



Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Land Conservation in Connecticut 2013 Annual Report

Prepared in accordance with
Section 23-8(b) of the General Statutes

State Goal for Preservation of Open Space 2013 Annual Report



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Front and inside cover: Suffield Wildlife Management Area.

A 74.9 acre donation to the State in January 2013 complemented the Suffield WMA, expanding the property to 251 acres large. First acquired in 2008, about 100 acres of open habitat at the WMA is managed for state-listed grassland-nesting birds, and is contiguous to an additional 250 acres in Southwick, Massachusetts. Beginning in 2013, the Suffield WMA is stocked for pheasant hunting each fall. Front photo courtesy of Patrick Comins, Director of Bird Conservation for National Audubon Society in Connecticut.

State Open Space Goals and Status:

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..."

Connecticut has a total landmass of 3,205,760 acres. To have 21% of the state's land preserved as open space would require 673,210 acres to be held by the state, municipalities, private land conservation organizations, and water companies:

- 10% (or 320,576 acres) for state-held open space, and
- 11% (or 352,634 acres) to be held by our land conservation partners.

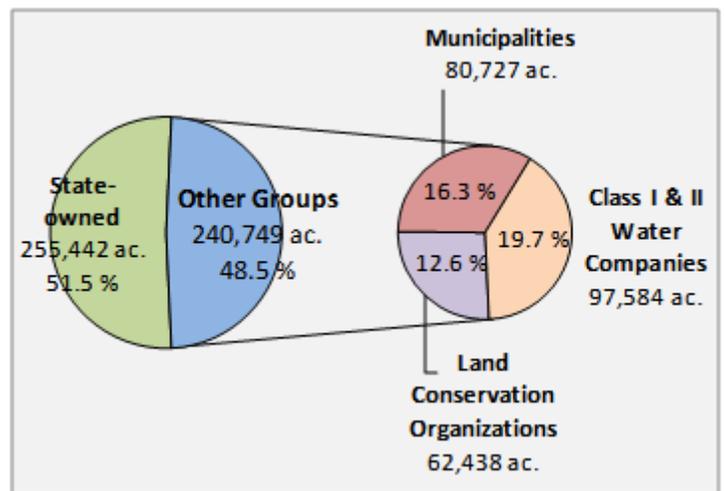
As of December 2013, the State has acquired approximately 255,442 acres as open space land in its system of park, forest, wildlife, fishery, and natural resource management areas. Of this, approximately 238,834 acres have been acquired in fee. Acquisitions of less than fee interests are atypical, but include the purchase of conservation easements and restrictions. The combined total of fee and less than fee interests which the DEEP currently holds is 80% of the 320,576 acres targeted for state open space acquisition.

Open Spaces Owned by our Conservation Partners:

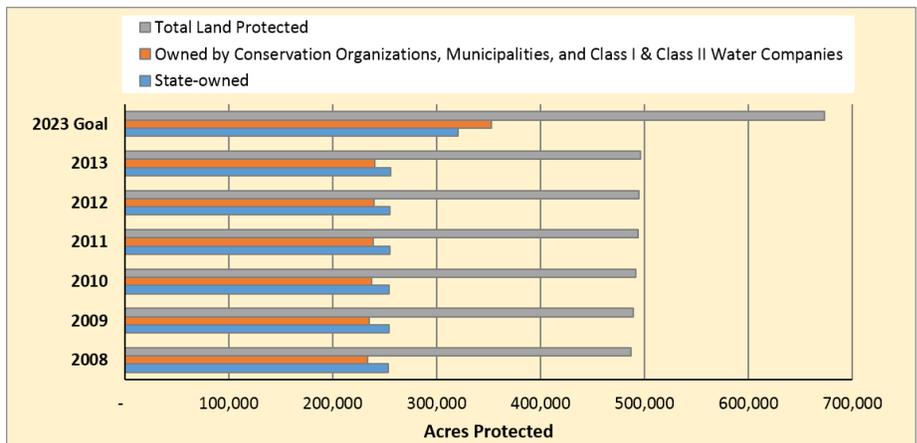
It is estimated that nonprofit land conservation organizations own 62,438 acres in Connecticut. Municipalities in Connecticut are estimated to own 80,727 acres of land as open space. Class I and Class II water company lands in Connecticut currently total approximately 97,584 acres. Together, open space acreage held by these entities is 240,749 acres. Based on a target of 352,634 acres in total open space holdings for these entities, they currently hold 68% of their targeted open space goal.

Reaching our Open Space Goals:

The 255,442 acres of state open space represents 7.97% of Connecticut's land area, and the 240,749 acres of open space held by conservation organizations, municipalities, and water companies is 7.51%. This accounts for a total of 496,191 acres held as open space, or close to 15% of Connecticut's land area. As of the end of 2013, Connecticut is 73% of the way toward achieving its open space preservation goal.



