

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

January 2014

Overview

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

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in January 2014.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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

There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in January 2014.

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

February 2014

Overview

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

March 2014

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in March 2014.

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

April 2014

Overview

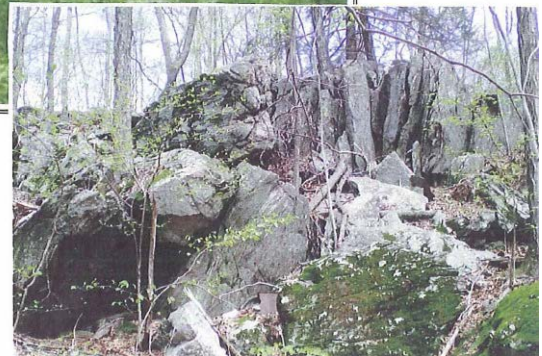
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Southbury Land Trust, Inc.	Stillmeadow Farm Easement	11.63

Southbury Land Trust, Inc.
Stillmeadow Farm Easement



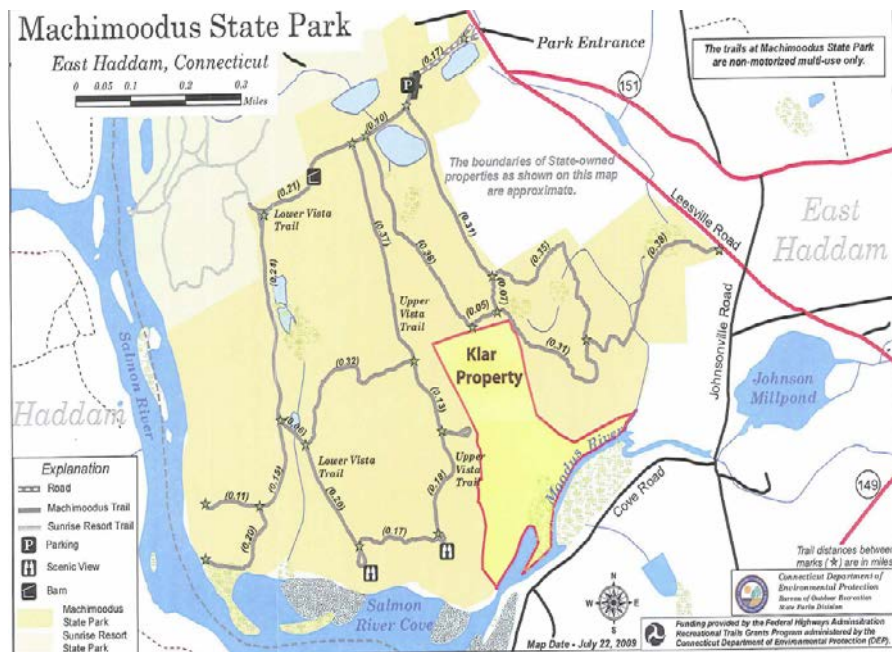
At the center of 256 acres of already preserved open space (two adjacent farms using OSWA grant funds), this parcel features grasslands, 500 feet of Jeremy Brook, a related feeder brook, woodlands, ledge formations, vegetated inland wetlands and vernal pools. "Stillmeadow" with its 17th century farmhouse, was the home of author Gladys Taber and the setting of the writer's muses in a series of columns and books from the 1940's through the 1970's. A public access trail will be open for hiking and bird watching, seasonal activities will include public nature hikes, scientific field study and activities related to the farm's agriculture. The Land Trust plans to restore the open fields and manage them as early successional habitat. A portion will be set aside for an organic blueberry field.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
CT River Gateway Commission	East Haddam	---	---	33.6		\$0	Addition to Machimoodus State Park

CT River Gateway Commission (a/k/a “Klar Property”) East Haddam Donation



Shown as the “Klar Property” above, this property is almost entirely surrounded by and will be added to Machimoodus State Park. It will complement the existing 300+/- acres and add 3,026 ± feet of frontage on Salmon River Cove and Moodus River.

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

May 2014

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Borough of Naugatuck	Andrews Mountain Road	100.043
Town of Somers	Camp Aya-Po	173.892

Borough of Naugatuck

Andrews Mountain Road - Fee Acquisition



Located adjacent to existing open space and the Naugatuck State Forest, this property will protect Spruce Brook, a high quality water resource, and the Naugatuck River, which the Spruce Brook drains into. The property has a diverse landscape including vernal pools, wetlands and forest habitat, providing a valuable resource for recreation, wildlife protection and observation. The public will access the property and walking trails from a gravel road known as West Mountain Road (aka Old Derby Turnpike).

