

COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2000 ANNUAL REPORT  
to the  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

in compliance with

General Statutes of Connecticut  
Section 23-8 (b) State Goal for Acquisition of Open Space

January 2001

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to the  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
per  
GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT, SECTION 23-8(b)  
STATE GOAL FOR ACQUISITION OF OPEN SPACE

**GOAL**

Section 23-8(b) of the General Statutes of Connecticut states that, "The goal of the state's open space acquisition program shall be to acquire land such that ten percent of the state's land area is held by the state as open space land and not less than eleven percent of the state's land area is held by municipalities, water companies or nonprofit land conservation organizations as open space land..."

The Commissioner of Environmental Protection is charged with the responsibility of developing a strategy for achieving the state's goal in consultation with The Council on Environmental Quality and private nonprofit land holding organizations.

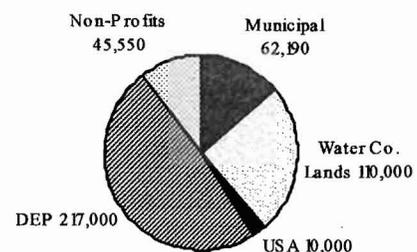
**STATUS**

Connecticut has 3,205,760 acres. To have not less than ten percent of the state's land area held by the State as open space will require state ownership of 320,576 acres. To have twenty-one percent of the state's land preserved as open space will require 673,210 acres held by the state, municipalities, the federal government, private land conservation organizations, and water companies as Class I and Class II watershed land.

The State has acquired a total of 217,000 acres as open space land in its system of park, forest, wildlife, fishery, and natural resource management areas. Thus, the Department of Environmental Protection currently has 67.7 percent of the 320,576 acres of open space land targeted for state acquisition.

The United States of America owns approximately 10,000 acres of land as trail corridor, wildlife preserve, flood control, or national historic park. It is estimated that nonprofit land conservation organizations own 45,550 acres in Connecticut. Municipalities in Connecticut are estimated to own 62,190 acres of land as open space. Class I and Class II water company lands in Connecticut currently total approximately 110,000 acres. Together, open space acreage held by these entities is 227,740 acres. Based on a target of 352,630 acres in total open space holdings for these entities, they currently hold 64.4 percent of their targeted open space goal.

**CT Open Space By Ownership Total**  
Acres = 444,740



The 217,000 acres of state open space represents 6.8% of Connecticut's land area, and the 227,740 acres of open space held by municipalities, non-profits and water companies is 7.1%. This results in a total of 444,740 acres held as open space, 13.9% of Connecticut's lands area.

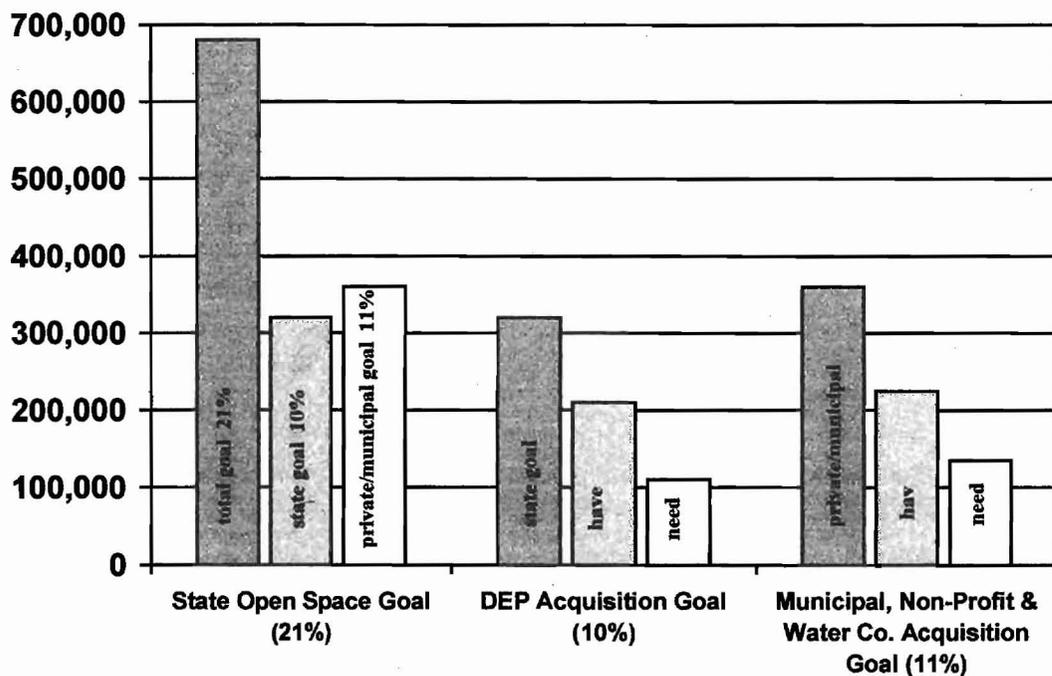
### ACQUISITION NEEDS

To meet the goals set forth in this report, the State of Connecticut must acquire at least an additional 108,000 acres of open space and encourage the acquisition of 124,890 acres by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations and water companies. The short-term target is to preserve 21,600 acres of state-owned land over the next five years and to assist in acquisition of 24,980 acres of open space land by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations and water companies over the next five years.