Connecticut Open Space by Ownership as of 2013.



Total Land Protected by the State and Other Conservation Groups from 2008 to 2013 in Connecticut.

2013 Achievements and Highlights:

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the state’s land conservation partners had another busy year identifying, prioritizing, and working to protect open spaces across Connecticut. To leverage existing resources, DEEP has increasingly applied for federal grant opportunities, private funding from sources such as the George Dudley Seymour Trust, and collaborated with regional and place-based conservation organizations.

During 2013, DEEP acquired 467 acres of land in fee and conservation easements located in 7 municipalities. Four properties were donated to the state. Leveraging over \$1.5 million, three properties were purchased through a combination of funds, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service funds (Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid), Long Island Sound Study Program funds issued through the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (RNHTP), which is the DEEP's primary vehicle for meeting the ten percent open space goal of acquiring lands for Connecticut's system of parks, forests, wildlife, fisheries, water access and natural resource management areas. A list of properties acquired through the RNHTP during calendar year 2013 is included in Appendix A.

467 acres	\$1,539,276	1,230 acres	987 acres	24
Land acquired by the state in 2013, including 150 acres purchased from Harriet Sciongay of Westbrook.	Conservation dollars leveraged by the state by acquiring property cooperatively and through the application for federal grant funds.	Land protected in perpetuity by municipalities and land conservation organizations through the state’s Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant program.	Land protected in perpetuity by the NU Land Trust, formed in 2013 as a result of the Northeast Utilities and NSTAR merge in 2012.	Number of cities and towns in which land was acquired by the state or protected by land conservation partners.

Partnering to Protect the Sound:
The Sciongay Property in Clinton and Westbrook



The 150-acre Sciongay Property is primarily forested, contains several streams and vernal pools, providing habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife. It includes a historically-significant mid-1700s era dam on the Menunketesuck River that creates the Chapman Mill Pond, also known as Lake Laconia. The acquisition increases the State-recognized Menunketesuck Greenway, and permanently protects a significant portion of one of only four remaining unfragmented blocks of coastal forest in the State. This acquisition was financed by a grant from the US EPA Long Island Sound Study Program (\$1,200,000).

2013 Actions:

⇒ Property Review

DEEP continued to review and evaluate properties eligible for purchase through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program (RNHTP). DEEP currently has over 200 properties on hold that have been approved for acquisition, but lacks the necessary funding to move forward. Although the real estate market currently favors buyers of open space due to the continued stall in new construction, limited funding has slowed DEEP's ability to take advantage of many of these opportunities.

⇒ Open Space Inventory

Initiated in 2003, the Protected Open Space Mapping (POSM) project is designed to identify and catalogue all protected open space parcels in Connecticut. The project is being done in phases based on location and available data. Limited funding in the last two years as well as the retirement of the Project Manager has slowed the pace of project completion. The pace of effort towards completion of the project will be dependent on financial resources available.

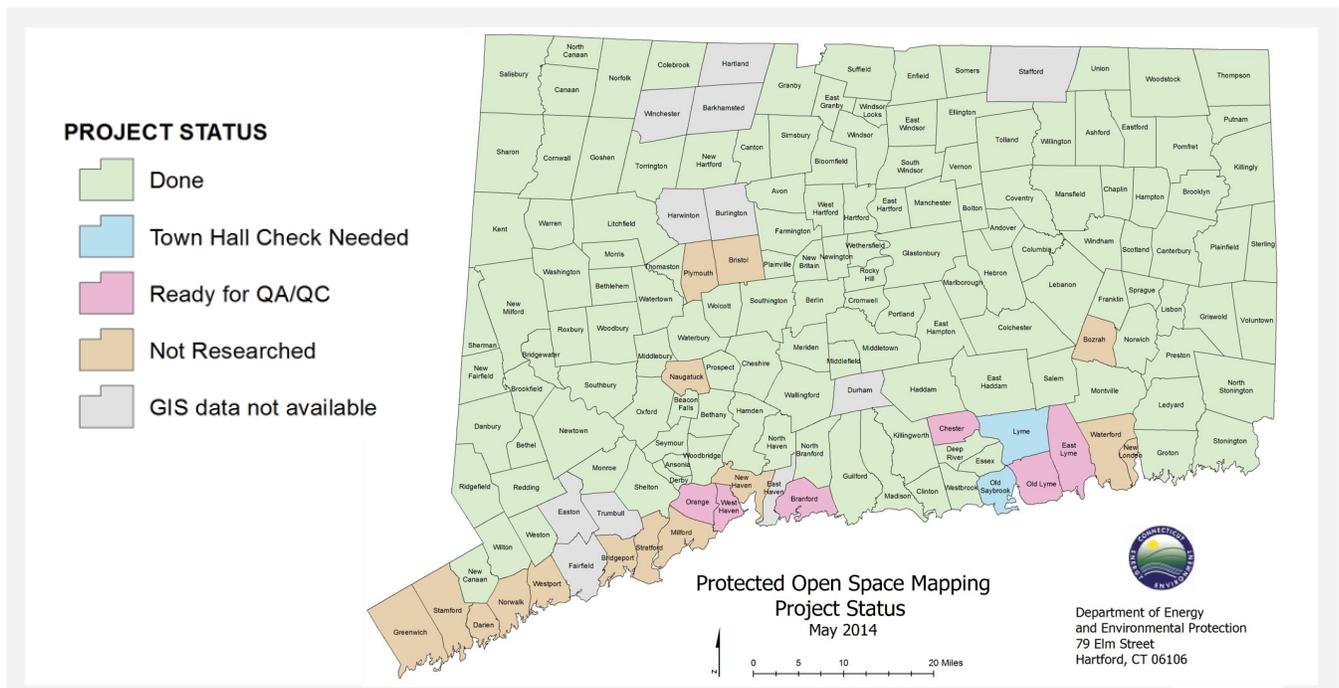
The parcels identified in POSM consist of State, Federal, Municipal, and non-profit holdings. Following data gathering, the information must be quality checked prior to being released for public use. The POSM project will eventually result in the completion of a Geographic Information System (GIS) geodatabase encompassing all 169 Connecticut municipalities.

