



Connecting people to the land since 1895

16 Meriden Road
Rockfall
Connecticut 06481-2961
Tele: 860-346-TREE
www.ctwoodlands.org

CFPA's Conservation Priorities for 2019

STATE FUNDING

1. KEEP Dedicated Funding Dedicated
 - a. ENSURE Passport to Parks Fund, generated by a \$10 DMV fee, stays dedicated to maintaining State Parks rather than being diverted to the General Fund.
 - b. PROTECT integrity and funding for the Community Investment Act which supports open space, farmland protection, historic preservation, and affordable housing.
 - c. RETURN Greenways and Wildlife special license plate fees from the General Fund to intended purpose of supporting the Recreational Trails and Wildlife Programs.
2. RE-AUTHORIZE \$3-5 million/year in state bonding for matching Recreational Trails & Greenways grants.
3. RE-ENERGIZE CT Conservation Corps "jobs in the woods" with DEEP/Workforce Investment Boards.
4. MAINTAIN CEQ as independent state environmental watchdog agency.

STATE LEGISLATION

1. CELEBRATE and ensure wise management of Connecticut's Roadside Forests
 - a. EXPAND notice requirement from DoT on highway tree removals.
 - b. ENABLE municipalities to use 1.5% from electric utility vegetation management funds to improve local management of roadside forests by conducting hazardous tree removals, pruning, replanting, tree plans, and inventories, as needed.
 - c. ENSURE local planning and zoning commissions consult with municipal tree warden as part of subdivision planting plans for roadsides.
2. ENABLE real estate conveyance fee on buyers of up to 1% to support local fund dedicated to open space/farmland protection as well as park, forest, and trail stewardship.
3. PROTECT recreational trail corridors on private lands with new tax incentive encouraging trail easement donations by landowners.

OTHER KEY STATE ISSUES

1. MONITOR public land conveyances to ensure constitutional amendment compliance.
2. ASSIST DEEP with improving contracting, procurement, and administrative processes.
3. ANALYZE state's policy for high overhead rates on non-General Fund accounts.

FEDERAL PRIORITIES

1. RE-AUTHORIZE Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to support Forest Legacy and other critical land conservation programs.
2. RE-ADMIT Connecticut into the federal Recreational Trails Program.
3. LEVEL playing field by conferring "unit status" to New England National Scenic Trail and increasing appropriations for NET through National Park Service.
4. PASS Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA), Complete America's Great Trails Act, Wild & Scenic Status for Lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook, and other CT priorities.