

Westfield Reconnaissance Report

Connecticut River Valley Reconnaissance Survey

Massachusetts Heritage Landscape Inventory Program



June, 2009

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

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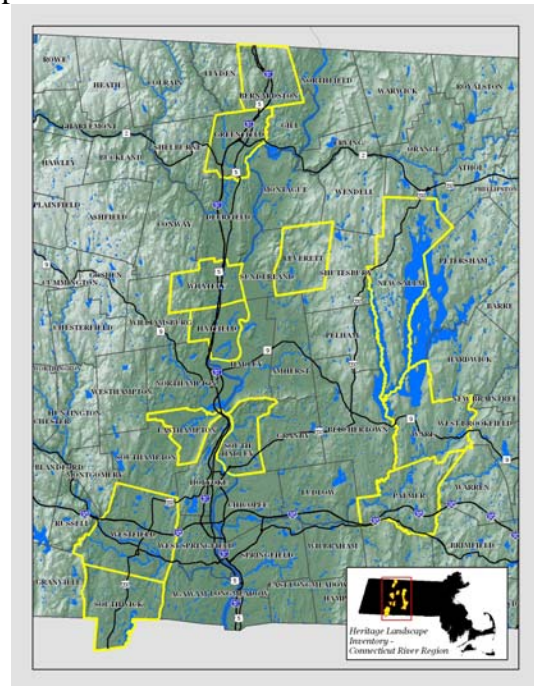
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INTRODUCTION

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving, reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place. They show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns and often have scenic qualities. This wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character, yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first step toward their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature or an important river corridor.

To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and its regional partners, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program to twelve communities in the Connecticut River valley region of Massachusetts. The goals of the program are to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected, and to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.



Connecticut River Valley Heritage Landscape Inventory Project Area

The communities within the Connecticut River valley region of Massachusetts are diverse in their settlement patterns and economic histories. What they hold in common is a foundation built on agriculture that was carried out in communities traversed by a series of major waterways and tributaries, from the Connecticut River to the Deerfield, Sawmill, Green, Millers, Quaboag, Swift, Mill and Ware Rivers. This region contains significant cultural and historic resources and uncommon natural beauty. For some of the communities, industry developed alongside agriculture, so that today the heritage landscapes reflect both agrarian and industrial pasts while providing recreational and educational opportunities. From scenic town commons and natural areas, to civic buildings and burial grounds, the heritage landscapes within the region collectively tell the story of their varied and often complex history.

Methodology

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a pilot project conducted in southeast Massachusetts. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land*, which has provided guidance for the program since its inception. In summary, each community organized a heritage landscape identification meeting during which residents and town officials identified and prioritized the natural and cultural landscapes within town that embody the community's unique character. This meeting was followed by a fieldwork session led by the project team, including the local project coordinator and staff of FRCOG or PVPC, accompanied by interested community members. During the fieldwork session the Priority Heritage Landscapes were assessed and opportunities for preservation were explored and discussed. The final product for each community is an individualized Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report. This report outlines the community's landscape history, describes the priority heritage landscapes along with associated opportunities, issues, and recommendations, and concludes with implementation strategies.

PART I: HERITAGE LANDSCAPE INVENTORY



LOCAL HISTORY

The City of Westfield in western Massachusetts is bounded on the north by Southampton; on the south by Southwick; on the west by Granville, Russell and Montgomery; and on the east by Holyoke, West Springfield, and Agawam. The City is almost square in shape and is bisected mid-way by two rivers that run in a west to east direction towards the Connecticut River. The larger and more northerly river is the Westfield, and about one mile south of it is the Little River. The two merge near the City's eastern boundary. East Mountain, which is part of the Holyoke Range, is found at the eastern boundary of the city; on its western third a series of low hills is topped by Westfield Mountain.

The area that was to become Westfield was home to a Native American group called the Woronocos, a branch of the larger Native American group, the Pocumtucks of western Massachusetts. The Woronocos are thought to have lived in the flood plains of the Westfield and Little Rivers where they farmed and fished and from which they traveled to the uplands for hunting and foraging.

Known by its Native American name of Woronoco, Westfield was a fur trading station for Connecticut settlements between 1639 and 1643. It was established by Governor Hopkins of Connecticut near the confluence of the Westfield and Little Rivers and was a trading post with a few buildings; it was a temporary settlement. At the same time in Springfield, the Pynchon family established a fur trading business and engaged the Native Americans in their trade, which was mainly in beaver pelts. The first permanent Woronoco settlement was on the north side of the Westfield River when land there was granted to individuals between 1658 and 1668. A second settlement site was on the south side of the Westfield River in an area that included what is now Westfield's City Center, but also extended east to East Main Street where the first meetinghouse was erected in 1672 just east of the intersection of Main and Noble Streets. In 1669 settlement was

sufficient on both north and south sides of the River to set off a portion of Woronoco as the township of Westfield.

In 1697 and 1702 grants were made for grist and sawmills to be erected on the Westfield and Little Rivers, which were essentials to attracting further settlement. The institutional center of the township developed around the first meetinghouse on the east end of Main Street and continued there as the meetinghouse was replaced in 1719-21. There were taverns in both the East Main Street center and in the area of the Spruce Swamp and common land south of the Westfield River. The Fowler tavern was built ca. 1761 on the east end of Main Street at the corner of Main and Exchange Streets and the Clapp tavern was built after 1743 at the corner of Elm and Court Streets to accommodate travelers along a major east-west route.

The center of Westfield moved to the Spruce Swamp and common land area south of the Westfield River from the east end of Main Street when Westfield Academy was built on Broad Street facing the common in 1800. It was joined by a new meetinghouse in 1806, the Congregational Church, whose design was derived from the work of Charles Bulfinch. The two areas of settlement south of the Westfield River – East Main Street and Spruce Swamp - existed side-by-side until construction of the Hampshire and Hampden canal 1826-1829 from Connecticut to Southampton through Westfield, which cut across Main Street and served to isolate the eastern end of Main Street. From the 1820s on, what is today considered the Center became the preeminent civic, commercial and religious center of the town. North and west of the Center including the village of Wyben and south of the Little River remained the agricultural sections of Westfield.

Whip manufacturing began in Westfield in 1801 along with a series of other light manufacturing industries. Both Westfield's manufacturers and its farmers benefited by the canal. Manufacturers sent products in both directions, and farmers adjusted their production to send food to an urban Connecticut market down the canal. Westfield citizens invested enthusiastically in the canal and it brought commerce to the Center with docks, warehouses, and the Hampden Bank, which was established in 1825, as plans for the canal developed.

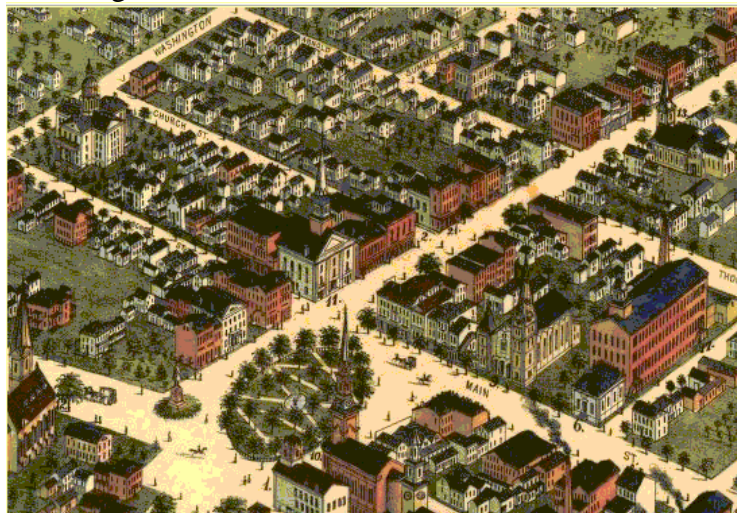
Maintaining a canal proved to be an expensive proposition. When the Western railroad was constructed in an east-west direction along the north side of the Westfield River it was evident that this means of transportation in operation by 1842 was a more secure investment. So, the canal went out of business and a group of Westfield entrepreneurs formed a new railroad company and built the Westfield and Northampton Railroad on the pathway of the canal, constructing a railroad bridge over the Westfield River where once had been a viaduct. The business generated by both the canal and the railroad brought about the development of Elm Street from the railroad depots on North Elm to the common as Westfield's main business district. Whip manufacturing grew and cigar manufacturing began in this period, as well, with both taking place in factories in the Center.

