



Salisbury Open Space & Recreation Plan

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A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '1. Introduction'. The stream flows through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The foreground shows a rocky stream bed with fallen branches and roots.

1. Introduction

Introduction

Access to parks and open space is known to have significant impact on physical and mental well-being and overall quality of life.

A key to creating healthy communities is providing places and opportunities for people to get out in the fresh air and enjoy their surroundings. Depending on the participants, this may be trails to walk or hike, athletic fields to run on, playgrounds to climb around, or places to play ball.

Salisbury is the perfect place for such activities with its numerous parks and abundant open space. With over 60 square miles in area (over 38,400 acres), approximately 60 percent of the Town's land area is designated as open space. Furthermore, Salisbury's Natural Resources Inventory notes that as of 2009, 9,654 acres, or 25 percent of the land, are permanently protected for conservation purposes including a local portion of the Appalachian Trail.

Purpose of this Study

This study has been commissioned to assess the existing recreational assets of the Town of Salisbury, review the condition of equipment and facilities, and determine where enhancements and additional facilities are warranted. While the major focus is on active recreational facilities, preserved open space is also discussed.

Recommendations of this study will serve to inform the Town's update to the Plan

of Conservation and Development (POCD). The POCD is required in seeking discretionary state funding. It is also required for the expenditure of municipal funds and the repurposing of Town owned land. Projects included in the POCD exhibit the forethought of the Town for things such as recreational enhancements and open space preservation.

Over the past few decades, the demand for more recreational facilities in Salisbury has been growing, with notable increase since the pandemic.

Parks make our community healthier

Parks offer health and wellness benefits to residents and visitors, economic benefits to businesses and property owners, and ecological benefits to the greater built and natural landscapes. They provide:

- Places to exercise, for better health
- Spaces to socialize, to connect to others
- Contact with nature to relax and recharge the mind and body
- Habitats for protection and proliferation of wildlife

The pandemic also brought to light the unsustainable reliance on non-public institutions – such as private schools - to meet the recreation needs of the Town's residents. This dependency on outside facilities left a gap in access to a number

of recreational opportunities when they closed their doors to public use of their facilities. The need for additional recreational facilities owned and managed by the Town became evident. With the acquisition of the Pope property, there is great potential to consolidate athletic facilities at Trotta Field.

As part of the analysis for this plan, a recreation survey was conducted to gain input about the public perception of available recreation opportunities and needs. Overall, residents are content with the types of available recreation facilities

but would like to see more amenities.

This plan highlights the benefits of parks and open space, how parks are classified, and incorporates current recreation trends.

The plan is focused on the following four major active recreation areas:

1. Town Grove
2. Community Field
3. Trotta Field
4. The Rail Trail



Figure 1: Baseball Diamond at Trotta Field

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '2. Material and Methods'. The stream flows through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The bottom portion of the image is obscured by a dark green, irregularly shaped overlay.

2. Material and Methods

Open Space & Recreation Plans

An Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) expresses a municipality's vision for passive and active recreation by providing a snapshot of existing conditions, identifying issues and opportunities, and offering strategies to address them.

In order to properly develop this OSRP, a comprehensive baseline inventory of existing parks, open space, and natural resources was prepared; open space and recreation recommendations from previous studies and planning documents were reviewed; current demographics and community needs were considered; and a survey was conducted to identify unmet needs of the open space and recreation system.



Figure 2: Salisbury Congregational Church

Previous Planning Documents
Salisbury Plan of Conservation and Development (2012)

Prepared in 2012 (2024 update in progress) by the Planning and Zoning Commission in accordance with Section 8-23 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) is a guide to the

future of Salisbury. The plan identifies assets which the Town wishes to protect, provides a guide for development, sets and prioritizes strategies and tasks to guide future decision-making and municipal expenditures, as well as addressing POCD implementation.

As the 2012 POCD relates to Parks and Recreation, the following is noted:

Protection Strategies

- Strategies of the POCD generally support the preservation, protection, and prioritization of open spaces and working landscapes in Salisbury for the benefit of the local natural resources and habitat.

Supporting the community - Provide for Pedestrians, Bicycles, and Wildlife

- The POCD addresses the importance of establishing bike connections to and through Salisbury. An overall plan for pedestrian and bicycle improvements is recommended, which will be reflected in this Plan.



Figure 3: Library Park



Figure 4: Playground in the Town Grove

Salisbury Natural Resources Inventory (2009)

In 2009, the Salisbury Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) was adopted identifying natural resource features including geology and topography, water resources, forest resources, agricultural resources, critical habitats, open space, scenic roads, recreational resources, and historic landmarks. While the Town's Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) is more ecological in scope, the OSRP more broadly addresses the preservation and passive use of open space as an amenity.

As it relates to this OSRP, the chapters on Open Space and Recreational Resources are most applicable.

Open Space

The Open Space chapter identifies land that is protected through ownership or land use restrictions. The Salisbury Association Land Trust maintains the open space map, which is referenced in this report and included in the Appendix.

Recreational Resources

The Recreational Resources chapter identifies the types of sports that rely upon programs that are administered as parks and recreation facilities and properties.

Lakeville Village Planning Study

In 2023, the Lakeville Village Planning Study was completed recommending strategies responding to concerns identified by residents. These include improving safety, accessibility, and connectivity of the Rail Trail as well as access between open space and recreation areas. In particular, the need to improve the Rail Trail to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists was recommended including improvements related to intersections with roadways and surface conditions. Uneven surfaces, exposed roots, poor drainage, dangerous side slopes, and elevation differential between the bridge in the vicinity of the Rail Trail and Community Field were noted.

The study also recommended consideration of improvements to Community Field including the relocating a tennis court that is on Aquarion Water Company property, upgrading tennis courts, and creating passive recreation facilities including a pavilion and walking trail. It also called for improved restroom facilities.

Salisbury Village Center Plan

In early 2024, the Salisbury Village Center Plan was completed. Recommendations included strategies to improve pedestrian and bicycle circulation, connectivity, and

accessibility. Like the Lakeville Village Planning Study, this analysis also concluded the need to enhance the Rail Trail. Specifically, it recommended addressing the gap in the trail along Railroad Street, providing a pedestrian connection between the Rail Trail and Main Street, enhancement of the Rail Trail surface for safety purposes, and exploring the feasibility of creating a multimodal link from the Pope property to Salisbury Village Center.

National Recreation and Parks Association Classifications

It is valuable to assess the existing assets of Salisbury in contrast with national standards. In 1996, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published its Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines. Under the Guidelines, parks are classified using a variety of parameters such as the size of the property and number of users within specified distances.

National Recreation and Parks Association Guidelines Adapted for Salisbury

While these NRPA Guidelines offer variables to consider, not all parks and open space can be held to one national standard. Based on the demographics and density of a community (rural, suburban or urban), towns need to determine the type of parks and features most suitable for their setting and population.

In addition to evaluating the types of parks, an analysis of recreational needs assesses the features of each park in



Figure 5: Playground in a neighborhood park along Locust Street

terms of facilities and equipment. NRPA offers metrics for a variety of park features based on national averages which are included in the Appendix. These were reviewed to determine adequacy of the types and number of park features found in Salisbury.

Other important local considerations in determining recreational needs are the condition of existing facilities and recreation trends. These new recreation trends include emergent recreational activities such as pickleball, multiuse courts, and the trend toward a centralized community recreational complex.

For purposes of this OSPR, park types most appropriate to the Town of Salisbury include:

Mini Park

Mini Parks are limited, isolated, or unique recreation facilities addressing the needs of concentrated populations. They typically serve constituents within a quarter-mile radius. The size of a Mini Park ranges between 2,500 square feet and one acre. These parks may be either active or passive and address a specific recreational use. Mini Parks may include a small pavilion, picnic area, park benches, and/or a 6-foot-wide perimeter trail and generally rely on adjacent roadways for parking.

Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks serve a variety of age groups within a limited area or neighborhood. They range in size from 1 to 15 acres and generally serve residents within a quarter- to half-mile radius.



Figure 6: Soccer field at Community Field

Neighborhood Parks include areas for active recreation activities such as field games, court games, playgrounds, etc. Passive recreation activities may include walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. Facilities are generally unlit. An off-street

parking lot is not required since these parks are within walking distance to most users.

