

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

January 2020

Overview

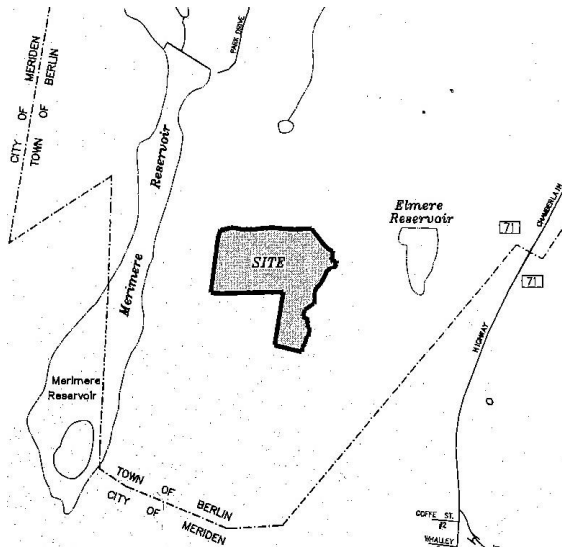
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant closed in January 2020. Additional information on the project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
City of Meriden	Rogoz Property	Berlin	21.7 Ac.

City of Meriden
Rogoz Property, Berlin
21.7+/- acres - fee acquisition



This 21.7 acre property is classified as Class II Watershed land. This acquisition protects feeder streams and prevents encroachment of surrounding watershed properties. It will protect the Elmere and Merimere Reservoirs to the east and west.

The property is primarily forested with a varied topography. 45% of the property is steep or influenced by wetland. An unnamed stream runs from this property into Pine Brook and Bladens River.

Nearby trails will allow the public to access the property but the main purpose of this acquisition, is to protect the watershed properties nearby with the property being preserved in its scenic, natural state.

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 January 2020. Additional information on this/these project(s) follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Baxter	Willington	\$51,000*	N/A	31.29	Addition to Kollar WMA

* appraised value of donated parcel

Baxter Property, Willington 31.29 acres - fee acquisition

The Baxter property was generously donated to the DEEP by William & Patricia Baxter and the Goeller Trust. The wooded property located along the Willimantic River provides additional fishing and passive recreation opportunities and helps protect the watershed.



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

February 2020

Overview

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in February 2020.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

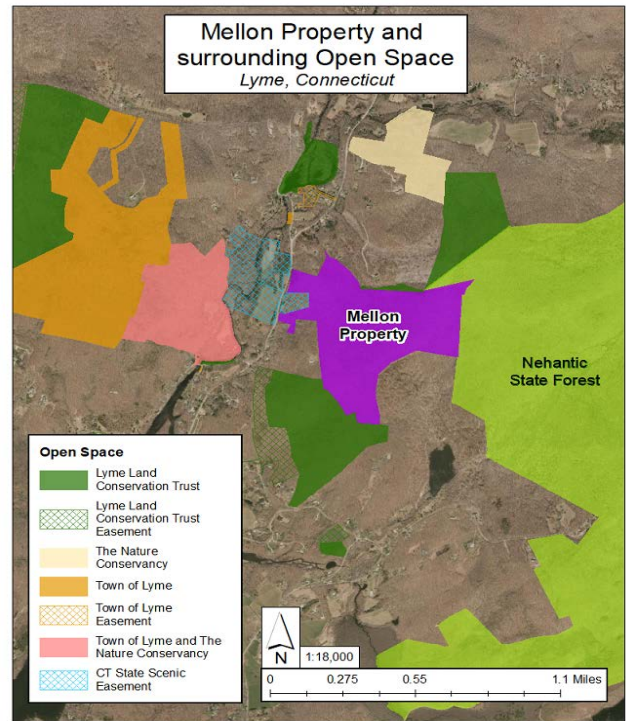
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Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Mellon Property	Lyme	\$822,000*	\$0	152.53 Ac.	Forest Preservation/ Addition to Nehantic State Forest

St. Germaine Property	Bozrah, Lebanon, Franklin	USFWS \$363,000	\$0	124.48	Addition to Pease Brook WMA
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**appraised value of donated parcel per Lyme Assessor.*

Mellon Property
Hamburg Road a/k/a Route 156, Lyme
152.53 Acres – Fee Acquisition



Twenty years ago, Mr. Mellon donated a Scenic Easement and Development Rights for this property and the property across the street, to the State. The current donation is the underlying fee interest of the easterly 152.3 acres, subject to the previously donated scenic easement and development restrictions. This acquisition connects 943.7 acres of contiguous open space.

This property adds two non-contiguous sections of Hamburg/Route 156 frontage (738+/- feet), providing valuable access to the Nehantic State Forest. Several woods roads on the property will be evaluated for public access and recreational opportunities and for DEEP emergency and business related access purposes. The property will be managed in perpetuity as forest or open space with public access permitted for educational and passive recreational activities such as hiking, biking, fishing, hunting and equestrian uses. This acquisition further protects the Eight Mile River Watershed and Long Island Sound.

St Germain Property
Bozrah, Lebanon & Franklin
124.48 Acres – Fee Acquisition



The St Germain property provides a significant expansion of the Pease Brook Wildlife Management Area. Located at the southern end of the WMA, at the intersection of Bozrah, Lebanon & Franklin, the property features extensive fields and forest. Pease Brook runs north to south through the property.

DEEP purchased the property with assistance from a Pittman-Robertson Act grant, administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, to expand public hunting and other recreational opportunities at the WMA.



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

March 2020

Overview

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in March 2020.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Motherway	North Stonington	George Dudley Seymour Trust \$200,000	\$0	25.06	Addition to Pachaug S.F.

Motherway Property
25.06 Acres – Fee Acquisition
North Stonington



The property consists of a slightly irregular shaped parcel of land located along the southeasterly side of Cossaduck Hill Road. Pachaug State Forest abuts the property on the east, and land owned by The Nature Conservancy abuts the property on the west. The land consists mostly of hardwood forest with gentle to moderately sloped topography, with a steep slope near the southern boundary. The blue-blazed Narragansett Trail bisects a portion of the land near the southern property line.

This acquisition was made possible with funding from the George Dudley Seymour Trust and will be made open to the public for passive recreation. Other benefits include protecting the blue-blazed trail and enhancing a protected greenway by connecting two previously isolated properties.

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

April 2020

Overview

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in April 2020.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Zito Builders, Inc.	East Haddam	US Nat. Park Service Land & Water Conservation Fund & U.S. Nat'l Park Service Eight Mile River Watershed*	\$157,500 & \$10,000*	\$157,500	92.83 acres	Addition to Devils Hopyard State Park

*Grant administered by the Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Watershed Coordinating Committee, Watershed Grant Program. Partially funded A2 survey cost.

Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Robinson & Lewis	Canterbury	US National Park Service Land & Water Conservation Fund	\$94,250	\$94,250	15.69 acres	Addition to Quinebaug River WMA
Sleeping Giant Park Association	Hamden	N/A	N/A	\$192,000	13.26 acres	Addition to Sleeping Giant State Park
Fracchia Phase II	Hebron	USFWS	\$0 **	\$720,000	178.83 acres	Addition to Bishops Swamp WMA

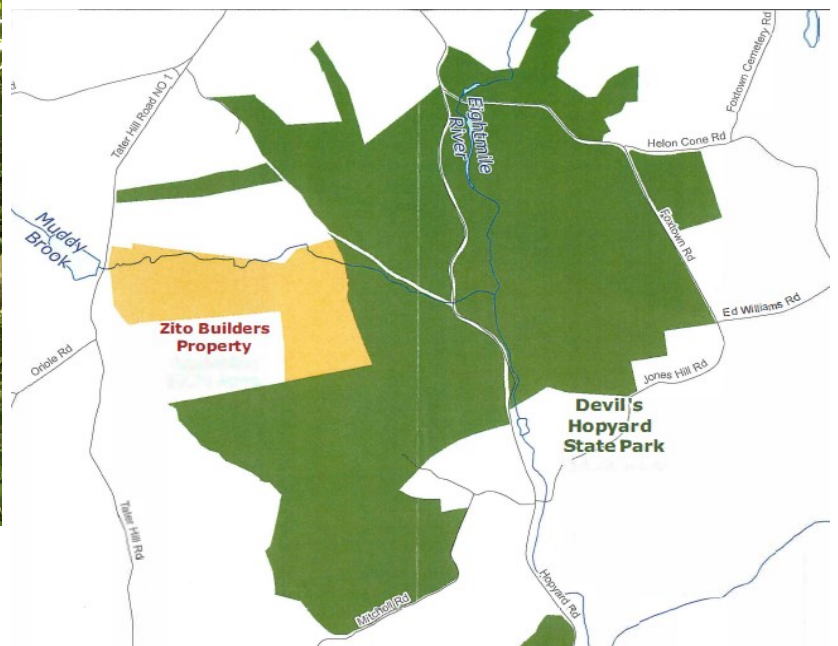
*Grant administered by the Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Watershed Coordinating Committee, Watershed Grant Program. Partially funded A2 survey cost.

