Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
July 8, 2026 5:00 P.M.
Simsbury Town Hall
Main Meeting Room

Special Meeting

1. Public Audience
2. Approval of May 6, 2026 Minutes
3. Discussion on Eagle Scout Project
4. Discussion on Draft Work Plan for Simsbury Open Space
5. Invasives Update
6. Arboretum Update
7. Potential Date for Presentation to BOS
8. Other business
9. Events
10. Adjourn

Simsbury Open Space (*draft*)

Executive Summary

Simsbury is blessed with beautiful land and water that benefits citizens and visitors and the full web of life. The Town is a recognized leader in open space preservation and stewardship. The long-term responsibility for the town's land and water requires perspectives that include history, science, health, and public opinion.

This document includes an overview of Simsbury Open Space, the Simsbury Open Space Committee, relevant policies and regulations, and a detailed inventory of town-owned open space. Information herein was compiled based on town records and independent experts and data sources, including UCONN, Connecticut DEEP, Simsbury Historical Society, Simsbury Land Trust, and Farmington River Watershed Association.

The purpose of this document is to update and consolidate information on Simsbury Open Space and provide a detailed and comprehensive resource for the public, town staff, and town officials.

Regular updates will be needed based on new information, policies or laws, and changes in individual properties or their characteristics (i.e. maintenance, flood risk, invasive species, state-listed species, etc.). A more complete review is recommended every five years.

Signed,

Simsbury Open Space Committee

Overview

Simsbury has a unique network of open space in multiple ways – a network of open space that includes multiple nationally-recognized designations, generational community support for town open space, and a continuing dedication and commitment to careful stewardship.

The commitment of the community has been validated consistently in town surveys and town votes. Several major purchases were supported by citizens' petitions. The Simsbury Land Trust is a regional leader and celebrated 50 years in 2026.

ADD BRIEF LIST OF NATIONAL DESIGNATIONS WITH LINKS

Open Space Committee Mission (done)

Charter and Code (done for now, minor updates to be discussed at some point TBD)

Rules of Procedure (done)

Acquisition Policy (done)

Disposition Data Form (done)

Policies and ordinances:

- **Native Plant Policy (zoning? Margery update)**
- **Ecological Mowing Policies (Margery update)**
- **Farm Lease Policy (done)**
- **Natural Area Stewardship Policy (done, minor edit needed)**
- **Wildlife Feeding Ordinance (done)**
- **Dogs at Recreational Facilities, Athletic Fields, and Trails Ordinance (done)**
- **Dark Skies Regulation (done)**
- **Simsbury Town Code:**
  - **Chapter 115: Offenses on Public Property**
  - **Article I: Parks, Playgrounds and Other Town Property**
  - **(add details?)**

Upcoming / to be discussed:

- **Traprock ridge enabling legislation (zoning)**
- **Tree ordinance (zoning)**
- **Water/Aquifer protection (zoning)**

Other? (check POCD)

Strategic Plan for Invasive Remediation (*species, locations*)

Ecological Inventory (*focus areas*)

Simsbury Stewards – Citizen Science

Farmland Overlay

Acquisition Opportunities and Priorities

Tax Foreclosure Process

Simsbury Land Trust

Farmington River Watershed Association

Simsbury Open Space

Code Update - [pending formatting issues]:

H	History
I	Invasives (specify as possible)
WS	wild and scenic river
NT	notable tree(s)
FP	floodplain/flood risk
TR	traprock
OG	old-growth
F	farmland - or resolve with AL for agriculture lease / AP prime farmland?
WWC	resolve re: wetlands and watercourses categories
S	consider S for science (Hemlocks, Chestnuts, Natural Area Stewardship/Wildlands)
?	headwaters, any other special things?

General Readability - Flag as necessary

Punch list to include:

Remove anything miscoded as Open Space (remove)

Add anything new, miscoded, missing, i.e. says "Open Space" on the Town map.

(see example below)

Comments

A was incorrectly coded in the database as GIS Land Use: Single Family. It is owned by the town and is the watershed of Owens Brook.

A: P&R notes wooded with brookside trail

Wetlands and Watercourses:



A

ID	04015041
Map	G07 116 000
Street	HOPMEADOW STREET
Role / P&R burden	W1 H2 C1 / C
Acreage	13.556272

