

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

January 2019

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.

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in January 2019.

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 2019.

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

February 2019

Overview

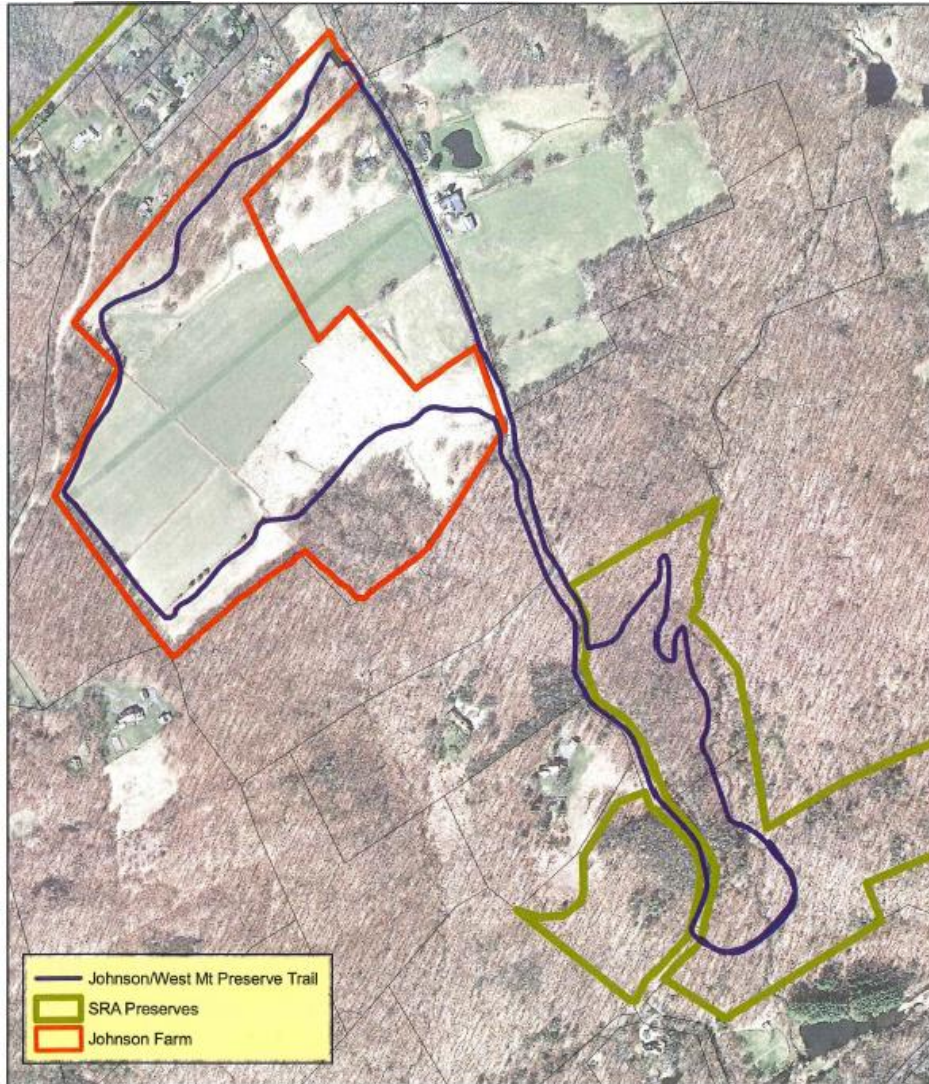
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres
Steep Rock Association, Inc.	Johnson Farm	Washington	51.63

Steep Rock Association, Inc.
Johnson Farm
West Mountain Road, Washington
51.63 Acres Fee Acquisition



Located on a Town-designated scenic roadway, the Johnson Farm has over 35 acres of open field, 10 acres of forestland, and some inland wetlands that drain to Sprain Brook. The fields are managed by a third-generation farmer who grows hay and raises grass-fed beef, providing some available habitat for birds that nest in pastureland and late-cut fields. The Johnson Farm is within walking distance from another Steep Rock Association property, the West Mountain Preserve, expanding hiking trails and open space connectivity in the Washington area.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

