

# CITY OF WESTFIELD

## *OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN*



2018 - 2025

UPDATED AUGUST 2018



# CITY OF WESTFIELD

# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

# 2018-2025

UPDATED AUGUST 2018

Prepared for: **CITY OF WESTFIELD**  
Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor

Prepared by: **PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION**  
60 Congress Street  
Springfield, MA 01104  
Phone: (413) 781-6045  
[www.pvpc.org](http://www.pvpc.org)

**WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPARTMENT**  
59 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## **Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee**

---

Mary Ann Babinski	Mary O’Connell
William Carellas	Vin Olinski
Cheryl Crowe	Bengt-Olaf Schneider
Kristen Mello	Don Podolski

## **City of Westfield**

---

Jay Vinskey, City Planner & Local Project Coordinator

Contributors include Jim Blascak (Parks & Recreation Program Coordinator), Robin Johnson (Assessor) John Lobudek (GIS Coordinator) Karen Leigh (Conservation Coordinator), Anna Pozdnyakov (Building Department), Heather Stayton (Water Department), Connor Aubuchont (Planning Intern), and all members of the Westfield community who helped to shape this plan.

## **Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**

---

Emily Slotnick, Senior Planner, Environment and Land Use  
Jacob Dolinger, Planner/GIS Specialist  
Jaimye Bartak, Senior Planner, Environment and Land Use

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: Plan Summary .....	1
Section 2: Introduction .....	3
Statement of Purpose.....	3
Planning Process and Public Participation.....	3
Section 3: Community Setting .....	7
Regional Context .....	7
History of the Community .....	8
Demographics / Populations Characteristics.....	11
Growth and Development Patterns .....	18
Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis .....	27
Geology, Soils, and Topography .....	27
Landscape Character .....	28
Environmental Challenges.....	51
Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest.....	55
Introduction.....	55
Private Parcels .....	56
Public and Non-Profit Parcels .....	61
Section 6: Community Vision.....	77
Description of Process .....	77
Vision Formulation .....	78
Section 7: Analysis of Needs .....	79
Summary of Resource Protection Needs.....	79
Summary of Community Needs.....	80
Management Needs, Potential Change of Use.....	85
Section 8: Goals and Objectives .....	87
Section 9: Seven Year Action Plan .....	91
Accomplishments Since the 2010 Plan.....	91
2018-2025 Seven Year Action Plan.....	94

Section 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS .....	99
Planning Board Letter .....	100
Mayor Letter .....	101
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Letter .....	102
Section 11: References .....	103
Section 12: Appendices .....	105
Appendix A. Maps .....	105
Appendix B. Chapter 61, 61A & 61B Properties .....	117
Appendix C. Public Survey .....	122
Appendix D. Public Workshop Agenda and Materials .....	162
Appendix E. ADA Self-Evaluation .....	165

## SECTION 1: PLAN SUMMARY

This Open Space and Recreation Plan update, undertaken in 2017-2018, was developed with public input to continue coordination efforts of city departments, private organizations, landowners, and citizens on the protection of farmland, aquifer recharge areas, and sensitive habitats as well as management and acquisition of passive and active recreation lands and facilities. This plan updates Westfield’s open space and recreation goals and objectives that were articulated in the 2010 Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and in prior OSRP’s. This OSRP first reviews demographic and development trends confronting the City of Westfield and then assesses existing environmental features and characteristics. This assessment coupled with public input received at public meetings over the last year informed the identification of open space, conservation and recreational needs in the City of Westfield.

A major theme identified by the community was the long-term protection of water resources. Other key issues included the desire to assemble and protect large blocks of open space, particularly in rural areas such as Wyben, including managing unauthorized use of private lands for motorized recreation and dumping. Throughout this planning process, residents also desired greater connectivity and accessibility to the open space network, as well as increased awareness of existing resources. The community is generally in strong agreement that the planned completion of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail through downtown will be a capstone to many themes articulated in the previous Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well a factor supporting continued revitalization.

Limited funding and availability of personnel continue to be among the top needs relative to undertaking extensive proactive measures or managing open space and recreation efforts in Westfield.

These needs informed the creation of four open space and recreation goals, which is the framework for the development of the City’s Seven-Year Action Plan. These goals were found to be generally consistent with the previous plan’s efforts, and described below.

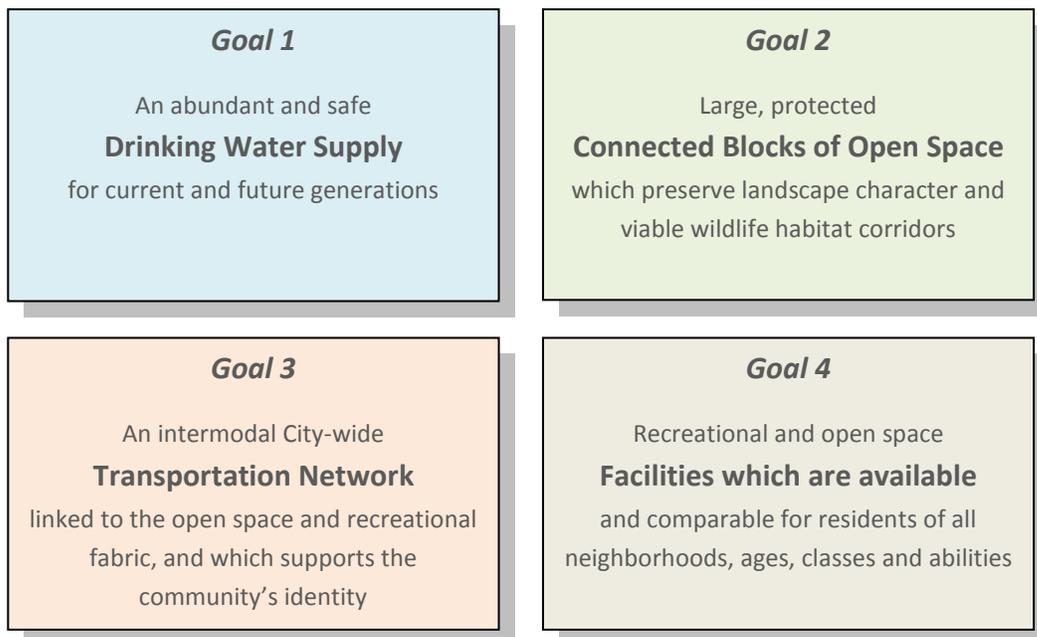


Figure 1-1. Plan Goals



## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Westfield developed this plan to help focus and coordinate the efforts of city departments, municipal policymakers, private organizations, landowners, and citizens on the protection of farmland, aquifer recharge areas, and sensitive habitats as well as management and acquisition of passive and active recreation lands and facilities. By having a plan in place, the City can better react to natural resources and recreational opportunities that arise and can proactively pursue a larger vision. Westfield residents began to take more serious action to protect, revitalize and connect existing resources with the passage of the Community Preservation Act in late 2002 and funds have been expended on open space, recreation, historic preservation and housing projects since 2004. City residents also supported the relatively recent development of a downtown Westfield plan, *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield*, and Westfield Heritage Landscapes reconnaissance report, both of which addressed and responded to open space and recreation needs in the downtown. The 2018 Westfield OSRP Plan, which is an update of the City's 2010 OSRP and prior OSRP's, takes into consideration these recent planning successes and seeks to consolidate framework for additional action.

### PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### PLANNING PROCESS

Aware that the City's 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan would be expiring in September 2017, Westfield's Planning Department began to seek funding to update its plan in late 2016. In the winter of 2017, the City received approval for funding under the state's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) program to contract the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to assist with a comprehensive update of the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan. Beginning with the formation of the Open Space Recreation Plan Committee (OSRP Committee) in late March 2017, the City subsequently organized community goal-setting workshops, developed all maps and associated map data, and undertook the ADA survey.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission was tasked with: data collection and research related to the update of the Plan, facilitating OSRP committee meetings, facilitating two community visioning workshops, and overall plan development. The OSRP Committee conducted a structured public engagement effort to solicit input on the 2018 update, utilizing various media outlets to raise awareness of the effort, and inviting public input through online and hard copy surveys, as well as at two public visioning workshops.

The planning project kicked-off with a review of Westfield's most recent Open Space and Recreation Plan as well as other relevant plans including the Heritage Landscapes Report and Downtown Action Plan. The PVPC, in conjunction with the Westfield OSRP Committee, held two public workshops on June 21, 2017, at the North Middle School Cafeteria, and on June 22, 2017, at the South Middle School Cafeteria to determine Westfield's vision for open space and recreation and suggest goals, objectives, and actions. The workshops were geographically dispersed in an attempt to maximize the diversity of citizen input, as well as for the convenience of residents.

Based on the comments received from the public visioning process, the PVPC with the Planning Department completed a draft plan that was reviewed by the OSRP Committee, publicly noticed and made available for a 30-day public comment period, commencing on July 11, 2018. The 2018 Westfield OSRP received its initial approval by the Division of Conservation Services on August 31, 2018, and will be active for 7 years. In addition to being posted on the city website, the final plan is available in paper form at City Hall. A copy was also provided to the Westfield Athenaeum, which serves as the City's library.

## 2018 OSRP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee was formed to guide this effort and included representation from the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, interested citizens and local business owners, in addition to the City's Community Development staff. All of the OSRP Committee meetings were held at City Hall after business hours, and were open to the public. The committee met five times between March 2017 and January 2018, with meeting notices posted in advance at City Hall and on the City's web page.



**FIGURE 2-1. ATTENDEES DISCUSSED AND MAPPED THEIR IDEAS AT THE SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL PUBLIC WORKSHOP.**

In June 2017, the committee posted the Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey to explore residents' uses, wishes, and dreams for the City's current and future open spaces. After 8 weeks, more than 110 surveys had been filled out. The survey questions and results of the survey are included in Appendix C. Highlights of the survey include:

Westfield residents are most likely to participate in the following recreational activities: walking (89%), Bicycling (68%), and Hiking (45%).

When asked "What additional recreational activities would you like to see in Westfield," residents selected multi-use trails (50%), hiking trails (49%), public swimming access (47%) and canoe/kayak put-ins and facilities (47%). Write-ins included more adult activities and community events, recreational programming for teens and young adults, and facilities for dog owners. These are also the activities that respondents noted they most often go outside of Westfield to do, along with hunting and fishing, cross-county skiing, and ATV or dirt bike riding. 74% said they would like to see improvements in the connections of bike and multi-purpose Trails.

When asked about the importance of protecting/conserving the following community features, drinking water sources ranked very high (51% of respondents ranked as #1) compared to other options, for which peoples' passions were more dispersed (12% of respondents ranked open space/natural/conservation lands as #1, 11% ranked working farms as #1, and 9% ranked buildings of historical or architectural interest as #1).

The survey remained open until August 2017 and was again publicized through notifications about the Westfield OSRP Update public visioning sessions.

The PVPC, in conjunction with the Westfield OSRP Committee, held two public workshops on June 21, 2017, at the North Middle School Cafeteria, and on June 22, 2017 at the South Middle School Cafeteria to determine Westfield’s vision for open space and recreation and suggest goals, objectives, and actions. During the workshops, participants were asked to name important natural resources, open spaces, recreation areas and landmarks in Westfield and then identify associated issues or conflicts. Based on this conversation, participants then identified open space and recreational needs. The final exercise involved the drafting of goals and objectives and associated actions.

Over 20 people attended the visioning sessions (sign-in sheets are included in Appendix D). Each session opened with a brief presentation on the purpose and components of an OSRP. A visioning exercise followed, in which small groups formed to visualize what the “ideal” Westfield would look like in 10 to 20 years in terms of open space and recreation. Next, participants discussed what would be needed to achieve those visions and began articulating goals. Workshop participants revisited the goals, objectives, and action plan items from the 2010 OSRP and discussed further goals, objectives, and “wish list” items for the future of the City, which have been incorporated in this 2018 OSRP Update.

## OTHER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

### Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield Plan

*Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* was a planning project that embraced a community-involved process. It began in February 2009 and ended in August 2009, and various city committees were created as a result of this undertaking. This planning process engaged the whole city, especially neighborhoods directly adjacent to the downtown target area, as their quality of life is most affected by activities and opportunities in the downtown. The planning process provided the Westfield community with several opportunities to offer input into the development of the final Downtown Action Plan, completed in August 2009. Several recommendations from this plan were included as actions in the 2010 OSRP update. Still relevant, the downtown plan continues to impact policy decisions, as well as influencing this 2018 update to the open space and recreation plan.

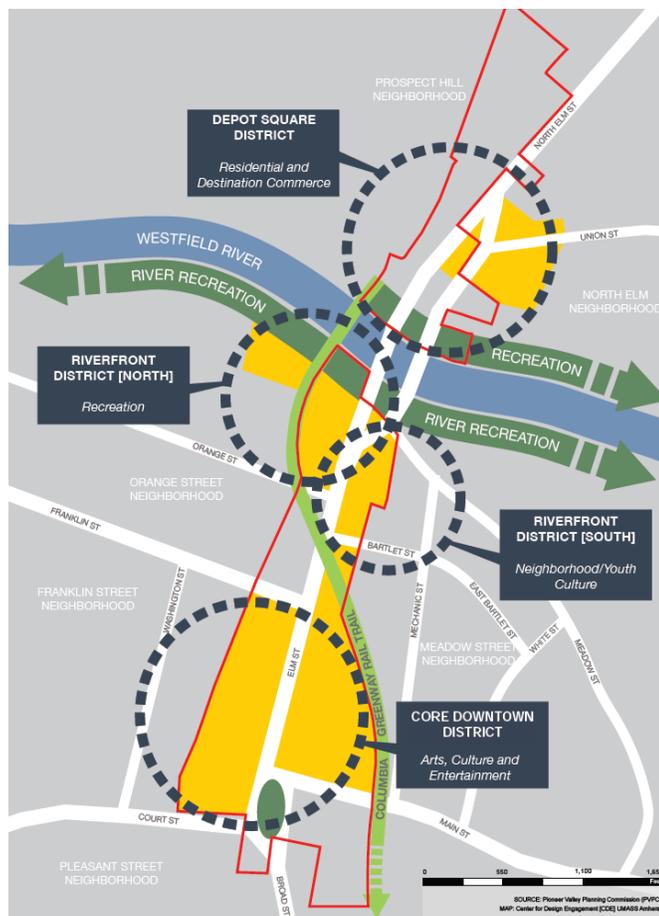


FIGURE 2-1. WESTFIELD’S DOWNTOWN PLAN INCLUDES A FRAMEWORK BASED ON STRONG RECREATIONAL LINKAGES.

## **Westfield State University Biking/Walking Survey**

---

In May 2015, as part of a planning class project, college students set up pop-up booths on 4 separate days in 4 different locations to solicit opinions about bicycle and pedestrian safety in Westfield. There were a total of 57 respondents, though not intended as a statistically valid measure of opinions. Notably, 47% felt that Westfield is unsafe for biking, but 84% reported that they would be more likely to bike if the City had designated bike lanes (*Westfield, MA: A City for Walking and Biking*, WSU GARP 219: Land Use and Resource Planning).

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Public Forum**

---

Coupled with a public hearing for the Columbia Greenway, in November 2014 the newly formed Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Advisory Committee sought input to help in its mission of making bicycling and walking safer, more convenient, viable and accessible to all citizens and neighborhoods of Westfield. This OSRP considers these public comments, including better off-road connectivity and the closing of gaps.

## **Westfield Heritage Landscapes Program Public Participation**

---

The Westfield Planning Department, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, organized a heritage landscape identification meeting in November 2008 during which residents and city officials identified and prioritized the natural and cultural landscapes within Westfield that embody the community's unique character. The final product, completed in June 2009, was a Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report, which outlines the community's landscape history, describes the priority heritage landscapes along with associated opportunities, issues, and recommendations, and concludes with implementation strategies. The Westfield OSRP incorporates all relevant information from this effort.

## **ENHANCED OUTREACH**

The Westfield OSRP committee made extra efforts to ensure the plan update process was broadly publicized and accessible for all members of the public to participate in. Based on an understanding of the community demographics and special populations, the committee advertised the 2017 survey and visioning session through a mix of printed and digital media, and provided access to hard copy surveys at a number of locations throughout town. Among diverse populations, surveys consistently reveal that word of mouth, phone calls, or face-to-face and peer-to-peer communications are the most desired forms of communication.

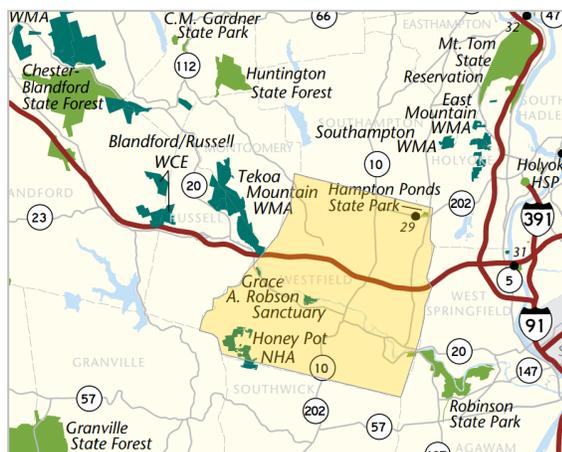
Committee members posted survey links and meeting notifications on the city web page for the OSRP Update ([www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan](http://www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan)), the city website "news items" page, and displayed the link on posters throughout the City promoting the overall OSRP update process. Survey postcards were distributed at various high-traffic offices and meetings in City Hall, and at the Senior Center, Athenaeum, and YMCA. The survey was also publicized in a local newspaper story. Hard copies were available at City Hall and the Senior Center.

Notice of the public visioning session meetings was posted on the city website "news items" and "community calendar", via a series of newspaper stories. Posters of the events were displayed at various places in City Hall and distributed at several Boards/Commissions, distributed to all schools for posting, and hung at the YMCA, Athenaeum, Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club, Amelia Park Arena, various businesses. Announcements were also made at the Planning Board and City Council meetings, which are televised.

## SECTION 3: COMMUNITY SETTING

### REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Westfield is nestled at the foothills of the picturesque Berkshires in Western Massachusetts. Comprised of over 47 square miles, Westfield is just northwest of the metropolitan area of Springfield, as well as 99 miles from Boston, and 134 miles from New York City. As depicted on the Regional Context Map in Appendix A, the City is bordered by West Springfield, Holyoke and Agawam on the east, Southwick on the south, Granville on the southwest, Russell and Montgomery on the west, and Southampton on the north.. The City is a mix of residential neighborhoods, industrial development, and a commercial downtown, combining suburban and rural living with the services and amenities of a city.



**FIGURE 3-1. WESTFIELD, AS SHOWN HIGHLIGHTED IN THE CONTEXT OF NEARBY STATE FACILITIES DEPICTED ON THE MASSACHUSETTS OUTDOOR RECREATION MAP (DFG/DCR)**

Westfield is a regional commercial and industrial center. Over the past 25 years, the City's economic and employment growth have outpaced the population growth, an uncommon trend in the Pioneer Valley. The City has seen a number of major commercial and industrial businesses locate to Westfield since 2000. Manufacturing, education, health and social services and retail trade are the largest sources of employment. Westfield State University is located in the City, as well as two health care facilities, the municipally-owned Barnes Airport, and privately-maintained Stanley Park – one of the region's most outstanding parks. Even with these urban characteristics, the City maintains its rural roots and some agriculture is still carried on in parts of Westfield.

Due to the large an area encompassed by Westfield, thousands of people cross through the City each day on their way to live, work, shop, and play. Three major north-south and east-west state and federal highways converge (U.S. Route 20, U.S. Route 202, and MA Route 10) in downtown Westfield and the Interstate 90 interchange is just one and one-half miles north of the downtown, where it intersects with State Routes 10 and 202 at its Exit 3 interchange. The proximity of these major highways and crossroads, combined with the availability of land, makes Westfield a prime location for new residences, distribution warehouses and businesses. For these reasons, Westfield is under pressure for additional residential development, especially in its more rural areas surrounding the Center. Until very recently housing subdivisions have been going up steadily on previously undeveloped land.

A major regional feature in Westfield is the Barnes Municipal Airport, which encompasses 1,103 acres in the northeast quadrant of the City and occupies a large portion of the recharge area of another regionally significant feature – the Barnes Aquifer. Considered one of the most important groundwater supplies in the state, the aquifer is a source of drinking water for the City as well as for Holyoke, Easthampton and Southampton residents. The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) was established in

1989, to help the City develop and implement a water supply protection strategy for the region and is made up of representatives from Easthampton, Holyoke, Southampton, Westfield and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). A conflict exists in the sense that this environmentally sensitive area has been the focus for new industrial or intensive commercial growth over the last decade. The City with the support of BAPAC is continually working to mitigate potential land use conflict through the implementation of best management practices.

The Westfield and Little Rivers are also prominent features, shared with many of the neighboring communities. Fed by reservoirs and streams flowing down from the Berkshires, the rivers have been a focal point of concern of nearby towns and residents. The most pressing concerns center on non-point source pollution, increased development in and near riparian zones, and a need for greenways along the rivers. The Westfield River and its watershed supply the area with drinking water, provide habitat to many species (several of which are endangered), and afford diverse recreational opportunities including some of the best kayaking and whitewater in the Northeast. Its corridor is one of the largest tracts of wilderness devoid of roads in the state, and the local communities want to protect these features. As an indication of this, 43.3 miles of the upper reaches of the Westfield River were designated as a National Wild and Scenic River in 1993. Some property owners in neighboring towns have placed development restrictions on land abutting the Westfield River, yet threats remain for future development in places not yet protected. Now that salmon habitat restoration has begun on the waterway, there is an even greater concern to protect the river.

## HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Westfield's history is one that evolved through its importance as a transportation corridor and manufacturing center. As western expansion occurred, routes were established to connect Boston to Albany, New York. Because of Westfield's strategic location between these cities and its available water resources, growth and development flourished. Canals were created for transportation of goods and materials from north and south, remnants of which can still be seen today.

Due to its alluvial lands, the inhabitants of this area were entirely devoted to agricultural pursuits for about 150 years. Monuments and gravestones in Westfield date back to the 1600's, some indicating participation in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. The City's development patterns began with a compact industrial, commercial and residential core surrounded by fertile farm fields. People settled along the Westfield River, where farming and manufacturing blended to form traditional neighborhoods. Small villages, like Wyben and Mundale, which still exist with some identity today, were established at crossroads. Residents in these areas played a historic role in the community's development.

Early in the 19th century the making of bricks, cigars and whips became the principal occupations, lending to Westfield's "Whip City" moniker. Other firms engaged in the production of bicycles, paper products, boilers and radiators, textile machinery, abrasives, wood products and precision tools. The establishment of industry in the community changed its character from agricultural to a thriving industrial city during the latter part of the 19th century. Rail lines were developed through Westfield, both north-south and east-west. This strengthened the City's importance as a transportation hub, and encouraged manufacturing. Although much of the early manufacturing has now left, the names and goods produced in the City leave a rich legacy. Some well-known industries still remain, such as Columbia Bicycles, which owns a collection of bicycles worthy of a museum, and the Westfield Whip Company.



**FIGURE 2-3. THIS 1875 MAP RENDERING SHOWS WESTFIELD CENTER'S DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK AS WELL-ESTABLISHED, INCLUDING PARK SQUARE GREEN AS THE HEART OF THE CITY.**

As manufacturing declined over the years, retail and distribution has increased, showing a continued reliance on Westfield's transportation corridors. Rail service has gradually been giving way to road service, thus giving Westfield the opportunity to determine future uses for abandoned rail lines. As noted above, the City has made progress towards advancing the redevelopment of the abandoned rail line that cuts through downtown Westfield into a bike path and multi-use trail. This incorporates several railroad bridges over downtown streets, as well as a bridge spanning the Westfield River.

Although nowhere nearly as large as the central business districts of Springfield and Holyoke, Westfield's commercial center was fourth in retail trade in the Holyoke-Springfield area during the 1950s, with more than 275 retailers catering to local residents and out-of-town shoppers. But in the 1950s plazas and malls began to pull customers away from Westfield's downtown businesses. A gradual decline began that was exacerbated when construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the 1950s and Interstate Route 91 in 1967 encouraged traffic to bypass Westfield's commercial center. Starting in the 1970s, and continuing to this day, strip malls and big-box stores located just east of the downtown along Route 20 and this area is widely considered to be Westfield's main retail area.

The effect of these forces of modernization was a downtown with many fine buildings containing storefronts that have been shuttered or are now occupied by non-commercial businesses. Some housing exists above some of the commercial buildings, but much of the existing commercial buildings contain underutilized, vacant upper-story space. The downtown has "good bones" and strategic efforts to build on this promising asset have significant potential to bear fruit in a revitalized downtown Westfield.

Thousands of residents, workers, and students in Westfield participated in the interactive *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* planning process in 2009 that developed a downtown action plan focused on enhancing the downtown as a commercial and cultural destination and promoting additional housing opportunities. The four key downtown visions from this planning process were to: reclaim the riverfront along both sides of the Westfield River, develop a bike trail along the abandoned rail line, reuse underutilized spaces for arts and entertainment, and revitalize the Elm Street corridor. Since the 2010 OSRP effort, tremendous progress has been made toward these visions.

The Great River Bridge construction was completed in late 2010, adding a parallel bridge and creating additional riverfront parks, improved landscaping, streetscapes and public infrastructure on both sides of the Westfield River. The Westfield River Trail, which previously ran along the Westfield River, took on new significance with the completion of the Great River Bridge project and associated parks. The trail now serves as an east-west connection between the new Great River Bridge Parks, Women’s Temperance Park, and a new riverfront esplanade park connecting Whitney Park to the Great River Bridge parks. It also follows the levee to link to more distant areas, including Chapman Playground and downtown neighborhoods. In addition, the Westfield River Trail will eventually link to the proposed north-south Columbia Greenway Bike Trail, which will run along the abandoned elevated railroad bed from downtown Westfield to the Westfield-Southwick border where it will join the existing rail trail that leads far into the state of Connecticut. The City and its partners have completed most of the design and engineering work for various segments of the rail trail, and is actively in the construction phase for certain segments of the trail. The City also completed an infrastructure project on the Green (Park Square) to improve traffic circulation in the downtown as well as to provide pedestrian amenities and landscape improvements to the Green, which now better accommodates a variety of community events.

Throughout the City, many of Westfield’s significant historic properties have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Westfield has twelve historical sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including eleven individual properties and the Westfield Center Commercial Historic District. Three properties—the Dewey House, Landlord Fowler Tavern and Whip Factory—have preservation restrictions placed on them, with the Athenaeum and YMCA Taylor Mansion pursuing restrictions. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission worked with the Westfield Historical Commission in 2009 to begin expanding the Westfield Center Commercial Historic District’s boundaries to include over hundreds of buildings, sites, structures and objects. Now, over 550 buildings or structures are listed on the State Register of Historic Places. The Historical Commission will continue to identify structures that meet the NRHD criteria and pursue local designation for additional buildings over time.

## DEMOGRAPHICS / POPULATIONS CHARACTERISTICS

### POPULATION TRENDS

Westfield is a growing diverse city of over 41,000 residents, and the amount of its lands categorized for parkland, open space and conservation purposes amounts to over 5,000 square feet per person. As this plan was written, the Open Space Committee took into account the needs of city areas in terms of population density. The City's estimated population density in 2015 was 882.6 people per square mile, which places Westfield as one of the denser communities in the Pioneer Valley. The most populated parts of the City are the 8129.02 and 8125.00 census tracts, which make up the central urban core. The remaining areas of Westfield are similar to each other in population, but have varying densities due to the size of each census tract. In general, the tracts outside the central core of the City reflect the suburban or rural nature of these areas. Demographic trends parallel development trends and the population is dispersing into the rural reaches of the north, south and western sections of Westfield.

**TABLE 3-1: WESTFIELD POPULATION TRENDS, 1930 THROUGH 2010**

YEAR	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
<b>Total population</b>	16,684	18,793	20,962	26,302	31,433	36,465	38,372	40,072	40,974
<b>Change</b>		11.2%	10.3%	20.3%	16.3%	13.8%	5.0%	4.2%	2.2%
SOURCE: U. S. CENSUS BUREAU, DECENNIAL CENSUS									

The City's most substantial periods of growth occurred before 1980, and the rate of population growth has steadily declined since the 1960s. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2016, as analyzed by the UMass Donahue Institute, Westfield added an estimated 458 residents from 2010 to 2016, which was just over a one percent population increase. During this same period, Hampden County and the state grew by 1% and 4% respectively. As a comparison, the Pioneer Valley region grew by 1.4% between 2010 and 2016, meaning Westfield population growth is experiencing similarly slow growth to the region as a whole.

**TABLE 3-2: WESTFIELD POPULATION PROJECTIONS**

CENSUS 2010	PROJECTION 2015	PROJECTION 2020	PROJECTION 2025	PROJECTION 2030	PROJECTION 2035
41,094	41,599	42,251	42,896	43,255	43,260
SOURCE: UMASS DONAHUE INSTITUTE NOTE: THE 2010-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY HAS WESTFIELD'S ESTIMATED POPULATION FOR 2015 AS 41,480 SO UMASS'S ESTIMATE IS SLIGHTLY HIGHER, DUE TO DIFFERING METHODOLOGIES. UMASS USES LOCAL FERTILITY/MORTALITY TRENDS COMBINED WITH REGIONAL MIGRATION-BY-AGE TRENDS FROM PAST AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEYS.					

The volume of residential construction over the last decade also suggests continued population growth. The Westfield Building Department issued over 808 building permits for new housing units from 2000 through 2016. Westfield Public School District enrollment figures for the 2016/2017 school year show more of a stable population, with less than a 1% increase in student enrollment (23 students) from the

2015/2016 school year. City officials attribute this contrast between the growth in housing lack of accompanying growth in school enrollment to the fact that people are having fewer children as well as having children later in life. Based on these growth trends, the desirability of the community, and availability of undeveloped land in Westfield, the City should still expect to see slow population growth over the next decade. It should be noted that the densest areas of the City are Census Tracts 8127.01 and 8127.02, which is where the City’s environmental justice populations live. All Westfield environmental justice areas, based on income or income/minority status, are mapped in Appendix A, including an area at the Hampton Ponds neighborhood which was newly designated since the 2010 OSRP effort.

The age distribution of a city’s population affects the demand for open space and recreation as different age groups have different needs. Table 3-3 shows the population distribution for Westfield in years 2010 and 2015 according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. The median age in 2015 was 37.4 years, which was slightly lower than the 2010 median age of 37.9 years. Slightly over one-quarter of Westfield's population was under the age of nineteen in 2015, and this percentage showed a slight decrease since 2010. The percentage of residents age sixty-five years and older increased over this same period from 13.2 percent in 2010 to 14.7 percent in 2015.

**TABLE 3-3: WESTFIELD POPULATION AND AGE COHORTS 2010-2015**

	2010	% OF TOTAL	2015	% OF TOTAL	% CHANGE
<b>Total population</b>	40974	-	41480	-	1.2%
<b>Median age</b>	37.9		37.4	-	
<b>Under 10 years</b>	4613	11.3%	4558	11.0%	-1.2%
<b>10 to 19 years</b>	6603	16.1%	6072	14.6%	-8.0%
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	3264	8.0%	4723	11.4%	44.7%
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	4532	11.1%	4364	10.5%	-3.7%
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	5797	14.1%	4646	11.2%	-19.9%
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	6046	14.8%	5515	13.3%	-8.8%
<b>55 to 64 years</b>	4699	11.5%	5498	13.3%	17.0%
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	2314	5.6%	3400	8.2%	46.9%
<b>75 years and older</b>	3106	7.6%	2704	6.5%	-12.9%
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2006-2010 AND 2011-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY 5-YEAR ESTIMATES					

According to the 2010 Decennial Census, the average household size (occupants living together, regardless of relationship) in Westfield was 2.61 and the average family (related members living in a household) was 3.11 in 2010. In 2000 the averages were 2.65 and 3.10, respectively. This shows that despite nationwide trends of families and households growing smaller, Westfield’s families are staying roughly the same size, while household size is increasing. This may suggest its housing stock, amenities, or schools may be attractive for larger households rather than single householders or seniors.

## Population by Race, Ethnicity & Ancestry

According to the 2010-2015 American Community Survey, over 90 percent Westfield residents are white. The City has seen a marginal increase in the number of Hispanic residents since the 2010 Census was taken from 6.7% in 2010 to 8.0% in 2015. The 2015 American Community Survey found that roughly 2.4 percent of Westfield's population was born in Puerto Rico, U.S. Island areas, or born abroad to American parents. The City also has a growing population of Russian and Ukrainian immigrants. Over 13 percent of Westfield residents spoke a language within the Indo-European language family other than English. In total, a little over 14 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home. The majority of the City's non-English speaking residents and non-white population live in Census Tracts 8127.01 and 8127.02 (U.S. Census, 2015).

**TABLE 3-4: POPULATION BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2011-2015**

CATEGORY	ESTIMATE	PERCENT
White	37,511	90.4%
Black or African American	841	2.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0.0%
Asian	981	2.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	60	0.1%
Some other race	1,279	3.1%
Two or more races	808	1.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3319	8.0%
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	41,480	
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU - AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ESTIMATES (2010, 2015)		

## Household Income & Poverty

Westfield's median household income in 2015 was estimated to be \$61,053, which was over \$10,000 higher than Hampden County's estimated median household income but slightly over \$7,000 less than the state's, a gap that has narrowed in the past decade indicating that incomes in Westfield are growing. Over 40 percent of Westfield households earned \$75,000 or more annually. As Tables 3-5 and 3-6 show, not all Westfield households are affluent. The city-wide poverty rate for individuals in 2015 was 9.5 percent. The child poverty rate was much higher with over fifteen percent of children under the age of 18 living in poverty.

As a comparison, the median household income of the Pioneer Valley region in 2014 was \$53,011, \$50,036 in Hampden County, and \$60,845 in Westfield for the same year, suggesting that Westfield is a wealthier community than the region as a whole. The state median household income in 2015 was \$67,846.

**TABLE 3-5: WESTFIELD HOUSEHOLD INCOME 2000-2015**

	2000	PERCENT OF TOTAL	2010	PERCENT OF TOTAL	2015	PERCENT OF TOTAL	CHANGE 2000-2015
Total Households	14,798	100	15,270	-	14,909	-	0.8%
Less than \$10,000	1,457	9.8	1359	8.9%	490	3.3%	-66.4%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	905	6.1	962	6.3%	729	4.9%	-19.4%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,714	11.6	1710	11.2%	1533	10.3%	-10.6%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,512	10.2	1435	9.4%	1535	10.3%	1.5%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,536	17.1	1878	12.3%	1822	12.2%	-28.2%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	3,387	22.9	2688	17.6%	2724	18.3%	-19.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	1,840	12.4	2046	13.4%	2095	14.1%	13.9%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	1,035	7	1970	12.9%	2349	15.8%	127.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	189	1.3	702	4.6%	978	6.6%	417.5%
\$200,000+	223	1.5	519	3.4%	654	4.4%	193.3%
Median income (dollars)	45,240	(x)	51,620	(x)	61,053	(x)	18.3%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2000 CENSUS, 2010-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, IN 2015 INFLATION ADJUSTED DOLLARS.

**TABLE 3-6: PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLES AND FAMILIES WHOSE INCOME WAS BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL, 2010-2015**

CATEGORY	ESTIMATE
All families	5.8%
All people	9.5%
Under 18 years	15.7%
65 years and over	6.3%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU, 2010-2015 AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY, IN 2015 INFLATION ADJUSTED DOLLARS.

The City's poorest residents live in the densest parts of the City in the Elm Street/Downtown area, primarily within Census Tracts 8127.01 and 8127.02, which also contain the majority of the City's older housing stock, the greatest amount of renter households experiencing severe housing cost burdens, and the largest concentration of non-English speaking residents (City of Westfield Office of Community Development, 2017). The Census Tracts 8127.01 and 8127.02, comprises a large majority of the City's older housing stock, has the lowest homeownership rates, and the greatest number of renters. These two Census Tracts contain environmental justice populations. Community survey responses and stakeholder interviews conducted in the 2009 *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* planning process showed that residents within these neighborhoods strongly identify with their neighborhood. These residents expressed considerable interest in improving the aesthetic quality of these neighborhoods through stronger and more consistent enforcement of city ordinances and through additional opportunities for social interaction and community building within neighborhood boundaries. According to Police Department data this area is not experiencing disproportionately high crime rates, but both neighborhood residents and city officials expressed a need to improve neighborhood quality and reinforce neighborhood identity to ensure the quality of life in these neighborhoods in the future.

According to the 2015 City of Westfield Five Year Consolidated Plan, the City has made some strides with improving public parks and facilities in the past decade. However, neglected parks still exist in the City's lowest income level neighborhoods. Some recreation areas have outdated swing sets, and softball facilities are in concentrated residential areas but go underutilized due to safety concerns. These areas present safety issues by serving as a late-night gathering places, often times for individuals consuming alcohol and sometimes vandalizing neighboring property. As a result, these recreational facilities take on an appearance of abandonment and become less attractive for active recreational users (Consolidated Plan, 2015).

### **Economic and Employment Characteristics**

---

Westfield's economy is growing. Over 100 new businesses opened in the last decade; and, as a result, both the number of Westfield businesses and jobs increased over the period from 2006 through 2017 (Table 3-8).

The City saw increased development activity along the Route 20 corridor in eastern Westfield and along the Route 10/202 corridors in northern Westfield. Most job growth within the community is centered around the City's north side, which is located close to the Massachusetts Turnpike and Interstate-91. Additionally, Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport and the Pioneer Valley Railroad serve as community assets that attract business investment and activity. Significant interest in development, primarily from warehousing and manufacturing interests continues along the Route 10/202/Southampton Road corridor and there remains available land for development in the area. Most recently, the City has permitted expansions at two manufacturing facilities, promising additional employment opportunities for the region.

The City has also witnessed renewed interest in its historic downtown. A Business Improvement District (BID) formed in 2006, but was dissolved in 2014. It had provided supplemental services such as marketing, business retention and recruitment and improved maintenance. The City also has a Chamber of Commerce to which City Hall regularly refers interested businesses. Representatives from the Chamber and BID played an active role in the development of the *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* plan, which

recognized the need for more recreational opportunities in the downtown. With an increase in recreational and job activity throughout the City, more workers may choose alternate forms of transportation either for commuting to work or for play. The City should be sure to provide ample pedestrian and bicycle facilities to give residents a range of options for moving in and about downtown and the neighborhoods and job centers throughout the City.

State employment data shows that the following industry sectors employ the most workers in Westfield: Management, professional, and related, employing over 36 percent of the workforce in 2015; sales and office with 26 percent; and the service sector, with 19 percent. Table 3-7 shows all major employers in Westfield who employ over 250 workers.

**TABLE 3-7: TOP EMPLOYERS IN WESTFIELD, 2016**

BUSINESS	ADDRESS	# EMPLOYEES
Baystate Noble Hospital	W Silver St	500-999
Westfield State University	Western Ave	500-999
Airtherm	N Elm St	250-499
Hydro Therm ATH	N Elm St	250-499
Massachusetts Air National Guard	Falcon Dr	250-499
Mestek Inc	N Elm St	250-499
Walmart Supercenter	Springfield Rd	250-499
Westcast Inc	N Elm St	250-499
Western Massachusetts Hospital	E Mountain Rd	250-499
SOURCE: MA EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (EOLWD), 2017.		

According to the 2012 Economic Census, manufacturing continues to be an important industry sector for Westfield, employing more workers than any other sector and logging the second highest value of sales, shipments, receipts, revenue, or business done, behind the wholesale trade. However, state data from 2016 show that jobs in the manufacturing sector offered an average weekly wage of \$1,211 in 2016. Of the industry sectors employing 1000 people or more in Westfield, the best paid workers had jobs in public administration, fabricated metal product manufacturing, goods-producing domain, and durable goods manufacturing, indicating that jobs related to the production of goods are still some of the best in the City for wage earning potential. Manufacturing, though, carries a heavy environmental impact and therefore it will be important for the City to continue to work with employers to mitigate any potential conflicts.

**TABLE 3-8: WESTFIELD EMPLOYMENT & WAGE TRENDS**

Description	NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS		AVERAGE MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT		AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES	
	2009	2016	2009	2016	2009	2016
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	1079	1199	16599	18552	793	902
Natural Resources and Mining	9	9	72	63	1041	1375
Construction	98	111	681	881	982	1245
Manufacturing	90	79	3022	2830	1032	1211
Wholesale Trade	58	55	546	591	982	-
Retail Trade	131	128	1953	2007	467	-
Transportation and Warehousing	29	34	1181	1738	820	-
Information	10	9	230	267	913	1247
Finance and Insurance	33	32	218	210	915	1046
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	32	41	184	244	474	589
Professional and Technical Services	70	72	508	703	1319	1367
Management of Companies and Enterprises	4	-	163	-	1667	-
Administrative and Waste Services	36	47	439	348	535	654
Educational Services	12	13	2143	2484	824	864
Health Care and Social Assistance	89	386	2152	2845	820	828
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13	15	201	252	284	300
Accommodation and Food Services	73	67	1185	1228	265	330
Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	278	81	871	628	367	517
Public Administration	14	18	848	1051	1159	1282
<p>SOURCE: MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR &amp; WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT &amp; WAGES DATA (ES-202), ACCESSED OCTOBER 2017</p> <p>NOTE: * WAGES ADJUSTED TO 2016 REAL DOLLARS</p>						

Business growth in industry sectors that offer low-paying jobs, such as Accommodation and Food Services, and a growing unemployment rate are two areas of concern that detract from this otherwise positive economic picture. The unemployment rates in Westfield and the region have not fully recovered since economic recession that started in late 2007. The percentage of unemployed Westfield residents went from 8.3% in 2009 to 8.9% in 2015. The latest unemployment figures are slightly higher than the state's unemployment rate of 7.6%. Free or low-cost recreational activities will be important to struggling and poorer households. Some major employers in Westfield, specifically in the education sector, contribute to open space (even if unprotected) for the community by providing and maintaining ball fields, pools, and community gathering areas.

## GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

### PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Westfield historically grew around its industrial manufacturing center, and along parts of the Westfield River. Many older industries left the City because they could no longer use the compact spaces they once occupied. As a result, the center of Westfield was abandoned. New development has been occurring either in the more expansive lands once occupied by farms and forest, or situated over the aquifer.

Throughout the years, Westfield's development patterns have been affected by some natural features - particularly, the floodplains of the Westfield and Little Rivers. Many older neighborhoods were established to support the downtown area. As land in the downtown vicinity was built-out, developers sought new areas for homes and businesses. The new areas are generally detached from the older neighborhoods by the floodplains.

### INFRASTRUCTURE

#### **Transportation**

---

The City of Westfield is conveniently located at the junction of several major transportation routes, such as I-90, Routes 10 & 202 and Route 20; it is also a short distance to I-91. The City hosts a regional airport, the Barnes Airport, and two active railways, The Boston and Albany, which follow along the Westfield River and the Pioneer Valley Railroad, a short-haul line to Holyoke.

Two Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) bus lines run and connect in downtown Westfield: one provides weekday service from downtown Westfield to downtown Holyoke via Holyoke Community College, the other provides daily service from Westfield State University to downtown Springfield via downtown Westfield and downtown West Springfield. the PVTA, the City, and private developers recently opened the Olver Transit Pavilion, located on Arnold Street- just off Elm Street, as the first indoor bus station in the City. The new facility includes four bus berths, a waiting area, automated ticketing kiosks, and real-time arrival and departure information.

Roadway infrastructure in downtown Westfield also includes sidewalks, which are being maintained and replaced by the City as needed. The 2009 Community Survey showed strong support for bike lanes and racks, sidewalk and accessibility improvements, benches and seating, street trees, pocket parks, flowers, and public art. There continues to be tremendous support for the bike path through the downtown along the elevated railroad bed, for enhancing pedestrian and recreational access to the Westfield River, and for improving infrastructure to enhance the pedestrian environment. The City has pursued a phased

development of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in order to build this critical pedestrian and bicycle connection from the Southwick border to the Westfield River, where it will connect to the Westfield River Trail. The first phase of construction to extend the trail from Southwick to within ¼ mile of Westfield’s downtown began in 2012 and was completed in 2016. The second phase includes construction of a 853 foot portion of the trail from Cowles Court northward to the Westfield River, including work on the abandoned New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad bridge crossing the Westfield river. This phase began in 2017. This critical project will form the spine of a non-motorized transportation and recreation network through downtown Westfield. After each segment is complete, the City and the relatively newly formed Friends of the Columbia Greenway community group organize “grand opening” ceremonies and trail cleanup events.

## **Water Supply**

---

The Water Department provides city water to over 11,400 residences and businesses. There are an estimated 2,000 private wells in the City and the Health Department recently adopted new regulations to monitor and manage all privately owned wells.

The City of Westfield now receives water from several different sources. The two main sources are the Granville Reservoir and the Barnes Aquifer. The City receives water from 6 active wells. Westfield is also authorized to withdraw up to 3.2 million gallons per day from the Springfield water system through an interconnection located off Shaker Road.

The distribution system loops around the City and includes over 220 miles of water mains. The system includes over 1,600 fire hydrants and 11,438 services, all of which are metered. The current potable water system in downtown Westfield is efficient and can accommodate a fair amount of population growth, so no capacity upgrades are planned at this time. The City administers ongoing projects to maintain and upgrade pipes, such as with the recently completed water pipe improvements in the downtown’s Gaslight district.

An area of concern is that private wells in the area of Route 10 and 202 in Westfield and Southampton are being affected by winter road salting. The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee, in cooperation with Smith College, completed a fourth round of private drinking water well sample analysis in Westfield and Southampton. The study sampled 90 private drinking water wells on May 7, 2008. More than 40 percent of the samples (38 of 90) were found to be impacted by road salt, having sodium concentrations above the 20 mg/L guideline set by the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG). In addition, 10 percent of the samples (9 out of 90) had chloride concentrations above the 250 mg/L secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Another 15 percent, or 17 of the 90 wells sampled, were found to have naturally high sodium levels due to the background geology of the area. Most of these wells were located in the Scenic Drive and Pheasant Drive neighborhoods of Westfield. Elevated sodium in drinking water may be considered a health concern for individuals on salt-restricted diets. Persons on low-sodium diets due to high blood pressure or other medical problems are often restricted to water containing less than 20 mg/L of sodium.

On May 19th, 2016, United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a new lifetime Health Advisory level of 0.070 ug/L (70 parts per trillion) for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), significantly lower than its previous standards. EPA lifetime Health Advisories are recommended contaminant levels in drinking water, set to be protective against adverse health effects

for all people consuming the water for a lifetime. For PFOS and PFOA, EPA recommends that the lifetime Health Advisory also apply to shorter-term exposures of weeks to months during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

In 2013, PFOA and PFOS were detected at concentrations well below the previous provisional Health Advisory at Wells #1, 2, & 7. Westfield's North Side is home to 4 drinking water supply wells (#1, 2, 7, & 8). In 2016, following the release of new guidelines, wells #7 & 8 were taken offline based on comparing the 2013 testing results to the new levels, and wells #1 & 2 were repeat sampled. Well #7 was last routinely used in December 2015, and both wells #7 & 8 had been out of service since January 2016, except for sampling.

Based on the test results and in an abundance of caution, the Westfield DPW Water Division took Wells #7 & 8 completely offline in May of 2016. All samples taken at both Wells #1 & 2 showed levels of these chemicals below the lifetime health advisory level, but based on guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the most current testing results, only one of these wells is being run at a time. Water from Well #1 is currently being used for the Westfield water supply.

These contamination concerns, likely the result of fire-fighting foam once used at the Barnes Air National Guard Base, received much media coverage and even gave rise to a grassroots advocacy and education group in 2017. Temporary treatment is being installed for Well #2, a treatment plant for wells #7 & 8 is being constructed, and MassDEP has sampled more than 60 private wells to ensure water sources remain safe; levels of concern have been detected in 3 private wells along Lower Sandy Hill Road and point of use filtration has been installed at those locations. Westfield should continue to strive to protect its wells, both public and private, to ensure a quality water supply in the future.

## **Sewage Systems**

---

The City provides sewage services to approximately 7,100 residences and businesses, and there are approximately 4,600 private septic systems. Since 1973, the City has had its own Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant was upgraded in 2005 to increase its hydraulic capacity from 4 four million gallons per day up to 6.1 million. The plant serves about 75% of the Westfield area. The Wastewater Treatment Plant removes 95% to 99% of the pollutants before being discharged into the Westfield River. The City continues to make small upgrades to the plant to improve efficiency. The City conducted an assessment of the sewage mains, finding that most lines are in good condition, though there are some segments in need of replacement. These segments will be upgraded as road-resurfacing projects occur, allowing access to belowground utilities.

Westfield regularly assesses its stormwater system, and there are currently no capacity shortages, though there are, as in all cities, some defects in outfalls and other components of the system. In addition, there are isolated areas in which cross connections between sanitary sewers and storm drains still exist. These connections, known as combined sewer overflows, are places where sewage and stormwater mix. The resulting mixed water is conveyed to the wastewater treatment plant. However, when the sewers get too full during significant storm events, they overflow into the stormwater system and discharge into the Westfield River. This overflow provides a "safety valve" that prevents backups of untreated wastewater into homes and businesses, flooding in city streets, and bursting of underground pipes.

The City of Westfield is gradually separating the sanitary sewers from the stormwater system in all locations where combined sewer overflows still exist. Like sewage main upgrades, these projects are undertaken in conjunction with roadway replacement projects. The City of Westfield adopted a stormwater utility ordinance in May 2010, which will generate revenue based on a fee charged for the use of stormwater infrastructure. These funds will be used to help operate, maintain and upgrade the storm drain system.

### **Potential Effects of the City's Infrastructure on Development**

---

Increased infrastructure into current rural areas could mean more subdivisions being developed on prime agricultural lands, and a resultant decrease of both open space and farmland. The northwest section of Westfield is not supplied by municipal water or sewer, which helps to minimize residential expansion. However, if those services were to be offered there, it would virtually ensure more development. It is critical to consider these possibilities while creating an open space plan and Seven-Year strategy, to make certain there is a process for identifying the areas that are a priority for protection. The categorization of such lands can be coordinated with the City's open space subdivision ordinance so that their undeveloped open spaces are of the quality and value that is important to both Westfield and the ecosystem.

