

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

March 2016

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 March 2016. Additional information on these projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Acres
Northern CT Land Trust	Culver Woods, Stafford	113.20

Culver Woods, Stafford
Northern Connecticut Land Trust, Inc.
Fee Acquisition



This property has historically been used as a woodlot for local farm families and more recently as a source of harvested timber and fuel wood. It abuts Shenipsit State Forest, which is also managed for timber harvests. The NCLT plans to continue the forest management and timber harvest practices. The forested upland has a picturesque small steep valley, a pond and a cold water stream. A parking area will be created on Gilbert Road, providing access to existing wood roads to be maintained as hiking trails, and Rockadundee Brook, a pristine brook with native brook trout, which will be open for fishing. The marsh at the southern end of the property is an excellent site for bird watching. This property protects watershed and a feeder stream for the Scantic River that flows within the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. Further, this property provides habitat for species that require large tracts of un-fragmented woodlands, ponds, streams and wetlands.

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 March 2016. 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
Cianci	Pomfret	--	--	53.5	--	\$230,000.00	Add to Mashamoquet Brook SP

Cianci Property Pomfret Fee Acquisition



The Cianci property consists of 53.5 acres of land located at 76 Wolf Den Road, Pomfret. The property is an irregular shaped parcel with about 930' of frontage along Wolf Den Road. Three sides of the property are surrounded by Mashamoquet State Park. The property features a flat open field along the road frontage, with light woods in the rear. The Mashamoquet Brook forms the northern boundary. This key acquisition rounds out the boundaries of the park, and gives opportunities for hiking, fishing, hunting, and other passive recreational uses.