

Chapter 1 Recommendations for Future Open Space



Legend	Recommendations	EPA's Guidelines for Smart Growth								Comments		
		Mix Land Uses	Compact Building Design	Range of Housing	Walkable Neighborhoods	Strong Sense of Place	Direct Development Existing	Transportation Choices	Preservation		Decisions Predictable Fair	Encourage Collaboration
	1 Potential Open Space: Type 1 Unique Values w/Development Limitations											<p>Type 1: Critical Preservation Parcels. Development of these parcels would be detrimental to the town's natural and cultural systems. These parcels present significant legal and physical limitations to development. The presence of highly valued natural and cultural resources dominates site characteristics. Close proximity to surface water bodies makes these parcels key to maintaining a clean hydrological system.</p> <p>Type 2: Important Preservation Parcels. Development of these parcels would be detrimental to the town's natural and cultural systems. Some of these parcels present significant legal and physical limitations to development. Other parcels function as community open space in otherwise fully developed areas. The presence of highly valued natural and cultural resources dominates site characteristics.</p> <p>Type 3: Conservation Opportunities. Partial development of these parcels is possible without compromising the integrity of the site. A combination of physical limitations and resource conservation opportunities makes over 50% of these parcels valuable open space.</p> <p>Type 4: Network Enhancement Opportunities. Development of these parcels is possible without compromising the integrity of the site. Parcel resource location makes allocating 50% of the land to open space possible without lowering development yield.</p> <p>Protection of Oswegatchie Hills. East Lyme's commitment to the preservation of Oswegatchie Hills has been made clear throughout the years. This commitment should become official, as the hills provide natural habitats, riparian buffer zones, and eco-corridors, in addition to a multitude of cultural benefits.</p> <p>Protection of the Latimer Brook Watershed. The southern portion of Latimer Brook flows directly into the Niantic River and Long Island Sound. Protecting the riparian buffer is essential to the health of the system. This need is exacerbated by the steep slopes down to the water channels, giving stormwater runoff little to no infiltration zone.</p> <p>Protect High Points. High Points provide unique plant/animal habitats as well as contributing to town identity. Views of and from high points define much of Flanders and are valued by the citizens of East Lyme as important cultural resources.</p> <p>Maintain Riparian Buffers along Waterbodies and Waterflows The filtration of surface water runoff before it enters the hydrology system is vital to the health of the environment. This is true in all towns, but especially so in East Lyme due to its proximity to the ocean, and intense water consumption during the summer months.</p> <p>Important Community Open Spaces. These parcels contain relatively little in the way of natural resources. However, as they are surrounded by development, their function as community green space and ground water recharge areas becomes highly valuable.</p> <p>Connect "New" Open Space to Existing Open Space & Ecosystems. Designated open space should be situated to increase the size of existing natural patches and promote connectivity between ecosystems such as hilltops to valley floors, wetlands to forested areas, and so on.</p>
	2 Potential Open Space: Type 2											
	3 Potential Open Space: Type 3											
	4 Potential Open Space: Type 4 Conservation Opportunities											
	5 Continue protection of Oswegatchie Hills											
	6 Protect Latimer Brook Watershed											
	7 Protect high points											
	8 Maintain open space adjacent to water bodies											
	9 Maintain existing undeveloped lands in higher density areas											
	10 Maintain Open Space corridors between water bodies											