

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

January 2013

Overview

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

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in January 2013.

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 acquisition was closed in January 2013. Additional information on this project follows.

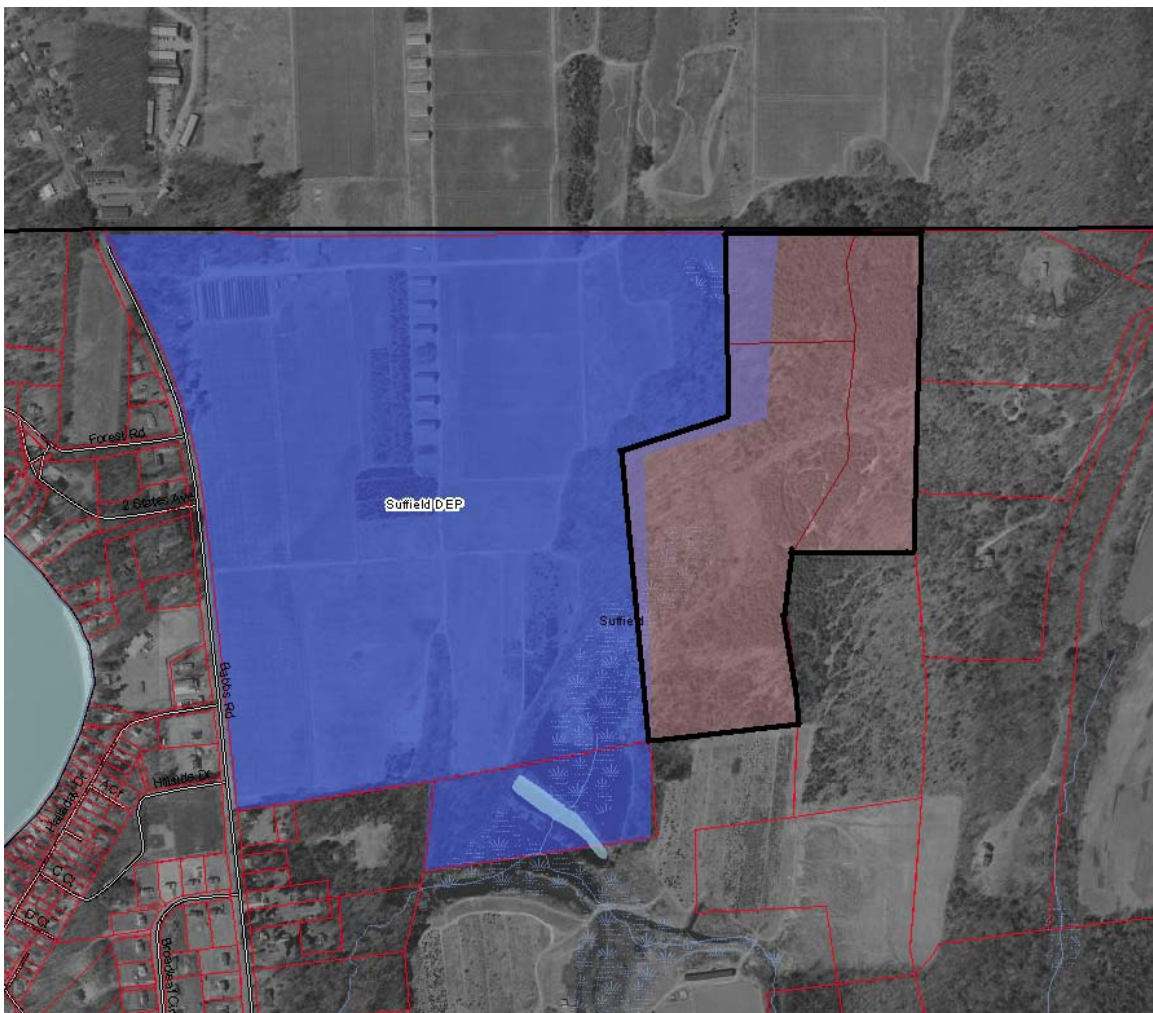
Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Griffin Land & Nurseries	Suffield	---	---	74.936	---	\$0	Mitigation for Meadowood Project, Simsbury

Griffin Land & Nurseries, Inc. Property, Babbs Road, Suffield Donation

This 74.936 acre donation will complement the Suffield Wildlife Management Area, satisfying an Inland Water Resources Division Water Quality Certification for the Meadowood Project, Simsbury.

