

COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

2001 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 2002

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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.

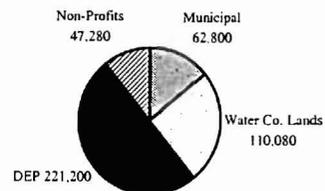
STATUS

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, private land conservation organizations, and water companies as Class I and Class II watershed land.

The State has acquired approximately 221,200 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 69 percent of the 320,576 acres of open space land targeted for state acquisition.

It is estimated that nonprofit land conservation organizations own 47,280 acres in Connecticut. Municipalities in Connecticut are estimated to own 62,800 acres of land as open space. Class I and Class II water company lands in Connecticut currently total approximately 110,080 acres. Together, open space acreage held by these entities is 220,160 acres. Based on a target of 352,630 acres in total open space holdings for these entities, they currently hold 62 percent of their targeted open space goal.

CT Open Space By Ownership Total
Acres = 431,360

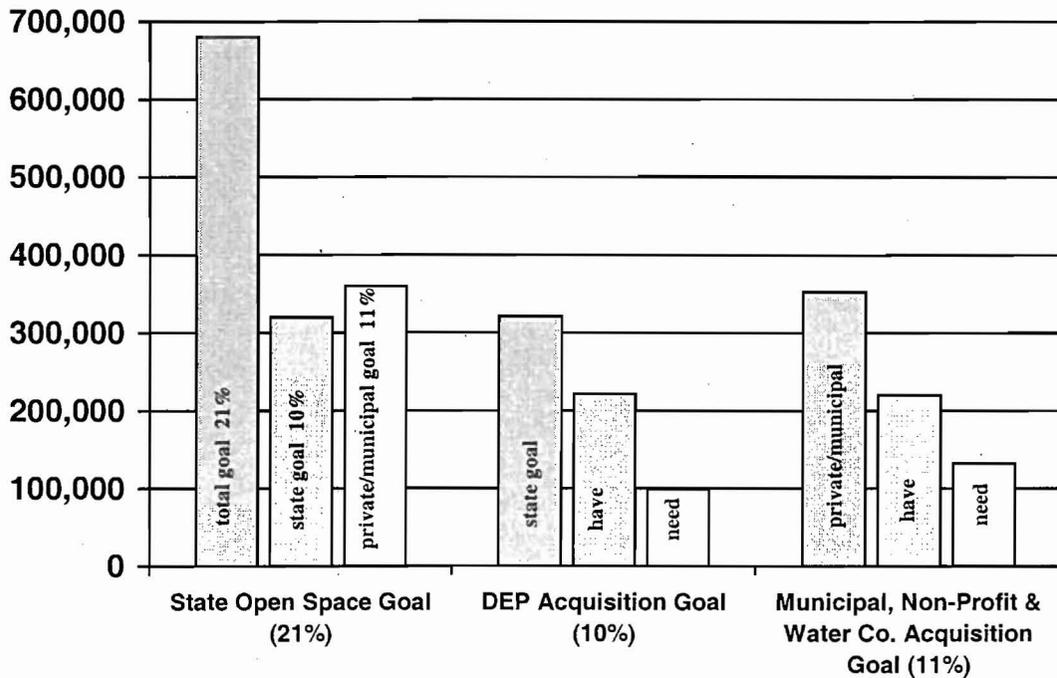


The 221,200 acres of state open space represents 6.9% of Connecticut's land area, and the 220,160 acres of open space held by municipalities, non-profits and water companies is 6.9%. This results in a total of 431,360 acres held as open space, 13.5% of Connecticut's lands area.

ACQUISITION NEEDS

To meet the goals set forth in statute, the State of Connecticut must acquire an additional 99,376 acres of open space and encourage the acquisition of 132,470 acres by municipalities, private nonprofit land conservation organizations and water companies.

