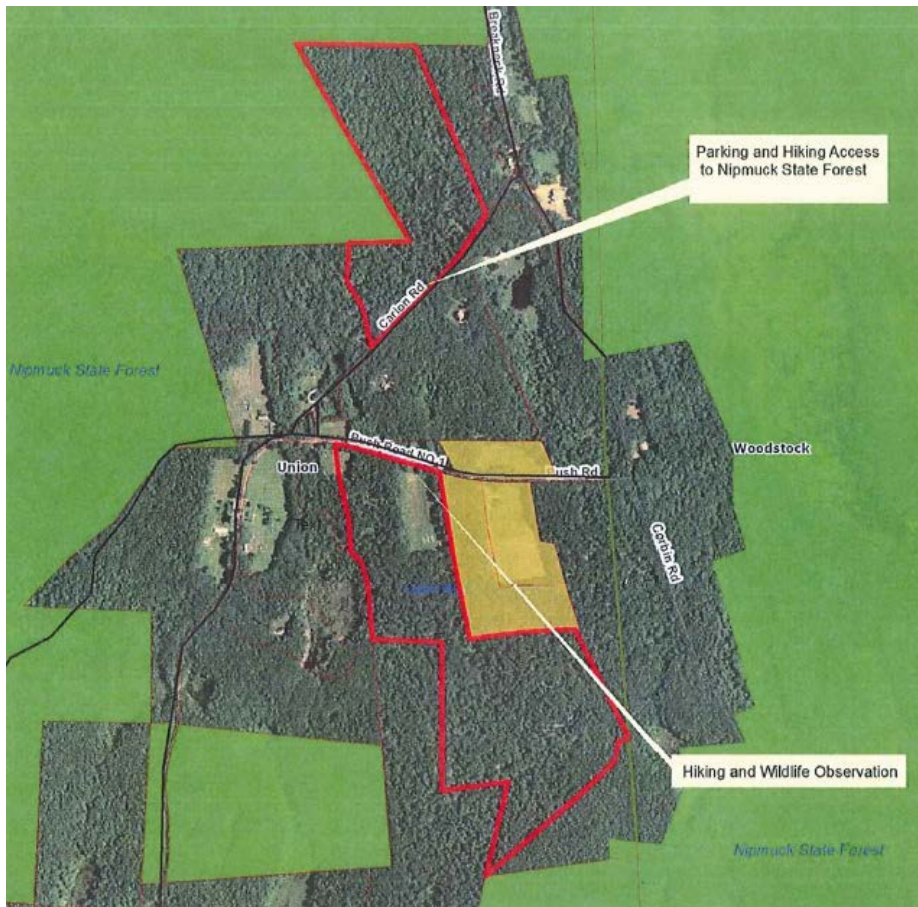
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Redding & Redding Land Trust, Inc.	Biehn Property, Redding	34.704
The New Roxbury Land Trust, Inc.	Manchester Property, Union	83.937

Town of Redding & Redding Land Trust, Inc.
Biehn Property, Redding
Fee Acquisition



The Town of Redding, the Redding Land Trust, Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State of Connecticut DEEP all participated in the funding of this acquisition, which protects and complements existing open space and Class I Watershed within the Centennial Watershed State Forest. It provides a valuable resource for passive recreation and links the Redding Trail System in the western Saugatuck Valley with those to the east, getting closer to the eastern Aspetuck Valley area trails and Huntington Park. This purchase protects the water supply, wildlife habitat and natural resources. The property contains three streams which are tributaries to the Saugatuck Reservoir, a ridgeline, inland wetlands and areas having slopes greater than 20%.