At present, 143 (85%) of towns have been researched: 135 are completed, 6 are ready for data quality checking, and 2 need Town Hall checks. Fifteen towns still need to be researched, and 11 towns do not have GIS to assist in data collection; towns with no GIS capability will take more time to complete. Open space data has been posted as a publicly downloadable resource on two websites. For municipal and other GIS users, it can be found at DEEP's GIS Data download page at:

www.ct.gov/deep/gisdata

or by activating the "Open Space" data layer at Connecticut Environmental Conditions Online:

<http://ctecoapp1.uconn.edu/advancedviewer/>



⇒ Northeast Utilities Property Review:

The Conservation List consists of Northeast Utilities (NU) properties that were identified by DEEP as desirable for acquisition as open space, in conjunction with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on April 12, 2000. This list was finalized on July 2, 2004 and is used to identify NU properties located adjacent to other prospective acquisitions that may create valuable open space protection opportunities. The list identifies nearly 375 parcels in 90 municipalities totaling approximately 9,500 acres as having high value for public recreation, natural resource conservation and ecological preservation. The MOU gives DEEP, towns, and land trusts the right of first refusal to acquire the parcels should NU put them up for sale. The MOU was initially for a 10 year period from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2014. As a part of the State's Settlement of the NU-NSTAR merger in 2012, the NU MOU was extended through 2024. DEEP's worked with NU to revise the MOU in 2013. Another part of the settlement, the NU Land Trust was formed in 2013 and protected 4 parcels from the Conservation List in perpetuity totaling nearly 1,000 acres (see Appendix C).

⇒ Achieving State Open Space Goal:



a) US EPA Long Island Sound Study Program

In 1985, the US EPA, New York, and Connecticut formed the Long Island Sound Study (LISS), a bi-state partnership consisting of federal and state agencies, user groups, concerned organizations, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound. The Program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal or estuarine lands, or conservation easements on such lands, if those governments have an approved ***Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan (CELCP)***. In 2010, DEEP's Office of Long Island Sound Programs completed a CELCP that identifies key coastal land conservation needs within Connecticut. DEEP's Land Acquisition and Management unit has compiled a list of coastal properties for potential acquisition based upon the needs identified in the CELCP. Acquired with funding from the LISS Program, the Sciongay property acquisition in Westbrook and Clinton was closed in September 2013.



b) USFWS Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program (The Pittman-Robertson Act)



The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act, was established to provide funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation, and improvement of wildlife habitat, derived from an 11% federal excise tax on sporting equipment and 10% tax on handguns. In 2013, an additional 17 acres in Scotland was acquired with Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid to complement existing James V. Spignesi Wildlife Management Area lands.



The KES Properties, LLC land consists of 17.74 acres located in Scotland. The property consists a mix of open fields and woodlands with some extensive views to the west. This is the parcel that DEEP Environmental Conservation Police Officer James V. Spignesi, Jr. was killed in the line of duty while on a routine patrol on November 20, 1998. The surrounding Wildlife Management Area was named in his honor, and this property will be added to this WMA. The acquisition was financed by a grant from the USFWS Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program (\$195,000).