** Property is subject to USFWS Pittman-Robertson grant restrictions and will be used as land match towards future Pittman-Robertson projects

**Zito Builders Inc. Property
Tater Hill Road, East Haddam
Devil's Hopyard State Park
92.83 Acre Fee Purchase**



This acquisition protects a large area of unfragmented habitat within the Eight Mile River Watershed, one of seven federally recognized areas in New England that contains exceptional natural and cultural resources. The property features steep slopes, significant high quality wetlands, critical/imperiled habitats, high quality water supported by stream macroinvertebrate, and ideal for cold water stream temperature monitoring. Muddy Brook flows through the property. Devil's Hopyard State Park abuts the property to the east and south. The trail network is very close to the easterly edge of this property, providing improved recreational trail access and opportunities. The U.S. National Park Service Land and Water Conservation Fund funded half of the purchase price and an Eight Mile River Wild and Scenic Watershed grant contributed to the survey cost.





Robinson & Lewis Property
219 Wauregan Road, Canterbury
15.69 Acre Fee Acquisition

The Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area abuts this property to the east and south. The Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery abuts the property on the southern side of the Quinebaug River in the Town of Plainfield. This acquisition protects 1100+/- feet of frontage on the Quinebaug River, a high quality watershed, in the Last Green Valley, a National Heritage Corridor in Canterbury and Plainfield. This purchase protects pitch pine and white pine sapling habitats, a possible riparian habitat for Natural Diversity Database protected mussels and dragonflies, a possible habitat for spadefoot and wintering eagles that roost in the vicinity, which would be otherwise hurt by development. This property will be open to the public for passive recreation to include fishing, hiking, hunting water access and wildlife observation. This acquisition was also funded, in part, by the U.S. National Park Service, Land and Water Conservation Fund.



Sleeping Giant Park Association Property
1020 & 1040 Mt. Carmel Avenue Rear, Hamden
15.69 Acre Fee Acquisition

The purchase of this property was a collaborative effort between the Sleeping Giant Park Association (SGPA) and DEEP who has been interested in purchasing the property since 1988.

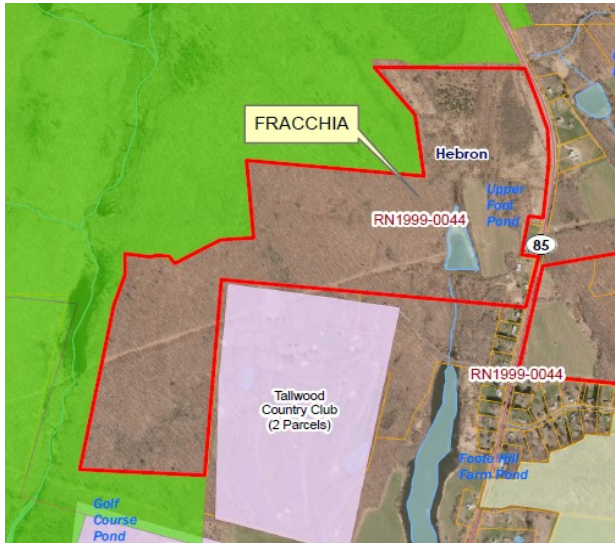
The SGPA purchased the property in 2018 to prevent it from being developed. In an effort to merge these parcels with Sleeping Giant State Park and enable SGPA to purchase other property, DEEP purchased the property from SGPA in April 2020.

Sleeping Giant State Park abuts this property to the northwest, north and east. A public access trail from Chestnut Street provides improved public access to Sleeping Giant State Park.



Fracchia Phase II Property
239 North Street, Hebron
178.89 Acre Fee Acquisition

DEEP completed the second phase of the acquisition of the Fracchia property in Hebron. Located on the western side of North Street, the 178.89 acre property was improved with an old house and barns in poor condition which were generously removed by the sellers prior to closing. The land features a mixture of fields, forest, and a pond. The acquisition will provide additional protection to the Blackledge River watershed, along with passive recreational opportunities.





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

May 2020

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Watertown Land Trust, Inc.	Franson Farmland	Watertown	24.8 acres
Guilford Land Conservation Trust	Interior Westwoods Parcel	Guilford	32.2 acres
Canton Land Conservation Trust	45 West Road Rear	Canton	12.1 acres
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Atkinson and Dirlam Properties	Ledyard	228.4 acres

Watertown Land Trust, Inc.
Franson Farmland
24.8+/- acres in fee acquisition



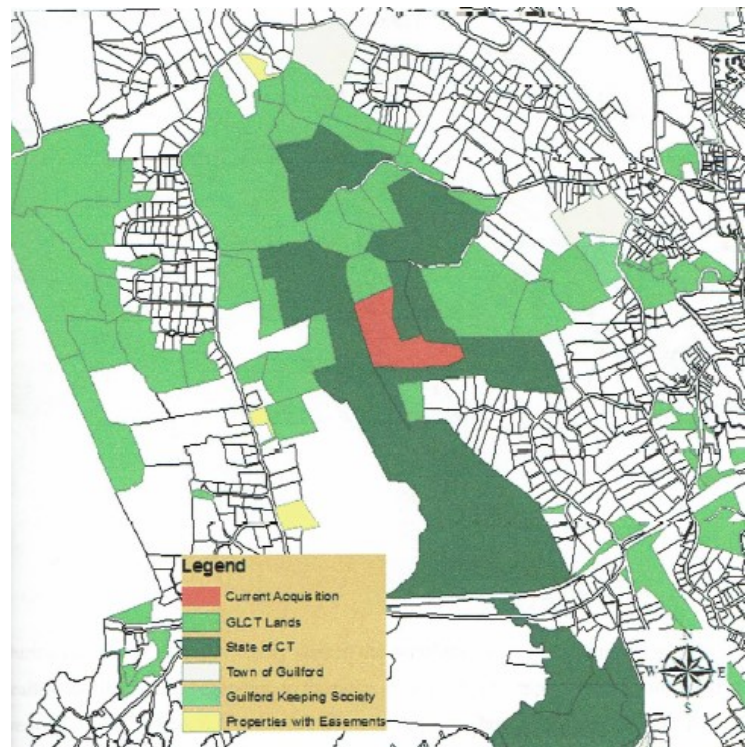
Half of this 24.8 acre property is part of Peck's Swamp, an extensive wetland system which provides habitat for amphibians, birds, and mammals. The other half of the property contains a meadow which will continue to be hayed by the Franson family.

The Watertown Land Trust will develop a trail system around the meadow and down to the edge of the swamp where the public can enjoy unobstructed views to the north and east of meadows and woodlands. This property provides important drinking water protection for the City of Waterbury and Watertown while sustaining local agriculture and passive recreation.

