



## COMMUNITY PLANNING, ZONING, AND MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS

Report 28

Spring 2000

# MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE PLANNING

The Capitol Region hosts a wide variety of land uses: within a 15-minute drive, one can travel from historic urban neighborhoods to productive working farms. Open space and natural features enhance all of our communities, from rural to urban. The need to plan for open space preservation is on-going. With the improving economy and accompanying development pressures, the need to plan to preserve open space is stronger than ever. This newsletter will present issues for communities to consider as they embark on an open space planning program. It will discuss coordination with municipal commissions and organizations; the importance of conducting a natural resource inventory; and implementation tools and resources that support open space planning. We will also present some of the open space planning initiatives underway in the Capitol Region. The diversity of our Region indicates that we need a range of tools to address preservation in all communities, from urban to rural.

## WHY PRESERVE OPEN SPACE?

### Open Space Functions and Benefits

The open space that we see and value may be public or private, linked to residential or agricultural land, or part of a river corridor. While these spaces provide many benefits, the *goal* of open space planning is to ensure that priority lands are partially or fully protected from development. Surveys of citizens in the Region consistently indicate that open space preservation is a strong community value. However,

beyond its visual benefits, open space provides specific functional benefits.

***Open space is multifunctional.*** A preserved river corridor may accommodate trails, and also preserve natural land features that mitigate flooding. Or, preserved natural features and historic sites may enhance a town's tourism economy. Open space can serve a range of community functions including:

- 1) Natural resource protection;
- 2) Outdoor recreation (active and passive);
- 3) Resource management;
- 4) Protection of public health and safety;
- 5) Definition of lands and features that shape community character or design; and
- 6) Preservation of historic, archaeological, or cultural sites. (UCONN Cooperative Extension Service).

***Open Space provides quantifiable and unquantifiable benefits.*** Several studies have compared the revenue and expenditure balances for various land uses. The studies concluded that residential land requires high municipal expenditures, while the public costs of open space are relatively low.<sup>1</sup> Open space can provide environmental benefits, such as protection of water supplies. In addition, well-planned open space areas can enhance property values, thus stabilizing residential areas.

<sup>1</sup> See website: [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org). Navigate to: "farmland library," then to *Cost of Community Services Fact Sheet*.

***Techniques*** is part of a comprehensive planning program carried out with the financial support of a State Regional Planning Assistance Grant administered by the State Office of Policy and Management, and financial contributions from the municipalities of the Capitol Region. It is intended to inform and assist lay members of planning and zoning commissions, inland wetlands agencies, and zoning boards of appeal, as well as town managers, chief elected officials, and other town officers. Questions may be directed to Karen Berchtold, CROCG Planner, (860) 522-2217 x29.

# THE OPEN SPACE PLANNING PROCESS

## Public Perception of Open Space Initiatives

While surveys may indicate general community support for open space preservation, the prospect may raise concern among individuals. For example, a landowner may be concerned about pedestrian traffic or parked cars generated by an adjacent greenway. Regulatory changes that affect land development may generate concern. For these reasons, a community should proceed cautiously with a comprehensive open space program, and seek to involve diverse community constituencies. As Jim Gibbons of the UCONN Extension System observes, “Public understanding of and involvement in the planning process is extremely important.” Conducting an open space campaign that encourages citizen involvement can enhance this understanding.

## Initiating the Process

The impetus for an open space planning process can originate from many sources. Recent efforts in this Region have been initiated by an Inland Wetlands Commission, an American Heritage River Committee, and a private land trust. Initially, an organization or committee must spearhead the process. Ideally, the lead organization or group proceeds to expand its constituency by involving town commissions, committees, public officials, and other concerned groups.

Often a municipality has designated authority for open space planning to the Inland Wetlands or Conservation Commission. However, most communities find that a committee or task force that represents a broad range of community concerns is most effective (we shall use the term “task force”). Depending on community size, the task force should include membership from:

- Inland Wetlands/Conservation Commission
- Wildlife and environmental organizations
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Town Council or Board of Selectmen
- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Business, real estate, or development interests
- Educational interests
- Public Works or Engineering

- Planning Department
- Agricultural interests
- Land Trusts

These individuals contribute expertise, and also create links from the task force to other town functions and decision-makers. Other important skills that individual task force members can contribute include: management, fundraising, and legal expertise.

