

OPEN SPACE IN SOUTHBURY, CT

QUICK STATS

OPEN SPACE

- Total Open Space Acreage: 6094.04 acres
- Percentage of Land that is Identified as Open Space: 24%
- Total Number of Open Space Properties: 405
- Open Space Acres per Capita: 0.31

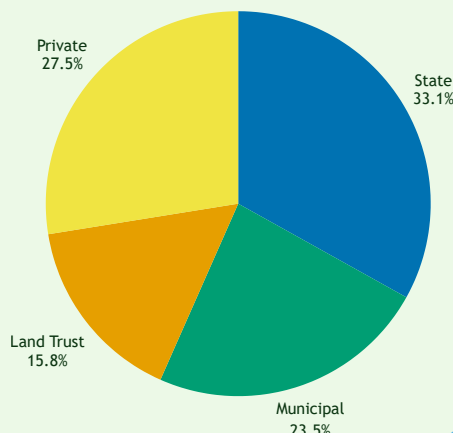
PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

- Total Protected Open Space Acreage: 5174.43 acres
- Percentage of Land that is Identified as Protected Open Space: 20%
- Total Number of Protected Open Space Properties: 318
- Protected Open Space Acres per Capita: 0.26

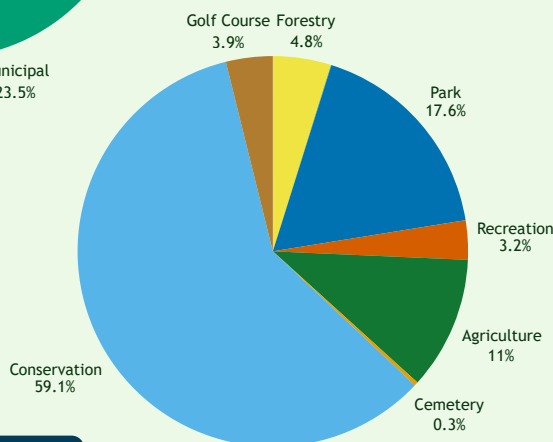
PARCEL SIZE

- Avg. Size: 15.05 acres
- Min: 0.06 acres
- Max: 450.34 acres

OPEN SPACE BY OWNER TYPE



OPEN SPACE BY PRIMARY USE



NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Southbury boasts almost 400 open space parcels comprising roughly 6,000 acres. The State is the largest owner of open space in town, due to the expansive Southbury Training School, Kettletown State Park, Larkin Bridle Trail, and forestry parcels along the Housatonic.

Southbury also enjoys an extremely active land trust, which owns 74 properties and 35 easements. They maintain management plans for each of their properties, have hosted dozens of Eagle Scout projects since 2002, and provide an annual scholarship to a graduating high schooler who plans to pursue environmental studies.

A number of smaller, uniquely shaped open space parcels - both municipally and privately owned - are the result of subdivision set-asides. Although these lots have limited conservation value, they are an important planning tool to balance development with green space. They can also serve as wildlife corridors when they connect two existing open spaces.

SOUTHBURY FEATURED OPEN SPACE

Southbury Dog Park

Southbury's 14-acre dog park, owned by O&G Industries and overseen by a volunteer 501(c)(3) organization, is the largest dog park in the region. This partially fenced area offers pets and their owners an expansive lawn, forested hiking trails, and direct access to the beautiful Pomperaug River. Every day of the week, dogs of all breeds and sizes can be seen exercising and enjoying the beauty of Southbury's environment. The park is overseen and maintained by the nonprofit Friends of Southbury Dog Park. This community-based dog park has attracted international attention: it is ranked on several online lists as one of the country's best dog parks, and in 2018, delegates from a large city in South Korea toured the park to learn how to build their own!



Bent of the River Audubon Center

Southbury's largest private parcel is the Bent of the River Audubon Center: a 700-acre nature sanctuary that welcomes passive recreation in the form of hiking and birdwatching. Pets and motorized vehicles are prohibited, to minimize disruption to the ecosystem. The grounds contain wildlife viewing platforms, art installations, and several historic buildings from the 1800s. The Audubon Center holds educational nature programs and conservation-themed events throughout the year.

Community Park

This municipal park features tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, and soccer fields. The Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition installed a demonstration rain garden there in 2018 that can accommodate up to 7,500 gallons of stormwater. Unfortunately, portions of Community Park were devastated by the August 2024 rainstorm, but dedicated public works staff are hard at work reconstructing the amenities.

