

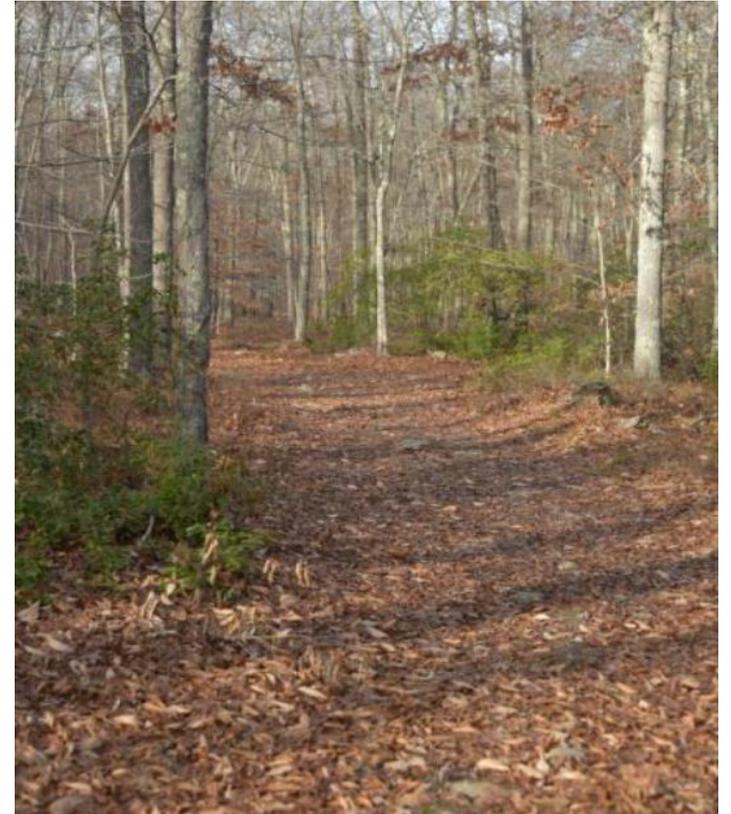
What is a Greenway?

CT Public Act 95-335 institutionalized Connecticut's greenway program and created the Connecticut Greenways Council. The Council developed the criteria for the designation of greenways around the state.

Public Act 95-335 defines a greenway as a "corridor of open space" that:

- May protect natural resources, preserve scenic landscapes and historical resources or offer opportunities for recreation or non-motorized transportation
- May connect existing protected areas and provide access to the outdoors
- May be located along a defining feature such as a waterway, along a man-made corridor, including right of ways, traditional trail routes etc.
- May be a greenspace along a high way or around a village

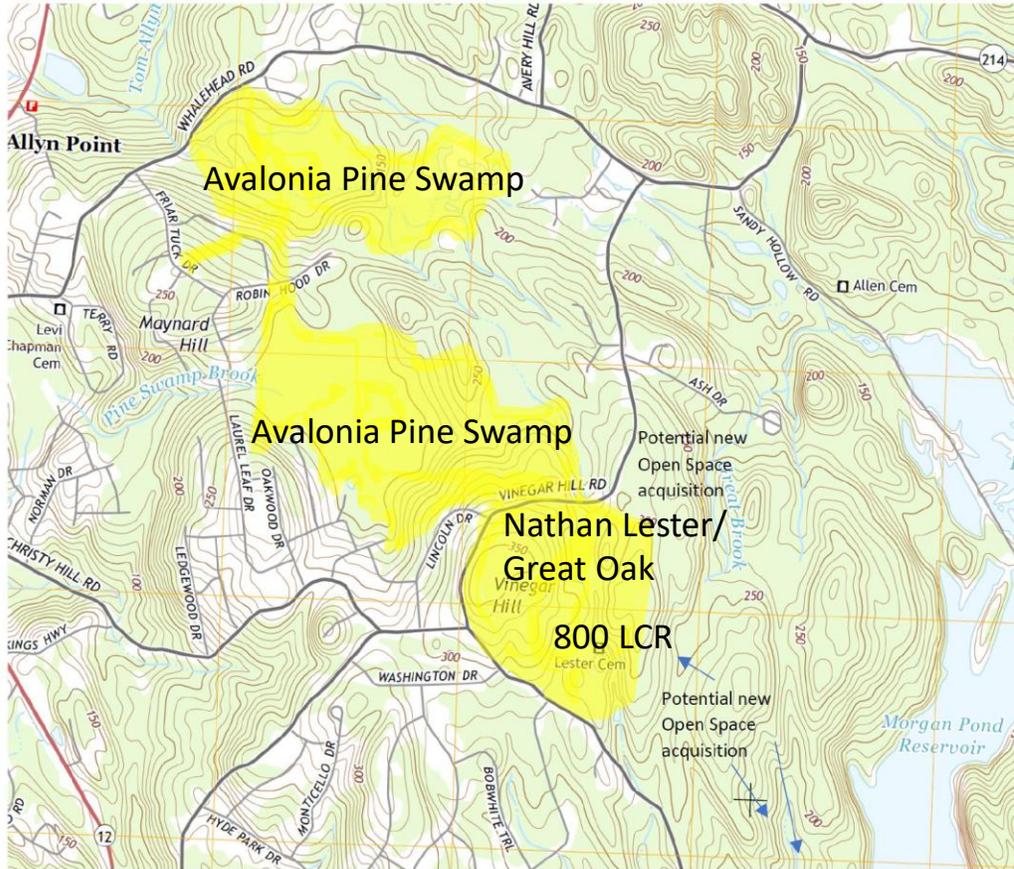
In order to meet the criteria for official designation as a greenway, open spaces and/or pathways must fit at least one aspect of this definition. **The critical element of a greenway is connectivity.** The corridor connects existing open space, trail segments, historical cultural assets; provides alternative transportation opportunities; may be of varying lengths, but connects neighborhoods to schools, parks, recreation areas and/or open spaces.



