

Rhode Island Open Space Grant Awards

December 8, 2014

- **BRISTOL:** \$280,750 to acquire the 14.5 acre Tavares Farm East property on Metacom Avenue. The property consists of forested wetlands and woodlands that contain mature native trees including swamp white oaks, tupelo, black willow and red maple, as well as open field areas that have begun to transition to woodlands. The land is contiguous to nearly 100 acres of protected open space parcels which comprise a larger forested wetland and riparian corridor. The property provides a key link in expanding an existing green belt of open space in the northern portion of Bristol and southern end of Warren, connecting residential neighborhoods to the east along the Kickemuit River to a variety of freshwater and coastal habitats. **Contact person:** Edward Tanner, 253-7000 ext.128.
- **BURRILLVILLE:** \$105,475 to acquire a 58-acre portion of a larger, 72.53-acre tract of land on Eagle Peak Road in Pascoag. The 58-acre portion of the property contains a mixture of wetlands, small streams, fields and white pines and will remain undisturbed and placed under a conservation restriction. The Town will install a regulation-sized baseball field to be used both for high school baseball and local softball teams on the remainder property. **Contact person:** Tom Kravitz, 568-4300 ext. 130.
- **CHARLESTOWN LAND TRUST:** \$328,250 to protect over 50 acres of land and nearly 4,000 feet of riverfront along a pristine section of the Pawcatuck River in the Village of Carolina. The project includes the purchase by the land trust of a 24-acre parcel at 425 Carolina Back Road, and the donation of development rights and a conservation easement on a contiguous 28-acre lot at 487 Carolina Back Road. Together, the properties contain vernal pools, fertile meadows, open fields, forest, spectacular views and impressive cliffs over the river. **Contact person:** Karen Jarret, 742-6954.
- **COVENTRY:** \$187,500 to acquire 48 acres of property on Ledge Road abutting the Coventry Greenway and other protected lands. The land is dominated by oak forest, with a high percentage of chestnut oak. Features include forested wetland, forested swamp, and a cold water stream containing native brook trout that joins the pristine Quidnick Brook before it flows into Stump Pond. Several species of reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish have been identified on the property including the bald eagle, marbled salamanders, eastern box turtles, smallmouth bass, wild brook trout and the endangered eastern worm snake. **Contact person:** Paul Sprague, 822-6230.
- **FOSTER LAND TRUST:** \$170,000 to acquire a 73-acre wooded parcel on the hills of southeast Foster. The land's mixed forest habitat contains pine and fir species along with mature maples, oak, hickory, ash and beech, which can support nesting sites for migratory birds and major mammal populations such as bobcat and fisher. Among the natural and cultural features of the property are upland forest, perennial streams, trails which climb to a height of 612 feet, scenic outlooks across the valley, stone cairns and an abandoned quarry. The parcel drains into the nearby Westconnaug Reservoir and is contiguous to Audubon's George B. Parker Woodlands Wildlife Preserve. **Contact:** Linda Los Tibbetts, 374-3581.
- **LINCOLN:** \$400,000 to acquire a 50-acre parcel of undisturbed forested land that abuts the Handy Pond Conservation Area, which contains several interconnected wetland complexes that feed into Handy Pond and Meader Pond. This parcel will be incorporated into and increase the acreage in the publicly-owned Handy Pond Conservation Area to 310 acres of contiguous land. **Contact person:** Albert Ranaldi, Jr., 333-8433.

