



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

**January 2023**

### **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 Land Acquisition Program grants funded in January 2023.

### **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 closings January 2023.



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

**February 2023**

### Overview

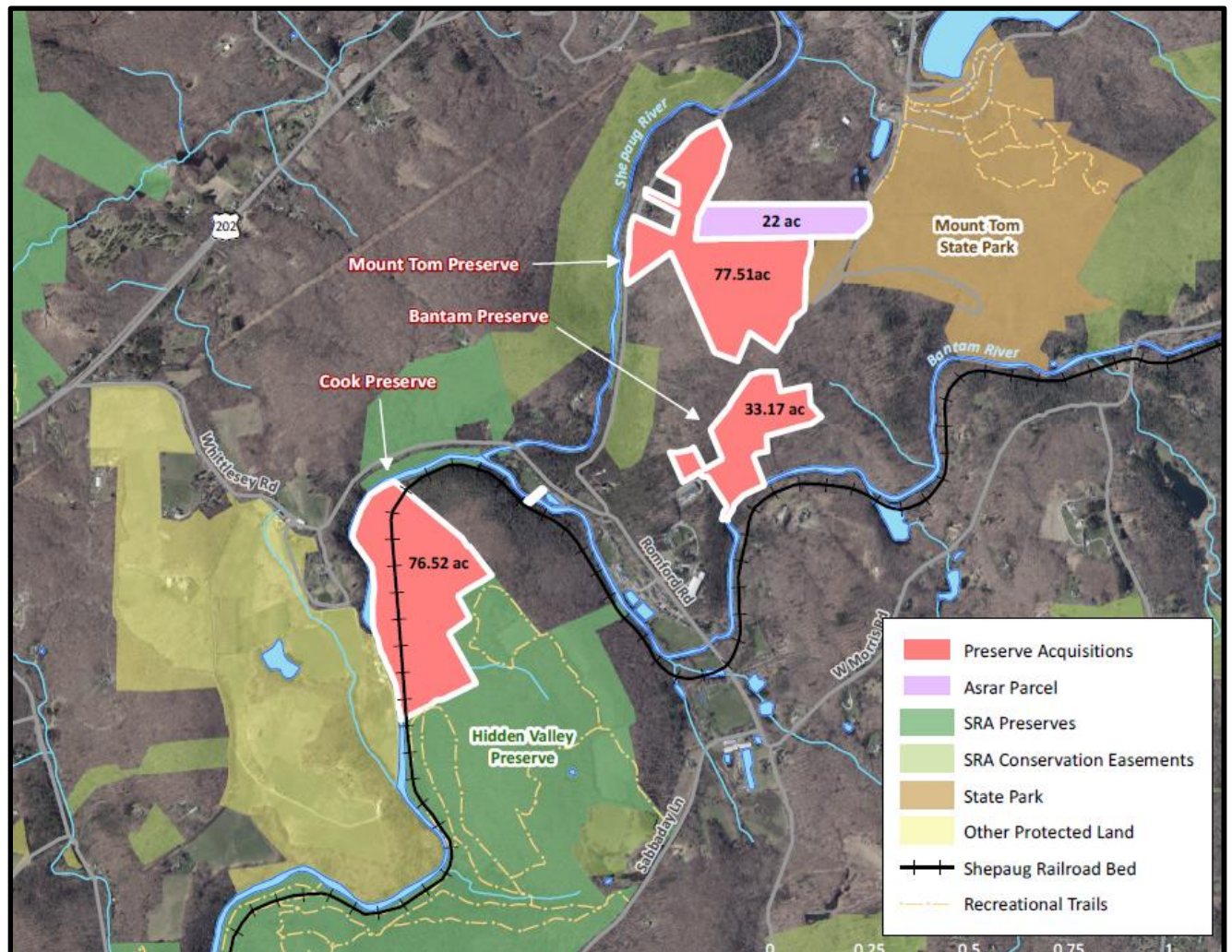
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### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Steep Rock Association, Inc.	Bantam Preserve	Washington	33.17
Steep Rock Association, Inc.	Cook Preserve	Washington	76.52
Steep Rock Association, Inc.	Mt. Tom Preserve	Washington	77.51
Town of Pomfret	Frankfurter Property	Pomfret	130.66
Town of Wallingford	264 Williams Road	Wallingford	95.281

**Steep Rock Association, Inc. (SRA)**  
**Bantam Preserve, Cook Preserve and Mt. Tom Preserve, Washington**  
**187.2 Acres total**



The Bantam, Cook and Mt. Tom Preserves expand upon SRA's 676-acre Hidden Valley Preserve connecting it to Mount Tom State Park. The three parcels are located within a 1,216-acre core forest, 1,656 acres of protected land and the 13,000+ acre Shepaug Forest Block Important Bird Area. SRA plans to install a 2.1-mile spur trail from the existing Mount Tom State Park trail system.

The 33+ acre Bantam parcel contains 77 feet of riparian habitat along the Bantam River, 6 acres of wetland, a 1-acre swamp, a cold-water stream and an alluvial swamp within floodplain forest.





The 76+ acre Cook Parcel includes 4 vernal pools, 9 acres of Dry Oak-Pine Forest, a 0.22-mile perennial tributary of the Shepaug River, 8 acres of north-central interior and Appalachian rich swamp, 11 acres of wetland alluvial and floodplain soils, a swamp and some USDA Prime and Statewide Important Farmland Soils.

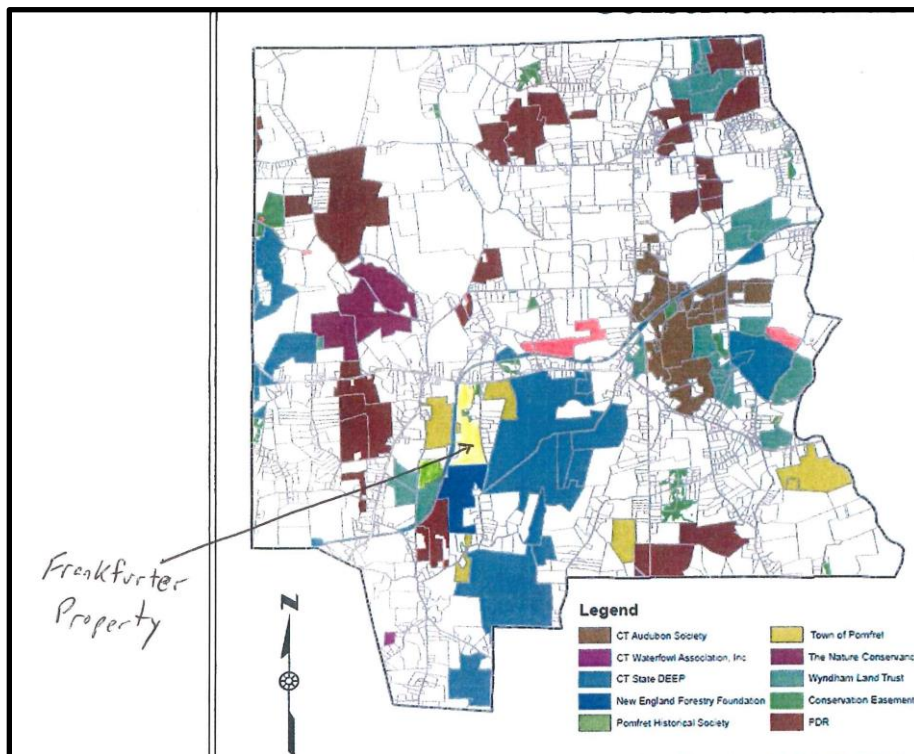
The 77+ acre Mt. Tom parcel is adjacent to DEEP's 231-acre Mount Tom State Park, contains 7 acres of wetland soils, 52 acres of core forest and 0.25 miles of dry sub acidic ridgeline. It protects two GAA-drinking water wells at nearby Rumsey Hall School, is largely mountainous and contains four subpeaks (990', 1040', 1060', 1090').

SRA received supplemental Highlands Conservation Act grant funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife

Service for all three (Bantam, Cook and Mt. Tom Preserve) acquisitions.

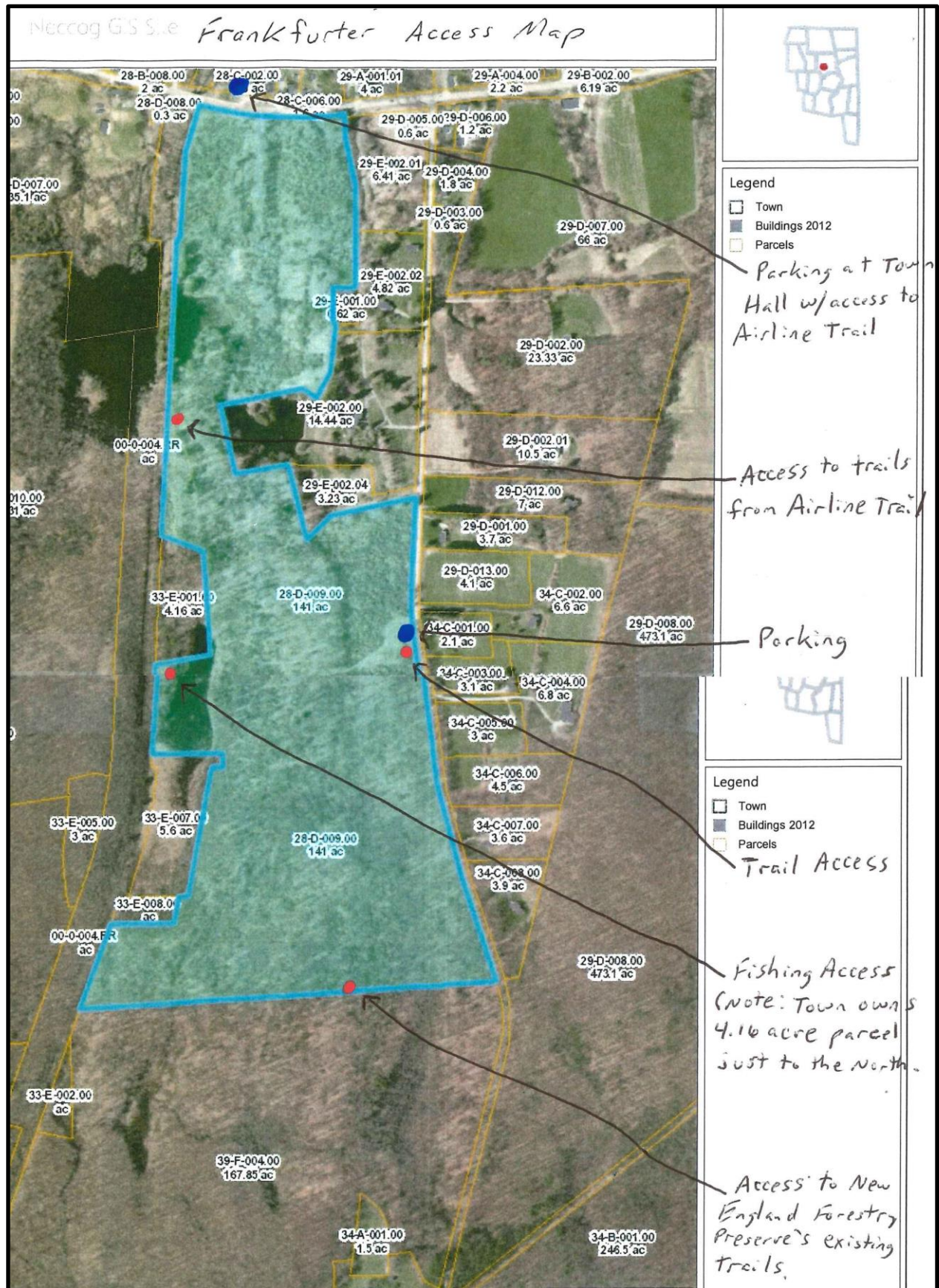
**Town of Pomfret  
Frankfurter Property  
130.66 Acres**

This 131-acre parcel is almost completely surrounded by protected open space and adjacent to the Airline Trail. The property was logged about 10 years ago and is now an early successional forest. It is part of a wildlife corridor



made up of more than 2,000 acres of open space. There are 2 inland wetlands and a pond on the property. Old logging roads on the site will be used for passive recreation and can be accessed from several points along the airline trail. The public can also access the property on Wolf Den Road and from the New England Forestry Foundation's trail system. Bass fishing will be permitted on the property's pond.







**Town of Wallingford**  
**264 Williams Road**  
**95.281 Acres**

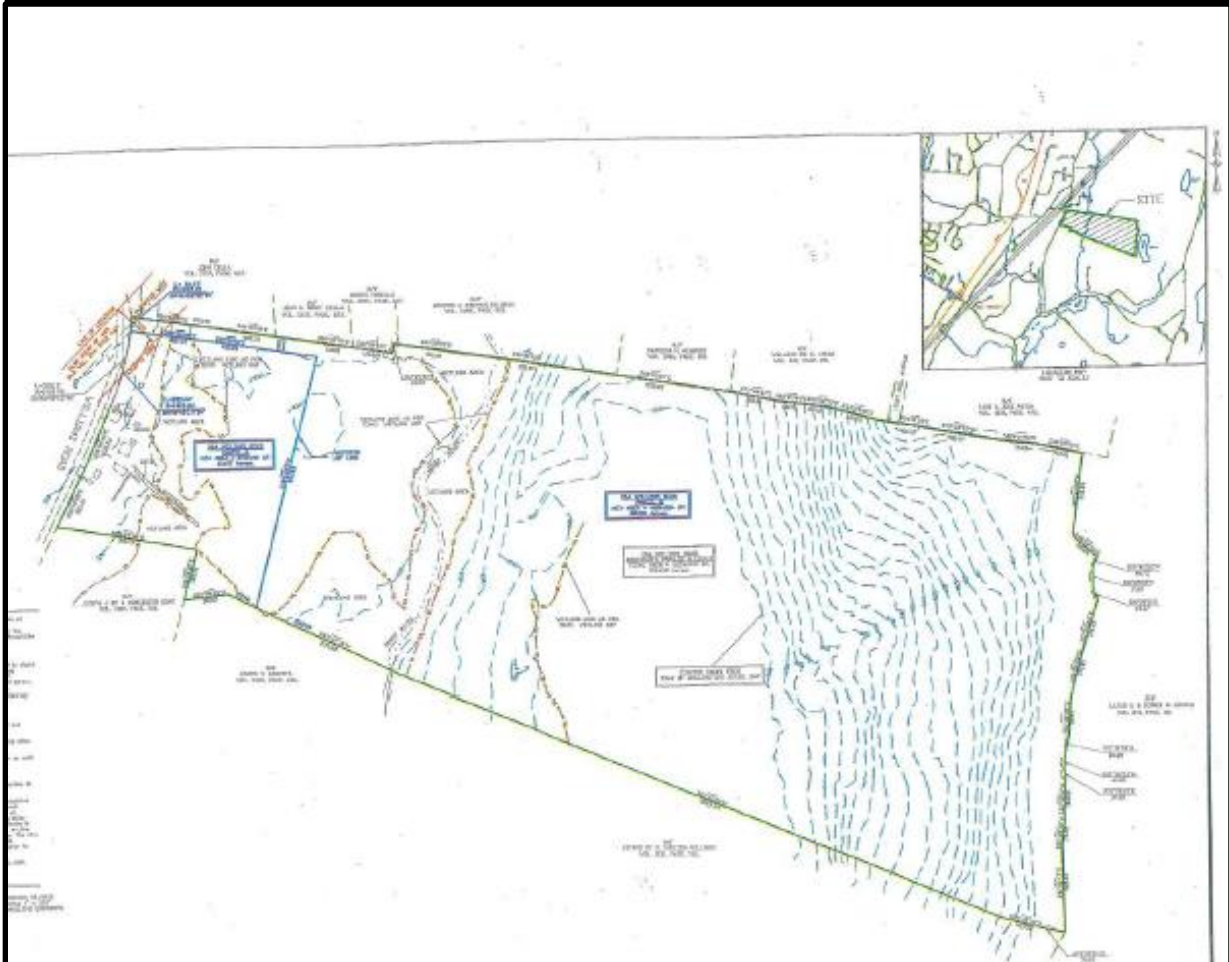
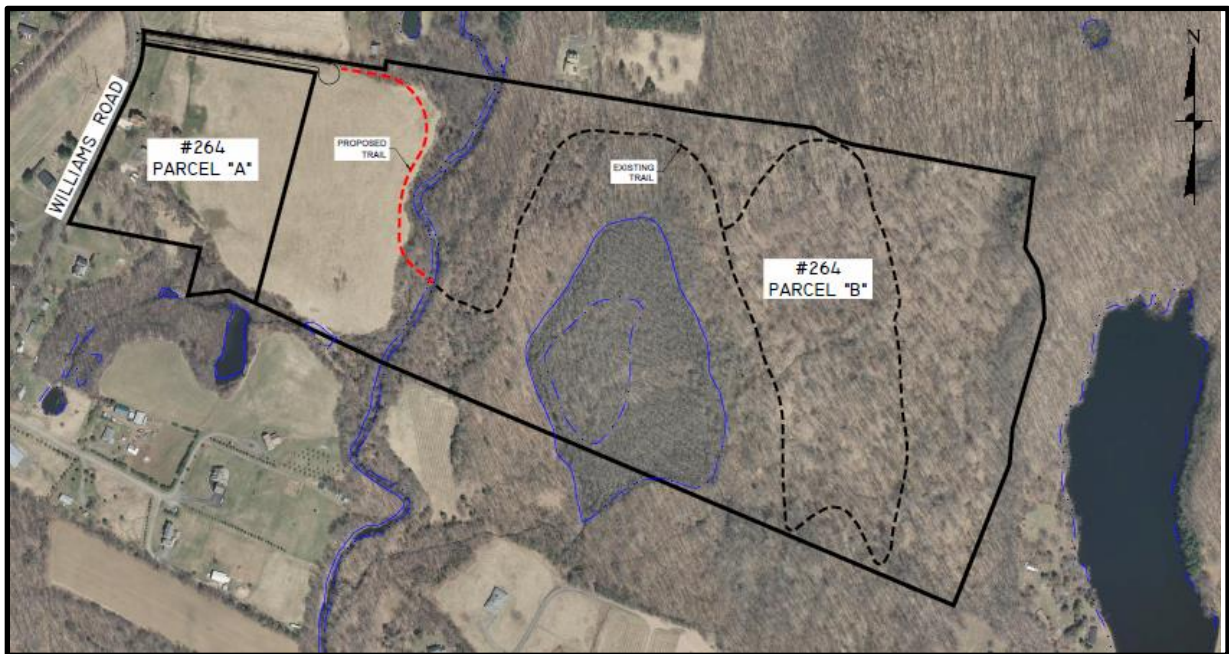
This property, to the rear of 264 Williams Road, is in the Wallingford public drinking supply watershed and will be classified as Class I and Class II water company lands. It contains the Muddy River, a Class AA watercourse, which meets the McKenzie Reservoir approx. 2,500 feet to the south. Preservation of this property protects an