The town's population grew by almost 300% between 1870 and 1915. The 1880s saw

several new groups of immigrants arriving. Bohemian Czechs and Slovaks from South and Central Europe found employment in the town's tobacco industry - either on tobacco farms or in cigar factories - as the two worked in tandem and both required a substantial labor force. In 1888, Lithuanians joined the Czechs and Slovaks looking to escape religious or political persecution, and in 1889 Westfield's first Polish émigré arrived to work on a tobacco farm. Like the early Irish, many of the immigrants settled on the north side of town, near the factories where they worked. Others boarded on the farms where they worked or in nearby boarding houses.

Westfield's population in 1885 had reached 6,679, with nearly fifteen percent of it foreign-born and working largely in the town's factories. Besides the tobacco factories, the new immigrants were employed by the whip industry and in the three paper mills in town.

Residential streets in the Center were opened and developed in the second half of the 19th century. An 1875 bird's-eye view of Westfield Center shows a tidy grid of well-developed streets extending east and west from the Elm Street corridor between the north side of the river and the common, with Elm Street itself lined with a number of substantial brick buildings.



Bird's-eye View of Westfield Center and Park Square, 1875.

By the early 1900s, business and industry, rather than agriculture, had dominated the city's economy for several decades; increasingly dense development spread down Elm Street and radiated out from its side streets; and the population was becoming more diverse. Italian immigrants began arriving around 1900, working at Westfield's East Mountain quarries. With its greater complexity, Westfield began to see itself as a city rather than a town. After several unsuccessful attempts, a charter committee in 1920 successfully presented a proposal to Westfield voters, and the town officially became a city, with a population of 18,604.

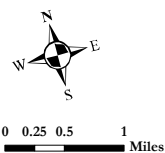
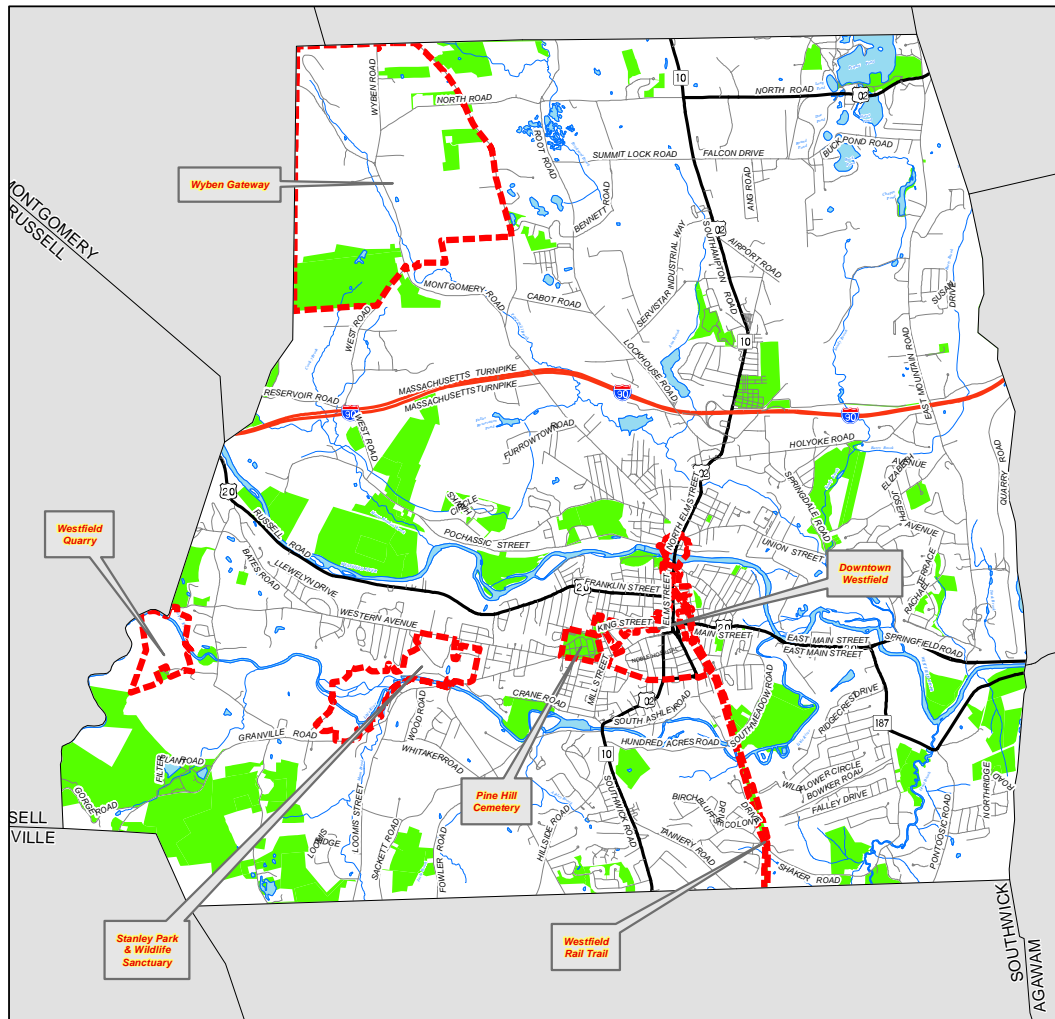
Within a few years industries that had fostered Westfield's growth were struggling to survive. The automobile made the whip industry obsolete; and cigar-making was in decline. One bright spot was the arrival of Frank Stanley Beveridge's Stanley Home

Products, Inc. in 1931. An innovative sales technique that he called the "Stanley Party," a precursor to the Tupperware Party, helped Beveridge succeed at a time in which businesses were failing all around him.

Although no longer the primary economic force in the city, agriculture remained important through the 1950s. Twenty-five farms still grew tobacco, with about 340 acres in tobacco cultivation in 1953. Farmers grew potatoes and raised dairy cattle and poultry; they operated truck farms, and established large orchards. Tobacco farms provided employment to many of Westfield's first Puerto Rican residents, who began moving to the city in the 1950s, adding yet another ethnic group to the city's population.

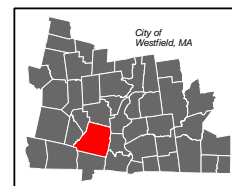
After World War II, Westfield's manufacturing sector had recovered, become more diverse and prosperous. Producers of boilers, radiators, bicycles, and paper products were still going strong, as were textile and thread manufacturers. Brick, lumber, and woodworking products were being made, and the city's marble quarries were still in business. In a generous civic move, Frank Stanley Beveridge in 1949 donated land for Stanley Park, and additional land was subsequently added to the park for a total of 180 acres. Construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike in the 1950s, however, siphoned traffic and commerce from Westfield and it began once again to decline economically.

Today Westfield is a residential city, its 2000 population at 40,729. It has a land area of 46.85 square miles. More people (56.9%) commute out of Westfield for work now than work in the city (43.1%). By and large, residents work in the services industry (51%), and fewer than one quarter of them work in manufacturing jobs (22.4%). Only 0.2% of the population now works in agriculture. In commuting distance of West Springfield, Springfield, Northampton and Holyoke, Westfield is under pressure for additional residential development, especially in its more rural areas surrounding the Center. Until very recently housing subdivisions have been going up steadily on its previously undeveloped land.



City of Westfield

*Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



- Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

In a public meeting on November 19, 2008 an audience of Westfield citizens and City government staff addressed the identification of Westfield's Heritage Landscapes. Fifty-one heritage landscapes were listed. The **City Center, Rail Trail, Wyben Farmland Gateway, Stanley Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Pine Hill Cemetery** and the **marble quarry on Northwest Road** were selected as having the highest priority. The priority landscapes are discussed in further detail below.

City Center



View across Park Square, Westfield Center, ca. 1900

Westfield Center became the institutional, residential and commercial focal point from the beginning of the 19th century when the Westfield Academy located its school building facing the east side of the common in 1800. Shortly thereafter in 1806 the Congregational Church built a new church on the east side of the common as well, and the presence of these two institutions brought about more active construction of residential streets spreading out from the common: Elm Street, Court, Main, and Broad Streets. The Federal style 1817 Morgan Block built on the south side of the common was the first significant rowhouse constructed in Westfield. With the arrival of the Hampshire and Hampden Canal built between 1825 and 1826, there was a rise in commerce along Elm Street spreading north to North Elm Street on the other side of the Westfield River. Cigars, paper, and whip manufacturing became the three most important.