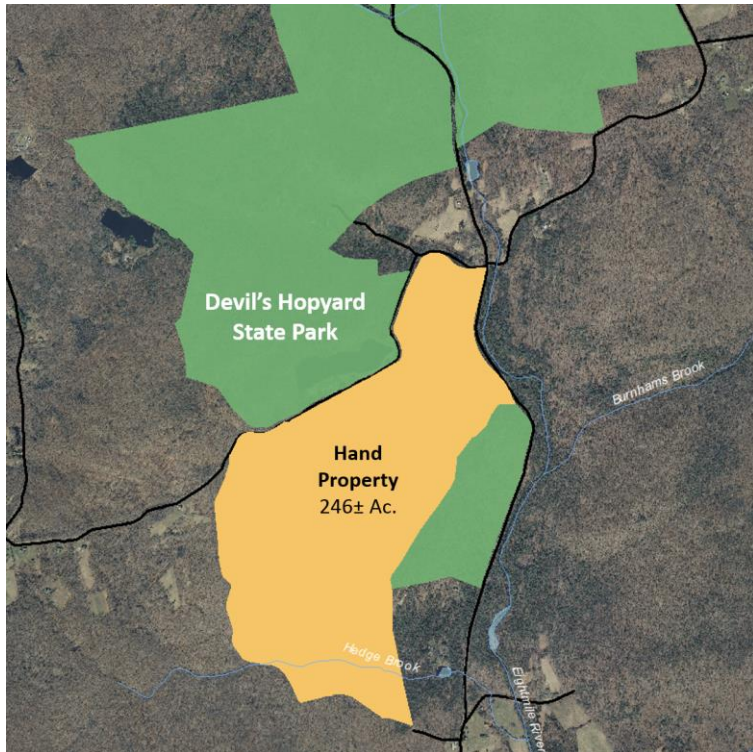
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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Hand	East Haddam	NPS Land & Water Conservation Fund	\$517,500	\$517,500	246.83	Addition to Devil's Hopyard State Park
McTier & Ruyl	Haddam	McTier & Ruyl	\$45,120 *	\$0	24.63	Donated addition to Higganum Reservoir State Park

*approximate fair market value of donated property

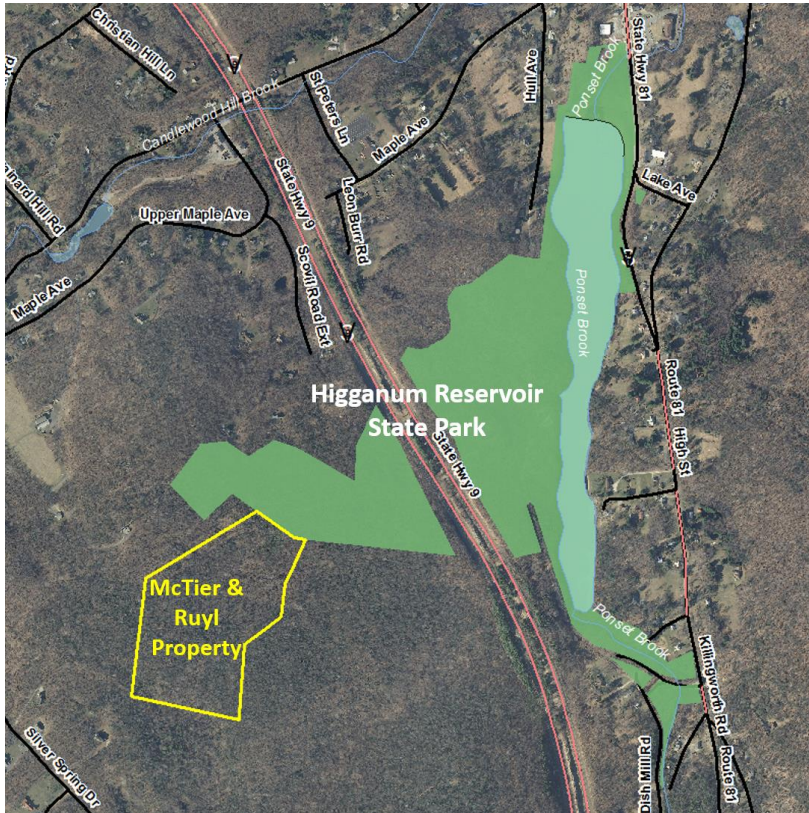
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**Hand Property, East Haddam
Devil's Hopyard State Park
Mitchell, Babcock, and Devil's Hopyard Roads
246.83 Acre Fee Acquisition**



The Hand property is located within the federally-recognized Eight Mile River Wild & Scenic Watershed. It abuts several other existing protected open space properties including Devil's Hopyard State Park (east and northwest), The Nature Conservancy's Burnham-Brook Preserve, and the Town of East Haddam's Lena Property. The property can be accessed by an old cart path on Mitchell Road. The cart path meanders past a sizeable vernal pool, across pastureland, through barways, and along stone walls leading to a scenic lookout. The summit is an outcrop of metamorphic bedrock that faces southeast, affording views of the Eight Mile River valley. Hedge Brook traverses the westerly and southerly sections of the property, feeding into the Eight Mile River. This property features multiple natural resource values and outdoor recreational uses, such as hiking, hunting, wildlife viewing, fishing, and more. The National Park Service, Land & Water Conservation Fund contributed 50 percent towards the total acquisition fair market sale price.

McTier & Ruyl Property
Maple Avenue (rear), Haddam
Higganum Reservoir State Park
24.63 Acre Fee Acquisition



The McTier and Ruyl donation is part of a large, unbroken block of forestland in Haddam. Its acquisition and addition to DEEP's State Park and open space system helps to further protect the Ponset Brook and Higganum Reservoir watershed, expand public outdoor recreational opportunities, and secure suitable habitat for endangered, threatened, or special concern turtle, forest bird, and tree-roosting bat species.