## **LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS**

### **Current and Foreseeable Development Patterns**

---

Westfield saw a good amount of residential, commercial and industrial development activity over the last ten years and the City expects this activity to continue over the next decade due to the availability of developable land, though subdivision development has slowed, Table 3-9 shows that the City has a sizable amount of vacant land remaining for residential, commercial or industrial development.

The vast majority of Westfield's 47.5 square miles (30,400 acres) is undeveloped land, totaling close to 15,600 acres (51.3%). Residential land is the second most prolific land use, totaling close to 6,800 acres; followed next by agricultural land, totaling about 3,500 acres. Land for industrial uses constitutes a relatively large 1,043 acres; and land for commercial uses totals 558 acres. Westfield also has significant acreage for land characterized as urban open/public land and outdoor recreational land, at 587 acres and 654 acres, respectively. Lastly, land used for transportation totals 1,072 acres and water constitutes another 471 acres.

Aerial photography of Westfield, taken in 1971, 1985, 1999, and 2005, as part of state effort to document land use changes, shows a loss of undeveloped land to developed land from 1971 to 2005. Some of the most noticeable changes during this period have been increases in residential development, commercial, and industrial development, highlighted by frontage lot development and small subdivision development along existing roads and the development of major industrial facilities in the northern part of Westfield and major commercial buildings in the eastern part of Westfield.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> William MacConnell and the University of Massachusetts documented Land Use patterns in Massachusetts through aerial photography in the 1950s.

**TABLE 3-9: VACANT LAND IN WESTFIELD BY NUMBER OF PARCELS AND ACRES**

LAND USE TYPE	TOTAL PARCELS	TOTAL ACRES
<b>Residential</b>		
Developable	260	1,209
Undevelopable	573	1,126
<b>Commercial</b>		
Developable	60	174
Potentially Developable	6	32
Undevelopable	24	70
<b>Industrial</b>		
Developable	45	630
Potentially Developable	2	11
Undevelopable	12	193
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSORS OFFICE, 2017		

**TABLE 3-10: WESTFIELD LAND USE AND LAND USE CHANGES**

LAND USE CATEGORY	1971	% OF TOTAL	2005	% OF TOTAL	CHANGE IN ACRES 1971 - 2005	PERCENT CHANGE 1971 - 2005
Active Agriculture	3,545	12%	1,935	6%	-1610	-45%
Pasture	1,170	4%	966	3%	-204	-17%
Forest	16,481	54%	14,758	49%	-1724	-10%
Multi-Family	33	0%	583	2%	549	1643%
Residential less than 1/4 acre lot	1,403	5%	865	3%	-538	-38%
Residential 1/4 - 1/2 acre lot	1,922	6%	2,400	8%	478	25%
Residential greater than 1/2 acre lot	1,019	3%	2,502	8%	1482	145%
Commercial	364	1%	521	2%	157	43%
Industrial	395	1%	604	2%	209	53%
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	30,295		30,280			

Significant changes to the zoning have occurred since this time to minimize the ecological impacts of maximum buildout (for example, if natural land areas would become isolated/surrounded by development). However, many parts of the City, which are valuable to the community for open space or recreation purposes, are still vulnerable to development.

Starting in 1991, Mass Audubon has documented how the landscape has been transformed by new residential and commercial development throughout the commonwealth. Their “Losing Ground” reports analyze landscape changes every five years on the municipal scale, with the most recent report published in 2014. Between 2005 and 2013, 168 acres of natural land in Westfield was converted to development. Table 3-11 provides specific land use measurements for Westfield from the 2014 report, and shows how the City ranks in the context of all 351 Massachusetts municipalities. As one of the largest municipalities in the state, Westfield ranks sixth in the state for total area of open land, and 9<sup>th</sup> in total area of developed land. At 12%, Westfield ranks 268<sup>th</sup> in “overall percent [of its land] protected.”

**TABLE 3-11: WESTFIELD LAND USE, RECENT DEVELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION, 2005-2013**

LAND USE MEASUREMENT	ACRES	RANK IN COMMONWEALTH (OUT OF 351 MUNICIPALITIES)
Total area of developed land (acres)	9,514	9
Total area of natural land (acres)	15,262	73
Total area of open land (acres)	5,545	6
Percent developed land	31%	124
Percent natural land	50%	255
Percent open land	18%	27
Total area (acres)	30,280	18
Total area (square miles)	47	18
Total area of new development (acres)	271	6
Natural land converted to development (acres)	168	5
Open land converted to development (acres)	103	16
Total development (acres per square mile)	6	42
Natural land converted to development (acres per square mile)	4	37
Open land converted to development (acres per square mile)	2	84
Overall area protected (acres)	3,493	126
Overall percent protected	12%	268
Area protected 2005 - 2013 (acres)	450	88
Percent BioMap2 Core Habitat protected	13%	305
Percent BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape protected	17%	283
Percent TNC resilient land protected	23%	241
SOURCE: MASS AUDUBON LOSING GROUND FIFTH EDITION REPORT, 2014 NOTES: THESE STATISTICS DESCRIBE CHANGES IN LAND USE BETWEEN 2005 AND 2013. ESTIMATES OF ACRES OF LAND CONVERTED FROM A NATURAL STATE TO A DEVELOPED STATE CAN BE FOUND HERE, AS WELL AS THE RATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN COMPARISON TO OTHER AREAS. NATURAL LAND CONSISTS OF FOREST, WETLAND, AND WATER; OPEN LAND CONSISTS OF AGRICULTURAL AREAS, BARE SOIL, OR LOW VEGETATION; DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL/HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT. PERCENTAGE CALCULATIONS ARE BASED ON THE STATE'S TOTAL LAND AREA, EXCLUDING MAJOR WATERBODIES.		

Westfield saw a consistent amount of residential development activity over the last ten years. The City Building Department issued over 215 building permits for new residential units and over 75 permits for new commercial structures. A recent increase in residential development includes 3 recently permitted subdivisions (for 46 homes total) currently being constructed or built-out (Flynn Meadows, Angelica and Northfield Estates) in addition to single-lot home development throughout the City. The 122-unit ArmBrook senior and assisted living facility was completed in 2011 and development continues within the Liberty Manor senior housing community. Plans have been approved for the conversion of the former Moseley school to 23 dwelling units, and the construction of a 16 unit multifamily development on Lockhouse Road. Since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan (2010), the City approved only 4 subdivisions, resulting in 49 single family units when built out (Table 3-12). Compared to 21 subdivisions in the previous period, demand for this type development of has seen a dramatic reduction, following the housing crisis.

**TABLE 3-12: WESTFIELD BUILDINGS PERMITS ISSUED 2007 THROUGH 2016**

YEAR	SINGLE FAMILY	TWO-FAMILY	MULTI-FAMILY	COMMERCIAL
2016	21	1	-	13
2015	20	1	-	7
2014	22	2	-	8
2013	25	2	-	6
2012	18	1	1 (5 unit)	13
2011	12	1	1 (7 unit)	5
2010	20	3	-	n/a
2009	24	6	1 (8 unit)	4
2008	17	4	3 (4 units each)	6
2007	36	5	-	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>215</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6 (24 units)</b>	<b>78</b>
SOURCE: SOCDS BUILDING PERMITS DATABASE; WESTFIELD BUILDING DEPARTMENT, 2017				

**TABLE 3-13: WESTFIELD SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY, 2007 THROUGH 2017**

YEAR	DEVELOPMENT	# LOTS
2011	Chestnut Hill – off Hillside Rd. (construction not commenced)	16
2014	Northfield Estates – Day Lily Ln. (under construction)	10
2015	Angelica Estates – Angelica Dr. (under construction)	11
2017	Grayson Estates – off Birch Bluffs Dr. (under construction)	12
SOURCE: WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPARTMENT, 2017		

Following the economic slowdown, which spanned into the earlier part of this decade, building development in Westfield has seen steady growth. City residents are generally enthused about renewed development interest in the downtown. Since 2009, some large building projects have been constructed: a 59,000 SF WalMart SuperCenter addition, a Gulfstream aerospace facility (125,000 SF), and three large distribution buildings: Home Depot (657,000 SF), Duie Pyle (238,000 SF) and Boise Cascade (79,000 SF). An 87,000 SF indoor soccer facility is nearing completion. In this time, smaller scale commercial development also continued, including a Cumberland Farms (with gasoline sales), Dunkin Donuts, and Riverbend medical office building (all new construction). Rocky's Hardware, PVTA's downtown transit center, the 99 Restaurant and McDonald's are examples of new construction on previously developed sites. Westfield State University recently expanded its capacity by building a new residence hall on campus with 411 beds, acquiring an apartment building downtown that houses 200 students and a new academic building. Work is currently underway to turn a former elementary school on campus into a new academic building. Plans for additional commercial and industrial developments elsewhere in the City have been approved and await construction; these include shopping centers (99 Springfield Road and 710 Southampton Road), a Dollar General and a large office building.

In the last few years the Columbia River Greenway effort has converted a vacant rail bed (running from the Southwick line to Main St.) into a rail trail for bicyclists and pedestrians. The final phase will extend the trail through downtown and across the Westfield River. The Greenway, coupled with the Great River Bridge Project, Park Square green project, the Gaslight District and other recent streetscape and downtown park projects, has contributed to an increased vibrancy and interest in the downtown.

Industrial development over the last decade has been concentrated on the North Side of Westfield, generally along the route 10/202 corridor and near the Airport. Commercial development over the last three decades has been primarily concentrated along the Route 20 commercial corridor in eastern Westfield as well as near the interstate 90 interchange. Much of this development has resulted in large areas of impervious surfaces so there is a need for the City to continue monitoring stormwater runoff.

Since a large percentage of land in this area of the city is zoned for industrial uses and still consists of vacant land, this environmentally sensitive area will likely continue to see growth pressures. The need to expand the City's tax base coupled with the need to protect this area from adverse development has already emerged as a conflict. The City and its partners such as BAPAC review all new development proposals to ensure the developer employs best management practices to mitigate any potential adverse effects.

## **Local Zoning**

---

Municipal zoning authority has an important influence on development patterns. Zoning regulations substantially determine the location, size, and type of commercial, industrial and housing uses in a community. The current ordinance establishes fourteen base zones and three overlay zones (Appendix A):

Five residential districts: Rural Residential, Residence A, Residence B, Residence C, Residence C-1

Four commercial districts: Commercial A - Neighborhood, Court Street Mixed Residence/Business, Broad Street Mixed Residence/Business, Commercial Office Retail Enterprise (CORE);

Two business districts: Business A (General), Business B (Service);

Two industrial districts: Industrial A, Industrial Park;

One special use district: Airport; and

Three overlay districts: Floodplain Management (Flood zone), Water Resource Protection (Zone II recharge areas) and Smart Growth Zoning. Smart growth zoning is a tool to promote open space protection and cluster development, though no project has materialized to date.

Although all appropriate zoning is relevant to protecting the health and safety of the city residents, two of Westfield's districts are especially relevant to open space and recreation planning:

Floodplain Management District - The flood zone overlay applies to those areas within the boundary of the one-hundred-year flood that are considered hazardous according to FEMA. It is derived from the FIRMs, and was updated in 2013. It limits some uses in order to prevent potential flood damage. This area is also regulated by the Wetlands Protection Act, and meeting requirements for any new building development within these flood-prone areas is often difficult.

Water Resource Protection District - The purpose of this overlay district is to protect and preserve Westfield's groundwater resources from potentially damaging pollution or environmental degradation by regulating certain uses within the district, the Zone II area of the aquifer contributing to the drinking water supply. The regulations state specific prohibited and restricted uses, regulates drainage, details special permit procedures. In 2015, the City added an impervious coverage limitation to lots this district, the only provision in the City's zoning regulating such. Currently, the City Council is considering adding additional stricter regulations to this district.

In addition, Westfield currently has zoning in place for transfer of development rights, open space residential development and residential infill, as well as a local wetlands ordinance. The City adopted a stormwater utility ordinance in 2010. The Department of Public Works uses those revenues to cover the costs of repairs and to maintain the existing stormwater infrastructure.

While these zoning mechanisms are in place, there is ever-present concern about the inability to effectively prevent harmful development from occurring on the aquifer. The fact that much of the Water Resource Protection's underlying district is industrial-zoned contributes to a seeming disparity between development forces and water resource protection advocates.

The Open Space Communities zoning provision has been used marginally since the previous iteration of the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Planning Board has approved 3 projects that utilized this with frontage lots, to ultimately result in over 69 acres of permanently protected open protected space. However, the provision has not been utilized for creation of new subdivisions, as the ordinance envisions. This may be due to market desires for larger country lots coupled with a lack of sufficient incentives for developers. Ordinance revisions to add density bonuses and/or further reduce lot size requirements may help to address the latter and promote more open space preservation.

## SECTION 4: ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

### GEOLOGY, SOILS, AND TOPOGRAPHY

#### TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY

Westfield, at over 30,000 acres, is the third largest city in size in the Commonwealth (behind Boston and Taunton). Its eastern and western borders are characterized by pronounced slopes up to mountain ridges that range from over 1,100 feet along Westfield/Drake Mountains and nearby Tekoa/Ball Mountains on the west and southwest, and nearly 700 feet along East Mountain on the east, down to 100 feet where the Westfield River meets Agawam. The vast majority of the City lying between these borders, however, has generally mild topographic variation with some notable formations such as Bush, Pochasic and Round Hills. Four broad glacial and geologic parent material categories describe the basis of the soils found in Westfield: floodplain alluvium, till/bedrock, sand/gravel deposits, and fine-grained deposits.

The Westfield River bisects these border ridges and flows in an easterly direction. The Little River enters the City in the southwest, and meets the Westfield River in the southeastern section of the City. The two rivers form one of the largest flood plains in the Connecticut River system and are the source of the fertile farm soils. This is an asset for farming and recreation, but has potential for flooding. Dikes have been built across the rivers to prevent flood damage, and are often used informally for walking, jogging and nature viewing. Numerous small streams flow through the City also, providing a variety of recreation spots, and potential future recreational opportunities. The series of glacial kettle holes in the north-central part of Westfield are some of the City’s most unique geologic features, as well as a wildlife habitat area.

#### SOILS

The soils in Westfield have an influence on the types of development, and other land use activities. For instance, the flood plain soils led numerous farmers to the area to take advantage of the deep, fertile, and stone-free qualities. The steep slopes and wetlands provide soils and other resources that attract wildlife and certain types of plant species, while the soils above the aquifer are sandy. The following is a list of the general named soil types found in the City. It will be important in both the present and the future to analyze the specific soil conditions before development takes place, and to identify important resources such as prime agricultural land. Soils are mapped in Appendix A.

**TABLE 4-1: GENERAL SOIL TYPES FOUND IN WESTFIELD**

TYPE	ACRES	PERCENT OF TOTAL AREA
Cheshire-Charlton-Watchaug	3,650	12%
Hadley-Suncook-Podunk	2,738	9%
Hinckley-Windsor-Merrimac	13,360	44%
Ridgebury-Walpole-Rumney	1,825	6%
Woodbridge-Hollis-Wethersfield	3,346	11%
Total for survey area	24,919	83%
Area excluded	5,500	18%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,149</b>	<b>100%</b>

SOURCE: SOILS AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS FOR VARIOUS LAND USES, CITY OF WESTFIELD, AND THE US NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE – FORMERLY SOILS CONSERVATION SERVICE

### **Cheshire-Charlton-Watchaug**

---

Located in almost a circle at the edges of the City, these soils create moderate limitations for residential development; while commercial and industrial development would be severely constricted due to the poor yield in wells. For woodland and recreational use, these soils produce only slight limitations

### **Hadley-Suncook-Podunk**

---

Commonly in large tracts in the southern portion of the City, these soils have formed in sediments left by floods. They tend to be extremely fertile and are best suited for farming and open space. Because these soils are usually in flood hazard areas, they indicate a severe limitation on residential, commercial and industrial development.

### **Hinckley-Windsor-Merrimac**

---

Found in vast areas throughout the City, these soils occupy the largest category found in Westfield. They are well drained and suitable for most types of development, but the permeability can cause difficulty in the maintenance of plants and shrubs. Deep wells in these areas would yield large volumes of water.

### **Ridgebury-Walpole-Rumney**

---

Mostly located in spots near wetlands and flood plains in various areas around the City, these soils are generally saturated with water for about eight to ten months of the year. They are suitable for wetland wildlife habitat, but severely limit any type of development due to the extreme wetness.

### **Woodbridge-Hollis-Wethersfield**

---

Primarily in the western portion of the City, these soils tend to be extremely rocky with only a shallow depth until reaching bedrock. Such characteristics pose limitations on many types of land uses. Wells in these areas may only yield enough volume for individual water use. Only slight limitations exist for woodland, wildlife and recreational uses.

As mentioned above, these are general descriptions of the City's soil resources. A more detailed soil survey has been prepared for Westfield by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The descriptions above have been utilized in this study for the identification of wetlands, prime agricultural lands, and depth-to-water table information. However, they are most relative in identifying the locations and circumstances for which land should be considered open space or farmland.

Highly developable Hinckley soils are the most prominent type within Westfield, but they mostly occur in areas that are already built upon. Most of the land remaining open contains a mixture of soil types that would not likely limit development. These areas have some slope restrictions or use constraints, but are mostly agricultural, aquifer and open land with forest. Westfield's growth will not be slowed significantly by soil constraints.

## **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

According to Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program's BioMap2 report for Westfield, the City lies on the border of the Berkshire Transition and the Connecticut River Valley Ecoregions, both of which share characteristics with the Berkshire ecoregion. Forests in Westfield are transition hardwoods and northern hardwoods. The area drains to the Westfield and Connecticut River basins. The Connecticut River Valley Ecoregion, the borders of which are primarily

defined by the bedrock geology, has rich soils, a relatively mild climate and low rolling topography. The valley floor is primarily cropland and built land. Central hardwoods and transition hardwood forests cover the ridges.

There are mountains to the east and west, many rolling hills, valleys, rivers and streams, and interesting geological features such as the kettle holes in Westfield. The City is also blessed with many scenic vistas, due in part, to the farming that has occurred here for generations.

According to 2005 state land use data, Westfield has an estimated 1,925 acres of agricultural land, which represents a loss of 1,651 acres since 1971. Current production varies from such crops as tobacco and vegetables, to pasture and woodlands. More and more of the farmlands are being taken out of production each year to allow for subdivisions and other developments. One hundred sixty parcels, amounting to 3,438 acres, are currently enrolled in the state’s Chapter 61A agricultural land tax program. The City is interested in protecting its remaining farmlands through several techniques including the state’s APR program and the assistance of a land trust.

## WATER RESOURCES

### Surface Water

---

Approximately two percent of Westfield (573 acres) is covered by surface water.

### Westfield River

---

The most significant of Westfield’s water resources is the Westfield River and most of the other waterways in the City drain into the Westfield River. In its entirety, the Westfield River Watershed encompasses a total of 517 square miles in Hampshire, Hampden, and Berkshire Counties of western Massachusetts and, further west, is made up of three branches—the East, Middle and West Branches. The Westfield River that flows through the City is very shallow most of the time, navigable only by canoes and kayaks. There are several areas of access for boating and fishing, but no corridor for hiking or river appreciation exists. Areas along the river could be protected and connected to form a buffer or greenway. The River flows right through the heart of the City, but the river is hardly noticeable aside from when crossing the Great River Bridge in the downtown. The river could be a showpiece for the City if a concentrated effort was made to accentuate it. During the *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* public events, city residents voiced support for opportunities to interact with this important resource such as a formal trail along the riverfront and a canoe/kayak launch in the downtown. The recent completion of the Great River Bridge construction project took a large step towards this end, creating additional riverfront parks and improved landscaping and public infrastructure on both sides of the Westfield River.

The Westfield River is designated as a National Wild and Scenic River the purpose of which is to “protect outstanding rivers from the harmful effects of new Federal projects.” To be designated a National Wild and Scenic River, a river must have at least one “outstandingly remarkable” natural, scenic, or cultural value. The Westfield far surpasses that standard with “outstandingly remarkable” values encompassing scenic, geologic, historic, fishery, and recreational resources, water quality and flow, and rare and endangered species. The Westfield River also provides a fish ladder for salmon restoration. The river is at risk from non-point source pollution due to the proximity of roads, parking areas, and impervious catchments.

## Hampton Ponds – Kettle Holes

---

The Hampton Ponds State Park area, including Pequot Pond, is used extensively for recreation including swimming, motor boating, sailing and fishing. Eutrophication (the premature aging and filling in of a body of water, due to human impact) is occurring in some of the ponds. To address this, the City has funded grinder pumps and weed clearance through state grants, to remedy the problem. These kettle ponds are located in the Barnes Aquifer recharge area.



FIGURE 4.1. THE STATE BEACH AT PEQUOT POND

## Little River

---

A smaller waterway, which also runs west to east through the City, it merges with the Westfield River in the southeastern quadrant. It flows through some steep ravines, which provide animal habitats, and hinders development. It is accessible for informal hiking, and could benefit from a greenway as well. There is a short boardwalk along the Little River in Stanley Park.

## Other Rivers and Brooks

---

Other rivers and brooks in Westfield include: Ashley Brook, Barry Brook, Cooley Brook, Great Brook, Jack's Brook, Manhan River, Munn Brook, Pond Brook, Powdermill Brook, and Sandy Mill Brook. These water resources mostly allow for passive recreation and scenic qualities throughout the City. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission conducted monthly water quality monitoring in Westfield from April to November 2009 and the following rivers/brooks were found to have elevated E. coli counts: Ashley Brook, Jack's Brook, Little River, and Pond Brook. Temperature data collected at the two sites on Pond Brook indicated that the brook may not meet its proposed designation as a Cold Water Fishery. Daily temperature should be monitored at these locations to ensure the site is suitable for such a designation.

## Wetlands

---

Westfield contains about 982 acres of wetlands, which are shown generally on the Water Resources Map in Appendix A (not all wetland resources have been identified or mapped). The City's local wetlands ordinance promotes protection of these areas by specifically restricting development activities within 100 feet of any such zone. Further, the Conservation Commission has a policy of routinely requiring that a 50-foot no disturbance buffer be maintained at previously undeveloped properties.

## Flood Hazard Areas

---

Flood hazard areas are located extensively throughout the City due to the many rivers and streams. In particular, the Westfield and Little Rivers have expansive flood plains, which considerably limit the amount of readily developable land in Westfield (refer to the map in Appendix A). Some areas, most notably the East Main Street retail corridor, have been previously developed within an area prone to flooding. Levees provide protection for other areas of the City.

Updated flood zones were mapped and adopted in 2013, resulting in the net addition of about 66 acres to the previous (1978) FEMA mapped 100-year floodplain. The City now has approximately 3,624 acres of

land within that zone and over 2,000 acres of land within the 500-year floodplain [approximately 18.5% of Westfield's total land area]. According to the Community Information System (CIS) of FEMA, there were 1,910 residential structures and 34 additional structures located within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in Westfield (May 1999 data).

Significant development within the likely inundation zone of high risk dams located in Westfield or neighboring communities is a concern for areas downstream from the Arm Brook, Powdermill, Montgomery and Granville dams. Also, significant portions of Westfield could be impacted by floodwaters from of the Cobble Mountain Dam (Blandford), if it were to fail. The Tekoa Reservoir dam in Montgomery is slated to be dismantled in 2019.

### **Aquifer Recharge Areas**

---

The Barnes Aquifer recharge area (see Water Resources Map, Appendix A) lies beneath a major portion of the northeast quadrant of the City. Located directly above the aquifer, are the airport and industrial zoned areas. As mentioned previously, the Barnes Aquifer is the primary source of drinking water for Westfield and has a capacity for withdrawal of more than 21 million gallons per day. Industrial development continues to occur at a rapid rate here, despite the aquifer protection zoning ordinance, which restricts many land uses and in some cases, requires protective measures. The Westfield River Five-Year Action Plan suggests additional ways to improve protection of the aquifer recharge area.

Many threats of contamination exist and monitoring wells are situated at strategic locations, information from them will be shared with the Westfield Water Department.

The Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) is a regional committee established by Easthampton, Holyoke, Southamptton, Westfield, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. They work to promote awareness about the aquifer, the protection of it, and monitor developments having regional impact. The BAPAC has a web site ([www.pvpc.org/bapac](http://www.pvpc.org/bapac)), which provides important data about the aquifer, as well as local regulations for aquifer protection. Additionally, the Great Brooks, Northwest Road and Southamptton aquifers contribute to the drinking water supply of the City and the region.

## **VEGETATION**

### **General Inventory**

---

Lush and diverse vegetation is critical to the quality of life in the city. It provides aesthetic relief, clean air and buffers between different land uses. There are numerous significant trees and forests throughout the Westfield, as well as habitat areas for unique, threatened or endangered species. The City received an urban forestry grant in 2004 to develop a stewardship program and to improve the health and increase the number of trees in the City.

According to Massachusetts Audubon Society's *Losing Ground* Report (2014), as of 2013, approximately 31% (9,514 acres) of Westfield's 30,280 acres was developed.<sup>2</sup> Only 12% of the City's acreage<sup>3</sup> is

---

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Audubon, *Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience* (Fifth Edition). For the *Losing Ground* report, land uses were identified and categorized using orthographic imagery. As of 2016, the report's methodology is available at: <http://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-sustainable-planning/publications-community-resources/losing-ground-report/losing-ground-fifth-edition>

<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Audubon, *Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience* (Fifth Edition)

protected from development, ranking it 268<sup>th</sup> out of the Commonwealth's 351 towns and cities. Between 2005 and 2013, the 450 acres of land in the City were protected.

BioMap2 is the Commonwealth's guide to biodiversity conservation, and is managed by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP). BioMap2 identifies Core Habitat areas as those critical to the survival of listed threatened and endangered species, species identified on the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP; these species may not necessarily be listed as threatened or endangered), high-quality wetland and forestland habitats, and priority natural communities. Natural communities are assemblages of plant and animal species that share a common environment and occur together repeatedly on the landscape. BioMap2 gives conservation priority to natural communities with limited distribution and to the best examples of more common types. There are three exemplary or priority natural communities in the City.

Critical Natural Landscape areas are large landscape blocks and upland buffers to wetland and aquatic habitats. There are eighteen identified BioMap2 Core Habitat areas in Westfield, and nine areas of Critical Natural Landscapes. One of the Critical Natural Landscapes in the northwestern part of the City is a largely forested Landscape Block is 19,465 acres and is among the largest 20% of all Blocks across Massachusetts. These large forested landscapes provide invaluable wildlife habitat and other ecosystem values such as clean drinking water and absorbing carbon from the atmosphere.

### **BioMap2 Priority Natural Communities in Westfield**

There are two types of Priority Natural Communities documented to NHESP from Westfield:

- Level Bog (1 occurrence)
- Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Community (1 occurrence)

There are two other types of more common natural communities documented from Westfield, as well:

- Northern Hardwoods-Hemlock-White Pine Forest (1 occurrence)
- Pitch Pine-Oak Forest/Woodland (1 occurrence)

**Level Bog:** Level Bog is a priority natural community, classified as vulnerable meaning that there are typically 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state. Level Bogs are dwarf-shrub peatlands, generally with pronounced hummocks and hollows in sphagnum moss. Level bogs develop around pond margins, at the headwaters of streams, and in pockets within large basins. These wetland communities are very acidic and nutrient-poor because the peat isolates them from nutrients in groundwater and streams.

**Pitch Pine – scrub oak community:** Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak Communities are globally rare communities, of which there are 2 instances in Westfield. These fire-dependent, shrub-dominated communities provide habitat for many rare species, and develop on dry, poor, usually sandy, soils. These communities are listed in Massachusetts as Imperiled communities, of which there are typically 6-20 sites or few remaining acres in the state. The small example of Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak in north-central Westfield is an unusual inland occurrence, and includes many of the associated rare plants and invertebrates typically found in southeastern Massachusetts. It has more trees than drier occurrences.

Westfield also has examples of the Ridgetop Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak community in the northwest part of the City. The Ridgetop Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak community has many of the same species as the Pitch-Pine-Scrub Oak community, but occurs on acidic bedrock along mountain ridges. It is also fire-dependent community

and tolerant of extremely severe growing conditions. The BioMap2 Core Habitat which includes parts of Mt. Tekoa and covers land area in Westfield, Montgomery, and Russel, has two examples of Ridgetop Pitch Pine-Scrub Oak Community including one of the largest and best of its kind in the state which burns fairly regularly, increasing its potential to persist here.

**Circumneutral Talus Forest/Woodland:** Circumneutral Talus Forest communities thrive on boulder-strewn, sloped terrain beneath rocky outcrops or acidic cliffs. In Westfield, this community is found in the large Core Habitat that spans the northeastern boundary of Westfield, continuing into Holyoke and West Springfield. It is a priority natural community, classified as vulnerable meaning that there are typically 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state. The local example of Circumneutral Talus Forest is in good condition, with good diversity, no exotic invasive species present, and is located within a large block of natural vegetation.

### BioMap2 Core Habitats in Westfield

Eighteen areas within Westfield are BioMap2 Core Habitat. They include 1 Forest Core, 5 Aquatic Cores, 2 Wetland Cores, 3 Priority Natural Community Cores, 1 Vernal Pool Core, and areas for 33 Species of Conservation Concern. Some of these areas overlap. Adjacent to and overlapping some of these Core Habitats in Westfield are 9 areas of BioMap2 Critical Natural Landscape, including 5 Aquatic Buffers, 3 Landscape Blocks, and 4 Wetland Buffers. Descriptions of BioMap2 Core Habitats within Westfield follow.

Core IDs correspond with the following element lists and summaries.

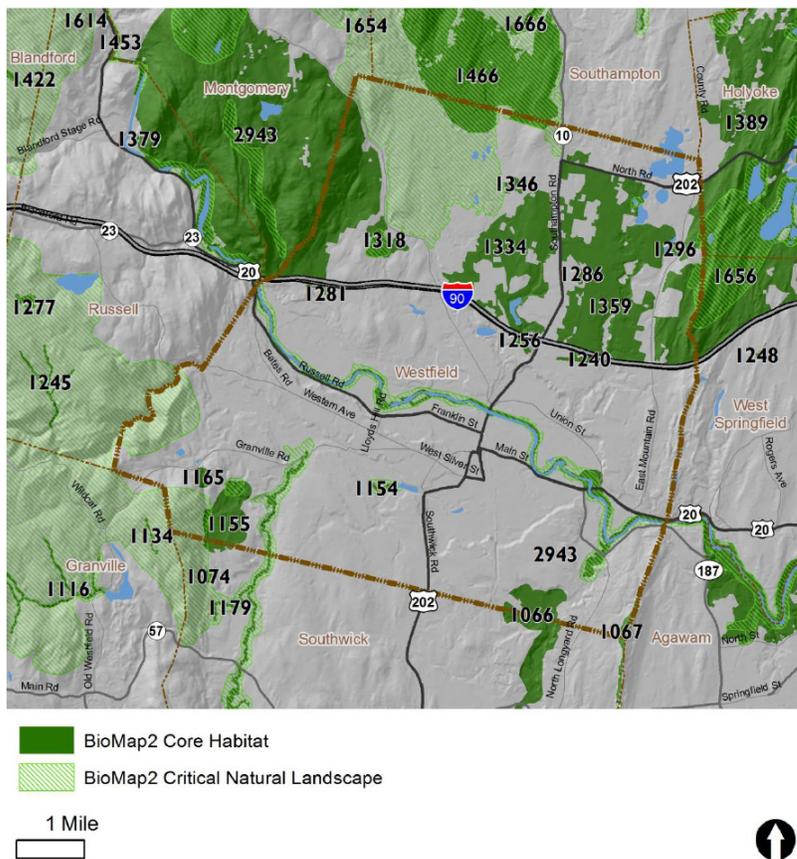


FIGURE 4-1: BioMap2 Core Habitats in Westfield, MA

SOURCE: BioMAP2: CONSERVING THE BIODIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS IN A CHANGING WORLD. WESTFIELD. 2012. MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION OF FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

- **Core 1066:** This Core Habitat is located in the southeastern section of the City and includes land in both Westfield and Southwick. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of three species of concern – the Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*, non-listed SWAP), wood turtles (*Glytemys insculpta*, a species of special concern), and the Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*, non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1067:** This is a small linear area of habitat in the southeastern-most corner of the City, extending south along the Southwick-Agawam town line. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Climbing Fumitory (*Adlumia fungosa*), a species of conservation concern.
- **Core 1154:** This Core Habitat is located in the southern section of the City and is designated as an aquatic core habitat, which denotes the presents of intact river corridors that have an integrated and functional ecosystem for fish and other aquatic species of Conservation Concern. This area is also listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*, a species of special concern).
- **Core 1155:** This Core Habitat is located in the southwestern part of the City and includes land in both Westfield and Southwick. It is designated as an aquatic core habitat, which denotes the presents of intact river corridors that have an integrated and functional ecosystem for fish and other aquatic species of Conservation Concern. It is also designated as a wetland core habitat. Wetland Cores are the least disturbed wetlands in the state within undeveloped landscapes or those with intact buffers and little fragmentation or other stressors associated with development. These wetlands are most likely to support critical wetland functions (i.e., natural hydrologic conditions, diverse plant and animal habitats, etc.) and are most likely to maintain these functions into the future. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of six species of concern – Agassiz's Clam Shrimp (*Eulimnadia agassizii*, an endangered species), American Clam Shrimp (*Limnadia lenticularis*, a species of special concern), Eastern Spadefoot (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*, a threatened species), Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*, non-listed SWAP), Jefferson Salamander (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*, a species of special concern), and the Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor*, non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1165:** This is a small area of habitat in the southwestern corner of the City, just to the northwest of Core 1155 and south of Granville Rd. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*, non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1179:** This 35 acre linear Core Habitat area extends from Granville Road in the southwest part of the City south through Southwick along the path of a brook. It is designated as an aquatic core habitat and a wetland core habitat. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor*, Non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1240:** This area of habitat is in the eastern part of the City along Interstate 90. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the New England Blazing Star (*Liatrix scariosa* var. *novae-angliae*) and Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*), both species of special concern.
- **Core 1256:** This is a small area of habitat in the center of the City along I-90. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*, a species of concern).

- **Core 1281:** This is a small area of habitat in the western part of the City along Interstate 90. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Smooth Rock-cress (*Boechera laevigata*, a species of concern).
- **Core 1286:** In the northeastern portion of the City, just to the east of Southampton Rd., this is a listed habitat area for three species – New Jersey Tea Inchworm (*Apodrepanulatrix liberaria*, an endangered species), Pine Barrens Speranza (*Speranza exonerate*, a species of special concern), and the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*, a species of special concern).
- **Core 1296:** This is an area of habitat near the northeastern city boundary with Holyoke and West Springfield. This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of New Jersey Tea Inchworm (*Apodrepanulatrix liberaria*, an endangered species) and Pine Barrens Speranza (*Speranza exonerate*, a species of special concern).
- **Core 1318:** This is an area of habitat in the northwestern portion of the City, north of I-90 and south of Montgomery Rd. This area is designated as a wetland core habitat, and also listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*, non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1334:** This Core Habitat is in north-central Westfield, north of Interstate 90 and west of Southampton Rd., and features a Priority and Exemplary Natural Community and two Species of Conservation Concern. The area has examples of Pitch pine -scrub oak community, which is an imperiled community, of which there is typically 6-20 sites or fewer remaining acres in the state. The two species of concern in this Core Habitat are Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*, species of special concern) and Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*, species of special concern).
- **Core 1346:** Located in in the northern part of the City, west of Southampton Rd., this is listed due to the habitat of the Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*, non-listed SWAP).
- **Core 1359:** This Core Habitat is in northeast Westfield, north of Interstate 90 and east of Southampton Rd., and features a Priority and Exemplary Natural Community and seven Species of Conservation Concern. The area has examples of Level Bog, a vulnerable community, of which there are typically 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state. This area is also listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of seven species of concern – New Jersey Tea Inchworm (*Apodrepanulatrix liberaria*, an endangered species), Pine Barrens Speranza (*Speranza exonerate*, a species of special concern), Pine Barrens Zanclognatha (*Zanclognatha martha*, a threatened species), Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus*, a species of special concern), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*, a threatened species), Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*, an endangered species), and Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus*, a threatened species).
- **Core 1466:** This Core Habitat crosses the northwestern Westfield border with Southampton, with only a small portion of the habitat area falling on the city side. The area is designated as an aquatic core habitat, and is home to the following six Species of Conservation Concern – Creeper (*Strophitus undulatus*, a species of special concern), Triangle Floater (*Alasmidonta undulata*, non-listed SWAP), Eastern Box Turtle (*Terrapene carolina*, species of special concern), Eastern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon platirhinos*, non-listed SWAP), Northern Black Racer (*Coluber constrictor*, non-listed SWAP), and wood turtles (*Glytemys insculpta*, a species of special concern).

- Core 1656:** This is a large Core Habitat that spans the northeastern boundary of Westfield, continuing into Holyoke and West Springfield. The area features Forest Core, Wetland Core, Aquatic Core, Vernal Pool Core, Priority Natural Communities, and Species of Conservation Concern. Forest Cores are the best examples of large, intact forests that are least impacted by roads and development. Forest Cores support many bird species sensitive to the impacts of roads and development and help maintain ecological processes found only in unfragmented forest patches. Vernal pools are small, seasonal wetlands that provide important wildlife habitat, especially for amphibians and invertebrate animals that use them to breed. BioMap2 identifies the top 5 percent most interconnected clusters of Potential Vernal Pools in the state.

Core 1656 is also home to four Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities: Circumneutral rocky summit/rock outcrop community (an imperiled and vulnerable community, typically with 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state), Circumneutral Talus Forest/Woodland (a vulnerable community), Hemlock-Hardwood Swamp, Hickory-Hop Hornbeam Forest/Woodland (an impaired community).

This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the following Species of Conservation Concern:

Autumn Coralroot	<i>Corallorhiza odontorhiza</i>	Special Concern
Cornel-leaved Aster	<i>Doellingeria infirma</i>	Endangered
Dwarf Bulrush	<i>Lipocarpa micrantha</i>	Threatened
False Hop-sedge	<i>Carex lupuliformis</i>	Endangered
Glaucous Sedge	<i>Carex glaucoidea</i>	Endangered
Green Rock-cress	<i>Boechnera missouriensis</i>	Threatened
Hairy Agrimony	<i>Agrimonia pubescens</i>	Threatened
Houghton's Flatsedge	<i>Cyperus houghtonii</i>	Endangered
Large-bracted Tick-trefoil	<i>Desmodium cuspidatum</i>	Threatened
Linear-leaved Milkweed	<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Threatened
Midland Sedge	<i>Carex mesochorea</i>	Endangered
Narrow-leaved	Vervain <i>Verbena simplex</i>	Endangered
New England Blazing Star	<i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i>	Special Concern
Nodding Chickweed	<i>Cerastium nutans</i>	Endangered
Philadelphia Panic-grass	<i>Panicum philadelphicum</i> ssp. <i>philadelphicum</i>	Special Concern
Purple Clematis	<i>Clematis occidentalis</i>	Special Concern
Red Mulberry	<i>Morus rubra</i>	Endangered
Shining Wedgegrass	<i>Sphenopholis nitida</i>	Threatened
Smooth Rock-cress	<i>Boechnera laevigata</i>	Special Concern
Spiked False Oats	<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Endangered
Swamp Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis lanceolata</i>	Endangered
Toothcup	<i>Rotala ramosior</i>	Endangered
Violet Wood-sorrel	<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Endangered
Wapato	<i>Sagittaria cuneata</i>	Threatened

New Jersey Tea Inchworm	<i>Apodrepanulatrix liberaria</i>	Endangered
Orange Sallow Moth	<i>Pyrrhia aurantiago</i>	Special Concern
Pine Barrens Speranza	<i>Speranza exonerata</i>	Special Concern
Pine Barrens Zanclognatha	<i>Zanclognatha martha</i>	Threatened
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylum scutatum</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Jefferson Salamander	<i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i>	Special Concern
Marbled Salamander	<i>Ambystoma opacum</i>	Threatened
Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Special Concern
Northern Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Special Concern
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Endangered

- **Core 2943A:** This is a section of a larger Core Habitat in northwestern Westfield which includes parts of Mt. Tekoa and covers land area in Westfield, Montgomery, and Russel. It features Aquatic Core, Vernal Pool Core, Priority Natural Communities, and Species of Conservation Concern. Core 2943A is also home to four Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities: High-energy Riverbank (a vulnerable community), Ridgetop chestnut oak forest/woodland, Ridgetop Pitch Pine -Scrub Oak Community (an impaired community), and Riverside rock outcrop community (a vulnerable community).

This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the following Species of Conservation Concern:

Houghton's Flatsedge	<i>Cyperus houghtonii</i>	Endangered
Smooth Rock-cress	<i>Boechera laevigata</i>	Special Concern
Spiked False Oats	<i>Trisetum spicatum</i>	Endangered
Gerhard's Underwing Moth	<i>Catocala herodias gerhardi</i>	Special Concern
Orange Sallow Moth	<i>Pyrrhia aurantiago</i>	Special Concern
Pine Barrens Speranza	<i>Speranza exonerata</i>	Special Concern
Pine Barrens Zanclognatha	<i>Zanclognatha martha</i>	Threatened
Gold-spotted Ghost Moth	<i>Sthenopsis auratus</i>	-
Arrow Clubtail	<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Northern Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Non-listed SWAP

- **Core 2943B:** This is the other section of the Core Habitat that connects northwestern Westfield to southeastern Westfield along the mainstem of the Westfield River, featuring Aquatic Core, Priority Natural Communities, and Species of Conservation Concern. Core 2943A is also home to four Priority and Exemplary Natural Communities: Cobble bar forest (an impaired community), High-terrace Floodplain Forest (an impaired community), Oak -Tulip Tree Forest, Rich, Mesic Forest Community (a vulnerable community), and Riverine Pointbar and Beach (a vulnerable community).

This area is listed as a Core Habitat due to the presence of the following Species of Conservation Concern:

Bristly Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i>	Special Concern
Fen Cuckoo Flower	<i>Cardamine dentata</i>	Threatened
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Endangered
Many-fruited False-loosestrife	<i>Ludwigia polycarpa</i>	Endangered
Narrow-leaved Spring Beauty	<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	Endangered
Smooth Rock-cress	<i>Boechea laevigata</i>	Special Concern
Creeper	<i>Strophitus undulatus</i>	Special Concern
Triangle Floater	<i>Alasmidonta undulata</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Orange Sallow Moth	<i>Pyrrhia aurantiago</i>	Special Concern
Pine Barrens Speranza	<i>Speranza exonerata</i>	Special Concern
Arrow Clubtail	<i>Stylurus spiniceps</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Ocellated Darner	<i>Boyeria grafiana</i>	Special Concern
Rapids Clubtail	<i>Gomphus quadricolor</i>	Endangered
Riffle Snaketail	<i>Ophiogomphus carolus</i>	Threatened
Skillet Clubtail	<i>Gomphus ventricosus</i>	Threatened
Spine-crowned Clubtail	<i>Gomphus abbreviatus</i>	Special Concern
Stygian Shadowdragon	<i>Neurocordulia yamaskanensis</i>	Special Concern
Zebra Clubtail	<i>Stylurus scudderi</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Four-toed Salamander	<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Eastern Box Turtle	<i>Terrapene carolina</i>	Special Concern
Northern Black Racer	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Non-listed SWAP
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Special Concern
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Threatened

Further degradation and/or loss of these environments would impact the biodiversity of not only Hampden, but also the Commonwealth. Conservation and awareness efforts should be directed towards these areas to protect both the presence of threatened and endangered species and also the habitat needed to support biodiversity.

### **Forest Land**

---

Westfield is a city with an abundance of trees and forests that are prominent even in the downtown and industrial areas. According to the most current land use data from 2005, forty-nine percent of Westfield is forested (14,758 acres). However, Westfield has lost an estimated 1,724 acres of forested land since 1970, when forested land amounted to sixty-one percent of Westfield. Most of the wooded sections are not managed as forest, as just 887 acres are enrolled in Chapter 61 the state's forest tax program (which requires a state approved forest management plan). The lack of robust participation in the state's Chapter 61 program shows a need for more education about the benefits of this program to property owners of the remaining substantial forestland tracts. Selective harvesting of timber products could also improve some locations for wildlife habitat, as well as provide potential additional income to the City.

## General Inventory

---

The forests of Westfield are generally a mixture of hardwoods and softwoods, with straight hardwoods accounting for approximately 25% of the City's trees, and conifers for approximately 6%. The most common species include: beech, white birch, yellow birch, black birch, red oak, white oak, hemlock, white pine and pitch pine.

In January of 1998, the Office of Community Development and the Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry of the University of Massachusetts-Amherst conducted a statistical analysis of the condition, species and management needs for the street trees in Westfield. A random sample survey was performed and the findings indicated that there are approximately 16,000 trees growing along the public roads of the City. This equals 74 trees per square mile of roadway, or .42 trees per Westfield resident. The following 14 different genus types were found: *Acer* (57%), *Quercus* (10%), *Pinus* (9%), *Gleditsia* (5%), *Malus* (5%), *Tsuga* (5%), *Betula* (2%), *Carpinus* (1%), *Picea* (1%), *Platanus* (1%), *Pseudotsuga* (1%), *Tilia* (1%), *Ulmus* (1%) and *Fraxinus* (<1%).

The overall condition of the street trees was broadly categorized as 34% being good, 49% fair, 16% poor, 1% dead and <1% hazards. More specifically, 43% of them exhibited weak forks, 42% had overhead wires, 41% contained significant deadwood, and 13% of the trees showed a cavity or trunk injury. The team also conducted a management needs assessment and found that 59% of the trees require a crown cleaning, 19% a crown raising, and 5% a crown reduction. This information has provided a baseline for the development of a more complete and comprehensive inventory of trees growing along city streets.

## Public Shade Trees

---

In 2002, city ordinance No. 1340 added new sections to Article IV Trees, including a section known as the City of Westfield Tree Ordinance to establish protections for city trees. The ordinance explains that public shade trees and plantings on public grounds constitute an important public asset of the City of Westfield, enhancing the beauty and environmental health and promoting the general and economic well-being of the City. It suggests that shade trees should be improved and protected by a program of comprehensive management and regulation of planting, maintenance and removal. In 2016, the ordinance was amended to increase fines for violations, in addition to those authorized through state law.

With the completion of several major downtown-area improvement and streetscape projects since the last Open Space and Recreation Plan effort, hundreds of street trees have been installed, including Elm, Linden, Pear, Honeylocust, London Plane, Pin Oak and Zelkova. Unfortunately, the lasting effects of this construction on some mature trees that had been planned to remain can be seen, and some removals have been necessary. Most of the new trees in the downtown area are now of a size where they can be effective in providing urban benefits for aesthetics, shade, scale and even traffic calming. A planned tree inventory effort, coupled with proactive management will help ensure the City's public shade serves future generations..

For several years, Westfield has demonstrated a commitment to its urban forest by maintaining a "Tree City USA" designation through the Arbor Day Foundation

## **Agricultural Land**

---

Approximately 2,300 acres of agricultural land (7%) remain in the City. Agricultural land is valuable in providing additional vegetation types and habitat opportunities to other open space land. Unfortunately, unprotected agricultural land remains vulnerable, as it is attractive for its ease of development, frontage house lots and subdivisions.

## **Wetland Vegetation**

---

Westfield contains approximately 982 acres of wetlands. These water resources all provide important wildlife habitat, flood storage capacity, and recreation outlets, and in some cases they are water supply sources as well.

Most of the City's wetlands are located in the northern section of the City and along the rivers/streams in-town. In many cases, these wetlands are bordered by developments. Wetland types throughout the City are varied and include Level Bogs and Hemlock-Hardwood Swamps. The vegetation in wetland environments plays a critical role in reducing the impacts of flooding and filtering water before it enters river, streams, and groundwater. Stormwater runoff from development often carries debris and pollution that can negatively impact the vegetation in these sensitive ecosystems if sources of contamination are not controlled.

Forested wetlands or swamps are freshwater wetlands that are dominated by trees. Red Maple and Eastern Hemlock trees are the most common trees found in forested wetlands. The BioMap2 Core Habitat found the northeast section of the City includes a Hemlock-Hardwood Swamp. Hemlock-Hardwood Swamps are acidic forested swamps that have hemlock as the dominant canopy species. These forested wetlands occur on saturated soils in poorly drained basins throughout the state. This example of Hemlock-Hardwood Swamp, though small, has good species diversity and is well buffered by surrounding upland forest.

Bogs are wetlands that accumulate peat—a deposit of dead plant material. These wetlands typically occur where the groundwater is acidic and there are limited nutrients present. This combination results in low plant growth and slow decay of organic matter.

The BioMap2 Core Habitat shows that Westfield features Level bogs, a priority natural community, classified as vulnerable. Level Bogs are dwarf-shrub peatlands, generally with pronounced hummocks and hollows in sphagnum moss. Level bogs develop around pond margins, at the headwaters of streams, and in pockets within large basins. These wetland communities are very acidic and nutrient-poor because the peat isolates them from nutrients in groundwater and streams. The level bog area in Westfield is in the northeastern quadrant, north of Interstate 90 and east of Southampton Rd. Despite its proximity to development, this is a well-developed example of Level Bog in good condition. However, none of these bogs are in conservation lands. These communities can be threatened by hydrologic alteration and nutrient enrichment from road and lawn runoff. Trampling and compaction from humans can also affect peat moss integrity.

## Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species of Flora

The following listing of plant species are endangered or threatened in Westfield. These plants can be found in the BioMap2 Core areas located throughout the City.

TABLE 4-14: RARE, THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND UNIQUE FLORA IN WESTFIELD

ENDANGERED	THREATENED	SPECIAL CONCERN
Nodding Chickweed ( <i>Cerastium nutans</i> )	Linear-leaved Milkweed ( <i>Asclepias verticillata</i> )	Climbing Fumitory ( <i>Adlumia fungosa</i> )
Cornel-leaved Aster ( <i>Doellingeria infirma</i> )	Green Rock-cress ( <i>Boecheira missouriensis</i> )	Smooth Rock-cress ( <i>Boecheira laevigata</i> )
	Shining Wedgegrass ( <i>Sphenopholis nitida</i> )	Purple Clematis ( <i>Clematis occidentalis</i> )
	Lily-leaf Twayblade ( <i>Liparis liliifolia</i> )	New England Blazing Star ( <i>Liatris scariosa</i> var. <i>novae-angliae</i> )
		Bristly Buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus pensylvanicus</i> )

**Nodding Chickweed**, (*Cerastium nutans*) is an endangered species that was documented in one of Westfield’s Core Habitats in the northeast corner of the City. The Nodding Chickweed is a low-growing annual herb that can be recognized by its five-lobed white flowers and soft, weak stems. The species’ preferred habitat is the woodland and open canopy forests on non-acidic rocky substrates.