Town of Somers

Camp Aya-Po – Fee Acquisition



Preservation of this parcel protects Lake Hurd, a pristine 18-acre lake (the headwater for Gillette Brook) and the underlying bedrock aquifer which is a source of domestic water to many area homes. There are distinctive forests, mountainous areas, rolling hills and flat, open pasture fields. This property creates a contiguous greenway and wildlife corridor, connecting the Stevenson Property (a previous OSWA grant) to the south, with the Town of Ellington to the north via the Shenipsit Trail. Public activities include fishing, hiking, bird watching, walking, cross country skiing and ice skating.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Bebe Co., LLC	Finn Lane, Plainfield	---	---	13.1		\$0	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

Bebe Company, LLC Finn Lane, Plainfield Donation



The Town of Plainfield approved the Finn Lane subdivision subject to the donation of this 13.1 acre parcel and right of way, to the State of Connecticut DEEP. The Right of Way opens to a pasture and Pachaug State Forest beyond. It will provide additional access to the Forest for area residents and the public.

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

June 2014

Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Bloomfield	Lisa Lane Farm, Bloomfield	9.733
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Babcock Ridge Preserve, North Stonington	74.380

**Town of Bloomfield
Lisa Lane Farm
Fee Acquisition**



Lisa Lane Farm is located in a densely populated area and has been an agricultural resource for many years. The acquisition was a cooperative effort between the Town of Bloomfield, the Wintonbury Land Trust, Inc., the DEEP and United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Wintonbury Land Trust, Inc. sponsors “farm days”, often in cooperation with DEEP’s Office of Environmental Justice, educational hikes and bird watching events. The farm produces callaloo (Jamaican spinach) bell peppers, cucumbers, eggplants, okra, pak choi, pumpkins, scotch bonnet peppers, thyme, tomatoes and winter squash. A walking trail will circle the field with views of wetlands, vernal pools and the working farm. Inner city children will see how their food is grown and the farm will provide educational opportunities for the Bloomfield High School Harris Vocational Agricultural Center.

Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.
Babcock Ridge Preserve, North Stonington
Fee Acquisition



This acquisition is also a cooperative effort, between the Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc. (ALC), the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and the Trust for Public Land. It creates a linkage between ALC's Henne Memorial Preserve (with frontage on the Shunock River) to the south, and the Erisman Woodlands to the north, creating 215+/- contiguous acres of environmentally sensitive areas known to contain lady slippers, fern gardens, vernal pools, steep slopes, significant wetlands and rare bird habitat. It will preserve the landscape, watershed, ecosystem and rural character of the town while providing an opportunity to create a meaningful network of trails, possibly connecting to Pachaug and Assekong State Forests.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Racicot	Scotland	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$90,000.00	36.96	---	\$0	Addition to James Spignesi Wildlife Management Area

Racicot Property, Scotland Fee Acquisition



The Racicot property in Scotland consists of 39.96 acres of landlocked property located easterly of Brook Street, near the center of Scotland. The majority of the property is wooded, and will provide additional recreational opportunities, consistent with the abutting James Spignesi Wildlife Management Area.

The State worked closely with the Town of Scotland on this acquisition, as the Town acquired an abutting 9.01 acres from the Racicot family located next to the Scotland Elementary School.

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

July 2014

Overview

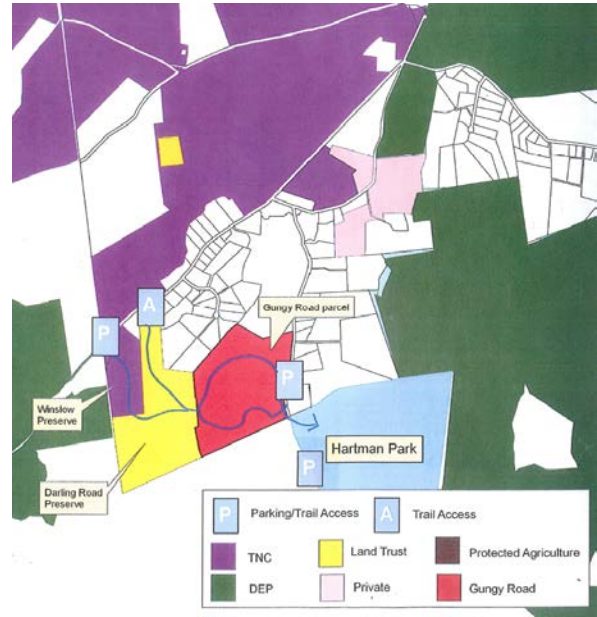
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
The Nature Conservancy, Inc.	Gungy Road, Salem (Easement)	115.94