## Setting the Process in Motion

Open space planning is a long-range process, with many medium- to short-range tasks that require coordination. We recommend that the task force delegated to manage the process follow the steps outlined by Jim Gibbons in “Ten Steps in the Development of an Open Space Plan.” The process begins with an inventory of a community’s natural resources such as: wetlands, water features, steep slopes, and flora and fauna habitats. The Department of Environmental Protection provides municipalities with a map on an annual basis that indicates generalized endangered species habitats. The information from this map can be incorporated into the open space inventory. The inventory forms the core of the municipality’s designated preservation area. As the “Ten Steps” document notes, open space planning is based on common sense and strong community knowledge. Yet the steps required to implement the process will require a strong and coordinated effort on behalf of the Task Force membership and other municipal commissions.

## Goals, Policies, and Objectives

Goals are broad statements that clarify a community’s values. They are essential to guide the planning process, and may evolve over time (See *Table One*). Policies are actions that an organization undertakes in order to achieve a goal. For example, a policy may be “To improve the viability of farming in our town by identifying new ways of marketing farm products.” Objectives are specific steps toward achieving goals, and may define items such as location, timing, and quantity. An example of an objective is “To increase the town inventory of passive recreational space by 20%.” Such specific measures allow a community to assess whether it is meeting its planning goals.

**Table One: Town of Enfield, Draft Goals and Policies for Open Space Preservation<sup>2</sup>**

**GOALS**

**POLICIES**

<p><b>GOAL 1:</b> Preserve and protect the Town’s natural resources: hills, rivers, streams, ponds, floodplains, pingos<sup>3</sup>, and aquifers, and protect habitat of both flora and fauna.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop strategies to ensure the protection of parcels with unique habitats and natural features as identified by Department of Environmental Protection wildlife inventories and local knowledge; prioritize areas for protection.</li> <li>• Develop strategies to provide supplemental protection to the Town’s three primary aquifers.</li> <li>• Expand inventory of protected parcels to create open space corridors along the Scantic and Connecticut Rivers.</li> <li>• Implement techniques to protect fragile terrace escarpments.</li> <li>• Explore ways to coordinate natural resource protection efforts with other public and private organizations: state, land trusts, industrial and commercial, prison, utilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 2:</b> Preserve prime agricultural lands and farmland as an industry and open space amenity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate existing agricultural land preservation programs and ways to supplement them.</li> <li>• Improve the viability of farming in Enfield by implementing innovative ways to market farm products.</li> <li>• Identify farms of special significance for priority protection/possible Town venture.</li> <li>• Investigate opportunities for coordination with North Central Connecticut Tourism District.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 3:</b> Preserve floodplains and natural drainage areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key flooding sites where there are no existing development limitations for preservation efforts.</li> <li>• Be cognizant of potential flooding impacts in development review process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 4:</b> Preserve and enhance the historic and cultural heritage of the Town.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate open space planning with historic and cultural heritage preservation efforts.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 5:</b> Expand opportunities for passive recreational uses where such uses are compatible with ecosystems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for developing low impact trails in proximity to residential areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 6:</b> Develop network of linked open spaces to support passive recreation and habitat</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify future open space corridors such as the Scantic and Connecticut Rivers.</li> <li>• Identify key parcels that link existing or proposed open space.</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOAL 7:</b> Utilize open space to enhance the quality of life in residential areas and to preserve unique scenic features of Town.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify tools for creating buffers between commercial/industrial development and residential areas.</li> <li>• Evaluate the distribution of open space by neighborhood and promote equitable distribution through future open space planning.</li> <li>• Develop strategies to preserve key scenic features and vistas as identified in scenic vista survey (such as the drumlins in eastern portion of Town and Connecticut River Island views); prioritize these sites for protection.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> The draft goals and policies were developed by the Town of Enfield Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission. Goals and policies are not listed in order of priority.

<sup>3</sup> A pingo is a geologic feature resulting from glacial activity that usually functions as a vernal pool.

## Coordination within Municipal Government

For most towns, volunteers and citizen commissions will undertake the majority of open space planning work. However, the process will inevitably require participation by and coordination with a range of town commissions, committees, and departments:

Elected Body: The Town Council or Board of Selectmen has the authority to appoint a task force (depending on charter); initiates and approves funding; and adopts the final open space plan.

