



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187
www.ellington-ct.gov

TEL. (860) 870-3120 TOWN PLANNER'S OFFICE FAX (860) 870-3122

CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING, INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED BELOW

I. CALL TO ORDER:

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items):

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation: Historic Preservation
 - a. Memo to Board of Selectmen – Request for Endorsement of Application for Historic Resources Inventory Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office.
2. Report - Farmland Preservation Program.
 - a. Ellington Farm Day - Saturday, September 21, 2024, 10am-3pm.
3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program.
 - a. Executive Session to Discuss Possible Open Space Purchases.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 24-25 Budget & Expenditure Update.
2. Approval of July 9, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.
3. Correspondence/Discussion:
 - a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee - Monthly Agendas/Minutes.
 - b. North Central District Health Dept. Ellington Annual Report July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.
 - c. CLCC State of the Lands 2023-2024 Land Trust Census Report.
 - d. Beech Leaf Disease.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Next Meeting is October 8, 2024

Instructions to attend remotely via Zoom Meeting listed below. The agenda is posted on the Town of Ellington webpage (www.ellington-ct.gov) under Agenda & Minutes, Conservation Commission.

Join Zoom Meeting via Link:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84359248667>
Meeting ID: 843 5924 8667
Passcode: 455106

Join Zoom Meeting by Phone:
1-646-558-8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 843 5924 8667
Passcode: 455106

COMMISSIONERS: TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING QUORUMS REQUIRED TO CONDUCT MEETINGS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND A SCHEDULED MEETING.

Town of Ellington

Planning Department



55 Main ST., PO Box 187, Ellington, CT, 06029/Phone: 860-870-3120/Email: jcolonese@ellington-ct.gov/ Website: www.ellington-ct.gov

MEMO

DATE: September 4, 2024
TO: Board of Selectmen
FROM: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner / Zoning & Wetlands Officer
SUBJECT: Grant for Historic Resources Inventory – State Historic Preservation Office

The Conservation Commission would like to pursue grant money to create an inventory of historic resources throughout town as recommended in the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), and the 2024-2029 Capitol Region Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan (HMCAP). At their July 9, 2024, meeting they made the following motion:

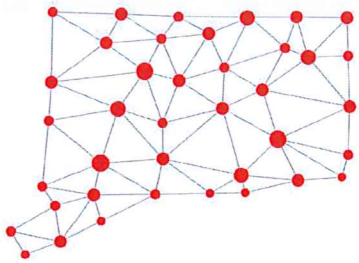
MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPLY FOR A STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE GRANT FOR \$20,000 TO CREATE A HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY AS RECOMMENDED IN THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) as part the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development offers \$20,000 non-matching grants to towns to produce a historic resources inventory. There is no required financial commitment from the town. The historic resources inventory would create detailed records of historic buildings, sites, structures and/or objects townwide. The inventory will have a historical write-up on the town and make recommendations for the National Registry. It will also identify properties associated with women and minority history.

To complete the project a consultant is hired to conduct the inventory and provide a report. According to SHPO the grant will cover about one hundred structures and sites, and successive grants could be applied for if desired.

The POCD recommends the creation of a townwide inventory as a strategy towards preserving historic resources and the HMCAP supports identifying historic properties within natural hazard risk zones. The inventory is an information gathering tool that will help the Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, and residents better understand the full extent of historic resources in town and can be used as an educational source for future decision-making.

The Conservation Commission requests your endorsement of the enclosed application for the grant. On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your consideration.



CONNECTICUT
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
INVESTING IN PRESERVATION SINCE 1955

Survey and Planning Grant

Application

State Fiscal Year 2025

Survey and Planning Grant | Application

Applicant Information

Municipality/Organization:

Town of Ellington

Chief Elected Official/Executive Director:

Lori Spielman, First Select.

Federal Employer ID Number:

Street Address:

55 Main Street

City/Town:
Ellington

State:
CT

ZIP Code:
06029

Mailing Address if different from above:

Contact Information

Contact Name:

John Colonese

Email Address:

jcolonese@ellington-ct.gov

Phone Number:

860-870-3120

This contact information will be used for all questions and mailings related to the grant process.

Project Information

Please Identify the grant activity you are applying for:

- Historic Resources Inventory
- Archaeological Survey or Report
- Geophysical Survey for Human Burials (max grant. \$5,000)
- Historic Designation Report or Nomination
- Municipal Historic Preservation Planning Reports
- Pre-development Studies
- Partners In Preservation

1. Brief description of the project:

Create a historic resources inventory for the Town of Ellington, a professional inventory of historic buildings, sites, structures and/or objects townwide, as recommended in the Ellington Plan of Conservation and Development and Capitol Region Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan, and supported by the Ellington Conservation Commission. (Please see attachments)

2. Street Address of the project resource Townwide

3. Date of Construction of the project resource N/A

4. Grant Amount Request: \$20,000	Total Project Cost: \$20,000
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5. Identify historic designation status of the resource affected by this project (check all that apply):

- National Historic Landmark
- National Historic Landmark, District: _____
- National Register of Historic Places
- National Register of Historic Places, District: _____
- State Register of Historic Places
- State Register of Historic Places, District: _____
- Local Historic Property
- Local Historic District: _____

6. Identify the applicant:

- municipality 501(c)3 nonprofit 501(c)13 nonprofit

If the applicant is a 501(c)3 or 501(c)13, submit a copy of the IRS Status Determination letter.

7. Is this a subsequent phase of a project?

yes no

If yes, explain:

8. Has the applicant received previous grants from SHPO?

yes no

If yes, please list all grants received (include grant type, date awarded, and award amount):

9. Does the applicant own or lease the property?

own lease N/A

If the property is leased, does the applicant have a long-term lease of at least 20 years as of the date of the application?

yes no N/A

If the property is leased, have notarized statements been obtained from the owner/s of the property that permit the applicant to submit this application and complete the project?

yes no N/A

N/A

Explain This is a a townwide historic resources inventory.

Please submit a copy of the Certificate of Title or lease and applicable notarized statements.

Authorization

Name of Authorized Official:

Lori Spielman

Title:

First Selectman

Signature:

Date:

The authorized official is the individual identified in the Certified Resolution as empowered to carry out the grant application and associated agreements on behalf of the organization/municipality.

Legislative Information

U.S Representative's Name:

Joseph Courtney

District #:

2nd

State Senator's Name:

Saud Anwar

District #:

3rd

State Representative's Name:

Jaime Foster

District #:

57th

Application Checklist

This checklist should be submitted with the application. All material listed is required unless otherwise noted. See the Application Guidelines for an explanation of each item.

	Included	N/A	Comments
A. Project Abstract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
B. Project Narrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Photographs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
D. Project Timeline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
E. Budget	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
F. Budget Narrative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
G. Long-term preservation plan (for pre-dev. Grants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
H. 501(c)3 or 501(c)13 IRS tax status determination letter (<i>contingent</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
I. Certified Resolution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
J. Vendor Profile Form and W-9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
H. Vendor Direct Deposit (ACH) Election Form	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Certificate of title or long-term lease agreement (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Letters of Support (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Applicant has read SEEC Form 11 (see website)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Applicant has required match in place	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

A. Project Abstract:

The Town of Ellington through its Conservation Commission would like to create a professional inventory of historic buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects throughout town. A townwide inventory is recommended in the Ellington Plan of Conservation and Development as a strategy to help preserve historic resources and the 2024-2029 Capitol Region Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaption Plan to support identifying historic properties within natural hazard risk zones.

The Town of Ellington has many historic buildings and sites. Some historic structures and sites were already cataloged in the register of the Ellington Center in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990. This inventory would be separate from those already cataloged and would include the entire town. The \$20,000 covers approximately one hundred buildings and sites and although this may not cover all the historic buildings and sites it will be a strong start to a townwide inventory. If more funding becomes available in the future the inventory can be continued.

The inventory would provide the Ellington Conservation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the town residents with a broader view of the all the historic resources in town.

B. Project Narrative:

1. *Please list the street address and date of construction of the resource.*

This is a townwide historic resources inventory. The Ellington Center was registered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 which included historic buildings, sites, and objects in the downtown area. The proposed inventory would not include those already cataloged in the 1990 register.

2. *Describe your organization, primary mission key activities and community you serve.*

The Ellington Conservation Commission makes recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Selectmen, and others regarding planned open spaces, farmland preservation, and similar initiatives. The Commission's mission is to preserve the rural character of Ellington by acquisition and protection of open space, farmland, forests, lakes, and streams. The historic resources inventory will allow the Conservation Commission to assist the Planning and Zoning Commission in meeting a preservation goal outlined in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

3. *For Planning and Pre-development grants, please discuss the resource and its significance. Is it listed on the State or National Register of Historic Places? Are there currently any measured drawings of the building?*

Not applicable.