⇒ The Green Plan -
CT's Comprehensive Open Space Strategy:

The first Connecticut Green Plan was prepared in July of 2001 to provide a five-year plan (Fiscal Years 2001-06) to work towards achieving the open space goal. Executive Order 15 Regarding Responsible Growth created an office of responsible growth and required that an update to the Green Plan be developed to identify sensitive ecological areas and unique features, to guide acquisition efforts from 2007 to 2012. A DEEP internal work group completed the updated Green Plan in September 2007 entitled, "The Green Plan Guiding Land Acquisition and Protection in Connecticut 2007-2012." The Plan is available by request to the DEEP or on the internet at:

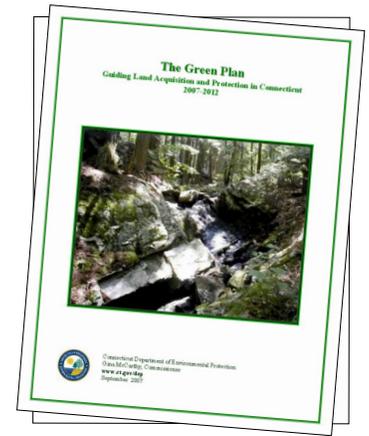
http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/open_space/green_plan.pdf

This plan summarizes land acquisition and

protection efforts to date, identifies the State's future open space goals, providing acquisition and protection considerations, challenges, threats and priorities.

It has detailed information on all of DEEP's open space plans, the make-up of the Land Acquisition Review Board and the State and Grant Property Selection Process.

During 2012 and 2013, the DEEP worked closely with key stakeholders on preparing the next Green Plan for 2013-2018.



From left to right: encroachment by an abutting landowner onto a state owned portion of the Airline Trail; evidence of unauthorized tree cutting on state forestland; and a private driveway created on state land.

⇒ Encroachment Issues on State Land:

DEEP established an Encroachment Enforcement Response Policy in an effort to preserve and protect lands held in public trust as protected open space. Public Act 06-89 was enacted to better protect publicly-held open space by severely penalizing those who encroach upon it. Encroachment means to conduct an activity on another party's land that damages or alters the land, vegetation, or other features, including erecting buildings or other structures; building roads, driveways, or trails; destroying or moving stone walls; cutting trees or other vegetation; removing boundary markers; installing lawns or utilities; or using, storing, or depositing vehicles, material, or debris.

The act prohibits people, without the owner's permission or other legal authorization, from

encroaching or causing anyone to encroach on (1) open space land, or (2) any land in which the state, its political subdivision, or a nonprofit land conservation organization holds a conservation easement interest. DEEP's office of Land Acquisition and Management documents all known encroachments on DEEP-owned land.

Since employing a Licensed Land Surveyor in 2007, over 300 encroachments have been surveyed and mapped for resolution purposes. At least 9 encroachments were documented in 2013. Property owners are notified of DEEP findings and ordered to cease use of state-owned land. DEEP has resolved, and continues to resolve, many of these surveyed encroached areas. Some examples of rectified encroachments include clearing sheds, fences, tennis courts, and other structures from property.

State Assistance for Municipalities and Land Conservation Organizations in 2013:

A. The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program

The Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) leverages state, local and private funds to create a cooperative open space acquisition program. The program provides grants to municipalities and private nonprofit land conservation organizations for the acquisition of open space land and to water companies for the acquisition of 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 is protected and available to residents of Connecticut as open space in perpetuity. Class I watershed land is sometimes exempt from the public access requirement for public health reasons. DEEP is also willing to accept limited public access (at the discretion of the Commissioner) when a conservation easement is purchased on land where general public access would be disruptive of active agricultural activity.

Fifteen (15) projects closed in 2013 preserving 1,230 acres with \$3.3 million provided to municipalities and land trusts (see Appendix B). The 17th competitive OSWA grant round was announced in October 2013, with awards expected to in 2014. DEEP continues to close previously awarded projects including work on the twenty five grants awarded in 2012 totaling \$6,410,516 and protecting 1,690 acres of open space. Since 1998, this program has provided \$108,930,835 to support the purchase of 416 properties, preserving 29,216 acres in 127 communities.

B. The Community Investment Act

During the 2005 Legislative Session, an act was passed creating a mechanism to fund affordable housing development, farmland acquisitions, open space purchases, and historic preservation. The CIA



Left: CT DEEP Commissioner Dan Etsy with Norfolk Land Trust (NLT) Board Member Hartley Mead and President Libby Borde at the Opening Celebration of Pine Mountain in September 2013 (*photo courtesy of NLT*).

Right: The Girl Scout Camp Iwakta in Norfolk, renamed Pine Mountain by the NLT, boasts significant features including a vernal pool, a stream feeding Mad River which provides drinking water to the Town of Winchester, a ridgeline with spectacular views, and expansive, intact forest habitat. The NLT purchased the 311– acre property for \$630,000 with grants from the OSWA Program (\$284,000), the federal Highland Conservation Act (\$157,500), and from local grants and private donations, as well.



