



CONNECTICUT
LAND
CONSERVATION
COUNCIL

Trends in
Public and
Private
Conservation
Funding

Regional
Conservation
Partnership
Network
Gathering

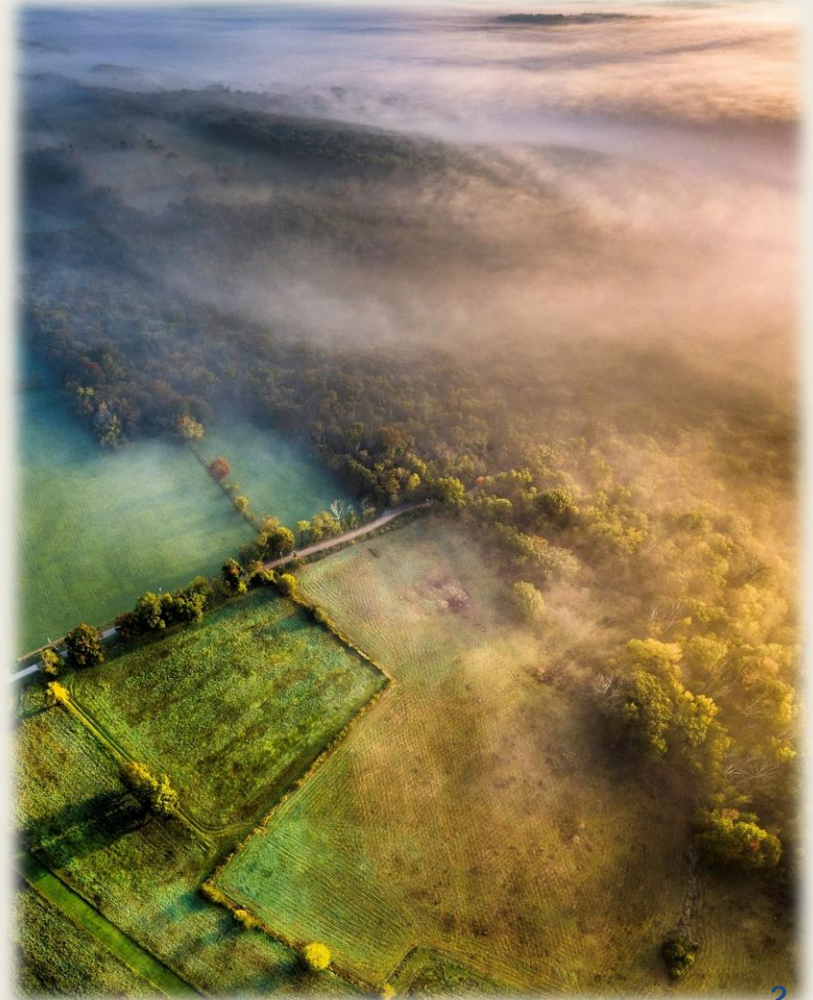
November 13,
2019

CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

OUR MISSION

CLCC advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of land conservation in Connecticut.

Johnson Farm, Steep Rock Association, Washington, by Woody Campbell, Grand Prize, 2018 Diana Atwood Johnson OSWA Photo Contest



CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

OUR HISTORY

- 2006: Merger of the Land Trust Service Bureau, which was formed in 1980 to provide technical support to land trusts, and the Land Conservation Coalition for Connecticut, which was formed in 1987 to serve as the advocacy arm of the land conservation movement.
- 2010: Hired first Executive Director and entered into fiscal sponsorship agreement with CT Forest & Park Association.
- 2018: Established as an independent 501(c)3.

CT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL WE WEAR MANY HATS!

As Connecticut's umbrella organization for the land conservation community, CLCC focuses on:

- Building land trust capacity and sustainability,
- Leading a unified land conservation voice for public policies that support land conservation, and
- Engaging broad constituencies to foster a deep understanding and need for land conservation.



LAND CONSERVATION IN CT

“OPEN SPACE” PRIMER

C.G.S 8-23 (b) **The Green Plan**

- ❖ 21% = 673,210 acres
- ❖ 10% = 320,576 acres
- ❖ 11% = 352,634 acres

THE STATUS*

- ❖ TOTAL = 507,956 acres
(75.45%)
- ❖ DEEP = 259,665 acres
- ❖ Partners = 248,291 acres

