



*Crops growing on Protected  
Farmland in Ellington*

**Dedicated and Protected**

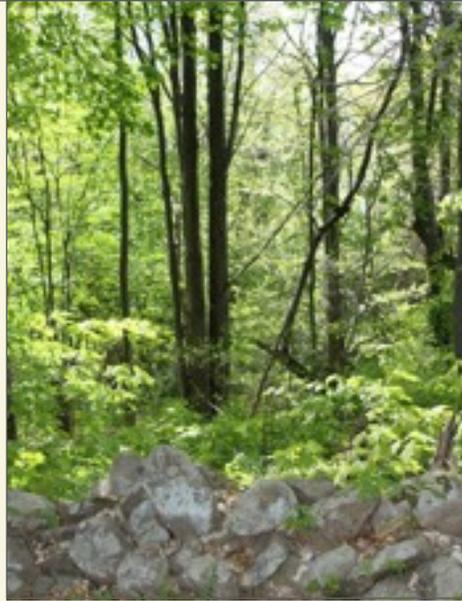
**Open Space:**

Land or development rights owned by the Federal or State government, the town, or land trusts. Land may also be protected in perpetuity by conservation easement, sometimes remaining in private ownership.

**Managed and Perceived**

**Open Space:**

Land owned by fish and game clubs, cemeteries, and other clubs. Also other land that looks or feels open such as farms and private woodlands that are not permanently protected.



Total land area in Ellington

22,144 acres

Existing open Space

2,582 acres or 11.7% as of July 2011

State of Connecticut Goal for Open Space

21% by 2023

Ellington Conservation Commission

Ellington, CT 06029

860-870-3120

To see town owned properties of significance, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/7khxpod>

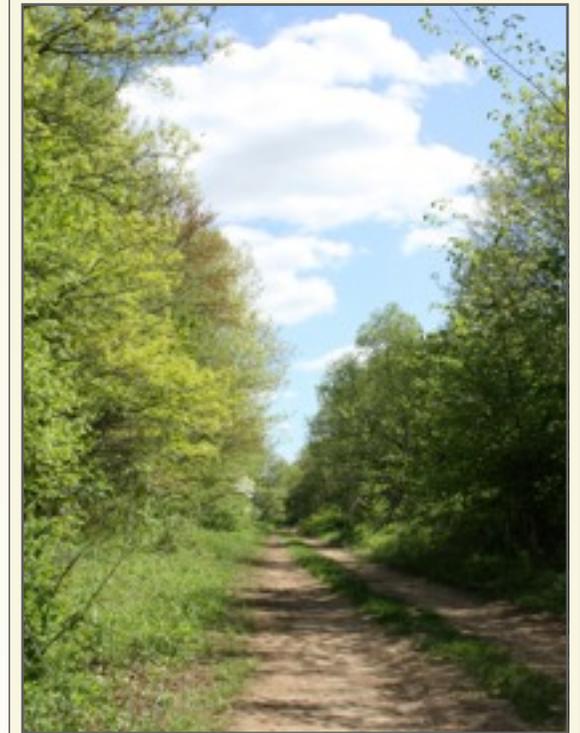
For additional information please visit

[www.ellington-ct.gov](http://www.ellington-ct.gov)

# ELLINGTON

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# OPEN SPACE



THE FUTURE OF THE LAND

*Working toward  
balanced decisions*

# Why Choose Conservation?



## Municipal Land Acquisition

### Funding Mechanisms

- Bonding
- Line item in budgets
- Fee in lieu of programs
- Collaborations
- State cost sharing grants
- Private donations



*Silverherz Barn on protected farmland in Ellington*

## Community Benefits

### Controlling Property Taxes:

Taxes are higher in towns with more residential or commercial development, higher tax bases or less open land.

The equalized mill rate is lower in rural vs. developed towns.

### Protects Rural Economy:

A study of Connecticut's agricultural industry found that it provides \$3.5 billion per year in sales - an output that translates to \$1,000 per Connecticut resident. The industry also generates 20,000 jobs statewide, two-thirds of which are farming alone

### Landowner Benefits:

The opportunity to create or protect a legacy. Potential for benefits with income, estate or property taxes.

## Additional Benefits

- Protect water quality by preserving natural resources
- Preserving rural character
- Maintain quality of life for future generations
- Offer recreational opportunities for healthier lifestyles



- Protect scenic vistas
- Provide local produce, dairy and other food sources.