



BRIEFING BOOKLET
Conservation-Related Strategies

NEWINGTON
2020 POCD

OPEN SPACE

5

POSSIBLE GOAL STATEMENT *Strive to establish a Town-wide open space network.*

Preservation of open space can help protect environmentally sensitive areas, provide wildlife habitat, preserve lands for recreational uses, provide fiscal and economic benefits, protect community character, and enhance quality of life.

The term “open space” can have different meanings to different people. For the purposes of the POCD, the term “open space” will be used to refer to land that falls into one of the following categories:

	Dedicated (Protected)	Managed (Unprotected)
Publicly Owned	Town Park State Park	Vacant Town Land Vacant State Land
Privately Owned	Land Trust Deed Restriction	Private Golf Course Cemetery Undeveloped Land

The Newington Open Space Committee has adopted the following definition:

“Open space is taken to mean any undeveloped or under-developed area of land including woodlands, ponds, and farmlands which offers important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.”

Mill Pond Park



Possible Greenway System



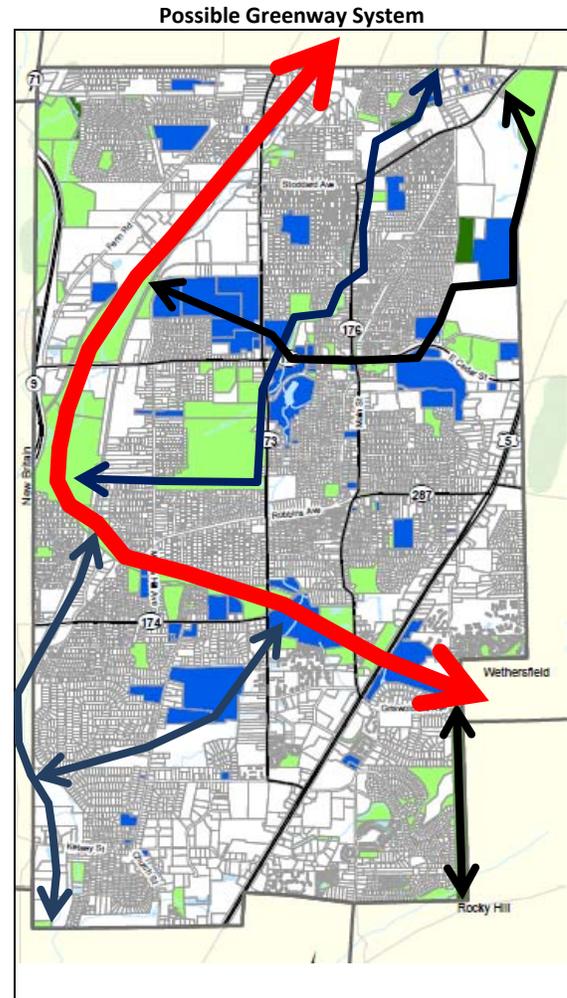
Open space and its preservation and protection is important to Newington residents. Perhaps because about 90 percent of the land area of Newington is developed or committed, the remaining undeveloped parcels have considerable significance in the eyes of residents.

Open space linkages can also be key open space amenities. The establishment of open space linkages (also called “greenways”), which may include trails, has been part of Newington’s open space strategy for some time.

The key elements of this approach can be:

- A main spine along the former I-291 corridor and the CTfastrak busway (red line),
- Linkages along waterway corridors (blue lines), and
- Linkages through existing and future open spaces and institutional lands (black lines).

While making some of these connections may pose a challenge, doing so would enhance the overall value of the open space system (and its economic benefits).



Newington should continue to use available tools to accomplish these goals:

- Open space purchases / donations,
- Grant programs / partnerships with conservation organizations,
- Dedication of conservation easements / access easements,
- Dedication of open space at the time of development, and
- Regulatory provisions (wetland, zoning, subdivision, etc.)

