



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection



Draft Green Plan

2016 – 2020

Connecticut's Comprehensive
Open Space Acquisition Strategy



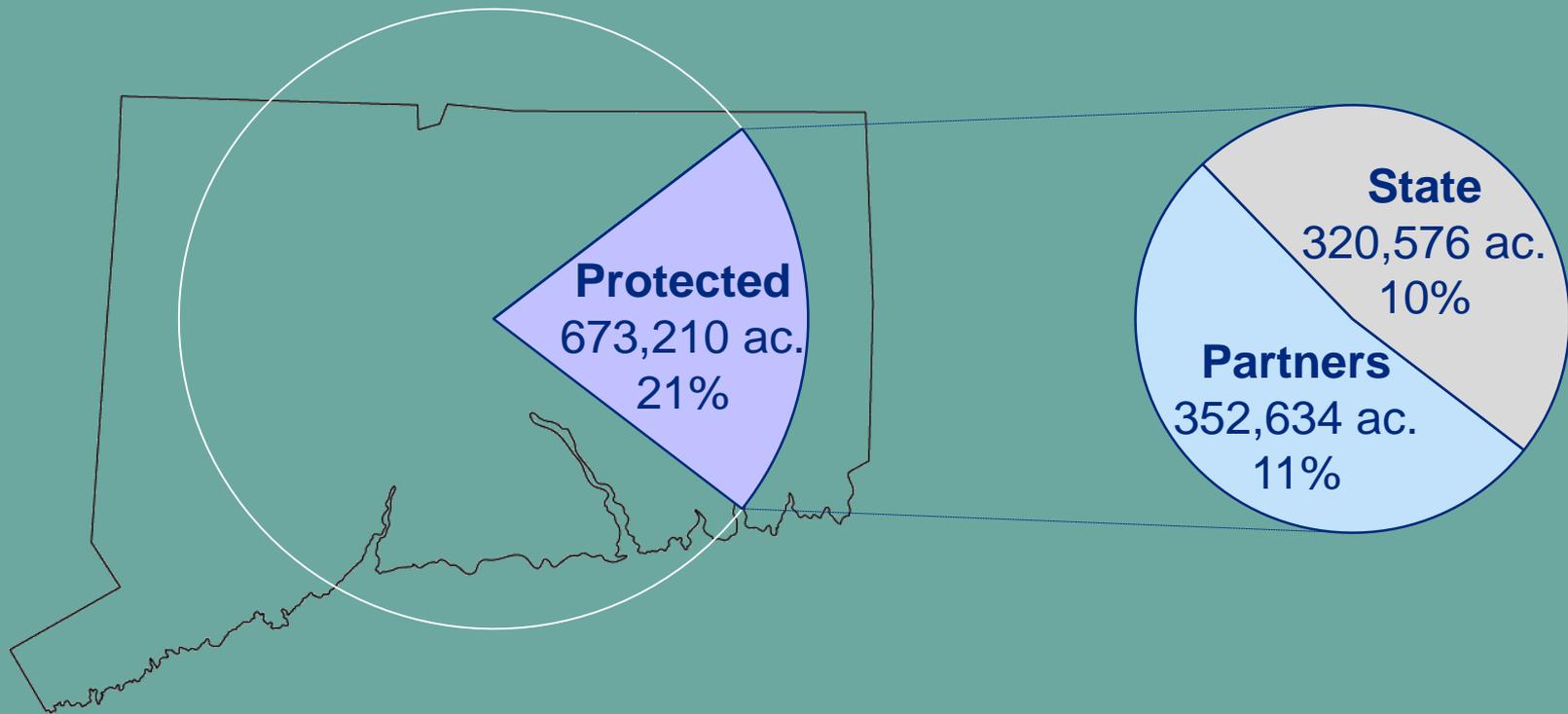
Graham Stevens, Office Director
Constituent Affairs & Land Management



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

General Statutes § 23-8

Must protect 21% of CT's land base by 2023



General Statutes § 23-8

- Must update Green Plan every 5 years
- DEEP to work with DoAG, DPH, CEQ, municipalities, regional planning agencies, and private non-profit land conservation organizations
- Revised Green Plan will include many new components



New Components

- Pilot Public Use and Benefit Land Registry

The screenshot displays the 'Connecticut Land Registry Pilot' web application. The interface includes a map of land parcels, a legend, and a data table. The legend is divided into three categories: Land Registry Parcel, Land Registry Property, and DEEP Property. The data table below the map shows the following information:

Grantor	Date Acquired	Purchase Price	Encumbrance(s)	Easement(s)	Types of Protection	Survey Acres	Mapped Acres
Ellen M. Foley	May 4, 1920	1.00					4.02