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

March 2019

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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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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres
Essex Land Trust	Doane Property	Essex and Deep River	18.60

**Essex Land Trust
Doane Property
10 Oxbow Lane, Essex
18.60 Acres Fee Acquisition**



The Doane Property is located along a ridgeline overlooking the Connecticut River and serves to connect three existing protected parcels held by the Essex Land Trust and Deep River Land Trust, totaling a more than 50-acre open space corridor for the area. The property hosts several habitats and land cover types including open meadows, cedar grove and upland forest, seepage wetland forest, and a beaver pond. It includes the headwaters of three small watersheds which drain to three distinct portions of the Connecticut River. The Essex Land Trust is planning new trails to connect with nearby existing ones and conducting a variety of nature-related programs and walks on the property.



Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions in March 2019.

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

April 2019

Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.	Matland/Tarradiddle Property	Cornwall	72.00
Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc.	Deer Hill Property	Colebrook	74.105

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.
Matland/Tarradiddle Property
72.00 Acre Fee Acquisition

This forested parcel on the southern slope of Tarradiddle Mountain overlooks the village of West Cornwall, the town historic covered bridge, and the Housatonic River. It contains a diversity of natural land covers including upland forest, old pastureland, outcrop ledge, and springs and streams that feed into the river. The property is easily accessible with frontage on the Sharon Goshen Turnpike (Route 128) and serves as a valuable resource for the protection of passive public recreation, watershed quality, and intact forestland. It also serves to further connect over 730 acres of existing protected open space, including the Trinity Forest and Cooley Farm Preserves (both being previously protected with aid from State Open Space Grant awards). The Cornwall Conservation Trust plans to link a recreational trail from the center of West Cornwall to the property's scenic overlook. Additional funding for this acquisition was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands Conservation Act grant program.



Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc.

Deer Hill Property

74.105 Acre Fee Acquisition



This mountainous, ridgeline property boasts intact forestland, steep slopes and ravine habitat, a large wetland complex, and three upland springs and their associated headwater brooks. Located across from other Colebrook Land Conservancy preserves, it creates 120 acres of wildlife corridor affording adequate range, seclusion, and food resources for deer, coyote, turkey, porcupine, fox, raccoon, fisher, bobcat, and sometimes black bears. Acquisition of this land will further protect lands located within the regional Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor and the Farmington River Watershed. The Conservancy plans to establish a small dirt public parking area and trailhead on Deer Hill Road for access to hiking, cross country skiing, and wildlife viewing. Additional funding for this acquisition was provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands Conservation Act grant program.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions in April 2019.

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

May 2019

Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc.	Belknap Property	Weston	27.837 ac. - Fee Simple 10.5 ac. - Conservation Easement

Aspetuck Land Trust
Belknap Property
11 Wampum Hill Road, Weston
27.837 ac. Fee Simple
10.5 ac. - Conservation Easement



This property was added to Aspetuck Land Trust's (ALT) Honey Hill Preserve, expanding a 2,600 acre assemblage of protected open space held together by ALT, Wilton Land Conservation Trust, The Nature Conservancy, the Towns of Weston and Wilton, and the Aquarion Water Company of Connecticut. ALT will create a public hiking trail on the property as a link to the Norwalk River Valley Trail in Wilton and Collis B. Huntington State Park in Redding. The trail will utilize existing trails wherever possible, such as the Blue Blazed Hiking Trail system across portions of the Centennial Watershed State Forest. The property is mostly forested with inland wetlands and high-quality ground water resources. Its acquisition serves as a riparian land buffer to the West Branch Saugatuck River and will help to protect clean, cold water resources, river fish and wildlife, and documented species of conservation concern.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Fracchia (Phase I)	Hebron	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pittman-Robertson Act	\$520,000	\$0	104.88	Addition to Meshomasic State Forest or Gay City State Park

Fracchia Property – Phase I
North Road (Route 85), Hebron
Addition to Meshomasic State Forest or Gay City State Park
104.88 acre Fee Acquisition



This property features about 15 acres of open field having frontage on Route 85 in Hebron, with the remaining 90 acres being wooded forestland. From the roadside, it slopes gently down to a brook which flows through the center, from north to south, then the terrain rises to two knolls. DEEP is currently in the process of acquiring an additional 189 acres across the street, which will add a large expansion to the already-existing public fishing, hunting, and other passive recreational opportunities available at Meshomasic State Forest and Gay City State Park.

