

# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## 2023 State Conservation Priorities

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

- **CHAMPION** consistent bond funding for CT DEEP land conservation, trails, and parks programs including Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA), Urban Green and Community Garden (UGCG), and Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program to protect wildlife and their habitat, ensure clean water, mitigate against climate change, provide access for public recreation, allow for local food production, and more.
- **PROTECT** the integrity of the Community Investment Act and **ENSURE** the funds stay intact and dedicated to support state programs for open space, agriculture, historic properties, and affordable housing.
- **STRENGTHEN** CT DEEP's capacity to promptly fill vacancies and create new positions, streamline grant administration, and engage in public-private partnerships that help the agency meet its mission, maintain service levels, and leverage federal funds for land conservation.
- **ENSURE** Passport to the Parks funds stay intact and dedicated.

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

- **CHAMPION** amendments to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-131d (OSWA Statute) to maximize the ability of municipalities, land trusts, and water companies to leverage municipal and federal funds.
- **SUPPORT** Governor's Council on Climate Change and Policy on Resilient Forest for Connecticut's Future (PRFCT Future) Working Group recommendations and **ENSURE** nature-based climate solutions are incorporated into state policies, goals and legislation to support climate resilience and mitigation.
- **PROTECT** existing tax exemptions and **SUPPORT** new tax incentives for land conservation and stewardship.
- **SUPPORT** CT Council on Environmental Quality recommendations for education and new resources to combat invasive species in Connecticut.

*The mission of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council is to elevate and strengthen land conservation in Connecticut. CLCC's vision is a future where every Connecticut community is supported and sustained by a diverse mix of conserved land, and land conservation is embraced as an essential community value*

*For more information contact Amy Blaymore Paterson, Executive Director:  
abpaterson@ctconservation.org*