Community Park

Community Parks are larger than Neighborhood Parks and serve several neighborhoods. They range in size from 16 to 99 acres and generally serve a user area of one to two miles in radius. The Community Park may include areas for intense recreation activities such as competitive sports, swimming, tennis, playgrounds, and volleyball. There may also be passive recreation opportunities such as walking, viewing, sitting, and picnicking. These parks generally have available on-site parking areas.

Special Use Area

Special Use Areas are for specialized or single-purpose recreation activities. NRPA includes in this category historical areas, nature centers, marinas, golf courses, zoos, conservatories, arboretums, arenas, amphitheaters, plazas, and community squares. There are no specific standards for size since each site will vary based on the specialized use. Most larger scale facilities have available on-site parking. Special Use Areas may also be associated with other park types.

Trails and Greenways

Trails and Greenways are built connections or natural corridors that link parks together. Typically, Trails and Greenways are developed for one or more modes of recreational travels such as walking, jogging, biking, and hiking. Greenways may include active play areas.

Trends in Recreation

In addition to assessing current park and open space assets and potential elements of various park classifications, a review of recent trends in recreation is of value in understanding new recreational interests as well as recreational amenities with elevated or diminished demand.

Municipal recreation trends include creating multipurpose recreational facilities that consolidate numerous elements at one location to serve the needs of the entire community including a variety of options for different ages and abilities. The type of facility fits the NPRA classification of Community Park.

Development of this type of park creates recreation opportunities for different user groups with activities that may take place simultaneously or at different times of day. For instance, accessible walking trails may serve parents pushing a stroller or older residents looking for a safe environment to walk without interacting with traffic.

Elements such as, baseball and softball fields and multipurpose soccer, lacrosse and football fields may have a schedule for organized sports, but when not reserved, be available for use by the general public. Sufficient parking to accommodate not only users, but spectators, should be a consideration. Installation of lighting can greatly expand the amount of time available to use these features.

Demand for specialized facilities,

designed with specific users in mind, such as pickleball courts and skate parks has grown in recent years. These facilities may be used frequently and usually experience high turnover. Like multipurpose soccer and football fields, where space is limited, courts may be striped to accommodate both tennis and pickleball.

For any multipurpose recreational facility, playgrounds in the vicinity of other elements, such as sports fields or courts, allow parents to entertain young children while watching older children playing a sport nearby.

Multipurpose facilities can provide greater efficiency of space accommodating a diversity of uses for a variety of ages throughout the day. Staggered scheduling will provide for more efficient use of parking spaces also. Additionally, the ability to access the facility by multiple modes of transportation, including bicycles and on foot, is an important element in planning for success.



Figure 7: Kayak storage at Town Grove

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay. The stream flows through a dense forest of green trees. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side. The green overlay is a solid, dark green shape that covers the lower half of the image, with a wavy, torn-edge border. The text "3. Community" is written in white, sans-serif font on the green overlay.

3. Community

Community Characteristics

When assessing recreational assets and planning for the future, it is important to evaluate demographic characteristics of the Town. The U.S. Census and/or American Community Survey (ACS) are resources for relevant data.

According to the 2020 census, Salisbury has a population of 4,194. The land area of Salisbury is 60 square miles making it a rural community. There are four Census block groups in Salisbury, and most residents are located in Block Groups 1, 2 and 4. Block Group 3 is the least dense area, with farms and passive open space.

While Salisbury has historically experienced seasonal population influxes during the warmer months, since the pandemic permanent residency has increased.

The median age for the population of Salisbury has been dropping over the past few years with the in-migration of families with children. Pre-pandemic the median age was 52 and most recent ACS statistics has the median age below 48. It is important to note that at the same time, the average household income remains high. Studies have found a correlation between affluence and a higher degree of leisure time physical activities. These factors can result in a higher demand for recreational amenities.

With the availability of several significant sites for active recreation, the range of activities that Salisbury can support is extensive. Based on recent public engagement during the Lakeville Village and Salisbury Village planning processes and assessment of trends and demand, the need for more facilities and upgrades to existing active recreation elements is warranted.



Population of
4,194
people

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '4. Goals and Objectives'. The stream flows through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The bottom portion of the image is obscured by a dark green, irregularly shaped overlay.

4. Goals and Objectives

Goals & Objectives

It is important to establish a set of goals and objectives that can serve as a guide for achieving a robust system of parks and preserved open space to meet the needs of the community. Land use decisions, municipal investments, and recreational programming should refer to this document to implement the vision established herein.

The goals of this OSRP address deficiencies in park amenities reflecting national best practices in parks planning nationally. Recommendations from municipal planning documents noted in Section 2 of this report were incorporated as appropriate.

Goal: Improve parks and open space access and connectivity.

- Objective: Link the existing parks via safe pathways, sidewalks, and bike lanes.
- Objective: Pursue easements for gaps in the Rail Trail for continuity and enhanced safety.
- Objective: Provide pedestrian access via sidewalks and trails to parks to encourage a decreased reliance on automobiles.
- Objective: Encourage the use of bicycles by upgrading and increasing the number of bicycle racks located at each park and along the Rail Trail in village centers.

Goal: Improve parks and open space access and connectivity.

- Objective: Align recreation amenities and activities with the interests of the community, taking into consideration that these may change over time.
- Objective: Outfit active parks with appurtenances such as benches, playground equipment, and fitness stations appropriate for a wide range of ages and abilities.

Goal: Develop a partnership with local schools.

- Objective: Tie outdoor education into school curriculum and club activities to instill in children from an early age that they are stewards of their communities, and that people and nature have a symbiotic relationship.

Goal: Conduct regular maintenance of parks to provide safe and inviting facilities.

- Objective: The Recreation Department should perform routine inspections of lighting, refuse receptacles, playground equipment, and field conditions to determine where maintenance or replacement is warranted.
- Objective: Ensure financial planning to encompass long term maintenance of all new and rehabilitated parks and recreation facilities.

A photograph of a forest stream with a large tree trunk on the right and a green overlay at the bottom. The stream flows through a dense forest of green trees. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding foliage. The tree trunk on the right is thick and has a rough, textured bark. The green overlay at the bottom is a solid, dark green color with a wavy, torn-edge border.

5. Open Space & Recreation

Open Space & Recreation Inventory

A list and map of open space and recreation assets of the Town was updated by the Salisbury Association Land Trust in 2023. The Appendix of this report provides a table of the recreational facilities.

Municipally Owned Properties and Programs

Salisbury offers numerous recreational opportunities on municipally owned lands, active and passive, small and large, single use and multipurpose. The main focus of this plan, as noted in the introduction, is the three multipurpose active recreation facilities and the linkage between them, specifically Town Grove, Community Field, Trotta Field, and The Rail Trail.

While public school properties in Town provide a variety of recreational features, they are not included as available



Figure 8: Community Field Signage

recreation facilities in this plan due to limitations on guaranteed availability and access.

Salisbury Central School is on town owned land but is managed and maintained by the Board of Education which may curtail access to this site at any time. There is a playground and multiuse grass field area on site. Current conditions related to poor parking availability, difficult access and insufficient maintenance of the field, make this a less attractive alternative when compared to other Town-owned recreation facilities.

There are small passive pocket parks around Town such as Library Park behind Scoville Memorial Library, Cannon Park (an extension of Community Field near the intersection of Rt 41 and Rt 44), and Bauer Park at Factory Pond.

The Salisbury Recreation Commission administers programs and activities at Town owned facilities including ice hockey, baseball, softball, lacrosse, soccer, and more. Additionally, the Commission offers programs in swimming, sailing, kayaking and ice skating at Lake Wononscopomuc and Factory Pond. Recent concerns about the spread of the highly invasive aquatic plant *Hydrilla* may curtail future public boat access.

State Properties

Mount Riga State Park is a 276-acre park providing opportunities for hiking, bird watching, and archery hunting. This beautiful park has direct access to the Appalachian Trail and encompasses Yoakum Preserve.

.....

Twin Lakes has a State-owned boat launch providing access to a 859 acre lake for fishing and water skiing. Recent concerns about the spread of the highly invasive aquatic plant *Hydrilla* may curtail future public boat access.

Federal Properties

A 16.1-mile segment of the Appalachian Trail lies in Salisbury. It is popular for hiking, backpacking, and camping. Hikers can access Salisbury Village via the Rail Trail or Main Street, where they are able to get additional provisions for their travels and use the Post Office.