undeveloped watershed area from environmental degradation, contributes to water quality purification in the open and forested areas and protects a public drinking water supply. Public access will be via a Williams Road access strip with parking on its southern edge. The town will create a loop trail, connecting to an existing woods road in the wooded section of the property. Passive recreational activities include hiking, cross country skiing, nature photography and stream fishing (the Muddy River supports a native brook trout population). A scenic viewing area with a bench and a stone dust pad intended for wheelchair use is proposed at the southeast

edge of the access drive affording scenic views over the meadow to the high ridge to the east. The property is westerly of an open space corridor with undeveloped private lands in the eastern side of Wallingford. Migrating flocks are frequently observed landing in these open fields. Ridges are known as 'highways' for wildlife movement and the high ridge on the subject property connects to other ridges offsite.







### **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 closings February 2023.



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

**March 2023**

### 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.

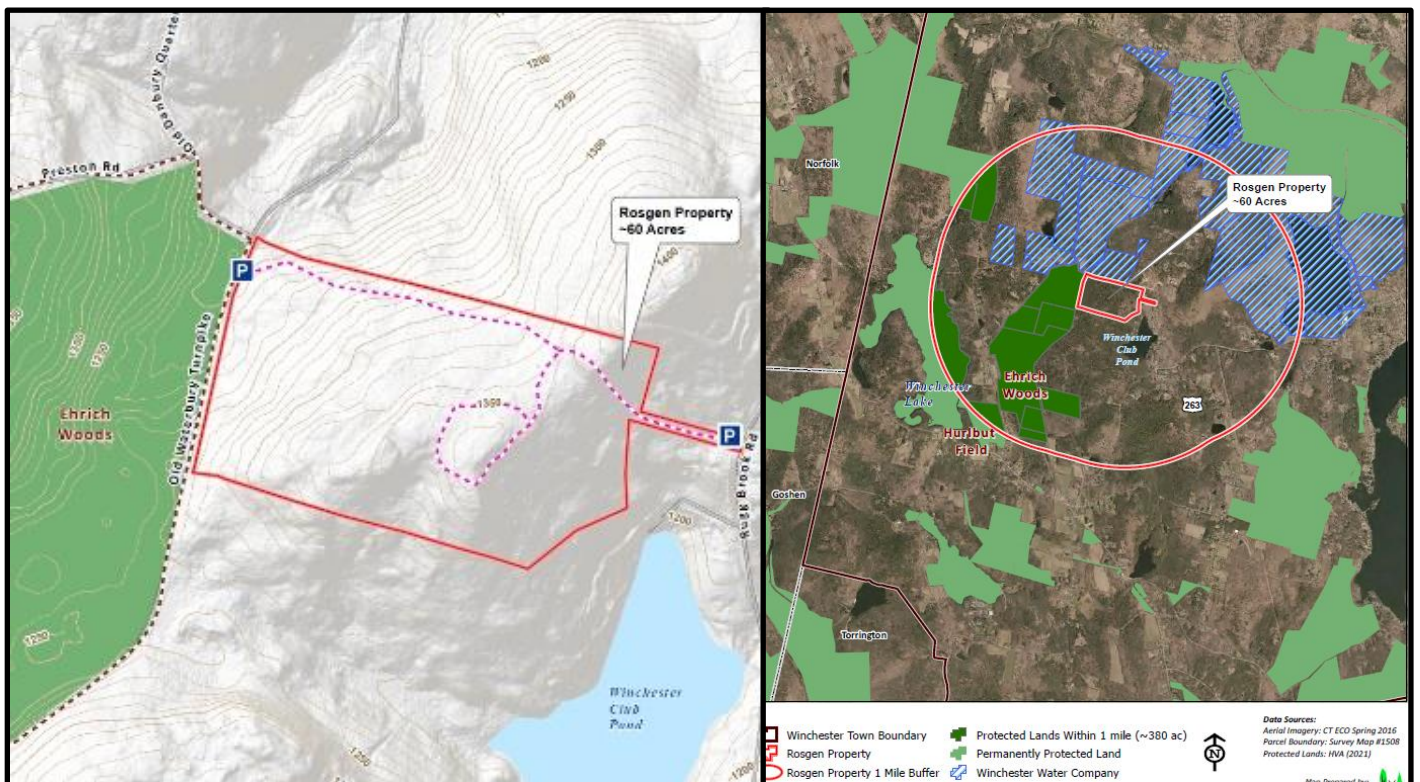
### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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 three Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grants funded in March 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Winchester Land Trust, Inc.	Rosgen Property	Winchester	59.227
Killingworth Land Conservation Trust	Greer-Duffy Property	Killingworth	24.01
Town of Willington	Talmadge Estate	Willington	16.43

**Winchester Land Trust, Inc. (WLT)**  
**Rosgen Property, Winchester**  
**59.227 Acres**

This property with frontage on Rugg Brook Road and Old Waterbury Tpke (a seasonally accessible, abandoned road) is almost entirely core forest, featuring wetlands, a diversity of terrain and a brook under a mixed hardwood and softwood canopy. It links extensive protected areas and town drinking water lands. There are stone walls, a range of elevations and high-quality habitats utilized by a wide variety of wildlife. The property abuts Winchester Water Company's 1300+/- acres to the north and WLT 350+/- acres to the east. Rugg Brook flows through the property feeding the Town's drinking water reservoirs. It is an excellent habitat for fish, amphibians and turtles and is a nice, accessible spot for fishing. Five State-listed species have been documented on or near the property including the Federally Threatened Northern long-eared bat. This property will expand upon the existing Ames Open Space hiking trails, which are well used by the public, with recently added wildlife observation areas, benches and signs.





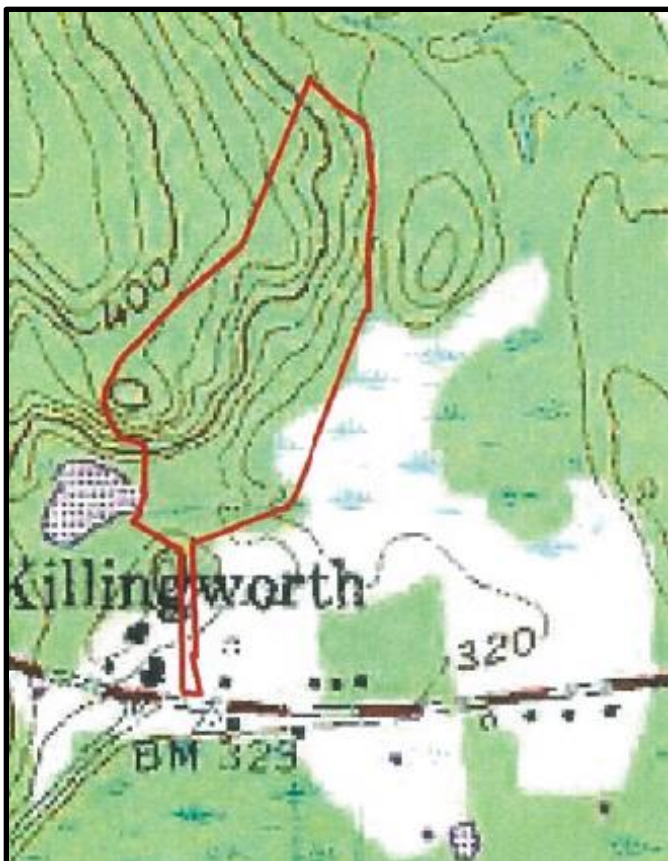
**Killingworth Land Conservation Trust (KLCT)**  
**Greer-Duffy Property, Killingworth**  
**24.01 Acres**

This property, known as Lot 34a on Route 80, lies between three already preserved KLCT properties, highlighted yellow in the map below. Winkell's Pond Preserve, to the east, contains an extremely healthy

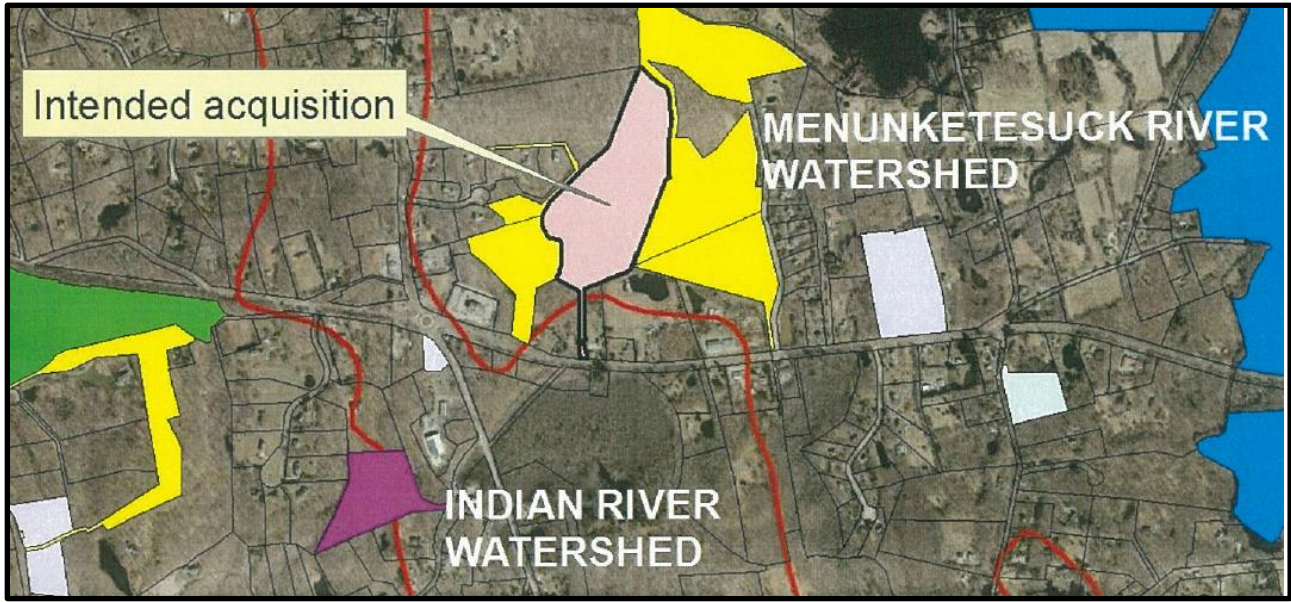


wetland/pond system and a rookery with Great Blue Herons. The property to the west contains the Winkel Pond (loop) Trail. KLCT will add a trail on this property and a parking area to complement the existing trail. The northwest side of the property is a forested, ledgey upland habitat. The parcel is wooded and has an upward slope from east to west, affording excellent views for bird watching in the marsh. A bird watching platform

for wildlife observation, is planned adjacent to the pond. This purchase will protect the forest land that filters water flowing off this property into the adjacent marsh and wetland system and the Menunketesuck River Watershed. There are scattered stone walls, logging trails and areas of ledge/rock and extremely healthy wetland systems, teeming with fish and wildlife, presumably numerous reptile and amphibian species.







**Town of Willington**  
**Talmadge Estate**  
**16.43 Acres**

This forested parcel has frontage on Mason Road in southeastern Willington. It is southerly of the 28-acre Daniel W. Talmadge Conservation Tract, purchased by the Town with OSWA funds in 2005, westerly of the

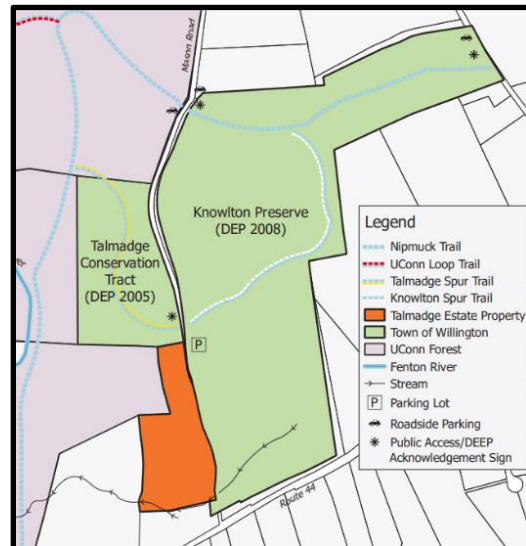


138-acre Royal Knowlton Preserve, purchased by the Town with OSWA funds in 2008, and southeasterly of the 420-acre UCONN Forest Block. Adding this parcel to the adjacent protected core forest expands it to 602+ acres. The parcel contains forested wetland areas which drain toward a small, unnamed stream flowing through the southern boundary. The parcel is close to the Fenton River public water supply watershed and Cold Water Supporting Drainage Basin. Approx. 75% of the parcel is within the Aquifer Protection area which recharges the Fenton River and UCONN's wellfields. The Fenton River is regionally important as a fishery, designated as a Class 3 Wild Trout Management Area. Protecting this parcel helps maintain forest cover, reduces stormwater runoff in the Watershed & Aquifer Protection Area, supports

local and regional surface and ground water quality goals for public water supply protection and maintains the health of the fishery. The Town will add a public access trail on Mason Road (next to the parking lot), leading southerly to the parcel's hilltop vista with exposed bedrock and views of the wetland and forest below, and northerly to the Talmadge Spur Trail and Nipmuck Trail. Two State-listed species, Wood turtle and Spotted turtle, have been documented nearby. It is



possible that the turtles use the Fenton River corridor, wetland areas, vernal pool and upland forest on this property.



### Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

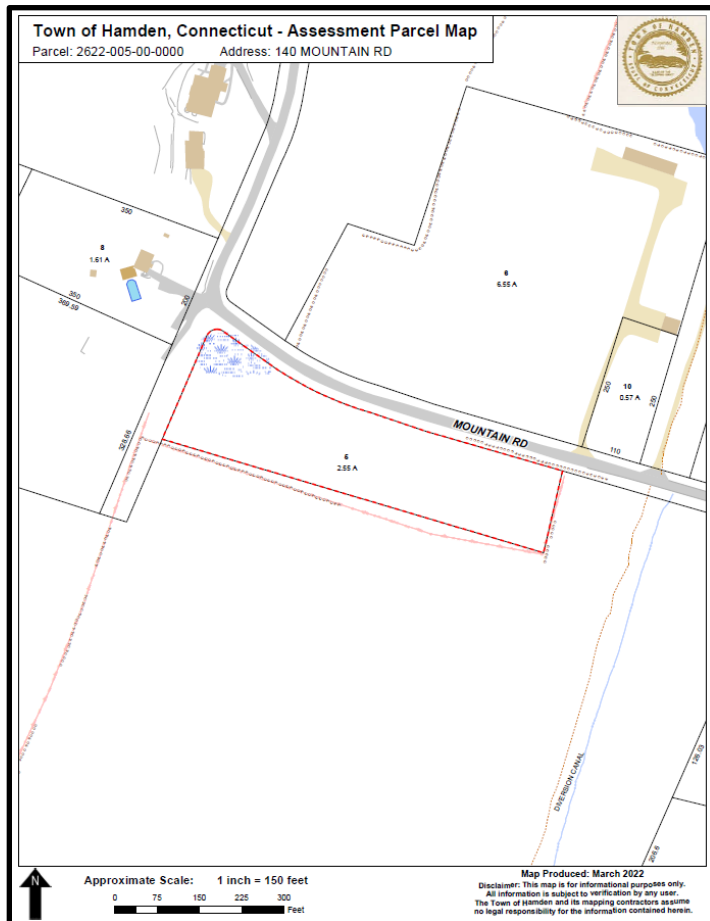
The Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program is the State of Connecticut's primary program for the acquisition of lands for the beneficial use and enjoyment of the public as additions to the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The program 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 three Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program closings March 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Klein	Hamden	George Dudley Seymour Trust - \$78,000	\$0	3.28	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park
Estate of John Barrio Jr.	Union	None	\$200,000	51.36	Addition to Nipmuck State Forest
Raccio	Hamden	None	\$90,000	3.24	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park



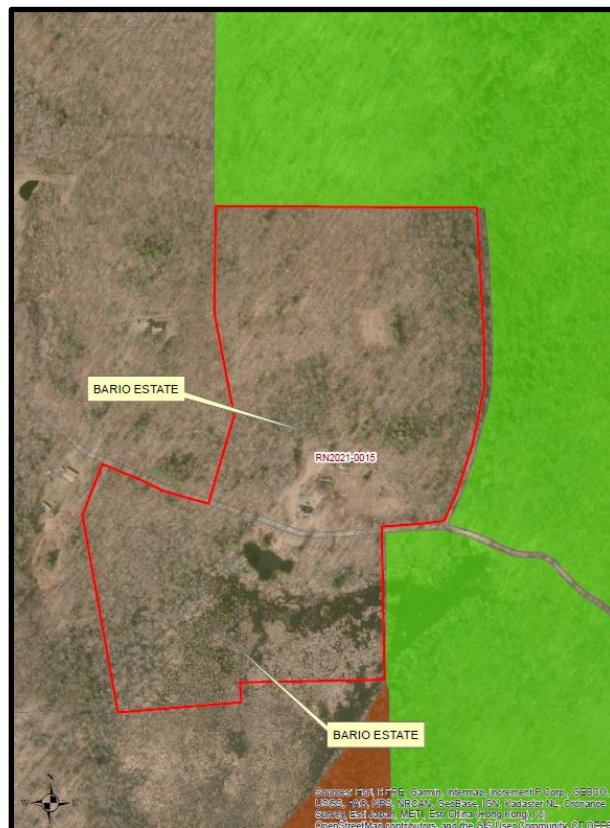
**Klein property**  
**140 Mountain Rd, Hamden**  
**3.28 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**West Rock Ridge State Park**

The Klein property is a generally rectangular shaped parcel located on the southern side of Mountain Road. The land is mainly level and wooded and was purchased with funding through the George Dudley Seymour Trust. Surrounded by State land, the acquisition helps expand West Rock Ridge State Park and prevent future development.



A photograph showing a wide, open field with green grass and some patches of brown, possibly dead vegetation. In the background, there is a dense line of trees, including evergreens and deciduous trees without leaves. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The image is framed by a black border.

northern parcel and actively managed the property for wildlife purposes and forest management including maple sugaring. The southern parcel features an open swamp, vernal pools, and mature forest. Numerous wildlife have been seen on the property in recent years including deer, turkey, woodcock, grouse, beaver, fisher cats, mink, otter, bobcat and bear. The house on the property has been removed, and the land will be added to the abutting Nipmuck State Forest. Per the wishes of Mr. Bario's will, the entire proceeds from the sale are being donated to Ducks Unlimited.



**Raccio property**  
**574 West Shepard Ave (Rear), Hamden**  
**3.24 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**West Rock Ridge State Park**

The Raccio property is located at the northern end of West Rock Ridge State Park. Surrounded on all sides by the park, it contained a long vacant home and barn which were in poor condition. The structures will be demolished and the land will be made available for public recreation including hiking and birdwatching.







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

**April 2023**

### Overview

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### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

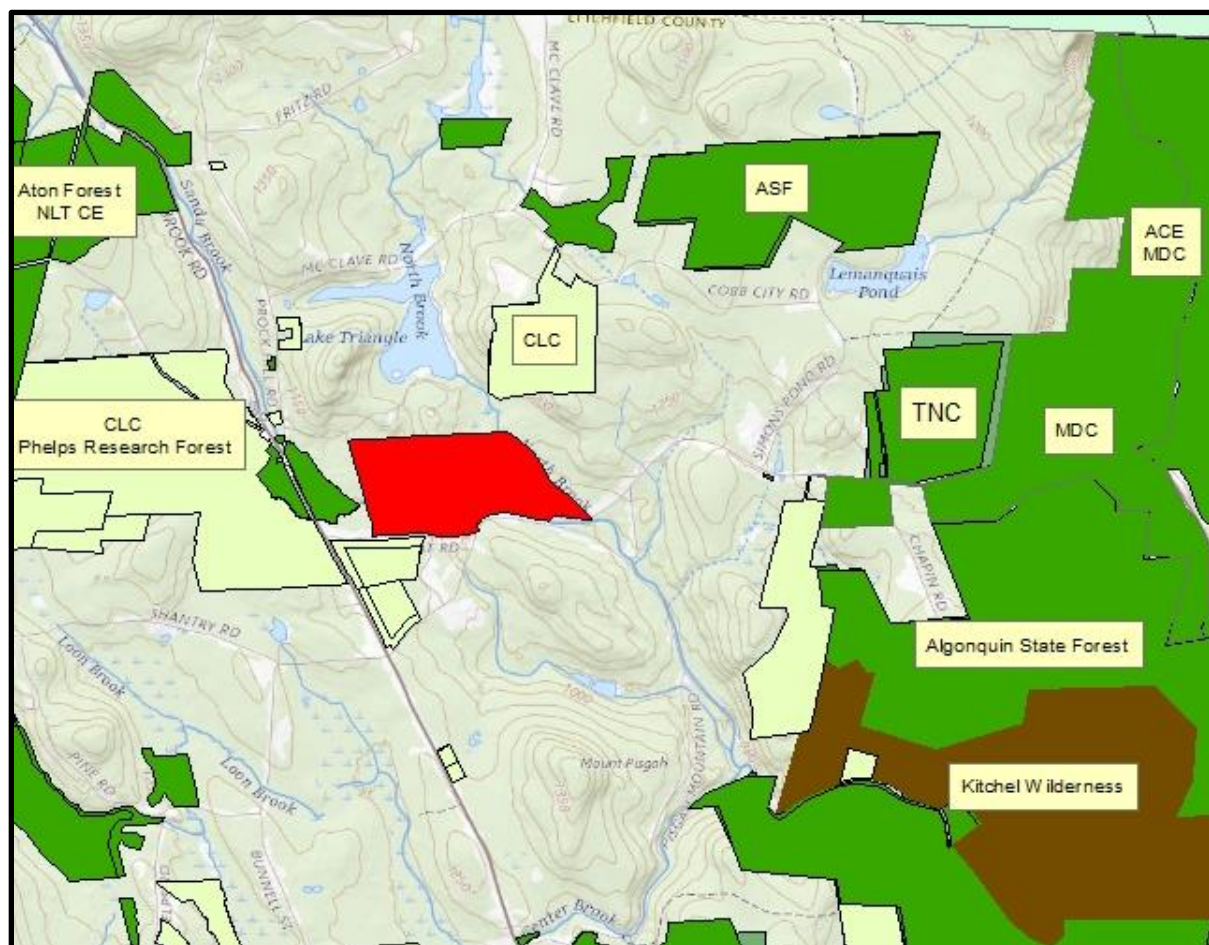
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc.	Sandy Brook Forest Preserve	Colebrook	140.7

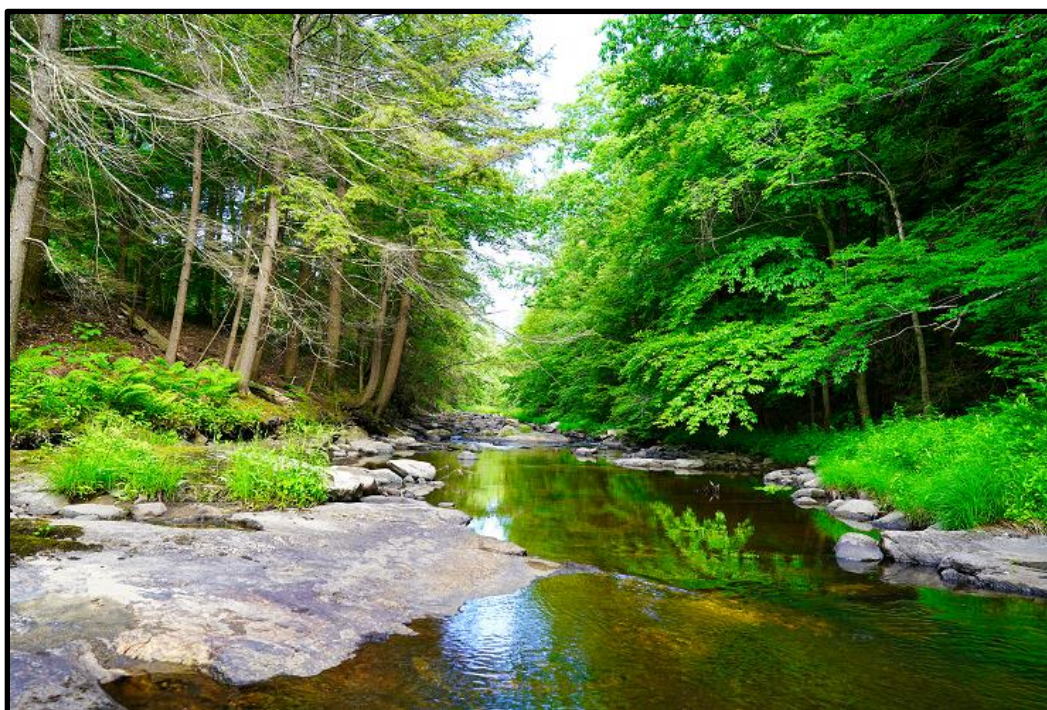
**Colebrook Land Conservancy, Inc. (CLC)**  
**Sandy Brook Forest Preserve, Colebrook**  
**140.7 Acres**

This property is situated on Phelps Flat and Beech Hill Roads in Colebrook. Most of the 140.7-acre property is core forest and part of a regional forest block that includes Algonquin State Forest, Colebrook Land Conservancy's Phelps Research Area, Aton Forest, and Sandisfield State Forest. Sandy Brook (3,780 linear feet) and North Brook (2,749 linear feet) flow through the property creating 60 acres of riparian habitat before flowing into the Farmington River. The CT NDDDB found six rare State-listed species of animals and plants on or near the site including jefferson salamander, red bat, slimy sculpin, Eastern pearl shell mussel, early coral root, and skunk currant. Property features include forested swamps, lands adjacent to freshwater wetlands, and riparian lands adjacent to cold water streams, which rank the property highly in climate resiliency.

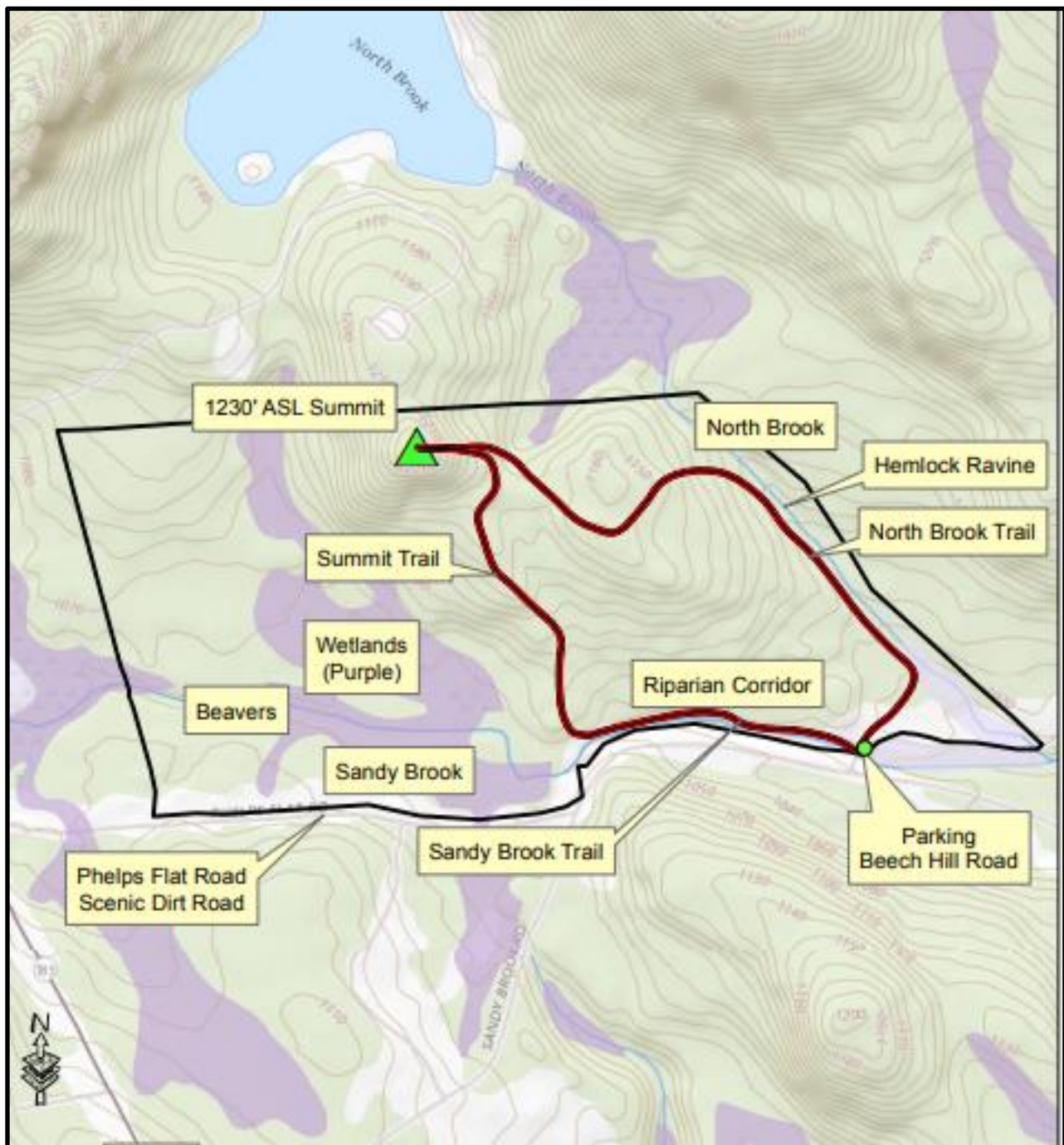
This project received additional funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a Highlands Conservation Act Grant.











## Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
Stevenson	Stafford	None	\$515,000	3.47	Addition to Bradway Pond Flood Control

**Stevenson property**  
**10A Bradway Pond Rd, Stafford**  
**3.47 Acres – Fee Purchase**  
**Bradway Pond Flood Control Property**

The Stevenson property consists of 3.47 acres improved with a house that was demolished by the sellers. The acquisition resolved an issue with a dam on the property that affected DEEP’s Bradway Pond Flood Control system. The DEEP is now able to regain floodwater storage capacity and gain better access to the abutting state flood control property.









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

**May 2023**

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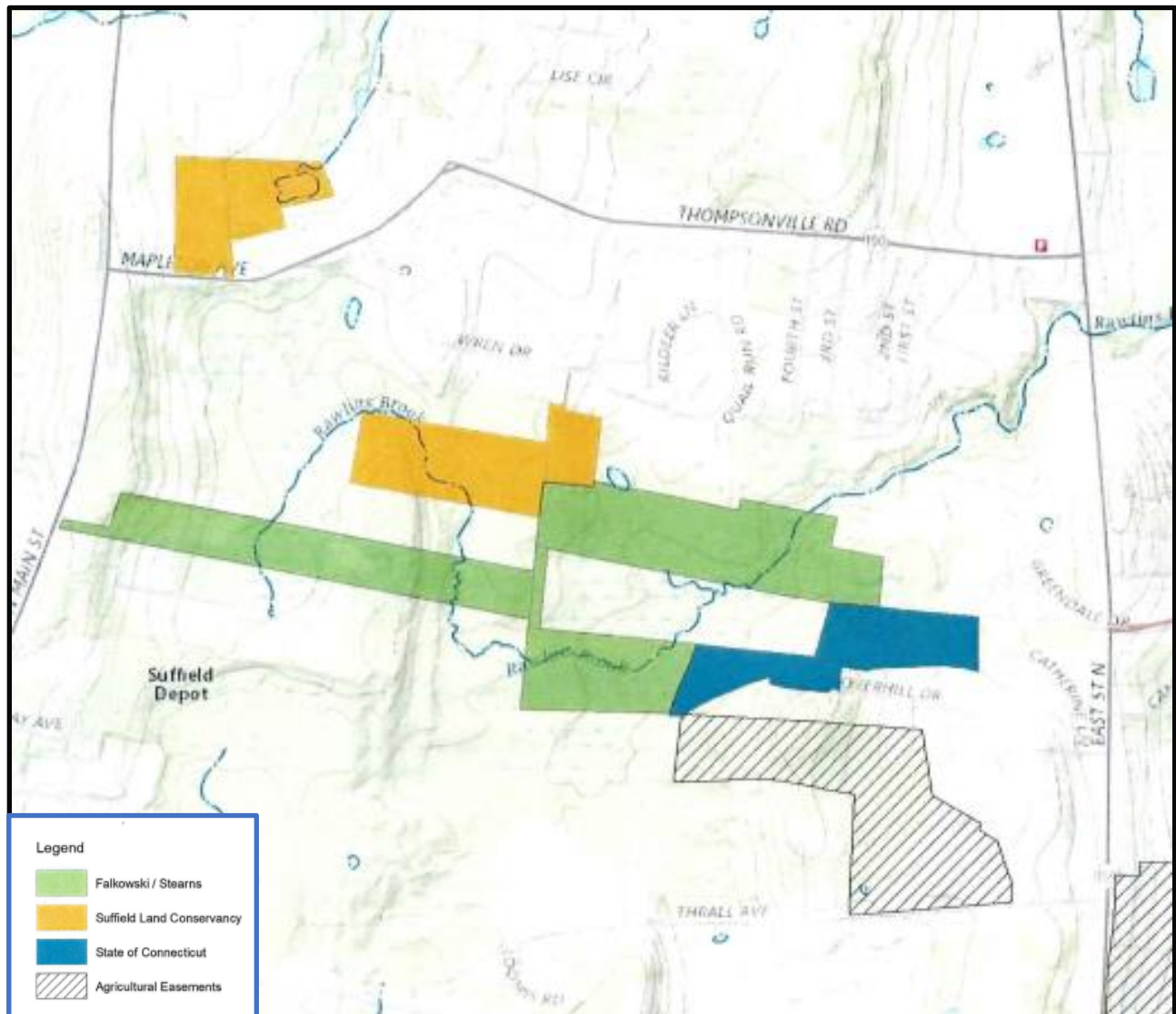
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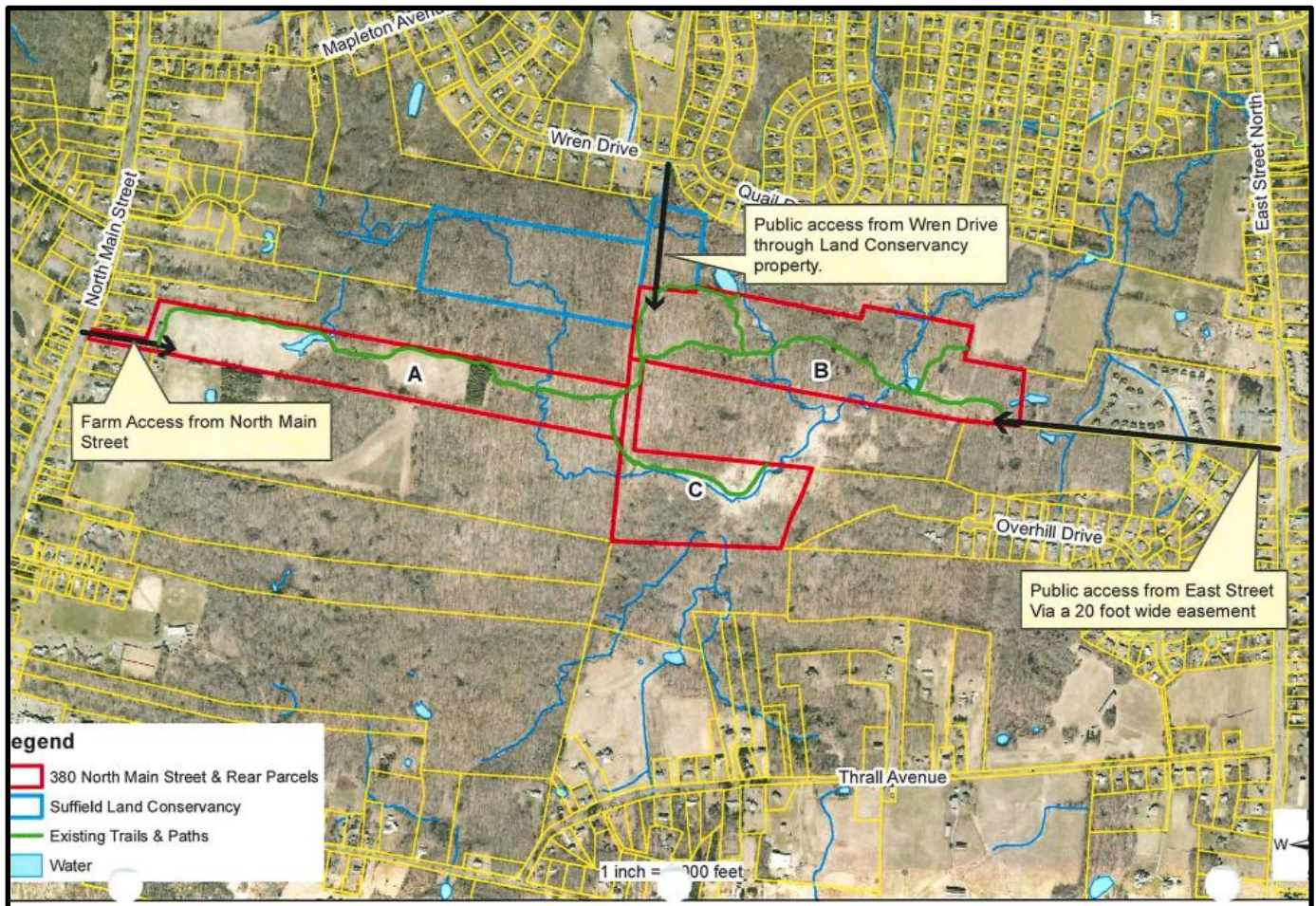
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of Suffield	Falkowski Stearns Property	Suffield	98.956 (easement)
East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.	Saunders Preserve	East Haddam	69.473
Warren Land Trust, Inc.	Cunningham Road Property	Warren	237.07

**Town of Suffield**  
**Falkowski Stearns Property, Suffield**  
**98.956 Acres (Easement)**

This property contains Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance. It is a mix of open fields and forested areas, containing hardwood tree species such as white, red, and black oak, tulip tree, and shagbark hickory. There are 6-8 vernal pools and it is in the Connecticut River watershed. It encompasses 2600 linear feet of Rawlins Brook, a Class A stream. An NDDDB preliminary assessment found four Species of Concern in and around the property including American kestrel, bobolink, wood turtle, and bush's sedge. Approximately 16 acres of the property directly east of North Main Street will continue to be used for agricultural purposes. The property owners have a forest management plan for the property. Public access areas are depicted in one of the maps below.