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June 2019

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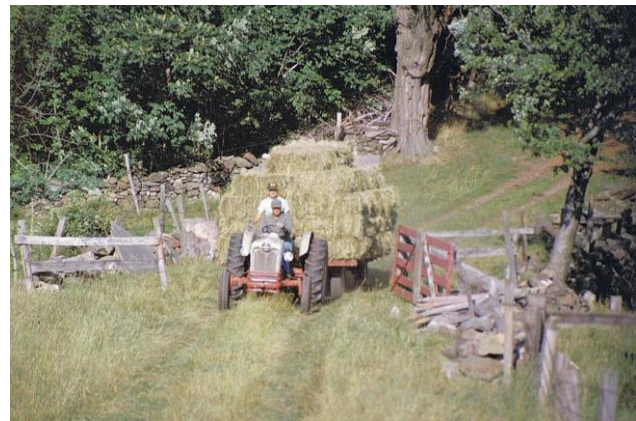
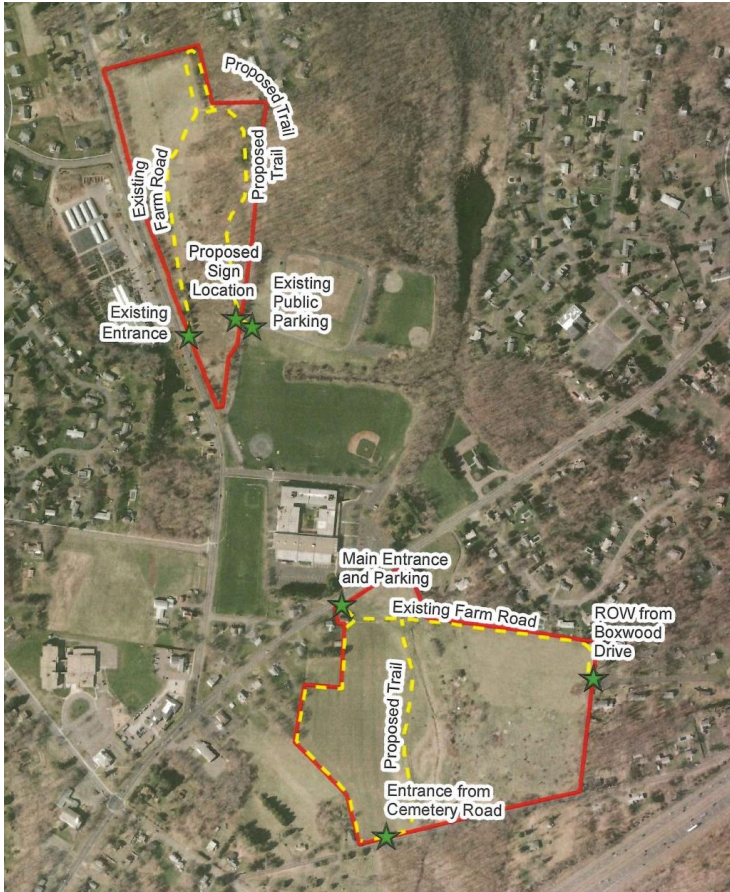
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc.	Strong Family Farm	Vernon	48.32 ac.

Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc.
Strong Family Farm
West Street, Route 30 & Cemetery Road, Vernon
48.32 Acres Acquisition



Photos Courtesy of Jon Roe

This acquisition was a cooperative effort between DEEP and the Connecticut Farmland Trust (CFT), with funding assistance from the US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. The northern, 17.5-acre parcel has parking available on the east side of West Street, next to Vernon Center Middle School's athletic field, disc golf course, community gardens, and sledding hill. A new walking trail expands upon the Town's recreational area. The southern, 30.7-acre parcel is less than 1 mile from DEEP's popular Belding Wildlife Management Area. This parcel's parking is on Route 30 and its walking trails can be accessed from both Route 30 and Cemetery Road.

Established in 1878, the Strong Family Farm is Vernon's last historical, small farm in operation today. The farm's open fields will continue to be used for hay and corn production. The CFT has visions for a new community supported agriculture program. In recognition of the importance of such uses, and to protect the agricultural character of the property, DEEP is willing to allow public access only on parts of the property which are not being farmed or in food production.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

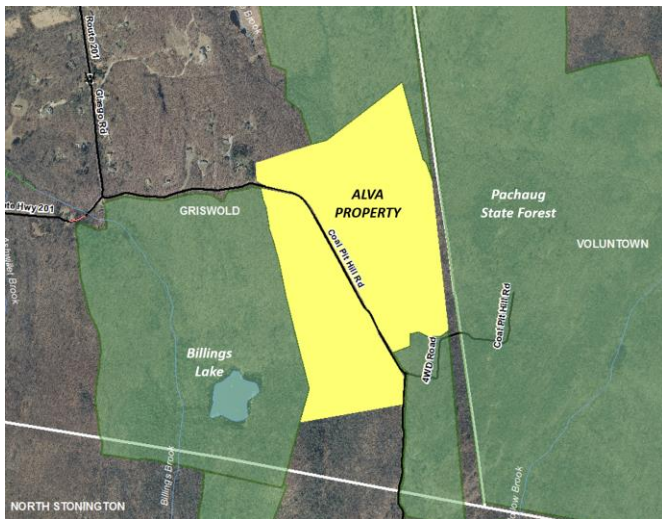
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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Alva V. Thomas Trust	Griswold	N/A	N/A	\$335,000	142.96 ac.	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

