

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

**December 2015**

### 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.

### 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. The following acquisitions were closed in December 2015. Additional information on these projects follows.

Property Name	Location	Cooperator	Cooperator Share	Fee Acreage	Easement or R.O.W.	Purchase Price	Purpose of Acquisition
Maulucci	Coventry	George Dudley Seymour Trust	\$214,000	38.43	--	\$230,000	Addition to Nathan Hale State Forest
Vars	Plainfield	--	--	43.02	--	\$150,000	Addition to Pachaug State Forest

**Maulucci Property  
Coventry  
Fee Acquisition**



The Maulucci property consists of 38.43 acres of land located at 800 Bunker Hill Road, Coventry. The property was once home to the Nutmeg Winery, and some old growth vines are still located on the land. Beautiful stone walls form many of the boundaries, and a small man-made pond is located on site. George Dudley Seymour, who donated a large portion of the surrounding forest to the State (known as Nathan Hale State Forest), reportedly rode his horse on the property in the past. Funding for this acquisition was through the George Dudley Seymour Trust. The acquisition provides a key access point into the southern end of the forest, and gives opportunities for hiking, hunting and other passive recreational uses.

**Vars Property  
Plainfield  
Fee Acquisition**



The Vars property consists of two parcels of land totaling 43.02 acres located along the southerly side of Plainfield Pike Road (Route 14A), Plainfield. The property is primarily wooded, with a level woods road leading into the parcel. The land, which was previously designed for a 6 lot residential subdivision, will be added to the abutting Pchaug State Forest. The acquisition provides an opportunity for hiking, hunting, and other passive recreational opportunities in the area.

**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.

There were no open space and watershed acquisition grants closed in December 2015.