- **LITTLE COMPTON AGRICULTURAL CONSERVANCY TRUST:** \$400,000 to acquire development rights and title to 34.8 acres of the historically scenic Dawson family farm on Old Bull Lane. The farm includes land on three adjacent lots and a deeded right-of-way to the Sakonnet River. This coastal working farm is used to pasture cattle and produce hay and other silage crops. Besides its scenic and agricultural values, the property plays an important role in providing habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. The property directly abuts other conservation land and lies within an extensive network of protected open space. As one of the last wide-open, undeveloped areas adjacent to the Sakonnet River remaining in town, Dawson family farm defines the rural character and agricultural heritage of Little Compton. **Contact person:** George Mason, 258-3998.
- **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY/WEST GREENWICH:** \$279,000 to acquire title and a conservation easement on 98 acres of land in West Greenwich. The land falls within a Natural Heritage Area and contains a 10-acre forested wetland that supports breeding populations of wood frogs, spotted salamanders and marbled salamanders. The property also supports at least nine bird species of Greatest Conservation Need for Rhode Island including the black-and-white warbler, eastern towhee, great crested flycatcher, hairy woodpecker, least flycatcher, northern flicker, scarlet tanager, veery, and wood thrush. The land abuts the 2,300-acre W. Alton Jones campus of URI and the 2,000-acre Tillinghast Pond Management Area. **Contact person:** Scott Comings, 331-7100 ext. 23.
- **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY/ WEST GREENWICH:** \$44,000 to acquire a 12-acre parcel of land in West Greenwich. This parcel is bisected by a quarter-mile stretch of Phillips Brook and is characterized by a maturing red maple deciduous shrub swamp with scattered ash, black gum and yellow birch. A mature white pine community is prevalent in the uplands skirting the edges of the swamp. The property abuts the Tillinghast Pond Management Area and supports at least six bird species of Greatest Conservation Need for Rhode Island. **Contact person:** Scott Comings, 331-7110 ext. 23.
- **NORTH KINGSTOWN:** \$124,500 to acquire a 5.32-acre vegetated peninsula on Gilbert Stuart Road that extends into Carr Pond. This coastal wooded habitat is extremely important to migratory birds as well as many other species of birds and common Rhode Island mammals including the gray squirrel, chipmunk, raccoon, and white-tailed deer. The property is located in an area with significant protected open space and its acquisition fills in the last remaining gap around Carr Pond with a ring of protected land. **Contact:** Planning Department, 294-3331 ext. 310.
- **PAWTUCKET:** \$34,250 to acquire a two-acre site within the Conant Thread/Coats and Clark National Register District that includes Mill Pond, one of the most scenic natural areas of the City. The land surrounding the 0.7-acre man-made reservoir contains red maple, white birch and red oak trees. A variety of birds including mourning doves and turkey vultures have been observed on the property, and fish including bass and bluegill exist in the pond. Mill Pond is an oasis of wetland habitat surrounded by industrial development to the north and south, and the densely populated Woodlawn neighborhood to the west. The site will be managed by the City of Pawtucket to provide opportunities for passive recreation such as hiking and fishing, and a habitat that supports native animals and plants. **Contact person:** Barney Heath, 728-0500 ext. 430.