Open Space

Newington, CT

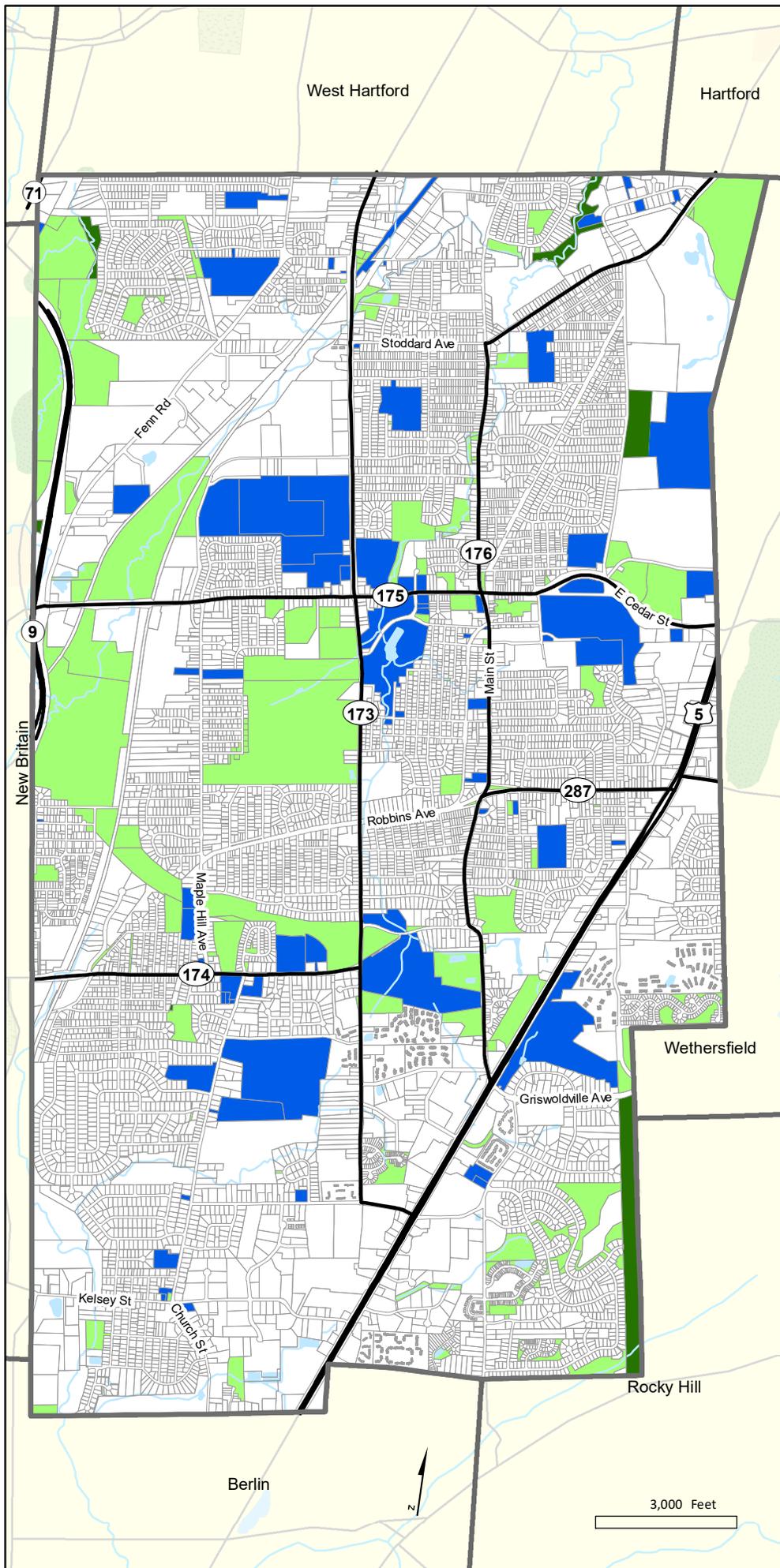
Open Space

 Dedicated Open Space

 Managed Open Space

Institutional

 Community Facility / Institutional



Do these policies and action steps make sense for Newington?

Are there any policies or action steps you feel should be added or deleted?

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR 2020 POCD

C. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)

1. Continue to preserve open space in Newington in order to help:
 - a. Protect important natural resources,
 - b. Preserve and enhance the character of Newington, and
 - c. Link open space areas together as greenway corridors.
2. Continue to emphasize the preservation of Cedar Mountain as open space.
3. Continue to evaluate and prioritize opportunities for open space linkages and oversee their establishment.
4. Support the establishment of a local or regional land trust or other non-government organization to assist in the preservation of open space and the creation of greenway corridors.
5. To help accomplish the vision of open space preservation and linkages, continue to:
 - a. Preserve open space (acquisition and/or easements) at the time of development, and
 - b. Seek grant funding and other assistance.
6. To allow for public access and use:
 - a. Encourage open space set aside as part of a subdivision to be deeded to the Town or to a land trust rather than a homeowner's association.
 - b. Discourage the use of conservation easements to preserve open space since such areas do not typically allow for public access.
7. Work with landowners to explore means of preservation of desirable parcels, including a right-of-first-refusal or similar approach.
8. Seek to make annual appropriation to the Land Acquisition Fund, Article V, Section 48-18, Newington Code of Ordinances.

D. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)

1. Consider preparing an open space plan that:
 - a. Inventories existing open spaces by ownership / type,
 - b. Identifies open space linkages / greenway corridors, and
 - c. Identifies desired future open space properties.
2. Review the Subdivision Regulations and the Zoning Regulations to strengthen ways to preserve open space as part of future development:
 - a. Open space development patterns,
 - b. Fee in lieu of open space,
 - c. Mandatory provision of open space (or a fee-in-lieu-of), and
 - d. Allow dedication of land elsewhere in Newington.
3. Publish maps with useful information about trails and access points for residents and visitors.
4. Amend Section 3.25 of the Zoning Regulations to remove the reference to a page number in the current POCD.