**Cornel-leaved Aster**, (*Doellingeria infirma*) is an endangered species that was documented in one of Westfield’s Core Habitats in the northeast corner of the City. Cornel-leaved Aster is a perennial herb that grows from one to three feet tall and flowers from late July to September. The species typically prefers dry, rocky slopes with partial shade. There are only four known stations of this species in Massachusetts documented across Hampden, Worcester, and Middlesex Counties.



FIGURE 4-2: CORNEL-LEAVED ASTER,  
(*DOELLINGERIA INFIRMA*).  
IMAGE SOURCE: MASS.GOV

**Green Rock-cress**, (*Boecheira missouriensis*) is a biennial herb listed as a threatened species in Massachusetts. It prefers rocky woods and ledges with dry soil and full to filtered light exposure. Green Rock-cress produces creamy-white flowers which can be seen in May and June in the BioMap2 Core in northeast corner of the City.

**Linear-leaved Milkweed**, (*Asclepias verticillata*) is a threatened species in Massachusetts that grows in the BioMap2 Core land that includes area in the northeast corner of the City as well as larger areas of adjacent land in Holyoke and West Springfield. Linear-leaved Milkweed is a perennial herb characterized by narrow, linear leaves that are 2-5 cm long and curled under along the edges and white or greenish flowers with a typical “hood and horn” structure characteristic of milkweeds. The plant thrives in dry, open, or lightly shaded areas and is often found on rock outcrops or slopes.

**Shining Wedgegrass**, (*Sphenopholis nitida*) is perennial grass listed as a threatened species in Massachusetts. It inhabits dry, rocky fertile soils on upper slopes and ridge crests. Plants have dark green leaves, and short, soft hairs on the blade surface. Shining Wedgegrass can be seen in May and early-June in the BioMap2 Core in northeast corner of the City.

**Lily-leaf Twayblade**, (*Liparis liliifolia*) is a threatened species in Massachusetts that grows in the BioMap2 Core land that includes area in the northeast corner of the City as well as larger areas of adjacent land in Holyoke and West Springfield. Lily-leaf Twayblade is a small member of the orchid family that grows from 10-30 cm tall and produces 5-30 pale-purple flowers. Lily-leaf Twayblade can be distinguished by the distinctive labellum of its flowers that have reddish-purple veins. The plant thrives in young to maturing woodlands with filtered light on gentle east or south-east facing slopes.



**FIGURE 4-3: LILY-LEAF TWAYBLADE, (LIPARIS LILIIFOLIA).**  
IMAGE SOURCE: MASS.GOV

**Climbing Fumitory**, (*Adlumia fungosa*) is a species of special concern in Massachusetts, meaning that if not monitored and preserved, it could become threatened. Climbing Fumitory is an herbaceous biennial vine that can reach lengths of 10 feet. It is usually found in the shade climbing over talus at the base of cliffs, and is present in one of Westfield's Core Habitat areas in the far southeast corner of the City.

**Smooth Rock-cress**, (*Boechera laevigata*) is a species of special concern in Massachusetts which is present in four of Westfield's Core Habitat areas. Smooth Rock-cress is a biennial mustard that inhabits rich, rocky deciduous woods, rich rocky hillsides, ledges, talus slopes, and floodplain thickets and woodlands. It prefers open to shaded sites on dry to mesic soils.

**Purple Clematis**, (*Clematis occidentalis*) is a species of special concern and is present in one of Westfield's Core Habitat areas in the far southeast corner of the City. Purple Clematis is a woody vine in the buttercup family that can be distinguished by its pendant bluish or purple flowers that bloom May to June. The vine runs along the floor of rocky slopes and ledges in areas of filtered light, or climbs up trees and shrubs in that same environment.

**New England Blazing Star**, (*Liatris scariosa* var. *novae-angliae*) is a species of special concern in the state which is present in two of Westfield's Core Habitat areas. New England Blazing Star is an endemic, globally rare, perennial composite of dry, sandy grasslands and clearings. In Massachusetts, New England Blazing Star inhabits open, dry, low-nutrient sandy soils of grasslands, heathlands, and barrens. It thrives in fire-influenced natural communities that are periodically disturbed and devoid of dense woody plant cover.

**Bristly Buttercup**, (*Ranunculus pensylvanicus*) is a species of special concern in Massachusetts. It grows in the BioMap2 Core land located in the southeast corner of the City. Bristly buttercup is a perennial herb characterized by small, pale yellow flowers. The bristly buttercup thrives in areas that receive filtered light and are often wet or flooded.

## FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

### General Inventory

---

While there is an abundance of wildlife-supportive habitat in Westfield, very little land in the City is under protective status. The Westfield Wildlife Management Area/Honey Pot Wildlife Sanctuary includes 227 acres along the southern city border with Southwick, and is the only designated Wildlife Management Area in the City. Therefore, there are not many wildlife habitat areas currently being protected in Westfield. Some open lands and parks have ponds or streams, but they are not necessarily set-aside as habitat. Deer, moose, bear, wolves, and mountain lions are known to live in this area of the region as well as smaller mammals, salamanders, snakes, turtles and birds. Bear have been sighted in rural western regions as well as in some urban, but remote, spots at the airport. Moose have also been sighted wandering around downtown Westfield.

### Coldwater Fish Resource

---

A Coldwater Fish Resource (CFR) is a particularly sensitive aquatic habitat used by reproducing Coldwater Fish to meet one or more of their life history requirements. CFRs are waterbodies (streams, rivers, or tributaries thereto), and are identified based on fish samples collected annually by staff biologists and technicians. There are 21 Coldwater Fisheries Resource streams in Westfield:

- Little River
- Manhan River
- Alder Meadow Brook
- Arm Brook
- Ashley Brook
- Barry Brook
- Bush Brook
- Cook Brook
- Cooley Brook
- Great Brook
- Hundred Acre Brook
- Jacks Brook
- Kellog Brook
- Moose Brook
- Moose Meadow Brook
- Mann Brook
- Pond Brook
- Powdermill Brook
- Sodom Brook
- Trask Brook
- Westfield River

## Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are seasonal wetlands that are predominantly dry in the summer and fall and are filled with shallow water in the winter and spring. They are usually found in areas with gentle sloping grasslands. Vernal pools act as an important habitat for a number of rare plants and animals that thrive in this seasonal habitat. A lack of fish in vernal pools makes breeding possible for many species. Other species, including birds, use vernal pools as a feeding source. The Blue Spotted Salamander, a species of special concern identified in Westfield, is a species that breeds and thrives in vernal pools.

There are currently 12 Certified and 83 Potential Vernal Pools are documented from Westfield. Potential vernal pools are identified through aerial photography and are only certified once assessed by the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program (NHESP). Vernal pools are not protected under the Wetlands Protection Act, but by certifying them, they become eligible for protection from the impacts of developments. Most of the Potential Vernal Pools are likely able to be certified; the City is encouraged to certify vernal pools on its own properties and to require developers to certify pools on any property requiring permits from the City.

## Corridors

The ridgelines to the east and west of the City are known passageways for animal travel and habitat. The Little and Westfield Rivers, as well as other brooks and streams in the City provide potential wildlife corridors. A fish ladder to aide with salmon restoration has been built in the Westfield River, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have reportedly investigated the area for its potential role in the formation of the Conte wildlife refuge that would encompass the entire Connecticut River watershed.

## Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Fauna

TABLE 4-3: RARE, THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND UNIQUE ANIMAL SPECIES IN WESTFIELD

ENDANGERED	THREATENED	SPECIAL CONCERN
Agassiz's Clam Shrimp ( <i>Eulimnadia agassizii</i> )	Pine Barrens Zanclognatha ( <i>Zanclognatha martha</i> )	Creepers ( <i>Strophitus undulatus</i> )
New Jersey Tea Inchworm ( <i>Apodrepanulatrix liberaria</i> )	Marbled Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma opacum</i> )	American Clam Shrimp ( <i>Limnadia lenticularis</i> )
Upland Sandpipe ( <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> )	Eastern Spadefoot ( <i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i> )	Pine Barrens Speranza ( <i>Speranza exonerata</i> )
	Grasshopper Sparrow ( <i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> )	Frosted Elfin ( <i>Callophrys irus</i> )
	Vesper Sparrow ( <i>Pooecetes gramineus</i> )	Jefferson Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma jeffersonianum</i> )
		Wood Turtle ( <i>Glyptemys insculpta</i> )
		Eastern Box Turtle ( <i>Terrapene carolina</i> )

There are fifteen animals found in Westfield that are protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act. Of note, the Golden-winged Warbler and Dwarf Wedgemussel have been removed from the endangered species list, and the Creeper has been added to the Special concern list since the last 2010 OSRP.

Certain projects that fall within Priority Habitats of the below species are subject to review and permitting by NHESP. These animal species can be found in the BioMap2 Core areas located throughout the City. The location of these species should also be referenced in any land protection efforts carried out in their habitat by the City or state.

**Agassiz's Clam Shrimp**, (*Eulimnadia agassizii*) is a small crustacean that appears primarily in the late spring and early summer during large storms in years of unusually heavy rainfall. The Agassiz's Clam Shrimp is very rare in eastern North America and is an endangered species in Massachusetts. It has only been observed in three communities in the state. In Westfield they are found in a BioMap2 Core Habitat in the southwest corner of the City that encompasses land in Westfield and Southwick.

**New Jersey Tea Inchworm**, (*Apodrepanulatrix liberaria*) is a geometrid moth with a wingspan of 25-31 mm. The wings are variably colored, ranging from pale yellow to tan to dark reddish-tan. In Massachusetts, the species occurs in the Connecticut River Valley and Shawsheen River Valley. The New Jersey Tea Inchworm was identified in the four of the core habitats in Westfield.

**Upland Sandpiper**, (*Bartramia longicauda*) is a slender, moderate-size shore-bird which stands about 12 inches tall and has a 25-27 in wingspan. Upland Sandpipers require very large, unbroken tracts of grassland, and in Massachusetts are now relegated mostly to anthropogenic habitats such as airports. They are very sensitive to changes in plant composition and respond well to the effects of well-planned fire management and thoughtful mowing regimes. The bird is classified as endangered in Massachusetts, and in 1985, only 25-27 breeding pairs nested at only 7 sites throughout the state.

**Pine Barrens Zanclognatha**, (*Zanclognatha martha*) is an erebid moth with a wingspan of 25030 mm. It inhabits pitch pine-scrub oak barrens on sandplains or rocky summits and ridges. Larvae feed on pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*). In Massachusetts, it occurs in barren habitats from the Connecticut River Valley east to Plymouth. It is threatened by habitat loss and fire suppression, as well as insecticide spraying and light pollution. It is found in four core habitats in Westfield.

**Marbled Salamander**, (*Ambystoma opacum*) is a stout, medium sized salamander from 3-5 inches long with a stocky body, short limbs, and a rounded snout. It is colored with a black and greyish marbled pattern from head to tail. In Westfield, several excellent breeding populations of Marbled and Jefferson Salamanders are found in the vernal pools on ridges in the northeastern corner of the City in a BioMap2 Core Habitat that encompasses land in Holyoke and West Springfield. Marbled salamander is listed as Threatened by MESA and is legally protected in the state. As of January, 2015, approximately 85 local populations had been documented since 1990, and only in 61 municipalities. Primary threats to the species include habitat loss and degradation, road mortality, and emerging infectious disease.

**Eastern Spadefoot**, (*Scaphiopus holbrookii*) is a threatened species in the state of Massachusetts. It is a small grayish or blackish brown toad with cat-like eyes. The toad has been observed in very few communities in the state, but historic specimens suggest that it used to be more widespread. In Westfield, it resides in the southwest corner of the City in a BioMap2 Core Habitat that encompasses land in Westfield and Southwick. This toad spends most of the year buried underground, coming above ground in the spring to mate in vernal pools and other moist areas.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**, (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is known to nest at fewer than 20 sites in Massachusetts, where it is classified as a threatened species. Grasshopper Sparrows nest in dry grasslands. Natural situations include sandplain grasslands, but they have adapted well to anthropogenic habitats such as airports and landfills. They are very sensitive to changes in plant composition and respond well to the effects of fire management. Many of its current nesting sites are in fields adjacent to airfields. In Westfield, it resides in the northeast corner of the City in a BioMap2 Core Habitat.



**FIGURE 4-4: GRASSHOPPER SPARROW,**  
(*AMMODRAMUS SAVANNARUM*)  
IMAGE SOURCE: MASS.GOV

**Vesper Sparrow**, (*Pooecetes gramineus*) is a state-listed Threatened species in Massachusetts. Vesper Sparrows typically nest in large open, dry sites with a mixture of short herbaceous vegetation and bare ground. They have become rare breeders in Massachusetts despite being attracted to anthropogenic landscapes for breeding, such as potato fields, abandoned sandpits, and the disturbed margins of airports. One of the biggest threats to breeding populations of Vesper Sparrow is mowing during the breeding season, which can result in the destruction of nests and young. In Westfield, Vesper Sparrows reside alongside the Grasshopper Sparrow in a BioMap2 Core Habitat in the northeast corner of the City.



**FIGURE 4-5: JEFFERSON SALAMANDER,**  
(*AMBYSTOMA JEFFERSONIANUM*)  
IMAGE SOURCE: MASS.GOV

**Jefferson Salamander**, (*Ambystoma jeffersonianum*) is a species of special concern that was documented in two of Westfield's Core Habitats. Jefferson Salamanders measure between 407 inches long, and can be distinguished by their fine markings of light blue to silvery flecks on the limbs, lower sides and tails, overlain on a brownish-gray overall tone. It also has a stockier build and longer toes than other salamanders in the region.

**Creeper**, (*Strophitus undulatus*) is a small fresh-water mussel that grows up to three in in length. Creepers are freshwater mussels that inhabit low-gradient reaches of small to large rivers with sand or gravel substrates, and in Westfield it is found in three BioMap2 Core Habitats across the City. As of 2007, there were only 58 occurrences the Creeper in the state, and only in 42 towns. It is listed as a Species of Special Concern under MESA, and is threatened by habitat degradation by sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, water withdrawal, habitat segmentation, and other anthropogenic forces.

**American Clam Shrimp**, (*Limnadia lenticularis*), also known as the Euroamerican Clam Shrimp, is a small crustacean (about 1 cm or 1/2 in. long) that resembles a mollusk and inhabits vernal pools. It is very rare in eastern North America and is listed under MESA as a Species of Special Concern. Pools that support the American Clam Shrimp are usually dry for many months of the year, and there for their habitats are often inadvertently destroyed through development, draining, filling, or contamination from pesticides. In Westfield they are found in a BioMap2 Core Habitat in the southwest corner of the City that encompasses land in Westfield and Southwick.

**Pine Barrens Speranza**, (*Speranza exonerata*) (formerly the Pine Barrens Itame) is a geometrid moth that inhabits pitch pine-scrub oak barrens on sandplains and rocky summits and ridges, and is found in six BioMap2 Core Habitats in Westfield, including the Ridgetop Pitch Pine/Scrub Oak community atop Tekoa itself and adjacent Shatterack Mountain. Pine Barrens Sparenza is a globally rare moth which is listed under MESA as a Species of Concern.

**Frosted Elfin**, (*Callophrys irus*) is a small butterfly with a wingspan of 26-32 mm. It inhabits xeric and open, disturbance-dependent habitats on sandy or rocky soil, including grassy openings in pitch pine/scrub oak barrens and similar anthropogenic habitats such as powerline cuts, railways, old sand/gravel pits, and airports. The frosted Elfin is found in five BioMap2 Core Habitats in Westfield, and is listed under MESA as a Species of Concern.

**Eastern Box Turtle**, (*Terrapene carolina*) is a species of special concern in Massachusetts and can be found in many communities across the state. The Eastern Box Turtle has a high-domed shell and variable markings and coloration. The Eastern Box Turtle is a terrestrial turtle that thrives in a number of different habitats including dry and moist woodland, brushy fields, and thickets.



**FIGURE 4-6: EASTERN BOX TURTLE**  
**(*TERRAPENE CAROLINA*)**  
**IMAGE SOURCE: MASS.GOV**

**Wood Turtle**, (*Glyptemys insculpta*) is a species of special concern that was documented in four of Westfield’s Core Habitats. The wood turtle can be recognized by its sculpted shell and the orange coloring on its legs and neck. The wood turtles preferred habitat is the riparian zone along slow moving streams and mixed or deciduous forests

## SCENIC RESOURCES AND UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS

The table on the following pages is a list of identified scenic resources and unique environments found in the City (refer also to the map in Appendix A). It was based on the 2010 Westfield OSRP plan, which incorporated public comments voiced during the *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* plan and Heritage Landscapes plan efforts. The City Center, Rail Trail, Wyben Farmland Gateway, Stanley Park, Pine Hill Cemetery and the marble quarry off Northwest Road were selected as having the highest priority. According to the state, Westfield does not contain Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

The 2009 Westfield Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report recommended three “top” strategies to protect these important scenic and cultural resources:

- adopt an Agricultural Overlay District in Wyben to protect its rural nature and encourage the use of the APR among Wyben’s farmers;
- construct the rail trail and preserve the railroad structures as a means of bringing economic activity to the Center; and
- assist Pine Hill Cemetery through the Community Preservation Act to obtain funding for cemetery restoration.

The 2009 *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* plan also supported the construction of the rail trail through the downtown as well as the construction of a riverfront park on the Westfield River, the preservation of historic streetscapes in the City Center, increased use of downtown venues and existing open spaces for arts, entertainment and recreational events. The planning process also illuminated that many Westfield residents are unaware of all the great things happening in Westfield’s downtown and therefore suggested a need for coordinating and disseminating information on existing resources and events.

Westfield has strong advocates for its historic fabric, including its Historical Commission which championed the designation of the Westfield Center National Historic District in 2013. The area comprises over 150 acres of the City’s civic, commercial, and industrial heart and was a major expansion of the Westfield Center Commercial Historic District, which had included only two blocks of buildings along Elm Street. This latest effort resulted in many structures added to the State’s Register of Historic Places.

**TABLE 4-4: SCENIC & UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS IN WESTFIELD**

AREA	NOTES	SCENIC	GEOL.	CULT.	ENV.
*Stanley Park and Wildlife Sanctuary	Privately-owned park open to the public	•	•	•	•
*Pine Hill Cemetery		•		•	
* Wyben Village / Farmland Gateway	Mostly 19th century homes, picturesque area with open lands for farming and wildlife	•		•	•
*City Center / Downtown	Includes Athenaeum, City Hall, Park Square green and surrounding buildings, including Old Town Hall, as well as traditional residential neighborhood side streets	•		•	

AREA	NOTES	SCENIC	GEOL.	CULT.	ENV.
*Elevated Rail Trail / Rail Bed	Columbia Greenway rail trail route	•		•	
*Westfield Quarry / Atwater Quarry, off Northwest Road near Little River	Unique green serpentine marble quarrying/milling, was used in Lincoln's tomb	•		•	
Old Burying Ground / Mechanic Street Cemetery	Dating from 1648 –well documented	•		•	
Middle Farms Cemetery, Russellville and North Rd.		•		•	
East Mountain Road Cemetery		•		•	
Mundale / West Parish Cemeteries, Granville Road	Gravestones from 1811 to 1881			•	
Chapin Pond		•	•		•
Brickyard Ponds		•	•	•	•
Hampton Ponds State Park		•	•	•	•
Bogs and kettle holes at Hampton Ponds	unique geologic formations	•	•		•
Arm Brook Pond		•			•
Little River / corridor		•	•		•
Westfield River / corridor		•	•	•	•
River Levees		•		•	
Floodplain farmlands	Along Westfield & Little Rivers	•	•	•	•
Tuller's Swamp off Linden Avenue	Wetland/swamp area	•		•	
Tin Bridge / sand bank area	Potential recreation area near bicycle path; riverfront	•		•	
Crane's Pond and Wolf Pit Meadows area off Crane Road	Wetlands and rare species habitat	•		•	
Crane Mill Pond vista west from Cowles Bridge		•			
Vista from Great River Bridge looking west to see old canal aqueduct and railroad bridge	Railroad bridge is being repurposed for rail trail.	•		•	
Little River Road water pump station	Offers view	•			
Western Ave. vista	Davies APR land	•			
Working Farms		•		•	
West Parish Orchard	Open Space, with vistas to UMass	•			
Old City Island	Upstream from Whitney Field	•		•	
Native American burial site off Route 20	archaeological value			•	
Glacial potholes off Granville Road, across from the Springfield filter beds	Glacial river formations	•	•	•	•

AREA	NOTES	SCENIC	GEOL.	CULT.	ENV.
Tekoa Park	Old gravel quarry that in the 1850s became City park; undeveloped.	•		•	•
Juniper Park Area, Russell Rd. (south of old Sheraton Inn site)		•		•	•
Metacomet-Monadnock Trail	West of East Mountain along the City's eastern border – regional hiking trail	•	•	•	
White Trail	Informal east-west trail, East Mountain to Tekoa Mountain	•	•	•	
Ridgelines	along Western & Eastern city lines	•	•		•
Westfield Sportsmen's Club lands		•	•		•
Westfield Fairgrounds on Russellville Road				•	
Grandmother's Garden	Flower gardens; part of Chauncey Allen Park	•		•	
Robinson State Park	Only a small portion of this park is in Westfield (primarily in Agawam)	•	•		•
Bullens Field / Grandstand	Built by WPA in 1938	•		•	•
Whitney Field	First playground in town, riverfront	•		•	•
Westfield State University campus	Historic buildings, open space, walking and biking paths	•		•	•
Cave on Honey Pot Road	Used to store gun powder during Revolutionary War, and possibly moonshine during Prohibition	•		•	•
Ponders Hollow Road	Possibly the City's oldest road	•		•	
Woman's Temperance Union fountain	Westfield green serpentine marble	•		•	
Western Massachusetts Hospital, East Mountain Road	Historic tuberculosis sanitarium, including its own farm	•		•	•
Area of old canal swimming pond – Union Street, Papermill Road and Springdale Rd.	Historic canal once supplied water to the mill –popular swimming hole	•		•	•
Old Lead Mines in Wyben on Montgomery Road		•			
Westfield Whip Manufacturing Co. site				•	
Mundale Village	Similar to Wyben in historical value and aesthetics	•		•	•
Old Gas House, Sackett St. and Sibley Ave.	Historic site	•		•	
Franklin Street Armory		•		•	
Falley Armory Home Site; below Tekoa Reservoir dam	Burned down in the late 1920s; remains only			•	
Falley's Forge on Reservoir Avenue	Historic mill site where muskets were made for the Revolutionary War – stone foundation remains	•	•		•
Old brickyard on Root and North Roads	Historic remains of two kilns (Westfield Brick Company)	•		•	
* priority areas as identified in the 2009 Westfield Heritage Landscape Planning process					

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The following are environmental challenges were noted by members of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee and other city boards or departments.

### DEVELOPMENT IMPACT

The impacts of development are often unclear until many years have passed. However, it is evident from the number of subdivisions and other major developments in Westfield, that much open land is being filled in with impervious surfaces, ultimately creating potential sources of non-point pollution. Those types of surfaces over the aquifer recharge area will prevent that ground water supply from receiving the direct infiltration of rainfall, and introduce polluted runoff into the aquifer. Though subdivision development has slowed, continued residential build out in the remaining open lands in Westfield will tax the City's ability to provide adequate public services, remove active farmlands from production and ultimately alter the character of the City forever.

### LANDFILLS

Westfield closed its main Twiss Street landfill in April 1997, and has since been using it as a transfer station. The trash is hauled to a landfill in New York. The former landfill is not developable for most uses due to the potential damage to the plastic used to cap it. However, in 2014 the City Council approved the lease of the former Twiss Street landfill parcel for creation of a solar farm. Power generated by the facility, which began operation in 2015 by Citizen Energy Corp., is sold to Westfield Gas & Electric for use locally.

### HAZARDOUS WASTE OR BROWNFIELD SITES

Hazardous materials are chemical substances, which if released or misused can pose a threat to the environment or health. These chemicals can come in the form of explosives, flammable and combustible substances, poisons, and radioactive materials. Hazardous materials in various forms can cause death, serious injury, long-lasting health effects, and damage to buildings, homes, and other property. Many products containing hazardous chemicals are used and stored in homes and businesses routinely. These products are also shipped daily on the nation's highways, railroads, waterways, and pipelines.

The Toxics Release Inventory (TRI), a publicly available EPA database that contains information on specific toxic chemical releases and other waste management activities reported annually by certain covered industry groups as well as federal facilities. According to TRI data for 2015 (released in 2017), there were 3 facilities reporting certain chemicals of concern which are recycled, combusted for energy recovery, treated for destruction, and disposed of or otherwise released on- and off-site. The total production-related waste managed by these facilities was over 283,000 lbs.

TABLE 4-4: TRI FACILITIES IN WESTFIELD

SITE NAME	SITE ADDRESS
Barnes Air National Guard Base	175 Falcon Drive
Savage Arms	100 Springdale Rd.
Westfield Electroplating Co., Inc.	68 North Elm Street

There is no history of any major accidents involving some sort of oil or chemical spill, but transportation of chemicals and bio-hazardous materials by rail or vehicle transport on Interstate 90, route 20, and routes 10-202 is a concern. Westfield relies on its HazMat team for responding to incidents involving hazardous materials through a mutual aid agreement.

Sites contaminated by hazardous waste from previous uses can pose a major problem for Westfield, both environmentally and economically, due to the lack of rehabilitation and reuse of the properties. Pollutants may not necessarily be contained, and the abandonment of the property affects the municipal tax base. Over the past few decades, developers have been choosing to build on “greenfields” (often agricultural and aquifer recharge lands) located outside the center of Westfield, instead of redeveloping older, contaminated sites within the City Center, termed “brownfields,” which may carry added liability and cleanup costs.

## FLOODING

There have been major floods in the City’s recorded history, most notably in 1955, and flooding is considered a likely emergency event in Westfield. Hurricane Irene in August 2011 caused the Westfield River to overflow its banks in certain areas. The East Main Street shopping center area was flooded as well as some residential areas, requiring the opening of a shelter for half a day. Since the last open space planning effort, the City completed a project adding 5 feet of elevation to the Westfield River levee.

## EROSION, SEDIMENTATION AND FORESTRY

Erosion has not been identified as a widespread issue. Some erosion exists on private parcels, where slopes are subjected to motorized ATV use. The Westfield Conservation Commission routinely addresses issues of erosion as they pertain to invasive species, which are a very large problem along riverbanks in the City. Bittersweet is known to ensnarl itself around large trees along the riverbed, strangling them to death. The death of these trees perpetuates significant erosion into rivers and streams. However, chronic sedimentation and forestry/deforestation issues are not considered to be significant issues in Westfield.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Besides crowding out native species, invasive plants alter the aesthetic of the natural landscape. Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) and Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) are the most widely observed and distributed invasive plants in Westfield, particularly in and on the fringes of developed areas. The Conservation Commission has done work throughout the City to control invasives, including removing roughly 70 tons of water chestnut and other invasive at the Brickyard Ponds.

## GROUND AND SURFACE WATER POLLUTION

Extensive development continues to take place within the Barnes Aquifer recharge area, which could degrade the quality of the aquifer over time. Contamination from the Barnes Air National Guard base has likely entered into the aquifer, as discussed in Section 4.

Auto body and salvage establishments along the Westfield River could be releasing contaminants into the surface water. Golf courses that use fertilizers and pesticides could be releasing those substances into surface water (near Westfield River, Little River and Great Brook), or groundwater (near city wells). Salt storage facilities, one privately owned and the other state operated, could be the source of salt runoff into the Westfield River. Trap rock quarry silica dust drains into the Westfield River after every rainfall.

## ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY/ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE

Westfield residents have historically expressed concern about equal access to open space in all areas, but the most recent survey indicates that nearly 60% of respondents can access an open space, park or conservation area within a 10-minute walk from their home. Linear parks like the Rail Trail and Westfield River Walk, can help link outlying neighborhoods into the parks and open space network. Some residents utilize informal trails that follow utility corridors (such as power lines, pipelines and levees) and opportunities to formalize such connections should be explored.

The higher density neighborhoods surrounding the downtown have historically lacked access to open space, due to the concentration of population in that area. However, recent projects and plans are providing new and improved opportunities for these residents and others in Environmental Justice areas. These include the renovation of Chapman Playground, addition of a Spray park at Sadie Knox Playground, new and renovated downtown parks, and the planned completion of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail through downtown.



## SECTION 5: INVENTORY OF LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

### INTRODUCTION

The supply of land is finite, and preserving the most critically important and valuable open spaces remains a widely accepted goal. The inventory of lands of conservation and recreation interest includes many properties which already carry protections against any use or development inconsistent with recreation or conservation purposes. These “protected” open spaces effectively guarantee that the environmental, social and economic benefits that these lands provide to the community will continue. In particular, these lands offer value by protecting of groundwater aquifers and their recharge; flood control areas; wildlife habitat; contiguous woodlands and stream corridors; scenic corridors and viewsheds; and historic and cultural heritage expressed in the landscape. Many of these public and private properties also provide opportunities for residents to enjoy both passive and active recreational activities. Destinations and amenities, like the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail and Stanley Park which attracts users from throughout the region, can contribute to economic activity as well. Without protections in place, these benefits can be easily erased by development or other changes. This plan provides a context for strategically adding or strengthening protections on lands of interest, ensuring these values for future generations.

This inventory describes such attributes as ownership, management agency, current use, condition, recreation potential, public access, type of public grant accepted, and the property’s degree of protection. Private, public and non-profit conservation and recreation lands may be fully protected under Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment to the State Constitution (1972), since all land, easements and interests therein taken or acquired for "the protection of the people in their right to the conservation, development and utilization of the agricultural, mineral, forest, water, air and other natural resources" are afforded this constitutional protection:

- Lands acquired for watershed or aquifer protection are often permanently protected open space.
- Public recreation and conservation lands may be permanently protected open space, provided that they have been dedicated to conservation or recreational use by deed.
- Municipal properties may be protected via a vote to acquire them for open space or recreational purposes.
- Private lands can be protected in perpetuity through easements or deed restrictions (conservation restrictions or agricultural preservation restrictions) which are governmentally held. (Some such easements or local restrictions are only valid or enforceable for a limited time period, and those lands are therefore not permanently protected as open space.)

Such Article 97 lands are considered to carry full permanent protection, as it would require an act of the Massachusetts Legislature to alter this status. It should be noted that at the time of this planning effort, the interpretation and expanded applicability of Article 97’s protection has seen recent evolving case law.

Private lands under a special taxation program (Chapter 61, 61A or 61B) are at best considered only to carry temporary protection. The City has the right of first refusal should the landowner decide to sell or change the use of the land, therefore it is important to prioritize these lands and consider steps the community should take to adequately protect these properties.

## PRIVATE PARCELS

### **Chapters 61, 61A, and 61B**

---

In Westfield, there are about 3,438 acres enrolled in Chapter 61A (agriculture) and 457 acres enrolled in Chapter 61B (recreation). There are 31 parcels totaling about 1,118 acres currently enrolled in Chapter 61 forest land. The right-of-first-refusal process is governed by Massachusetts General Laws, and the procedure includes initial notice to the City's Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Chapter 61, 61A, and 61B is a voluntary program designed by the Massachusetts Legislature to tax real property in the Commonwealth at its timber resources, agricultural, or recreational value rather than its highest and best use (development) value. Landowners who enroll their land in the program receive property tax reductions in exchange for a lien on their property. The terms of the lien require that enrolled land remain in an undeveloped state and be managed for forest production, agricultural production, or recreation. Furthermore, the lien provides the municipal government of the city/town in which the enrolled property is located a right of first refusal should the landowner put the land up for sale while it is enrolled in the program. Municipalities may assign their right of first refusal to a state agency or a non-profit land trust. Landowners who develop their land while enrolled in the program, or for a period of time after withdrawing from the program, may be required to pay penalties. Appendix B lists Westfield's Chapter 61 lands.

## Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)

The Agricultural Preservation Restriction program is a voluntary program that offers a non-development alternative to farmland owners for their agricultural lands who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. The state program offers farmers a payment up to the difference between the “fair market value” and the “fair market agricultural value” of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction, which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability. The City has over 1,600 acres of land in the APR program, with the restrictions held and enforceable by the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or the City. Several APRs have been initially acquired by the Winding River Land Conservancy (WRLC) before being assigned to these other entities.

**TABLE 5-1: PRIVATE LANDS WITH AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION RESTRICTIONS (PROTECTED OPEN SPACE)**

PARCEL ID	STREET	ACRES	APR BOOK/PAGE - HOLDER
27R-14*	Crane Rd.	51.27	10563/1 - MDAR
9R-5	Granville Rd.	17	14608/180 - (WRLC) MDAR, City
15R-1	Hundred Acres Rd.	40.25	10240/91 - MDAR
53R-1	Montgomery Rd.	227	6033/124 - MDAR
54R-21*, 76*	Montgomery Rd.	27.35	14735/352 - WRLC
67R-18*	North Rd.	16.69	12828/35 - (WRLC) MDAR
69R-14	North Rd.	13.11	18825/200 - MDAR, NRCS
23R-12-1A	North West Rd.	38.01	18800/2 - MDAR, NRCS
19R-18*	Old Feeding Hills Rd.	78.28	14294/463 - MDAR
39R-8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 46R-11	Pochassic Rd.	448.83	6072/341 - MDAR
41R-20*, 33*	Pochassic Rd.	81.1	14304/438 - (WRLC) MDAR, City
32R-16*, 38R-24	Pochassic Rd. (off)	64.06	11618/154 - MDAR
69R-8	Root Rd. (off)	5	2553/36 (Hampshire) - MDAR
68R-16	Russellville Rd.	63.51	12827/283 - (WRLC) MDAR
67R-12	Russellville Rd.	40.51	12828/35 - (WRLC) MDAR
3R-2*	Sackett Rd.	61.5	15030/154 - (WRLC) MDAR, City
6R-9*, 25	Shaker Rd.	56	12721/367 - (WRLC) MDAR
17R-22*, 28*	South Meadow Rd.	132.3	16504/114 - MDAR, NRCS, City
17R-27	South Meadow Rd.	4	10240/491 - MDAR
28R-6	South Meadow Rd.	23	10563/1? - MDAR
114-1	Springfield Rd.	36.95	9651/465 - MDAR
38R-33*	West Rd.	12.79	11618/154 - MDAR
24R-4*	Western Ave.	57.93	14977/437 - MDAR, City
67R-54*	Wyben Rd.	22.38	12827/283 – (WRLC) MDAR
*ALSO IN CHAPTER 61A.			
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS			

## Conservation Restrictions (CR)

A conservation restriction is a legal document, which extinguishes development rights and ensures a particular property will remain as open space. When fully executed through the State Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, this restriction is considered permanent and fully enforceable, regardless of ownership. Other forms of conservation restrictions, easements or declarations may not be considered permanent. Whenever the City acquires any interest in open space land with the use of Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds, a CR must be recorded to permanently protect the property from alteration or development.

**TABLE 5-2: PRIVATE LANDS WITH CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS (PROTECTED OPEN SPACE)**

PARCEL ID	STREET	ACRES	PROPERTY OWNER	CR HOLDER BOOK/PAGE	USE	NOTES
114-1	Springfield Rd.	29	W/S Westfield Properties (WalMart)	Conservation Com. 9803/529	Conservation	Public access
31R-27	North West Rd.	14.8	Northwest Realty LLC	WRLC 14275/433	Conservation	
4R-24	Radisson Ln./ Tiffany Cir./ Barrister Cir.	23.58	Radisson Hts. Association	Conservation Com. 16963/441	Subdivision Open Space	
7R-57	Pontoosic Rd.	6.86	Bannish	Conservation Com. 20989/276	Subdivision Open Space	
71R-1	Southampton / North Rd.	6.35	Corell	Conservation Com., WRLC 20021/135	Conservation	CPA funded
71R-2	Southampton Rd.	7.58	Seher	Conservation Com., WRLC 20021/112	Conservation	CPA funded
60R-9	Montgomery Rd.	27.3	Bull	WRLC 16961/199	Conservation	
60R-2, 4	Montgomery Rd.	99.5	Wackerbarth	Conservation Com. 21800/346	Conservation	CPA funded
2R-2, 1R-3 (portions)	Honey Pot Rd.	43.14	Bogdan	MA DFW 15036/278 14410/19	Conservation (wildlife)	
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS						

## Other Private Open Space

Some lands have been designated for open space and conservation interests but lack formal permanent CR's and consequently any viable enforcement mechanisms, despite any general expectations. Of particular note in Westfield is the number of acres declared as "open space" with accompanying subdivision developments, typically through zoning provisions (though a few do carry formal CR protections and are listed in Table 5-2).

**TABLE 5-3: OTHER PRIVATE DESIGNATED OPEN SPACE (LIMITED TO NO OPEN SPACE PROTECTION)**

PARCEL ID	STREET	ACRES	PROPERTY OWNER	BOOK/PAGE	USE	NOTES
62R-24	Root Rd./ Medeiros Wy.	60.26	DeMarinis	16659/ 119 (Plan Bk 346 Pg 19)	Conservation (wildlife)	MA Natural Heritage ESP #03-12704
56R-29, 31	Servistar Industrial Wy.	36.41	Lowes Companies	14448/189 WRLC	Conservation	Local CR only
65R-17	East Mountain Rd./ Rita Mary Wy.	14	Clark et al	Plan Bk 319 Pg 81	Subdivision Open Space (Water Crest Estates)	Declaration only
Unassigned	Hawks Cir.	31.82	Private	9735/ 248 (Plan Bk 297 Pg 61)	Subdivision Open Space (Hawks Nest Cons. Area)	Declaration only
36R-6, 36R-19-A, Unassigned	Rachel Ter., Gloria Dr.	28.96	Private	9997/0151 (Plan Bk 299 Pg 121, 122)	Subdivision Open Space (Devon Manor)	Declaration only
70R-81, 82	North Rd./Scenic Rd	23.3	DVT, Inc.	9195/29 (Plan Bk 287 Pg 55)	Subdivision Open Space (Scenic Ridge Cons. Area)	Declaration only
62R-127, 128	Michael Dr./ Russellville Rd. Victoria Cir.,	24.16	Victoria Estates OS RE Trust	9025/459 (Plan Bk 290 Pg 104)	Subdivision Open Space	Declaration only
31R-34-A	Caitlin Wy.	5.63	Private	9331/118 (Plan Bk 265 Pg 85)	Subdivision Open Space (Caitlin Hts. Cons. Area)	Declaration only
4R- 118,120	Plantation Cir.	15.6	The Plantation Association	9217/ 329 (Plan Bk 292 Pg 44)	Subdivision Open Space	Declaration only
27R-81	Glenwoods/ Park River Drive	8.95	Park River Estates Assoc.	Plan Bk 286 Pg 75-76	Subdivision Open Space	Declaration only
60R-13	Montgomery Rd.	5.33	Osborne	21781/ 120 (Plan Bk 379 Pg 107)	Conservation (wildlife)	MA Natural Heritage ESP #17-36397

SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS

## Other Private Properties

Private recreational lands of note are included here to illustrate the diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities available within Westfield, though not necessarily accessible for the general public. Some of these properties, such as golf courses, contribute to open space, views and aesthetic qualities of the landscape. However, none of these lands can be considered protected.

**TABLE5-4: PRIVATE RECREATIONAL LANDS & FACILITIES OF NOTE (NO OPEN SPACE PROTECTION)**

PARCEL ID	SITE NAME	SIZE FACILITIES	STREET ADDRESS (ZONING)	LANDOWNER
58R-3	East Mountain Country Club	120 ac. 18-Hole Golf Course	1458 East Mountain Rd. (RR)	East Mountain Country Club
34R-4	Tekoa Country Club	113 ac. 18-Hole Golf Course	459 Russell Rd. (RR)	First Tee, LLC
6R-8	Shaker Farms Country Club	103 ac. (in Westfield) 18-Hole Golf Course	866 Shaker Rd. (RR)	Western Bronze, Inc.
35R-9	Golf Acres	45 ac. Mini-golf, driving range, karting, batting	315 Union St. (RR)	Mann No Enterprises, LLC
62R-24-1C	Roots Athletic Center	12.4 ac. Indoor/outdoor commercial soccer complex	181 Root Rd. (IA)	DeMarinis
98-22 (portion)	Stoney Hill Condominiums	14.5 ac. 9-Hole golf pitch & putt, tennis, (private)	419 Southwick Rd. (RR)	Private Association
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPT.				

## PUBLIC AND NON-PROFIT PARCELS

As the largest landowner, the City owns over 670 acres under open space and recreational use or potential. Of that total about 170 acres are parks and playgrounds, with the remainder in other use, including conservation land, cemeteries, water supply protection areas and undeveloped lands which offer additional or potential open space or recreational opportunities.

The City also owns about 219 acres of school grounds. While these lands may provide recreational facilities (ballfields, playgrounds, etc.) and opportunities which are accessible to the general public, their principal programming is for school-related use, and such properties are generally not included in the inventory of conservation and recreation lands.

The phased and continued completion of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail has had perhaps the greatest recent impact on recreational opportunities in Westfield. This popular interstate trail system runs north from the Southwick line to Main Street. It is planned to continue to a terminus at the Westfield River Esplanade and Women’s Temperance Park, just over the river. Elevated throughout the downtown area and including several bridges (thus eliminating at-grade street crossings) the multi-use trail is one of the first and only of its kind in the country. The last phase and is viewed as a final puzzle piece in Westfield’s extensive recent improvements to its downtown.

Those improvements included complete renovations of several downtown parks, most notably Park Square, which serves as the City’s “town green.” The downtown efforts also included addition of new park facilities, such as the cascading fountains of along the riverfront at Half Mile Falls, created as part of the Great River Bridges project. These downtown parks allow for passive recreation activities and, coupled with streetscape improvements, help to bring a unified aesthetic to the City Center.

Two non-profit organizations own nearly 600 acres of conservation and recreation land, each in a generally contiguous block. Westfield Sportsmen’s Club private lands are predominantly wooded and undeveloped. Conversely, Stanley Park is a popular private park that offers public access. It includes active and passive recreational opportunities, and is ranked as the top destination city residents would take visitors to experience. It is important to note that there are no permanent legal protections on these properties, so their continued conservation and recreational values are not assured



**FIGURE 5-1. THE RIVERFRONT ESPLANADE, THE CITY’S NEWEST PARK FACILITY, FORMALIZED THE EAST-WEST LEVEL TRAIL AND WILL LINK TO THE PLANNED NORTH-SOUTH RAIL TRAIL.**



**FIGURE 5-2. PARK SQUARE GREEN IS A HIGH-PROFILE OPEN SPACE, WHICH HELPS DEFINE THE HEART OF WESTFIELD, BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND CULTURALLY.**

## PARK AND OPEN SPACE EQUITY

The City strives to provide equitable access for public open space and recreational opportunities, both geographically and socio-economically. In 2015 the City undertook improvements at Sadie Knox Playground, including adding the first spray park serving the North Side. Chapman Playground, which had been in poor condition, was extensively renovated with an investment of nearly one million dollars in 2012. It is now one of the City's showcase parks. New play equipment was added to Whitney Playground in 2016, and Westfield has actively sought grant funding that would enable improvements to the Hampton Ponds Playground. All four of these facilities are located in environmental justice neighborhoods. In the more sparsely developed outlying areas, there has been a focus on protection of large blocks of property for open space, often utilizing CPA funds. This includes the city acquisition and protection of over 70 acres of land on North West Road, which is available for hiking and nature study.

Since the 2010 Open Space & Recreation Plan, extensive downtown infrastructure and streetscape improvements have been completed. These included the major renovation of several existing parks as well as the creation of new park facilities to enhance the urban environment. The planned completion of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail through downtown, as well as the River Walk, are examples of linear recreational opportunities connecting many environmental justice neighborhoods and other areas of the City. This not only provides alternative means of transportation, but also enables better integration and interaction among diverse populations. A focus on access to disconnected neighborhoods through added spurs, paths or sidewalks will strengthen this recreational and transportation fabric.