4. *What issue will your project address? How was this issue identified?*

The project is to provide a townwide historic resources inventory which the Town of Ellington currently does not possess. The issue is identified in the Plan of Conservation and Development as a strategy for historic preservation. The Ellington Conservation Commission identified the strategy as an issue they would like to pursue and voted to apply for the historic resources inventory grant.

5. *Who will manage the project?*

The Town of Ellington Conservation Commission will manage the project through the Ellington Planning Department.

6. *What specific activities will you carry out with the grant funds?*

The project will create a detailed record of historic buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects within the Town of Ellington. An architectural historian approved by SPHO will conduct archival research, field work, and photography to create the inventory.

7. *What Goal and/or Objective of the SHPO Statewide Plan will this project address?*

Creating a townwide historic resources inventory meets the SHPO Statewide Plan goal of educating the public within Goal #2: Enhance Education Efforts. Once the inventory is complete it will be shared with the public and can be used as an educational source for future decision-making. Also, although not a specific goal or objective, the inventory can help identify historic properties within natural hazard risk zones which is a precursor to Goal #4: Develop a Resiliency Strategy for Historic Resources.

8. *Who will benefit from your project?*

The Ellington Conservation Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission, and ultimately the Town of Ellington residents will benefit from the project.

9. *What product will be produced with the grant funds (what is the “deliverable”)?*

A townwide historic resources inventory. Although it may not be a full inventory as \$20,000 will cover a portion of all the historic resources in town, it will be a strong start to a townwide inventory.

10. *How will the grant-funded product be shared with the public (as applicable)?*

The inventory will be shared with the public through the Ellington Conservation Commission’s public meetings and media postings, such as on the Commission’s website and the Ellington Planning Department’s website.

11. *How will you measure the success or impact of the project?*

Success will be measured when the Ellington Conservation Commission receives an inventory of approximately one hundred historic buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects for review and distribution to the public. Once the extent of townwide historical resources is known, the Town of Ellington can decide on the scope of future preservation efforts as recommended in the Plan of Conservation and Development.

C. Photographs:

The inventory is townwide. Please find below some examples of historic buildings within the town.

123 Middle Road



67 Sandy Beach Road



265 Windsorville Road



D. Project Timeline:

- Date of award: November 6, 2024
- 1 month to execute contract with state and finalize RFP. (December 2024)
- 1-2 months to bid project, evaluate proposals, and select a consultant. (December 2024 – January 2025)
- 4-6 months to complete the project. (February – July 2025)
- 1 month for consultant to write report. (July 2025)
- 1-2 months to review inventory with Ellington Conservation Commission and submit it to SHPO for review. (August – September 2025)
- 1 month to close out grant. (October 2025)

E. Budget:

	Grant Share	Applicant Share	Total
Consultant Fees (list type of consultant)	\$20,000 (Architectural Historian)	\$0	\$20,000
Supplies			
Printing/Copying			
Postage			
Advertising			
Other (Specify)			
Total	\$20,000		\$20,000

F. Budget Narrative:

We arrived at the \$20,000 budget amount in consultation with SHPO as the \$20,000 will cover approximately one hundred historic buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects. Throughout Ellington more than one hundred are ready to be inventoried.

G. Long-term preservation plan (for pre-dev. Grants): Not Applicable

H. 501(c)3 or 501(c)13 IRS tax status determination letter (contingent): Not Application

I. Certified Resolution:

I, MATTHEW REED, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR OF THE TOWN OF ELLINGTON, a municipality having its territorial limits within the County of Tolland and State of Connecticut, do hereby certify the following is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Board of Selectman of the Town of Ellington held on SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, of the board meeting, at which meeting a duly constituted quorum of the Board of Selectman was present and acting throughout and that such resolution has not been modified, rescinded or revoked and is at present in full force and effect:

RESOLVED, that LORI SPIELMAN, who is the FIRST SELECTMAN of the TOWN OF ELLINGTON, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a certain contract with the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, and affix the town seal, if any.

In Witness whereof, the undersigned has affixed his/her signature and the town seal, if any, this the _____ day of _____, 2024.

(Signature)
MATTHEW REED, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

(Date)

J. Vendor Profile Form and W-9 & Vendor Direct Deposit (ACH) Election Form:

The Town of Ellington is set up on the State Comptroller's website.

Ellington Farm Day

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, 10am-3pm



9-12 Market Park
72 Maple St.

DeCarli Equestrian Center

watch a live horse clinic

Greenwood Holistic Farm

tours, farm animals & fresh products

Oakridge Dairy / The Modern Milkman

dairy operations & sample fresh milk

Shop Farm Stands

Back to Roots Chrysanthemums - potted mums

Back to Roots Veggie Stand - fresh produce

Dzen Garden Market - 2 for 1 small ice cream cone special

Johnny Appleseed - hourly raffle

FARMfresh - egg and veggie stand

Charter Acres - fresh beef

Hall Memorial Library

Incubating eggs & fun crafts

Nellie McKnight Museum

Farm Exhibit

Sunset Valley Farms

Touch-A-Tractor, feed the pigs & watch cattle graze

For more info go to: www.ellington-ct.gov "Things to Do" tab

Town of Ellington

General Ledger - On Demand Report

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

From Date: 7/1/2024

To Date: 8/31/2024

Account Mask: ?????00270???????

Account Type: All

Print Detail

Include PreEncumbrance

Print accounts with zero balance

Include Inactive Accounts

Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

Budget Balance

Account Number / Description	Budget	Range To Date	YTD	Balance	Encumbrance	% Remaining Bud
1000.02.00270.10.50103 Part Time--Conservation Commission--	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,600.00	\$0.00	100.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60221 Advertising Printing--Conservation Commission--	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	100.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60222 Dues & Subscriptions--Conservation Commission--	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	100.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60223 Travel--Conservation Commission--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60234 Professional Development--Conservation Commission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60250 Contracted Services--Conservation Commission--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60254 St of CT Surcharges--Conservation Commission--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1000.02.00270.20.60341 Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
1000.02.00270.30.60341 Office Supplies--Conservation Commission--	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Fund: 1000	\$3,350.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,350.00	\$0.00	\$3,350.00

Town of Ellington

General Ledger - On Demand Report

Fiscal Year: 2024-2025

From Date:7/1/2024

To Date:8/31/2024

Account Mask: ??????00270???????

Account Type: All

Print Detail

Include PreEncumbrance

Print accounts with zero balance

Include Inactive Accounts

Filter Encumbrance Detail by Date Range

Budget Balance

Account Number / Description

Budget

Range To Date

YTD

Balance

Encumbrance

% Remaining Bud

Grand Total:

\$3,350.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$3,350.00

\$0.00

\$3,350.00

End of Report



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024, 7:00 PM

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE: TOWN HALL ANNEX, 57 MAIN STREET, ELLINGTON, CT
REMOTE ATTENDANCE: VIA ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chairman Rebecca Quarno, Regular Members James Gage (Remote), Sean Dwyer (Remote), George Nickerson, Laurie Burstein (Remote) and Alternate Ann Harford

ABSENT: Vice Chairman David Bidwell, Regular Member Robert Zielfelder, and Alternate Jon Kaczmarek

STAFF: John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner and Acting Recording Clerk

OTHERS PRESENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Rebecca Quarno called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Non-Agenda Items): None

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Review Plan of Conservation & Development, Chapter 4-Conservation Strategies, Natural Resource Preservation.

John Colonese, Assistant Town Planner, noted that the commission left off on the historic resources inventory and potential benefits to completing an inventory. He said he spoke with Mary Dunne at the State Historic Preservation Office (SPHO), and she noted that the inventory is an information gathering tool that identifies where there might be historical resources in the town. The Inventory will have a historical write-up on the town and will make recommendations for the National Registry. It will also identify properties that were associated with women and minority history. He added that there is still time for 2024 grant cycle and application can be made for September or October SHPO meetings although application would have to be made by August 9th to be reviewed at the September meeting and there is limited funding for grants this year.

Mr. Colonese clarified some information presented at the last meeting. He received a list of residential and commercial buildings by property address from the Assessor and was able to sort them by date of construction and that 100 homes and commercial buildings would bring the list through the 1840s according to this information. This does not include those homes in the 1990 National Register of Historic Places downtown historic area. It also doesn't include independent barn and shed structures,

which may add more. The minutes from the last meeting read that there were only 100 historic homes and commercial buildings on this list in total.

Commissioner Quarno asked the commission if they want to move forward with pursuing the inventory. Mr. Colonese added that the inventory fulfills the Plan of Conservation & Development (POCD) recommendation and may help with other POCD historic resource preservation recommendations.

