



# OSPC New Hartford

## Open Space Preservation Commission

### What is Open Space Land?

"Open Space" is land permanently preserved in its natural state, strengthening regional farming, forestry, and resiliency to extreme weather. Open Space can include a body of water, or rivers and streams in their natural state or which are managed to improve water quality, natural habitats, and agricultural resources. Open Space land is protected from development for residential, commercial, or government use. Open Space protects natural resources and provides passive opportunities for recreation, education, historical, cultural, and health benefits.

***Open Space Lands are very valuable because they are productive community assets that deliver many benefits:***

- *Enrich recreational opportunities with trails, scenic views, and public preserves*
- *Secure community character, weather resiliency, property value, and tax base*
- *Promote native bio-diversity and healthy practices for clean water and air*
- *Preserve productive farmland and protect natural resources for economic benefit*
- *Capture rainfall, prevent flooding, and protect infrastructure from storm damage*
- *Provide crucial habitat and healthy migratory corridors for birds and wildlife*

