



EAST LONGMEADOW RESILIENT MASTER PLAN 2021

June 2021



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Quarryman photo by Shannon Walsh



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East Longmeadow RESILIENT MASTER PLAN 2021



“I love East Longmeadow and how our town can all come together like a family.”

-Student

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INTRODUCTION

Why Plan?

A master plan, by its nature, is a snap-shot of community at a point in history. If we could travel back in time to the incorporation of East Longmeadow in 1872 and produce a town master plan for that era, we would find a very different set of needs, goals and strategies from those of East Longmeadow in 2021.

Municipal master planning has been around for only the last century or so. However, a good modern master plan should try to answer the same basic questions that communities have been considering since Colonial times: How do we want our town to grow? What are our most important resources and assets? How do we protect them? How do we create a better community for our children?

This master plan was written to serve several functions:

- 1) Provide detailed historic and current information about land use, housing, natural resources, open space, economic development and other topics that are currently important to East Longmeadow.
- 2) Summarize the vision and goals for future development and preservation expressed by residents during the master planning process.
- 3) Clearly state East Longmeadow's priorities and strategies for moving forward to achieve those goals.

This master plan is a statement of policy and aspirations expressed by the community to help manage growth and change, and to help foster more predictable development. It is not a zoning or regulatory document; it has no legal effect. Rather, it is intended as a resource to help the people of East Longmeadow make decisions about the kinds of regulations and actions they would like to see in the future.

This master plan is the result of outreach and participation by residents and businesses of East Longmeadow, as well as detailed information and support supplied by nearly all town departments, elected boards and volunteer committees. The process was overseen by the members of the Resilient Master Plan Committee and involved more than 500 residents and students through a community survey, committee meetings, focus groups, and our community-wide visioning session and implementation workshop.

Multiple planning documents and communications of the committee, including recordings of meetings and draft chapters of the plan, were posted publicly online at eastlongmeadowmp.pvpc.org throughout the master planning process. The committee carefully considered and incorporated the community's contributions throughout the development of the master plan. The plan was adopted by the Planning Board in 2021.

Components of a Master Plan

A Master Plan is structured in conformance with the state requirements outlined in Chapter 41, Section 81D which describes a Master Plan as "a statement through text, maps, illustrations, or other forms of communication that is designed to provide a basis for decision-making regarding the long-term physical development of the municipality..." and is comprised of seven elements:

- Land Use
- Housing
- Economic Development
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Open Space and Natural Resources
- Public Services and Facilities
- Transportation

The statute requires goals and policies to convey the community's visions and an implementation program that covers each of the topic areas listed above.

Additionally, this master plan includes an element to address:

- Climate Adaptation and Sustainability

Master Plans are developed to guide a town's policies and strategies over the next ten to twenty years. The Plan is a living document and often times is reviewed periodically and updated accordingly to be certain it reflects the ever-changing trends and evolving needs of the community. This Plan is not a bylaw, but instead a policy document, intended to be used to provide Town staff, Boards, Committees, and Commissions with a set of common goals and strategies which can be uniformly taken into consideration when making decisions.

The resilient Master Plan Committee would like readers of this plan to know it was developed during the COVID 19 pandemic, an unprecedented 16 month period, March 2020 to June 2021 in United States and indeed world history, when much of the world shut down almost completely and then slowly re-emerged with over a year of social distancing, mask wearing and the inability to hold public meetings in person. As of June 2021, over 600,000 people in the United States have died including more than 18,000 people who live in Massachusetts. We mourn those we lost and celebrate the fortitude of our community as we have persevered in this important work.



Photo by Connor O'Shea



VISION

We envision a vibrant future for East Longmeadow — one in which we value and include all members of our community, plan for managed and sustainable growth, and cultivate the Town's identity as a charming, welcoming, and safe place to call home. We are poised to flourish as a presence within the region, and the East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan provides a lasting framework that will enable us to fulfill this vision.

By balancing development opportunities with sensible fiscal management and natural resource conservation, we will:

- Establish a strong local economic base;
- Welcome cultural, agricultural, commercial, and recreational options that enrich our community's sense of place;
- Explore diverse opportunities for the Town's developable land;
- Align zoning policies to community needs and wants;
- Invest in the redevelopment of our Town Center and industrial zones;
- Diversify our housing stock to meet the needs of present and future residents;
- Promote our agricultural heritage and history as a quarry town;
- Continue to support passive and active recreation opportunities and the departments that oversee them;
- Provide programming, accessible facilities, and resources that meet the needs of families, seniors, disabled residents, and youth;
- Improve accessibility for disabled individuals and families;
- Sustain a high level of professional staffing and municipal operations in the long-term, including our qualified public safety staff;
- Maintain the excellence of our educational system by supporting our schools' needs;
- Promote local volunteerism and community involvement with Town initiatives;
- Plan for energy efficiency, green initiatives, and resiliency to climate change;
- Improve mobility through street improvements, traffic safety measures, and expansion of accessible pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure;
- Support the Town's existing agriculture to ensure the availability of fresh, local food; and
- Maintain East Longmeadow as a safe and inclusive community for all.

EAST LONGMEADOW in CONTEXT

Large Tract Development and Preserving Natural Resources

As with other small towns where there are large tracts of open land with natural resources that may sometimes be threatened by development. Like other places in the Pioneer Valley, large developments like solar and residential subdivisions can affect those small-town characteristics that East Longmeadow seeks to preserve. The types of developments listed above sometimes takes away viable agricultural lands. In creating consistency with the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the town's documents will show where land should be preserved, like farmland. With limited financial resources, the Town must be strategic about which parcels provide the most benefit as protected open space and area of where the town can see development.

In creating consistency with the Open Space and Recreation Plan, the town's documents will show where land should be preserved, like farmland. With limited financial resources, the Town must be strategic about which parcels provide the most benefit as protected open space and recreational opportunities, and which areas of the town can be developed.

Small-Town Character

The Master Plan process has provided the opportunity for residents to present comments and concerns about growth in East Longmeadow and the 294 survey respondents, along with committee members and focus group members, have affirmed the importance of the Town's character. A majority of the survey takers (62%) found that managing and guiding commercial development is very important for the town. Comments from the public affirm this perspective.

Town Center

In addition to the 62 percent of survey respondents who ranked management and guidance of commercial development in East Longmeadow as very important, 72 percent of respondents also support or strongly support improving the look of the Town Center.

Residents, stakeholders and the resilient Master Plan committee would like to make sure Center Square can continue to attract small businesses to support the local economy and offer a continuation of the types of structures and character the town seeks. People value the amenities located within the established town center and feel that enhancing walkability of the town center along with the nearby cultural and recreational amenities can create a sustainable and economically healthy town.

Intergenerational Community

With seniors over the age of 65 making up 22 percent of East Longmeadow's population, building community is very important to the health and progress of the town. Providing opportunities for residents to age in place in right-sized homes, ensuring a variety of ways to get around, and creating opportunities for socializing with others – both young and old – have been identified as opportunities on which East Longmeadow can build. There are tools available to the Town to ensure seniors are able to downsize and remain in the community with access to the activities and socialization necessary to thrive.

Community Resilience

Community resilience means the ability to 'bounce back' from challenges and disasters, utilizing available resources to recover from adverse situations. The town has recognized the importance of preparing for the impacts of climate change and has achieved

certification as a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) community making the town eligible for millions of dollars of funding for resilience and climate action.

The state government has a comparable program, Green Community designation that would make the Town eligible for additional funds to reduce municipal energy use and facilitate a transition to cleaner renewable energy sources. Survey respondents and

participants in the focus groups support the town helping homeowners to use less energy and support the town producing more electricity from solar, wind or hydro-power.

These overarching concepts led to the development of the Plan's themes.



Photo by Todd Zukowski

PLAN FRAMEWORK

The elements of this Resilient Master Plan have been integrated so that they consider and reinforce one another to support the ideas and perspectives that have come from community engagement.

CORE THEMES

Five core themes emerged through the community's planning process reflecting values and priority issues for East Longmeadow.

- 1) Protecting the Natural Environment
- 2) Sense of Community
- 3) Center Square
- 4) Resilient Balanced Growth
- 5) Ensuring Sustainability

STATUTORY ELEMENTS REQUIRED UNDER MGL

Per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 41, Section 81D, community master plans require seven statutory elements. The Town of East Longmeadow and the project team sought to include climate adaptation and sustainability, as an additional element, recognizing the town's commitment to climate resiliency. This Master Plan is not organized via statutory elements as done around the Commonwealth, but rather around themes to reflect values and priorities of the town realized during the community engagement process. All elements are covered in the document and this report includes these icons to indicate where they are addressed.



**Economic
Development**



Housing



**Open Space &
Natural Resources**



**Climate Adaptation
and Sustainability**



**Historic &
Cultural Resources**



Land Use



**Public Services &
Facilities**



Transportation






STRATEGIES

Strategies are ways that the town will work to achieve the stated goals in the vision. They are actionable and will involve funding, regulations, programs, and/or use of town resources – like town staff or volunteer time. Some strategies are classified as either Short term (indicating action within 12-24 months), Medium Term (indicating action within 2-5 years), and long Term (indicating action within 5+ years). Many of these strategies are ongoing, indicating action that should be continually repeated and expanded as necessary.

CORE THEMES

STATUTORY
ELEMENTS

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A. Protecting the Natural Environment

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others
A-1	Discuss protection of East Longmeadow's scenic vistas, including undeveloped lands, concentrated farmlands, and viewsheds.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission
A-2	Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees through the passage of the Scenic Roads Act, including Somers Road, among others. Coordinate with Complete Streets where feasible.	Planning Board	Tree Warden, Conservation Commission
A-3	Explore increased density for all household types and abilities in appropriate areas near existing services and examine an Open Space Residential Development Zoning Bylaw to better protect open space and natural resources.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission
A-4	Require adequate vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter stormwater runoff and to allow room for river migration and expansion during heavy storms.	Conservation Commission	Planning Board, Building Department
A-5	Work with farmers to pursue land preservation strategies and succession planning as appropriate.	Planning and Community Development Department	Possible ad-hoc Agriculture Committee
A-6	Create a new "Green Committee" to work on trails and open space, host events to promote sense of place and teach wayfinding.	Town Administrator	Planning & Community Development Department, Conservation Commission

Time Frame	Funding	Resources	
Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning	
Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations	
Ongoing	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, staff time, consultant	Housing Production Plan in 2021
Medium-Term			
Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, MA Department of Agroicultural Resources (MDAR), American Farmland Trust, PVPC Smart Growth Toolkit	
Short-Term	in-kind staff time	Staff time, Volunteer time	

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others
A-7	<p>Maintain seven-year updates to the Open Space and Recreation Plan that considers priorities for acquisition or protection of open space. This plan should include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A plan for connecting trails and greenways to provide corridors for recreation and wildlife. b. A multi-use trail system that ties into existing trails, parks, cultural destinations, Center Square, and even to surrounding Towns, and designate trails for motorized and passive recreation according to the proximity of critical habitat areas. Incorporate disability-friendly upgrades into this effort. c. A plan for town-owned recreational land and the stewardship and maintenance of these properties, particularly Heritage Park Lake. 	Conservation Commission	Department of Planning and Community development, Planning Board
A-8	Conduct an alternatives and cost analysis for redesigning the manual outfall at the Heritage Park Lake outfall.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works
A-9	Update stormwater management bylaw to MS4 Permit standards.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works, Department of Planning and Community Development
A-10	Create a town tree committee and develop a long-term planting plan. Collaborate with Springfield's new nursery.	Department of Public Works	Planning Board Conservation Commission Planning & Community Development Department
A-11	Improve drainage and identify areas at high risk for mosquito gestation via safe control methods; increase public awareness around mosquitos and vector-borne disease.	Health Department	Board of Health, DPW, Conservation Commission
A-12	Conduct a dam removal study for Jawbuck Dam (town-owned) and outreach to private dam owners to understand maintenance and safety concerns.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Department of Planning and Community development

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Ongoing	DLTA funds via PVPC, DCR grants, One stop for Growth Community Planning Grants	Volunteer time, Consultant
Medium-Term	Mass Works	Staff time, Consultant
Short-Term	Stormwater Enterprise fund? Clean Water State Revolving Fund MA DEP	Staff time, Consultant
Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants Urban Forestry Grants	Staff time Volunteer time
Medium-Term	MA Community Compact grants	Mosquito Control Services (https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-control-services) https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district-pvmcd#finance-updates-
Long-Term	MA Dam and Seawall Repair and Removal Program	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dam-and-seawall-repair-or-removal-program-grants-and-funds

B. Sense of Community

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others
B-1	Work with residents to promote home occupations and cottage industries within their residential buildings while providing adequate protections for neighbors.	Department of Planning and Community development	Planning Board, ad-hoc economic development committee
B-2	Develop community gardens located near residential developments without yards.	Department of Planning and Community development	Planning Board
B-3	Support agriculture through exploration of a Right-to-Farm Bylaw, appointment of an Agricultural Commission, and establish locations for farmers' markets, including a winter venue and conduct a "Buy Local" campaign.	Town Manager form Agricultural Commission	Planning Board, Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission
B-4	Support mixed-use housing development for all household types and abilities where appropriate and in accordance with the neighborhood character, not to detract from the local economy or amenities.	Planning Board	Department of Planning and Community Development, Housing Authority,
B-5	Seek developers to revitalize vacant and blighted properties.	Planning and Community Development Department	Town Manager, Town Council
B-6	Produce comprehensive maps and wayfinding of town open spaces and recreation facilities and resources identifying important features and amenities.	Recreation Department, Recreation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department, Department of Public Works
B-7	Develop an East Longmeadow Preservation Plan to note the past, present and future of historic preservation in East Longmeadow and prioritize local preservation goals.	East Longmeadow Historical Commission	Planning and Community Development Department, Other Town Agencies and Stakeholders

Time Frame	Funding	Resources	
Long-Term	MA Business Development Funds and Support, UMASS Amherst	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning, Western MA Economic Development Council	Business Development (https://www.mass.gov/service-details/business-development)
Medium-Term	Health New England, Baystate community benefit grants, Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts, High School Community Service project	Staff time, Volunteer time, PVPC Healthy Community Design ToolkitMunicipal Strategies to Increase Food Access , http://www.pvpc.org/projects/food-access	
Long-Term	DLTA funding from DHCD via PVPC	PVPC Smart Growth Toolkit, CISA, Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions	
Ongoing	DLTA funding from DHCD via PVPC	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning	
Medium-Term		MassDevelopment, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, W MA EDC	
Long-Term	Complete Streets funding		
Short-Term	Community Preservation funds	PVPC, MHC, Preservation MA, National Barn Alliance, and other preservation plans and programs for reference	Seek training and develop an initial outline by the end of 2021

B-8	Consider By-Laws that preserve cultural and historic resources in coordination with economic development efforts, such as Affirmative Maintenance Bylaws, Agricultural Preservation Bylaws, Archaeological Protection, Architectural Preservation Districts, Demolition Delay, Design and Site Plan Review, Scenic Roads, Local Historic Districts, and Village Center Zoning. Preservation Restrictions (PR) also support the protection of a building's character defining features.	Planning and Community Development Department	East Longmeadow Historical Commission, Property Owners
B-9	Determine best practices for long-term storage, digitization as backup for paper files, as well as a way to make these resources more accessible to the public.	East Longmeadow Library Director and Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Historical Commission, Town Clerk, local emergency response representatives
B-10	Update the current East Longmeadow Community Preservation Plan to guide the East Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee outreach process, educate the public, and outline future funding priorities, particularly for homeowners. Use the Master Plan as a guide for this.	Community Preservation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department
B-11	Consider developing a building maintenance guide to make available to local property owners with a particular emphasis on special considerations for the preservation for older buildings.	Planning and Community Development Department, Emergency Management Director, and East Longmeadow Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer	Emergency Management Director, Historical Commission, Library Director, Property Owners (if not municipally owned), Local Emergency Planning Committee, local police and fire department representatives

Ongoing	Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	PVPC, Massachusetts Historic Commission	Begin to identify options by the end of 2021
Ongoing	Preservation Grants for Veterans' Collections, Sites and Memorials, Regrant Program, Roving Archivist Program, Conserving & Digitizing Historical Resources LSTA Grant	COSTEP MA, MHC, Preservation MA, MA State Historical Records Advisory Board, MA Libraries Board of Library Commissioners, MA Cultural Council, Simmons School of Library and Information Science West, Mt. Holyoke College; New England Museum Association; Community Preservation Committee	Prepare list of collections
Ongoing	Community Preservation funds	Community Preservation Coalition	
Medium-Term	Community Preservation funds	COSTEP MA, MEMA, PVPC, MHC, NPS	

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
B-12	Foster in-town and regional partnerships for ongoing and key seasonal events and programmatic offerings and strengthening East Longmeadow's existing historic and cultural resources.	Planning and Community Development Department, initially to convene	Library Director and Board, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Friends of Norcross Center, Inc.; Community Partnership Council of East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce (ERC5), local business leaders and groups like the Rotary Club and Lions Club, local agricultural representatives
B-13	Pursue creative forms of memory catching like oral histories of local residents and volunteer transcriptions and ensure the long-term stability of these collections.	East Longmeadow Library Director and Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Historical Commission, Town Clerk, local emergency response representatives
B-14	Prepare a progressive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan that includes historic and cultural resources and programming, existing recreational facilities, and conservation trails while maintaining ADA-related amenities	East Longmeadow ADA	Planning and Community Development Department, East Longmeadow Historical Commission, East Longmeadow Council on Aging, all stakeholder property owners
B-15	Support services for senior, disadvantaged residents, and veterans. Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition, and recreation programs.	Town Manager	Town Council, Council on Aging, Veterans' Agent
B-16	Provide intergenerational opportunities for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors.	Council on Aging	School Department

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Short-Term		MA Cultural Council, Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions, Community Foundation of Western MA, Pioneer Valley History Network, Mass Humanities, Massachusetts History Alliance,
Short-Term	Preservation Grants for Veterans' Collections, Sites and Memorials; Regrant Program; Roving Archivist Program; Conserving & Digitizing Historical Resources LSTA Grant	COSTEP MA, MHC, Preservation MA, MA State Historical Records Advisory Board, MA Libraries Board of Library Commissioners, MA Cultural Council, Simmons School of Library and Information Science West, Mt. Holyoke College; New England Museum Association; Community Preservation Committee
Short-Term		PVPC, MHC, NPS, Massachusetts Office of Disability, New England ADA Center, National Center on Accessibility, other regional examples of plans related to historic and cultural resource
Ongoing		
Ongoing		

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
B-17	Create a Citizens' Academy. Promote citizen engagement by providing classes, information, and events where participants learn about the different functions of local government including volunteering opportunities and service on town boards, committees and commissions.	Town Manager	IT Department, Planning and Community Development Department
B-18	Identify where vulnerable residents, including the disabled and the elderly, live for check-ins and partner with the Council on Aging and utilities as necessary to complete this list.	Council on Aging	Local Emergency Planning Committee, National Grid, Police Department, Fire Department
B-19	Ensure sign-up for Rave Reverse 911 communications system is easily accessible and conduct an outreach campaign to achieve 100% participation for Rave.	EMD	Police Department, Fire Department, Council on Aging
B-20	Improve town outreach and communication internally, and externally to residents for purposes of civic engagement and emergency response preparedness.	Town Manager	Town Council, Council on Aging, School Department, EMD

C. Center Square

Strategy	Strategy	Primary	Others
C-1	Review local crash data and advance safety in high crash areas in East Longmeadow.	East Longmeadow DPW	East Longmeadow Police Department, MassDOT, PVPC
C-2	Consider adopting a Town Center Overlay District using the new Mixed Use Village District bylaw to create incentives for desired town center uses such as office, commercial, retail, residential and civic uses.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department
C-3	Pursue safety and traffic improvements to enhance access to local businesses and frequently traveled points.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC
C-4	Study alternatives to the center-turn lane on Shaker Road.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Ongoing		
Short-Term	Baystate Community Benefits grants, Health New England grants, MAC	MA Councils on Aging Grants https://mcoaonline.com/grants/
Ongoing	Staff time	Staff time, Volunteer Time
Ongoing	MVP Action Grants	

Time frame	Funding	Resources
Ongoing	PVPC Local Technical Assistance	https://apps.impact.dot.state.ma.us/cdp/home
	DLTA funds via PVPC	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning
Ongoing	Complete Streets funding	Sidewalk Master Plan
Long-Term		

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
C-5	Improve the streetscape within the right-of-way along North Main Street to allow safer vehicular and pedestrian access and improve corridor appearance.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT
C-6	Begin mapping cultural assets and explore the potential of an East Longmeadow Center Cultural District.	East Longmeadow Cultural Council	Planning and Community Development Department, Library Director and Board of Trustees, Friends of Norcross Center, Inc., EL HS Fine Arts Department, Rotary Club, East Longmeadow ADA, other stakeholders
C-7	Complete feasibility study for public safety complex.	Town Manager	Fire Department, Police Department, Town Council
C-8	Improve condition and accessibility of sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the town center and along the streets leading to the rotary.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC
C-9	Consider expanding the Rail Trail both north to Springfield and south to Connecticut enhancing North Main Street.	Town of East Longmeadow	MassDOT / PVPC

D. Resilient Balanced Growth

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others
D-1	Assess town permitting procedures to improve small business experience.	Planning and Community Development Department	Other Permitting Agencies
D-2	Review and revise Subdivision Rules and Regulations and planned unit residential development zoning to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources by clustering development where least impactful to those resources; focus on enforcement mechanisms.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
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Ongoing

Short-Term

PVPC, MA Cultural Council Rep and District Coordinator

Outreach to the MA Cultural Council as soon as possible as there is a queue for assistance

Ongoing

Sidewalk Master Plan

Long-Term

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
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Short -term

District Local Technical Assistance

Permitting Guides, PVPC

Medium-Term

District Local Technical Assistance

Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
D-3	Create mechanisms for transfers of development rights (TDRs) from the key resource areas and existing agricultural lands to village centers, the town center, and other specific areas of town where denser development may be more appropriate.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission
D-4	Perform regular traffic data collection to assess existing travel speeds, pedestrian volume, bicycle volume, vehicle volume and truck volume at key locations in the Town.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC
D-5	Continue to monitor pavement condition through regular data collection and advance pavement maintenance and improvement projects based on the results of the 2017 Local Pavement Management study.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC
D-6	Consider an in-depth study of all existing traffic signals and multi-way stop sign-controlled intersections in Town. Identify opportunities to fund the design and construction of intersection improvements.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT
D-7	Conduct assessments as necessary to ensure the transportation infrastructure complies with ADA Accessibility requirements.	East Longmeadow DPW	Council on Aging
D-8	Continue to participate in and advance improvement projects as part of the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.	East Longmeadow School Department	East Longmeadow Police Department, East Longmeadow DPW
D-9	Plan for Affordable Housing with creation of Housing Production Plan and submit to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for approval.	Planning and Community Development Department	Planning Board, Housing Authority

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Medium-Term		Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Bylaw
Ongoing		PVPC Traffic Counting Program; http://www.pvpc.org/projects/traffic-counting-system The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) collects daily traffic count information at sample locations across the region. PVPC member communities can request up to 2 free counts per calendar year.
Ongoing		East Longmeadow 2017 Pavement Management Report/PVPC 2018 pavement management data
Medium-Term		Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program
Ongoing		
Ongoing		Safe Routes to School https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school
Ongoing		Volunteer time, PVPC Town currently working on this.

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
D-10	Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw.	Planning and Community Development Department	Planning Board, Housing Committee
D-11	Take advantage of State programs such as the new One Stop for Growth to secure funding to implement the projects that result from adoption of the Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy.	Planning and Community Development Department	East Longmeadow DPW
D-12	Invest in facilities and staff to ensure the Town's education system continues to prosper and modernize. The Town should continue to support the East Longmeadow Public Schools Facilities Plan, providing for continued advocacy for a revitalized high school building and thinking of the building as a community hub for activities and events.	School Committee	Superintendent, Town Council
D-13	<p>Establish mechanisms and policies linking the Master Plan to staff, board and commission work plans, budgets, and capital projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gradually phase out the Resilient Master Plan Committee charged with this Master Plan development, and replace with Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee reporting to the Town Manager. • Use the Master Plan recommendations and implementation table as a guide of decision making. • Convene regular all Town Boards, Committees and Commissions Meeting to share progress on implementing the Master Plan and discussing change of priorities and plans. Provide a summary informational report for the Town to track progress and monitor accountability. 	Form Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department, Planning Board, Town Manager

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Short-Term		Volunteer time, staff time, consultant
Ongoing	PVPC Local Technical Assistance 15 hours to assist with grant writing	MVP Statement of Findings Report, Hazard Mitiation Plan
		Community One Stop for Growth (https://www.mass.gov/guides/community-one-stop-for-growth)
Ongoing		
Ongoing		Volunteer Time, Consultant

E. Ensuring Sustainability

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others
E-1	Become a certified Green Community which includes energy efficiency audits at all municipal buildings and infrastructure and implementation of work to reduce energy use (paid for by the state), assuring as of right permitting for research and development/manufacturing related to clean energy; adopting a fuel-efficient vehicle policy, expanding EV charging stations, and the stretch building code.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Building Department, DPW, School Department, Town Council, Town Administrator, Planning Board
E-2	Review the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy and consider its adoption.	Department of Planning and Community Development	DPW, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Public Works
E-3	Identify opportunities to extend the Redstone Rail Trail to the north. Coordinate with the PVPC and City of Springfield to identify future opportunities to connect with existing and planned bicycle facilities.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Department
E-4	Coordinate with the PVRTA on the potential of future crosstown fixed-route transit service connecting East Longmeadow center to the Ludlow Big Y, via Elm, Cooley, and Parker Streets.	Town Administrator	DPW, Board of Public Works, Town Council
E-5	Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments.	Planning Board	Department of Planning & Community Development
E-6	Conduct culvert assessment and prioritization plan to NAACC standards, to follow up with grant applications for culvert action. Continue to monitor the state of bridges and culverts in town through the MassDOT municipal data dashboard.	Department of Public Works	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Public Works
E-7	Conduct outreach to existing businesses to make sure they are thriving and to understand which businesses have left and why.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee

Time Frame	Funding	Resources
Short-term	MA Department of Energy Resources Green Communities TA via PVPC	Staff time, PVPC, National Grid for no cost energy savings assessment
Medium-Term	Staff time, Volunteer time	MVP Action grants for implementation, Green Communities designation and competitive grants for implementation, such as EV charging stations
Long-Term	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program, Community Preservation Commission funds	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program
Long-Term		Staff time, Volunteer time
Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time, DLTA via PVPC, PVPC's LTA program	PVPC model subdivision regulations
Medium-Term	MVP Action grant, https://www.mass.gov/river-restoration-culvert-replacements https://www.mass.gov/river-restoration-culvert-replacements	
Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time	W MA Economic Development Council, https://www.westernmassedc.com/

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
E-8	Establish a working partnership with East of the River Five Towns Chamber to assist aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small businesses to stay in Town, while encouraging others to relocate here.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee
E-9	Employ Town policies to improve economic viability of the farm community, such as including streamlining permit requirements for accessory farm businesses or small-scale farm related commercial uses on agricultural lands.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee and consider forming an Agricultural Committee or Commission
E-10	Implement management strategies for upkeep, maintenance and enhanced access of/to all recreational resources, like Heritage Park. Consider methods to improve the capacity of the dual-use system of the school department and recreation department.	Recreation Department	School Department
E-11	Plan for and implement building and maintenance improvements. The town should continue to plan for both short- and long-term capital needs through a transparent and inclusive capital planning process.	Building Department	Town Administrator, Town Council
E-12	To hold on to staff institutional knowledge, create a manual for each building/ department that is continually updated.	Town Administrator	Building Department, Department of Public Works, Town Council, Board of Public Works
E-13	Review and summarize information already collected for a parking inventory to identify under- and over-utilized spaces and options to consolidate or reduce impervious cover and/or integrate solar canopies over necessary parking.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development
E-14	Complete a planning and feasibility study for building a microgrid for town facilities; install behind-the-meter solar on all public buildings, create a microgrid, install battery storage at Town Hall to provide emergency power and maybe at the library.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development

Time Frame	Funding	Resources	
Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time	W MA Economic Development Council, https://www.westernmassedc.com/	
Medium-Term	Staff time, Volunteer time	Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher! (https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-grownand-fresher)	Community Involved Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)
Long-Term	Community Preservation Committee	Staff time, Volunteer time	
Ongoing	Town fund, Mass Works, One-stop for Growth, Green Communities funding for energy efficiency	Staff time, Volunteer time	Capitol Improvement Plan
Short-term	Staff time	MA Division of Local Services	Division of Local Services (https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-local-services)
Medium-Term	PVPC Local Technical Assistance		
Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants, MA Clean Energy Center	Staff time, Volunteer time	The number of these strategies suggests the need for a “Sustainability Committee” to prioritize...

Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Other
E-15	Encourage businesses to practice good maintenance policies for their back-up generators/institute emergency plans, using Town policy as a model.	Emergency Management Director	DPW, Fire Department, Department of Planning and Community Development
E-16	Make infrastructure improvements to water supply system. Look into former public well locations as a potential future drinking water resilience resource to reduce vulnerability to loss of SWSC lines.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development
E-17	Update the Town's Hazard Mitigation plan to maintain eligibility for FEMA BRIC funds and ensure inclusion of the Town's historically and culturally significant buildings.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development, Emergency Management Director, Local Emergency Planning Committee
E-18	Encourage Citizen Corps Council Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training involvement by stakeholders to bolster preparedness and identify a chain of command in the event of an emergency.	Emergency Management Director	Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Fire Department, Board of Health
E-19	Continue discussions with National Grid on resiliency and responsiveness.	Emergency Management Director	Department of Public Works, Town Administrator, Fire Department
E-20	Collaborate with the utility to promote Mass Save no cost Home Energy Assessments and Business Energy Assessments and the related no cost air sealing and insulation home/business improvement work, targeting vulnerable residents and businesses to save them money and reduce their GHG emissions.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Council on Aging, Recreation Department (outreach), Chamber

Time Frame	Funding	Resources	
Short-term	Staff Time, Volunteer Time		
Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants, One stop for Growth, Mass Works		
Immediate, expires 1/3/22	FEMA BRIC Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities Grants	Staff time, Board Member time, PVPC, funded via BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities)
Medium-Term	Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council access to training and possibly funding, MA DPH,	PVPC Pubic Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, Chris Goshea	Preparedness Resources for First Responders (https://wrhsac.org/)
Ongoing	Staff and Volunteer (Boards etc) time		
Short-term	National Grid	Center for Eco Technology, Energia, Co-op Power, Ener-G-Save	Mass Save: Rebates & Incentives, No-Cost Energy Assessment, Income Eligible Solutions (https://www.masssave.com/en/saving)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), consultant Barrett Planning Group, and the Resilient Master Plan Committee (RMPC) developed a comprehensive public participation and engagement strategy to assure ongoing community involvement and participation by all members of the community in the development of the East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan. These efforts shaped a plan based on resident input through developing a unifying vision for the future, establishing goals and fleshing out the vision with stakeholders from the community and region, and identifying plan recommendations and implementation priorities.

Public participation included a town-wide community survey, stakeholder interviews, focus groups, meetings of the Resilient Master Plan Committee, facilitation of a community-wide visioning session

and implementation workshop, and two student engagement sessions with assistance from East Longmeadow High School staff. All engagement work, including the focus groups, meetings of the committee, and community-wide visioning and implementation workshops were held remotely as the timing of the master planning process was framed within the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. Final engagement was conducted via the master plan's Story Map. The Story Map allowed for expanded communication, knowledge sharing, and feedback opportunities. On the website, users could see results of data collection and analysis that points viewers to issues and opportunities, the Vision Statement, goals and recommendations, and ways to stay in touch. Users could also interact electronically with the site to provide feedback on the proposed goal statements and recommendations.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Preliminary Community Survey

- A community survey was developed and posted on Survey Gizmo.
- The survey was available from August 14 – October 14, 2020.
- A notice with the survey link was posted to the project website, Town's website and through other social media.
- Hard copies were available by request at the East Longmeadow Public Library and Town Hall.

Who Responded?

Of 302 total respondents:

- The largest amount of responses came from those ages 35-44 (26.1%), followed by ages 55-64 (15.8%)
- 53.4% are working full-time, followed by 25.3% who identify as retired.
- 299 of 302 were residents of East Longmeadow.



SURVEY SNAPSHOT

General Development Goals	Town Issues & Priorities
<p>Top 3 General development goals identified as very important</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preserve air and water quality (85%) 2. Protect the natural environment (72%) 3. Improve internet access and speeds (69%) <p>Other goals shared in the free response section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain small town vibe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No big box, no fast food options ◦ Planning for reduced growth • Better internet options • Improve school buildings, especially high school • Develop vacant/blighted properties • Mixed Use Development • Economic development in center of town • Possibilities with new rezoning • Roadway maintenance • Expanding sidewalks • Housing access • Increase service/volunteer opportunities to build civic pride 	<p>Top 3 Issues that need immediate attention in East Longmeadow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safety of pedestrians and bicyclists (54%) 2. Quality of public schools (53%) 3. Produce more electricity from solar, wind or hydro <p>Traffic safety, cut-throughs, speeding (53%)</p> <p>Top 3 Issues that need attention in the longer term (needing attention in 1-2 years and in the long-term)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance and repair of Town buildings (47%) 2. More energy efficiency in Town Buildings and vehicles (44%) 3. Protection of wetlands and streams (41%) <p>Top 3 Issues that do not need attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making it easier to live and get to work without a car (31%) 2. Quality of Police, Fire, EMS (29%) 3. Health concerns, such as obesity, asthma, diabetes, cancer (19%) <p><i>Other comments regarding town issues and priorities shared in the free response section:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility to facilities and services for mental and physical disabilities • Mixed use recreation on the farm property • Maintenance of stormwater • Maintain and expand trails • Sidewalks • Town buildings should have solar • Water quality • Friendly for all generations
Economic Development	Housing
<p>Top 3 Types of commercial growth preferred in East Longmeadow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More small, locally owned stores (80%) 2. More restaurants and food stores (51%) 3. More farms and agricultural business (47%) <p>Other comments regarding residential growth shared in the free response section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for drive-thrus • Manage current, empty businesses • Providing recreational activities, dance classes, etc. • Encouraging locally owned development in the Town center 	<p>Top 3 Preferred Types of Residential Growth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Single Family homes with larger yards (3/4+ acre) (49%) 2. Housing that is accessible for people with disabilities (45%) 3. Senior housing and assisted living facilities (28%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 62 percent of respondents could hypothetically afford to buy the home in which they currently live at its market value. <p>Other comments regarding residential growth shared in the free response section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be mindful of impacts to town services with increased residential growth • In-law and shared family spaces within main house • Blighted properties for redevelopment <p>One respondent commented “there’s enough housing in East Longmeadow.”</p>

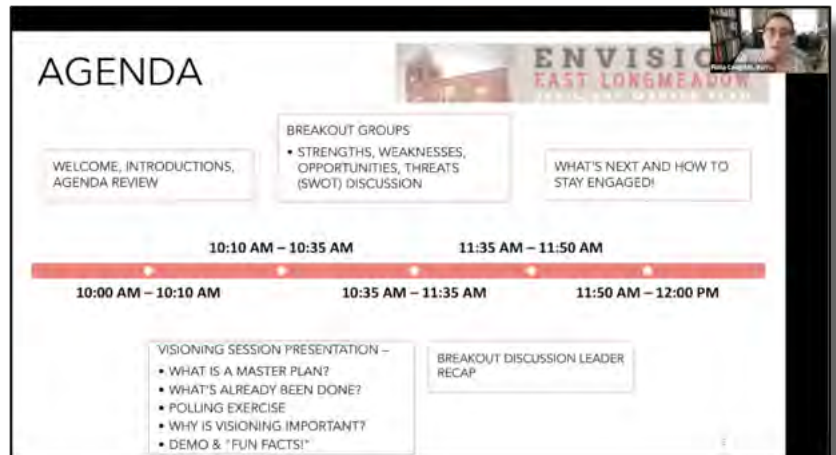
February 13, 2021
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Visioning Session
Attendance: +/- 60 people

This February 13, 2021 virtual visioning session was advertised as follows:

- A Notice of the Virtual Zoom Visioning Session was posted on the project website homepage and Town's website.
- Posters were placed throughout town at the Town Hall (not open to the public) and other meeting spaces with heavy traffic.
- Reminders to participate in the visioning session were also communicated through short, fun TikTok videos.
- An article and press release were written and published in The Reminder.



The Visioning Session was facilitated by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and assisted by Barrett Planning Group. A short presentation was provided at the beginning of the session to describe the Master Plan process, the importance of visioning, and how the primary process and implementation phases will be conducted. Additional context for the attendees was provided in that there have been completed planning processes in town that are also drawn into the Master Plan. An initial polling exercise allowed for interactive input prior to breaking up into groups to do a deeper dive. The polling summary is below.



Question 1

Do you support the recommendation of East Longmeadow's MVP report to become a Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)-certified Green Community?