Town Grove

The Town owns an approximately 12-acre park on Lake Wononscopomuc called the Town Grove. The Town Grove offers a variety of amenities, recreational opportunities, and programs. There are three buildings as well as storage sheds on property. Amenities are described in detail below. A packed dirt parking lot can accommodate approximately 100 cars, three spots of which are designated handicap accessible, however there is no paving or striping to assist in providing optimum capacity. The parking lot is ridden with potholes making it difficult to plow in winter and muddy in the spring. Runoff is laden with silt that discharges to catch basins and ultimately flows to Factory Brook untreated.

The site has a public boat launch area. This facility is considered both a Special Use Area and Community Park under the NRPA park classifications. Many of the amenities are ADA accessible and are in good condition. The Grove is an iconic community facility enjoyed by full-time and seasonal residents of Salisbury but also frequented by visitors from surrounding towns.

Lower Building/Store

The Lower Building/Store is a three-season building with seasonal water and electricity. The store sells ice cream, sundries, fishing bait and equipment, and day and season passes. The building is ADA accessible and contains three restrooms with changing areas, including:

- Women's Restroom with 3 toilet stalls, 2 sinks, and 3 changing rooms
- Men's Restroom with 3 urinals, one toilet, 2 sinks, and 2 changing stalls
- Unisex ADA accessible restroom with a toilet and a sink

Town Grove Building/Senior Center

The Town Grove building is an ADA accessible, year-round building constructed in 2010. There is an asphalt parking lot with parking for 10 with 3 ADA spaces. The building includes:

- Offices of the Town Grove Manager and Recreation/Senior Services Director
- Senior Center
- Large multipurpose room used for events, senior and recreation programming, and meetings. It is also available for rental by residents
- Commercial kitchen used for senior nutrition program and rental groups
- Men's restroom with a urinal, an ADA accessible stall, and 2 sinks
- Women's restroom with 3 stalls, 1 of which is ADA accessible, and 2 sinks
- Full basement for storage

Maintenance Building

The Maintenance Building is a year-round building with electricity, but no running water, providing storage for all maintenance equipment and vehicles and containing a workshop.

Storage Shed

There are 4 storage sheds for recreation program equipment and seasonally used Town Grove equipment.

Available for Rent

- Dock slips
- Sailboat moorings
- Paddle boards
- Kayaks
- Rowboats
- Canoes
- Kayak/paddleboard storage racks

Recreational Equipment

- 12 paddleboards and paddles
- 8 kayaks
- 8 Sailboats
- Pontoon boat
- V hull and flat hull rowboats
- 2 Canoes
- Swim team docks
- Swimming area rafts

Recreational Opportunities and Programs

- Fishing at Lake Wononscopomuc, children’s fishing pond and Factory Pond
- Beach and swimming area with lifeguards
- Swim team
- Swim lessons
- Lifeguard training
- Boating
- Pontoon boat rides
- Sailing, kayaking and paddleboard instruction
- Senior exercise programs
- Ping pong
- Yoga and Tai Chi
- Paddle tennis
- Picnic areas with outdoor grills
- Basketball
- Playground
- Family nights
- Halloween night activities



Figures 9 to 11: Recreation Areas in Town Grove



Community Field & Cannon Park

Community Field is an approximately 6-acre recreational area located in the village of Lakeville. It extends from Sharon Road (Route 41) to Pettee Street and is adjacent to the Rail Trail. Presently, Community Field is used as open space for active and passive recreation. Garbage and portable restroom facilities are seasonally provided. Community Field supports recreation programs including youth soccer, youth tennis lessons, and a community Sunday softball game that has been in continuous existence for more than over 30 years. It is a valued community space for the residents of Lakeville.

While Community Field consists primarily of Town-owned land, a small portion of the field off of Pettee Street is owned by Aquarion Water Company. One of the tennis courts encroaches on Aquarion property and needs to be relocated. This park facility falls entirely within a State-designated Aquifer Protection Area, which is a public drinking water supply.

Vehicular access to Community Field is from Sharon Road and Pettee Street, but designated parking is lacking. Vehicles entering from Sharon Road park on the grass alongside the fence line to the left or to the right of the flagpole. Limited on-street parking is available on Pettee Street., Many drivers traverse Aquarion's property to park on the grass adjacent to the tennis courts.

In addition to the primary Community Field area, there is a portion of the park next to the Sharon Road access point that extends to the intersection with Main Street (Route 44). Known as Cannon Park, this small pocket park off of the main field area is a passive recreational space with benches, plantings and a sculpture.

Community Field lacks pedestrian walkways, formal parking, a paved entrance, and functioning restroom facilities. Most of the park features are older and in need of replacement or enhancement. Improvements would yield safer amenities and facilitate expanded programming and events throughout the year adding to the vibrancy of the Lakeville Village neighborhood of Salisbury.

This facility is considered a Community Park under the NRPA park classifications.

Maintenance Building

- Contains an existing non-functioning restroom facility and storage.



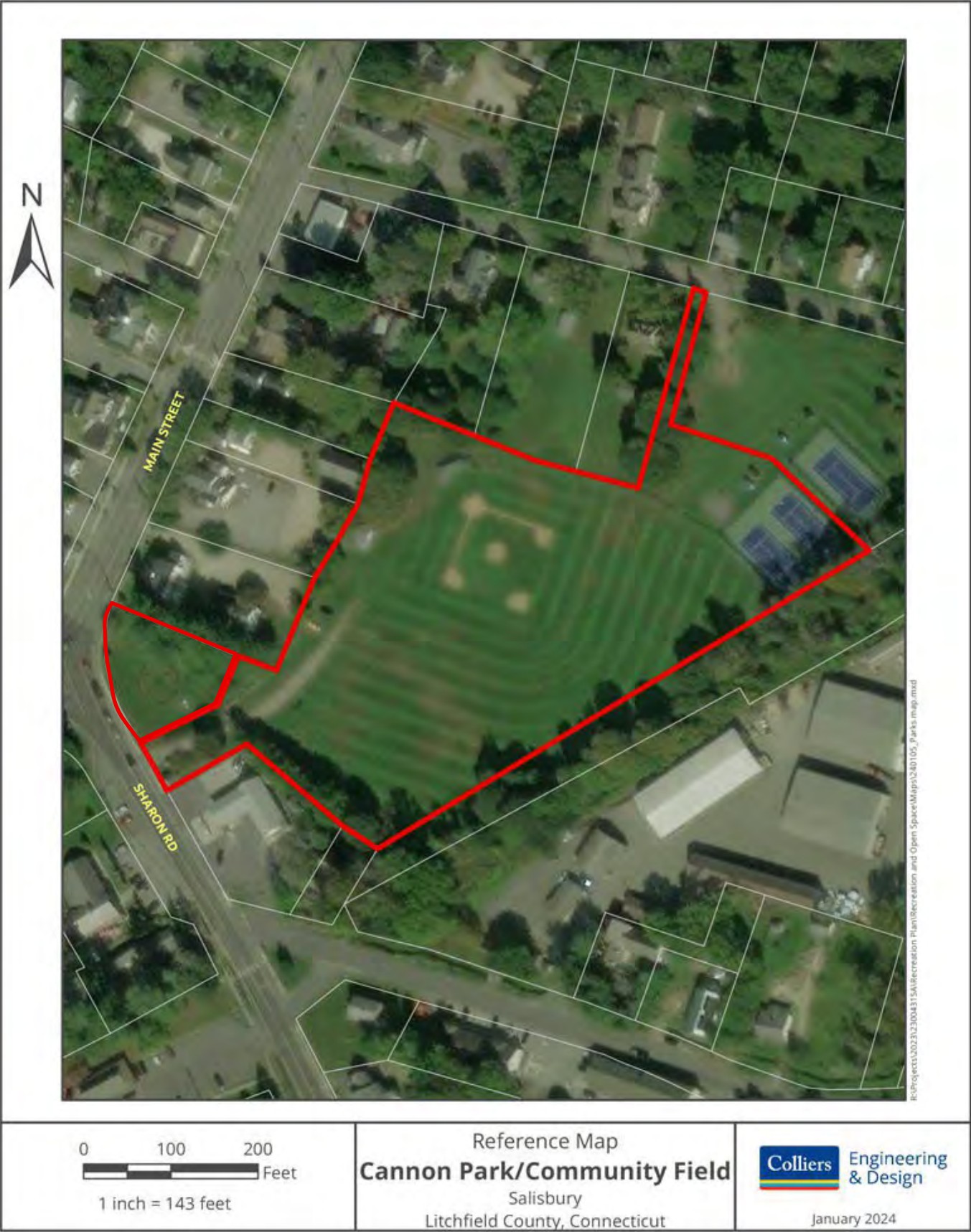
Figure 12: Soccer Field at Community Field