Alva V. Thomas Trust Property
130 & 135 Coal Pit Hill Road, Griswold
Addition to Pachaug State Forest
142.96 Acres Fee Acquisition



This valuable acquisition is key to connecting DEEP’s Billings Lake and adding 1 mile of gravel road to over 2,400 acres of Pachaug State Forest in Griswold, Voluntown, and North Stonington. The property has unique steep slopes and rocky outcroppings near its eastern boundary. It has potential for box turtle habitat, supports state-imperiled pitch pine tree communities, and contains locally-uncommon, sugar maple-dominated forest stands. The property also has historical, pre-colonial features including short stone walls, a stone fireplace, rock cairns, and a glacial erratic showing evidence of being manipulated by people with stone tools.



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July 2019

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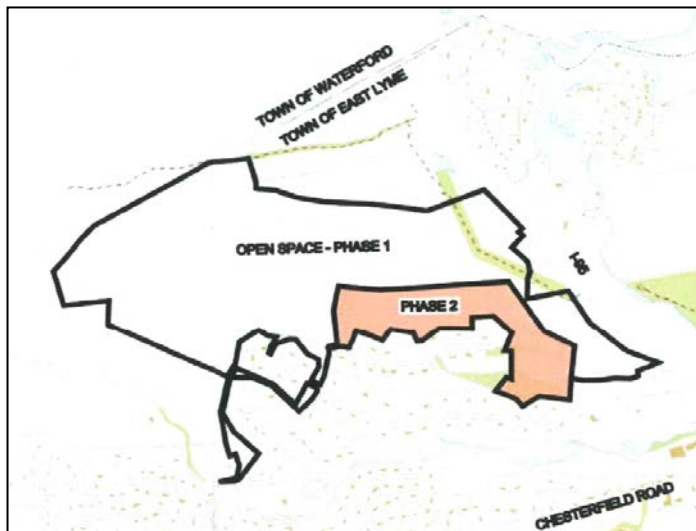
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.	Niantic River Headwaters Community Forest (Phase II)	East Lyme	33.0 Ac.

New England Forestry Foundation, Inc.
Niantic River Headwaters Community Forest (Phase II)
Goldfinch Terrace, East Lyme
33.0 Acres Fee Acquisition



This parcel further protects undeveloped, intact forestland within the Niantic River watershed and two high-quality watercourses, the Gurley and Latimer Brooks. It abuts the New England Forestry Foundation's (NEFF) 166-acre Gurley Brook Preserve and marks the successful completion of two phases of open space acquisitions by NEFF. The first acquisition phase was also completed using aid from a DEEP open space grant award.

Partial funding for the second phase acquisition was received from the US Department of Agriculture's Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. This federal program requires open space land to be managed in accordance with a comprehensive plan. NEFF's primary land management objectives are to provide for conservation of forest habitat and natural resource-based recreational opportunities such as hiking, seasonal hunting, bird and wildlife watching, and wintertime cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Cummings	Thomaston	N/A	N/A	\$10,000	24.0 Ac.	New Naugatuck River Water Access Area
Beard	Milford	USFWS North American Wetland Conservation Act Fund	\$139,000	\$0	24.58 Ac.	Addition to Charles E. Wheeler Wildlife Management Area

Cummings Property

Naugatuck River Water Access Area

1756 Waterbury Road, Thomaston

24.0 Acres Fee Acquisition



This long, winding parcel is bounded by approximately 1 mile of frontage on the Naugatuck River and frontage on Waterbury Road in Thomaston. Being a short walk from a small pullover parking area at Frost Bridge, the parcel offers opportunities for public walking, fishing, and other riverfront activities. This segment of the Naugatuck River is relatively healthy, with DEEP encountering numerous smallmouth bass at recent samplings. The Whitestone-Jerricho Connector, a part of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association’s Blue Blazed Hiking Trail system, runs through the property. The trail loops into Mattatuck State Forest toward the Whitestone Cliffs. This acquisition also serves to protect what may be one of the last remaining properties of the original, historic trolley line that travelled from Thomaston to Waterbury in the early 1900’s.

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

August 2019

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Dutka Nature Preserve	Griswold	61.58 Ac.

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Dutka Nature Preserve
Bethel Road and Dutka Lane, Griswold
61.58 Acres Fee Acquisition



View of Burton Island Scola Preserve from Dutka Preserve shoreline.

