

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

January 2015

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 grants were closed in January 2015. Additional information on these projects follows.

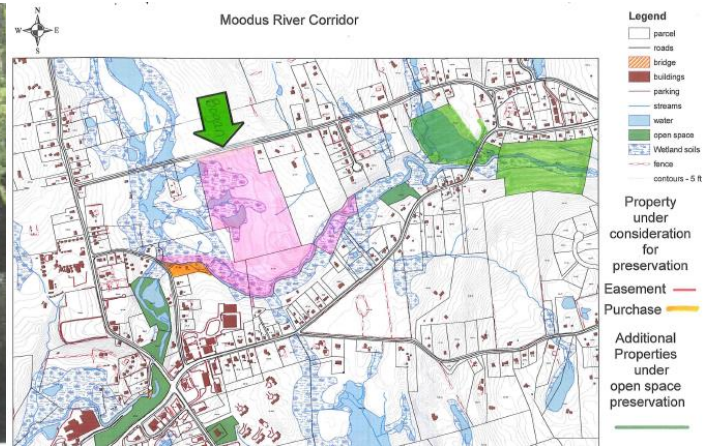
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Cheshire	Puchalski Property	122.3226
East Haddam Land Trust	Bogan Property	45.56

**Town of Cheshire
Puchalski Property
Fee Acquisition**



This property provides a linkage to existing, preserved open space to the north, west and south, owned by the Town, State and Cheshire Land Trust. The existing driveway will provide parking and serve as a trailhead to the ridgeline. One cleared path runs northerly from the trailhead and the Quinnipiac Blue Trail runs along the top of the ridgeline and the entire westerly boundary. The public can also access the property from the north or south on the Blue Trail. This acquisition will protect a species identified in the Natural Diversity Database, a forested environment, an uninterrupted woodland ridge, a wildlife habitat and the Whitney watershed.

East Haddam Land Trust
The Bogan Property a/k/a Moodus River Corridor
1+/- Acre Fee & 44+/- Acres Easement



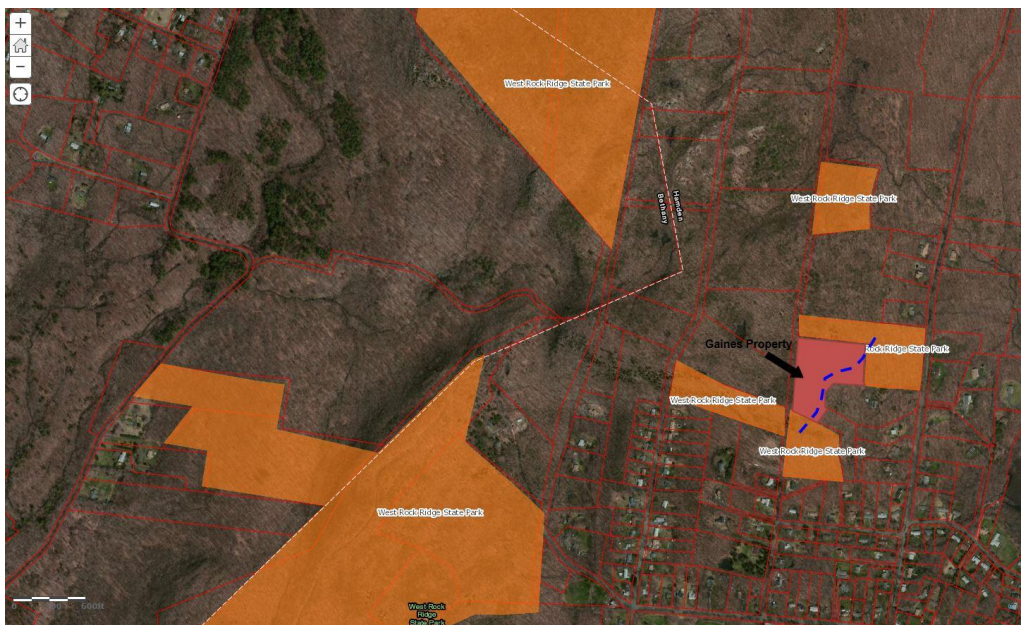
Since the East Haddam Land Trust's inception, one of its goals has been to protect the Moodus River Corridor with a linear park and walking trail. The Bogan Property is at the approximate center of the corridor and will become the gateway to the linear trail. This acquisition protects approximately 4,200 feet of the Moodus River, maintaining its quality and the quality of the Salmon River, which the Moodus River joins at Salmon Cove. There will be two parking areas, one on Clark Gates Road (the northerly road frontage) and another on the 1-acre Grist Mill Road parcel (shown in orange on map above) with trailheads leading to the Moodus River Corridor from both locations. Only two parcels remain to complete the goal of protecting this 2.5 mile linear trail. The land trust hopes to complete these acquisitions within the next 5 years. The public will be able to hike along a stream, view the remnants of old dams and mill sites, fish for trout and escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life, just 100 yards from the urban, Moodus Center.

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
Gaines Property	Paradise Ave & High Rock Rd, Hamden	---	---	---	4.89 ac.	Donation	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park

Gaines Property, Hamden Easement Donation



This 4.89 acre donation, pursuant to Special Act 75-80, amended by Special Acts 76-47 & 77-49 and the West Rock Ridge Conservation Area Supplement by Special Act 79-92, will be added to West Rock Ridge State Park. It contains a portion of the CT Blue Trail which is managed by the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. This property abuts West Rock Ridge State Park on three sides and is located within the Lake Whitney public supply watershed operated by South Central CT Regional Water Authority. Many CT Natural Diversity Database threatened or endangered species are found here.

