

Our strongest defenses against the impacts of climate change come from forests, trees, wetlands, healthy organic soils, riparian buffers, and native ecosystems.

Nature-based solutions have a myriad of benefits for public health, the economy, and the environment, including reducing the effects of flooding, filtering pollutants from the air, and absorbing and storing carbon.

Nature-based solutions restore and protect ecosystems that naturally defend against climate change, which have been weakened by fragmentation and development.



LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

- **Increase bond authorizations** for CT DEEP land conservation, trails, and parks programs, including but not limited to the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program, Urban Green and Community Garden Grant Program, Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, and Recreational Trails Program.
- **Increase funding for the Community Investment Act** and ensure the funds stay intact and dedicated to supporting state programs for open space, agriculture, historic properties, and affordable housing.
- **Increase CT DEEP's staffing capacity** to support land conservation, wetlands protection, and other nature-based programs.
- **Codify a nature-based solutions initiative** as a priority and preferred alternative in the state policies, goals, and legislation to allow Connecticut's ecosystems to naturally sequester and store carbon, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase biodiversity, and protect against climate change impacts that negatively affect the state's public health and infrastructure.
- **Protect public lands** (State Parks, Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and other natural and working lands of high conservation value).

MORE INFORMATION

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