



GREEN PLAN UPDATE

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HISTORY

- 1997- General Assembly set acreage goals for land protection in statute and set the requirement for the development of the Green Plan
- 2001 – In partnership with municipalities, other agencies and conservation organizations, DEEP developed the first Green Plan to guide conservation efforts statewide
- Last update was in 2015-2016 with an expiration in 2020



21% GOAL IN STATUTE

- 10% to be acquired by DEEP/State
- 11% to be acquired by land conservation partners
- Data not accurate





DEEP PROGRAMS TO ACCOMPLISH GREEN PLAN GOALS

- Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program
- Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program
- Urban Green and Community Garden Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Program
- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program
- Highlands Conservation Act Funding

IMPORTANCE FOR LOCAL EFFORTS

- Local Plans of Conservation and Development
- Prioritization of resources and acquisition locations in municipalities
- Sets prioritization for many local non-profits
- Goals tied to various grant applications
- Identifies areas of need or resources of need





STEPS TAKEN TO DATE

- Open Space Definition
- Review of old Green Plan
- Review of other state & local plans
- Outline of new plan format
- Pull of existing map information on existing open spaces across CT
- Request to hire a consultant

OPEN SPACE DEFINITION

In order for land to be considered open space it must:

1. Meet one of the following:

- Be protected from development by a conservation restriction₁ held by a qualified conservation organization₂
- Be owned in fee by a qualified conservation organization or water company

AND

2. Be restricted₃, protected₄ or used for one of the following purposes:

- To maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources
- To protect natural streams or a water supply
- To promote healthy soils₅
- To promote the conservation of wetlands, beaches or tidal marshes
- To enhance public outdoor recreation opportunities₆
- To preserve historic property₇ or agricultural lands





VULNERABILITIES

- Definition will be used to collect data on a specific moment in time
- Some of these lands will be vulnerable to conversion
- Categorize – High, Low, Virtually No Vulnerability
- DEEP consultant to collect data on current state of 21% including vulnerabilities

OTHER RELATED STATE PLANS

- Conservation and Development Policies Plan
- Wildlife Action Plan
- Forest Action Plan
- GC3 Phase 1 Report and Subcommittee Recommendations
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan
- Connecticut Environmental Literacy Plan
- Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan



STATE GIS OFFICE & CONSULTANT ROLE

- Worked with State GIS mapping office to pull all the open space parcels owned by DEEP, municipalities, land trusts and water companies
- Missing conservation easements on private lands & did not cull bad data
- Consultant will work to finish updating the open space data across CT
- Consultant will work with local non-profits, municipalities and Councils of Government to rectify data
- Consultant will analyze locations based on census data and will identify open space gaps, inequities, resource protection gaps, recreation needs, etc.
- DEEP will set goals for the new plan based on the updated mapping and analysis



TIMELINE

- **August 2025 – January 2026**

Data collection

- **January 2026 – April 2026**

Goal setting/public input on goals

- **April 2026 – September 2026**

Drafts for public input

- **September 2026 – December 2026**

Final Report completed





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

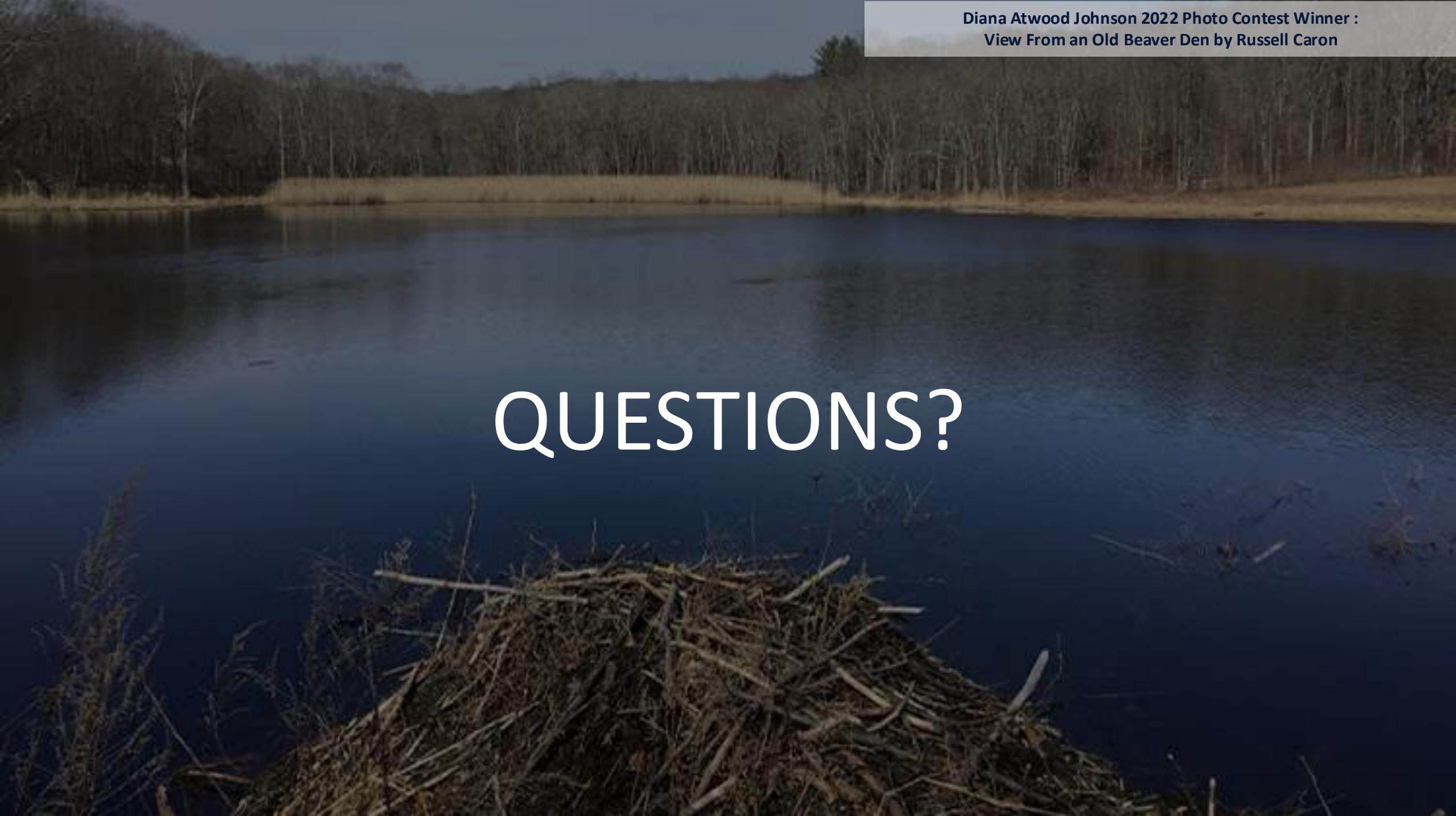
- Participate in public input sessions
- Send along example projects that we could highlight in the plan
- What else should DEEP consider?

CONTACT INFO

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A photograph of a calm pond with a beaver dam in the foreground and a forest in the background. The water is dark blue and reflects the sky. The dam is made of a large pile of dry sticks and branches. The background shows a dense forest of bare trees under a clear sky.

QUESTIONS?