Planning and Zoning: The Planning Commission approves implementation tools and endorses the open space plan. It can also provide assistance to guide the coordination of open space planning with other planning functions such as economic development, multi-use trails, and development of educational and public facilities.

Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commissions: Members of these Commissions usually have excellent knowledge of the town's environmental features and natural habitats, so the commissions, or their members, should be involved. Their members are probably in the best position to determine whether potential acquisitions are designated as priority areas in the Natural Resource Inventory.

Assessor Department: This department manages important parcel information such as ownership, tax status, and P.A. 490 status (use-value taxation). Ideally, the planning department should use a database program that is compatible with assessor software.

Planning Department: The planning department can provide technical expertise and procedural guidance to support the planning process. If a town has an environmental planner, that individual can provide more specific expertise. However, town planners often have numerous responsibilities, so substantial citizen involvement is usually required to develop and implement a plan.

Parks and Recreation: This department can assist by developing management plans for parcels; inspecting conservation easements; and coordinating property maintenance.

Public Works: This department may implement property maintenance plans and develop open space improvements such as trails, roads, and other amenities.

## FUNDING

### Develop a Balanced List of Sources

The task force will need to develop a strategy to maximize potential grant and fundraising opportunities. Municipal funds can be an important source because such designated funds can be used to leverage other grants or purchase sites as they come on the market. A community indicates strong support for open space when it designates municipal funds; bonding measures passed by referendum indicate particularly strong community support. Conversely, municipal funds are often difficult to obtain, and are seldom sufficient to implement a *comprehensive* open space program.

### Create a Strategy to Maximize Funding Opportunities

By considering these factors, a community can maximize its funding opportunities:

- Designate a task force and initiate public involvement. This indicates that a town is already engaged in a *comprehensive* planning process.
- Invest resources to develop a *Natural Resources Inventory* and assemble key parcel data for priority sites (consider an intern or consultant for these tasks if municipal staff are not available).
- Work with neighboring municipalities to advance joint preservation projects.
- Develop a clear and accurate map that shows public and private protected sites, and proposed open space acquisition areas and corridors. Submit the map with your funding applications.
- Study the goals of your potential funding organizations, and assess which goals overlap with those of your community. Also, identify specific sites or areas that may meet a particular's organization's goals. For example, the Department of Environmental Protection considers, among other factors, whether a parcel is: significant in size; regionally accessible; contiguous to other state holdings; unprotected by regulation; or adjacent to water.
- Creatively integrate volunteer, corporate, and non-profit assistance to advance your project. Approach local businesses and corporations, particularly if they can provide the materials that you need, such as hardware, construction materials, or food donations, at cost. Companies are often amenable to providing donations for local projects, particularly if minimal employee labor is required.

# IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

## Role in Open Space Planning Process

Implementation tools are specific techniques for preserving land, thus helping communities to achieve their preservation objectives. This broad category includes: governmental and private programs; ownership and conveyance tools; land use regulation; and financing techniques.

## Regulatory Tools

Regulatory tools are components of land use regulations that define the activities or modifications that a landowner may conduct on his or her property. In the development process, these tools help to preserve natural features or open spaces. Communities with an active development market generally have more opportunities to implement regulatory tools because there is more development activity and greater market demand (see *Table Two*).

## Non-Regulatory Tools

Non-regulatory tools are not based upon land use regulation. Some of these tools may be utilized in the development process, but can also be used independently of it (see *Table Three*).

**Table Four: Additional Tools for Consideration**

**EVALUATION CRITERIA TOOL**  
 This tool can be used by the Task Force to evaluate properties for potential acquisition or preservation. The tool features a list of criteria that are applied against each parcel, and scored. The scores are tallied, resulting in an overall score for the parcel. This tool is valuable because it requires decision-makers to assess the advantages and disadvantages, as well as potential uses, for each site *before* acquisition. If implemented properly, the tool can inject greater objectivity into the decision-making process.

**APPLICATION FORM FOR OPEN SPACE PROPERTIES**  
 The Task Force or planning department can develop this form. It is provided for individuals or organizations that wish to donate gifts of land, or preserve property. It is designed to gather basic data to expedite the review process. The town should designate a contact person to respond to questions about the form, and to forward it to the Task Force.