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

February 2015

Overview

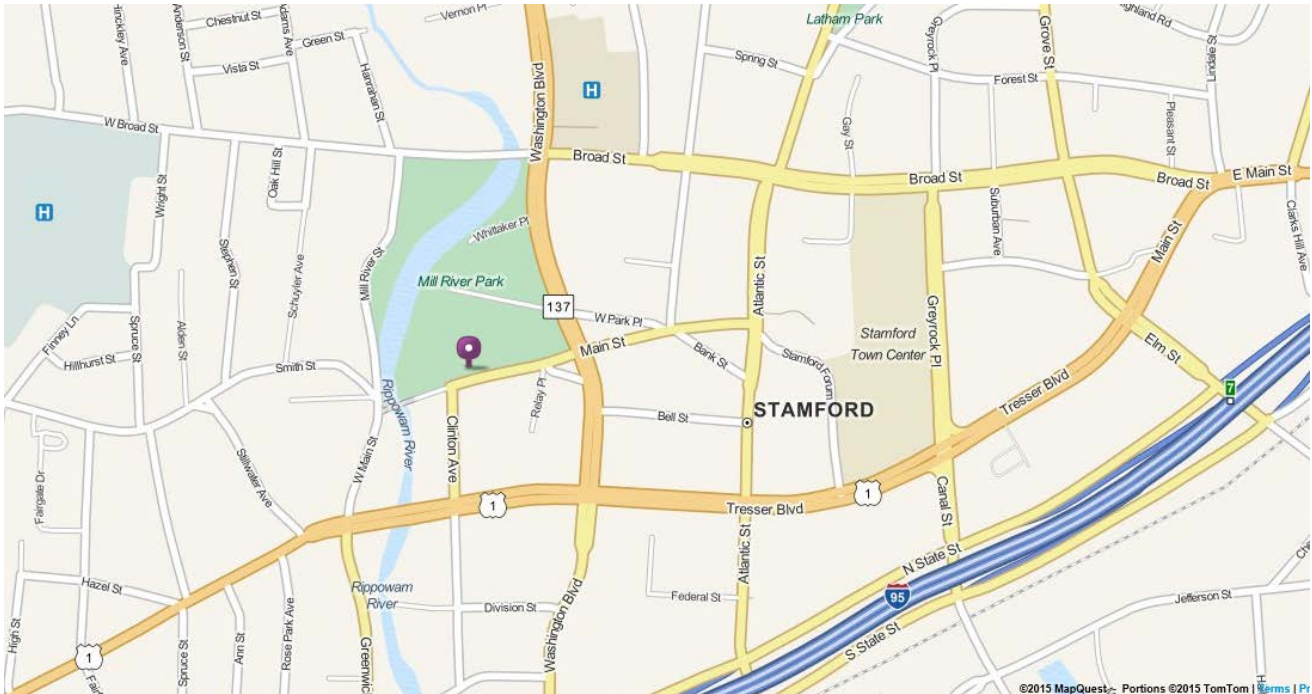
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
City of Stamford	60 & 70 Main Street	0.6

**City of Stamford
60 & 70 Main Street
Fee Acquisition**



These properties will become part of the existing Mill River Park and Mill River Greenway. The greenway is a vital mixed-use district surrounding a linear park along the river. The river, its dam and its mill pond will become a symbol of the downtown and West Side neighborhood. The park will serve multiple users including residents, students, downtown employees and visitors to the city. This vibrant and enjoyable greenway will comprise over 26 acres in the downtown area, with walkways and seating on either side of the Rippowam (Mill) River. These properties will expand upon the existing Mill River Park and provide a link between the park and other open space properties.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Acreage	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Regional Capital Management	Colchester	--	--	60.03	--	\$430,000	Addition to Salmon River State Forest
Purtill	Franklin	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$175,000	47.18	--	--	Addition to Franklin Wildlife Management Area

Regional Capital Management Property Colchester Fee Acquisition



The Regional Capital Management, LLC property consists of a 60.03 acre parcel of land located at 416 Winchester Road, Colchester. Abutting sections of both Day Pond State Park and Salmon River State Forest, the property features a mix of forest and open fields. The acquisition of this property provides an opportunity to expand the forest and add to the existing mosaic of woodlands, wetlands and fields that provide high quality habitat for wildlife. This acquisition will also enhance recreational opportunities in the area.

**Purtill Property
Franklin
Fee Acquisition**



The Purtill property consists of a 47.18 acre parcel of land located at 215 Pond Road, Franklin. Located at the northern end of the Franklin Wildlife Management Area, the property features a variety of forest and swamp land. Funding was provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service through a Pittman-Robertson grant. The acquisition of this property provides an opportunity to expand the existing WMA and will enhance both recreational and hunting opportunities in the area.