Pine Mountain signage. DEEP requires projects that are awarded OSWA grants to display recognition of the state aid Program and public use at project sites. (*photo courtesy of NLT*)

fee structure was amended in 2009, increasing the fee from \$30 to \$40. Town clerks are required to collect the \$40 fee for each document recorded in the town's land records. The state receives \$36 of each recorded document fee and the town keeps \$4. The \$36 collected is distributed between the four program areas with a portion allocated to DEEP's OSWA Grant Program.

Since its inception, the CIA has funded eighty-three (83) grants that resulted in permanently protecting 4,447 acres of open space. In addition, the CIA has funded sixteen (16) Community Gardens, with total contributions at \$17,340,039.

2014 Agenda:

1. State Acquisitions:

As of December 2013, it is estimated that the State held approximately 255,442 acres or 7.97 percent of the State's area. To meet the goal set forth for State open space acquisitions, an additional 65,134 acres of open space must be acquired by the State by 2023. Achieving this goal would require a significant increase in annual authorizations. As Bond Commission funds become available, DEEP will continue to evaluate and acquire land through the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program. There are numerous properties with an approximate value of \$100,000,000 that have been approved for acquisition but lack the necessary funding. Selection of acquisition targets will be guided by the policies and priorities established in the State's Green Plan. The DEEP will also continue to close out active state acquisitions using currently available resources.

2. Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grants

It is estimated that DEEP's land conservation partners held approximately 240,749 acres or 7.51 percent of the State's area in 2013. To meet the goal set forth for our partners, the state needs to encourage the protection of an additional 111,885 acres by year 2023. An important first for DEEP was when the 17th competitive Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grant round was announced in October 2013 prior to Bond Commission funds being made available. DEEP has committed to opening an annual grant round in order to provide our land conservation partners with consistent funding every fall, however, it may be a challenging and maybe unsustainable funding model if funds from the Bond Commission are unavailable multiple rounds.

Thirty (30) applications were received before the 2013 OSWA grant round deadline, including 2 Urban Greens and Community Gardens projects. We expect to review, score, and award applications by the fall of 2014. The 18th competitive OSWA grant round will be announced shortly thereafter. Applicants to the program are encouraged to focus on priority areas established in the "Important Conservation Areas" section of the State's Green Plan, criteria set forth in the OSWA grant application, and to seek and meet additional specific goals set forth in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Information and applications to the OSWA Grant Program can be found at: <http://www.ct.gov/deep/openspace>.

a) Urban Greens and Community Gardens

Due to a renewed focus on urban green space and community gardens, municipalities have been eligible to receive grants to refurbish or renovate such open spaces under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Program. The Urban Greens and Community Garden Program (UGCG) is funded by the Community Investment Act to provide assistance for community parks and gardens in targeted and/or distressed municipalities.

Since its inception in 2007, the program has granted over \$1 million in towns including Bridgeport, Bristol, Enfield, Hamden, Hartford, New Haven, New London, Norwalk, Putnam, South Norwalk and Windham. These grants fund education centers, greenhouses, ADA accessible walkways and gardens with raised beds for children, the disabled and senior citizens. The UGCG program will continue in 2014 to foster preservation, rehabilitation and development of garden spaces, and encourage outdoor passive recreation and gathering spaces for families and children.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION
GRANT PROGRAM
A PROGRAM TO ASSIST ACQUISITION AND RESTORATION OF OPEN SPACE
GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: _____
SPONSOR: _____
PROJECT LOCATION: _____
NAME OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER: _____
TITLE OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER: _____

TOTAL PROJECT COST: _____ TOTAL PROJECT AREA: _____ ACRES

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- 1. Any land acquisition must be for a project that is consistent with the State's Green Plan and the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- 2. The project must be located in a designated Important Conservation Area (ICA) or a designated Watershed.
- 3. The project must be consistent with the State's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- 4. The project must be consistent with the State's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) guidelines.
- 5. The project must be consistent with the State's Environmental Quality Act (EQA).
- 6. The project must be consistent with the State's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) guidelines.
- 7. The project must be consistent with the State's Environmental Quality Act (EQA).
- 8. The project must be consistent with the State's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) guidelines.
- 9. The project must be consistent with the State's Environmental Quality Act (EQA).
- 10. The project must be consistent with the State's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA) guidelines.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe the project and its location. Provide a map of the project area. Provide a description of the project and its location. Provide a description of the project and its location. Provide a description of the project and its location.

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Revised 1/20/2013

USDA 3. USDA-USFS Forest Legacy Program



The Forest Legacy Program provides funds to protect private forestlands at risk of development through the purchase of conservation easements. Due to limited nationwide funding, no Forest Legacy projects for Connecticut were approved for funding in 2013. DEEP will focus on preparing projects for submission for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015 that will rank high on the national level.