The canal was a relatively short-lived enterprise; its failure coincided with the rise of railroads as the chief means of transportation, and by 1852 the route of the canal was bought by the Northampton and Westfield Railroad Company. The Company converted much of the canal's land and its bridges for railroad use. The conversion was relatively swift, and the industrial progress of the town was virtually uninterrupted. Banks, factories, warehouses, boarding house, stores and houses that had begun at the time of the canal now grew up at a much faster rate in a mix along Elm Street while mainly houses were built on Broad and Court Streets. Side streets School, Church, Arnold, Birge and others went in as destinations for these new businesses.

In 1835 townspeople voted to improve the appearance of the Center by laying out an elliptically shaped park on the common. What is now known as Old Town Hall was built in 1837 on the east side of the park in the Greek Revival style and large scale Greek Revival houses began to appear on Broad and Court Streets. The city of Westfield was given a large boost in 1841 when it was selected as the new home for the first state-sponsored, co-ed teachers' college, which had previously been in Barre. Its presence on Broad Street in Old Town Hall solidified the Center's importance. Beautification work continued in the Center and in 1859 a committee raised money and set out elm trees along Elm Street, on the park and along Broad, Main and Court Streets. The park was fenced in 1860, the same year that a new Congregational Church in Italianate style was built north of Old Town Hall. The Westfield Athenaeum was chartered in 1864 bringing library services to the city's residents over the next few decades in a building on Main Street. In 1870 the G.A.R. statue was erected, a fountain constructed in the park, and fencing put up around its perimeters.

North Elm Street had been an early area of settlement, but it was eclipsed during the 18th century by settlement on the south side of the river. During the first half of the 19th century its fortunes reversed when it became a transportation crossroads. The railroad going east and west intersected with the rail line that traveled north and south at two depots on North Elm Street. Being a transportation nexus encouraged the development of services including a warehouse, and a hotel, the Foster House, along with several stores and livery stables. Then a trolley line was built in 1870 from Park Square to Depot Square, which further improved business. The Buschmann Warehouse went up in 1873 adding a major building to the Square. A new Victorian railroad depot was built in 1896, and at the same time, Depot Square was improved, and the Dr. Atwater House at 6 Union Street was built (attributed to architects Gardner, Pine and Gardner). The Bismark Hotel was added to at 16 Union Street in 1900 by architect Augustus Holton, so Depot Square had become an architectural focal point by the turn-of-the-century. By the end of the 19th century it had effectively merged with the commerce on the south side of the river to become an expanded Westfield Center.



Buschmann Warehouse, Depot Square, built 1873.

On the south side of the river, the State Normal School building, now Westfield City Hall, was built in 1892 by the well-known Boston architectural firm Hartwell and Richardson, adding a significant Romanesque Revival style building to the Center. Westfield architect Augustus Holton added several significant brick commercial blocks: the Gillett Building 100-102 Elm Street in 1899, and the following year the YMCA building at 105-109 Elm Street.

In the first half of the twentieth century Westfield adopted a City form of government and although the pace of new commercial building slowed, the Center continued to add to its building stock, often taking down smaller buildings to replace them with larger ones. Among the new buildings that appeared in the Center were the Van Deusen Whip Company factory in 1917 and the Columbus Building at 91-99 Elm Street in 1912. A new Post Office replaced a large commercial block on Park Square in 1912. Adding to the institutional buildings, the Athenaeum was built on Park Square in 1927 by architect Malcolm Harding incorporating the Fowler homestead and adding to it. In 1939 a new bridge was constructed across the Westfield River at Elm Street.



Westfield Athenaeum, Park Square, built 1927

After 1950 the Center, bypassed by the Massachusetts Turnpike, declined slowly, its commercial center became less vital, and the nature of its commerce changed. Residential streets saw some post-World War II housing infill, but they remained relatively stable, though condition declined on some streets including Broad Street where artificial siding, ill-considered alterations and out-of-scale new construction were added.



Elm Street looking north from Park Square, ca. 1950

Opportunities:

- The City Center has a largely 19th century building stock of historic and architectural significance.
- The City Center has several fine parks that are central to its civic life. Park Square remains the heart of Westfield.
- A National Register Historic District nomination is being prepared in 2008-2009 for a large Center district.
- Westfield adopted the Community Preservation Act.
- The Westfield Planning Board has Site Plan Review for the Center that considers location and size of proposed new buildings, new uses and new structures, their nature and intensity to insure that they are in harmony with the surrounding neighborhoods.

Issues:

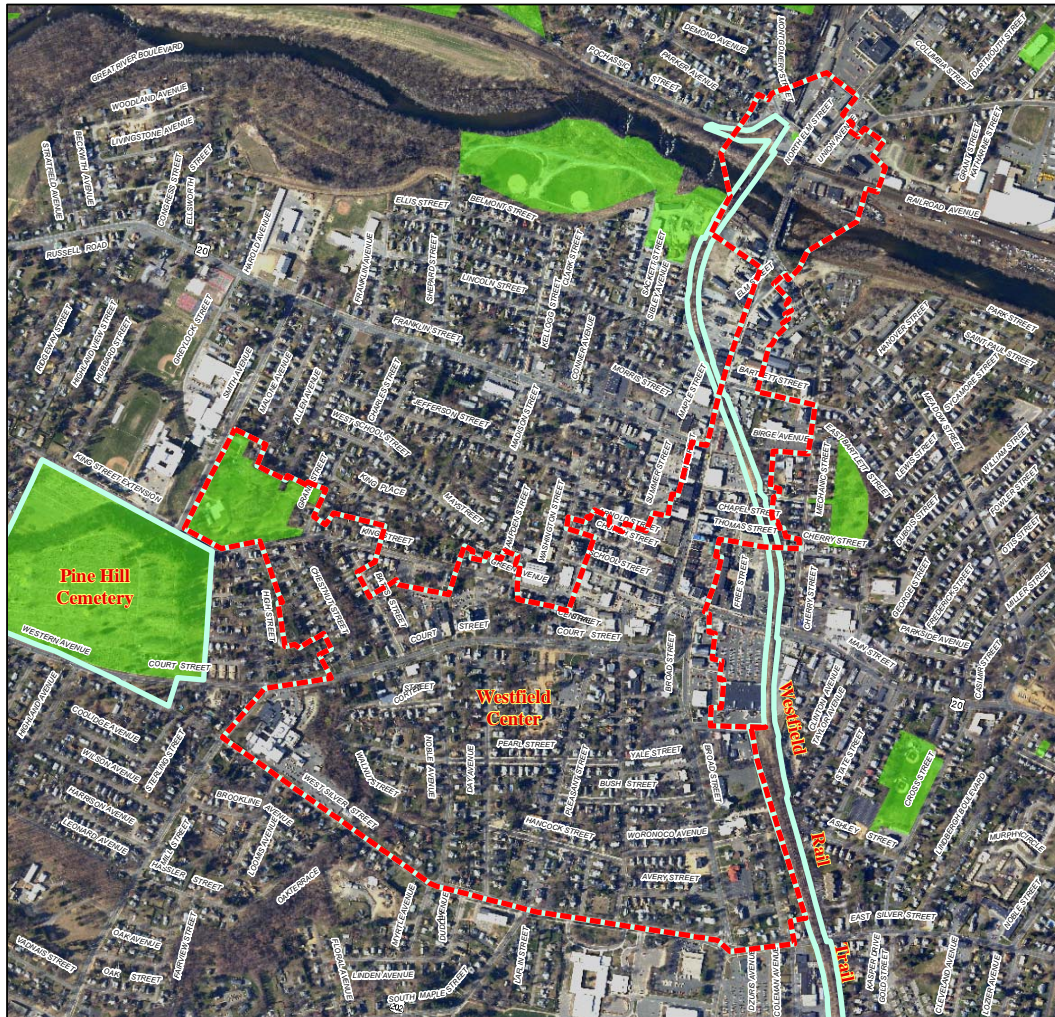
- There have been several recent demolitions of important Georgian and Queen Anne style houses on Main, Court, and Broad Streets to provide space for denser development, parking, and new commercial buildings. Westfield's demolition delay bylaw operates from a very limited and inadequate list of historic and architecturally important buildings.
- Occupancy rate of commercial blocks in the Center has declined and there are a number of vacancies. Building deterioration is often the result of long-term vacancy.
- New construction on the principal streets of the Center has at times been intrusive rather than contextually-sensitive to harmonize with the older architecture.
- The use of vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows on historic houses has brought about a loss of character of the Center's historic neighborhoods.
- Park Square's vegetation is in decline, soil is compacted and signs have proliferated.
- The Westfield River in Westfield is not part of the Wild and Scenic River Designation.

Recommendations:

1. Prepare a Park Square Master Plan to address issues and recommendations raised in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Town Common Project

_____ on Park Square, including a protocol for event use at the Square to preserve its soil and trees from overuse and degradation. CPA funds could be used for this activity.

