

# OPEN SPACE IN CHESHIRE, CT

## QUICK STATS

### OPEN SPACE

- Total Open Space Acreage: 4517.25 acres
- Percentage of Land that is Identified as Open Space: 21%
- Total Number of Open Space Properties: 179
- Open Space Acres per Capita: 0.16

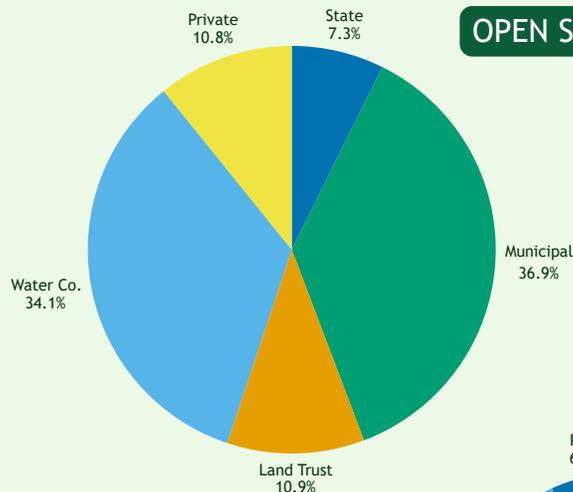
### PROTECTED OPEN SPACE

- Total Protected Open Space Acreage: 4037.06 acres
- Percentage of Land that is Identified as Protected Open Space: 19%
- Total Number of Protected Open Space Properties: 105
- Protected Open Space Acres per Capita: 0.14

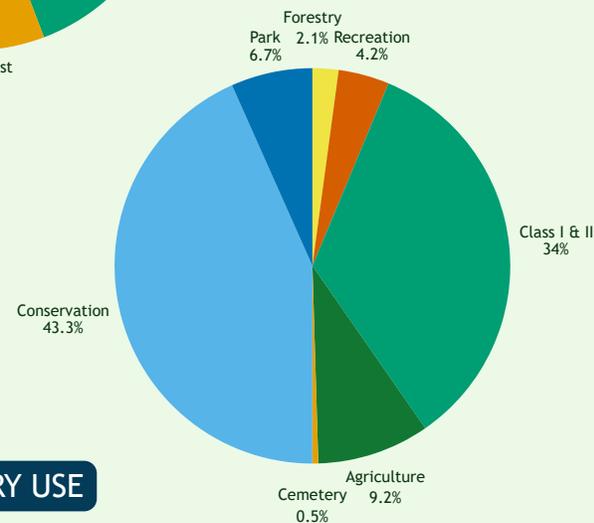
### PARCEL SIZE

- Avg. Size: 25.23 acres
- Min: 0.27 acres
- Max: 475.66 acres

## OPEN SPACE BY OWNER TYPE



## OPEN SPACE BY PRIMARY USE



## NARRATIVE OVERVIEW

Cheshire enjoys a blend of open space belonging to the State, the municipality, Cheshire Land Trust, water companies, and several private owners. Many of these parcels connect with each other to create conservation corridors, like the chain of Thomas Pool Memorial (land trust), Bens Homestead (State), the Puchalski property (municipal), the Mountain Road tract (water company), and the Roaring Brook Estates open space (homeowners' association). On the opposite side of Cheshire, over 1,000 acres of watershed land belong to the City of Meriden's Water Division, hosting large reservoirs. Another striking open space feature is the State-owned Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, which runs the full length of Cheshire from north to south and bisects the Town.

The Town maintains a number of parks, including Bartlem, Mixville, historic Lock 12, Cheshire Park, and Quinnipiac Recreation Area. Bartlem in particular is well-loved for its accessibility and sports fields, playgrounds, community garden, indoor recreation center with a swimming pool, and skate park. The Town, however, also manages some of its open space as conservation land, like Dime Savings and as agricultural land, like Boulder Knoll.

# CHESHIRE FEATURED OPEN SPACE

## Farmington Canal Heritage Trail

Abandoned railroad tracks have found new life in the form of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail. One of the most impressive trails in Connecticut, the strip of State property runs for 80 miles starting in New Haven and ending well into Massachusetts. The paved, multiuse trail snakes through the center of Cheshire and intersects significant roads like West Main, spurring economic development in the form of trailside services. It also connects to Lock 12 Historic Park, a restored lock from the original Farmington Canal, which contains a picnic area, a helicoidal bridge, and a small museum.



## Tenmile Lowlands

A haven for wildlife, this nearly 150-acre property is rife with wetlands, streams, and vernal pools. The Tenmile River runs along the western border and serves as habitat for amphibious life, including salamanders, frogs, and turtles. Visitors are welcome to hike on the unblazed trail and enjoy stunning views of the watercourses. The lowlands are situated within a largely residential area and connect to other land trust- and privately-held open space.

## Ives Farm

Ives Farm spans three properties and approximately 150 acres in northeast Cheshire near the Quinnipiac River. The Cheshire Land Trust leases the fields to local farmers in keeping with the community's agricultural heritage, and even produces some of the fresh food served in Meriden's public schools. Behind the fields are woods that include public hiking trails. Cheshire Land Trust holds events throughout the year to engage the public, many of which take place at the red barn on the Ives property - bike races, a waterfowl presentation with live animals, farm equipment shows, tag sales, guided hikes, historical tours, fish releases, birding excursions, horseback rides, and even a Regional Land Trust Summit.