Question 2

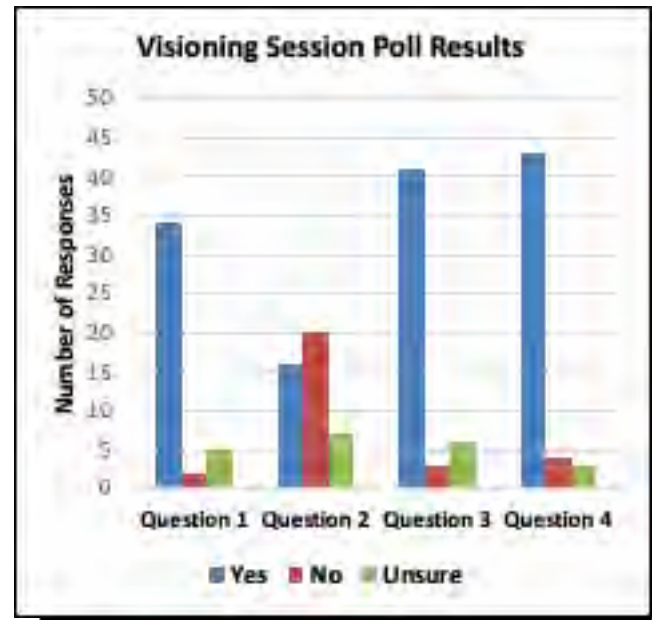
Do you think East Longmeadow functions well as a "bedroom community" (i.e. commuter town)?

Question 3

Do you want to see improved recreation space in Town? (For example, better ball fields and improvements to Heritage Park.)

Question 4

Do you want to see an expansion of the Redstone Rail Trail?



Following the initial presentation, there were five breakout group sessions with 12 people per group to go through a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) exercise. General comments included those shared in the community survey as well as committee meetings, such as "The rotary is difficult to navigate by foot or car," "The school system is a strength; however, the high school needs to be repaired," and "We could have more affordable condos and some nice apartments for singles, seniors, and small families." For additional detail, see the Visioning Summary found in the Appendix.

FOCUS GROUPS

Focus groups were conducted over a span of two days virtually over Zoom, March 9 and 10, 2021.

The focus groups were conducted to engage stakeholders, including Town staff, representatives from regional entities and interested residents, and were completed in four sessions:

- Cultural, Historic, Natural, Open Space Resources on March 9, 2021
- Transportation and Public Facilities & Services on March 10, 2021
- Climate Change Resilience and Clean Energy on March 10, 2021
- Housing and Economic Development on March 10, 2021

Cultural, Historic, Natural, Open Space Resources

Some highlights presented in this focus group include:

- Center of town is unique
- Three historic buildings surrounding the Depot have been renovated over the years, still accessibility issues
- Historic significance of the Depot and surrounding that could provide future programming for itself and surrounding historic buildings
- Center Field is an underutilized amenity
- Farms are historical and need to be preserved and prioritized § Bridge gap between history and economic development
- Recreation spaces doing well (pandemic-related)
- Publicize and communicate the open space and recreation opportunities
- CPA funds have been utilized to increase recreation opportunity at Pine Knoll § Get non-profits and committees to support work and fundraising
- Intergenerational activities for residents

Transportation and Public Facilities & Services

Some highlights presented in this focus group include:

- Low-lying areas in town which can be impacted by ongoing and more severe weather events
- Locations with safety problems
 - Rotary, Prospect and Chestnut intersection, Mapleshade and Porter intersection
- Sidewalks!
- Town applied for Complete Streets program § Biking demand up 400 percent
- Rail Trail upgrades
- DPW recently hired a grant writer to manage town grant programs
- Library services have been successful during the pandemic, needs uncovered like teen/tween programming
- Many accomplishments in DPW facilities and services, school department, Health and Fire Department
- Regulatory needs are challenging – Stormwater MS4 permit
- More coordination among town departments needed
- Town facilities need improvements
 - Police and fire stations, Town Hall

Housing and Economic Development

Some highlights presented in this focus group include:

- Variety and balance of housing types
- Housing market is hot!
- Passage of Mixed-Use Village District will open new opportunities – just need a developer!
 - Housing for singles/younger families
- Training and education opportunities to keep people in East Longmeadow
- People are leaving because housing costs and taxes are going up
- Seamless municipal permitting processes to open businesses
- Center Square is going to be a nice draw
- Putting out the welcome mat for businesses and keeping that communication open
- Permit fees and documentation can be a roadblock
- Walkable downtown, foot traffic for amenities and other businesses
- Take a look at home businesses and permitting those uses
- Privatize internet? There seems to be infrastructure.
- Proud of industrial parks and zoning standards in the Industrial Zoning District

Climate Change and Clean Energy

Some highlights presented in this focus group include:

- Opportunities for high school seniors to do public service like tree planting programs, research projects for science students
- Culvert repair, stormwater and sidewalk connections top priorities
- Solar panels on roofs
- Ground-mounted solar facilities as an opportunity and threat
- Reengage in trying to receive Green Communities designation
- Retrofits to school and police department to assist with energy costs
- Stormwater retrofit coming in year 5 of the MS4 permit, like bioretention basin
- Explore full assessment for all town buildings, electronic vehicle fleet
- MassSave is still an opportunity for residents at the moment
- Majority of town is prone to flooding
- Forward and lift low impact development as an opportunity for town to be resilient

Additional comments can be found in the Appendix section of this Plan.

IMPLEMENTATION SURVEY

PVPC, Barrett Planning Group, the resilient Master Plan committee and Town staff developed an implementation survey to solicit resident input on potential recommendations for the Resilient Master Plan. This survey was available on SurveyMonkey from May 4 to May 19, 2021 and shared through various channels including social media posts, the Town website, the project page, and email blasts to the RMPC and project mailing list. The survey was organized into goals and recommendations by master plan topic and participants were asked to indicate their level of priority.

Most respondents (88%, or 193 of 219) indicated that they did not attend the February 2021 visioning session, indicating that this outreach method resulted in input from another cross-section of the community. Survey responses can be found in the Appendix of this Plan.

Most Supported Recommendations

- Continue to implement projects from the Sidewalk Master Plan and Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. **(68.6% identified as a high priority)**
- Improve sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the town center and along the streets leading to the rotary. **(72.3% identified as a high priority)**
- Work with local farmers to establish locations for farmers' markets, including a winter venue, and conduct a "Buy Local" campaign. **(71.0% identified as a high priority)**
- Work with farmers to pursue land preservation strategies and succession planning as appropriate. **(68.2% identified as a high priority)**
- Seek developers to revitalize vacant and blighted properties. **(69.8% identified as a high priority)**

Least Supported Recommendations

- Explore increased density in appropriate areas, integrating additional density into context of existing neighborhoods. **(13.3% identified as a high priority and 56.7% as a low priority.)**
- Change zoning to allow denser residential occupancy near existing services and public transit. **(15.3% identified as a high priority and 48.5% as a low priority.)**
- Coordinate with the PVTa on the potential of future crosstown fixed-route transit service connecting East Longmeadow center to the Ludlow Big Y, via Elm, Cooley, and Parker Streets. **(17.7% identified as a high priority and 49.0% as a low priority.)**

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



From May 17-19, 2021, East Longmeadow High School students had the opportunity to respond to sample implementation recommendations from the East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan. Students were first introduced to the master planning process through a 5-minute video produced by ELCAT and featuring students, RMPC members, and Town staff. During two “Spartan Block” sessions in groups, students reviewed recommendations by topic and indicated which were top priorities for the Town. The first session resulted in 162 group submissions (organized by Spartan Group) and the second session yielded 93 group submissions.

Student Voices: Sample Open Responses

“I would add putting benches along the trails and near cultural destinations in East Longmeadow, so people can rest.”

“The students should have more of a day in what’s going on within our town...”

“All buildings should be accessible to people with disabilities.”

“Use the vacant buildings to make an area for teens and young people to have a place to go.”

“...Try to cut down as little foliage as possible and try to plant back as many trees as possible.”



Still frames from the ELCAT-produced educational student video for the Resilient Master Plan

“It would be cool to turn the old factories that have been unused into a shopping plaza with shops and restaurants.”

IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

May 20, 2021
6:00 – 8:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Visioning Session
Attendance: +/- 20 people

This May 20, 2021 virtual visioning session was advertised as follows:

- A Notice of the Virtual Zoom Implementation Workshop was posted on the project website homepage, on the Town's website, and on the Town's Facebook page.
- Flyers were placed throughout Town and at the Town Hall (not open to the public).
- Multiple email blasts were sent to RMPC members and Town staff.
 - Additionally, residents were encouraged to participate in a photo contest opportunity. This resulted in entries from three residents.



The Implementation Workshop was also facilitated by PVPC, Barrett Planning Group, and the RMPC. A presentation by the meeting host thanked the attendees for coming and gave an overview of the Master Plan's progress thus far. Attendees were then assigned to one of three breakout rooms to review proposed plan recommendations for each of the plan's overarching themes (described below). The breakout groups were approximately 75 minutes long and proved to be a productive opportunity to discuss any final comments and questions before the finalization of the implementation phase. As was the case for the Visioning Session, each breakout group included a discussion leader and a note-taker. Upon reconvening as a larger group, a polling exercise was launched to determine the top 3 recommendations for each topic. The results of the polling exercise are shown below, although it is important to note that each question only produced approximately 15 responses and that for purposes of polling, some recommendations were combined.

Plan Theme	Top Recommendations by Participant Support
Protecting Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a dam removal study for Jawbuck Dam (town-owned) and outreach to private dam owners to understand maintenance and safety concerns. (60.0%) • Update stormwater management bylaw to MS4 Permit standards. (53.3%) • Discuss protection of scenic vistas and Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees. (53.3%)
Preserving Community Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support services for seniors, disadvantaged residents, and veterans. Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition, and recreation programs. (75.0%) • Produce comprehensive maps and wayfinding of open spaces and recreation facilities, as well as additional resources for identifying important features and amenities. (73.3%) • Seek developers to revitalize vacant and blighted properties. (60.0%)
Center Square	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the town center and along the streets leading to the rotary. (100.0%) • Consider adopting a Town Center Overlay District using the new Mixed Use Village District bylaw to create incentives for desired town center uses such as office, commercial, retail, residential, and civic uses. (56.3%) • Begin mapping cultural assets and explore the potential of an East Longmeadow Center Cultural District. (50.0%)

Plan Theme	Top Recommendations by Participant Support
Resilient Balanced Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in facilities and staff to ensure the town's education system continues to prosper and adapt to modernizations throughout society. The town should continue to support the East Longmeadow Public Schools Facilities Plan. (81.3%) Plan for Affordable Housing with a Housing Production Plan and submit to DHCD for approval; explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw. (43.8%) Establish mechanisms and policies linking the Master Plan to staff, board, and commission work plans, budgets, and capital projects. (43.8%)
Ensuring Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities to extend the Redstone Rail Trail to the north. Coordinate with PVPC and Springfield to identify opportunities to connect with existing and planned bicycle facilities. (81.3%) Make infrastructure improvements to water supply system. Look into former public well locations as a future drinking water resource to reduce vulnerability to loss of SWSC lines. (68.8%) Complete a planning and feasibility study for building a facilities microgrid; install behind-the-meter solar on all public buildings, create a microgrid, and install battery storage at Town Hall to provide emergency power and maybe at the library. (62.5%)
Resilient Balanced Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in facilities and staff to ensure the town's education system continues to prosper and adapt to modernizations throughout society. The town should continue to support the East Longmeadow Public Schools Facilities Plan. (81.3%)

Presenters then showcased the Story Map website and explained how to interact with the site before displaying the winner of the photo contest. Comments were used to further refine recommendations following the Implementation Workshop.



East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan Story Map

Community Engagement Takeaways

Some themes consistently rose to the surface through the various community engagement opportunities, and others indicated less consensus. These are outlined below.

More Consensus

- Need for sidewalk expansion and improvement
- Support of schools and need for new high school
- Expansion of Redstone Trail
- Support for Cultural District
- Desire for improved wayfinding and maps of trails and recreation resources
- Support for the needs of seniors
- Need to address blighted properties (students had suggestions for re-use of abandoned buildings)

Less Consensus

- Mixed use and increased density (This was more supported by student groups and implementation session participants than survey respondents.)
- Supporting agriculture (While there was no apparent opposition or disagreement about this, implementation survey respondents were notably more likely to prioritize support for agriculture.)

THEMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following themes, with their related strategies below, emerged from the resilient Master Planning process and are used to organize the recommendations of this plan. The themes were heard repeatedly during resilient Master Plan committee meetings, at the engagement activities, and as the final plan came to fruition.

The themes identified are

- 1) Protection the Natural Environment**
- 2) Sense of Community**
- 3) Center Square**
- 4) Resilient Balanced Growth**
- 5) Ensuring Sustainability**

Protecting the Natural Environment

- A-1** Discuss protection of East Longmeadow's scenic vistas, including undeveloped lands, concentrated farmlands, and viewsheds.
- A-2** Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees through the passage of the Scenic Roads Act, including Somers Road, among others. Coordinate with Complete Streets where feasible.
- A-3** Explore increased density for all household types and abilities in appropriate areas near existing services and examine an Open Space Residential Development Zoning Bylaw to better protect open space and natural resources.
- A-4** Require adequate vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter stormwater runoff and to allow room for river migration and expansion during heavy storms.
- A-5** Work with farmers to pursue land preservation strategies and succession planning as appropriate.
- A-6** Create a new "Green Committee" to work on trails and open space, host events to promote sense of place and teach wayfinding.
- A-7** Maintain seven-year updates to the Open Space and Recreation Plan that considers priorities for acquisition or protection of open space. This plan should include the following:
 - a. A plan for connecting trails and greenways to provide corridors for recreation and wildlife.
 - b. A multi-use trail system that ties into existing trails, parks, cultural destinations, Center Square, and even to surrounding Towns, and designate trails for motorized and passive recreation according to the proximity of critical habitat areas. Incorporate disability-friendly upgrades into this effort.

- c. A plan for town-owned recreational land and the stewardship and maintenance of these properties, particularly Heritage Park Lake.

- A-8** Conduct an alternatives and cost analysis for redesigning the manual outfall at the Heritage Park Lake outfall.
- A-9** Update stormwater management bylaw to MS4 Permit standards.
- A-10** Create a town tree committee and develop a long-term planting plan. Collaborate with Springfield's new nursery.
- A-11** Improve drainage and identify areas at high risk for mosquito gestation via safe control methods; increase public awareness around mosquitos and vector-borne disease.
- A-12** Conduct a dam removal study for Jawbuck Dam (town-owned) and outreach to private dam owners to understand maintenance and safety concerns.

Sense of community

- B-1** Work with residents to promote home occupations and cottage industries within their residential buildings while providing adequate protections for neighbors.
- B-2** Develop community gardens located near residential developments without yards.
- B-3** Support agriculture through exploration of a Right-to-Farm Bylaw, appointment of an Agricultural Commission, and establish locations for farmers' markets, including a winter venue and conduct a "Buy Local" campaign.
- B-4** Support mixed-use housing development for all household types and abilities where appropriate and in accordance with the neighborhood character, not to detract from the local economy or amenities.
- B-5** Seek developers to revitalize vacant and blighted properties.
- B-6** Produce comprehensive maps and wayfinding of town open spaces and recreation facilities and resources identifying important features and amenities.
- B-7** Develop an East Longmeadow Preservation Plan to note the past, present and future of historic preservation in East Longmeadow and prioritize local preservation goals.
- B-8** Consider By-Laws that preserve cultural and historic resources in coordination with economic development efforts, such as Affirmative Maintenance Bylaws, Agricultural Preservation Bylaws, Archaeological Protection, Architectural Preservation Districts, Demolition Delay, Design and Site Plan Review, Scenic Roads, Local Historic Districts, and Village Center Zoning. Preservation Restrictions (PR) also support the protection of a building's character defining features.
- B-9** Determine best practices for long-term storage, digitization as backup for paper files, as well as a way to make these resources more accessible to the public.
- B-10** Update the current East Longmeadow Community Preservation Plan to guide the East Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee outreach process, educate the public, and outline future funding priorities, particularly for homeowners. Use the Master Plan as a guide for this.
- B-11** Consider developing a building maintenance guide to make available to local property owners with a particular emphasis on special considerations for the preservation for older buildings.
- B-12** Foster in-town and regional partnerships for ongoing and key seasonal events and programmatic offerings and strengthening East Longmeadow's existing historic and cultural resources.
- B-13** Pursue creative forms of memory catching like oral histories of local residents and volunteer transcriptions and ensure the long-term stability of these collections.

- B-14** Prepare a progressive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan that includes historic and cultural resources and programming, existing recreational facilities, and conservation trails while maintaining ADA-related amenities
- B-15** Support services for senior, disadvantaged residents, and veterans. Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition, and recreation programs.
- B-16** Provide intergenerational opportunities for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors.
- B-17** Create a Citizens' Academy. Promote citizen engagement by providing classes, information, and events where participants learn about the different functions of local government including volunteering opportunities and service on town boards, committees and commissions.
- B-18** Identify where vulnerable residents, including the disabled and the elderly, live for check-ins and partner with the Council on Aging and utilities as necessary to complete this list.
- B-19** Ensure sign-up for Rave Reverse 911 communications system is easily accessible and conduct an outreach campaign to achieve 100% participation for Rave.
- B-20** Improve town outreach and communication internally, and externally to residents for purposes of civic engagement and emergency response preparedness.

Center Square

- C-1** Review local crash data and advance safety in high crash areas in East Longmeadow.
- C-2** Consider adopting a Town Center Overlay District using the new Mixed Use Village District bylaw to create incentives for desired town center uses such as office, commercial, retail, residential and civic uses.
- C-3** Pursue safety and traffic improvements to enhance access to local businesses and frequently traveled points.
- C-4** Study alternatives to the center-turn lane on Shaker Road.
- C-5** Improve the streetscape within the right-of-way along North Main Street to allow safer vehicular and pedestrian access and improve corridor appearance.
- C-6** Begin mapping cultural assets and explore the potential of an East Longmeadow Center Cultural District.
- C-7** Complete feasibility study for public safety complex.
- C-8** Improve condition and accessibility of sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the town center and along the streets leading to the rotary.
- C-9** Consider expanding the Rail Trail both north to Springfield and south to Connecticut enhancing North Main Street.

Resilient Balanced Growth

- D-1** Assess town permitting procedures to improve small business experience.
- D-2** Review and revise Subdivision Rules and Regulations and planned unit residential development zoning to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources by clustering development where least impactful to those resources; focus on enforcement mechanisms.

- D-3** Create mechanisms for transfers of development rights (TDRs) from the key resource areas and existing agricultural lands to village centers, the town center, and other specific areas of town where denser development may be more appropriate.
- D-4** Perform regular traffic data collection to assess existing travel speeds, pedestrian volume, bicycle volume, vehicle volume and truck volume at key locations in the Town.
- D-5** Continue to monitor pavement condition through regular data collection and advance pavement maintenance and improvement projects based on the results of the 2017 Local Pavement Management study.
- D-6** Consider an in-depth study of all existing traffic signals and multi-way stop sign-controlled intersections in Town. Identify opportunities to fund the design and construction of intersection improvements.
- D-7** Conduct assessments as necessary to ensure the transportation infrastructure complies with ADA Accessibility requirements.
- D-8** Continue to participate in and advance improvement projects as part of the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.
- D-9** Plan for Affordable Housing with creation of Housing Production Plan and submit to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for approval.
- D-10** Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw.
- D-11** Take advantage of State programs such as the new One Stop for Growth to secure funding to implement the projects that result from adoption of the Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy.
- D-12** Invest in facilities and staff to ensure the Town's education system continues to prosper and modernize. The Town should continue to support the East Longmeadow Public Schools Facilities Plan, providing for continued advocacy for a revitalized high school building and thinking of the building as a community hub for activities and events.
- D-13** Establish mechanisms and policies linking the Master Plan to staff, board and commission work plans, budgets, and capital projects.
 - a. Gradually phase out the Resilient Master Plan Committee charged with this Master Plan development, and replace with Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee reporting to the Town Manager.
 - b. Use the Master Plan recommendations and implementation table as a guide of decision making.
 - c. Convene regular all Town Boards, Committees and Commissions Meeting to share progress on implementing the Master Plan and discussing change of priorities and plans. Provide a summary informational report for the Town to track progress and monitor accountability.

Ensuring Sustainability

- E-1** Become a certified Green Community which includes energy efficiency audits at all municipal buildings and infrastructure and implementation of work to reduce energy use (paid for by the state), assuring as of right permitting for research and development/manufacturing related to clean energy; adopting a fuel-efficient vehicle policy, expanding EV charging stations, and the stretch building code.
- E-2** Review the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy and consider its adoption.
- E-3** Identify opportunities to extend the Redstone Rail Trail to the north. Coordinate with the PVPC and City of Springfield to identify future opportunities to connect with existing and planned bicycle facilities.
- E-4** Coordinate with the PVTa on the potential of future crosstown fixed-route transit service connecting East Longmeadow center to the Ludlow Big Y, via Elm, Cooley, and Parker Streets.

- E-5** Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments.
- E-6** Conduct culvert assessment and prioritization plan to NAACC standards, to follow up with grant applications for culvert action. Continue to monitor the state of bridges and culverts in town through the MassDOT municipal data dashboard.
- E-7** Conduct outreach to existing businesses to make sure they are thriving and to understand which businesses have left and why.
- E-8** Establish a working partnership with East of the River Five Towns Chamber to assist aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small businesses to stay in Town, while encouraging others to relocate here.
- E-9** Employ Town policies to improve economic viability of the farm community, such as including streamlining permit requirements for accessory farm businesses or small-scale farm related commercial uses on agricultural lands.
- E-10** Implement management strategies for upkeep, maintenance and enhanced access of/to all recreational resources, like Heritage Park. Consider methods to improve the capacity of the dual-use system of the school department and recreation department.
- E-11** Plan for and implement building and maintenance improvements. The town should continue to plan for both short- and long-term capital needs through a transparent and inclusive capital planning process.
- E-12** To hold on to staff institutional knowledge, create a manual for each building/department that is continually updated.
- E-13** Review and summarize information already collected for a parking inventory to identify under- and over-utilized spaces and options to consolidate or reduce impervious cover and/or integrate solar canopies over necessary parking.
- E-14** Complete a planning and feasibility study for building a microgrid for town facilities; install behind-the-meter solar on all public buildings, create a microgrid, install battery storage at Town Hall to provide emergency power and maybe at the library.
- E-15** Encourage businesses to practice good maintenance policies for their back-up generators/institute emergency plans, using Town policy as a model.
- E-16** Make infrastructure improvements to water supply system. Look into former public well locations as a potential future drinking water resilience resource to reduce vulnerability to loss of SWSC lines.
- E-17** Update the Town's Hazard Mitigation plan to maintain eligibility for FEMA BRIC funds and ensure inclusion of the Town's historically and culturally significant buildings.
- E-18** Encourage Citizen Corps Council Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training involvement by stakeholders to bolster preparedness and identify a chain of command in the event of an emergency.
- E-19** Continue discussions with National Grid on resiliency and responsiveness.
- E-20** Collaborate with the utility to promote Mass Save no cost Home Energy Assessments and Business Energy Assessments and the related no cost air sealing and insulation home/business improvement work, targeting vulnerable residents and businesses to save them money and reduce their GHG emissions.



THANK YOU!!

Acknowledgements

The Town of East Longmeadow is very grateful to the Resilient Master Plan Committee for their work overseeing the development of East Longmeadow's Resilient Master Plan.

Resilient Master Plan Committee

Chair-Connor O'Shea, Planning Matters Committee, Town Council
Vice Chair-Joe Williams, Volunteer on local Sports Boards
Marilyn Richards, Town Councilor
George Kingston, Planning Board Vice Chair
Gordon Smith, Superintendent East Longmeadow Public Schools
Pamela Blair, Assistant Superintendent East Longmeadow Public Schools
Tim Murphy, Business Owner
Bethany Yeo, Director Planning & Community Development

The Resilient Master Plan committee thanks the many residents who participated in the plan development process, completing surveys, attending focus groups, and attending the Visioning and Implementation workshops.

Thanks to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant program for funding assistance to support the development of East Longmeadow's Resilient Master Plan. Thanks also to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Barrett Planning Group for their assistance facilitating development of this important plan.



APPENDIX



Photo by Todd Zukowski



LAND USE ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

The land use element of a master plan provides a framework for growth management and an understanding of the kinds of development the community wants balanced with the existing physical and regulatory environment. A community's land use pattern is the physical arrangement and intensity of residential, commercial, industrial and institutional development, open land, natural resources and roadways. Land use is the hub of a master plan, with the other elements acting as critical spokes. All are important, and land use is the element that ties them all together.

Additionally, land use is often equated with zoning because a master plan's future land use map forms the basis for the town's key zoning policies. Land is divided into zones for specific uses and is managed and administered by the municipal land use regulations, policies and procedures. Today, the basis for logical land use planning, protecting valuable natural resources while promoting economic development, still exists.

Defining East Longmeadow's Landscape

East Longmeadow is a suburban town of 13 square miles located in the Connecticut River Valley. It is a part of the Springfield-Chicopee-Holyoke Metropolitan Area and falls within the Connecticut River watershed. It is bordered on the west by Longmeadow, on the north by Springfield, on the east by Wilbraham and Hampden, and on the south by Enfield and Somers, Connecticut.

The Town's land use regulations, also referred to as zoning code, identify thirteen use districts: Residence AA, Residence A, Residence B, Residence C, Commercial, Business, Industrial, Industrial Garden Park, Golf Recreational, Elderly Residential, Planned Adult Residential, Planned Unit Residential and Mixed-Use Village Districts, which dictate the type of development allowed in different locations throughout the town. Additionally, there is one overlay district, known as the Floodplain Overlay District, which encompasses floodplain areas within the town designated as Zone A or AE on the Hampden County Flood Insurance Rate Map.

In recent years, the town has permitted solar developments and has experienced a slow expansion in home building. The town recently adopted standards for a new Mixed-Use Village District.

East Longmeadow was originally settled as a farming community. The existing subdivisions in town occupy the same parcels that were originally farms. Outside of the town center, most of the older homes were originally farmhouses. The important quarry industry in East Longmeadow's history, beginning in 1872, expanded and brought in an influx of Italian and French- Canadian immigrants to mine and dress the stone. The center of town was settled by the French Canadians and the Italians to the northwest. The few remaining, pre-existing, non-conforming, multi-family homes near the center of town are relics of this period. Future development was concentrated where water and sewer infrastructure were present, first occurring in the northeast and southeast quadrants in the mid-twentieth century and expanding town-wide later in the twentieth century. The southwest quadrant was developed last.

In 1894, the State Legislature granted a partition of the Longmeadow land, a 13 square mile tract to the new town of East Longmeadow. No longer primarily a farming community, the quarrying industry provided the Town's economic backbone until the early 20th Century. As the quarrying industry declined East Longmeadow morphed into a suburban community for the nearby city of Springfield. Since 1990, the economic base has been expanded by industrial growth in the southwestern portion of the town.

Current development patterns are governed by the limited availability of land and then by the zoning of that available land. Most of the developable land is found in the southern half of town, in land area mostly zoned for one and 0.5-acre residential lots and in the Industrial Garden Park. Most recent development consists of higher-end single-family housing. As mentioned previously, the town has unlocked mixed use development potential by introducing a new mixed-use village district to provide denser housing opportunities and greater variety of uses.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an inventory of existing land use patterns, an analysis of zoning, regulations, as well as a summary of existing development and trends; it will draw on other plan elements and identify opportunities to address growth and preservation.

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Figure 1 is the most recent data for land use type prepared by MassGIS and mapped in Map 1 represented by the Property Type Classification Code associated with “use codes” from the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, along with custom use codes that the Assessors’ Office includes in their parcel data when submitted to the state.

Alt shows that almost half of the land uses in town are residential (4,011 acres @ 48%). Commercial and industrial uses, including the ‘mixed use’ category of commercial + residential) take up 13 percent. Agriculture is currently just 2% of land use, but almost 22% is “Open land”.

Figure 1 East Longmeadow Land Use

Land Use Type	Acres	Percent of Total (%)
Agriculture	182.15	2.18
Commercial	217.03	2.61
Water	3.14	0.00
Industrial	421.90	5.07
Mixed use (other, primarily commercial + residential)	455.07	5.47
Open land	1,814.21	21.79
Recreation	21.50	0.03
Residential (other, multi-family + single family)	4,011.80	48.19
Right-of-way	726.20	8.72
Tax exempt	464.14	5.58
Unknown	8.10	0.01
TOTAL	8,325.25	100

Source: Mass GIS

Another measurement that shows how lands have been transformed by new residential and commercial development throughout the Commonwealth is the *Losing Ground* report produced by Mass Audubon every five years. The Sixth Version of *Losing Ground* analyzes changes from 2012-2017. The table below provides specific land use measurements for East Longmeadow, and shows how the town ranks against other Massachusetts municipalities by percent of land use measurement of change.

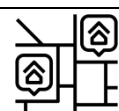
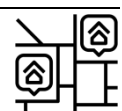


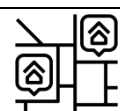
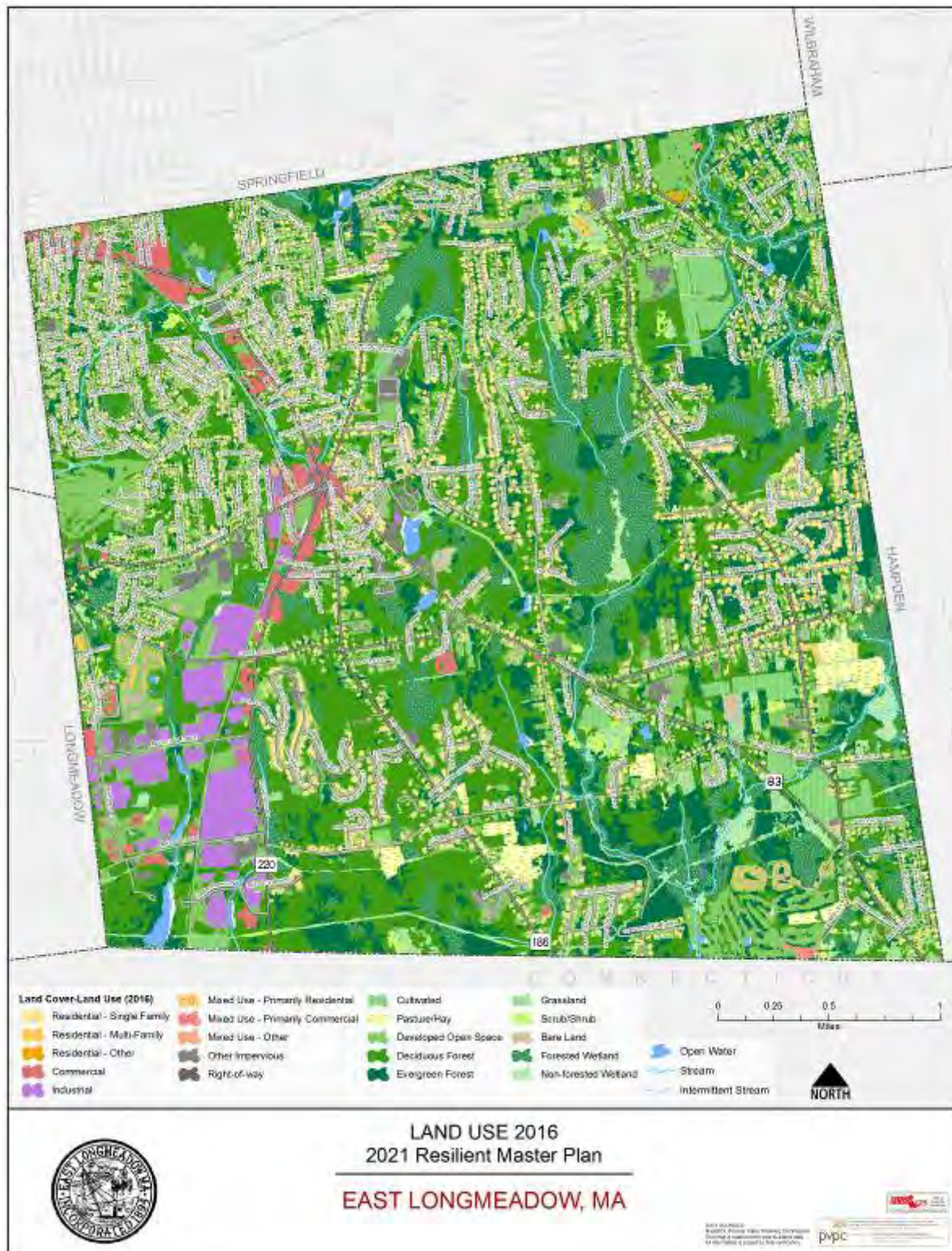
Figure 2 East Longmeadow Land Use, Recent Development, and Protection (2012-2017)

Land Use Measurement of Change	Acres	Percent of Total Land (%)	Rank in State Out of 351 municipalities
Total area of newly developed land from 2012-2017	56	0.67	79
Total area of development	4,046	48.55	90
Total area of natural land	3,323	39.87	296
Total area of open land	823	9.88	205
Total area of permanently conserved land	448	5.38	328
Total area of newly conserved land from 2012-2019	21	0.25	346

Additional breakdowns of protected and permanently conserved land can be found in the *Open Space and Natural Resources* element.



Map 1 East Longmeadow Land Use Map



East Longmeadow's population has grown over the past four decades, from 12,905 people in 1980 to the 2019 population estimate of 16,242 (from US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-year data, 2015-2019), an increase of approximately 26 percent. By 2040 the population is projected to be 17,936 residents, according to the UMass Donahue Institute. Residents, municipal officials and other stakeholders throughout the resilient Master Planning process lifted up the importance of making sure the town has the regulatory tools and procedures in place to manage growth to maintain and improve the quality of life and to enhance opportunities for residents and business owners alike.

Zoning

Zoning regulations, zoning districts, and other land use laws constitute a town's "blueprint" for its future. These tools help the community shape the physical landscape through permitting and mapping where land is dedicated to different types of residential and non-residential uses. Zoning regulations and districts are the primary land use tools to manage development and direct growth to suitable and desired areas, while also protecting critical resources and ensuring that development is in keeping with the town's character as prescribed by the regulations the community adopts. Land use patterns over time will continue to look more and more like the town's zoning map until the town is "built out" – that is, there is no more developable land left. In looking forward, it is important that the town focus not on the current use and physical build-out of today, but on its potential future uses and build-out allowed under the town's zoning map and bylaws. This Master Plan captures community input and priorities for future land uses.

East Longmeadow's current zoning bylaw has been amended through 2020 with the previously mentioned Mixed-Use Village District. For the purposes of the Master Plan, the zoning assessment addresses pertinent zoning regulations and permitting procedures as they relate to potential obstacles to achieving goals outlined in the Master Plan. The zoning code affects development and redevelopment potential based on where the town allows housing types and commercial and industrial activities throughout town. See Map 2 for East Longmeadow's current zoning map.

Residential Zoning Districts

Residence AA, Residence A, Residence B, Residence C, Elderly Residential, Planned Adult Residential, Planned Unit Residential

East Longmeadow's Residence AA, A, B, and C Districts are particular districts for development of single family homes in the various parts of town. Actual densities have been measured using GIS mapping analysis:

Zone	Dwelling Units/Acre	Population/Dwelling Units	Population/Acre
Residence AA	0.5	2.8	1.4
Residence A	0.7	2.5	1.9
Residence B	1.3	2.7	3.8
Residence C	2.5	2.5	

Most of the new residential development in town is located in Residence Zones A, AA, supplemented by ANR development elsewhere. This means new development consisting primarily of larger homes on larger lots with smaller homes as the infill development.

Brownstone Gardens is a senior living development that was built in the Elderly Residential Zoning



District and offers density options for multi-family development. The Planned Unit Residential District and the newly approved Mixed-Use Village District also provide an opportunity for multi-family development with a Special Permit and Site Plan Review, however, a minimum of 40 acres is needed to develop within these zones.

The town has zoned for Planned Unit Residential Development (similar to Open Space Residential Development), allowing a mix of housing types on smaller lots and requires permanently protected open space as part of the development.

Commercial and Business Districts

The town currently has two districts specifically for commercial activity – the Business District and the Commercial District. The Commercial District is intended for low-intensity commercial uses, like professional offices; whereas, the Business District permits higher-intensity commercial uses that have a higher number of employees and higher traffic volumes, like supermarkets or gas stations.

Industrial and Industrial Garden Park Districts

The Industrial and Industrial Garden Park Zoning Districts traverse the old railroad line and current Redstone Rail Trail. High-intensity commercial uses, such as retail and services, as well as low-intensity business uses are permitted by-right in the Industrial District. Industrial uses, like warehousing and construction supply are permitted. Special permits would be required for non-industrial uses as identified in the town's Schedule of Use Regulations – Table 3-1.

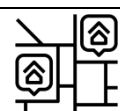
Golf Recreational District

The Golf Recreational Zoning District covers the two existing golf courses in town. This allows for development of single family homes and multi-family dwellings, among other types of uses allowed by-right, in accordance with the Town's Schedule of Use Regulations.