2. Adopt a Traditional Neighborhood Overlay District to coincide with the proposed National Register Historic District Boundaries to maintain scale, and setback from the street for new construction in Westfield's historic neighborhoods.
3. Consider appointing an advisory Design Review Board, which would supplement the work of the Planning Board's site plan review by reviewing materials and design of alterations and new construction for their sensitivity to the architectural context of the Center. The Board would work with owners to find solutions that would maintain the character of the Center, yet expressed as 21st century design.
4. Explore state zoning incentive programs 43D, 40R and 40S to offer incentives for businesses to reuse existing buildings in the City Center and keep new construction to available land in the Center rather than building new in the City outskirts. In the same direction, explore the development of a Business Improvement District (BID) for downtown Westfield with incentives to locate in the vacant downtown buildings.
5. Use the Community Preservation Act funds to promote exterior maintenance of privately-owned historic homes in the proposed National Register Historic District through a mechanism of outright grants or low-interest loans.
6. Amalgamate the several river protection bylaws and regulations extant in Westfield into a River Protection Overlay District to protect both the Westfield and the Little Rivers against inappropriate development and use.
7. Form a local historic district study committee to pursue designation of Park Square and the buildings immediately around it as a Local Historic District.
8. Revise the demolition delay bylaw from a list, to age-determined review. Properties, for instance, over 75 years old would automatically be reviewed. If a review determined that a building for which a demolition permit were being requested was considered "preferably preserved" the demolition delay bylaw would be triggered. If the review did not find the building preferably preserved, it would proceed to demolition.



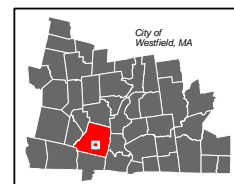
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- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Westfield Center

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



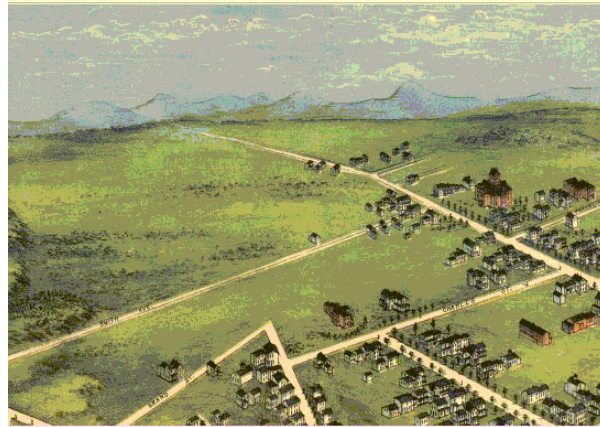
Map Sources:

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Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Wyben



Wyben agricultural land in 1875 Bird's-eye View.

The village of Wyben is located in northwest Westfield. It is a plain bordered on the north and west by Grindstone and Ball Mountains. During the Colonial Period (1665-1765) farms were laid out along Wyben and Montgomery Roads and extended west to the foothills of the mountains and east to Russellville Road. This section of town – also known as West Farms - has remained a secondary agricultural village into the twenty-first century. From mixed farming in the Colonial and Federal Periods, farmers increasingly turned to market gardening when the canal was constructed in Westfield in the 1820s. Replacement of the canal by two railroad lines within a reasonable distance of the village meant that the market garden form of agriculture was efficient and supportable through the second half of the 19th century. The area remained an agricultural center through the 20th and into the 21st century.



Union Chapel, Village of Wyben, 1877.

Opportunities:

- The residents of Wyben make up an unusually cohesive community and a number of farms have remained in the same family for multiple generations.
- Residents are aware of the importance of this last remaining agricultural section of Westfield and are preservation-conscious.

- There is a fine collection of well-maintained historic properties in the area set on their historic fields that extend to the east and west. Federal and Greek Revival styles dominate among the houses while there are barns, silos and other agricultural outbuildings remaining as well. The Wyben Union Chapel of 1877 serves as a community focal point.
- Many of the properties remain in active agricultural use as orchards, tree farms, and small mixed-use farms.
- This section of Westfield offers beautiful vistas of distant hills.
- There are no plans to extend water and sewer lines to this section of the City, which would enable subdivisions to be constructed.

Issues:

- There is considerable pressure for residential development in Wyben, and there is potential for industrial expansion from nearby industrial parks.
- Many residents do not express confidence in one manner of preservation: the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program.
- The practice of building new houses on frontage lots has been established.
- The village has no protection in place, with the exception of two farms in APR.

Recommendations:

1. Review the Westfield Demolition Delay bylaw to make sure that it comprehensively includes Wyben's farm buildings and add to the list of protected buildings, if necessary. Consider changing the Demolition Delay bylaw to be age-based rather than list-based, as many preferably preserved buildings are not currently protected under the Demolition Delay bylaw as it now stands.
2. Adopt a Right-to-Farm Bylaw as a means of expressing community support for the farmers of Wyben and encouraging others to enter farming.
3. Adopt a Scenic Vista Protection Overlay District to ensure that the vistas of Grindstone and Ball Mountain are not marred by ridgeline construction and that new construction on the hillsides are blended with the landscape and meet other design standards through site plan review.
4. Adopt an Agricultural Overlay District Bylaw that would require any new subdivisions in Wyben be clustered on the land that is least suitable for agriculture, screened by vegetative buffers, and that existing views of open agricultural land be preserved. The

bylaw could also allow for ancillary uses to agricultural operations to allow farmers to diversify and earn supplemental income.

5. Consider designation of Montgomery Road as a Scenic Road.

6. Pursue protection of roadside vistas through easements or Backlot Development with Farmland Set Aside Zoning. Backlot Development places the roadside frontage land under conservation restriction and in exchange offers incentives for new construction to be built at the rear of the property where it is less visible.

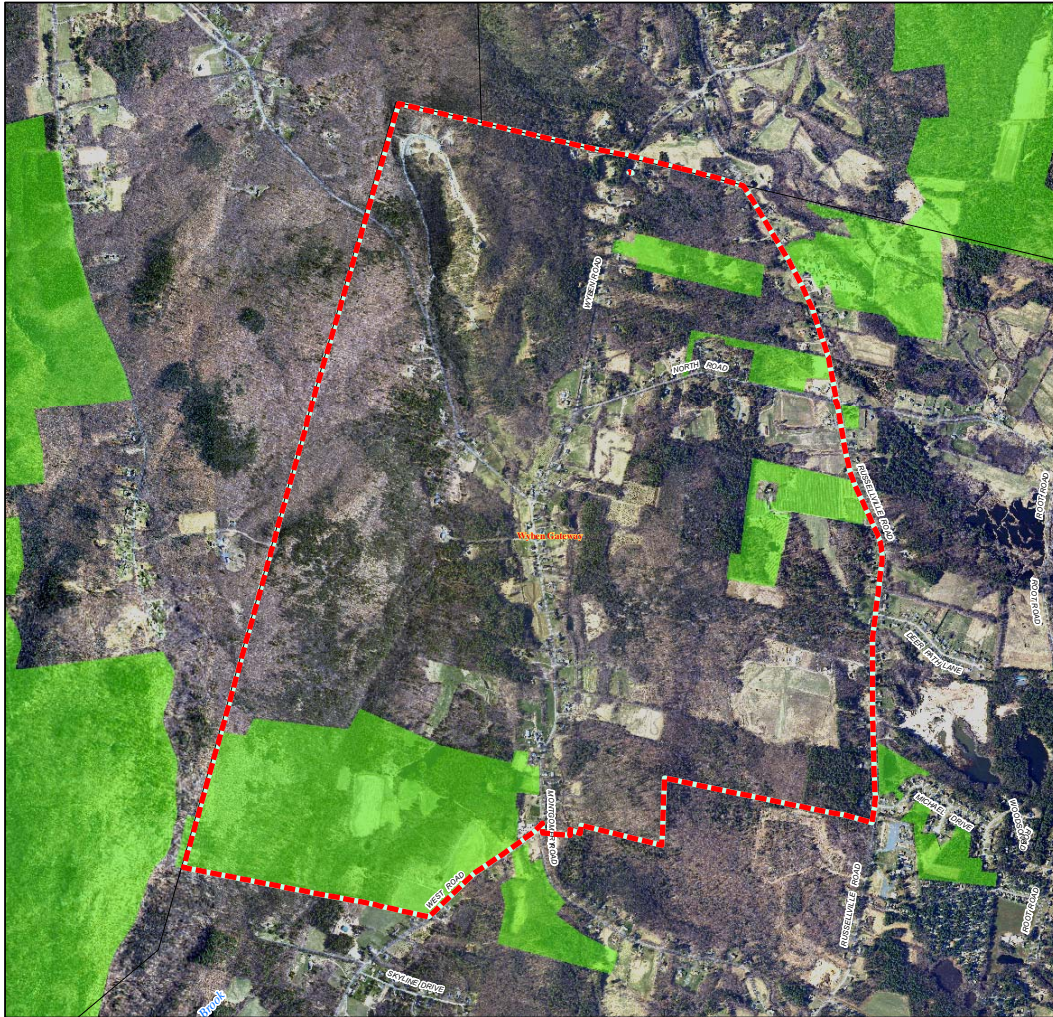
7. Work with farmland owners to become more comfortable with APR. In meantime, work with them to adopt the Chapter 61 Program for their land.