**OPEN SPACE BROCHURE**  
 Publishing a simple brochure, or set of brochures, on open space can give a community's open space planning initiative a boost. The brochure can address: how open space may benefit the community; inform the community how the initiative will proceed; identify ways for citizens to become involved; explain the benefits of easements and other tools; and provide information to individuals that wish to preserve or donate land.

**Table Two: Selected Regulatory Tools**

Subdivision Regulations	Stipulate what percentage of a residential development must be dedicated as open space; standards for delineating open space; and land conveyance tools.
Fee-in-Lieu of Open Space	Towns may require a fee of no more than 10% of the value of subdivided land, or a combination of fee and land, as a substitute for dedication of land. The fee goes to a fund for open space acquisition.
Traprock Ridge Overlay District	C.G.S. Sec. 8-2. authorizes communities with traprock ridges to adopt a mapped "Ridge Setback Area" to which additional preservation criteria may be applied.
Buffering and landscaping requirements	Buffering preserves open space between developments. Landscaping requirements can preserve natural features and enhance streetscape design. These tools can add green space to developments without becoming too burdensome to developers.

**Table Three: Selected Non-Regulatory Tools**

Easement	A partial interest in property conveyed by the landowner to a non-profit or government entity with specific restrictions on land development. The landowner may qualify for decreased taxes at the local, state, or federal level.
Land Trust	Private, non-profit organizations that acquire land for recreation or conservation. Land trusts may work cooperatively with towns by sharing responsibility for preservation activities.
Fee Simple Purchase	The town charter stipulates the maximum dollar value of land that the town may purchase. Towns may use general obligation bonds (which may require electorate approval); revenue bonds, or general appropriation funds for fee simple purchase.
P.A. 490 (use value taxation)	This State program permits land in excess of buildable area that is used for farming, open space, or forestry to be taxed at a lower "use value", rather than developable value.
Purchase of Development Rights	CT Dept. of Agriculture utilizes bond funds to purchase the development rights to farmland. The land must continue to be farmed, and the owner is compensated at fair market value.

**Table Five: DEP Open Space Grant Awards, Jan. 1999 – Feb. 2000**

<b>Town</b>	<b>Property</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Purchase Price</b>	<b>Grant as % of Purchase Price</b>
Andover	Laudano Property	145	\$135,000	\$300,000	45%
Bolton	Rose Farm	88	\$389,302	\$865,116	45%
Canton	Sun, Wind & Woodland Preserve	145	\$67,500	\$150,000	45%
Ellington	Shenipsit Forest	151	\$130,326	\$289,612	45%
Enfield	CT River Open Space	3	\$135,000	\$300,000	45%
East Granby	Metacomet Ridge Farm	411	\$175,725	\$390,500	45%
Farmington	Farm. River/Collinsville Rd.	5	\$23,850	\$53,000	45%
	Suburban Park	21	\$134,429	\$1,560,000	9%
	Farm. River/Waterville Road	3	\$58,950	\$131,000	45%
Glastonbury	Cider Mill	22	\$337,500	\$725,000	47%
Hebron	Jagger Lane	32	\$64,800	\$144,000	45%
Manchester	Risley Reservoir	5	\$36,000	unknown	
	Case Mountain	50	\$201,493	\$446,163	45%
	Case Mountain	21	\$48,083	\$106,850	45%
Simsbury	Sottile	2	\$21,600	unknown	
	Village Water Co.	17	\$247,500	\$550,000	45%
S. Windsor	Kelley Waldren-Willow	160	\$450,000	unknown	
	Mitchell Property	75	\$337,500	unknown	
Vernon	Tankerhoosen Preserve	17	\$171,000	\$380,000	45%
	Hockanum River Linear Park	2	\$13,500	unknown	
	Rambling Ridge Pres. Area	104	\$157,500	\$350,000	45%
<b>TOTAL, Region</b>		<b>1479</b>	<b>\$3,336,558</b>	<b>\$6,741,241</b>	

### Customize a Set of Tools for Your Community

Communities that expect to implement a comprehensive open space planning program need to assemble a variety of tools, including both regulatory and non-regulatory. There are several reasons for this. The impacts of tools on various constituencies should be assessed, so no one constituency is overly burdened. By employing a range of tools, impacts may be more evenly distributed. Also, economic and political trends may make some tools more feasible at various times than at others. One thing is clear, however: a community needs to customize a set of tools to fit their needs. For example, an outlying community with an active residential market can expect to increase its open space inventory through subdivision open space dedications and fee-in-lieu of open space funding. An older, urban community may anticipate less new development, but can qualify for community development grants to convert abandoned lots into passive or active recreation spaces. In addition, the administrative support required to implement techniques is an important consideration. Communities should be open to trying some new techniques. CRCOG can provide information about tools, and identify towns that have used them.