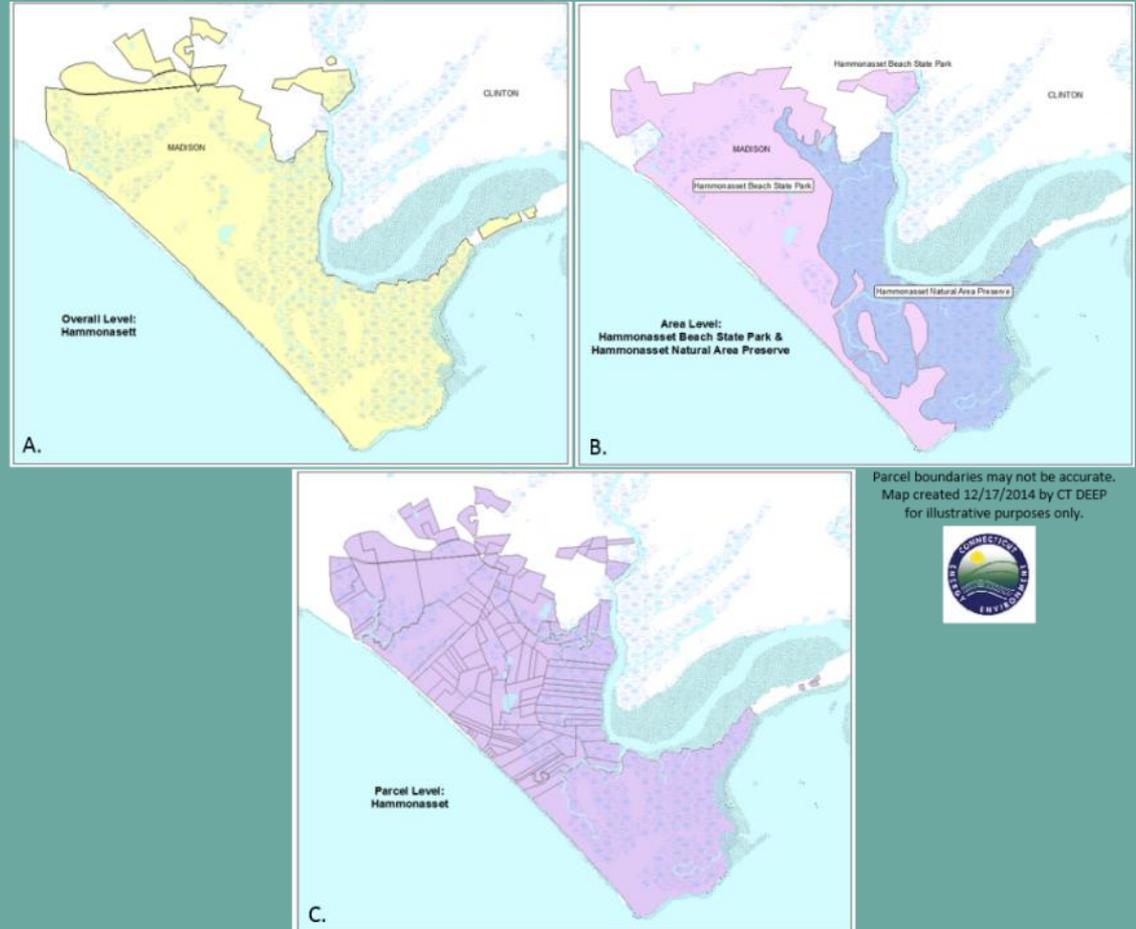
Land Registry pilot
is available at:
[www.ct.gov/deep/
openspace](http://www.ct.gov/deep/openspace)



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

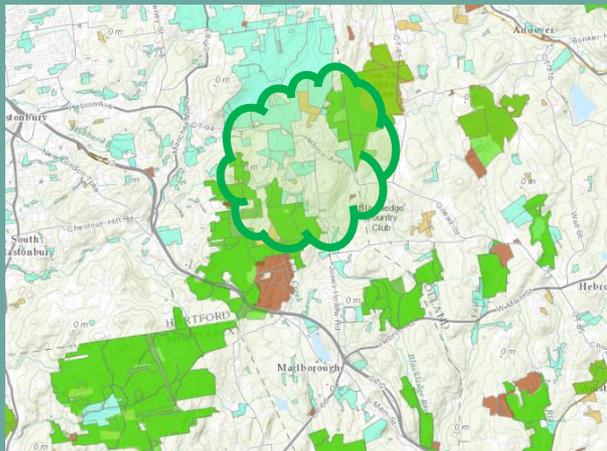
Land Registry Pilot

- Pilot mapping system contains new data for 3 State Parks:
 - Hammonasset
 - Bluff Point
 - Haystack Mountain
- More Parks and other information to be added
- Seeking data from other State agencies and DEEP's Partners