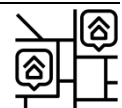
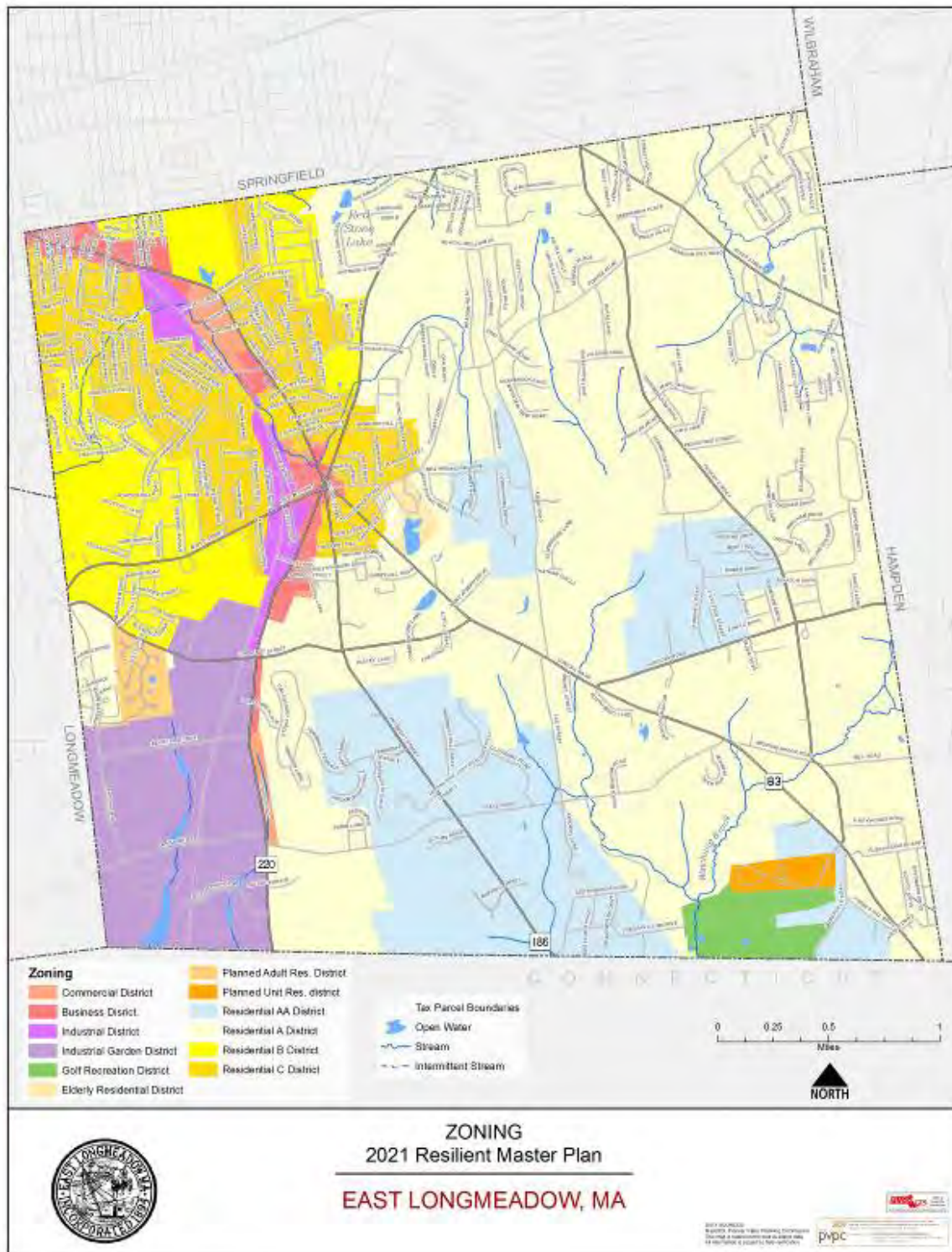
Mixed-Use Village District

Adopted in 2020, the Mixed-Use Village District allows for development of a mixture of residential, commercial and business uses and building types including single family dwellings, town houses, multi-family dwellings with or without attached business or commercial spaces, business and commercial buildings, recreation facility, and open space. The district is intended to allow for greater integration of various types of housing and business and commercial uses within a walkable community.

Development of affordable housing units are identified in this new bylaw, with a requirement of 10 percent of total housing in the district being afforded to those who qualify under the limits by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



Map 2 East Longmeadow Zoning Map



ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Master Plan process has provided the opportunity for residents to present comment and concerns about growth in East Longmeadow and the 302 survey respondents, along with committee members and focus group participants have affirmed the importance of the Town's "small-town character and charm." It was very important to survey takers (62.3%) that the town manages and guides commercial development – all of which can be addressed through the Town's land use policies and regulations. Comments at the visioning and implementation workshops affirm this perspective. The intention of this plan is to help East Longmeadow achieve the balance of development with preservation of all that is treasured about the community. This requires maximizing opportunities to preserve open space, where appropriate, and addressing development thoughtfully. The town could realize the benefits of this balance by becoming more proactive in planning for growth and conservation, exploring targeted plans for key nodes and corridors, and implementing the recommended policies and regulations.

As with many other towns in western Massachusetts where there are large tracts of open land, solar developers are seeking to site large scale developments of up to 20-30 acres of land per parcel in East Longmeadow. With constrained financial resources, the Town must be strategic about which parcels provide the most benefit as protected open space and which areas the town can develop. The town can be more proactive about supporting other economic development opportunities.

Encouraging Redevelopment

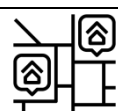
Seventy-one percent of survey respondents find it somewhat important or very important for the town to encourage more economic development. There are multiple corridors in town, in addition to the town center, which can support this development. The town center also provides the opportunities for walkability and access to services like the town offices, library, and multiple amenities in and around the Center Square complex.

The Town Center can continue to attract small businesses to support the local economy and offer a continuation of the types of structures and character the town seeks. A Village Center bylaw, or exploring an expansion of the Mixed Use Village District and those standards, could help the town advance the maintenance of appropriate development in the center. The bylaw can offer standards of which future development could be allowed, such as requiring any new or redeveloped buildings to demonstrate similar architectural features as the surrounding buildings, with an allowance for a smaller setback or frontage requirement, etc. The developer would need to demonstrate that the development can fit within the context of the neighborhood it is in. The town can even explore identifying more than one area where they could foresee this type of development.

Small Town Features

Urban design can help preserve historic small-town character, ensuring that new development complements the area surrounding it, and creates an accessible, pedestrian-friendly environment. By addressing fundamental site dimensions, like building height, width, coverage, and setbacks, design guidelines can also focus on elements such as signage, building materials, streetscape components, and landscaping.

To some extent we can maintain the remnants of East Longmeadow's past by preserving roads, overarching trees, barns and other artifacts of the earlier times, as the town still has some visual



characteristics of a New England town. More significant, however, is the opportunity to revitalize the type of uses and activities that support and maintain small-town character:

- Preserving and supporting the expansion of the remaining working farms, including on public land, if appropriate;
- Providing an opportunity for volunteers to assist with taking care of roadside trees, and planting new ones to replace those that have died;
- Centralizing activity with working greenbelts of gardens, farms and forest;
- Building more support for the strong values of recreation in town.

As the landscape continues to change and evolve, the town can take control and preserve its character and beauty by creating specific standards and incorporating them into each of the zoning designations, in addition to exploring overlay districts to preserve qualities unique to specific neighborhoods.

Affordable Housing

East Longmeadow could support additional affordable housing in town by exploring an expansion to the inclusionary zoning component in the Mixed Use Village District. This would support implementation of the recommendation raised by residents and other stakeholders for varying housing types and affordable units. As described, new housing constructed under this zoning can require affordable units built on-site, payment in lieu of units, or donation of land that could support affordable housing development.

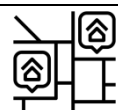
Many towns strive to achieve a 10 percent subsidized housing inventory (SHI) threshold so they are not subject to development regulated under the State's Chapter 40B laws. A Comprehensive Permit proceeding, as governed by Chapter 40B, bypasses many local review processes. As of November 2019, the State's records show the town's SHI at 7.4 percent, making the Town subject to Chapter 40B and housing development being permitted through the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Housing Element Technical Paper, in addition to a Housing Production Plan to be prepared in 2021, provides some additional context of regional housing perspectives and how East Longmeadow may play a part in housing production.

Community Resilience

The Town's ability to utilize its available resources (energy, communication, transportation, food, etc.) to withstand and recover from adverse situations is known as its community resilience. East Longmeadow's resilience will rely on a proactive and planned approach to protect its resources and direct where development and redevelopment can occur.

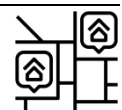
The recommendations of the land use element meet these objectives in a number of ways including:

- Promoting the development of a town center that facilitates walkability and the efficient use of existing buildings and infrastructure. It also facilitates community building by formalizing a civic space and community programming, utilizing the town offices, the library, or Center Field.
- Working to expand affordable housing opportunities, like a variety of housing types, would provide housing for those who want to remain in town and contribute to the success of East Longmeadow, while also offering opportunities for new residents who can contribute to the



growth of East Longmeadow.

- Preserving the Town's small-town character will help protect some of the natural resources and open spaces, which is a benefit to the existing, though evolving, ecosystem.





TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

OVERVIEW

This Transportation chapter includes a brief review of the existing transportation network in the Town of East Longmeadow. All transportation components were reviewed in order to identify travel patterns throughout the Town. This chapter also provides an outlook of the existing safety concerns and takes into consideration public input provided during the master plan survey process, Visioning Session and Focus Groups to shape goals and strategies that can improve future transportation conditions.

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Existing Transportation System

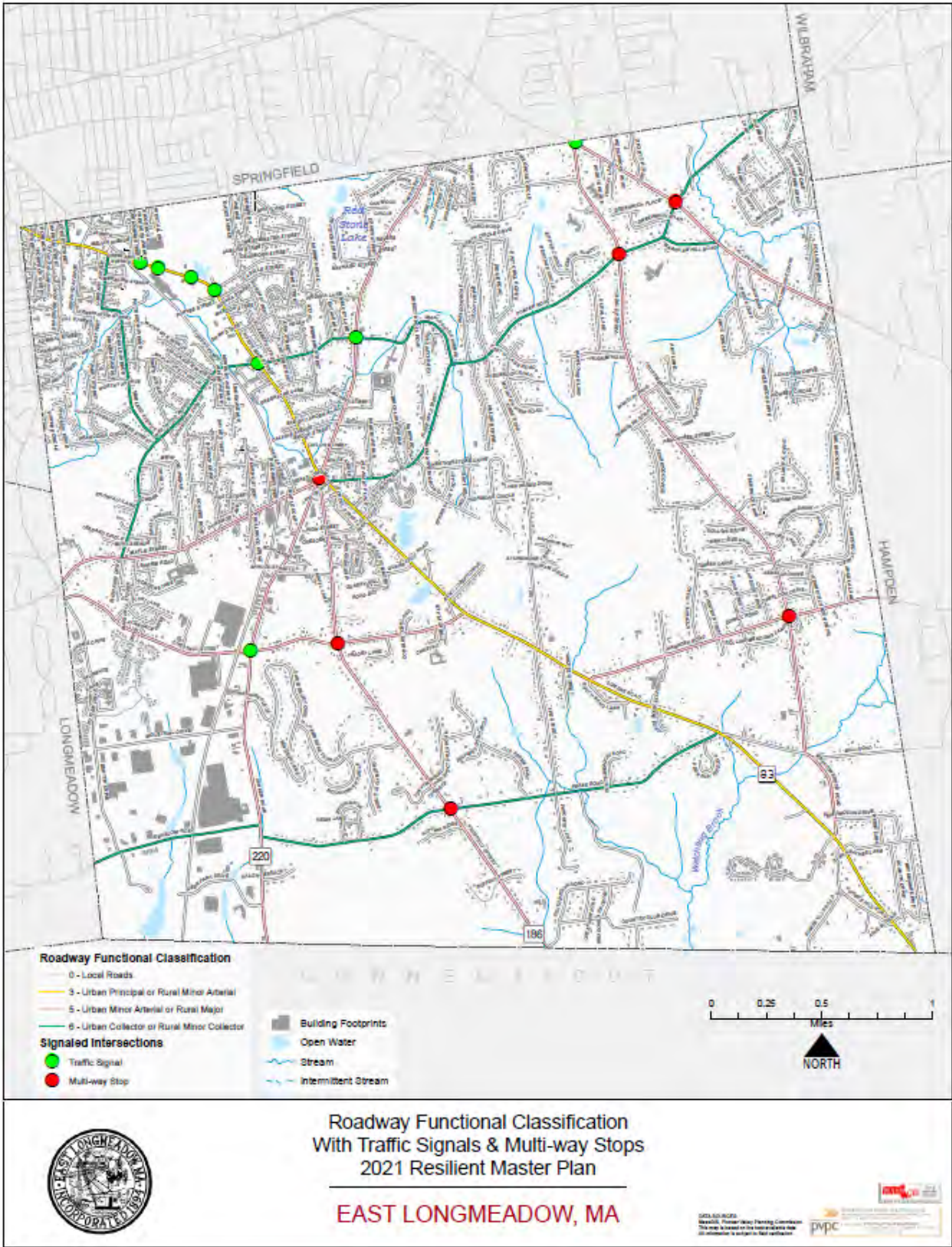
Roadway miles and ownership

East Longmeadow has a roadway network of 100.79 centerline miles based on information from the MassDOT 2018 Road Inventory Year End Report. All roadway miles are locally maintained by the East Longmeadow Department of Public Works. Approximately 30.8 miles of road are eligible for federal aid. The entire town is considered an urbanized area based on population density from the 2010 U.S. Census. Map 1 highlights the existing functionally classified transportation infrastructure in East Longmeadow.

Functional Classification is a system used to identify the intended level of service a roadway is expected to provide. There are seven distinct classes of Functional Class for roadways. Each class is assigned a number from 0-6. Four of these classes are present in East Longmeadow as follows:

- **Rural Minor Arterial/Urban Extension (Class 3)**- Those roads that provide service to cities, towns and other traffic generators not served by the arterial system; roads that link these places with the arterial system; and roads that serve the more important intracounty travel corridors. Route 83 is an example of this class of road in East Longmeadow.
- **Urban Major Collectors (Class 5)** - Roads that bring traffic from local roads to higher classified road. These roads provide service to within the community and link to local traffic generators. Route 186 is an example of this class of road in East Longmeadow.
- **Urban Minor Collectors (Class 6)** – Provide a similar service as an Urban Major Collector but typically carry lower volumes of traffic. Pease Road is an example of this class of road in East Longmeadow.
- **Local Roads (Class 0)** - Roads that provide access to adjacent land and that provide service to relatively short distance trips.

Map 1 – Functionally Classified Roads



Non-motorist Infrastructure

Non-motorist infrastructure includes accommodations for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders. A summary of existing non-motorists infrastructure in East Longmeadow is shown on Map 2. In 2019 MassDOT released [The Statewide Bicycle Plan](#) and [The Statewide Pedestrian Plan](#). These plans include guides introducing Cities and Towns to core concepts as well as provide additional resources to improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. The objective of these plans is to improve safety, reduce fatalities, and increase the use of non-motorized modes of transportation for short trips.

Sidewalks

There is an existing network of sidewalks, primarily in the northern section of town that provides pedestrian connections from major clusters and activity centers to the center of town. Many lower volume roadways do not currently have sidewalks. Similarly, it is unclear if the entire existing sidewalk network meets current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

The town has a Sidewalk Master Plan that identifies a number of proposed areas for the construction of new sidewalks. This plan is developed by the East Longmeadow Department of Public Works in consultation with key departments such as the School and Police Departments. Sidewalks are required in all new subdivisions.

Bike lanes

East Longmeadow does not have any designated on-road bicycle amenities. In general, many roads such as Benton Drive have unmarked paved shoulders that could be used by more advance cyclists. The 2020 Complete Streets Prioritization Plan for the town (discussed in greater detail later in this chapter) identifies a number of areas for providing bicycle accommodations on roadways that provide access to key areas.

Redstone Rail Trail

The Redstone Rail Trail is an off road shared use path for bicycles and pedestrians that follows the former Armory Branch of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. Completed in September of 2010, the rail trail runs in a general north/south direction from Maple Street to Denslow Road for a total length of 1.57 miles. Terrain along the trail is generally flat and is considered suitable for all ability levels.

The trail is accessible from Maple Street with parking available in the municipal parking lot adjacent to the East Longmeadow Library and Town Hall. The trail is also accessible to restaurants and retail establishments in the central business district and along Shaker Road including Family Bike. The Redstone Rail Trail is used frequently by workers from the industrial park including major employers such as Hilmor and Cartamundi. There are several commercial fitness centers that utilize the rail trail and the East Longmeadow High School athletic teams use the trail daily for training runs. The Chestnut Street crossing has push-button activated rectangular rapid flashing warning beacons to assist pedestrians and bicyclists in crossing the road. The trail currently terminates at the parking area on Denslow Road near Bay Path University. Expansion of the trail north of Maple Street to the Pleasantview Senior Center and Heritage Park is identified as the top priority in the 2019 Open Space Plan. Trail expansion also was highlighted as a future goal during the Visioning Session for the Master Plan and during the Transportation Focus Group.



Walking Clubs

The East Longmeadow Senior Center's Morning Glory Walkers have been organizing local walks three days a week since 1987. As one of 161 clubs across the state, the walking program gives people over 50 an opportunity to be active and social. Participants in the walking club are also engaged in raising awareness. Recently, organizers brought attention to unsafe sidewalks around the rotary and also identified a crossing signal issue at the intersection of North Main Street with Mapleshade Avenue that makes it difficult for those living with a disability to walk to and from the Senior Center to the center of town.

Safe Routes to School

The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program works to increase safe biking and walking among elementary and middle school students by using a collaborative, community-focused approach that bridges the gap between health and transportation. Mountain View School in East Longmeadow received an award from the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program in 2017. Mapleshade Elementary is also a "SRTS" partner.

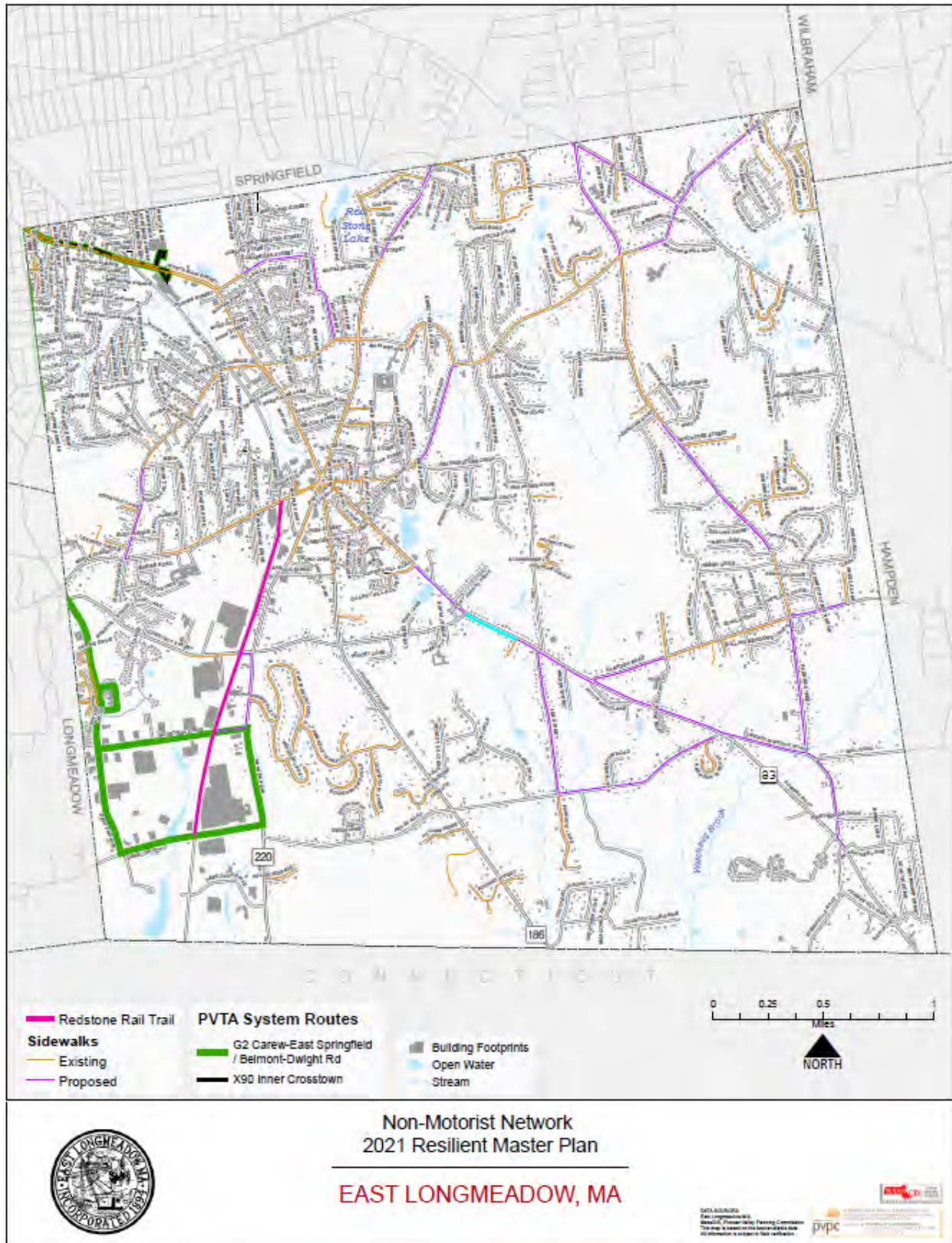
Shared Streets Program

East Longmeadow received \$117,573.50 as part of the MassDOT Shared Streets and Spaces Program. This award was used to construct 180 feet of new asphalt trail from the northern terminus of the Redstone Rail Trail to Maple Court, install new traffic calming measures to create a shared street on Maple Court and establish outdoor dining areas. The project also includes public art to be designed and implemented by local business owners and other abutters. Fifty percent of the public art had been installed as of the Fall of 2020.

Traffic calming measures on Maple Court established a "shared street" where posted speeds were reduced to 10 mph and painted chicanes reduced the 2-way road to one shared lane for pedestrians, cars, and bicyclists.



Map 2 – Non-motorized Transportation Network



PVTA Transit Service

Existing Service:

PVTA operates two fixed-route bus lines in East Longmeadow, route G2 and route X90. Both routes are shown on Map 2. Route G2 operates two branches within East Longmeadow, with one operating on North Main Street between Heritage Plaza and the Springfield city line, and the other operating on Benton Drive between Redstone Nursing Home and the Longmeadow Town Line (select trips extend further south to Industrial Drive). Route X90 operates on North Main Street between Heritage Plaza and the Springfield city line.

Route G2 provides connections to downtown Springfield via Belmont Ave and Main Street, and beyond to East Springfield via Carew Street and Page Boulevard. Route X90 provides connections to Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) via White & Walnut Streets, and beyond to Springfield Plaza, Chicopee Falls, South Hadley, and Holyoke. During the 2019 fiscal year, G2 carried 699,134 passengers while X90 carried 274,094 passengers. Of these, 39,833 boarded at bus stops in East Longmeadow, with slightly more riders using the X90 than the G2 (64.3 average daily riders on the G2 vs 65.8 average daily riders on the X90).

Historic Ridership:

Prior to August 2014, service in East Longmeadow was provided by the G2 and B13, with the latter extending beyond Big Y to serve the town center and two apartment complexes (Brownstone Apartments and Quarry Hill Apartments). Service changes implemented in August 2014 replaced the B13 with the new route X90, curtailing service at Big Y. At first there was no negative impact on ridership, with an increase reported during 2015, but ridership has subsequently declined. A summary of ridership by stop (by calendar year, rather than fiscal year) is provided in the following table, with former B13 stops colored in red:

Noteworthy Trends:

- Ridership at the stops previously served by the B13 never exceeded 4% of the total ridership in East Longmeadow, however, this is partly attributable to the very infrequent service that these stops received at the time (most B13 trips terminated at Big Y, as the X90 does today).
- Big Y accounts for the clear majority of ridership in East Longmeadow, and reached an all-time high during 2019, despite a decline in overall ridership in East Longmeadow.
- Ridership at the industrial park declined considerably between 2014 and 2015, but never accounted for a large portion of ridership to begin with.
- Ridership during 2020 was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1 – Historic Transit Ridership Data

Name	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Big Y - East Longmeadow	24813	23,342	23,886	24,016	21,132	24,444	26,971	17,842
Stop And Shop Drive (East Longmeadow)	9207	9,849	13,365	11,176	10,715	8,005	4,103	2,893
Redstone Nursing Home	4367	4,127	3,398	2,718	2,622	3,094	3,332	2,405
N. Main/Rosemont	1288	1,734	2,327	2,365	2,260	2,407	1,443	764
Main/Lombard(opposite)	1155	3,024	1,821	1,042	1,085	1,175	1,075	538
N. Main St. E. Longmeadow	364	535	1,434	1,306	742	664	674	261
Main/Van Dyke	290	389	311	448	312	467	399	280
Main / Dorset	391	336	314	240	282	417	348	126
Main/Gerrard	46	191	172	185	246	290	145	67
Main / Lombard	51	68	64	287	155	191	111	83
East Village Place	113	89	101	89	93	102	74	28
East Longmeadow Industrial Park (Flag Stop)	113	160	39	39	53	0	26	26
N Main / Mapleshade	87	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Frankwyn	22	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Elm	256	89	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Dorset	94	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Shaw	10	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Shaw (IB)	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brownstone Apts	123	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somers / Unnamed	12	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Quarry Hill Apts	681	502	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Dearborn	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
N Main / Brook	336	212	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somers / Park	114	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage of ridership from discontinued stops:	3.97%	2.20%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Potential Future Changes:

PVTA is investigating the potential of additional crosstown service: these are routes which bypass the Union Station bus terminal, connecting the “spokes” of PVTA’s network. One such corridor is a connection from East Longmeadow center to Ludlow Big Y, via Elm, Cooley, and Parker Streets. For this route to be most effective, PVTA would also need to extend either the G2 or X90 service beyond its current terminal to connect to East Longmeadow center. With that said, PVTA’s current budget would not allow such service changes without making cuts elsewhere in the system, so these remain at the conceptual stage for the time being. Should an appropriate grant or other funding source become available, PVTA will consider a pilot program for such service, depending on feedback from East Longmeadow and PVTA riders.

PVTA Paratransit Service

Paratransit is demand response door-to-door van service that is scheduled by the rider. PVTA’s fleet of vans are equipped with wheelchair lifts and other special equipment to insure the safety of disabled riders. PVTA provides paratransit service as follows:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Service -- Federal law requires that public transit providers offer paratransit service that is comparable to their fixed route bus service to disabled customers who are unable to use regular buses. Customers must be eligible to use the service, and an application and approval process is required. Trips must be scheduled at least one day in advance. ADA paratransit service is available only within three-quarters of a mile of a fixed bus route, and the trip must start and be completed during the same hours that the nearest regular bus route operates. The fare ranges from \$3.00 - \$5.00 per ride, depending on pickup and drop off locations.



- Senior Dial-A-Ride Service -- PVTa also provides van service to people age 60 and over in its 24 member communities. This service is operated on a space-available basis Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. The fare ranges from \$3.00 - \$5.00 per ride, depending on pickup and drop off locations. Tickets are available from local senior centers and the PVTa Information Center.

PVTa also offers Travel Training for seniors and people with mobility impairments who would like to learn how to safely and independently use the fixed route system. Training is provided free-of-charge except for the required bus fare while training is taking place. For more information visit: <http://www.pvta.com/traveltraining.php>

Senior Van Service

The East Longmeadow Council on Aging, located at the Pleasant View Senior Center provides transportation via the Tri-Town Trolley. This weekday service runs from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM for the towns of East Longmeadow, Hampden and Longmeadow. The trolley provides transportation for residents to appointments in East Longmeadow, Hampden, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Springfield and West Springfield based on availability. A 48 – 72 hour notification is required to schedule a trip. The cost is \$1 each way for in-town transportation and \$2 each way for out-of-town transportation.

Traffic Volume

Traffic volumes can be used to evaluate the current performance characteristics of existing roadways, identify the need for additional transportation facilities to reduce existing congestion, and as a gauge of the effectiveness of new businesses that rely on pass by traffic (i.e. convenience stores, gas stations, and retail establishments). While traffic volumes are not always an indication of the level of congestion or safety along a given roadway, they do provide important information on the use of the road such as direction of travel and peak travel periods. Historic traffic data also provides valuable information on the level of growth experienced over time.

Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT)

AADT is the calculated traffic volume that represents the average for a typical day of the year. A limited amount of historic data is available for the Town of East Longmeadow. Unfortunately, new traffic volume data was not collected as part of this Master Plan as a result of lower traffic volumes and different travel patterns experienced during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Table 2 shows the historic count data available for the Town. This data represents a 24-hour volume for both directions of travel on an average weekday. PVPC did perform traffic counts in 2020 at two locations as part of an ongoing program to monitor regional travel patterns during the pandemic and through the recovery period.



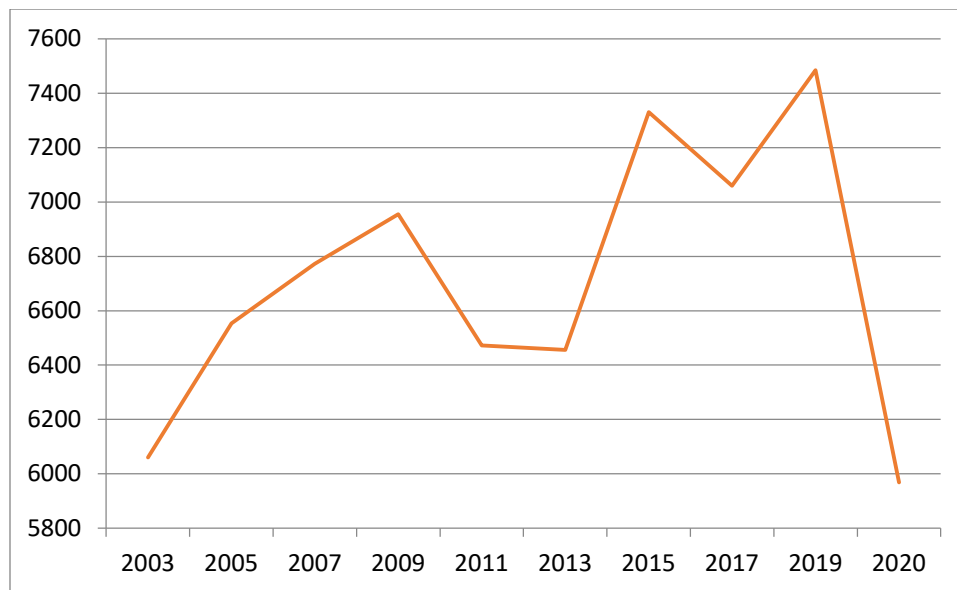
Figure 2 – Historic Average Daily Traffic Volumes

Location	2003	2004	2005	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2020
Chestnut St. between Prospect and Shaker							6,486						
Chestnut St. east of Benton Dr.							6,803						
Hampden Rd. west of Parker St.							5,356						
Maple St. east of Savoy St.										11,173			
Maple St. west of Westwood Ave.							13,552						
N. Main St. north of Mapleshade Ave.							17,127						
N. Main St. south of Brook St.	11,796												
N. Main St. west of Harkness St.													15,684
Porter Rd. east of Allen St.							9,340						
Porter Rd. west of Allen St.	6,061		6,553	6,772		6,955		6,472	6,456	7,330	7,059	7,484	5,969
Prospect St. at the CT State Line		2,424			2,461								
Shaker Rd. north of Chestnut St.	10,752						12,710						
Shaker Rd. at the CT State Line		9,889			9,464								
Somers Rd. at the CT State Line		3,236			3,283								
Somers Rd. south of Callender Ave.	7,303						8,194						

Traffic volume data is collected on a regular basis for MassDOT on Porter Road west of Allen Street. This information is used as part of the Federal Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). HPMS data is the official Federal government source on the extent, condition, performance, use, and operating characteristics of the nation's highways. It is used to assess and report on highway system performance. Historic data on Porter Road west of Allen Street from 2003 – 2020 is shown in Figure 3. Traffic volumes increased by 23.5% from 2003 to 2019. In 2020 traffic volumes in this area were over 20% lower than 2019 volumes.



Figure 3 – Historic Traffic Growth on Porter Road west of Allen Street



Truck Volumes

Trucks have much different operating characteristics than a traditional passenger vehicle, they require a wider turning radius and a longer distance to come to a complete stop. An assessment of the volume of truck traffic is useful for identifying the major corridor of freight travel as well as for future planning and design of roadways and intersections. Understanding the needs of the major freight generators can also help to reduce the desire for trucks to utilize residential areas to bypass freight bottlenecks and areas of congestion.

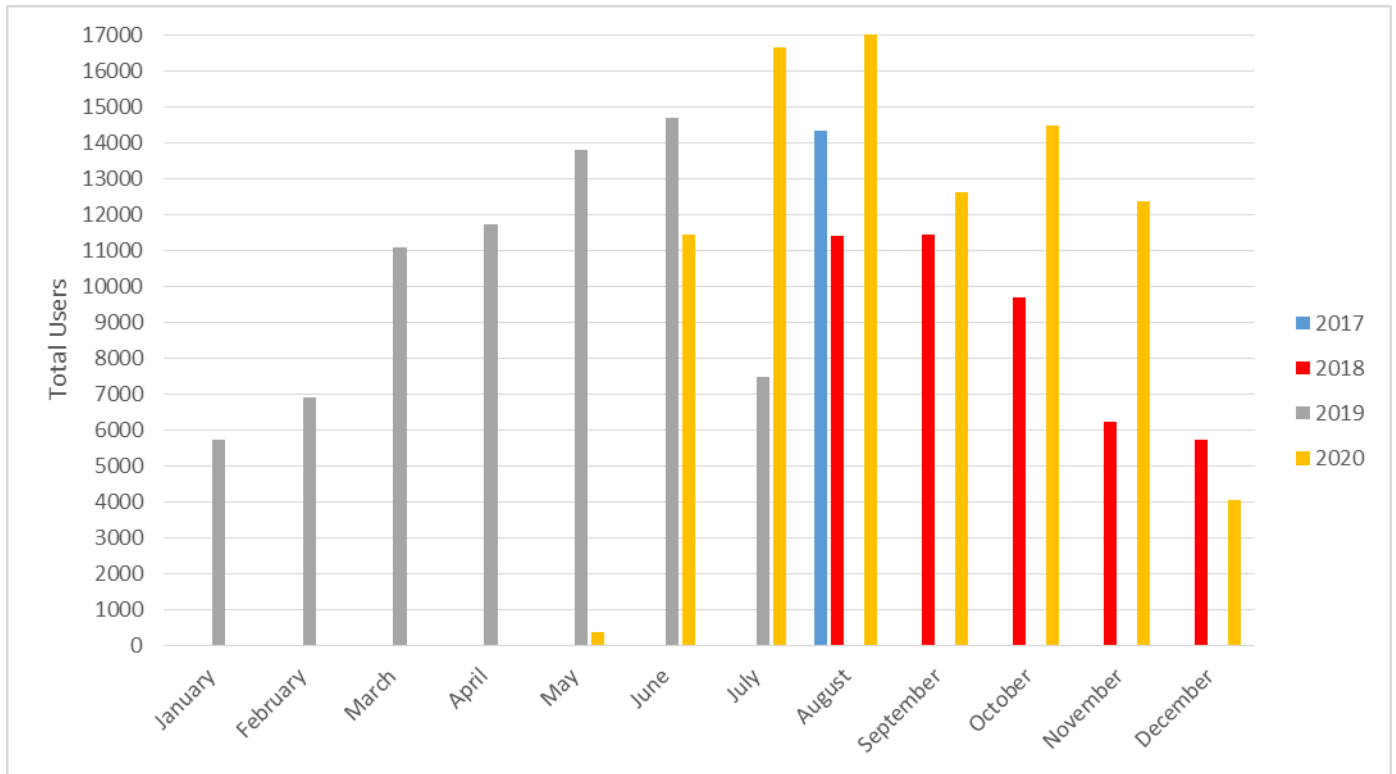
Vehicle classification data was reviewed for recent traffic counts on North Main Street and Porter Road. The 2020 traffic count on North Main Street west of Harkness Avenue revealed that less than 1% of all traffic was comprised of vehicles with three or more axles. This count was conducted over a 48 hour period in July of 2020. Truck volumes were also compared for the 2019 and 2020 counts performed on Porter Road west of Allen Street. Again, less than 1% of all traffic was comprised of vehicles with three or more axles. The percentage of truck traffic was observed to increase slightly from 2019 to 2020 on Porter Road although this is likely a result of the lower volumes of passenger vehicle traffic during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Redstone Rail Trail Volumes

PVPC reviewed historic usage data collected at a central location on the Redstone Rail Trail. Data is collected with a passive infra-red signal detector with a data logger to record time and date information. This device is not able to provide directional information or a breakdown of the type or trail user i.e. bicyclist, pedestrian, rollerblader, etc. A summary of the monthly usage information is shown in Figure 4. Monthly data totals show a pattern of regular use that increases during warmer weather months. Trail use is significantly higher in 2020 than similar months in 2018.



Figure 4 – Monthly Usage on the Redstone Rail Trail



Safety

PVPC utilized crash data downloaded from the Impact Crash Data Portal (<https://apps.impact.dot.state.ma.us/cdv/>) developed by MassDOT. PVPC used the most recent three years of final data available (2015-2017) to identify the number of crashes that occurred in East Longmeadow. This information is summarized in Figures 5 and 6.