The Nature Conservancy, Inc.
Gungy Road, Salem
Easement Acquisition



This 115.94 acre conservation easement from Salem Valley Corporation is part of an 8,000 acre forest block of permanently protected land in the Eight Mile River Watershed, a major tributary of the Connecticut River identified as a conservation priority area and one of the most outstanding watersheds of the lower Connecticut River region, now a Congressional Wild and Scenic River. This parcel provides public access and passive recreational opportunities on more than a mile of hiking trails, creating for the first time, a linkage between three other publicly accessible preserves with trail systems. As a result, it will be possible to walk several miles from one preserve to another with parking at both ends as well as on the Gungy Road parcel. It is totally forested with headwater streams, six vernal pools and multiple wetlands.

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

August 2014

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Preston	Pequot Trail Property	155.61
Clinton Land Conservation Trust	Dowd Parcels	18.1933
Town of Branford	Kaczynski Property	16.73

**Town of Preston
Pequot Trail Property
Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition protects a portion of the Pequot Trail, part of Connecticut Forest and Park Association's statewide Blue-Blazed Hiking Trail network, which enjoys a CT Greenway designation. The heavily forested property offers diverse resources including significant wetlands such as Meyers Brook, large vernal pools, a large ravine, varied terrain and many bedrock outcropping areas, making this a pristine setting appropriate for hiking, walking and environmental education. The Pequot Trail currently links the Mashantucket Pequot Burial Ground, Rose Hill Wildlife Management Area and Milton Green Memorial Field Park. It is expected to someday link with a proposed greenway which will stretch from Preston to Bluff Point State Park in Groton.

**Clinton Land Conservation Trust (CLCT)
Dowd Parcels
Fee Acquisition**



These parcels provide public access to hiking, fishing, horseback riding and nature observation and compliment a significant existing, maintained trail network within a substantial block of forestland. They are adjacent to CLCT's 98.48 acre Jessie Buell Forest, one of five core preserves in the CLCT portfolio. Bass Brook, which flows through the parcels, contains a native trout population and is a headwater stream of the Indian River which flows into Long Island Sound. This acquisition will ensure protection of a broad spectrum of wildlife habitat and several State listed reptiles.

**Town of Branford
Kaczynski Property
Fee Acquisition**



Located in the lower Farm River Estuary between Branford and East Haven, this property contributes to an existing greenway and complements other protected open space, including Branford Land Trust's Minore Tract, the East Haven Marsh Wildlife Management Area and the State of Connecticut's Beacon Hill and Farm River State Park. The Farm River and its estuary is recognized by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as a significant coastal habitat in need of protection and/or management. The estuary supports an anadromous fish run, the tidal marshes that line the river and its tidal tributaries and species that are threatened or of special concern (great horned owl, great egret, snowy egret & saltmarsh sparrow). The varied habitat includes upland forests and traprock ridge, making it excellent for hiking, bird-watching, kayaking and canoeing (from Farm River State Park launch, one mile downstream).

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Sleeping Giant Park Association	Hamden	---	---	0.19	---	\$0	Addition to Sleeping Giant State Park

The property consists of a small 8,200 square foot inholding within Sleeping Giant State Park. The donation is the result of the Sleeping Giant Park Association recently determining that they owned this property and had never transferred it to the State. For decades, the Sleeping Giant Park Association has transferred all of the property they have acquired to the State for addition to the Sleeping Giant State Park.