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

March 2015

Overview

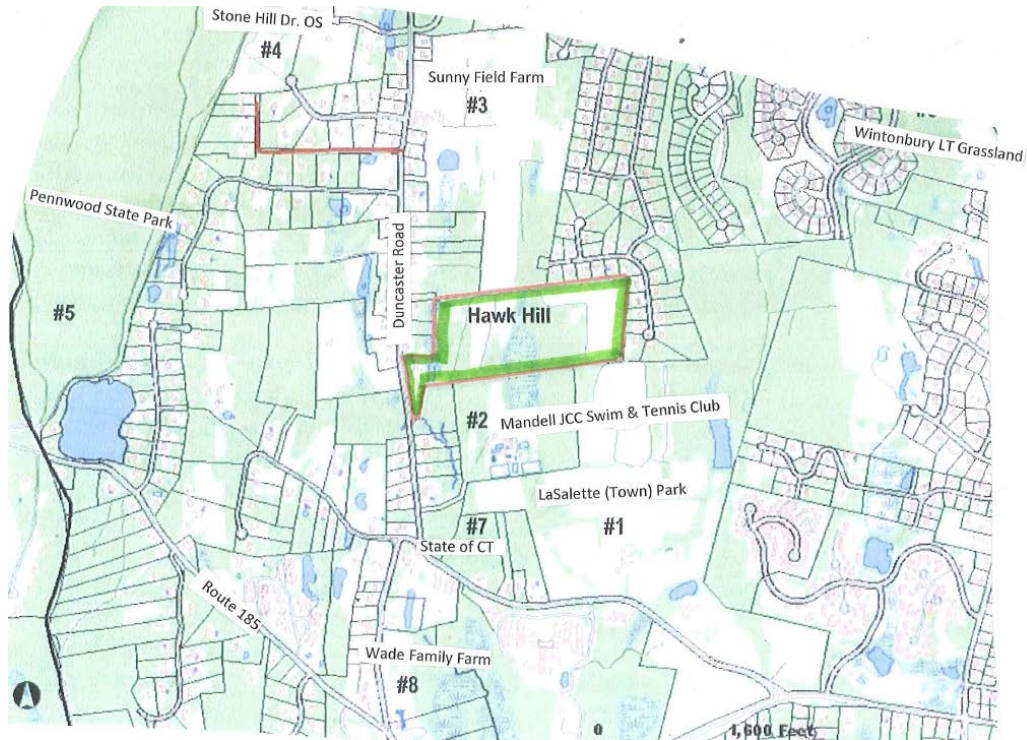
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Wintonbury Land Trust	Hawk Hill Farm, Bloomfield	44.1
Lyme Land Conservation Trust	Selden Cove, Lyme	2.8
Simsbury Land Trust	Tanager Hill Parcel, Simsbury	75.334

Wintonbury Land Trust
Hawk Hill Farm, Bloomfield
Fee Acquisition



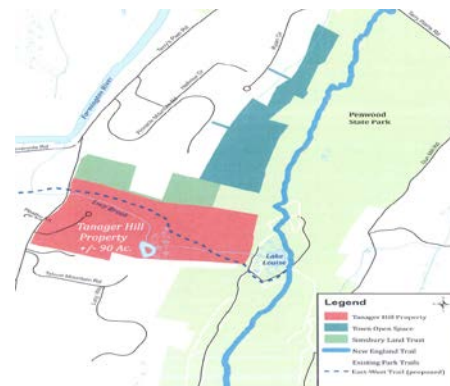
The Town of Bloomfield is purchasing the development rights with a grant from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Wintonbury Land Trust is purchasing the underlying fee with DEEP Open Space and Watershed grant assistance. This 44.1 acre farm is one of Bloomfield's oldest, with 22+/- acres classified as prime farmland soils. A public access trail will begin at the westerly, Duncaster road frontage and continue along a farm road which zigzags through the property, crossing wetlands and rising to the easterly LaSalette Park boundary, where there are extraordinary views of the Mount Holyoke Range to the north. Hawk Hill Farm is used for growing corn, and bisects a 250 acre wildlife, recreational and farming open space corridor. This acquisition will further the Town and Land Trust goals of creating a public hiking trail from Filley Park in the Town Center to Penwood State Park on the Town's western border, and a circular public route through Wilcox Park, back to the Town Center, via a new Greenway that is presently being developed.

Lyme Land Conservation Trust
Selden Cove, Lyme
Fee Acquisition



The Selden Cove and Selden Creek River Access parcel protects floodplain and wildlife habitat, an upland buffer around a high quality tidal wetland area, and provides scenic enjoyment, bird watching, picnicking, canoe and kayak launching and fishing in the relatively undeveloped and quiet solitude of Selden Creek Cove. This shoreline parcel is in a critical habitat of extraordinary aquatic value, with shellfish beds and areas of submerged aquatic vegetation. The State's Natural Diversity Database identifies rare, threatened or endangered species in this area. This viewshed spans across open meadows and pastures to Selden Cove and Selden Neck State Park on the opposite shore, a vista which affords glimpses of bald eagles, black duck and many other resident and migrating birds. The Selden Creek River access will also provide direct canoe and kayak access to Selden Neck State Park for people who may not be comfortable navigating the Connecticut River on busy summer weekends.

Simsbury Land Trust
Tanager Hill Parcel, Simsbury
Fee Acquisition



This parcel runs easterly from East Weatogue Street to the Metacomet Ridge and Penwood State Park. Simsbury Land Trust's Owen-Mortimer Property lies to the north and other Town of Simsbury open space lies beyond. There are 20+/- acres of field or pasture and some steep ledges. Lucy Brook cascades down the western ledges from Penwood State Park's Lake Louise, in a series of several small waterfalls, into a sizeable wooded wetland area. An old farm path starts at the northwest corner of the parcel leading up the hill and connecting to the Penwood State Park trail network. The Land Trust hopes to create additional trails through this parcel and the Simsbury Land Trust and Town-owned parcels to the north.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Ellington McIntire	Ellington	Donation	--	12.05	--	\$0	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
Schachter	Windsor	--	--	0.703	--	\$1,409	Addition to Matianuck Sand Dunes State Park

Ellington McIntire LLC Property, Ellington Donation

The Ellington McIntire, LLC property consists of 12.05 acres in Ellington that were donated to the State of Connecticut DEEP. The property owner is in the process of subdividing his property for residential development. The donation is the open space set-aside required by the Town. The property abuts the Shenipsit State Forest. This section of the forest was erroneously being marked as State land for several years. Acceptance of this donation has resolved the boundary discrepancy and will provide passive recreational opportunities to the general public, along with additional hunting opportunities.

