CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

Updates & Highlights

"Land trusts... you are the storytellers, the protectors, the advocates, the educators—and by going out there and walking the talk you will inspire others to do the same."

Dr. Anne-Sophie Pagé
 2023 Conference Keynote Speaker



"Experiences like this one remind me of the importance of ensuring that nature and the benefits it provides are accessible to everyone, everywhere – now and for future generations to come."

Celebrating Excellence in Land Conservation

Throughout this report we are delighted to feature CLCC's 2023 Excellence in Conservation Award honorees, recognized for their significant contributions to the ongoing success of land conservation in our state.

A Moment that Continues to Resonate

Back in April, when Senior Project Specialist Yaw Owusu Darko scrambled to organize a CLCC Bird & Hike program on short notice, I couldn't understand why. Typically, these events are planned months in advance. Yet, Yaw had just a few days to put together a bird walk for middle school students in collaboration with Keney Park Sustainability Project and Leadership Greater Hartford.

It wasn't until the day of the event that I discovered the reason behind the urgency. These students had recently lost a friend to a tragic shooting in Hartford. This act of violence not only shattered a family but also sent shockwaves through the city and our entire state.

As I observed Yaw guiding these young people through their first birding experience, I witnessed the transformative power of nature. The teacher accompanying the students expressed how crucial this event was for helping them work through their trauma. Walking in the woods, learning how to use binoculars, listening for birds, touching tree bark, and holding a newt—the students found solace in these simple activities, momentarily escaping the pain they carried within.

CLCC's work with land trusts and communities across the state is possible because of your commitment to strengthening land conservation. That makes a significant difference, and we are deeply grateful for your unwavering support.



Thank you for being an integral part of CLCC and for believing in the transformative power of nature.

Sincerely,

Amy Blaymore Paterson Executive Director

A New Strategic Vision

In a rapidly evolving local and global landscape marked by environmental changes, CLCC is embracing a new strategic vision that is both timely and imperative.

Our commitment to land conservation and Connecticut's land trusts remains resolute. Our new vision signifies a renewed pledge to be adaptive and responsive to the changing demands and opportunities for land conservation across the state.

This report is organized into five sections, each corresponding to one of the five goals outlined in our newly adopted 2023-2027 Strategic Plan:

- **1** Dramatically increase the pace and amount of land protected in Connecticut
- 2 Build a strong, sustainable land conservation community with capacity to permanently conserve and steward natural and working lands
- **3** Enhance permanence of protected lands
- **4** Integrate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice into all aspects of land conservation
- **5** Strengthen CLCC's organizational capacity and sustainability to lead the land conservation community in Connecticut

These goals and the vision for the Strategic Plan were developed through a comprehensive stakeholder analysis and feedback from land trusts, donors, community groups, and other partners.

CLCC'S MISSION 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.

Our Strategic Plan is a commitment to the land and people of Connecticut. With your continued support, we will create a future where our ecosystems thrive, our communities are resilient, and our shared natural treasures are safeguarded for all to enjoy now, and for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for joining us in this journey. Let's explore our impact, together...



"Land conservation in Connecticut is at a turning point. CLCC, and the land trusts it serves must rise to the occasion, and be vehement in the strategic, expeditious, and inclusive pursuit and stewardship of lands that benefit and build Connecticut's communities."

For more information about CLCC's strategic plan, please visit ctconservation.org/about/strategic-plan

Dramatically increase the pace and amount of land protected in Connecticut



2023 Katchen Coley Award for Excellence in Conservation— Madeline McClave

Madeline has been instrumental in preserving more than 400 acres as the President of the New Hartford Land Trust. At the helm of the land trust for the past 14 years, her vision and energy has fostered a vibrant volunteer community dedicated to preserving land in New Hartford and across the region, epitomizing the spirit of conservation in Connecticut.

Grant Programs

Land trusts make two promises. The promise to their communities to protect the quintessential places they love, and the promise of *perpetuity*. Upholding these commitments begins with ensuring that land trusts can pursue and complete their conservation projects.

CLCC's Transaction Assistance Grant Program and Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program provide land trusts with the funding they need to champion these promises.

