

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Conservation Agenda 2016

The Connecticut Land Conservation Council works to increase the pace, quality and scale of land conservation in Connecticut while assuring the perpetual, high quality stewardship of conserved lands in the state.

Ensure Funding for State Conservation Programs

Ensure consistent and increased funding for state land conservation programs (Open Space & Watershed Land Acquisition Program [OSWA], Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program and Farmland Preservation Program).

Protect the Community Investment Act

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.

Pursue a Constitutional Amendment to Better Protect Public Lands

Pursue a Constitutional Amendment that protects public lands from being conveyed without appropriate public process and compensation.

Expand Eligibility for Municipal Urban Green and Community Garden Projects

Pursue amendment to Connecticut General Statutes to expand eligibility for the Urban Green and Community Garden Program under OSWA to all municipalities, with distressed and/or targeted communities still eligible for a greater percentage of assistance.

Support Project Green Space Enabling Legislation

Pursue legislation enabling municipalities to collect up to 1% of real estate conveyance fee on buyers to support local open space and farmland acquisition as well as park, forest and trail management projects.

Support Funding and Staff for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)

Support funding and staff for DEEP for acquisition, management and inventorying of public lands and for other critical programs including, the UConn Extension, CT Agricultural Station, Council on Environmental Quality, and Invasive Plants Council.

Explore Conservation Tax Incentives

Explore enactment of conservation tax incentives including a state income tax deduction for landowners donating land or interests in land for conservation purposes.

Explore Conservation Land Stewardship Assistance Program

Explore establishment of a Stewardship Assistance Grant Program for lands protected by land trusts, municipalities, and water companies through OSWA.

Federal Level

Support appropriations for critical federal conservation programs, including: Land & Water Conservation Fund, USDA Conservation Title Programs, USDA Forest Service Programs (*including Forest Legacy Program*) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs (*including State Wildlife Grants Program*).