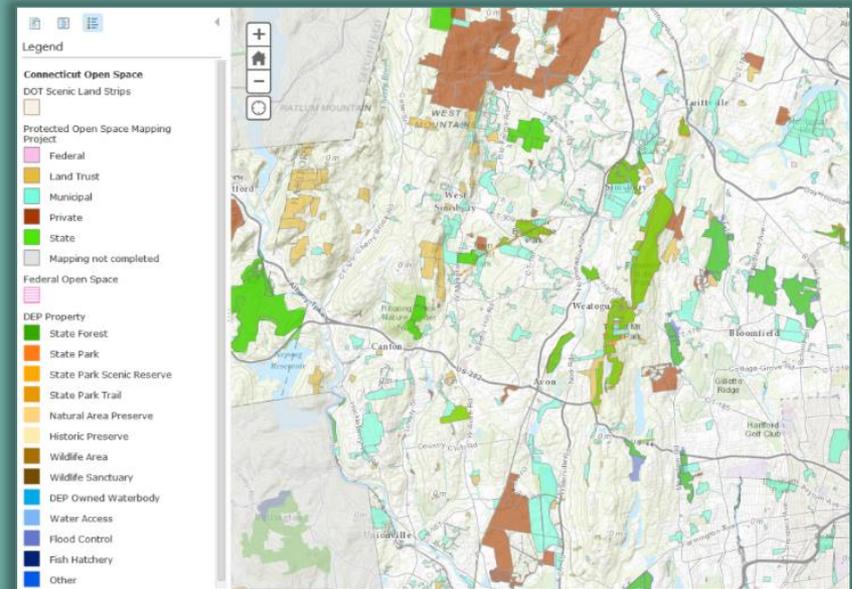


New Components

- Highest priority potential acquisitions
- Permanent protection of State-owned lands



