

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

November 2016

Overview

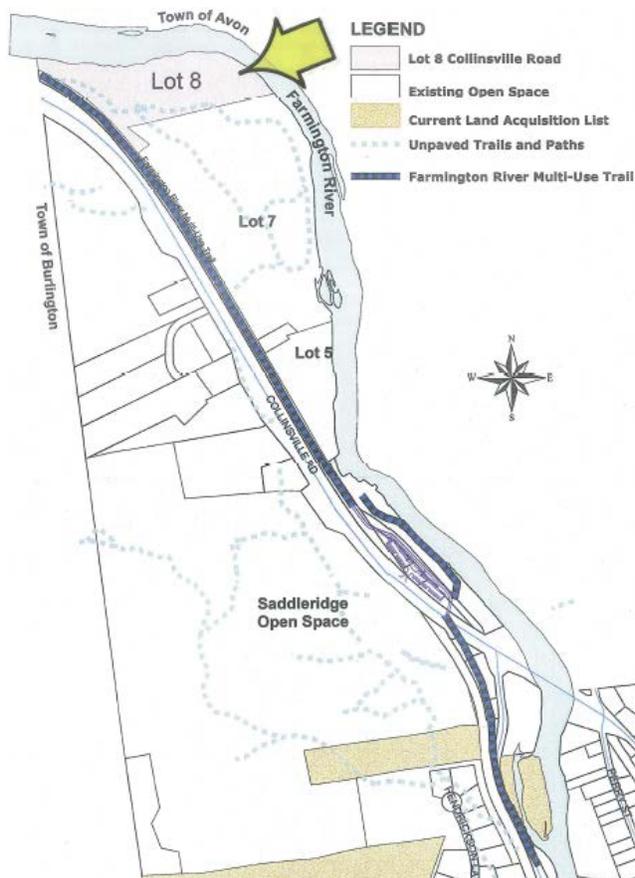
Section 22a-6v of the General Statutes of Connecticut requires the Commissioner of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding and to the State Bond 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 November 2016. Additional information on these projects follows.

Sponsor	Project	Acres
Town of Farmington	Lot 8, Collinsville Road	11.00
Town of Southington	1081 East Street	17.61