8. Prepare strategy to acquire land coming out of Chapter 61 or to acquire conservation restrictions on it. One suggestion is to utilize CPA funds for first right of refusal acquisitions.

9. Work with Winding River Land Conservancy to acquire conservation restrictions on farmland along the Wyben roads.

10. Create a Westfield Agricultural Commission to work with landowners on identifying threats to their farms, and provide guidance on programs such as the Farm Viability Enhancement Program through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, and other means of maintaining land and buildings as viable operations.

11. Place Wyben on the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district.



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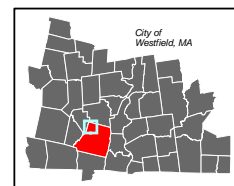
- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Wyben Gateway

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Stanley Park and Wildlife Sanctuary



View of the Little River in Stanley Park's Wildlife Refuge

Stanley Park is located west of the Center on Western Avenue where its main entrances are located. It extends on its south side across the Little River and is bounded on the east by Kensington Avenue and on the west by Wintergreen Lane. The Park is named for its founder, Frank Stanley Beveridge, who was often compared in the press to Horatio Alger. Beveridge had been born in 1879 to a family of modest means in Nova Scotia, moved to Massachusetts as a boy, and got an education at Mount Hermon School in Northfield, Massachusetts through his own perseverance rather than with family support, graduating in 1904 at age 25. He took his first job after graduation as a door-to-door salesman selling stereopticon views. He then went on to organize door-to-door sales techniques for the Fuller Brush Company, which made that company highly successful. Not long after, he formed his own company, Stanley Home Products, in 1931 and set it up in a vacant tobacco barn in Westfield. Stanley Home Products grew through the Depression by using some of the sales techniques he had developed as a young man, principally person-to-person selling in a home setting. When people during the Depression couldn't afford to go out shopping, Beveridge brought the products to them, kept costs low with no store overhead, and made the sale compelling by doing it in a party atmosphere. Stanley Home Products was very successful and reflected Beveridge's character: it was notably progressive in providing for its employees. With his prosperity Beveridge was also generous to the communities in which he lived. In 1940, he bought twenty-five acres on Western Avenue to become a park for Westfield and gradually added to it until it was 120 acres in size. In 1949 he established a non-profit organization, Stanley Park of Westfield, Inc. and donated the park and an endowment to this organization. A carillon tower was added and dedicated with letters of congratulations sent by national and world leaders in 1950, and the pond area was developed in the 1960s.



The Carillon Tower at the Time of its Construction.

Today the park is over three hundred acres, has a Japanese tea garden, a rose garden, ponds, a water wheel, a covered bridge, playing fields, tennis courts and pavilions. It has often been the site of public concerts and events. The Park has a wildlife sanctuary that extends to both banks of the Little River with trails through hardwood forest, wildflowers, bird boxes to encourage nesting, and walks down to the water. The Park has frontage on Western Avenue, Kensington Avenue, and Granville Road.

Opportunities:

- Stanley Park is both a designed park and natural landscape that contributes significantly to the beauty of Westfield.
- It has been extremely well-maintained since its development as a park and offers residents playing fields for children's soccer games.
- The Park serves nearby Westfield State College students as an outdoor space.
- It has public access to the Little River and a wildlife population of birds and small mammals.
- The Park is a key 20th century resource important in Westfield's history, and represents its connection with one of Massachusetts's well-known entrepreneurs and philanthropists, Frank Stanley Beveridge.

Issues:

- As a privately-owned park, there are no permanent protections in place for Stanley Park.
- Property along the Little River above and below that portion in the Park is in private ownership, and is vulnerable to misuse that would affect its natural state as it passes through Stanley Park.

Recommendations:

1. Maintain cooperative contact with the Foundation Board members to encourage good relations with the Park's Board of Directors and to maintain their long-held, goodwill towards the greater community of Westfield.
2. Extend the River Protection Overlay District to cover both the Westfield and Little Rivers in Westfield so that the natural state of the Little River as it passes through the Wildlife Sanctuary remains in a pristine condition.
3. Work with the Stanley Park Foundation to place the Park on the National Register of Historic Places as a designed and natural landscape. With this designation funding to complement the work of the Foundation as it preserves the Park would be more readily available for the landscape, buildings, and structures in the Park.
4. Work with the Stanley Park Foundation to place conservation and/or preservation restrictions on the Park to keep it in the condition they envision for future generations.



View of North Entry to Stanley Park's Wildlife Refuge



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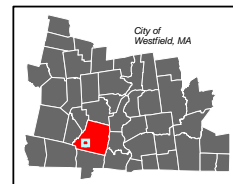
- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Stanley Park & Wildlife Sanctuary

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Canal/Railroad/Rail Trail Corridor



Canal Railroad Berm, Embankment and Overpass on Path of Hampshire and Hampden Canal, Built 1829 to 1858.

The corridor through Westfield that was used first by a canal, then by a railroad and is now slated for construction as a rail trail runs in a north-south direction through Westfield. Although the railroad did not overlap the path of the canal across the entire city, the two did coincide through the Center, and plans for the rail trail follow that historic corridor through the Center across the Westfield River as well.

Americans in the early 1800s were very interested in improving transportation, and one of the solutions that found ready investors was that of the canal. English entrepreneurs in the late 18th century had built a series of canals across their country, so that by 1800 they had a canal system that many Americans felt would work in this country. The South Hadley canal constructed in 1792 to skirt the falls with its inclined plane was the earliest navigable canal in the United States and served as a model for investors on the other side of the Connecticut River. In 1822, Westfield's citizens approved construction of the Westfield portion of a canal that would run from the Connecticut River through Northampton, Easthampton, Southampton, Southwick, and Westfield. Known as the Hampshire and Hampden Canal it was to join a second canal from Westfield to New Haven, the Farmington Canal, for eighty miles of navigable inland. The age of canals began when the Erie Canal was opened in 1825 and the following year construction began on the Farmington canal from New Haven, Connecticut to Westfield. Construction of the Farmington canal and a portion of the Hampshire and Hampden canal through Westfield was complete in 1829.

By 1829, the new canal was open from Westfield to New Haven from which ships had a short trip to New York City ports and that vast market. Westfield's economy was clearly given an early 19th century advantage over other western Massachusetts cities that still depended on horse and oxen to take their goods to the Connecticut River for transportation by ship or overland on long impractical trips to the Hudson River. It is often pointed out in histories of the city in that period that the canal through Westfield was a short-lived phenomenon, frequently shut down for repairs and a poor investment in the long-run. But, for sixteen years Westfield's businesses and its farmers had a

relatively efficient means of transporting goods and products to markets and the canal favorably factored into Westfield's agricultural and manufacturing economy.

In 1842 the Western Railroad was built along the north bank of the Westfield River connecting Springfield and Albany. The Hampshire and Hampden Canal Company folded in 1845 and its route was taken over in 1855-56 by the New Haven and Northampton Railroad, which filled much of it in and prepared a berm for its rails to run on above street level through the Center. Nicknamed "the Canal Line" this railroad reached Northampton in 1858. Comparison of the 1831 map of the canal through Westfield and the 1870 map showing the route of the railroad indicates that the entire route of the canal was not used by the railroad. Rather, the railroad company straightened out the route as it went south from the intersection of South Meadow Road. At that intersection the canal turned abruptly eastward to Little River Road, which it followed south and into Westfield. The railroad used the canal route through the Center, across the Westfield River and north to Pochassic Street. North of Pochassic Street the railroad line departed once again somewhat from the canal route and followed a more direct north route into Southampton.