Figure 13: Tennis Courts at Community Field

Recreational Opportunities and Programs

- 3 Tennis courts; (2 also striped for pickleball)
- 90-foot baseball diamond with metal backstop and cement slabs for benches
- Softball field with a small portable backstop
- Basketball court
- Soccer field
- 2 Swing sets – metal with grass surfaces
- Public open space for unstructured recreational activities
- Access to Rail Trail



Trotta Field

Trotta Field is part of a 13-acre Town-owned parcel located just south of the Salisbury Village Center area. Vehicular access to Trotta Field is shared with the day care center and visiting nurse association (VNA) building off Salmon Kill Road. In the late 1990's Trotta Field was developed as an active recreation park with ballfields and a multipurpose paved recreation space. The park currently supports multiple sports and recreation programs.

Trotta Field is surrounded by the Town-owned Pope Property on three (3) sides. Conceptual planning for the Pope Property is considering an expansion of the Trotta Field property and layout of active recreational facilities to accommodate additional recreation.

The Trotta Field property presently has no designated parking area. Cars have been parking on the grass along the northern tree line by the baseball field and occasionally use the daycare/VNA parking lot.

This facility is classified by the NRPA as a Community Park.

Buildings

There are two storage buildings with no water and electricity only in the smaller building.

Recreation Facilities

- 60-foot baseball diamond with dugouts and full fence
- 60-foot baseball diamond with backstop, fence in front of bench areas, temporary outfield fence
- Batting cage
- Soccer field
- Multipurpose paved recreation space for two basketball courts, street hockey, ice skating
- Proximal to, but does not front on, the Rail Trail



Figure 14: Vegetation area in Trotta Field

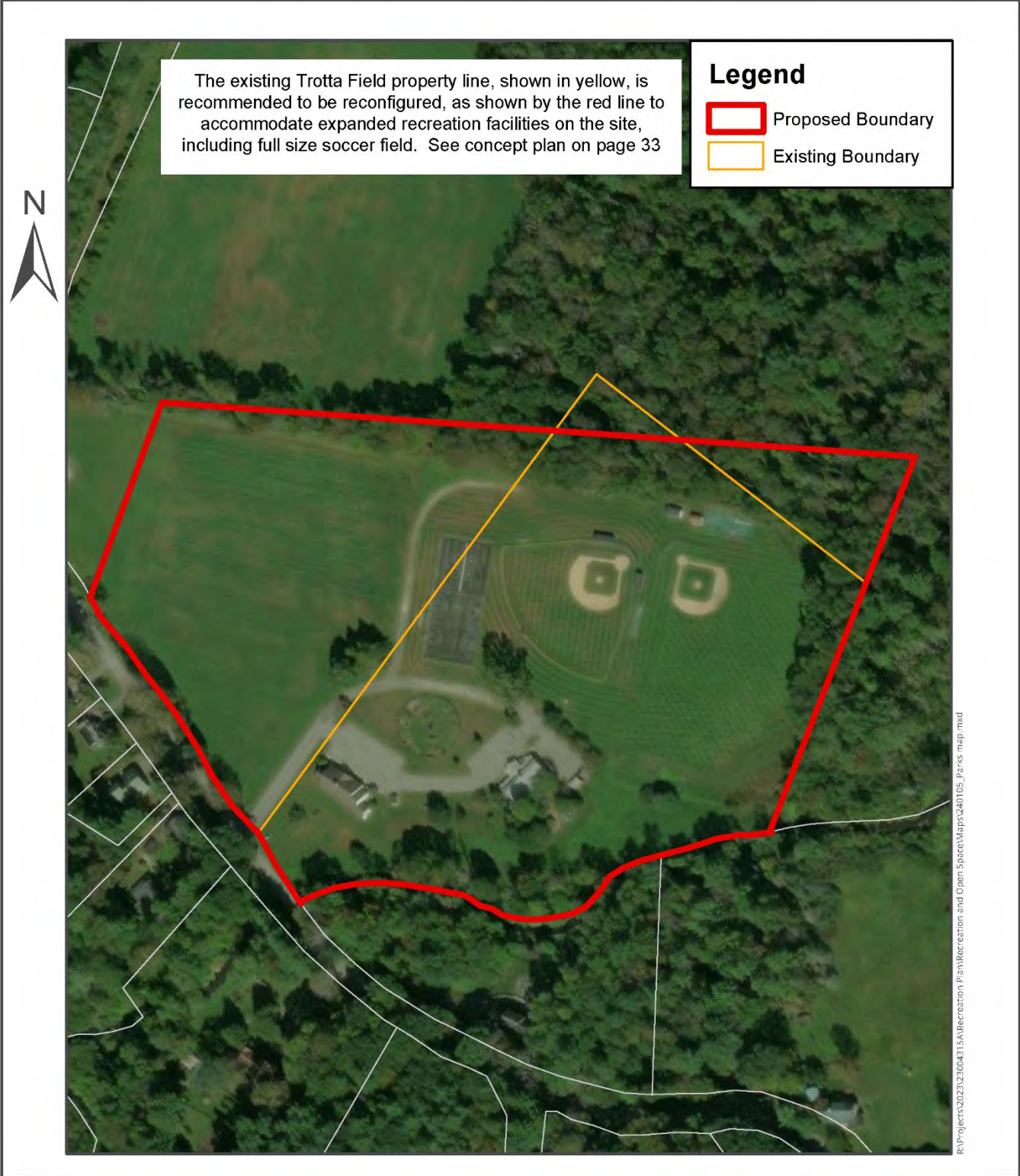
The multipurpose paved area was last resurfaced in 2006 and needs to be replaced in the near future. The court is breaking down and there are cracks throughout the entire surface.

Presently, the only restroom facilities are portable toilets.

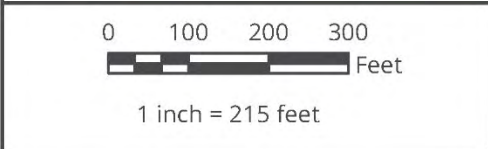
The soccer field is near a wetlands area and floods after heavy rain and snow melt causing downtime due to inaccessibility. Additionally, one of the baseball infields is within the soccer field boundaries which does not allow for play of both sports at the same time and surface inconsistencies may pose an unsafe condition.

Recreation Programs

- Organized sports including:
 - Baseball
 - Soccer
 - Basketball
 - Street hockey
 - Ice skating



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Reference Map
Trotta Field
 Salisbury
 Litchfield County, Connecticut

Colliers Engineering & Design
 January 2024

Rail Trail

The Rail Trail, historically referred to as the Railroad Ramble, is a former railroad right of way that runs through the Town of Salisbury from Lakeville Village to Salisbury Village and beyond. The total length of the trail is over two miles and is Town-owned. Natural vegetation line the sides of the trail providing seasonal color and a rural experience.



Figure 15: Unpaved portion of the Rail Trail



Figure 16: Porous paved portion of Rail Trail

The Rail Trail falls under the Trails and Greenways classification of the NRPA.

The Trail was constructed over ballast that previously supported the CNE railroad bed. The typical depth of the ballast is around one foot, providing a stable foundation. In its current condition the Trail is not accessible to users with disabilities. Over time the trail surface and side slopes have deteriorated due to vegetation, exposed tree roots, moss growth, areas of subsidence near bridge crossings, and surface depressions caused by weather conditions.

Even in its current condition, the Rail Trail is a popular amenity for residents and visitors. There is a wide range of opinions regarding its future use and condition. At present, the trail is unimproved except for a small stretch north of Community Field at Walton Street.