This area will become a potential nesting habitat for several documented, state-listed avian species such as the American kestrel, Eastern meadowlark, Bobolink and Savannah sparrow. It will provide additional options for management of grassland species within an established grassland system.

The 74.936 acre addition is easterly of the existing Suffield WMA.



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

February 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Groton	Spicer Tracts, Thomas Road, Groton	24.63

**Town of Groton Spicer Tracts
Thomas Road, Groton
Fee Acquisition**



This 24.63 acre acquisition protects 4,000+/- linear feet along Birch Plain Creek at the head of Baker Cove and its tidal estuary, creating a 200+/- acre greenway. The Town plans to construct a ten foot wide, paved multi-use trail along Thomas Road, extending a public bikeway to the north and south which will include an environmentally sensitive bridge over Birch Plain Creek which can also be used for fishing and crabbing. In addition to the extensive tidal wetlands, the property contains a vernal pool, freshwater wetlands (including a 5 acre pond) and upland buffer areas forested with mature trees. The buffer provides good habitat and cover for wildlife, principally birds common to coastal estuary environments including osprey and egrets. Dock(s) for recreational (kayaking/canoeing) and educational purposes are also planned.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in February 2013.

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

March 2013

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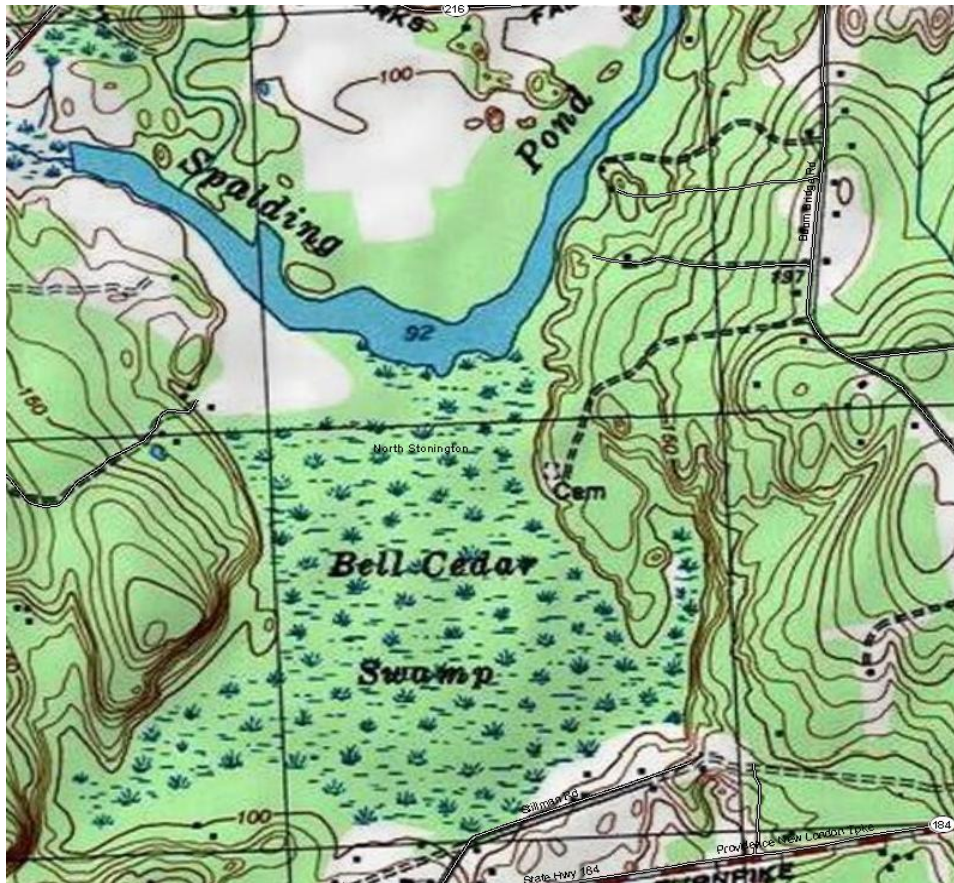
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Bell Cedar Swamp, N. Stonington	58.16

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Bell Cedar Swamp, North Stonington
Fee Acquisition

This rare, intact Atlantic White Cedar swamp is listed as a Connecticut Imperiled Natural Community. Its preservation will protect critical natural resources; including ground water supply recharge areas, forest land, and amphibian spawning areas. In addition, Bell Cedar Swamp will provide opportunities for hiking, birding, and other forms of passive recreation. The area being preserved figures prominently in the State's attempt to protect threatened and endangered species and significant natural communities.