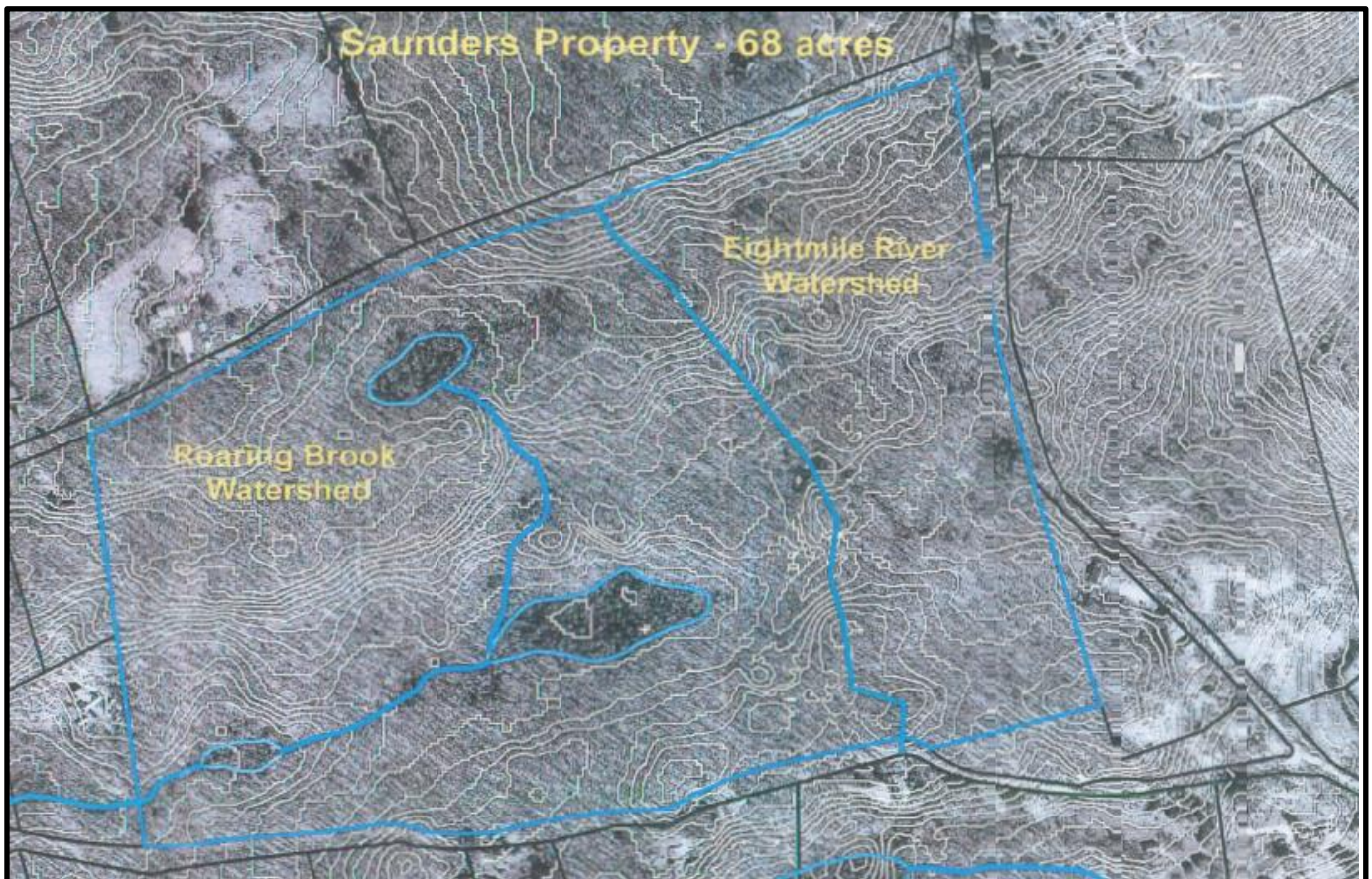




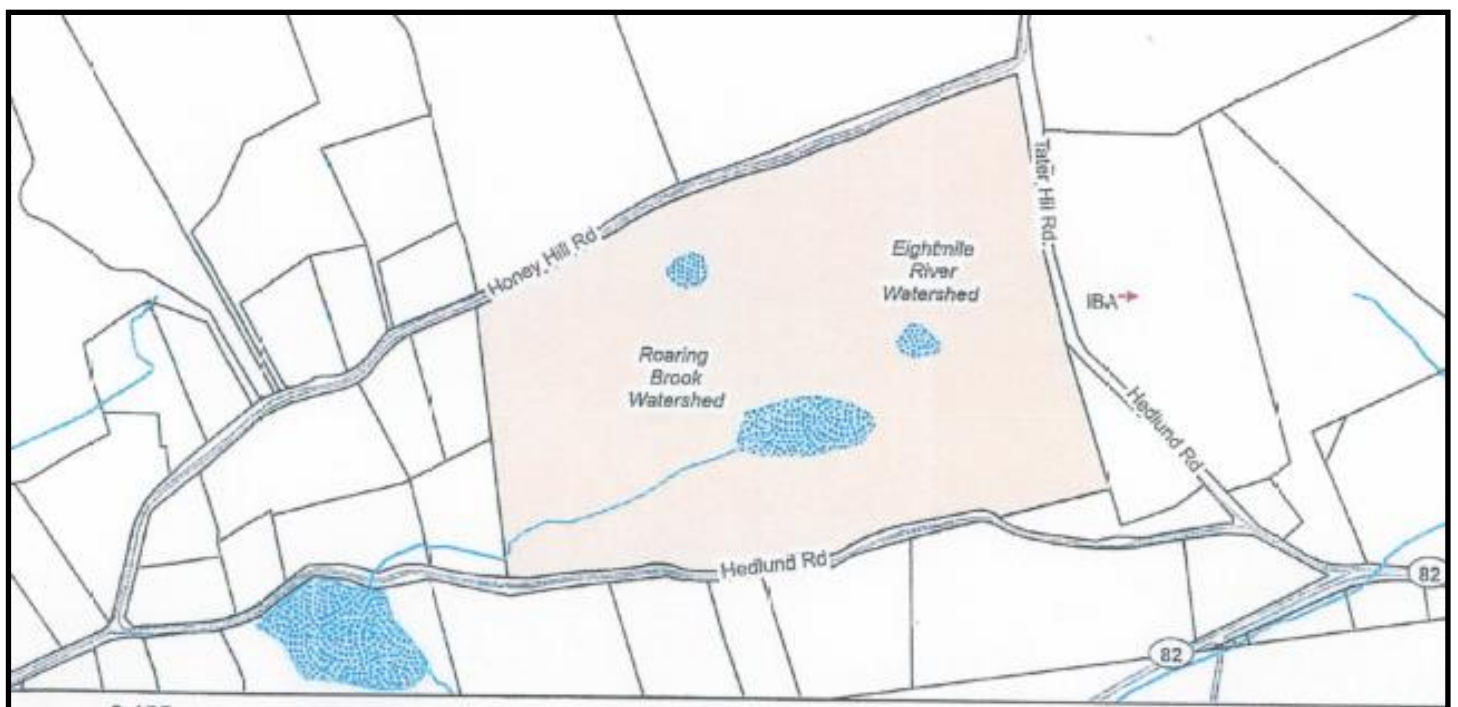
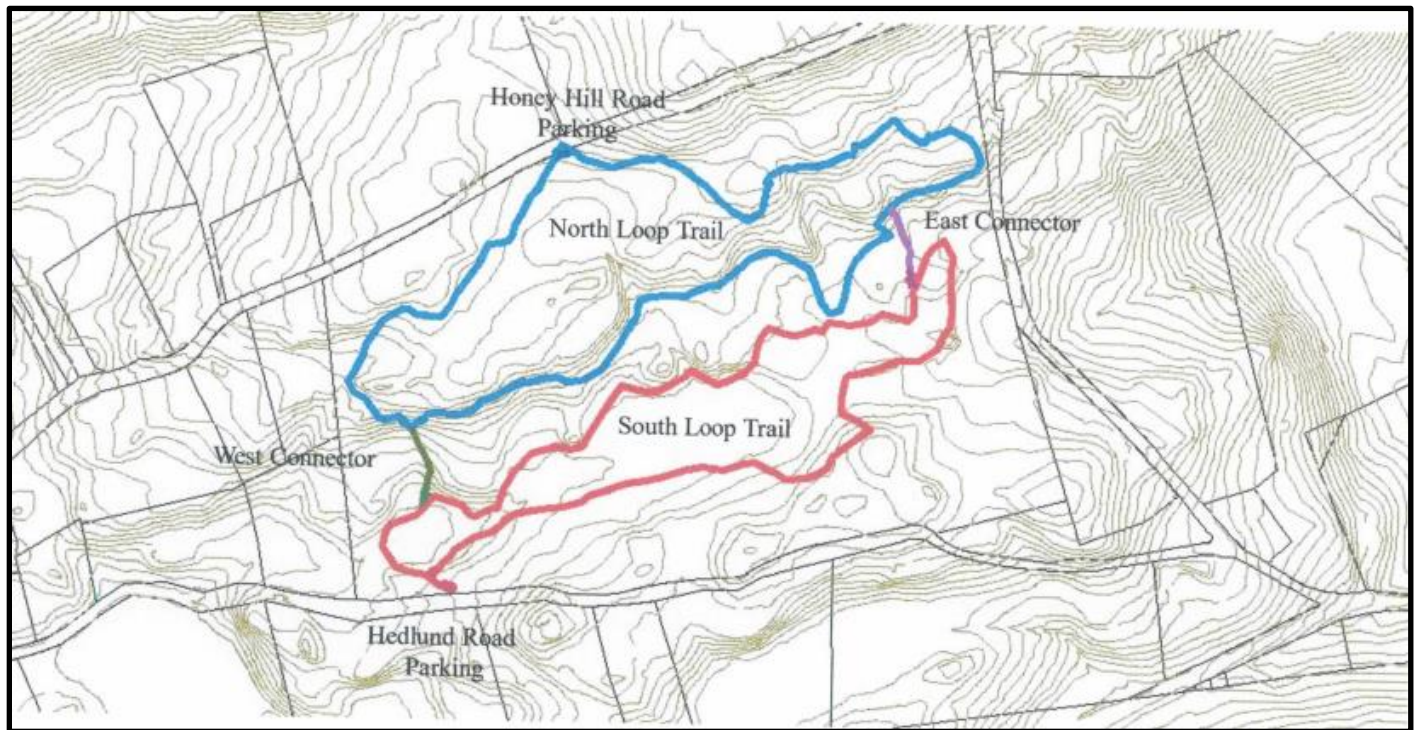


**East Haddam Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Saunders Property**  
**69.473 Acres**

The Saunders property, located on the west side of Tater Hill Road, at its intersection with Honey Hill and Hedlund Roads, contains multiple habitats at risk from climate change: mature forest, shrubby understory, 6.9 acres of forested inland wetlands and at least two vernal pools. In the western section of the property, a cold-water stream feeds into Hedlund Pond which feeds into Roaring Brook #2 in the Roaring Brook Watershed. The eastern section contains an intermittent stream that feeds the Eight Mile River Watershed (a federally designated a Wild & Scenic River). The Eight Mile River Watershed and stream feeding the Roaring Brook Watershed feed into the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. Preservation of forested acreage surrounding cold-water streams and watersheds plays an important role in maintaining the water quality and temperatures of the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound. This property abuts the Fox Hopyard Golf Club (no public access) which connects to East Haddam's 212-acre Lena Reserve then the 1,000+-acre Devils Hopyard State Park and TNC's 1,122-acre Burnham Brook Preserve, a large, mostly undisturbed block of core forest in the eastern part of East Haddam. The most easterly section and a strip in the south-central section of the Property are identified as having State and Federal Listed Species. A sliver of the easterly section is within the Audubon CT Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area. EHLT plans to add trails through the two distinct and separate geologic terranes on both sides of the Honey Hill Fault, providing passive recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing, hiking, photography, environmental education and snow shoeing.

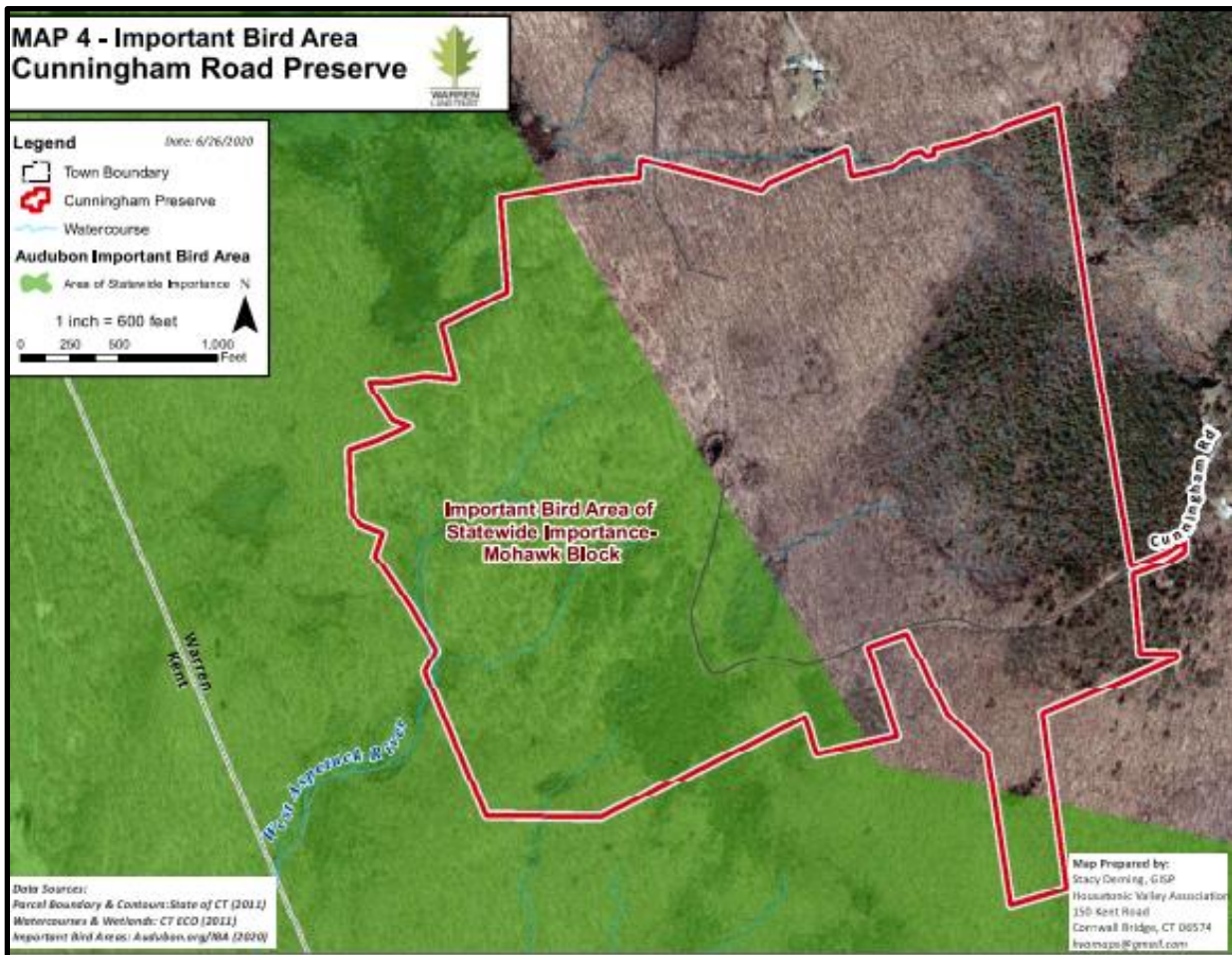




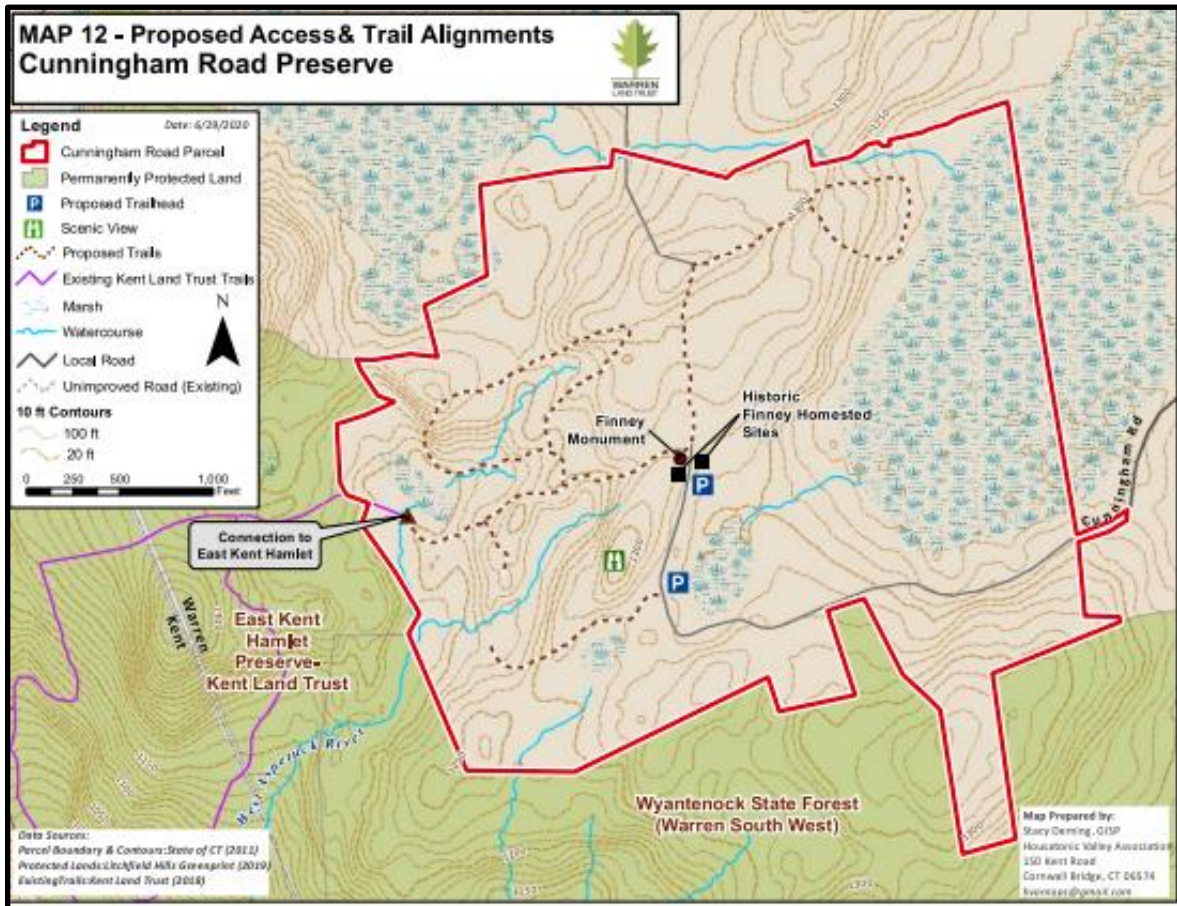


**Warren Land Trust, Inc.**  
**Cunningham Road Property, Warren**  
**237.07 Acres**

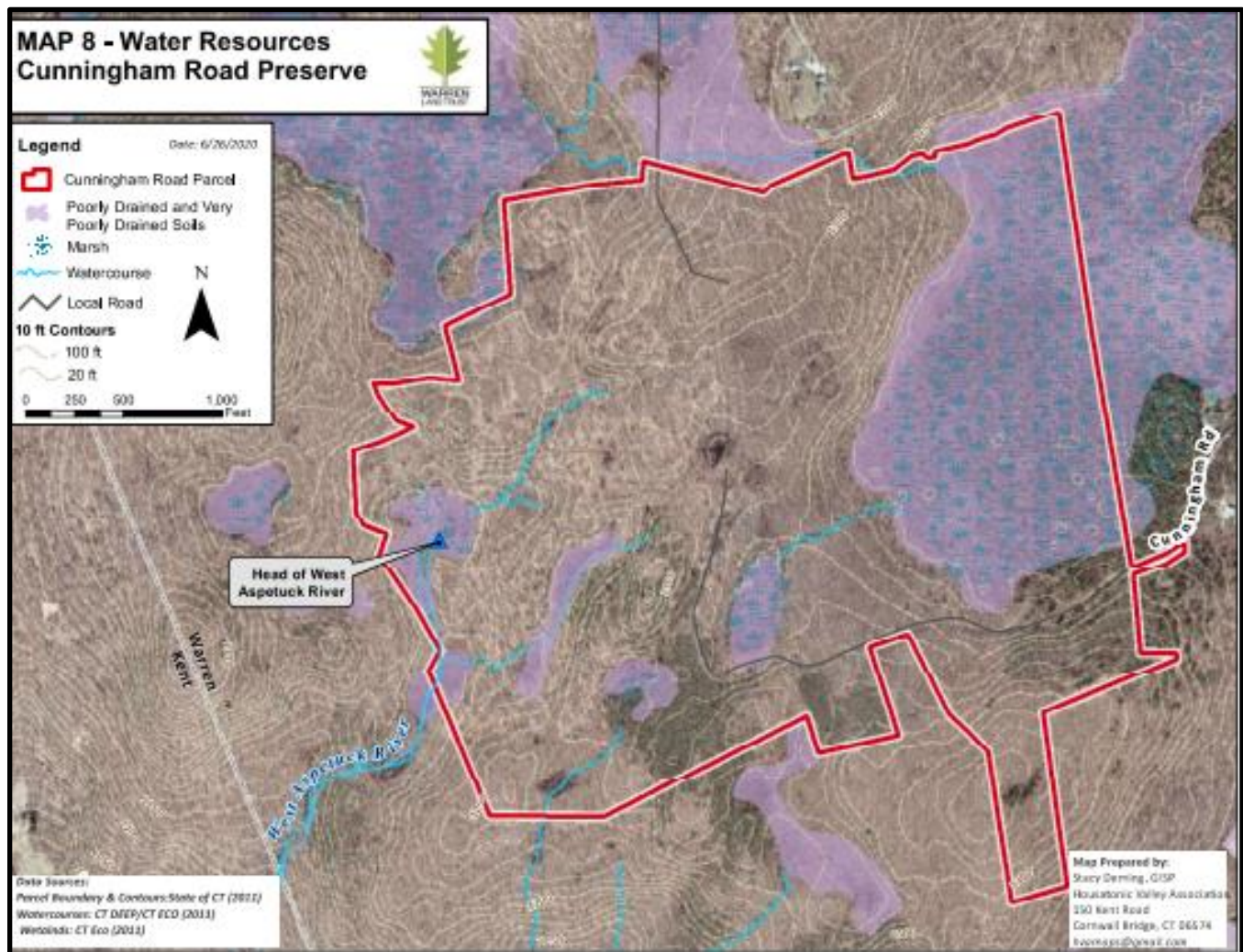
This 237.07-acre parcel is located between the 263-acre East Kent Hamlet Preserve and the 336-acre block of the Wyantenock State Forest. Its protection adds to an existing 790 acres of contiguous adjacent protected lands and builds upon a network of 948 acres of existing protected lands within a 1 mile radius. The property falls within the Mohawk Block Important Bird Area. In June 2020, a pair of Cerulean Warblers and Broad-winged Hawks were identified on the property. The property's forest habitats include 145 acres of Mixed Northern Hardwoods, 42 acres of Central Appalachian Oak and Pine Forest, and 50 acres of Forested Inland Wetlands. According to the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalent Calculator, the property is storing roughly 15,376 metric tons of carbon and can sequester an additional 100 metric tons of carbon annually. There is an extensive network of upland wetlands and cold-water stream habitats on the property as it straddles the headwaters of both the West and East Aspetuck Rivers. There are 104 acres of Prime, Statewide Important, and Locally Important Farmland Soils on the property.