Schachter Property, Windsor Fee Acquisition

The Schachter property consists of 0.703 acres in Windsor that were acquired by the State of Connecticut DEEP. The property abuts the Matianuck Sand Dunes State Park and Natural Area Preserve, which contains one of the few inland sand dunes in the State. The sand dunes are home to a population of endangered beetles. Acquisition of this property will help protect this habitat.

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

April 2015

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
The Preserve	Old Saybrook and Westbrook	Town of Old Saybrook	\$3,000,000	925.68	\$1,750,000	New State and Town Open Space
		Land & Water Conservation Fund	\$1,400,000			
		The Trust for Public Land	\$1,240,000			
Saner	Marlborough	Land & Water Conservation Fund	\$684,408.91	289.52	\$740,591.09	Addition to Salmon River State Forest

**The Preserve
Old Saybrook and Westbrook
Fee Acquisition**



The Preserve property consists of 1,000 acres located in the Towns of Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Essex. The property was the largest unprotected coastal forest between New York and Boston, and was long eyed for development with numerous homes and a golf course. With the assistance of The Trust for Public Land, the State of Connecticut, and the Town of Old Saybrook partnered to acquire 926 acres of the property, while the Essex Land Trust acquired the remaining land located in Essex.

The property includes 38 vernal pools, miles of trails, and more than 3,100 feet of streams. A variety of birds, amphibians, and animals inhabit the property, including many which are of special conservation concern. The dense forest and the Pequot Swamp Pond are used as a refueling stop by migratory birds. Protection of the property will also insure water quality for the area because the land drains to three different watersheds: the Oyster River, Mud River and Trout Brook, all of which flow into the Long Island Sound.

**Saner Property
Marlborough
Fee Acquisition**



The Saner property consists of 289 acres of land located along the south side of Hebron Avenue (Route 66), Marlborough. The property is across the street from the DEEP Eastern District Headquarters, and links two sections of the Salmon River State Forest. The Blackledge River traverses the center of the property and provides excellent fishing opportunities to the public. Existing trails will also allow great passive recreational uses.

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in April 2015.

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

May 2015

Overview

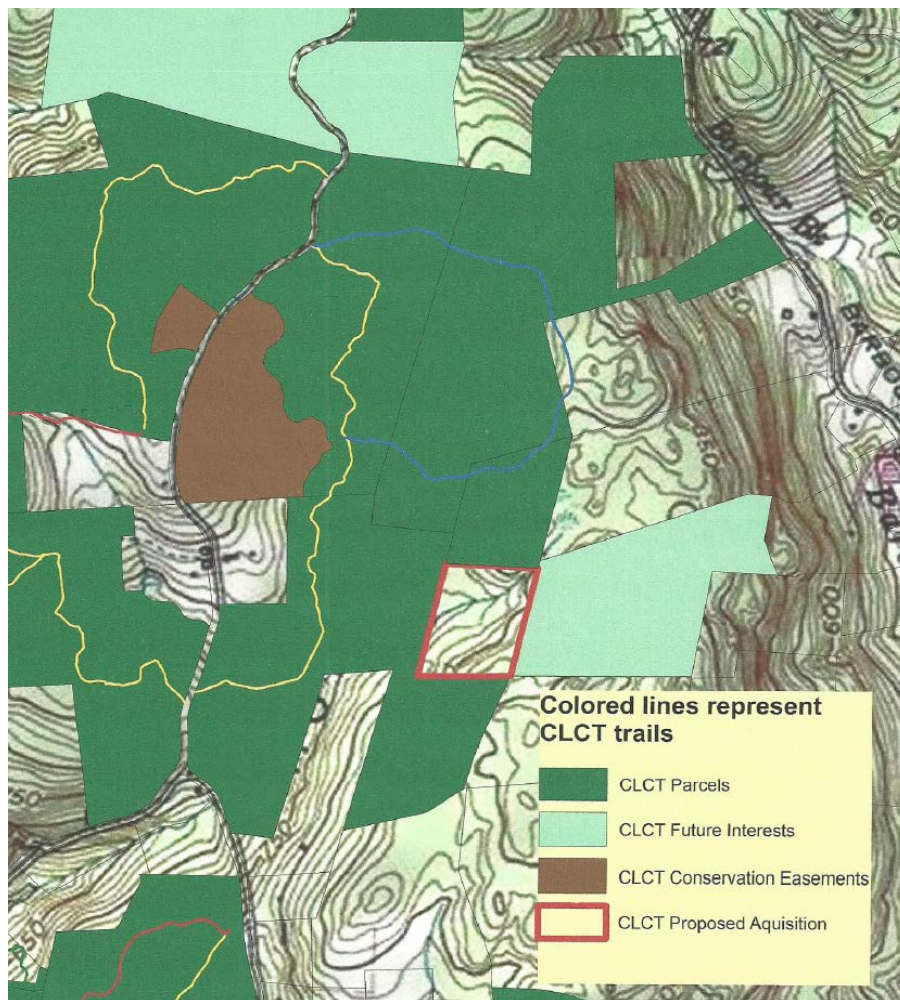
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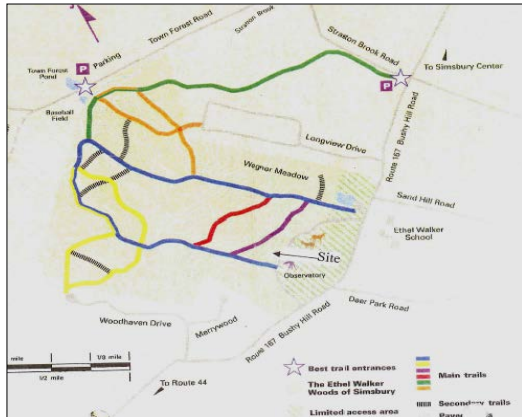
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Canton Land Conservation Trust	136 Barbourtown Road, Canton	12.435
Town of Simsbury	Ethel Walker School, Parcel C, Simsbury	41.809
City of Stamford	205 Magee Avenue, Stamford	4.77
Essex Land Trust, Inc.	The Preserve, Essex	70.6