Transaction Assistance Grant Program (TAG)

CLCC understands that land trusts often struggle to raise funds for transaction and due diligence costs. Appraisals, surveys, environmental assessments, and recording fees can range from a few hundred to tens of thousands of dollars—funds that need to be raised above and beyond the purchase price of the property.

In response to this need, CLCC launched TAG in 2022. In the first two grant rounds, we distributed \$178,200 in grant funds to 29 land trusts, helping to conserve more than 1,800 acres across the state.

TAG seeks to provide land trusts with multiple funding opportunities to kickstart new conservation projects and bring existing projects to a close. Projects have come from across the state in varying sizes, ranging from 1.2 acres in Hartford to help protect a community greenspace to 237 acres of woodlands and wetlands in Warren.

Connecticut Conservation Partnership Program (CCPP)

Through CLCC's success in securing \$6.7 million from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, CLCC is able to direct unprecedented amounts of federal funding to land conservation projects in Connecticut. The goal of CCPP is to leverage federal and state dollars to help land trusts bolster their efforts to permanently safeguard our state's natural resources.

CLCC is currently working with three land trusts to help purchase and conserve ~900 acres, which will protect freshwater and inland wetlands, avoid forest conversion, promote the recovery of forest habitats, sequester greenhouse gases, and increase access to recreation and experiential education.

We are excited to provide financial assistance to more land trusts and to offer more funding opportunities in the months and years come.

Contact Yaw at <u>yodarko@ctconservation.org</u> if you are Interested in learning more about CLCC's grant programs.

Awarded Transaction Expenses



"With support from CLCC's transaction grants, we were able to bring two projects across the finish line and conserve important habitat along critical wildlife corridors in Connecticut.

"This grant program provides land trusts with another much-needed source of funding, helping to increase the number of acres we can conserve each year."

- Shelley Harms, Executive Director, Salisbury Association Land Trust

Closed in 2022 = •

Bristol/Burlington East Lyme/Montville Guilford Groton Hebron Litchfield Norfolk Ridgefield Salisbury Sharon Westbrook Weston

Total Acres: 1,612.89 \$4.46MM

Awarded in 2023 = 🔺

Brookfield Cornwall East Haddam x2 Guilford Hebron Morris Naugatuck New Hartford Norfolk North Branford Pomfret Salem Washington Winsted/Winchester

Total Acres: 1,025 \$3.7MM

OSWA Projects Awarded in prior years =

OSWA Success Stories

In a landscape full of acronyms, OSWA, the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition grant program, stands out. Since 1998, the program has invested more than \$157 million in 610 project partners to conserve more than 42,000 acres.

As Connecticut's most vital source of state land conservation funding for land trusts, municipalities, and water companies, OSWA not only supports the preservation of natural and working lands but also nurtures urban green spaces and community gardens.

Advocating for increased OSWA funding and greater staff capacity in DEEP's land acquisition and management office are annual priorities for CLCC.

Year-round, CLCC co-leads the state Natural Heritage, Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Review Board to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of OSWA and other state land conservation initiatives. With DEEP and other conservation stakeholders, we help accelerate the pace and quality of land conservation throughout the state.

As we reflect on the importance of these programs in this report, we recognize OSWA's profound impact on Connecticut land trusts and the communities they serve—underscoring CLCC's commitment to ensuring the program is well funded and accessible to all communities.



Policy and Advocacy

Strategic advocacy, an unwavering commitment by legislative champions, a strong partnership with DEEP, and outreach by land trusts to their legislators were the ingredients to a successful 2023 legislative session.

Conservation funding is an annual top priority for CLCC, and your voice this past legislative session made a difference in securing millions in bond authorizations for open space, community gardens, and recreational trails.

Key legislative victories included:

- Legislation that makes it easier for land trusts to combine OSWA with federal and other funding sources
- New tax incentives for landowners looking to permanently conserve state-identified recreational greenways by partnering with land trusts or municipalities

While we celebrate these key victories, the 2023 session was not without its disappointments.

Inaction by the legislature on many climate and environment bills was a major setback to the state's efforts to address the escalating adverse impacts of the interrelated climate and biodiversity crises.

With planning for the 2024 legislative session underway, your advocacy and engagement with legislators is key to our success. CLCC will continue meeting with legislators, including working with land trusts to invite their elected officials to visit conserved lands and thank them for their support.