Potential acquisition area

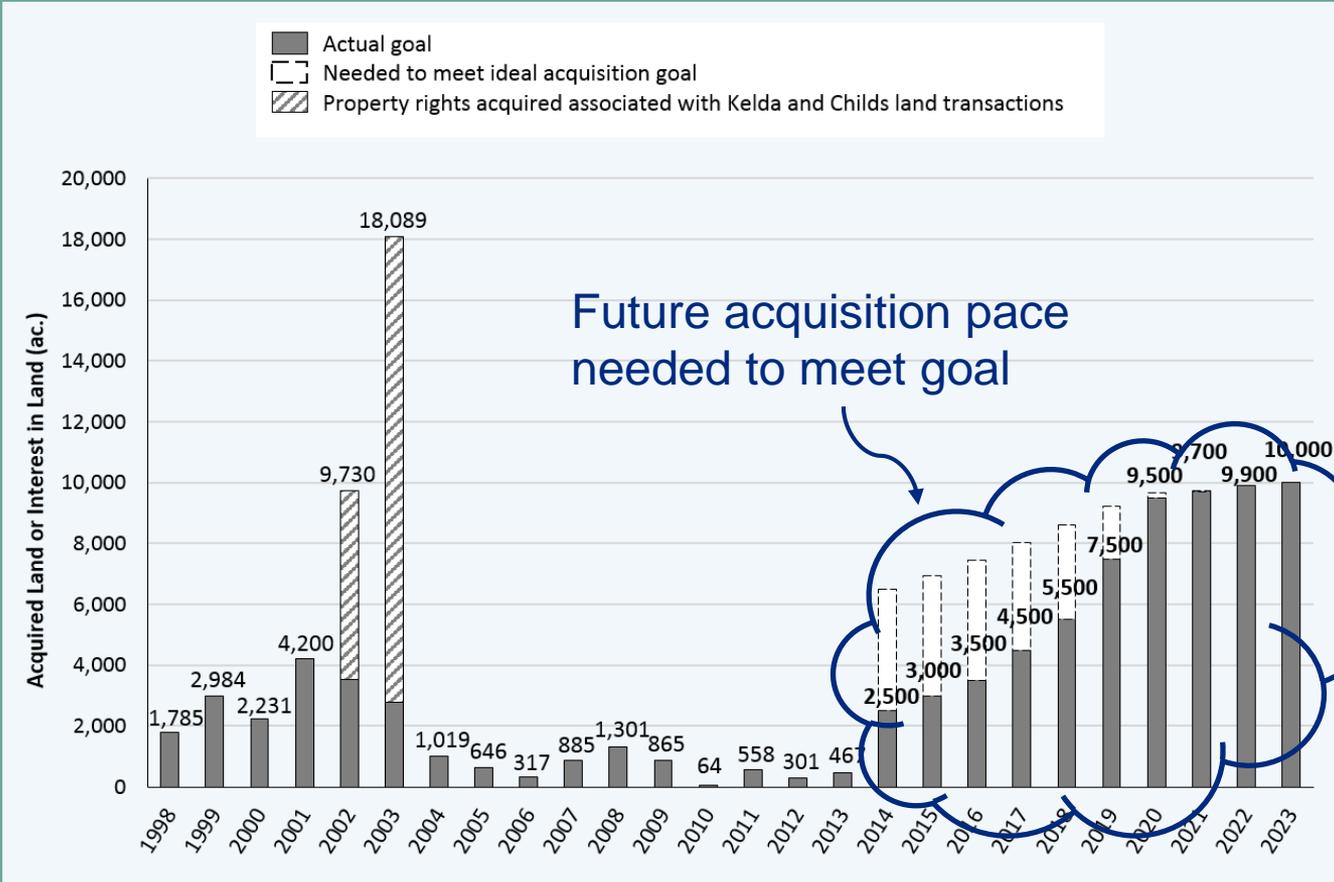


Draft Green Plan 2016-2020

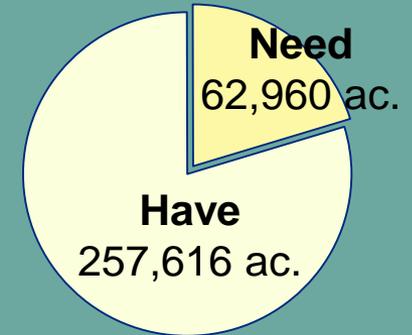
- I. 5-year Action Strategy
- II. Green Plan Background & Purpose
- III. Status of Open Space in CT
- IV. Funding Programs & Partners
- V. Purpose of, and Need for, Open Space
- VI. Identifying High-priority Lands for Conservation



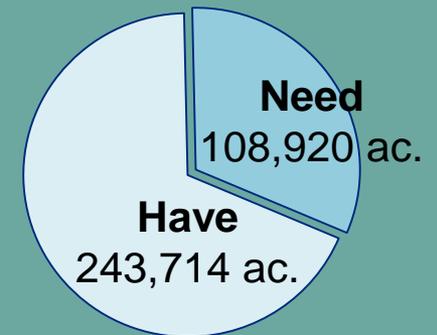
Draft Green Plan Goal: Increase DEEP acquisitions through 2020



State-owned Lands



Partner-owned Lands



5-year Action Strategy

Land Acquisition Priorities

- A. Natural Waters & Drinking Water Resources
- B. Areas Significant to the Coast
- C. Natural Heritage Resources
- D. Natural Resource-based Outdoor Recreation

Program Administration Priorities

1. Strategize Acquisitions for Climate Change Resiliency
2. Build Partnerships and Public Support for Open Space
3. Improve Open Space Data and Tools
4. Develop Strategies for Preserving in Perpetuity State Lands of High Conservation Value
5. Optimize State Acquisition and Grant Program Operations



Green Plan Goal: 11,500 acres by 2020

Green Plan Conservation Focus Areas for land acquisition or protection by DEEP and its partners through 2020			
Conservation Focus Area	Acres	DEEP Acquisitions (Ac.)	Partner Acquisitions (Ac.)
Watershed Lands	5,000	1,500	3,500
		(30% of total)	(70% of total)
Coastal Lands	1,000	300	700
		(30% of total)	(70% of total)
Natural Heritage Resources	1,000	750	250
		(75% of total)	(25% of total)
Other Natural Resource and Recreation Lands Held by DEEP	2,500	2,500	
		(100% of total)	
Recreational Trails	2,000	500	1,000
		(25% of total)	(75% of total)
Totals	11,500	5,550	5,950