PUBLICLY-OWNED LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST IN WESTFIELD

TABLE 5-5: CITY PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZON -ING
Un-assigned	2.3 mi.	Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Southwick line to Main St.	City of Westfield (DPW)	Good	Paved bicycle/ walking path,	Phase 1 commenced in 2012;downtown/ final section not yet constructed; FY17-18 CPA funds dedicated	Full/Article 97	Yes	Gateway Cities Parks (EEA)	RR, RA, RB, IA, BA
49R-1	10 ac.	Boardman Fields 177 Montgomery Rd	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Athletic fields	Active recreation; sports	Full/Article 97	Yes	CPA	RR
201-42	6.5 ac.	Sadie Knox Playground 50 Prospect St.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Neighborhood playground	2015 renovations	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 1842/297	Yes	Our Common Backyards Grant/ CPA funded	RA
44R-3 (portion)	10.4 ac.	Paper Mill Playground 148 Paper Mill Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 3533/325	Yes	Urban self-help LWCF	RR
41R-15	17 ac.	Whitney Playground Shepard/Sackett Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Fair	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation Riverfront access; New play equip. 2016	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 774/126	Yes	HUD, LWCF	RR

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZON -ING
24-25 (portion)	1 ac.	Skate Park at Amelia Park off S. Broad St.	City of Westfield School Dept. (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Skate Park	Active recreation	None	Yes		RB
65-1	7.8 ac.	Chauncey Allen Park Smith Ave./King St.	City of Westfield (DPW, Friends of Grandmothers Garden)	Good	Gardens	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA
68-26 (portion)	4.2 ac.	Municipal Playground Greylock/ Franklin/ Hubbard Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	City playground	Active recreation/ abuts Westfield Technical Academy and Bullens Field	Full/Article 97	Yes	WPA, Urban self-help grant (FY05)	RA, RB
14-75 (portion)	5.3 ac.	Cross St. Playground Cross St.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Fair	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes	LWCF	RB
72R-52	17 ac.	Hampton Ponds Playground Old Stage Rd	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Fair	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 4840/192	Yes	LWCF	RA
3-11	3.7 ac.	Chapman Playground St. Paul/ Fowler Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation, ballfield	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 1101/397	Yes	Gateway Cities PARC, LWCF	RB
120-2 (portion)	0.9 ac	Little River Playground Little River Rd (behind Fire Station)	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Poor	Neighborhood playground	Active recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
23-69	0.92 ac	Parker Park West Silver St.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Memorial park	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA
50R-3, 5	45.42 ac.	Arm Brook/ Dog Bark 125 Lockhouse Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec., w/28.21 ac. under Flood Ctrl. Comm.)	Good	Dog park, hiking, fishing	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97  Bk/pg 2877/462	Yes		RB, RA, RR
Un-assigned	0.7 ac.	Park Square Main/Broad Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Downtown Green	Passive recreation; community events	Full/Article 97	Yes		CORE
220-87	0.37 ac.	Gateway Entrance Pk. N. Elm St./ Union Ave.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Downtown gateway	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97  MA Ch. 131 of the Acts of 2003	Yes		CORE
220-87	0.05 ac.	9/11 Memorial N. Elm St./Union Ave.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Memorial park	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97  MA Ch. 131 of the Acts of 2003	Yes		CORE
57-72 (portion)	0.05 ac.	Cowles Court 320 Elm St.	City of Westfield/ Housing Authority (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Pocket Park	Passive recreation	None	Yes		CORE
1-1	0.6 ac.	Kane & Wojtkiewicz Park	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Urban riverfront	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97  MA Ch. 131 of the Acts of 2003	Yes		CORE

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZON-ING
Un-assigned	0.25 ac	General Shepard Park Court/S. Broad Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Memorial park	Passive recreation; aesthetics	Full/Article 97	Yes		CORE
Un-assigned	0.25 ac.	Soldiers Memorial Court/Elm Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Memorial park	Passive recreation; aesthetics	Full/Article 97	Yes		CORE
Un-assigned	0.4 ac.	Half Mile Falls Park N. Elm St./Union Ave.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Urban riverfront	Passive recreation; fishing	Full/Article 97 MA Ch. 131 of the Acts of 2003	Yes		CORE
217-6	0.5 ac.	Women's Temperance Park	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Urban riverfront	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		CORE
Un-assigned	0.14 ac	'Heritage Park' Church St. (south)	City of Westfield (DPW)	Good	Pocket park/ Streetscape plaza	Passive recreation	None	Yes		CORE
Un-assigned	0.05 ac	White St. Plaza White/Main Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Streetscape plaza	Passive recreation	None	Yes		BA
220-18	0.32 ac.	Gen. Wareham Park Columbia/ Dartmouth Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Neighborhood green	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		BA
57-35, 89 (portions) & Un-assigned	2.6 ac.	Westfield River Esplanade Elm St. to Whitney Playground	City of Westfield (DPW, Flood Control Comm.)	Good	Levee, urban riverfront, paved walking/ bicycle path	Passive recreation link ( to planned Columbia Greenway)	None	Yes	Ch. 90, Gateway Cities	CORE

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
Various & Un-assigned	1.9 mi	Westfield River Walk Shepard St. to Williams Riding Way	City of Westfield (DPW, Flood Control Comm.)	Good	Riverside stonedust walking path	Passive recreation; walking trail	None	Yes		CORE RB, RR, RA, RC, BA, IA
34-1	1 ac.	Holcomb Park Court/W. Silver Sts.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Neighborhood green	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA
Un-assigned	0.03 ac.	Budzak Memorial Park Court/W. Silver Sts./ Western Ave	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Wayside island	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA
230-00	0.1 ac.	Hussey Memorial Park N. Elm/Holyoke	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Wayside island	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		BA
45-13	0.03 ac.	Dowling Park Western Ave./ Granville Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Wayside park	Passive recreation	Full/Article 97	Yes		RA
31R-1, 2	1.8 ac.	Tekoa Park Rt. 20/Russell Border	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Undeveloped (idle)	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails / was first public land reserve	Full/Article 97	Yes		RR
17R-14	10 ac.	Mary Noble Sanctuary Munger Hill Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Undeveloped	Open Space, Wildlife, passive rec.,	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Probate 88P/1559	Yes		RR

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE / NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZON-ING
45-8 (portion)	10 ac.	Barbara Swords Park (Highland Sanctuary) Oak Ave. Ext.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Undeveloped	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails / LWCF conversion at Paper Mill PG	Full/Article 97 Council Order #2073	Yes		RA
17R-9	10 ac.	Steiger Dr. Property off Steiger Dr.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Undeveloped	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 3533/325	Yes	HUD	RA
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, WESTFIELD PARKS & RECREATION										

**TABLE 5-6: OTHER CITY LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST**

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZON-ING
21R-8, 9, 10	70.5 ac.	Pitoniak Property North West Rd.	City of Westfield (Conservation Com)	Undeveloped	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 21667/157	Yes	CPA	RR
54R-23	32.11 ac.	Sampson Property Montgomery/ West Rds.	City of Westfield (Conservation Com)	Undeveloped	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 12394/438	Yes	MA Self-Help Grant	RR
11R-31, 38	56.77 ac.	Honey Pot Cons. Area Honey Pot Rd.	City of Westfield (Conservation Com)	Undeveloped	Open Space, Wildlife, passive rec.,	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 5883/171	Yes		RR

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
49R-5	36 ac.	High School Ballfields Montgomery Rd	City of Westfield (School Dept.)	Fair	Athletic fields	Active recreation; sports	Full/Article 97  Bk/pg 3533/325	Limited		RA
1-31, 33, 3-25, 34, 48, 50; 1-1, 57-35 & 1- 33 (portions) & Unassigned	0.4 mi.	Flood Control Dikes Westfield River (south side)	City of Westfield (Flood Control Comm.)	Good	Dikes, trail	Passive recreation, walking trail	None	Yes		RR, RB, RC, CORE IA, BA
16R-49	3.8 ac	Ponders Hollow Trailside - Ponders Hollow Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Undeveloped	Open Space, passive rec., nature study	Hiking Trails, abuts rail trail	None  Council Order #2723	Yes		IA
Un-assigned	0.7 mi	Columbia Greenway (unimproved portion) Main St. to Woman's Temperance Pk	City of Westfield	Unimproved	None; Informally used trail (abandoned rail bed)	Planned for extension of developed trail	None	Limited		CORE, IA, RB
65R-85	9.7 ac.	Mountain Laurel Property Blue Sky/Tina Ln	City of Westfield	Undeveloped	None	Wildlife, Hiking Trails	None	Limited		RR
36R-9	15 ac.	E. Mountain Rd. Property	City of Westfield	Undeveloped	Farm field	Community gardens	None	Limited		RR
35-10-1A	8.59 ac	Off Neck Rd./ near WWTP	City of Westfield	Undeveloped	None	River access	None	Limited		IA

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION / REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
16R-47, 7, 15	2.96 ac.	Ponders Hollow Riverfront - Ponders Hollow Rd	City of Westfield (Fire Dept. & Flood Control Comm.)	Undeveloped	Fire Dept. training	River access	None	Limited		IA
65R-11, 58R-13	31.95 ac.	Chapin Pond & Dam E. Mountain Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Water)	Undeveloped	Water supply protection	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97 Bk/pg 13728/258	No		RR
19R-33, 41, 43 19R-2-1A	45.31 ac.	Great Brook Property Shaker Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Water)	Undeveloped	Water supply protection	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97	No		RR
22R-6	14.5 ac.	North West Rd. Property	City of Westfield (DPW/Water)	Undeveloped	Water supply protection	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97	No		RR
43R-1, 5, 11, 14, 22, 23, 24, 25, 43	150.35 ac.	Paper Mill & Springdale Rds. Property	City of Westfield (DPW/Water)	Undeveloped	Water supply protection	Hiking Trails	Full/Article 97	No		RR, RA
65R-24	0.33 ac.	E. Mountain Cemetery E. Mountain Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Cemetery	Passive recreation	None	Yes		RR
10-72	3.98 ac.	Old Burying Ground Mechanic St.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Cemetery	Passive recreation	None	Yes		RC
25R-13, 25R-5	1 ac.	Mundale/ West Parish Cemetery Granville Rd.	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Cemetery	Passive recreation	None	Yes		RR
68R-10, 36	2.5 ac.	Middle Farms Cemetery	City of Westfield (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Cemetery	Passive recreation	None	Yes		RR
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPT., WESTFIELD PARKS & RECREATION										

TABLE 5-7: OTHER MUNICIPALITY-OWNED LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION/ REFERENCE	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
20R-2, 10R-2	519 ac.	Springfield Water Works North West Rd.	City of Springfield (Water Dept.)	Undeveloped	Water supply land, water works facility	abuts City open space land	Full/Article 97	No		RR
Un-assigned11R-14, 15, 21R-16	7 mi.	Springfield Water line Granville Rd. to W. Springfield border	City of Springfield (Water Dept.)	Good	Pipeline corridor; cleared, informal trails	mostly contiguous linear parcels; potential east-west trail	None	No		RR, RA
19R-19, 30R-26	27.5 ac	Springfield Water line/ W. Springfield border	City of Springfield (Water Dept.)	Good	Pipeline corridor, water works facility; cleared & wooded	abuts APR & water works land in W. Springfield	Full/Article 97	No		RR
7R-1, 6R-15, 16, 24	32 ac.	West Springfield Water Works Off Shaker Rd.	Town of West Springfield (Water Dept.)	Undeveloped	Water supply land, water works facility	abuts APR & water supply lands in Southwick	Full/Article 97	No		RR
7R-11	5 ac.	Great Brook Property Off Shaker Rd.	Town of West Springfield (Water Dept.)	Undeveloped	Water supply land	abuts Westfield water supply lands	Full/Article 97	No		RR
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS										

TABLE 5-8: STATE-OWNED LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
270-22, 271-5, 6, 7, 8, 272-7	47 ac.	Hampton Ponds State Park North Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DCR)	Good	State park; Swimming beach, boat ramp		Full/Article 97	Yes (fee)		BA, RA
30R-7, 8	37.5 ac.	Robinson State Park Feeding Hills Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DCR)	Undeveloped (Westfield portion)	State park; Wildlife, open space	riverfront	Full/Article 97	Yes		
34R-12 (portion)	25 ac.	Westfield State Univ. Athletic Grounds Western Ave. (North)	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Westfield State University)	Good	College athletics; track, ball fields		None	Limited/No		RA
33R-8 (portion)	60 ac.	Westfield State Univ. South Lot Western Ave. (South)	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Westfield State University)	Undeveloped	College Parking lot parcel; Woods, trails	abuts Stanley Park Woodlands/trails	None	Limited/No		RA, RR
33R-8 (portion)	22 ac.	Westfield State Univ. Juniper Park Glen Russell Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Westfield State University)	Undeveloped	College campus; Woods, trail, steep slope surrounds	abuts Camp Togowauk, land of WSU Foundation; flood zone	None	Limited/No		RR, BA
36R-10 (portion)	150 ac.	Western Mass. Hospital Lands 91 E. Mountain Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Western Mass. Hospital)	Undeveloped	Hospital campus Surrounds; Wooded lands, farm fields	abuts City-owned parcel	None	Limited/No		RR

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
31R-47, 32R-15, 31R-59	17.93 ac.	Westfield River Access – Russell Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Fish & Wildlife)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	riverfront/access	Full/Article 97	Yes		BA
41R-16	66.2 ac.	Westfield River Access – Pochassic St.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Fish & Wildlife)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	riverfront/access	Full/Article 97	Yes		RR
5-147, 2-11, 3-1, 24, 49	6.47	Flood Control Dikes Westfield River (south side)	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Good	Flood control; riverside stonedust walking path	forms part of Westfield River Walk (approx. 0.8 mi non-contiguous portions)	Limited	Yes		RB, RR
10R-3, 8, 2R-4, 74, 123, 128, 1R-5, 11R-12, 36 42, 46	389 ac.	Honey Pot Natural Heritage Area & Westfield Wildlife Management Area Honey Pot Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Fish & Wildlife)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	abuts City, WRLC, and Federally-owned land	Full/Article 97	Yes		RR
73R-12, 65R-86	41.24 ac.	E. Mountain Wildlife Management Area Blue Sky Dr./Tina Ln.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Fish & Wildlife)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	abuts additional lands in W. Springfield	Full/Article 97	Yes		RR
45R-3	2.5 ac.	Grace A. Robson Sanctuary Off Reservoir Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Fish & Wildlife)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	abuts additional lands in Montgomery	Full/Article 97	Yes		RR
65-46	1.7 ac.	Smith Ave.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DPW/Parks & Rec.)	Good	Effectively part of Chauncey Allen park		Full/Article 97	Yes		RA

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
243-5	0.9 ac.	Colonial Pine Acres Basketball Court 50 Southampton Rd.	Commonwealth of Massachusetts (DOT/Westfield Housing Authority)	Good	Basketball court, lawn	abuts Public Housing	None	Limited	CPA	RA
WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPT.										

**TABLE 5-9: FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST**

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME ADDRESS	OWNER (MANAGER)	CONDITION	USE	POTENTIAL USE/ NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION	PUBLIC ACCESS	GRANTS USED	ZONING
11R-7	20.26 ac.	Honey Pot Cons. Area Honey Pot Rd.	United States of America (US Fish & Wildlife – Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge)	Undeveloped	Wildlife, open space	abuts state-owned open space	Full/Federal	Yes		RR
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS										

## NON-PROFIT-OWNED LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST IN WESTFIELD

**TABLE5-10: NON-PROFIT LANDS OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION INTEREST**

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME	ADDRESS	OWNER	FACILITIES/USE/NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION/ DEED BK/PG	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING
25R-8, 11, 26R-4, 5, 6, 54-17, 77-1, 4, 5, 7, 8 81-26	285 ac.	Stanley Park	Western Ave.	Stanley Park of Westfield	Athletic fields/courts, playground, gardens, Colonial Village, gardens, trails;	None	Yes	RA, RR
17R-20, 11	31 ac.	Mungo Cow Pasture	Munger Hill Rd. (off)	Winding River Land Conservancy	Conservation land, riverfront; abuts other protected lands	Full 12028/397	Yes	RR
3R-7	29 ac.		Sackett Rd.	Winding River Land Conservancy	Conservation land; abuts APR	Full 11422/243	Yes	RR
14R-114	2.16 ac.		Goose Hollow Rd.	Winding River Land Conservancy	Subdivision conservation land;	Limited 14715/373	Limited	RR
21R-2, 6, 23R-7, 13	157 ac.	Camp Shepard	370 North West Rd.	YMCA	Camp, picnic, swimming, boating, trails, ballfields	None	No	RR
24-28	10 ac	Amelia Park/Arena	South Broad St.	City (landowner)	Indoor & outdoor rinks, memorial garden	None	Yes (fee)	BRB
47R-4, 40R-6	323.5 ac.	Westfield Sportsmen's Club	Furrowtown Rd.	Westfield Sportsmen's Club	Conservation land, shooting ranges, fishing pond; under Ch. 61/61B	None	No	RR
64-0	40 ac.	Pine Hill Cemetery	117 Court St.	Pine Hill Cemetery	Open Space, passive recreation	None	Limited	RA
50R-4	5 ac.	St. John's Cemetery	139 Lockhouse Rd.	St. John's Lutheran Cemetery	Open Space; abuts Arm Brook Park	None	Limited	RB

PARCEL ID	SIZE	NAME	ADDRESS	OWNER	FACILITIES/USE/NOTES	DEGREE OF PROTECTION/ DEED BK/PG	PUBLIC ACCESS	ZONING
50R-13	84 ac.	St. Mary's Cemetery	Southampton Rd.	Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield	Open Space, woods (approx. 40 ac.)	None	Limited	RA
70R-6	39.88 ac.	White Oak School	533 North Rd.	MA Foundation for Learning Disabilities	Athletic fields, woods	None	No	BB
13R-31	3.0 ac.	Westfield Riding Club	29 Fowler Rd.	Westfield Riding Club	Outdoor horseback riding arena	None	No	RR
55R-22	20 ac.	Westfield Fairgrounds	137 Russellville Rd.	Westfield Fair Association	Open Space, Fairgrounds	None	Limited	RR
33R-1, 11	18 ac.		880 Russell Rd. (both sides of road)	Westfield State College Foundation	Open Space, woods, riverfront, parking area/pull-off	None	No	BA, RR
40-32	19.5 ac.	Genesis Spiritual Life Center	53 Mill St. to Highland Ave.	Sisters of Providence Ministry Corp.	Campus includes arboretum & community gardens	None	No	RA
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, WESTFIELD GIS, MASS GIS, WESTFIELD PLANNING DEPT								

## SECTION 6: COMMUNITY VISION

### DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

#### COMMITTEE

In early spring 2017, the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee convened to chart the development of a refreshed Open Space and Recreation Plan, particularly as Westfield has experienced many changes since the 2010 planning effort. The OSRP Committee included representation from the Planning Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council, interested citizens and local business owners, in addition to the City's Community Development staff. While the committee meetings were posted and open to the public, only a handful of citizens attended.

#### SURVEY

Westfield initially conducted public outreach for input on its open space and recreation through a public survey and a public visioning session. The public survey was released in June, 2017 and publicized through the city website, in a local newspaper story, on posters that were officially posted and displayed at various places in City Hall and distributed at several Boards/Commissions, the YMCA, the Athenaeum, the Senior Center, the Boys and Girls Club, Amelia Park Arena, and various businesses; and distributed to all schools for posting (poster is included in Appendix D). Survey postcards were also distributed at various high-traffic offices and meeting in City Hall, at the Senior Center, Athenaeum, YMCA and some businesses. The City also created a dedicated web page with a link to the survey: [www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan](http://www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan). Hard copies were also available at City Hall and the Senior Center, though only 2 people chose to complete the paper version. After receiving 117 responses, the survey closed in August 2017.

#### VISIONING SESSIONS

PVPC, in conjunction with the Westfield OSRP Committee, held the public workshops to determine Westfield's vision for its open space and recreation. This vision formed the basis for developing goals, objectives, and actions. The public was notified of the two visioning sessions scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2017 at the Westfield North Middle School, and on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the South Middle School. Notice about the events was posted on the city website "news items" and "community calendar"; via an advance newspaper story about the whole project, plus a 2nd story that ran the day after the first session/in advance of the second (the June 17 article is included in Appendix D); posters officially posted and displayed at City Hall (at various places and distributed at several Boards/Commissions, the YMCA, the Athenaeum, Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club, Amelia Park Arena, and various businesses; and distributed to all schools for posting. Announcements were also made at televised Planning Board and City Council meetings.

Approximately 20 people attended the visioning sessions (sign-in sheets are included in Appendix D). The sessions opened with a brief presentation on the purpose and components of an OSRP. A visioning exercise followed, in which two or three small groups formed to visualize what the "ideal" Westfield would look like in 10 to 20 years in terms of open space and recreation. Next, participants discussed what would be needed to achieve those visions and began articulating goals. At the end of the discussion, the top goals were identified and priority actions were listed by the entire group.

## MUNICIPAL OUTREACH

As a community of 41,000, Westfield has a diverse city staff and several boards/commissions skilled and experienced in many specific areas that may bear upon open space planning, particularly regarding some technical components of this plan. Therefore, in addition to the surveys and visioning sessions, specific requests for input into the OSRP update were sent on June 5-6, 2017, to: the School Committee/Superintendent, Community Development Director, Senior Center Director/ Council on Aging, Conservation Commission/Coordinator, Police Chief/Police Commission/Community Police, DPW Director/City Engineer/Parks & Rec. Commission & Director, Commission for Citizens with Disabilities. The draft Open Space and Recreation Plan was issued for public comment on July 11, 2018, for 30 days, and was also distributed to several City Boards and Commissions.

## VISION FORMULATION

### STATEMENT OF OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION GOALS

Using the 2010 plan as a basis, it was found that many issues and concerns expressed then remain relevant today for Westfield. Therefore, the community vision builds on that previous vision to reflect comments received from the public visioning process as well as comments elicited through the OSRP survey. During the visioning sessions, residents articulated and developed goals and action steps to address a variety of open space and recreation issues impacting Westfield. Drinking water issues remained a frequent point of discussion. Having a range of quality recreational opportunities, linkages, bicycle accommodation and sensitivity of development to the natural landscape were matters that were also expressed often. Using these and other comments collected at the visioning sessions and through the survey, as well as an assessment of trends found in Sections 3-5 of this document, the following broad goals were developed by the Open Space Committee:

#### **Goal #1**

---

- An abundant and safe drinking water supply for current and future generations

#### **Goal #2**

---

- Large, protected connected blocks of open space which preserve landscape character and viable wildlife habitat corridors

#### **Goal #3**

---

- An intermodal city-wide transportation network linked to the open space and recreational fabric, and which supports the community's identity

#### **Goal #4**

---

- Recreational and open space facilities which are available and comparable for residents of all neighborhoods, ages, classes and abilities

## SECTION 7: ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

### SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

The primary resource protection needs in the City include the long-term protection of surface and groundwater resources, assembling and protecting large blocks of open space, and managing unauthorized use of private lands for detrimental activities such as motorized recreation and dumping.

As indicated in Section 4, relatively little land in Westfield is preserved. Protection of the remaining undeveloped areas in the City with priority habitat or rare species, or that is highly valued for recreation or open space purposes, is needed to ensure the long-term conservation of species of state-wide importance and of access for Westfield residents to natural places. Developing community support for conservation of biodiversity is an essential component for successful efforts at land protection, habitat management, and regulation. Offering field trips on city conservation areas, writing articles on conservation for local websites and newspapers, and encouraging local students to conduct biological surveys and observations on conservation areas are a few of the low-cost ways to build publicity and support that can pay off in the future.

As the primary source of drinking water for the City of Westfield, management of the aquifer recharge areas, or Zone II, and land surrounding that designated area is critical to a sustainable water supply. Much of the recharge area to the Barnes Aquifer is zoned for industrial and commercial uses. There is an inherent conflict between these uses and the protection of open space to function as recharge. Industrial and commercial land uses are often associated with large areas of impervious surfaces which prevent recharge. Winter de-icing chemicals can also be harmful to the aquifer. As previously noted, public and private wells in the northern portion of the aquifer in Westfield and Southampton have histories of contaminated and elevated levels of some chemicals. Further, some types of industrial uses can involve chemicals that pose a threat to the aquifer, or produce them as a waste product, if released. Strict management and oversight of chemical use and disposal is necessary. Yet, pressure to bring new development to the region for economic growth remains strong. A balance between aquifer protection and development can only be achieved through thoughtful long-term planning, including effective land use regulations.

While the City of Westfield has some large contiguous blocks of protected open space, these are concentrated in rural outlying areas, disconnected from most residents development pressures. Local regulations such as the Open Space Residential Development and Transfer of Development Rights ordinances have not been effective at protecting open space that can be assembled into effective contiguous blocks or corridors. Often, the most undesirable, or undevelopable, parcel within a development is designated as "open space." Isolated, these parcels often end up being little more than a place to dump landscape debris. Blocks of contiguous open space have the potential to serve many functions such as wildlife habitat, passive recreation such as hiking or cross-country skiing, groundwater recharge, scenic landscape preservation, working farms and forest lands. The City should explore how its regulations can be revised to increase their utilization and effectiveness, ideally following a city-wide master plan effort.

The City and its partners should also consider prioritizing land for conservation actions based on biodiversity and habitat integrity. Three areas of critical importance for conservation are East Mountain, the Westfield River shoreline, and the eastern slopes of Montgomery's Tekoa and Ball Mountains.

- East Mountain, along the Holyoke and West Springfield lines, in concert with Mt. Tom to the north, supports a great concentration of rare species and priority natural communities. The section of this range that falls within the Westfield city limits is home to 14 MESA-listed species. Ensuring long-term conservation of these species will require protecting the remaining undeveloped areas in this part of the City.
- The Westfield River is a major tributary to the Connecticut River and is entirely BioMap2 Aquatic Core Habitat in Westfield, meaning that land protection and stewardship of this shoreline corridor area would provide the greatest contribution to the conservation of specific elements of biodiversity.
- The eastern slopes of Tekoa and Ball Mountains, on the border with Montgomery, are used by three wide-ranging rare species. While much of these mountains in Montgomery and Russell are protected, a limited area of the slopes in Westfield is currently conserved.

In addition to conservation, the City should assess its existing conservation areas for the presence of invasive species. The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has offered grants to fund invasive species removal in the past, and may do so again in the future.

There has been interest expressed in utilizing local watershed lands for passive recreation. However, misuse of land by ATVs has caused erosion of existing trails as well as sensitive surrounding areas. Such behavior is very difficult to track and manage. Similar unauthorized use occurs on private property to the outrage of some land owners. Dumping of trash and landscape debris has also been an issue on private property as noted above. The City needs to work with local residents to develop a method for controlling and enforcing against such detrimental activities.

## SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

The City of Westfield Master Plan was written in 1962, over a half-century ago. Subsequent small area planning efforts have occurred since then, including the 2009 *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* and Elm Street Redevelopment Plan, in addition to open space and recreation planning. However, only a city-wide comprehensive master plan can provide a complete guide for future actions in all parts of the City based on residents' vision for the future, including long-range goals and objectives for all activities that affect the local government. The City should consider undertaking a master plan to provide a modern and relevant framework to meet current and future residents' needs as in the next ten or twenty years. With limited City staff resources, this effort will likely require a funding commitment and use of an outside consultant.

Of the recent small area plans, *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* presented some themes that ring true in this update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan: play and connect. These themes focus on heavily on promoting the arts, entertainment, and recreation in downtown Westfield. With the downtown as the cultural hub of the community, rivulets branching from the City's heart flow into its four quadrants,

supporting neighborhood character and fostering community pride. From the Great River Bridge Project, to the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, pocket parks, playground renovations, traffic calming efforts, streetscapes and sidewalks, and the agricultural fields in rural parts of the City, play and connect form the foundation of open space and recreation planning in Westfield.

The City should continue to advance funding possibilities through MassDOT processes and prevent actions that would impede further development of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail. The City should also continue to champion the final phase of development of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in order to complete this critical pedestrian and bicycle connection from the Southwick border through downtown to the Westfield River.

Foreseeing changes to modes of transportation resulting from the rail trail, the Planning Board organized a Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in late 2014. That committee made 7 recommendations to the City Council in early 2016:

- Adopt a “Complete Streets” Policy
- Undertake a Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Amend the sidewalk ordinance which prohibits bike-riding city-wide
- Increase access to bicycle parking, by working with downtown merchants and/or by zoning
- Close sidewalk gaps, especially near schools
- Adopt an ordinance specific to the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
- Expand bicycle outreach and education efforts

It should be noted that the City Council chose to reject the adoption of a complete streets ordinance, which would have provided an additional source of funding for related improvements. Regardless, and in light of the City’s expanding cycling and walking connections coupled with an increase in bicycling popularity nationwide, Westfield should pursue becoming a “Bicycle Friendly Community,” as designated by the League of American Bicyclists.

In terms of outreach, the City should consider providing programs and resources for the education of bicyclists of all ages and abilities to improve skill, teach the rules of the road, build confidence, and ensure safe riding. The League of American Bicyclists and Cycling Savvy offer educational materials and bicycle education, including traffic safety courses, which could be beneficial to city residents.

All Westfield residents should have easy access to open space and recreation facilities. The last 6 years has seen completed renovations or additions of several downtown parks. To ensure equitable access for all residents, the City should consider neighborhood pocket parks in downtown-adjacent neighborhoods, including the Orange Street Neighborhood, the Mechanic Street Neighborhood and the Pleasant Street Neighborhood. These parks should be available to the general public, and may include playgrounds attached to schools, which provide facilities mainly for people with children. While the number of potential sites is limited, they should be centrally located, offer the potential to connect different neighborhood areas to each other, and/or are well-located for attracting greater use and promoting a greater sense of neighborhood community.

Open space and recreation facilities should include accommodations for those with disabilities, including physical limitations. The City’s Commission for Citizens with Disabilities has a goal of improving conditions for handicap residents of Westfield, especially young children. While Westfield lacks a fully inclusive playground, several newer play structures in city parks have included elements for such individuals. The City should continue its efforts in meeting ADA accessibility standards when upgrading existing facilities.

Nearly 90% of Westfield residents who completed the OSRP survey indicated that, more than any other recreational activity, walking is what they do most in Westfield. The City needs to assure a safe and comfortable environment for all modes of transportation, especially pedestrians, along Elm Street and elsewhere in the City. PVPC conducted a study in 2010 to identify solutions to traffic congestion on Elm Street and to perform “what if” scenarios on ideas proposed to solve congestion, including but not limited to: traffic calming, “completing the street”, angle parking, making select streets one-way, and road diets. The recommendations therein should be implemented to the extent feasible. The City should also seek to expand transportation options on Western Avenue between Westfield State and the downtown, including bicycle lane striping, additional signage, and continued sidewalk maintenance and construction to ensure safe access for all users.

**TABLE 7-1: POTENTIAL AREAS FOR SIDEWALK ADDITIONS IN SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOODS**

SCHOOL NEIGHBORHOOD	POSSIBLE LOCATION OF NEW SIDEWALKS	APPROX. LENGTH
<b>Paper Mill School</b> <i>(from 2009 Safe Routes to School Study)</i>	West side of Joseph Avenue to Amy Drive;	1300 LF
	North side of Paper Mill Road from Walker Avenue to Elizabeth Avenue;	560 LF
	East side of Mockingbird Lane;	860 LF
	Southwest side of Joseph Avenue and West Side of Rachael Terrace	1950 LF
<b>Munger Hill School</b>	North side of Steiger Drive from pedestrian access way to Munger Hill Road	2610 LF
	East side of Crawford Drive to north side of Falley to west side of Ingersoll to south side of Steiger Drive to Trimmer Lane	3980 LF
<b>South Middle School</b>	Along Bliss Street to Coleman Avenue bike bath connector	770 LF
<b>Westfield Technical Academy</b>	West School Street from Smith Avenue to Allen Avenue	430 LF
	North side of King Street Extension to Berkshire Drive	1010 LF
<b>Westfield High School</b>	North side of Massey Street;	825 LF
	Along Montgomery Road to Bellview Drive	2450 LF

Continuous and safe pedestrian access for all users, including the elderly, individuals with physical disabilities, children, and adults with a stroller, will require sidewalk construction, repair, and regular maintenance, including adequate snow and ice removal measures. A 2009 Safe Routes to School assessment found a need for additional sidewalks serving the Paper Mill School and, starting with school neighborhoods identified by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Advisory Committee, the City should close all gaps in its sidewalk network (Table 7-1). In 2015 a Westfield State University class undertook a “Walkability Audit” of the downtown neighborhood bordered by Franklin Street/Washington Street/King Street/Smith Avenue and indicated needs for improvements, most notably sidewalk repaving and leveling. Overall the streets assessed were found to be good or average for their walkability (GARP 219 Land Use and Resource Planning, Spring 2015).

The City should continue efforts to improve connections from Westfield State University to and from the downtown, which are just over two miles apart. This may include increasing shuttle van or bus service—perhaps in a “trolley” format. Western Avenue is a key connection between downtown and the College. Participants in the *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* planning process said they felt unsafe bicycling on Western Avenue. With MassDOT, the City has been advancing plans to better accommodate all modes of travel, including a multi-use trail/sidewalk. This should make the route much more appealing to students, faculty, staff and visitors to the College who would rather not, or don’t have the means to, to drive back and forth.

Successful downtowns are walkable. They possess street level pedestrian scale and are well used, thus contributing to economic activity. The improvements to Westfield’s downtown over the past decade have been transformational, and completion of the rail trail will only add more vibrancy to the City Center. Westfield should continue with projects replacing pavement, streetscape, and the tree belts to stabilize neighborhoods surrounding the downtown.

Health and social benefits can also be obtained by improving walkability and increasing access to non-vehicular options for travel, and such links between land use planning and public health have been trending. Past patterns of land use policy which fostered car-dependency and neglected integrated open space and recreational options, including alternative means of transportation, have contributed to increasing health concerns, such as obesity. For Massachusetts, the Department of Public Health reports that more than half of adults and 1 in 4 high school and middle school students are overweight or obese, and Westfield is not immune to these statistics. Improving options for non-motorized travel can help to reverse these trends and foster other aspects of well-being. Moderate exercise, such as a regular neighborhood walk, can burn enough calories to measurably reduce an individual’s weight and lower risks associated with developing serious diseases such as Type 2 Diabetes, heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer’s Disease. In a 2015 study, American Heart Association Researchers found that people who moved to a walkable neighborhood had a 54 percent lower risk of high blood pressure than people moved from one pedestrian-unfriendly neighborhood to another.

Physical activity has also been widely found to be an effective therapy for depression, even comparable to drug treatments. For Westfield residents who do not drive due to their age, desire, finances or disability, maintaining and expanding a city-wide viable pedestrian and bicycle network can mean the difference between isolation and community integration. Families, couples of all ages, individuals and groups of laughing friends are increasingly a regular sight on the Rail Trail. Such increased social interaction, outside of an isolated vehicle, can also promote a greater sense of community and civic pride.

The City and its partners should continue to increase use of downtown venues and open spaces for arts, entertainment and recreational events. With the dissolution of the downtown Business Improvement District (BID), City policymakers may need to take a more proactive role. This strategy should build on current Westfield on Weekends (WOW) events and any of Westfield State University's plans for a downtown presence. Newer and renovated venues, such as Half Mile Falls Park and the Park Square Green, are well designed for accommodating activities and events, such as outdoor theatrical productions, live concerts, movie screenings and community picnics. Park Square in particular has proven to be a very successful summer concert and event venue. The City's first "Pumpkinfest" took place there in 2016 and drew thousands to the downtown. The closing of Elm Street for pedestrian gatherings and community events has also been utilized successfully. Existing vacant or underutilized spaces within the downtown also offer opportunity sites for efforts geared toward arts and entertainment, including longer term installations of community art, sculptures and public murals. These uses will bring activity to the downtown and will hopefully lead to permanent productive uses within these spaces.

The City should also undertake an analysis of opportunities and feasibility for land acquisition or designation for motorized vehicular recreation, since there are no public lands in Westfield that are open for ATV use. This would provide an outlet for ATV users who are currently operating on private land or sensitive environments, where the activity can be harmful and dangerous. In the short term, the City could provide information to residents about other areas, outside of the City, where ATV trails exist.

Responding to emerging recreation trends and interests, such as pickleball, is a critical task for a responsive community. Similarly, the City needs to evaluate the adequacy of opportunities for teens and young adults. Statewide as in Westfield, adolescents aged 13-18 are one of the most underserved user groups when it comes to meeting their recreational needs. Serving this group may involve creating a teen center or coordinating with efforts of the City's non-profits like the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club, as well as the public schools community. Building another skateboard or BMX park, installing athletic facilities such as basketball courts or indoor soccer fields, publicizing public and private existing recreational facilities and sports leagues, and improving teen-focused programming of existing public spaces such as outdoor movie nights or summer get-togethers are some action that could be undertaken. To best serve Westfield teens, any new recreational facilities and programs should be accessible for those individuals without a driver's license or vehicle. The completed rail trail should contribute to boarder and safer non-vehicular access options.

The Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) bisects the City of Westfield from the east to the west through the north side of the City. Turnpike Exit 3 is the last exit permitting access to the Hilltowns until Exit 2 in Lee. At the junction of Routes 10, 202, and I-91, Exit 3 provides important access to all points north, south, east and west at this location. The influx of this commuter traffic through Westfield's downtown each day inhibited Westfield's ability to cultivate a community identity, and was a major driver behind the Great River Bridge project, completed in 2012. This project over the Westfield River has improved traffic and pedestrian mobility in the City Center. However, it is important that Westfield continues to be mindful of the conflicts and balance between traffic calming measures and the use and effectiveness of an important regional commuter network.

Many of the recreation needs identified in the 2017 Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) update are relevant to Westfield. Surveys found the following as the most popular activities statewide: running, jogging or walking; hiking; swimming in water bodies; road biking;

swimming in pools; and canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or tubing. Youth respondents were asked what activities they would like to try or do more frequently in the next year. Running/jogging/walking, camping, pool swimming and hiking were chosen as the most popular. Biking paths topped an online SCORP survey as the type of facility most favored for addition to a local community, followed by hiking/walking trails. As many of these activities can be accomplished on facilities like the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, or could be river-based, Westfield may be well-positioned to address these emerging statewide recreational trends.

In response to the 2017 Westfield OSRP survey, 50% and 49% of respondents said they would like to see additional Multi-use trails and Hiking trails, respectively, in the City. These needs were followed closely by 46% of respondents calling for more public swimming access and canoe/kayak put-in facilities. While 89% of respondents chose walking as the top recreational activity that they do in Westfield, 60% of respondents indicated that they travel outside of the City in order to hike. This aligns with the result of a question asking what improvements, additions, or changes that people would like to see in Westfield, to which the vast majority (74%) of respondents replied that connecting bike/multi-use trails was most important, and 58% requested restroom facilities. Respondents thought that the recreational needs of the disabled, teenagers, and those without cars are not being adequately met.

## MANAGEMENT NEEDS, POTENTIAL CHANGE OF USE

Limited funding and availability of personnel are the top two needs relative to open space and recreation management in Westfield. Many of the actions identified in the Action Plan in Chapter 9 will require additional funding for implementation, admittedly an often difficult commitment to achieve. The City has a Stormwater Utility which allows for the assessment of fees to be allocated to a designated fund for stormwater related services and projects, and which could contribute to some of the goals in this OSRP. Likewise, Community Preservation Act funds may be tapped as a non general revenue source for open space and recreational land improvement projects. However, overreliance on CPA may inhibit other projects which could advance historic resource preservation or community housing needs. Dedicated personnel to research other grant funds for some of these projects is key to finding more resources. For example, one such opportunity that should be pursued for the implementation of some of the actions related to bicycles are the International Mountain Bike Association and PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program grants for important projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling (up to \$10,000).

Continued coordination within the Department of Public Works and its Parks and Recreation Division on the maintenance of recreation facilities needs to remain a high priority, particularly as there are many newer facilities in Westfield. For example, after the City received state Gateway Cities Parks grant in 2010, Chapman Playground was renovated. The three-acre facility, once run-down with broken and unsafe equipment, now has a spray park, modern playscape, fitness trail, basketball court, open field for softball, soccer and other sports, park lighting, ample parking and restrooms. Sadie Knox has a new spray park, court and play equipment and Whitney Playground has a new playscape. Several downtown parks have also been completely renovated or created, such as the River Esplanade, which included bocce courts, a new recreational amenity for the City. Maintenance of these new features must remain a priority to ensure that the significant recent investments will benefit Westfield residents well into the

future. Likewise, active community vigilance and police patrols of park and recreation facilities are needed after dark, as the late night hours are usually when parks facilities are vandalized.

In an effort to promote sustainable forestry and agriculture, the City of Westfield could evaluate its own forest management practices on watershed lands and investigate other viable forestry products besides timber harvesting, such as edible nut crops. Urban and Community gardening has become very popular in neighboring communities throughout the Pioneer Valley. City residents have expressed an interest in finding space suitable for this, and nearly 40% of OSRP survey respondents said they would like to see community gardens in the City. Partnering with a local food bank or soup kitchen provides community gardeners with an opportunity to pass along surplus food to those in need.

It is important to note that a commitment to proper management of land protected in perpetuity under some form of deed restriction is necessary. Currently, there are a number of parcels with conservation restrictions held by the Westfield Conservation Commission that are not regularly monitored to ensure no unauthorized uses are occurring. Continued coordination between the Conservation Coordinator and City Planner is key to assembling large contiguous blocks of protected open space. Likewise, improved coordination with local land trusts, the Westfield River Watershed Association, Stanley Park and other conservation groups will improve the City's ability to achieve its goals for creating effective protected corridors of open space. The City should support and encourage its Conservation Commission to enforce the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Act, particularly along the rivers and brooks, some of which support MESA-listed species. While there is no local board or official charged with enforcing the provisions of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, the City should consider having the Conservation Commission/Coordinator formally notify development applicants of the presence or absence of Priority Habitat of Rare Species on the subject property.

Lastly, the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee that was formed to facilitate the update of this plan (or some iteration of that group) should remain active to monitor, oversee and coordinate the implementation of these open space and recreation planning efforts city-wide.

## SECTION 8: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The landscape of Westfield includes unique natural features, important wildlife habitat areas, the Westfield River (designated as a National Wild and Scenic River), land significant for water quality protection, and wetland resources. Westfield is also home to a popular State Park, numerous playgrounds, and a multi-use recreation trail that will eventually run through the heart of downtown.

In finalizing the list of goals for the 2018 OSRP update, the City set out to protect and enhance these open spaces and expand recreational resources. With that in mind, this plan's prioritized goals are focused on enhancements, maintenance, protection, acquisition, and stewardship. It is important to note that, though specific action items are listed under broader objectives below, many action items satisfy more than one objective and may even contribute to more than one goal, besides the one it is listed under. Readers may refer to Section 6 to understand the process of developing the community vision that shaped this plan.

### **Goal #1: An abundant and safe drinking water supply for current and future generations.**

---

Objective 1.1: Commercial and industrial growth over the Barnes Aquifer Zone II is well-controlled to prevent aquifer contamination and ensure abundant, clean recharge

*Action 1-1: Continue to participate in the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee (BAPAC) and /or review and renew BAPAC structure in order to have a healthy advisory arm moving forward to comment on Developments of Regional Impact over the Barnes Aquifer.*

*Action 1-2: Enforce against those facilities who fail to submit annual stormwater treatment device maintenance logs to Westfield DPW Stormwater Coordinator.*

*Action 1-3: Update Westfield's "Water Resource Protection" zoning ordinance and other regulatory documents, considering BAPAC's recommendations.*

Objective 1.2: Watershed lands remain healthy and are open to the public for passive recreation

*Action 1-4: Create and distribute a map of watershed roads and trails open for public access (with permit available from the Board of Water Commissioners).*

*Action 1-5: Post signs at watershed lands to inform of their presence, importance and prohibited/allowed activities.*

*Action 1-6: Work with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to open the land at the West Parish Filters to trails and passive public recreation.*

Objective 1.3: Preserve and protect undeveloped parcels in their natural condition in critical recharge areas (the Barnes Aquifer Zone II) and surrounding land

*Action 1-7: Continue to prioritize undeveloped parcels within and near the Zone II and seek funding for their acquisition and long-term preservation, particularly large blocks.*

*Action 1-8: Undertake a comprehensive master plan effort to provide a modern and relevant framework to meet current and future residents' needs in the next 20+ years.*

Objective 1.4: Prevent the contamination of the Barnes Aquifer from road salt or chemicals

*Action 1-9: Continue to support BAPAC's recommendations to monitor private wells in the vicinity of Routes 10 and 202 for road salt contamination.*

*Action 1-10: When reviewing special permits in the Zone II, prohibit use of salt in private parking lots and chemical fertilizers/pesticides on the landscape.*

*Action 1-11: Westfield DPW should continue to explore and utilize environmentally friendly alternatives to sodium chloride on Route 202 and other city maintained roads in the Zone II.*

*Action 1-12: Engage with Westfield Local Emergency Planning Committee to do outreach surrounding issues of chemical safety, particularly in the Zone II.*

*Action 1-13: Design and install roadside signage at multiple access points surrounding the Barnes Aquifer to delineate the aquifer and to educate about this sensitive resource.*

## **Goal #2: Large, protected connected blocks of open space which preserve landscape character and viable wildlife habitat corridors**

---

Objective 2.1: Prioritize funding for land acquisition to create contiguous blocks of protected open space

*Action 2-1. Increase annual CPA budget allocations for open space projects.*

Objective 2.2: Work with private land owners to secure public access, particularly for trails which may span several properties

Objective 2.3: Ensure local ordinances and regulations encourage the preservation of open space in a thoughtful and meaningful way to promote habitat corridor connectivity

*Action 2-2: Review, revise, and strengthen the Transfer of Developments Rights and Open Space Residential Development Ordinances to ensure the provisions therein encourage the connectivity of large, protected blocks of open space. Revisions should include provisions such as density bonuses to incentivize over traditional subdivision development.*

*Action 2-3: Work with property owners and local land trusts to pursue land conservation in areas of critical importance for or ecosystem structure and function including East Mountain, the Westfield River corridor, and the eastern slopes of Tekoa/Ball and Westfield Mountains.*

Objective 2.3: Promote the preservation of farmland and working landscapes.

*Action 2-4: Continue to work with property owners and local land trusts in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B to pursue permanent development restrictions on their land.*

*Action 2-5: Promote Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on farmland and prioritize expenditures on parcels with permanently protected land abutting, as specified in the City's Community Preservation Plan.*

*Action 2-6: Encourage forest owners to participate in Chapter 61B and/or develop forest management plans for the long-term sustainable harvest of timber products.*

*Action 2-7: Adopt a Right-to-Farm ordinance and create an Agricultural Commission.*

Objective 2.4: Ensure surface waters meet designated water quality standards and function as important fishery and wildlife habitat as part of the larger Westfield River watershed

*Action 2-8: Continue strict adherence to conservation policy of not allowing any land disturbance within 50 feet of regulated resource areas.*

*Action 2-9: Perform regular inspections of permitted stormwater management systems.*

*Action 2-10: Investigate testing of surface water quality regarding suitability for fish and wildlife habitat.*

**Goal #3: An intermodal city-wide transportation network linked to the open space and recreational fabric, and which supports the community's identity.**

Objective 3.1: Support an alternative transportation network for active recreation along a green corridor

*Action 3-1: Continue to support funding, design and the final construction phase of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in the downtown, and ultimately its connections with neighborhoods, including potential use of utility/levee corridors for connections/spurs.*

*Action 3-2: Explore possible greenway trail extension/bicycle route north of the Westfield River (ultimately as part of the regional bicycle network)*

*Action 3-3: Connect to neighborhoods, city attractions and destinations with marked routes, bicycle parking facilities, share the road signage/sharrows, and "cyclist use full lanes" signage where applicable.*

*Action 3-4: Support protection, access and maintenance of the regional Metacomet Mondanock Trail.*

Objective 3.2: Ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all modes of transportation, including pedestrians

*Action 3-5: Continue to replace pavement, improve streetscape and treebelts in downtown neighborhoods, along Sibley and Madison Streets.*

*Action 3-6: Support development of the planned separate multi-use path along Western Ave, from the University to the City Center.*

*Action 3-7: Deliver bicycle education and disseminate educational materials to bicyclists of all ages and abilities to improve skill, learn rules of the road, build confidence and ensure safe riding.*

*Action 3-8: Develop a sidewalk connection from the Country Club Drive/Colony Drive neighborhoods to the Rail Trail at Shaker Road.*

Objective 3.3: Street trees are well-maintained and contribute to a positive community identity city-wide

*Action 3-9: Develop a comprehensive inventory of street trees in Westfield, beginning with the downtown, including a detailed management plan to ensure their maximum life expectancy.*

**Goal #4: Recreational and open space facilities which are available and comparable for residents of all neighborhoods, ages, classes and abilities.**

Objective 4.1: Undertake the improvement of existing facilities most in need

*Action 4-1: Upgrade basketball court, tennis court, playscape at Little River Playground.*

*Action 4-2 Renovate basketball court, baseball field and irrigation at Hampton Ponds Playground.*

Objective 4.2: Adequate financial resources are dedicated to the maintenance of existing park and recreation facilities

*Action 4-3: Repeat the city parks cleanup day, establish it as an annual event, and elicit broad participation from local businesses, schools, volunteers and neighborhood groups.*

*Action 4-4: Advocate to policymakers for effective park maintenance and personnel resources during the city budget process.*

Objective 4.3: Utilize existing open space and recreational facilities to the maximum extent possible

*Action 4-5: Develop a method for monitoring, controlling and responding to unauthorized dumping and ATV use.*

*Action 4-6: Post signage identifying lesser-known city open space lands (Pitoniak, Ponders Hollow, Sampson Properties etc).*

*Action 4-7: Perform annual monitoring of city conservation land.*

*Action 4-8: Investigate social media/apps relative to publicizing and wayfinding for city parks and open spaces.*

Objective 4.4: Support the development of new facilities and amenities, such as community gardens and inclusive playgrounds

Objective 4.5: Promote preservation and recreational use of surface waters

*Action 4-9: Work with user groups to develop safe access to and appropriate use of rivers, brooks and ponds, including signage and maps.*

Objective 4.6: Provide recreational and open space facilities in underserved areas

*Action 4-10: Work with user groups and neighborhoods to develop a constituency for new facilities and identify underserved areas or user groups.*

*Action 4-11: Continue to focus parks investments in the City Center and other neighborhoods with environmental justice populations.*

## SECTION 9: SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The seven year action plan is based on the vision, goals and objectives presented in the previous sections. While some of the actions from the 2010 plan are carried forward as ongoing, or in progress, others are newly presented as a result of revised analysis, new public input, and changing conditions. Input received during the planning process shows a high level of activity already underway on many of these steps. In addition to the more detailed action plan below, many key items are geographically displayed on the Action Plan, with priorities mapped in Appendix A.

Accompanying each prioritized action, the plan identifies the “who,” “when,” and “how” to indicate who will best lead the charge on implementation, in what time frame, and with what resources. This approach is critical to ensuring the goals of this plan are achieved, or at least progressed, in the next seven years. Even with this delineation of responsibilities, an underlying need for the OSRP committee, or some segment of the committee, to remain intact persists to ensure the implementation on a year-to-year basis of these actions. An implementation committee should be comprised of representatives from city staff and existing boards and commissions that will be in charge of ensuring this Plan remains publicized, used and followed. The committee could meet bi-annually, or even annually, to work towards overall implementation of the plan and to ensure that public outreach and education efforts are achieved.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE 2010 PLAN

The City has made great strides implementing many of the recommendations and specific actions presented in the 2010 OSRP. While some of the 2010 actions have been completed, others are still in process and will be carried forward in the 2018 plan update as ongoing. A summary of significant accomplishments and updates to the 2010 Westfield OSRP Seven Year Action Plan follow.

TABLE 9-1: STATUS OF 2010 ACTION ITEMS

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
<b>2010 Goal #1: Drinking water supplies remain safe and abundant for future generations</b>		
1-1	<i>Continue to participate in the Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee and review and comment on Developments of Regional Impact over the Barnes Aquifer.</i>	Ongoing – City participates in BAPAC, attends monthly BAPAC meetings, which regularly provides review and comment on Developments of Regional Impact over the Barnes Aquifer
1-2	<i>Require the Building Inspector to perform post-construction site visits to ensure all permitted stormwater treatment and recharge devices, structures, and systems are built to specification. Enforce against non-compliant property owners.</i>	Complete - Planning Board requires submission of as-built plans and project engineer’s certification that works was done to plans. City engineering/ stormwater staff verify with field inspections.
1-3	<i>Require commercial and industrial facilities to submit annual stormwater treatment device maintenance logs to Westfield Water Department, and enforce against those that do not.</i>	Ongoing - Planning Board standard approval conditions requires annual submission of inspection logs to the Stormwater Coordinator (DPW)
1-6	<i>Prioritize undeveloped parcels within the Zone II and seek funding for their acquisition and preservation.</i>	Ongoing - CPA plan specifically prioritizes properties located in the Zone II for funding/protection.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
1-9	<i>The Westfield DPW should continue to utilize environmentally friendly alternatives to sodium chloride on Route 202 and other City maintained roads in the Zone II.</i>	In progress - DPW is planning to implement application of a brine solution pretreatment in order to reduce overall salt needs
<b>2010 Goal #2: Large, connected blocks of open space are protected from development to ensure habitat corridors for wildlife.</b>		
2-1	<i>Perform a review of the Transfer of Developments Rights Bylaw, Flexible Development Bylaw, and Open Space Residential Development Bylaw to ensure the provisions of these bylaws encourage the connectivity of large, protected blocks of open space.</i>	Complete – ordinances reviewed (there is no “Flexible Development Bylaw”). TDR incentives are not strong enough to encourage its use; OSRD incentives/flexibility should be increased though subdivision growth has dramatically slowed.
2-2	<i>Revise the Open Space Residential Development Bylaw to incentivize over traditional subdivision development, and achieve the protection of critical parcels for ecosystem structure and function.</i>	In progress - OSRD has been used creatively with ANR development to preserve land. Planning Board has altered its filing requirements and fee schedule to incentivize/encourage preparation of an OSRD alternative, though the ordinance itself has not been revised.
2-3	<i>Promote Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on farmland and prioritize expenditures on APR lands for parcels with permanently protected abutting land.</i>	Ongoing - Planning Dept. and CPA committee continue to support and encourage participation in the APR program. CPA plan prioritizes lands abutting protected property and has funded same.
2-4	<i>Work with property owners in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B to pursue permanent easements on their land.</i>	Ongoing – Planning, Conservation and CPA committee continue to support and encourage protection of lands, though actions have been more reactive than proactive.
2-6	<i>Adopt a Right to Farm Bylaw.</i>	In progress - studied but not moved forward; requires City Council support
2-9	<i>Work with CPA Committee to adopt guidelines for spending money on land acquisition based on criteria for prioritization.</i>	Complete - CPA plan has been updated (2016) and lists criteria guidelines for land protection.
<b>2010 Goal #3: Promote an inter-connected, city-wide transportation network that supports community identity.</b>		
3-1	<i>Continue to advance funding possibilities through MASSDOT processes and use municipal ordinances to prevent actions that would make the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail impassable/impracticable.</i>	Ongoing - Significant work has been completed and planned/funded to finish the rail trail project; final phase is nearing completion
3-2	<i>Focus city and community efforts, and leverage community support by executing a public information campaign and creating a “Friends of the Greenway” community Group.</i>	Complete - FOCGT group was created and was instrumental in moving the project forward.
3-4	<i>Support design and construction of the Columbia Greenway Bike Trail in the downtown, and ultimately connections with neighboring communities.</i>	Ongoing - Significant work has been completed and planned/funded to finish the rail trail project. Trail routes north of the river (to Southampton) have been looked at preliminarily.