### ACTION 2000

- I. Planning: The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and private nonprofit land holding organizations, prepared a draft comprehensive strategy for achieving Connecticut's open space goals. The draft "Connecticut Green Plan for Open Space Acquisition" delineates the State's open space goals and the types of lands to be sought; outlines the current amount of open space in the State and how much is needed; describes the programs and funding available for land purchases; and the process for acquisition. The Green Plan is intended to serve as general guidance for program managers, as a tool for those who want to work

**Acquisition Goal, Ownership and Acquisition Needed**



and the process for acquisition. The Green Plan is intended to serve as general guidance for program managers, as a tool for those who want to work with the State in preserving land, and as a basic explanation of Connecticut's approach to open space acquisition for the public.

The Department of Environmental Protection has initiated an information technology project to automate property acquisition review. The project will enable the property acquisition review process to utilize the latest geographic information system (GIS) technology to streamline the review and evaluation phase. It will not only speed reviews, but allow for improved evaluation of a property's natural resource and recreational characteristics. Preliminary recommendations for implementation are anticipated during the first quarter of 2001.

The Department of Environmental Protection is planning a Web-based GIS open space map. GIS maps allow users to visually analyze properties by over laying other GIS base information such as DEP property, greenways, endangered species, soils, streams, aerial photography, topographic maps and other data. This map will for the first time depict all state municipal, federal and private open space. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for a contractor to do the work will be released by the second quarter 2001.

II. Achieving State land Goal: In 2000 the Department of Environmental Protection acquired properties in 31 municipalities involving 7 cooperators and 6 donations of land. This represents 2,807.02 acres at a cost to the State of \$5,745,433. Purchases were made through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program, the DEP's principal means for meeting the 10 percent open space goal by acquisition of lands for the State's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries and natural resource management areas. The land acquired represents the ecological diversity of Connecticut, including natural features such as rivers, mountainous areas, coastal systems and other natural areas, in order to ensure the preservation and conservation of the land for recreational, scientific, educational, cultural and aesthetic purposes.

A list of properties acquired through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program during calendar year 2000 are included in Appendix A.

The Department of Environmental Protection: 1) negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Kelda Group PLC and Aquarion Company for purchase of 15,400 acres of land owned by BHC Company located in 28 municipalities; The Nature Conservancy is a partner in this effort; 2) negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with The Connecticut Light and Power Company and Rocky River Realty for the review and identification of significant conservation parcels of interest to the DEP for potential open space acquisition; and 3) worked with the U.S. Forest Service to secure funding for the acquisition of a conservation easement on 5,000 ± acres of private land to promote continued management as sustainable forest.

III. Assisting Municipalities and Nonprofit Organizations: In 2000, over \$10.4 million was awarded to forty-two project sponsors to fund forty-eight grants under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program for the acquisition of 2,881 acres of open space land.

The grant program leverages local and private acquisition money. For FY1999-2000 the General Assembly approved \$12 million in grant funds to provide financial assistance to municipalities and nonprofit land conservation organizations to acquire land for open space or to preserve agricultural heritage, and to water companies to acquire land to be classified as Class I or Class II water supply property.

Properties funded through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program during calendar year 2000 are listed in Appendix B.

