



Town of New Hartford Goula Open Space Area

The Goula Open Space Area is the Town of New Hartford's first property acquired and permanently preserved under the Town's Open Space Program. This 118-acre parcel was purchased in 2006 with long-term bond funds from the taxpayers of New Hartford and a major open space grant from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Many thanks to the Goula Family for their willingness to support land preservation for the benefit of all and for their generosity in selling this parcel to the Town at a discounted price.

You are welcome to visit and enjoy this area, but please respect the preliminary rules of use outlined below. Recreational activities on land purchased through New Hartford's Open Space Program are limited to passive recreation, as defined in the Open Space Plan. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help with trail maintenance, please call Town Hall at 860-379-3389.

Hours open to the public: Sunrise till sunset

Driving Directions: The Goula Open Space Area is located on Cotton Hill Road in the Bakerville area of New Hartford. From town center, take Route 219 South (Town Hill Road) to the first light where the road ends at Route 202. Turn right or west onto Route 202. Go through a blinking light in Bakerville immediately followed by a stoplight. Turn left just after the stoplight onto Cotton Hill Road (intersection where stores are). The entrance to the Open Space Area is about 1.6 miles on the left. Please park behind the cedar information box posted along the east side of the road at entrance to the main field on the property.

Permitted Uses and Activities:

Hiking

(Please stay on mowed paths in fields prior to full mowing in fall)

Cross-Country Skiing

Snowshoeing

(Other activities, including biking and horseback riding may be allowed in the future.)

Please . . .

No alcoholic beverages.

No fires.

No firearms.

No motorized vehicles.

Please do not remove or alter anything. Leave only footprints.

Pets are allowed on a leash.

As stewards of this land, we have a responsibility to make sure that we take care of it for our own and future generations. If you observe any violation of these rules, please call Town Hall at 379-3389.

(See back for information on natural features.)

Features of interest on this property:

Highest Peak in New Hartford - From the summit, you can see the former Johnnycake Airport in Burlington, the Heublein Tower in Simsbury, Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Avon Mountain and other distant sites.

Trails – Three approximately 8-foot-wide trails traverse the property. By 2014, this parcel will be linked with the also preserved Phillips Farm parcel on East Cotton Hill Road. The Phillips property, in turn, connects with existing Town-owned land that includes a trail leading to Antolini School.

Archaeological Resources – The Office of State Archaeology states “This property has one of the most significant prehistoric archaeological sites in the State. The Barkhamsted/New Hartford region has natural outcroppings of steatite, more commonly known as soapstone . . . Three to five thousand years ago, Native Americans utilized this natural resource for the manufacturing of stone bowls and ornaments.” Cotton Hill takes its name from the soft, “cottony” feel of soapstone.

Watershed - The northern part of this property is part of the Nepaug watershed that supplies drinking water to 500,000 people in Hartford. According to the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), the property would likely be classified as Class I watershed land if it were owned by MDC. The northern part of the property drains to a large open water wetland that drains to the South Nepaug Brook and, eventually, the Nepaug River. The southern part of the property drains to a stream and a large, dispersed wetland system that forms the headwaters of Rock Brook. This, in turn, drains to the Leadmine Brook Basin in the Housatonic River watershed. The streams that originate and flow across the property would be classified as an “AA” Surface Water Quality Rating

Wetlands/Beaver Impoundment - This property includes pristine open water wetlands that extend across part of the adjoining parcel.

Forest ó The parcel includes 102 forested acres ó that is predominantly mixed hardwood as well as forested wetlands with dense shrub layers that provide preferred nesting habitat for many songbirds.

Meadows - Nearly 22 acres of grasslands on the property were in the Federal Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program from 1999-2003. There is a great diversity of bird life on the property including two State Species of Special Concern: the whip-poor-will and eastern meadowlark. Currently, the fields are mowed in late fall to allow for nesting to occur through the season. Paths are mowed around the perimeter for walking.

Flora and Fauna ó A botanist with the Northwest Conservation District observed several years ago that plants more common to the forests of northern New England exist on the property and that the parcel was generally and unusually free of invasive plants. More recently, invasive Barberry and some Multiflora Rose has been taking hold and the Conservation Commission is taking steps to eradicate it. This property has a high degree of botanical diversity.