

**Join the Simsbury Grange in showing your support for the
[RIGHT TO VOTE](#) on protecting land and
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy in Simsbury, Connecticut!**

We have a historic chance to save iconic farmland known as "Meadowood" and where young Martin Luther King, Jr. worked in the 1940's. Protecting it will cost the average taxpayer \$25/year for 10 years.

Simsbury voters should be allowed to vote to preserve this land and Civil Rights history. ***Meadowood is:***

- **Cultural heritage:** Future generations can walk on and even work the same land as Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Protecting public land protects our history and our shared future.
- **Natural heritage and climate resilience:** Wildlife needs connections between habitats, especially in the face of a changing climate. This land links State land and McLean Game Refuge.
- **Public health, education and local resources:** This land offers local resources, recreation and respite. It offers beauty and healing. Educational and agriculture serve the public good.

Email EButler@simsbury-ct.gov: **I support the RIGHT TO VOTE on Meadowood!**

Send Comments / Sign up by April 5th to Attend Virtual Public Budget Hearing

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM

The Board of Finance of the Town of Simsbury will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 6:00 PM. Proposed budget estimates are posted on the Town website at www.simsbury-ct.gov/budget. The proposed annual operating budgets and proposed capital improvement projects shall be presented. The public may view live and rebroadcast on Comcast Channels 96 and 1090, Frontier Channel 6071, or live on-demand at www.simsburytv.org.

The most important thing you can do is comment via email and/or in person:

**Email comments to the Town Clerk's Office (EButler@simsbury-ct.gov) by 6:00pm on April 5.
Sign up to address the Board of Finance live on April 6th by emailing the Town Manager's Office (TFitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov) by 6:00pm on April 5, 2021.**

Email one line to EButler@simsbury-ct.gov: **I support the right to vote on Meadowood!**

[Read more](#) about the project here.

Sign this electronic petition: **YES, I support the right to VOTE on May 18th on Meadowood**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote and spoke fondly of his time in Simsbury with fellow students from Morehouse College. They attended services at local churches and dances at the Simsbury Grange. The Grange is proud to support protecting Dr. King's legacy and especially **the right to vote on May 18th**.

How will it be preserved?

The [Trust for Public Land](#) is a national organization that has negotiated the Meadowood purchase. They are paying the majority of the price through grants and private donations. A portion will be open to any future needs of the town. **To complete the purchase, Simsbury voters need to vote YES at referendum.** This chart compares the cost of Meadowood with previous open space purchases:

Summary of Sample Larger Scale Open Space Purchases - Adjusted for Present Value

Property Name	Total Acres	Est. Purchase Price	Est. Town Share	% Town Funds Invested	% Other Funds Invested	Cost Per Acre	Town's Cost Per Acre	Grants Received/Anticipated
Ethel Walker pt. 1 (2007)	287	\$7,627,982.00	\$7,627,982.00	100.00%		\$26,578.33	\$26,578.33	
Ethel Walker pt. 2 (2011)	91	\$2,368,398.00	\$1,569,175.00	66.25%	33.75%	\$26,026.35	\$17,243.68	\$799,223.00
Ethel Walker pt. 3 (2014)	53	\$1,262,612.00	\$713,650.00	56.52%	43.48%	\$23,822.87	\$13,465.09	\$548,962.00
Ethel Walker Total	431	\$11,258,992.00	\$9,910,807.00	88.03%	11.97%	\$26,122.95	\$22,994.91	\$1,348,185.00
"Triangle" (2008)	78	\$3,259,493.00	\$3,259,493.00	100.00%	0.00%	\$50,447.74	\$50,447.74	\$0.00
Meadowood*	288	\$6,000,000.00	\$2,515,860.00	41.93%	58.07%	\$20,833.33	\$8,735.63	\$3,484,140.00
Meadowood**	288	\$6,000,000.00	\$2,428,000.00	40.47%	59.53%	\$20,833.33	\$8,430.56	\$3,572,000.00

*reflects all costs including purchase, appraisal, environmental review, site improvements and borrowing costs of \$87,860

** reflects just purchase price

Note: Dollar values reflect values adjusted for present value of the dollar/inflation.

Source: <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/>

What is the alternative?

Without a vote, the contracts and grant opportunities will expire. The land will remain in private ownership and will likely be developed eventually. It is approved currently for a housing development.

What can I do?

ASAP, and by **April 5th**, send comments to EButler@simsbury-ct.gov

ASAP, and by **April, 5th**, sign up to speak at the public hearing: TFitzgerald@simsbury-ct.gov

[Sign here](#) to show your support for a public vote. [Read more and donate.](#)

Please help educate others about this historic and time-sensitive opportunity.

Our way forward . . .

If the Board of Finance removes the vote from the referendum, a legal petition will be needed.

Contact the Grange at info@simsburygrange.org for more information.

There are alternatives and choices to most competing demands. But this is a one-time opportunity of national significance, and there is no alternative to this iconic land. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

We all want to live in a beautiful community that is welcoming to all. Protecting this land and our shared history is a visible way to express these values, now and long into the future.

Regardless of what happens, thank you for [supporting the right to vote.](#)