Crash data was ranked using the Equivalent Property Damage Only (EPDO) system. All fatal and injury crashes are weighted the same in this system as 21 while a property damage only crash is weighted as 1. This scoring places an emphasis on developing countermeasures to reduce the number of fatal and serious injury crashes. The sum of the EPDO for all crashes contained in an area was utilized to rank the top five locations in East Longmeadow. The East Longmeadow Rotary had the highest EPDO score of 580 with a total of 180 crashes over the three year period. The intersections of Shaker Road with Chestnut Street and North Main Street with Mapleshade Avenue and Westwood Avenue both operate under traffic signal control. The intersection of Allen Street with Porter Road operates under multi-way Stop sign control that is supplemented by an overhead flashing red warning beacon. Only 8 total crashes were reported at the intersection of Shaker Road with Pease Road from 2015 – 2017. The calculated EPDO, however, was 108 indicating a large percentage of the crashes resulted in an injury.

Figure 7 summarized the historic number of crashes with the fatal and injury crashes in East Longmeadow from 2002 – 2019. It should be noted that crash data from 2018 and 2019 had not yet been finalized by MassDOT and could still change. The total number of crashes in town have decreased over time. Crashes have fluctuated between 375 and 400 crashes from 2012 – 2017. The total crashes in 2018 and 2019 appear to be even lower.

Fatal and injury crashes have an average total of nearly 71/year from 2002 – 2019. This ranges from a high of 106 in 2003 to a low of 44 in 2018. The rate of fatal and injury crashes has decreased over the last ten years with an average total of nearly 61/year.

Tables 3 and 4 summarize the crash data for the East Longmeadow Rotary from 2015 – 2017. Angle crashes are the predominant crash type in the vicinity of the rotary. Just over 11 percent of all crashes at the rotary resulted in an injury. The total number of crashes remained fairly consistent from 2015 to 2016 but increased in 2017. It will be important to monitor crash data in this area over time to determine if it continues to increase.

The intersections of Chestnut Street with Prospect Street and Mapleshade Avenue with Porter Road and Pleasant Street both were identified as areas of concern for safety during the Transportation Focus Group. Chestnut Street intersects with Porter Street to form a four way intersection. Three of the four approaches operate under Stop sign control. Eastbound traffic on Chestnut Street has the right of way. There is a steep grade on Chestnut Street that contributes to visibility issues at this intersection. An overhead flashing warning beacon and parabolic mirror are located at this intersection to assist drivers.

Safety concerns at the intersection of Mapleshade Avenue with Porter Road are due to the high travel speeds on Porter Road and difficulties pedestrians have when attempting to cross the street. An existing guardrail on the corner of this intersection often requires replacement after being struck by a vehicle.



Figure 5 – East Longmeadow Crash Data 2015 - 2017

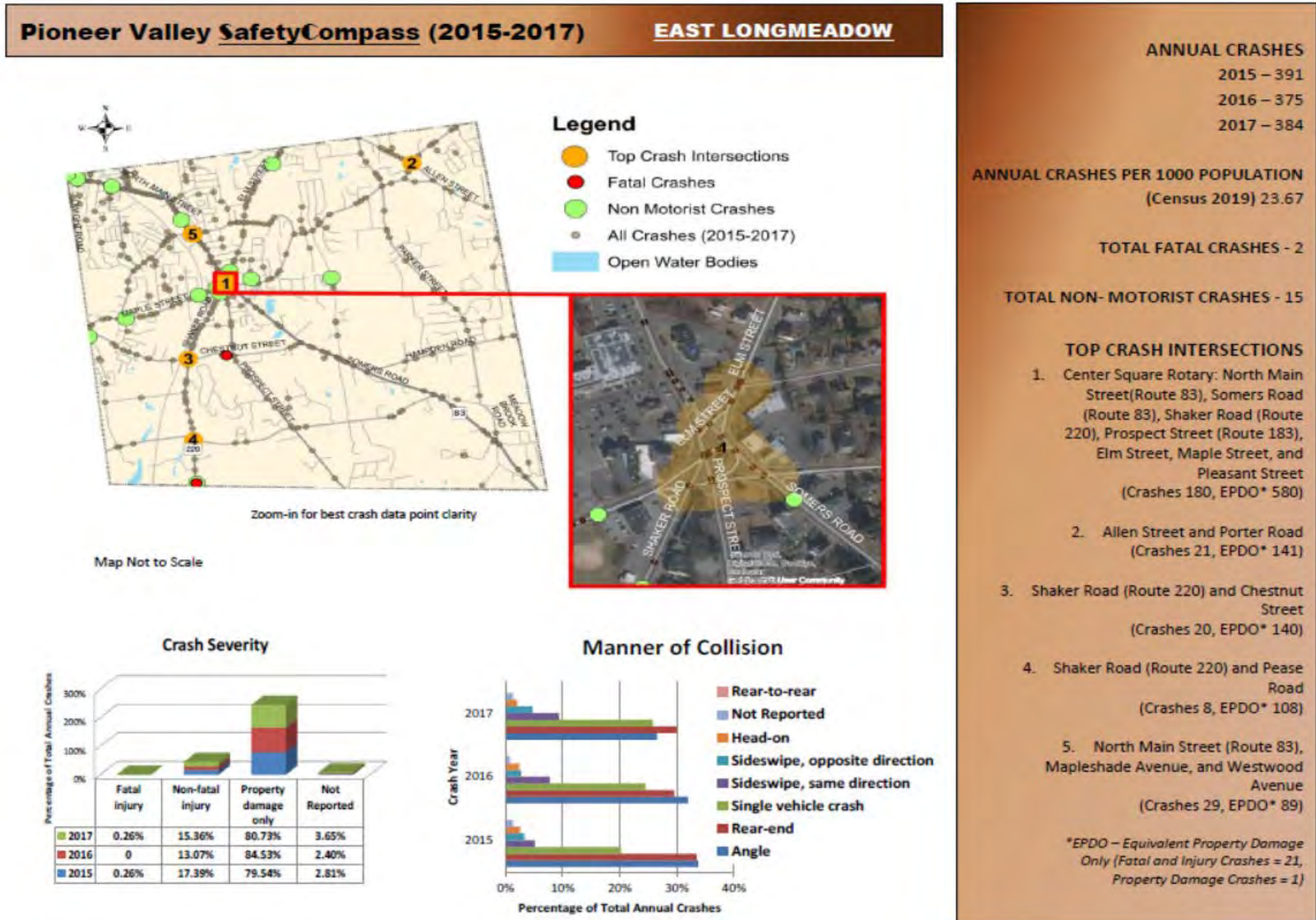


Figure 6 – Key Findings on East Longmeadow Crash Data

KEY FINDINGS

- A total of 15 non-motorist crashes were recorded in East Longmeadow between 2015 and 2017, one resulted in fatality of a pedestrian.
- The other fatal crash involved a speeding motor vehicle which collided with a tree.
- About one fourth of the total crashes occurred at three-way intersections in the Town.
- Almost seven percent of the total crashes involved collisions with parked motor vehicles.

FIRST HARMFUL EVENT SUMMARY

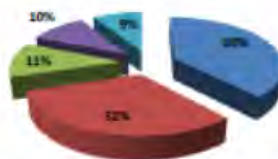
Collision with motor vehicle in traffic	801
Collision with parked motor vehicle	70
Collision with animal	66
Collision with other utility pole or other support	59
Collision with utility pole	41
Collision with curb	34
Collision with tree	30
Collision with unknown fixed object	26
Collision with other	17
Collision with non-motorist	15
Collision with embankment	7
Collision with other movable object	7
Not Reported	6
Collision with guardrail	5
Overturn/rollover	3
Collision with ditch	2
Other non-collision	2

DRIVER CONTRIBUTION CODES FOR ALL DRIVERS

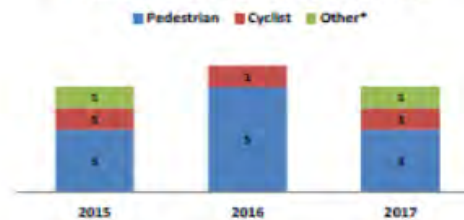
No improper driving	1303
Inattention or distracted	255
Failed to yield right of way	229
Not Reported	89
Followed too closely	83
Driving too fast for conditions or exceeded speed limit	81
Operating vehicle in erratic, careless, negligent or aggressive manner	49
Failure to keep in proper lane or running off road	41
Disregarded traffic signs, signals, road markings	25
Physical impairment, illness, emotional	24
Other improper action	23
Swerving or avoiding due to wind, slippery surface, vehicle, object, non-	23
Fatigued/asleep	17
Visibility obstructed	13
Made an improper turn	12
Over-correcting/over-steering	8
Glare	6
Operating defective equipment	3
Wrong side or wrong way	3

Roadway Classification

- Urban minor arterial or rural major collector
- Rural minor arterial or urban principal arterial
- Urban collector or rural minor collector
- Local
- Not Reported



Non-motorist Crashes by Type and Year



*skater, wheelchair, unicycle, tricycle, pedal cycle etc.

Location of Crashes

- Not at junction
- Y-intersection
- Four-way intersection
- Traffic circle
- Driveway
- Five-point or more
- Y-intersection

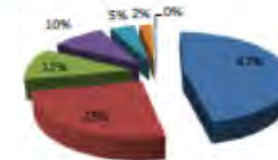


Figure 7 Total Crashes

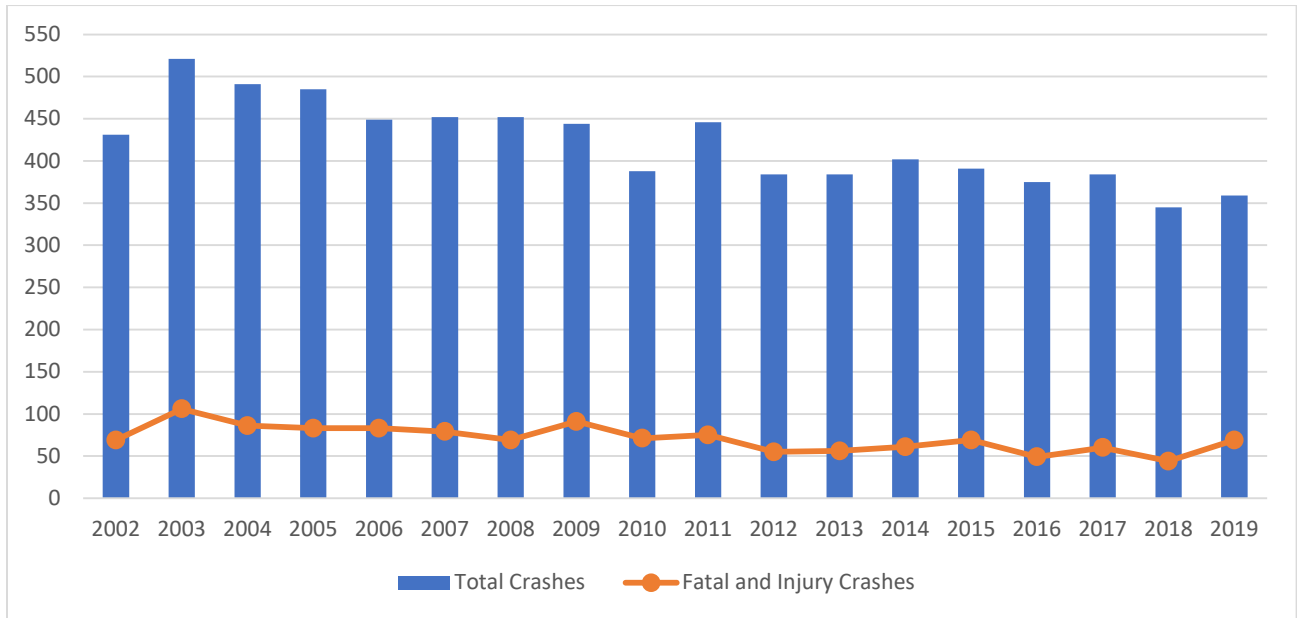


Figure 8 – Total Crashes by Year and Type at the East Longmeadow Rotary

Crash Type	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Angle	34	33	35	102
Head-on	1	1		2
Rear-end	14	6	8	28
Sideswipe, opposite direction		1	3	4
Sideswipe, same direction	6	12	13	31
Single vehicle crash	2	1	8	11
Unknown		1	1	2
Grand Total	57	55	68	180

Figure 9 – Crash Severity at the East Longmeadow Rotary

Crash Severity	2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Non-fatal injury	6	6	8	20
Property damage only	51	49	60	160
Grand Total	57	55	68	180



Congestion

Understanding where and why traffic congestion is happening is an important step toward reducing it. The Pioneer Valley Congestion Management Process (CMP) works toward identifying the major traffic congested locations within the Pioneer Valley Region. This information is essential in advancing future transportation improvements that will reduce traffic congestion and improve the overall safety and efficiency of our transportation network.

PVPC ranks congestion based on the Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR) for a roadway. LOTTR is based on the amount of time it takes to drive the length of a roadway segment. A roadway segment is defined as “reliable” or “unreliable” if the calculated LOTTR falls below a certain threshold (currently 1.5). The following roadway segments currently rank as “unreliable” based on 2019 travel time data for the PM peak hour:

- Shaker Road (Route 220) in the vicinity of the East Longmeadow Rotary
- Maple Street in the vicinity of the East Longmeadow Rotary

The regional CMP also identifies Congestion Bottlenecks. A Congestion Bottleneck is defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) as a localized constriction of traffic flow that experiences reduced speeds and inherent delays due to recurring operational influence or a nonrecurring impacting event. The PVPC has identified the East Longmeadow Rotary as one of the top Congestion Bottlenecks based on 2019 travel time data for the PM peak hour.

Porter Road, particularly when traveling northwest (towards the Town of Wilbraham) was identified during the public participation process as a location that can experience significant congestion. The intersections of Porter Road with Parker Street and Porter Road with Allen Street were also identified as locations of congestion that may require further study.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation Resiliency

FHWA defines resiliency as the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions.¹ This consists of the identification of transportation features that need to be protected from manmade and natural disasters. PVPC identified safety, pavement condition, bridges, culverts, evacuation routes and signalized intersections as the biggest threats for transportation resiliency in the Town of East Longmeadow.

Vision Zero

The goal of Vision Zero is to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries. Vision Zero also promotes safe, healthy and equitable transportation options. In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the cities of Boston, Cambridge and Somerville are Vision Zero communities. As shown in Figure 7, the town has averaged 61 fatal and injury crashes over the last ten years. Development of Vision Zero Goals and Strategies appropriate for the Town of East Longmeadow

<https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop15025/index.htm>¹



could assist in greater reductions in traffic fatalities and injuries. For more information, please visit: <https://visionzeronetwork.org/>

Bridges and Culverts

MassDOT maintains the majority of bridges in Massachusetts, including the 3 structures located in East Longmeadow. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) recognize structures having a span greater than 10 feet as bridges. Federal regulations define a bridge as a structure having a span greater than 20 feet. According to the [MassDOT municipal data dashboard](#) East Longmeadow has two bridges that are rated to be in “good” condition and one bridge rated to be in “fair” condition. While a bridge rated as fair is not considered to be in danger of failing, natural or other types of disasters could accelerate the rate of deterioration resulting in failure.

- North Main Street over the Pecousic Brook – Good Condition
- Somers Road between Michel Street and Hampden Road – Good Condition
- Meadowbrook Road over the Watchaug Brook – Fair Condition

Severe weather events can have negative impacts on structures such as culverts and bridges. In 2011, Tropical Storm Irene caused more than \$25 million of roadway damage in the Pioneer Valley region, including many culvert wash outs. Culverts are usually built to carry a road, rail line or path over a small body of water. The PVPC mapped the location of all regional culverts as part of the update to the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The top 5% of culverts deemed most ecologically vulnerable or sensitive to extreme weather and heavy rain were prioritized in the RTP. A total of 45 culverts were identified in East Longmeadow as part of the RTP Update. No culverts in East Longmeadow were included as part of this vulnerability ranking. The East Longmeadow DPW identified three areas of potential concern for resiliency as part of the Transportation Focus Group:

- Pioneer Circle area - seasonal drainage issues.
- Porter Road Culvert – Project bid came in higher than expected and requires additional funding to advance to construction.
- Heritage Park Pond – requires redesign of the outfall.

Local Pavement Management

A Pavement Management System (PMS) is a systematic process that collects and analyzes roadway pavement information for use in selecting cost-effective strategies for providing and maintaining pavements in a serviceable condition. The principles of pavement management prioritize improvements to roadways in poor condition in combination with lower cost maintenance strategies for roadways in good condition. The Town of East Longmeadow hired a private consultant to assess all town roadways in 2017. PVPC reviews the condition of all federal aid eligible roadways in the region on a four year cycle. Pavement conditions in the Town of East Longmeadow were last reviewed in 2018. PVPC uses the Cartegraph software to assess the condition of paved roadways. This software calculates the Overall Condition Index (OCI) which measures the serviceability of a road on a scale from 0 – 100. OCI is summarized in Figure 10.



Map 3 – Vulnerable Transportation Infrastructure

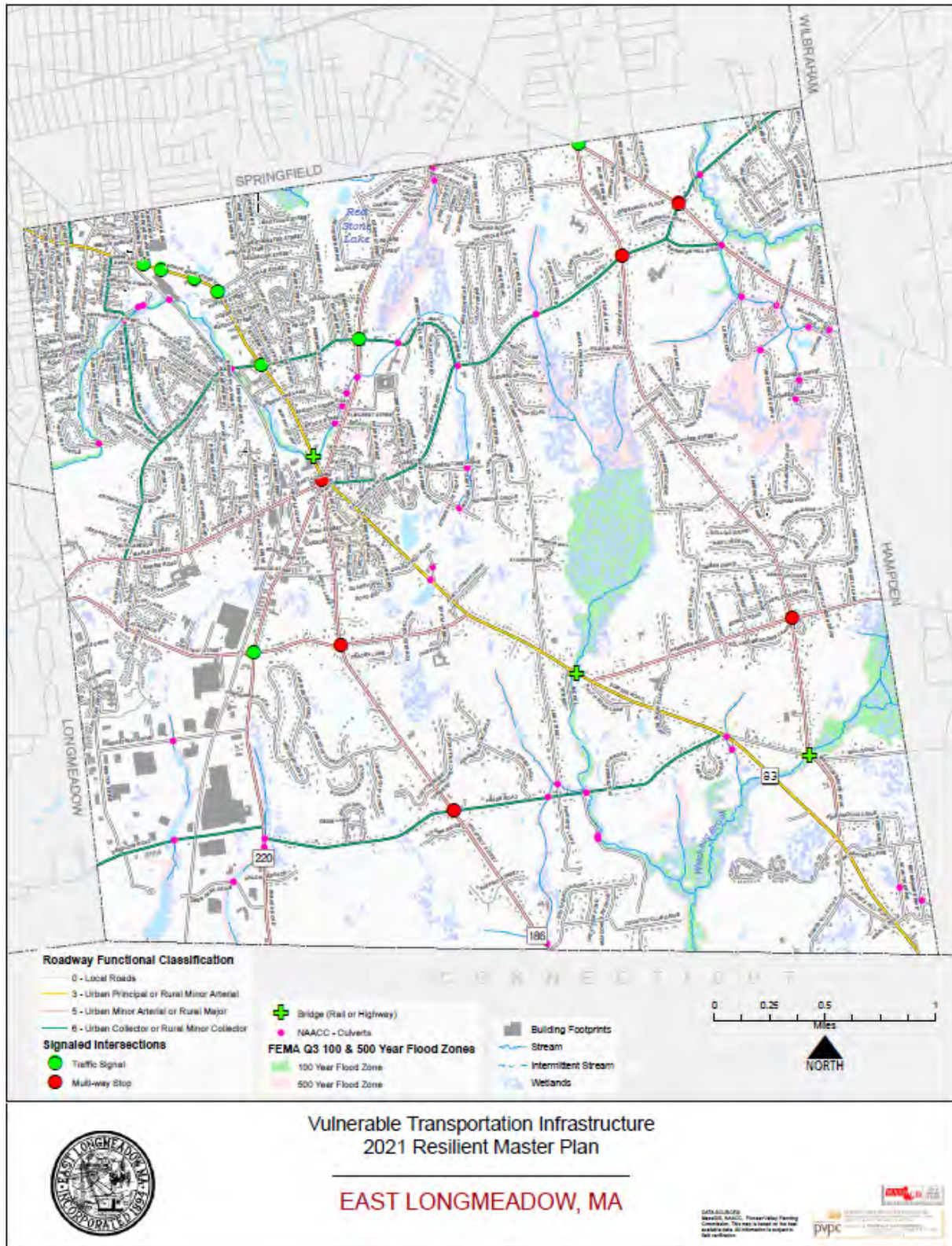


Figure 10 – Overall Condition Index (OCI)

OCI Value	Condition	Strategy
Greater than 89	Excellent	No improvements are warranted.
68 - 88	Good	May require preventive maintenance treatments such as crack sealing.
25 - 68	Fair	Requires more substantial improvements such as resurfacing to improve the roadway.
Below 25	Failure	Complete reconstruction of the roadway.

The average OCI for federal aid eligible roadways in East Longmeadow was 83 in 2018 indicating that most federal aid eligible roadways were estimated to be in good condition at this time. All total, nine roadway segments were found to be in Fair condition. These segments are shown in Figure 11. The lowest rated segment was on Shaker Road between Maple Street and Chestnut Street. No segments were reported to be in Poor condition at the time of the 2018 assessment.

Figure 11 – Federal Aid Eligible Roadway Segments with an OCI Under 68

Roadway	From	To	OCI*	Survey Date
Parker Street	Hampden Road	House #513	65	8/28/2018
Somers Road	Connecticut State Line	Meadowbrook Road	65	8/28/2018
Parker Street	Meadowbrook Road	Hampden Road	61	8/28/2018
Denslow Road	Shaker Road	Longmeadow Town Line	57	8/28/2018
Prospect Street	Chestnut Street	Connecticut State Line	57	6/28/2019
Shaker Road	Chestnut Street	Connecticut State Line	56	6/28/2019
Vineland Avenue	Westwood Avenue	Kensington Avenue	54	8/29/2018
Kensington Avenue	Lombard Avenue	Vineland Avenue	50	8/29/2018
Shaker Road	Maple Street	Chestnut Street	29	6/28/2019

* OCI = Overall Condition Index

Local Evacuation Routes

The Western Massachusetts Regional Evacuation Plan was completed in 2013 to provide emergency responders on the local, state, and federal levels with the resources necessary for conducting a regional evacuation in as efficient and effective a manner as possible. The plan provides maps and lists of evacuation routes, population centers, infrastructure, and other critical assets. Route 83 (North Main Street/Somers Road) is identified as the primary evacuation route for East Longmeadow. Other tertiary evacuation routes in town include Allen Street, Elm Street/Shaker Road and Maple Street. Tertiary routes are used to channel traffic towards secondary and primary evacuation routes that typically provide the most capacity and most direct route out of the region.

Traffic Control

There are several intersections that currently operate under a higher level of traffic control. All total there are eight intersections that operate under traffic signal control and six intersections that



operate under multi-way Stop sign control. Many of these multi-way Stop controlled intersections also have supplemental flashing warning beacons.

Figure 12 – Signalized and Multi-way Stop Controlled Intersections

Signalized Intersections	Multi-way Stop Sign Controlled Intersections
Allen Street at Parker Street	The East Longmeadow Rotary
Chestnut Street at Shaker Road	Chestnut Street at Prospect Street
Elm Street at Mapleshade Avenue	Parker Street at Hampden Road
North Main Street at Harkness Avenue	Porter Road at Allen Street
North Main Street at the Big Y	Porter Road at Parker Street
North Main Street at Stop & Shop	Prospect Street at Pease Road
North Main Street at Dearborn Street	
North Main Street at Mapleshade Avenue and Westwood Avenue	

Planned Transportation Improvements

This section outlines all planned or recommended transportation improvement projects in the Town of East Longmeadow. PVPC identified this information based on a review of previous studies and through discussions with the Department of Public Works.

Proposed Roadway Improvements

The Transportation Improvement Program for the Pioneer Valley (TIP) is a five-year schedule of priority highway, bridge, transit, and multimodal projects. The Town of East Longmeadow does not currently have any projects included as part of the current TIP or to be considered for funding as part of a future TIP. For more information on the Regional TIP Process please visit: <http://www.pvpc.org/projects/transportation-improvement-program>

The Town received a grant from MassDOT in 2019 for \$240,000 to make improvements to the Porter Road Culvert. Unfortunately bids received for this project exceeded this total. The East Longmeadow DPW is currently working to identify additional funding for this project. The DPW has developed a list of paving projects for 2021 as well as candidates for paving in 2022 and 2023. This information is shown in Figure 13.



Figure 13 – Potential East Longmeadow Paving Projects

2021 Paving Projects	2022/2023 Candidate Paving Projects
Denslow Road	Shaker Road (State Line to Chestnut)
Shaker Road (from Pease to Denslow)	North Main Street (Rotary to Harkness)
Maple Street	Marci Avenue
Dearborn Street	High Pine Circle
Gates Avenue (portion north of Dearborn)	Melwood Avenue
Westminster Street	Marshall Street
Somerset Street	
Shawmut Street	
Hedgerow Lane	
Maryland Street	
Auburn Street	
Thompkins Avenue	
Quarry Hill	
Woodbridge Drive	
Winding Brook Lane	
Sturbridge Lane	
Chatham Circle	
Patience Way	

Sidewalk Plan

The East Longmeadow Sidewalk Plan identifies a number of proposed new sidewalks as well as locations for the maintenance of existing sidewalks. Sidewalk improvements are funded via the Town General Fund. Recommended sidewalk improvements are shown in red on Map 2.

Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

East Longmeadow completed a Complete Street Prioritization Plan in March, 2020. This plan is a requirement of the Massachusetts Complete Street Program. As part of this program, a community can apply for up to \$400,000 in funding to implement projects included as part of an approved Prioritization Plan. The plan identifies a number of pedestrian improvements, bicycle improvements, safety improvements and transit improvements. It also includes a methodology to evaluate, score and rank each project included in the Plan. All total, 55 projects have been included in the Plan.



Figure 14 – Top 20 Projects from the East Longmeadow Complete Streets Prioritization Plan

Rank	Project Description
1	Maple Street corridor Phase I with new striping, bicycle lanes and signage, etc. from the Redstone Trailway to the entrance of the East Longmeadow High School
2	Maple Street corridor Phase II with new striping, bicycle lanes and signage, etc. from entrance of the East Longmeadow High School to the East Longmeadow town line
3	Street Lighting Mountain View Elementary School
4	Chestnut Street Corridor Phase I with new striping, bike lanes, sharrows* and signage, etc. from Shaker Road to Holly Drive
5	Parker Street Corridor with new striping, sharrows* and signage, etc. from Hampden Road to Porter Road
6	Street Lighting Birchland Middle School
7	Sidewalk Improvements Somers Road Phase I
8	Street Lighting Meadow Brook Elementary School
9	Denslow Road corridor with new striping, bicycle lanes and signage, etc. from East Longmeadow / Longmeadow town line to Shaker Road
10	Repaint Crosswalks – Various Locations
11	Wayfinding / Signage Improvements at the East Longmeadow Rotary
12	Shared Lane Markings Chestnut Street Phase II from Holly Drive to Benton Drive;
13	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon/ RRFB and crosswalk enhancements at Maple Street
14	Replace Flashing Beacon - Porter Road at Allen Street
15	North Main Street corridor with new striping, new bicycle lanes and signage from Westwood Avenue to Center Square
16	Sidewalk Improvements Somers Road Phase II
17	Intersection Improvements - Hanward Hill and Birchland Avenue
18	Intersection Improvements at Park Place and Somers Road
19	Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon/ RRFB and crosswalk enhancements at Industrial Drive
20	Industrial Drive corridor with new striping, new bicycle lanes and signage from Shaker Road to Benton Drive

* Sharrows are pavement markings consisting of two inverted “V” shapes above a bicycle symbol indicating the recommended area where a bicyclist should ride and to alert drivers of the need to share the road with bicyclists.





HOUSING ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

OVERVIEW

The *Housing* element of the East Longmeadow Master Plan provides an overview of housing conditions and issues facing the Town of East Longmeadow and its residents.

With this chapter being an update to the Town's Master Plan, and incorporating its commonalities to other Town goals and policies, successful housing policies and outcomes can:

- Consider pattern of residential development in determining what types of housing stock is needed and where it might best be constructed and concentrated in the future;
- Assess the local and regional area to determine how future market forces may influence the development and affordability of housing in the community.

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The high cost of housing and lack of affordable or attractive options for households is a reality, as Massachusetts Governor Baker has identified a crisis on the affordability of housing and lack thereof. The supply and cost of housing play a major role in who gets to live in town. Communities, through their policies, can influence and play a role on who lives in town – East Longmeadow is no exception. Sometimes zoning can limit the development of housing for a variety of different housing types, likely resulting in a homogeneous population. Residents have said they want the balance of housing types to be available to many different income levels and for many different ages and households; finding that balance is the challenge, adopting the regulations and exploring the non-regulatory ways to achieve these housing goals.

HOUSING STOCK

The size of the housing stock in East Longmeadow has grown consistently through time, although since the Great Recession at a smaller rate than between 2000 and 2010. The number of vacancies decreased dramatically between 2010 and 2017.

HOUSING STOCK

	2000		2010		2017	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Occupied Units	5,248	97.8%	4,984	85.2%	5,978	97.1%
Vacant Units	115	2.2%	255	14.8%	176	2.9%
Total Units	5,363	100%	5,851	100%	6,154	100%

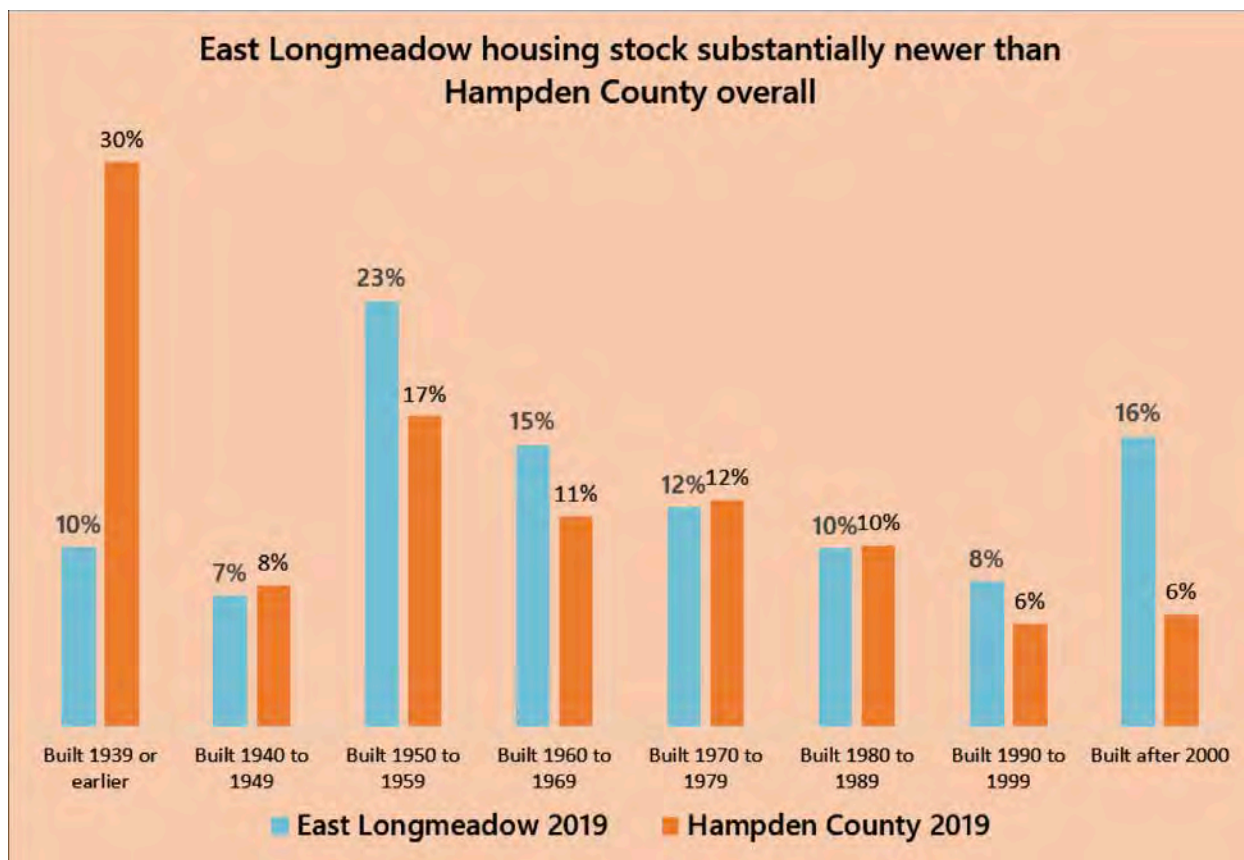
Source: ACS 2013-2017, "Vacancy Status," B25004 & "Selected Housing Characteristics," DP04.

AGE OF HOUSING

According to the Donahue Institute, the distribution of housing units by age is important for at least three reasons. First, a housing stock with few units built since 2000 indicates that housing supply is growing slowly. Demand can remain stable or increase and this would result in housing price increases. Second, older housing units can be more expensive to occupy, due to higher heating and maintenance costs. Third, certain federal housing programs, such as Community Development

Block Grants, track the percent of housing units by age, and in particular, the percent built before 1939.

In East Longmeadow, 10 percent of housing units are in buildings built before 1939. Construction since 2000 accounts for 16 percent of units. Compared to the rest of Hampden County, East Longmeadow's housing stock is substantially newer than the rest of Hampden County.



Source: US Census

BUILDING PERMITS

Owners or builders file building permits when they initiate any type of major construction or demolition in East Longmeadow. Permits for activities such as new construction, renovations, and demolitions are good indicators of the housing market in East Longmeadow. Single family construction in East Longmeadow in the past ten years has been consistent with the highest number of homes built in 2013 with 57. 2019 and 2018 represented the lowest amount of residential units built in the past ten years, although even in the middle of a pandemic in 2020, the number has returned to near the median value of the last ten years.



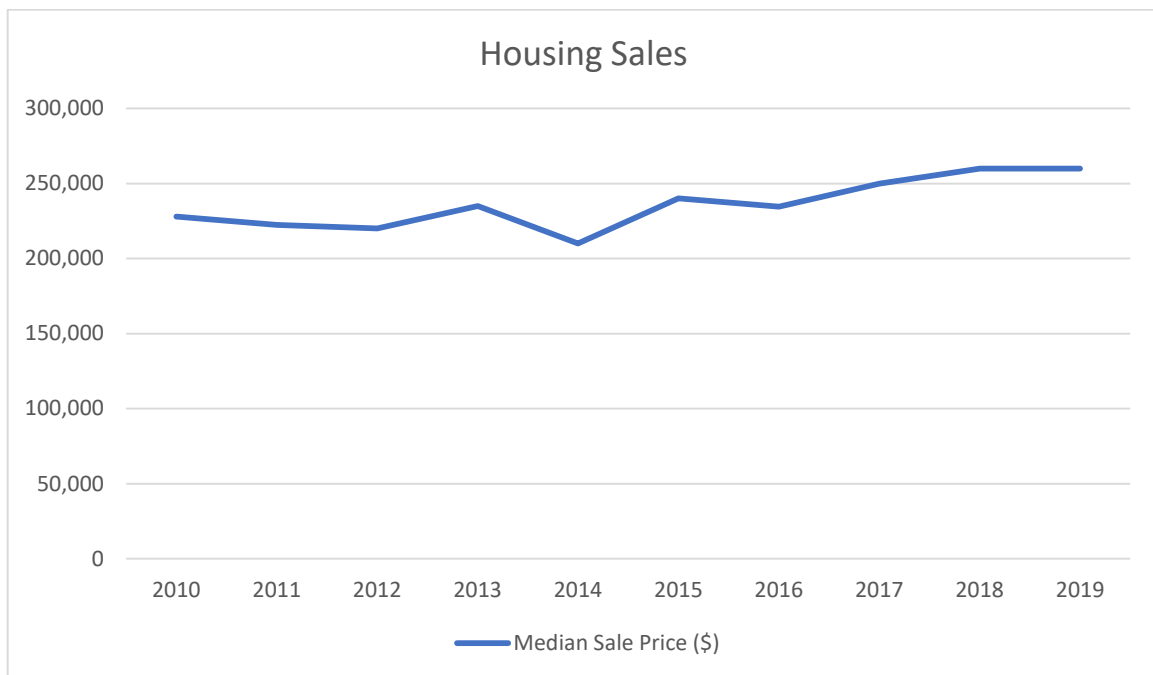
Year	Single Family Construction	Residential Condo (All 55+ units)	Total Residential Units
2020	27	5	32
2019	10	6	16
2018	12	5	17
2017	28	4	32
2016	31	0	31
2015	27	5	32
2014	32	10	42
2013	53	4	57
2012	36	9	45
2011	20	6	26
2010	38	9	47

HOUSING TENURE

According to estimates from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey, 82.2 percent of the occupied housing units in East Longmeadow are ownership units, while 17.8 percent are rental units. This is equal to about 4,899 ownership units, and 1,058 rental units.

