

## THE BENEFITS OF OPEN SPACE

To protect open space is to support the resilience of Connecticut's land, water, wildlife, and people.



### Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

defends against extreme weather and  
sequesters carbon dioxide



### Clean Water and Air

removes airborne pollutants and filters  
drinking water at low cost



### Healthy and Happy People

improves the physical and mental  
health of adults and children



### Abundant and Diverse Wildlife

protects and connects critical habitats



### Strong Local Economies

creates jobs, drives tourism revenue,  
and increases property values



### Thriving Local Communities

preserves the places that matter to  
community members

Residents across Connecticut deserve access to open space and the many benefits that come with it.

As a community of land trusts, we are committed to expanding that access.

CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

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#LoveYourCTLandTrust

### Our Mission

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 across the state.

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# CONNECTICUT Land Conservation Council

## Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation

- As storms become increasingly severe, our forests, wetlands, and even oyster reefs serve as natural **defenses against flooding and erosion**.
- Steady temperature increases are exacerbated in cities, where there is little tree cover. Urban parks and gardens **keep city-dwellers cool**.
- Trees and other sorts of vegetation don't just lessen the effects of climate change - they also help to combat it by **sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere**.

## Clean Water and Air

- Plants, especially trees, **keep the air clean**, removing pollutants that are harmful to human health and overall environmental quality.
- They also **protect water resources**, filtering contaminants out of stormwater runoff and replenishing groundwater supplies.

## Healthy and Happy People

- Getting outside and connecting with nature **supports our physical and mental health**.
- Children with access to open space are better at managing stress - they are also poised to become the **next generation of conservation leaders!**

## Abundant and Diverse Wildlife

- Protected lands and waters are essential to life in all forms, **providing rich wildlife habitat**.
- Landscape-scale conservation **prevents habitat fragmentation**, allowing wildlife to move freely.

## Strong Local Economies

- Conservation **creates jobs, drives revenue** from tourism and recreation, and **increases statewide property values**.
- Protected working lands - farms, forests, and fisheries - **support strong local and state economies**.

## Thriving Local Communities

- Land conservation serves to **preserve the special places that define our communities**. Every town or city has that place. Whether it's a 1,000-acre forest, a spectacular vista, a local dairy farm, or a quarter-acre urban oasis - without it, your community would not look or feel the same.

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*This content was adapted from an article by CLCC's Executive Director, Amy Blaymore Paterson, published in the 2015 Connecticut Audubon Society 'State of the Birds' Report.*