Canton Land Conservation Trust
136 Barbourtown Road
Fee Acquisition



This property (outlined in red above) supplements a large, contiguous unfragmented forest block on Ratlum Mountain, which serves as a habitat and migratory corridor for interior forest nesting bird species and wildlife moving through Canton, Barkhamsted and East Hartland. Large mammals including black bear, white-tailed deer, coyote, fisher and even moose have been observed in the vicinity. An intermittent brook traverses the property, feeding a larger unnamed brook that flows into the Farmington River. The Canton Land Conservation Trust owns properties on three sides of this parcel and several hundred acres on Ratlum Mountain. Public access will be from one of the adjacent properties that have frontage on numerous roadways.

**Town of Simsbury, Ethel Walker Parcel C
Fee Acquisition**



This parcel represents the final phase of the multi-phase “Ethel Walker Woods” acquisition, protecting over 424 acres at Ethel Walker School. With its forests, fields, streams and wetlands, this property offers unique recreational and educational opportunities for Connecticut residents and visitors. The diverse habitats include over 8.5 miles of easily accessible walking, jogging and equestrian trails in the heart of more than 1,400 acres of contiguous open space. The Woods lie atop and help protect Hop Brook and the Stratton Brook Aquifer, the primary source of drinking water for Simsbury and neighboring towns. These parcels protect prime farmland, upland forest areas, wetlands, aquifers and multiple conservation and recreation values.

**City of Stamford, 205 Magee Avenue
Fee Acquisition**



This two parcel acquisition (0.46 acres and 4.31 acres) protects publically-accessible upland and wetland open space on Stamford Harbor. As part of the redevelopment of the overall parcel, tidal wetlands were restored on the property through a combination of grading and the creation of channels and pooling areas to convey and contain tidal water. The City constructed a boardwalk and gazebo to provide greater access to the site and contribute to passive recreation opportunities such as walking, jogging, and nature observation. The protection of these parcels enhanced and restored the natural shoreline, helping to improve the water quality for Stamford Harbor and the Long Island Sound.

Essex Land Trust, Inc.
The Preserve, Essex
Fee Acquisition



The Essex Land Trust, Inc. acquired this 70.6 acre portion of The Preserve, in the Town of Essex. The 1,000 acre Preserve in Essex, Old Saybrook and Westbrook, was the last and largest tract of unprotected coastal forest between New York and Boston. It provides valuable resources for passive recreation including hiking, bicycling, cross-country skiing, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and nature photography and protects watershed, riverine and coastline habitats. The Essex Land Trust, Inc. will manage this portion of The Preserve.

The adjacent 926 acres, in Old Saybrook and Westbrook, were acquired last month in a joint effort by the Town of Old Saybrook, The Trust for Public Land, the State of Connecticut and the National Park Service. The Preserve contains 38 vernal pools, miles of trails, and more than 3,100 feet of streams. A variety of birds, amphibians, and animals inhabit the property, including many of special conservation concern. The dense forest and the Pequot Swamp Pond are used as a refueling stop by migratory birds. Protection of the property will also insure water quality for the area because the land drains to three different watersheds: the Oyster River, Mud River and Trout Brook, all of which flow into Long Island Sound.

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in May 2015.

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June 2015

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in June 2015.

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July 2015

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Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

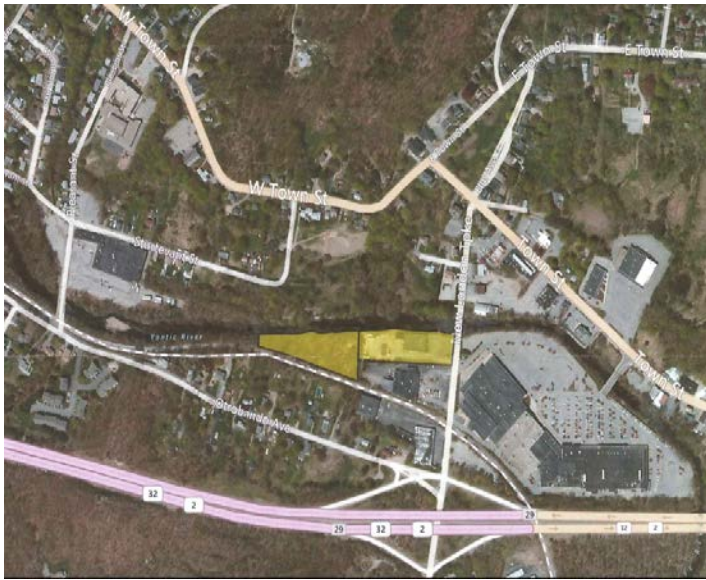
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Sponsor	Project	Acres
City of Norwich	31 New London Turnpike, Norwich	3.86
Manchester Land Conservation Trust	Botti Farm, Manchester	62.485
Clinton Land Conservation Trust	Weiss, Loveday & Maltese Properties, Clinton	40.36