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September 2014

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Manchester	Case Mountain – Spring Street	37.901
Guilford Land Conservation Trust	Westwoods Parcel, Guilford	17.1

**Town of Manchester
Case Mountain – Spring Street
Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition is a valuable addition to the 400+/- acre Case Mountain Recreation Area and compliments several other open space and watershed grant acquisitions. Case Mountain is the highest point in Manchester having a variety of habitats including vernal pools, hardwood, softwood and hardwood swamp forests, and open land areas. The Shenipsit “Blue-Blazed” Trail traverses the property. These three contiguous, mostly forested parcels link the Town’s Case Mountain holdings with a substantial portion of the south shore of the Case Pond Reservoir, the Birch Mountain Brook watershed and the Charter Oak Aquifer Protection Area. Case Mountain area is home to a great variety of wildlife including the Eastern Box Turtle, a Species of Special Concern.

Guilford Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
Westwoods Parcel, Guilford
Fee Acquisition



This 17.1 acre parcel, less than two miles from Long Island Sound (LIS), contains a high quality wildlife and plant habitat, including a small wetland, xeric rocky outcrops, isolated boulders and ledge. Westwoods Forest is an intact shoreline forest which plays an important role filtering water that flows into LIS. Three foot trails have been maintained by Guilford Conservation Land Trust on this parcel, with the owner's permission, for nearly 50 years. Protecting this parcel is necessary to maintain the intact forest and marsh complex to which it is connected and renders development of the three remaining privately held parcels difficult. The property is directly connected or close to 1,400+/- acres of State and/or Land Trust protected properties including Cockaponset State Forest.

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Town of Plainfield	Plainfield	---	---	97.7	---	\$0	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

Town of Plainfield Property Donation

The Town of Plainfield property consists of two abutting parcels of land located off of Colbridge Road and Flat Rock Road which total 97.7 acres. The property was donated by the Town to the State as part of a wetlands mitigation permit that was required by the Army Corp of Engineers. The property is mostly forested with an existing network of trails. The acquisition will provide passive recreational opportunities and will also protect existing groves of Native American Chestnut and Hybrid American Chestnut trees located on the premises.

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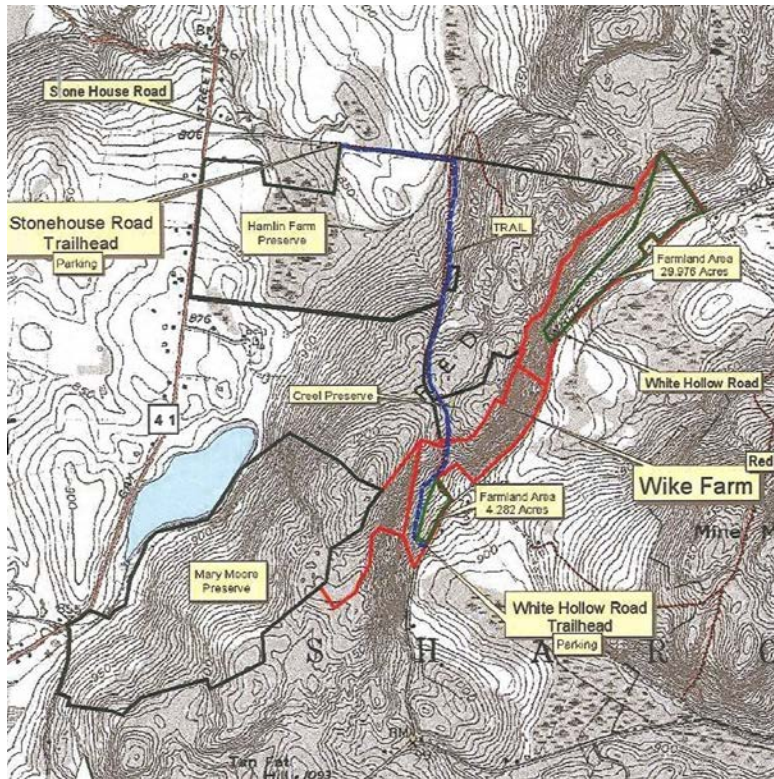
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Sharon Land Trust, Inc. & CT Farmland Trust, Inc.	Wike Bros. Farm, Sharon (Easement)	124.36
Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Lord & Tanguay Props., Lyme & E. Haddam	100.51
Town of East Haddam	Zeiller Property	98.52
Town of East Haddam	Pages Property	237.99

Sharon Land Trust, Inc. & Connecticut Farmland Trust, Inc.
Wike Bros. Farm, Sharon
Conservation Easement