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

April 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Manchester Land Conservation Trust	Risley Apple Orchard, Manchester	13.15

Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)

Fee Acquisition



This property is contiguous with 132 acres of existing open space, also owned by MLCT, and 78 acres owned by the Manchester Water Company. This will secure one of the last remaining private lands adjacent to Risley Memorial Park. This parcel gives MLCT an opportunity to connect the Risley Pond Loop Trail to the 41 mile Shenipsit Trail corridor, linking the Meshomasic and Shenipsit State Forests, Gay City State Park, Case Mountain Recreational Area, Valley Falls Park, the Hop River Rail Trail, the Belding Wildlife Management Area and Soapstone Mountain.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in April 2013.

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

May 2013

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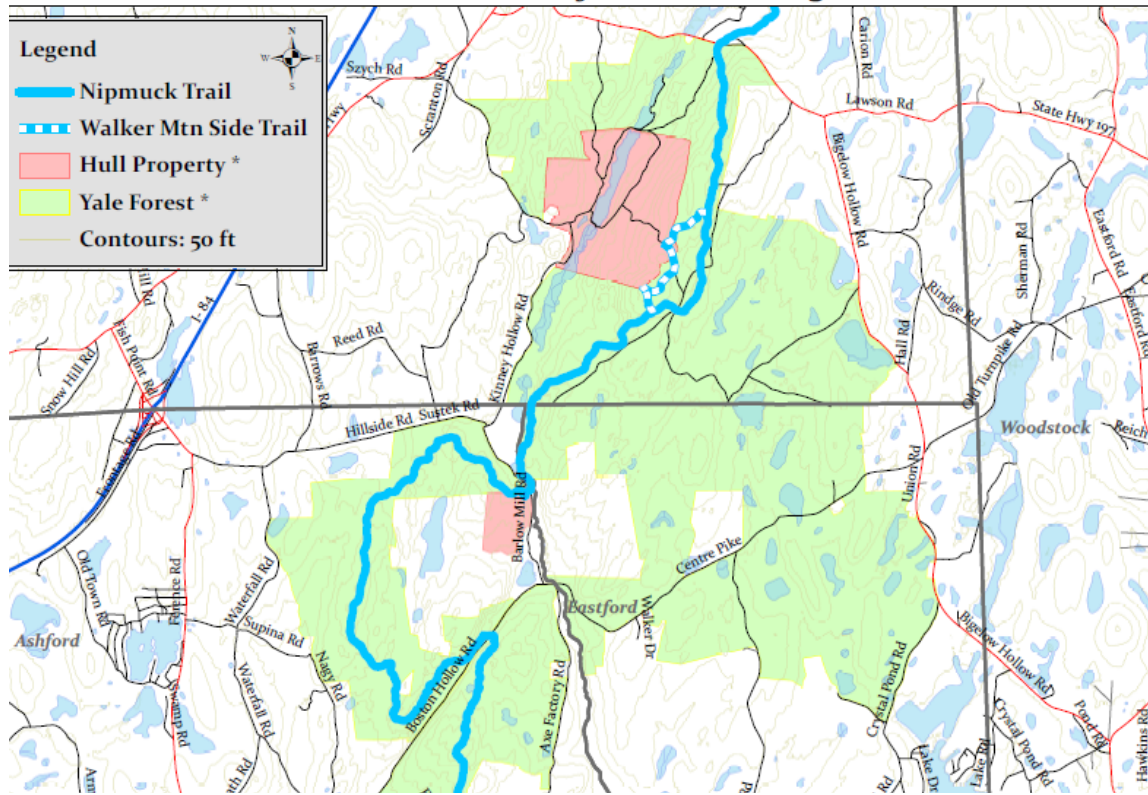
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
The Nature Conservancy, Inc.	Meyers Pond, Union Conservation Easement	447.99

The Nature Conservancy, Inc.
Meyers Pond, Union (Hull Property on map)
Conservation Easement

Nipmuck Trail Map: *Eastford Rd to Bigelow Hollow Rd*



This conservation easement protects a 447.99 acre parcel, surrounded entirely by Yale Meyers Forest. It contributes to a 7,800 acre unfragmented forest block within the Quinebaug Highlands Project Area and the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor, also known as the Last Green Valley. There are 3 ponds, 3 streams and 3 brooks, including a tributary of Natchaug River, part of the Natchaug River Greenway. TNC will create a loop trail (Walker Mountain Side Trail in picture above) connecting Walker Mountain to the CT Blue Blaze Nipmuck Trail.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in May 2013.