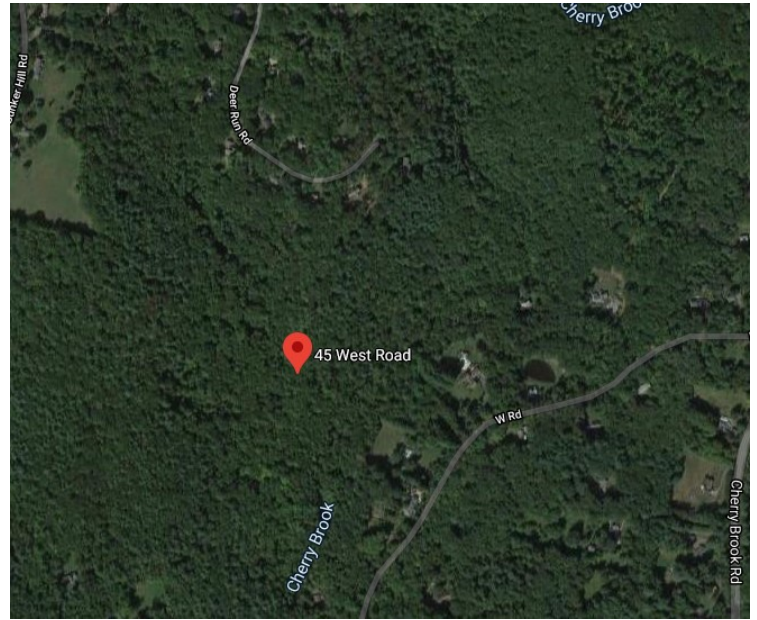
Guilford Land Conservation Trust
Interior Westwoods Parcel
32.2 acres in fee acquisition

This 32.2 acre property is the final inholding at the center of a protected forest block covering hundreds of acres. As part of the greater Westwoods open space tapestry, this healthy forest will open up more miles of trail for passive recreational opportunities and provide habitat for interior forest species.

This property is located within the South Central Shoreline Drainage Basin, an important area effecting the water quality of the Long Island Sound. It contains wetland areas dominated by sweet pepperbush and rocky outcroppings made of granite.

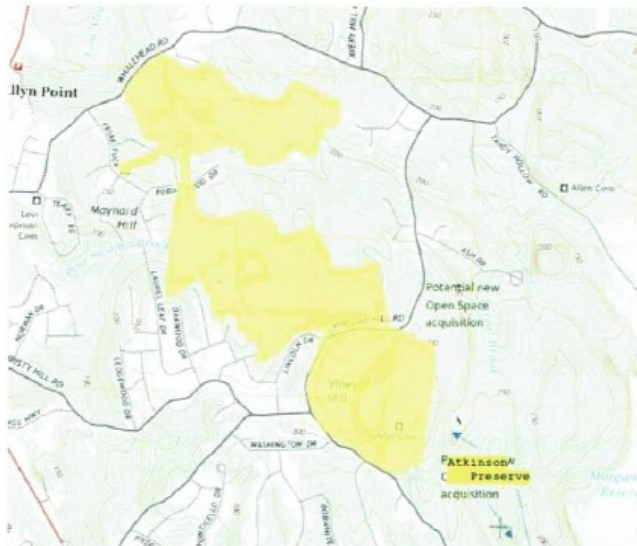


Canton Land Conservation Trust
45 West Road Rear
12.1 acres in fee acquisition



This parcel is located adjacent to a 39 acre parcel of land owned by the Canton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT) known as the “Sweeton Pasture Lot”. With over 680 feet of frontage on Cherry Brook, this newly acquired parcel will allow the CLCT to extend its hiking trail from the Sweeton Pasture Lot to this major tributary of the Farmington River. The public will be able to enjoy the property’s serene forest setting while taking advantage of its passive recreational opportunities.

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Atkinson and Dirlam Properties
228.4 acres in fee acquisition



This large acquisition by the Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. (ALC) will expand the 400 acre Great Oak Greenway by more than 200 acres. The properties contain over five miles of wide, compacted woods roads and single track trails making various forms of public recreation immediately available. The Great Brook Watershed is located within the boundaries of these properties providing protection for the Ledyard Reservoir. Surrounded by town and ALC owned lands, this property is part of the largest intact coastal forest in Connecticut.

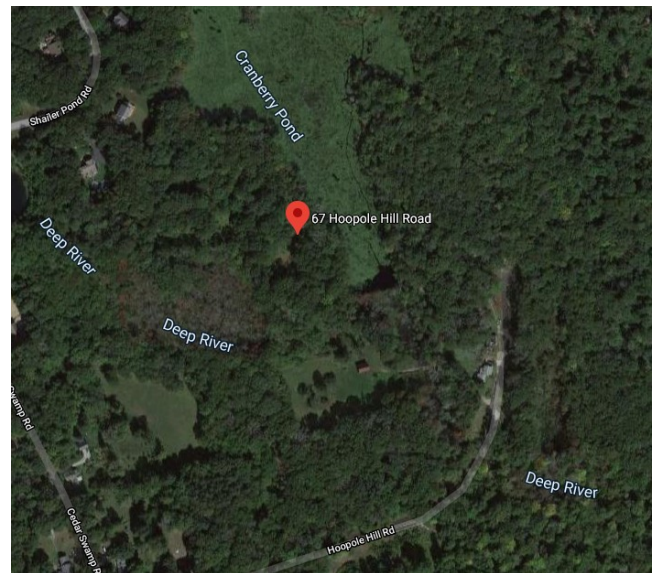
The headwaters of Thompson Brook are located on the property as well as significant wetlands and vernal pools. The public will be able to access the property off of Long Cove Road.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
BMC Land Management	Deep River	BMC Land Management	\$0	12.5 acres	Addition to Cockaponset State Forest

BMC Land Management Property
67 Hoopole Hill Rd. Deep River
Cockaponset State Forest
12.5 Acre Fee Donation



This property was donated to DEEP by BMC Land Development, LLC. It's a forested parcel that totals 12.55 acres and is located along Hoopole Hill Road in Deep River. It abuts the Cockaponset State Forest and will provide additional access to the forest by the public in turn increasing passive recreational opportunities.

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

June 2020

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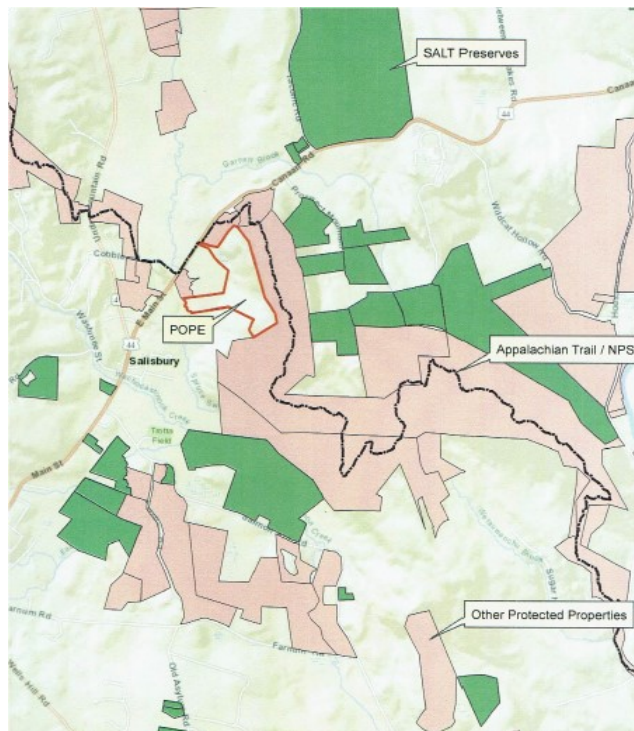
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The following Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grants closed in June 2020. Additional information on the projects follow.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Salisbury Association, Incorporated	Pope Property	Salisbury	78.993 acres
Salisbury Association, Incorporated	Yoakum Property	Salisbury	241.17 acres

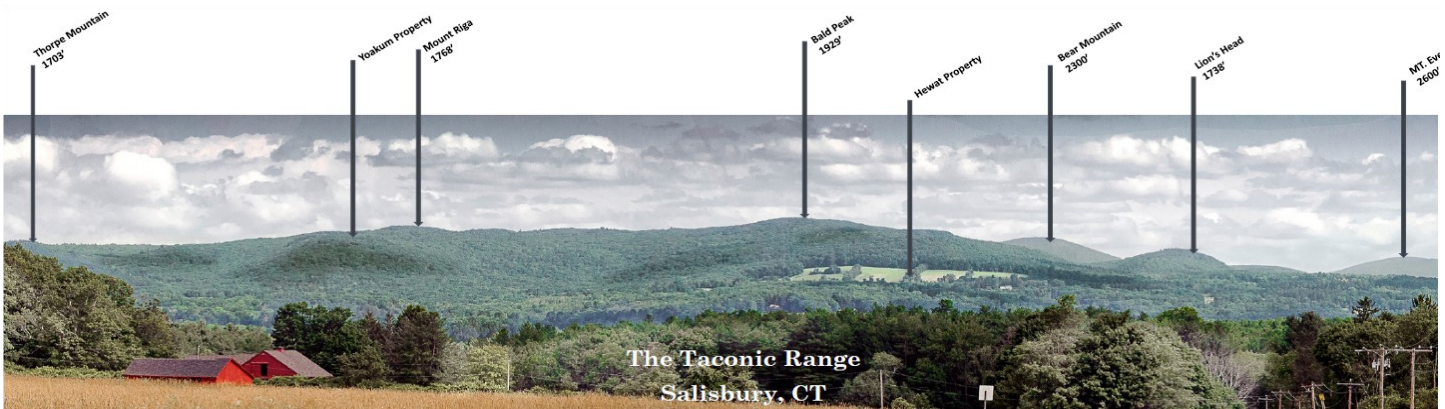
Salisbury Association, Incorporated
Pope Property
78.993 Acres