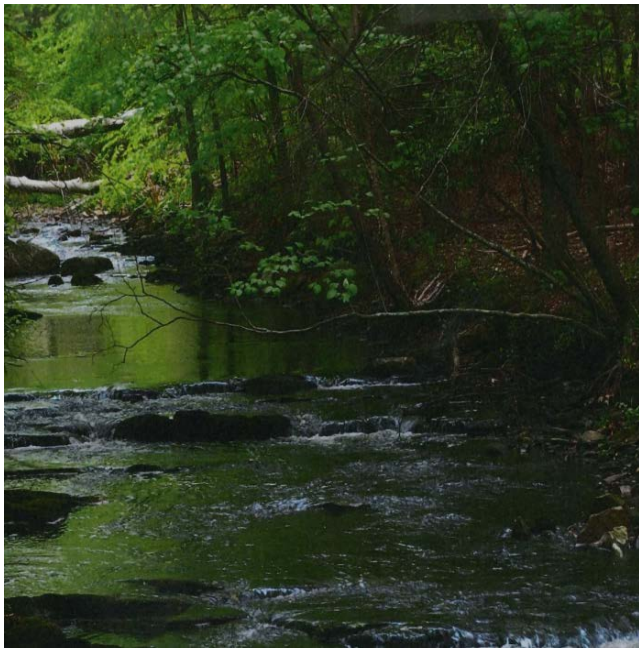
This property has an existing 4.282 acre farmland area and the Land Trusts will clear 20.976 acres along the northerly White Hollow Road frontage, for pasture. A parking area and public access trailhead will be located on White Hollow Road. The trail goes up and over Red Mountain, through the Creel Preserve, connecting to the Hamlin Farm Preserve. Conservation of Wike Brothers Farm will provide multiple resource access values including wildlife habitat conservation (timber rattlesnakes have been observed), mountain ridgeline protection, local agricultural heritage preservation and public access for passive recreation, environmental education and research.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc.
Lord & Tanguay Properties, Lyme & East Haddam
Fee Acquisition

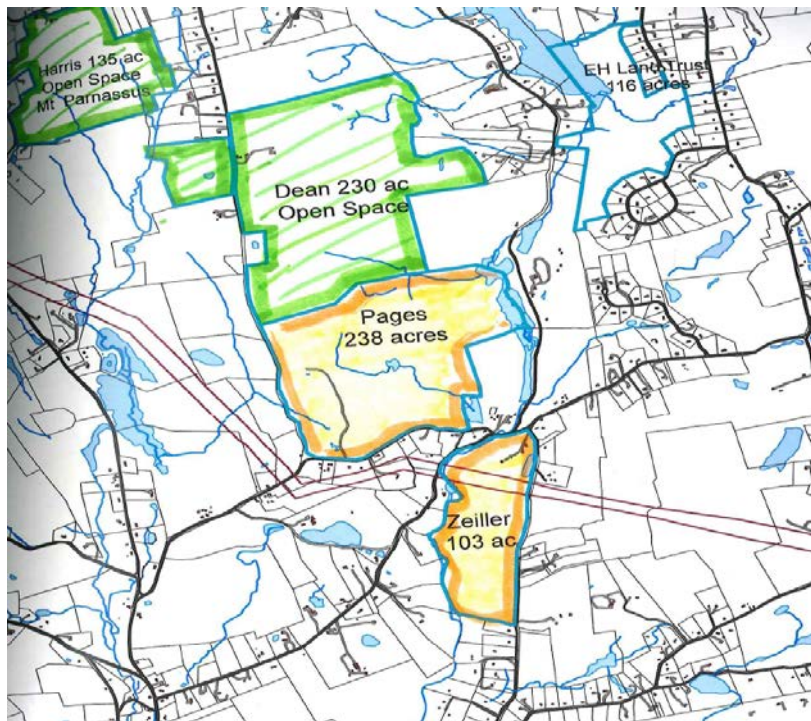


Roaring Brook flows through this property for nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, to Whalebone Cove, less than a mile away. The Nature Conservancy calls Whalebone Cove, "one of the most undisturbed and biologically significant freshwater tidal marshes on the Connecticut River." This acquisition will protect floodplain forest, wetlands, gravel deposits, fields, upland forest, rocky ledges and scenic vistas. It will provide recreational opportunities, complement existing land protection strategies and enhance water quality in the lower Connecticut River Estuary Region.