There is no better way to advocate for the lands you love than to showcase them for all to enjoy.

"[Land trusts] are the local eyes and ears in the conservation world. They are tapped into conservation commissions, local regulations [and] legislators and private property owners who are willing to work on land-protection projects.

"DEEP closely partners with the land trust community and is extremely grateful for their support and their efforts to advance state open-space protection goals."

- Lindsay Suhr, Office Director, DEEP Land Acquisition Management, from "Protecting our Wild Places" by David Holahan, *CT Magazine*, July 2023



Legislators See Conservation in Action

After a three-year break from in-person events, CLCC was thrilled to resume our Conservation Conversations this summer, hosted by the Sharon Land Trust at its new 178-acre Von Ahn Preserve.

These informal walks provide legislators with an opportunity to exchange thoughts about land conservation priorities while enjoying the company of members of their community and region.

Interested in hosting a conversation? Contact Amy at abpaterson@ctconservation.org



CLCC is Your Voice at the Nation's Capitol

CLCC staff returned to Washington D.C. in 2023 to advocate for important programs and funding sources, like the Farm Bill and Connecticut River Watershed Partnership Act. Meetings with our state's elected officials ensure that conservation remains a priority.

GOAL 2 Build a strong, sustainable land conservation community with capacity to permanently conserve and steward natural and working lands

2023 Excellence in Conservation Organization Award Granby Land Trust

Through strategic partnerships with the Friends of Holcomb Farm, the Salmon Brook Historical Society, and the Town of Granby, the Granby Land Trust completed two significant conservation projects in the West Granby Historic District: the 45-acre Wilcox Farm and 277 acres of the adjacent, 312-acre Holcomb Farm. These combined efforts underscore the profound impact of collaboration in community land conservation.

Collaboration and Merger

Greater Than the Sum of Its Parts — A Regional Land Trust Emerges through CLCC Programming

With a perpetual mission, land trusts must plan for the long term. Through CLCC's Advanced Collaboration and Merger Assistance Program, they don't have to do it alone. CLCC provides land trusts with the tools and resources they need to identify and formalize strategic partnerships that will sustain them into the future.

CLCC's commitment to facilitating enduring partnerships was exemplified earlier this year as we facilitated the merger of East Granby, West Hartford, and Wintonbury land trusts to form Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy (TRLC).

For more than three years, CLCC worked closely with these land trusts and consultant Sharon Danosky to identify shared challenges and opportunities, build trust and camaraderie among the boards, and encourage a sound merger. Now a regional land trust, TRLC stewards 642 acres across 49 properties in three towns.



"The merger is the culmination of...years of collaboration and planning to increase the sustainability of land acquisition and conservation in our community.

"This brings together a larger group of like-minded supporters to significantly increase our impact on the environment across the region."

- David Sagers, Treasurer, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy, President, former West Hartford Land Trust

TRLC's strategic foresight ensures their invaluable work persists for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations, and will serve as a model for other organizations looking to leverage partnerships to create more enduring land trusts.

"Our land trusts served important roles preserving open space to maintain the character and quality of life residents enjoy in our communities.

"The formation of Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy will help the region better promote farmland, waterways, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation and education for the benefit of current and future generations."

 Amanda Thompson, President, Traprock Ridge Land Conservancy board of directors; President, former East Granby Land Trust

Special thanks to the Pro Bono Partnership for providing legal counsel for the participating land trusts.

Funding for CLCC's Advanced Collaboration and Merger Assistance Program is provided in part by the Peter and Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation.

"When I saw the agenda for today I wondered if it was too sophisticated for [my land trust]. Well, so far I have seven action items!"

 Ben Solnit, President, Morris Land Trust

A Regional Approach

Leveraging collective knowledge for greater conservation outcomes

This spring, in partnership with the Regional Water Authority, CLCC helped to relaunch the South Central Regional Land Conservation Alliance — one of many regional gatherings hosted by CLCC that brought conservationists together last year.

Peer Networking and Convening— Conserving Land by Staying Connected

CLCC's 2022 land trust Presidents' Summit began in a familiar way—by asking land trust leaders for one sentence about how they feel in their role. Shockingly, the word "concerned" was used by more than half of the 20+ attendees. Concerns included: succession planning, levels of board engagement, and getting the important work done. As the day progressed, leaders from land trusts of all sizes contributed to candid discussions about solutions to the problems they were facing.

