

Your State Lands are Vulnerable – Recent Examples

Over the past 5 years, there have been several examples of how your State Lands are vulnerable:

- In 2011, a developer proposed the swap of the 17-acre Clarke Creek Wildlife Management Area in Haddam near the Connecticut River for 87 acres of upland forest. Despite significant public controversy, this land swap (a.k.a. the Haddam Land Swap) was approved by the General Assembly and Governor. The swap fell apart when the developer was unwilling to pay ~\$1 million which was the difference between the values of these properties. The authority for this swap was rescinded in 2013.
- In 2012, wind energy developers proposed to DEEP a swap of 11 acres near a highway for 140 acres of the Nipmuck State Forest in Ashford. In their proposal, the developer neglected to mention that this area is renowned for being part of a beautiful Mountain Laurel Sanctuary. The developer was turned down in their direct request to DEEP, but they may turn to the Conveyance Act process to pursue this swap.
- In 2013, 8 acres of Hammonasset State Park was given for nothing to the town of Madison through the Conveyance Act. There were some protective sideboards placed on this giveaway, but it was approved in the waning hours of the 2013 session with no public debate.
- In 2015, 4.7 acres of Silver Sands State Park were proposed to be given away to the City of Milford, and two sand and gravel extraction companies proposed building private access roads across sensitive endangered species habitats in the Quinebaug Wildlife Management Area in eastern Connecticut. Fortunately, these proposals were removed from the final Conveyance Act.
- In 2016, 66 acres owned by CT DEEP alongside the Mystic River were proposed to be given to the town of Groton for economic development as well as recreational and open space purposes. Fortunately, this proposal was removed from the final Conveyance Act, but the Conveyance Act which was passed in special session contained 7 new sections of the bill that never received a public hearing.

Your Public Lands should not be so vulnerable, but they currently are. A constitutional amendment is necessary, and your support and involvement are greatly appreciated!