Acquisition Goal, Ownership and Acquisition Needed



ACTION 2001

- I. Planning: The Department of Environmental Protection, in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and private land holding organizations, wrote and printed a comprehensive strategy for achieving Connecticut's open space goals. The strategic plan, titled "The Connecticut Green Plan: 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 guidance for program managers, as a tool for those working cooperatively with the State in preserving land, and as a basic explanation of Connecticut's approach to open space acquisition.

The Department of Environmental Protection created a web-based geographic information system titled "Environmental Conditions Online." This electronic database provides access to natural resource and environmental information. The system allows users to determine basic environmental conditions for lands in Connecticut.

The Department of Environmental Protection printed "Connecticut: A Legacy of Land" to report those lands acquired through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program and the grant projects funded through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program during calendar years 1999 and 2000.

The Department of Environmental Protection selected a contractor to inventory open space land in Connecticut. The inventory is envisioned as a web-based geographic information system that will allow users to identify all state, municipal, federal and private open space.

- II. Achieving State Goal: In 2001 the Department of Environmental Protection acquired properties in 34 municipalities involving five cooperative projects and three donations of land. This represents 4,182.53 acres at a cost of \$25,532,557. Purchases were made through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, the DEP's principal means for meeting the ten percent open space goal by acquisition of lands for Connecticut's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries, water access 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 2001 is included in Appendix A.

The Department of Environmental Protection also successfully negotiated a purchase and sale agreement with the Kelda Group PLC and with The Nature Conservancy for the purchase of a combination of fee interests, easements and restrictions in 15,385 acres of water company land. The property is owned by the BHC Company and located in 28 municipalities. The acquisition is anticipated to occur during the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2002. The property consists of 9,533 acres of Class I land, 4,656 acres of Class II and 1,196 acres of Class III.

- III. Assisting Municipalities and Nonprofit Organizations: In 2001, over \$20.1 million was awarded to 45 project sponsors to fund 72 grants through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for the acquisition of 2,080 acres of permanently protected open space land. The grant program leverages local and private funds to create a cooperative open space acquisition program. The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program provides grant funds 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 and 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.

Property acquisitions funded through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program during calendar year 2001 are listed in Appendix B.

AGENDA 2002

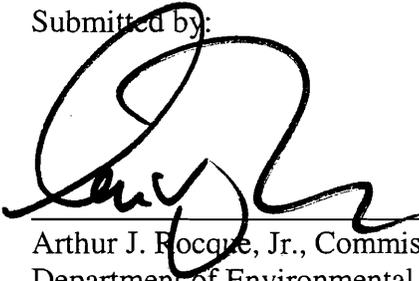
- I. Evaluate and acquire land through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program. Currently, there are over 49 purchase and sale agreements pending with a total value of over \$16 million. In addition, over 28 properties are being actively pursued for acquisition with an estimated value of over \$25 million.
- II. The "seventh round" of grants to municipalities, private nonprofit land organizations and water companies will be awarded in Spring 2002. An "eighth round" of grants will be announced and awarded during the second and third quarters of 2002.
- III. The Department of Environmental Protection will close on the acquisition of fee ownership and conservation easements on 15,400 acres from the Kelda Group to permanently protect open space land in twenty-eight municipalities.
- IV. The Department of Environmental Protection anticipates entering into a purchase and sale agreement and acquiring a conservation easement on over 5,000 acres of continuous private forest land located in Northwestern Connecticut.
- V. The Department of Environmental Protection will initiate a multi-year inventory and mapping of all open space land in Connecticut.

CONCLUSION

The Department of Environmental Protection, working together with municipalities, water companies and private nonprofit land conservation organizations, has continued the State's progress toward meeting Connecticut's open space goals. Since July 1998, the Department of Environmental Protection has acquired 11,674 acres and has provided grant funding for the acquisition of an additional 9,938 acres. The Department of Environmental Protection's acquisition since 1998 represent 55 percent of the open space land acquired by Connecticut in the past 15 years.

The Department of Environmental Protection with the support of the General Assembly, will continue to build on this success.