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT STATUS
3-5	<i>Connect to neighborhoods, City attractions and destinations with marked routes, share the road signage, sharrows, and “cyclist use full lanes” signage where applicable.</i>	Ongoing - Signage/sparrows have been installed as part of the North Elm St. improvements. Other projects (Franklin St., Western Ave) have similar planned provisions.
3-6	<i>Promote streetscape improvements on Elm Street and the City center.</i>	Completed/constructed (Elm St./Gaslight District)
3-7	<i>Continue to replace pavement, streetscape, and treebelt on Maple, Morris, Sibley, and Madison Streets.</i>	In progress - Maple and Morris have been completed/constructed
3-8	<i>Develop a bike lane between downtown and Westfield State College.</i>	In progress - Western Ave. planned improvements include a separate multi-use path.
3-9	<i>Develop a comprehensive inventory of street trees in Westfield including a detailed management plan to ensure their maximum life expectancy.</i>	In progress – A pilot downtown street tree inventory is planned
<b>2010 Goal #4: Utilize existing recreational facilities to the maximum extent possible and support the development of new facilities in coordination with municipal infrastructure projects.</b>		
4-1	<i>Seek funding for the design of a riverfront park along the southern side of the Westfield River connecting to the Great River Bridge Project.</i>	Completed/constructed, (River Esplanade Park)
4-2	<i>Coordinate riverfront park design with the dike elevation project.</i>	Completed
4-3	<i>Focus parks in the City Center and abutting neighborhoods with environmental justice populations.</i>	Ongoing - Several parks in EJ neighborhoods have been improved or created: Whitney, Sadie Knox, Chapman Playgrounds as well as Half Mile Falls, Woman’s Temperance, Gateway Park, Park Square, Kane-Wojtkiewicz, White Street Pocket Park, Columbia Greenway.
4-4	<i>Establish an annual city parks cleanup day.</i>	Ongoing – The City held one city parks cleanup day. The City also has an annual Earth Day cleanup.
4-5	<i>Inventory municipal playground structures and prioritize facilities for improvements.</i>	Completed
4-6	<i>Continue to support the Business Improvement District’s (BID) sponsorship of local events such as the Summer Concert on the Green Series.</i>	No longer applicable - BID has been dissolved.
4-7	<i>Submit PARC Grant for renovations to Chapman Playground.</i>	Complete - Submitted/awarded; Renovation work completed 2012
4-8	<i>Identify locations suitable for water-based recreation.</i>	Complete - Studied/inventoried (Planning Dept.)

## 2018-2025 SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

TABLE 9-2: SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	HOW
<b>Goal #1: An abundant and safe drinking water supply for current and future generations</b>				
<b>Higher Priority Actions</b>				
1-1	Continue to participate in BAPAC and /or review and renew BAPAC structure in order to have a healthy advisory arm moving forward review and comment on Developments of Regional Impact over the Barnes Aquifer	DPW/Water Dept., Planning Dept., Conservation Commission, Mayor	2018-2025	Staff time
1-2	Enforce against those facilities who fail to submit annual stormwater treatment device maintenance logs to Westfield DPW Stormwater Coordinator	DPW Stormwater Coordinator, Planning Board, Building Inspector	2018-2025	Staff time
1-10	When reviewing special permits in the Zone II, prohibit use of salt in private parking lots and chemical fertilizers/pesticides on the landscape	Planning Board, City Council	2018-2025	Staff time
1-13	Design and install roadside signage at multiple access points surrounding the Barnes Aquifer to delineate the aquifer and to educate about this sensitive resource	DPW/Water Dept , with BAPAC input	2018-2019	Staff time, budget appropriation
<b>Medium Priority Actions</b>				
1-3	Update Westfield's "Water Resource Protection" zoning ordinance and other regulatory documents, considering BAPAC's recommendations	City Council/ Natural Resources Cmtee., Planning Board	2018-2019	Staff time, volunteer time
1-7	Continue to prioritize undeveloped parcels within the Zone II and outlying buffer protection zone and seek funding for their acquisition and long-term preservation, particularly large blocks.	DPW/Water Dept., Planning Dept., CPA Committee	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, CPA funds for acquisition & preservation
1-9	Continue to support BAPAC's recommendations to monitor private wells in the vicinity of Routes 10 and 202 for road salt contamination	DPW/Water Dept., Department, Health Dept.	2018-2024	Staff time, volunteer time
1-11	Westfield DPW should continue to explore and utilize environmentally friendly alternatives to sodium chloride on Route 202 and other city maintained roads in the Zone II.	DPW	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, budget appropriation

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	HOW
1-12	Engage with Westfield Local Emergency Planning Committee to do outreach surrounding issues of chemical safety, particularly in the Zone II	DPW/Water Dept Emergency Planning Comm., Conservation Commission	2018-2020	Staff time, volunteer time,
<b>Lower Priority Actions</b>				
1-4	Create and distribute a map of watershed roads and trails open for public access (with permit available from the Board of Water Commissioners)	DPW/Water Dept, Board of Water Commissioners	2018-2020	Staff time
1-5	Post signs at watershed lands to inform of their presence, importance and prohibited/allowed activities.	DPW/Water Dept.,	2018-2020	Staff time, budget appropriation
1-6	Work with the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission to open the land at the West Parish Filters to trails and passive public recreation.	DPW/Water Dept, CPA Committee	2020-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, CPA funds
1-8	Undertake a comprehensive master plan effort to provide a modern and relevant framework to meet current and future residents' needs in the next 20+ years	Ad hoc committee, Planning Board/ Comm. Dev. Dept, with DPW/Water Dept, Health Dept.	2022-2025	Staff time, volunteer time paid consultant/ budget appropriation
<b>Goal #2: Large, protected connected blocks of open space which preserve landscape character and viable wildlife habitat corridors</b>				
<b>Higher Priority Actions</b>				
2-3	Work with property owners and local land trusts to pursue land conservation in areas of critical importance for or ecosystem structure and function including East Mountain, the Westfield River corridor, and the eastern slopes of Tekoa/Ball and Westfield Mountains	CPA Committee, Conservation Commission, Planning Dept.	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time,
2-5	Promote Agricultural Preservation Restrictions on farmland and prioritize expenditures on parcels with permanently protected land abutting, as specified in the City's Community Preservation Plan	Planning Board/ Dept., CPA Committee	2018-2024	Staff time, volunteer time, CPA funds for promotional materials and APR purchases, Conservation Partnership Grant funds, Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds, LAND – Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity funds
2-8	Continue strict adherence to conservation policy of not allowing any land disturbance within 50 feet of regulated resource areas	Conservation Commission	2018-2025	Staff time

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	HOW
<b>Medium Priority Actions</b>				
2-2	Review, revise, and strengthen the Transfer of Developments Rights and Open Space Residential Development Ordinances to ensure the provisions therein encourage the connectivity of large, protected blocks of open space. Revisions should include provisions such as density bonuses to incentivize over traditional subdivision development.	Planning Board/ Dept.	2020- 2023	Staff time, volunteer time, PVPC Local Technical Assistance Program, possible budget appropriation for graduate student research project
2-4	Continue to work with property owners and local land trusts in Chapter 61, 61A and 61B to pursue permanent development restrictions on their land	Planning Board/ Dept., CPA Committee, Conservation Commission, City Council	2018- 2025	Staff time, volunteer time, CPA funds for promotional materials and purchase of conservation easements, Conservation Partnership Grant funds
2-6	Encourage forest owners to participate in Chapter 61B and/or develop forest management plans for the long-term sustainable harvest of timber products	Conservation Commission, Assessor, DPW/Water Dept.	2018- 2025	Staff time, volunteer time.
2-9	Perform regular inspections of permitted stormwater management systems.	DPW Stormwater Coordinator,	2018- 2025	Staff time, landowner cooperation
<b>Lower Priority Actions</b>				
2-1	Increase annual CPA budget allocations for open space projects	CPA Committee	2018- 2025	Budget appropriation
2-7	Adopt a Right-to-Farm ordinance and create an Agricultural Commission	Ad hoc committee, City Council	2018- 2020	Staff time, volunteer time, PVPC Local Technical Assistance Program
2-10	Investigate testing of surface water quality regarding suitability for fish and wildlife habitat.	Conservation Commission	2018- 2025	Staff time, landowner cooperation
<b>Goal #3: An intermodal city-wide transportation network linked to the open space and recreational fabric, and which supports the community's identity.</b>				
<b>Higher Priority Actions</b>				
3-1	Continue to support funding, design and the final construction phase of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail in the downtown, and ultimately its connections with neighborhoods, including potential use of utility/levee corridors for connections/spurs.	Engineering Dept., DPW, CPA Committee, City Council	2018- 2025	Staff time, MassDOT funds, CPA funds, MA Gateway Parks Program; Conservation Partnership Grant, for potential non-profit involvement; Federal LWCF; LAND – Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity fund; PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities fund, Rec. Trails Program fund.

	ACTION	WHO	WHEN	HOW
3-6	Support development of the planned separate multi-use path along Western Ave, from the University to the City Center	Engineering Dept., City Council	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, MASSDOT funds
3-8	Develop a sidewalk connection from the Country Club Drive/Colony Drive neighborhoods to the Rail Trail at Shaker Road	Engineering Dept.,	2018-2020	Staff time, sidewalk fund, budget appropriation
<b>Medium Priority Actions</b>				
3-3	Connect to neighborhoods, city attractions and destinations with marked routes, bicycle parking facilities, share the road signage/sharrows, and “cyclist use full lanes” signage where applicable.	Engineering Dept., DPW	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time,
3-7	Deliver bicycle education and disseminate educational materials to bicyclists of all ages and abilities to improve skill, learn rules of the road, build confidence and ensure safe riding	Police Dept., Schools Dept., user groups	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time,
<b>Lower Priority Actions</b>				
3-2	Explore possible greenway trail extension/bicycle route north of the Westfield River (ultimately as part of the regional bicycle network)	Engineering Dept., Planning Dept.,	2020-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, possible budget appropriation for graduate student research project
3-4	Support protection, access and maintenance of the regional Metacomet Mondanock Trail.	Conservation Commission, CPA Committee, Planning Dept.	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, CPA funds
3-5	Continue to replace pavement, improve streetscape and treebelts in downtown neighborhoods, along Sibley and Madison Streets	Engineering Dept., City Council,	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, MASSDOT funds, CDBG funds
3-9	Develop a comprehensive inventory of street trees in Westfield, beginning with the downtown, including a detailed management plan to ensure their maximum life expectancy	DPW/Natural Resources, Engineering Dept.	2018-2021	Staff time, volunteer time, GIS, DCR grants when available
<b>Goal #4: Recreational and open space facilities which are available and comparable for residents of all neighborhoods, ages, classes and abilities.</b>				
<b>Higher Priority Actions</b>				
4-2	Renovate basketball court, baseball field and irrigation at Hampton Ponds Playground.	Parks and Recreation Comm., Engineering Dept., Comm. Dev. Dept., CPA Committee	2019-2022	Staff time, Massachusetts Gateway Parks Program fund;; PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Fund; CPA funds

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>HOW</b>
4-4	Advocate to policymakers for effective park maintenance and personnel resources during the city budget process.	DPW/Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Dept./ Commission	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time, budget appropriation
4-7	Perform annual monitoring of city conservation land	Conservation Commission/ Coordinator	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time
<b>Medium Priority Actions</b>				
4-1	Upgrade basketball court, tennis court, playscape at Little River Playground.	Parks and Recreation Comm., Engineering Dept., Comm. Dev. Dept., CPA Committee	2022-2025	Staff time, Massachusetts Gateway Parks Program fund,; PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Fund; CPA
4-3	Repeat the city parks cleanup day, establish it as an annual event, and elicit broad participation from local businesses, schools, volunteers and neighborhood groups	DPW/Parks and Recreation Dept./ Commission, user groups	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time; modest budget appropriation
4-10	Work with user groups and neighborhoods to develop a constituency for new facilities and amenities (such as pickleball courts and inclusive playgrounds) and identify underserved areas or user groups.	Parks and Recreation Comm., Comm. Dev. Dept., CPA Committee	2018-2025	Staff time, volunteer time
4-11	Continue to focus parks investments in the City Center and other neighborhoods with environmental justice populations	Parks and Recreation Comm., Comm. Dev. Dept., CPA Committee	2018-2025	Staff time, Massachusetts Gateway Parks Program fund; PARC – Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Fund; CPA
<b>Lower Priority Actions</b>				
4-5	Develop a method for monitoring, controlling and responding to unauthorized dumping and ATV use.	Police Dept., Conservation Commission	2018-2020	Staff time, volunteer time, landowner cooperation
4-6	Post signage identifying lesser-known city open space lands (Pitoniak, Ponders Hollow, Sampson Properties etc).	Conservation Commission, DPW/Parks and Recreation Dept. CPA Committee	2018-2020	Staff time, volunteer/ trade student time
4-8	Investigate social media/apps relative to publicizing and wayfinding for city parks and open spaces.	Parks and Rec. Comm., Outreach Coordinator, Conservation Commission	2022-2025	Staff time, volunteer time
4-9	Work with user groups to develop safe access to and appropriate use of rivers, brooks and ponds, including signage and maps.	Parks and Rec. Comm. Conservation Commission, Comm. Dev. Dept.	2020-2025	Staff time, volunteer time,

## SECTION 10: PUBLIC COMMENTS

PLANNING BOARD LETTER

MAYOR LETTER

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION LETTER



*City of Westfield*  
PLANNING BOARD

William Carellas, Chair  
Cheryl Crowe, Vice Chair  
John Bowen  
Robert Goyette, Jr.  
Jane Magarian  
Philip McEwan  
Raymond St. Hilaire  
Bernard Puza, Associate

July 17, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

The Westfield Planning Board has reviewed the City's draft 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan. This Board was well-presented in the plan development, with two of us serving on the plan's advisory committee. The plan represents a rare opportunity to take a city-wide approach to longer-range and "big picture" planning.

The Board finds that the plan grew out of a commendable community outreach effort, represents a comprehensive inventory of our current facilities and needs, and provides a clearly-articulated path of objectives and actions based on four important goals. As such, we fully support and endorse the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan and hope to see it materialize over the coming years.

Sincerely,

William Carellas  
Chair



# City of Westfield

**BRIAN P. SULLIVAN  
MAYOR**



City Hall  
59 Court Street  
Westfield MA 01085

Telephone: (413) 572-6200  
Fax: (413) 572-6274

July 20, 2018

RE: 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan

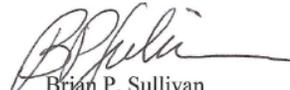
To Whom It May Concern:

I lend my full support to Westfield's recently updated draft *Open Space and Recreation Plan*. The document was developed from a comprehensive planning and outreach effort and will serve as an important resource for informing policy and funding decisions through 2025, and beyond. Therefore, I ask all city boards, commissions and departments to strive toward accomplishing the important objectives outlined in the plan.

Westfield is proud to have completed several significant open space and recreational objectives identified in our 2010 planning effort, including several park upgrades, land preservation efforts, and development of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail. This 2018 update builds on the path charted by the prior plan. The four stated goals are worthy of highlighting here as they relate to important and timely aspects of Westfield's open space, recreation and land use concerns: the drinking water supply, connected blocks of open space, our transportation network, and facilities which are available to all. The plan addresses these current and future needs and presents a clearly-defined path of actions which support these worthy goals.

I'd like to thank the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee for their commitment and guidance, and I urge all members of the Westfield community to read the plan to and to support and advocate for its implementation.

Sincerely,



Brian P. Sullivan  
Mayor



Catalyst for Regional Progress

**PVPC**

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director

July 12, 2018

Melissa Cryan  
Division of Conservation Services  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) supports the City of Westfield's 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) update. PVPC helped develop Westfield's plan and finds it consistent with the Division of Conservation Service's OSRP requirements as well as the regional land use plan Valley Vision 4.

The City of Westfield's OSRP addresses important issues related to its open space and natural areas, in many ways echoing the "play and connect" themes presented in its 2009 *Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield* plan which focus heavily on promoting the arts, entertainment, and recreation in downtown Westfield. The plan advances projects to improve recreational opportunities for all residents, recommending continuing progress on the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, expanding city-wide opportunities for safe bicycling, analyzing opportunities for motorized vehicular recreation, and developing neighborhood pocket parks in downtown-adjacent neighborhoods to increase access to parks and promote a greater sense of neighborhood community. The plan also seeks to make the City more comfortable for pedestrians by installing or improving sidewalks, especially in areas near schools. Finally, the plan highlights the need to develop a city-wide comprehensive master plan to provide a complete guide for future actions in all parts of the City based on residents' vision for the future.

This OSRP has a stated goal of creating effective protected corridors of open space, and recognizes the need for coordination between city departments, local land trusts, the Westfield River Watershed Association, Stanley Park and other conservation groups to improve the City's ability to realize this goal. PVPC supports Westfield's land protection goals, particularly for land identified on PVPC's 2014 Priority Protection Areas (PPA) Map as climate resilient areas highlighting the most ecologically important parcels and landscapes for protection in the region. As Westfield develops land protection strategies as outlined in the OSRP action plan, it should also refer to PVPC's PPA map to identify areas where land protection can create contiguous corridors and meet other regional environmental protection goals.

In summary, PVPC supports the goals, objectives, and actions outlined in the Westfield 2017 OSRP Action Plan.

Sincerely,

Timothy W. Brennan  
Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 60 Congress Street - Floor 1, Springfield, MA 01104-3419  
phone 413.781.6045 fax 413.732.2593 TTY 413.781.7168 www.pvpc.org

## SECTION 11: REFERENCES

- A Plan for Open Space and Recreation* for Westfield, Massachusetts, 1978.
- A Plan for Open Space and Recreation* for Westfield, Massachusetts, 1991.
- A Plan for Open Space and Recreation* for Westfield, Massachusetts, 1998.
- A Plan for Open Space and Recreation* for Westfield, Massachusetts, 2004.
- American Heart Association Meeting Report Abstract 134 (Room W203)*, November 2015. Accessed <http://newsroom.heart.org/news/moving-to-a-walking-neighborhood-is-good-for-your-blood-pressure?preview=17da>
- Application to the Massachusetts Highway Department for Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) funding for a Westfield Rail Trail, FY1997.*
- City of Westfield Assessors property database*
- City of Westfield Department of Engineering website*, [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org)
- City of Westfield GIS database*
- City of Westfield Department of Planning website*, [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org)
- City of Westfield Department of Parks & Recreation website*, [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org)
- City of Westfield Conservation Commission website*, [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org)
- City of Westfield Planning Board - Report of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Advisory Committee*, January 2016
- City of Westfield Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2014
- City of Westfield, Massachusetts, 2016 DRAFT Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report*, City of Westfield Office of Community Development, August 2017. Accessed: <http://www.cityofwestfield.org/documentcenter/view/5370>
- City of Westfield, Massachusetts, Five Year Consolidated Plan and First Year Action Plan (Consolidated Plan) Fiscal Years 2015-2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)*, City of Westfield Office of Community Development, July 2015. Accessed October 2017. <http://www.cityofwestfield.org/documentcenter/view/2317>
- City of Westfield Water Conservation Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2005
- Hampden County Registry of Deeds online database*
- Mass Audubon Losing Ground Fifth Edition Report, 2014*. Accessed October 2017. [https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/losing-ground-report/losing-ground-fifth-edition-statistics/\(areaid\)/328](https://www.massaudubon.org/our-conservation-work/advocacy/shaping-the-future-of-your-community/publications-community-resources/losing-ground-report/losing-ground-fifth-edition-statistics/(areaid)/328)

*Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System*, MA Historical Commission. Accessed December 2017 <http://mhc-macris.net>

*Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development (EOLWD), 2013*. Accessed October 2017. [http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/top\\_employer\\_list.asp?gstfips=25&areatype=05&gcountycode=000453](http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/top_employer_list.asp?gstfips=25&areatype=05&gcountycode=000453)

*Massachusetts Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Employment & Wages Data (Es-202)*, Accessed October 2017. <http://lmi2.detma.org/lmi/town202data.asp>

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health, obesity statistics* Accessed December 2017. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/community-health/mass-in-motion/obesity-stats/>

*Massachusetts Outdoor Recreation Map*, MA DFG/MassWildlife & MA DCR. Accessed December 2017. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/recreation/licensing-pubs/recreation-map.pdf>

*Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017*, MA EOEEA. <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>

*MassGIS Landuse*, 2005. <http://www.state.ma.us/mgis/lus.htm>

*Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett Trail System*, Draft Report, National Park Service, 2006.

*MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Westfield*, MA Historical Commission, typescript, 1982

*New solar farm activated at former Westfield landfill*, WWLP.com, Published May 21, 2015. Accessed October, 2017 <http://wwlp.com/2015/05/21/new-solar-farm-activated-at-former-westfield-landfill/>

*Open Space Planners Workbook*, Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Revised 2008.

*Preserving Westfield's Farms*, Robin Gorgone (Westfield State College), 1997. Westfield Open Space Committee Members and Associates, 1997 – 1998.

*Reading the Land, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape a Guide to Identification and Protection*, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2008.

*Re-Thinking Downtown Westfield: Comprehensive Downtown Housing & Economic Development Action Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.

*Westfield, MA: A City for Walking and Biking*, WSU GARP 219: Land Use and Resource Planning class, (Professor MJ Bull, PhD) June 2015

*Westfield River Greenway Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 1993.

*Westfield Reconnaissance Report*, Connecticut River Valley Reconnaissance Survey, Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program, by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, June 2009.

*Westfield River Five Year Watershed Action Plan*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2006.

*Westfield Urban Forestry Project*, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2004.

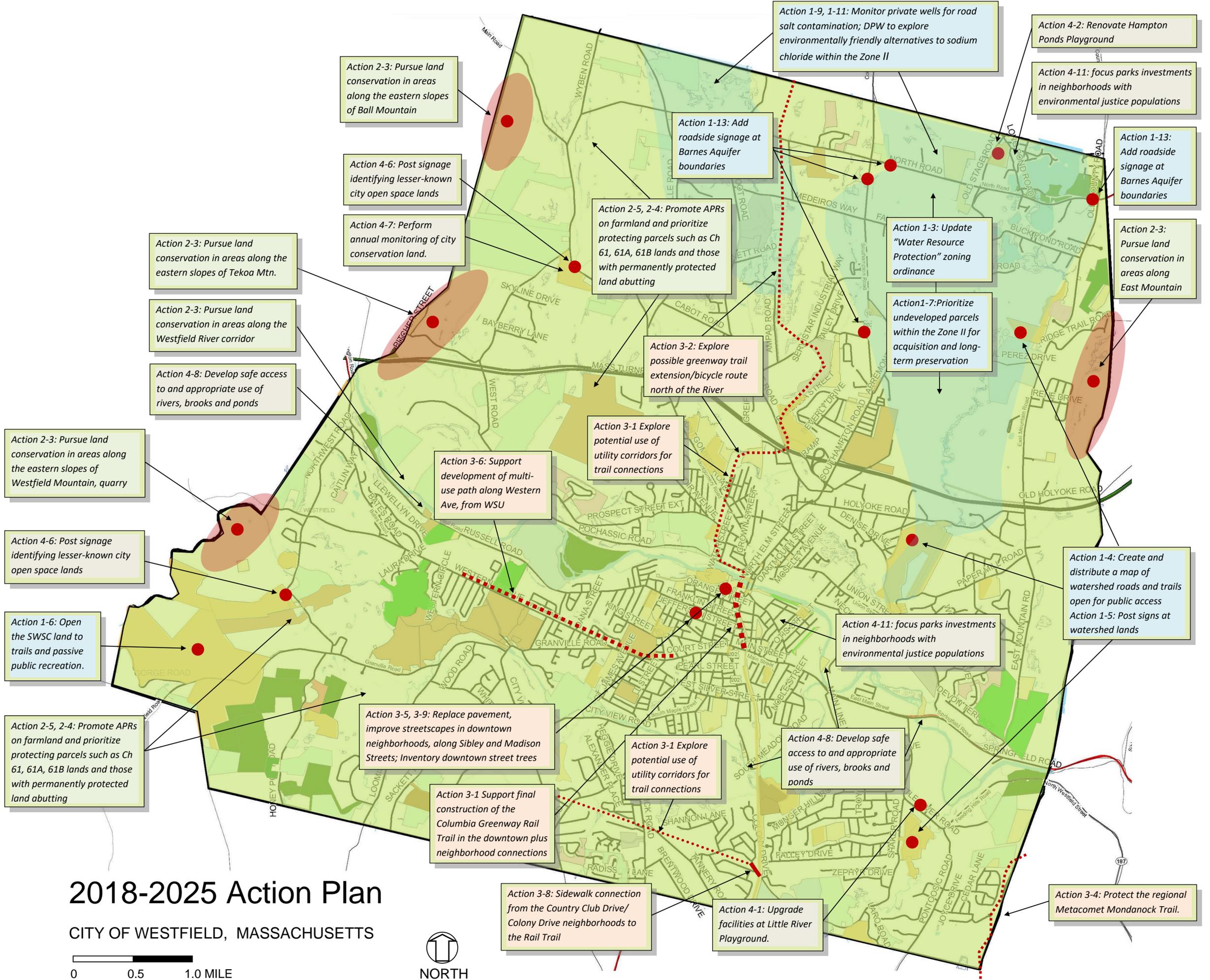
*U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates S1601 - language spoken at home*

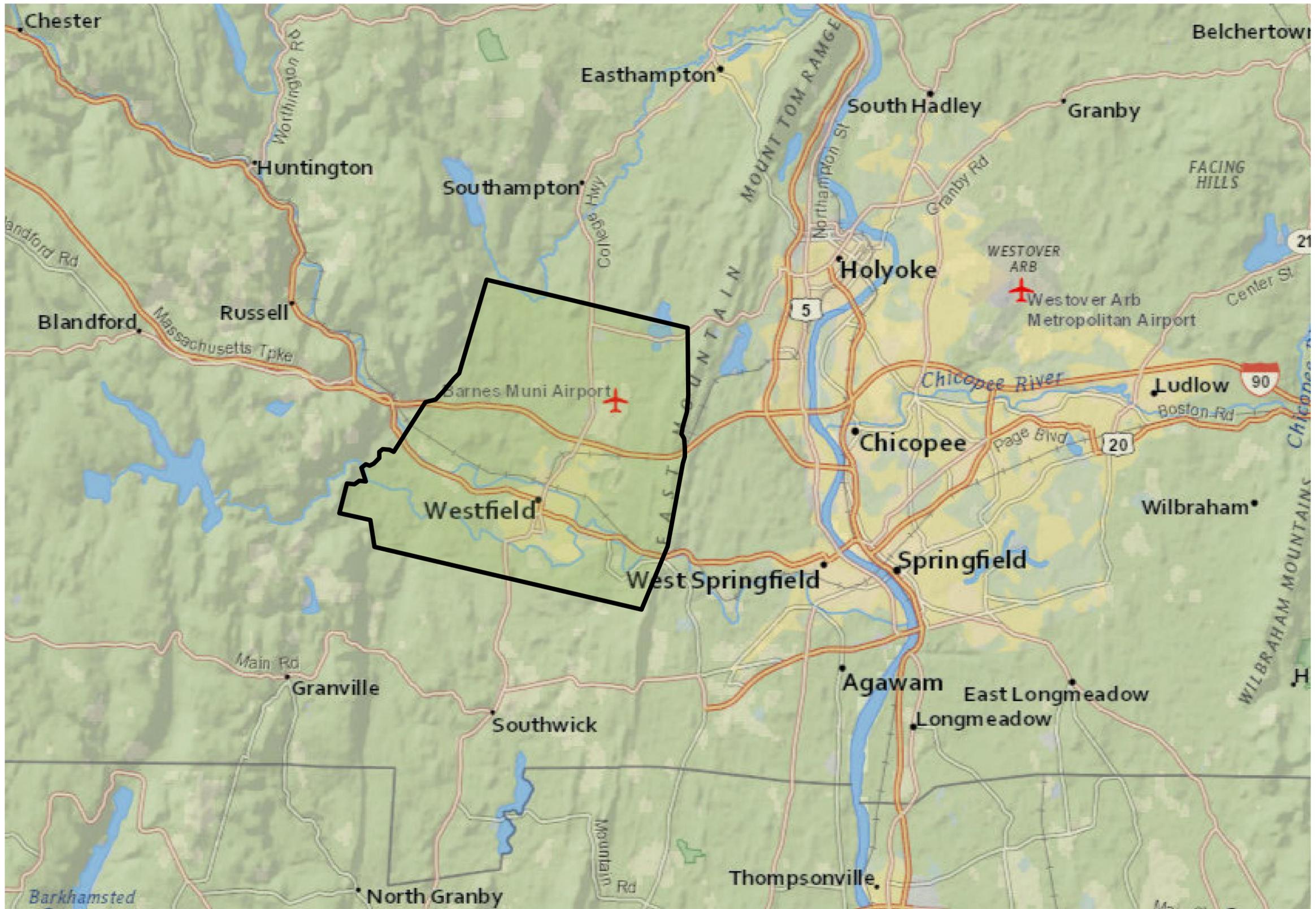
## SECTION 12: APPENDICES

### Appendix A. MAPS

- Seven Year Action Plan
- Regional Context
- Open Space
- Environmental Justice Areas
- Zoning
- Soils & Geologic Features
- Detailed Soils Inventory
- Water Resources
- Scenic & Unique Features

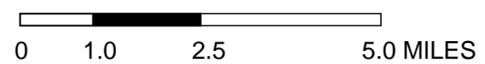






## Regional Context

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



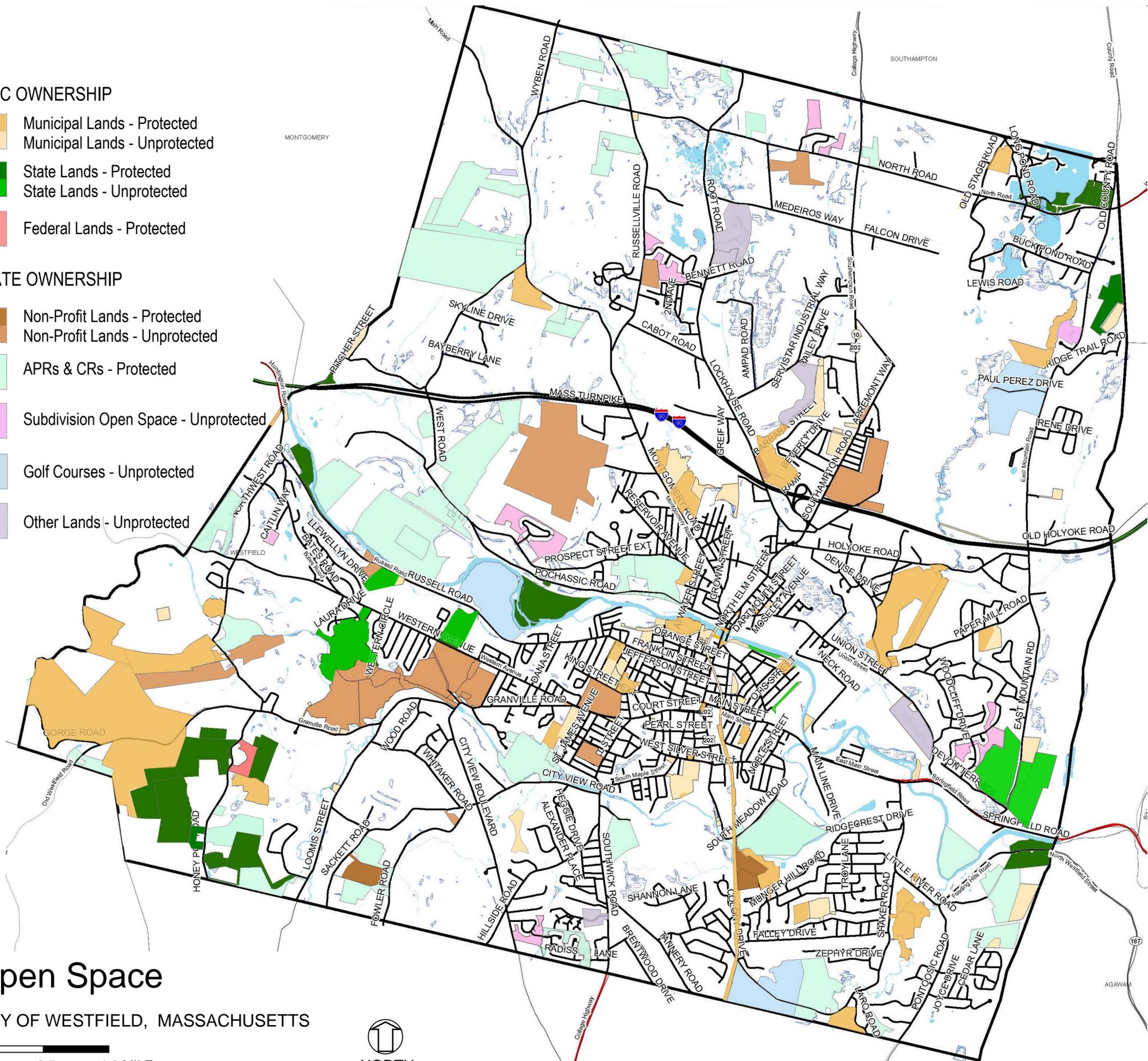
NORTH

**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP**

- Municipal Lands - Protected
- Municipal Lands - Unprotected
- State Lands - Protected
- State Lands - Unprotected
- Federal Lands - Protected

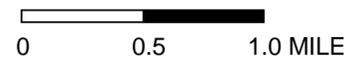
**PRIVATE OWNERSHIP**

- Non-Profit Lands - Protected
- Non-Profit Lands - Unprotected
- APRs & CRs - Protected
- Subdivision Open Space - Unprotected
- Golf Courses - Unprotected
- Other Lands - Unprotected

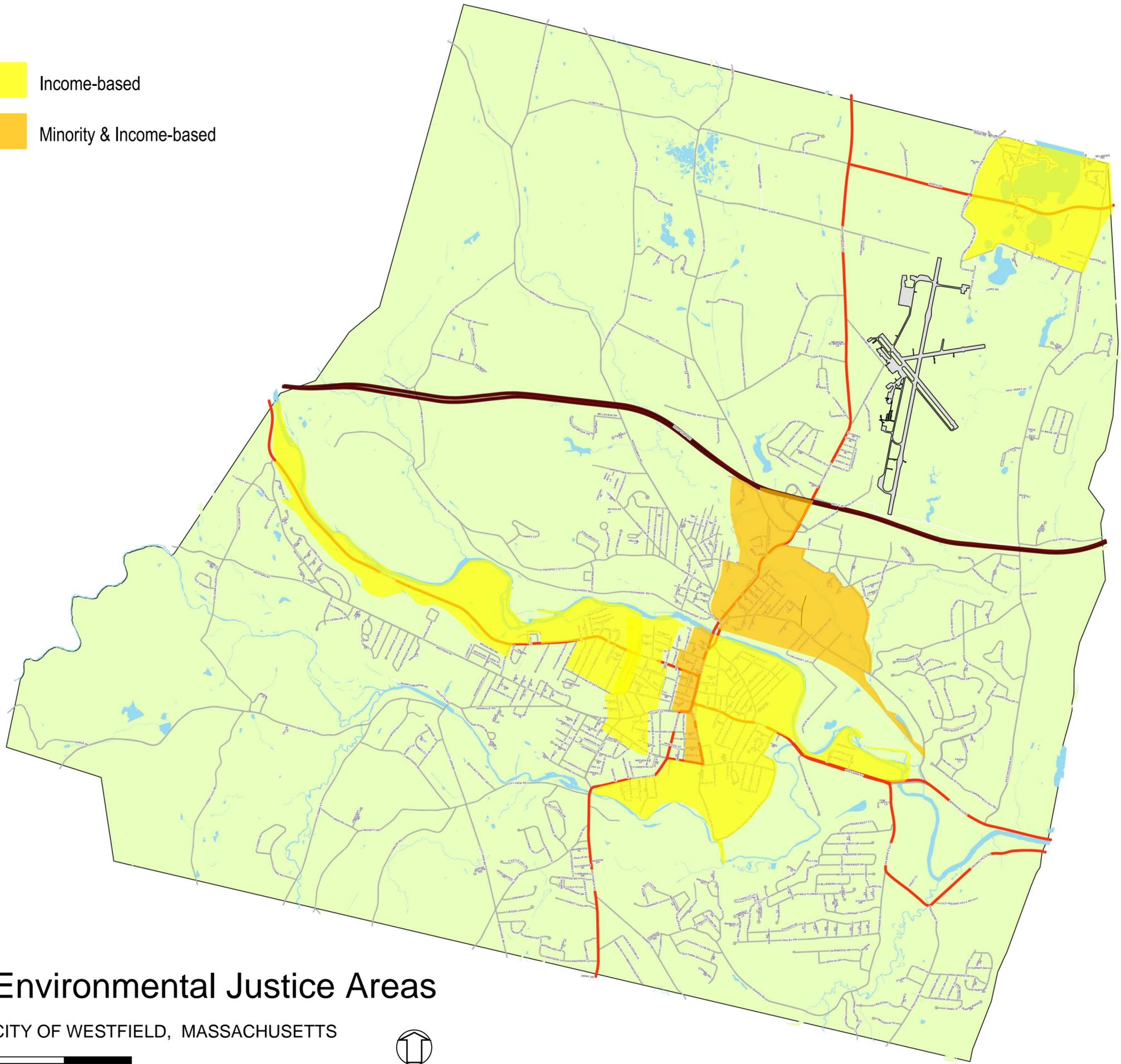


# Open Space

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

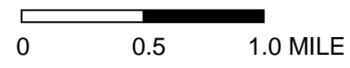


-  Income-based
-  Minority & Income-based



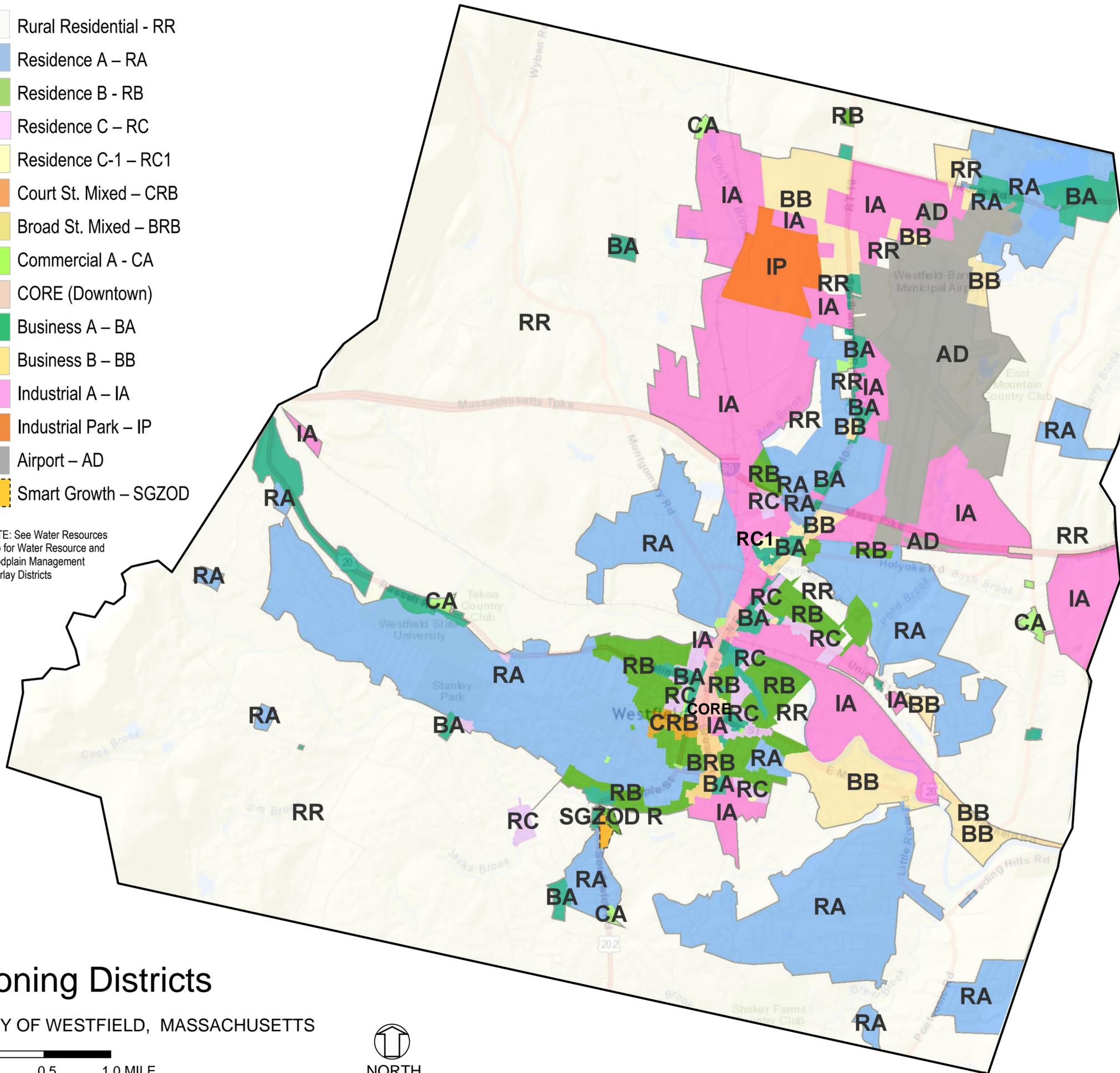
# Environmental Justice Areas

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



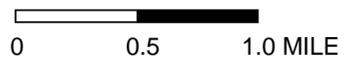
- Rural Residential - RR
- Residence A – RA
- Residence B - RB
- Residence C – RC
- Residence C-1 – RC1
- Court St. Mixed – CRB
- Broad St. Mixed – BRB
- Commercial A - CA
- CORE (Downtown)
- Business A – BA
- Business B – BB
- Industrial A – IA
- Industrial Park – IP
- Airport – AD
- Smart Growth – SGZOD

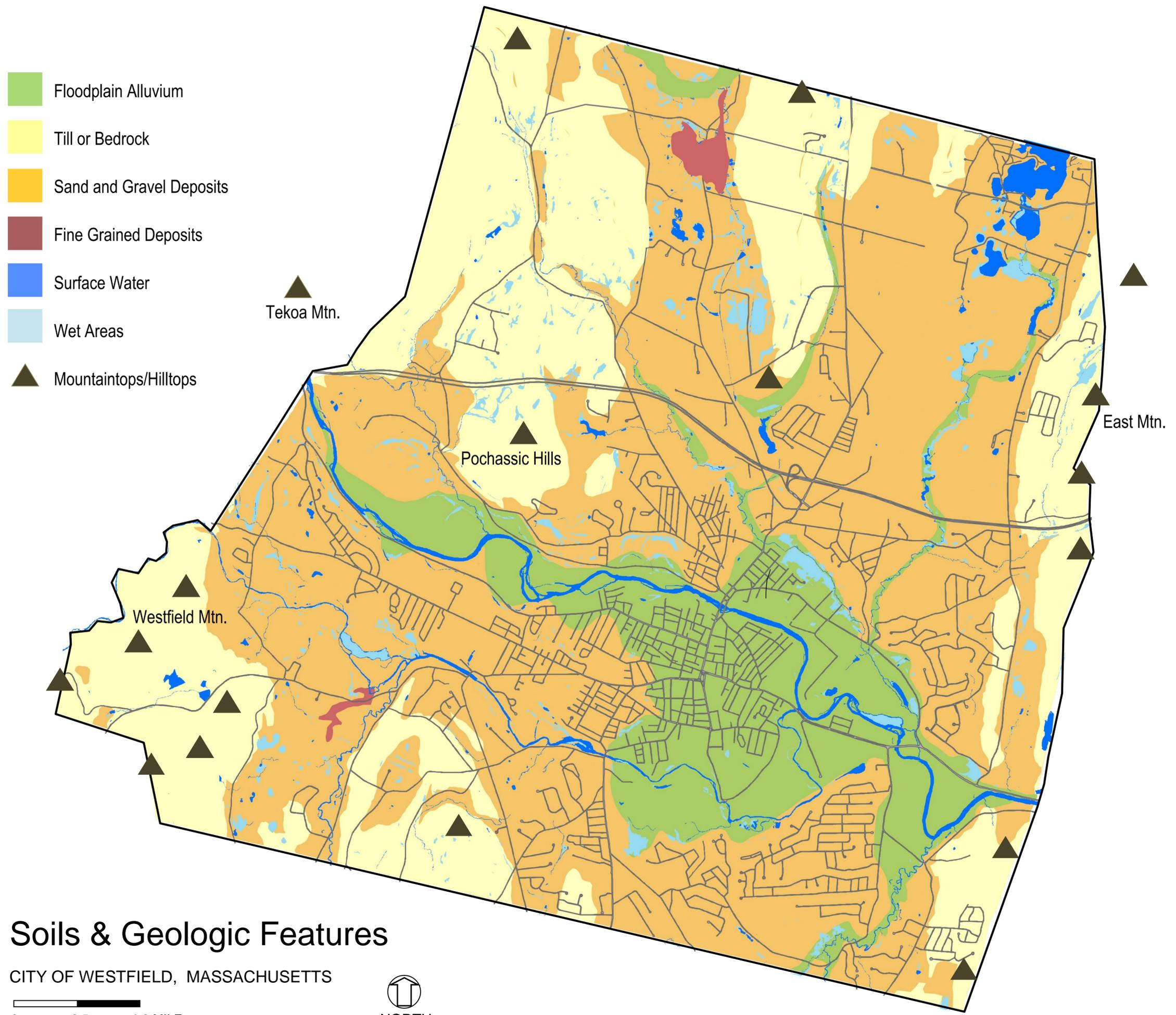
NOTE: See Water Resources Map for Water Resource and Floodplain Management Overlay Districts



# Zoning Districts

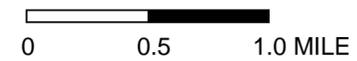
CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS



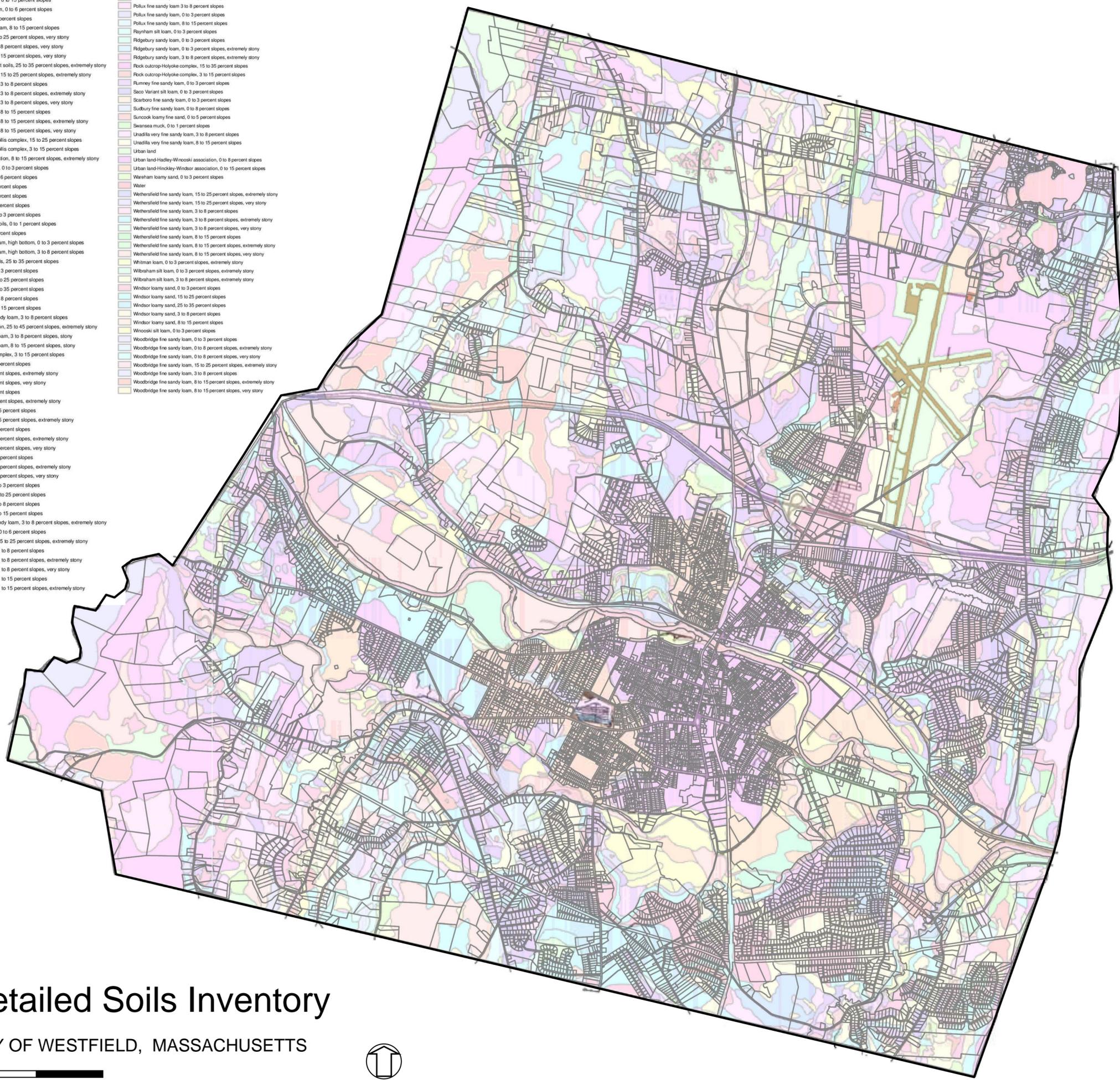


# Soils & Geologic Features

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

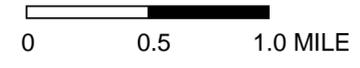


- Agawam fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Agawam fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Agawam fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Amosdown fine sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes
- Belgrade silt loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- Broadbrook gravelly silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Broadbrook silt loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony
- Broadbrook silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Broadbrook silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony
- Broadbrook silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Charlton and Narragansett soils, 25 to 35 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Charlton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony
- Charlton-Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- Charlton-Rock outcrop-Hollis complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
- Chaffield - Hollis - association, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Deerfield loamy fine sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Eldridge loamy sand, 0 to 6 percent slopes
- Enfield silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Enfield silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Enfield silt loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Encosburg loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Freelton and Swansea soils, 0 to 1 percent slopes
- Freelton muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes
- Hadley very fine sandy loam, high bottom, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Hadley very fine sandy loam, high bottom, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Hinckley and Windsor Soils, 25 to 35 percent slopes
- Hinckley loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Hinckley loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- Hinckley loamy sand, 25 to 35 percent slopes
- Hinckley loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Hinckley loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Hinckley very gravelly sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Hollis - Chaffield association, 25 to 45 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Holyoke very fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, stony
- Holyoke very fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, stony
- Holyoke-Rock outcrop complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
- Limerick silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Ludlow loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Ludlow loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Ludlow loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Ludlow loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Meckesville loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- Meckesville loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Meckesville loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Meckesville loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Meckesville loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Meckesville loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Meckesville loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Meckesville loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony
- Merrimac sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Merrimac sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- Merrimac sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Merrimac sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Narragansett very fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Ninigret fine sandy loam, 0 to 6 percent slopes
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Paxton fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Pis. Quarry
- Pis. gravel
- Podunk fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Pollux fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Pollux fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Pollux fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Rhythm silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Ridgebury sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Ridgebury sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Ridgebury sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Rock outcrop-Holyoke complex, 15 to 35 percent slopes
- Rock outcrop-Holyoke complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes
- Rumsey fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Saco Variant silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Scarboro fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Sudbury fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- Suncook loamy fine sand, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Swansea muck, 0 to 1 percent slopes
- Unadilla very fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Unadilla very fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Urban land
- Urban land-Hadley-Winooksi association, 0 to 8 percent slopes
- Urban land-Hinckley-Windor association, 0 to 15 percent slopes
- Wareham loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Water
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, very stony
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Wethersfield fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony
- Whitman loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Wilbraham silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Wilbraham silt loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Windsor loamy sand, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Windsor loamy sand, 15 to 25 percent slopes
- Windsor loamy sand, 25 to 35 percent slopes
- Windsor loamy sand, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Windsor loamy sand, 8 to 15 percent slopes
- Windsor silt loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 0 to 8 percent slopes, very stony
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 15 to 25 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, extremely stony
- Woodbridge fine sandy loam, 8 to 15 percent slopes, very stony