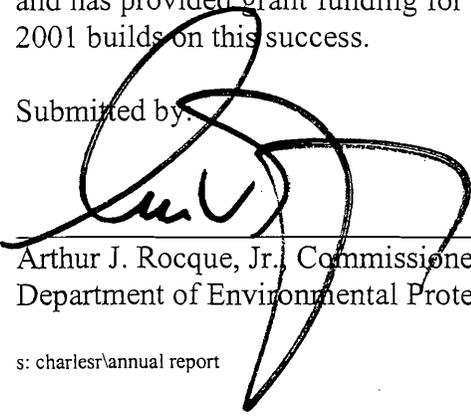
### AGENDA 2001

- I. The Department of Environmental Protection will print and distribute the "Connecticut Green Plan for Open Space Acquisition."
- II. Additional lands will be evaluated and acquired through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust program. The Agency will seek an additional \$20 million in new funding for the program. Currently, there are over forty purchase and sale agreements pending with a total value of over \$23 million. In addition, over 86 properties are being actively pursued with an estimated value of over \$45 million.
- III. The "fifth round" of grants to municipalities, private nonprofit land organizations, and water companies will be awarded in Spring 2001. A "sixth round" of grants will be announced and awarded during the second and third quarter of 2001. The DEP will seek \$12 million in new funding for continuation of the program in Fiscal Year 2002 and, if funds are made available, a seventh grant round will be announced in Fall 2001.
- IV. The DEP anticipates closing on the acquisition of 15,400 acres from Kelda Group contingent upon funding being made available.
- V. The DEP, through a cooperative effort with several land conservation organizations, intends to inventory, analyze and establish a list of properties owned by Northeast Utilities as priority conservation properties of interest to the DEP as open space land.
- VI. The DEP will work toward acquiring a conservation easement on 5,000 acres of continuous private forest land.

## CONCLUSION

The Department of Environmental Protection, working together with municipalities, water companies and private nonprofit land conservation organizations, has embarked on an aggressive program toward meeting Connecticut's open space goals. Since the start of Governor Rowland's open space initiative in July 1998, the DEP has acquired over 7,399 acres and has provided grant funding for the acquisition of an additional 7,084 acres. DEP's Agenda 2001 builds on this success.

Submitted by:



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Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection

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APPENDIX A

**Properties Acquired Year 2000  
January 1, 2000 to December 31, 2000  
Department of Environmental Protection**

Property Name	Location	Fee Acreage	Easement Restriction or R.O.W. Acreage	Purpose of Acquisition
Blodgett	Canaan	50.00		Addition to Robbins Swamp NA
Tierney	Canaan	128.50	408.5	Addition to Robbins Swamp/Canaan Mt. NA
Wile	Canterbury	10.650		Provides access to Little River
McFadden	East Haddam	.308		Addition to Gillette Castle SP
Hathaway	East Haddam	.100		Addition to upper Moodus Reservoir
Skinger	East Lyme	.34		Pattagansett River Frontage
Nissen	Eastford	8.168		Addition to Natchaug SF
Whitehead Woods	Eastford	1.310		Addition to Halls Pond
Scantic Glade	Enfield	3.58		Addition to Scantic River SP
Oscar Richard	Goshen	1.50		Addition to Mohawk SF
Abraham	Goshen	118.547		Addition to Goshen WMA
Mumford Cove	Groton	.05		Addition to Haley Farm SP
Everett	Hamden	4.11		Addition to Sleeping Giant SP
Lockey	Hamden	6.00		Addition to West Rock Ridge SP
Mastramarino	Hamden	2.083		Addition to West Rock Ridge SP
Squire Lane	Hamden	5.000		Addition to Sleeping Giant SP
Kemble	Hebron	101.84		Addition to Meshomasic SF
Jones	Hebron	59.02		Addition to Airline Trail
Robinson	Killingly	6.32		Addition to Old Furnace SP
Perkins	Killingworth	55.95		Addition to Chatfield Hollow SP
Masters	Lebanon	57.24		Addition to Camp Moowen SP
Department of Public Works	Ledyard	86.700		Addition to Rose Hill WMA
Mellon	Lyme		.29	Scenic and development rights
Griswold Airport, Inc.	Madison	.23		460'+/- frontage along Hammonasset River
Holcombe	Marlborough	157.77		Addition Salmon River SF frontage on Black Ledge River
Camp Columbia	Morris & Bethlehem	591.00		Frontage on Bantam Lake; stand-alone facility
Easton	New Hartford	8.700		Addition to Satin Kingdom SP
Cantele	North Canaan	.23		Addition to Beckley Furnace
Arrigoni	North Canaan	8.340		Addition to Beckley Furnace
DOT Transfer	Old Saybrook	4.04		Baldwin Bridge Boat Access
Keegan	Plymouth	54.85		Addition to Mattatuck SF
Young Estate	Portland	6.50		Inholding at Wangunk Meadows
Ellsworth	Portland	6.00		Addition to Meshomasic SF
Department of Public Works	Preston	53.00		Addition to Rose Hill WMA
Department of Transportation	Putnam/Killingly	95.10		Access to Quinebaug River for 1.6 miles
Dudek	Scotland	25.600		Addition to Spignesi WMA
Buckley	Sharon	203.53		Addition to Housatonic SF
Worthington	Somers	311.00		Addition to Shenipsit SF
Porter	Stonington		0.12	Provides coastal access to LIS
Bobinski	Torrington	15.800		Addition to Pagnut SF
City of Groton	Town of Groton		1.6	ROW which connects Haley Farm SP to Bluff Point
DOT Transfer	Union	19.20		Addition to Nipmuck SF
Nelson	Voluntown	22.365		Addition to Pauchaug SF
Bunker Hill	Waterbury	3.630		Urban Park Acquisition
Connelly	Westbrook/Deer River	4.15		Addition to Meschersmidt
Windham	Windham	69.450		Provides access to Shetucket River
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>2,367.801</b>	<b>410.51</b>	