Land Acquisition Priorities

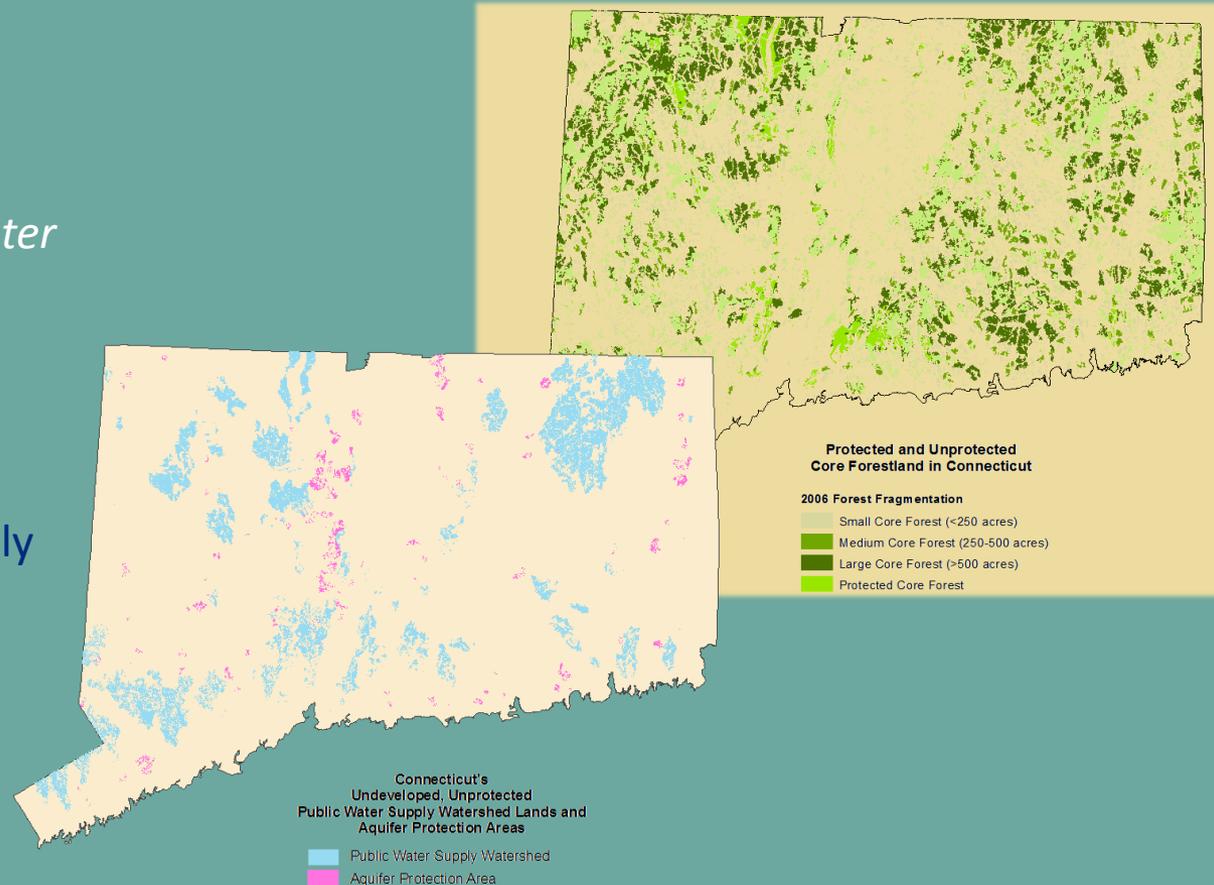
A. Natural Waters & Drinking Water Resources

- 3,000 acres of water ecosystem lands
 - 2,000 ac. core forest

Free-flowing streams, headwater and aquifer recharge areas, floodplains

- 2,000 acres of land w/in public drinking water supply source areas

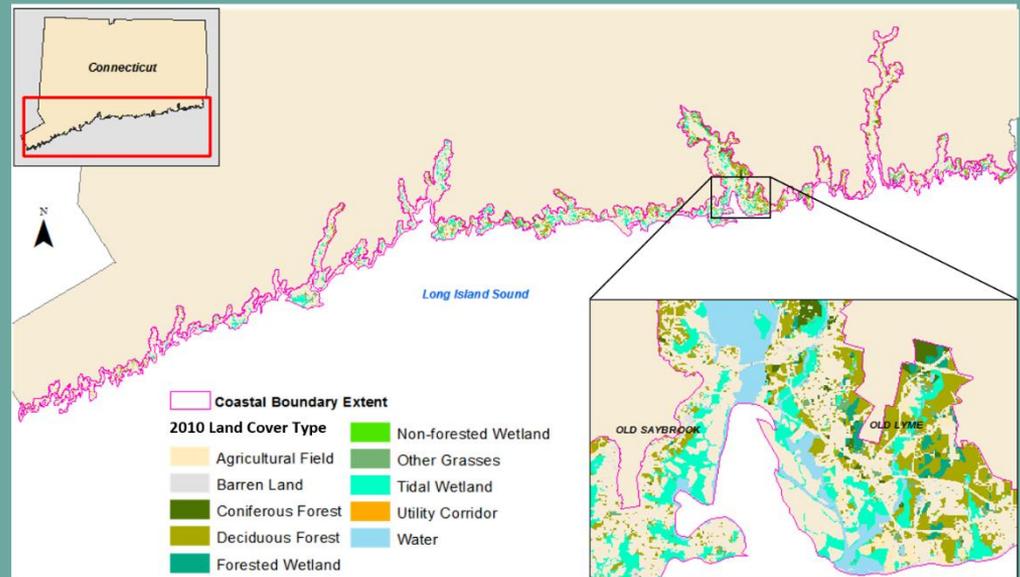
Surface and aquifer lands, including potential future supplies



Land Acquisition Priorities

B. Areas Significant to the Coast

- 1,000 acres or 3% of remaining unprotected lands within the State's coastal boundary