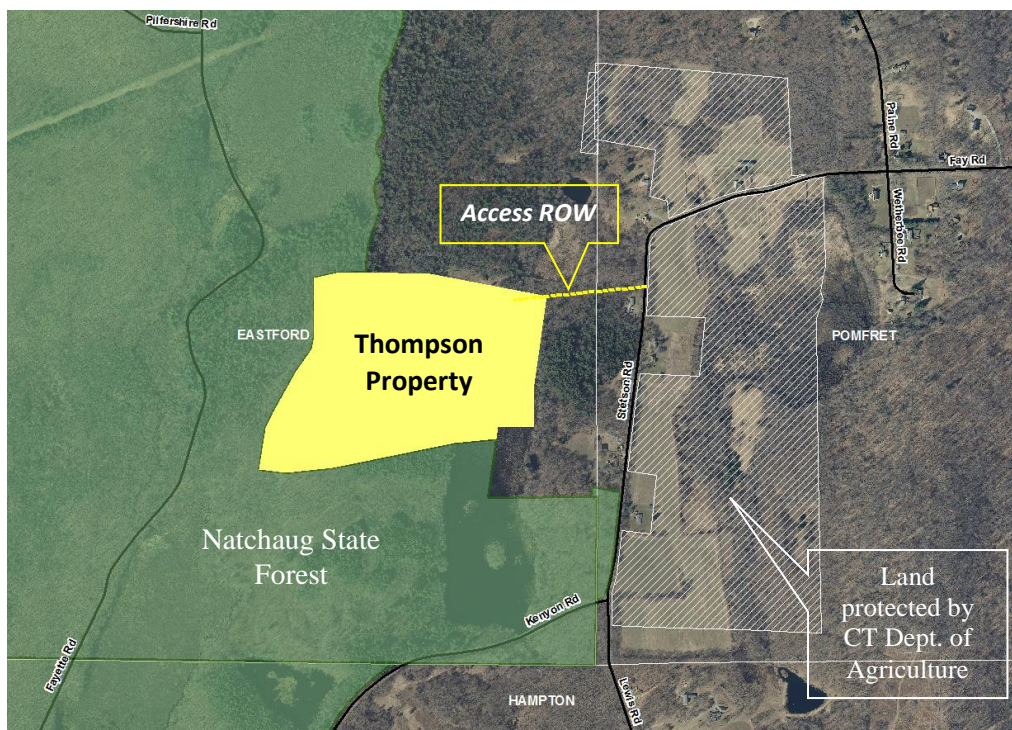
Next to existing open space held by the Avalonia Land Conservancy and a portion of Pachaug State Forest, this acquisition helps connect 125 acres of unfragmented forestland. The property supports high-quality wetland ecosystems and protects a water supply which is stocked and maintained by DEEP as a warm-water fisheries resource. It features a small wooden dock for access to the water and Avalonia's Scola Preserve on Burton Island. The forest, wetlands, streams and shrubby wetland support migratory wintering and breeding waterfowl and offer opportunities for educational and research activities. The public can access the property from Bethel Road, Cedar Lane, and unimproved Dutka Lane leading to Pachaug Pond. The Avalonia Land Conservancy plans to improve a parking area off Dutka Lane to enhance access to the pond and to future hiking and biking trails.

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Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Thompson	Eastford, Pomfret	N/A	N/A	\$180,000	49.99 Ac.	Addition to Natchaug State Forest

Thompson Property 307 Fay Road, Eastford/Pomfret 49.99 Acres Fee Acquisition



This strategic acquisition protects land located adjacent to Natchaug State Forest and private property whose development rights have been purchased by the State Department of Agriculture under the Farmland Preservation Program. The parcel is located in Eastford and can be accessed by a carpath right of way off Fay Road in Pomfret. Its protection helps support local water quality in the upper Natchaug River watershed by providing a buffer to the Hampton Reservoir and the upper portion of Hale Marsh, a headwater marsh for Little River and adjacent wetlands. The parcel expands area for public hunting and other outdoor recreational opportunities. It has habitat potential for a variety of species such as seasonal ducks, ribbon snakes, ringed boghaunter dragonflies, scarlet bluet damselflies, and wood turtles.

Other DEEP-Administered Open Space Conservation Programs

In limited instances, DEEP is involved administratively in the permanent protection of open space lands outside of the State’s Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program and Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. Such projects typically represent federal special land conservation grants or projects required as resolution to State permitting and enforcement processes. The following acquisition closed in August 2019. Additional information on this project follows.

Sponsor	Project Name	Town	Cooperators & Cost Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Salem Land Trust, Inc.	Woodland Warbler Preserve (West Road Project)	Salem	Salem Land Trust, Inc.: \$61,000 USFWS North American Wetland Conservation Act Fund: \$225,000	227.35 Ac.	Eightmile River Watershed Protection

Salem Land Trust, Inc.
Woodland Warbler Preserve (West Road Project)
90, 140, and 340 West Road, Salem
227.35 Acres Fee Acquisition



With assistance from DEEP, the Salem Land Trust secured a US Fish and Wildlife Service, North American Wetland Conservation Act Fund Grant to purchase and protect several parcels which make up the Woodland Warbler Preserve. Funds from this federal grant program are awarded to projects which can serve to protect critical habitats used by regionally, nationally, and globally rare birds and other wildlife, within extensive biological corridors, and linking marine and estuarine waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Under the grant program, the Salem Land Trust is developing a land management plan which will allow for public passive recreation, environmental education uses, and maintenance of the property’s aquatic, upland woodland, and other land cover types.