* **Why the asterisk?**

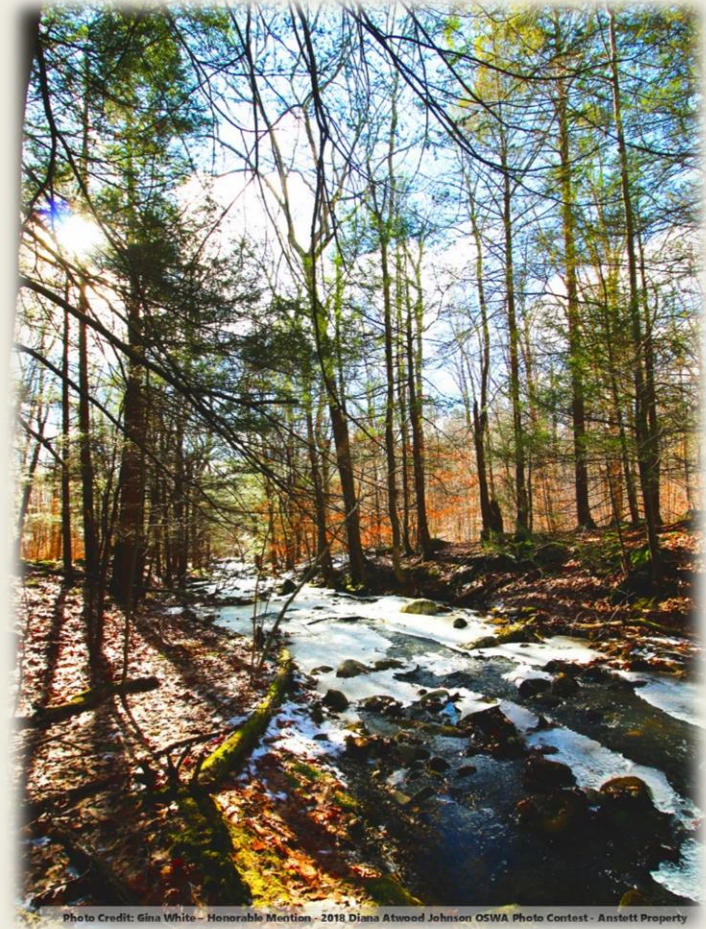
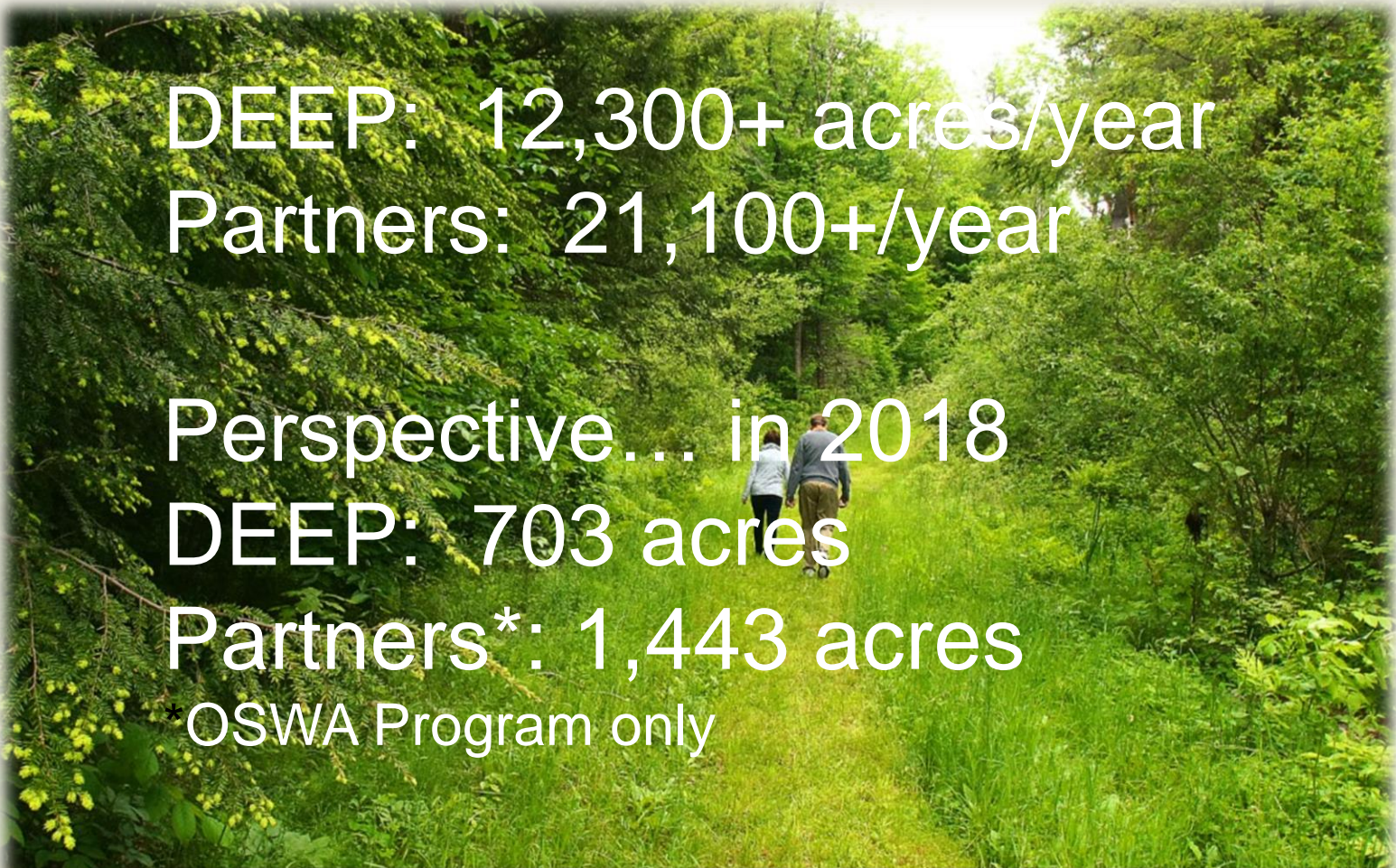