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

June 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Coventry	Malon Property	36.45

**Town of Coventry
Malon Property
Fee Acquisition**



This property contains a portion of Thornton Brook and its associated wetlands. It is a vital link between existing Town-owned land and other permanently protected open space. Numerous logging trails exist for passive recreation purposes and it provides a valuable resource for forestry, wildlife habitat and environmental education.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in June 2013.

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

July 2013

Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Old Lyme	Sheep's Ledge Preserve	11.3

**Town of Old Lyme
Sheep's Ledge Preserve
Fee Acquisition**



These two parcels abut the Noyes Preserve to the north and south. The landscape is mostly wooded with rocky outcrops and a small brook. The "Sheep's Ledge" is an important historical and cultural feature which served as a hunting campsite for native Americans as much as 4,250 years ago and more recently, it sheltered flocks of sheep from harsh weather.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in July 2013.

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August 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Norfolk Land Trust, Inc.	Camp Iwakta	310.9

Norfolk Land Trust, Inc.
Camp Iwakta, Norfolk
Fee Acquisition



This mostly forested property contains a large pond, a vernal pool, a stream feeding Mad River and Mad River, which provides drinking water to the Town of Winchester and is a major tributary of the Farmington River. The property rises to a considerable ridgeline hilltop with sharp cliffs, rocky outcrops and spectacular views. This acquisition is surrounded by nearly 2,000 acres of protected land including the historic railroad bed, a popular hiking trail purchased with OSWA funds in 2002. It will protect migrant birds, upland amphibian habitat and large mammals requiring large, contiguous intact forests.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in August 2013.

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

September 2013

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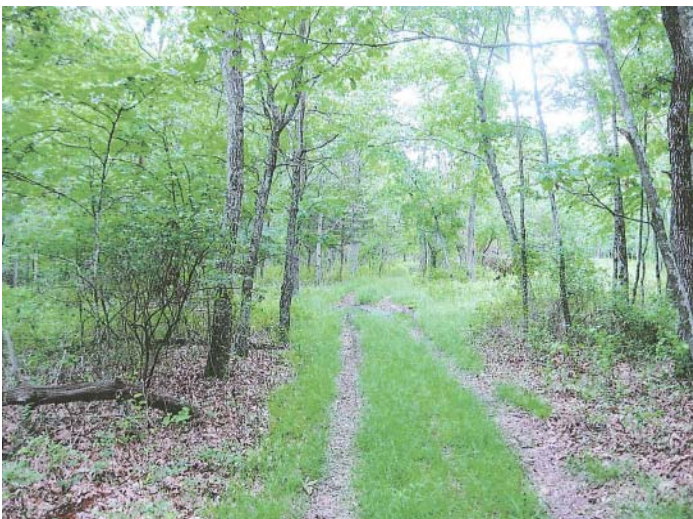
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Groton Open Space Association	Candlewood Ridge, Groton	89.4
Old Lyme Land Trust, Inc.	ElyandCo., Inc., Old Lyme	44.17
Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Brewster Property, Canton	4.839
Town of Southbury	365 Georges Hill Road, Southbury	18.397
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Inc.	Coogan Farm Easement, Stonington	23.94

**Groton Open Space Association
Candlewood Ridge, Groton
Fee Acquisition**



Located in north central Groton, this 89.4 acre acquisition is an assemblage of three parcels. Approximately 50% of the parcel is wetland, with several vernal pools, a cranberry bog and three streams flowing to forested peat land (critical habitat). There are rugged ledge outcroppings and forested and vegetative undergrowth. The wetland resources are extensive and varied offering the potential for a healthy and diverse wildlife and vegetative habitat. This property contains four Natural Diversity Data Base sites.

**Old Lyme Land Trust, Inc. (OLLT)
ElyandCo. Inc. Property, Old Lyme
Fee Acquisition**



A long range goal of the OLLT is to create a linkage of protected open space across the town and make existing preserves accessible to the public. This acquisition would be a keystone parcel to accomplish this goal. It abuts several other protected parcels. It is essentially a high flat ridge, covered with forest and inland wetlands. The wetlands are a source of Armstrong Brook, a stand-alone stream that flows 2-1/2 miles south into Long Island Sound. This undeveloped forested lot with a rolling topography will protect an exceptional wildlife habitat and expand upon passive recreation opportunities across 200 acres.

Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
Brewster Property, Canton
Fee Acquisition



This property connects to other land owned by Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc., one of which is the Arnold Property, acquired with a DEEP grant in 2005. It protects Onion Mountain, on Central Connecticut's western traprock ridgeline, its wildlife habitats, hardwood forest and geologic features.

This acquisition expands upon the passive recreation and outdoor education opportunities from Roaring Brook Nature Center to Sexton's Road.

Town of Southbury
365 Georges Hill Road, Southbury
Fee Acquisition



This property complements the 38 acre parcel that the town purchased with a grant under from DEEP in 2007. It is an undeveloped forested parcel with a steep rocky ridge running through the middle. There is minimum wetland in the sloping topography. It is the intention of the town to utilize this parcel along with other town-owned land to provide safe parking and access for both parcels purchased under this program.

**Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Inc.
Coogan Farm, Stonington
Conservation Easement**



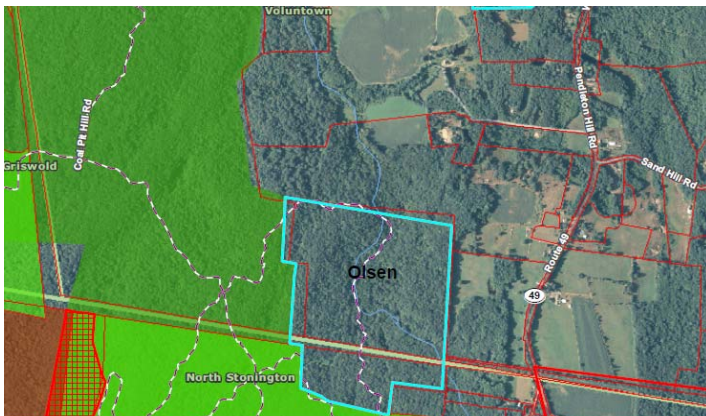
This 24 acre parcel connects to 300+ acres that the Nature Center manages. It consists of old agricultural fields, grass lands, old orchards, upland forest, wet meadows, scrub shrub wetlands, early succession maple, elm trees and old cedar stands. Because of the variety of ecosystems, the potential for a healthy and diverse wildlife and vegetative habitats are greatly enhanced. This property has a species of special concern and is a potential breeding ground for other species. While not physically connected to Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium or Denison Homestead, the property provides trails that directly connect all these education resources. This natural ridgeline and trails offer scenic views of Mystic River and the valley.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Area	State Share	Purpose of Acquisition
Hansell Property	Voluntown & North Stonington	US EPA Long Island Sound Study	\$172,138.18	101.11	n/a	\$27,861.82	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
Sciongay Property	Westbrook & Clinton	US EPA Long Island Sound Study	\$1,200,000	149.2	0.25 ac	--	Long Island Sound Protection

Estate of Jack Anders Hansell (a/k/a Olsen Property) Voluntown (86.26 Acres) & North Stonington (14.85 Acres) Fee Acquisition



This property enhances existing recreational opportunities such as hiking, hunting and birding within Pachaug State Forest, protects Myron Kinney Brook (containing a native brook trout population) and adds to one of the largest unfragmented blocks of coastal forest in the State. The mixed hardwood forest shows little disturbance with notably few invasive species. The property is mostly forested with approximately 9 acres of wetlands. The Narragansett (Blue) Trail runs north to south on the property, connecting this parcel to the Pachaug State Forest trail network. This acquisition was financed by a grant from the US EPA Long Island Sound Program (\$172,138.18) and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (\$27,861.82).

**Sciongay Property – Clinton & Westbrook
Fee Acquisition**



The Sciongay property consists of 149.2 acres of land located mainly in the town of Clinton, with a small portion in the neighboring town of Westbrook. Located just northerly of Interstate 95, the property includes a dam on the Menunketesuck River which creates the Chapman Mill Pond. Below the dam, the river feeds into Long Island Sound. The possibility exists to create a fishway over the dam. The remaining land provides habitat for a diverse number of animals, and provides recreational activities including hiking and fishing. The acquisition was made available by a grant from the US EPA Long Island Sound Program.