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September 2019

Overview

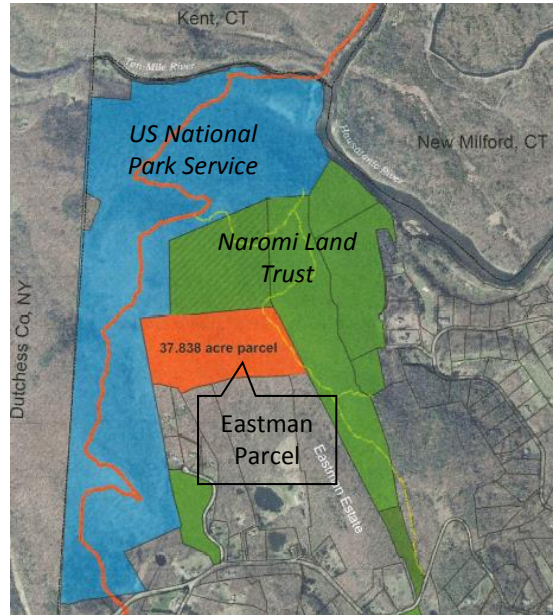
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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 (OSWA) established under Sections 7-131d and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (RNHTP) 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 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant closed in September 2019. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Naromi Land Trust, Inc.	Eastman Parcel	Sherman	37.257 Ac.

Naromi Land Trust, Inc.
Eastman Parcel
Easterly of Evans Hill Road, Sherman
37.257 Acre Fee Acquisition



The Eastman Parcel is located southerly of the confluence of the Ten Mile and Housatonic Rivers, within a 700-acre block of existing protected open space and the Ten Mile Hill Section of the US Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The Naromi Land Trust's Herrick Preserve abuts the parcel to the east and the Giddings Parcel to the north. The Herrick Trail runs from Evans Hill Road through the Herrick Preserve, along the eastern edge of the Eastman Parcel, then connects to the Appalachian Trail near the top of Ten Mile Hill.

The Eastman Parcel has numerous rock outcroppings, historic stone walls, and scenic views of the Housatonic River. Its steep slopes, wetlands, and mature forest provide high-quality habitats for interior nesting birds such as ovenbird, veery, and wood thrush, and large mammals such as black bear and bobcat. The Giddings Parcel to the north contains a large, pristine vernal pool, protecting sensitive amphibian populations such as wood frog and spotted salamander. The Eastman Parcel was purchased with partial funding from a US Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands Conservation Act Fund grant, which is administered by DEEP for the State of Connecticut.

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 closed in September 2019. Additional information on these projects follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Diana Atwood Johnson Trust	Old Lyme	Diana Atwood Johnson Trust: \$265,000*	\$0	12.8 Ac.	Estuary Protection/Public Water Access
Rand	Salisbury	USFWS Highlands Act Fund: \$1 million Rand Family: \$1,320,000**	\$0	Conservation Easement: 111.065 Ac. Fee Donation: 3 Ac.	Watershed/Forest Preservation & Addition to Mount Riga State Park