SP = State Park  
 SF = State Forest  
 NA = Natural Area  
 WMA = Wildlife Management Area

APPENDIX B

**OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM  
YEAR 2000 GRANT AWARDS  
SPRING GRANT ROUND**

Nature Center Addition	City of Ansonia	42.00	\$	117,000.00
320-324 Baldwin Avenue	City of Meriden (D,T)	13.00	\$	153,270.00
Stockmal Woods	City of Shelton Conservation Comm.	39.00	\$	202,500.00
United Illuminating Company Property	City of West Haven	19.00	\$	175,950.00
Kreis Property	Essex Land Conservation Trust	8.00	\$	100,350.00
Hockanum River Linear Park - Dart Hill Entrance	Friends of the Hockanum River Linear Park	2.00	\$	13,500.00
Johnson's Pond	Hamden Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	3.00	\$	31,500.00
Scalo Property	National Audubon Society	93.00	\$	192,375.00
Platt Farm	Southbury Land Trust/Town of Southbury	119.00	\$	450,000.00
Meeker Swamp	Steep Rock Association, Inc.	238.00	\$	450,000.00
The Bingham Property	The Nature Conservancy	184.00	\$	193,500.00
Laudano Property	Town of Andover	145.00	\$	135,000.00
Rose Farm	Town of Bolton	88.00	\$	389,302.20
Ruby Cohen Memorial Open Space	Town of Colchester	111.00	\$	200,710.80
Hoffman Farm	Town of Cromwell	55.00	\$	427,500.00
Pisgah Mountain	Town of Durham	76.00	\$	225,000.00
Shenipsit Forest Impact Area	Town of Ellington	151.00	\$	130,325.40
Bridgeport Diocese-Mill Hill Property	Town of Fairfield	38.00	\$	450,000.00
Erickson Property	Town of Ledyard	3.00	\$	90,000.00
Hammonasset Greenway Project	Town of Madison	29.00	\$	450,000.00
Webb Mountain Park Extension	Town of Monroe	20.00	\$	138,150.00
United Illuminating Property	Town of Stratford (D)	7.00	\$	87,750.00
Rambling Ridge	Town of Vernon	104.00	\$	157,500.00
Traprock Ridge Protection	Town of Wallingford	52.00	\$	131,062.50
Class I & II Water Supply Land	Town of Wallingford	47.00	\$	405,000.00
Wallace Estate	Town of Woodbridge	200.00	\$	450,000.00
	<b>SPRING 2000 SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>1886.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,947,245.90</b>

**FALL GRANT ROUND**

Mootry Peak	City of Danbury	18	\$	97,500.00
Ponzillo Property-Berlin	City of Meriden (D,T)	55.2	\$	107,250.00
Middletown Waterfront Park	City of Middletown (D,T)	1.5	\$	178,750.00
Lamentation Mountain Preservation	City of Middletown (D,T)	132.6	\$	403,260.00
Beardsley Organic Farm Conservation	City of Shelton	14.2	\$	70,000.00
One Main Street	City of Stamford (T)	0.146	\$	97,500.00
Falls River Nature Preserve - Phase II	Essex Land Conservation Trust and Town of Essex	22	\$	225,000.00
West River and Spencer's Creek	Guilford Land Conservation Trust	12	\$	151,250.00
Sellew Trust Property-East Hampton	Middlesex Land Trust	39.4	\$	29,984.00
Swann Farm-Ellington	Northern CT Land Trust, Inc.	56	\$	182,500.00
Kim/Fellman Property-Lyme, CT	The Nature Conservancy	69	\$	400,000.00
Warner Property-Salem	The Nature Conservancy	232.1	\$	337,500.00
Hockanum River Linear Park	Town of Manchester	11.2	\$	125,000.00
Pelkey Property	Town of Middlefield	13	\$	30,000.00
D'Amato/Russo Partnership Parcel	Town of Orange	59	\$	875,000.00
Marston Property	Town of Preston	10	\$	100,000.00
Curtiss Property	Town of Southington	34	\$	331,500.00
James Farm Road Open Space	Town of Stratford	34	\$	227,500.00
Green Hills Subdivision	Town of Tolland	146	\$	235,000.00
Class I/Class II Water Supply Land	Town of Wallingford	10	\$	151,500.00
Mataneage Nature Preserve	Waterbury Land Trust	25.6	\$	100,900.00
	<b>FALL 2000 SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>994.946</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>4,456,894.00</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>2880.95</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>10,404,139.90</b>