This 79+/- acre property is located on the beautiful Wetauwanchu Mountain, abutting the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail corridor. It is part of a 2,000 acre forest block with an interesting mix of habitats containing upland and bottomland forest, shrub swamp, brook, farm field, and steep slopes with bedrock exposures and boulders. It has prime statewide-important farmland soils and eight state-listed NDDDB species have been documented on or near the property. This property protects Aquarion's public drinking water wellheads and Spruce Swamp Brook, a Class AA stream designated as habitat for fish and other aquatic life, which passes through the parcel and drains into the Salmon Kill a tributary of the Housatonic River. The property is bordered on three sides by the Appalachian Trail corridor. Salisbury Association, Incorporated plans to create a scenic trail (shown in second pic above, in yellow), leading to a scenic overlook with a spectacular view of Salisbury. The property will be open for hiking, birdwatching, snow-shoeing, fishing, and cross-country skiing.



Salisbury Association, Incorporated
Yoakum Property
241.17 Ac.



The 241.170 acre Yoakum Core Forest property in Salisbury, is located in one of the largest forest blocks (more than 14,000 acres) in the CT-MA-NY region of western New England. The property has ridgelines and several secondary summits of Mount Riga, 600 linear feet along Pettee Brook, a pristine trout stream. The property abuts and drains to 350 acres owned by TNC that surround Salisbury's drinking water reservoirs. The property provides ideal habitat for a rich variety of wildlife, with two types of rare natural communities (acidic rocky summit/outcrop) and four rare species (timber rattlesnake, golden-winged warbler, cerulean warbler, and yellow banded bumblebee) documented in the NDDB.

This project was a cooperative effort between the Salisbury Association, Incorporated, DEEP's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (\$650,000) and a United States Fish & Wildlife Service Highlands Conservation Act Grant (\$250,000).



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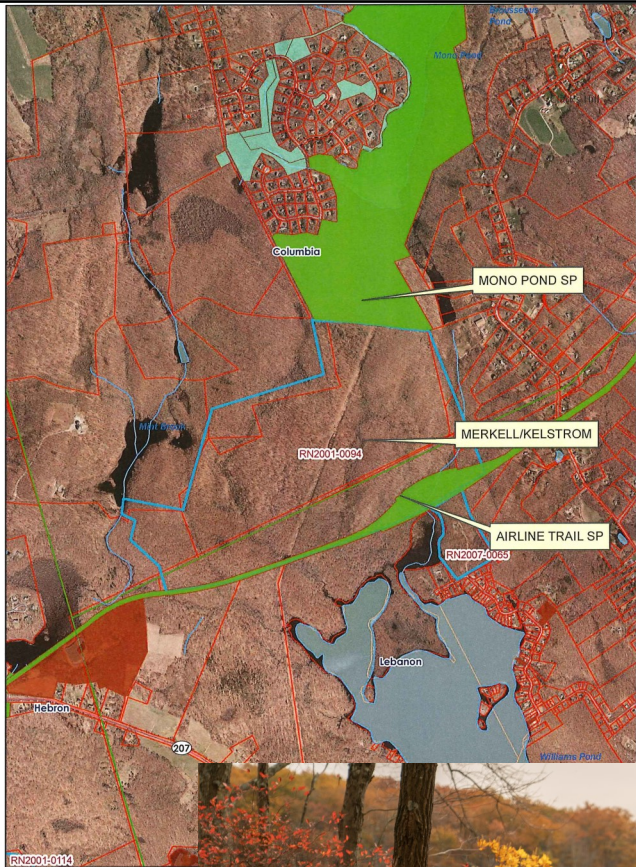
Property Name	Town	Cooperator	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Markell	Columbia & Lebanon	NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund Town of Columbia Town of Lebanon Trust for Public Land	\$278,980.57	303.1 acres	Addition to Mono Pond State Park Reserve
Inzinga	Columbia	NPS Land and Water Conservation Fund Town of Columbia Trust for Public Land	\$70,870.19	99.5	Addition to Mono Pond State Park Reserve
Molodich	Sterling	N/A	\$350,000.00	103.26	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

Markell Property
Leonard Bridge Road
Mono Pond State Park Reserve
303.1 Acre Fee Acquisition

This 303.1 acre property is a key linkage in a nearly pristine habitat corridor situated between two state parks and over 200 acres of preserved farmland. It contains a mixed hardwood forest with a series of wetland areas providing habitat for migratory bird species, amphibians, and forest dwelling mammals.

This acquisition was a strategic recreational investment that has more than doubled Mono Pond State Park Reserve. It will connect trails from Mono Pond to the Airline Trail State Park. The public can enjoy the property via a series of old carriage roads, remnants of an 1820's settlement that was abandoned in the early 20th century.

The project was a collaborative effort between federal, state, and municipal forces as well as the Trust for Public Land.



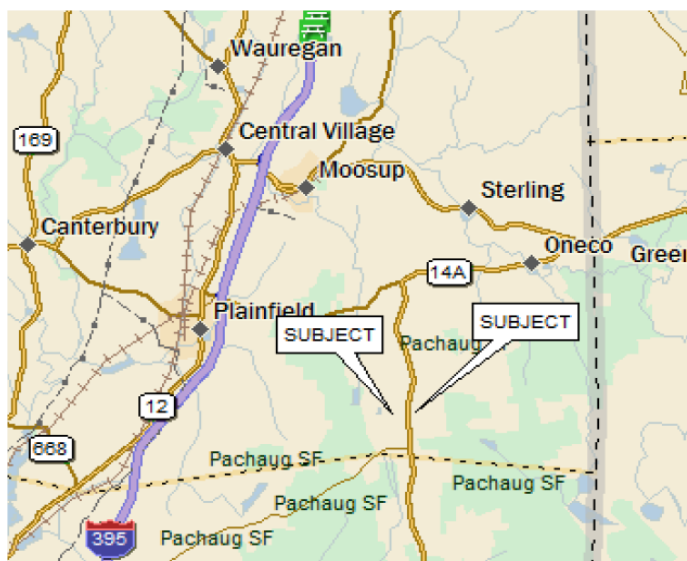
Inzinga Property
Wells Woods Road
Mono Pond State Park Reserve
99.5 Acre Fee Acquisition

The State also purchased the 99.5 acre Inzinga property as an addition to Mono Pond State Park Reserve. The Inzinga property is almost entirely forested, contains productive wetlands, is part of the pristine Mint Brook corridor feeding the Salmon River Watershed, and has incredible scenic and wildlife viewing opportunities. Of roughly 20 acres of wetlands, most are freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, characterized by a dense thicket of highbush blueberry and other native deciduous species providing important habitat to many terrestrial species. A small portion of the wetlands are emergent, likewise offering important habitat to a variety of waterfowl, migratory birds, and amphibians. The property contains roughly 2 miles of trails that will connect to trails on the Kellstorm property and the rest of Mono Pond State Park Reserve.



**Molodich Family Limited Partnership Property
Porter Pond Road, Sterling
Pachaug State Forest
103.26 Acres Fee Acquisition**

The acquisition consists of two parcels on Porter Pond Road. The 58.66 acre parcel on the west side abuts Pachaug State Forest and creates additional access and road frontage. The parcel on the east side of Porter Pond Road is 44.6 acres and has historically been hayed by the Molodich Family. This purchase protects the headwaters of Cedar Swamp Brook, has possible farm field habitat and is a potential habitat for green snake, tree bat and Atlantic white cedar swamp (NDDB). This acquisition was funded by DEEP's Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program.





