

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## Conservation Agenda 2013

### State Legislative and/or Administrative Initiatives

1. **Campaign for Open Space Acquisition and Stewardship Funding and Support for Land Conservation Programs**
  - Ensure consistent funding for state land conservation programs (Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program, Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, Farmland Preservation Program, etc), adequate staffing for those programs and a coordination of these programs with federal match funding sources.
  - Protect the Community Investment Act which provides funding for state programs for open space, farmland/dairy production, historic preservation and affordable housing. Enhance public awareness of the importance of the fund and ensure that the integrity and level of funding are protected.
  - Expand coalition to support passage of the Community Redevelopment and Conservation Act which would enable, but not require, towns to enact a limited conveyance fee on buyers of real estate, with the revenue from the program placed in a local dedicated fund for conservation and other green project purposes.
  - Advocate for funding/staff resources for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Agriculture (DoAg) for stewardship, management and inventorying of state lands
  - Continued support for Invasive Plants Council programs and for an invasive plants coordinator.
  
2. **Permanent Protection of State-Owned Conservation Lands**
  - Continue to work with our conservation partners, DEEP, DoAg and leaders in the legislature to strengthen the state's land conservation programs by identifying the issues in protecting conservation land and farmland in perpetuity and proposing administrative and legislative strategies to address these issues.
  - Provide input on the updates to the Green Plan, recommendations for establishing a statewide registry and associated database to inventory/track land protected by land trusts and municipalities, and other DEEP initiatives undertaken in accordance with PA 12- 152, An Act Concerning Open Space Planning.

### Federal Policy

- Continue to support Land and Water Conservation Fund, Forest Legacy Program, Land Protection Programs under the Farm Bill\*, Extended Conservation Easement Tax Incentive, Recreational Trails Program and other priorities and continue to engage Connecticut land conservation community in outreach efforts. *\* including, but not limited to: Wetlands Reserve Program, Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Healthy Forest Reserve Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program.*

### Conservation Community Outreach

- Work with land trusts to host conservation site visits for local and federal legislators

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- Attend land trust board and municipal commission meetings and other events to discuss legislative priorities