- **RICHMOND RURAL PRESERVATION LAND TRUST:** \$176,750 to acquire 112 acres of forestland on Corey Trail. The property contains mature stands of oak and beech trees with understories of high bush blueberry and other native vegetation; wetland complexes, including forested red maple and shrub swamps; conifer stands dominated by white pine; and stands of mountain laurel. Almost all of the property is part of an aquifer recharge area for the Wood River, and it also bisects a wellhead protection area for a non-community well. The state-owned Carolina Management Area is located 1,400 feet south of the property. **Contact person:** Denise Poyer, 374-2722.
- **SOUTH KINGSTOWN LAND TRUST:** \$300,000 to acquire 22.7 acres of forest and open meadow on Torrey and Middlebridge Roads within the Narrow River Watershed. The land is located in a focus area identified by the US Fish & Wildlife Service as important for conservation of the New England Cottontail, and it may also provide habitat for the bald eagle, eastern box turtle, migrating warblers and other birds. Surrounded by a densely developed residential area, the land is contiguous (across Middlebridge Road) to protected land owned by the Narrow River Land Trust and its preservation will prevent the increase of surface runoff into the Narrow River. **Contact person:** Joanne Riccitelli, 789-0962 ext. 2.
- **TIVERTON OPEN SPACE COMMISSION:** \$273,400 to acquire a total of 68 acres on two parcels of forestland located on Main Road and Lake Road in Tiverton. Both properties are contiguous to protected land in the Weetamoo Woods/Pocasset Ridge forest ecosystem and are part of the largest unfragmented forest block remaining in the East Bay. Largely comprised of American holly under a canopy of black oak, white oak and scarlet oak trees, the land also includes beech, red maple, serviceberry, high bush blueberry, mountain laurel and sweet pepperbush shrubs. Small streams and vernal pools within the oak/holly forest provide breeding grounds for spring peeper, green frog, spotted salamander, fairy shrimp and other animals. The Lake Road parcel contains a three-acre patch of field that is suitable habitat for New England Cottontail or American Woodcock. **Contact person:** Brian Janes, 624-7636.
- **TIVERTON OPEN SPACE COMMISSION:** \$213,700 to acquire 115 acres of land within the Stafford Pond Watershed Overlay District in Tiverton. Located on Route 24, the entire eastern boundary of the property falls along the shoreline of Stafford Pond, a primary source of the drinking water supply for Tiverton, Portsmouth and Fall River, MA. The property contains predominantly black oak and scarlet oak, with a 40-acre red maple deciduous shrub swamp and a six-acre strip of white cedar hardwood swamp. The parcel is in the immediate vicinity of other protected lands including those owned by the Stonebridge Fire and Water District, Watuppa Reservoir and Tiverton Power Associates. **Contact person:** Brian Janes, 624-7636.
- **WARWICK LAND TRUST:** \$100,640 to acquire 5.5 acres of saltwater marsh in Conimicut. Located in the midst of a densely settled area of Warwick, the property consists of healthy *Spartina* grass along with some areas of native cattail grasses and high-tide bush. Wood ducks, heron, egrets and muted swans use this marsh for protection because of the high grass and coastal shrubbery, and ducks, scaup and widgeons are also known to breed along this coastline. The marsh provides a refuge for many seabirds during winter and stormy weather, and an area for the horseshoe crab and ribbed mussel to lay their eggs. Many wildlife species such as opossum, woodchuck, groundhog, coyote, red fox, raccoon, white-tailed deer, owls, turkey and hawks use the marsh for habitat. The property is located near Conimicut Point Park. **Contact person:** Susan Cabeceiras, 738-2000 ext. 6286.

- **WARWICK LAND TRUST:** \$27,270 to acquire 3.5 acres of pristine waterfront property with over 700 feet of uninterrupted shoreline on Passeonquis Cove. The coastal area of the property features Spartina grasses, cattails, high-tide bush and sea lavender, with red maple, oak and birch trees in the forested upper inland areas of the land. The cove provides important habitat for birds and wild mammals, and a refuge for many seabirds during winter and stormy weather. The sandy areas at the mouth of the cove attract horseshoe crabs for nesting. Located in the midst of a densely populated area, the open space surrounding the cove provides an important buffer to prevent flooding in surrounding neighborhoods during storms and rain events. The property is adjacent to already preserved land. **Contact person:** Susan Cabeceiras, 738-2000 ext. 6286.
- **WESTERLY:** \$400,000 to acquire a 433-acre forested parcel within a natural resource corridor that is contiguous to active farm fields and large tracts of undeveloped woodland, including the state's Woody Hill Management Area. The property is comprised primarily of mature oak and red maple forest, wetlands and small ponds, and provides potential habitat for breeding amphibians and contiguous travel corridors for a diversity of species including forest interior birds. Among the species recently identified on-site via vocalizations were the scarlet tanager, red-eyed vireo, oven bird, eastern wood pewee and great crested flycatcher. **Contact person:** Amy Grzybowski, 348-2617.

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