Railroad Ramble

Salisbury, Connecticut



Trail Distance:

2.1 miles

Difficulty:

Easy



For information about Salisbury Association Land Trust preserves scan QR code



The town owned Railroad Ramble follows the old bed of the Central New England railroad that operated from 1871 to 1938. It initially ran from Hartford to Millerton, NY. Later this route became part of a larger system and for a brief period was the main route from Washington DC to Boston. Freight service from Canaan to Lakeville via this route lasted until 1969.

The 2.1 mile trail now connects the villages of Salisbury and Lakeville. It starts at Route 44 in Salisbury and ends at the town ball field in Lakeville near Route 41. Accessible at multiple points the trail is actively used year around for quiet walking, running, bicycling, snowshoeing and birdwatching.

On the west side, south of Salmon Kill Road, the Salisbury Association Land Trust protects 95 acres of forest, wetlands and a 3 acre pond. At the pond you may see waterfowl and if lucky an otter.

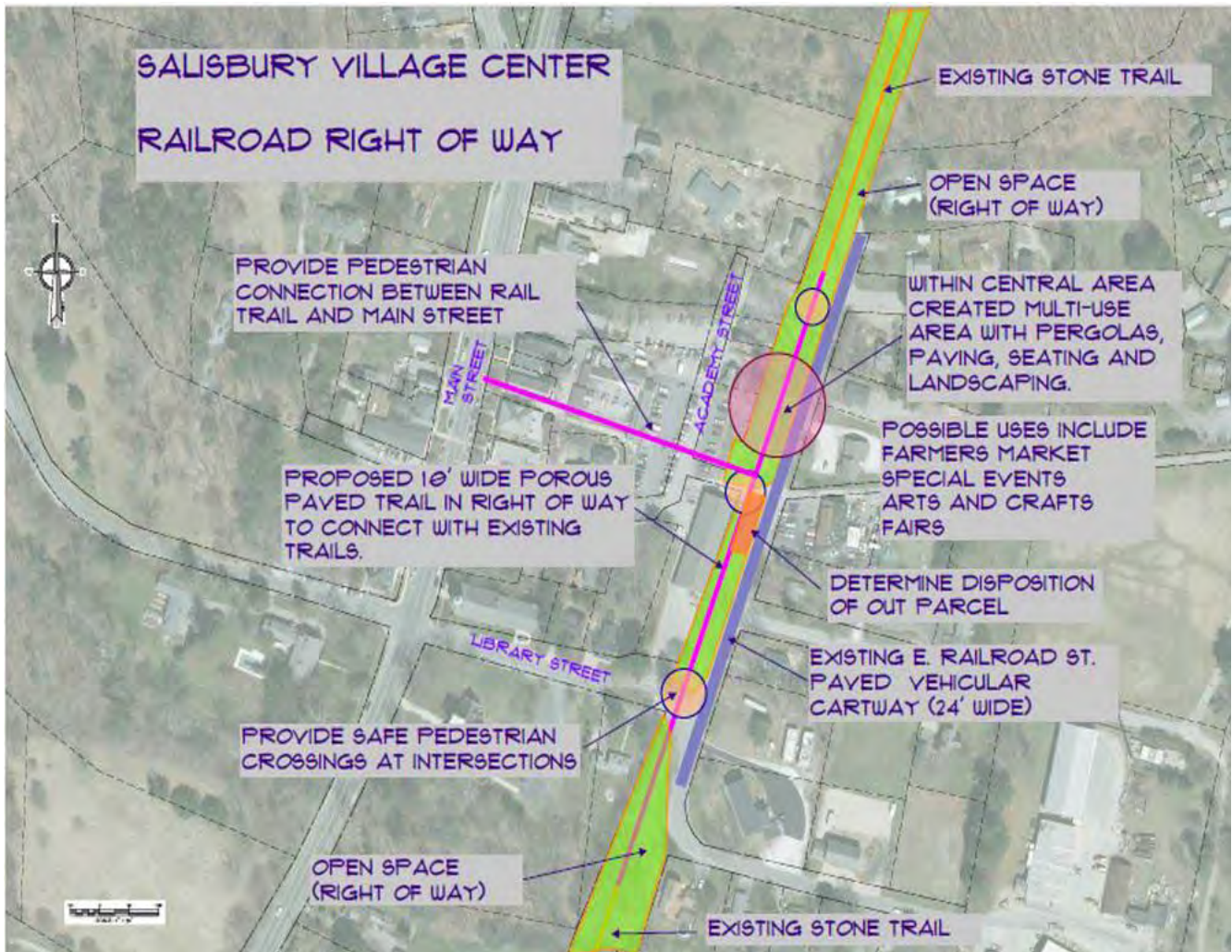
Sign produced by the Salisbury Association Land Trust



There is a short gap in the Rail Trail along Railroad Street in Salisbury Village Center. Continuation of the trail in this location is vital for safety as well as clarity of the route. People walk on the existing trail from both the north and south, but the area directly adjacent to the village businesses is poorly defined.

The gap in the Rail Trail near Railroad Street should be improved to provide an accessible walk that can be combined with other amenities in the village center.

Comments received concerning the Rail Trail were derived from community engagement and surveys performed during the Lakeville Village and Salisbury Village planning studies. These opinions ranged greatly. Some wish to leave the Trail unimproved in its current state. Others noted concerns regarding poor conditions for walking and biking, lack of accessibility, and an insufficient number of amenities including benches, trash receptacles and dog waste bag dispensers.



Open Space

The Town of Salisbury has a number of local partners (institutional, NGO, and private) helping in the conservation and acquisition of open space. In particular, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has continually expanded its efforts to conserve features within the town. Other conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy also hold significant parcels of land. Combined with the State of Connecticut Mt. Riga State Park, locally owned properties and portions of the Appalachian Trail can be seen on the recently updated (March, 2023) Salisbury Open Space Map compiled with the help the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) on the previous page.

In addition to preserving land, the Salisbury Association Land Trust has been active in creating trails throughout Salisbury. While many of the trails are specific to individual sites, a number have links to other trails. They provide a variety of ecological and education experiences.

Most Salisbury trails are open to the public. A complete list of properties is provided in the Appendix.

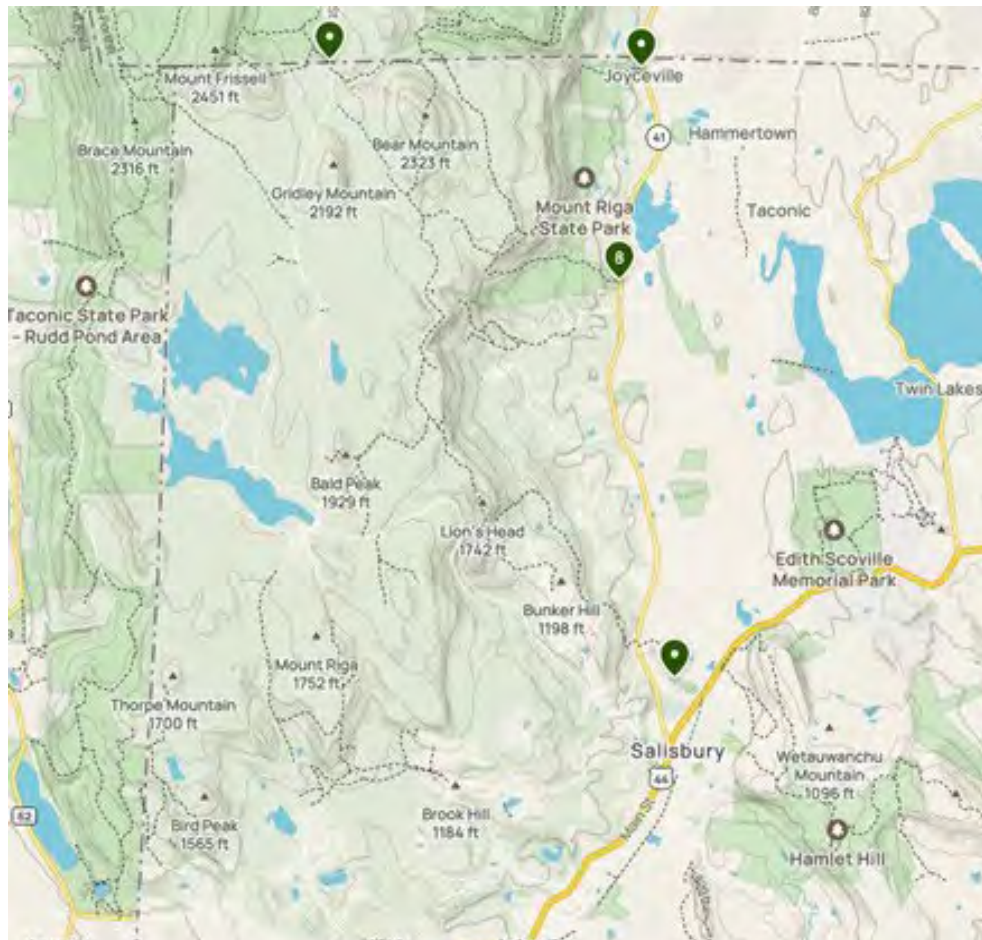


Figure 17: Open Space in the northwest section of Salisbury

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '6. Recommendations'. The stream flows through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The foreground shows a rocky stream bed with fallen branches and roots.

