

# A LONG HISTORY OF DEDICATION



**1699**

## Town Green

John Taintor made a bequest of land "to sd Towne to build a publick meeting house upon." It is the site of Town Hall and three churches, and frequent community events.



**1912**

## Parker Park

Bequest of 11 acres to Town by Frank Parker: public beach, play and picnic areas, site of Independence Day fireworks.

**1928**

## Hammer Community Field

Hammer and Hitchcock families create ball fields in 1916, donate land to Town in 1928.

**1967**

## Branford Land Trust Founded

Thirteen town leaders, including First Selectman John Sliney, Town Counsel Frank Dumark, and the Chairs of Planning & Zoning, Conservation and Open Space Commissions Joan Berdick, Elizabeth Breed and Alis McCurdy form the Branford Land Trust (BLT) as a mechanism to protect open space in perpetuity.

**1968**

(1968 - 2011)

## Lower Jarvis Creek Preserve

Donations by Frederic and Sarah Richards to Yale University (1968) and by A. L. Washburn (1976), the Stony Creek Limited Partnership (1993) and an anonymous donor (2011) to BLT create a 113-acre preserve of coastal forest and tidal marsh.

**1969**

## Supply Ponds

The Town purchases 375 acres from New Haven Water Company; it's the first open space purchase by Town, using Town, state and federal funds for acquisition.



**1970**

## Foote Park

Foote Family Charitable Trust constructs and operates 38 acre park for the benefit of Branford residents with sports fields, tennis courts, picnic areas, and scenic trail.

**1971**

## Young Park

Gift of 48 acres to Town from A.M. Young Company in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alden M. Young. A later gift of 3 acres by Pritzger, Schwartz, Vlock family foundation to BLT (2006) extends trail around the entire pond.

**1976**

## Stony Creek Quarry Preserve

Town, BLT, and industrial property owner work together, using Town and federal funds, to protect large woodland area while keeping historic granite quarry operating.

**1978**

(1978-2011)

## Van Wie Preserve

Gifts of 104 acres to BLT from Ray Van Wie, William Van Wie, and Alice Van Wie; first donation of significant tracts of marketable land to Land Trust, enhances value of adjacent Quarry Preserve.



PHOTOS, Left Panel, left to right: An early engraving of the Branford Green, 1834, by Barber (courtesy of the Branford Historical Society); a 1928 photo of the memorial gateway to Parker Park (courtesy of the Branford Historical Society); Branford Land Trust Logo; Supply Ponds in Autumn, 2006; Foote Park, 2012; Plaque commemorating the Van Wie Woods, 2012.