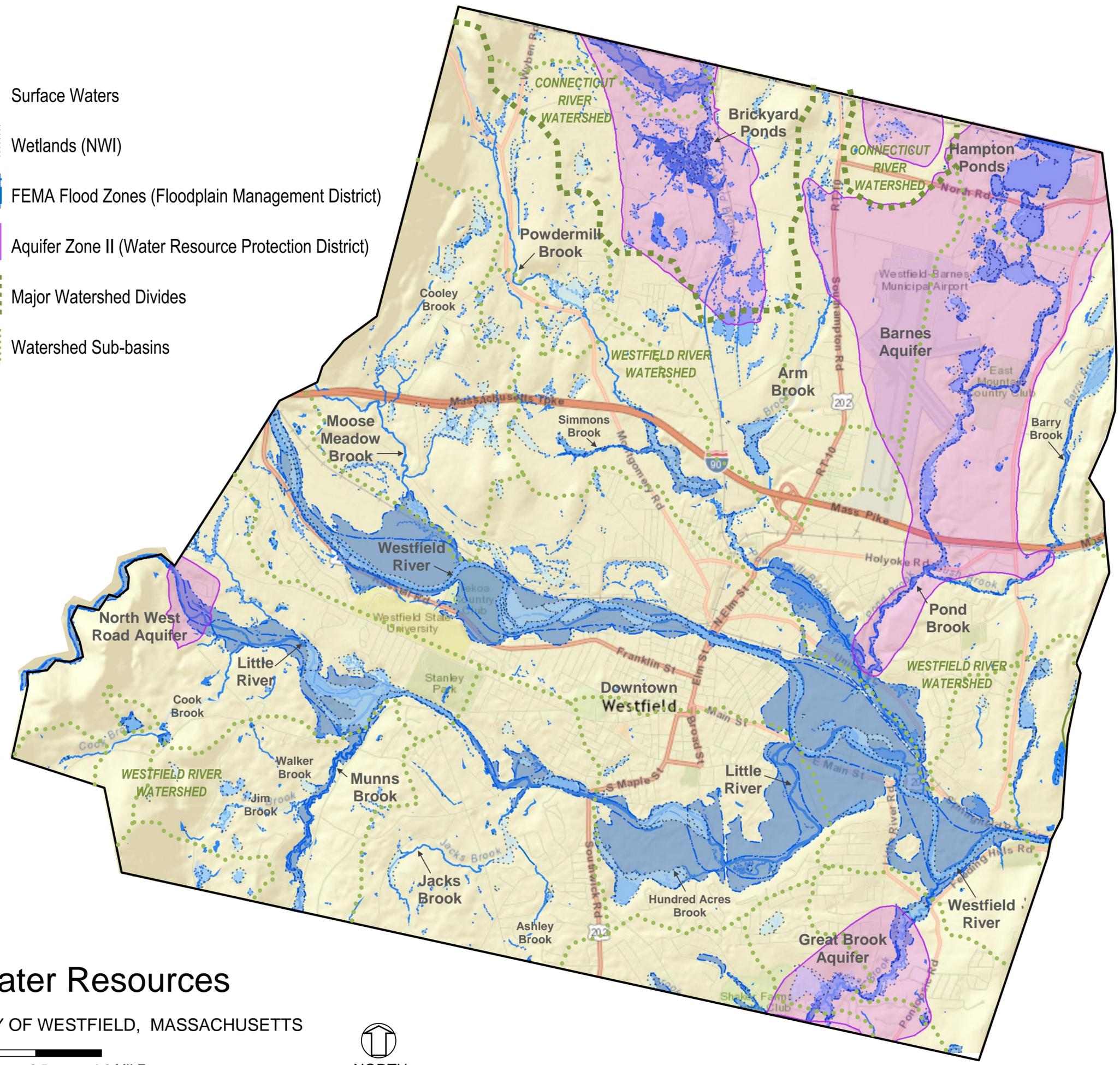


# Detailed Soils Inventory

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

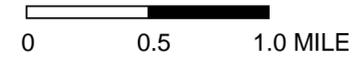


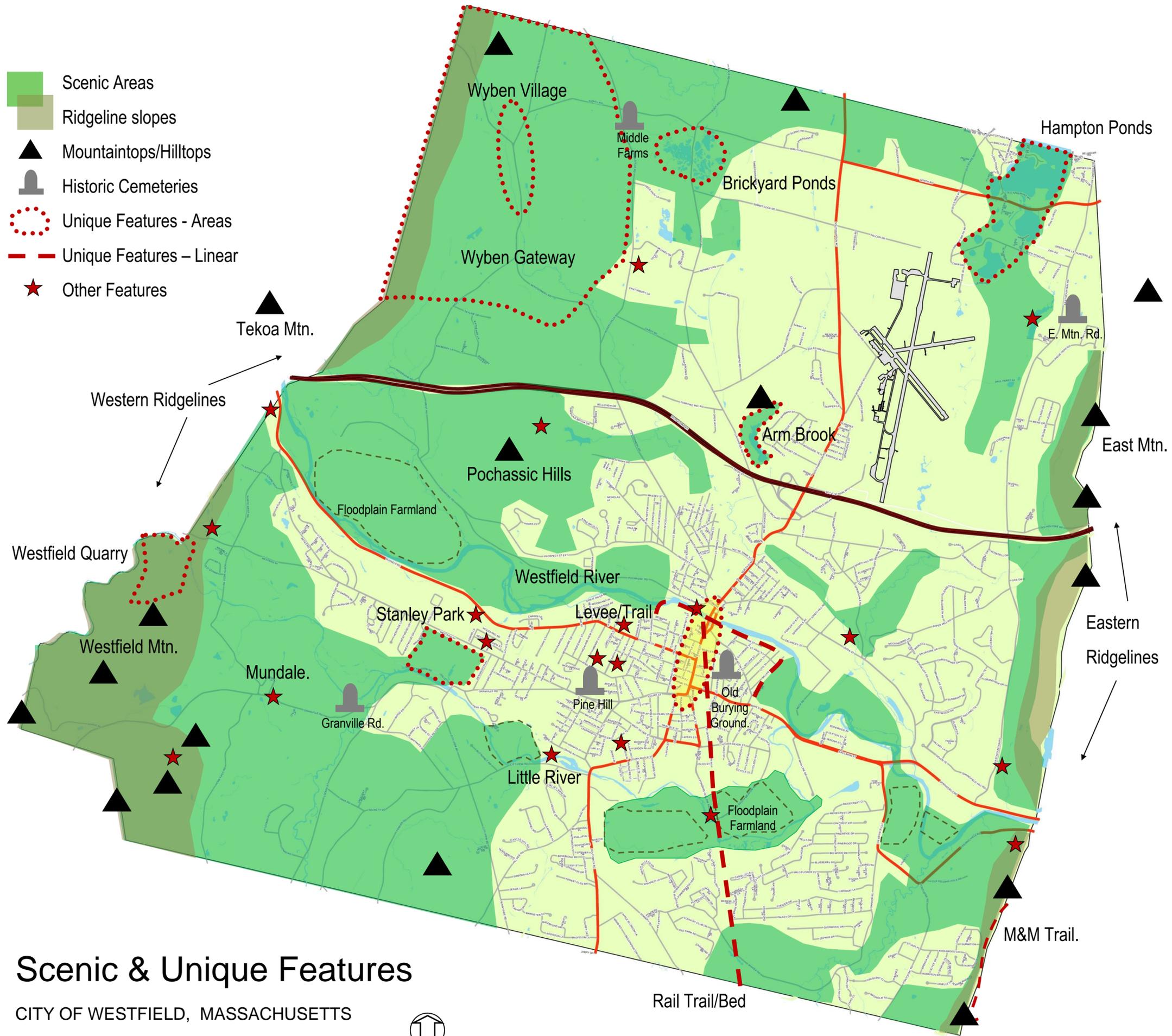
-  Surface Waters
-  Wetlands (NWI)
-  FEMA Flood Zones (Floodplain Management District)
-  Aquifer Zone II (Water Resource Protection District)
-  Major Watershed Divides
-  Watershed Sub-basins



# Water Resources

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS





# Scenic & Unique Features

CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS





## Appendix B. CHAPTER 61, 61A & 61B PROPERTIES

### CHAPTER 61 – FORESTRY

61 PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
1R-1	0	HONEY POT RD	11
1R-2	0	HONEY POT RD	40
9R-3	0	GRANVILLE RD	3.6
9R-4	0	GRANVILLE RD	5.1
12R-20	0	LOOMIS ST	33.2
19R-39	0	PONTOOSIC RD	27.5
20R-3	0	WEST PARISH	64
22R-2	0	WESTFIELD MT	71
22R-3	0	WESTERN AV (OFF)	119
38R-4	931	POCHASSIC RD	25
40R-48	0	PROSPECT ST EX	18.01
40R-6	0	TRAINHILL RD	22.5
44R-18	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	4
44R-19	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	39.5
44R-20	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	13
45R-3	0	RESERVOIR RD	109.5
47R-4	0	FURROWTOWN RD	231
52R-29	0	OLD HOLYOKE RD	1
52R-30	0	OLD HOLYOKE RD	9.91
52R-32	0	OLD HOLYOKE RD	20
52R-33	0	OLD HOLYOKE RD	8
52R-57	0	OLD HOLYOKE RD	1.5
53R-6	198	WEST RD	30.11
62R-15	0	ROOT RD	20.12
63R-10	0	SOUTHAMPTON RD	20.6
63R-8	720	SOUTHAMPTON RD	6.2
66R-2	0	MONTGOMERY RD	40.63
67R-31	669	MONTGOMERY RD	20
67R-6	0	NORTH RD	74
70R-14	0	SOUTHAMPTON RD	12.32
70R-32	1376	SOUTHAMPTON RD	17.1

## CHAPTER 61A – AGRICULTURE

61A PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
1R-3	0	HONEY POT RD	16.02
2R-2	202	HONEY POT RD	56.63
3R-2	182	SACKETT RD	63.8
3R-21	0	FOWLER RD	18
3R-36	0	FOWLER RD	9.21
4R-19	54	SUNNYSIDE RD	10.57
5R-25	0	TANNERY RD	6.3
6R-9	639	SHAKER RD	46
8R-1	0	PONTOOSIC RD	32.35
8R-2	0	PONTOOSIC RD	69.94
12R-25	0	LOOMIS ST	8.75
12R-30	0	GRANVILLE RD	0.4
13R-7	170	LOOMIS ST	16.5
144-3	158	TANNERY RD	4.77
14R-7	0	CITY VIEW RD	6
15R-3	48	HUNDRED ACRES RD	99
15R3-1A	0	HUNDRED ACRES RD	19.49
15R3-1B	0	HUNDRED ACRES RD	149.6
15R3-1D	0	HUNDRED ACRES RD	4.33
15R3-1E	0	HUNDRED ACRES RD	1.58
17R-22	0	S MEADOW RD	118.34
17R-28	0	S MEADOW RD	13.96
19R-18	79	OLD FEEDING HILLS RD	81.29
22R-4	0	NORTH WEST RD	12.95
23R-23	0	NORTH WEST RD	5
23R-24	0	NORTH WEST RD	8.85
23R-4	416	NORTH WEST RD	15.5
24R-14	1067	WESTERN AV	21.49
24R-15	1164	WESTERN AV	14.2
24R-21	1068	WESTERN AV	5
24R-51	994	WESTERN AV	36.63
27R-12	0	CITY VIEW RD	2
27R-18	0	ITY VIEW RD	35
29R-3	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	26
29R-4	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	56.5
29R-6	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	2
29R-7	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	12
29R-8	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	12
31R-15	81	STONE PATH	11.23
31R-19	0	STONE PATH	9.58
32R-16	0	POCHASSIC RD	56.3
32R-35	0	POCHASSIC RD	64
34R-16	0	POCHASSIC RD	6

61A PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
35R-12	0	UNION ST	51
35R-13	0	UNION ST	18.5
35R-28	0	NECK RD	32.14
35R-3	342	UNION ST	6.3
38R-17	0	POCHASSIC RD	99.7
38R-22	0	POCHASSIC RD	36.7
38R-33	0	WEST RD	12.8
38R-5	0	POCHASSIC RD	56.9
39R-19	0	POCHASSIC RD	0.79
39R-22	0	POCHASSIC RD	17.75
39R-26	0	POCHASSIC RD	2.1
39R-3	0	POCHASSIC RD	1
40R-17	255	POCHASSIC RD	5
40R-46	0	POCHASSIC RD	0.81
40R-55	279	POCHASSIC RD	1.3
40R-56	271	POCHASSIC RD	1.4
40R-70	0	POCHASSIC RD	0.98
41R-10	153	RUSSELL RD	23
41R-17	0	POCHASSIC RD	0.7
41R-20	0	POCHASSIC RD	61.24
41R-28	0	POCHASSIC RD	5.01
41R-33	0	POCHASSIC RD	19.86
41R-5	201	POCHASSIC RD	4
41R-8	0	POCHASSIC RD	22
42R-11	0	UNION ST	9.4
45R-1	403	WEST RD	65.8
45R-12	0	WEST RD	5
45R-4	497	WEST RD	14.4
46R-12	708	WEST RD	63.25
46R-12	342	WEST RD	20.9
46R-5	0	WEST RD	13.5
46R-6	0	WEST RD	29
46R-7	0	WEST RD	28.62
46R-9	0	WEST RD (OFF)	7.5
47R-11	0	WEST RD (OFF)	23.5
47R-13	0	BAYBERRY LA	24.67
48R-20	0	MONTGOMERY RD	9
48R-29	232	MONTGOMERY RD	32
48R-29	0	MONTGOMERY RD	5.81
48R-85	0	MONTGOMERY RD	27.41
53R-3	247	WEST RD	51.83
53R-3-1A	0	WEST RD	2.93
53R-5	0	WEST RD	35.66
53R-7	0	WEST RD	1.6
54R-19	0	MONTGOMERY RD	17.3

61A PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
54R-20	382	MONTGOMERY RD	12
54R-21	466	MONTGOMERY RD	25.2
54R-25	422	MONTGOMERY RD	3.28
54R26-1A	0	MONTGOMERY RD	1.37
54R26-1B	0	MONTGOMERY RD	2.06
54R57-1A	0	MONTGOMERY RD	9.79
54R-76	0	MONTGOMERY RD	19.75
55R-15	0	CABOT RD	11.36
55R-25	104	ROOT RD	15.5
55R-5	92	CABOT RD	6.5
55R-66	0	LOCKHOUSE RD	17
55R-8	0	CABOT RD	8.5
56R-100	0	LOCKHOUSE RD	4.5
58R-16	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	5.79
58R-39	59	STEPHANIE LA	0.5
60R-14	646	MONTGOMERY RD	10.55
60R14-1	0	MONTGOMERY RD	1.47
60R-15	0	MONTGOMERY RD	0.41
60R-2	0	MONTGOMERY RD	8.7
60R-4	0	MONTGOMERY RD	90.79
60R-8	574	MONTGOMERY RD	74
61R-12	593	MONTGOMERY RD	65
61R-13	563	MONTGOMERY RD	22.9
61R-17	246	RUSSELLVILLE RD	58.88
61R-9	613	MONTGOMERY RD	26.01
62R-2	222	RUSSELLVILLE RD	19.25
66R-13	0	NORTH RD	4.99
66R-23	0	MONTGOMERY RD	30
66R-38	0	NORTH RD	1.02
67R-11	0	RUSSELLVILLE RD	15.98
67R-11-6B	0	RUSSELLVILLE RD	1.19
67R-18	0	RUSSELLVILLE RD	16.69
67R-54	0	RUSSELLVILLE RD	22.38
67R-9	27	NORTH RD	17.73
68R-1	308	RUSSELLVILLE RD	28.55
68R-12	0	ROOT RD	63.8
68R-13	234	NORTH RD	10.25
68R-45	320	NORTH RD	10.7
68R-6	0	RUSSELLVILLE RD	27.6
68R-9	312	NORTH RD	63.42
69R14-1A	0	NORTH RD	13.1
69R-16	461	ROOT RD	79.62
69R-17	0	ROOT RD	32
69R-20	0	NORTH RD	16.05
69R-20-1A	0	TIMBERSWAMP RD	27.95

61A PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
69R-6	354	ROOT RD	80
70R-12	520	NORTH RD	10.25
70R-2	241	TIMBERSWAMP RD	10
70R-31	0	SOUTHAMPTON RD	19.18
71R-8	433	NORTH RD	29
99-5	0	SOUTHWICK RD	15.8
108-104	0	ASCUTNEY AV (REAR)	2
116-23	0	LITTLE RIVER RD	8.23
225-4	0	DELANCEY ST	3
225-5	0	DELANCEY ST	2.5
226-1	138	UNION ST	6
230-21	0	N ELM ST	13.15

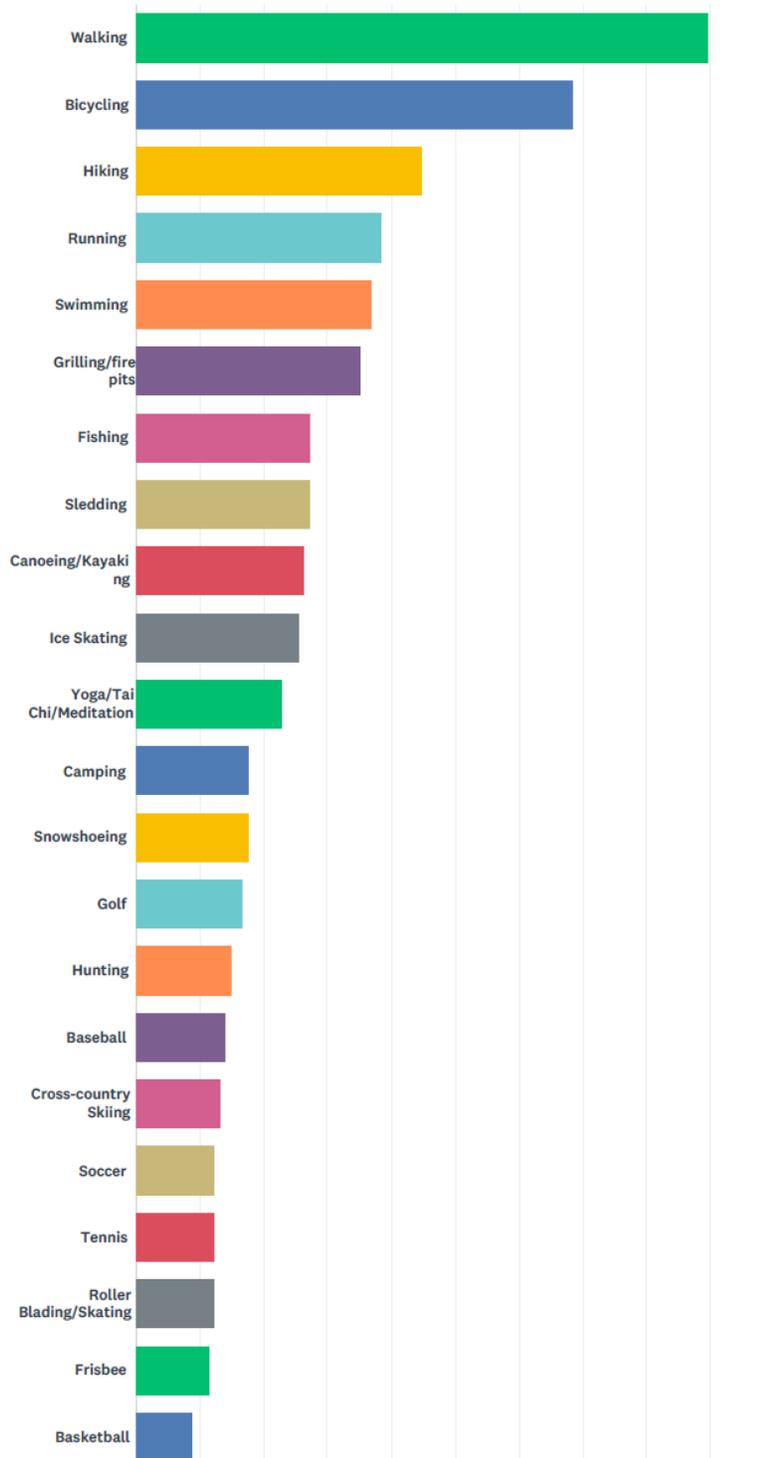
## CHAPTER 61B – RECREATION

61B PARCEL	STREET ADDRESS		ACREAGE
6R-8	866	SHAKER RD	98.9
6R-10	0	SHAKER RD	27
7R-3	0	SHAKER RD	9.67
14R-110	64	KANE BROTHERS CL	19.52
31R-6	1237	RUSSELL RD	16
34R-4	459	RUSSELL RD	111
35R-9	317	UNION ST	42.08
47R-4	0	FURROWTOWN RD	69
48R-82	0	FURROWTOWN RD	0.58
58R3-1	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	2
58R3-2	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	2
58R3-3	0	E MOUNTAIN RD	2
60R-13	0	MONTGOMERY RD	6.78
60R-9	570	MONTGOMERY RD	26.3
61R-24	288	RUSSELLVILLE RD	11.52
70R-30	0	SOUTHAMPTON RD	13.33
SOURCE: WESTFIELD ASSESSOR'S OFFICE			

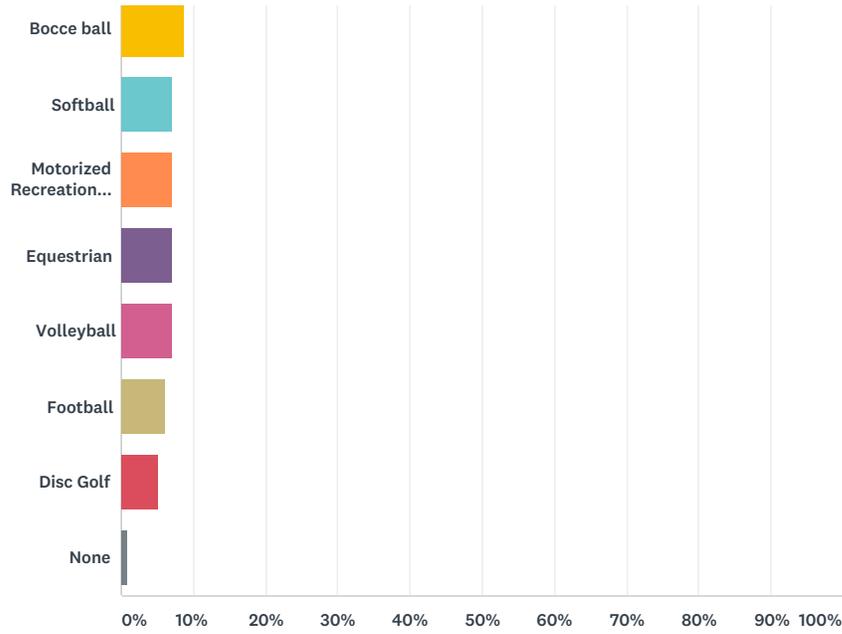
## Appendix C. PUBLIC SURVEY

Q1 What type of recreational activities do you and/or your family participate in here in Westfield? Check all that apply.

Answered: 114 Skipped: 3



## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking	89.47%	102
Bicycling	68.42%	78
Hiking	44.74%	51
Running	38.60%	44
Swimming	36.84%	42
Grilling/fire pits	35.09%	40
Fishing	27.19%	31
Sledding	27.19%	31
Canoeing/Kayaking	26.32%	30
Ice Skating	25.44%	29
Yoga/Tai Chi/Meditation	22.81%	26
Camping	17.54%	20
Snowshoeing	17.54%	20
Golf	16.67%	19
Hunting	14.91%	17
Baseball	14.04%	16
Cross-country Skiing	13.16%	15
Soccer	12.28%	14
Tennis	12.28%	14
Roller Blading/Skating	12.28%	14
Frisbee	11.40%	13
Basketball	8.77%	10
Bocce ball	8.77%	10
Softball	7.02%	8
Motorized Recreation (ATV, Snowmobiling)	7.02%	8

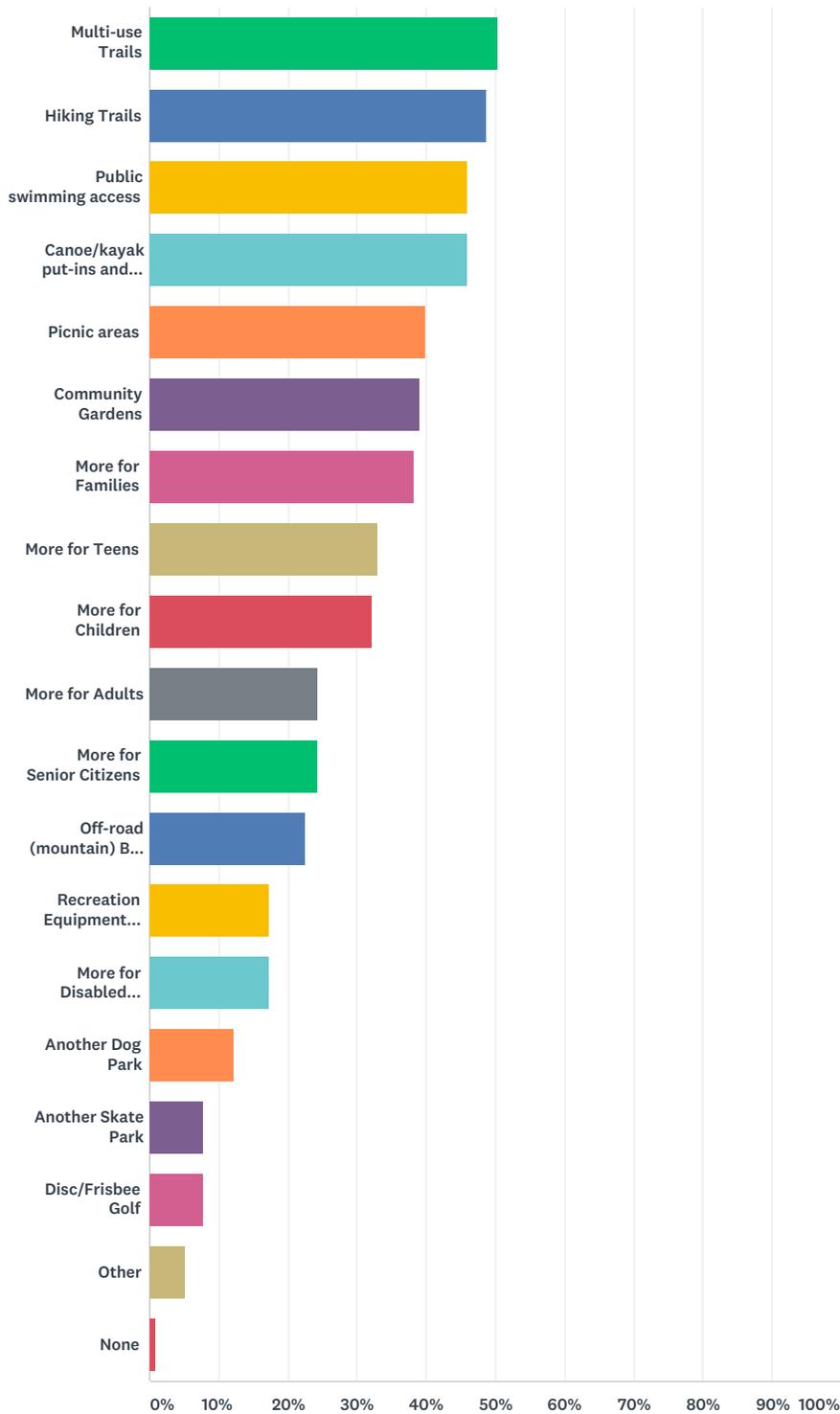
## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Equestrian	7.02%	8
Volleyball	7.02%	8
Football	6.14%	7
Disc Golf	5.26%	6
None	0.88%	1
Total Respondents: 114		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Frisbee, kites.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
2	concerts	7/19/2017 1:44 PM
3	Bird watching, foraging	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
4	corn hole, billiards, shooting	7/19/2017 11:25 AM
5	family picnics in the parks	6/26/2017 4:38 PM
6	Pickle Ball	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
7	Spray parks	6/21/2017 4:36 PM
8	I am handicapped and there really are no activities for me.	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
9	shooting	6/21/2017 2:29 PM
10	Water skiing	6/20/2017 10:03 AM
11	Park enjoyment / watching wildlife	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
12	Gardening-Community Garden	6/18/2017 8:13 AM
13	Geocaching	6/17/2017 1:00 PM
14	Mountain Biking	6/9/2017 1:28 PM

Q2 What additional recreational activities would you like to see Westfield offer? Check all that apply.

Answered: 115 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Multi-use Trails	50.43% 58
Hiking Trails	48.70% 56

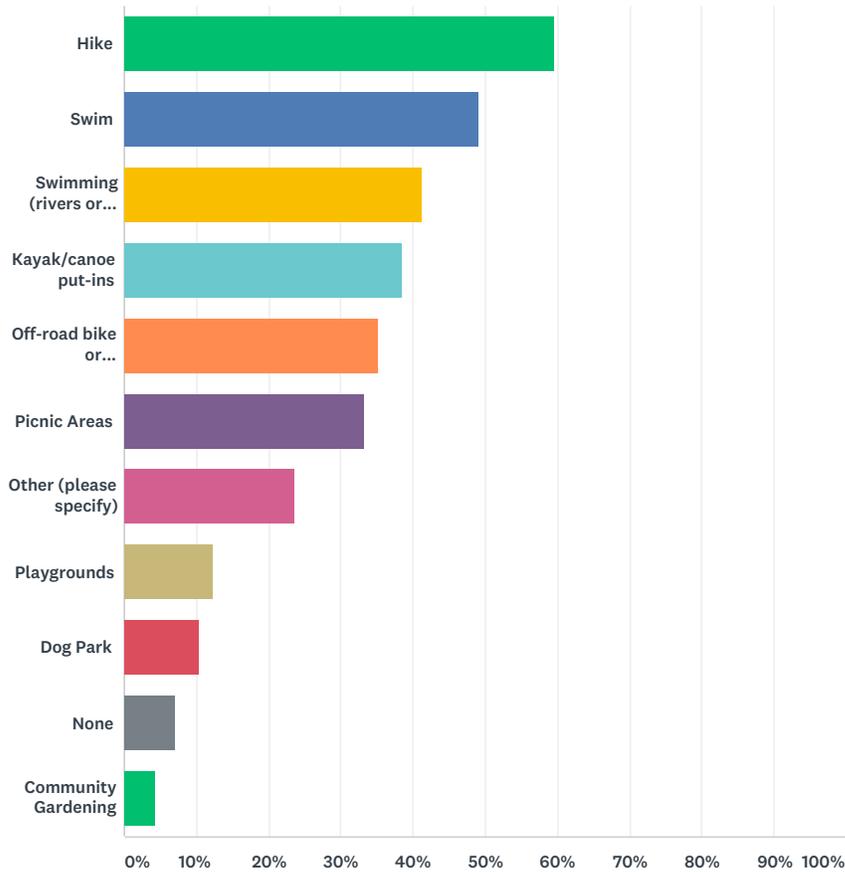
## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Public swimming access	46.09%	53
Canoe/kayak put-ins and facilities	46.09%	53
Picnic areas	40.00%	46
Community Gardens	39.13%	45
More for Families	38.26%	44
More for Teens	33.04%	38
More for Children	32.17%	37
More for Adults	24.35%	28
More for Senior Citizens	24.35%	28
Off-road (mountain) Bike Trails	22.61%	26
Recreation Equipment Rental	17.39%	20
More for Disabled Citizens	17.39%	20
Another Dog Park	12.17%	14
Another Skate Park	7.83%	9
Disc/Frisbee Golf	7.83%	9
Other	5.22%	6
None	0.87%	1
Total Respondents: 115		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	City needs more baseball fields.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
2	Hunting + Fishing	7/24/2017 4:10 PM
3	Would love to see adult classes offered	7/20/2017 2:05 PM
4	Off-road ATV/Dirtbike trails	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
5	Keep the Senior Center open nights and weekends like other communities. After all you did construct a facility, some few million of \$\$, for Senior and others to use and not just to employ people for a lively hood. Budget is not an excuse allocate logistically your staff differently to cover the times.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
6	Pickle ball courts, indoor or outdoor	7/19/2017 12:25 PM
7	More open space for walking & hiking, bird watching, fishing, cross country skiing & snow shoeing	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
8	I'd like to see Westfield be more dog friendly. Also need more for the college kids to do besides pizza joints and bars.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
9	larger inner city parks and playgrounds	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
10	Coffee shops	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
11	More for disabled children	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
12	A family swim pool like the one we had on Smith Avenue. It had swim lessons, first aid courses, life-saving courses, grass and many, many kids learned to swim there and went on to become YMCA, WHS and college swimmers. Kids need to learn water safety and they can't do it at a spray park!	6/22/2017 3:17 PM
13	Pickle Ball	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
14	sailing for disabled "shake-a-leg" sailing	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
15	access to river and rental kayaks / canoes near North Elm bridges	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
16	campground	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
17	Open air theater space.	6/18/2017 3:10 PM
18	River walk with river cafes.	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
19	Equestrian,	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
20	teen center and transportation	6/17/2017 9:31 AM

### Q3 What activities do you travel OUTSIDE of Westfield to do?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Hike	59.65%	68
Swim	49.12%	56
Swimming (rivers or pools)	41.23%	47
Kayak/canoe put-ins	38.60%	44
Off-road bike or multi-purpose trails	35.09%	40
Picnic Areas	33.33%	38
Other (please specify)	23.68%	27
Playgrounds	12.28%	14
Dog Park	10.53%	12
None	7.02%	8
Community Gardening	4.39%	5
Total Respondents: 114		

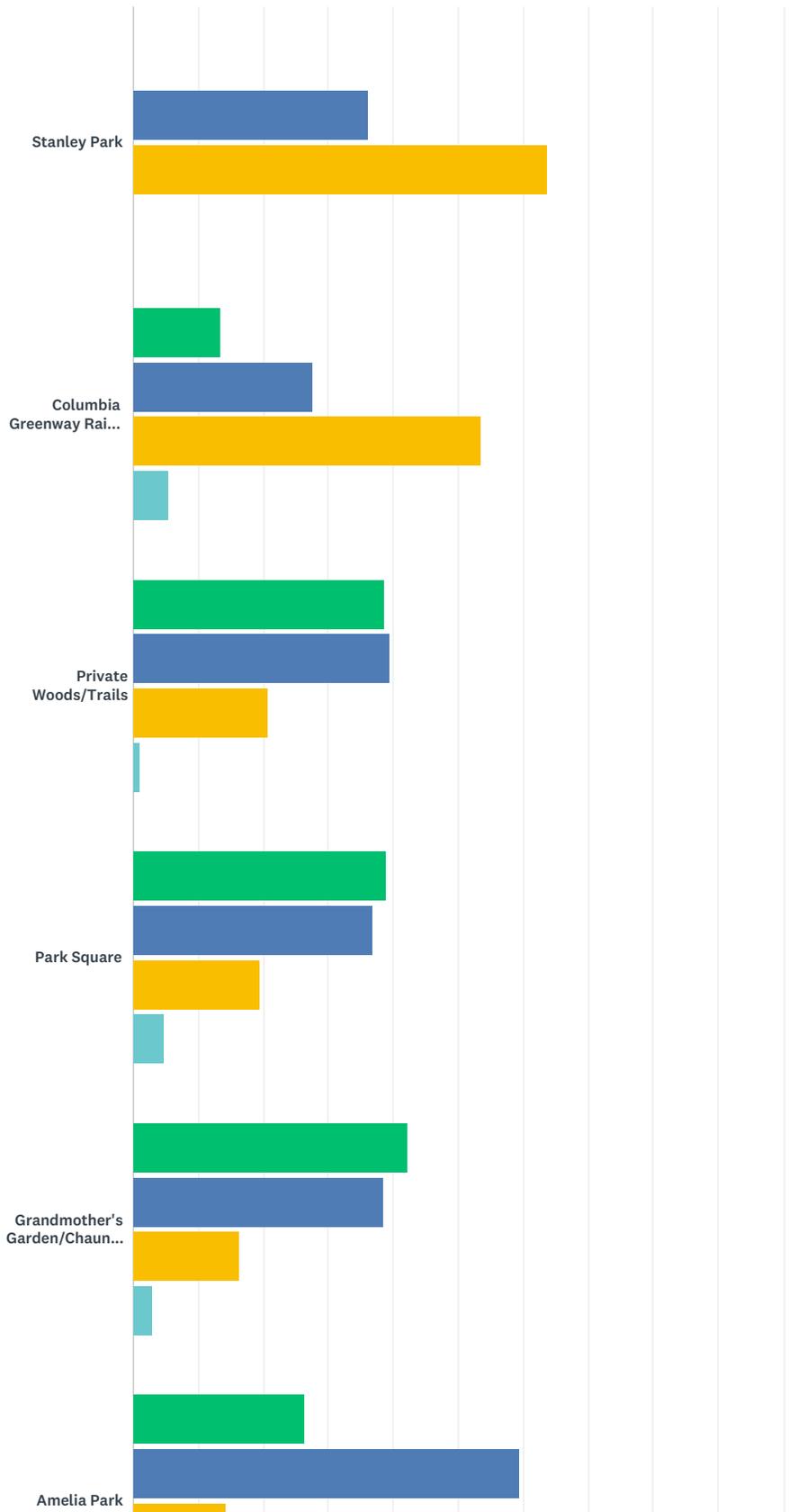
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hunting + Fishing	7/24/2017 4:10 PM
2	Museums, nature areas, birdwatching	7/21/2017 9:21 PM
3	Bicycling	7/20/2017 8:56 AM
4	ATV/Dirtbike	7/19/2017 5:54 PM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

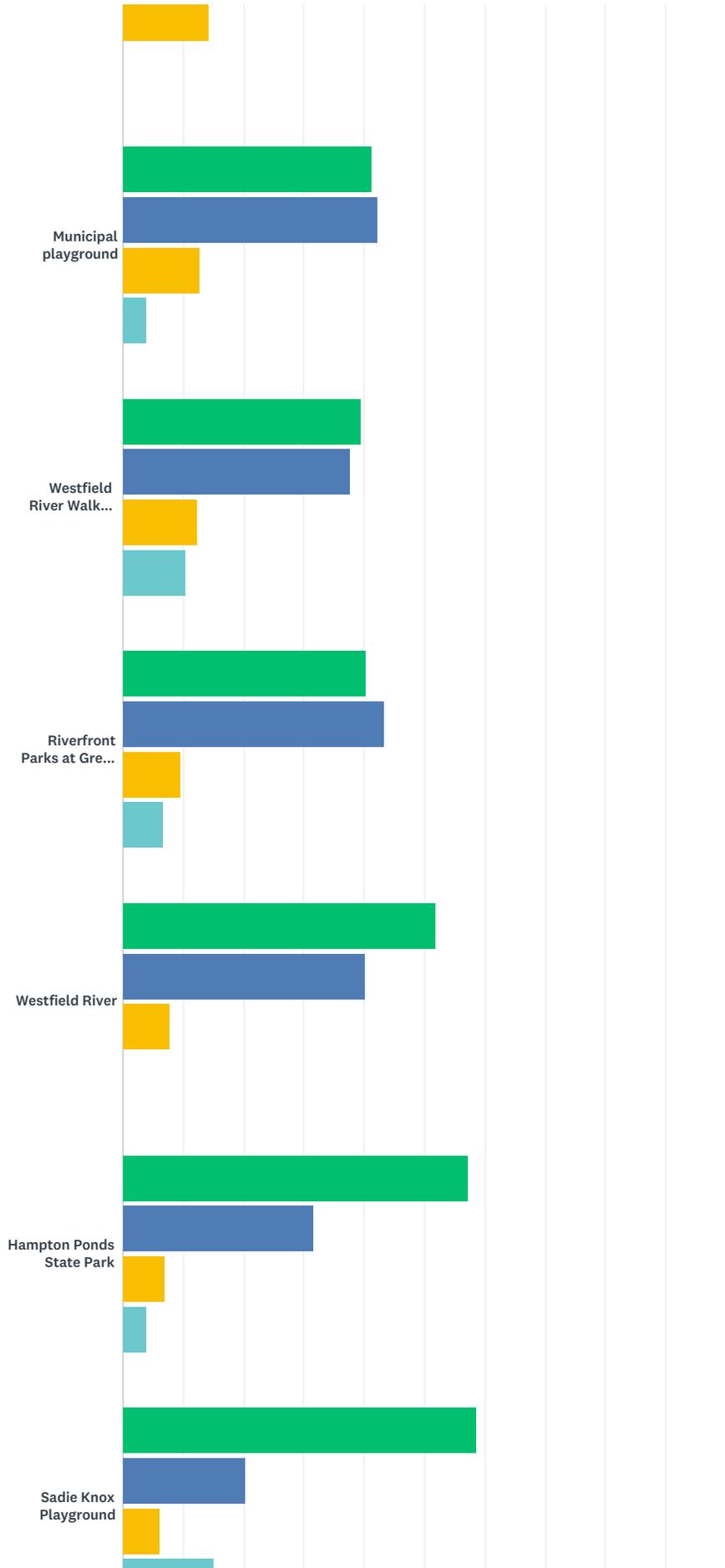
5	Kickball at Dean Tech, Holyoke (mysocial sports league)	7/19/2017 2:26 PM
6	We have to many rivers, ponds and steams not in use.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
7	Golf	7/19/2017 12:48 PM
8	walking, hiking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, fishing	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
9	bowling	7/19/2017 11:18 AM
10	Fine dining	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
11	Pickle Ball	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
12	Movies	6/21/2017 4:36 PM
13	shake-a-leg sailing	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
14	bowling	6/21/2017 2:29 PM
15	Disc Golf	6/20/2017 10:11 PM
16	bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing	6/20/2017 10:31 AM
17	mountain access / trails (Tekoa Mountain trail markers would be great)	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
18	ice skating	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
19	ice skating	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
20	Camping	6/18/2017 8:13 AM
21	Gold panning	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
22	Camping	6/17/2017 1:00 PM
23	Culture: museums, good diverse food. Diverse is key. Art galleries, gift shops	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
24	Equestrian	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
25	Biking on trails to Connecticut	6/9/2017 5:08 PM
26	Cross Country Skiing	6/9/2017 1:28 PM
27	Rowing, Biking, Backpacking	6/8/2017 10:02 AM

### Q4 Which parks, playgrounds and open spaces do you or your family regularly use in Westfield?

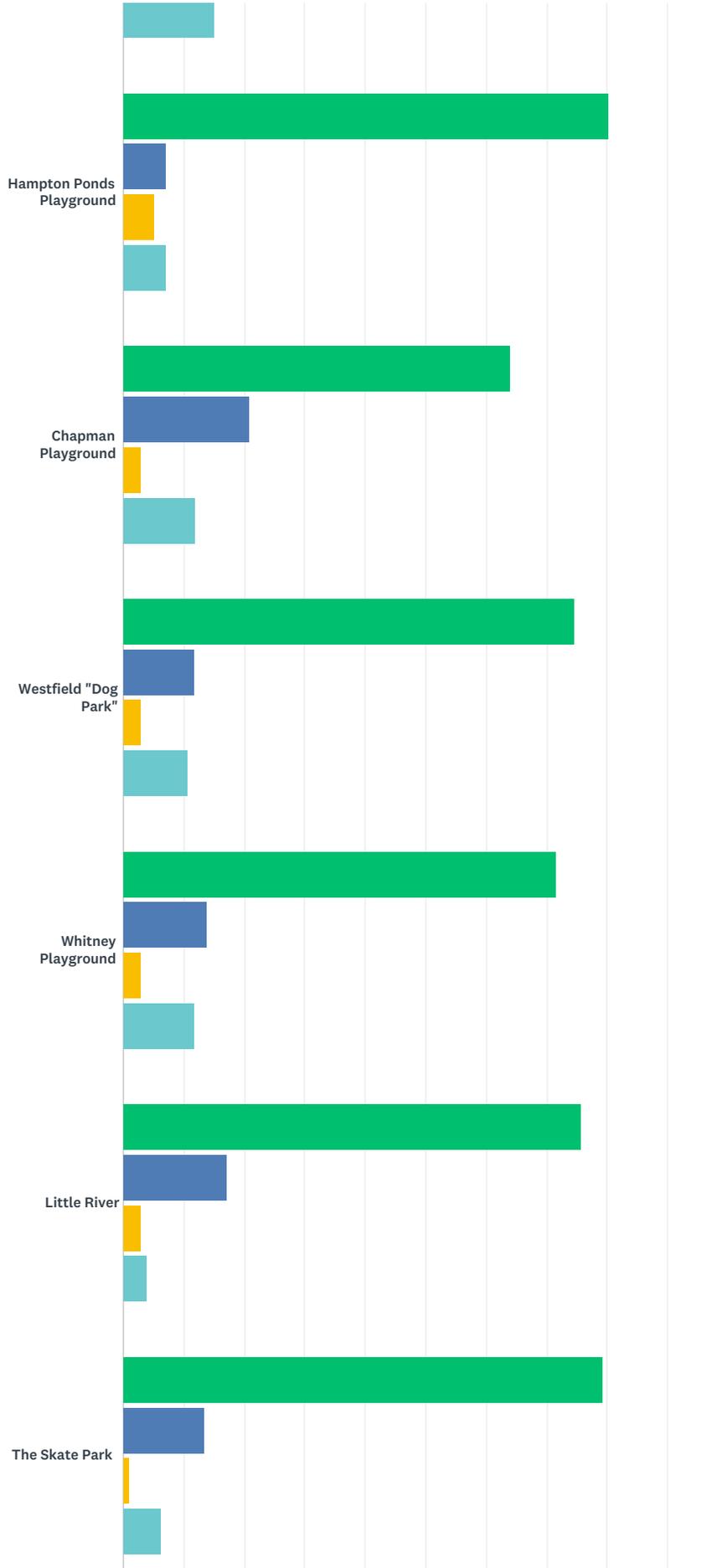
Answered: 115 Skipped: 2



# Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey



# Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey



# Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey



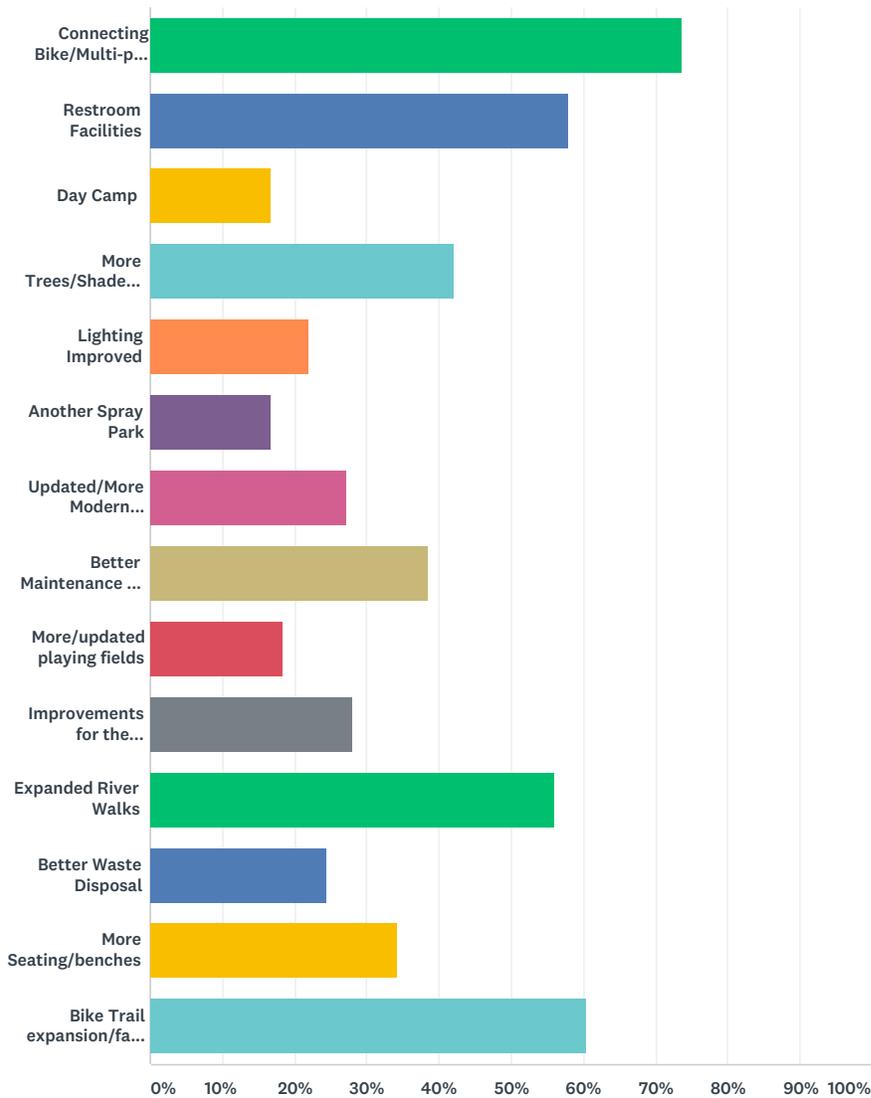
■ Never   
 ■ Sometimes   
 ■ Frequently   
 ■ Did Not Know it Existed