4. USDA-USFS Highlands Conservation Act

Signed into law in 2004, the Highlands Program provides funding for the acquisition of lands or interest in land in the states of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. The CT Highlands is a triangle around the northwest corner bounded by the state lines to the west and north, from Torrington to Danbury.

During 2013, the DEEP completed grant requirements for FY 2009 and 2010 in order to apply funds towards the purchase of two properties: the Ethel Walker School (Parcel B) in Simsbury and Pine Mountain (formerly known as Camp Iwakta) in Norfolk. These properties were acquired with Highlands and Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program funding.

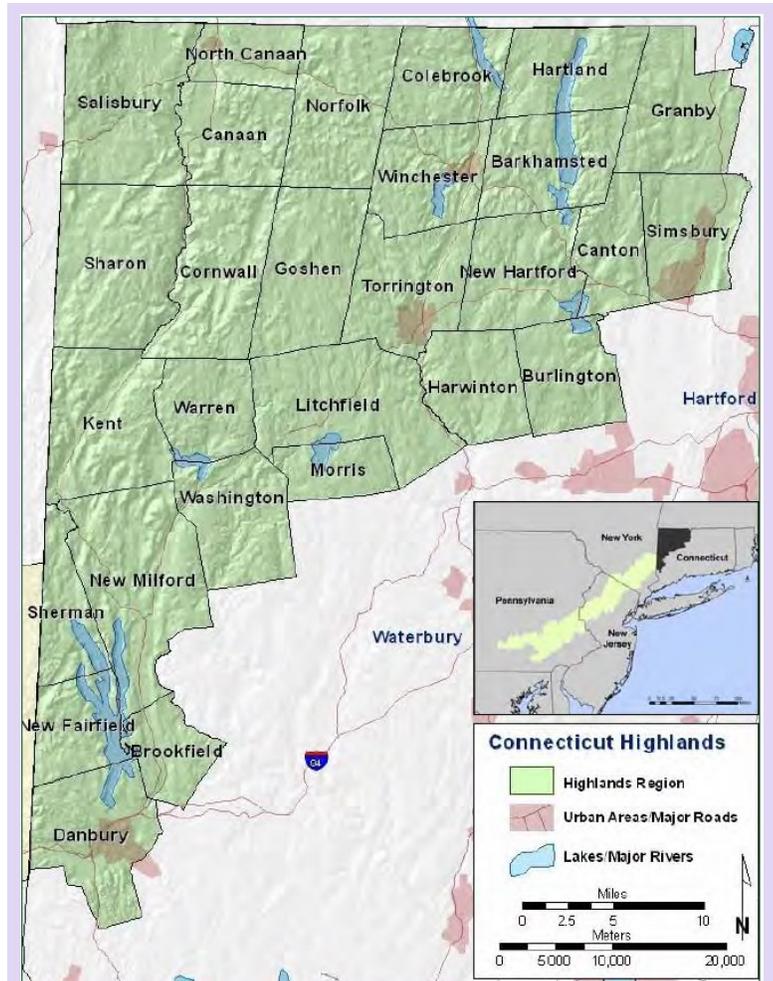
Currently in the approval stages, DEEP applied for FFY 2013 funding to assist in the acquisition of properties in the Candlewood/Macedonia Project Area. This area consists of over 100,000 acres located within all or parts of the Towns of Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Sharon, and Sherman.

In 2014, DEEP will focus on completing any outstanding grant requirements and prepare high-ranking projects for submission for FFY 2015.

5. US NPS - Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides funding for states to acquire land for outdoor recreation. The LWCF is partially funded from a fraction of the proceeds from federal offshore oil and gas leasing royalties, and does not rely on taxpayer dollars. Every year, funding is allotted and states are required to spend the amount within three years, otherwise it is returned to the federal government for other uses. Since 1965, the NPS has awarded Connecticut \$64,180,400 in LWCF grants.

The State of Connecticut's LWCF grants balance as of 2013 (\$2,084,408) will be used towards the purchase of land or interest in land in 2014: "The Preserve," (\$1,400,000) a nearly 1,000-acre coastal forest that the Towns of Old Saybrook and Essex, The Trust for Public Land, DEEP, The Nature Conservancy, and other conservation groups have collaborated to protect; and the Saner property in Marlborough, (\$684,408) the Saner property, to be purchased in fee and added to the Salmon River State Forest to provide recreational opportunities and protection of a major river tributary. DEEP is currently preparing documentation for approval of these grant amounts by the National Park Service (NPS). Both projects address needs identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