Being the only statewide land trust service organization, CLCC serves as a convenor through programs like *Conserving Land by Staying Connected*. In the past year, events have included peer-learning programs for Presidents, Treasurers, and representatives from accredited land trusts. These gatherings create space for land trusts to share concerns, brainstorm solutions, and foster a sense of community and mutual support.

As the Presidents' Summit wrapped up, participants were asked to give an update on how they were feeling. There was still a bit of concern, but much more optimism, empowerment, and inspiration. There was a renewed sense of community, and a strengthened network of conservation leaders ready to take on new challenges with each other's support.



A Topical Approach

Learning from the experts

CLCC is proud to offer timely and topical workshops and programs that are tailored to the specific needs of the state's land trust community.

Land trusts this year joined us in learning about a host of topics including fundraising strategies, farmland leasing, owning and maintaining historic buildings, and selecting the right insurance.



A Tailored Approach

Supporting transitions and new endeavors

Through changes in land trust leadership or when rethinking organizational priorities, CLCC serves as a sounding board and resource.

In the past year, we have worked with land trusts to facilitate board retreats, conduct organizational assessments, and think through strategic projects.

When the Pledge of Forever Means Learning Year After Year

CLCC Conference the Best Yet

On March 27, approximately 550 people from around the state, region, country, and even as far away as Tasmania, registered to join CLCC for the 2023 Connecticut Land Conservation Conference—our first in-person conference since 2019.

With 57 workshops, on topics ranging from fundraising and community engagement to climate resilience and effective lobbying, there was something for everyone. By all accounts, it was a rousing success, highlighted by a powerful keynote address by Dr. Anne-Sophie Pagé, a veterinarian and environmental activist from New Zealand who through the lens of her global research—provided us with firsthand accounts of the devastating impacts that the interrelated climate and biodiversity crises have had on wildlife and our environment.

The CLCC team left Wesleyan filled with inspiration, energy, and an even stronger sense of determination to forge on with our work to accelerate the pace and quality of land conservation, build stronger land trusts, and include more people along the way.

Together, every day is a new opportunity to take action and make a difference.

"What a wonderful day! The way you all have built the conference (and CLCC as a whole), the way you and the amazing volunteers run it so beautifully, and the breadth of amazing ideas and experiences that get shared comprise one of the most inspiring things I've seen in my career."

 David Sutherland, Equity Trainer and 2023 Conference Facilitator



Enhance permanence of protected lands



2023 Special Award for Excellence in Conservation Organization Award – CT River Gateway Commission

The Connecticut River Gateway Commission was established in 1973 by state law to safeguard the scenic, historic, and ecological resources of eight towns within the lower river valley.

In honor of its 50th anniversary, the Commission was recognized for its success in helping to preserve more than 1,000 acres of land and for its exceptional community engagement within the region.

We Have Years, Not Decades, to Act

Extreme heat, frequent and destructive storms, flooding and drought conditions, poor air quality, and disappearing wildlife—Connecticut's human and non-human residents are suffering from the ill-effects of a climate crisis that is rapidly worsening. We are also experiencing a global biodiversity crisis of epic—and for a growing number of plant and animal species—irreversible proportions.

The science is clear: We have years, not decades, to act.

The science also recognizes how critical natural and working lands are in addressing the climate crisis. A recent report from Highstead called New England's forests "an underrated asset in the fight against climate change," noting that they currently capture 6.7% of Connecticut's carbon emissions.

That percentage can increase through avoiding deforestation, establishing wildland reserves, improving forest resilience, and enhancing urban and suburban forests—activities that land trusts are well suited to carry out.

Together, we must turn the challenges of our time into opportunities to pursue the protection and stewardship of lands that mitigate against the impacts of climate change, protect wildlife and their habitats, and benefit all.

Coming Soon: Grants for Climate Smart Land Stewardship

In 2024, CLCC will roll out another grant program for Connecticut's land trusts. Thanks to a \$750,000 grant from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, CLCC will re-grant at least \$500,000 directly to land trusts for the planning and implementation of climate smart land stewardship practices. Projects will range from planting pollinator gardens to managing forests for climate resilience to establishing wildlife corridors. Remaining funding will support outreach efforts to Connecticut's land trust community.