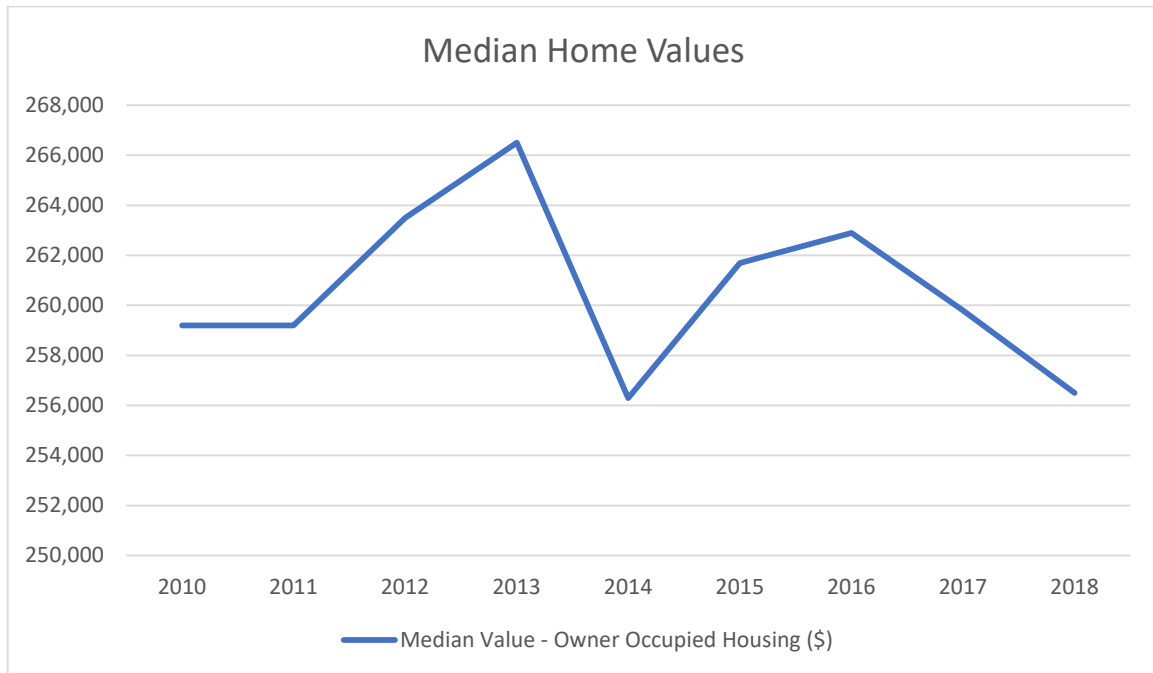
HOUSING SALES

Median home sales price has seen a notable increase from \$210,000 in 2015 to \$260,000 in 2019.



HOME VALUES AND RENTS

Despite the increase in median sales prices, home values have fluctuated since 2010, with a decline in median value of homes from 2016-2018. This does not necessarily suggest a general decline in home values.



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING INVENTORY

As of November 2019, there were 452 units, or 7.44 percent of the year-round housing stock in East Longmeadow determined to be “affordable” as defined under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40B.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Population and Household Growth

Based on the projected population and household growth in East Longmeadow, proactive planning is essential for accommodating new growth while maintaining the characteristics and qualities that make East Longmeadow great place to live and work. Population growth is to be around 11.5 percent between 2010 and 2030. This growth can affect transportation, public infrastructure, housing, and town services, like schools in which its planning is usually focused on residential growth.

Changes in population and households are not all bad. The growing number of residents between the ages of 35 and 54 years old are helping to support the local economy and fill the homes on the market. This generates sales and property taxes that are reinvested back into the community. While homeowners and renters in this age group do contribute substantially to the vitality of the



community, they also rely on town services such as schools, recreation facilities, and the library. The Town needs to plan for the changing demographics and the shifts in age groups to continue to provide a high quality of life for its residents. Like many other communities, seniors are likely to present challenges to the town of East Longmeadow. Seniors have unique needs and often require increased service provisions. Transportation services, grocery delivery, and programming to maintain social interconnectedness are all important pieces in maintaining the general health and well-being of seniors.

East Longmeadow needs to carefully consider future residential growth scenarios with its current zoning. As more low-density housing is built, the proportion of open space will decrease, and the burden on local finances will increase. As the American Farmland Trust has found through its Cost of Community Services studies (<https://farmlandinfo.org/publications/cost-of-community-services-studies-making-the-case-for-conservation/>):

“...although working agriculture and open space lands may generate less revenue than residential, commercial or industrial property, they require less public infrastructure and fewer community services. Cost of Community Services studies from 25 states show that, on average, the median cost per dollar of revenue raised to provide public services for commercial and industrial lands was \$0.30, for working and open space lands was \$0.37, and for residential lands was \$1.16.”

Housing Affordability

Chapter 40B authorizes a housing agency or developer to obtain a single comprehensive permit for the construction of subsidized low or moderate-income housing if less than 10% of its total year-round housing in the community is subsidized low or moderate-income housing. Because East Longmeadow is below this threshold, it is *vulnerable* to a Comprehensive Permit application. A Comprehensive Permit puts local permitting in the hands of the Zoning Board of Appeal.

One of the primary purposes of M.G.L Chapter 40B is to assure that no city or town shouldered a disproportionate amount of low- and moderate-income housing in any region of the state. To this end, a 10 percent statutory minimum was established as an indicator that suburbs and small towns were providing their “fair share” of affordable housing. East Longmeadow does not currently meet this statutory minimum, and a need for more affordable housing choices can further be seen in the increased share of household incomes going toward housing costs.

More than 50 percent of survey takers responded that the town should work immediately or within the next 1-2 years on varying selection and price of homes so life-long residents and working people can afford to stay in East Longmeadow. Some free responses to this question included similar sentiments like more affordable options for life-long residents to retire with a garage and no more large homes occupying large property areas at high values.

Housing Choice Types

Housing can be a controversial subject in most towns. It has been shared that there have been challenges in trying to get policies passed through Town Meeting in the past, and Town Council currently with regards to housing and providing increased access to various types. Opinions about housing, taxes, taxing the town's infrastructure, and loss of open space often led to many land use policy decisions and sometimes at the expense of sound planning and social fairness. Lack of housing options including smaller, rental, accessible, and affordable units can create barriers for



residents in various stages of life to thrive in East Longmeadow and achieve greater socioeconomic diversity in the population.

It is an important policy question for East Longmeadow whether or not the local regulations and zoning provide for a good balance of housing opportunities or create barriers to fair and affordable housing.

Coronavirus Pandemic

East Longmeadow is in a different place than it was in January 2020. Retailers, restaurants and many businesses in the Commonwealth closed for many weeks, sometimes reverting to online shopping once it was safe to do so. Virtual learning was commonplace the last quarter of the 2019-2020 School Year. Many service-based businesses have acclimated to telecommuting or a hybrid work environment, drawing attention to whether many of these service-based businesses may still need to keep their office spaces. New norms, like social distancing and mask-wearing, is commonplace in restaurants and retailers. The Town and its economy will have these norms to weather as the world navigates a post-pandemic life, as more begin to get vaccinated.

While the pandemic cannot determine the Town's long-term economic health, its influence will be present in the coming years as revenues, municipal and school services are discussed to address how COVID-19 has changed the traditional workplace possibly for good, possibly resulting in a change of household. Moreover, for the time being, the Town's ability to navigate these initiatives explored in this plan may be tested, as the work will involve all aspects of municipal government. Perhaps this Master Plan element update is the key to guide the Town's growth as it examines its future – opportunities for jobs and amenities for current and future residents.

Inclusionary Housing

The town's Inclusionary Housing policy is found in its Mixed-Use Village District Zoning Bylaw, which limits those who would match income limits to live in those future developed properties. As housing values begin to rise in East Longmeadow, the need for affordable housing becomes more pressing for all income levels, individuals and families of all ages. A town-wide inclusionary housing zoning bylaw can be explored.

Community Resilience

A resilient community, not only one that bounces back after a hardship or disaster, is one that also is able to provide a wide range of housing types that accommodate all stages in a person's lifecycle. This is an ongoing conversation around housing that should continue to be explored, particularly with a variety of housing types to accommodate many different income levels and that are built sustainably and in the context of climate risk. New home building and design can be strategic and cost-effective policies that will lead to more energy efficient homes. Exploration of design guidelines is an opportunity to take advantage of this conversation.





ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Employment and Wages

East Longmeadow's economic development history mirrors that of the Pioneer Valley region, as can be seen in the chart below that shows Manufacturing a close second to Health Care and Social Assistance entities, comprising the largest economic sector in East Longmeadow and throughout the Pioneer Valley region.

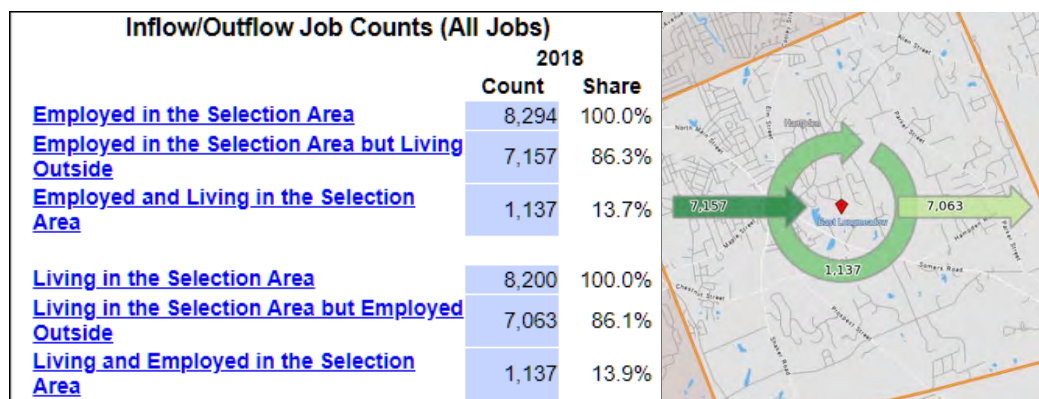
NAICS	Description	No. of Establishments	Total Wages	Average Monthly Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Total, All Industries		647	\$408,676,293	8,423	\$933
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	147	\$74,976,123	1,929	\$747
31-33	Manufacturing	37	\$127,797,216	1,885	\$1,304
44-45	Retail Trade	59	\$21,778,005	744	\$563
61	Educational Services	18	\$34,942,985	703	\$956
72	Accommodation and Food Services	28	\$11,846,420	574	\$397
54	Professional and Technical Services	58	\$23,082,340	394	\$1,127
81	Other Services, Except Public Administ	56	\$11,196,076	347	\$620
23	Construction	55	\$17,387,042	319	\$1,048
42	Wholesale Trade	34	\$29,571,642	296	\$1,921
52	Finance and Insurance	39	\$16,716,520	244	\$1,318
56	Administrative and Waste Services	41	\$8,646,059	241	\$690
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14	\$3,746,188	222	\$325
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	9	\$10,169,345	184	\$1,063
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	27	\$5,092,640	122	\$803
51	Information	8	\$3,194,318	63	\$975

The town's largest manufacturing employers have a long history in the region. Cartamundi is an international brand in game and toy manufacturing based in Belgium, but the company's East Longmeadow site dates back to when the Milton Bradley Company, founded in 1860 in Springfield, relocated to the town. Milton Bradley was the inventor of many popular games and brought the well-known game of Candy Land to market, after a schoolteacher created it for children quarantined with polio in the 1940s. Milton Bradley moved to East Longmeadow in 1965, where it became a division of Hasbro Games in 1984; and in 1998 Hasbro also acquired Monopoly-maker Parker Brothers. Cartamundi bought the facility in 2015 and is now producing an even wider range of cards and games there, offering additional leasing space to other companies on its campus. Lenox was founded in 1915 as the American Saw and Manufacturing Company to produce hacksaw blades (also originally in Springfield) and has evolved to become part of the Stanley Black & Decker family of products.


























Largest Employers in East Longmeadow

Company name	Address	Number of employees	NAICS Code	NAICS Category
Cartamundi	Shaker Rd	900-1,000	3399	Doll, Toy and Game Manufacturing
Lenox	Chestnut St	640-650	3322	Saw Blade and Hand Tool Manufacturing
Con-Test Analytical Lab	Spruce St	100-249	5413	Environmental & Industrial Hygiene Analytic Services
East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing	Maple St	100-249	6231	Skilled Nursing Care Facilities
Meadow Brook School	Parker St	100-249	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Springfield Division	Benton Dr	100-249	5418	Advertising and Related Services
US Post Office	Industrial Dr	100-249	4911	Postal Service
Maybury Material Handling	Denslow Rd	80+	4238	Industrial Machinery and Equipment Merchant Wholesalers
Big Y	N Main St	50-99	4451	Grocery Stores
Birchland Park Middle School	Hanward Hill	50-99	6111	Elementary and Secondary Schools
Capuano Care	Benton Dr # 201	50-99	6216	Home Health Care Services
Carr Property Management Inc	Deer Park Dr	50-99	5312	Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers
Excel Dryer	Chestnut St	11-49	3352	Nationally known brand of electric hand dryers

Although East Longmeadow is home to a number of major employers, most East Longmeadow residents do not work in town. Of 8,200 employed residents, only 14% work in town. Conversely, over 7,000 workers commute into East Longmeadow each day. The closest relationship is with the city of Springfield; about 27% of residents work there, and 24% of local employees live there.



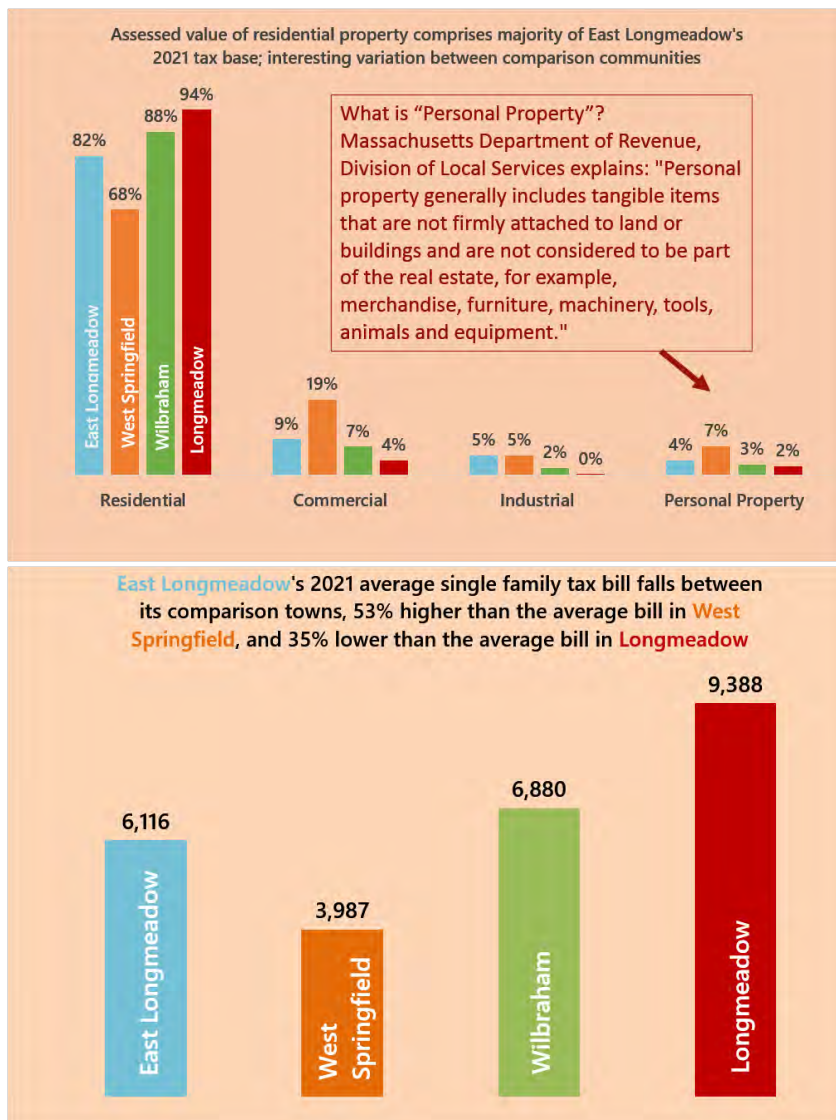
East Longmeadow residents travel to work in a wide number of locations, with around one quarter (26.9%) of residents commuting to Springfield, and nearly 60% to various locations in the Pioneer Valley, northern Connecticut, and even further afield.

	Count	Share
All County Subdivisions	8,200	100.0%
 Springfield city (Hampden, MA)	2,206	26.9%
 East Longmeadow town (Hampden, MA)	1,137	13.9%
 Enfield town (Hartford, CT)	321	3.9%
 Chicopee city (Hampden, MA)	296	3.6%
 West Springfield Town city (Hampden, MA)	285	3.5%
 Longmeadow town (Hampden, MA)	272	3.3%
 Holyoke city (Hampden, MA)	254	3.1%
 Agawam Town city (Hampden, MA)	231	2.8%
 Wilbraham town (Hampden, MA)	169	2.1%
 Westfield city (Hampden, MA)	168	2.0%
 Boston city (Suffolk, MA)	150	1.8%
 Northampton city (Hampshire, MA)	144	1.8%
 Windsor town (Hartford, CT)	140	1.7%
 Worcester city (Worcester, MA)	135	1.6%
 Ludlow town (Hampden, MA)	122	1.5%
 Hartford town (Hartford, CT)	94	1.1%
 Amherst town (Hampshire, MA)	90	1.1%
 Hampden town (Hampden, MA)	78	1.0%
 East Windsor town (Hartford, CT)	50	0.6%
 Palmer Town city (Hampden, MA)	45	0.5%
 South Hadley town (Hampshire, MA)	44	0.5%
 Suffield town (Hartford, CT)	39	0.5%
 Somers town (Tolland, CT)	35	0.4%
 Manchester town (Hartford, CT)	34	0.4%
 Windsor Locks town (Hartford, CT)	33	0.4%
All Other Locations	1,628	19.9%

Tax Structure

The majority of East Longmeadow's tax base is comprised of residential property taxes, with only about 14% coming from commercial and industrial taxes. The average single-family tax bill is comparable to other suburban towns in the region, and has been growing steadily for the past several decades. Commercial and industrial tax rates in town are the same as residential, making them relatively low for the region. This has undoubtedly been a draw for the light industrial uses in town and continues to be so for a new wave of medical office buildings.





Major Economic Sectors

General Business Environment and Trends

The town is located in the Connecticut River Valley adjacent to the riverfront town of Longmeadow, of which it was once officially part. Along the river also run Interstate 91 and a major passenger and freight rail line. A branch connecting East Hartford and Springfield once ran through East Longmeadow, but this line was abandoned with its track removed in the 1980s. However, the town retains easy access to the interstate highway and major urban centers of the Northeast.

In East Longmeadow, approximately 420 acres are in industrial use, with about another 360 in commercial or "mixed use with primarily commercial," and about 280 acres in agriculture. The industrial uses originated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are oriented along the former railroad line upon which they depended. Since that time, a formal industrial park zone, the Industrial Garden Park, has been established that encompasses a large area west of Rt. 220 (Shaker



Road) in the southwestern quadrant of town. Other industrial zones are still located along the former rail line, near the center of town. Commercial businesses are generally located in a linear fashion along North Main Street (State Route 83) and Shaker Road (State Route 220), as well as in the vicinity of the Town Center at the rotary. Agricultural lands are primarily located in the eastern part of town, particularly in the southeast.

The town has a wide variety of commercial uses, providing goods and services primarily in small, locally-owned shops and businesses. Services available to residents include medical and healthcare providers, law firms, accounting firms, and personal services such as tailoring, bicycle repair, and catering. In recent years, there has been some growth in small retail shops and restaurants, demonstrating that East Longmeadow is a fertile ground for entrepreneurs; there is adequate space available; and there is a sufficient market for a growing number of goods and services. The shops have ranged from specialty foods to clothing boutiques. Home occupations are allowed, as long as there are no clients or customers onsite, in addition to other regulations as identified in the Town's Zoning Bylaw. Trade occupations were once allowed to operate out of homes, but this is no longer allowed except for some that have been grandfathered in. As a result a small number of repair shops, carpentry, plumbing and heating operations, are operated as home businesses.

Industrial Economy

Lenox, Cartamundi, and Maybury Material Handling are three of the major companies that anchor successful industrial development in the southern section of town, bordering the state of Connecticut. The Westmass Area Development Corporation has established and continues to operate several industrial park properties in this area, including Deer Park, which has several dozen businesses. The Industrial Garden Park zone is nearly fully built out, partly because as new industrial development slowed down, landowners began building office condominiums on several of the remaining vacant parcels. The industrial areas in the northern parts of town are also built out, and any new uses would have to redevelop existing sites. There are also several vacant former industrial buildings which may be considered for redevelopment as other types of uses.

Health Care Sector

As indicated in the previous section, according to the U.S. Department of Labor there are nearly 150 health care and social assistance establishments in East Longmeadow. The largest of these is the East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center, which expanded in 2017 with construction of a new facility at the Longmeadow border. This was part of a major new development completed in 2020, with a new Baystate Health medical office building on the Longmeadow side of the site and significant intersection improvements at the intersection of Maple Street and Dwight, serving traffic coming in and out of East Longmeadow. The Benton Professional Park on Benton Drive is another new health care campus, with two of three planned buildings completed and occupied. Bay Path University's new Philip H. Ryan Health Science Center on Denslow Road hosts several applied health science programs as well as other programs of study.



General Commercial and Retail Areas

1) East Longmeadow Town Center and Rotary

The East Longmeadow rotary is an intersection of seven streets that functions somewhat like a rotary but allows cross-traffic via lane markings and several stop signs. MassDOT data indicates that there have been an average of 60 crashes per year for the most recent three years of data, with seven (7) injuries per year. There are also a number of local business access driveways located very close to the rotary, creating an additional safety hazard. These are primarily auto-related businesses such as gas stations and repair shops, and there is virtually no pedestrian activity. The Town Hall also fronts on the rotary, but vehicular access is only possible in the rear of the building.

Built as a planned “town center” development the Center Square development is located adjacent to the rotary and anchored by the ca. 1882 Town Hall. It includes the 2004 Town Library (which replaces an older building), the Healthtrax Fitness and Wellness facility, and a number of retail stores, restaurants, and personal services. There is abundant parking, but minimal landscaping, sidewalks, or crosswalks. One small retail site has experienced frequent turnover in the past two decades, while most have been fairly stable.

2) Route 83 (North Main Street) Commercial Corridor

Heritage Park Plaza and the Big Y plaza anchor this section of commercial uses in the town’s northwest corner. Other than the two plazas, the corridor is primarily small commercial uses and is heavily traveled. Since the development of the shopping centers, the Town has put in place zoning bylaws that limit maximum square footage, in order to prevent further “big box” development. Along these lines, the Town has also prohibited drive-through services (except for banks).

3) Shaker Road

Another commercial corridor exists along Shaker Road (Route 220), beginning at the rotary and extending to south of Industrial Drive as far as the Cartamundi campus. This area is primarily small to medium-sized businesses, which include auto repair businesses, various services and a large meat market, serving the local community. There are also a few larger employers. A center turning lane in the road helps to keep traffic flowing, but also presents a safety hazard when not used properly.

Agricultural Economy

East Longmeadow was once primarily a farming community, and retains excellent soils. About eight farms are currently operating in town, mostly growing fruits and vegetables. The farms sell direct-to-consumer in some cases, at year-round stores or seasonal shops and farmstands, as well as to local supermarkets and other wholesale buyers. The largest is Meadowbrook Farm on Route 83 with 68 acres. The Apple Place is a destination site with an ice cream shop, farm store, garden with sculptures, seasonal apple-picking and more. Additionally, pre-COVID, the Apple Place had acoustic live music for its patrons.



Vacant Commercial Property

Several undeveloped and/or vacant commercial parcels remain in East Longmeadow. These properties are in commercially or industrially zoned areas, and some need environmental reclamation. One prime example is the former Carlin Combustion Technology site, just adjacent to the Redstone Rail-Trail on Maple Street. Although it is located within an industrial district based on former rail access, the site is located in the heart of the Town Center.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Town Center

A community's town center can be an economic driver, with shops and services available to residents, workers and visitors as they conduct their daily business and utilize town buildings and services. In East Longmeadow, the town center is somewhat amorphous, as there is no traditional "Main Street," and the civic and various commercial areas are separated by the rotary and its spokes. However, functionally, it is a diverse town center with many services and amenities, including the town hall and library, the Center Square development, Leahy Park and its ballfields and picnic area, the historic train depot, and the bike path entrance and parking area. Recently, the depot has been refurbished to its historic nature and provides an opportunity for visitors to buy ice cream.

In surveys and focus groups, residents and business owners said that the lack of "walkability" in the town center was a concern. They also felt that the current rotary was a weakness or even a threat. The rotary as it is currently laid out does not provide easy access to local businesses and may deter some drivers. Although many East Longmeadow residents are used to the configuration and comfortable navigating it, it remains a dangerous intersection and is not conducive to business access.

As far as pedestrian access, the crossing at Maple Street has recently been improved to facilitate pedestrian and bicycle access to the rail trail. But access to and between retail areas is more difficult; even in Center Square, there are no safe and clear pedestrian routes between the various complexes of buildings.

Pedestrian and landscaping improvements to the town center would greatly enhance its attractiveness and the flow of customers to local businesses.

Commercial Corridors

Vehicular and pedestrian access is also a concern on the major commercial corridors along North Main Street and Shaker Road. On Shaker Road, the center turning lane is misunderstood by many drivers, resulting in crashes. Along North Main Street, many businesses have multiple entry and exit points and/or parking lots with no curb or separation from the street. Numerous side streets adjacent to these businesses results in high volumes of traffic entering, exiting and turning at multiple intersections, creating a safety hazard. Although sidewalks exist in some places, they are not maintained and there are large gaps.



Residents have identified the lack of drive-through restaurants and pharmacies as both a positive and a negative, as the community has consistently disapproved the introduction of drive-throughs in town. It has also been a limitation for some businesses during the pandemic. This type of development could be accommodated if done very carefully and in limited locations. Excellent access, sufficient landscaping, and attractive buildings and signage could all make drive-through businesses feasible and appealing, as well as safe. These elements of landscaping and façade improvements would also be helpful for existing businesses along the commercial corridors.

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

Focus group participants talked about Issues for small businesses in working with town departments. For the most part, it is a positive experience, and in some cases much better than in other locales. However, concerns that came up included the amount of required paperwork, permitting fees, and overall communication. The Town should carefully assess the small business experience in working with local departments. One strategy to pursue would be a regular system of ongoing outreach to businesses, particularly small, locally-owned businesses, to see how they are doing. The town could also encourage businesses to create their own business association.

Agriculture

Residents named agricultural uses as a strength of the community and an opportunity, while the potential of losing farmland is considered a threat. Residents noted a lack of farmers' markets and winter venues, as well. Two farms were identified by name, Meadowbrook and The Apple Place, and both are draws for local shoppers and CSA members. Most of the farmland in East Longmeadow is held by only two owners, which makes the land particularly vulnerable to development. However, one land owner is very committed to farming and has already thought about succession planning. Farming in East Longmeadow will need significant support if it is to continue. The Town can help farmers find new ways to market their goods and preserve their land, and a Buy Local campaign that addresses all local goods but particularly farm products would be one option to pursue.

Future Development

The town's significant supply of developable land near a major metropolitan area and interstate highway has helped East Longmeadow become not only a bedroom community, but an employment center for larger businesses that require greater land areas and fairly close highway access. In the past, this has resulted in a significant manufacturing presence; however, manufacturing is no longer growing in the region, and there is currently a trend toward development of medical office buildings. These health care-related businesses provide a range of employment options and a strong tax base, as well as convenient medical services for residents. In fact, residents cited this trend as an opportunity in the community outreach sessions.

Another strong trend is toward home-based businesses, which will continue to grow in the next decade. The town may wish to consider allowing greater flexibility for home occupations in certain areas. Home occupations and home-based businesses allow for the formation of small businesses



that are still unable to support a traditional business overhead. Many entrepreneurs launch their startups “under the radar,” in their basements, garages, or even in their kitchens. When these businesses grow beyond this point and can support an increase in production, the startup moves into a traditional business space out of the home and may create jobs and/or contribute to the tax base. Entrepreneurship and home occupations are a key part of small business startups in the new economy and a means of fostering innovation.

Residents were also concerned about several vacant industrial buildings, specifically naming the Package Machinery and Carlin Combustion sites. The Carlin property has environmental contamination issues that need to be addressed, and without town ownership of the property, under current zoning regulations the property will likely remain vacant for some time. Some of the other industrially-zoned areas in the Town Center might be re-evaluated for mixed uses, including apartments, retail, and office. If this occurs, it would be highly desirable to require significant green space and landscaping, particularly if Leahy Field were to be redeveloped. The new Mixed Use Village District Bylaw will be an important tool to guide future development. It could be extremely useful as an overlay zone for the Town Center, as well as in other locations.

COVID-19 Vacancies and Closures

The pandemic has had an impact on local business over the past year (March 2020 to the present). The town has already taken steps to assist these businesses and will continue to find means to support them through the re-opening phase. Fortunately, East Longmeadow is participating in the Commonwealth’s new Local Rapid Recovery Planning process, intended to help municipalities develop strategic plans to help their businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic closures and restrictions. The specific area targeted under this program is the North Main Street business corridor, from Harkness Ave to the Springfield border. Over the course of 2021, five or more detailed, ready-to-go projects will be developed. It is hoped and anticipated that current state funding programs (such as Shared Streets, Mass. Downtown Initiative, and Underutilized Properties Program) as well as some new funding from the American Rescue Plan will be available for implementation.







OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

The overall landscape of East Longmeadow is hilly due to glacial action, with rich wetlands concentrated in the valleys between the hills. The land now called East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, was initially inhabited by Agawams who were members of the Pocumtuc Confederacy, where economic and subsistence cycles consisted of hunting, gathering, planting and harvesting in their seasons, in the various villages throughout the area. As East Longmeadow was first settled in 1720, the story of the town is one of steady progression. During the colonial period, the common pasturelands that made up the town were slowly developed into small farms until red and brown sandstone was discovered underneath the soils. The sandstone later became widely used building material in monuments and building across the United States, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Now primarily a suburban community for people working in the larger Springfield and within seven miles of Interstate 91, East Longmeadow continues to offer small-town amenities and charm maintaining a mix of rural, suburban, industrial and urban elements forming a vibrant, evolving community.

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Geology and Topography

The soils and topography of East Longmeadow are result of the great Wisconsin Glacier that covered all of New England during the Pleistocene Period. As the glacier advanced through the Connecticut River Valley, drumlins formed – McCarthy Hill located at the curve on Mapleshade Avenue and where Oak Bluff Circle and Breezy Knoll Road meet. As the glacier retreated, left behind was a general layer of unstratified glacial till and lingered in the center of the Connecticut River Valley. The landscape opens up with view to the south and eastward towards the Minnechaug and Wilbraham Mountains.

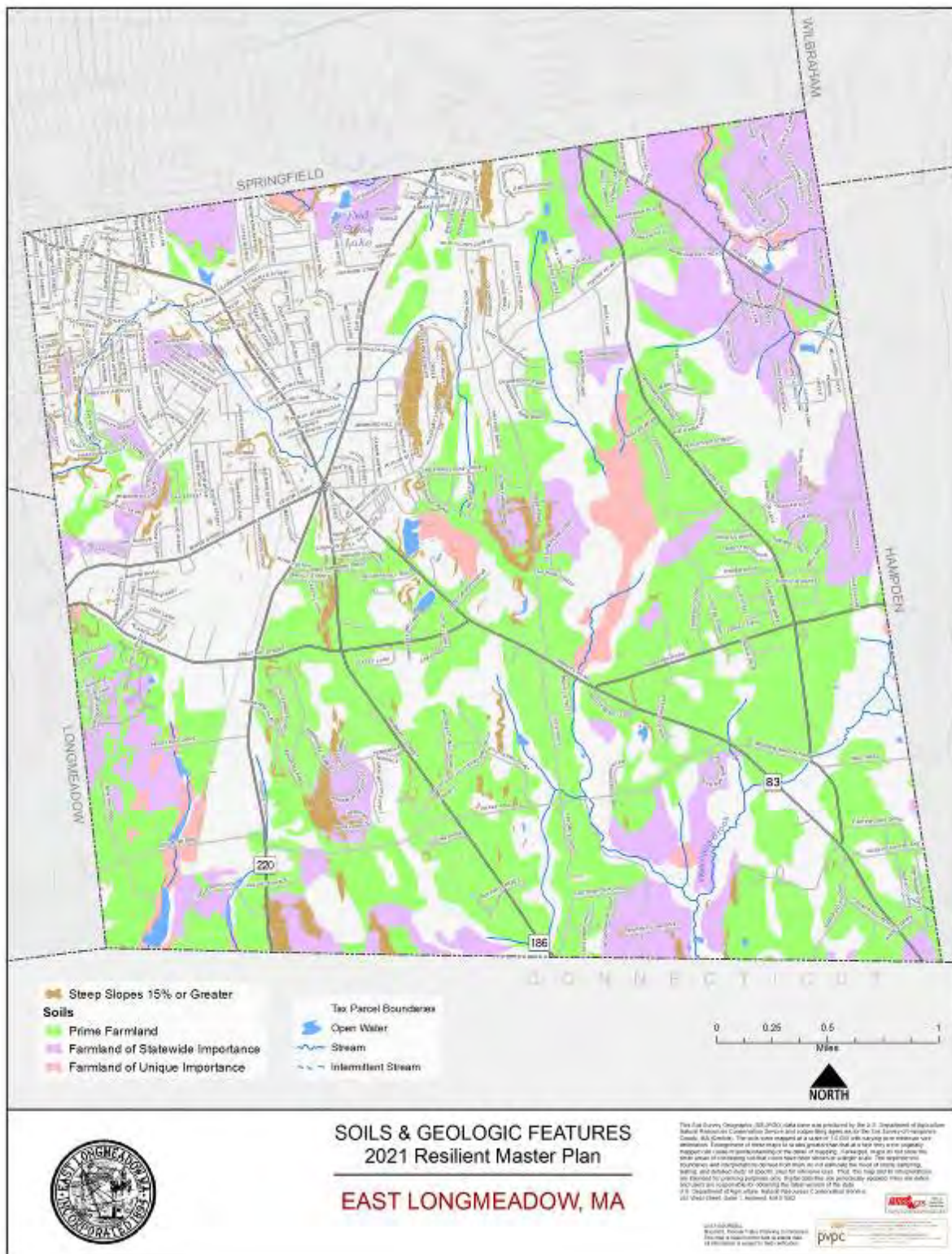
Agricultural Soils

In addition to supporting and constraining habitat and human development, soil characteristics also influence agricultural productivity. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil data contains a classification system for evaluating agricultural soil productivity. This system identifies soils as Prime farmland soils, Farmland of Statewide Importance and Farmland of Unique Importance. Prime Farmland is defined by the NRCS as “land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for economically producing sustained high yields of food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.” Farmland of Unique Importance are defined as “land other than prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance that might be used for the production of specific high value food and fiber crops.”

The soils that make up East Longmeadow are Walpole – Scarboro – Wilbraham, Urban Land, Sandy and Gravelly – Windsor – Agawam, and Cheshire – Urban Land, Loamy. The Cheshire – Urban Land, Loamy soil area occupies about 47 percent of the town. West of Shaker Road, the soils were formed by the Chicopee delta, are sandy and well-drained.

Map 1 shows areas of prime farmland soils in East Longmeadow. Areas of Prime Farmland Soils and Farmland Soils of Unique Importance are scattered throughout town.

Map 1 - Prime Farmland Soils



Wetland and Water Resources

Development in East Longmeadow has historically been dictated by its terrain and landscape, as its natural resources led to its development as an agricultural village, reliant on farming and its quarries.

The town is intersected by many streams which flow into the Connecticut River. Making up thirteen miles of streams, there are three large and two small watersheds in East Longmeadow: Pecousic, Watchaug, Freshwater and Jawbuck Brooks, and the Mill River and its tributary Schneelock Brook. The majority of these waters are on private land.

There are approximately 607 acres of wetlands in East Longmeadow. Wetland habitats in town occur primarily along the streams and tributaries as well as in lands adjacent to the major ponds in East Longmeadow. The wetlands, streams, rivers and lakes provide critical wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Wetland habitats in town occur primarily along the streams and rivers as well as in lands adjacent to major ponds.

The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (MGL 131, Section 40) protects wetlands, water sources, and adjoining land areas by preventing or minimizing impacts to these resources.