	NEVER	SOMETIMES	FREQUENTLY	DID NOT KNOW IT EXISTED	TOTAL
Stanley Park	0.00% 0	36.28% 41	63.72% 72	0.00% 0	113
Columbia Greenway Rail Trail	13.39% 15	27.68% 31	53.57% 60	5.36% 6	112
Private Woods/Trails	38.61% 39	39.60% 40	20.79% 21	0.99% 1	101
Park Square	38.83% 40	36.89% 38	19.42% 20	4.85% 5	103
Grandmother's Garden/Chauncey Allen Park	42.31% 44	38.46% 40	16.35% 17	2.88% 3	104
Amelia Park	26.42% 28	59.43% 63	14.15% 15	0.00% 0	106
Municipal playground	41.18% 42	42.16% 43	12.75% 13	3.92% 4	102
Westfield River Walk (Levee Trail)	39.62% 42	37.74% 40	12.26% 13	10.38% 11	106
Riverfront Parks at Great River Bridges	40.38% 42	43.27% 45	9.62% 10	6.73% 7	104
Westfield River	51.96% 53	40.20% 41	7.84% 8	0.00% 0	102
Hampton Ponds State Park	57.43% 58	31.68% 32	6.93% 7	3.96% 4	101
Sadie Knox Playground	58.59% 58	20.20% 20	6.06% 6	15.15% 15	99
Hampton Ponds Playground	80.41% 78	7.22% 7	5.15% 5	7.22% 7	97
Chapman Playground	64.00% 64	21.00% 21	3.00% 3	12.00% 12	100
Westfield "Dog Park"	74.76% 77	11.65% 12	2.91% 3	10.68% 11	103
Whitney Playground	71.57% 73	13.73% 14	2.94% 3	11.76% 12	102
Little River	75.76% 75	17.17% 17	3.03% 3	4.04% 4	99
The Skate Park	79.38% 77	13.40% 13	1.03% 1	6.19% 6	97

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	How do you access Little River?	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
2	Stanly park has changed and not for the good. The natural cosmetics of nature has been change significantly, poor management.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
3	Would love to see the riverfront used for dining establishments and boardwalk along the river.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
4	What about Cross St. Playground? Is it gone?	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
5	Pickle Ball at Municipal Park	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
6	Mt. Tekoa	6/20/2017 10:31 AM
7	Granville Reservoir and Montgomery Reservoir	6/9/2017 1:28 PM

### Q5 What improvements, additions, or changes would you like to see in Westfield's recreational facilities?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Connecting Bike/Multi-purpose Trails	73.68%	84
Restroom Facilities	57.89%	66
Day Camp	16.67%	19
More Trees/Shade Structures	42.11%	48
Lighting Improved	21.93%	25
Another Spray Park	16.67%	19
Updated/More Modern Playgrounds	27.19%	31
Better Maintenance of Existing Facilities	38.60%	44
More/updated playing fields	18.42%	21
Improvements for the Disabled	28.07%	32
Expanded River Walks	56.14%	64

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Better Waste Disposal	24.56%	28
More Seating/benches	34.21%	39
Bike Trail expansion/facilities on the north side	60.53%	69
Total Respondents: 114		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	More baseball fields and tennis courts.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
2	benches with backs on them!!!	7/26/2017 12:11 PM
3	Build bike trail bridge near Stop & Shop	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
4	park square more shade trees you can see daily no-one uses to sunny it lost its magic for a place of rest.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
5	More open space for hiking, walking, fishing and possibly community gardens	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
6	All improvements would be welcome but it's the maintenance that makes it successful.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
7	Dog waste stations, and drinking fountains, more senior friendly place to sit	6/26/2017 4:38 PM
8	It's a little late for trees that shade since the park in the center of town had all the shade trees removed. It would take 15-20 years to replace them at which time they would probably be taken down again so that the cement in the park can heat up again. More shade structures might help.at up.	6/23/2017 11:06 AM
9	Another spray park, please! How about a municipal pool?	6/22/2017 3:17 PM
10	Pickle Ball Courts	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
11	Needle cleanup	6/21/2017 3:16 PM
12	Finish the Columbia Greenway	6/21/2017 2:36 PM
13	Pools	6/21/2017 2:27 PM
14	Disc Golf	6/20/2017 10:11 PM
15	Westfield River Levee development and Wielgus farm conversion to parkland	6/20/2017 7:56 AM
16	Public art? Access to riverfront near Great Falls park, completion of rail trail to make that beautiful area a destination/terminus for bike trail	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
17	Swimming!!!	6/18/2017 8:13 AM
18	Trash clean up on the rivers	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
19	Turn route 20 into a beautiful place with more cross walks. Plant more trees, pedestrian walkways at Westfield shops	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
20	An equestrian facility.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
21	Mountain Bike and Cross Country Ski Trails	6/9/2017 1:28 PM
22	Expeditious completion of Rail Trail Central. Tool stations and water stations on Rail Trail. Porta Pottie @ Rail Trail Pzarking Lot.	6/9/2017 4:40 AM

Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Q6 Where in Westfield would you like to see additional recreation facilities and programs provided?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 54

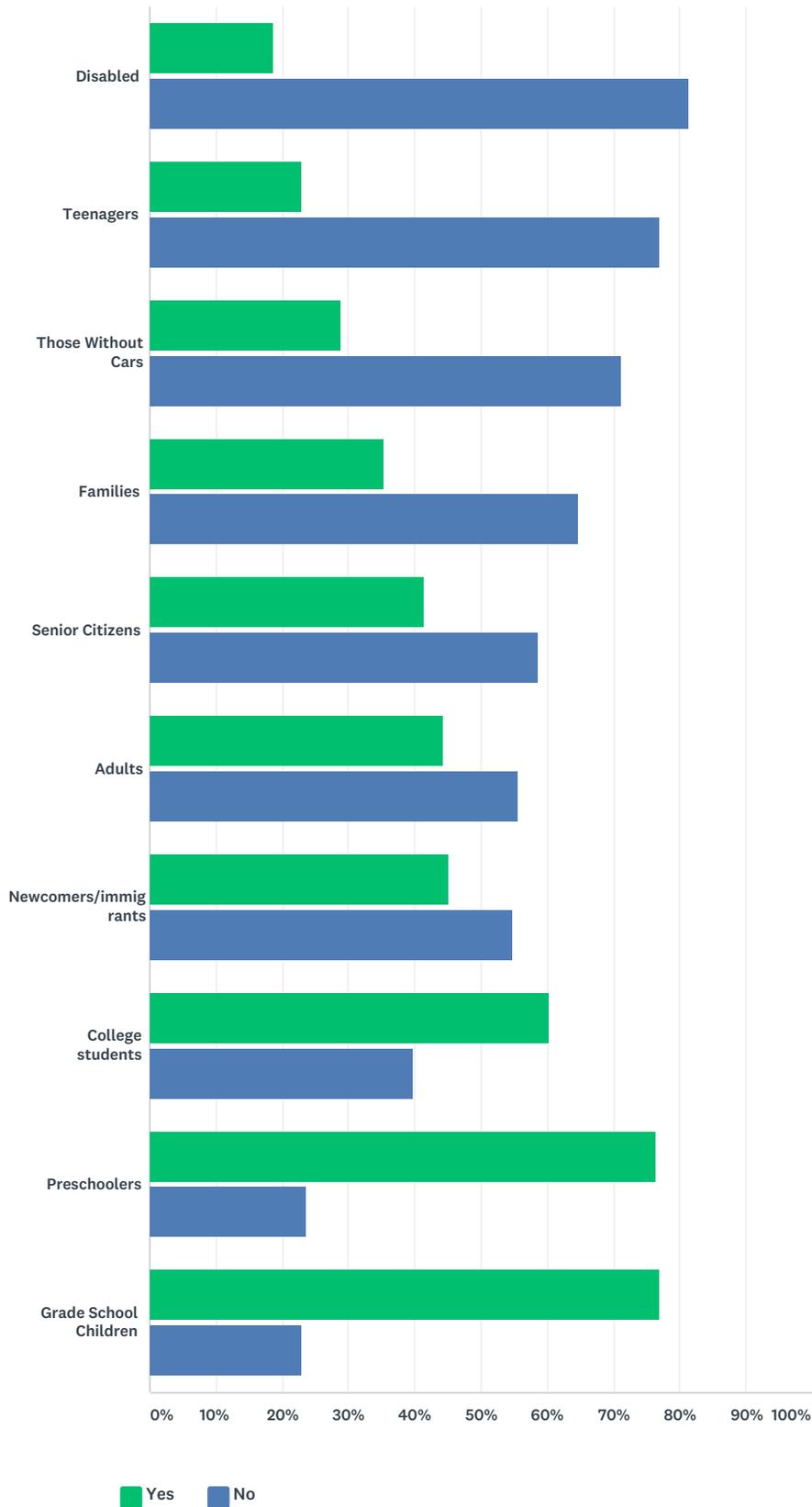
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Papermill playground is in horrific safe with remnants of removed street hockey surface. Municipal tennis courts - restore the clay courts. Tennis courts behind Little River fire station were abandoned.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
2	General Shepard! Cabot Road	7/26/2017 12:11 PM
3	Cabot Rd.	7/26/2017 11:58 AM
4	Along the Westfield River/Little River.	7/25/2017 11:15 AM
5	Cabot Road, Furrowtown Road	7/24/2017 4:10 PM
6	Finish bike trail to Southampton.	7/20/2017 8:56 AM
7	mountain biking in stanley park or off of the columbia greenway.	7/20/2017 12:50 AM
8	Knollwood Acres area	7/19/2017 9:25 PM
9	Would love to see places for motorized recreational vehicles - open spaces or wooded areas? I don't know what's available. But we pay registration fees with few places to actually ride.	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
10	North side	7/19/2017 2:04 PM
11	North side	7/19/2017 1:46 PM
12	Lockhouse Rd. Cabot Rd area	7/19/2017 1:44 PM
13	the Westfield River and other water ways COMPLETE THE BIKE on going since before 1999.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
14	Easy kayak access to the river would be nice.	7/19/2017 12:48 PM
15	North side	7/19/2017 12:25 PM
16	The north side of town	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
17	Riverfront. North side has so much potential. But also need to keep updating south side / downtown.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
18	Along the river / connecting existing trails & paths	7/19/2017 11:01 AM
19	Downtownish for those without transportation.	7/9/2017 7:03 PM
20	North Side	7/6/2017 12:58 PM
21	City Center	6/28/2017 9:41 PM
22	Cross St.	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
23	Whitney Park	6/26/2017 4:38 PM
24	Shaker Rd area	6/26/2017 7:02 AM
25	no new ones until mantaince is regularly conducted	6/24/2017 11:32 AM
26	South side	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
27	Connecting the Columbia Greenway to neighborhoods and other major routes via shared bike lanes Pocket parks downtown	6/22/2017 11:09 PM
28	All over town. Maybe off of Union St.	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
29	More near the upper Shaker Rd area. These kids are very separated from any such options. The bike trail helps, but...	6/22/2017 3:17 PM
30	River access for kayaking, hiking trails	6/22/2017 2:59 PM
31	Don't eliminate the open space at Cross St. This is a perfect setting for playing fields and recreation. It's location is ideal for this purpose. Build the school elsewhere.	6/22/2017 2:35 PM
32	Spray Park North end, Pickle Ball courts Municipal field	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
33	I would like more downtown or one's accessible from the bus routes.	6/21/2017 6:54 PM
34	North side.	6/21/2017 5:43 PM
35	Would love it of they expanded/guaranteed funding/lengthened the parks/rec free summer program. It's a Great program especially the one on Hubbard st.	6/21/2017 4:36 PM
36	Hampton Ponds	6/21/2017 4:29 PM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

37	on the North Side, especially in economically disadvantaged areas how about that parcel on Cabot Road	6/21/2017 3:16 PM
38	Center of town	6/21/2017 2:42 PM
39	Finish connecting the bike trail to the North side	6/20/2017 1:53 PM
40	The river walk area	6/20/2017 1:10 PM
41	completion of Columbia Greenway through downtown and connection to Pochassic north of the river	6/20/2017 10:31 AM
42	I'd like to see the bike trail finished through downtown.	6/20/2017 10:03 AM
43	1. Westfield River--needs more activity (kayaking, walking, biking) 2. Promote and upgrade the New England National Scenic Trail, which cuts through Westfield, but no one knows about it ( <a href="https://www.newenglandtrail.org/">https://www.newenglandtrail.org/</a> ). 3. Columbia Greenway needs multi-use path connections to east/west neighborhoods (e.g., along Western Ave)	6/20/2017 9:25 AM
44	Westfield River Levee and Wielgus farm	6/20/2017 7:56 AM
45	Esplanade/Great Falls Park/levee area around N. Elm. An untapped resources with beautiful scenery! bike trail will bring folks there to hang out by the river and help nearby businesses. Rusty train bridge needs to be incorporated as a destination in that area. Perhaps model on bridge of flowers in Shelburne Falls?	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
46	Cross Street! Please!	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
47	Stanley park	6/19/2017 12:32 AM
48	Stanley park	6/19/2017 12:30 AM
49	Stanley park	6/19/2017 12:24 AM
50	North side	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
51	North side	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
52	the north end/ north of the pike	6/18/2017 12:38 PM
53	Little River, Southwick Rd area	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
54	North side	6/17/2017 1:07 PM
55	East Mountain Road area	6/17/2017 1:00 PM
56	Little River and Shaker Road area	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
57	Everywhere in the city. The Riverside could be a beautiful place to walk but it should be lit well and have easier access	6/17/2017 9:52 AM
58	I would like to see additional recreation facilities and programs on the north side of Westfield and the rivers. We could have Kayaking and canoe classes, fly fishing lessons.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
59	any place with transportation	6/17/2017 9:31 AM
60	Spray park at Stanley park.	6/17/2017 8:23 AM
61	Little River Fire Station area and Tannery Road/Southwick Road area	6/9/2017 5:08 PM
62	I would love to see communities gardens in Westfield. Multi-use trails, like the Greenway, throughout the entire city are needed.	6/9/2017 2:52 PM
63	Recreation facility @ Dry Bridge on Rail Trail.	6/9/2017 4:40 AM

### Q7 Do you think the following groups have sufficient recreational opportunities?

Answered: 108 Skipped: 9

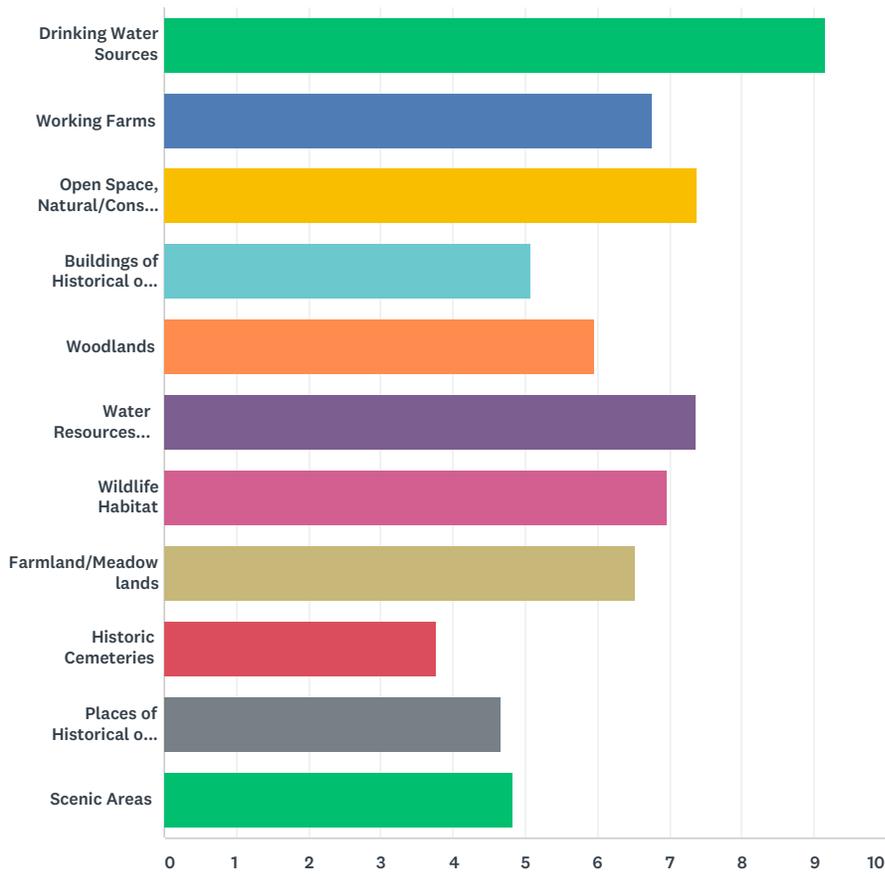


## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

	YES	NO	TOTAL
Disabled	18.56% 18	81.44% 79	97
Teenagers	23.00% 23	77.00% 77	100
Those Without Cars	28.87% 28	71.13% 69	97
Families	35.42% 34	64.58% 62	96
Senior Citizens	41.41% 41	58.59% 58	99
Adults	44.44% 44	55.56% 55	99
Newcomers/immigrants	45.16% 42	54.84% 51	93
College students	60.20% 59	39.80% 39	98
Preschoolers	76.29% 74	23.71% 23	97
Grade School Children	77.08% 74	22.92% 22	96

Q8 Please rank the importance of protecting/conserving the following community features. (1 = most important)

Answered: 108 Skipped: 9



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	TOTAL	SCORE
Drinking Water Sources	51.09% 47	13.04% 12	9.78% 9	3.26% 3	8.70% 8	1.09% 1	4.35% 4	2.17% 2	2.17% 2	2.17% 2	2.17% 2	92	9.17
Working Farms	11.49% 10	10.34% 9	9.20% 8	12.64% 11	11.49% 10	11.49% 10	9.20% 8	9.20% 8	5.75% 5	3.45% 3	5.75% 5	87	6.76
Open Space, Natural/Conservation Lands	11.76% 10	5.88% 5	15.29% 13	16.47% 14	18.82% 16	10.59% 9	11.76% 10	3.53% 3	2.35% 2	2.35% 2	1.18% 1	85	7.39
Buildings of Historical or Architectural Interest	8.75% 7	7.50% 6	7.50% 6	5.00% 4	5.00% 4	7.50% 6	2.50% 2	11.25% 9	16.25% 13	13.75% 11	15.00% 12	80	5.08
Woodlands	7.14% 7	10.20% 10	9.18% 9	11.22% 11	9.18% 9	7.14% 7	6.12% 6	10.20% 10	12.24% 12	11.22% 11	6.12% 6	98	5.97
Water Resources (natural/recreational)	7.14% 6	22.62% 19	8.33% 7	10.71% 9	11.90% 10	19.05% 16	4.76% 4	7.14% 6	4.76% 4	2.38% 2	1.19% 1	84	7.36
Wildlife Habitat	6.74% 6	8.99% 8	16.85% 15	15.73% 14	10.11% 9	11.24% 10	14.61% 13	5.62% 5	3.37% 3	3.37% 3	3.37% 3	89	6.96
Farmland/Meadowlands	4.65% 4	11.63% 10	13.95% 12	6.98% 6	12.79% 11	13.95% 12	11.63% 10	8.14% 7	9.30% 8	4.65% 4	2.33% 2	86	6.52
Historic Cemeteries	4.26% 4	1.06% 1	5.32% 5	3.19% 3	4.26% 4	7.45% 7	3.19% 3	11.70% 11	13.83% 13	21.28% 20	24.47% 23	94	3.77
Places of Historical or Archaeological Value	2.30% 2	6.90% 6	3.45% 3	6.90% 6	8.05% 7	2.30% 2	14.94% 13	9.20% 8	19.54% 17	18.39% 16	8.05% 7	87	4.66
Scenic Areas	2.33% 2	8.14% 7	6.98% 6	9.30% 8	2.33% 2	6.98% 6	10.47% 9	18.60% 16	4.65% 4	9.30% 8	20.93% 18	86	4.83

Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

**Q9 Please list the landscapes, views, locations, and other outdoor experiences that you think most symbolize Westfield's unique character and the parts of Westfield that you would "show off" to visitors and guests.**

Answered: 78 Skipped: 39

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	River mountains	7/26/2017 7:21 PM
2	Westfield river; bike trail; Newberry's lot; Granville reservoir; Montgomery reservoir;	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
3	Stanley Park	7/26/2017 12:11 PM
4	Stanley Park	7/26/2017 11:58 AM
5	Stanley Park, Grandmother's Garden, Amelia Park, Western Avenue.	7/25/2017 11:15 AM
6	Stanley park, bike path, downtown	7/24/2017 10:39 PM
7	Mundale Section, General Knox Rd., Downtown, Grandmother's Garden, Stanley Park, Tekoa Mountain, Honey Pot Rd., Granville Reservoir	7/21/2017 9:21 PM
8	Stanley Park, The Green, Rails to Trails	7/21/2017 3:45 PM
9	Amelia & Stanley Parks, Columbia Greenway, Riverfront Park at Great River Bridges, fishing on the Westfield River	7/20/2017 2:05 PM
10	The views from the rail trail like the tobacco fields and Little River, Stanley Park, River Walk, Grandmother's Garden.	7/20/2017 8:56 AM
11	stanley park	7/20/2017 6:50 AM
12	stanley park, especially the rose garden, park square, the columbia greenway	7/20/2017 12:50 AM
13	Bike Trail	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
14	Stanley park	7/19/2017 9:25 PM
15	The bike path. Stanley Park. Scenic views along the M+M trail	7/19/2017 9:23 PM
16	Stanley Park comes first to mind.	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
17	The bridges and downtown, Stanley Park	7/19/2017 2:26 PM
18	Westfield River watershed	7/19/2017 2:04 PM
19	Half Mile Falls Park, Stanley Park , Amelia Park, Veterans Park	7/19/2017 1:44 PM
20	Westfield River areas	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
21	Downtown brick buildings, Victorian homes on western Ave, Stanley park, the bridge and park near it, golf courses (tekoa and shaker farms)	7/19/2017 12:48 PM
22	Views of the Westfield River, the Brickyard ponds and farms on the north side of Westfield, the historic downtown of Westfield including many of the beautiful old houses,	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
23	Riverfront. Walking areas downtown. The Green.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
24	Stanley Park	7/19/2017 11:18 AM
25	The rivers	7/19/2017 11:01 AM
26	Stanley Park	7/9/2017 7:03 PM
27	Stanley Park is a treasure, with the bike and levee trails along the river a close second. If there were any shade, at all, on the parks between the bridges or in the square, I would put those on my list.	7/8/2017 1:46 PM
28	Stanley Park, Columbia Railtrail, Northern Branch of the Westfield River, Amelia Park	7/6/2017 12:58 PM
29	Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, Stanley Park, Grandmother's Garden	6/28/2017 9:41 PM
30	It's farms, especially the few remaining in the urban environment; older homes surrounded by large healthy street trees; the rivers and views to the water (not from the new bridge parks. Those areas are over-built and too contrived. Bullens field; St. Mary's Cemetery; Pine Hill Cemetery; the churches; Athenaeum; Parker's Memorial Park; the parks and playgrounds.	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
31	Along the river, at Whitney Park to Chapman and further north	6/26/2017 4:38 PM
32	Park Square, Great River Bridges, and Stanley Park	6/26/2017 7:02 AM
33	Stanley Park The Green Historic buildings City Hall Gaslight District	6/24/2017 11:32 AM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

34	Stanley park	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
35	Stanley Park, Grandmother's Garden, Bullen's Field, downtown Park Square before it was destroyed and most of the school playgrounds.	6/23/2017 11:06 AM
36	Stanley Park is a beautiful place!	6/23/2017 9:19 AM
37	Stanley Park Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Park Square Westfield River Westfield River Levee Park	6/22/2017 11:09 PM
38	Stanley Park.	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
39	Stanley Park, Columbia Bike Trail,	6/22/2017 3:17 PM
40	Bike trail and Stanley park	6/22/2017 2:59 PM
41	Stanley Park	6/22/2017 2:35 PM
42	River, Stanley park, Wyben area	6/21/2017 5:43 PM
43	Whip City; Athenaeum; Park Square; Grandmother's Garden;	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
44	All of Stanley Park Tekoa Mountain	6/21/2017 3:16 PM
45	The bike trail and riverwalk. Stanley Park and Amelie Park are great assets to there city.	6/21/2017 2:36 PM
46	Stanley Park Half Mile Falls Park	6/21/2017 2:35 PM
47	Stanley Park	6/21/2017 2:27 PM
48	Grandmothers' Garden, Stanley Park,	6/21/2017 2:24 PM
49	Bike trail and Stanley Park	6/20/2017 1:53 PM
50	Stanley Park, rail trail	6/20/2017 1:10 PM
51	Stanley Park, Westfield River, Mt. Tekoa	6/20/2017 10:31 AM
52	1. 2 Bridges with views of Westfield River, Clock Tower, and downtown 2. Park Square 3. Elm Street Downtown Corridor	6/20/2017 9:25 AM
53	Great River Bridge and river side improvements, Park square green	6/20/2017 7:56 AM
54	Stanley Park City Parks Westfield River Walk Greenway Trail	6/20/2017 12:51 AM
55	Riverfront area near Westfield Whip manufacturing/North Elm/Great Falls Park / bridges	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
56	Stanley Park Westfield & Little Rivers The "Farm" - the valley Westfield State University Barnes Airport area	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
57	Stanley park	6/18/2017 3:10 PM
58	Stanley Park Airport East Mountain Area	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
59	Stanley Park Airport East Mountain Area	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
60	Westfield River, Stanley Park, Dewey House, The Old Burying Ground	6/18/2017 12:38 PM
61	Downtown, idges c, rural areas, storic buildings and home	6/18/2017 8:13 AM
62	View from tekoa mountain summit, west branch of Westfield River, provin mountain	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
63	clock tower, the westfield river and local farms	6/17/2017 1:56 PM
64	Bike path, Stanley park, River front, downtown	6/17/2017 1:56 PM
65	Stanley park Down town green	6/17/2017 1:07 PM
66	Stanley Park	6/17/2017 1:00 PM
67	The green space, the architectural history.	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
68	Stanley Park, Hampton Ponds area, the rivers and open land on the north side of Westfield most symbolize Westfield to me. These areas should be preserved and improved for maximum enjoyment by the residents of Westfield, guests and visitors.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
69	stanley park great river bridge	6/17/2017 9:31 AM
70	Amelia Park and Stanley Park	6/17/2017 9:05 AM
71	Stanley Park, Westfield town green, all playing fields	6/17/2017 8:23 AM
72	The unique store fronts and structures downtown. So many of the unoccupied spaces have begun to look run-down without use or maintenance. Also our numerous Victorian style homes.	6/13/2017 3:50 PM
73	Stanley Park, the Bike Trail, downtown eateries/pubs	6/9/2017 5:08 PM
74	The rail trail, the Westfield River, and Stanley Park	6/9/2017 2:52 PM
75	Stanley Park, Grandmother's Garden, Municipal Playground, river walk, bike trail	6/9/2017 1:29 PM
76	Westfield River Parks, Columbia Greenway	6/9/2017 1:28 PM
77	Waterfront Park could be a Showcase Destination for Rail Trail users BUT unfortunately vandalism is rampant. Historic signage on Rail Trail highlighting Westfield Heritage Stanley Park.	6/9/2017 4:40 AM

# Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Q10 What do you value most about open space in Westfield? Do you think land protection is important? If so, why? (i.e. for recreation, drinking water supply protection, protection of property values, etc.)

Answered: 72 Skipped: 45

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Trail creation in mountains	7/26/2017 7:21 PM
2	The aquifer must be protected. Open space tax surcharges should be used for recreation and not to restore properties which few have access, e.g. Barnes hanger.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
3	Yes land protection is important because we like good water + keeping property values!	7/26/2017 12:11 PM
4	drinking water (wells are either shut down or polluted)	7/26/2017 11:58 AM
5	Quality of life, wildlife, recreation, property values.	7/25/2017 11:15 AM
6	Westfield has some wild area in its western section, good wildlife habitat, endangered species areas. It enhances a city to have such land protected for the future; people love having the amenities of a city but not have to live crowded, to have space, like the Loomis Ridge, Loomis St. and Granville Rd. areas.	7/21/2017 9:21 PM
7	Access to open space Land protection is important for all the reasons referred to	7/21/2017 3:45 PM
8	land protection very important especially to protect drinking water supplies	7/21/2017 10:19 AM
9	I believe strongly that land protection is important for all of the above stated reasons, as well as the protection of wildlife.	7/20/2017 2:05 PM
10	Wildlife habitat, recreation and open farmland to conserve the quality of life in Westfield.	7/20/2017 8:56 AM
11	recreation and protection of property value, safe drinking water	7/20/2017 6:50 AM
12	all of the above (for recreation, drinking water supply protection, protection of property values, etc.)	7/20/2017 12:50 AM
13	Protecting drinking water is very important to the future of Westfield residents.	7/19/2017 10:20 PM
14	Land protection is important in order to protect our drinking water supply and for wildlife habitats. we need to protect farmland in order to provide food and fiber for our growing population.	7/19/2017 9:23 PM
15	It is very important! I don't want to see Westfield built up with homes all over where you cannot enjoy beautiful scenery and wildlife.	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
16	Secures areas not to be developed, allows for a good mix of green and developed areas	7/19/2017 2:26 PM
17	Land that provides wildlife habitat, drinking water, and food should be protected as we rely on these things to live and thrive.	7/19/2017 2:04 PM
18	Yes . Protect the open space for future generations to see and use.	7/19/2017 1:44 PM
19	Natural setting	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
20	I think keeping the parks maintained is important-- Stanley park and others. For the beauty and recreational enjoyment. I think maintenance of Stanley protects property values nearby. Having open spaces to enjoy in addition to a busy downtown will make Westfield valued to live in and visit.	7/19/2017 12:48 PM
21	Land protection is important for all of the reasons above but even more so for environmental reasons.	7/19/2017 12:25 PM
22	Drinking water and aquifer protection are the number one priority of the town right now or else we are going to be in a real jam down the road. We also need to conserve farm land and working farms to make sure we have local healthy food available to all residents.	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
23	I love open spaces. I think they can be a nice combo of somewhat developed for practical use and still remain open. But we need maintance and monitoring.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
24	I feel more at home and comfortable with open space around - it's essentially for recharging and living healthy. I also believe it's important to take care of the environment in which we live so that we can continue to do so!	7/19/2017 11:01 AM
25	Drinking supply protection	7/9/2017 7:03 PM
26	Yes, land protection is important. We need clean drinking water, places to hike/birdwatch/do passive recreation, and as a bonus it improves the property value of those living nearby.	7/8/2017 1:46 PM
27	Open space provides protection of habitats, water resources, and public health. Open space provides an opportunity to expand recreation, an appreciation for nature and hopefully the desire to protect it from overdevelopment and the risk of contamination.	7/6/2017 12:58 PM
28	protecting ground water drinking sources is very important.	6/28/2017 9:41 PM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

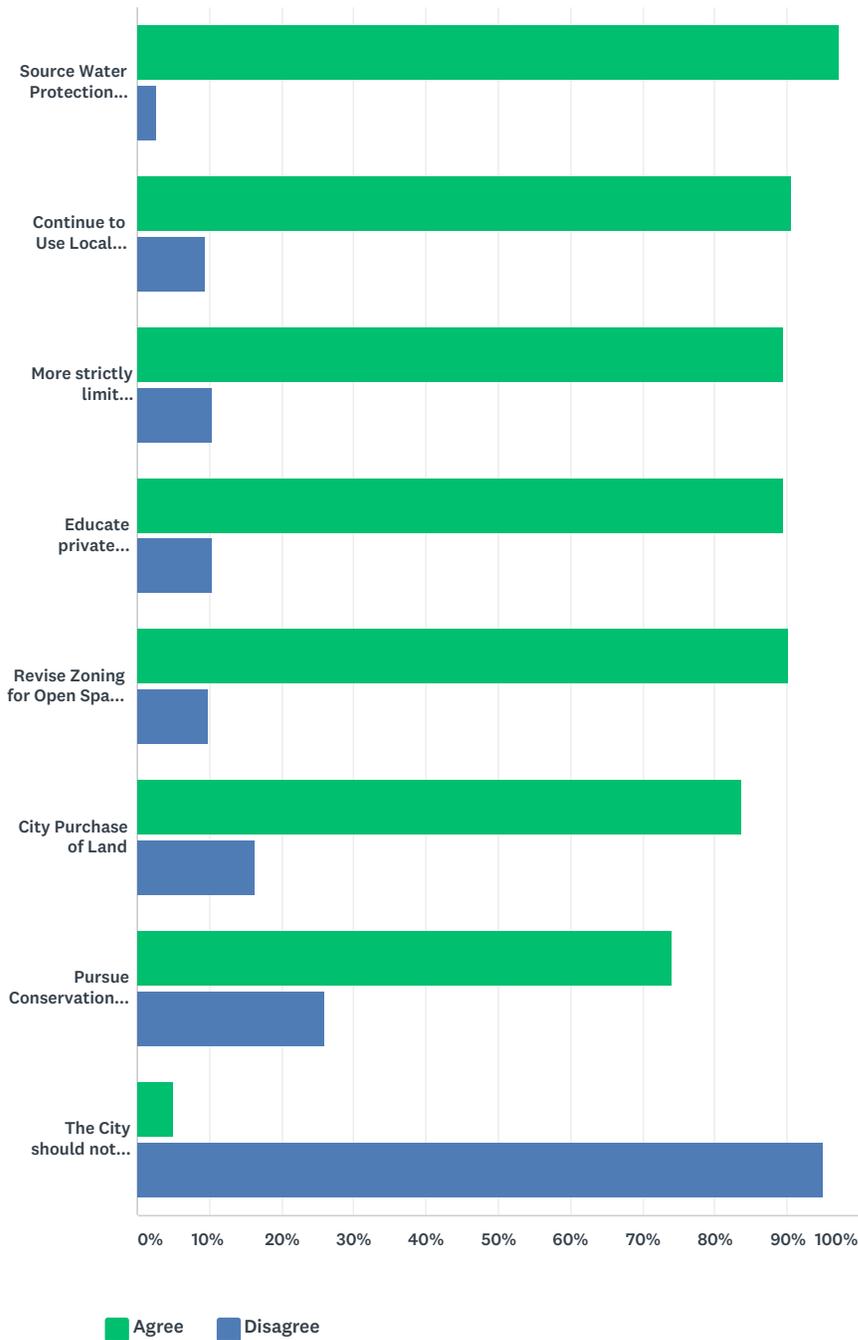
29	Open space land protection is lacking in Westfield. Playgrounds have been both maintained, and assaulted and diminished in size for political advantage. Urban residents need their open spaces saved. They need more open spaces. Westfield's so-called new 'pocket parks' are nothing but postage stamp sized patios along the sidewalks. Westfield doesn't know what a 'pocket park' is. Look down Cross St. and see what the city has done to that playground and those underrepresented people there. When you go, take a look at the sign at the entrance to the ball field. Big symbol representing the government's participation in that park. Big deal. City didn't care and went ahead and destroyed it anyway.	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
30	We need a balance between open space and development.	6/24/2017 11:32 AM
31	Yes for general well good	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
32	Combined city but country-style living for all of the above reasons	6/23/2017 11:06 AM
33	Concerned about drinking water,air pollution from trucks on Rt 202,trees and wildlife protection.	6/23/2017 9:19 AM
34	Yes it is important for drinking water and food supply etc.	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
35	Recreation	6/22/2017 3:17 PM
36	All of those reasons	6/22/2017 2:59 PM
37	Open space is important in order to maintain a balanced environment. Over-development puts a burden on the city's resources and services. And, of course, of utmost concern is the current state of the city's water supply.	6/22/2017 2:35 PM
38	Drinking water supply protection	6/22/2017 1:30 PM
39	Not at the expense of landowners rights	6/22/2017 12:21 PM
40	Absolutely. For above reasons stated.	6/21/2017 5:43 PM
41	Drinking water clean and safe is a huge thing!	6/21/2017 4:36 PM
42	drinking water supply & protection of home value	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
43	When you travel to Eastern Mass, it seems as if all the houses and buildings are right on top of each other. There is too much congestion/ development, and the air quality suffers greatly. The lack of the above quality is what I value about the open space in Westfield.	6/21/2017 3:16 PM
44	All the above. The quality of our lives.	6/21/2017 2:36 PM
45	All of the above	6/21/2017 2:35 PM
46	I own a lot of open land, and get taxed for having it. I would do much better if I just sold it all to a developer and got the heck out of town. Open land does not generate as many tax dollars as building lots, so there is little incentive provided for maintaining privately owned open land.	6/21/2017 2:29 PM
47	Yes,extremely,to protect the character of the town	6/20/2017 1:53 PM
48	Drinking water protection, avoid over development	6/20/2017 1:10 PM
49	I most value open space for its recreational opportunities and as natural habitat. Land protection is important to me for recreation, natural habitat and water supply protection.	6/20/2017 10:31 AM
50	Open space is important to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors. Westfield has many of these features (river, New England Trail), but they are not promoted or given appropriate attention. Right now, the best feature we have is the Columbia Greenway, but it needs to be completed through downtown to link residents/visitors to the river.	6/20/2017 9:25 AM
51	Augment and compliment urban dense development	6/20/2017 7:56 AM
52	Land protection, drinking water protection, wetlands, farm lands, preserving our parks, and wildlife habitat. If we don't take care and protect our most valued resources and habitat we lose more than we can ever gain back.	6/20/2017 12:51 AM
53	Westfield's natural beauty is one of the reasons it offers us a high quality of life. All of the above reasons for land protection matter and contribute to property values. People look at these elements of open space as they choose where to settle and raise a family.	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
54	Land protection is very important. Please don't pave paradise.	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
55	Drinking water, quality of life	6/18/2017 3:10 PM
56	water supply woodlands natural habitat	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
57	water supply woodlands natural habitat	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
58	Land protection is important to preserving the acquifer and for safe environmental recreation along the river, etc.	6/18/2017 12:38 PM
59	Land protection for recreation and minimizing urban sprawl. Relaxing in nature, drinking water is essential	6/18/2017 8:13 AM
60	Drinking water protection, public recreation, and nature/wildlife conservation.	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
61	Open space provides a buffer between urban centers and helps to balance the city with area's of nature and openness. This will help for a better quality of life and heathier urban areas.	6/17/2017 1:56 PM
62	Drinking water	6/17/2017 1:07 PM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

63	Yes, all of the above	6/17/2017 1:00 PM
64	Drinking water and wildlife protection	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
65	The abundance of open space and farms is what attracted me to Westfield. Protecting and preserving open space, reducing sprawl and better managing development should be a top priority. We need to do more to preserve our water resources and control traffic.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
66	yes all reasons above	6/17/2017 9:31 AM
67	The open space provides "room to breathe" and listen to something other than the noise of traffic, neighbors, etc. With so many of Westfield residents living together in close neighborhoods, it is nice to get out on trails, like the Greenway, to listen to the birds...or nothing at all!	6/13/2017 3:50 PM
68	Yes, safe drinking water, good development non-development balance	6/9/2017 5:08 PM
69	Water supply protection	6/9/2017 2:28 PM
70	Land protection is very important. As we know all too well, it doesn't take much for drinking water to become limited or compromised, so having options and back-ups is essential. Kids need more opportunities to get outside and be active more than ever in this day and age of electronics and high obesity rates. Wildlife is being extremely impacted with all the clear-cutting of land and home building happening in Westfield. There needs to be consideration for the homes of wildlife as well as humans.	6/9/2017 1:29 PM
71	An independent Realtor assessment indicated Rail Trail as an asset to the economic, cultural, well being of Community. Connectivity is required.	6/9/2017 4:40 AM
72	Open Space by itself is important to make the City livable. However, the City should pursue Open Space for protecting our water supply, wildlife, reduction of carbon footprint, and many other environmental benefits.	6/8/2017 10:02 AM

### Q11 What land protection actions do you think Westfield should take to conserve open space?

Answered: 110 Skipped: 7



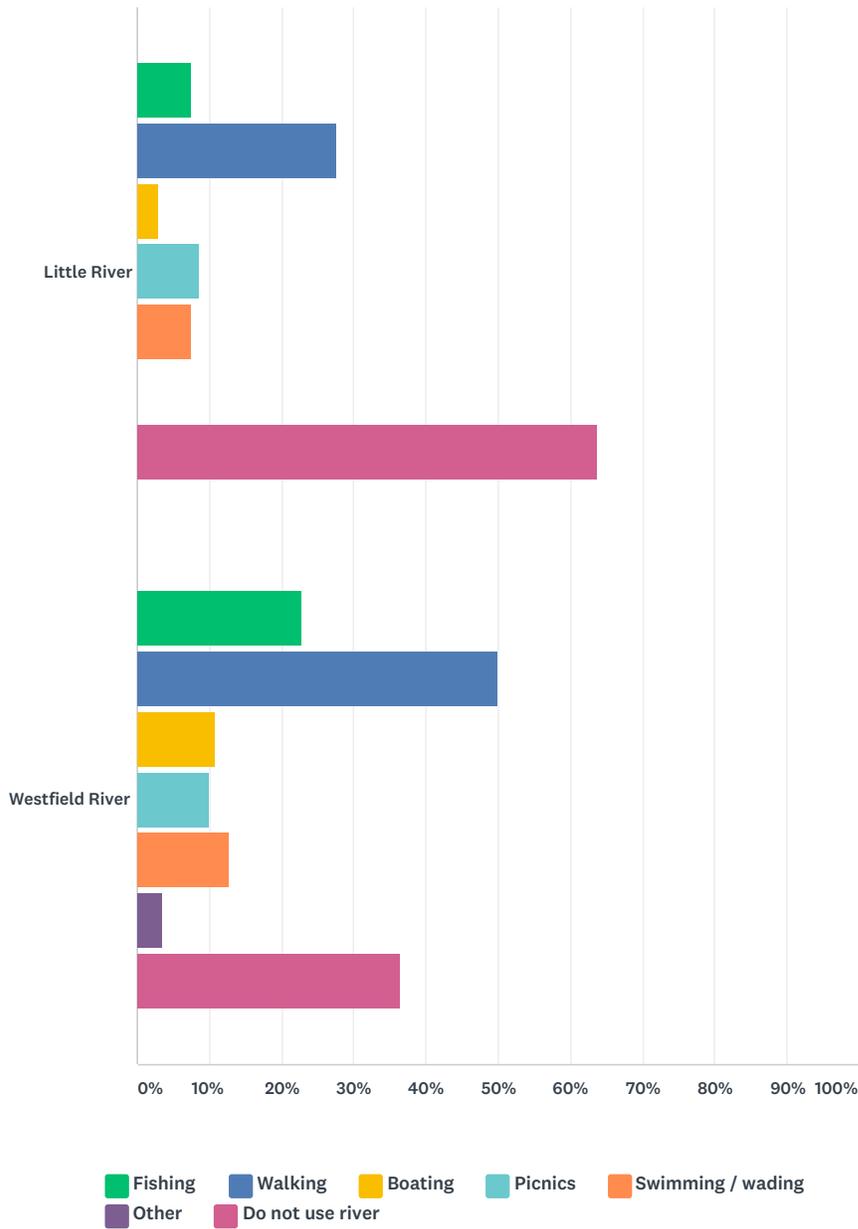
	AGREE	DISAGREE	TOTAL
Source Water Protection program (Drinking Water)	97.20% 104	2.80% 3	107
Continue to Use Local Community Preservation Act Funds for Land Protection	90.57% 96	9.43% 10	106
More strictly limit impervious development (buildings, pavement) over the aquifer recharge areas	89.62% 95	10.38% 11	106
Educate private landowners about conservation restrictions funded through federal Forest Legacy Program	89.52% 94	10.48% 11	105

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Revise Zoning for Open Space / Conservation Focus	90.10% 91	9.90% 10	101
City Purchase of Land	83.67% 82	16.33% 16	98
Pursue Conservation or Agricultural Restrictions on Private Land	74.00% 74	26.00% 26	100
The City should not pursue land protection/open space actions	5.05% 5	94.95% 94	99

### Q12 If you ever use any of the rivers in Westfield, which rivers do you use, and for what?

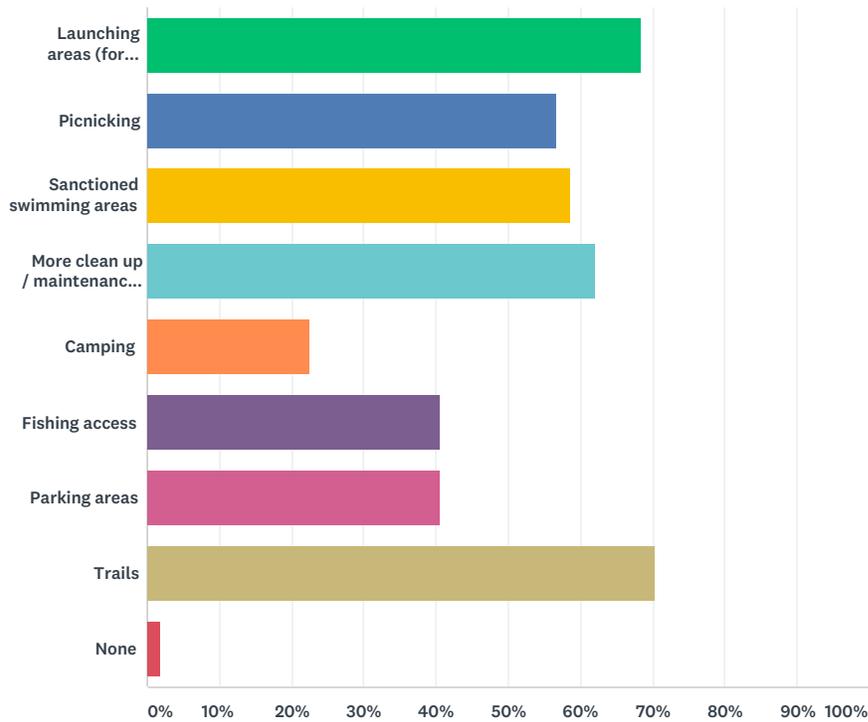
Answered: 112 Skipped: 5



	FISHING	WALKING	BOATING	PICNICS	SWIMMING / WADING	OTHER	DO NOT USE RIVER	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Little River	7.62% 8	27.62% 29	2.86% 3	8.57% 9	7.62% 8	0.00% 0	63.81% 67	105
Westfield River	22.73% 25	50.00% 55	10.91% 12	10.00% 11	12.73% 14	3.64% 4	36.36% 40	110

**Q13 What activities or improvements would you like to see made available on the rivers? Please specify where in the comment box below.**

Answered: 111 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Launching areas (for canoeing, kayaking, boating, rafting)	68.47% 76
Picnicking	56.76% 63
Sanctioned swimming areas	58.56% 65
More clean up / maintenance services	62.16% 69
Camping	22.52% 25
Fishing access	40.54% 45
Parking areas	40.54% 45
Trails	70.27% 78
None	1.80% 2
Total Respondents: 111	

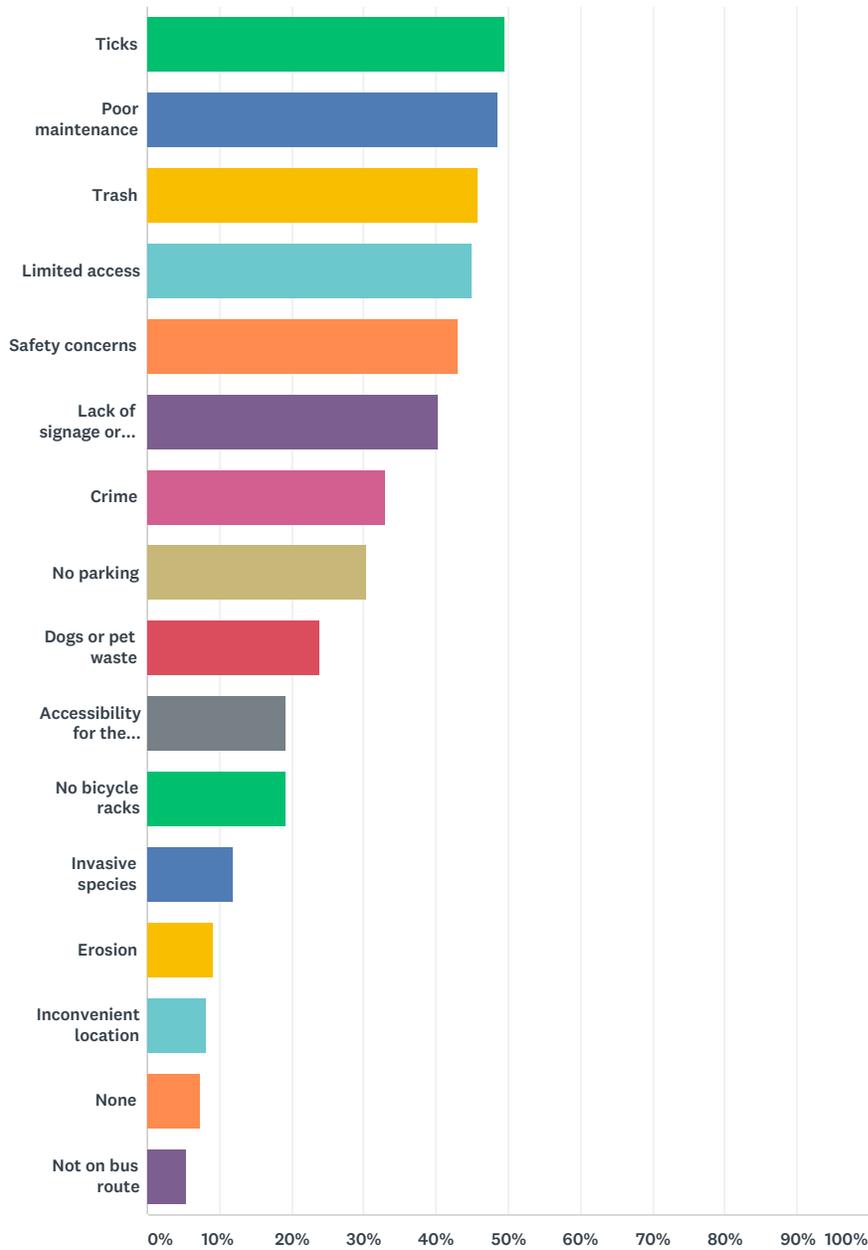
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Kayak put in	7/26/2017 7:21 PM
2	I would use it more if I could access it. I currently access the river off the bike trail by Tin Bridge.	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
3	Heavy finds for people who litter	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
4	Also - more attention paid to local storm water run-off and pollution.	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
5	I don't have a lot of knowledge on the river. I don't know if the water is clean.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
6	Westfield's rivers are dangerous. Little River's flow is unpredictable on a daily basis. Too often, someone drowns in the Westfield River by the bridges because they think it's safe.	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
7	Stop people DRIVING IN THE RIVER and disrupting fish habitats. Disgusting	6/21/2017 7:26 PM
8	better launch access and parking at Hanover St., Whitney Playground, trail along river west of Whitney Playground	6/20/2017 10:31 AM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