**The New Roxbury Land Trust, Inc.
Manchester Property, Union
Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition consists of two tracts abutting the Nipmuck State Forest. The northerly tract contains 30.912 acres of forest and the southerly tract contains 53.025 acres of mixed hardwood forest and a hayfield. This acquisition protects the high quality water and habitat of the Still River, Natchaug River and Quinebaug River Basins. It preserves the rural and forested landscape and helps sustain and buffer the healthy forest systems of the Nipmuck and Natchaug State Forests, the Yale-Myers Forest and privately owned working forests in northeastern Connecticut. These parcels maintain habitat connectivity and provide critical intact riparian and wildlife corridors.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program acquires land that represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and their natural areas, in order to ensure the conservation of such land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in August 2016.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

September 2016

Overview

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in September 2016.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in September 2016.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

October 2016

Overview

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Hamden	100 Brooksvale Ave Rear, Hamden	15.415
Town of East Haddam	Lena Property, East Haddam	209.269
N.E. Forestry Foundation	Gurley Brook Preserve, East Lyme	166.2
Goshen Land Trust, Inc.	Fisher Property, Goshen	127.33

Town of Hamden

100 Brooksvale Avenue Rear, Hamden

Fee Acquisition

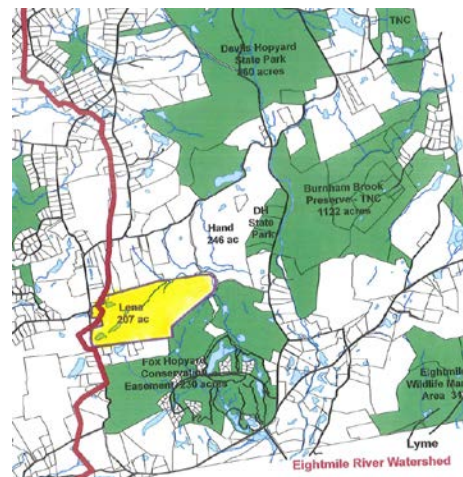


This property is a welcome addition to the Town's largest park, Brooksvale Park, adjacent to Naugatuck State Forest, linking existing park and open space together and forming an interconnected greenway. Brooksvale Park is one of the most heavily used parks in Hamden for recreational hiking and wildlife observation. Each year, all Hamden elementary 4th grade students visit the park to learn about the local environment. This acquisition protects surrounding natural drainage areas, waterways, wetlands, floodplains and potential public drinking and groundwater supplies.