Anyone proposing to remove, fill, dredge, build upon, degrade, discharge into, or otherwise alter resources or areas within the areas listed below must submit an application to the Conservation Commission for review:

- 200 feet of any perennial stream or river
- 100 feet from any freshwater wetland, wet meadow, marsh, vernal pool, reservoir, pond of any size, or lands subject to flooding or inundation by ground or surface water
- 100-year floodplains

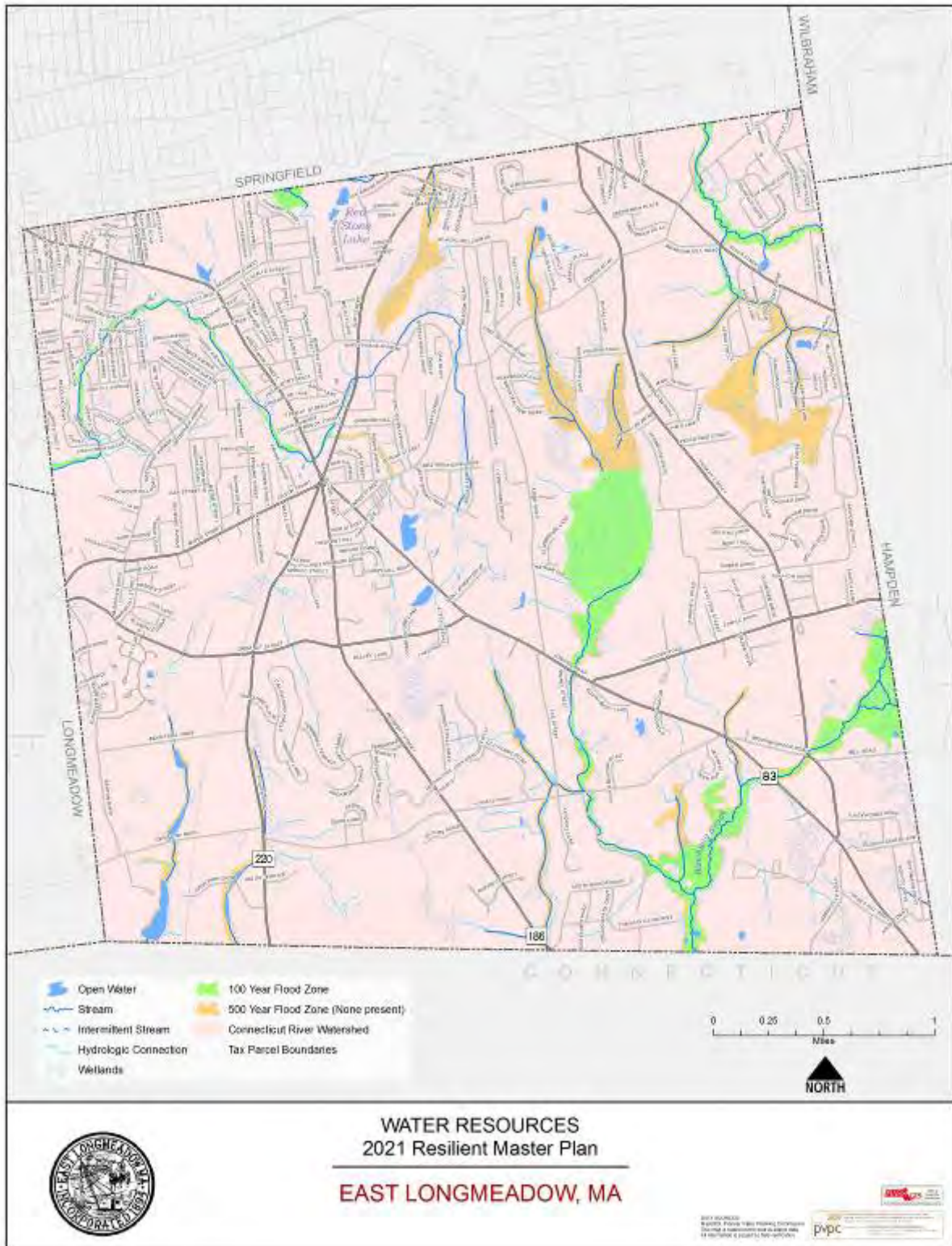
Isolated wetlands that have not been delineated by the State are not protected unless they are certified vernal pools.

Flood plains and flood hazard areas are designated areas next to rivers, streams and lakes that are likely to flood during large storms. These areas should be left undeveloped so as to prevent damage to structures and other properties. Some flood plains are productive agricultural land, having accumulated sediment during flood conditions. This is demonstrated by some parts of towns where there is land in the flood zone area and also is designated as Farmland Soil of Unique Importance.

Over 86 percent of respondents to the Master Plan Community Survey found very or somewhat important that the town should be protecting the natural environment. This could mean building further from waterways, using Low Impact Development (LID) to allow natural filtration of stormwater, and planning for natural disasters.



Map 2 Water Resources



Critical Habitat Areas

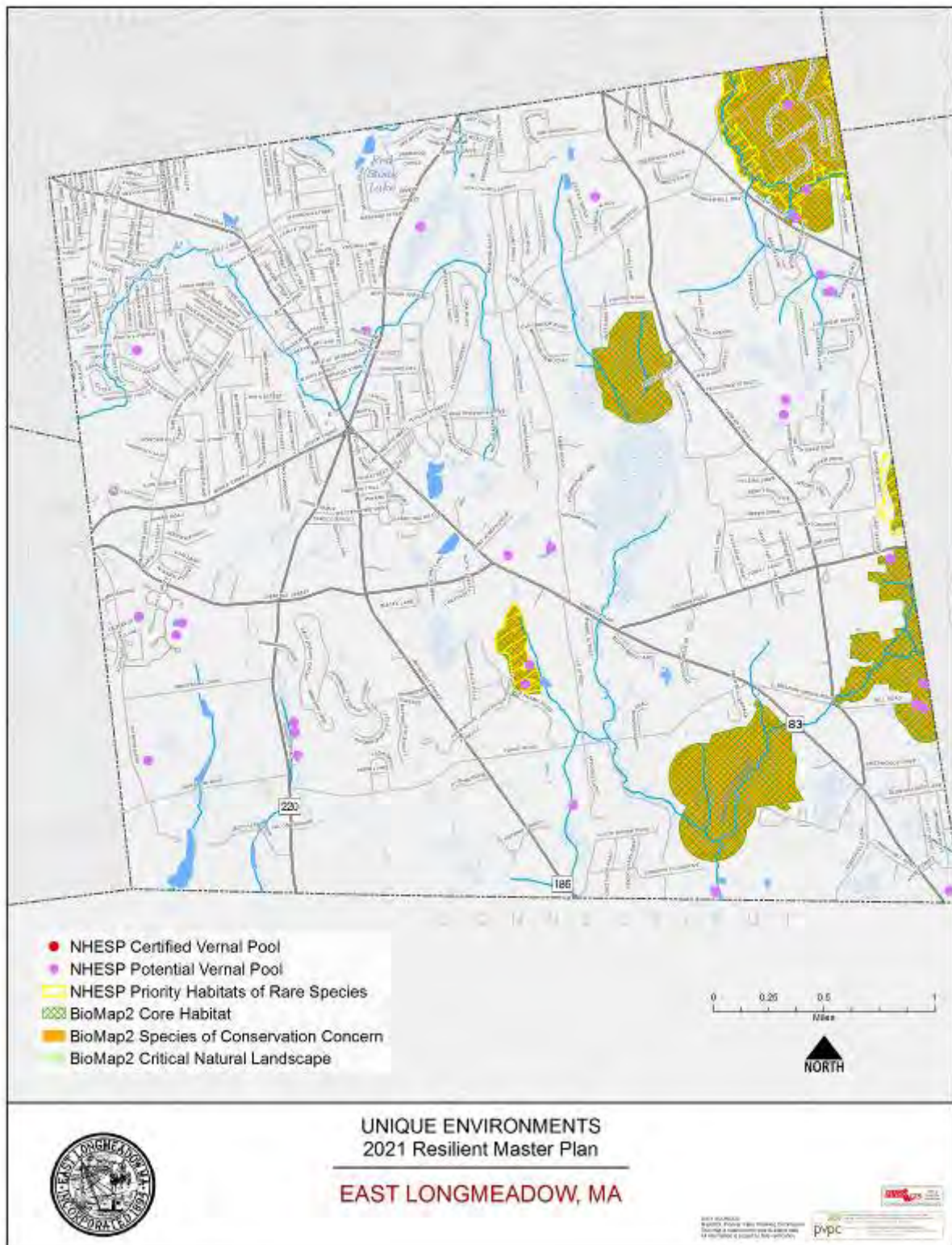
The State's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is responsible for the conservation and protection of rare and endangered plant and wildlife species and the natural communities that make up their habitats. Map 3 shows areas in East Longmeadow that are part of this inventory, as well as locations of certified vernal pools that are protected through the Wetlands Act, and locations of potential vernal pools that have not yet been verified. If a potential vernal pool is checked and meets the criteria (<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/vernal-pool-certification>), it can be certified in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act.

The NHESP has mapped Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscapes throughout the Commonwealth that are significant for conserving biological diversity through the BioMap2, which classifies landscapes as Core Habitat (CH) or Critical Natural Landscape (CNL) as seen in Map 3.

East Longmeadow contains 599 acres of Core Habitats, with no areas of Critical Natural Landscape. Core Habitats are mostly located on the eastern side of the town: Core 942, Core 920, Core 1013, Core 1264 and Core 994. These landscapes, taken on the whole, provide vital habitat for species of conservation concern, that are threatened or of special concern, such as the Blue-spotted Salamander, Eastern Spadefoot, Four-toed Salamander, Northern Black Racer, Eastern Worm Snake, Climbing Fern, and the Lily-leaf Twayblade (BioMap2, 2012). For instance, Blue-spotted Salamander of species of special concern and is found in three of the Core Habitats crossing into Springfield, Wilbraham and Hampden. These salamanders thrive in mature deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous forests and woodland, using vernal pools, swamps, and marshes for breeding.



Map 3 Natural Heritage Inventory



Open Space

A portion of the town of East Longmeadow is protected from future development, however, development can lead to fragmentation of woodlands and farmlands which jeopardize the benefits of the small-town character the town seeks to maintain. There are approximately 1,500 acres of land, or 18 percent of total land which is afforded some level of protection.

Figure 1 Open Space Ownership in East Longmeadow

Classification	Acres	Percent of Open Space in Town (%)
Town Owned – School/Recreation	247	2.97
Town Owned – Conservation	297	3.57
Town Owned – Other	24	0.03
Significant Agricultural Lands	408	4.90
Private – Recreation	256	3.08
Private – Other	267	3.21
Totals	1,499	18.02

Figure 2 Significant Open Space and Recreational Land in East Longmeadow

Name	Acres	Owner
Watchaug Meadows	281.8	Town of East Longmeadow Conservation Commission
Brown/Koch Farm	70	Town of East Longmeadow
Heritage Park	46	Town of East Longmeadow
Mary Swords Conservation Area	40	Town of East Longmeadow Conservation Commission
Jarvis Nature Sanctuary	35.9	Town of East Longmeadow Conservation Commission

Watchaug Meadows

Watchaug Meadows, extends south of Porter Road between Parker Street and Kibbe Road and south to Hampden Road. This area contains small water-filled quarries and drains north to the Mill River and South to the Scantic River, via Watchaug Brook. This conservation area is used for nature studies, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

Brown Farm and Koch Properties

Belonging to the Watchaug Meadows Conservation Area, the Brown Farm and Koch Properties has been identified as an area of opportunity for various components supporting the residents of East Longmeadow, according to a Conditions Assessment completed in 2013. There are current trails that have been identified and the Boy Scouts have installed exercise equipment and benches in addition to the mapping endeavor.

Mary Swords Conservation Area

This area is hardwood swamp with small but scenic quarries, open to the public. It is located on the low-lying lands east of Elm Street and north of Mapleshade Road.



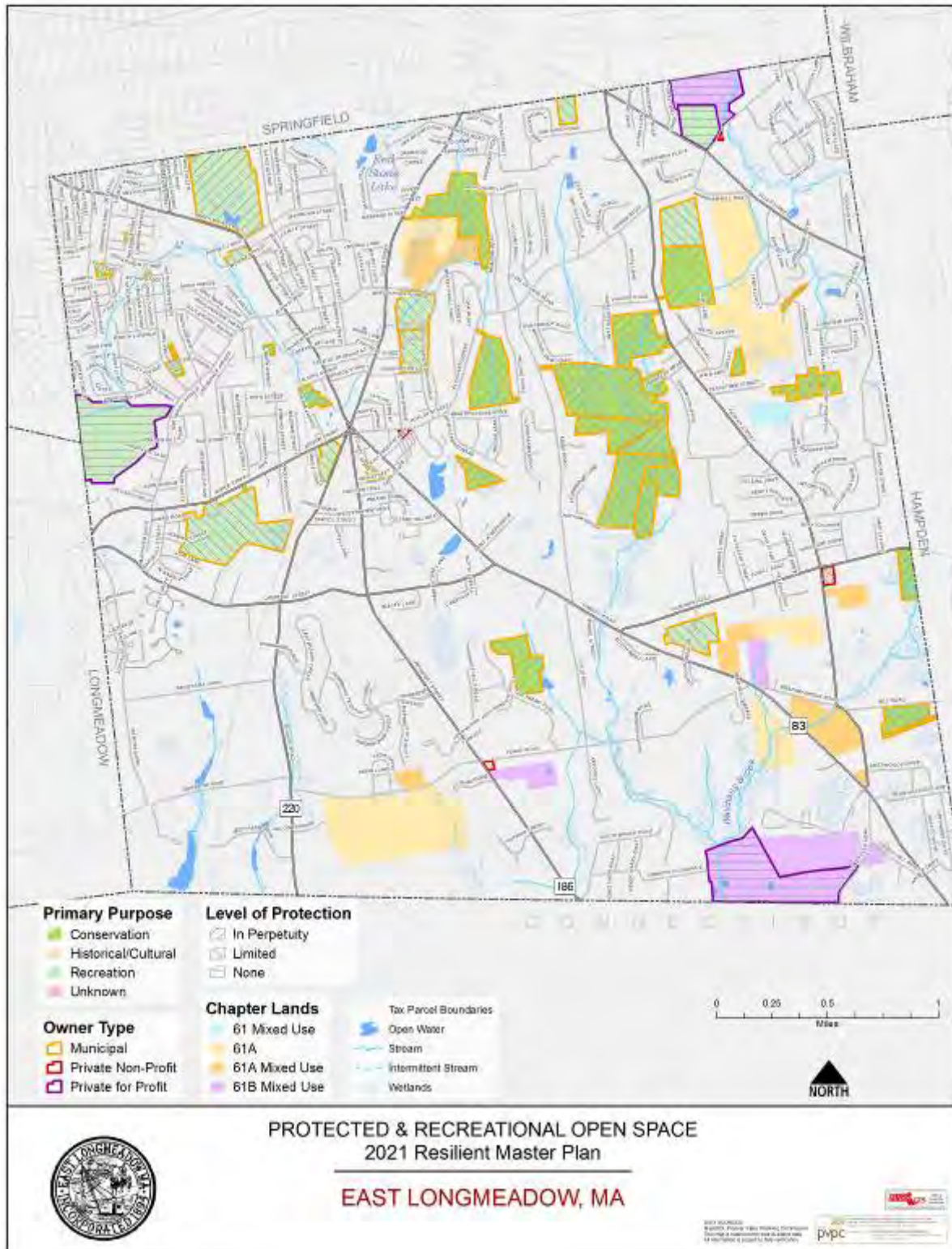
Jarvis Nature Sanctuary

Jarvis Nature Sanctuary is a beautiful area for passive recreation consisting of 20 acres of brushy field with the other, approximately 16 acres in mixed hardwood and evergreen forest.

Many other conservation areas that provide limited to public access can be found in the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (2020).



Map 4 – Protected & Recreational Open Space



Lands in Current Use

The Protected Recreational and Open Space (Map 4) shows private landowner parcels that have been enrolled in the Massachusetts Current Use program. Also known as Chapter 61 lands, they are taxed according to their use. Chapter 61 lands are managed for harvesting of wood, Chapter 61A lands for agriculture, and Chapter 61B for recreational use. Most of the land that is managed for recreational purposes allows access to trails and ponds. The town has identified that understand and consider forest management to maintain a healthy forest and possibly provide revenue to the town, in addition to actively managing to provide for maintenance to the town's trails.

Recreational Resources

In addition to the various passive recreation opportunities and the trails, the Town provides for recreation throughout town, both on private and public property, and opportunities for golfing in the area.

Heritage Park

Heritage Park is located in the northwest section of East Longmeadow on Main Street. The park has a recreational 4-acre warm water pond that can be used for ice-skating and is occasionally stocked for fishing. Additionally, there are two baseball fields, one soccer field, playground equipment, a pavilion and a dog park.

Pine Knoll Recreation Area

Pine Knoll, a 14 acre park that traverses Springfield and East Longmeadow, but that has over 9 acres in East Longmeadow that provides for a swimming pool, basketball court, badminton court, tennis court, sand volleyball court, and 3 modified soccer fields.

Center Field

Center Field, comprising 5.8 acres bounded by Maple Street, Shaker Road and Maple Court, has two baseball fields, 1 softball field and a small pond.

Multi-purpose school fields and recreation opportunities

The town's school department, with assistance by the Department of Public Works to manage and assist with maintaining play fields and facilities, offers opportunities for the schools and their playfields to provide for the town's residents: East Longmeadow High School, Birchland Park Middle School, Mapleshade Elementary School, Mountain View Elementary School, and Meadowbrook Elementary School.

Elmcrest Country Club

Located off Somersville Road, Elmcrest Country Club boasts an 18-hole golf course that opened in 1965.



Franconia Golf Course

Franconia Golf Course is an 18-hole golf course owned by the City of Springfield that is open to the public. The course opened in 1929.

Fenway Golf

Fenway Golf, located on Allen Street, has multiple golf activity opportunities through mini-golf, pitch and putt, driving range and batting cages. Pine Knoll is Fenway Golf's 18-hole Par 3 Golf Course.

The majority of respondents to the East Longmeadow Master Plan Community Survey (80%) responded that it was somewhat or very important to increase recreation opportunity, playing fields and trails. Free response survey answers included improving parks, like Heritage, in addition to, field quality and recreation centers. The Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program can assist the town with acquiring and developing land for park an outdoor recreation purposes. These grants can be used by East Longmeadow to acquire parkland, build a new park, or to renovate an existing park.

As mentioned previously, preserving open space like farmland and forests is very important to the town (64.8%). Depending on the priorities identified by the Community Preservation Committee, Community Preservation Act funds can be utilized to acquire, create, and preserve open space, in addition to rehabilitating or restoring open space that has been acquire or created using those CPA funds – like Brown Farm and the Koch properties in Watchaug Meadows.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Although some of East Longmeadow's lands are protected via state conservation programs, the land that is not conserved may be vulnerable to impacts from human use. There is a sentiment to protect the farmlands, open spaces, scenic areas to maintain the small-town character that the town embraces. In addition to the support for the town's open spaces and passive recreation opportunities, the town finds itself as a town wanting to expand its recreational options, as there has been many suggestions to support the youth and sports teams.

These sentiments suggests that planning for the protection of natural resources and open space, along with expanding and maintaining the recreation opportunities, should be major priorities for the Town.

Expanding and Improving Recreational Opportunities

The growth of youth sports has increased usage of existing playing fields throughout town during the spring, summer and fall seasons, resulting in general deterioration of playing surfaces and erosion. Other than restricting access and cutting programming, the options are creating a comprehensive field maintenance plan or building more fields, so some can be allowed to rest. The pandemic has generally allowed the fields to rest due to an abundance of caution of virus spread and social distancing and what did or did not happen in contact sports during this time. However, as the town finds itself recovering in more ways than one, youth sports will be revived and the town will need to address some of the issues due to overuse of playing fields. Efforts have been made in the last five years to improve play fields conditions. Due to soil compaction, all athletic play fields



should be aerated a minimum of twice a year, and the DPW provides that service to provide a loosening of those soils. The DPW recently acquired a new tractor to support these efforts. The high school has a synthetic turf field for field hockey, football, lacrosse and soccer.

The town has explored redevelopment plans and upgraded facility plans for Heritage Park and Pine Knoll, respectively. One of the issues at Pine Knoll is that most of the buildings are not winterized. This severely limits the length of programming that can be hosted at this site. If all structures were winterized and underwent additional code upgrades, Pine Knoll could be open to community programming year round for residents of all ages rather than just the summer children's camp programming that it currently hosts. Making the space available to senior residents would also open up another funding pool such as AARP Community Challenge grant funding and perhaps help establish a sustainable funding source for continued maintenance of the facilities and grounds if we were able to rent out the space for private events too (Weddings, birthdays, graduations, fundraisers, retreats etc.)

Fragmented Habitats

East Longmeadow's development in certain parts of town has fragmented woodlands and farmlands and many of the natural resource areas that have been established in town. These changes can compromise the resource areas and change wildlife habitats, along with undermining the beauty of untouched landscape. Protecting the surrounding and the benefit this provides ensures an environmentally and economically sound future for the town. Fragmenting these large resource areas divides populations of native plants and animals and makes each part more vulnerable to the short-term impacts of floods, drought and disease, in addition to climate change which is absolute. Land left in the natural state for conservation and drainage reasons can also provide opportunities for appropriate recreational activities, including hiking and cross-country skiing.

Additionally, as farmland and important agricultural lands get divided up and affected by development, it can become harder to farm efficiently. A recent approval for a new subdivision brings this issue to the forefront.

Connect Wildlife and Trail Corridors

Trails are available for public use on public and some private lands throughout East Longmeadow. A system of connected trails and corridors for wildlife habitat migration would add value to these resources. East Longmeadow is an awardee of the Rivers, Trails and Conservation assistance program offered by the National Park Service. National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise drawing from project experiencers across the country and adapting best practices to the community's specific needs. They also help with the following:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project



The length and time phasing of assistance is generally 1-2 years depending on the project scope.

Continued maintenance of the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan would provide detailed information on the habitat and natural resource areas in town and would result in a plan for improvements or protections to these resources going forward. The town completed an update in 2020, and will not be due for an update until 2027. A strategy of connecting parcels into larger blocks and corridors would deter fragmentation of landscapes and habitats, while also opening opportunities for continuous trails crossing East Longmeadow and linking up with trails in neighboring towns, as Enfield, Connecticut, has reached out to the town to explore this trail connection.

Community Resilience

Protecting the natural resources in East Longmeadow contributes to the Town's resiliency in a number of ways:

- Minimizing disruption to natural ecosystems whenever possible helps to protect wildlife habitat, and promotes residents' wellness by increasing opportunities to experience nature. Undeveloped land can provide storage for floodwaters.
- Evaluating the potential impacts of climate change can help the Town better plan and adapt to changing climactic conditions and their effects on other natural and man-made systems. This evaluation and planning could lead to specific projects that Town may wish to undertake to adapt systems to future changes in conditions.
- Increasing awareness around best practices for reducing stormwater runoff and pollution will help to protect water quality.
- Supporting viable wildlife and native plant populations helps maintain biodiversity. When protected land has covers variable terrain and contains multiple microclimates, it provides microhabitats which can help maintain species as the climate changes. Greenbelts and wildlife corridors facilitate migration.







HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

As expressed on the Town website, East Longmeadow's history was "one of steady progression."¹ Although incorporation as a Town didn't occur until 1894, early land use included the presence of Native Americans and, by the 1740s, a growing population of Colonists who lived and worked in the area primarily utilizing the land for farming. The discovery of an abundance of sandstone, the development of the railroad system in the 1800s, and the introduction of streetcar lines by the early 1900s provided an avenue of rapid growth and attracted an influx of immigrants who "enriched and transformed the Town's social and cultural framework."² These assets and the resulting population and economic growth also allowed East Longmeadow to gain independence as its own Town. Quarry use was discontinued by 1971, but the Town maintained agricultural and residential roots while continuing to attract industrial and commercial development. A variety of built historic resources exist today from pre-Colonial occupation through the mid-1900s, as well as early rural, agricultural, and industrial landscapes, many of which remain in use and valued by residents.

As of 2018, East Longmeadow had a population of more than 16,000 residents and today continues to pursue a balance between evolving as a modern Town while still working to protect what residents enjoy and value most. Representatives from the Town government and local organizations, with active and engaged volunteers, are interested in continuing to support the preservation of local historic and cultural resources while also utilizing these assets to inform, inspire, and engage the community.

Historic and cultural offerings include the collection and programs available through the Town-owned Historical Museum House, community events like the Independence Day Parade and Holiday Tree Lighting, revitalization and engagement related to the adaptive reuse of the East Longmeadow Train Depot, highly valued resources like local agricultural landscapes and products, the Redstone Rail Trail and Heritage Park, symbolic public art like the Quarryman statue, and work by the Town to define welcoming and accessible public gathering spaces in underutilized locations. Although residents primarily work in other nearby communities, there remains a sense of pride of place and an interest in having reminders of the Town's roots and local cultural programming available for when they are at home in East Longmeadow.

While this East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan discusses the connection between historic and cultural elements and a town's strength, success, and resiliency, it is not unusual that previous Town planning initiatives didn't include or only minimally referenced these resources. Past strategies and programs like Urban Renewal, mentioned as a development tool in the 1960 Master Plan for the central section of East Longmeadow, resulted in the major loss of historic built resources, including those constructed with stone from the local quarries. The outreach process for this current plan confirmed that the Town's agricultural, railroad, and stone cutting origins and the stories of those who developed and lived in East Longmeadow still resonate with residents and are perceived as significant and relevant to planning and controlled future growth. There are opportunities, illuminated through this process, to determine best practices for documenting and

¹ "Town History," <https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/133/Town-History>

² Ibid.

strengthening protection of these resources, in addition to providing collaborative cultural programming for all residents to access and enjoy, and planning for future resiliency.

The strengths and opportunities related to East Longmeadow's preservation and cultural resource offerings include existing inventoried properties in the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS) database, a strong knowledge of local history by residents involved with the planning process and those who are part of the East Longmeadow Historical Commission, and a valuable collection of items and archives, primarily located in the *John Peaseley House 87 Maple Street (1852, ELG.5)*, now known as the Historical Museum House, and the East Longmeadow Public Library Local History Room. Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding is another good resource for accomplishing local projects as historic preservation is one of the required funding categories and many CPA communities sponsor projects that incorporate preservation, open space, and recreation. Related challenges are that the MACRIS inventory for the Town is generally outdated, doesn't meet current documentation standards, and is missing some significant local resources. This can result in a lack of protections, evident as many potential assets have already been altered, are deteriorated, or have been lost to demolition. A lack of documentation also limits opportunities to promote awareness and potentially seek funding for preservation. Related to the Town's CPA program, the East Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee (CPC) would also benefit from further development of a formal Community Preservation Plan to prioritize funding and promote outreach to help maximize the impact of this program. Additionally, clearly identifying challenges with accessibility to buildings, sites, and programming as well as developing vulnerability and emergency planning for built resources and collections are also presented as opportunities in this Resilient Master Plan.

OVERVIEW

Known as the "Inward Commons," East Longmeadow was included in the 1600s Springfield land grant and borders with Connecticut were defined in a 1642 survey.³ By 1713, this area was established as part of Longmeadow Parish with a Colonial population developing here around 1740. In 1865 East Longmeadow was designated as a separate Parish within Longmeadow and was formally incorporated as the Town of East Longmeadow, effective July 1, 1894. Due to its origins as a part of Springfield and Longmeadow and a lack of Colonial period civic, industrial, and commercial operations, there is minimal formal documentation of the origins of East Longmeadow's land use.

The land within current Town borders was early utilized as an intermediate corridor between the central uplands and the Connecticut River and potentially included Native American sites along the upper Pecousic Brook around Indian Spring. According to a 1982 MHC Reconnaissance Survey of East Longmeadow, "the presence of a considerable amount of agricultural land and a network of

³ Alfred M. Copeland, *Our County and its People. A History of Hampden County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Century Memorial Publishing Co., 1902. 429-437. *Archive.org*, accessed 2021. <https://archive.org/details/ourcountyitspeop03copel/page/528>



suspected Native trails suggests there was probably some Native period settlement.”⁴ The primary area of interest was identified as “the land surrounding the town center and bordered by Westwood and Mapleshade Avenues to the north and west and Chestnut Street to the south” as there are suspected early transportation routes in those areas. The current amount of rural, agricultural, and larger parcels of industrial land presents a potential of remaining Native archaeological sites in East Longmeadow. Native American artifacts from the area are on display at the Historical Museum House, and available for viewing when this facility is open and staffed.

Slavery, legal in Massachusetts until 1780, brought enslaved and later freed African Americans to Western Massachusetts.⁵ There are records of Longmeadow residents owning slaves, to include Rev. Stephen Williams of Springfield (Longmeadow), who discussed the sale of one of his slaves in a diary entry.⁶ Late 1700s census data also notes the presence of African American laborers in the area.⁷ The Georgian style *Elijah Burt House* 201 Chestnut Street (ca. 1728, ELG.14, NR listed 1976), recognized as the Town’s oldest building, relates to an early stagecoach route but also to the region’s Underground Railroad network.⁸ By the 1800s, many African Americans within Hampden County were either employed as day laborers or working as independent yeoman farmers with possible settlement in East Longmeadow.

By the late 1700s, East Longmeadow’s center began to form with radial highways from the *Meeting House*. This infamous rotary was later highlighted by *Ripley’s Believe It or Not* for being a seven street intersection with no traffic lights and remains in this unique form today. Also around this time period, an early Baptist Settlement, later known as the “Baptist District,” developed due to a growing diversification of religious beliefs and is identified in MACRIS as *Baptist Village* (late 1700s, ELG.A).⁹ This is currently the Town’s only inventoried area and today has a probable loss of context due to demolitions and alterations over time. The prominent *First Congregational Church of East Longmeadow* 7 Somers Road (1828, 1859; ELG.3, NR listed 1978), is a nineteenth century ecclesiastical building which remains today as a focal point near the Town Center. The former Methodist Church, built in 1853 on the corner of Elm Street, was known as the Church of Seven Roads.¹⁰ It was demolished in 1969. The Romanesque Revival Style *East Longmeadow Town Hall and Library* 60 Center Square (1882, 1957, 1966; ELG.1) is a public building constructed with local stone donated from the Norcross Brownstone Company. It was planned to function as a combination schoolhouse and shared town hall prior to East Longmeadow’s separation from Longmeadow and continues to operate as the Town’s civic center. Today the East Longmeadow Public Library, established by 1897, is also located at 60 Center Square in a building completed in

⁴ Massachusetts Historical Commission. *MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report East Longmeadow*. Boston: MHC, 1982.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/CT-Valley/elg.pdf>

⁵ Joseph Carvalho III. *Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts 1650-1865. Second Edition*. United States: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2011. *ResearchGate.net*, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/305045959_Black_Families_in_Hampden_County_Massachusetts_1650-1865_2nd_Edition, accessed 2021.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ *Elijah Burt House* 201 Chestnut Street (ca. 1728, ELG.14, NR listed 1976), <https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcid=ELG.14>, accessed 2021.

⁹ *Baptist Village*, East Longmeadow (late 1700s , ELG.A), <https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcid=ELG.A> , accessed 2021.

¹⁰ “About the East Longmeadow Methodist Church,” <https://www.elumc.org/history.htm> , accessed 2021.



1957 with later additions and hosts the Local History Room on the second floor with limited public access.¹¹

In addition to agricultural operations, “East Longmeadow owes its development principally to its valuable quarries of red sandstone, which have given to the town a wide fame.”¹² These sandstone outcroppings, along with a railroad connection to Springfield by the late 1800s, expedited the Town’s independence from Longmeadow. East Longmeadow sandstone was used in the construction of the Springfield Armory Buildings and is the foundation under the Armory perimeter fence, now part of the Springfield Armory National Historic Site. In the early 1900s, these quarries were nationally recognized for contributing to the construction of fine residences and significant public buildings across the country, to include Boston’s Trinity Church, buildings at Harvard, Princeton, and Yale Universities, the original Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City, which was demolished in 1929 and the site reused to construct the Empire State Building, and the Smithsonian Institution. During the heyday of operations, the Town’s most prominent quarries were the Taylor, Salisbury, McGregory, Billings, Kibbe, Pine Kibbe, Worcester, and Maynard, and James & Marra, of Springfield, which ran another large operation with about 75 employees. James & Marra, with a main office in Springfield, owned several of these quarries in town, as did the Norcross Brothers.

The largest East Longmeadow quarry industry was carried out by the Norcross Brownstone Company, organized in 1901 from an earlier firm conducted by the Norcross Brothers and having more than 100 employees. The Norcross Brothers firm is very significant as it worked directly with renowned architect Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886) and consequently relates to Romanesque Revival style buildings across the country constructed with its stone. The *James Franklin Norcross House* [89 Maple Street \(ca. 1879, ELG.4\)6](#) (known as the Norcross Center) serves today to provide a connection to this history. The remaining quarry sites, the Historical Museum House, and the *Quarryman Statue* [School and High Streets \(1994, ELG.923\)](#) are also good resources for East Longmeadow to utilize for programming related to the Town’s heritage. Other areas and buildings related to the community’s growth, like the *East Longmeadow District #4 Schoolhouse* [35 School Street \(1868, ELG.11\)](#), now known as the Little Red Schoolhouse, and to the presence of early immigrant populations, like the *Adolphus Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church* [30 Somers Road \(1891, ELG.2\)](#), and to residential areas developed during the Town’s growing population can also be highlighted to help tell East Longmeadow’s story. There is a long history of adaptive reuse here to include three 1792 district schools which have been repurposed as residential buildings.¹³

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The MHC is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), organized in 1971 related to the 1966 National Historic Preservation Act. According to the MHC, “Local Historical Commissions are an important part of municipal government in Massachusetts. Almost all cities and towns in Massachusetts have established a local historical commission. Historical Commissions are

¹¹ “Local History,” East Longmeadow Public Library, eastlongmeadowlibrary.org, accessed 2021.

¹² Alfred M. Copeland, *Ibid.*

¹³ Per 2021 interview with Bruce Moore, Chair of the East Longmeadow Historical Commission



responsible for community-wide preservation planning.”¹⁴ The East Longmeadow Historical Commission’s Mission Statement is described as follows:

The purpose of the Historical Commission is to acquire, organize, preserve and maintain material assets of interest that pertain to the history of East Longmeadow, to make these assets accessible to the public and promote historical awareness within the community.

*To research, record and recommend places of historical value and interest; advise and assist on historical preservation issues; and seek to change or create legislation to better protect our historical resources.*¹⁵

The East Longmeadow Historical Commission currently has a presence on the town website, and has six members out of the available seven positions. Prior to the 2020 Covid19 Pandemic, meetings were held on the second Monday from September through June, as advertised on the Town website. Since public meeting restrictions were authorized in the Spring of 2020, the Commission has not met virtually or otherwise as of early 2021 but remains interested and ready to engage in future preservation work.

Local historic preservation should begin with planning and documentation to formally identify an area’s remaining archaeological and built historic resources, structures, objects, areas, and landscapes with potential significance on a local, state, and national level. Documentation of existing conditions and historical narratives will then provide public record in the MACRIS database. If resources are found eligible and listed in the State and National Registers of Historic Places, additional funding opportunities may be available to support preservation, resiliency, outreach, and adaptive reuse.

The identification and documentation of historic and archaeological resources is listed as the first goal in the 2018-2022 *Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan*. Comprehensive state documentation of East Longmeadow’s cultural resources was done through a 1982 MHC *Reconnaissance Survey Town Report* and a 1984 report on the *Historical and Archaeological Resources of the Connecticut River Valley* which identified multiple remaining historic resources within the Town. In particular, the 1984 report’s chapter on building stone identifies the quarry sites as the area’s most significant remaining resources and notes a need for their thorough documentation.¹⁶ The “diversity of interests” with the quarry industry and railroad connection to Springfield, along with the natural geographical separation allowed East Longmeadow to separate from “West” Longmeadow and become a self-sufficient town and relates to a national context of architectural styles and building methods from the period of operations.¹⁷

¹⁴ “Local Historical Commissions in Massachusetts. A Summary Sheet for New Commission Members.” <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/lhcsun.pdf> , accessed 2021.

¹⁵ “Historical Commission,” [eastlongmeadowma.gov](https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/564/Historical-Commission), <https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/564/Historical-Commission> , accessed 2021.

¹⁶ Massachusetts Historical Commission. *Historic & Archaeological Resources of the Connecticut River Valley: A Framework for Preservation Decisions* Boston: MHC, 1984, 1988, 2007. <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/regionalreports/ctvalley.pdf>

¹⁷ Alfred M. Copeland, Ibid.



There was a major initiative by the East Longmeadow Historical Commission to document the Town's historic resources in the 1970s. The 1982 Reconnaissance Survey noted that this earlier inventory work was adequate at that time to identify existing 18th and 19th century resources but that later 19th and early 20th century resources should be inventoried as well. There does not appear to have been much inventory work done since then. As of early 2021, there are 74 inventory points for East Longmeadow in the MACRIS database and five listings on the Massachusetts State Register and National Register of Historic Places. This can be compared to 1,648 inventory points in Longmeadow, 234 in Wilbraham, and 118 in Hampden. Renewed planning for and execution of formal documentation to include all of East Longmeadow's historic and cultural resources, including quarry and agricultural properties, will support the Town and Local Historical Commission planning process, is in accordance with the state's current preservation plan, and could lead to increased awareness of and opportunities for preservation, funding, and cultural programming.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

East Longmeadow contains historic and cultural resources that are generally perceived as significant and valued by residents. Recognizing the value of these resources and honoring the related local history also presents an opportunity to reflect upon past strategies for resiliency such as the adaptive reuse of locally significant buildings and successful land conservation to include former agricultural and quarry sites.¹⁸ Feedback during the 2021 Resilient Master Planning process indicated that the Town Hall, First Congregational Church, Norcross Center, Historical Museum House, Little Red Schoolhouse, Quarryman Statue, rehabilitated Railroad Depot, and agricultural and former quarry properties continue to stand out as the most locally significant built historic and cultural resources. The MACRIS documentation for the Historical Museum House includes a 1973 *Needs and Objectives for Funds* document with *Immediate* and *Future* categories. Nearly 50 years later, it can be said that many if not all of these needs were addressed and this could serve as a framework for determining current and future needs and objectives. Many historic and cultural resources currently remain which are not comprehensively documented and formally recognized as assets and generally do not have protection through by-laws and ordinances or by review for state or federally funded projects.