Commissioner Dwyer said he thinks it should be pursued since it is in the POCD and that it may help owners of historic homes in the future.

Commissioner Burstein stated that the inventory may motivate owners to take care of their historic properties.

Chairman Quarno said she supports the inventory since it is recommended in the POCD.

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (BURSTEIN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPLY FOR A STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE GRANT FOR \$20,000 TO CREATE A HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY AS RECOMMENDED IN THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT.

2. Report - Farmland Preservation Program.

Mr. Colonese noted that there was a notice posted on the town's Facebook page for farmland preservation. Chairman Quarno said she saw the post. Mr. Colonese asked if there were other locations they would like the information posted such as the Ellington Newsletter. Chairman Quarno said posting in the newsletter is a good idea.

Mr. Colonese noted the Board of Selectman recommended the adoption of the tax abatement for eligible farming operations ordinance and referred it to the Board of Finance for review and approval yesterday. The ordinance under statute 12-81M will allow municipalities to abate up to 50% of property tax on certain farms like dairy farms, vegetable farms, orchards, and nurseries. After the Board of Finance, the proposed ordinance will have to go to Town Meeting. Ultimately, it will be a tax abatement that is processed by the Assessor's office.

3. Report - Open Space Preservation Program

a. Open Space Brochure.

Mr. Colonese reviewed the existing brochure and the draft open space brochure with the commission and asked for input on the draft brochure. He said he feels the old graph was a bit confusing, so he updated the graph. He also included an updated map and added public access properties to the list.

Commissioner Gage noted that a portion of the graph for town, land trust and water company land needs to have the percentage of land included. Mr. Colonese noted that the graph information was cut off by accident and he will correct the information. The commission agreed that the draft brochure looked good.

Commissioner Quarno asked that the open space brochures be made available in different locations in town once they are printed.

- b. Open Space/Farmland/Recreational Assets Inventory, Revised June 2024.

Mr. Colonese said the open space, farmland and recreational asset inventory was updated for the approved purchase of the 27-acre Brady property at 79 Kibbe Road.

- c. Executive Session to Discuss Possible Open Space Purchases.

Mr. Colonese asked the commission if they would like to go into executive session to discuss potential open space acquisitions for properties on Penfield Avenue and Green Road.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (GAGE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:35 PM FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE ACQUISITIONS INVITING COMMISSION MEMBERS AND THE ASSISTANT TOWN PLANNER.

MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (QUARNO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:44 PM. NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS WERE MADE DURING THE EXECUTIVE SESSION.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 23-24 Budget & Expenditure Update.

Mr. Colonese noted that this is the end of the fiscal year's closing budget but doesn't show the donations and memberships to the Connecticut Farmland Trust and Connecticut Farm Bureau. The Connecticut Farmland Trust sent a thank you letter.

2. Approval of June 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes.

MOVED (DWYER) SECONDED (HARFORD) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 11, 2024, AS WRITTEN.

3. Correspondence/Discussion:

- a. Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee - Monthly Agendas/Minutes.

Commissioner Harford noted they removed substantial amounts of knotweed by the pond on the Windermere Trail and the new walkway is almost complete on the Windermere Trail spur. Kiosks for some trails will be installed by the Department of Public Works. The June 5th Ellington Trails Committee meeting minutes were included with the agenda information.

- b. Beech Leaf Disease.

Mr. Colonese noted Commissioner Bidwell was going to provide additional information on the processes such as the types of experimental treatments they are doing and what materials they would use, but Commissioner Bidwell was not present tonight. Chairman Quarno noted this item will stay on the agenda.

Commissioner Harford asked when the dirt road on 79 Kibbe Road would be open. Mr. Colonese wasn't sure of the schedule and said he would check with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Colonese added that the dirt road had been covered with logs and wood

by the owner to prevent it from being used by motorized vehicles. It would also depend on when the property transfer is complete.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

**MOVED (HARFORD) SECONDED (DWYER) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING AT 7:58 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Colonese, Acting Recording Clerk



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee

CHAIRMAN
LINDA ANDERSON

VICE CHAIRMAN
CYNTHIA VAN ZELM

SECRETARY
DEANNA WAMBOLT-GULICK

55 MAIN STREET – PO BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

VALERIE AMSEL
JUDI MANFRE
DONNA ALLEN
LINDSAY NEUBECKER
BILL SCHULTZ
TOM PALSHAW
DAN CHAMBERLIN
ROBERT BARONE
ANN HARFORD

Ad Hoc Ellington Trails Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 7, 2024
Town Hall Annex

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Anderson, Tom Palshaw, Robert Barone, Cynthia van Zelm, Valerie Amsel, Donna Allen, Ann Harford, Dan Chamberlin, Judi Manfre

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lindsay Neubecker, William Shultz, Deanna Wambolt-Gulick

I. Call to Order

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

II. Citizens' Forum: There were no public comments.

III. Approval of Minutes

A. June 5, 2024

MOVED (VAN ZELM), SECONDED (ALLEN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 5, 2024 MEETING.

IV. Old Business

A. Hockanum River Crew Report

Ms. Harford said the crew mowed near the pond at Windermere. They also noted that the first bridge on the Franklin Road trail is damaged on one side. Ms. Anderson will check with Town Planner Lisa Houlihan to see if it is ok to work on that bridge.

Ms. Harford said they also cleared out the area near the former radio station.

B. Boardwalk – Hockanum

Ms. Anderson said the boardwalk was finished today and thank yous were sent to the kids who worked on the boardwalk. Ms. Anderson gave a special thanks to Ms. Amsel for leading the effort.

Ms. Amsel said there are not currently handrails on the bridge. Mr. Barone will look at the boardwalk to see if handrails are necessary.

C. Conservation Commission Report

Ms. Harford said the Commission is looking at a parcel on Green Road to purchase for open space preservation. The Town of Ellington previously bought land along Kibbe Road.

D. Kiosks

Ms. Amsel said the kiosks were not installed yet. Ms. Anderson said that Ellington Public Works is very busy, but they hope to install them before October. Pea stone has been bought to secure the kiosks once they are in place.

E. Emergency Signs

Mr. Palshaw said all the emergency signs and reflectors have been purchased. He needs help putting the signs up. They have reflective material.

F. Maps

Maps for the kiosks have been laminated at the library for Kimball and Metcalf. Ms. Anderson needs to walk Crystal to get the accurate mileage for the map.

G. Road Signs

Ms. Anderson said road signs directing people to Batz and Windermere have been put up.

H. Easements for West Road

Ms. Harford said she will talk to one of her acquaintances about a contact at Merrill Industries to discuss a possible easement.

I. Eagle Scout Project

Ms. Anderson said one Eagle Scout finished picnic tables for Ellington Highlands. He will also install a platform for the picnic tables. Ms. Anderson will talk to First Selectman Lori Spielman to see if he can get access to a clear field to place the picnic tables.

Ms. Anderson said she met with another Eagle Scout who is working on chess and checkerboards to be placed at Batz near the free little library.

J. Batz Wildflower Field

Ms. Anderson reported that the wildflowers at Batz are blooming! They include bachelor buttons, milky weed, cone flower, and black-eyed susan. The bees are pollinating the flowers. She is working on signs to warn visitors about adjacent poison ivy. Spraying is also being done to kill some of the poison ivy.

K. Gates for Crystal Ridge

Ms. Anderson will order gates from Tractor Supply for Crystal Ridge. She said Public Works will not be able to install until next year as they are so busy.

V. New Business**A. Blazing – Ellington Highlands**

The Committee reviewed two draft versions of blaze colors for Ellington Highlands. The Committee agreed to go with version two. Ms. Anderson said blazing may not be done right away.

B. Bridge at Ellington Highlands - Mowing

See above under IV.I.

VI. Subcommittee Reports**A. Treasurer**

Ms. Anderson said \$100 has been spent thus far in this fiscal year (started July 1). The Committee's proposed budget of \$5,350 was fully approved in the Town's FY24/25 budget. The Committee was able to spend down last year's money to approximately \$200.

B. Maintenance**1. Metcalf, Batz and Kimball**

Ms. Amsel said there has not been much work done at Metcalf, Batz, and Kimball lately.

She noted that Metcalf does need some weeding. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Allen will do some weeding and also spray for poison ivy

Ms. Anderson said she worked with a young volunteer to clean up at Batz. The Town Public Works crew mowed near the amphitheater and outhouse at Batz.

Ms. Amsel said there may be the need to secure a bridge at Kimball. Ms. Anderson thought the Boy Scouts or the Green Earth Club may be able to help.

C. Community Outreach

1. Astronomy Event – August 12, Pinney Field, 9 pm – Members Attending?

Ms. Allen, Ms. Anderson, and Ms. Manfre will attend.