Submitted by:



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

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Appendix A
Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program
January 1, 2001 - December 31, 2001

Property Name	Location	Fee Acreage	Easement	Cost	Purpose of Acquisition
Masters	Lebanon		2.102	25,000	Fishing easement - Yantic River
Magauran	Stafford	50.000		170,000	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
Mellon	Lyme		194.330	0	Donation of a scenic easement Hamburg Cove Watershed
Becker	Killingworth	91.400		675,000	Addition to Cockaponsett State Forest
Goode	Hartland	202.950		425,000	Addition to Tunix State Forest
TNC/Stone	Canaan	50.900		0	Addition to Robbins Swamp
BHC	Oxford	514.750		4,000,000	Addition to Naugatuck State Forest
Mary Hall	Norfolk	8.090		17,500	Expansion of greenway
Smith	Litchfield	40.000		323,538	Addition to Topsmead
Kerelejza	Litchfield	43.517		335,080	Addition to Topsmead
Mumford Cove	Groton	11.730		27,500	Haley Farm State Park and Bluff Point
LaBov	Deep River	83.811		325,000	Addition to Cockaponsett State Forest
Heifetz	Clinton	.943		190,000	Cedar Island Addition
Gregory	Voluntown	38.710		50,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
DiCambio	Clinton	.411		80,000	Cedar Island Addition
TNC/Stanton	Canaan	92.000		0	Addition to Robbins Swamp
Koran	Hamden	5.000		16,000	Addition to WRR State Park
Yarmosh	Naugatuck	30.000		130,000	Addition to Naugatuck State Forest
Pease	Somers	69.300		85,000	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
Takahashi	Glastonbury	15.000		290,000	Addition to Konggut Mountain
Campbell	Hebron	92.300		340,000	Addition to Salmon River State Forest
Birmingham Utilities	Ansonia Seymour	570.000		5,250,000	Addition to Naugatuck State Forest
Treetops	Stamford/Greenwich	90.000		3,500,000	Addition to Mianus River State Park
Belardo	Salem	9.450		550,000	Addition to Boat Launch
BUI	Seymour	322.22		4,338,000	Addition to Naugatuck State Forest
Lenihan	Cornwall	185.449		387,200	Addition to Wyantenock State Forest
Salt Rock	Sprague	114.410		750,000	Acquisition of an existing campground
Spiller	Killingworth	36.200		170,000	Addition to Cockaponsett State Forest

Property Name	Location	Fee Acreage	Easement	Cost	Purpose of Acquisition
Gersten	East Windsor	73.230		270,951	Addition to Flaherty Field Trial Area
LeVasseur	Glastonbury	23.625		266,688	Addition to Meshomasic State Forest
Maynard	Voluntown	64.140		77,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
Macko	Griswold	84.610		197,625	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
Dutil	Plymouth	61.110		230,300	Addition to Mattatuck State Forest
Towne	Morris	8.410		30,000	Addition to Camp Columbia
TNC/Blake	Canaan	12.600		0	Addition to Robbins Swamp
Calderwood	Stafford	55.402		0	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
Bender	Lebanon	68.470		171,175	Addition to Pomeroy State Park
Barton	Lebanon	22.890		60,000	Addition to Pomeroy State Park
Conservation Fund	Cornwall/Kent	560.000		650,000	Access to Housatonic River
Wasstrom	Waterford	.335		180,000	Addition to parking area for Mago Point
Snyder	Griswold	11.600		135,000	Access to Glasgo Pond
Yourous	Hartland	48.980		250,000	Addition to Tunxis State Forest
Desso	Somers	5.666		25,000	Addition to Shenipsit State Forest
Dorhman	Canton	60.550		283,000	Addition to Nepaug State Forest
Arpine	Bethany	19.959		95,000	Addition to West Rock Ridge State Park
Farina	Waterford	.561		155,000	Addition to parking area for Mago Point
Gero	East Lyme	2.400			Addition to Nehantic State Forest
Cadwallder	Hamden	5.020		6,000	Addition to Naugatuck State Forest
Lordship Point	Stratford		28.000		Access to Long Island Sound
TOTAL		3,958.100	224.432	\$25,532,557	