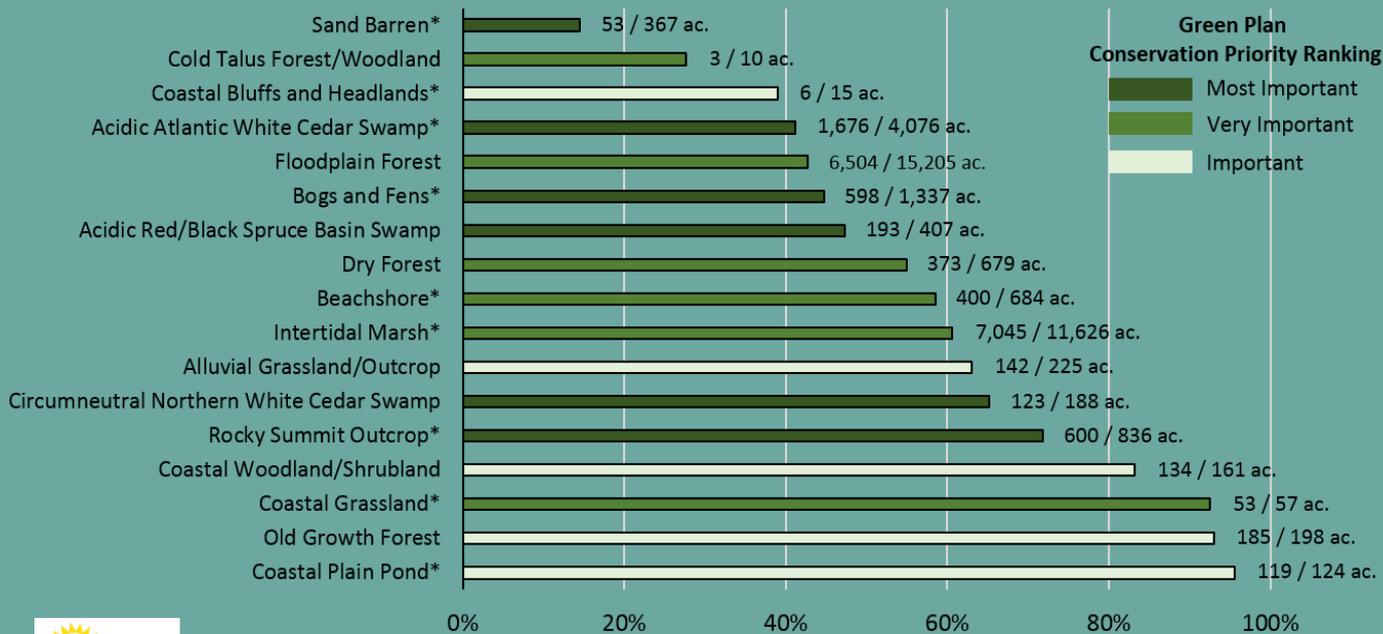
Lands within Connecticut's coastal boundary that are both unprotected and undeveloped.
Sources: 2010 land cover by CLEAR and 2011 DEEP protected open space data layers.



Land Acquisition Priorities

C. Natural Heritage Resources

- 500 ac. key habitats for plant, fish, and wildlife species
- 500 ac. Connecticut's Critical Habitats



Left: Estimated area of critical habitat types currently protected as open space by DEEP and its partners, and priority acquisition for conservation ranking for each habitat type. Each habitat is followed by the proportion of total habitat area that is protected.



Land Acquisition Priorities

D. Natural Resource-based Outdoor Recreation

- 20 State Urban Green and Community Garden grants to create or enhance urban open spaces;
- 7 new water bodies and 10 miles of river and stream for public fishing and other uses;
- 2,000 acres that close gaps in the state's major recreational trails;



- 2,300 acres to public hunting to expand the current area available by 1%;
- 2,500 acres to the State's system of Parks, Forests, and Wildlife Management Areas



