



Minutes of the CT Greenways Council Meeting 11/19/12

Council Members (X In attendance)

X (phone) Lois Bruinooge - Deputy Executive Director, The Last Green Valley

X Jan Collins - CT Horse Council

X Tracy Gionfriddo - Northeast Utilities – acting Secretary

Barbara Pfister Greenbaum - Tolland, CT

X David Gumbart – Town of Killingworth; The Nature Conservancy; CT Forest & Park Assoc.

X Joe Hickey - CT Forest & Park Assoc.

X Mark Paquette (chair) - Executive Director WINCOG

X Laurie Giannotti (DEEP Liaison) - Ex-Officio Member

X Katherine Rattan (DOT Non-Motorized Transportation Coordinator) - Ex-Officio Member

X Bob Dickinson – Appalachian Mountain Club

X (phone) William D. O’Neill - East Coast Greenway Alliance

Lisa Fernandez - Farmington Canal Rail to Trail Association

Guests: Steve Mitchell, Ken Shooshan-Stoller, Margo Burns

Mark Paquette called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM.

1. **Guest Discussion:** RC&D Greenways Survey - Margo Burns, LCRVCOG , RC&D chair
 - a. See handouts, website and maps.
 - b. Worked to find out status of the greenways development
 - c. More than just east of the CT River. Whole state.
 - d. Reviewed survey results.
 - e. Discussion on goals of group, details on how the Council can work with the group: partners with many different agencies. Would like to help groups in any way they can. Work with mapping to have better details and delineation with greenways that already exist. Changes to application question regarding boundaries.
2. **Chairman’s report (Mark):**
 - a. Minutes from September approved.
 - b. Ken Shooshan-Stoller: funding still exists, depends on States, NPOs have access to more. (from Kate) State controls RTP funding and still committed. CTDEP solicitation for 2013 and 2014 to align with Fed release of funds. Challenge is for larger projects and reporting requirements.

- c. Steve Mitchell: EC Greenway update. CT is #1 state for membership. Signage program issues in Simsbury area. Greenways plate issue: will come up in Legislature to have coffers re-established. Will have meeting for update of ECG emailed to group. Bill would like funding for graphics for posters at auto dealerships, Laurie will look at that and applications redo. Also had designations of areas such as Silver Sands in Milford and near the highway in Manchester. From Laurie: funding to fix Moosup drainage problems? Possible corporate funding to go to some of the restoration and upkeep.

3. Correspondence

- a) none

4. Ct. Department of Transportation & Bike Ped Advisory Committee Update – (Kate Rattan)

- a. Bike Ped Advisory committee annual report. Would like participation from Council. Update in a paragraph or two in two weeks. Laurie will do.
- b. Need to find new location for meeting. Will be Northeast Utilities.
- c. Right of way issues in Plainville.
- d. Western New England Greenways meeting: corridor follows many CT greenways and trails and into MA, VT, and into Canada. Coming up with on-road routing for sections. Working to designate federal bike routes (no funding attached) but alerts drivers and pushes for additional amenities.
- e. Working on area in Housatonic as go-around in West Cornwall near covered bridge off Route 128. State Forest property.
- f. Bolton Notch update: speaking with landowners in corridor of Bolton Notch. Will go on local streets for some of it. Going through local water authority lands to minimize impacts to water quality.
- g. Fairfield update for Merritt Parkway Trail Study: watch website for upcoming meetings.

5. Legislative report

- a. None.

6. Old Business

- a. Recreation Trails Grant Program (Laurie) – website is updated if you want to see status.
- b. Greenways Council Strategy – finalized at last meeting; publicity letter to Comm. Esty will be drafted by Mark. Agency can use as press release.
- c. Review of CT Greenways Map – Laurie will meet with “mapper” who will determine how best to include the National Heritage Corridors and National Recreational Trails in the Designated Greenways Map.