**Town of East Haddam
Zeiller Property Fee Acquisition**



**Town of East Haddam
Pages Property Fee Acquisition**



The Pages and Zeiller properties connect to two previously protected OSWA properties to the north, the Dean and Harris properties, creating a continuous stretch of protected park and farmland extending for 3 miles. A trail system between all four properties could be extensive. Both properties contain upland forest, intermittent streams, vernal pools and woodland wetlands, supporting a variety of woodland species, and protecting the water quality of the Whalebone Creek Watershed. This very large, continuous forest block extends southerly through Hemlock Valley Brook, Roaring Brook and Whalebone Creek to the Connecticut River and easterly to the Eightmile River Watershed. Both properties will allow hunting and fishing, and have extensive trail systems for hiking, cross country skiing and horseback riding. Group camping and star gazing are being considered at the Zeiller property, with its scenic vista and views all the way to the Connecticut River and Long Island Sound.

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 October 2014. 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
United Electrical & Fuel Corp.	Sterling	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	\$425,000	146.02	---	\$0	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

United Electrical & Fuel Corporation Property Fee Acquisition



The United Electrical and Fuel Corporation property consists of a 146.02 acre parcel of land located on the eastern side of Porter Pond Road, Sterling. The property is surrounded on three sides by the Pachaug State Forest. The acquisition of this property provides an opportunity to expand the forest and add to the existing mosaic of woodlands, wetlands and old fields that provide high quality habitat for wildlife. This acquisition will also enhance recreational and hunting opportunities in the area.

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

November 2014

Overview

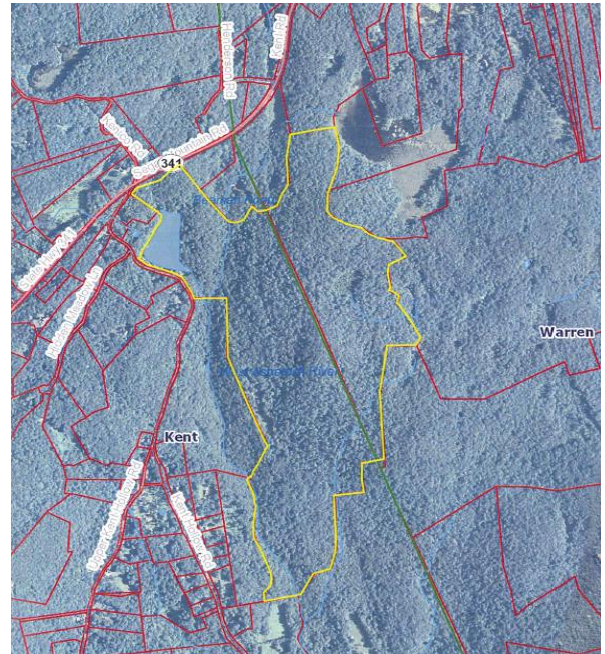
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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 grant was closed in November 2014. Additional information on this project follows.

Sponsor	Project	Acres
Kent Land Trust, Inc.	Camp Francis, Kent	249.006

Kent Land Trust, Inc.
Camp Francis
Fee Acquisition



The Camp Francis Preserve covers approximately 250 acres in the towns of Kent and Warren. There are multiple resource values on the property, such as State important watershed, Class AA watercourses, a clear unspoiled pond for fishing and boating, large interior wetlands, critical habitat for native species, unfragmented forest, existing recreational trails, and a small area of prime agricultural soil. There is also the potential for large tract greenway conservation, as it is near numerous protected properties and adjoins Wyantenock State Forest. The Kent Land Trust received additional grant funding from the United States 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 acquisitions closed in November 2014.

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

December 2014

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 2014.

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 December 2014. 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
Apple Orchard, LLC	Bloomfield	--	--	39.95	1.5 Acres	\$0	State Park Scenic Preserve

Apple Orchard LLC Property, Bloomfield Donation



The Apple Orchard LLC property consists of 39.95 acres of land located in the Town of Bloomfield, and abuts property owned by the 4-H club. The managing member of Apple Orchard LLC is Elizabeth Schiro. Mrs. Schiro is the granddaughter of Beatrice Fox Auerbach, who was one of the founders of the G. Fox department store.

Mrs. Schiro grew up on this property and has always wanted to see it preserved rather than developed. It's a very valuable piece of land with extensive views of the Hartford skyline. The land was generously donated to the State of Connecticut and will be used primarily for passive recreation.