2. Farmers Market - September 14, 8:30 am -12:30 pm – Set Up Shift 8:30-10:30 am, Work Booth/Breakdown Shift 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Ms. Anderson and Ms. van Zelm are committed. Ms. Amsel and Ms. Manfre are maybes. Ms. Anderson said we will nail down volunteers at the September meeting.

3. 3 Foragers at Batz with Hall Memorial Library – September 21, Morning

Ms. Anderson said she is waiting to hear on time.

4. Trail of Treats – October 21 (changed since meeting) – Set Up Booth and Assist Lions Club

Ms. Anderson said she will help a bit with planning. Committee members will be needed to assist at the booth. Ms. Manfre said she can drop by with booth decorations. Ms. Amsel and Ms. Allen offered to help staff the booth.

5. Annual Thanksgiving Walk – Saturday, November 30

6. Mini Golf at the Library – No Dates Yet

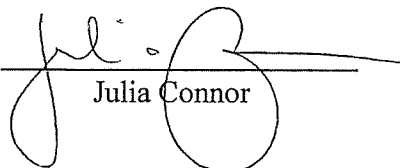
7. Bird Walk at Batz – May 3 (rain date May 4), 7:30 am

8. Earth Day – April 26, 2025, Town Green

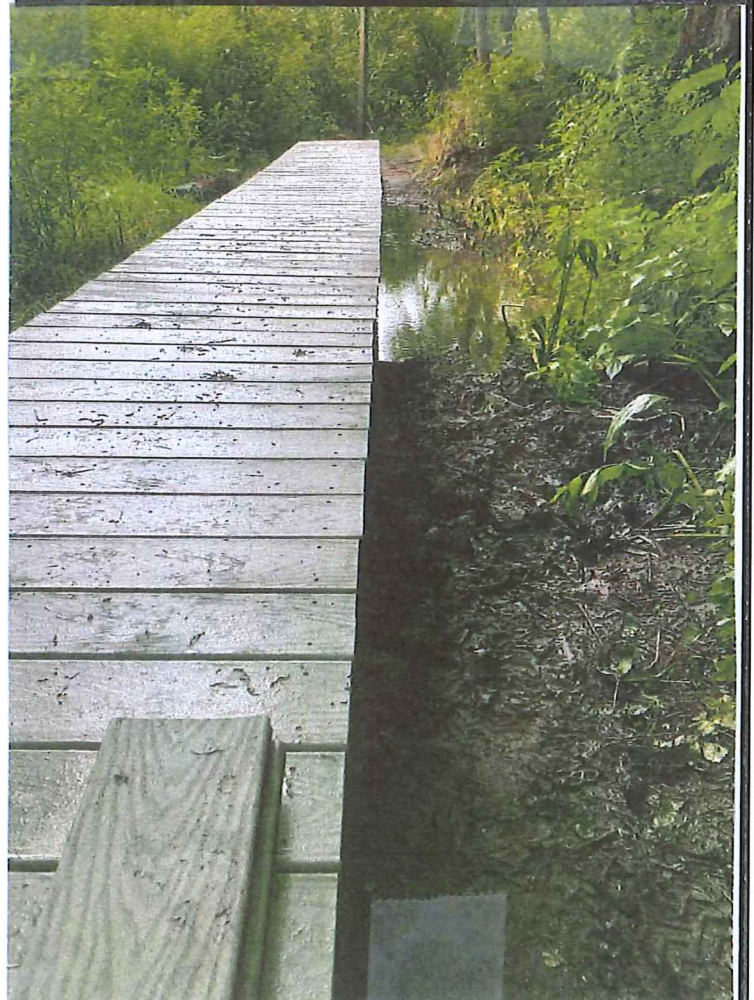
VII. Adjournment

MOVED (AMSEL), SECONDED (BARONE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:45 PM.

Prepared by Cynthia van Zelm; submitted by


Julia Connor

Windermere Footbridge 2024





ELLINGTON

Annual Report

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

Vision

That all North Central District Health Department member communities, regardless of circumstance, enjoy optimal health status and achieve the highest quality of life possible.

Overview

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) provides our eight (8) Member-Towns with full time public health services. We are on call 24/7 for emergencies. The Health District is governed by a Board. Ellington is represented by Fred Journalist and Dianne Trueb. The Health District is comprised of Environmental Health, Community Health, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, & Administration Sections.

Mission Statement

The North Central District Health Department promotes and protects the optimal health status and well being of our communities by:

- administering public health regulations
- promoting and engaging community partnerships
- promoting primary prevention and health education, and
- ensuring public health emergency preparedness



NCDHD Nurse, Kori, with Dianne Trueb at the Ellington Farmers Market on Sept 16th, 2023.

Follow us on our Facebook page at North Central District Health Department



Or on our Instagram page @northcentraldistricthd

NCDHD Activities

Highlights

The Health District has been active in seeking funding opportunities to continue supporting critical public health programming. During the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Health District applied for, and were awarded, two competitive grants. The first grant is a state grant to combat tobacco use and vaping, with a 5-year, \$75,000 a year award. Tobacco cessation classes will be offered in English and Spanish, and there will be options for virtual classes as well! The second grant is a federal grant to combat opioid overdoses. We partnered with the City of Hartford on this project, which will span five years, with an annual award to the Health District of approximately \$200,000 a year. We are pleased to be able to continue our opioid overdose work with first responders and other local partners.

The Health District also received non-competitive funding to assess and address immunization gaps within our jurisdiction, and workforce development funds to support the rebuilding of the public health workforce.

Food Protection

In February 2023, the CT Department of Public Health adopted the FDA Food Code. The Health District is responsible for conducting plan reviews of all proposed food service establishments, renovations, and reviewing changes of ownership of existing food establishments. In addition to inspecting restaurants, NCDHD inspections the broad range of food establishments that are defined as serving the public. Temporary food events, which include fairs, carnivals, car shows, and other public events are increasing significantly. The number of food trucks is also on the rise with food truck events becoming very popular.

Food Protection

FY23-FY24

Food Service

Inspections: 47

Plan Reviews: 6

Temporary Events: 51



Septic Systems

NCDHD is responsible for the issuance of permits for on-site sewage disposal facilities. Soil investigation, the location and method of installation are governed by the Public Health Code and are enforced by NCDHD. This process requires preliminary site reviews, comprehensive soil testing, review of plans, installation inspections and a final issuance of a Permit to Discharge.

Septic Systems

FY23-FY24

Soil Tests: 16

Plan Reviews: 41

Septic Permits: 34

B100* Reviews: 91

Well Permits: 7

*Reviews for additions, garages, decks, pools, etc.



Day Care Centers

Day Care centers are licensed by the CT-DPH.

NCDHD conducts an environmental inspection once every two (2) years and provides that inspection to the state as is required for re-licensure.

Day Care Centers

FY23-FY24

Qty: 9

Complaints

NCDHD is responsible for investigating a broad range of complaints including, but not limited to: housing, sewage overflow, food service, water quality, refuse/garbage and other miscellaneous complaints. Each complaint received into NCDHD is investigated by one of our Sanitarians or Environmental Specialists.

Complaints

FY23-FY24

Housing: 30
Sewage Overflow: 3
Food Service: 4
Miscellaneous: 15
Water Quality: 2
Refuse/Garbage: 3
Total: 57

Private Wells

NCDHD approves applications for the drilling of new private water supply wells. Once a well is drilled, the water must be tested by an approved laboratory and the results reviewed by NCDHD staff. For information on how to maintain your drinking water, please visit:

<http://www.ncdhd.org/private-drinking-water-wells>



Wells

FY23-FY24

Well Permits: 7
Water Test: 8

Recreational Swimming & Public Pools

FY23-FY24

Recreational Swimming: 1
Licensed & Inspected: 6

Tattoo Parlors

The Health District registers tattoo parlors to ensure that the technicians are licensed and receive annual training in disinfection from a licensed physician.

Tattoo Parlors

FY23-FY24

Registered: 0

Recreational Swimming & Public Pools

Public pools within the District are licensed and inspected annually. NCDHD pool inspections focus on public safety and cleanliness.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, NCDHD conducts weekly bathing water sampling at local beaches within the district. The water is tested for E.coli bacteria and closure recommendations are made for locations with elevations.



Lead

Connecticut law requires children to be tested for lead twice before the age of three. The most common cause of lead poisoning in children is exposure to lead based painted surfaces. Lead-based paint is often found in houses built before 1978. There is no safe level of lead. Lead in the body can cause learning delays and impact growth.

NCDHD conducts environmental lead inspections to identify lead-based hazards in response to reports of children with elevated blood lead levels. Connecticut laws have become more protective of children, resulting in a significant increase in lead cases.