As the climate crisis worsens, land trusts have expressed interest in integrating climate resiliency and mitigation into their land stewardship programs. CLCC's newest grant program is here to help them do exactly that.

Interested in learning more? Contact Aaron at <u>alefland@ctconservation.org</u>.



"We can't underestimate the interconnectivity of today's issues. Solving problems such as the biodiversity and climate crisis comes down to understanding the multiple intricate components that contribute to these problems."

- Dr. Anne-Sophie Pagé, 2023 Conference Keynote Speaker

Integrate diversity, equity, inclusivity, and environmental justice into all aspects of land conservation



2023 Excellence in Community Engagement Award— Avalonia Land Conservancy

Prioritizing inclusivity, Avalonia Land Conservancy is committed to enhancing trail accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The land trust's comprehensive initiative involves modifying physical environments, access policies, communications, and more. By collaborating with organizations that support people with disabilities, Avalonia aims to ensure that everyone can enjoy southeastern CT's natural beauty.



Keep Calm & Go Birding

It has been a year of many delights for CLCC's Bird & Hike with CT Land Trusts program. Launched in July of 2022, Bird & Hike seeks to engage diverse audiences on conserved lands through opportunities for guided birding and hiking on land trust properties and city parks.

Across six bird walks, CLCC and land trust co-hosts were able to engage 62 participants, most of whom were unfamiliar with the work of land trusts, had not explored a land trust property or the city park the event was held on, and had not been birding.

For many of these new birders, it was their first time engaging with the outdoors in a way that allowed them to relish the stillness, vibrance, and beauty of their environment. From seeing Yellow-Crowned Night Herons for the first time to hearing the "kek kek" notes of a Clapper Rail to pondering the oddity of Shagbark Hickory.

Bird & Hike enables a greater capacity for wonder, awe, and appreciation of the natural world, and allows land trusts to increase their visibility and relevance beyond those they currently serve.

Is your land trust interested in co-hosting a Bird & Hike with CLCC? Contact Yaw at yodarko@ctconservation.org.



















Conservation Addressing Community Challenges

Boosting Farmland Access through Land Trusts

In partnership with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, CLCC is undertaking a study to assess farmland access and ownership models and the role land trusts can play in reducing barriers for affordable and secure land tenure for new, beginning, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color farmers. CLCC's report will be shared later this year, followed by more in-depth roundtables and workshops.

Inclusive Trails: Assessing Accessibility for Diverse Users

Through the Accessibility Assessment project in Northeast Connecticut, CLCC gathered candid insights for creating more inclusive and welcoming outdoor spaces for diverse users.

Working with host land trust Joshua's Trust and project partner, The Last Green Valley, representatives from Latino Outdoors, UConn League's Walking for Exercise Group, and Connecticut Black Women Hikers, explored first impressions, trail design, belonging, language barriers, race concerns, and access to trail information. As a next step, Joshua's Trust will implement recommendations using a CLCC grant, and share their experience with other land trusts in the region, extending the reach of this important initiative.

Thank you to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for financial support which helped to make this unique project possible.

Land Trusts Explore Opportunities to Address Community Needs in Northwest Connecticut

With grant support from the Connecticut Community Foundation, CLCC equity trainers Ashley Stewart and David Sutherland, facilitated a series of roundtables on diversity, equity, inclusion, justice (DEIJ), and accessibility in land trust programming and operations in Northwest CT.

Land trusts talked with representatives of community organizations about tackling community issues, including food insecurity, housing, and opportunities for people with disabilities.

"In Litchfield Hills, economic inequality manifests itself through food insecurity, hunger, and fair and equitable housing shortages. My participation in CLCC's DEIJ conversations convinced me that land trusts are important community stakeholders in addressing such issues and being part of the solution."

- Brian Hagenbuch, Executive Director, Steep Rock Association



Housing and Land Conservation Summit

Bridging the Divide—Land Conservation Meets Affordable Housing

In February 2023, CLCC hosted a groundbreaking Summit on Housing and Conservation. More than 100 attendees, including leaders and experts from across the state and beyond, gathered to explore how land conservation and affordable housing groups can support each other's goals, rather than working at odds.