The Great Oak Greenway

The proposed Great Oak Greenway would formally connect (from South to North):

- 800 Long Cove Road Open Space set aside - 25 acres
- Nathan Lester/Great Oak Park – 109 acres
- Avalonia Pine Swamp Corridor:
 - South Tract (102 acres)
 - Slosberg-Anderson Woodlands 94 acres
 - Town of Ledyard Transfers – 8 acres
 - North Tract (163 acres)
 - Dow-Centennial Preserve – 97 acres
 - Slosberg-Anderson Woodlands – 56 acres
 - Town of Ledyard Transfers – 10 acres



The Great Oak Greenway encompasses nearly 400 acres of preserved habitat, trails and water protection. This designation requires no new municipal regulations or changes in land use. Property and trail maintenance will continue to be performed by Avalonia Land Conservancy and Ledyard Historical Commission for their respective properties and Ledyard Conservation Commission will also provide trail clearing and blazing within 800 Long Cove Road and to connect Nathan Lester to Avalonia land and trail maintenance.

The Great Oak Greenway Designation

The greenway must be included in the local Plan of Conservation and Development (or in the next revision thereof), and must be *endorsed by the local government through a municipal resolution or compact.*

Example:

Resolution to Endorse the Town of Ledyard participation in the nomination of the Great Oak Greenway

WHEREAS, the Great Oak Greenway will provide significant benefit to our community including habitat protection and water resource protection in addition to expanded recreation opportunities and increased prominence and access to the Town's historical and heritage sites; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Ledyard's 2003 POCD recommends the development of town wide and inter-town networks of trails and furthermore recommends encouraging integrated and linked open space to reduce the pattern of fragmentation,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ledyard Town Council supports the concept of working to enhance and encourage open space connections by endorsing the nomination of the Great Oak Greenway and,

FURTHERMORE, BE IT RESOLVED to authorize the Ledyard Town Council to submit their endorsement of the greenway nomination to Avalonia Land Conservancy which will coordinate this submission to the CT Greenways Council and coordinate this initiative with the Ledyard Historical Commission and the Ledyard Conservation Commission.

What are Benefits of the Great Oak Greenway?

Let's "continue to grow a quality community by choice, not by chance" (POCD 2003). The establishment of the Great Oak Greenway can help our town by encouraging connections through targeted conservation and:

- Promote, advertise and increase access to existing local resources, heritage and history
 - Maintain a healthy environment
 - Have a positive impact on property values
 - Improve the health and access to local wetlands, rivers, streams etc.
 - Encourage physical fitness and outdoor recreation
- Funding agencies use a points system for rating grant proposals including those for conservation, education, historical preservation or municipal projects. Greenways are an important component of establishing points and therefore preference when determining funding for grants. Projects with more points improve the applicants competitiveness in the grant process.
 - Preferred status is granted to any application that involves an already existing project and this greenway corridor would be considered an existing project.

Any applications associated with an established greenway will be preferred over any project without a greenway designation.