### Fee-in-Lieu of Open Space

In 1990, the Connecticut General Assembly authorized the creation of fee-in-lieu of open space funds by Connecticut municipalities. Thirteen municipalities in the Capitol Region have provisions for such funds. The statute does not specify which town commission has the authority to recommend land purchases, so towns must define this procedure. Towns that have an Open Space Task Force or Advisory Committee may authorize this committee to submit recommendations for open space acquisitions to the Council or Selectmen. In other cases, the Planning Commission may be authorized to submit recommendations. Approximately half of the Region's towns with a fee-in-lieu of open space provision have not yet defined their fee-in-lieu procedure.

Capitol Region municipalities with fee-in-lieu provisions (as of June 1999) include:

<i>Andover</i>	<i>Enfield</i>	
<i>East Windsor</i>	<i>Farmington</i>	
<i>East Granby</i>	<i>Granby</i>	
<i>Hebron</i>	<i>Marlborough</i>	<i>Somers</i>
<i>South Windsor</i>	<i>Windsor Locks</i>	<i>Suffield</i>
<i>Vernon</i>		

## Coordination with Farmland Preservation

The Task Force should establish and maintain coordinated efforts with the community's farmland preservation committee or advocates. For example, open space and farmland preservation efforts can be coordinated to develop multi-use corridors for passive recreation or wildlife habitat. Also, the open space and farmland organizations can share information on implementation tools and funding opportunities.

## WHAT'S NEW: OPEN SPACE PLANNING IN THE CAPITOL REGION

### Greenways

Communities can maximize the benefits of open space by linking parcels to create corridors. Greenways refer to open space corridors with paved trails for active recreation, or unpaved trails for passive recreation. Greenway development (also referred to as multi-use trails or bikeways) that is inter-municipal can create even more extensive networks.

Greenways are often multi-purpose. They may promote flood control and prevent erosion along rivers, provide passive recreation, or preserve habitat. The Connecticut DEP administers the *Greenways Assistance Center* to help communities develop greenways. Also, private organizations, such as the *Hockanum River Linear Trail Committee*, developed extensive greenways through acquisition of land and negotiation for easements with private landowners.

The CRCOG staff encourages communities to coordinate municipal open space areas with bikeway planning. The Capitol Region Council of Governments recently adopted *A Bike Plan for the Capitol Region*. Call us to get a copy to see how your community may be able to get connected to the regional bike network!

### Recent Municipal Initiatives

The communities in our Region range in form, from rural to urban. The open space initiatives these communities undertake are varied, as well. This is a selection from many initiatives across the Region:

- **Hartford.** A coalition of organizations coordinated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service is seeking to improve water quality, restore riparian habitat, and develop passive recreation facilities along the North and South Branches of the Park River, to transform this underutilized urban corridor into an environmental and community asset.

- **South Windsor.** This town has developed an effective open space planning process and strong implementation tools. The Open Task Force is guided by an Open Space Implementation Plan that defines short- and long-term objectives.
- **Suffield.** Agricultural lands help define this town's character. Suffield adopted a *Land Preservation and Open Space Program* in 1999 to guide growth and development, and direct acquisition of open space toward areas of high resource value.

### The Connecticut River: Getting Reconnected

The Connecticut River is one of our most significant natural features. Communities along the River are getting reconnected to it:

- **Hartford.** *Riverfront Recapture* has reconnected Hartford with its riverfront, and to greenways in E. Hartford. The organization developed facilities on the River to accommodate large-scale cultural and recreational events. The Riverfront will host multiple activities every weekend this summer.
- **East Windsor.** The American Heritage Rivers Committee enlisted landscape architects from UCONN to design a park for a three-acre parcel proximate Warehouse Point.
- **Windsor.** The Main Street Program enlisted assistance from the National Park Service to develop a trail system for the downtown that will ultimately connect with the Connecticut River.

