



Environmental
Learning Centers
of Connecticut, Inc.

BARNES NATURE CENTER • INDIAN ROCK NATURE PRESERVE

Dear Friends of ELCCT,

It is my pleasure to announce that the City of Bristol and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut have been awarded a grant of \$850,800 to protect 63.9 acres of land known as the Pigeon Hill Property adjacent to the Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center.

This grant comes from the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Open Space and Watershed Acquisition Program. The program is intended to protect wildlife habitats, offer recreational opportunities, and serve as a buffer and adaptation to climate change. Recipient projects are required to supplement the state funding with matching funds or other grants, and the land being purchased must be protected by a conservation and public recreation easement that will ensure the property is forever protected for public use and enjoyment.

The Pigeon Hill Project is a collaborative project between the City of Bristol and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut. Upon project completion, the City of Bristol will own 35.6 acres located in Bristol and the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut will own 28.3 acres located in Burlington. The property is made up of a 45-acre mature, mixed hardwood forest, 9 acres of fields, a 0.6-acre pond, and a glacial esker that runs along the western edge of the property. A 304-acre Aquifer Protection Area, owned by the City of New Britain, is located less than 600 feet past the property's southern boundary. Directly west of the property is The Barnes Nature Center and Seymour Park. Roughly 15 acres of the property are made up of statewide important soils.

The project gets its name from reports that Passenger Pigeons used to roost in large numbers on top of the Esker. Though this bird is now extinct due to over hunting, we look forward to protecting its former habitat into perpetuity.

The Mayor and I will be meeting with officials from the DEEP to clarify details including how the grant will be allocated between the two organizations. Once everything is finalized, we will begin to take the next steps to make this important open space project a reality.

I will keep everyone updated and thanks as always for your support.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Heth
Executive Director
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