9	boat rental	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
10	Is the River clean enough to swim in?	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
11	BIKE TRAIL	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
12	BIKE TRAIL	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
13	River cafes! Pedestrian friendly space, cultural outlet for kids and teens who are not necessarily sporty	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
14	Fly fishing, canoe and kayaking lessons.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
15	a place to rent boats would be great	6/9/2017 2:52 PM
16	City center and downriver from there	6/8/2017 10:02 AM

**Q14 Do any of the following concerns prevent you from using or enjoying open space or recreation areas in Westfield? Please specify any concerns below in the comment box.**

Answered: 109 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ticks	49.54%	54
Poor maintenance	48.62%	53
Trash	45.87%	50
Limited access	44.95%	49
Safety concerns	43.12%	47
Lack of signage or information	40.37%	44

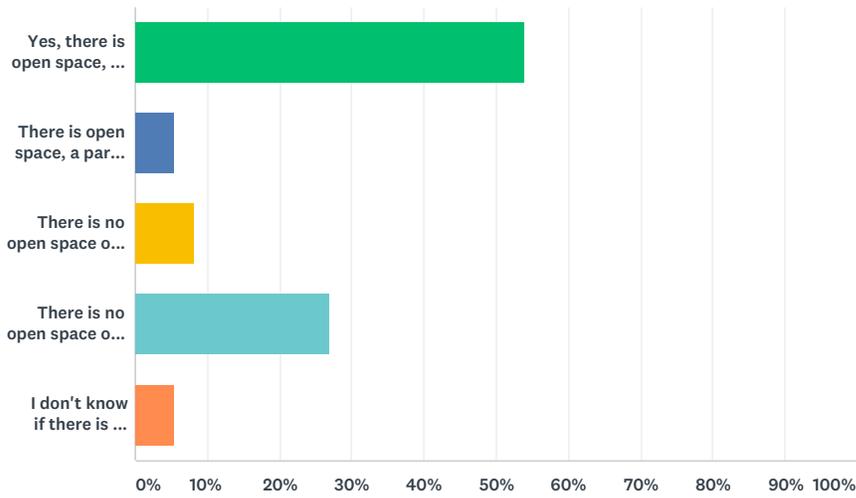
## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

Crime	33.03%	36
No parking	30.28%	33
Dogs or pet waste	23.85%	26
Accessibility for the disabled	19.27%	21
No bicycle racks	19.27%	21
Invasive species	11.93%	13
Erosion	9.17%	10
Inconvenient location	8.26%	9
None	7.34%	8
Not on bus route	5.50%	6
Total Respondents: 109		

#	OTHER/PLEASE SPECIFY	DATE
1	Lack of awareness of what's available/accessible.	7/25/2017 11:15 AM
2	A brochure with parks and trails and public areas marked; I don't even know how to get to the river parks and would like to use them. There's a park out Route 20 that is hardly known by anyone.	7/21/2017 9:21 PM
3	nothing of particular concern but maintenance and safety is always of some concern anywhere on public land	7/21/2017 10:19 AM
4	Not on walking trail	7/19/2017 8:26 PM
5	How does one get into the park area behind Highland School? Is it friendly to disabled people?	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
6	need facilities i many parks for collecting and disposing of dog waste	6/26/2017 4:38 PM
7	Not enough stoller and wheelchair access	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
8	Allergies	6/21/2017 3:16 PM
9	It's not clear what open spaces can be used or how they can be used.	6/20/2017 9:25 AM
10	I would like to enjoy river but don't own a kayak or canoe and am not an experienced river boater. I wish I could rent a boat and have access to a safe area on the river to enjoy--a boat launch near the green bridges/great falls park would be wonderful.	6/19/2017 2:55 PM

### Q15 Are you able to get to a publicly accessible open space or recreation area without driving?

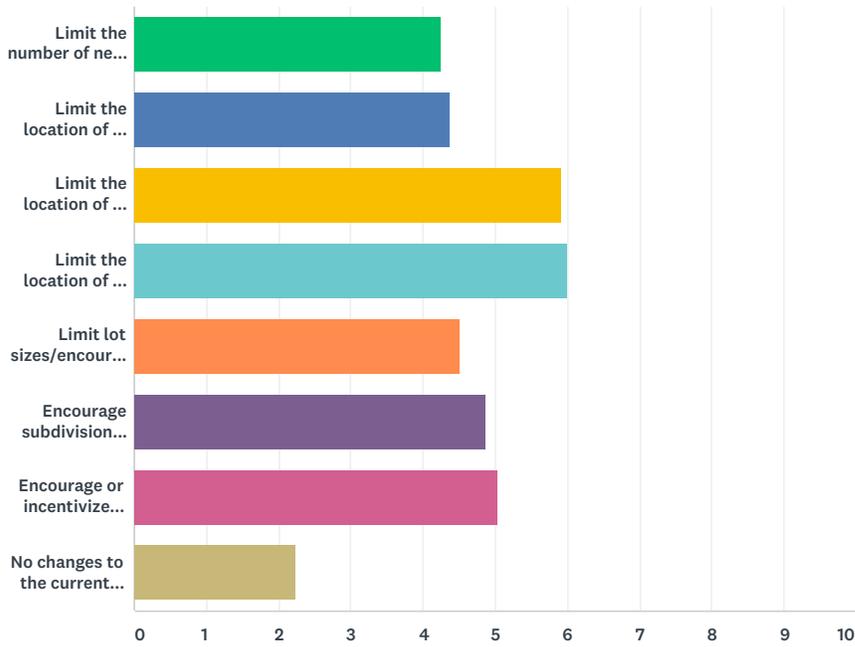
Answered: 111 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes, there is open space, a park, or a conservation area within a 10-minute walk from my home and I use it.	54.05% 60
There is open space, a park, or conservation area within a 10-minute walk from my home but I do not use it.	5.41% 6
There is no open space or any parks or conservation areas within a 10-minute walk from my home, but that is ok.	8.11% 9
There is no open space or any parks or conservation areas within a 10-minute walk from my home, but it is something I would like to see.	27.03% 30
I don't know if there is any open space, parks, or conservation areas within a 10-minute walk from my home.	5.41% 6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>

**Q16 The term "residential growth" refers to new housing development. Please rank the residential growth policies that you support for Westfield. (1 = most important)**

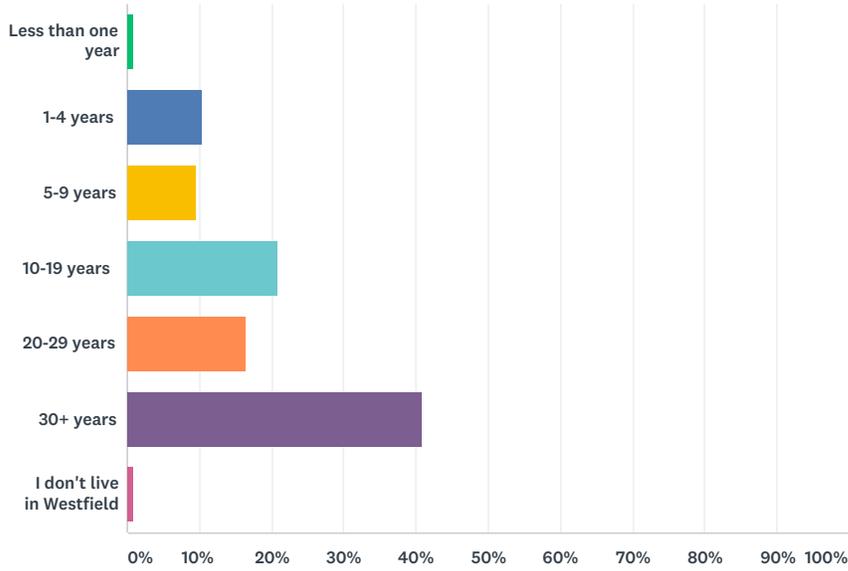
Answered: 104 Skipped: 13



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Limit the number of new houses built per year.	21.95% 18	4.88% 4	8.54% 7	4.88% 4	6.10% 5	18.29% 15	24.39% 20	10.98% 9	82	4.24
Limit the location of new houses on steeper slopes (greater than 15%, or about 8.5 degrees).	2.63% 2	10.53% 8	9.21% 7	27.63% 21	17.11% 13	18.42% 14	11.84% 9	2.63% 2	76	4.38
Limit the location of new houses to more than 200' from any wetland.	23.26% 20	13.95% 12	25.58% 22	17.44% 15	13.95% 12	2.33% 2	2.33% 2	1.16% 1	86	5.93
Limit the location of new houses on scenic land and farmland.	21.43% 18	28.57% 24	17.86% 15	7.14% 6	15.48% 13	5.95% 5	2.38% 2	1.19% 1	84	6.00
Limit lot sizes/encourage compact development.	7.41% 6	17.28% 14	9.88% 8	13.58% 11	16.05% 13	14.81% 12	13.58% 11	7.41% 6	81	4.51
Encourage subdivision developments to dedicate open space.	8.89% 8	18.89% 17	15.56% 14	15.56% 14	10.00% 9	15.56% 14	11.11% 10	4.44% 4	90	4.88
Encourage or incentivize development in/near established neighborhoods.	22.99% 20	9.20% 8	13.79% 12	10.34% 9	16.09% 14	6.90% 6	16.09% 14	4.60% 4	87	5.05
No changes to the current policies governing residential growth.	8.86% 7	1.27% 1	0.00% 0	6.33% 5	2.53% 2	5.06% 4	11.39% 9	64.56% 51	79	2.24

### Q17 How long have you lived in Westfield?

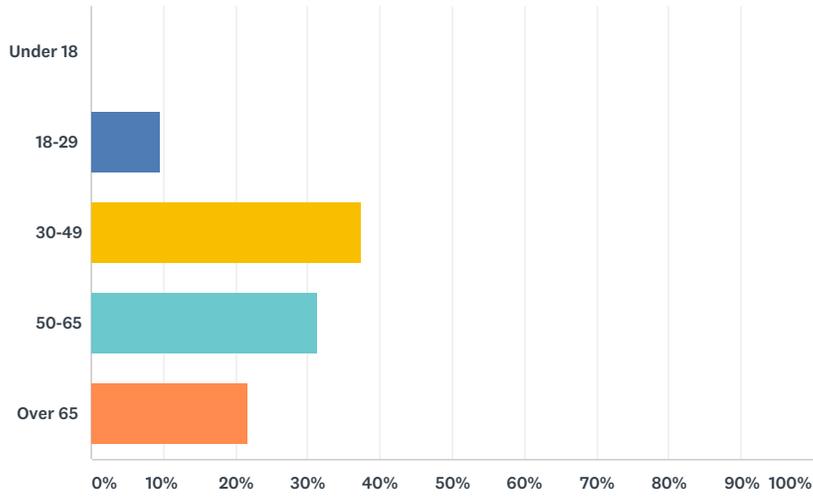
Answered: 115 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Less than one year	0.87% 1
1-4 years	10.43% 12
5-9 years	9.57% 11
10-19 years	20.87% 24
20-29 years	16.52% 19
30+ years	40.87% 47
I don't live in Westfield	0.87% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115</b>

### Q18 What is your age?

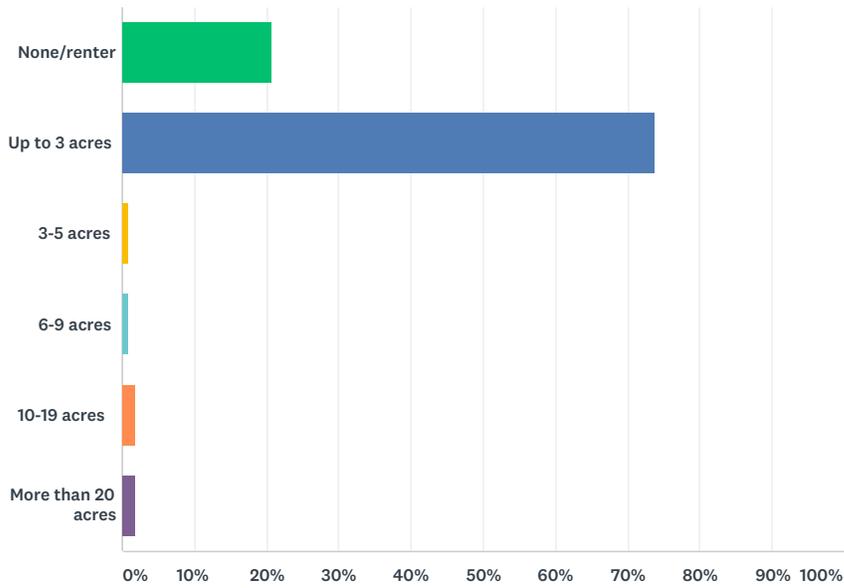
Answered: 115 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-29	9.57%	11
30-49	37.39%	43
50-65	31.30%	36
Over 65	21.74%	25
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>115</b>

### Q19 If you are a property owner, approximately how many acres do you own in Westfield?

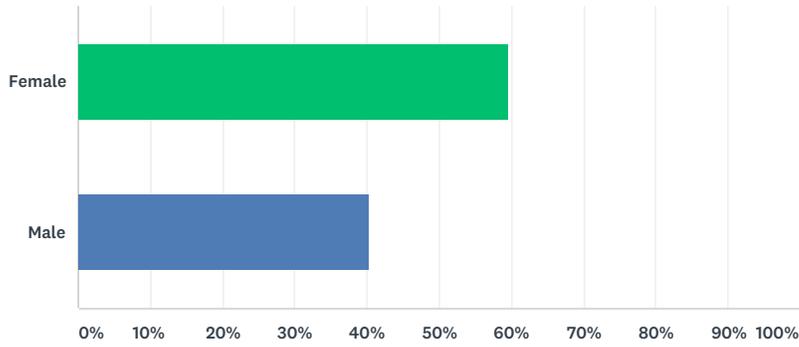
Answered: 111 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None/renter	20.72%	23
Up to 3 acres	73.87%	82
3-5 acres	0.90%	1
6-9 acres	0.90%	1
10-19 acres	1.80%	2
More than 20 acres	1.80%	2
TOTAL		111

### Q20 What is your gender?

Answered: 114 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Female	59.65% 68
Male	40.35% 46
TOTAL	114

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

### Q21 Please tell us more about your thoughts on Westfield's recreation and/or open space opportunities.

Answered: 48 Skipped: 69

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Trails on telos or other mountains work cooperative Y with other towns . Build disco gold course . Better boat launch below downtown bridge. Remove dams on little river	7/26/2017 7:21 PM
2	Thank you for survey. Concerned the tax surcharge is being used for projects not available for all citizens or wasted on the whip museum/hanger. This surcharge was sold to increase recreation areas and preserve space for public use. Other than soccer field at high school, where is the public use? Should not be subsidizing government budgets, but augment it.	7/26/2017 1:04 PM
3	Walkability is important to me as well as availability of bike lanes.	7/25/2017 11:15 AM
4	Combine conservations purposes by protecting wildlife and endangered species habitat, giving access to passive recreation, cherishing historical structures and sites like cemeteries, promoting access to trails, etc.	7/21/2017 9:21 PM
5	I would like to see the completion of the rail trail. I use it for commuting to work and would like to use it more for recreation and traveling longer distances.	7/20/2017 8:56 AM
6	more mountain biking please. connect western ave/lloyds hill rd. to rt.20 and back to the columbia greenway to make a giant safe loop.	7/20/2017 12:50 AM
7	All this money being spent on the bike trail where everyone who uses it doesn't directly pay for it. Yet, for those who have motorized recreational vehicles who pay sales and excise taxes, they have no where in Westfield to go. I think the bike trail should allow snowmobiles in the winter. It is rarely used by anyone else. And, if you did create something for motorized recreational vehicles, it could bring in a lot of people, which would be good for the local economy!!	7/19/2017 5:54 PM
8	More is needed for adults and senior citizens. Also more for teenage and college age persons.	7/19/2017 1:44 PM
9	Maintenance is the issue and availability after work hours and weekends.	7/19/2017 1:37 PM
10	I think Westfield does a great job of maintaining and upgrading the current recreational areas! I love living in this town and think the improvements made will help bring visitors and increase property values	7/19/2017 12:48 PM
11	Most concerned with development that doesn't follow zoning restrictions.	7/19/2017 12:25 PM
12	I think that this is something that Westfield needs to think about more seriously! Westfield is blessed with abundant open spaces but you have no plan to preserve them You need to do so - and stop focusing so much on Industrial development - do more for your residents and families!	7/19/2017 12:19 PM
13	Westfield is improving at an amazing rate. Don't listen to the naysayers. Move forward with the CGRT. Keep up what we've been doing. We CAN have beautification while improving the roadways. We deserve BOTH.	7/19/2017 11:22 AM
14	Bike path is a very valuable part of the city & would love to see it expanded. Also wish there was more information on put-on places for kayaks in the city.	7/19/2017 11:01 AM
15	Westfield used to support daily supervised summer activities at their playgrounds. Kids used to flock to the playgrounds to participate in games, craft making, and sports with the other kids from their neighborhoods. The playgrounds had summer houses for these activities. They were cut out in the early 70's, or there about. College aged adults used to be the supervisors. They were great and I think kids these days are really missing out on the fun we had.	6/28/2017 9:32 PM
16	Better placed crosswalks downtown	6/23/2017 5:55 PM
17	Definitely need playgrounds for children with disabilities, and I think it would be great for our young residents to have more water parks close by locations where outside sporting events are held.	6/23/2017 11:06 AM
18	I would like to see a brochure of areas for recreation and amenities. I would like to get info on land preservation. I work evenings and can't get to meetings, but have lots of questions and want to help. dianeedipietro@gmail.com	6/23/2017 9:19 AM
19	I would like to see a pool or splash pad added. Also maybe a park for toddlers only. The bigger kids tend to take over the parks pushing toddlers out of the way. Also allowing a builder to have a comunity of houses to rent. Not a lot of single family homes to rent.	6/22/2017 5:08 PM
20	Keep it green, with open space for all to enjoy.	6/21/2017 4:29 PM
21	That the Grant for the Greenway is used for the next phase to work toward the completion. The money spent by the city towards this will provide recreation for all ages. It brings people into local businesses, increases or property values and enhances our lives.	6/21/2017 2:36 PM
22	I am a homeowner of a condominium.	6/21/2017 2:24 PM
23	Please finish the bike trail and get some launch areas along Westfield River for kayaks	6/20/2017 1:53 PM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

24	Need for more recreational opportunities in the downtown area.	6/20/2017 1:10 PM
25	Finish the bike trail!	6/20/2017 10:03 AM
26	Westfield has the potential to be a hub of outdoor activity, but it will need more infrastructure. 1. We have a river that cuts through our city (and downtown), yet no one uses it. I'd love to see a kayak/canoe launch, picnic areas, maybe dedicated fishing spots. 2. Related, we need to complete the Columbia Greenway to attract residents and visitors to the river 3. The New England Scenic Trail needs maintenance/attention (make crossing route 20 safe, and trail should be clearly marked). Long-term, this trail should eventually be connected to the Columbia Greenway. Would make Westfield an important hub for travelers/hikers, bringing in tourism dollars. 4. Need a website/facebook page promoting these outdoor locations and activities 5. Doing these things might increase the chances for tourism/visitors	6/20/2017 9:25 AM
27	Expand the multi-use network, connect neighborhoods with destinations	6/20/2017 7:56 AM
28	It is a wonderful opportunity to provide open spaces and recreation areas for our local communities but we all must help preserve and protect what is given to us to enjoy and not destroy (i.e dumping trash, land being torn up by inconsiderate people, drug havens, etc.)	6/20/2017 12:51 AM
29	If I had a magic wand, the two recreation projects I would create are 1.) a boating/outdoor recreation center underneath the railroad bridge parallel to the green bridges on N. Elm, and 2.) Tekoa Mountain trail system signage so that hikers can find their way up Tekoa easily.	6/19/2017 2:55 PM
30	Being that we have a wonderful college here, we really should be more progressive with what we offer to teens and young adults. Our children are leaving the area for better opportunities and "things to do." Nature is important. Green and clean living is important.	6/19/2017 6:28 AM
31	I myself go away from Westfield for entertainment and fun with my family, sorry to say Westfield is very boring. There's not much to do here as a family or for fun with the kids. Stanley Park for example, a huge park which can have a spray park in it or a public pool. A petting zoo that would make that park perfect. And just so many other open spaces here in the city where there can be picnic areas, swimming, and so many nice things and is just lacking so much! A beautiful city but so boring. A roller skating place, bowling alley, bounce place, movie theater. I mean come on if there's \$\$\$ coming in invest in it so these kids stay off streets & drugs! Let's make a difference and make this city a fun, clean and family-friendly city where people feel very welcomed!	6/19/2017 12:32 AM
32	I myself go away from Westfield for entertainment and fun with my family, sorry to say Westfield is very boring. There's not much to do here as a family or for fun with the kids. Stanley Park for example, a huge park which can have a spray park in it or a public pool. A petting zoo that would make that park perfect. And just so many other open spaces here in the city where there can be picnic areas, swimming, and so many nice things and is just lacking so much! A beautiful city but so boring. A roller skating place, bowling alley, bounce place, movie theater. I mean come on if there's \$\$\$ coming in invest in it so these kids stay off streets & drugs! Let's make a difference and make this city a fun, clean and family-friendly city where people feel very welcomed!	6/19/2017 12:30 AM
33	I myself go away from Westfield for entertainment and fun with my family, sorry to say Westfield is very boring. There's not much to do here as a family or for fun with the kids. Stanley Park for example, a huge park which can have a spray park in it or a public pool. A petting zoo that would make that park perfect. And just so many other open spaces here in the city where there can be picnic areas, swimming, and so many nice things and is just lacking so much! A beautiful city but so boring.	6/19/2017 12:24 AM
34	Important for quality of life and to attract middle class families and young adults.	6/18/2017 3:10 PM
35	Natural wildlife farmland protections Parks and plants	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
36	Natural wildlife farmland protections Parks and plants	6/18/2017 1:57 PM
37	Schedule volunteer river/parks trash cleanup more often. Get middle, high school, and even college kids involved in stewardship and maintenance of the land.	6/17/2017 8:29 PM
38	create more recreational areas with easier access to make it more wanting for people to get out and do things. Limit all cable and internet access to 1 hour/day per household.	6/17/2017 1:56 PM
39	Westfield has a lot of potential for created both urban and rural settings and with the right balance can make both the city experience and rural experience work together.	6/17/2017 1:56 PM
40	Needs to be cleaner	6/17/2017 1:07 PM
41	The ranking lists are impossible to be an accurate reflection. It is all important!	6/17/2017 11:39 AM
42	I am a huge advocate for Mountain biking and outdoor activities. I enjoy boats, hunting, sport shooting, Mountain biking, hiking, boating, ball sports, ATVing. If Westfield were to greatly improve the ability for motorized vehicles to use land without legal issues it would be a huge revenue increase. Camp grounds and trail systems would be huge as well.	6/17/2017 9:52 AM
43	The horsemen association of Massachusetts is looking for a place to locate a horse park. Equestrian would be a great activity to bring to the area not only for the residents but for businesses as well. It would be a great way to preserve open space. A river walk along the Westfield river beginning at the park area by the bridges would bring more people to the center of town. We could have activities similar to Water Fire in Providence, RI. It could be an all day event with music, canoeing, kayaking, fly fishing demonstrations at various locations along the river walk.	6/17/2017 9:34 AM
44	We need to do more for teens during the evening and weekends with transportation. Without cost.	6/17/2017 9:31 AM

## Westfield 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Survey

45	Love that I can walk to numerous public spaces, and how beautiful Park Square looks! Glad to see the City interested in doing more!	6/13/2017 3:50 PM
46	Planning document will be utilized by boards, commissions and government offices.	6/9/2017 5:08 PM
47	I find that most of the active recreation opportunities that the city sponsor cater to children or the elderly. This fails to consider a whole segment of the population. I'd love to see the railtrail completed. I'd also like to see the areas near the river better used. Currently, there is no compelling reason to spend time there.	6/9/2017 2:52 PM
48	Maintaining and connecting open spaces	6/9/2017 4:40 AM

## Appendix D. PUBLIC WORKSHOP AGENDA AND MATERIALS

### City of Westfield

Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Visioning Workshops  
Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 6:30 PM – North Middle School Cafeteria  
Thursday, June 22, 2017, 6:30 PM – South Middle School Cafeteria

- 6:30-6:40 pm **Registration and orientation**
- 6:40-6:50 pm **Welcome/Overview of Workshop and Open Space and Recreation Plan**
- What is an open space and recreation plan?
  - Why is Westfield updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan now?
  - What is “open space?”
  - What is “recreation?” (passive vs. active)
- 6:50-7:20 **Visioning Exercise**
- Step 1: As a group, discuss the “ideal” Westfield in 10-20 years in terms of its open space and recreational amenities. What would the City look like? What would it be like to live in Westfield with these amenities in place? Try to sum up what it would be like in one or two sentences, such as “You can walk or bike anywhere,” or “There are lots of natural areas amid neighborhoods to wander to/through,” etc. Consider topics such as environmental protection, quality of life, safety, health, etc. You may end up with more than one vision, or even with competing visions.
- Step 2: Report out the results of the visioning exercise by sharing the visioning statements to which each group aspires. Note the differences between the Westfield of today and the “idealized” vision for tomorrow.
- Step 3: Note areas of consensus and difference, and compare to 2010 plan’s stated vision. Try to synthesize new or updated statements into a few common visions to guide the community forward.
- 7:20-7:50 **Needs Analysis**
- Step 1: Each table has a copy of an enlarged map of Westfield. Place symbols where you see a need for different types of open space/recreation resources in Westfield.
- Where are the important natural resources and recreational areas in Westfield now?
  - What do you notice is/is not being used, or where activity is/is not happening?
  - What are other concerns or assets that need attention?
  - Also note maintenance or informational needs with City-wide impacts.
- Step2: Report out on the mapping exercise and collectively identify the City’s strengths and challenges.
- Identify open space and recreation needs and prioritize (either by show of hands or symbol exercise).
- 7:50-8:20 **Identify 2017-2024 OSRP Goals and Objectives and Action Items**
- If each group could manage the City for the day, what would they do?
  - Identify open space and recreation goals and objectives based on prior discussion.
  - Comment on and discuss on resulting goals and objectives.
  - Come to consensus on adding/removing any goals or objectives.
  - Identify top actions to address specific goals and objectives based on this and prior discussions.
- 8:20-8:30 **Wrap up and next steps**

- SCENIC VIEWS - SLEDDING - SOFTBALL - PICNICKING - GOLFING - RIVER ACCESS - ATV TRAILS - WOODLANDS -



# Public Workshop

## A Community Vision for Open Space & Recreation

### What do you like about Westfield? We need your input and ideas!

*Come help identify goals for the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee  
by attending whichever session is more convenient for you:*

<p><b>Wednesday, June 21</b></p> <p><b>6:30 - 8:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>North Middle School Cafeteria</b></p> <p><b>350 Southampton Road</b></p>	<p><b>Thursday, June 22</b></p> <p><b>6:30 - 8:30 PM</b></p> <p><b>South Middle School Cafeteria</b></p> <p><b>30 West Silver Street</b></p>
--	--

For more information and to take our survey visit:  
[www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan](http://www.cityofwestfield.org/openspaceplan)

Jaimye Bartak, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 413-781-6045  
Jay Vinskey, City Planner, 413-642-9307 [j.vinskey@cityofwestfield.org](mailto:j.vinskey@cityofwestfield.org)



# Open to Everyone!

- BICYCLING - WATER SPARY PARKS - FARMLANDS - SKATEBOARDING - PARKS - CONSERVATION LANDS - FISHING - SUN/BATHING - DOG PARKS - SKIING -

## City seeks public input on open space and recreation

By DAN DESROCHERS

Correspondent

WESTFIELD—The city is looking for public input for the development of an open space and recreation plan, which leads Westfield to opportunities for a variety of state grants.

The Open Space and Planning Committee, who is heading the effort along with a District Local Technical Assistance Grant from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, is requesting ideas from residents to help guide them in the formation of the open space and recreational plan that will be replacing the city's current one.

They will be holding two public sessions for residents, one on Wednesday June 21, at North Middle School on Southampton Road, and another on Thursday June 22, at South Middle School on West Silver Street; both will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In addition, residents can log onto the Westfield website and find a survey to assist in the idea phase.

"From a planning perspective, it's important to take a look at the community. We don't really have a master plan so this is the closest we get to that," Jay Vinskey, city planner for Westfield, said. "This is a rare opportunity for the com-

munity to get together and decide a direction and vision going forward."

The open space and recreation plan allows municipalities to apply for various grants in the state but they have a certain timespan for which they are eligible for grants.

Vinskey said that the city's current one is coming up on its expiration, which is seven years.

Regarding what suggestions are being solicited, Vinskey said that the city is seeking a variety of input.

"We are hoping to get a large response,"



See Public Input, Page 5

Children and adults stay cool during the grand opening of Chapman Park in July 2012. (WNG file photo)

**City of Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**  
 Visioning Workshop #1  
 Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 6:30-8:30 PM, North Middle School Cafeteria

Name	Affiliation / Neighborhood / Street	Email Address (Optional)
Kristen Mello	27 Moseley Ave	klrugg@gmail.com
Barbara Pokosz	272 Lockhouse Rd.	
Jean Carpenter	31 Barbara St	
ERIN HARRIS	Belleview Dr	EMHARRIS470@gmail.com
GLEN ANDERSON	60 EGLESTON RD.	
Ray Frappier	Berkshire Dr	reimman562@comcast.net
JOE TARALA	CLONY CREST	MARJOWEST@AOL.COM
JAY VINSKEY	CITY PLANNER	
Cheryl Crowe	Planning Board	

**City of Westfield Open Space and Recreation Plan Update**  
 Visioning Workshop #2  
 Thursday, June 22, 2017, 6:30-8:30 PM, South Middle School Cafeteria

Name	Affiliation / Neighborhood / Street	Email Address (Optional)
Bryan Hoose	60 Arnold St	bhoose2@comcast.com
Ray Frappier	43 Berkshire Dr	reimman562@comcast.net
Ashley Eaton	33 Broad St #7	ashleyeaton@gmail.com
VIN OLINSKI	34 1/2 NOBLE AVE P-R-COM	
Michelle Urbanski	93 Court St. #2	murbanski@msn.com
BENGTOLA SCHWEIDER	95 v HF	bengtola@gmail.com
MARK CRESSOTTI	12 FURROW ST	cressotti1@verizon.net
DON PODOLSKI	317 Birch Bluffs Dr	DONPODOLSKI@GMAIL.COM
BOB JAS	46 Country Club Dr	ripac1@aol.com
Ken MAGARIS	P-R Commission	
Jane MAGARIS	Planning Board	
DONNA TULLOCK-CALKINS	9 HOWARD ST	mitteyhanis@gmail.com

## Appendix E. ADA SELF-EVALUATION

### **CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**

#### **NOTICE**

The City of Westfield does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities.

**Personnel Director  
Municipal Building  
59 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085**

Has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice regulations.

Information concerning the provisions of the American with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, are available from the ADA Coordinator.

---

#### **Equal Employment Opportunity Statement**

The City of Westfield does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

**CITY OF WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**A.D.A. GRIEVANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE**  
(Adopted in conformity with Regulations implementing  
Title II of the American with Disabilities Act)

The City of Westfield has established an internal grievance procedure in order to provide for the prompt and equitable resolutions of complaints alleging any action prohibited by the United States Department of Justice regulations implementing Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Title II states, in part, "no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of such disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination" in programs or activities sponsored by a public entity.

**PROCEDURE**

1. A complaint should be filed in writing, contain the name and address of the person filing it, and describing briefly the alleged violation of the regulations.
2. The complaint should be addressed to the:

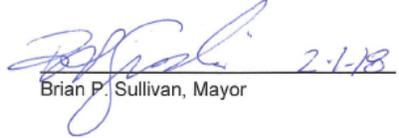
ADA Compliance Coordinator  
City of Westfield  
59 Court Street  
Westfield, MA 01085

who has been designated to coordinate ADA compliance efforts.  
  
(Complaint filed verbally with the Compliance Coordinator will also be accepted.)
3. The complaint should be filed within thirty (30) days after the complainant becomes aware of the alleged violation. (allegations of discrimination occurring before this grievance procedure was in place will be considered on a case-by-case basis.)
4. An investigation, as may be appropriate, shall follow a filing of complaint. The investigation shall be conducted by the Compliance Coordinator. The investigation is contemplated to be thorough, but informal in nature. All interested persons and their representatives, if any, shall be afforded an opportunity to be heard and to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
5. A written determination as to the validity of the complaint and a description of the resolution, if any, shall be issued by the Compliance Coordinator and a copy forwarded to the complainant no later than fifteen (15) working days after its filing.

6. The complainant can request a reconsideration of the case in instances where he or she is dissatisfied with the resolution. The request for reconsideration should be made within fifteen (15) working days following receipt of the written determination to the Mayor of the City of Westfield.
7. The Compliance Coordinator shall maintain the files and records of the City of Westfield relating to the complaints filed under this procedure.
8. The right of a person to a prompt and equitable resolution for the complaint filed hereunder shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies such as the filing of an ADA complaint with the responsible federal department or agency. Use of this grievance procedure is not a prerequisite to the pursuit of other remedies.
9. These rules shall be construed to protect the substantive rights of interested persons to meet appropriate due process standards and to assure that the City of Westfield complies with the ADA and implementing regulations.
10. Copies of all resolutions and findings made under this procedure shall also be filed with the City Clerk of the City of Westfield.

Designated ADA Coordinator:

**Carissa Lisee**  
Superintendent of Building

 2-1-18  
Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor

ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	PLAYGROUNDS										
			Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	n/a
		Access to Open Spaces	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a
		Back and Arm Rests	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Adequate number	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	n/a	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
		Located adjacent to accessible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Trails		Surface material	packed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Dimensions	3' min.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Rails	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Signage (for visually impaired)	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance, location from parking, safety features	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Beaches	Location from parking/path, handrails, shade	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment	Same experience provided to all	n/a	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a
		Enough space between equipment for	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a
Game Areas: *ballfields *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	n/a
		Berm cuts onto courts	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	n/a	yes
	Equipment	Height	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
		Dimensions	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
		Spectator Seating	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes
Boat Docks & Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Handrails	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Equipment	Arm Rests, Fish Cleaning Tables, Bait Shelves	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Handrails	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Programming, Services and Technical Assistance	Are special programs at your facilities accessible (i.e. learn-to-swim, hikes)?		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



ACTIVITY	EQUIPMENT	NOTES	PARKS cont'd								CONSERVATION		
			Soldiers Memorial	Budzak	Tekoa	9/11 Memorial	Woman's Temperance	Gateway Entrance	White St. Pocket park	Cowles Ct. Pocket park	Pitoniak	Sampson	Honey Pot
Picnic Facilities	Tables & Benches	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Access to Open Spaces	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Back and Arm Rests	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Adequate number	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Grills	Height of Cooking Surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Located adjacent to accessible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trash Cans	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Picnic Shelters	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Located near accessible water fountains, trash can, restroom, parking, etc.		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Trails		Surface material	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Dimensions	n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Rails	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Signage (for visually impaired)	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Swimming Facilities	Pools	Entrance, location from parking, safety features	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Beaches	Location from parking/path, handrails, shade	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Play Areas (tot lots)	All Play Equipment	Same experience provided to all	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Enough space between equipment for	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Game Areas: *ballfields *basketball *tennis	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Berm cuts onto courts	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Equipment	Height	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Dimensions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Spectator Seating	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Boat Docks & Fishing Facilities	Access Routes	Located adjacent to accessible paths	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Handrails	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Equipment	Arm Rests, Fish Cleaning Tables, Bait Shelves	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
		Handrails	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Programming, Services and Technical Assistance	Are special programs at your facilities accessible (i.e. learn-to-swim, hikes)?		no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	no	
	Information available in alternative formats i.e. for visually impaired		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Process to request interpretive services (i.e. sign language interpreter) for meetings		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



<b>PARKING</b> <i>Specification for Accessible Spaces</i>	<i>Total Spaces    Req'd Accessible</i> <i>Up to 25            1 space</i> <i>26-50                2 spaces</i> <i>51-75                3 spaces</i> <i>76-100              4 spaces</i> <i>101-150             5 spaces</i> <i>151-200             6 spaces</i>		<b>PARKS</b>										
	Skate Park	Hussey	Dowling	Gen. Shepard	Gen. Wareham	B. Swords/ Highland	Holcomb	Kane/ Wojtkiewicz	Half Mile Falls	Mary Noble	Park Square	Parker	
Accessible space located closest to accessible entrance	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Where spaces cannot be located within 200 ft of accessible entrance, drop-off area is provided within 100 ft.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Minimum width of 13 ft includes 8 ft space plus 5 ft access aisle	not striped	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Van space – minimum of 1 van space for every accessible space, 8 ft wide plus 8 ft aisle. Alternative is to make all accessible spaces 11 ft wide with 5 ft aisle.	not striped	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Sign with international symbol of accessibility at each space or pair of spaces	no	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Sign minimum 5 ft, maximum 8 ft to top of sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Surface evenly paved or hard-packed (no cracks)	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Surface slope less than 1:20, 5%	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Curbcut to pathway from parking lot at each space or pair of spaces, if sidewalk (curb) is present	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Curbcut is a minimum width of 3 ft, excluding sloped sides, has sloped sides, all slopes not to exceed 1:12, and textured or painted yellow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>RAMPS</b> <i>Specification</i>													
Slope Maximum 1:12	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Minimum width 4 ft between handrails	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handrails on both sides if ramp is longer than 6 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handrails at 34" and 19" from ramp surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handrails extend 12" beyond top and bottom	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handgrip oval or round	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handgrip smooth surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 2"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Clearance of 1½" between wall and wall rail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Level platforms (4ft x 4 ft) at every 30 ft, at top, at bottom, at change of direction	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	
Non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	



	SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES Specification	PLAYGROUNDS											
		Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman	
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	No ponding of water	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none
Path of Travel	Path does not require the use of stairs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	3 ft wide minimum	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than ½ inch	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	no	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	
Entrances	Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes
	Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Door mats less than ½" thick are securely fastened	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Door mats more than ½" thick are recessed	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Grates in path of travel have openings of ½" maximum	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a	



	SITE ACCESS, PATH OF TRAVEL, ENTRANCES <i>Specification</i>	PARKS cont'd								CONSERVATION		
		Soldiers Memorial	Budzak	Tekoa	9/11 Memorial	Woman's Temperance	Gateway Entrance	White St. Pocket park	Cowles Ct. Pocket park	Pitoniak	Sampson	Honey Pot
Site Access	Accessible path of travel from passenger disembarking area and parking area to accessible entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Disembarking area at accessible entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Surface evenly paved or hard-packed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	No ponding of water	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Path of Travel	Path does not require the use of stairs	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Path is stable, firm and slip resistant	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	3 ft wide minimum	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Slope maximum 1:20 (5%) and maximum cross pitch is 2% (1:50).	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Continuous common surface, no changes in level greater than 1/2 inch	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Any objects protruding onto the pathway must be detected by a person with a visual disability using a cane	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Objects protruding more than 4" from the wall must be within 27" of the ground, or higher than 80"	n/a	n/a	no	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Curb on the pathway must have curb cuts at drives, parking and drop-offs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Entrances	Primary public entrances accessible to person using wheelchair, must be signed, gotten to independently, and <i>not</i> be the service entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Level space extending 5 ft. from the door, interior and exterior of entrance doors	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Minimum 32" clear width opening (i.e. 36" door with standard hinge)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	At least 18" clear floor area on latch, pull side of door	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Door handle no higher than 48" and operable with a closed fist	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Vestibule is 4 ft plus the width of the door swinging into the space	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Entrance(s) on a level that makes elevators accessible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Door mats less than 1/2" thick are securely fastened	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Door mats more than 1/2" thick are recessed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Grates in path of travel have openings of 1/2" maximum	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Signs at non-accessible entrance(s) indicate direction to accessible entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Emergency egress – alarms with flashing lights and audible signals, sufficiently lighted	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

	<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b> <i>Specification</i>	PLAYGROUNDS										
		Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman
<b>Stairs</b>	No open risers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nosings not projecting	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Treads no less than 11" wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrails on both sides	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrails 34"-38" above tread	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip oval or round	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip has a smooth surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip diameter between 1 1/4" and 1 1/2"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	1 1/2" clearance between wall and handrail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Doors</b>	Minimum 32" clear opening	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Threshold maximum 1/2" high, beveled on both sides	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a

	<b>STAIRS and DOORS</b> Specification	PARKS											
		Skate Park	Hussey	Dowling	Gen. Shepard	Gen. Wareham	B. Swords/ Highland	Holcomb	Kane/ Wojtkiewicz	Half Mile Falls	Mary Noble	Park Square	Parker
<b>Stairs</b>	No open risers	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Nosings not projecting	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Treads no less than 11" wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrails on both sides	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrails 34"-38" above tread	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handrail extends a minimum of 1 ft beyond top and bottom riser (if no safety hazard and space permits)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip oval or round	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip has a smooth surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Handgrip diameter between 1¼" and 1½"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1½" clearance between wall and handrail	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Doors</b>	Minimum 32" clear opening	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	At least 18" clear floor space on pull side of door	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Closing speed minimum 3 seconds to within 3" of the latch	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Maximum pressure 5 pounds interior doors	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Threshold maximum ½" high, beveled on both sides	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hardware operable with a closed fist (no conventional door knobs or thumb latch devices)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hardware minimum 36", maximum 48" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Clear, level floor space extends out 5 ft from both sides of the door	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Door adjacent to revolving door is accessible and unlocked	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Doors opening into hazardous area have hardware that is knurled or roughened	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



	<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules Specification</b>	PLAYGROUNDS										
		Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman
	5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes		n/a	yes	n/a
<b>At least one Sink:</b>	Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Extends at least 22" from the wall	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Cover exposed pipes with insulation	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>At least one Stall:</b>	Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Stall door is 36" wide	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Stall door swings out	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Stall door is self closing	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Stall door has a pull latch	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Coat hook is 54" high	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Toilet</b>	18" from center to nearest side wall	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Grab Bars</b>	On back and side wall closest to toilet	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	1 1/4" diameter	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	1 1/2" clearance to wall	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Acid-etched or roughened surface	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	42" long	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Fixtures</b>	Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a



	<b>RESTROOMS – also see Doors and Vestibules Specification</b>	PARKS cont'd								CONSERVATION		
		Soldiers Memorial	Budzak	Tekoa	9/11 Memorial	Woman's Temperance	Gateway Entrance	White St. Pocket park	Cowles Ct. Pocket park	Pitoniak	Sampson	Honey Pot
	5 ft turning space measured 12" from the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>At least one Sink:</b>	Clear floor space of 30" by 48" to allow a forward approach	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Mounted without pedestal or legs, height 34" to top of rim	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Extends at least 22" from the wall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Open knee space a minimum 19" deep, 30" width, and 27" high	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Cover exposed pipes with insulation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Faucets operable with closed fist (lever or spring activated handle)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>At least one Stall:</b>	Accessible to person using wheelchair at 60" wide by 72" deep	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Stall door is 36" wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Stall door swings out	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Stall door is self closing	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Stall door has a pull latch	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Lock on stall door is operable with a closed fist, and 32" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Toilet</b>	Coat hook is 54" high	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	18" from center to nearest side wall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	42" minimum clear space from center to farthest wall or fixture	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Grab Bars</b>	Top of seat 17"-19" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	On back and side wall closest to toilet	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	1 1/4" diameter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	1 1/2" clearance to wall	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Located 30" above and parallel to the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Acid-etched or roughened surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Fixtures</b>	42" long	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Toilet paper dispenser is 24" above floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	One mirror set a maximum 38" to bottom (if tilted, 42")	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Dispensers (towel, soap, etc) at least one of each a maximum 42" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES</b> <i>Specification</i>	PLAYGROUNDS										
		Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman
<b>Floors</b>	Non-slip surface	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Hand operated push button or level controls	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Telephones</b>	Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Adjustable volume control on headset so identified	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b> <i>Specification</i>											
<b>Switches Controls &amp; Signs</b>	Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
<b>Signs</b>	Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Letters and numbers raised .03"	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a
	Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes	n/a

	<b>FLOORS, DRINKING FOUNTAINS, TELEPHONES</b> <i>Specification</i>	PARKS												
		Skate Park	Hussey	Dowling	Gen. Shepard	Gen. Wareham	B. Swords/ Highland	Holcomb	Kane/ Wojtkiewicz	Half Mile Falls	Mary Noble	Park Square	Parker	
<b>Floors</b>	Non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Carpeting is high-density, low pile, non-absorbent, stretched taut, securely anchored	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Corridor width minimum is 3 ft	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Objects (signs, ceiling lights, fixtures) can only protrude 4" into the path of travel from a height of 27" to 80" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	Spouts no higher than 36" from floor to outlet	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	
	Hand operated push button or level controls	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	
	Spouts located near front with stream of water as parallel to front as possible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	
	If recessed, recess a minimum 30" width, and no deeper than depth of fountain	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	
	If no clear knee space underneath, clear floor space 30" x 48" to allow parallel approach	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	yes	n/a	
<b>Telephones</b>	Highest operating part a maximum 54" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Access within 12" of phone, 30" high by 30" wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Adjustable volume control on headset so identified	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	<b>SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND SWITCHES</b> <i>Specification</i>													
<b>Switches Controls &amp; Signs</b>	Switches and controls for light, heat, ventilation, windows, fire alarms, thermostats, etc, must be a minimum of 36" and a maximum of 48" above the floor for a forward reach, a maximum of 54" for a side reach	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Electrical outlets centered no lower than 18" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Warning signals must be visual as well as audible	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Signs</b>	Mounting height must be 60" to centerline of the sign	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Within 18" of door jamb or recessed	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Letters and numbers at least 1/4" high	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Letters and numbers raised .03"	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Letters and numbers contrast with the background color	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	



<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b> <i>Specification</i>	PLAYGROUNDS										
	Arm Brook	Chapman	Cross Street	Hampton Ponds	Little River	Municipal	Papermill	Sadie Knox	Stieger Drive	Whitney	Boardman
Ramp at least 34” wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lifting device	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transfer area 18” above the path of travel and a minimum of 18” wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48” wide around pool	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use</b> <i>Specification</i>											
Stalls 36” by 60” minimum, with a 36” door opening	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Floors are non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42” to 72” above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16” deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18” to the top of the seat, and at least 24” long	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 grab bars are provided, one 30” and one 48” long, or one continuous L shaped bar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36” above the floor line	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>PICNICKING</b> <i>Specification</i>											
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30” wide and 19” deep per seating space and not less than 27” clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29” clear space (totaling 48”) must extend beyond the 19” clear space under the table to provide access	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28” high, 30” wide and 24” deep.	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Top of table no higher than 32” above ground	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36” around the perimeter	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	yes	yes	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a



<b>SWIMMING POOLS – accessibility can be via ramp, lifting device, or transfer area</b> <i>Specification</i>	PARKS cont'd								CONSERVATION		
	Soldiers Memorial	Budzak	Tekoa	9/11 Memorial	Woman's Temperance	Gateway Entrance	White St. Pocket park	Cowles Ct. Pocket park	Pitoniak	Sampson	Honey Pot
Ramp at least 34" wide with a non-slip surface extending into the shallow end, slope not exceeding 1:6 with handrails on both sides	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lifting device	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Transfer area 18" above the path of travel and a minimum of 18" wide	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unobstructed path of travel not less than 48" wide around pool	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>SHOWER ROOMS - Showers must accommodate both wheel-in and transfer use</b> <i>Specification</i>											
Stalls 36" by 60" minimum, with a 36" door opening	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Floors are pitched to drain the stall at the corner farthest from entrance	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Floors are non-slip surface	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Controls operate by a single lever with a pressure balance mixing valve	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Controls are located on the center wall adjacent to the hinged seat	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shower heads attached to a flexible metal hose	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shower heads attached to wall mounting adjustable from 42" to 72" above the floor	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Seat is hinged and padded and at least 16" deep, folds upward, securely attached to side wall, height is 18" to the top of the seat, and at least 24" long	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Soap trays without handhold features unless they can support 250 pounds	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2 grab bars are provided, one 30" and one 48" long, or one continuous L shaped bar	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grab bars are placed horizontally at 36" above the floor line	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>PICNICKING</b> <i>Specification</i>											
A minimum of 5% of the total tables must be accessible with clear space under the table top not less than 30" wide and 19" deep per seating space and not less than 27" clear from the ground to the underside of the table. An additional 29" clear space (totaling 48") must extend beyond the 19" clear space under the table to provide access	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
For tables without toe clearance, the knee space under the table must be at least 28" high, 30" wide and 24" deep.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Top of table no higher than 32" above ground	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surface of the clear ground space under and around the table must be stable, firm and slip-resistant, and evenly graded with a maximum slope of 2% in all directions	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Accessible tables, grills and fire rings must have clear ground space of at least 36" around the perimeter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