1875 Bird's-eye View of Railroad adjacent to Old Canal in Westfield Center

In 1887 the New Haven and Northampton Railroad was leased to the New York New Haven and Hartford Railroad. In 1969 it was made part of the Penn Central Railroad. With demise of Penn Central in the 1970s much of the line was abandoned until the Pioneer Valley Railroad took over the line on the north side of Westfield north to Northampton early 1980s. It is still in operation. The City of Westfield is planning a rail trail along much of the old canal/railroad line from Westfield north to Southampton. There are unused sections of canal visible in Southampton and Westfield, but none known in Westfield.

Phase I of the rail trail extends north from the border with Westfield at Kellogg Brook to the Big Y supermarket just south of Silver Street. Phase II goes through the Center and ends at the Westfield River. Phase III runs from the Westfield River north to Southampton, though its exact route has not been confirmed.



Railroad Berm and Future Rail Trail through Westfield, Looking South at Big Y.

Opportunities:

- A railroad line, partially unused, exists from the south border of Westfield to its north border with Southamptton. It passes through both City Center and rural areas, has bridges and overpasses in place.
- The City has control of the portion of the corridor that no longer is in active railroad use and there is a master plan in place to construct a rail trail for public recreation in three phases. A rail trail would provide opportunities for interpretation of the City's industrial history along its way. As has been the case elsewhere with rail trails, the Westfield rail trail would provide an incentive for investment in businesses along the way to serve trail users.
- For those who could use the rail trail for commuting to work, there would be the benefits of healthy exercise, gas savings and a less polluted atmosphere.

Issues:

- A small portion of the corridor in Westfield Center is being proposed for annexation and demolition of the railroad berm to allow construction of a larger building on its lot for commercial purposes.
- There is mixed support for the rail trail. Not all residents and government officials see it as a priority project.
- Almost half of the corridor is still in active use by Pioneer Valley Railroad so that section is not available for a complete rail trail corridor along the historic railroad berm.

Recommendations:

1. The elements of the rail trail that have been scoped out for Phases I and II of the master plan are for segments that remain from the era of the railroad such as the embankments and overpasses - they should be inventoried on Massachusetts Historical Commission Structure forms and placed on the Westfield list of demolition delay properties.

2. Since much of the railroad departed from the path of the canal on the north side of the Westfield River, it is recommended that in the rail trail master plan Phase III the rail trail not be constrained to the path of the railroad or to an approximation of the path, but depart from it as necessary to complete the connection to Westfield. In other words, there is little historical justification vis-à-vis the canal's path for a particular rail trail route north of the river.
3. Work with the Winding River Land Conservancy to develop a rail trail event on a completed rail trail such as Ashuwillticook Rail Trail or the Northampton Rail Trail - similar to the Westfield River Canoe trip - to promote an understanding of the benefit to the community of this recreational resource.
4. Create an historic canal/railroad overlay district from the demonstrable beginning of the railroad-canal overlap, to the railroad depot to protect the berm and structures by directing development to areas with no historical connection to the path.
5. Explore state zoning incentives programs 43D, 40R and 40S to offer incentives to owners of property with historic features on it to develop in a manner that would preserve the historic features.



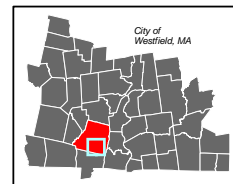
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- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Westfield Rail Trail

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:

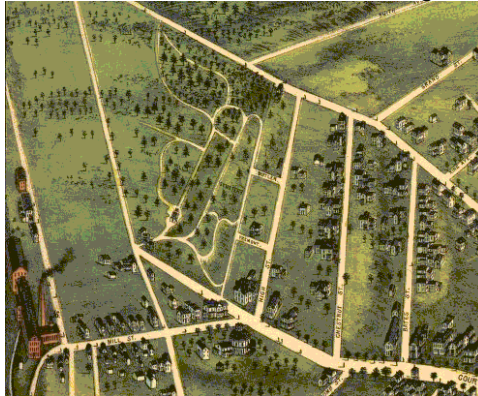
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Pine Hill Cemetery

Pine Hill Cemetery is located on Western Avenue just west of the City Center. It is bounded by Western Avenue on its south, King Street on its north, Tekoa Terrace on its west and it abuts properties on High Street on its east. The cemetery was established in 1842 and took its first burials in the following year, although some graves pre-dating 1842 were moved to the cemetery from Mundale. As the Mechanic Street cemetery in the Center had limited area for burials, there was public concern about overcrowding, so Pine Hill was created outside the Center on a pastoral site. Location of cemeteries outside the dense city Center was a principle of the Rural Cemetery Movement, which is represented at Pine Hill. Natural landscape beauty and accessibility were ideas current at the time in the location of cemeteries. The wide drives between plots, the rolling landscape, and the many trees in the grassy cemetery follow the landscape design precedent set by Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge Massachusetts, in 1831, the first of the rural cemeteries in the United States. Pine Hill was another manifestation of the impulse among Westfield citizens to beautify their city, just as they had in 1835 determined to make the common in the Center into Park Square as a designed landscape.



Pine Hill Cemetery's Curving Drives in 1875 Bird's-eye View

The city did not want responsibility for the cemetery, so it was established as a private cemetery run by a Board of Directors. The extent of the cemetery is fifty-three acres and it contains the graves of many of Westfield's most prominent families, approximately five hundred Civil War soldiers, a Revolutionary War soldier, unmarked graves of tuberculosis victims and city indigents. Art and architecture within the cemetery reflect its strong association with the city's most financially successful residents. A Romanesque Revival style chapel donated by the Parks family adds to the appearance of the cemetery, as do the ornate entry posts. Ornate monuments provide the art of sculpture.

Pine Hill was created at a time of population growth from immigration in Westfield and time of tension between Protestants and Catholics. The Irish Potato Famine drove many to Westfield to find work building the railroads, and from a population of several hundred Irish in the early 1840s, it rose to 1,000 Irish in city by 1850. Creation of Pine Hill Cemetery marked the end of separation by religion for burial as it was established as a non-denominational cemetery. As time passed, the cemetery made room for many. Free space was offered for burial of babies, veterans were buried in the cemetery, and the city

bought land to use for burial of the poor. More recently, space has been made for the scattering of ashes and storage of urns after cremation. There remains space for one to two thousand additional burials in the cemetery.



Henry Lyman Parks Chapel of 1894

Opportunities:

- Pine Hill Cemetery is an early example of the Rural Cemetery Movement and contains the graves of many of the families of Westfield and individuals of historic note since 1843.
- The cemetery represents a critical time in the social history of Westfield when the city was accommodating immigrants of various faiths into its population. It was the city's first non-denominational cemetery.
- The Cemetery has a fine Romanesque Revival chapel available for use in poor weather and for appropriate other uses. The stained glass windows in the Chapel may be from the Tiffany Studios.
- The Cemetery has ample room for 1-2,000 more burials.
- Pine Hill Cemetery is well-landscaped and provides an historical and open-space benefit to Westfield.
- The City has adopted the Community Preservation Act.

Issues:

- The Cemetery is a 501 (c) (13) organization, which its Board of Directors understands, makes it ineligible for many grants.
- There are no protections in place for the cemetery.
 - There is a small and diminishing endowment as the cemetery loses money each year.

- One couple maintains the cemetery with a high interest, but once they are no longer in place, it will be difficult to find anyone to replace them.
- The Friends of Pine Hill Cemetery organization is relatively inactive and its non-profit status is not clear vis-à-vis grant eligibility.
- In order to attract burials, the cemetery does not require perpetual care money be deposited when plots are purchased. Funds left in the past for perpetual care have been exhausted, descendants are no longer to be found, yet maintenance continues.
- The state has not kept up its mandate to pay Westfield for care and maintenance of Civil War veterans's graves.

Recommendations:

1. The Friends of Pine Hill Cemetery should organize themselves as a 501 (c) 3 in order to serve as advocates for the cemetery and to ensure eligibility for grants such as the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Preservation Projects Fund, which could help with Chapel restoration and landscape preservation efforts.
2. The Pine Hill Cemetery should be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Being on the Register will facilitate grant applications and serve as a tool for fundraising in general.
3. Based on its historical importance to the City, Pine Hill Cemetery might apply for funding from the CPA for a preservation master plan to identify needs and develop a plan to serve as a guide for fundraising efforts to address the needs.
4. The Pine Hill Cemetery Board of Directors should create a fundraising/business plan and launch a capital campaign to increase the endowment of the cemetery.
5. The Cemetery should consider adding an up-front maintenance fee attached to the sale of burial sites based on the historical significance and level of preservation of this garden cemetery.
6. More research should be done in City Reports for the landscape architect of the cemetery, the architect of the Parks Chapel and stone carvers, so that more of its history is available for researchers and for marketing of the cemetery.
7. The Cemetery could charge a standard research fee for genealogical research questions and access to extant records.