Town of East Haddam

Lena Property, East Haddam

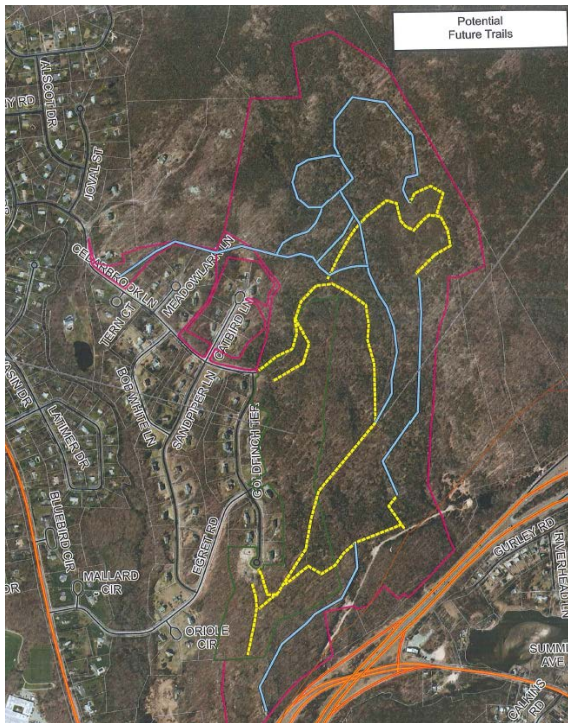
Fee Acquisition



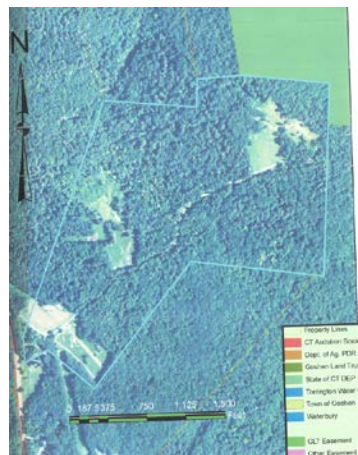
This parcel adds to the Federally-designated Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Watershed. The watershed has 80% forest cover and is part of a green belt running from Hamburg Cove in Lyme, through the Eight Mile River watershed, to the Salmon River Watershed in Colchester. The Devils Hopyard State Park (1,000 acres) is to the north, Burnham Brook Preserve (1166 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy) a 230 acre golf course (protected by a conservation easement) is to the south. The forested land has small streams, wetlands and vernal pools that feed the Eightmile River, a cold water stream that supports native brook trout. The area has been designated a Key Bird Habitat and a major forest block by the Connecticut Audubon Society. This parcel has been actively forested in the past and will continue to be a productive forest area once preserved.

**New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
Gurley Brook Preserve, East Lyme
Fee Acquisition**

This forested parcel, containing Gurley Brook, is located in the Niantic River watershed at the head waters of, and overlooking the Niantic River. It is within a contiguous forest block and greenway with unique geologic features, cultural and historic value. This acquisition will promote active and passive recreation opportunities such as fishing, hiking, show shoeing, geo-caching, hunting and birdwatching, and scientific study and education of trees, plants, animals, birds, fish and other wildlife.



**Goshen Land Trust, Inc.
Fisher Property, Goshen
Fee Acquisition**



This is a pastoral, forested parcel which slopes upward from the access on Route 63 to a summit at the rear. It contains shrub land and grassland ecosystems housing vulnerable species, riverbed and swamps in the heart of the parcel. It lies in the watershed of the Hollenbeck River which flows through the Hollenbeck Preserve and Robbins Swamp and abuts DEEP's 860 acre North Goshen Wildlife Management Area which has about 50 acres specially cleared for a New England Cottontail Rabbit habitat. The aesthetic value of the property includes a stunning view of the Berkshires to the north. It will provide recreational opportunities, protect wildlife habitat and preserve ridgelines, summits and watersheds. Goshen Land Trust has plans to use an existing farm road to create handicapped access to this overlook.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Newtown Fish & Game Club, Inc.	Canaan	U.S. Fish & Wildlife	100%	85.53	--	\$315,000.00	Addition to Robbins Swamp WMA

Newtown Fish & Game Club Property

Town of Canaan

Fee Acquisition



The Newtown Fish & Game Club, Inc. property consists of 85.53 acres of land located at the intersection of Routes 7 & 63 in the town of Canaan. The land will be added to the Robbins Swamp Wildlife Management Area. The property consists largely of open fields, with the meandering Hollenbeck River forming the northeast boundary. Acquisition of this property will provide additional passive recreation and hunting opportunities. Funding for this acquisition was through a Pittman-Robertson grant administered by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

November 2016

Overview

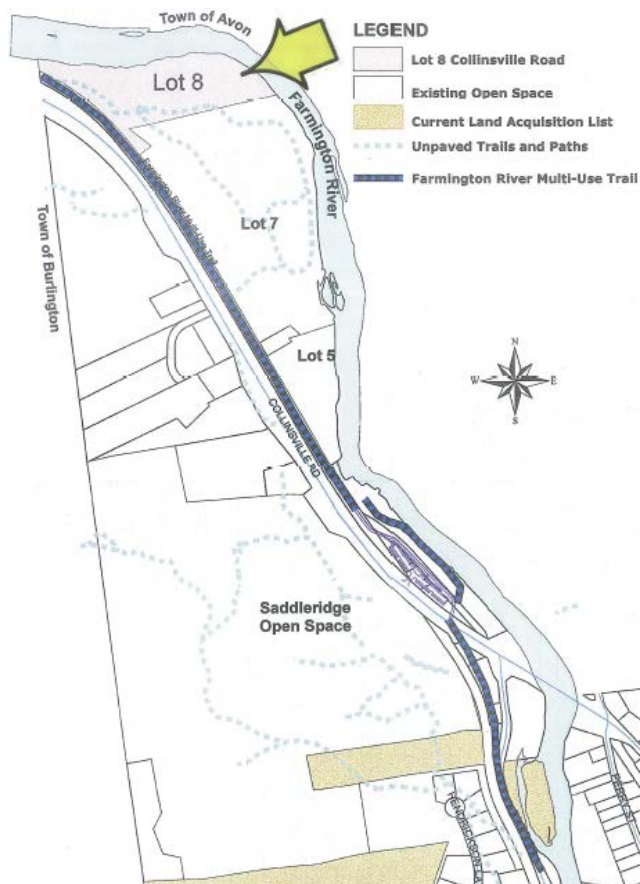
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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Farmington	Lot 8, Collinsville Road	11.00
Town of Southington	1081 East Street	17.61