Photo Credit: Gina White – Honorable Mention - 2018 Diana Atwood Johnson OSWA Photo Contest - Anstett Property

Not so bad? Right?

WHAT'S NEEDED!



DEEP: 12,300+ acres/year
Partners: 21,100+/year

Perspective... in 2018

DEEP: 703 acres

Partners*: 1,443 acres

*OSWA Program only

Photo Credit: Andy Nygren – Honorable Mention - 2018 Diana Atwood Johnson OSWA Photo Contest - Mountain View Preserve

CT LAND TRUST COMMUNITY BY THE NUMBERS!

- CT: 137 +/- land trusts ~ 3rd most per state in country
- US: ~ 1,700
- Protected ~ 200,000 acres (absolutely an underestimate)
- 29 accredited land trusts ~ 3rd most in the country
- 1,300 + board members
- 4,500 + volunteers
- 37,000 + members/financial supporters
- Approx. 64 full-time and 94 part-time staff



Red Hill Woods Preserve, Branford Land Trust

STATE OPEN SPACE FUNDING PROGRAMS

- **Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA)**
 - What is it?
 - How is it funded?
 - How important is it?
 - ***Should we be worried?***
- **Recreation & Natural Heritage Trust Program (RNHT)**
 - What is it?
 - How is it funded?
 - How important is it?
 - ***Should we be worried?***
- **Recreational Trails & Greenway Program (RTP)**
 - What is it?
 - How is it funded?
 - How important is it?
 - ***Should we be worried?***



Photo Credit: P. Smith - 1st Place - 2018 Diana Atwood Johnson OSWA Photo Contest - Beaver Ledges Preserve

THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT



P.A. 05-228 – C.G.S. Section 4-66aa

- 1,500 projects
- 169 towns
- \$152M invested

Open Space, Historic
Preservation, Affordable Housing,
Farmland/Dairy Support

Should we be worried?

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

CT Department of Agriculture

- Connecticut Farmland Preservation Program
- Connecticut Community Farms Preservation Program

USDA – NRCS

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

- Agricultural Land Easement
- Wetland Reserve Easement
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program

Resource:

Conservation Options for CT Farmland



ADVOCACY



2018 Regional Conservation Conversation hosted by Aspetuck Land Trust, Trout Brook Valley Preserve, Easton, CT Photo Courtesy of C. Shepard

Annual
Legislative
Agenda

Community
Investment Act &
Other State
Funding

Natural Climate
Solutions

Public Lands
Protection

Municipal Open
Space Funding
Option

Tax Incentives

Farmland
Preservation
Funding
Programs

CLCC

2020 STATE POLICY & FUNDING AGENDA

Incentivize Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Climate Resilience



ENABLE municipalities with an option to establish a limited buyer's conveyance fee program to fund the purchase, preservation, and stewardship of open space, forest, and farm lands; to implement climate resilience, mitigation or adaptation strategies; to match certain state environmental grant programs; and for other environmental projects.
(Compare: MA CPA Program)

CLCC

2020 STATE POLICY & FUNDING AGENDA

Incentivize Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Climate Resilience

ESTABLISH a public-private partnership to offer competitive matching grants to qualified Connecticut land trusts for programs that serve to advance land conservation through: (i) organizational capacity building; (ii) collaboration; (iii) stewardship and resource management; and (v) conservation transaction support.

(Model: NYSCPP)





*Prote***CT**
PUBLIC LANDS

CONNECTICUT LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

Questions? Comments?
Want to get involved?

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#LoveYourCTLandTrust