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July 2020

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in July 2020.

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

August 2020

Overview

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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Deep River Land Trust, Inc.	Pratt Cove Marsh Property	Deep River	8.07
East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.	Sakolsky Property	East Haddam	23.229
East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.	Nichols Property	East Haddam	86.664

**Deep River Land Trust, Inc.
Pratt Cove Marsh Property
7.7 Acres & 0.37 Acre Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition consists of two parcels, a 0.37+/- acre parcel on the waterfront which abuts the Deep River Land Trust Smyth Sanctuary and a 7.7+/- acre upland parcel that abuts the 12.8 acre Bidwell Preserve and a 6.18 acre property preserved by The Nature Conservancy. The Pratt Cove Marsh is a critical habitat of the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, forming an interconnecting habitat of just over 28 acres with open vistas.

The Pratt Cove Marsh is a freshwater tidal wetland of the lower Connecticut River designated as Internationally Important by The Ramsar Convention. Nearly the entire marsh is designated as Critical Habitat by DEEP.

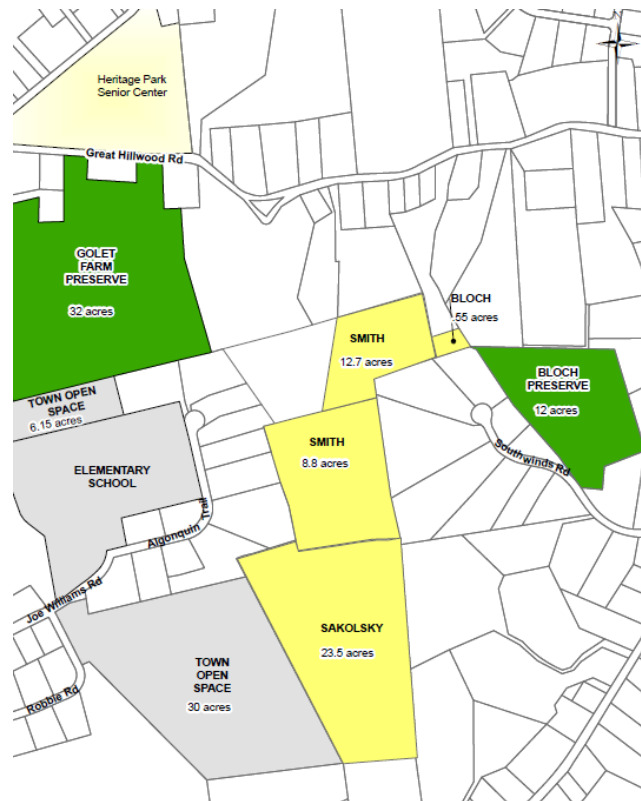
Both parcels provide passive recreational opportunities with parking, access to trails and a (State) dock and kayak/canoe launch.

East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.
Sakolsky Property
23.229 Ac. Fee Acquisition

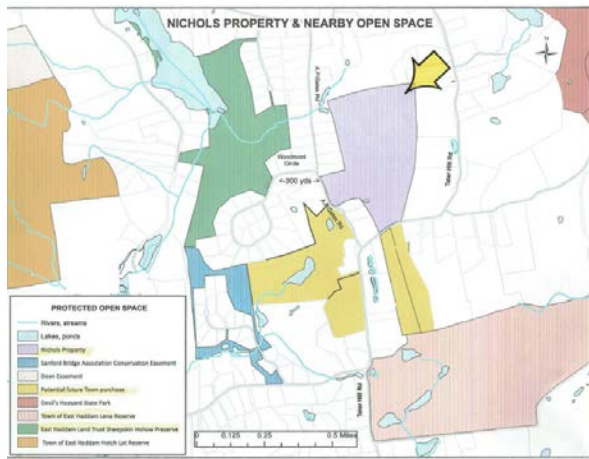
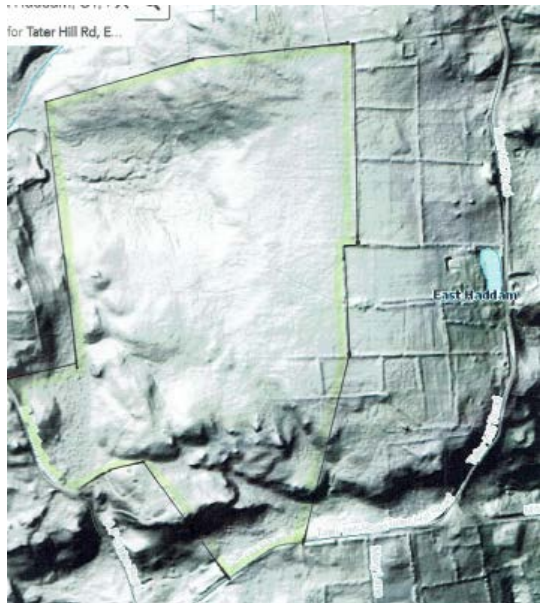


This is the 2nd parcel submitted by East Haddam Land Trust, Inc. utilizing OSWA funds (the 1st being the 12+ acre Bloch Preserve), to develop a 100-acre interconnecting greenway within Moodus Village.

This property contains a wetland and associated habitat that drains into Wigwam Brook and then to the Salmon River. It also contains an upland hardwood forest habitat.



**East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.
Nichols Property
86.664 Ac. Fee Acquisition**



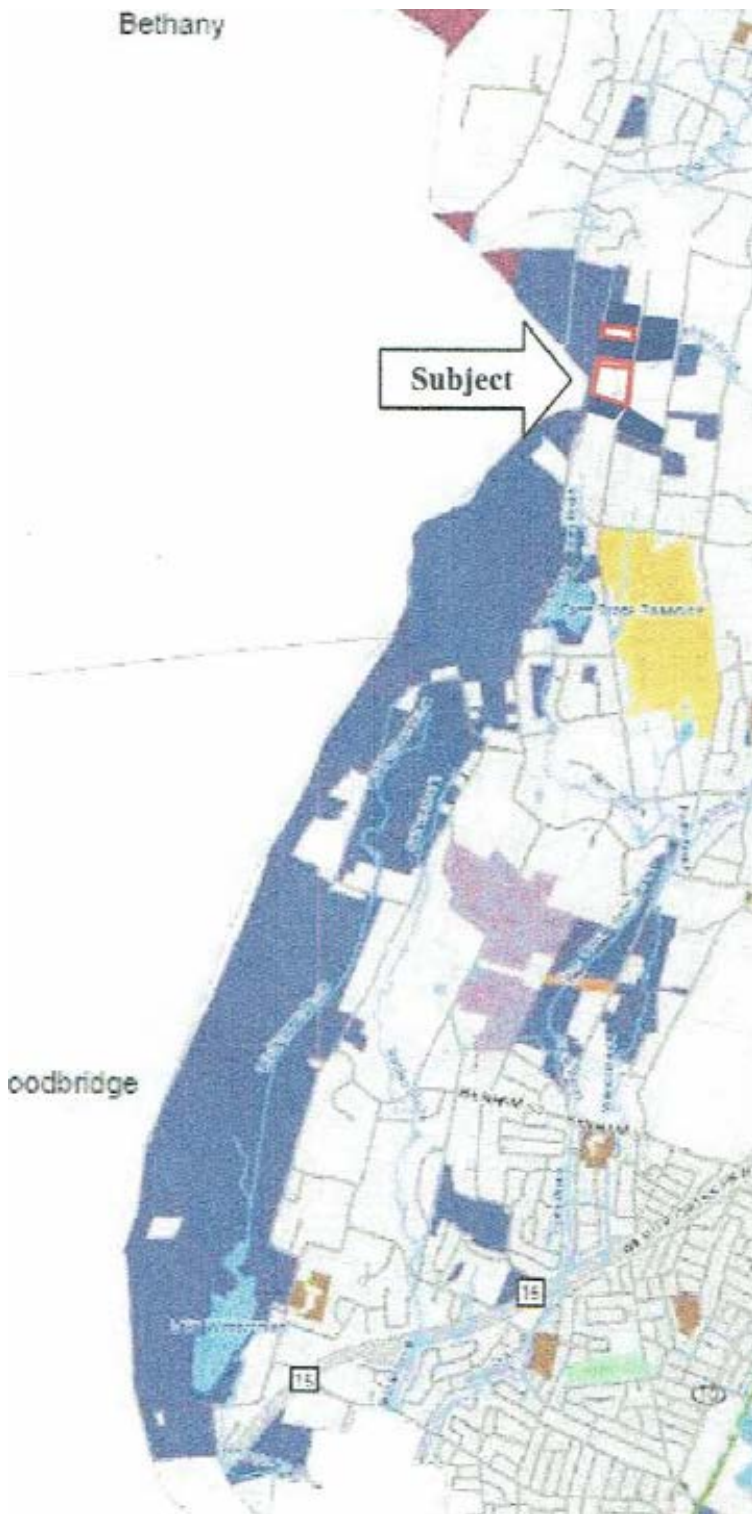
This undeveloped woodlot with frontage on Tater Hill and A.P. Gates Roads, contains a wetland that drains, via a small brook, into Roaring Brook, Whalebone Cove and eventually the Connecticut River. It is within the Lyme Forest and contains multiple habitats including upland hardwood forest that coyote, turkey, deer and bobcat frequent, it is inhabited by wood ducks and woodcock. It is adjacent to the Eight Mile Wild & Scenic Watershed, featuring several logging/tractor trails that would enhance public access.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator	Cooperat or Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Raccio Properties	Hamden	N/A	N/A	\$75,000	18.86	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park
Thompson	Lyme	N/A	N/A	\$310,000	85.36	Addition to Nehantic State Forest

