



# Wilton Land Conservation Trust

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 January 2009

The Wilton Land Conservation Trust has just received a donation of a 3.8-acre parcel on DeForest Road from Frank J. Mercede of Stamford and his sister, Barbara A. Pierce of Weston. The property is dominated by a man-made pond and wetlands and includes one building lot.

Mr. Mercede of Frank Mercede & Son, Inc., a prominent real estate development firm, said the property has been in his family for more than 25 years. Negotiations with Land Trust Trustees began in September, and the transaction was finalized on January 23 of this year.

At one time the property was owned by Wilton developer Clem Young who dredged the pond to drain the area's wetlands so he could create building sites. Appraised value of the property is \$667,000.

The property abuts another Land Trust property of two acres to the north which in turn borders a six-plus acre parcel owned by the Town with frontage on Linden Tree Road. The Trust plans to create a north-south trail through the three properties for the convenience of neighbors and others.

With this donation, the Land Trust now owns or holds conservation easements on 102 properties in Wilton totaling more than 700 acres. Founded in 1964, and working closely with the Wilton Conservation Commission and Department of Environmental Affairs, the Land Trust's mission is to preserve and maintain open space in the Town. Its membership is currently almost 500 Wilton individuals and families. Information on Land Trust properties and activities is available on its web site, [www.wiltonlandtrust.org](http://www.wiltonlandtrust.org).