



GOSA *Instant!* News Alert

Groton Open Space Association *Instant!* News, Winter 2016

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Advocating for land, water and wildlife in southeastern Connecticut since 1967

Airport Plans to Cut Bluff Point Trees



Aerial view of Bluff Point State Park and Coastal Reserve's with Groton-New London Airport in the background and passive recreation scenes in the foreground. Click on the image above to view a two-minute video about Bluff Point's many different habitats (intertidal zones, eel grass beds, rare and unique coastal forest, barrier beach system, and tidal marsh), all located within the park's 800 acres.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA) are planning to selectively remove trees at Bluff Point State Park in Groton. As many as 40 acres may be damaged.

A public hearing on the plan was held on Dec. 8. Groups and individuals attending the meeting expressed their concern that [CAA's draft Environmental Impact Evaluation](#) either failed to address or was overly vague about the impact tree removal could have on affected species within the park. Bluff Point is a rare and unique coastal forest, unlike anything else in Connecticut. It is used by a number of rare and endangered nesting shorebirds, migratory songbirds, and hawks. We believe there are other alternatives (shortening the ample 4000-ft runway, for example) which were not considered by the airport as a solution to meeting the FAA standards. (Click [here](#) to read the Connecticut Fund for the Environment letter presented at the hearing.)

GOSA strongly opposes ([full GOSA statement here](#)) cutting a mature coastal forest protected as a "coastal preserve" by the state legislature in 1975. The law states that "living and nonliving resources contained within the reserve shall not be disturbed or removed for other than scientific or management purposes...." Tell the leaders of the CAA and CT DEEP that you oppose damaging this unique forest park with tree cutting. Ask them to protect the many rare and endangered species within one of Connecticut's most beloved state parks.



The four red vectors show approaches to the airport's runways. Two lower vectors show Bluff Point areas that require tree cutting. For a larger view, click [here](#).

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Will you please write a letter on behalf of Bluff Point?

SEND A LETTER OR E-MAIL TO:

Commissioner Rob Klee
CT DEEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106
robert.klee@ct.gov

Mr. Thomas Tyler
Director of State Parks
tom.tyler@ct.gov

Mr. Colin Goegel
Connecticut Airport Authority
cgoegel@ctairports.org

Mr. Graham Stevens
Director of Land Acquisition & Management

**Thank you! If you have any questions, please contact us at
gosamail@gmail.com**