**Raccio Properties
1000, 1112 & 1150 Hill Street, Hamden
West Rock Ridge State Park
18.86 Acre Fee Purchase**

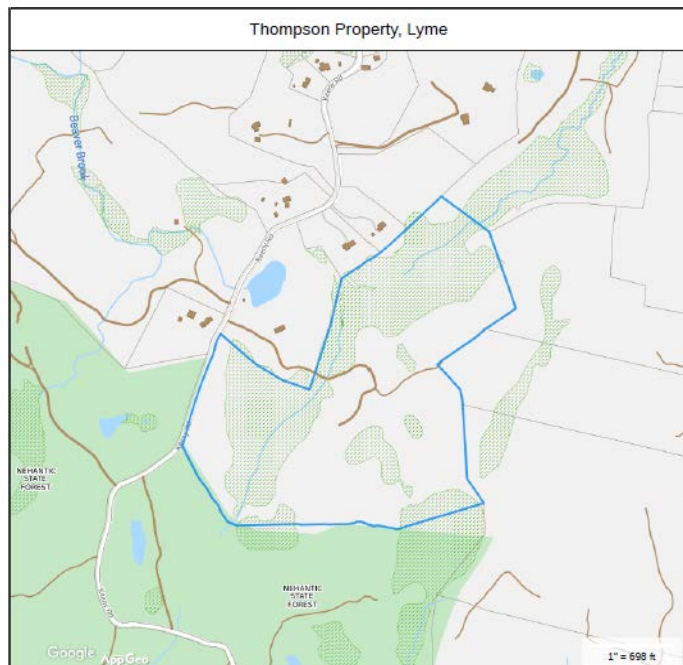


This acquisition consists of three parcels, in the northwest corner of Hamden just east of the Bethany town line. They are within the West Rock Ridge Conservation Area and will be added to West Rock Ridge State Park.

1000 & 1112 Hill Street contain a combined 13.79 acres and 1150 Hill Street contains 5.07 acres. The three parcels are essentially landlocked with frontage on Hill Street & Rayzoe Terrace (both paper streets).

The parcels are entirely forested, further protecting other properties purchased for watershed protection and passive recreational uses within West Rock State Park.

**Thompson Property
Keeney Road, Lyme
Nehantic State Forest
85.36 Acre Fee Purchase**



The Thompson property consists of 85.36 acres of land located at the northeast corner of Nehantic State Forest. A portion of the property is subject to a conservation easement held by the Town of Lyme. The property features a mix of forest and swamp and extends the forest to the intersection of the paved and unpaved portion of Keeney Road. The acquisition expands the passive recreational opportunities in the forest.



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

September 2020

Overview

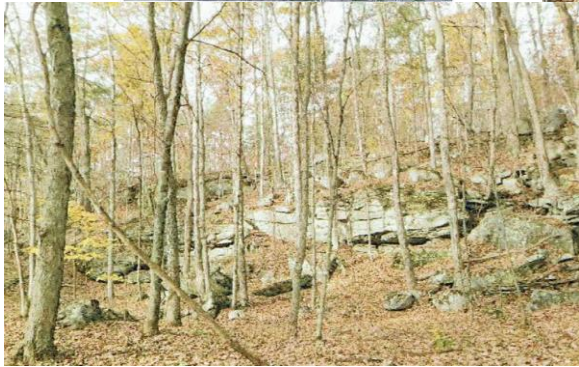
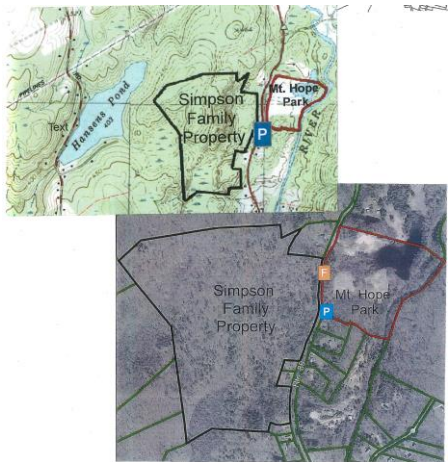
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of Mansfield	Simpson Family Property	Mansfield	114.65

**Town of Mansfield
Simpson Family Property
Fee Purchase 114.65 Acres**



The Town's acquisition of this property on Warrenville Road will expand upon an existing area of permanently preserved open space by adding 114+ acres directly across from the Town-owned 35+ acre Mt. Hope Park purchased in 1999 with DEEP Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant funds. This is part of a larger effort by the Town to preserve the highlands that form an interior north/south forest and wildlife corridor extending over two miles from Mt. Hope Road to Mulberry Road. The property contains several stone features that are significant Native American ceremonial stone structures identified by a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Mohegan Tribe. This property will provide quality passive recreational uses and educational outlets.