**Town of Farmington
 Lot 8 Collinsville Road
 Fee Acquisition**

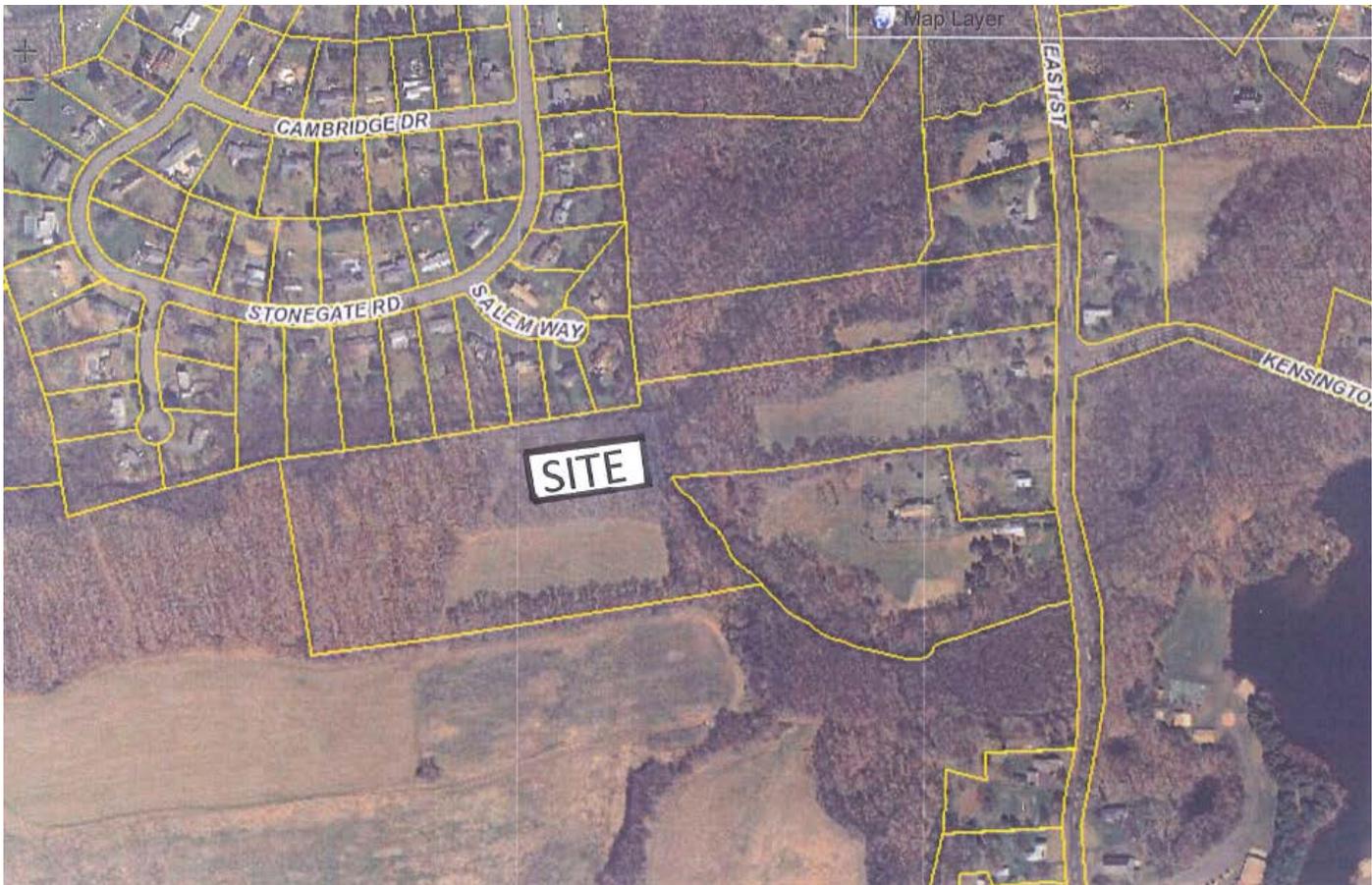


This property, with 2,200+/- feet of frontage on the Farmington River, is adjacent to the Farmington River Multi-Use Trail. It is a critical forested floodplain habitat, filtering pollution from storm water runoff, preventing soil erosion and sedimentation along a riparian corridor. This acquisition contributes to an existing greenway, protecting and complementing existing preserved open space. The multi-use trail provides passive recreational activities such as walking, running, biking and roller-blading and several trails provide access to the Farmington River for fishing, canoeing/kayaking and bird watching. The Farmington River is being considered for designation as a National Wild & Scenic River. It is an excellent location for nature study, particularly birding, as the wooded floodplain provides shelter for many nesting birds. The forested floodplain habitat is suitable for a number of species listed by DEEP as Endangered, Threatened or Species of Special Concern. Year round sightings include mergansers, red-tailed hawks, osprey and bald eagles among others, with occasional glimpses of migrating warblers and waterfowl in the spring and fall.

**Town of Southington
1081 East Street
Fee Acquisition**



This 17.61 acre parcel in the eastern section of Southington contains a tributary of Misery Brook and two 4-acre fields. A forested wetland straddles the brook and nearly the entire property lies within a State Listed Significant Natural Community. The site is listed as part of an Aquifer Protection District and a "GAA" groundwater designation indicating its current use as a drinking water supply aquifer. The Town and local farmers will continue to hay the fields. The site is easily accessible with ample room for off-street parking. A trail throughout the parcel and the open areas are well suited for passive recreation and the brook flowing through the site offers fishing, wildlife observation and bird watching opportunities.



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 2016.