FY23-FY24

Cases: 86

Lead

*Lead numbers reported are for the entire Health District, not by town

Barber Shops, Beauty and Nail Salons

Barber Shops, Beauty and Nail Salons

FY23-FY24

Licensed & Inspected: 3
Plan Reviews: 2

NCDHD reviews and approves plans for cosmetology salons, and barber shops, and licenses and inspects these establishments. Re-inspections are conducted as necessary.



Communicable Diseases/Nursing

Our Public Health Nurses are dedicated to overseeing and recording all legally mandated reportable diseases, ensuring the health and safety of our community. In addition to this critical work, we manage both active and latent tuberculosis cases with the utmost care.

Each fall, the health district offers convenient flu clinics to help protect residents from seasonal influenza, and we handle billing with several insurance providers to make this process seamless for our constituents. We also provide blood pressure screenings at no cost, promoting heart health and early detection of potential issues. Currently, the Public Health Nursing Staff are working on an immunization grant to fill the gaps in immunization services, striving to provide support to our towns.



Public Health Preparedness

The North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) actively participates in local, regional, and statewide planning, training and exercises. This is done to ensure our policies, procedures, training and equipment are current and capable of responding to emergency situations. These situations are varied along a broad spectrum of potential threats to include severe weather, emergent diseases, endemic diseases and man-made disasters.



NCDHD team member Jessica, with Lori Spielman, at the Ellington Earth Day event on April 20th, 2024. They were able to give out educational materials and engage with our residents.

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

August 12, 2024

Dear John Colonese,

I hope this letter finds you well. As I write this, the temperature is sweltering and the humidity high. I'm grateful to have access to nearby forests and streams to help keep cool. I hope you are also finding solace in nature.

It is with great excitement that I share the included report, "State of the Lands: Results from the 2023-24 Connecticut Land Trust Census." This report is a testament to the significant impact that your support has had on land conservation in our state.

Thanks to your generosity, CLCC was able to undertake this ambitious census project, gathering invaluable data from land trusts across Connecticut. You made this possible, and ensured that CLCC has a complete and detailed understanding of land conservation efforts, successes, and needs.

The insights gained from this census are already being put to use. By understanding the specific needs and priorities of land trusts, we are delivering programs, services, and information in more targeted and tailored ways. This data-driven approach allows us to be more efficient and impactful, ensuring that your contributions support the programs that land trusts need most.

The field of conservation is constantly evolving, and your continued support is essential as we help land trusts navigate both traditional conservation work and new, emerging areas of focus. Whether it's through enhancing climate resilience, engaging with new audiences, or integrating innovative conservation practices, your support of CLCC provides the resources, assistance, and expertise that land trusts are asking for.

Together, we are empowering land trusts to achieve both their immediate and long-term conservation goals.

If you would like to discuss the findings of this report or learn more about our plans moving forward, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

I am incredibly grateful for your continued commitment to CLCC's mission. Your generosity not only sustains our work - it also strengthens the entire conservation community in Connecticut.

With gratitude,



Amy Blaymore Paterson
Executive Director
Connecticut Land Conservation Council



State of the Lands

Results from the 2023-24 Connecticut Land Trust Census

CONNECTICUT
Land Conservation Council

Introducing the Connecticut Land Trust Census

For more than a century, land trusts in Connecticut have diligently worked to protect the natural and working lands that define our state. As the only statewide land trust service provider, Connecticut Land Conservation Council (CLCC) is proud to work alongside these organizations, supporting their work through grantmaking, advocacy, capacity building programs, and more.

To gain further insights into the state of land conservation in Connecticut, CLCC embarked on a groundbreaking project—a census of all Connecticut land trusts.

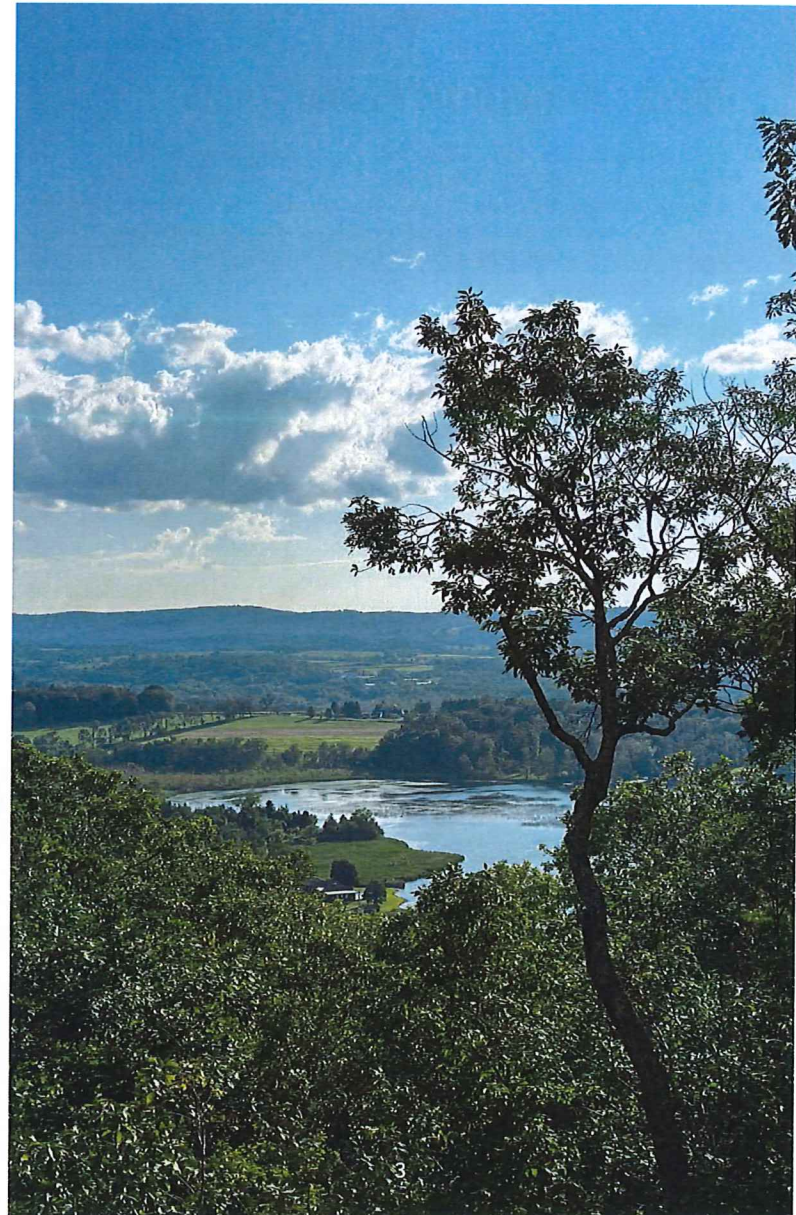
This census was developed with three objectives:

- 1** Quantify the pace and scale of land conservation by land trusts—something that has never before been comprehensively documented.
- 2** Understand land trusts' current and future conservation priorities, as well as the ways that conservation serves communities across the state.
- 3** Identify ways to better support land trusts in achieving their near and long-term goals.

Thanks to thoughtful responses from land trusts, CLCC was able to compile a robust dataset that met these objectives. In the following pages we share high-level results, noting that CLCC has further parsed this data to explore correlations, regional trends, and more.

The census results have proved invaluable, shedding light on successes and highlighting areas where CLCC can provide greater support. CLCC will continue to use these insights to shape priorities and the way we serve the land trust community.

We again extend our heartfelt thanks to all the land trusts that participated in the census. Your contributions are instrumental in shaping a stronger, more enduring land conservation community in Connecticut.



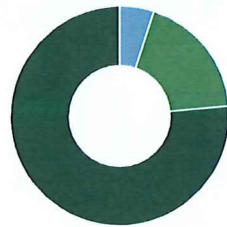
Meet Connecticut's Land Trusts

Connecticut's land trusts are as varied as they are numerous, each uniquely contributing to both the needs of their communities and to statewide conservation efforts. Their histories span more than a century — and with missions that last into perpetuity, they will continue to play a pivotal role in protecting special places across our state.

How Many Land Trusts are in Connecticut?