To help focus efforts, supporting the East Longmeadow Historical Commission in the development of an overall Preservation Plan to include identifying significant and irreplaceable institutional, residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural buildings and sites as well as structures will benefit the Town in determining the best way to proceed with documentation, protection, and potential use for the public benefit. Planning for targeted updates of the existing 1970s inventory to current standards and to include more resources that were not previously documented could be one approach. Recommended resources to focus on are individually significant resources, up to at least the mid-20th century; those which relate to underrepresented groups (Native Americans,

¹⁸ "Brown Farm-Watchaug Meadows, East Longmeadow, MA." October 2011, <https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8234/Brown-Farm-Watchaug-Meadows>



African Americans, and the immigrant populations who helped develop East Longmeadow as a Town); quarry areas; agricultural properties to include all related outbuildings; areas that retain at least some context from the period of construction (ex. Somers Road); burial grounds; and structures like stone walls. Identifying all of these resources and planning for inclusion within or updates on MACRIS would help to determine next steps for protection and/or to seek potential funding sources to complete project goals. Utilizing local and regional and state agencies as well as existing guidance such as publications related to best practices for the preservation of local burial grounds could also be helpful for planning and prioritization.¹⁹

Existing historic resources can also be considered assets to support cultural programming and community needs. An example of this is the adaptive reuse of the *Pleasant View Grade School 328 North Main Street (1915, ELG.10)* as the Pleasant View Senior Center, housing the East Longmeadow Council on Aging. The Historical Museum House, the Norcross Center, the Little Red Schoolhouse, and the East Longmeadow Train Depot are also examples of historic resources that have been repurposed. The Little Red Schoolhouse was moved to the previous site of the undocumented and now demolished Center School. This building, which has public space available through the Town Recreation Department, serves as the meeting site for the Local Historical Commission and other local groups and has also been used as a space for cultural programming. The *William Henry Hall Store and Post Office 38 Center Square (circa 1830, ELG.4)*, at the Town center, was a residential home prior to the 1830s and has been called an East Longmeadow center landmark.²⁰ Cooley's General Country Store, Barrett's Dry Goods Store, Nooney's Hardware, and the Village Smithy are other examples of businesses that operated from this prominent building which remains in commercial use today. Willow Barn Designs is another local business which operates out of a former residential building at 81 Maple Street. This property maintains the exterior appearance of a historic residence and is in proximity to the Redstone Rail Trail. The Apple Place on Somers Road and connected to farmland that has been utilized for more than 200 years has become very effective with utilizing social media for outreach and developing new ways to attract visitors.²¹ Exploring the potential use of by-laws and ordinances, façade improvement programs, options for preservation zoning, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Program could also provide avenues to help slow down the process of further deterioration and loss of East Longmeadow's irreplaceable built history while allowing for more scenarios of potential adaptive reuse.

East Longmeadow passed CPA in 2006 and this strong funding source to "improve a community's character and quality of life" has supported local projects but does not have a developed plan and does not have projects listed on the Community Preservation Coalition database.²² CPA is categorized as a "smart growth tool that helps communities preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. [It] also helps strengthen the state and local economies by expanding housing opportunities and construction jobs for the

¹⁹ "Terra Firma #10 – Mourning Glory: Preserving Historic Cemeteries" <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/stewardship/histland/terra-firma10.pdf>

²⁰ "William Henry Hall Store and Post Office," <https://mhc-macris.net/Details.aspx?Mhcid=ELG.4>, accessed 2021.

²¹ "All About Us," *The Apple Place*, <https://www.theappleplace.net/our-story>

²² "CPA: An Overview," <https://www.communitypreservation.org/about>



Commonwealth's workforce, and by supporting the tourism industry through preservation of the Commonwealth's historic and natural resources.”²³ CPA funds can also be used to provide a match for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grants.²⁴ Developing an East Longmeadow-specific Community Preservation Plan will help to positively support the impact of this resource.

Cultural opportunities can start with local partners and build on previous and current local and regional initiatives. The East Longmeadow Library has a strong tradition of cultural programming and getting sponsorship from local and regional partners. The Library's mission is “to provide free and equal access to information, resources, and technology. Its purpose is to help educate and enrich our community in response to the intellectual, educational, and cultural needs and input of its patrons.”²⁵ The library building was expanded around 2003 and currently has two meeting rooms. There were more than 450 local meetings and non-profit events held there in 2016.

The Historical Commission is involved with overseeing the collection, public access, and maintenance of the Museum building. A “Friends for Historic Preservation Group” referenced in the 1970s and an East Longmeadow Historical Commission Associate Member program may be useful past initiatives to consider revisiting to engage more members of the community in supporting and helping with outreach for these resources. Perhaps students could be engaged with these groups as Junior Associate Members and earn hours for community service.

The East Longmeadow Cultural Council is also a valuable resource and supports a variety of local programming on a limited budget. Funding from this Council recently supported programs like the Independence Day Parade, Rotary Summer Concert Series, plays and music programs at the Senior Center, library programs, and New England ghost stories at the Norcross Center. Exploring the creation of a local cultural district designation with assistance from the Massachusetts Cultural Council would serve to enhance this resource and make broader connections among like-minded community and cultural groups.

East Longmeadow connections as well as other communities' cultural programming could provide inspiration as well. The East Longmeadow High School's Fine Arts Department could be a good resource to work with teachers and engage students in volunteer programs to support local cultural sites and potentially become involved in public art projects within the town. Recent creations by local artisans like the 2020 3D sidewalk chalk art by Amy Reyor (@artonroosevelt) at Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters on Shaker Road and the Community Paints and Seating Area project coordinated by the Town Planner could also serve as inspiration for the positive impact increased public art could have in East Longmeadow.²⁶ Town artistic alumni include William Wegman, David Brega, and Doug Brega. Perhaps these connections, as well as partnerships with East Longmeadow industries, could lead to inspiration and plans for future cultural programming or displays to

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ “Municipal Vulnerability Program,” <https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program>, accessed 2021.

²⁵ “Library,” [eastlongmeadowma.gov](https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/528/Library), <https://www.eastlongmeadowma.gov/528/Library>

²⁶ Heather Morrison, “Springfield Artist Creates 3D Sidewalk Chalk Drawings to Bring Joy to People Walking By During Coronavirus Pandemic,” August 13, 2020. Masslive.com, <https://www.masslive.com/coronavirus/2020/08/springfield-artist-creates-3d-sidewalk-chalk-drawings-to-bring-joy-to-people-walking-by-during-coronavirus-pandemic.html>, accessed 2021.



benefit all residents and add beauty to currently unappealing and underutilized locations. Partnerships with neighboring municipalities could help to jointly celebrate the aspects of shared history.

Other local examples of utilizing outdoor spaces for public entertainment venues could also serve to inspire.²⁷ Public areas can be enhanced by vibrant murals appearing on exterior building walls and street banners with historic images or saluting local Veterans are additional ideas seen in neighboring communities. Encouraging and facilitating partnerships among groups with similar missions, and cultivating strategic outreach campaigns to promote understanding and encourage participation in the preservation of East Longmeadow's historic and cultural resources could also help support a small volunteer base that is already over extended and encourage increased community engagement.

A 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan did not consider impacts to historic resources and collections or the potential for historic resources to have cross-over relevance to support disaster planning and recovery efforts. There have been more than 15 tornadoes in Hampden County since the 1950s. East Longmeadow has worked on previous initiatives related to emergency and resiliency planning such as the CERT training. Including valued historic and cultural resources and stakeholders in this process will help to support a more positive outcome in the event of an emergency. Stakeholders should prioritize resiliency planning and develop emergency response plans for significant built cultural resources and collections and develop existing conditions and long-term maintenance plans for significant public and private resources. If buildings become eligible through historic designation, apply for grant funding to support preservation and resiliency. Identify the roles cultural resources can play as Disaster Response Locations, as facilities like libraries and other public buildings can often be very effective in this role and work to provide these locations with the necessary resources.

²⁷ Lauren LeBel, "Easthampton's city hall parking lot transformed into entertainment venue," *thereminder.com*, October 13, 2020, <https://www.thereminder.com/localnews/easthampton/easthamptons-city-hall-parking-lot-transformed-int/>





CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

INTRODUCTION

While the reality of the climate crisis can feel overwhelming, the Town of East Longmeadow is taking thoughtful, well-researched, deliberate actions to enhance community resilience and grow sustainably. Resilience is the ability to respond, absorb, and adapt to, as well as recover in a disruptive event. A resilient structure/system/community is expected to be able to resist an extreme event with minimal damages and functionality disruptions during the event; after the event, it should be able to rapidly recover its functionality similar to or even better than the pre-event level.

Sustainability is defined as “meeting the needs of the present generation without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” This resilient Master Plan, and this chapter, lay out a course of action for East Longmeadow to adapt to our changing climate and sustainably grow into a shared future.

OVERVIEW

East Longmeadow recognizes the fact of increasingly severe and unpredictable weather events resulting from our changing climate caused by the dramatic increase in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and commits to both reducing GHG emissions and taking action to increase the resilience of the Town’s people, natural and built environment, and infrastructure. Given the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ climate policy legislation and [Governor Baker’s commitment to 50% reduction in GHG emissions](#) (from 1990 baseline) by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050, the Town of East Longmeadow commits

to doing its part to achieve these goals. Seeking funding to conduct a GHG emissions inventory will be necessary as will securing funds and technical assistance to complete a net zero by 2050 action plan for the Town.

[MA Decarbonization Roadmap](#) -

Secretary Theoharides

Here in Massachusetts, climate change presents unique challenges, from intense heat waves and droughts, storm surges and flooding, to increases in insect-related diseases such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. The climate crisis is a generational challenge that, without decisive action, leaves residents and communities across the state on the front lines.

*Recognizing the urgency of this crisis, the Baker-Polito Administration listened to the science, and set Massachusetts on an aggressive path to **Net Zero Greenhouse Gas emissions by 2050**.*

At a time when the nation and the world are grappling with a global pandemic, we are reminded that climate change presents a still greater long-term threat, and one for which there will be no vaccine. Achieving Net Zero by 2050 will require deep change and out-of-the-box thinking, and this report underscores the importance of local and regional partnerships to build stronger, more resilient communities, nation-leading clean energy jobs, and a vibrant economy.

An immediate focus on Town-wide building energy efficiency including both municipal buildings (on average 3-5% of overall building energy use) and privately owned commercial, industrial and residential buildings could result in a 20% annual reduction in the Town's current GHG emissions and is a well-supported action given the Commonwealth's existing funding and other resource programs, including the Green Communities certification program, the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center offerings, and the Mass Save program. A focus on building energy efficiency has proven a win-win strategy for reducing energy costs and creating local jobs and it also produces a ripple effect across the lifetime and operating costs of buildings. For a detailed explanation of the multi-sectoral system change approach the state is following, from which this simplified explanation is adapted, please review the Massachusetts Decarbonization Roadmap.

Replacing lights, water heaters, and HVAC systems, and adding insulation, can each reduce a building's GHG emission by a few percent, but these components add up to even more than the sum of their parts. When a building is well insulated, its lights are efficient, and its room temperatures well controlled, it needs a much smaller HVAC system to provide heating and cooling meaning that a building owner who decides to take the next step and go net-zero energy can invest in a much smaller photovoltaic system and less-expensive battery storage. Building retrofits not only save energy and reduce carbon emissions, but they also improve occupants' health, comfort, and productivity, as well as community resilience.

Likewise, green infrastructure, "a network providing the "ingredients" for solving urban and climatic challenges by building with nature" offers a multi-benefit and sustainable supplement to most existing gray infrastructure. The main components of green infrastructure include stormwater management, climate adaptation, less heat stress, more biodiversity, food production, better air quality, sustainable energy production, clean water and healthy soils, as well as the more human benefits such as increased quality of life through recreation and providing shade and shelter in and around the community. Green infrastructure also serves to provide an ecological framework for social, economic and environmental health of the surroundings.

Adopting the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency Policy combined with becoming a certified Green Community are the top two priority actions recommended to advance East Longmeadow's sustainability and climate resiliency. East Longmeadow is also integrating climate resilience and sustainability throughout this resilient Master Plan, and across all the essential infrastructure on which the town depends: transportation, gas, electricity, water and sewage, communications, and public safety.

INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

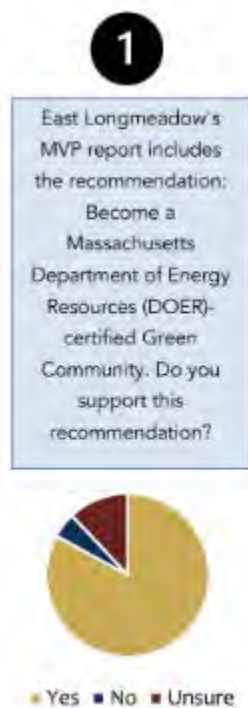
Engagement: Resilient Master Plan Committee, Visioning Workshop, Focus Group, 2020 Community Survey

East Longmeadow's vision includes a focus on sustainable growth and a commitment to "Plan for energy efficiency, green initiatives, and resiliency to climate change." Throughout the engagement activities and events we learned that there is a significant amount of energy for sustainability and climate initiatives among the youth of East Longmeadow and there is an opportunity to capitalize on this energy through the East Longmeadow high school requirement for public service. Trees and



maintenance of the urban forest emerged as a priority, especially making the connection between trees, tree canopy and public health. As heard throughout the resilient Master Planning process, multi-generational activities and projects are favored in the community. Expanding recycling and composting was suggested as was the need for more community gardens so residents who do not have access to a yard can grow their own food. Complete streets, expanding the terrific trail network and generally making it easier to walk everywhere were also expressed throughout the planning process.

As expected, the need for culvert repair, maintenance and in some places re-sizing and/or replacement was also brought up as was the stormwater management requirements related to the federal MS4 permit, and the need to integrate green infrastructure into town public works as part of climate resilience; these issues are further addressed in the Public Facilities and Services chapter.



Key takeaways clean energy/energy efficiency

The town currently has a moratorium in place on large scale solar projects with a number sited in the community. This plan recommends the Planning Board look at crafting a bylaw that considers use of the University of Massachusetts Clean Energy Extension and Cooperative Extension's pollinator program as a certification for new solar installations because it will be very difficult to reach decarbonization goals without new solar.

Massachusetts law allows home owners to place small-scale solar on their homes and this is increasingly happening in the community. In addition, the town has agreements with Altus Power, LLC that generates 3.5 megawatts of power per year located in the Town of Hampden to purchase solar renewable energy credits. The town has not moved forward on Green Communities certification previously, but there is interest now, especially as the Stretch code is no longer a stretch and has become the standard to which most homebuilders build. The 'stretch code' has been adopted in 288 cities and towns across the Commonwealth including 35 in the Pioneer Valley. The town does have a robust energy efficiency program at municipal and school buildings, taking advantage of utility offerings to reduce energy use, save

money, and replace aging inefficient equipment and windows. The town is also taking advantage of National Grid's LED streetlight conversion program. The town's lack of municipal EV charging stations was identified.

Review of Existing Plans

East Longmeadow has several plans that include recommendations for climate action and sustainability: Hazard Mitigation plan 2016, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Community Resilience Building workshop findings and priority actions 2019, the Open Space and Recreation plan 2020, and the Complete Streets 'plan'. These plans were reviewed as part of this process and the relevant recommendations (and/or actions to achieve comparable ends updated



for current technology/knowhow) are being carried forward into this plan, some in this chapter and others throughout the plan.

Areas of Concern highlighted in the MVP CRB workshop

- Infrastructure: pole-based electricity and communication lines, town and state-owned roads
- Drinking, Storm, and Wastewater Infrastructure: dams, culverts, and bridges, sewage pump stations, drinking water, and stormwater infrastructure
- Natural Resources: food systems, invasive species, habitat change, erosion, management and/or loss of open space and farmland
- Social Vulnerabilities: changing age-related demographics, residents with limited mobility, residents with limited English language capacity, low-to-moderate income populations, emergency shelter network, emergency communications platform (Rave)
- Built Environment: older/energy inefficient housing stock, lack of affordable housing

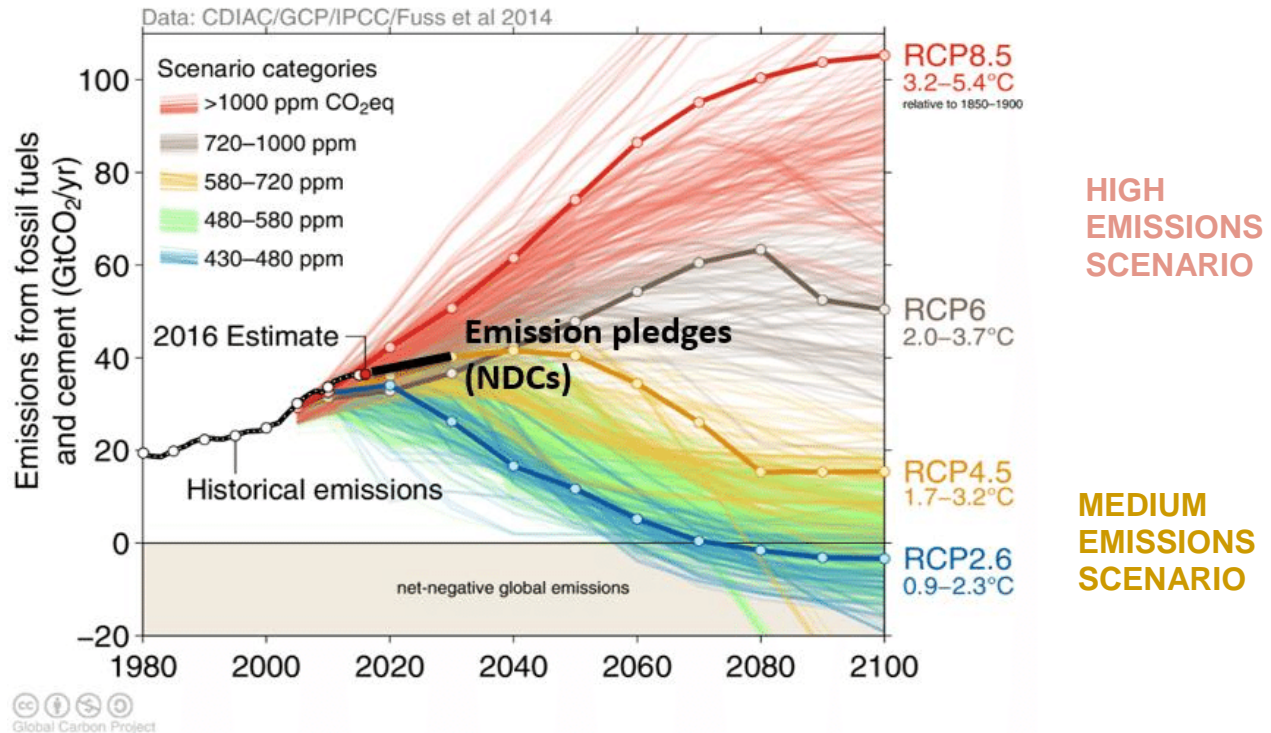
The top priorities included in the soon to expire Hazard Mitigation plan included a focus on culvert assessment and replacement, backup generators and understanding how the climate crisis will affect the town including a new awareness of possible drought concerns.

The OSRP identifies the land that needs to be protected for stormwater management = green infrastructure and the Complete Streets 'plan' advances efforts to make it easier and safer to walk and bike, GHG emission free forms of transportation that also improve public health.

Climate Data

The ResilientMA website includes the following data about projected weather changes including severe heat and increased flooding likely to affect East Longmeadow. It also shows the variability in extreme weather based on the amount of GHG emissions produced in the next 60 years.





The scenarios of how emissions change in the future become vastly different as we look further out towards the end of the century, which is why it is so important to reduce GHG emissions now to avoid the worst case scenarios. The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) considers a range of scenarios from the extremes of approximately 3.6°F (RCP2.6) to between 7°F (RCP8.5). RCP = REPRESENTATIVE CONCENTRATION PATHWAYS, essentially defined by their cumulative measure of human emissions of GHGs from all sources, expressed in Watts per square meter.

Because of the variation in the different future scenarios possible, the Commonwealth of MA Exec Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) commissioned researchers from the Northeast Climate Science Center at UMass to develop projections for changes in temperature, precipitation, and sea level rise specifically for the Commonwealth, and then downscale them for local use. These projections are based on simulations from the latest generation of climate models from the International Panel on Climate Change and scenarios of future GHG emissions and are made to the watershed AND county level.



Here in the CT River Basin, Climate Projections by 2100 are:

- Increase (↑) in:
 - Average temperatures
 - Min and max temperatures
 - # of days with temps over 90, 95, and 100
 - Cooling degree days (65 and above)
 - Winter precipitation
 - Frequency of heavy precipitation (winter)
- Decrease (↓) in:
 - # of days below 32 and 0
 - # of heating degree days (65 and below)
 - Fall precipitation (potential)

The rise of average temperatures is well documented. Maximum and minimum temperatures are also expected to increase throughout the end of the century, and that will be true for annual and seasonal projections. Summer and fall temperatures expected to see the greatest increases:

- Summer mid-century increase of 2.8 °F to 7.5 °F (3-9% increase); end of century increase of 3.8 °F to 13.4 °F (5-17% increase).
- Fall mid-century increase of 3.7°F to 7.2°F (6-12% increase); end of century increase by and 4.2 °F to 12.2 °F (7-20% increase).

Even what seems like a very small rise in average temperatures can cause major changes in other factors, such as the relative proportion of precipitation that falls as rain or snow, and impacts on species and ecosystem health. New species, that may become invasive, have entered the region due to climate change, species hierarchies in ecosystems will change, and climate induced stress in an ecosystem will facilitate invasive pathways.

Beyond the general warming trend, projections show increases in the number of days with extreme heat throughout 2090. The model looked at daily max temps over 90 °F, 95 °F, and 100 °F. Generally, extreme heat is considered to be over 90 °F, because at temps above that threshold, heat-related illnesses and mortality show a marked increase. We currently see roughly 6 days per year over 90 (Temps recorded at Barnes Muni Airport in Westfield hit 90 10 times this year in July alone (closest weather station to Longmeadow)). There are projections of 10 to 35 more 90+ days by mid-century, and 15 to **76** more by 2100. Summer daytime high temperatures rarely go above 95°F in today's climate. By mid century, we can expect 3 to 15 more days over 95 in the CT Basin.

We also know that changes to the frequency of extreme heat days will be most pronounced in the summer, with an increase of 12-60 more days by 2090. Why is this important? Heat waves can lead to illness and death, particularly among older adults, the very young, economically disadvantaged groups, and other vulnerable populations such as those in outdoor occupations. In addition more frequent days above 65°F and more frequent extreme high temperatures will drive an increase in cooling degree days, change patterns of energy use and increase net electricity demand which could



strain the grid enough to force an outage. An analysis conducted for The New York Times by the [Climate Impact Lab](#), says we saw about 7 days per year over 90 degrees in 1970, compared to 9 days per year in 2015, by the time you would be 80 years old in 2050, you will likely see 21 days over 90 degrees.

The flip side of that increased heat in the summer months is that there will be fewer days below 32° and 0°, with the greatest changes to be seen in the fall (10-16 fewer days below 32° by 2050) and spring (6-14 fewer days). We think about cold weather in terms of the need for heating shelters, and concern about winter storms knocking out power – these concerns don't necessarily change with fewer days below freezing. However, fewer very cold days may impact the life cycle of certain insects and other species, such as ticks. East Longmeadow may see earlier insect emergence and expansion in the geographic range and pop size of tree pests such as the hemlock woolly adelgid, emerald ash borer, and southern pine beetle.

This can also impact agricultural operations - unusually warm winters like the ones we have had recently lead to early release from dormancy in perennial plants and damage from late winter or spring cold. In 2016 peach crops in the northern half of the Northeast were affected in this way with almost total losses. Grapes, apples, cherries, and other fruit crops in this region suffered widespread losses following cold conditions after warm winters in 2010 and 2012.

Roads - This trend may also indicate an increase in the frequency of the freeze frost cycle, something that we have seen in recent years wreaking havoc on highway departments as it leads to increased maintenance needs and increased costs in anti-icing measures in areas that previously rarely had mid-winter thawing and freezing rain. It is important for the Town to document the amount currently being spent fixing potholes as this is a concrete number that can be used to track an immediate impact of the climate crisis in the community.

Annual precipitation in the basin is expected to increase by +1.3 to +6.2" by 2050s and by up to 8.3" by the end of the century. Rainfall is expected to increase in spring and winter months in particular. Understanding that both winter precipitation and winter temperatures could increase in future decades, we can expect more of this precipitation to fall as rain instead of snow. There are all sorts of human and environmental impacts that could result from this change including reduced snow cover for winter recreation and tourism, less spring snow melt to replenish aquifers, higher levels of winter runoff, and lower spring river flows for aquatic ecosystems. Interestingly, this may leave some infrastructure more vulnerable to damages from deep freezes. Pipes are especially vulnerable to freezing if they are exposed to outside air. "Wind chill," can play a major role in accelerating ice blockage, and thus bursting, in water pipes.

One of the most pronounced changes in climate in the Northeast —more than any region of the U.S. - during the past several decades has been a 71% increase in the frequency of extreme precipitation events since the mid-1990s. The climate projections suggest that the frequency of high-intensity rainfall and storm events will continue to trend upward. Again, we see the greatest changes in the spring and winter. These are the types of storms that cause flooding, erosion, and pollutant runoff



from agricultural activities. Flooding that results from a single intense downpour can cause widespread damage to property and critical infrastructure. High-intensity rainfall events mobilize pollutants such as sediments and nutrients and pose a threat to surface water quality. Other effects of more intense downpours include: more inland flooding as soils become saturated and stop absorbing more water; rise in creek and river flows; and failure of storm water systems as their capacity is exceeded.

Rainfall is expected to increase in spring and winter. Conversely, we will see increasing consecutive dry days in summer and fall. When coupled with variable precipitation patterns and higher temperatures, increasing consecutive dry days in summer and fall can deplete groundwater and intensify droughts, like the one we experienced across the Commonwealth in the summer of 2016. More frequent droughts could also exacerbate the impacts of floods by damaging vegetation that could otherwise help mitigate flooding impacts. Droughts can also weaken tree root systems, making them more susceptible to toppling during high wind events. Also increases the risk of wild fire.

To summarize, some of the more daunting climate challenges facing East Longmeadow are:

- More extreme storm events/precipitation
- More extreme heat
- Warm winters and spring cold

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities refer to favorable external factors that could give the town a competitive advantage implementing the strategies (actions) recommended in this chapter. Massachusetts commitment to climate action and sustainability, combined with the region's commitment are significant opportunities for East Longmeadow to act on this plan's recommendations for energy efficiency, green initiatives and resiliency to climate change. Just as the research for this plan was wrapping up Governor Baker signed the 2021 Massachusetts Climate Legislation. This amendment to and strengthening of the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act will ensure availability of funding in Massachusetts for energy efficiency (reduction in GHG emissions) and clean energy generation for the foreseeable future and beyond. It also includes Environmental Justice (EJ) siting requirements for power as well as things like sector benchmarks and climate requirements for DPU when approving new infrastructure. This amended legislation combined with the States existing commitment to climate adaptation manifest in the MVP program, are significant opportunities for East Longmeadow as they do line up funding for many of the specific actions/strategies identified in this plan. Additional favorable factors facilitating advancement of this plan include the enthusiasm and support for climate action and resilience expressed by the vast majority of residents, town officials and staff, business owners, students and visitors and workers who participated in this resilient master plan development process.



The co-benefits of climate action and resilience are also compelling factors that enhance the likelihood of East Longmeadow's success implementing the strategies. Co-benefits include: saving money; improving public health; creating good-paying locally owned jobs; more money circulating in the local economy; improved air and water quality; enhanced public safety; reduced maintenance costs; reduced risks and an improved ability to accurately project municipal budget needs into the future.

Challenges refer to factors that have the potential to make it difficult for the town to succeed with implementation. As many people have observed, challenges, depending upon how one looks at them, can be transformed into opportunities. This plan could be thought of as a challenge, as it lifts up more than 100 actions the town needs to take to move toward the chosen sustainable future, possibly making the implementation of them all less likely than if there were fewer of them. The presence of these recommendations, and their publication, delivery to the state agency that funded this plan, and enshrinement in the records of the Planning Board and Town Council when they vote to adopt this plan could turn that 'challenge' into an opportunity. Many communities dramatic and measurable success enhancing sustainability and climate resilience while boosting local revenues, increasing tourism and the community's visibility and desirability (eg. Asheville NC, Northampton MA) provide the evidence to rebut any proposed challenge to implementing the actions/strategies identified in this plan.





PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES ELEMENT TECHNICAL PAPER

OVERVIEW

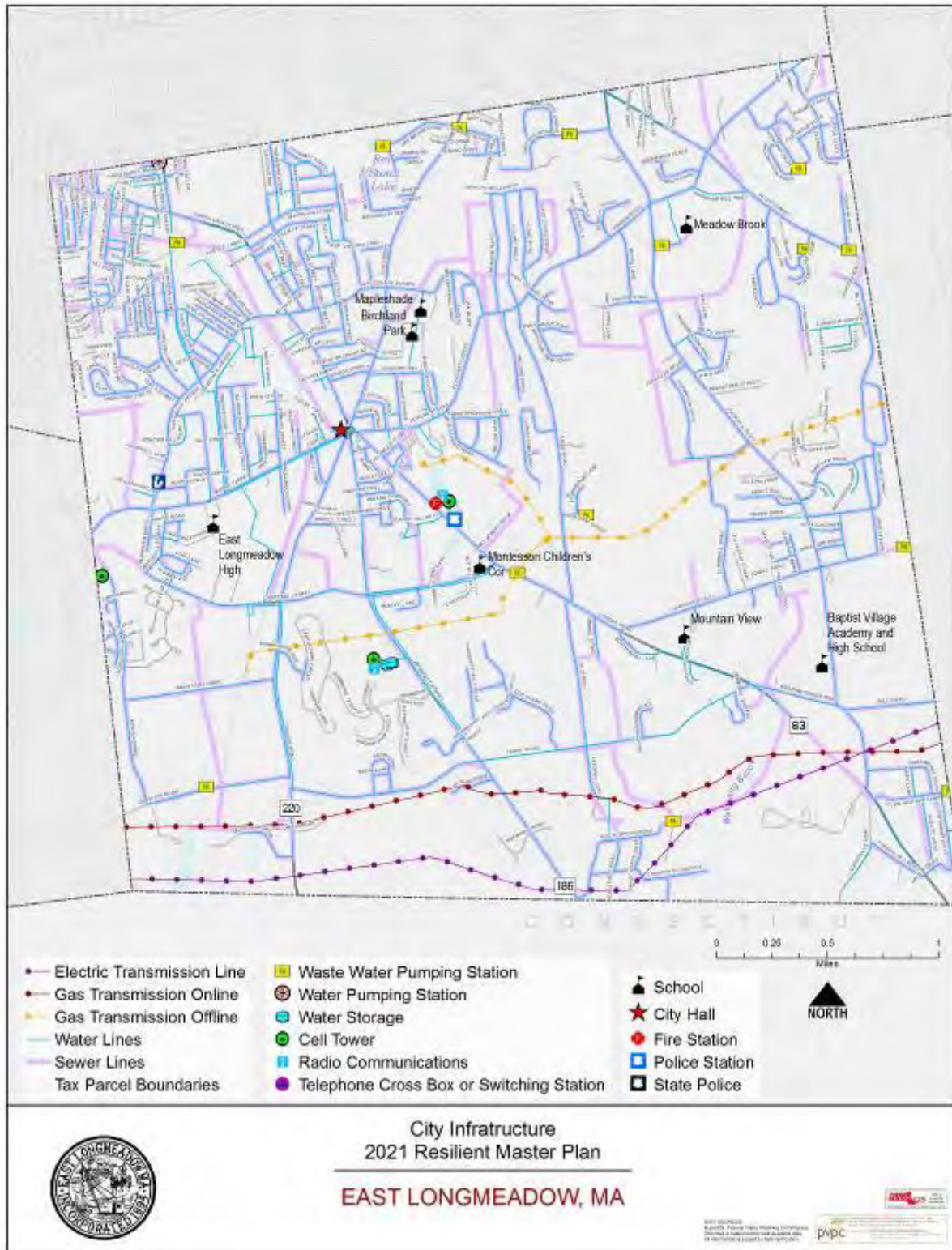
The Public Services and Facilities element of a master plan helps guide decisions and develop a plan relevant to public buildings, utilities and infrastructure in order to meet future needs for the community. Police, fire and public works, along with the infrastructure that is necessary for these services, are vital for the town to function properly. Likewise, local decisions about how and what public services and facilities are funded and built will be critical in determining the direction the town takes in future development and continued governance.

The Town's ability to provide adequate facilities depends on effective capital planning and a commitment to implementation by the town, asset management policies, and the revenues for the town to use to support those operations and maintenance requirements. East Longmeadow receives little funding from non-local sources and relies on its residents and businesses for financial support, in addition to grants that the town would need to administer.

Some Key Findings:

- Generally, residents are satisfied with the level of public services they receive from the town.
- The Town takes advantage of state programs that exist to help fund building and infrastructure improvements in East Longmeadow, like the *Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness* program which helps towns plan for and implement resiliency projects that respond to climate change risks and the federal Hazard Mitigation program that makes the Town eligible for federal disaster recovery funds. This plan suggests the town work to achieve *Green Communities* designation that will help fund energy efficiency upgrades to municipal buildings, taking better advantage of cost savings as DPW and facility managers have already identified areas for improvement and greater efficiency.
- East Longmeadow has an aging population that is overwhelmingly interested in aging in place. Public services and facilities will need to be expanded and adjusted to meet the needs of this demographic.
- Federal requirements, such as the new MS4 stormwater permit, will continue to require ongoing effort by the Town to remain in compliance.

Map 8-1 Infrastructure Map



INVENTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Public Water

East Longmeadow receives its public water from the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission (SWSC), where it is treated before distribution. The drinking water supply originates from a surface water supply, Cobble Mountain Reservoir, located in Blandford, Massachusetts. An additional surface water supply that feeds into Cobble Mountain Reservoir, contributes to the system's combined water supply capacity of 25 billion gallons.

The reservoir water flows to the West Parish Filters Treatment Plant, in Westfield, Massachusetts, filtering through slow and rapid sand filtration, treated to inhibit corrosion of home plumbing, adjusted for pH, and disinfected before it flows to the underground storage tanks in Agawam. Clean drinking water is supplied, at an annual average rate of 35 million gallons per day to Springfield, Agawam, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and Ludlow, through 617 miles of underground piping network of large transmission mains and small sized distribution mains.

In East Longmeadow, there are four connections to the Springfield water supply system: Elm Street, Harkness Avenue, North Main Street, and Dwight Road.

Wastewater

The Sewer Division of the East Longmeadow Department of Public Works is responsible for the safe and efficient transmission of the raw sewage from its underground pipe network to the treatment plant located at Springfield's Bondi's Island. Sewage flows in pipes either by gravity or through forced pressure created by a network of pump stations throughout town. The Sewer Division oversees maintenance of more than 114 miles of pipe and the upkeep of seventeen pump stations.

Dams

There are several dams that are relics of the agricultural activity in town, including two on Freshwater Brook, north and south of Denslow Road; one in Jawbuck Brook in the Deer Park Industrial Park; and two on the Bluebird Estates property. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Dam Safety is the agency responsible for regulating dams in the state. To be regulated, these dams are in excess of 6 feet in height and have more than 15 acre feet of storage capacity. The dam regulations enacted in 2005 transferred significant responsibilities for dams from the state to dam owners, including the responsibility to conduct dam inspections.

East Longmeadow has five dams located in town. Although, the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan identified that the Blue Bird Acres Pond dam is no longer a dam. According to the Office of Dam Safety, the dams included:



Dam Name	Owner	Hazard Potential
Blue Bird Acres Pond Dam	No Record for Privately Owned Non-Jurisdictional Dam	N/A
Heritage Park Pond Dam	Town of East Longmeadow	N/A
Wetstone Pond #1 Dam	JSTW Limited Partnership	Low
Wetstone Pond #2 Dam	No Record for Privately Owned Non-Jurisdictional Dam	N/A
Wetstone Tobacco Co. #3	Town of East Longmeadow	Low

The failure of a low hazard dam would not cause any personal injury and is not anticipated to affect a significant amount of the land area in East Longmeadow.

Telecommunications/IT

The availability of broadband technology plays a major role in advancing development, as the saying goes, “Be Wired or Be Fired”. Companies are less likely to move to a community that does not have dependable broadband service. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, broadband and high-speed internet connections were necessary for residents who needed to work from home and for students who were schooled from home.

Currently, East Longmeadow has moderate broadband internet coverage with fifteen internet providers (of those, six companies offer residential service). Residents have raised issues with internet service and its reliability, and 83.4 percent of survey respondents reported it is “very or somewhat important” to improve internet access and speeds. Additional comments suggested that the town should explore adding internet/cable options as a general development goal. Existing fiber optic line has been identified from the former MassMutual project that installed a fiber optic line between their Springfield and Enfield headquarters.