## 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

**June 2023**

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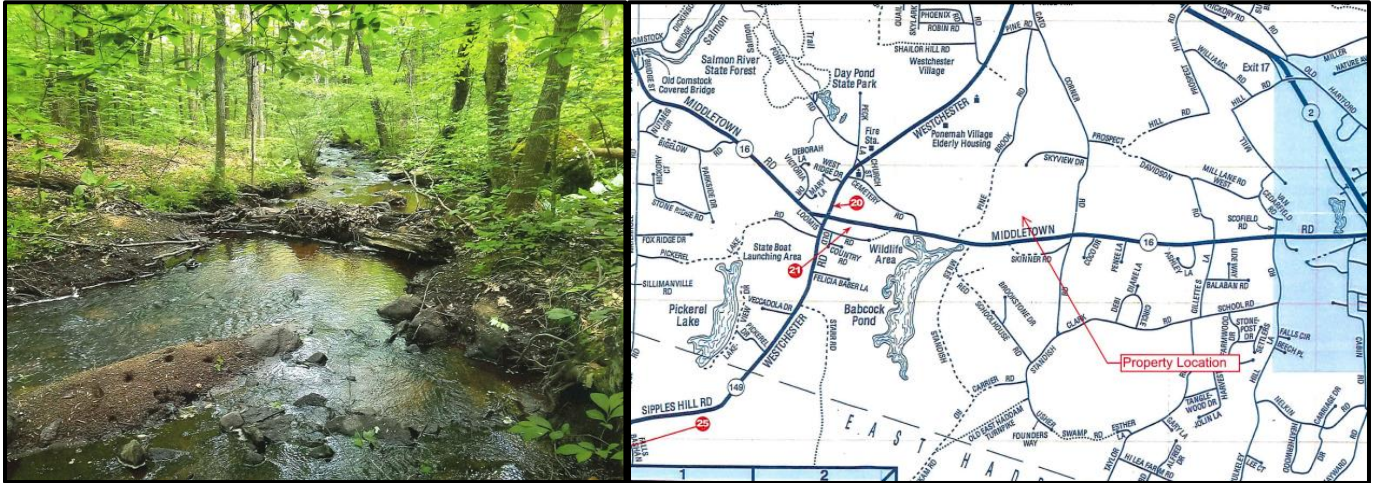
### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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. There were three Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grants funded in June 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

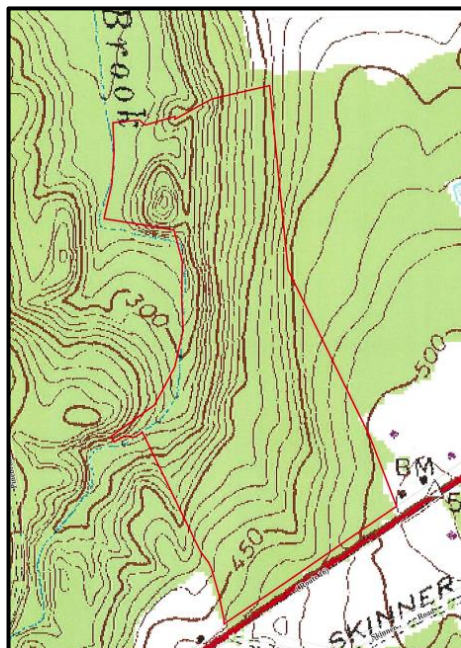
Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of Colchester	Sablitz Property	Colchester	75.174
Southbury Land Trust, Inc.	Spring Hill Farm Preserve	Southbury	31.14
Bethany Land Trust, Inc.	Van Epps Preserve	Bethany & Beacon Falls	6.907



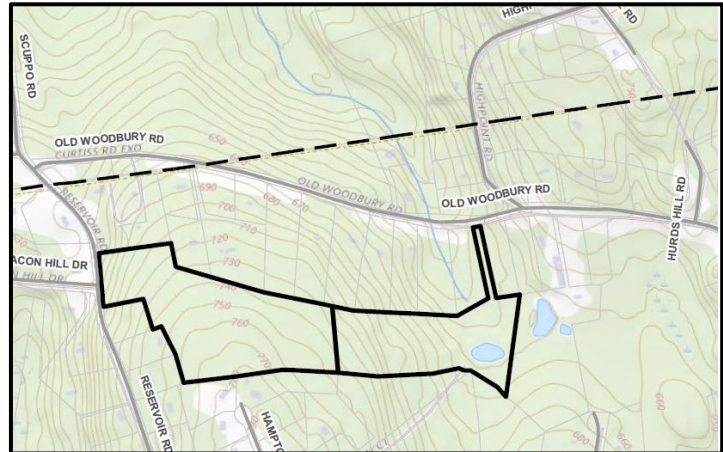
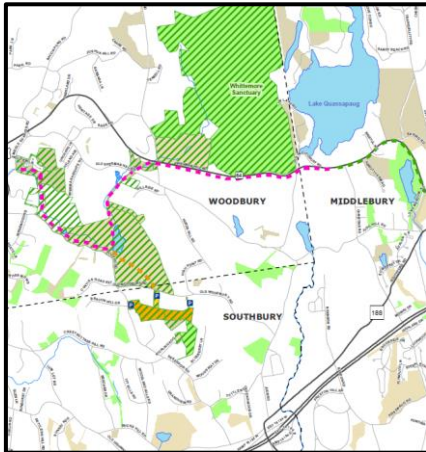
**Town of Colchester**  
**Sablitz Property, Colchester**  
**75.174 Acres**



This property is located at the southern end of the State-designated Pine Brook Greenway. Wetlands on the property feed into Pine Brook which runs along the western boundary. Pine Brook is a tributary of the Jeremy River, both of which have a Class A designation. Almost all of the property is a designated "Aquifer Protection Zone". The conservation of this property will protect 2,600 feet of riparian area. The Town will create two public access loop trails which will connect to the Richard Goodwin Trail. There will be a handicap accessible gravel parking area and a picnic area.



**Southbury Land Trust, Inc. (SLT)**  
**Spring Hill Farm Preserve**  
**31.14 Acres**



Spring Hill Farm Preserve is located in northeast Southbury, at 786 Reservoir Road & 443 Old Woodbury Road. It is historically and culturally significant, as a dairy farm in the early 1900s, utilizing perennial surface springs with stable year-round temps between 50-60 degrees to store and refrigerate the 10-gallon milk cans that were transported via the nearby Trolley to Waterbury. It provides a linkage between Woodbury's 245-acre Trolley Bed Preserve (also OSHA funded) to the north and SLT's Sterling Woods Preserve to the south. It provides a rich mixture of habitats within a relatively undisturbed tract of core forest, upland forest, forested wetlands, surface perennial springs/seeps, meadows, a pond and a stream and supports a variety of plant and wildlife species. SLT will clear trails and add boardwalks, if needed, to access natural features such as a pollinator pathway, meadow, pond and stream. The site contains an abundance of high quality DEEP rated Class AA watercourses, numerous year-round springs, seeps and streams plus the headwaters of streams that feed the recharge area of neighboring Woodbury's public water supply well. There are prime Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance. The property contains numerous passive recreation opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, biking, family friendly activities and educational programs. The trail plan will include a wildlife viewing platform at the northern side of the pond, a short and fairly level distance from the parking area, making it more accessible for visitors with disabilities.

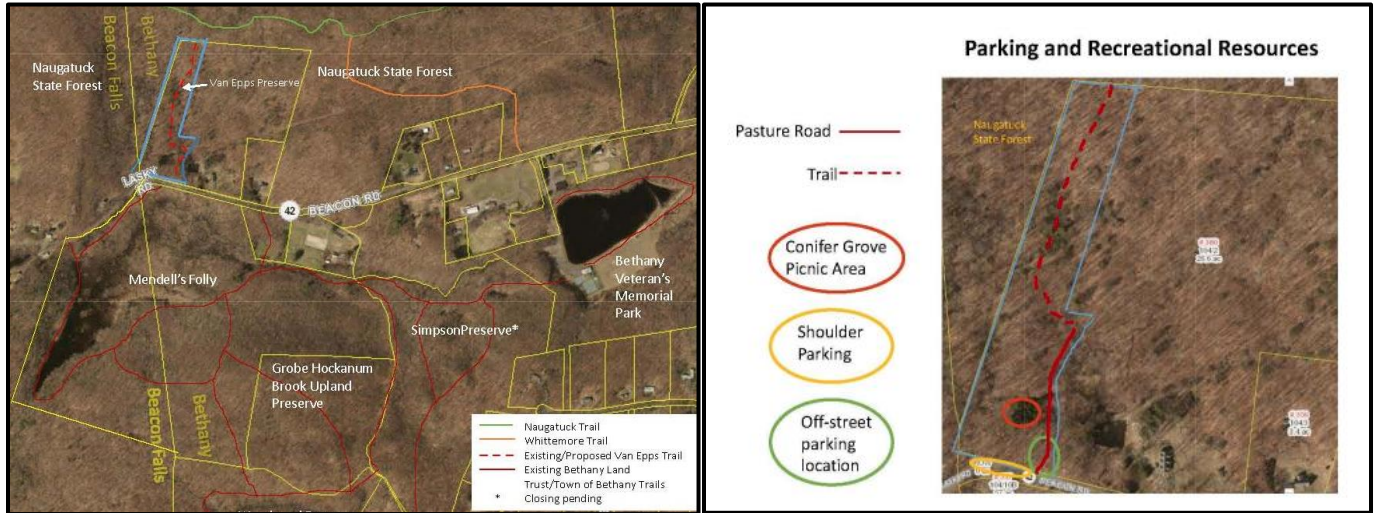




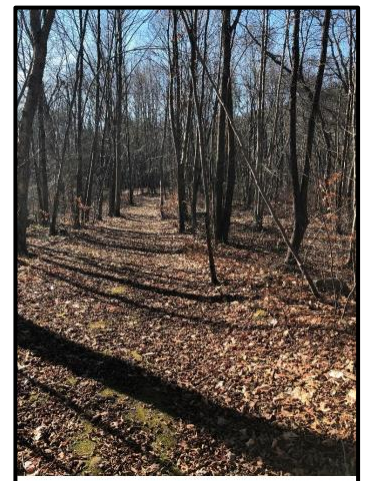
# **Bethany Land Trust, Inc.**

## **Van Epps Preserve, Bethany & Beacon Falls**

**6.907 Acres**



This parcel is located at 380 Beacon Road, on the Bethany and Beacon Falls town line. It is adjacent to the east block of the Naugatuck State Forest to the north and west, Bethany Land Trust Preserves to the south, and the Town-owned Bethany Veterans Memorial Park to the southeast. It is primarily forested with mature, second growth trees. Two cold water streams on the property flow through Mendel's Folly into Hockanum Brook. The DEEP Natural Diversity Database identifies this area as containing State and Federal Listed Species. The public can access the property from the pasture road on Route 42, which is approximately 8 feet wide and fairly level in the southern half of the parcel. The trail in the northern half of the parcel rises gradually to the rear, where it abuts the ridge of the State forest. The Conifer Grove area is great for picnicking, birding and wildlife viewing by the adjacent stream. BLT will maintain the Conifer Grove pasture road and area in a manner consistent with practices enabling handicap access. An unlocked gate at the entrance to the pasture road can be opened to facilitate handicap access.





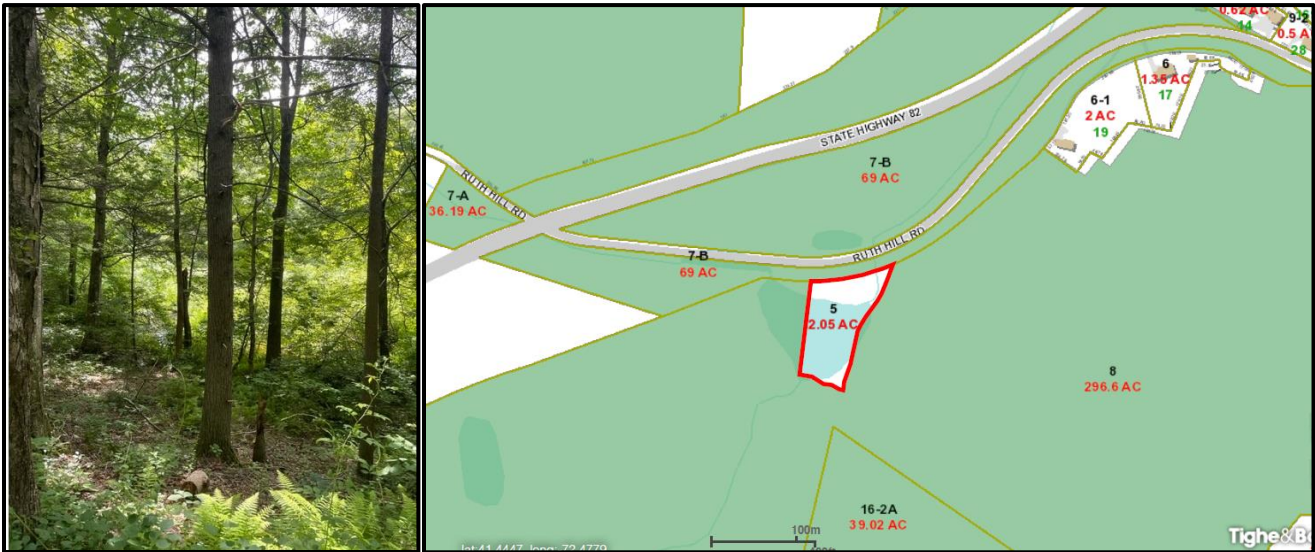
Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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 was one Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program closing in June 2023. Additional information about the property follows.

Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
LaMay	Haddam	None	\$0 (donation)	2.32	Addition to Cockaponset State Forest

**LaMay Property**  
**Ruth Hill Rd, Haddam**  
**2.32 Acres – Donation**  
**Addition to Cockaponset State Forest**

The LaMay property is a generally rectangular shaped parcel located on the southern side of Ruth Hill Road. The land is mainly level and wooded with a small pond and was generously donated by the LaMay family. Surrounded by State land, the acquisition helps expand Cockaponset State Forest and prevent future development.