CLCC is often asked this question. Through this census, CLCC identified 117 land trusts, defined as:

- Nonprofit organizations that hold conservation interests
- Have a primary mission of conserving and stewarding land in perpetuity
- Identify themselves as a land trust

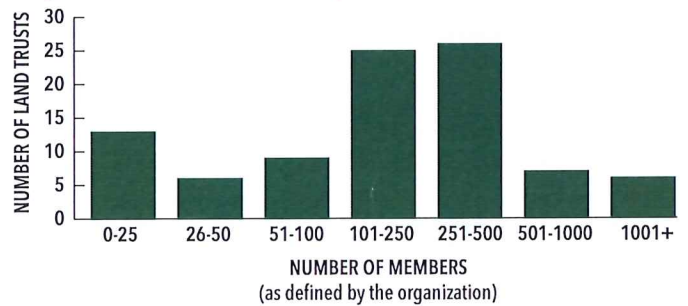


89 Single Town
22 Multi-Town/Regional
6 Statewide

117 Total Land Trusts

There certainly exist additional conservation organizations that do not meet all of these criteria or are unknown to CLCC.

Organizational Membership



Organizational Longevity



HOW DOES CONNECTICUT STACK UP?

Connecticut has the third most land trusts of any state, and the third most land trusts per capita.

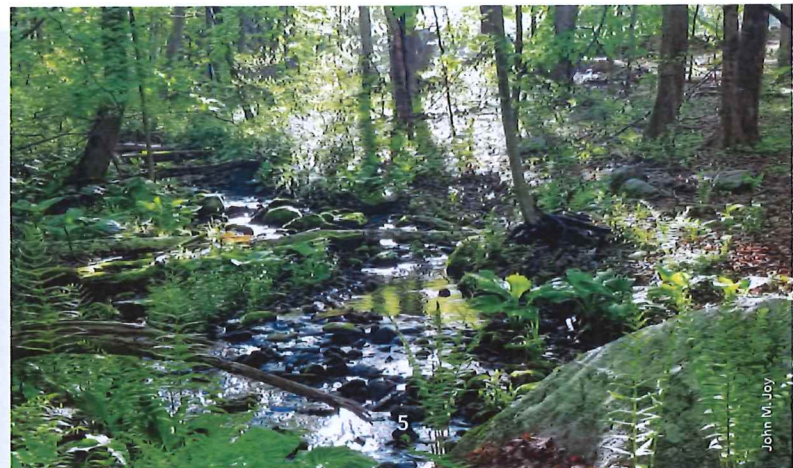
Median Membership

- Connecticut = 195
- New England = 300
- National = 250

Land Trust Members of CLCC: 87
(74% of total)

Accredited: 29 land trusts 
(25% of total, New England average = 25%)

Enrolled in TerraFirma: 24 
(21% of total, New England average = 30%)



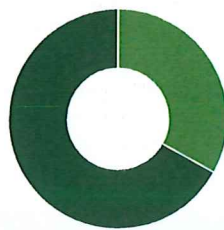
John W. Luby

Staffing and Funding

As land conservation becomes more costly and complex, land trusts are increasingly looking to build capacity by staffing their organizations.

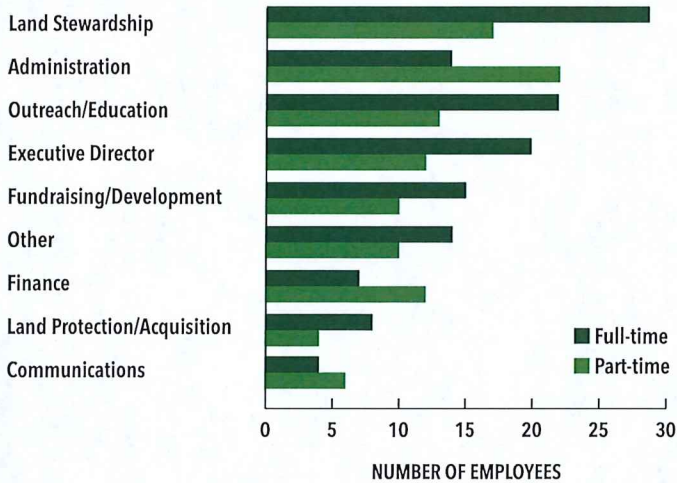
Connecticut's land trust community employed 128 full-time and 133 part-time staff in 2022.

Land Trusts with Paid Employees



67% All Volunteer
33% Paid Staff

Staff Roles at Land Trusts

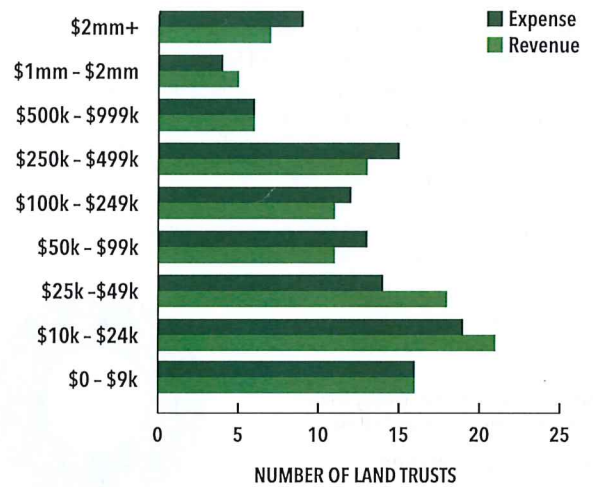


Other = DEI (1), GIS (1), Legal (1), Policy (2), Science/Research (12)

Operating Budgets

Annually, land trusts must raise and expend funds on mission-driven projects and programs. Across the board, there was great disparity in general operating budgets, with median revenue* of \$48,500 and median expenses* of \$35,000.

*These figures reflect non-zero values, and exclude capital expenses such as land purchases.



HOW DOES CONNECTICUT STACK UP?

Median Operating Budget

- Connecticut = \$40,000
- New England = \$140,000
- National = \$80,000

Thriving, Striving, or Surviving?

To better understand land trust capacity, organizational health, and sustainability, CLCC used census responses to categorize land trusts as thriving, striving, or surviving. This categorization was based on a land trust’s self-reported ability to:

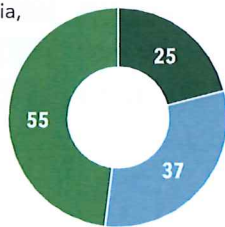
- Raise the funds needed to carry out mission
- Sustain and grow community support, and be relevant to their community
- Retain and/or recruit the expertise and/or personnel needed to operate effectively
- Recruit volunteers, members, donors, and supporters
- Effectively steward their conserved lands
- Engage the next generation of conservation leaders
- Conserve properties that are of high priority in their service area
- Adapt to change (climate, community, needs, etc.)
- Be willing to collaborate on new ventures

Also included were the land trust’s accreditation status, and the size of their general operating revenue.

Uniform weight was assigned to each criteria, and a total score, out of 100%, was calculated for each land trust.

Land trusts were then categorized based on their score, as follows:

- 80% or higher **THRIVING**
- 50% - 80% **STRIVING**
- 50% or lower **SURVIVING**



NUMBER OF LAND TRUSTS in each category

Individual land trust scores and categorization are confidential, and will only be presented in this aggregated form.

Using the Classification

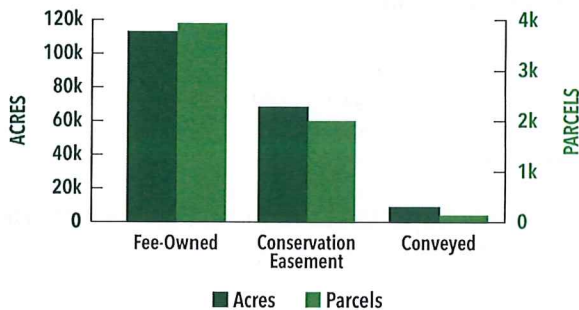
This classification highlights the broad spectrum across which Connecticut’s land trusts operate, providing a general picture of the land trust landscape.

The results of this analysis also demonstrate that there is not a “one size fits all” approach to providing services for land trusts. Informed by the results of this census, CLCC will continue taking a tailored and targeted approach to programs and services.



Land and Its Uses

Connecticut land trusts have made significant strides in land conservation, safeguarding **190,550 acres*** through a combination of fee ownership, conservation easements, and conveyances to other entities.



Future Conservation Goals

Connecticut's land trusts are not stopping there—56% of land trusts indicated that there is a lot of land left to conserve in their service area. Further, 62% of land trusts said that they have mapped or otherwise identified the future conservation projects that are their highest priority.

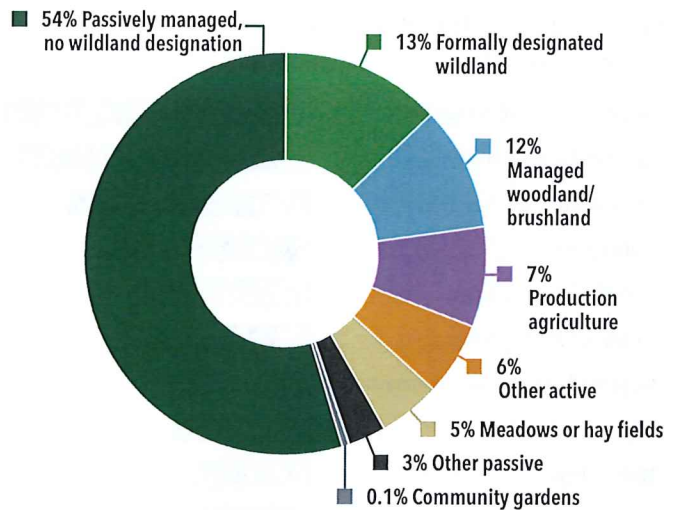
Across the state, this totals to nearly **128,000 acres** identified as future conservation priorities.