**Town of Farmington
 Lot 8 Collinsville Road
 Fee Acquisition**

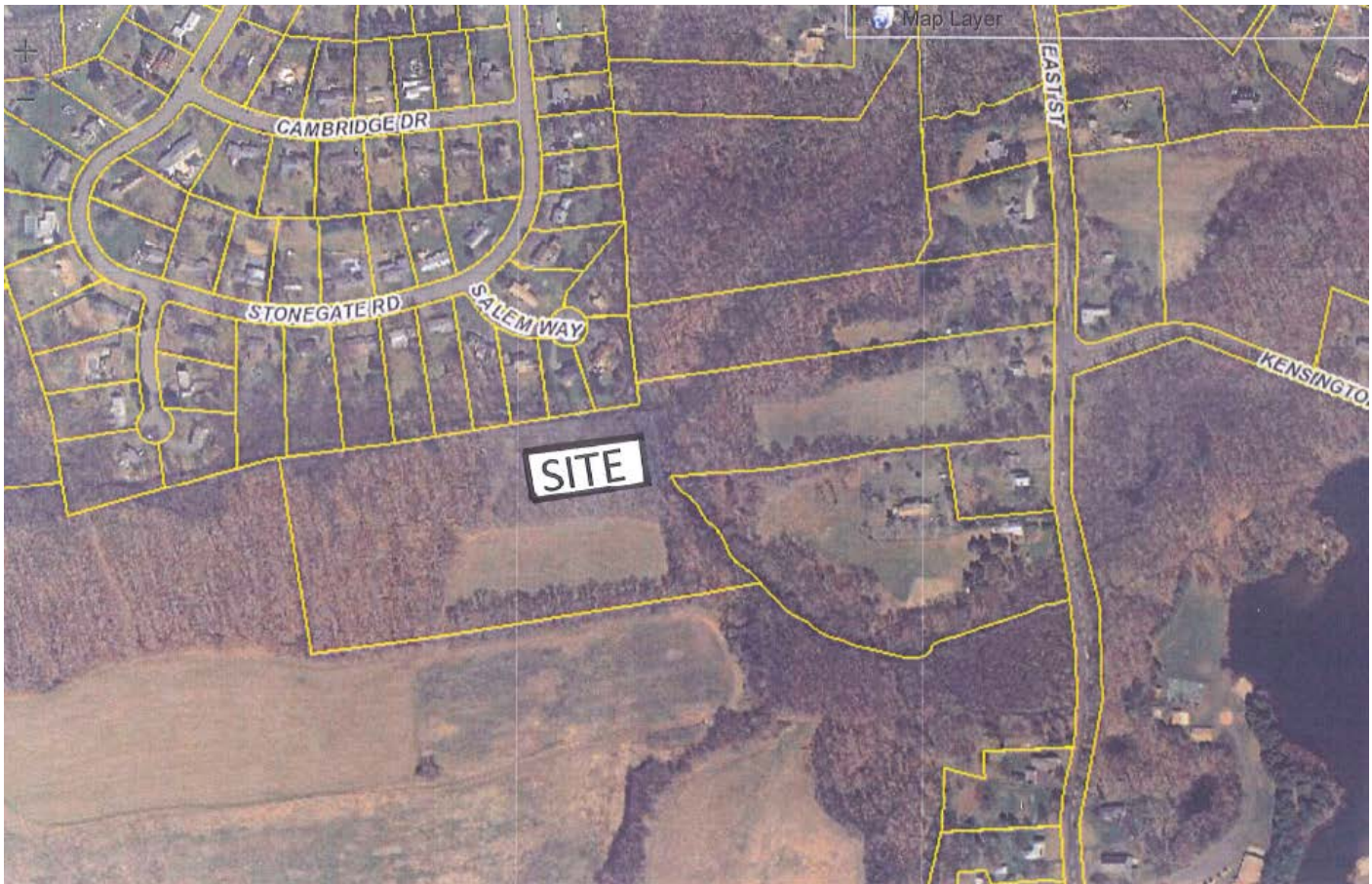


This property, with 2,200+/- feet of frontage on the Farmington River, is adjacent to the Farmington River Multi-Use Trail. It is a critical forested floodplain habitat, filtering pollution from storm water runoff, preventing soil erosion and sedimentation along a riparian corridor. This acquisition contributes to an existing greenway, protecting and complementing existing preserved open space. The multi-use trail provides passive recreational activities such as walking, running, biking and roller-blading and several trails provide access to the Farmington River for fishing, canoeing/kayaking and bird watching. The Farmington River is being considered for designation as a National Wild & Scenic River. It is an excellent location for nature study, particularly birding, as the wooded floodplain provides shelter for many nesting birds. The forested floodplain habitat is suitable for a number of species listed by DEEP as Endangered, Threatened or Species of Special Concern. Year round sightings include mergansers, red-tailed hawks, osprey and bald eagles among others, with occasional glimpses of migrating warblers and waterfowl in the spring and fall.

**Town of Southington
1081 East Street
Fee Acquisition**



This 17.61 acre parcel in the eastern section of Southington contains a tributary of Misery Brook and two 4-acre fields. A forested wetland straddles the brook and nearly the entire property lies within a State Listed Significant Natural Community. The site is listed as part of an Aquifer Protection District and a "GAA" groundwater designation indicating its current use as a drinking water supply aquifer. The Town and local farmers will continue to hay the fields. The site is easily accessible with ample room for off-street parking. A trail throughout the parcel and the open areas are well suited for passive recreation and the brook flowing through the site offers fishing, wildlife observation and bird watching opportunities.



Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in November 2016.