DEEP Program Administration Priorities

1. Prioritize the protection of lands for open space that adapt natural resources for impacts from climate change.



Program Administration Priorities

2. Work with Partners to leverage resources and provide the public with comprehensive information on open space.



The Preserve
Essex, Old Saybrook, Westbrook



CT Land Conservation Conference 2015

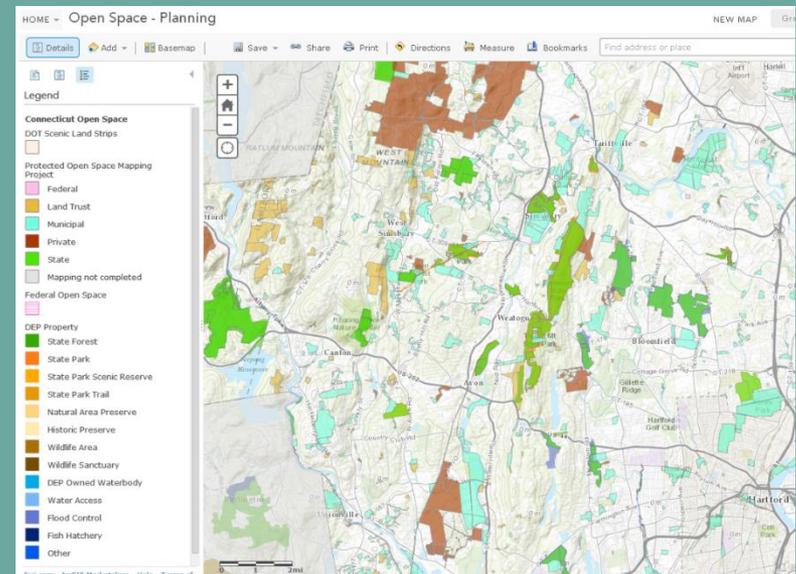
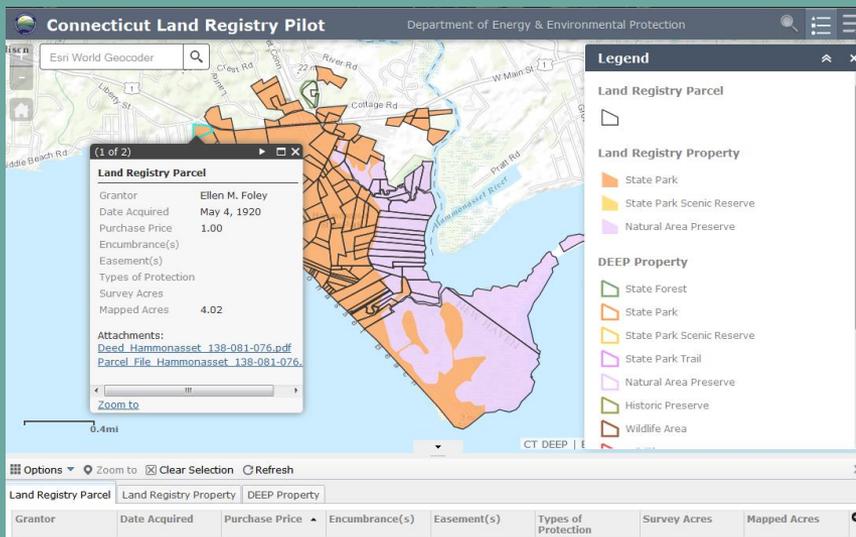
Photo courtesy of CT Land Conservation Council



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Program Administration Priorities

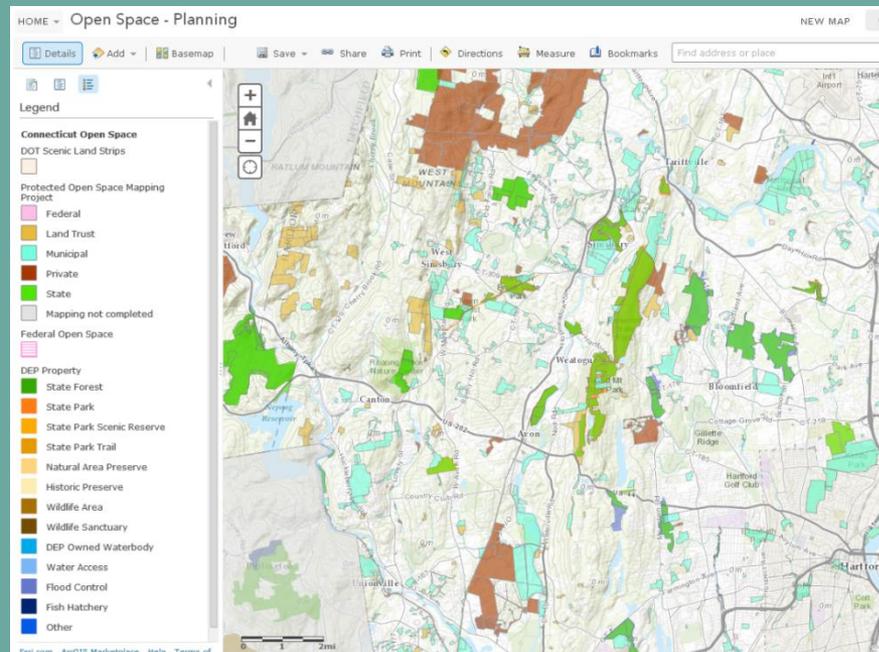
3. Launch and enhance a statewide land registry pilot, improve state open space data, and use data to make better land protection decisions.



Program Administration Priorities

4. Work within DEEP and with other agencies to develop strategies to permanently protect State lands of high conservation value.