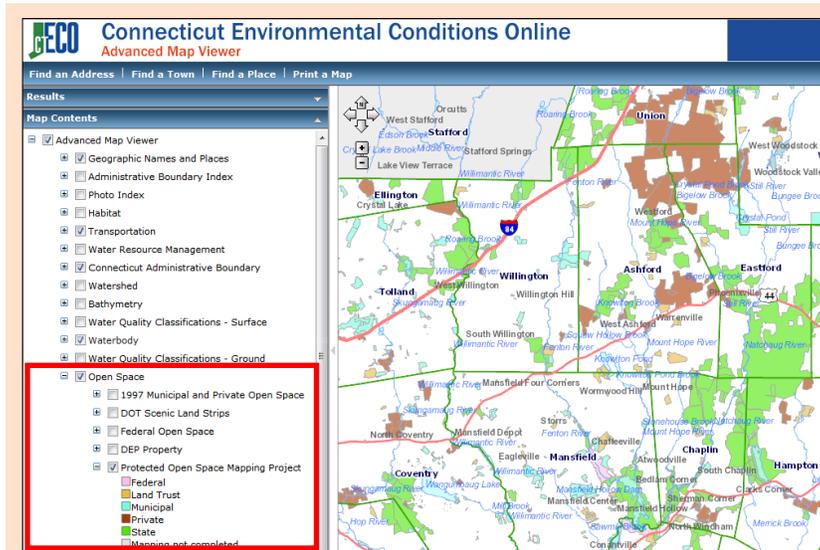


The Connecticut Highlands encompass 28 towns. Figure adopted from the 2010 Highlands Regional Study Update for CT and PA.

6. Open Space Inventory & the Public Use and Benefit Land Registry

A new component to the State's comprehensive open space strategy will begin with DEEP planning and developing a publicly accessible geographic information map system and database that contains a public use and benefit land registry. To be a tool used by the public and internally, the Public Use and Benefit Land Registry (PUBLR) will be capable of providing information for lands owned by DEEP, other state agencies, municipalities, land conservation organizations, and state-owned water supply lands. The mapping layer attribute tables will have data that includes purposes of open space, levels of legal protection, right-of-ways, funding sources, and more.

DEEP plans to launch the PUBLR in early 2015 with 3 state parks: Hammonasset Beach, Bluff Point, and Haystack Mountain State Parks. Additional state-owned lands will be made available next and then open space owned by others will be developed. As DEEP builds the registry system, the parcel data collected through the Protected Open Space Mapping (POSM) Project will be added. The work completed under the POSM project will be valuable in providing information about open spaces owned by municipalities, land trusts, and others.



The Protected Open Space Mapping (POSM) data layer displayed on the CT ECO website. The Public Use and Benefit Registry (PUBLR) will provide another GIS tool to identify protected spaces by owner, purpose of acquisition, easement restriction, and more.

The creation of the PUBLR, modeled from national protected area databases, should have an immediate impact on protecting State lands, engaging partners in protecting additional lands towards the State open space goals, and providing a more comprehensive and transparent land registry. Additionally, it will serve as a valuable program that will make it easier for DEEP to explain the value of its highly valued properties.

Lastly, a new data initiative was started in 2013 with DEEP partnering with the University of Connecticut to produce a publicly accessible GIS map layer of all Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition projects to date. DEEP will continue to work on this map layer which will be useful for future grant applicant planning and evaluation of open space protection by all.

7. Revising The Green Plan: 2013-2018

DEEP anticipates hiring seasonal staff in 2014 to assist in the Plan's revision. The Plan will outline how DEEP expects to prioritize its actions over the next 5 year period to best achieve the State's open space acquisition goals, summarize the State's land protection efforts to date, and identify future goals, acquisition and protection considerations, challenges, threats, and priorities. It will also detail information on all of DEEP's plans that inform open space protection. In considering an application for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, the document should be used by municipalities and land conservation organizations to better understand the State's land and interest in land acquisition process; those applications that dovetail well with the State's process for the selection of properties for conservation will be more likely to be awarded.

DEEP will host local meetings to discuss the Plan's content in 2014. DEEP encourages stakeholders to review the 2007-2012 version of the Green Plan, engage in the meetings as they are announced, and submit thoughts and comments as it works to update this critical document. Stakeholder information and ways to become involved can be found by going to DEEP's open space website at: www.ct.gov/deep/openspace.

8. Encroachment Issues

DEEP will continue to aggressively address all known encroachments on State lands and actively document and address additional cases as they are made known. The process will continue to be carried out in accordance with the Encroachment Enforcement Response Policy, and DEEP will seek to improve the efficiency of the encroachment tracking system by developing an Encroachment In-take Form. The in-take form will establish a consistent procedure to be followed in identifying and prioritizing encroachments or suspected encroachments upon lands and waters under the custody and control of DEEP.

9. Records Management

DEEP continues to work on improving storage, organization, and indexing of legal documents and maps pertaining to ownership of DEEP properties. A complete inventory of the vault, including a comprehensive review of all maps, deeds and property records has been undertaken. Continued progress was made during 2013, and the indexing will continue throughout 2014. An integrated index for the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program files, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program files, Property Management files and all other grant program files will be created. This will improve coordination between the various programs and increase efficiency for record retrieval.