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October 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Simsbury	Ethel Walker School, Parcel B	49.847
Town of Hampton	Cedar Swamp Road	50.63

Town of Simsbury
Ethel Walker School Parcel B
Fee Acquisition



This site, on the west side of Bushy Hill Road, compliments the Town's previous purchase of 283 acres of Ethel Walker School Property and is adjacent to 215 acres of Town-owned forest, wetlands and Stratton Brook floodplain. It expands upon other open space including Massaco State Forest, Stratton Brook State Park, Onion Mountain Forest, Tootin Hills Assoc. & Simsbury Coon Club, comprising nearly 1,043 acres. The property is forested with wetlands, meadows and prime farmland soils and is actively used for forestry and equestrian purposes.

Town of Hampton
Cedar Swamp Rd & Old Town Pound Rd
Fee Acquisition

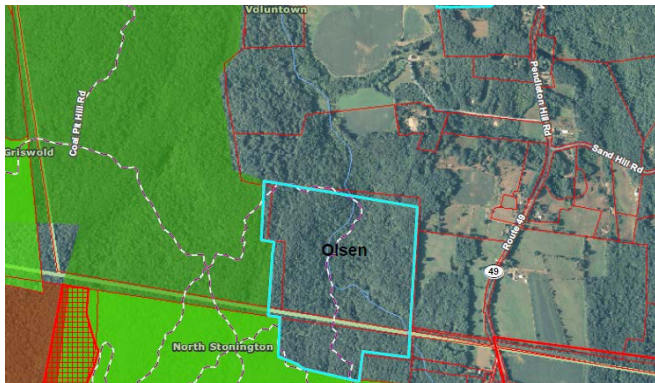


This parcel borders Goodwin State Forest and land protected by a Wyndham Land Trust conservation easement. It is further connected to Natchaug State Forest, CT Audubon's Trail Wood Property and other Joshua's Trust conservation easements. This acquisition ensures the integrity of the wetlands on the property and the adjacent Goodwin State Forest where Pine Acres Lake is located. A trail system will be developed to support hiking, cross country skiing and other passive recreational opportunities. The Town will expose and preserve the unique stone bridge over a brook on the parcel.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Russell Property	North Stonington	N/A	N/A	7.56	N/A	\$0	Addition to Pachaug S.F.



This 7.56 acre rectangular parcel, located at the SE corner of the Olsen Property, was discovered while surveying the 101.11 acre Olsen Property (acquired last month). It should have conveyed to the State in 1992, when the State acquired the 171.6 acre parcel to the west and south of Olsen. This acquisition resolves any potential title issues between all three parcels, now owned by the State and included as part of Pachaug State Forest. This parcel was acquired at no cost, via Quit Claim Deed.

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November 2013

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Hebron	Cardillo Property	47.0689

**Town of Hebron
Cardillo Property
Fee Acquisition**



This is a significant acquisition abutting other town and State of Connecticut open space and the Air Line Trail, an important multi-town recreational resource. The property has floodplains, wetland soils, aquifers, the main branch of Raymond Brook, steep slopes and the unique Raymond Brook Marsh, one of the largest inland wetland complexes in eastern Connecticut, within Hebron's Aquifer Protection Zone and having an excellent habitat for all kinds of wildlife. Raymond Brook is an important tributary of the Salmon River, where efforts are underway to restore the Atlantic Salmon fishery.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in November 2013.

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

December 2013

Overview

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

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in December 2013.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
KES Properties, LLC	Scotland	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$195,000	17.74	N/A	\$0	Addition to James Spignesi Wildlife Management Area
Rechovos Corp.	East Hampton			116.69	2.0 ac	Donation	Addition to Salmon River State Forest

KES Properties, LLC, Scotland Fee Acquisition



The KES Properties, LLC land in Scotland consists of 17.74 acres located on the northerly side of Palmer Road near the center of Scotland. The property contains a mix of open fields and woodlands, with some extensive views to the west from the road frontage.

This is the specific parcel that DEEP Environmental Conservation Police Officer James V. Spignesi, Jr. was killed in the line of duty while on routine patrol on November 20, 1998. The surrounding Wildlife Management Area was renamed in his honor, and this parcel will be added to the Wildlife Management Area.

**Rechevos Corporation Donation
East Hampton
Fee Acquisition**

The Rechevos Corporation property consists of two parcels of land totaling 116.69 acres located off of Waterhole Road, East Hampton. The property is the open space set-aside for a new subdivision being created called the Salmon Run Estates.

The first parcel totals 107.288 acres and abuts the existing Salmon River State Forest. The second parcel totals 9.402 acres and is accessed via a temporary right of way until the roads of the subdivision are fully constructed. The parcels will allow additional recreational use for the public as well as providing greater protection of the Salmon River and surrounding watershed.