If realized, this would total approximately 320,000 acres, which is equivalent to 90% of the goal set for land trusts and other conservation partners through Connecticut's 2020 Green Plan.

*CLCC cross referenced acreage data with the Land Trust Alliance's (LTA) 2020 census, and found consistency across easement, fee-owned, and conveyed lands. CLCC did not ask about land protected by other means, which accounts for the discrepancy between CLCC and LTA's reported totals for Connecticut.

How is Land Managed?

Once protected, lands managed by land trusts are designated and maintained for various uses, ensuring their ecological and community value. Each designation reflects specific management practices and conservation goals, highlighting the diverse approaches land trusts take to preserve and utilize these vital spaces.



Other Interests Held By Land Trusts

- Conservation easements on other land trust's property (12)
- Trail or pedestrian easements (29)
- Community meeting space (8)
- Historical sites and/or structures (29)
- Management agreements for land owned by a municipality, water company, or other nonprofit (19)

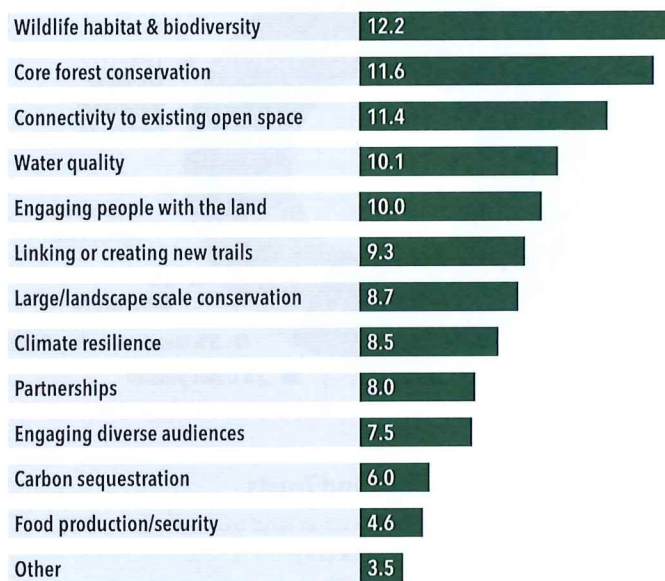
Future Priorities

Looking ahead, Connecticut land trusts are adapting to evolving conservation priorities to remain impactful and relevant within their communities.

Traditional goals, such as conserving wildlife habitat and building contiguous networks of land continue to be top priorities. However, the field of conservation is dynamic, and new priorities are emerging.

Future Conservation Priorities

(Maximum score = 15)



Future Partnerships

To build capacity for these emerging priorities, land trusts have developed and are expanding partnerships and collaborations with groups whose mission are not primarily related to land conservation.

Top 5 Current Partnerships*

- Education (54)
- Health and wellness (54)
- Other conservation organizations (51)
- Environmental advocacy (49)
- Science and research (48)

Other Partnerships that Land Trusts Want to Increase*

- Accessibility and disability rights (36)
- Climate Change (34)
- Preservation of native cultural landscapes and/or other land concerns of indigenous peoples (32)
- Recycling, renewable energy, and/or other environmental causes (28)
- Social and Environmental Justice (26)

Notably, there was no single category in which land trusts wanted to decrease partnerships, highlighting the positive outcomes they anticipate or are experiencing through collaboration.

By embracing these evolving priorities and new partnerships, land trusts are positioning themselves to meet the growing and diverse needs of their communities, ensuring a sustainable and inclusive future for all.

**Not all land trusts responded to this question, so the number of land trusts (represented in the parentheses) should not be compared to the total of 117 land trusts.*

Partnerships Among Land Trusts

As Connecticut land trusts aim to expand their impact and capacity, collaboration becomes a key strategy. By partnering with one another, they can leverage each other's strengths and achieve larger-scale conservation goals.

These partnerships enable land trusts to share resources, expertise, and best practices, enhancing their collective ability to preserve and protect the state's natural landscapes.

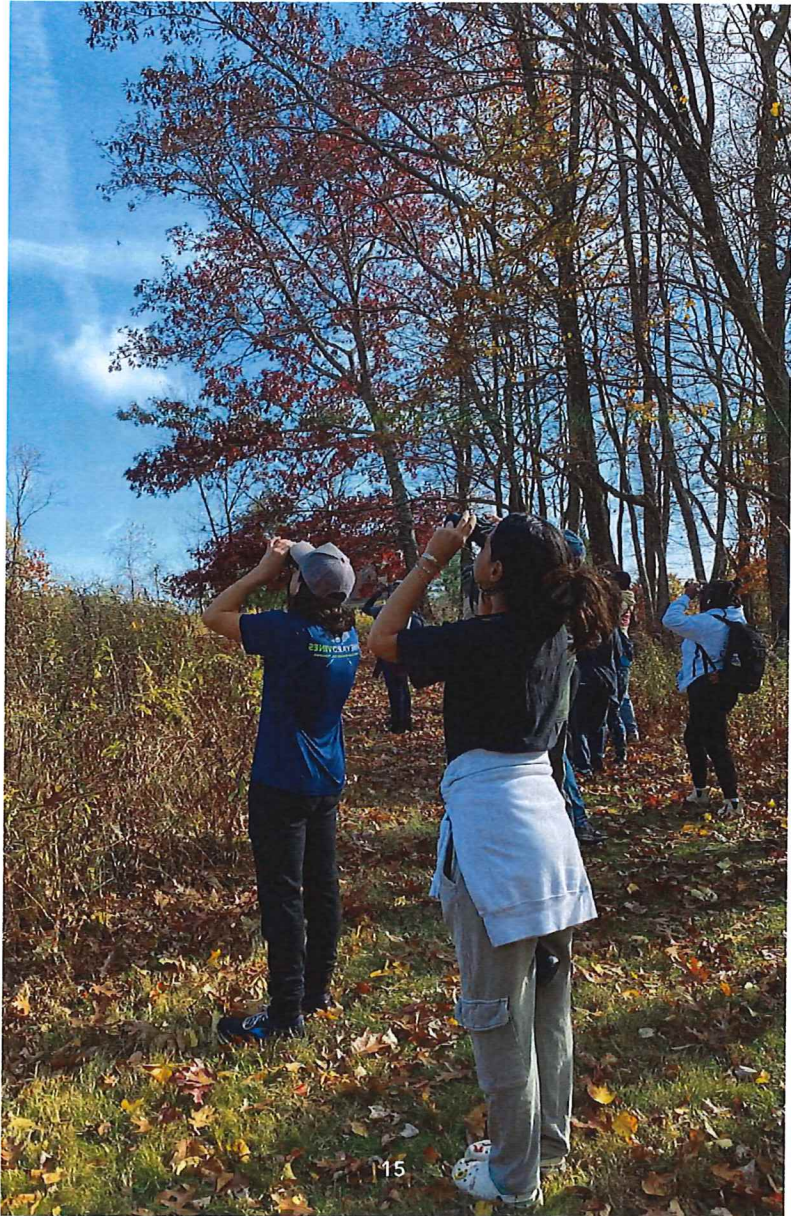
Likelihood of Future Partnerships Among Land Trusts

	Very unlikely	Unlikely	Neutral	Likely	Very likely	Already doing this
Shared staff and/or services	11%	13%	24%	23%	18%	12%
Joint programming	0%	2%	14%	35%	22%	27%
Joint conservation opportunities	2%	6%	13%	31%	21%	27%
Merging	29%	30%	26%	6%	5%	4%
Regional conservation partnership or other regional alliance	4%	5%	28%	26%	11%	26%

35%-39%
 30%-34%
 25%-29%
 20%-24%
 0%-19%

Most land trusts express a strong interest in collaborative efforts such as shared staff, joint programming, and joint projects, recognizing the benefits of pooling resources and expertise.

However, there is notable resistance to the idea of mergers, reflecting a strong sense of local identity across Connecticut. While this local focus is essential, it also suggests a necessary balance between maintaining an organization's identity and advancing the organization's mission.