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

October 2020

Overview

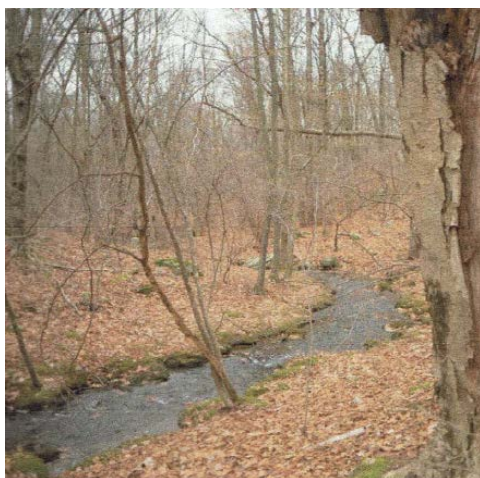
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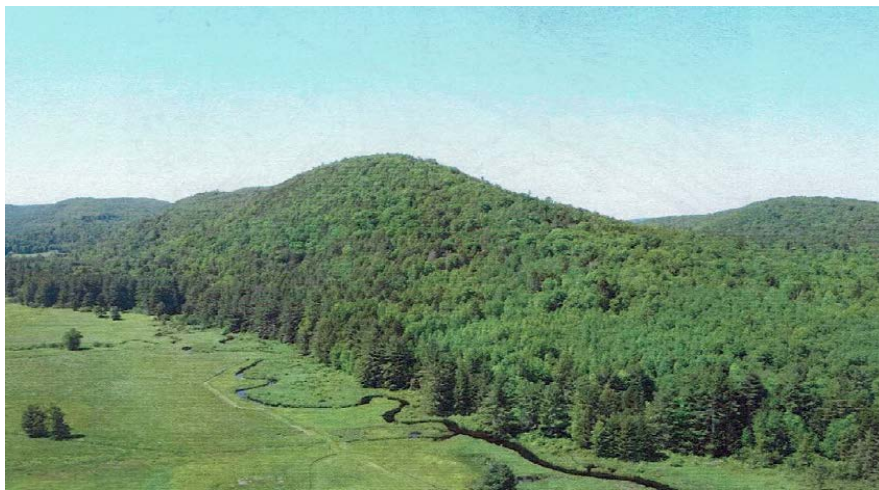
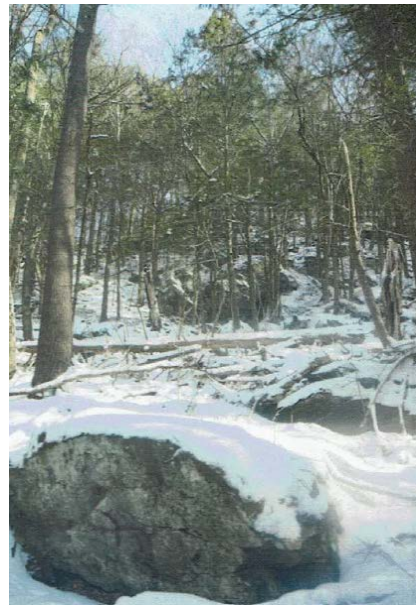
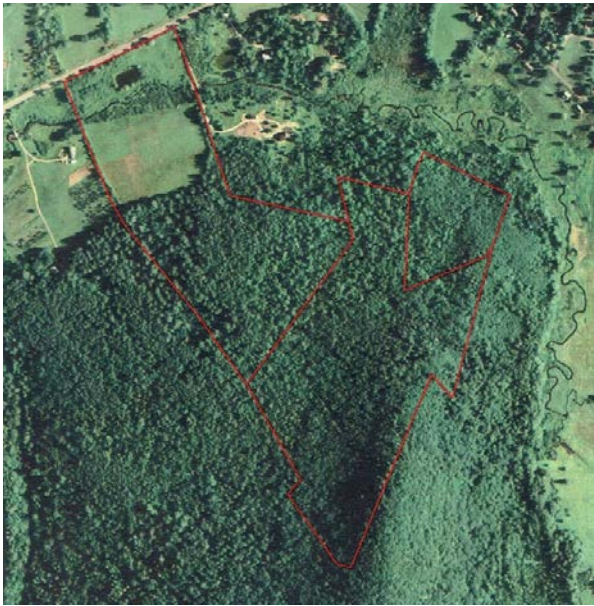
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Sharon Land Trust, Inc.	D'Alton Property	Sharon	70.372
Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.	Furnace Brook Preserve	Cornwall	107.328

**Sharon Land Trust, Inc.
D'Alton Property
Fee Purchase 70.372 Acres**



This property abuts the 800-acre Skiff Mountain Wildlife Management Area, which links to the Skiff Mountain Preserves owned by Sharon Land Trust and Kent Land Trust, extending a protected forest block of more than 7,000 acres including the Appalachian Trail corridor and Macedonia Brook State Park. It has well maintained trails wandering through densely wooded hills and valleys suitable for equestrians, hiking birdwatching, snow-shoeing and cross country skiing. The property has a mile of frontage along Route 4 and two unnamed summits offering spectacular views to the Catskills in NY and Mt. Everest in MA. There are several wetlands and varied habitats for many plants and animals including core forest, bedrock outcrops, forested streams, shrub and open wetlands and dry summits. There is a large pond and the property is traversed by Guinea Brook, a headwater trout production stream that drains into the Housatonic. This project was a cooperative effort between Sharon Land Trust, Inc., DEEP's Opens Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program and the U.S. Dept. of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, Highlands Conservation Act grant program.

**Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.
Furnace Brook Preserve
Fee Purchase 107.378 Acres**



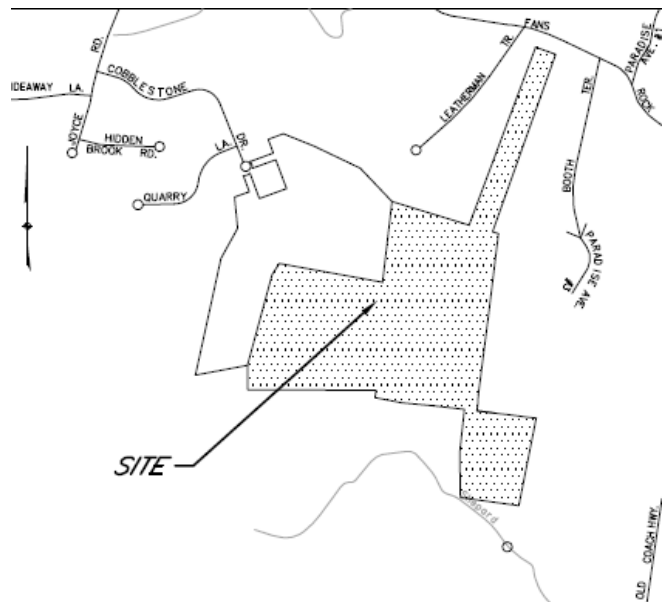
This acquisition protects the northern ridge and northwestern face of Coltsfoot Mountain and over 800 linear feet of Furnace Brook, an important tributary of the Housatonic River. The property shares almost a mile of common boundary with Wyantenock State Forest and abuts other Cornwall Conservation Trust Inc. preserved open space. This important watershed and headwaters land is in a large unbroken forest block (over 4000 acres) in the CT-MA-NY region of western New England. Over 80 acres of the tract are categorized as Core Forest habitat, 15 acres are wetland (8 forested and 7 open), 22 acres of USDA farmland soils of conservation significance, 9.3 acres is open meadow and there is a 1/2 acre pond. This acquisition was another cooperative effort between the DEEP, the US Fish & Wildlife Service Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program and Cornwall Conservation Trust, Inc.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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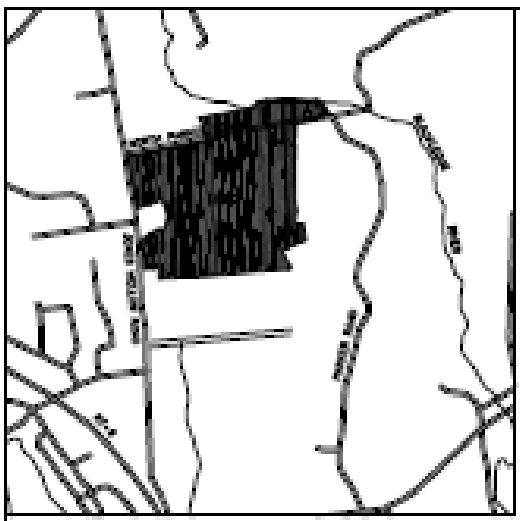
Property Name	Town	Cooperator & Cost Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Stephens & Corsi Property	Hamden	N/A	\$550,000	52.73	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park
Lord Property	Marlborough	USFWS \$932,000	\$0	207.68	Addition to Salmon River State Forest

Stephens & Corsi Property 1790 Paradise Avenue, Hamden 52.73 Acres



This irregularly shaped parcel can be accessed from a discontinued section of Paradise Avenue (north of Laura Road). It abuts a Hamden Historical Society protected property (featuring the historic Leatherman’s Cave) and will be added to West Rock Ridge State Park. According to DEEP’s Natural Diversity Database, this property is a potential habitat for bats, saw whet owls, box turtles, ribbon snakes and spotted turtles.

Lord Property
Jones Hollow Road, Marlborough
207.68 Acres



The Lord property expands the Salmon River State Forest and provides an additional access point off of Jones Hollow Road. The land features a mix of fields and forest, and adds additional frontage along the Blackledge River. The property was acquired with assistance from a Pittman-Robertson grant administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The property provides passive recreational opportunities including hiking and fishing.