7. New Business

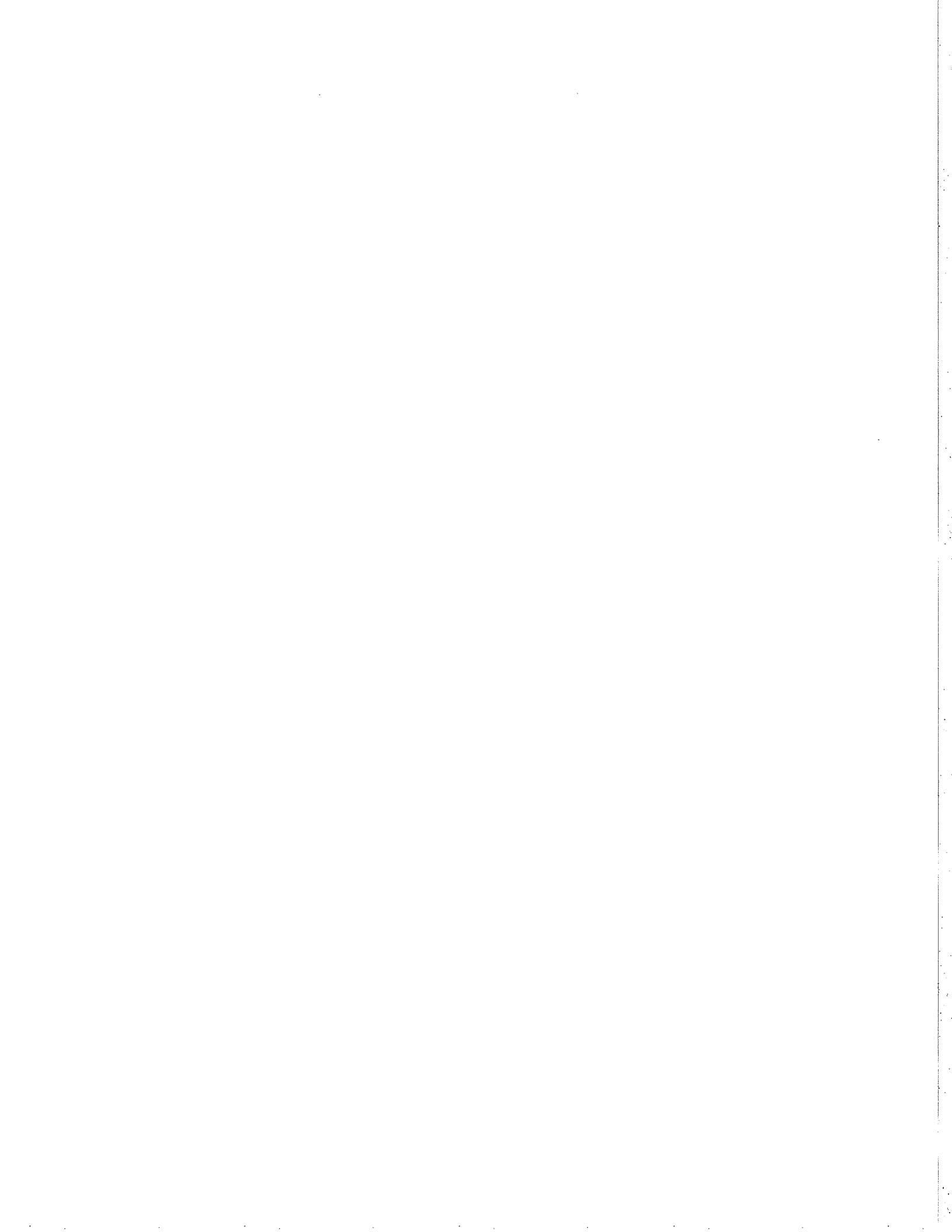
- a. DEEP Green Plan update underway: copies of website item. Copy of 5 year planning document online. Summary of how plan is going to be updated also available on site. Highlight data quality and availability (including mapping).

Also will look at acquisitions. No dates or deadlines for group. Last plan was 2007 to 2012 and will expire in a couple of weeks. Council will take a look and make suggestions. Graham Stevens will coordinate efforts.

b. Discussion of meeting location alternatives

8. Next meeting: January 14th at 9:30.

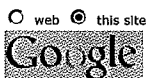
9. meeting adjourned at 10:54





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National RC&D Program
Liveable Communities
Greenways
Agricultural Viability
Environmental Review Team
Projects
HEAP
LULA
Contact Us
Events

Google Search



Greenways

Guiding Principle

Greenways provide a prime opportunity to connect people and communities, linking rural, suburban, and urban portions of eastern Connecticut while providing habitat protection and expanding open space and recreational opportunities.