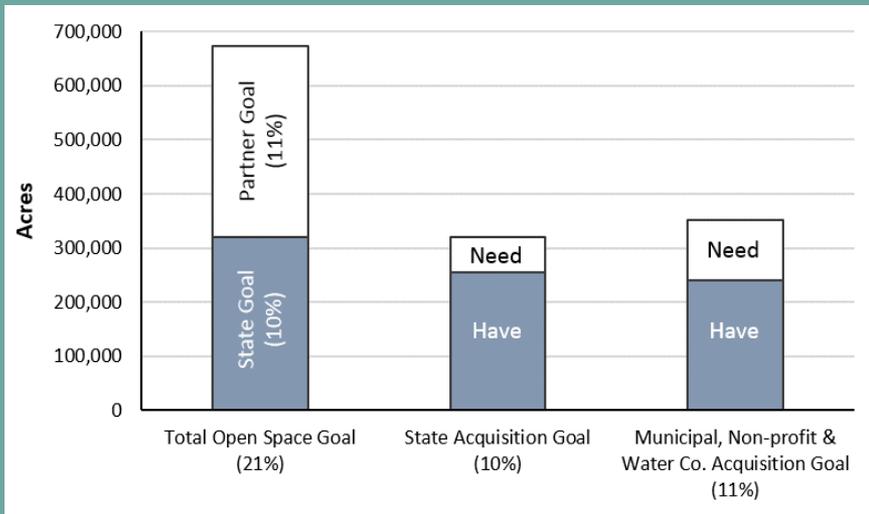
CGS Sec. 23-8d and e



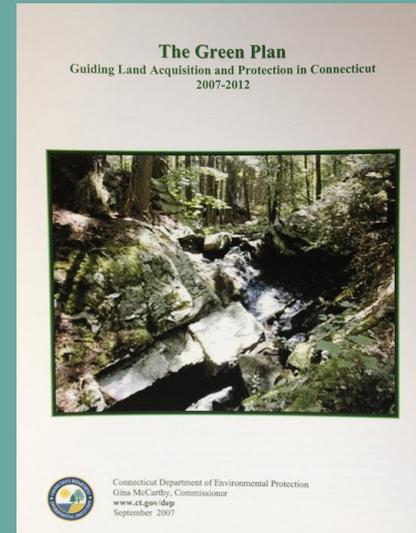
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Program Administration Priorities

5. Address State open space program processes to improve acquisition planning, performance, and partnerships.



Statewide open space goal, ownership, and acres needed to reach goal.



**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION
GRANT PROGRAM**

A PROGRAM TO ASSIST IN THE ACQUISITION OR RESTORATION OF OPEN SPACE
GRANT QUESTIONNAIRE AND APPLICATION
GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 31, 2014

PROJECT TITLE: _____
SPONSOR'S ADDRESS: _____
NAME & TITLE OF CHEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: _____
NAME & TITLE OF PREPARE: _____ PHONE: _____
TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$ _____ TOTAL PROJECT AREA: _____ ACRES

Important notice to all Applicants:

- All land purchased under the grant program must be developed into an extensive outdoor recreation facility and/or commercial or residential use.
- Approved projects are expected to be acquired within one year after DEEP approval.
- Land already owned by the applicant is not eligible for an acquisition grant.
- All land acquired under the program must be accessible to the public, without limitations. Accessed areas must be in land Conservation Easement(s) that provide for public access in accordance with Connecticut General Statute (C.G.S.) section 7-23(d)(4).
- Grant awards and match requirements are based on the first round unless a land interest is held, as determined by appraisals, acceptable to DEEP.
- Match making or determination whether or not to award a grant DEEP will take into consideration an applicant's current compliance status with projects accepted in the previous OSWA grant rounds. DEEP expects grantees to have closed out or made substantial progress on all previously awarded OSWA grants so as to have completed all OSWA grant new debt obligations (e.g., signage, trail creation, parking).

TYPE OF REQUEST (CHECK TO DETERMINE AID PROGRAM CATEGORIES)

(CHECK ONE)	ACQUISITION	RESTORATION	PUBLIC USE OF AN EASEMENT	RESTORATION*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

* If a tract is not suitable for acquisition or grant project, please fill out and submit the OPEN SPACE & COMMUNITY GARDEN MATCH QUESTIONNAIRE and APPLICATION available at www.ct.gov/deep.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Describe how your proposed activities fit the issue of preservation by acquisition or the restoration of self-responsible owned land. Research that you have done may be used to justify the proposed project.

Page 1 of 7 Revised 11/29/2012



DEEP Welcomes Your Feedback and Questions

- Stakeholder Feedback is Needed
 - How should the existing Green Plan be enhanced?
 - How to address new components?
- Stay Engaged and Read the Draft Plan
 - Full version of the draft Plan, upcoming public comment meetings & additional information:
www.ct.gov/deep/openspace



DEEP Welcomes Your Feedback and Questions

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