City of Norwich

Fee Acquisition

31 New London Turnpike & 31 New London Turnpike Rear, Norwich

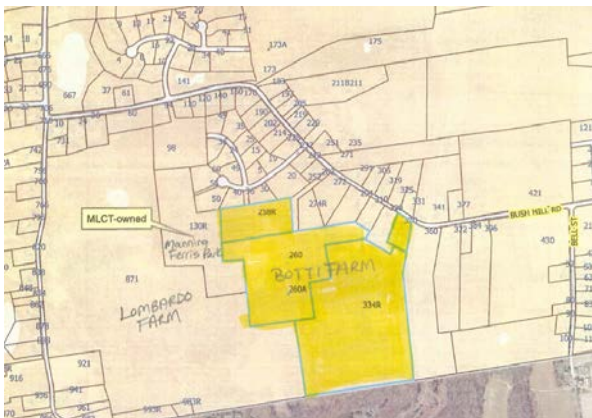


These parcels are a critical link in the creation of the Yantic River Greenway, a recreational trail linking downtown Norwich to Yantic, the Norwich Business Park and other open space. The site is presently developed with a building and 13,000 square feet of impervious parking area, causing runoff that negatively impacts water quality. This grant will place a small but highly-sensitive parcel on the Yantic River into conservation and provide access to the area for many anglers who come for stocked fresh water fishing. The City received another grant from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program for building demolition and site restoration, which will include new topsoil, native vegetation and grasses.

Manchester Land Conservation Trust (MLCT)

Fee Acquisition

Botti Farm, Manchester & Glastonbury



The Botti Farm, in southwest Manchester (with 6+/- acres in Glastonbury) has been in the Botti family since 1914. The current owner (the grandson of the first Botti farmer) has been ill for several years and his children chose careers outside of farming. It was most famous for its apple trees and the Botti Cider Mill. The 1970's era post and beam cider mill barn will remain on site. MLCT's goals are to restore the barn (for a staging area and/or storage), create a victory garden in conjunction with local entities including Manchester Community College, the Hillstown Grange and the Town of Manchester, and use the property (and the adjacent MLCT-owned Manning Ferris Park) for hiking, nature observation, public school tours, education and research. The property consists of open fields and meadows, mature woodlands and a spring fed pond. There are many fruit trees which could bear fruit again. The farm includes Bush Hill, which at a height of 326 feet, is the highest point in the area with views in all directions for hikers, bikers, bird-watchers and nature observers.

Fee Acquisition

Weiss, Loveday & Maltese Properties, Clinton



All of these parcels are located within a Level A Aquifer Protection Area. They contain high quality wooded wetlands and uplands that support a diversity of plant species and wildlife habitat. The DEEP Natural Diversity Database indicates that the parcels are located within the Hammonasset River watershed and contains species that are being tracked by the DEEP. This landscape is likely to support the Eastern Box turtle and wood turtle, two Species of Special Concern in Connecticut. The Hammonasset coastal area has been recognized by Audubon Connecticut as an important bird area of global significance and the upland watershed parcels maintain the ecological integrity and safeguard this exemplary coastal resource.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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Roncari Property	Windsor	CAA & FAA	\$3,500,000	133.3	2 ac ±	\$0	Grassland Bird Habitat

Roncari Property, Windsor Fee Acquisition



The Roncari property consists of 133.3 acres of industrially-zoned land located at 800 Scotland Road, Windsor. The property was once farmland, and features frontage along the Farmington River. The property was acquired for grassland bird habitat. With the proposed expansion of Bradley International Airport, the DEEP, through the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA), acquired the land as mitigation for the grassland birds that will be dispersed from the airport. Funding for this acquisition was provided by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

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August 2015

Overview

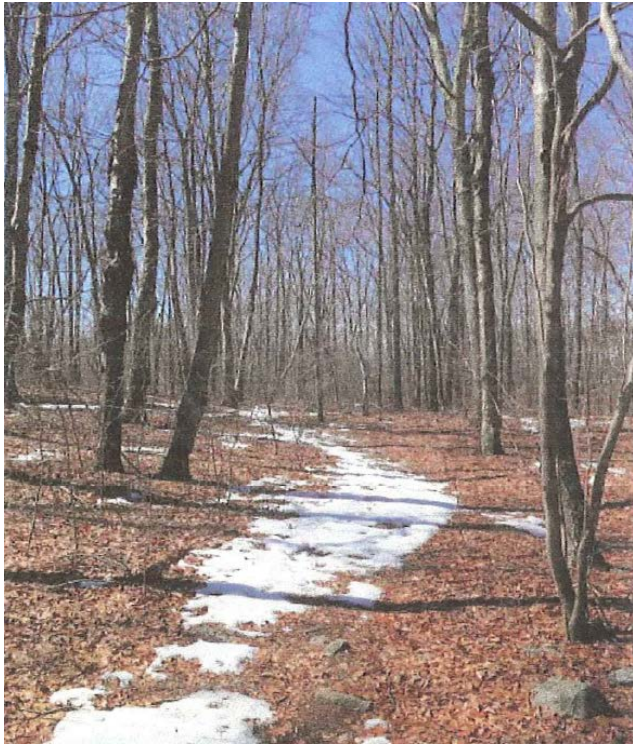
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Bethany	Carrington Preserve	73.75