* appraised value of donated parcel

** appraised value of donated 3-acre parcel and partial donation value of conservation easement

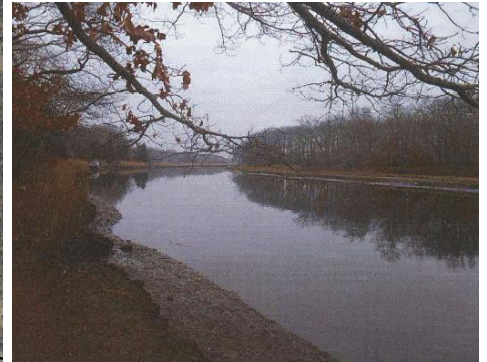
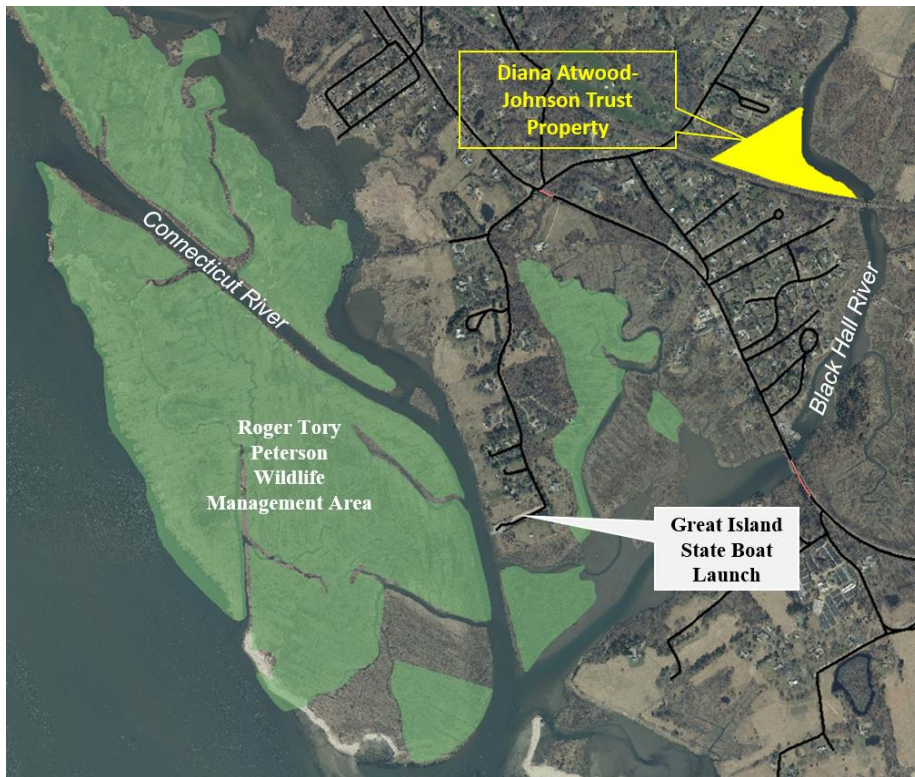
Diana Atwood-Johnson Trust Property 19-2 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme 12.8 Acres Fee Donation



This property was a generous donation from Diana Atwood Johnson, late of Old Lyme, and will be preserved in her memory. Diana was passionate about land conservation, providing distinguished services to numerous boards and organizations throughout Connecticut. She will be fondly remembered for her valuable contributions to DEEP’s Recreation, Natural Heritage Trust & Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board in her role as Chairperson for almost 19 years. She was also Chairperson of the Town of Old Lyme’s Open Space Committee for 20 years and served on the boards of The Nature Conservancy, Inc. and The Trust for Public Land. Diana was the first person to donate a scenic easement to the State of Connecticut when the Connecticut River Gateway Commission was established in 1973. She will be forever remembered by the Town of Old Lyme and the State of Connecticut for her many achievements and philanthropic contributions to the conservation community.

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Diana Atwood Johnson Trust Property (cont.)
19-2 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme
12.8 Acres Fee Donation



The generous donation of the 12.8-acre Diana Atwood-Johnson Parcel to the State further provides an undeveloped buffer to riparian lands, protects the Connecticut River estuary ecosystem, and expands public water access for passive recreational and educational opportunities. It has 1,400 feet of frontage on the Black Hall River, located on the northerly side of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and on the easterly side of Mile Creek Road. Access from Mile Creek Road is not yet available, but DEEP hopes it will improve access soon.

This section of the Black Hall River at the junction of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound is a top destination in the northeast for paddle boating, fishing, and bird and other wildlife observation. Located nearby to the southwest, at the convergence of the Black Hall River, the Connecticut River, and Long Island Sound, is DEEP's Roger Tory Peterson Wildlife Management Area. DEEP's Great Island State Boat Launch is also located nearby on Route 156 to Smiths Neck Road. Additional seasonal kayak, paddle, and fishing rentals and guided tours can be found on Shore Road/Route 156.

Rand Property
Undermountain Road, Salisbury
111.065 Acres Conservation Easement Acquisition
3 Acres Fee Acquisition



DEEP acquired a conservation easement from Curtis and Susan Rand over about 111 acres of land, purchased with assistance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands Conservation Act Fund.

The property has been owned by the Rand Family for over 50 years and is carefully managed as a working forest with a strong emphasis on fish and wildlife conservation. The property's forestland and Ball Brook serve as an important corridor for many species and has contributed to the regional forest economy through sustainable timber harvests. With assistance from the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Rand Family have conducted 4 to 5 early-successional timber harvests for songbird and pollinator habitat creation, as well as cold-water stream fisheries improvements. In partnership with Trout Unlimited, DEEP has sampled for water quality indicators and fish in Ball Brook.

In consideration of the high-quality natural resource values on the property, the active land management occurring, the value of donated land and interests in land that is in excess of \$1,300,000, and with respect to the Rand Family, the Commissioner has agreed to limited, guided public access on the land covered by the conservation easement. The Rand's generously donated an additional 3 acres in fee simple next to Mount Riga State Park, which is publicly accessible through the main Park entrances. Should the Rand Family decide to sell their remaining lands, DEEP has an acquisition right of first offer.

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

October 2019

Overview

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There were no Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Grants closed in October 2019.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in October 2019.

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

December 2019

Overview

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in December 2019.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in December 2019.