The full-day exploration highlighted successful examples of collaboration, and how such efforts can lead to healthier, more equitable housing, more land conservation, and increased funding for joint projects. The Summit, co-sponsored by the Land Trust Alliance and Trust for Public Land, marked a significant step in recognizing housing as a concern for conservationists.

These initiatives aim to foster collaboration, advocate for beneficial policies, and create joint funding avenues for both conservation and affordable housing. The path towards creating healthier, affordable communities involves broadening this conversation and continuing the momentum generated at the Summit.

Salem Project Fosters Sustainable Living and Local Farming

An innovative project between the Salem Land Trust and Southeastern CT Community Land Trust blends conservation, farmland preservation, and affordable housing.

Built from a partnership inspired by CLCC's Regional Advancement Initiatives, ~186 acres will be set aside for conservation, while a ~16-acre farmhouse and adjoining fields will be deeded as affordable housing and working lands. This partnership embodies the creative opportunities that exist at the intersection of these two land uses.

Recognizing the Value of Collaboration

For their efforts to build partnerships between land trusts, housing groups, and community foundations through the 2023 Summit on Housing and Conservation, CLCC Executive Director Amy Blaymore Paterson and Deputy Director Aaron Lefland were recognized on behalf of CLCC with the 2023 Linda B. Krause Award for Excellence in Conservation Collaboration from Connecticut Resource Conservation & Development.

CLCC is dedicated to continuing these dialogues through policy roundtables and future Community Conservation programs. For more information contact Jovan at jbryan@ctconservation.org





Strengthen CLCC's organizational capacity and sustainability to lead the land conservation community in Connecticut

Financials and Giving

This past year, CLCC has seen significant developments in many areas of our work as we've undertaken initiatives to bolster our resources, expertise, and collaborations. This has been done to better equip ourselves to support land trusts with the technical and financial resources they need to navigate the dynamic challenges of land conservation.

Through the invaluable support of land trusts, municipalities, foundations, state and federal partners, and YOUR steadfast dedication, we stand fervid to support Connecticut's land trusts at a pivotal time for our environment.

Every Gift Matters

All gifts to CLCC help us increase our impact. Together, we can conserve more land and ensure an increasingly diverse array of people are connected to the wonders of our natural world, fostering a sense of stewardship that goes beyond each land trust preserve. Your gift holds immense value and is deeply appreciated.

What Will Your Conservation Legacy Be?

Planned gifts are one of the best, most effective ways to ensure Connecticut's endangered working and forest lands are conserved in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of future generations. There is no minimum age or gift amount required to create a conservation legacy, just a desire to create a greener, healthier Connecticut for future generations.

By remembering CLCC in your estate plans you join others who share a similar passion for natural solutions to urgent climate challenges.

CLCC is committed to partnering with you to help Connecticut's land trusts conserve more land and ensure it remains protected forever. Your thoughtful estate planning enables you to provide for your loved ones and for the special places and organizations that you value the most right now.

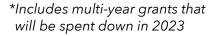
For more information about how to make an immediate, recurring or planned gift, act now by visiting <u>ctconservation.org</u>.

2022 FINANCIALS



2022 Operating Income

Municipal Commission		
Contributions	\$	2,060
Program Revenue	\$	5,613
Land Trust Memberships	\$	18,126
Conference	\$	30,438
Foundations	\$	63,297
Corp./Org. Contributions	\$	79,225
Individual Donations/Gifts	\$	99,869
Foundation Grants*	\$3	355,545
 Total	\$6	54,173





2022 Operating Expenses

 Fundraising Management & Sugment 	\$ 83,844
Management & SupportPrograms (Incl. Conference)	
Total	\$552,063

For a full financial statement visit <u>www.ctconservation.org</u>

CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

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Cover photograph: Milkweed as seen during Bird & Hike with Green Village Initiative and Aspetuck Land Trust.

Printed on100% recycled paper.



CONFERENCE SAVE THE DATE

March 23, 2024 Wesleyan University

Congratulations to all of the 2023 Excellence in Conservation Award winners throughout this report.