6. Recommendations

Based on field assessment of existing facilities, assessment of reliance on non-Town owned facilities to support public recreation needs, a survey of residents regarding recreational usage and interest, and examination of industry trends, the following offers recommendations for the four active areas.

Town Grove

The Town Grove is a unique and wonderful amenity on Lake Wononscopomuc. The facilities include numerous buildings for seasonal use featuring restrooms and handicapped accessibility, and a larger, newer Senior Center building with offices, a meeting hall, and restrooms.

The park offers programs and facilities mainly associated with the water. The facilities are in generally good condition, however, opportunities for improvements related to accessibility and parking exist.

Recommendations include:

- 1) Pave and stripe the main parking lot to maximize parking spaces, improve stormwater runoff, and provide safer circulation.
- 2) Add walkways to areas shown below to allow people to safely walk from the parking lot to the lake.
- 3) Add several more ADA accessible parking spaces to access the Senior Center building and restrooms.
- 4) Upgrade and expand the existing playground and expand it to accommodate a broader age range including younger children ages 2-5 years old.
- 5) Add acoustic ceiling tiles in the Senior Center to address noise issues and expand the ability for the space to be used for recreational programming and other events.



Community Field

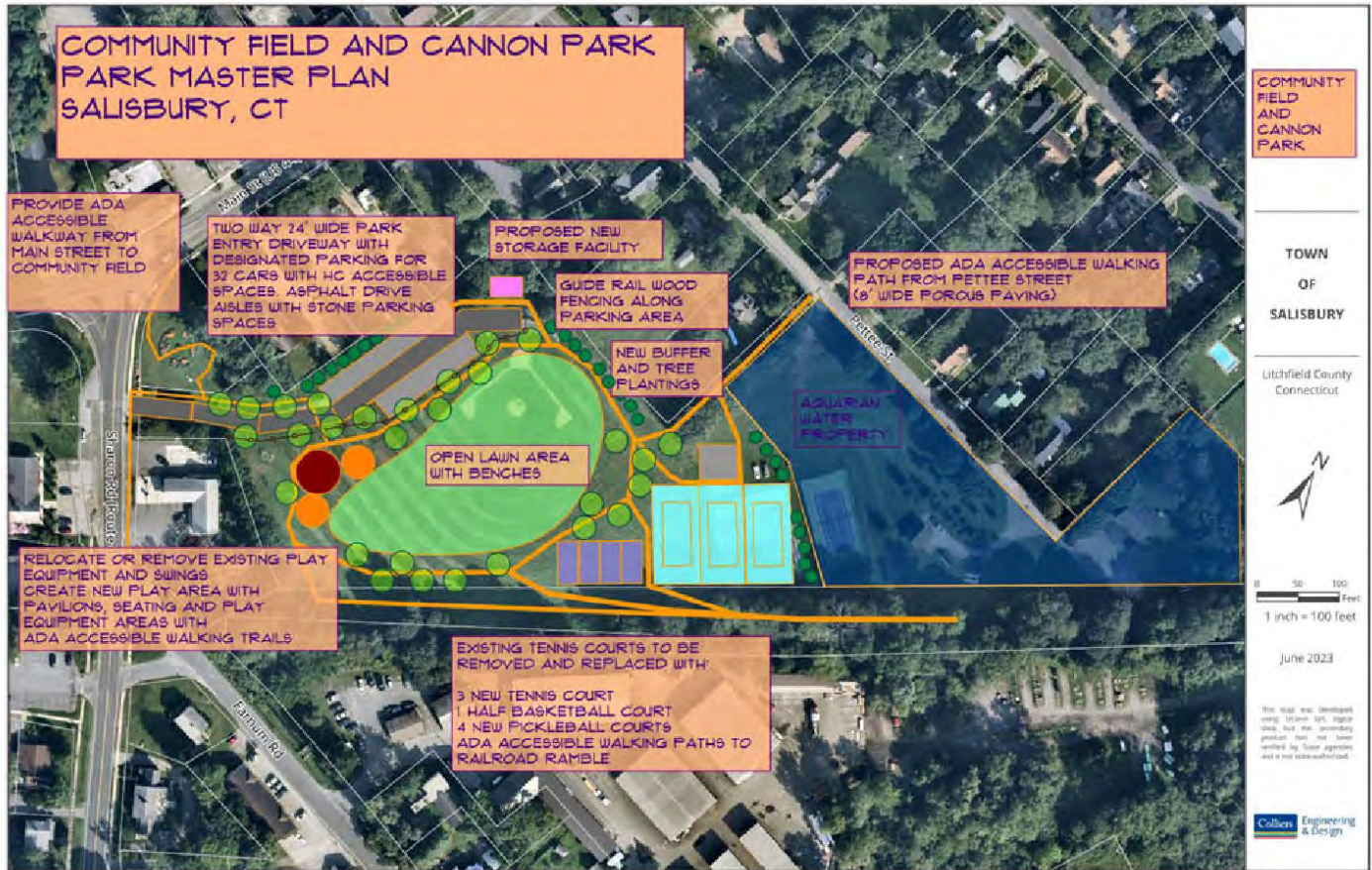
Community Field has great potential to serve as a gathering place for a variety of Town uses and events, as well as continued, enhanced racquet sport accommodations. With development limitations due to the public drinking water aquifer, continued use of the park for light recreation and passive enjoyment of the community is preferable.

Recommendations include:

- 1) Reconfigure the park to provide accessibility for all user groups.
 - a. Provide defined parking with ADA accessible spaces. One possible concept shown below is a reconfiguration of the entry drive from Sharon Road to access a 32-car parking area that has ADA accessible parking spaces. The materials for the parking and entry drive are shown in two colors, with the drive aisles intended to be paved and the parking space surfacing to be determined.
 - b. Construct a walking trail around the park with a hardpacked level surface which also provides access to the tennis and pickleball courts.
 - c. Add an accessible path to the seating area at Cannon Park.
- 2) Provide improved restroom facilities.
- 3) Construct a new playground with updated equipment and a safe surface area accessible to children of a variety of ages. Consideration may be given to a small child playground and another for older children.
- 4) Construct a large multipurpose pavilion that can be used for things such as summer camp, band concerts, farmers market, and more.
- 5) Relocate and reconstruct the tennis courts. The existing court surfaces have deteriorated with age and one of the tennis courts is not within the boundary of the park.
- 6) Add separate pickleball courts with consideration to sound attenuation.
- 7) Add more seating areas, picnic tables, and trash receptacles.
- 8) Add native plants that provide greater seasonal color. Consider providing interpretive signage about species of flora and fauna in the local area.
- 9) Install a gate or fence along the Pettee Street side of the park to limit vehicular access.

- 10) Provide pedestrian and bicycle access to the park from an existing sidewalk on Main Street through Cannon Park, to Sharon Road, to Pettee Street and to the Rail Trail.

The plan below refines initial recommendations made in the Lakeville Village Planning Study based on additional input of the Town, a park survey, and further field investigations.



Trotta Field

With Community Field's location over the public drinking aquifer, it is appropriate to focus more passive recreational activity there and seek to consolidate active recreation, particularly facilities serving organized sports. Trotta Field has the potential to consolidate active recreation offerings at one centralized location. A centralized facility accommodating multiple sports and recreation activities at a single site is more efficient for maintenance and deliveries. It is also safer and more convenient for families traveling between multiple field locations to attend games. In addition, it provides parents with amenities such as playgrounds and a walking trail to entertain younger children while attending sporting events for older siblings.