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

November 2020

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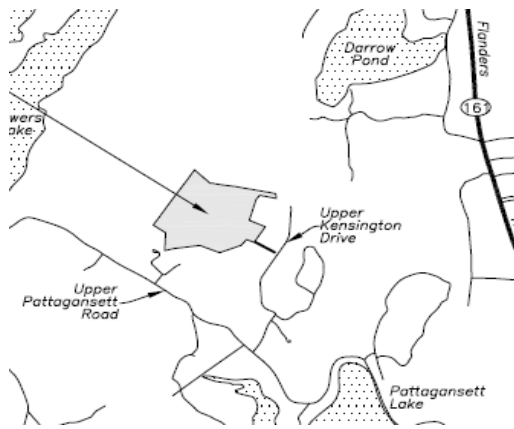
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority	Hendrickson Property	Hamden & Bethany	6.67
East Lyme Land Trust, Inc.	Pattagansett River Watershed Property	East Lyme	37.99

**South Central CT Regional Water Authority (RWA)
Hendrickson Property
1420 West Woods Road, Hamden & 350 Brooks Road, Bethany
6.67 Ac. Fee Acquisition**

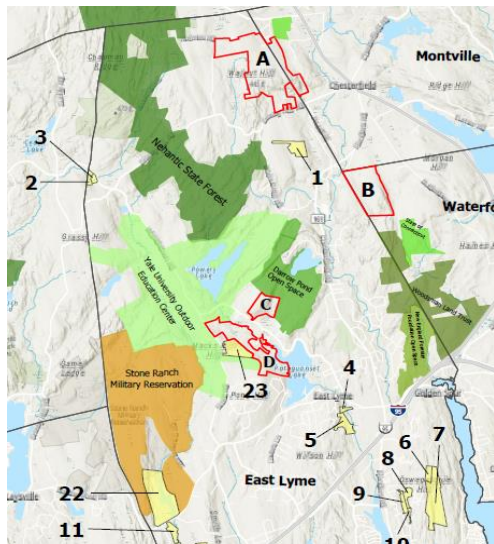


This property borders other RWA property to the southeast and across the street to the west. In total, the RWA owns 162 acres abutting the Hendrickson property. All of the land is within the Lake Watrous public water supply watershed and the West Rock Ridge Conservation Area. Approximately 5.4+/- acres will become Class I land and 1.6+/- acres will become Class II land. An unnamed watercourse and tributary to the West River flow through the property. This acquisition provides valuable connectivity to a section of the 19-mile blue blazed Quinnipiac Trail, which is maintained by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association.

**East Lyme Land Trust, Inc.
Pattagansett River Watershed Property
37.99 Ac. Fee Acquisition**



Parcel C below



This parcel includes a 12 acre early successional forest, wetlands, vernal pools, rock outcroppings and ledges, sweeping vistas of Pattagansett Lake and winter views of Long Island Sound. The early successional forest is a habitat with vigorously growing grasses, shrubs and trees which provide excellent food and cover for wildlife. The diverse variety of wildlife includes songbirds, turkey, grouse, deer, rabbit, fox, native bees and many more species drawn to old fields, thickets and young forest with an abundance of plants, brush and insects. The parcel is surrounded on three sides by 4,000+ acres of open space including Darrow Pond Open Space (301 acres), Yale University (1,875 acres), Nehantic State Forest (2,300 acres) and a Trail connection to the 14 mile Goodwin Trail. A wetland on the easterly boundary forms the headwaters of the Pattagansett Watershed, which supplies half of the drinking water for the Town of East Lyme. There is potential to create trails that connect to the 14-mile Goodwin Trail. Recreational opportunities include hiking, rock climbing, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, photography, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, geo-caching and bicycling.



Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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

December 2020

Overview

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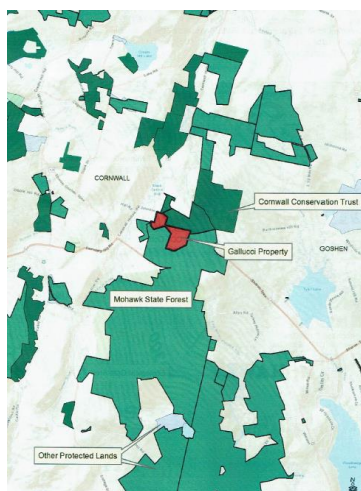
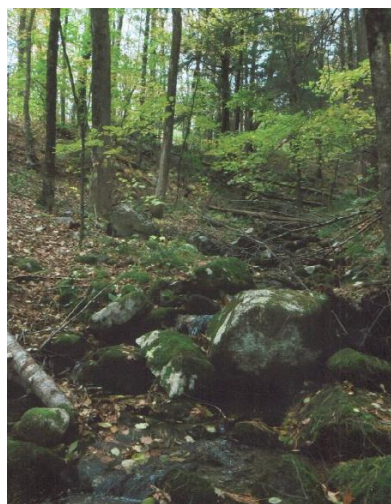
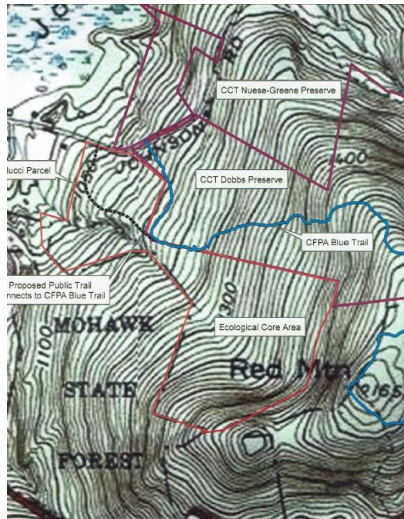
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority	DePodesta Property	Hamden	14.05
Cornwall Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Red Mountain Gallucci Preserve	Cornwall	66.11

**South Central CT Regional Water Authority (RWA)
DePodesta Property
1420 West Woods Road, Hamden & 350 Brooks Road, Bethany
14.05 Acre Fee Acquisition**



Approximately nine acres, along the westerly boundary of this property, will become Class I Watershed land and approximately five acres will become Class II Watershed land, within the Lake Whitney public water supply reservoir. It will protect two streams that eventually flow into Lake Whitney. The property will be managed for the protection of the public water supply. Additional activities, subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of the Department of Public Health, include recreation, timber and cord wood harvesting, environmental education and research. The Farmington Canal Rail to Trail passes to the west of the property. Although there are no plans for direct public access to this property, preserving it will allow users to enjoy it from the trail.

**Cornwall Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (CCT)
 Red Mountain Gallucci Preserve
 66.11 Acre Fee Acquisition**



This property, on Red Mountain, is surrounded almost entirely by other protected property. It connects Mohawk State Forest with more than 310 acres of CCT preserved lands, filling in a contiguous protected forest block of more than 1,230 acres and a core forest block of 2,350 acres. The acquisition contributes to two existing greenways, the Mohawk Trail and the Housatonic River. The property is bisected by a headwater stream, Birdseye Brook, which forms a dramatic ravine before draining into Furnace Brook, which then drains in to the Housatonic River. The land's core forest, slopes, ridgelines, headwater stream, and elevations create a wide diversity of habitats, timber strands and terrain that mitigate the impacts of climate change and support many important wildlife species. It has excellent trail potential and is easily accessible from Johnson Road, near its junction with CT Route 43. A portion of the blue-blazed Mohawk Trail goes along the property and CCT plans to create a connector from Johnson Road across this property to the Mohawk Trail. This property received additional funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service Highlands Grant Program

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Property Name	Town	Cooperator & Cost Share	State Share	Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Town of Goshen	Goshen	USFWS Highlands grant \$131,500; Town donation \$131,500	\$0	95.484	Permanent protection via Conservation Easement
Housatonic Temple Assoc.	North Canaan	GE Housatonic River Natural Resources Damages Settlement Agreement Fund \$140,000	\$0	2.03	Housatonic River Water Access

**Town of Goshen
East Street North, Goshen
95.484 Acre Conservation Easement Acquisition**



The DEEP acquired a conservation easement over two adjoining parcels which are owned by the Town of Goshen but not permanently protected. The property is rural, forested with rock outcrops, wetlands and a small pond. A gravel parking area provides good access to the property. The Town sold the easement at a 50% bargain sale, with the funding provided by a federal Highlands Conservation Act grant administered by the USFWS.



Housatonic Temple Association Property
310 Salisbury Road, North Canaan
2.03 Acre Fee Acquisition



This property consists of a former fellowship hall on 2.03 acres with frontage along the Housatonic River. The acquisition will help provide public access to this upper section of the river which has historically been limited. Once the structures are removed, the site will be developed for public use including fishing access and potentially car top boating access.