Greenways

A 'Greenway' is defined within the CT General Statutes under Section 23-100 as a corridor of open space that:

- May protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources or offer opportunities for recreation or nonmotorized transportation,
- May connect existing protected areas and provide access to the outdoors,
- May be located along a defining natural feature, such as a waterway, along a man-made corridor, including an unused right-of-way, traditional trail routes or historic barge canals or
- May be a greenspace along a highway or around a village.



Cedar Lake - Chester, CT part of the Cockaponset - Menunketesuck Regional Greenway (Picture taken by LCRVCOG)

Goal

To increase the focus of RC&D and its partners on the development and the stewardship of greenways as a method of connecting rural, suburban, and urban communities with particular attention to natural resource protection, riparian and wildlife corridor connectivity, economic development, preservation of scenic resources and community character, and connection of environmental justice populations to public services.

Objective 1: Work with CT DEEP, NRCS, Regional Planning Organizations, University of Connecticut's Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) Community and Natural Resource Planning Program, conservation commissions, open space committees, land trusts, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, Connecticut Greenway Council, equestrian organizations and others to lead a focused effort to identify and connect the many fragmented and local greenways throughout Eastern Connecticut. Identify potential open space and greenway linkages across municipal and regional boundaries, with emphasis on river corridors, watersheds, and regional trails: Special focus to be given to the East Coast Greenway, Air Line Rail Trail, and the Quinimay Trail of Cockaponset State Forest and the Menunketesuck - Cockaponset Regional Greenway.

Strategies:

Strategies:

- Provide an informational brochure on where to go to learn of greenway and blueway connections within the State, New England, and New York and why they are important, and provide that resource through hardcopy mailing to conservation commissions, inland wetlands commissions, land trusts, and on the RC&D website.
- Promote/facilitate or help distribute comprehensive CT greenway publications which includes State, regional, and local greenway boundaries, descriptions, and purposes.

Objective 2: Find, coordinate, and support interested citizens, groups, organizations, and government bodies to participate in greenway development through intergovernmental, nonprofit, and NGO's collaborations.

Strategies:

- Provide support for (2) intermunicipal or regional non-profit conservation collaborative initiatives or continuing organizations.
- Provide grant assistance through administrative service and/or fiscal responsibility for (1) intermunicipal or regional non-profit organization.

Objective 3: Partner with the City of Hartford, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Capitol Region Council of Governments (CROCG), State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and neighborhood

groups to identify actionable next steps for the multi-use trail system along the Park River in Hartford and coordinate the completion of existing grants with the identification of additional funding resources.

Strategies:

1. Work with City of Hartford and Connecticut DEEP to transfer remaining project funds and responsibility on South Branch Trail to City of Hartford.
2. Work with Connecticut DEEP to re-scope remaining funds on North Branch Trail and proceed with creation of walking trail and outdoor classroom near Annie Fisher School.

Objective 4: Support connection of environmental justice populations to public services and partner in the development of non motorized corridors.

Strategies:

1. Assist (1) municipality and school district in understanding the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program concept and seek opportunities to link Sage Routes to School (SRTS) planning efforts to off- street trails and greenways systems.

Objective 5: Partner with CLEAR's Community and Natural Resource Planning Program, the CT DEEP and others to develop a model to assist communities with their greenway and open space mapping and planning initiatives.

Strategies:

1. Participate in (1) natural resource or land use conference concerning the inventory and mapping of open space and development of a statewide geospatial land records system.

Objective 6: Continue to coordinate and partner on greenway and blueway trail identification and statewide mapping and support Rivers Alliance of Connecticut with their statewide blueways initiative.

Strategies:

1. Make (3) global positioning systems (GPS) units and training available to municipal and conservation non-profits to facilitate, and in exchange for, completion of specific trail mapping projects to be included in the State of Connecticut, DEEP trail geographic information system (GIS) database.
2. Coordinate and/or support the planning of (1) blueway and greenway connection and access point.

Objective 7: Work to assist conservation organizations with land and trail stewardship capacity.