Opportunities for accessibility, improved parking and circulation, as well as expanded active recreation exist. Like Community Field, many of the facilities are dated and nearing end of useful life, making their replacement a priority. Consideration of what to include in a redesign of the site to meet the needs of residents today and into the future focused on safety and accessibility, upgraded amenities, extending time of use, and providing activities for all ages.

Recommendations include:

- 1) Provide a centrally located parking area with defined spaces, including ADA accessible spaces, for up to 70 vehicles.
- 2) Provide ADA accessible walkways that connect facilities to safe, designated parking.
- 3) Provide improved restrooms.
- 4) Construct an 8' wide ADA accessible walking trail around the perimeter of the site.
- 5) Construct a playground with shade trees and/or covered pavilion or gazebo, a top priority of the public recreation survey.
- 6) Construct a regulation size multi-sport field.
- 7) Consider constructing a skate park area.
- 8) Consider constructing four pickleball courts.
- 9) Reconstruct the existing basketball courts which are in a state of deterioration.
- 10) Provide a defined connection to the Rail Trail.

By positioning the parking area in the center of the park with direct access from Salmon Kill Road, vehicular circulation can be contained to a designated section of the property with access to the various amenities via connecting walkways.



Rail Trail

The Rail Trail is a significant pedestrian and bicycle amenity linking Community Field and Trotta Field to each other, as well as Lakeville Village and Salisbury Village commercial areas. There is also nearby access to Town Grove from the end of the Rail Trail at Community Field, however, crossing Sharon Road is required to do so.

The Rail Trail poses substantial safety and accessibility concerns making repairs/improvements a priority. Opportunities for accessibility, improved parking and aesthetic exist.

Recommendations include:

- 1) Inspect the Rail Trail seasonally and provide regular maintenance to remove exposed roots and moss, and repair uneven surface materials to avoid trip and fall hazards. Edge vegetation including shrubs and overhanging trees should be cutback as necessary, to avoid injury to those using the trail.
- 2) Upgrade the Trail surface. There are many options including use of porous material that is able to recharge water while providing ADA accessibility. Two widely used trail surface products are crushed stone with binder and porous asphalt. These surfaces have proven to be both durable and aesthetically pleasing and will maintain the Rail Trail's natural aesthetic once settled into the landscape.
- 3) Condition of wetland crossings should be evaluated, and bridge structures repaired or replaced where warranted. Improve transitions between Rail Trail and bridge structures.
- 4) Evaluate the long-term potential of extending the Rail Trail to the Town Grove.
- 5) Evaluate the potential for a safe multi-modal route between the Pope Property and Salisbury Village Center along the Rail Trail. With a 66-foot-wide Rail Trail right-of-way, there may be ample room to accommodate both vehicular and bike/ped routes in this area.
- 6) Evaluate the potential for a safe multi-modal route between Salisbury Village Center and the Dresser Woods property. Consider extending this multi-modal route from Dresser Woods development, north to the trail end at Route 44. with further potential to extend to the trail end at Route 44.
- 7) Add interpretive signage along the trail providing a narrative about the historic significance of the Town or nature-themed highlights of local flora and fauna.
- 8) Provide wayfinding signage for directional purposes and to guide visitors to places of interest, commercial establishments, and services.

- 9) Create a uniform sign template for use throughout the Town or an individual theme for each village — consistent materials, colors, and use of an iconic feature should be considered.
- 10) Provide low intensity lighting for enhanced visibility, safety, and security.

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '7. Conclusion'. The stream flows through a dense forest of green trees. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The bottom portion of the image is obscured by a solid green shape that contains the text.

7. Conclusion

Salisbury residents are fortunate to have a variety of recreation opportunities. This report details where those opportunities can be improved and expanded to increase the recreational offerings of the Town of Salisbury. Nationally, there is a demand for greater active and passive outdoor experiences. Salisbury is in a position to meet this demand in a way that addresses the needs and desires of all age groups.

Aligning with national multipurpose recreation facility trends, consolidation of most active recreation opportunities to a central location addresses numerous concerns and weaknesses raised throughout this analysis. These include the need to relocate the tennis court from Aquarion property, minimize impervious surfaces in the Aquifer Protection Area, reduce the need for parents to go between two fields for organized sports, provide playground options for younger children at the location of other recreational activities, and provide multipurpose park elements to serve a dual purpose seasonally or to expand usage throughout the day such as fields and courts that can accommodate more than one sport. Additionally, by enhancing Trotta Field into a multipurpose recreation facility, there would be opportunity to use Community Field for more passive recreation.

Next steps to consider:

- 1) Perform regular inspections of recreation site conditions and equipment. Create a list of maintenance and replacement items and set priorities according to factors such as safety, seasonality, availability, and cost.
- 2) Evaluate plan recommendations and estimated costs. Prioritize projects based on ability to meet goals and objectives of this report as well as availability of funding. Cost estimates have been included in following section for budgeting purposes.
- 3) Improvements to establish a smooth Rail Trail surface to eliminate trip/fall hazards as well as to provide accessibility should be a priority.
- 4) Amenities such as concession facilities, security and/or sports lighting, security cameras, interpretive signage, and irrigation to enhance facilities should be evaluated as appropriate for each site.

Cost Estimates

Below and on the following page are summaries of the possible cost estimates for the proposed improvements at Town Grove, Community Field and Cannon Park, Trotta Field, and the Rail Trail.



Conceptual Costs Town Grove Proposed Improvement

Location: Sharon Road (Route 41)

Date: Feb-24

Colliers Project: 23004315

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Proposed Improvements	
Improve parking lot area delineation	\$ 8,000.00
Add paved walk along area between building and parking	\$ 10,000.00
Add ADA accessible marked parking spaces (4)	\$ 4,000.00
Add play equipment for 2-5 year old children	\$ 30,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 52,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 5,200.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 8,580.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 65,780.00



Conceptual Costs Community Field and Cannon Park Improvement

Location: Sharon Road (Route 41)

Date: Jan-24

Colliers Project: 23004315

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition (ex. Storage building and courts) and Site Preparation	\$ 85,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of new parking area, courts, paths and play areas	\$ 80,000.00
Paved Access Drive (24' wide) and parking area for 32 cars, ADA accessible	\$ 120,000.00
Porous paved park walkways (8' x 2,500 lf)	\$ 80,000.00
New Play Area (equipment and safety surfacing)	\$ 120,000.00
New Storage Building	\$ 45,000.00
Pavilion / Gazebo	\$ 75,000.00
3 new Tennis Courts	\$ 300,000.00
4 new Paddleball Courts	\$ 200,000.00
New Basketball Court	\$ 60,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 45,000.00
Native Landscape trees and riparian plantings	\$ 60,000.00
Misc. Fencing and site control	\$ 42,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 40,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 1,352,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 135,200.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 223,080.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 1,710,280.00



Conceptual Costs Trotta Field Improvement

Location: Salmon Kill Road

Date: Jan-24

Colliers Project: 23004315

G. DeFelicis, LLA

Proposed Improvements	Cost
Site Preparation	
Demolition and Site Preparation	\$ 60,000.00
Proposed Improvements	
Layout and Grading of new parking area, playing fields, paths and play areas	\$ 70,000.00
Paved parking area for 80 cars, ADA accessible	\$ 200,000.00
Creation of new Multi Use field area	\$ 60,000.00
Porous paved 8' wide walking trail	\$ 80,000.00
New Play area (equipment and safety surfacing)	\$ 105,000.00
Park Pavilions (3)	\$ 90,000.00
Skate Park	\$ 60,000.00
4 new Paddleball courts	\$ 200,000.00
2 new Basketball Courts	\$ 100,000.00
Lighting / Security	\$ 40,000.00
Site Amenities (bike racks, picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles)	\$ 45,000.00
Area for storage and seasonal restrooms	\$ 65,000.00
Native Landscape trees and riparian plantings	\$ 50,000.00
Misc. Fencing and site control	\$ 32,000.00
Total Cost for All Improvements:	\$ 1,257,000.00
10% Contingency	\$ 125,700.00
Design, Engineering and Permitting (15%)	\$ 207,405.00
Total plus Contingency and Engineering	\$ 1,590,105.00

A photograph of a forest stream with a large green overlay at the bottom containing the text '8. Appendix'. The stream flows through a dense forest with vibrant green foliage. A large tree trunk is visible on the right side of the frame. The bottom portion of the image is obscured by a solid green shape that serves as a background for the text.