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

**July 2023**

### 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

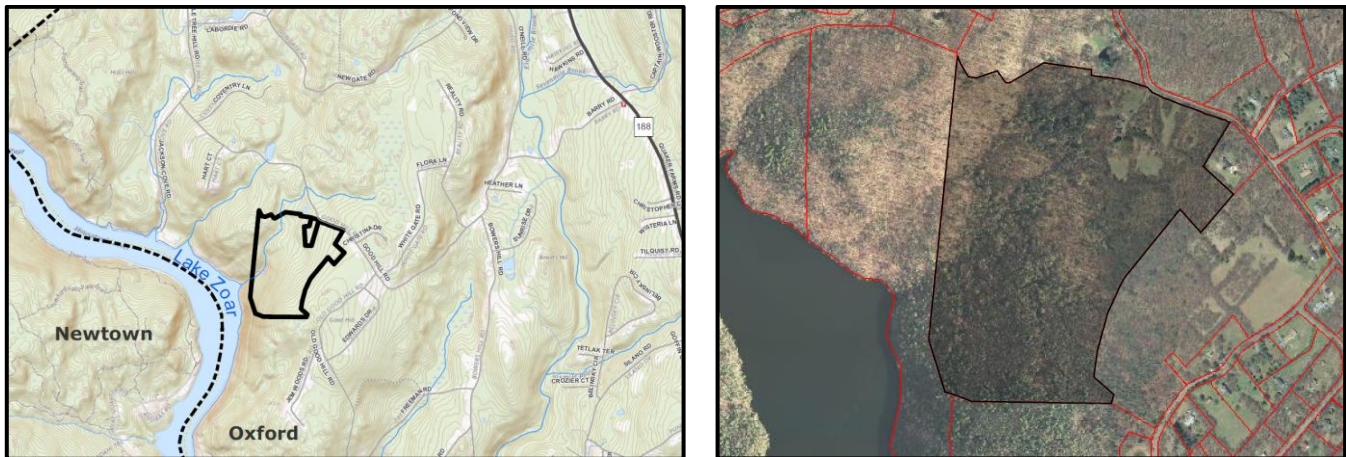
The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II watershed land. The State of Connecticut 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. Two Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grants were funded in July 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of Oxford	Vaill Property	Oxford	61.824
Sharon Land Trust, Inc.	Goldfrank Property	Sharon	81.28

**Town of Oxford**  
**Vaill Property, Oxford**  
**61.82 Acres**



The Vaill Property, located at 117 Good Hill Road, abuts approximately 200 contiguous acres of open space owned by the Town of Oxford and Oxford Land Trust, expanding forested open space, wildlife habitat connectivity and migratory corridor passageways. 98% of the property is classified as forest, so this purchase will protect the land from deforestation, a primary contributor to climate change and the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. The Town will create a public access trail linking this property to the Lake Zoar Greenway Trail, which runs along the abutting open space parcels. This forested habitat is home to a great diversity of plant and animal life and acts as a watershed to help filter pollutants from the ground. Good Hill Brook, a small tributary, flows through the Vaill Property to Lake Zoar. The preservation of this property protects this tributary, Lake Zoar, water quality and aquatic inhabitants.

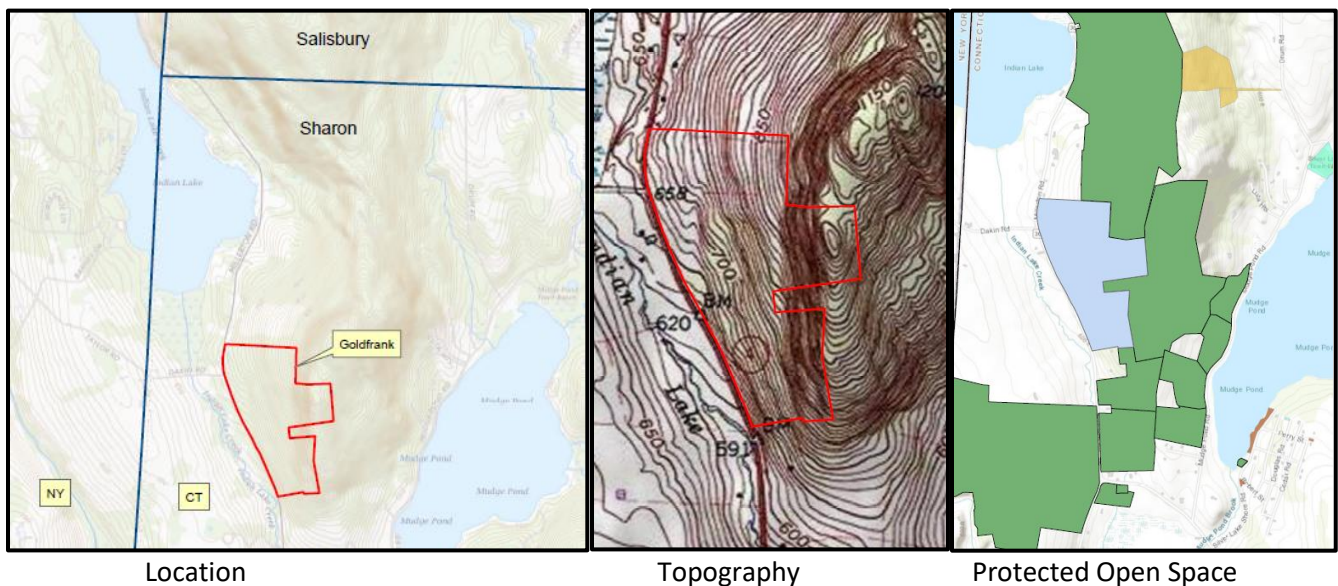




**Sharon Land Trust, Inc. (SLT)**  
**Goldfrank Property, Sharon**  
**81.28 Acres**



This forested mountainside property on Millerton Road (CT Rte. 361) has over a mile of shared boundary with SLT's 168-acre Von Ahn Farm (another OSHA funded property) and SLT's Goodbody Preserve, filling in a protected forest block of more than 400 acres. Rising to 1,200 feet on the western reach of Indian Mountain, the property is a scenic part of the gateway between Sharon and New York. The property features high-quality wildlife habitats, including steep slopes with rock outcrops and seeps. There is a 2.5-acre meadow in the lower reach of the property and 6 acres of USDA Statewide Important farmland soils. It provides climate resilience and supports a wide diversity of plant and animal life. Endangered species have been documented at or near the site and the property is a watershed that supports the Eastern Pond mussel, a State-listed Species of special concern. SLT will create an attractive trail to the summit dome and ridgeline, rewarding hikers with an outstanding view of Indian Lake, the Taconics and the Catskills. Additional funding for this acquisition was provided pursuant to a Highlands Conservation Act Grant administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, by and through the Fish and Wildlife Service.



### **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 closing in July 2023.





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

**August 2023**

### Overview

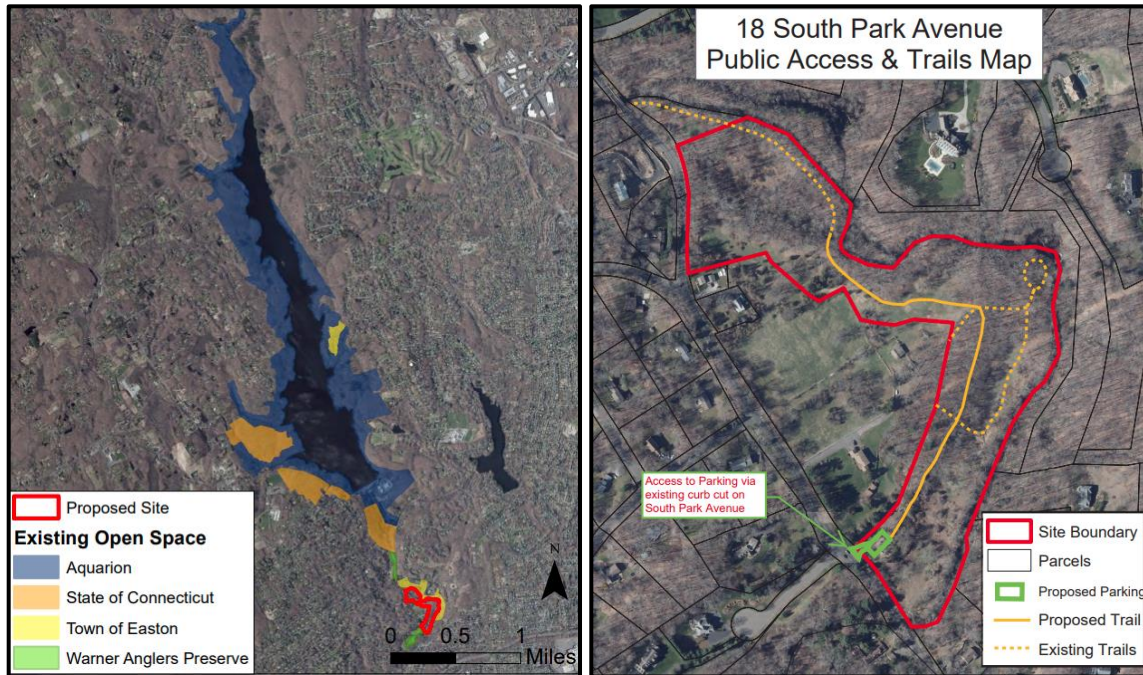
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### Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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. Three Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program grants were funded in August 2023. Additional information on the projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc.	18 South Park Avenue	Easton	18.33
Salisbury Association, Incorporated	Belter-Wack Forest	Salisbury	47.235
Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc.	Montanaro Property	Wilton	9.839

**Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc. (ALT)**  
**18 South Park Avenue, Easton**  
**18.33 Acres**

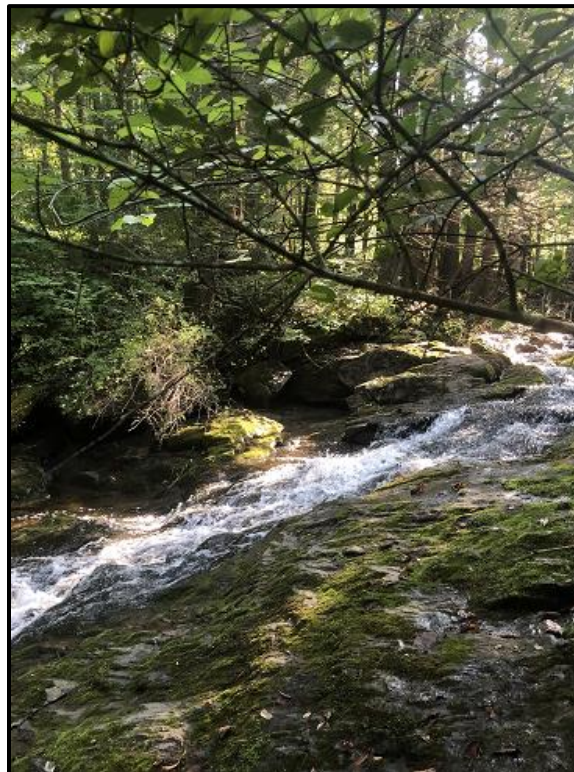
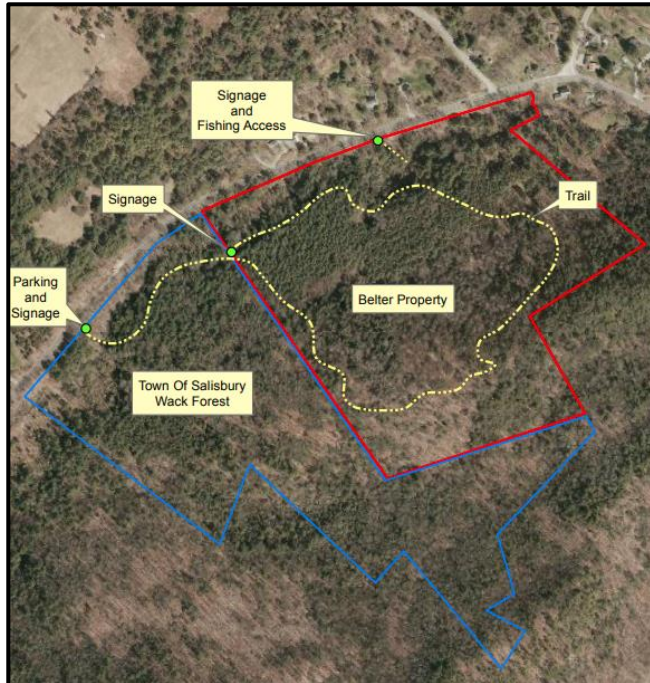


This 18.33-acre parcel, with 3,130 feet of frontage on Mill River in Easton, will be incorporated into the Warner Angler Preserve which would more than quadruple its current area. The opposing riverbank is dedicated Town of Easton Open Space. The acquisition of this parcel would allow the public access for fishing, hiking, and wildlife viewing. This section of the Mill River, which sits below Easton Reservoir, is classified as a Class 1 Wild Trout Management Area and supports populations of wild Brook Trout and wild Brown Trout. The NDDB shows the Eastern box turtle, Wood turtle and Sharp-shinned hawk to be known species in the area. ALT will add a parking area to significantly improve public access and a blazed dirt trail for hiking with access to the riverbank will be provided.



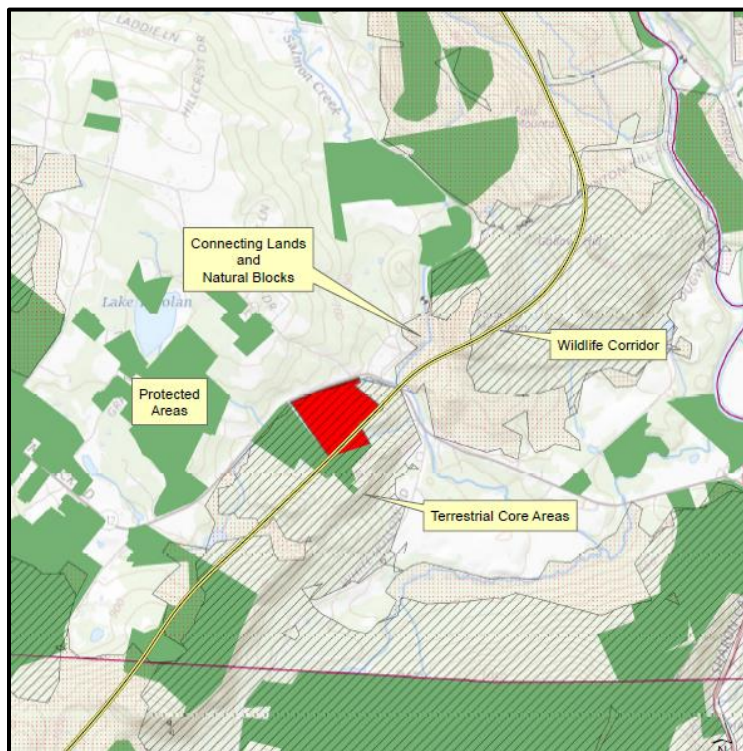


**Salisbury Association, Inc. (SA)**  
**Belter-Wack Forest, Salisbury**  
**47.235 Acres**



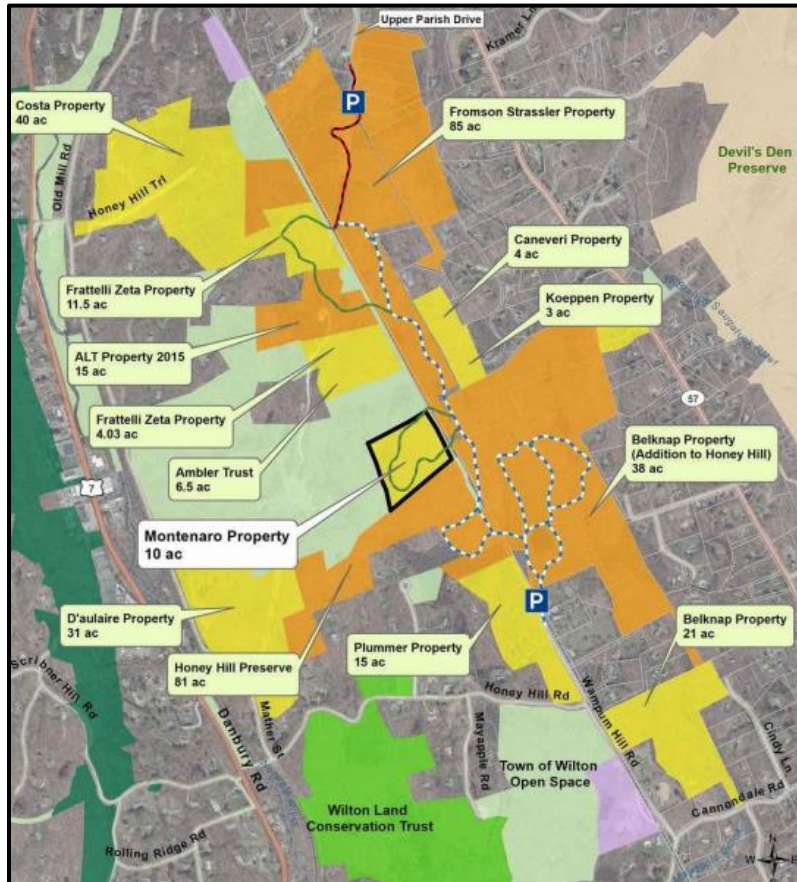


This forested property on Lime Rock Road lies in the center of a critical wildland corridor on the northern ridge of Red Mountain, capturing the ridgeline, summit and riparian habitat supporting a wide variety of wildlife species. It is in an area of high resilience to climate change with core forest providing maximum carbon sequestration and storage. There are streams, steep slopes with bedrock exposures and boulders, 13.5 acres of statewide-important farmland soils and two high gradient wooded tributary streams that drain to the Salmon Kill, a major tributary of the Housatonic River. A NDDDB review determined that there is a Sensitive State Endangered Species and 5 State-listed plant species within or near the area. Salisbury Association will create a loop trail that connects to the adjacent Town-owned 55-acre Wack Forest Preserve, providing passive recreational opportunities for the public such as hiking, fishing and birdwatching. This project received additional funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a Highlands Conservation Act Grant.