The Coogan Farm, the last parcel of undeveloped farmland between downtown Mystic, Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium in Stonington, was protected in partnership by The Trust for Public Land and the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center (DPNC) in 2013. A 24-acre parcel purchased with a State Open Space and Watershed grant (\$500,000) connects to more than 300 acres that the DPNC manages. The purchase protects 370 years of American history and sweeping views of old fields and grasslands, scrub shrub wetlands, old cedar stands, and the Mystic River valley. The DPNC will create a Nature and Heritage Center at the Farm and provide trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. Two acres will be used to grow vegetables for local food pantries.

(photo credit to Mim Adkins)

Conclusion

The Connecticut Department of Energy and 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 1998, the Department, on behalf of the State of Connecticut, has acquired or protected 44,657 acres and has provided grant funding for the acquisition of an additional 27,942 acres. DEEP with the continued support of the Governor and General Assembly will continue to build on this success.

Connecticut Open Space Preservation Resources

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Land Acquisition and Management

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

Webpage: www.ct.gov/deep/openspace

Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program:

DEEP purchases land from willing sellers. In many cases, the property owners contact the agency. In other instances, the Department or conservation organizations initiate contact.

Prospective Land Acquisition Application: www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/open_space/landacquisapp.pdf

Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program:

Application: [www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp a=2706&q=323834&deepNav_GID=1641](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&q=323834&deepNav_GID=1641)

Connecticut's Comprehensive Open Space Plan ("The Green Plan"):

Document: www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/open_space/green_plan.pdf

State Office of Policy and Management

450 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Statewide Conservation and Development Policies Plan 2013-2018:

www.ct.gov/opm/lib/opm/igp/org/cdupdate/2013-2018_cd_plan.pdf

Connecticut Department of Agriculture

165 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106

Farmland Preservation Program

Under "Programs, Services, and Grants,"

www.ct.gov/doag

Appendix A
 Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program
 Acquisitions
 January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Property Name	Town	Fee Acreage	Easement Restriction or R.O.W.	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	State Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Griffin Land & Nurseries	Suffield	74.9	N/A	—	N/A	\$0	Donated as mitigation for the Meadowood remediation project in Simsbury
Hansell Property	Voluntown & North Stonington	101.1	NA	US EPA Long Island Sound Study Program	\$172,138	\$27,861	Addition to Pachaug State Forest
Sciongay Property	Westbrook & Clinton	149.2	0.25	US EPA Long Island Sound Study Program	\$1,200,000	\$0	Long Island Sound protection
Russell Property	North Stonington	7.5	N/A	—	N/A	\$0	Donated addition to Pachaug State Forest; acquired via Quit Claim Deed.
KES Properties, LLC	Scotland	17.7	N/A	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$195,000	\$0	Addition to James V. Spignesi Wildlife Management Area
Rechovos Corporation	East Hampton	116.6	2	—	N/A	\$0	Donated addition to Salmon River State Forest
Totals		467	2.25		\$1,567,138	\$27,861	

Appendix B
 Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition
 Grants Completed
 January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Open Space Sponsor	Project	Town	Acres	Grant Amount
Town of Groton	Spicer Tracts	Groton	24.6	\$650,000
Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	Bell Cedar Swamp	North Stonington	58.1	\$35,500
Manchester Land Conservation Trust	Risley Apple Orchard	Manchester	13.1	\$80,000
The Nature Conservancy	Meyers Pond Easement	Union	447.9	\$490,000
Town of Coventry	Malon Property	Coventry	36.4	\$105,000
Town of Old Lyme	Sheep's Ledge Preserve	Old Lyme	11.3	\$38,650
Norfolk Land Trust, Inc.	Camp Iwakta	Norfolk	310.9	\$284,000
Groton Open Space Association	Candlewood Ridge	Groton	89.4	\$256,750
Old Lyme Land Trust, Inc.	ElyandCo., Inc.	Old Lyme	44.1	\$143,500
Canton Land Conservation Trust, Inc.	Brewster Property	Canton	4.8	\$35,500
Town of Southbury	365 Georges Hill Road	Southbury	18.4	\$265,000
Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Inc.	Coogan Farm Easement	Stonington	23.9	\$500,000
Town of Simsbury	Ethel Walker School, Parcel B	Simsbury	49.8	\$195,750
Town of Hampton	Cedar Swamp Road	Hampton	50.6	\$101,500
Town of Hebron	Cardillo Property	Hebron	47.0	\$165,000
Totals			1,230.87	\$3,346,150

Appendix C
 Northeast Utilities Land Trust
 Conservation List Lands Protected
 January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

Property Name	Town	Acres
Skiff Mountain	Sharon	800
Kings Island	Enfield	120
Hanover Road	Newtown	54
Bartlett Cove	Waterford	13
Total		987

