



South Windsor

A good place to live, work, and prosper

Open Space Ordinance FAQs

You may live near or next to subdivision open space, so this ordinance may affect you...

Questions and answers regarding South Windsor's Town owned subdivision open space ordinance.

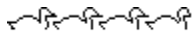
Subdivision Open Space: what is it & why is it important?



The Town of South Windsor recognizes that subdivision open space is a resource that is intended to benefit **both** the residents of a subdivision and all residents of the Town. This open space serves a number of functions, including:

- Conservation of natural resources and environmentally sensitive land
- Screening and buffering of residents from other land uses or developments
- Preservation of scenic vistas and rural characteristics, and
- Active or passive recreation

These functions are usually best accomplished through the preservation of subdivision open space in a natural state. That's why the Subdivision Open Space Use and Maintenance Ordinance was passed by the Town Council—to accomplish these purposes.



Where is subdivision open space located?

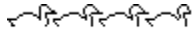
Subdivision open space is located throughout South Windsor, and is always either within or next to a subdivision. Town Hall maintains maps showing all open space. Please call the Planning Department at 644-2511 ext. 253, give us your address, and we can confirm whether your home is near or next to subdivision open space.



How does the new subdivision open space ordinance affect me?

The new ordinance requires that subdivision open space be preserved in a natural state.

Generally, the only uses allowed under the ordinance are conservation and passive recreation (such as birdwatching and nature walks). The Town Council can approve some modifications to open space use, including letting neighbors mow accessways, and changing the use from passive recreation to active recreation. *Permission has to be obtained from the Town Council for any use other than passive recreation and conservation.*



I've been mowing a little bit into the open space behind my back yard for years. I can still do this, right?

Actually, no. The open space belongs to *everyone*. Mowing of areas by individuals around houses has the effect of making the individual yards bigger, but keeps the rest of the townspeople (the other owners!) from also enjoying the open space. Mowing Town owned open space is the same as mowing someone else's property that you don't own—and you wouldn't do that without permission from the owner!

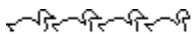


The ordinance prohibits mowing, gardens, sheds or other privately-owned buildings; motorized vehicles; and hunting on Town-owned subdivision open space.



How do I get copies of the Ordinance ? Or apply for a use change?

Contact the Public Works Department at 644-2511, ext. 249, or stop by at Town Hall, 2nd floor, to get copies of the ordinance and the application package. The application package has instructions for completion and submission.



**Want to know more?
Contact the Public Works Department
at 644-2511, ext. 249**

**South Windsor Town Hall
1540 Sullivan Avenue
South Windsor, CT 06074**