**Aspetuck Land Trust, Inc. (ALT)**  
**Montanaro Property, Wilton**  
**9.839 Acres**



This 9.839-acre property with frontage on Old 2 Rod Highway, a town-owned paper road, contributes to a 705-acre contiguous forest known as the Weston/Wilton Forest Block (WWFB). This will be the 6th acquisition by ALT in the WWFB, providing passive recreation opportunities such as hiking, dog walking, birding, nature/wildlife observation and photography, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Public access is from a trail head at the Upper Parish Drive terminus (to the north) on the adjacent Fromson-Strassler Property and from a trail head (to the south) at the Wampum Hill Road terminus at Old Two Rod Hwy. ALT plans to connect the WWFB with the Norwalk River Valley Trail (NRVT) in Wilton through other open spaces owned by the Town and Wilton Land Conservation Trust. The NRVT is a 38-mile multi-purpose phased trail construction project from Norwalk to Danbury, connecting to the Norwalk Heritage Greenway (a CT designated Greenway). Protection of this property is important for combating climate change because the WWFB is one of the last un-fragmented forests in Fairfield County. It is an important carbon sink that is crucial for preserving critical ecosystems, wildlife habitat and their linkages, wetlands, groundwater fed watercourses, clean drinking water and natural beauty which are all under threat from

a warming climate. The wetlands on the site form a headwater tributary to Mayapple Brook, which discharges into the Norwalk River approximately 1.5 river miles downstream, southwesterly of the site.

### **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 was one Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program closing in August 2023. Additional information about the project follows.

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Town(s)</b>	<b>Cooperators &amp; Cost Share</b>	<b>State Share</b>	<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>Purpose of Acquisition</b>
Planeta	East Haddam	George Dudley Seymour Trust	--	34.26	Addition to Devils Hopyard State Park

**Planeta**  
**Millington Hopyard Rd**  
**East Haddam**  
**Addition to Devils Hopyard SP**  
**34.26 Acres**

The Planeta property is a large irregular shaped flag lot that abuts the northwest section of Devils Hopyard State Park. The land is primarily wooded with rolling topography. A stream cuts through the southwestern portion of the property. The acquisition will help expand the park and will provide additional passive recreation opportunities such as hiking and bird watching.







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

**September 2023**

### Overview

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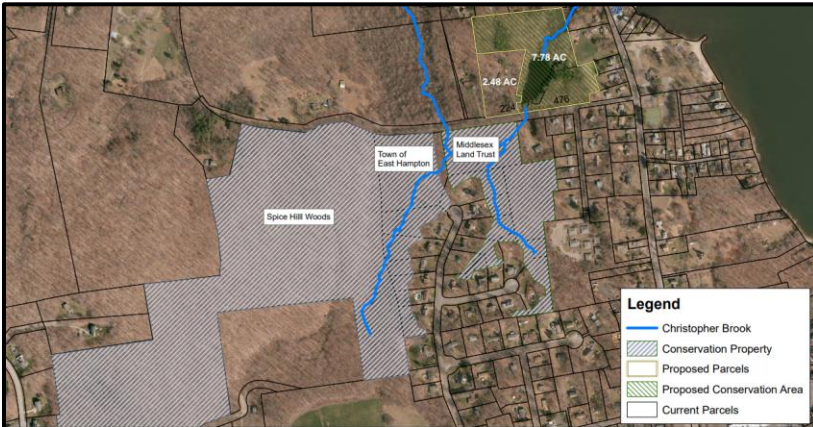
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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Town of East Hampton	Christopher Property	East Hampton	7.51



**Town of East Hampton**  
**Christopher Property, East Hampton**  
**7.51 Acres**



This property contains the 1.3-acre Christopher Pond, fed by Christopher Brook, a tributary to Lake Pocotopaug which contributes approx. 21% of the total water load into the lake. The Town purchased the property to protect the water quality of the brook and lake, which suffers from cyanobacteria blooms every summer. There are protected parcels upstream (to the south) of Christopher Brook including land owned by the Town of East Hampton (5-acres), a Middlesex Land Trust Preserve (3.5 acres), and a 52-acre open space parcel known as Spice Hill Woods. The public will have use of the property for fishing, kayaking, hiking and picnicking.

### **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 closings in September 2023.





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

**October 2023**

### **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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### **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 closings in October 2023.



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

**November 2023**

### **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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### **Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program**

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Property Name	Town(s)	Cooperators & Cost Share	State Share	Acres Protected	Purpose of Acquisition
JBW Group LLC	Westbrook	George Dudley Seymour Trust – \$273,000	\$0	28.45	Addition to Cockaponset State Forest
Moriarty	Goshen	None	\$45,000	14.93	Addition to Goshen Wildlife Management Area

### JBW Group LLC Property

The JBW Group property is a generally “T shaped” parcel on the eastern side of Horse Hill Road, north of I-95. The property consists of wooded land with stone walls and some ledges. Acquisition of this property will provide access to a landlocked portion of Cockaponset State Forest and passive recreational opportunities for the public.



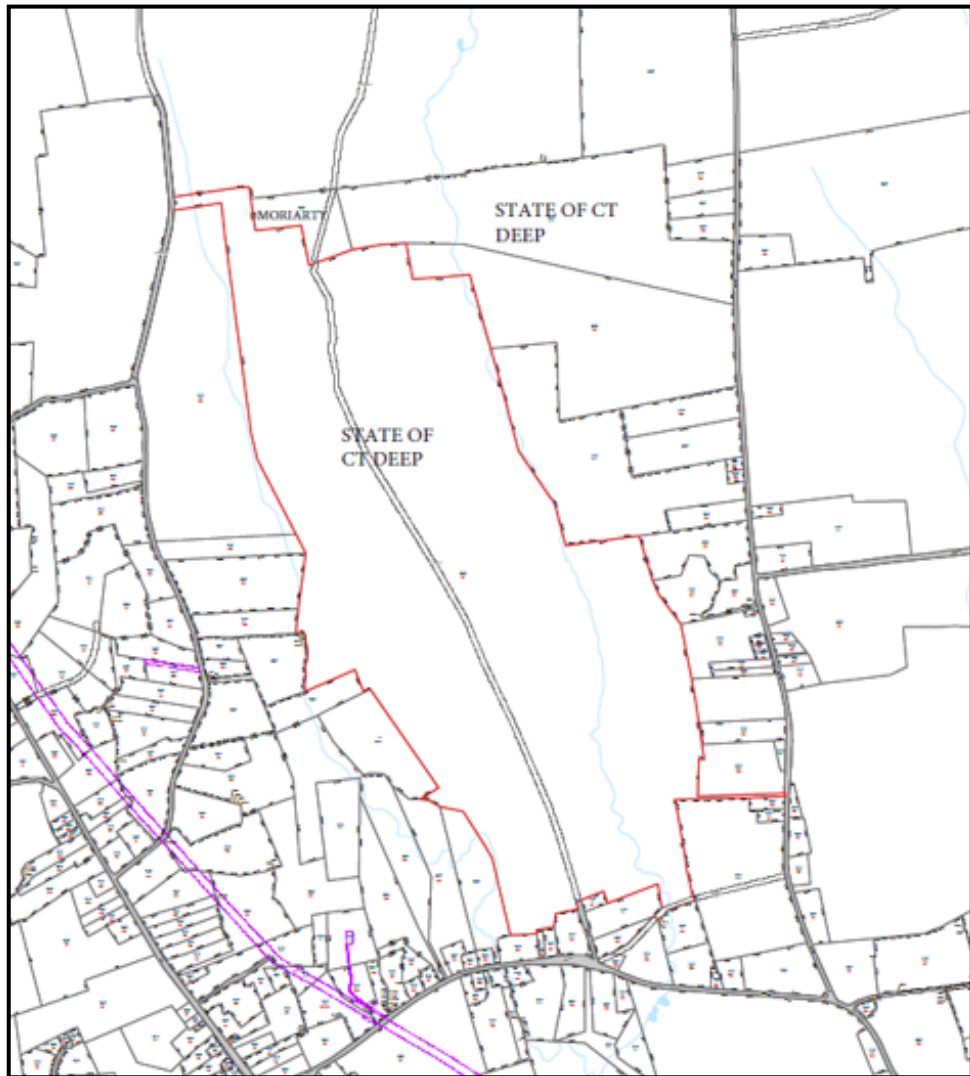


## Moriarty Property

The Moriarty property is a key piece of land that was acquired to better connect two portions of the Goshen Wildlife Management Area. This wooded property was only accessible via a long ROW through the 627-acre parcel acquired by DEEP in 2021. The acquisition will provide additional passive recreation opportunities for the public and prevents the land from future development.









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

**December 2023**

### 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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Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres Protected
Cornwall Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Quarry Hill Property	Cornwall	31.556
Salem Land Trust, Inc.	Ransom Brook House, LLC Property	Salem	55.842

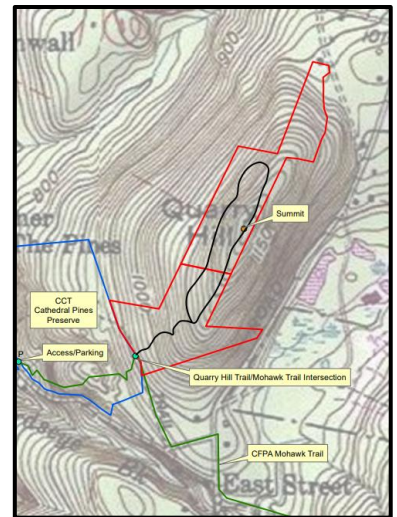


## Cornwall Land Conservation Trust, Inc. (CLCT), Quarry Hill Property

This is the site of a historic granite quarry, featuring a forested ridgeline with a summit and an old woods road which will serve as a spur trail, linking to CLCT's Cathedral Pines Preserve and the Blue-Blazed Mohawk Trail. Hand-cut stone blocks are present in and around the former quarry, unmoved since its abandonment. Public access and parking will be from the Cathedral Pines Preserve. Natural resource highlights include whip-poor-will open woodland habitat, glacial erratics, rocky talus and red maple shrub swamp. This property will add a unique cultural and outdoor experience to the abundance of nearby hiking options at other CLCT, State and land trust owned open spaces. This acquisition was a cooperative effort between DEEP and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to a Highlands Conservation Act grant.



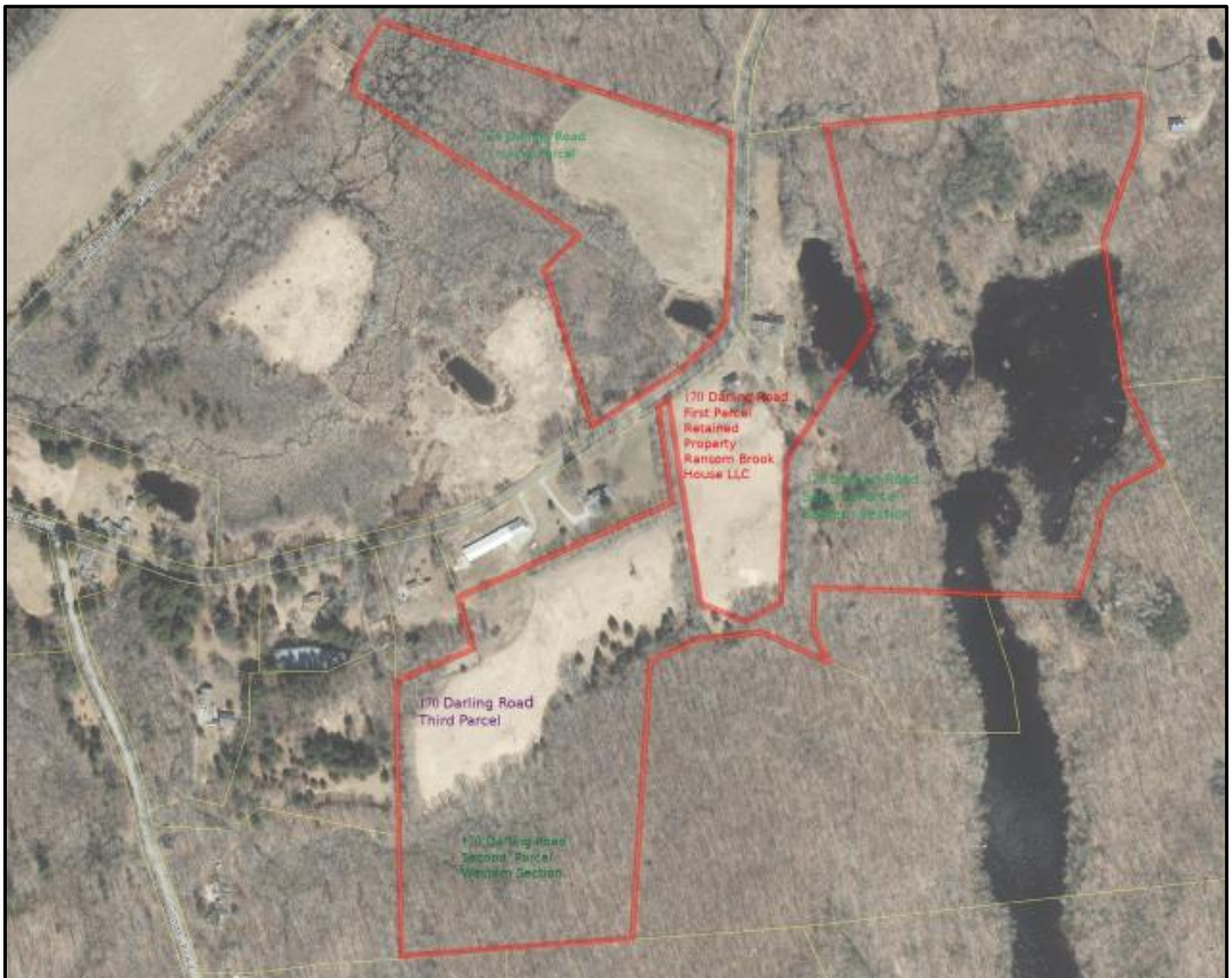
Looking southeasterly toward Quarry Hill with Cathedral Pines Preserve on the right





## Salem Land Trust, Inc. (SLT), Ransom Brook House, LLC Property

Two parcels (on the north and south sides of Darling Road) are adjacent to Nehantic State Forest and provide direct access to Hartman Park and the 14-mile Goodwin Trail. The property lies within the State's Eightmile River Greenway and expands the protected land within the Audubon's Lyme Forest Block Important Bird Area. The site contains the headwaters of Ransom Brook and 3,400 feet of riparian corridor. Other features include vernal pools, upland hardwood forest, a great blue heron rookery, rocky outcrops, forested red maple swamps, and a cold-water stream. An old woods road will be maintained for public use and connect to the State Forest. Stone walls and evidence of a colonial mill site at the headwaters of Ransom Brook provide a cultural and educational opportunity for visitors. The proposed public access trails are shown in red, in the second aerial photo.







## 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 closings in December 2023.