8. Appendix

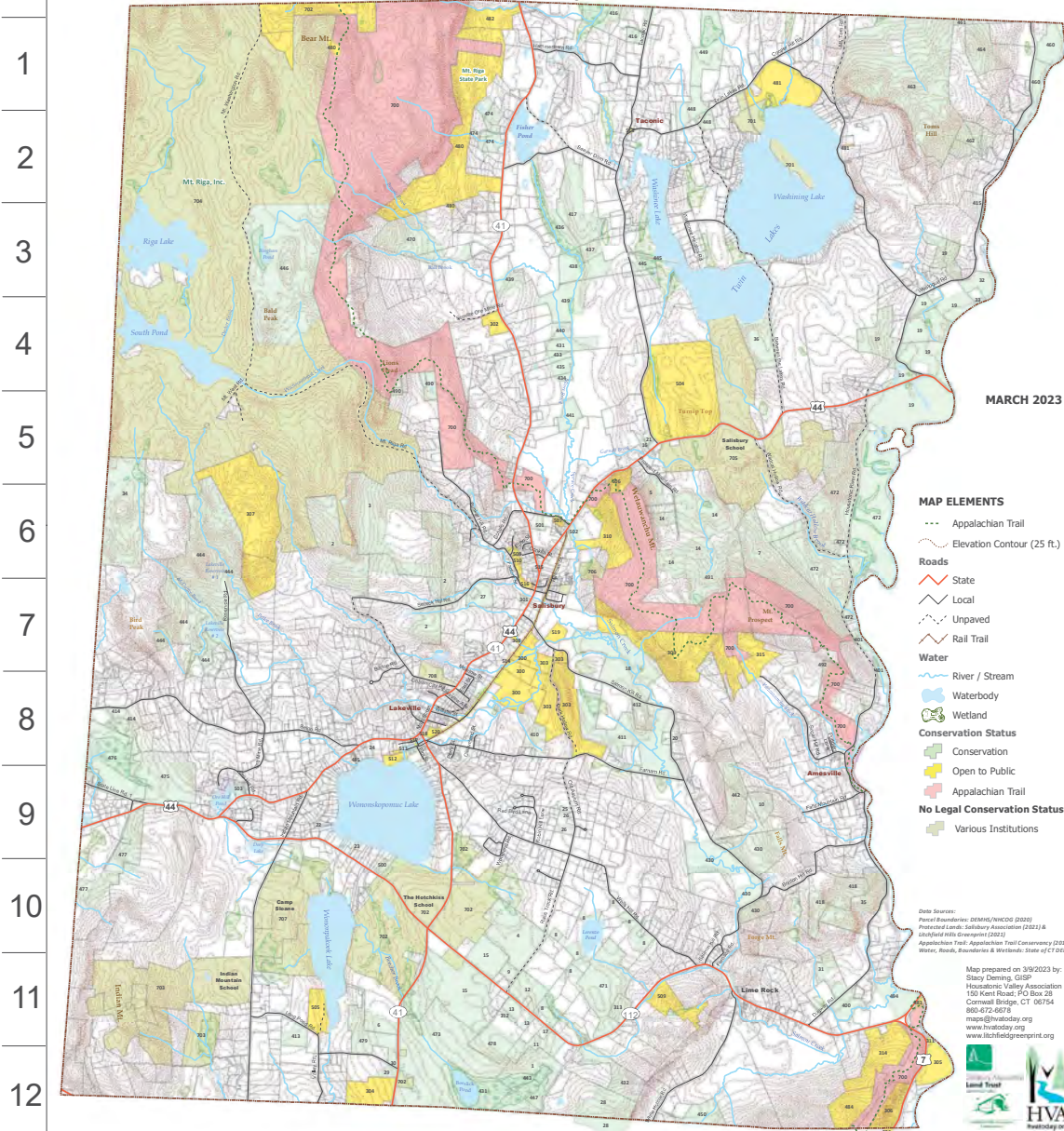
NRPA Recreation Metrics

Recreational Assets	Residents per Facilities
Basketball Courts	3,729
Community Gardens	8,178
Diamond Fields:	
Adult Baseball	7,627
Youth Baseball	3,114
Adult Softball	5,800
Youth Softball	5,079
Dog parks	11,100
Ice rinks (outdoor)	8,045
Multi-purpose synthetic fields	9,518
Multiuse courts: basketball, volleyball	5,093
Multiuse courts: tennis, pickleball (outdoor)	4,868
Overlay fields	8,707
Pickleball	3,252
Playgrounds	2,014
Rectangular Fields	
Multi-purpose	3,859
Football	7,500
Youth Soccer	3,600
Lacrosse	9,786
Field Hockey	18,000
Adult Soccer	6,955
Skate parks	10,726
Outdoor Pools	9,745
Tennis courts (outdoor)	2,805
Tot lots	5,816

Source: 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review

Salisbury Open Space Map

Prepared by the Salisbury Association Land Trust



MARCH 2023

- MAP ELEMENTS**
- Appalachian Trail
 - Elevation Contour (25 ft.)
 - Roads
 - State
 - Local
 - Unpaved
 - Rail Trail
 - Water
 - River / Stream
 - Waterbody
 - Wetland
 - Conservation Status
 - Conservation
 - Open to Public
 - Appalachian Trail
 - No Legal Conservation Status**
 - Various Institutions

Data Sources:
 Parcel Boundaries: DEMCO/AVICOG (2020)
 Wetland Boundaries: Salisbury Association (2021) & Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (2022)
 Appalachian Trail: Appalachian Trail Conservancy (2019)
 State, Road, Roadway & Wetlands: State of CT (2022)

Map prepared on 3/9/2023 by:
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Salisbury Association Conserved Properties						Other Conserved Properties						OTHER PROPERTIES OPEN TO PUBLIC USE					
Label	Owner	Location	Map Location	Acres	Conservation Status	Label	Owner	Location	Map Location	Acres	Conservation Status	Label	Owner	Location	Map Location	Acres	Conservation Status
1	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	408	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	504	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
2	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	409	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	505	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
3	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	410	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	506	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
4	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	411	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	507	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
5	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	412	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	508	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
6	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	413	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	509	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
7	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	414	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	510	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
8	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	415	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	511	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
9	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	416	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	512	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
10	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	417	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	513	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
11	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	418	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	514	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
12	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	419	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	515	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
A	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	420	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	516	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
B	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	421	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	517	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
C	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	422	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	518	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
D	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	423	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	519	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
E	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	424	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	520	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
F	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	425	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	521	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
G	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	426	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	522	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
H	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	427	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	523	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
I	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	428	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	524	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
J	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	429	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	525	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation
K	Salisbury Association	2050 Hill Road	H11	1.2	Conservation	430	Salisbury Association	Deerfield Road	F11	1.1	Conservation	526	State of Conn.	State Street	H11	1.1	Conservation

APPALACHIAN TRAIL					
Label	Owner	Location	Map Location	Acres	Conservation Status
700	US Government	Appalachian Trail	H11	2240	Conservation

VARIOUS INSTITUTIONS (No legal conservation protection)					
Label	Owner	Location	Map Location	Acres	Conservation Status
701	American School for the Deaf	Deaf Lane	H11	75	Conservation
702	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	450	Conservation
703	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	511	Conservation
704	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	4296	Conservation
705	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	548	Conservation
706	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	548	Conservation
707	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	548	Conservation
708	Salisbury School	Salisbury School	H11	548	Conservation

This map is a revision to one originally prepared by HVA in 2009 and was revised in 2023. This map is based on a map created in 2009 that was one of a series of maps created by HVA to accompany the National Resource Inventory for the Town of Salisbury. This map was developed by the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

This map is only a guide for land use information and is not the determinant of regulated areas in the Town of Salisbury. It is the responsibility of applicants to obtain precise locations of regulated areas from licensed soil scientists, surveyors, biologists and other end use professionals. This map is not to be construed as an accurate survey and is subject to change.

