



Landworks Development gives Land to Town of Farmington

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— Landworks Development, 340 Main Street, Farmington Connecticut

FARMINGTON — The town may soon expand its open space if residents agree to accept a gift of property from a local developer.

Landworks Development LLC hopes to donate 4.5 acres to the town, pending a public hearing scheduled for March 11.

"We pursue any opportunity for open space in this town," Councilman Bill Wadsworth, chairman of the land acquisition committee, said Wednesday, noting that the gift is a valuable "added layer to quality of life."

The wooded lot, located in New Britain, borders 30 acres of open space on Batterson Park Road, donated to the town by Landworks three years ago as part of the Bradford Walk condominium development.

"There was no requirement to donate," said developer Ron Janeczko, who owns Landworks Development with builder Chris Nelson. "It could have been kept as private land for the use of condominium residents, but I thought it was better if all people in Farmington could enjoy it forever."

Janeczko, who was named Citizen of the Year in 2007 by the Farmington Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of education, has donated about 107 acres of open space to Farmington, most of which were not required as part of condominium development. He said the decision to give was easy.

"I grew up in Farmington, my children are educated in Farmington, so I am vested in this community because I believe in this town," he said. "While I try to do the best job I can as a land developer, I am sensitive to the environment. I believe in the perpetuity of land preservation by a municipality."

Story by CLEMENTINA VERGE appeared in the Hartford Courant.