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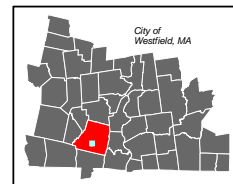
- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Pine Hill Cemetery

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

Westfield Marble Quarry



Westfield marble quarry with iced-over water, 2009

Westfield marble quarry is located on the west side of the City, between the Little River on the north and Westfield Mountain on the south. It is reached through a gated entrance to a municipal well field on Northwest Road, and is approximately one-half mile northeast of the entrance. It is reached by a woodland trail and dirt roadway. Remnants of quarrying equipment are found beside the trail near the quarry, and numerous large blocks of marble, with plug and feather marks evident, are stacked at its edges.



Stacked marble blocks at edge of quarry, 2009.

Archaeological excavations in 1941 found evidence that Native Americans were active at the site of the Westfield Marble Quarry cutting out steatite from an above-ground deposit of the stone, also known as soapstone, to make pots. They found a wide range of hand tools from picks to scrapers and polishers used to fashion the bowls once the blocks were cut from the deposit, as well as some partly-finished, one-handled pots. The material of some of the tools was trap rock not found in the area.



Soapstone used by Native Americans at quarry

Adjacent to the soapstone quarry is the serpentine quarry, a marble quarry from which both common marble, or *verd antiques*, and *cannimers* and Lizard serpentine is found. The latter is a deep green marble known for its translucency and fine grain and is a rare form of marble used as a special architectural feature. The existence of the serpentine deposit was known in the 19th century but it wasn't mined until the end of the century when Homer Noble brought up the idea of raising capital among a group of Westfield businessmen to form a quarrying operation. First, the interested men verified the extent of the marble vein by bringing MIT professor W. O. Crosby to investigate. He confirmed the vein as being 125' wide and told the group that they had five types of marble in the deposit, all commercial grade. Westfield Marble Quarries, Inc. was set up by a group of Westfield businessmen. In addition to Homer Noble, they were: Dr. James Atwater, Leonard D. Atwater, Frank Hamilton, George Walkley, A. C. Barnes, Arthur C. Mosely, C. A. Firth, W. H. Russell of Westfield, and Frank Norcross of Longmeadow. The company was formed in 1890 and it bought 400 acres of land on which this belt of serpentine marble and limestone was located, stretching from Westfield into Russell. The company began its quarrying operations in Westfield in 1896 when they had brought in a channeling machine to make preliminary bores into the quarry stone, and a hoist and derrick, to lift the stone out, and a blacksmith shop on site to make repairs to the machinery. At first they only sent off rough stone to be prepared in Westfield in a marble finishing business near the Boston and Albany Railroad freight house. But, in 1897 they built their own mill and a gravity railroad 500' in length to transport the stone downhill to the mill. From the mill the stone was transported to one of two railroads, the Boston and Albany Railroad or the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad in the Center.



1897 mill at quarry prior to burning down

The company found around 1910 that the stone in Russell was a higher quality so they moved the focus of their operations to Russell Mountain, but kept Westfield open into the 1940s. In 1941 the Westfield mill burned down and was not rebuilt.

Through much of the 20th century the site continued to be of interest to geologists such as George W. Bain and Howard A. Meyeroff, who wrote in The Flow of Time in the Connecticut Valley, published in Springfield in 1976: “The Westfield marble is a decorative green serpentine with a shimmer to polished slabs. The rock is a transformed igneous intrusive and it encloses masses of chlorite schist with beautiful octahedrons of black magnetite. The ledge of the valley view is kyanite schist and large blue gray crystals up to three inches long and half an inch wide occur in it.”

Today the quarry is privately owned.

Opportunities:

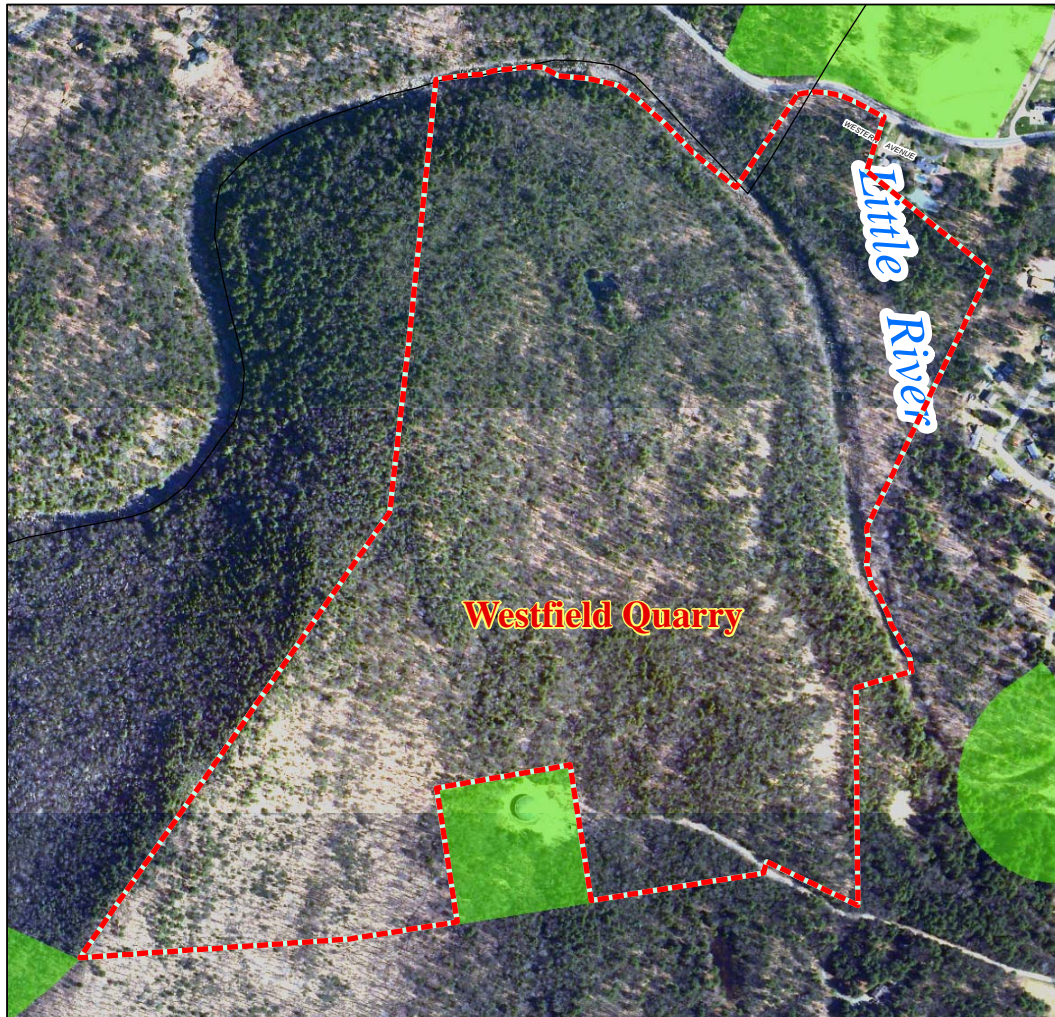
- The Westfield Quarry is a unique heritage landscape in Westfield with marble of noteworthy beauty and a long history of industry from the early soapstone extraction to the large scale, 20th century marble operations.

Issues:

- There are no protections on the Quarry, so it could be sold and possibly developed.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the City work with the owner to come to a mutually-agreeable means of preserving the quarry and its adjacent archaeological site.
2. The City of Westfield should consider undertaking a community-wide Archaeological Survey and the development of an Archaeological Preservation Plan. The City might then consider adopting an Archaeological Resource Protection Bylaw that would protect the identified archaeological landscapes when development takes place through an archaeological review or site plan review or advisory comments by the Westfield Historical Commission, which would help direct development to less sensitive areas.



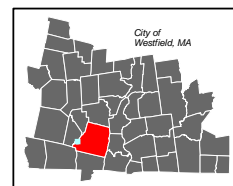
- Historic Landscape
- Other Historic Landscapes
- Permanently Protected Open Space



Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Westfield Quarry

*City of Westfield, Massachusetts,
Heritage Landscape Inventory Project,
Connecticut River Valley*



Map Sources:

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 2009.
Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, Massachusetts Highway Department,
and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment, MassGIS.