# TO THE PROTECTION OF OPEN SPACE

**1980**  
(1980-1986)

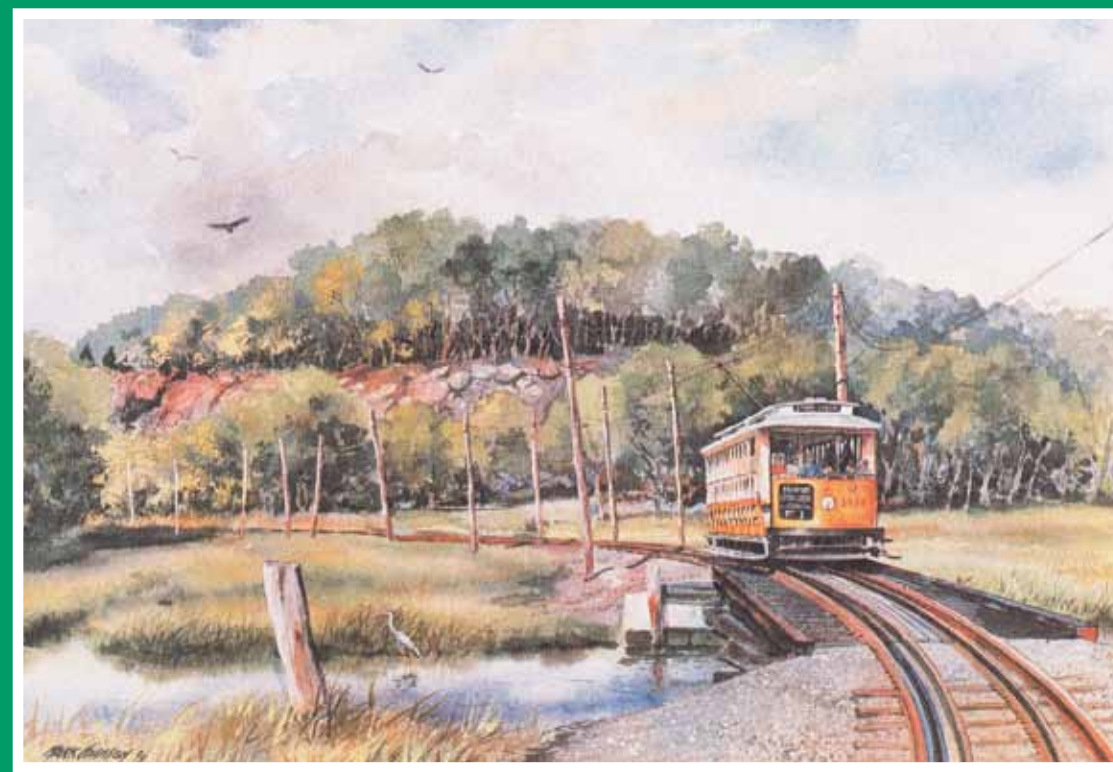
## Vedder and Goss Preserves

Gifts of 27 acres from Jennie Vedder and 15 acres from the Goss family to BLT with dramatic views of marsh and Long Island Sound, gentle walking trails; linked by Stony Creek Trolley Trail.

**1984**

## Lucy T. Hammer Woodlands

Gift of 24 acres to BLT and another 2.6 acres given in 1992. Ponds, trails, ridge line views, abundant early spring wildflowers create oasis of open space close to town center.



**1985**

## Pisgah Brook Preserve

Town purchases 235 acres from South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. Provides additional protection of Supply Ponds watershed, habitat for imperiled plant and animal species.

**1991**

## Beacon Hill

State of Connecticut purchases 69.1 acres with contributions by Town and BLT. Preservation follows grassroots opposition to sequential development proposals; significant town funding supported by referendum.

**1995**

## Outer Island

Gift from Elizabeth Hird to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Stewart B. McKinney Wildlife Refuge.

**1997**  
(1997-2005)

## Hoadley Creek Preserve

BLT makes three purchases totaling 111 acres to expand existing area of open space: with the Guilford Land Conservation Trust from Pinchot family (1997); with the Town from Medlyn family with DEP open space grant (2000); Santacroce Woods with matching grant from Foote Family Charitable Trust and donations in memory of environmentalist Lisa Santacroce (2005).



**1999**  
(1999-2004)

## Short Beach Preserve

Gifts to BLT of 38 acres from Foote Family Trust and Prann-Ertelt family and 0.1 acre from Malarney family and purchase of 4.1 acres creates 42-acre woodland preserve in densely populated Short Beach/Granite Bay neighborhood.

**2002**

## Select Committee on Open Space Acquisition Established

First Selectman Unk DaRos establishes Committee composed of representatives from Planning & Zoning, Inland Wetlands, Parks & Open Space and Conservation Commissions, Board of Finance, Economic Development, BLT, and the Town Planner to advise First Selectman on Town acquisition of open space.

**2004**

## Saltonstall Mountain

Town purchases 93 acres with multi-party cooperation. Partners include Branford, North Branford, and East Haven Land Trusts, Regional Water Authority, and Friends of the Farm River Estuary. Funds provided by Town, RWA and the Watershed Fund, DEP open space grant, Foote Family Charitable Trust, and contributions from the community to the Land Trusts.



**2006**

## Queach

Town purchases 151 acres with assistance from a DEP open space grant, BLT and a significant contribution from Pritzger and Vlock family foundation with contributions from Foote Family Trust and the community. Preservation follows 10-year widespread community opposition to development proposals.

**2011**

## Johnson Farm and Pieper Woodlands

Town purchases 4 acres and 33-acre agricultural easement with assistance of BLT and CT Farmland Trust; BLT purchases 24-acre Pieper Woodlands with contributions from Foote Family Trust, the Pritzker and Vlock family foundation and the community. Acquisitions preserve land, prevent farm development and allow continued ownership and farming by family, and connect hiking trails.

*PHOTOS, left to right: Painting of Beacon Hill by Branford artist Mark Johnson; Hoadley Creek Preserve, 2009; Johnson Farm field, 2009; and below, a panoramic photo of Gurd's Pond at Lucy Hammer Woodlands, photo by Chad Lyons, 2011.*

