

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## **2022 State Policy and Funding Priorities**

### **Support Funding and Staff for Land Conservation Programs**

- **PROTECT** the integrity of the Community Investment Act and **ENSURE** the funds stay intact and dedicated.
- **CHAMPION** significant increases in funding for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Program (OSWA), Urban Green and Community Garden Program (UGCG), Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, Recreational Trails & Greenways Program, and other CT DEEP land conservation programs.
- **STRENGTHEN** CT DEEP's ability to promptly fill vacancies and new positions, streamline grant administration, and engage in public-private partnerships that help DEEP meet its mission, maintain service levels, and maximize the state's ability to leverage existing and new federal funds for land conservation, parks, and greenspace development (e.g., federal Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant to CLCC to support land trust acquisition projects.)
- **ENSURE** Passport to the Parks funds stay intact and dedicated.

### **Incentivize Land Conservation, Stewardship, and Climate Resilience**

- **ENSURE** natural and working lands and other nature-based climate solutions are incorporated into Connecticut's goals and implementation plans to mitigate climate change through policy and legislation (e.g., state policies that support forest resiliency and avoid forest conversion.)
- **STRENGTHEN** OSWA and UGCG Programs to incentivize broader participation by land trusts, municipalities and water companies.
- **PROTECT** existing tax exemptions that support land conservation.
- **SUPPORT** new tax incentives and investment options for individuals and additional financing and funding mechanisms for municipalities to encourage and leverage federal and state grants for land conservation, stewardship, and green infrastructure projects.

*The Connecticut Land Conservation Council advocates for land conservation, stewardship and funding, and works to ensure the long-term strength and viability of the land conservation community in Connecticut.*

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