Strategies:

1. Develop and make available a list of references and organizations that can assist with land and trail stewardship and make available on website.
2. Support municipalities, land trusts, and their partners to create and carry out stewardship/management plans for existing greenways.

Greenways Updates: News & Events

Juno SB GPS Units with ArcPad 10 are available for use from the Eastern CT Resource Conservation and Development Area. The GPS Units are available for use, free of charge, by the municipal, regional, and non-profit community of the Eastern CT RC&D Area. The 3 Trimble Juno SB GPS units are equipped with ESRI ArcPad 10 software. The units were purchased to support trail documentation and data contribution to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) CT State Trail Geodatabase. [GPS Usage Policy & Sign Out Sheet \(pdf\)](#)

Greenway Planning, Development and Stewardship - A Survey for Municipal Land Use Commissions and Land Trusts

Your answers to this simple survey will assist in answering the following questions and help us determine how we can best design our program to support your community greenway planning, construction, and stewardship efforts:

- How and why Connecticut municipalities are planning for greenways;
- What extent planned greenway areas are protected;
- Do those planning for greenways look beyond town and regional boundaries during the planning process;
- Where do those planning for municipal greenways look for information concerning other greenway locations; and
- What resources are needed to help plan, construct, and steward Connecticut's community greenways.

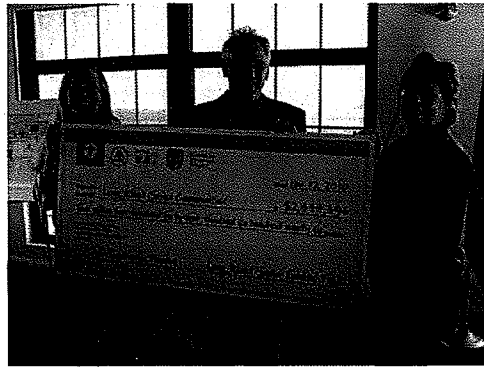
The Eastern CT Resource, Conservation & Development Program (RC&D) is partnering with CACIWC to increase the focus on the development and the stewardship of greenways as a method of connecting rural, suburban, and urban communities with particular attention to natural resource protection, riparian and wildlife corridor connectivity, economic development, preservation of scenic resources and community character, and connection of environmental justice populations to public services.

This first step, the survey, is to investigate potential open space and greenway linkages across municipal and regional boundaries, with a special focus on river corridors and watersheds.

Please use this link to participate in this survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LRC23V7>

***News* Seven projects that will benefit southeastern Connecticut's coastal areas are among those chosen to receive some of the \$2.4 million in Long Island Sound improvement grants announced November 12, 2010.** The Long Island Sound Futures Fund 2010 grant recipients were announced by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Eastern Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area, partnering with the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordinating Committee and the three towns of Salem, East Haddam and Lyme received a \$37,046 grant to conduct stormwater mapping and planning. This project has a total cost of \$75,972. [Article from the Day \(pdf\)](#) [Eightmile Press Release \(pdf\)](#) [Article from the Norwich Bulletin \(pdf\)](#)



From left to right: Margot Burns, Anthony Irving, Patricia Young

Please send email feedback to the Eastern Connecticut RC&D [Webmaster](#)
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Greenways Survey




2. What land use commission or organization do you represent?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Planning and Zoning Commission		36.7%	22
Conservation Commission		48.3%	29
Open Space Committee/Commission		13.3%	8
Inland Wetland Commission		31.7%	19
Economic Development Commission		10.0%	6
Harbor Management		0.0%	0
Inland Wetlands and Conservation		18.3%	11
Zoning Board of Appeals		11.7%	7
Land Trust		10.0%	6
Other		8.3%	5
answered question			60
skipped question			0





3. What Commission or Organization in your town provides leadership for planning and establishing greenways in your town?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Planning and Zoning Commission		53.4%	31
Conservation Commission		55.2%	32
Open Space Committee/Commission		10.3%	6
Inland Wetland Commission		3.4%	2
Economic Development Commission		1.7%	1
Harbor Management		0.0%	0
Inland Wetlands and Conservation		6.9%	4
Zoning Board of Appeals		0.0%	0
Land Trust		13.8%	8
Other		19.0%	11
		answered question	58
		skipped question	2