**Town of Bethany
Carrington Preserve
Fee Acquisition**



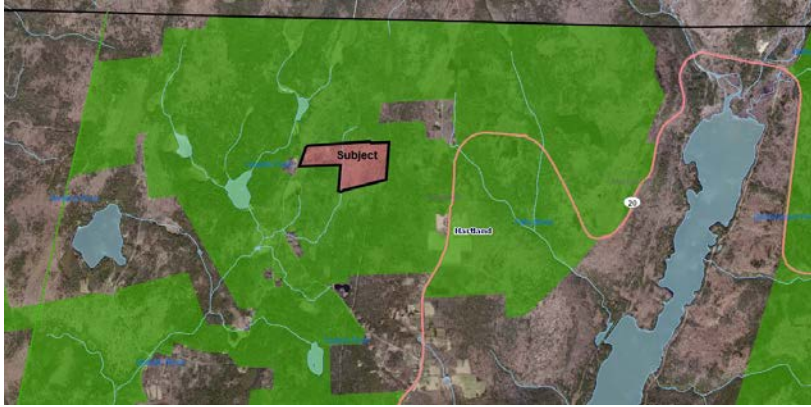
This mostly wooded parcel with a cold spring and streams flowing into Pine Brook and Bladens River, is part of Cherry Tree Farm. It was first settled in the 1800's and the Carrington family has owned the property since 1866. Several generations of the family have operated a dairy farm, hayed the property and raised beef cattle. This portion of the farm is cordoned by stone walls from previous generations when it was used as pasturage. The Naugatuck Trail, one of the oldest Indian trails in Connecticut, leading from New Haven to Naugatuck, passes through this parcel. This acquisition will extend the public portion of the Old Naugatuck Trail, as a blazed recreational trail, available for hiking, cross country skiing, horseback riding and other non-motorized vehicle uses, as well as wildlife watching. An additional loop trail is also being considered.

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
Szewczyk	79 Stillman Rd., West Hartland	N/A	N/A	74.578	N/A	\$320,000	Addition to Tunxis State Forest

Szewczyk Property
79 Stillman Road, West Hartland
Fee Purchase



This is the last undeveloped parcel within Tunxis State Forest, surrounded entirely by the Forest on all sides. Several years ago the owner of the property offered it to DEEP at an asking price of \$1,000,000. The property is mostly forested with approximately two acres cleared and a brook/wetland running north to south through the approximate center of the parcel. This purchase helps protect the forest and water resources and eliminates an inholding and the need for marking about 8,400 feet of boundary line.

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

September 2015

Overview

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Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of East Haddam	Dean Property (Easement), East Haddam	274.29
Town of East Haddam & The Nature Conservancy, Inc.	LeFebvre Property, East Haddam	113.637
Watertown Land Trust, Inc.	Schienda Family Preserve (Easement), Watertown	63.10

**Town of East Haddam
Dean Property
Easement Acquisition**



This property has been actively farmed for centuries. It contains a mix of agricultural land, forestland, fields and a small stream. It is part of a large contiguous forest block providing continued wildlife habitat corridor protection and connectivity to other protected Town and East Haddam Land Trust open space. It contains an extensive network of trails, which will be available for hiking, cross country skiing, wildlife observation and photography. The large open fields are currently farmed and this easement will protect the farm for continued agricultural purposes.

**The Town of East Haddam & The Nature Conservancy, Inc. (TNC)
LeFebvre Property
Fee Acquisition**



This acquisition protects property between Devil's Hopyard State Park and TNC's Burnham Brook Preserve. It is within a twelve (12) mile corridor of conservation land, entirely within the Eightmile River Watershed, containing over 3,000 feet of small streams and wetlands that feed both Burnham Brook and the West Branch of the Eightmile River. This land is part of an unfragmented block of habitat of over 1,480 acres within the Congressionally-designated Wild and Scenic River system.

Watertown Land Trust, Inc.
Schienda Family Preserve, Watertown
Easement Acquisition



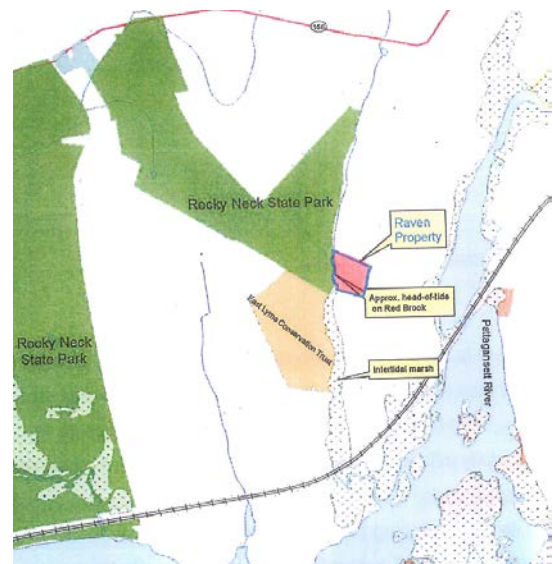
This former dairy farmland contains three meadows, which are currently hayed. The existing trail network provides hiking, cross-country skiing and nature observation. This property is less than a half mile to the Nonnewaug Falls in Woodbury (owned by the Town). The Town received approval for a greenway from the falls area to the Town center. With this acquisition, only one property remains to complete this greenway. A large active beaver pond offers good habitat for amphibians and water-loving mammals. The mature oak forest, with almost no invasive species, is home to bobcats, deer, and smaller mammals. The Archdiocese of Hartford adjoins the parcel to the east, providing a large area of unfragmented forest.