Supporting Connecticut's Land Trusts

From the outset, a goal of the census was to better understand the needs of land trusts across the state, and how CLCC could deliver programs and services that best address those needs. Land trusts consistently expressed a moderate to strong need for additional support, capacity, information, and resources across all program areas, with specific forms of support outlined in the accompanying graphs.

Support Needed for Land Acquisition

(Maximum score = 10)

Help identifying new sources of funding	8.3
Matching funds for other acquisition-related grants	7.2
Grant writing support for state and federal grants	6.6
Funding for due diligence and transaction costs	6.3
Bridge loans and/or conservation financing	4.9
Topical workshops/webinars	4.3

Support Needed for Land Stewardship & Management

(Maximum score = 12)

Help identifying new sources of funding	10.1
Matching funds for other stewardship-related efforts	8.7
Grant writing support for state and federal grants	8.1
Consulting services for land stewardship projects	7.3
Resources for conservation defense	6.7
Remote monitoring, GIS and other technology	6.2

The most common needs across program areas relate to funding. This may correlate with land trusts' limited operating budgets, with the median general operating budget being just \$40,000 per year. Given these small operating budgets, it is understandable that land trusts emphasize the need for additional financial resources.

Support Needed for Outreach, Education & Engagement

(Maximum score = 8)

Help identifying new sources of funding	5.8
Strategies for volunteer engagement	4.9
Strategies for engaging new audiences	4.7
Communication strategies, tools, and templates	4.5
Help facilitating organizational partnerships	4.0
Topical workshops/webinars	4.0

Support Needed for Operation & Governance

(Maximum score = 12)

Help increasing general operating funds	9.9
Strategic and succession planning	9.7
Hiring/increasing staff	8.3
Topical workshops/webinars	7.5
Meeting LTA standards/practices; accreditation	7.5
Sample internal practices and policies	6.7

A Positive Outlook

Connecticut land trusts are generally optimistic about their future. When asked about the organization's current ability compared to its predicted future ability in key areas, land trusts tended to have a positive outlook.

Exploring the results of the individual categories helps to paint a more complete picture of the areas of optimism and concern among land trusts.

Land Trusts Are Optimistic About Their Future Ability To:

- Recruit members, donors, and supporters
- Retain and/or recruit the expertise and/or personnel needed to govern effectively
- Develop and sustain strategic partnerships
- Conserve new properties in their service area
- Recruit volunteers
- Sustain and grow community support
- Effectively steward their conserved lands
- Adapt to climate change

Land Trusts Are Concerned About Their Future Ability To:

- Raise funds needed to carry out mission and meet strategic objectives
- Be relevant to their community
- Engage the next generation of conservation leaders
- Keep the promise of perpetuity

These concerns underscore the ongoing need for robust support and innovative strategies to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of land trusts.

Census Design & Methodology

CLCC engaged Primrose Research Group to design the census questions and analyze the data. In September 2023, land trusts were invited to respond online or via paper, and after five months of follow-up a 90% response rate was achieved. CLCC gleaned basic organizational information from public sources for non-responding land trusts, leading to partial data for some census questions.

Accuracy & Limitations

Data used in this report was self-reported by land trusts and not independently verified. CLCC lightly cleaned the dataset of major outliers or errors but relied on land trusts for accuracy. This research methodology introduces potential variability in accuracy, but overall trends and insights remain valuable.

Future Censuses

CLCC recognizes that some data, such as acreage, can change rapidly. Others, like conservation priorities, evolve more slowly. Given the substantial effort involved in conducting this census, CLCC's plan is to update the Census every five years. This regular cadence will enable us to examine changes and trends from one census year to the next.

Continued Research & Application

CLCC will continue analyzing this data and integrating it with other datasets to answer critical questions about conservation in Connecticut. This ongoing analysis will enhance our support of land trusts and ensure that conservation efforts are effective and equitable.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We extend our deepest gratitude to the land trusts that participated in this census, and to the Land Trust Alliance for providing regional and national data. Your contributions have provided invaluable insights that will shape the future of land conservation in Connecticut.



Peter Smith

About Us

CLCC is the only statewide service provider and voice for all Connecticut land trusts. CLCC is a leader in advocacy and policy, education and training, and technical assistance to empower Connecticut's land trusts and ensure the long-term viability of land conservation efforts in the state.

Since its formation in 2006, CLCC has grown into one of the most effective land trust service associations in the country, offering a wide range of programming and services.

CLCC prides itself on its commitment to building partnerships that advance land conservation, strengthen land trusts, and build healthy and sustainable communities.

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Gone with the wind: Beech leaf disease spreads in New England, but these CT scientists could halt it

Connecticut Public Radio | By [Jennifer Ahrens](#)

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LISTEN • 1:11



Tyler Russell / Connecticut Public

Nematodes take up residence in the leaves and buds of beech trees, feeding on and manipulating the plant in ways that cause unnatural discoloration. Through consecutive seasons of this invasion the nematodes will cause the foliage to die off, and eventually kill the tree.

In a small forest in Windsor, Connecticut, scientist Richard Cowles is among a team of Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station employees spending his days studying a microscopic roundworm causing [beech leaf disease](#).

The organism, a foliar nematode called *Litylenchus crenatae maccannii*, feeds on the tree's leaves and buds, causing premature leaf drop and weakening the tree so it is more susceptible to other pests and environmental stressors. [In recent years](#), scientists said the invasive species dampened New England's golden fall foliage because it caused unprecedented leaf drop.

Now, Cowles is trying to determine how such a tiny organism, which was first detected in Ohio in 2012, was able to [rapidly spread to all of New England](#) in less than 15 years.

"It's unknown how the disease spreads and there is no cure," officials told [The Associated Press](#) when the invasive worm was detected in Vermont for the first time last year.

But Cowles's research team might change that.

Tracing the worms from tiny water droplets, to beech leaves

Cowles said his research revealed the invasive organism "can be blown in little aerosolized droplets during a heavy rain event when it's very windy."

The distribution map for Beech leaf disease also suggests wind was playing a key role, according to Cowles.

"You can see the progress over time," he said. "You'll notice that there's a very strong pattern moving eastward quickly and then up the coast quickly, which are also the prevailing directions for the wind."

It's not just wind that's likely helping the organism spread, he said.

"This year, we have some evidence that they are also carried on the feet of birds during these rain events," Cowles said.

He said they have also learned that the migration of the tiny worm between trees can begin as early as mid-July, several weeks earlier than previously thought, and it lasts well into the fall.

"We're talking about dozens of nematodes in every cell between the veins of the leaf," Cowles said. "So there are literally millions or billions of nematodes that might be emerging from the leaves."



Tyler Russell / Connecticut Public

Rich Cowles Ph.D., an entomologist at the Valley Laboratory of the CAES in Windsor, shows the harm done by an infestation of nematodes that are slowly destroying Connecticut's beech tree population.

Shriveled leaves, reduced resilience

An infected beech will develop dark bands on its leaves or the leaves will become crinkled, small and leathery.

It's believed this invasive pest likely came from Asia, according to Cowles.

"Scientists have looked at the genetic sequence for the nematode here in North America and the one in Japan," Cowles said. "They're nearly identical."

Connecticut's beech trees have been in a steep decline and their growth has completely stagnated since the roundworm reached the state five years ago, according to state scientists.

"They may be barely managing to fulfill their metabolic demands," CAES assistant agricultural scientist Elisabeth Ward said.

Emaciated trees would mean bad news for wildlife, Ward said, since they rely on the beech tree nuts as a food source.

Scientists say its full environmental impact has not yet been felt in New England.

"Bear in mind that we have had only a few years to document this disease," state forest pathologist Robert Marra said. "Which is merely a blink in time when it comes to trees."

Testing solutions to save beech trees

The research at CAES isn't just focused on how the foliar nematode migrates from state to state, but also on how it can be combated.

Cowles said that while potassium phosphite is a good treatment to protect beech leaves from the roundworm, it's not economically possible to treat every beech in the state.

So he's testing two common compounds which can produce similar protective properties in plants.

"Some of these are aspirin and methyl salicylate, which is wintergreen flavoring," he said. "I'm applying these different products to beech saplings to see if we'll get a reduction in the number of leaves that show symptoms of infection by beech leaf disease."

Another CAES ongoing study involves testing European varieties of beech to hopefully find a variety that can withstand the roundworm's negative impact.

"There appears to be considerable genetic variation among European beech with respect to susceptibility to beech leaf disease," Cowles said.

The European trees might also be a good alternative to one day replace the nut production lost by the American beech.

Cowles notes that New England wildlife, like squirrels and birds, "go crazy over the nuts from European Beech, just as they do on American Beech."

This story includes reporting by The Associated Press. This story has been updated to show that potassium phosphite, not potassium phosphate, is used to protect beech leaves.

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