Open Space Report to the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee and the State Bond Commission

December 2016

Overview

Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond Commission each month. The report provides information on the acquisition of land or interests in land by the state, a municipality, water company or nonprofit organization using funds authorized for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program established under Sections 23-73 to 23-79 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Acreage	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Gray	North Stonington	--	--	15.16	--	\$100,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
White	Stonington & North Stonington	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$396,000	30.79	--	--	Addition to Assekong Swamp Wildlife Management Area

**Gray Property
North Stonington
Fee Acquisition**



The Gray property consists of 15.16 acres of land located at 637 Pendleton Hill Road, North Stonington. The property was split off from the main home and will be added to the abutting Pachaug State Forest. The Gray family had previously sold 49 acres to the State in 2003 to expand the forest. The acquisition provides opportunities for hiking, hunting, and other passive recreational uses in the area.

**White Property
Stonington & North Stonington
Fee Acquisition**



The White property consists of 30.79 acres of land located near the intersection of Route 184 and Jeremy Hill Road on the Stonington/North Stonington border. The property provides a new access point to the western part of the Assekonk Swamp Wildlife Management Area. A long dirt driveway extends to the center of the property where a residential home and outbuildings were located. The sellers demolished the structures prior to the sale with the exception of the home, which will soon be dismantled, removed, and repurposed. The property was acquired with funding by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through a Pittman-Robertson grant. The acquisition provides additional opportunities for hiking, hunting, and other passive recreational uses in the area.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in December, 2016.