4. Is your commission active in Greenway _____ in your town?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Planning,		86.5%	45
Construction, and/or		26.9%	14
Stewardship		46.2%	24
		answered question	52
		skipped question	8




5. Why has your town established and/or is planning Greenways?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Protection of Natural Resources,		42.1%	24
Establishment of walking/hiking trails,		33.3%	19
Provide linkage to Natural Heritage sites;		0.0%	0
Enhance character of town,		15.8%	9
Other.		8.8%	5
		answered question	57
		skipped question	3











6. Are Greenways discussed and/or recommended in your municipal Plan of Conservation and Development or Open Space Plan?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		94.7%	54
No		5.3%	3
		answered question	57
		skipped question	3








7. Do planning and zoning regulations support/facilitate greenway linkages within your municipality?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		37.9%	22
No		12.1%	7
Some What		50.0%	29
answered question			58
skipped question			2





8. Are your greenways established or being planned to connect and / or protect:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Neighborhoods		28.1%	16
Protected open space		77.2%	44
Historical sites		33.3%	19
Parks/recreation areas		54.4%	31
Schools		22.8%	13
Town centers,		38.6%	22
Transportation centers		15.8%	9
River corridors		61.4%	35
Wildlife corridors		49.1%	28
Core forest areas		33.3%	19
answered question			57
skipped question			3



9. Is land in your planned or already constructed greenway(s) owned/protected on Town Land Records by:

		Response Percent	Response Count
Federal deed		10.9%	6
State deed		54.5%	30
Municipal deed		61.8%	34
Land Trust deed		50.9%	28
Nature Conservancy		14.5%	8
Private owner easement		43.6%	24
all the above		16.4%	9
answered question			55
skipped question			5



10. To what extent do you think they are protected?

		Response Percent	Response Count
0% - 25%		28.1%	16
25% - 50%		24.6%	14
50% - 75%		22.8%	13
75% - 100%		24.6%	14
answered question			57
skipped question			3

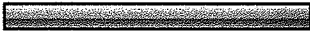







11. Do your planned or already constructed greenways cross or connect to other greenways that cross municipal boundaries?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		74.1%	43
No		25.9%	15
answered question			58
skipped question			2



12. When planning for open space and greenways does your municipality look beyond town boundaries and consider regional and watershed greenway linkages when creating your municipal plan of conservation and development or open space plans?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		81.0%	47
No		19.0%	11
answered question			58
skipped question			2







13. If so, where do you go for information regarding other municipality's greenway planning objectives?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Other Municipal P&Z, Conservation Commissions		49.0%	25
Plans of Conservation and Development and Open Space Plans		49.0%	25
Land Trusts		25.5%	13
CT DEEP		33.3%	17
Regional Planning Organization		54.9%	28
Conservation District		5.9%	3
NRCS		7.8%	4
Other (NEMO, CCM, COST)		23.5%	12
		answered question	51
		skipped question	9

14. Have you visited the DEP Greenways web site?(<http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2707&Q=323852>)

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		45.8%	27
No		54.2%	32
		answered question	59
		skipped question	1

15. What kind of assistance do you need?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Funding		91.2%	52
Mapping		19.3%	11
Technical Assistance		29.8%	17
Property Stewardship		22.8%	13
Legal Assistance		22.8%	13
Regional Coordination		47.4%	27
		answered question	57
		skipped question	3

16. Optional: If you would like to leave your Name and Contact information please do so below.

	Response Count
	24
answered question	24
skipped question	36

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Revising The Green Plan

Pursuant to Public Act No. 12-152 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE'S OPEN SPACE PLAN, the Department is working to update The Green Plan. In order to develop a planning document that will be the highest value for the State of Connecticut, municipalities, land conservation organizations and the public, the Department needs to hear from all stakeholders.

The following presentation provides a summary of the key components of Public Act No. 12-152 and presents the Department's current work plan for revising The Green Plan.

Green Plan Revision Work Plan (PDF)

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the presentation and the current Green Plan - The Green Plan: Guiding Land Acquisition and Protection in Connecticut 2007-2012 (PDF) - and provide the Department with comments, suggestions, and recommendations as the next revision of The Green Plan begins.

The Department encourages you to submit your creative and thoughtful comments via e-mail.

Content Last Updated on September 27, 2012

