

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## 10 Reasons Why Land Trusts Support the Municipal Conveyance Fee for Funding Land Conservation and Stewardship

1. The Municipal Conveyance Fee will **support land trust goals** of conserving local open space, farmland, and community gardens, urban greenspace, scenic beauty, and protecting native plants and animals.
2. Municipalities often look to land trusts for assistance in the acquisition and stewardship of open space. This legislation would allow municipalities to dedicate funding for those purposes thereby **enhancing partnership opportunities** with local land trusts and other stakeholders.
3. By partnering with municipalities in conservation funding, land trusts can **leverage larger grants** for landscape scale conservation and stewardship.
4. Municipalities often use the funds to **pay land trust partners** for their expertise in a variety of services, like conducting baseline surveys, prioritizing conservation efforts, finding other funding partners, monitoring easements and fee lands, and carrying out stewardship projects, such as invasive species management.
5. Partnering with municipalities **strengthens community ties** between the entities, building local understanding and appreciation of land trusts that is frequently absent.
6. The conveyance fee funding mechanism **avoids taxpayer backlash**. Current municipal funding tends to be from property taxes that unfairly impact those with low incomes or overstretched resources, often causing a backlash against the conservation community when municipalities try to fund open space or stewardship projects by raising mill rates.
7. The fee is a **fair way to pay for land conservation**. Investors in local land transactions pay the fee, which is then spent to their benefit in municipal natural resources protection, thus assuring their property value.
8. Municipal involvement can strengthen trail networks with integrated recreational and educational opportunities that **enhance current land trust projects**.
9. The additional funding of local easements on farmland has enabled substantial local investment in **repurposing farms** to increase tourism and local economic benefit.
10. Generating support for the Municipal Open Space Funding Option will also **generate public awareness** about land trusts, potentially resulting in new memberships and increased interest.

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