### Federal Programs

Federal programs can supplement local efforts:

- **American Heritage Rivers Program.** The Connecticut River has the distinction of being one of 17 rivers with this national designation. It entitles Connecticut River communities and organizations to assistance from a River Navigator who can help to identify programs and funding sources.
- **National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.** This program supports community efforts by providing trained staff to help launch community programs and provide technical expertise. The program emphasizes "getting things done on the ground" for projects with demonstrated community support.
- **Wild and Scenic Rivers.** 14 miles of the Upper Farmington River received this federal designation, promoting special protection at all governmental levels. The river segment includes rare wildlife, outstanding fisheries, and valued recreation areas. The *Farmington River Coordinating Committee*, a partnership of river-related interests, implements the Upper Farmington River Management Plan.

# RESOURCES

## General

*Connecticut Rural Resources Directory*, Connecticut Rural Development Council, (860) 738-6413.

*Farmland Preservation Toolkit*, Hartford Food System, Hartford CT (860) 296-9325.

*Open Space Planning*, UCONN Cooperative Extension System, Storrs (860) 345-4511. A comprehensive package to help initiate and implement the municipal open space planning process. ([www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/nemo](http://www.canr.uconn.edu/ces/nemo)).

*Manual of Mapping Techniques for Natural Resource Inventories*, UCONN Cooperative Extension System.

*The Capitol Region Bike Plan*, CRCOG Transportation Department, April 2000.

## Data Sources

<http://magic.lib.uconn.edu/>. Website to download spatial data down to the town or county level including: population, hydrography, soils, surficial materials, and streets.

## Organizations

American Farmland Trust, Washington, D.C. (202) 331-7300 ([www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org)).

Connecticut Farm Bureau, Windsor (860) 683-1922 ([www.fb.com/ctfb/index.html](http://www.fb.com/ctfb/index.html)).

Connecticut Forest and Park Association, (860) 346-TREE ([www.ctwoodlands.org](http://www.ctwoodlands.org)).

Connecticut Greenways Assistance Center, Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford (860) 424-3578.

Cooperative Extension System, University of Connecticut (860) 345-4511.

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Hartford: (860) 528-3588; Easthampton, MA: (413) 529-9500 ([www.ctriver.org](http://www.ctriver.org)).

Connecticut Rural Development Council (860) 738-6413 ([www.ruralct.org](http://www.ruralct.org)).

Farmington River Watershed Association, Simsbury (860) 658-4442 ([www.nps.gov/rivers/farmington](http://www.nps.gov/rivers/farmington)).

Hartford Food System (and Working Lands Alliance), Hartford (860) 296-9325.

HockanumRiver Linear Park Committee, Manchester (860) 649-5678.

Land Trust Service Bureau, Middletown (860) 344-0716.

National Park Service: Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. North Atlantic Region: (617) 223-5051 ([www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.ncrc.nps.gov/rtca)).

The Nature Conservancy, Middletown (860) 344-0716 ([www.tnc.org](http://www.tnc.org)).

Open Space Land Acquisition Program, Department of Environmental Protection, Hartford (860) 424-3016 (<http://dep.state.ct.us/rec/opensp.htm>).

Riverfront Recapture, Hartford (860) 293-0131 ([www.riverfront.org](http://www.riverfront.org)).

## Guides to Research Funding

*1999 Guide to Connecticut Grantmakers*. Connecticut Council of Philanthropy.

*Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection*, Dec. 1999, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. US EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds. (202) 260-2757. ([www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/fund.html](http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/watershed/wacademy/fund.html)).

CRCOG Grants Resource Center: Contact Hedy Ayers (860) 522-2217 x 39.

## Additional Websites

[www.crcog.org](http://www.crcog.org) (Capitol Region Council of Governments).

[www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings/) (Federal Highway Association site with methods to help protect wildlife along highways).

[www.sprawlwatch.org](http://www.sprawlwatch.org) (website with models for smart growth).

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

The CRCOG Community Development Department would like to assist your open space planning efforts.

The ways that we can assist include:

- Inform communities of open space, environmental, or watershed planning initiatives, and identify opportunities for inter-municipal preservation efforts.
- Provide information on regulatory and non-regulatory tools, and identify communities that have implemented them.
- Refer you to our Transportation Planning Department for assistance with multi-use trail development.
- Direct communities to public and private agencies for additional assistance. ♦