In October of 2020 the Town Manager appointed a Broadband Committee to study and report on the available broadband options for business and residents. A guiding document, "Planning for the Future of Broadband in East Longmeadow" is available on the Broadband Committee's page of the Town website.

Working forward from that document, the committee began to conduct research and assemble data from other communities, cable providers, and published sources to consider appropriate criteria the town might use in defining its role with respect to the future of broadband services in town. As future technology arrives, the expected advance of 5G wireless service will create an even more competitive environment, in which a return to the taxpayers on investment in capital and operating costs of municipal internet service does not, even on relatively cursory analysis, make economic sense, at least for the present. One of the committee’s priorities has been to develop a framework for future analysis to explore the future of broadband in the community.



MUNICIPAL FACILITIES & SERVICES

Town Hall, 60 Center Square

The Town Hall is located at 60 Center Square in East Longmeadow, a two-story building consisting of two connected structures. The original two-story town hall building was constructed in 1882 with brownstone masonry. An addition was added to the original building in 1967, composed of steel. The Town Hall is not fully accessible and in compliance with 521 CMR Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Regulations. There is no elevator in the building.

Most of the town government, the town staff, some of its boards and commissions, are based at the Town Hall at 60 Center Square. Public meetings are usually held at the Council on Aging or the School Superintendent Conference Room. Some of the departments are listed below:

- Building Department
- Department of Public Works
- Tax Collector/Treasurer
- Town Clerk
- Town Council
- Town Assessor
- Health Department
- Planning and Community Development Department
- Town Manager

The hours of operations for each department and board vary. Some town services are available online through the Town's website. Residents and developers can access municipal information, download permit and application forms, and pay bills online.

The community survey indicates general satisfaction with the majority of town services.

Town Administration

The East Longmeadow Charter sets up the local government into the legislative branch and the executive branch. The legislative branch is led by an elected seven member Town Council. The Council is elected to meet, deliberate, act and vote in the exercise of the corporate business of the Town. The Council hires and evaluates the Town Manager. The Town Manager represents the executive branch who creates budgets and oversees day to day operations in town government.

Council on Aging (COA) and Senior Center, 328 N. Main Street

With an aging Baby Boomer population and people living longer than previous generations, the number of residents living over the age of 60 is increasing. In 2019, 22 percent of the total East Longmeadow population were age 65 years old or older, an increase of 19 percent from 2010. The Council on Aging, an essential town department, serves the senior residents and the rest of the community by organizing and hosting social and health-related activities and keeping seniors informed about available programs and resources. The Council on Aging operates its programming in a 100-year-old school, shared with the Recreation Department. The COA is supported by over 100 volunteers. Some of the activities that the Council of Aging supports include book clubs, field trips, exercise opportunities, social hours, meals, etc. The Council on Aging provides Senior Van



Service Monday through Friday between 9 AM – 3 PM with the *Tri Town Trolley*, a program to take seniors to various appointments, as well as shopping.

East Longmeadow Housing Authority, 81 Quarry Hill

The mission of the East Longmeadow Housing Authority is to provide decent, safe, affordable housing for the low-income elderly, veterans, disabled and families. The Authority offers priority to East Longmeadow residents and veterans. The Authority was established in 1959 and provides housing for over 219 low-income tenants, and runs four housing programs which include Elderly, Congregate, Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program and Family.

The Housing Authority oversees 188 elderly/handicapped units located at the Village Green, Inward Commons, Quarry Hill, and the McLaren House.

East Longmeadow Police Department, 160 Somers Road

The East Longmeadow Police Department is established by the citizens to provide the town with a high level of safety, security, and service. As an enforcement agency of local government, the police department has the responsibility for the preservation of public peace and for the effective delivery of a wide variety of police service.

The police station has been identified as a facility that can be improved as it is a “bunker-style” facility from the 1970s and needs upgrades. The Police and Fire Chiefs have suggested a new public safety complex that combines both the police and fire services.

East Longmeadow Fire Department, 150 Somers Road

The mission of the East Longmeadow Fire Department is to protect lives, environment, and property by providing a fire safe community through preparedness, a coordinated public education program, and inspection services for development.

The fire station at 150 Somers Road serves as the emergency operations center. The Fire Chief has suggested that the fire station is “tired” despite having recent roof and furnace upgrades. A public safety complex is being explored to house both police and fire operations.

East Longmeadow Public Library, 60 Center Square

Since its founding in 1896, the East Longmeadow Public Library has grown from its location in the previous Select Board’s Office in Town Hall to the two-story building it is in today. The current public library building opened in February 2004, adjacent to the historic Town Hall. An acoustic deficiency has been identified in the library where sounds converge in certain areas. The Historical Commission has a local history room, housed in the East Longmeadow Public Library.

The town library, led by the Library Director and the Board of Trustees, offers programming, books and media resources for the community. The East Longmeadow Public Library is a member of the Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing (CW/MARS) network. Residents have access to 8.1 million items waiting to be enjoyed in the shared catalog. The library relies on funding from the town for its operation. During the pandemic, the library became even more important, especially in collaboration with the school system. Library services for school-aged



children are the most heavily utilized programming resource; however, the library has identified a gap for programming for teenagers and “tweens.” This past year the library expanded its services by providing curbside pick-up. Continuing its important role in the community, 2020 has been a year where over 1 million audio and e-books were checked out in the CW/MARS system that the library belongs to – the highest year ever for digital checkouts.

Transfer Station, 170 Somers Street

Bulky items and yard waste are accepted by the town at the Transfer Station at 170 Somers Street, behind the Police Station. The transfer station is open two days a week to residents with a valid transfer station sticker.

The DPW Director’s Office and the operations for the department are mostly run at Town Hall. The DPW’s list of responsibilities includes divisions: Utilities, Sewer, Water, Highway, Stormwater, and Building Facilities Management.

Areas of Concern

Some of the area’s concerns that the DPW would be responsible for is the storm sewer system, which can be overtaxed when a storm event hits. The town is subject to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s Municipal Small Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations, regulating and managing stormwater runoff for pollution and erosion control. The town continues to explore and understand, in accordance with its Community Resilience Building Workshop Summary of Findings in 2019, the ability of the Town to integrate the use of Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure (GI) techniques within town practices and bylaws that govern development.

The transportation infrastructure of which DPW continues to maintain includes undersized culverts and storm sewer systems that have contributed to local street flooding on Elm and North Main Streets. Some ideas of green infrastructure like rain gardens and permeable pavement can be installed to reduce the strength and volume of water entering the undersized culverts. These types of mitigating features that the DPW reviews are in their purview.

The community survey provoked free response comments stating that roads were important for the general development goals of the town and improving the roads and sidewalks of the town is very important. Road maintenance is addressed in the *Transportation* element of this Plan.

East Longmeadow Public Schools (ELPS)

East Longmeadow operates its own school system, governed by a 5-member elected School Committee. According to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, East Longmeadow has a total of 2,404 enrolled students across the five schools listed below in the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment is expected to increase. „

- Birchland Park Middle School (Grades 6-8)
- East Longmeadow High School (Grades 9-12)
- Mapleshade Elementary School (Grades 3-5)
- Meadow Brook Elementary School (Grades PK-2)
- Mountain View Elementary School (Grades 3-5)



According to the 2019 Annual Report for the Town, ELPS students graduate at the rate of 98.5 percent in four years, completing their degree, and go onto higher education at 87 percent going to a two- or a four-year college. Other graduates go into other fields of endeavor building off their education in the ELPS schools with 3.2 percent joining the military and 2.3 moving into work apprenticeships or beginning to work in a job.

East Longmeadow Public Schools began accepting school choice students this year (2021). Fifteen students were added to ELPS enrollment, with 12 from Springfield. At least 9 ELPS students sought education outside the district, choosing TEC Connections Academy Commonwealth Virtual School District, a virtual academy. Out of the surrounding communities, East Longmeadow sent four students to Longmeadow School District.

The school district has prioritized replacement or renovation of the high school building as stated in a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Authority. A School Facilities Master Plan was completed in 2013. The Plan outlined work to repair or replace the existing building, built in 1960 and has outdated space for instruction.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Services for Current and Future Needs

Despite the challenges of town government and tight budgets, East Longmeadow is meeting local needs. New needs have emerged however, including the need for an intergenerational community center and for the previously mentioned Public Safety complex.

Building Maintenance and Accessibility

As a small town with finite resources, the continued maintenance and operations of public buildings can be a strain. Several of the town's properties are in need of substantial capital improvements. The Town Hall does not have an elevator and some other facilities including the high school, fire and police stations, recreation department and senior center, have been identified as facilities where improvements can be realized to improve bring service delivery.

Community Development Block Grants can be used to fund accessibility upgrades where identified, but may not be used for general building maintenance.

Maintaining the Master Plan

The East Longmeadow Resilient Master Plan, when adopted by the Planning Board, should be maintained over time. A master plan is designed as a blueprint and will evolve over time as recommendations are implemented and conditions change in the town. A Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee should be formed to oversee implementation of the plan, engaging boards, committees, and town staff, and overseeing evaluation using the metrics identified in the plan. The town should celebrate implementation as the actions are achieved.

Climate Action Municipal Vulnerability and Hazard Mitigation Planning

According to the community survey, 42.6 percent of the respondents considered the production of more electricity from solar, wind, or hydro, an issue that needs immediate attention. As the Town



prioritizes energy efficiency, reducing emissions, and responding to the impacts of climate change, acting on the recommendation to become a certified Green Community would help achieve this goal as certification includes an immediate grant award to implement energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings and can also be used to advance clean energy such as solar, wind and hydro-power. New development should support adaptation to anticipated climatic changes and should align with statewide and regional goals towards reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) define Hazard Mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards such as flooding, storms, high winds, hurricanes, wildfires, earthquakes, etc. Mitigation efforts undertaken by communities will help to minimize damages to buildings and infrastructure, such as water supplies, sewers, and utility transmission lines, as well as natural, cultural and historic resources.

Planning efforts make mitigation a proactive process. Pre-disaster planning emphasizes actions that can be taken before a natural disaster occurs. Future property damage and loss of life can be reduced or prevented by a mitigation program that addresses the unique geography, demography, economy, and land use of a community within the context of each of the specific potential natural hazards that may threaten a community. Preparing a Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan before a disaster occurs can save the community money and will facilitate post-disaster funding. Costly repairs or replacement of buildings and infrastructure, as well as the high cost of providing emergency services and rescue/recovery operations, can be avoided or significantly lessened if a community implements the mitigation measures detailed in the Plan. FEMA requires that a community adopt a pre-disaster mitigation plan as a condition for mitigation funding.

East Longmeadow developed a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in 2016 with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. This plan is due for an update in 2022 as FEMA requires that HMP plans be updated every five years.

Recognizing that climate change will continue to exacerbate the threats and hazards Massachusetts communities face, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) created the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. East Longmeadow's Resilient Master Plan is being funded through this program. This program provides funding for towns to plan for and implement climate-change resiliency projects. The town remains eligible to apply for additional action grants to fund resiliency projects.

Community Resilience

Community services and facilities play an important role in the Town's ability to respond to challenges and disasters.

- The siting of future town-owned facilities plays a role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, especially if located in a walkable or easily accessible neighborhood where the visitors do not have to rely on a vehicle to get there.
- *Green Communities* designation would bring funding to continue East Longmeadow on the path of retrofitting facilities with energy efficient lighting, appliances, heating and cooling systems, etc to reduce power consumption.



- Community facilities can also be used to generate power. This includes solar canopies over parking lots, or solar installations on flat roofs, which the town continues to permit.
- The Town could incorporate healthy community policies around transportation, energy, and healthy eating as a way to set an example to residents and increase awareness.
- Inclusiveness, transparency, and encouraging involvement in town government helps to build trust and common bonds across residents.



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

Implementation is a critical step in the Master Plan process. The Implementation Plan is a step-by-step guide for East Longmeadow to follow over the coming years to ensure that the Master Plan recommendations are put into action. Implementing the Master Plan will require a concerted and ongoing effort on the part of the town's elected and appointed officials, volunteers and dedicated citizens. The actions that the town takes now will create a lasting legacy for future generations.

We exist in an ever changing world with ever expanding and increasing social and technological advances requiring that planning must be an iterative process whereby a community should continually evaluate and respond to new external and internal circumstances and challenges as well as changes in the goals and desires of its residents. This Master Plan has a planning horizon of approximately 15 years: that is, planning needs are evaluated and recommendations are made based on their projected benefit over the same timeline. However, the Implementation Plan only has a much shorter timeframe in the sense that most of the Master Plan strategies are targeted to be commenced within the next three-six years. The Planning Board should periodically revisit the Master Plan to determine whether its goals and general strategies are still appropriate to the town. The town should facilitate a public review of the document, modify the goals and strategies as necessary, and prepare a new Implementation Plan for the subsequent six years. The town should consider reviewing the status of its Master Plan around 2030, at which time conditions in the town could have changed and a new plan will be needed to address the challenges that these conditions present.

Implementation Action Plan

The Implementation Action Plan summarizes all of the Master Plan strategies in a matrix format that identifies the approximate timeline and the group(s) responsible for implementing each one. The strategies are divided according to the element in the master plan that is addressed. Most of the actions will cost little or no money to implement because they can be brought about by Town Council vote or other action to change local policies. In some cases, the town may need to devote staff resources or hire a consultant to assist with this process (e.g., to help prepare zoning changes). The Town's



Planning and Community Development Director may take the place of a consultant in many of these recommendations. Some of the actions that involve facility or infrastructure improvements will require the expenditure of funds, which may come from the town, the state, and/or other sources.

In the "Timeframe/Priority" column of the Action Plan matrices, actions are classified as either Short Term (indicating action within 12-24 months), Medium Term (indicating action within 2-5 years), and Long Term (indicating action within 5+ years). Many of these strategies are ongoing, indicating action that should be continually repeated and expanded as necessary. All items and strategies within this Master Plan are important however, and the priority designation is simply a means to prioritize generally among all the actions contained within the plan. A number of actions will require state involvement and/or major capital expenditures may require more than six years to implement. Many strategies are linked to one another, requiring much effort in the early phases to lay the groundwork for future progress. The feasibility of implementing certain strategies will be dependent on the town's ability to set the foundation with a number of the shorter-term strategies and allow the longer-term strategies build from those efforts.

A. Protecting the natural environment							
Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Timeframe	Funding	Resources	
A-1	Discuss protection of East Longmeadow's scenic vistas, including undeveloped lands, concentrated farmlands, and viewsheds.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission	Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning	
A-2	Investigate protection of scenic roads and roadway trees through the passage of the Scenic Roads Act, including Somers Road, among others. Coordinate with Complete Streets where feasible.	Planning Board	Tree Warden, Conservation Commission	Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations	
A-3	Explore increased density for all household types and abilities in appropriate areas near existing services and examine an Open Space Residential Development Zoning Bylaw to better protect open space and natural resources.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission	Ongoing	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Volunteer time, staff time, consultant	Housing Production Plan in 2021
A-4	Require adequate vegetated buffers next to wetlands, streams and rivers to filter stormwater runoff and to allow room for river migration and expansion during heavy storms.	Conservation Commission	Planning Board, Building Department	Medium-Term			
A-5	Work with farmers to pursue land preservation strategies and succession planning as appropriate.	Planning and Community Development Department	Possible ad-hoc Agriculture Committee	Long-Term	District Local technical Assistance (DLTA) funding via PVPC, Land Use Planning Grants EOEEA, regional MVP Action grant	Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), American Farmland Trust, PVPC Smart Growth Toolkit	
A-6	Create a new "Green Committee" to work on trails and open space, host events to promote sense of place and teach wayfinding.	Town Administrator	Planning & Community Development Department Conservation Commission	Short-Term	in-kind staff time	Staff time, Volunteer time	
A-7	Maintain seven-year updates to the Open Space and Recreation Plan that considers priorities for acquisition or protection of open space. This plan should include the following:	Conservation Commission	Department of Planning and Community development, Planning Board	Ongoing	DLTA funds via PVPC, DCR grants, One stop for Growth Community Planning Grants	Volunteer time, Consultant	
	a. A plan for connecting trails and greenways to provide corridors for recreation and wildlife.						
	b. A multi-use trail system that ties into existing trails, parks, cultural destinations, Center Square, and even to surrounding Towns, and designate trails for motorized and passive recreation according to the proximity of critical habitat areas. Incorporate disability-friendly upgrades into this effort.						
	c. A plan for town-owned recreational land and the stewardship and maintenance of these properties, particularly Heritage Park Lake.						
A-8	Conduct an alternatives and cost analysis for redesigning the manual outfall at the Heritage Park Lake outfall.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works	Medium-Term	Mass Works	Staff time, Consultant	
A-9	Update stormwater management bylaw to MS4 Permit standards.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works, Department of Planning and Community Development	Short-Term	Stormwater Enterprise fund? Clean Water State Revolving Fund MA DEP	Staff time, Consultant	
A-10	Create a town tree committee and develop a long-term planting plan. Collaborate with Springfield's new nursery.	Department of Public Works	Planning Board Conservation Commission Planning & Community Development Department	Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants Urban Forestry Grants	Staff time Volunteer time	

A-11	Improve drainage and identify areas at high risk for mosquito gestation via safe control methods; increase public awareness around mosquitos and vector-borne disease.	Health Department	Board of Health, DPW, Conservation Commission	Medium-Term	MA Community Compact grants	Mosquito Control Services (https://www.mass.gov/mosquito-control-services) https://www.mass.gov/info-details/pioneer-valley-mosquito-control-district-pvmcd#finance-updates		
A-12	Conduct a dam removal study for Jawbuck Dam (town-owned) and outreach to private dam owners to understand maintenance and safety concerns.	Department of Public Works	Board of Public Works, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Department of Planning and Community development	Long-Term	MA Dam and Seawall Repair and Removal Program	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/dam-and-seawall-repair-or-removal-program-grants-and-funds		
B. Sense of community								
Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Timeframe	Funding	Resources		
B-1	Work with residents to promote home occupations and cottage industries within their residential buildings while providing adequate protections for neighbors.	Department of Planning and Community development	Planning Board, ad-hoc economic development committee	Long-Term	MA Business Development Funds and Support, UMASS Amherst	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning, Western MA Economic Development Council	Business Development (https://www.mass.gov/service-details/business-development)	MA Small Business Development Center Network (https://www.msbdc.org/network.html)
B-2	Develop community gardens located near residential developments without yards.	Department of Planning and Community development	Planning Board	Medium-Term	Health New England, Baystate community benefit grants, Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts, High School Community Service project	Staff time, Volunteer time, PVPC Healthy Community Design ToolkitMunicipal Strategies to Increase Food Access , http://www.pvpc.org/projects/food-access		
B-3	Support agriculture through exploration of a Right-to-Farm Bylaw, appointment of an Agricultural Commission, and establish locations for farmers' markets, including a winter venue and conduct a "Buy Local" campaign.	Town Manager form Agricultural Commission	Planning Board, Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission	Long-Term	DLTA funding from DHCD via PVPC	PVPC Smart Growth Toolkit, CISA, Massachusetts Agricultural Commissions		
B-4	Support mixed-use housing development for all household types and abilities where appropriate and in accordance with the neighborhood character, not to detract from the local economy or amenities.	Planning Board	Department of Planning and Community Development, Housing Authority,	Ongoing	DLTA funding from DHCD via PVPC	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning		
B-5	Seek developers to revitalize vacant and blighted properties.	Planning and Community Development Department	Town Manager, Town Council	Medium-Term		MassDevelopment, Massachusetts Office of Business Development, W MA EDC		
B-6	Produce comprehensive maps and wayfinding of town open spaces and recreation facilities and resources identifying important features and amenities.	Recreation Department, Recreation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department, Department of Public Works	Long-Term	Complete Streets funding			
B-7	Develop an East Longmeadow Preservation Plan to note the past, present and future of historic preservation in East Longmeadow and prioritize local preservation goals.	East Longmeadow Historical Commission	Planning and Community Development Department, Other Town Agencies and Stakeholders	Short-Term	Community Preservation funds	PVPC, MHC, Preservation MA, National Barn Alliance, and other preservation plans and programs for reference	Seek training and develop an initial outline by the end of 2021	
B-8	Consider By-Laws that preserve cultural and historic resources in coordination with economic development efforts, such as Affirmative Maintenance Bylaws, Agricultural Preservation Bylaws, Archaeological Protection, Architectural Preservation Districts, Demolition Delay, Design and Site Plan Review, Scenic Roads, Local Historic Districts, and Village Center Zoning. Preservation Restrictions (PR) also support the protection of a building's character defining features.	Planning and Community Development Department	East Longmeadow Historical Commission, Property Owners	Ongoing	Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund	PVPC, Massachusetts Historic Commission	Begin to identify options by the end of 2021	

B-9	Determine best practices for long-term storage, digitization as backup for paper files, as well as a way to make these resources more accessible to the public.	East Longmeadow Library Director and Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Historical Commission, Town Clerk, local emergency response representatives	Ongoing	Preservation Grants for Veterans' Collections, Sites and Memorials, Regrant Program, Roving Archivist Program, Conserving & Digitizing Historical Resources LSTA Grant	COSTEP MA, MHC, Preservation MA, MA State Historical Records Advisory Board, MA Libraries Board of Library Commissioners, MA Cultural Council, Simmons School of Library and Information Science West, Mt. Holyoke College; New England Museum Association; Community Preservation Committee	Prepare list of collections	
B-10	Update the current East Longmeadow Community Preservation Plan to guide the East Longmeadow Community Preservation Committee outreach process, educate the public, and outline future funding priorities, particularly for homeowners. Use the Master Plan as a guide for this.	Community Preservation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department	Ongoing	Community Preservation funds	Community Preservation Coalition		
B-11	Consider developing a building maintenance guide to make available to local property owners with a particular emphasis on special considerations for the preservation for older buildings.	Planning and Community Development Department, Emergency Management Director, and East Longmeadow Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer	Emergency Management Director, Historical Commission, Library Director, Property Owners (if not municipally owned), Local Emergency Planning Committee, local police and fire department representatives	Medium-Term	Community Preservation funds	COSTEP MA, MEMA, PVPC, MHC, NPS		
B-12	Foster in-town and regional partnerships for ongoing and key seasonal events and programmatic offerings and strengthening East Longmeadow's existing historic and cultural resources.	Planning and Community Development Department, initially to convene	Library Director and Board, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Department, Friends of Norcross Center, Inc., Community Partnership Council of East Longmeadow, Wilbraham, and Hampden, East of the River Five Town Chamber of Commerce (ERCs), local business leaders and groups like the Rotary Club and Lions Club, local agricultural representatives	Short-Term		MA Cultural Council, Agricultural Marketing Resource Center, Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions, Community Foundation of Western MA, Pioneer Valley History Network, Mass Humanities, Massachusetts History Alliance,		
B-13	Pursue creative forms of memory catching like oral histories of local residents and volunteer transcriptions and ensure the long-term stability of these collections.	East Longmeadow Library Director and Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Historical Commission, Town Clerk, local emergency response representatives	Short-Term	Preservation Grants for Veterans' Collections, Sites and Memorials; Regrant Program; Roving Archivist Program; Conserving & Digitizing Historical Resources LSTA Grant	COSTEP MA, MHC, Preservation MA, MA State Historical Records Advisory Board, MA Libraries Board of Library Commissioners, MA Cultural Council, Simmons School of Library and Information Science West, Mt. Holyoke College; New England Museum Association; Community Preservation Committee		
B-14	Prepare a progressive Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan that includes historic and cultural resources and programming, existing recreational facilities, and conservation trails while maintaining ADA-related amenities	East Longmeadow ADA	Planning and Community Development Department, East Longmeadow Historical Commission, East Longmeadow Council on Aging, all stakeholder property owners	Short-Term		PVPC, MHC, NPS, Massachusetts Office of Disability, New England ADA Center, National Center on Accessibility, other regional examples of plans related to historic and cultural resource		

B-15	Support services for senior, disadvantaged residents, and veterans. Strengthen the programs at the Council on Aging to include continued outreach services, health, nutrition, and recreation programs.	Town Manager	Town Council, Council on Aging, Veterans' Agent	Ongoing				
B-16	Provide intergenerational opportunities for engagement with school-aged residents and seniors.	Council on Aging	School Department	Ongoing				
B-17	Create a Citizens' Academy. Promote citizen engagement by providing classes, information, and events where participants learn about the different functions of local government including volunteering opportunities and service on town boards, committees and commissions.	Town Manager	IT Department, Planning and Community Development Department	Ongoing				
B-18	Identify where vulnerable residents, including the disabled and the elderly, live for check-ins and partner with the Council on Aging and utilities as necessary to complete this list.	Council on Aging	Local Emergency Planning Committee, National Grid, Police Department, Fire Department	Short-Term	Baystate Community Benefits grants, Health New England grants, MAC	MA Councils on Aging Grants https://mcoaonline.com/grants/		
B-19	Ensure sign-up for Rave Reverse 911 communications system is easily accessible and conduct an outreach campaign to achieve 100% participation for Rave.	EMD	Police Department, Fire Department, Council on Aging	Ongoing	Staff time	Staff time, Volunteer Time		
B-20	Improve town outreach and communication internally, and externally to residents for purposes of civic engagement and emergency response preparedness.	Town Manager	Town Council, Council on Aging, School Department, EMD	Ongoing	MVP Action Grants			
C. Center Square								
Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Timeframe	Funding	Resources		
C-1	Review local crash data and advance safety in high crash areas in East Longmeadow.	East Longmeadow DPW	East Longmeadow Police Department, MassDOT, PVPC	Ongoing	PVPC Local Technical Assistance	https://apps.impact.dot.state.ma.us/cdp/home		
C-2	Consider adopting a Town Center Overlay District using the new Mixed Use Village District bylaw to create incentives for desired town center uses such as office, commercial, retail, residential and civic uses.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department		DLTA funds via PVPC	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning		
C-3	Pursue safety and traffic improvements to enhance access to local businesses and frequently traveled points.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC	Ongoing	Complete Streets funding	Sidewalk Master Plan		
C-4	Study alternatives to the center-turn lane on Shaker Road.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT	Long-Term				
C-5	Improve the streetscape within the right-of-way along North Main Street to allow safer vehicular and pedestrian access and improve corridor appearance.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT	Ongoing				
C-6	Begin mapping cultural assets and explore the potential of an East Longmeadow Center Cultural District.	East Longmeadow Cultural Council	Planning and Community Development Department, Library Director and Board of Trustees, Friends of Norcross Center, Inc., EL HS Fine Arts Department, Rotary Club, East Longmeadow ADA, other stakeholders	Short-Term		PVPC, MA Cultural Council Rep and District Coordinator	Outreach to the MA Cultural Council as soon as possible as there is a queue for assistance	
C-7	Complete feasibility study for public safety complex.	Town Manager	Fire Department, Police Department, Town Council					
C-8	Improve condition and accessibility of sidewalks and crosswalks throughout the town center and along the streets leading to the rotary.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC	Ongoing		Sidewalk Master Plan		
C-9	Consider expanding the Rail Trail both north to Springfield and south to Connecticut enhancing North Main Street.	Town of East Longmeadow	MassDOT / PVPC	Long-Term				
D. Resilient balanced growth								
Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Timeframe	Funding	Resources		
D-1	Assess town permitting procedures to improve small business experience.	Planning and Community Development Department	Other Permitting Agencies	Short-term	District Local Technical Assistance	Permitting Guides, PVPC		
D-2	Review and revise Subdivision Rules and Regulations and planned unit residential development zoning to promote permanently preserved open spaces, agricultural lands, forest lands, and other natural resources by clustering development where least impactful to those resources; focus on enforcement mechanisms.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission	Medium-Term	District Local Technical Assistance	Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Zoning and Subdivision Regulations		

D-3	Create mechanisms for transfers of development rights (TDRs) from the key resource areas and existing agricultural lands to village centers, the town center, and other specific areas of town where denser development may be more appropriate.	Planning Board	Planning and Community Development Department, Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission	Medium-Term		Volunteer time, PVPC Best Practices Model Bylaw		
D-4	Perform regular traffic data collection to assess existing travel speeds, pedestrian volume, bicycle volume, vehicle volume and truck volume at key locations in the Town.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC	Ongoing		PVPC Traffic Counting Program; http://www.pvpc.org/projects/traffic-counting-system	The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) collects daily traffic count information at sample locations across the region. PVPC member communities can request up to 2 free counts per calendar year.	
D-5	Continue to monitor pavement condition through regular data collection and advance pavement maintenance and improvement projects based on the results of the 2017 Local Pavement Management study.	East Longmeadow DPW	PVPC	Ongoing		East Longmeadow 2017 Pavement Management Report/PVPC 2018 pavement management data		
D-6	Consider an in-depth study of all existing traffic signals and multi-way stop sign-controlled intersections in Town. Identify opportunities to fund the design and construction of intersection improvements.	East Longmeadow DPW	MassDOT	Medium-Term		Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program		
D-7	Conduct assessments as necessary to ensure the transportation infrastructure complies with ADA Accessibility requirements.	East Longmeadow DPW	Council on Aging	Ongoing				
D-8	Continue to participate in and advance improvement projects as part of the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.	East Longmeadow School Department	East Longmeadow Police Department, East Longmeadow DPW	Ongoing		Safe Routes to School	https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school	
D-9	Plan for Affordable Housing with creation of <i>Housing Production Plan</i> and submit to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for approval.	Planning and Community Development Department	Planning Board, Housing Authority	Ongoing		Volunteer time, PVPC	Town currently working on this.	
D-10	Explore the benefits of adopting an Accessory Apartment (In-law) Zoning Bylaw.	Planning and Community Development Department	Planning Board, Housing Committee	Short-Term		Volunteer time, staff time, consultant		
D-11	Take advantage of State programs such as the new One Stop for Growth to secure funding to implement the projects that result from adoption of the Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy.	Planning and Community Development Department	East Longmeadow DPW	Ongoing	PVPC Local Technical Assistance 15 hours to assist with grant writing	MVP Statement of Findings Report, Hazard Mitiation Plan	Community One Stop for Growth (https://www.mass.gov/guides/community-one-stop-for-growth)	
D-12	Invest in facilities and staff to ensure the Town's education system continues to prosper and modernize. The Town should continue to support the East Longmeadow Public Schools Facilities Plan, providing for continued advocacy for a revitalized high school building and thinking of the building as a community hub for activities and events.	School Committee	Superintendent, Town Council	Ongoing				
D-13	Establish mechanisms and policies linking the Master Plan to staff, board and commission work plans, budgets, and capital projects.	Form Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee	Planning and Community Development Department, Planning Board, Town Manager	Ongoing		Volunteer Time, Consultant		
	▪ Gradually phase out the Resilient Master Plan Committee charged with this Master Plan development, and replace with Resilient Master Plan Implementation Committee reporting to the Town Manager.							
	▪ Use the Master Plan recommendations and implementation table as a guide of decision making.							
	▪ Convene regular all Town Boards, Committees and Commissions Meeting to share progress on implementing the Master Plan and discussing change of priorities and plans. Provide a summary informational report for the Town to track progress and monitor accountability.							
E. Ensuring sustainability								
Strategy #	Strategy	Primary	Others	Timeframe	Funding	Resources		

E-1	Become a certified Green Community which includes energy efficiency audits at all municipal buildings and infrastructure and implementation of work to reduce energy use (paid for by the state), assuring as of right permitting for research and development/manufacturing related to clean energy; adopting a fuel-efficient vehicle policy, expanding EV charging stations, and the stretch building code.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Building Department, DPW, School Department, Town Council, Town Administrator, Planning Board	Short-term	MA Department of Energy Resources Green Communities TA via PVPC	Staff time, PVPC, National Grid for no cost energy savings assessment		
E-2	Review the proposed Green Infrastructure and Climate Resiliency policy and consider its adoption.	Department of Planning and Community Development	DPW, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Public Works	Medium-Term	Staff time, Volunteer time	MVP Action grants for implementation, Green Communities designation and competitive grants for implementation, such as EV charging stations		
E-3	Identify opportunities to extend the Redstone Rail Trail to the north. Coordinate with the PVPC and City of Springfield to identify future opportunities to connect with existing and planned bicycle facilities.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Recreation Department	Long-Term	Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program, Community Preservation Commission funds	https://www.mass.gov/service-details/parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program		
E-4	Coordinate with the PVTa on the potential of future crosstown fixed-route transit service connecting East Longmeadow center to the Ludlow Big Y, via Elm, Cooley, and Parker Streets.	Town Administrator	DPW, Board of Public Works, Town Council	Long-Term		Staff time, Volunteer time		
E-5	Adopt Low Impact Development standards for all new residential developments.	Planning Board	Department of Planning & Community Development	Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time, DLTa via PVPC, PVPC's LTA program	PVPC model subdivision regulations		
E-6	Conduct culvert assessment and prioritization plan to NAACC standards, to follow up with grant applications for culvert action. Continue to monitor the state of bridges and culverts in town through the MassDOT municipal data dashboard.	Department of Public Works	Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Public Works	Medium-Term	MVP Action grant, https://www.mass.gov/river-restoration-culvert-replacements https://www.mass.gov/river-restoration-culvert-replacements			
E-7	Conduct outreach to existing businesses to make sure they are thriving and to understand which businesses have left and why.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee	Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time	W MA Economic Development Council, https://www.westernmassedc.com/		
E-8	Establish a working partnership with <i>East of the River Five Towns Chamber</i> to assist aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small businesses to stay in Town, while encouraging others to relocate here.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee	Short-term	Staff time, Volunteer time	W MA Economic Development Council, https://www.westernmassedc.com/		
E-9	Employ Town policies to improve economic viability of the farm community, such as including streamlining permit requirements for accessory farm businesses or small-scale farm related commercial uses on agricultural lands.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Town Administrator, ad hoc Economic Development committee and consider forming an Agricultural Committee or Commission	Medium-Term	Staff time, Volunteer time	Massachusetts Grown...and Fresher! (https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-grownand-fresher)	Community Involved Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)	
E-10	Implement management strategies for upkeep, maintenance and enhanced access of/to all recreational resources, like Heritage Park. Consider methods to improve the capacity of the dual-use system of the school department and recreation department.	Recreation Department	School Department	Long-Term	Community Preservation Committee	Staff time, Volunteer time		
E-11	Plan for and implement building and maintenance improvements. The town should continue to plan for both short- and long-term capital needs through a transparent and inclusive capital planning process.	Building Department	Town Administrator, Town Council	Ongoing	Town fund, Mass Works, One-stop for Growth, Green Communities funding for energy efficiency	Staff time, Volunteer time	Capitol Improvement Plan	
E-12	To hold on to staff institutional knowledge, create a manual for each building/department that is continually updated.	Town Administrator	Building Department, Department of Public Works, Town Council, Board of Public Works	Short-term	Staff time	MA Division of Local Services (https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-local-services)		

E-13	Review and summarize information already collected for a parking inventory to identify under- and over-utilized spaces and options to consolidate or reduce impervious cover and/or integrate solar canopies over necessary parking.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development	Medium-Term	PVPC Local Technical Assistance			
E-14	Complete a planning and feasibility study for building a microgrid for town facilities; install behind-the-meter solar on all public buildings, create a microgrid, install battery storage at Town Hall to provide emergency power and maybe at the library.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development	Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants, MA Clean Energy Center	Staff time, Volunteer time	The number of these strategies suggests the need for a "Sustainability Committee" to prioritize...	
E-15	Encourage businesses to practice good maintenance policies for their back-up generators/institute emergency plans, using Town policy as a model.	Emergency Management Director	DPW, Fire Department, Department of Planning and Community Development	Short-term	Staff Time, Volunteer Time			
E-16	Make infrastructure improvements to water supply system. Look into former public well locations as a potential future drinking water resilience resource to reduce vulnerability to loss of SWSC lines.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development	Medium-Term	MVP Action Grants, One stop for Growth, Mass Works			
E-17	Update the Town's Hazard Mitigation plan to maintain eligibility for FEMA BRIC funds and ensure inclusion of the Town's historically and culturally significant buildings.	Department of Public Works	Department of Planning & Community Development, Emergency Management Director, Local Emergency Planning Committee	Immediate, expires 1/3/22	FEMA BRIC Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities Grants	Staff time, Board Member time, PVPC, funded via BRIC	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) (https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities)	
E-18	Encourage Citizen Corps Council Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training involvement by stakeholders to bolster preparedness and identify a chain of command in the event of an emergency.	Emergency Management Director	Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), Fire Department, Board of Health	Medium-Term	Western Region Homeland Security Advisory Council access to training and possibly funding, MA DPH,	PVPC Pubic Health Emergency Preparedness Planner, Chris Goshea	Preparedness Resources for First Responders (https://wrhsac.org/)	
E-19	Continue discussions with National Grid on resiliency and responsiveness.	Emergency Management Director	Department of Public Works, Town Administrator, Fire Department	Ongoing	Staff and Volunteer (Boards etc) time			
E-20	Collaborate with the utility to promote Mass Save no cost Home Energy Assessments and Business Energy Assessments and the related no cost air sealing and insulation home/business improvement work, targeting vulnerable residents and businesses to save them money and reduce their GHG emissions.	Department of Planning and Community Development	Council on Aging, Recreation Department (outreach), Chamber	Short-term	National Grid	Center for Eco Technology, Energia, Co-op Power, Ener-G-Save	Mass Save: Rebates & Incentives, No-Cost Energy Assessment, Income Eligible Solutions (https://www.masssave.com/en/saving)	