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
Raven Property	Brainerd Road, Niantic	N/A	N/A	4.86	R.O.W to E. Lyme Land Trust, Raven Woods	\$200,000	Addition to Rocky Neck State Park

Raven Property Brainerd Road, East Lyme Fee Acquisition



This property borders the approximate head-of-tide at Red Brook, a tidally influenced watercourse draining to the Pattagansett River estuary and Long Island Sound. A small parking area and hiking trail provide access to 120 additional acres of protected open space, Rocky Neck State Park and the East Lyme Land Trust Raven Woods parcel.

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

October 2015

Overview

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in October 2015.

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program

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There were no Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program acquisitions closed in October 2015.

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

November 2015

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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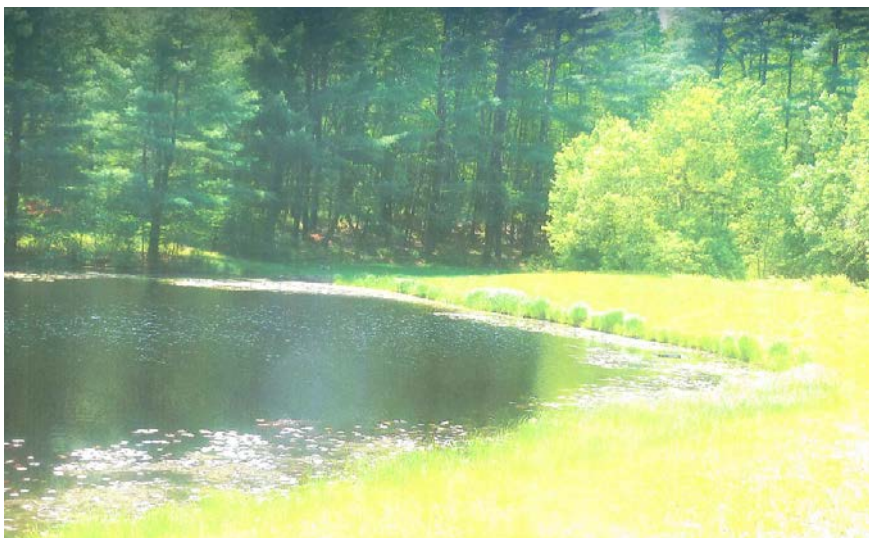
Sponsor	Project	Acres
Groton Open Space Association, Inc.	Avery Farm, Ledyard and Groton	305.20
Town of Tolland	Knofla Pond Property	67.56

Groton Open Space Association, Inc. (GOSA)
Avery Farm, Lambtown Road, Groton & Ledyard



This property on the Town-designated scenic Lambtown Road, contains 159.51 acres in Ledyard and 145.69 acres in Groton. It features significant wildlife and water resources, scenic views, ridgeline, greenbelt connections and historic farm and archeological sites worthy of protection. It connects hiking trails, stream and utility managed habit corridors and features State of Connecticut Natural Diversity Database sites including bogs, vernal pools, grassy fields and forest. A shared 38 acre marsh provides important habitat for migratory waterfowl. This acquisition provides water storage, water filtration, floodplain, estuary and public drinking watershed protection (Ledyard Reservoir and Haley Brook) which flow into and further protect Mystic River and Long Island Sound.

Town of Tolland
Knofla Pond Property



This property features a 5.74 acre pond, fed by underground springs and Cemetery Brook, which continues to Shenipsit Lake, a public drinking water supply watershed. It protects an important wildlife area and corridor with significant wildlife habitat. Its varied topography includes both steep and gentle slopes, aquatic habitat and a water source for wildlife. Passive recreation opportunities exist for fishing, hiking, snowshoeing, wildlife observation and education.

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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Match Share	Fee Acreage	Easement Restrictions or R.O.W.	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Liebman	Lebanon	--	--	178.1	--	\$915,000	Water Access



The Liebman property consists of a 178.1 acre parcel of land located along the northerly side of Exeter Road (Route 207), Lebanon. This property includes over 65 acres of Lake Williams, along with three small islands and about 110 acres of land on both the east and west side of the lake. The acquisition of this property provides an opportunity for hiking, fishing, water access, and other recreational opportunities in the area.

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

December 2015

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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Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	Easement or R.O.W.	Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Maulucci	Coventry	George Dudley Seymour Trust	\$214,000	38.43	--	\$230,000	Addition to Nathan Hale State Forest
Vars	Plainfield	--	--	43.02	--	\$150,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

**Maulucci Property
Coventry
Fee Acquisition**



The Maulucci property consists of 38.43 acres of land located at 800 Bunker Hill Road, Coventry. The property was once home to the Nutmeg Winery, and some old growth vines are still located on the land. Beautiful stone walls form many of the boundaries, and a small man-made pond is located on site. George Dudley Seymour, who donated a large portion of the surrounding forest to the State (known as Nathan Hale State Forest), reportedly rode his horse on the property in the past. Funding for this acquisition was through the George Dudley Seymour Trust. The acquisition provides a key access point into the southern end of the forest, and gives opportunities for hiking, hunting and other passive recreational uses.

Vars Property
Plainfield
Fee Acquisition



The Vars property consists of two parcels of land totaling 43.02 acres located along the southerly side of Plainfield Pike Road (Route 14A), Plainfield. The property is primarily wooded, with a level woods road leading into the parcel. The land, which was previously designed for a 6 lot residential subdivision, will be added to the abutting Pachaug State Forest. The acquisition provides an opportunity for hiking, hunting, and other passive recreational opportunities in the area.

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

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There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in December 2015.