Funding:

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and the Environment
Department of Conservation Resources

PART II: PLANNING FOR HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

INVENTORY AND DOCUMENTATION

1. Massachusetts Historical Commission Records

Current Listings: There are currently 554 inventory forms for the City of Westfield on file at the MHC. A thorough inventory was done in the 1970s covering schools, cemeteries churches, bridges, houses, markers and areas. The earliest buildings included in the inventory - several houses and a shop— date from 1740 and 1750. The majority of the houses surveyed are 19th century. Few houses from the 20th century were surveyed, the latest was 1938. Copies of all the forms are kept in the Westfield Athenaeum at the Reference Desk. They are partially accessible through the MACRIS data base available on the MHC website.

Recommendations:

The Westfield Historical Commission should undertake an effort to add properties to its survey, and bring the existing survey up-to-date. The new forms should be prepared in digital format and when possible the old forms should be re-done in the new digital format as well.

2. National and State Register Listing

Current Listings: There are seven individual buildings and one cemetery on the National and State Registers of Historic Places in Westfield. The Joseph Dewey House was listed in 2001; the Landlord Fowler Tavern in 1982; the Westfield Municipal Building in 1978; the State Normal Training School in 1983; the United States Whip Company Complex in 1983, the Van Deusen Whip Company in 1987; the Octagon House in 1982, the Westfield Whip Manufacturing Company in 1985 and the Mechanic Street Cemetery in 2002. One historic district, the Westfield Center Commercial Historic District was listed in 2008. A boundary extension of that district is in progress to encompass the entire residential and commercial Center on the north and south sides of the Westfield River. As part of two Investment Tax Credit Certification projects, there are two additional individual listings being added to the Registers in 2008-09.

Recommended Listings: It is recommended that Wyben-West Farms be nominated to the Register as a historic district beginning with the boundaries established in its Area Form. Among others, the Bush House on East Silver Street of 1740 should be listed on the National Register as should the Georgian house at 174 Main Street, ca. 1750 that remains. The Pine Hill Cemetery should be listed on the Register as should Grandmother's Garden and Stanley Park as designed landscapes. There are no Local Historic Districts (LHD) in the City and it is recommended that Park Square be designated as an LHD.

Additional Recommendation:

It is further recommended that the Demolition Delay Bylaw be revised to incorporate all the historically and architecturally significant properties in the City. Finally, it is

recommended that Westfield enact a Scenic Road Bylaw and designate its scenic roads for protection.

3. Heritage Landscape Inventory List from Local Identification Meeting

Each community involved in the Connecticut Valley Region Heritage Landscape Inventory held a local identification meeting to solicit input from a range of community members to identify potential heritage landscapes throughout the city. The lists were prioritized by the community, with help from the consultants, to create a list of five to ten priority areas, which were described in Part I of this report. The complete list of the city's heritage landscapes provides a sound resource list for future documentation activities and potential funding opportunities.

- Agricultural
- Civic
- Transportation
- Residential
- Archaeological
- Industrial
- Natural
- Commercial
- Burial
- Institutional
- Open Space and Recreation

TOWNWIDE PLANNING AND ZONING TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES

Detailed descriptions of planning tools and techniques can be found in the Department of Conservation and Recreation Terra Firma #7 – Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character (2009). This document includes the following sections: Municipal Roles in Landscape Preservation; Thinking in Context: Comprehensive and Open Space Planning; Engaging the Public; and Defending the Resources: Laws, Bylaws and Regulations. This document should be used in conjunction with this report as a guide to acting on the specific recommendations for Priority Heritage Landscapes included in Part I.

The following Community Planning Checklist provides an overview of planning and zoning that currently exists within the town of Westfield, zoning changes that are currently underway, and recommendations for further changes that were included in this report and other planning documents.

COMMUNITY PLANNING CHECKLIST CITY OF WESTFIELD

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS	BUILDING BLOCK	NOTES
✱	Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND)	City Center
□	Transit Oriented Development (TOD)	
✓	Mixed Use Village Districts	
✱	Planned Unit Development (PUD)	
✓	Adaptive Reuse and Infill Development	
✱	Tax Incentive Programs and Business Improvement	

	Districts	
✓	Open Space Residential Development	
✓	Accessory Apartments	
✱	Inclusionary Zoning	
	Home Based Business Bylaw	
✓	Brownfields Inventory	
✱	Brownfields Redevelopment Projects	
✓	Transfer of Development Rights	Wyben
✱	Agricultural Commissions	City-wide
✱	Right to Farm Bylaws	Wyben
✓	River Protection Overlay District	Flood Zone District/Wetland Protection Bylaw
✓	Community Preservation Act	Park Square Master Plan; Pine Hill Cemetery
✱	Scenic Upland/Vista Overlay District	Wyben- Backlot provisions
✓	Bike and Pedestrian Features	
✱	Traffic Calming Measures	
✓	Water Supply Protection District	
✱	Low Impact Development	
✱	Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw	
✱	Stormwater Utilities	
✓	Commercial Site Plan Review	
✱	Commercial Performance Standards	
✱	Urban Growth Boundaries / Limits of Sewer and Water Extensions	
✱	Green Building Standards	
	Municipally Owned Renewable Energy	
☐	Adoption of Smart Growth Zoning Districts (Ch. 40R)	City Center; Canal/Railroad/Rail Trail Corridor
✓	Intergovernmental Compact	Barnes Aquifer Protection Advisory Committee, Valley Vision MOA
✱/☐	Local Historic District / National Register of Historic Places	City Center; Park Square; Wyben; Stanley Park; Pine Hill Cemetery
	Architectural Preservation District/Plan	Westfield Marble Quarry
✓	Demolition Delay Bylaw	Revise for City Center, Wyben, Canal/Railroad/Rail Trail Corridor
✱	Scenic Roads Bylaw/Designation	Montgomery Road
✱	Historic Canal/Railroad Overlay District	Canal/Railroad/Rail Trail Corridor

✓ Successfully Implemented

✱ Should Consider Adopting

☐ Currently Considering

Comprehensive, Open Space and Other Planning Documents

It is important that Open Space Plans, Comprehensive or Master Plans, and other planning documents address heritage landscapes as vital features of the community, contributing not only to unique sense of place, but also to environmental, recreational and economic health.

Current Plans: Westfield has two plans in place: an Open Space and Recreation Plan, from 1998, and a Local Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan, that dates June, 2008. Fortunately, there is a Master Plan in progress.

Recommended Plans: Comprehensive planning provides an important frame of reference for a town's land use decisions and incorporates all of a community's issues into an integrated plan. It is therefore recommended that the Heritage Landscapes be made a part of the new master plan, since the town will be using the plan to guide its activities related to community character, historic preservation, environmental health, economic viability and growth. The future of the Heritage Landscapes and the values they contribute should be addressed within multiple perspectives, not solely as historical assets of the community.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Outreach, Education and Interpretation

In order to create a community of advocates, we need to raise public awareness and broaden the base of support. This includes developing opportunities to learn about and celebrate the places and history of the town, as well as to care for them.

Collaboration

Protecting community character, respecting history, and promoting smart growth are interrelated concerns that impact heritage landscapes and require collaboration across a broad spectrum of the community. This includes communication among town boards and departments, as well as public-private partnerships.

Technical Assistance

Regulations and creative solutions for heritage landscapes are constantly changing and emerging. Public and private agencies offer technical assistance with the many issues to be addressed, including DCR, MHC, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Funding Opportunities

Funding rarely comes from a single source, more often depending on collaborative underwriting by private, municipal, and regional sources. Each town also has a variety of funding sources that are locally-based and sometimes site-specific.

CONCLUSION

The Heritage Landscape Reconnaissance Report for Westfield has undertaken an analysis of the priority heritage landscapes identified by the community, their place in the city's history and how the city might approach their preservation and conservation. But many of the report's recommendations can also be applied to the landscapes forming the master list, and – as the master list is by no means exhaustive - to those heritage landscapes that are yet to be identified.

One of the most important starting points for protecting Westfield's heritage landscapes is to do further research on all the properties that have been identified. And the best way to do that, is to bring the inventory up to date. Once the inventory work has been sufficiently established the overall context in which the landscapes exist are more easily described and their importance conveyed to city residents, city government members, and to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

Westfield has a strong advocate for preservation in the Western Hampden Historical Society and it has accomplished some important projects in the recent past. The Society has funded the nomination of Westfield Center to the National Register, and members were instrumental in preventing the demolition of an important Italianate style house and its reuse as a bank. They have been working on raising public awareness of its historic properties in annual events as well. Finally, individuals in Westfield have taken private measures to maintain their historic buildings and landscapes.

To capitalize on the work in progress, it is important to use this report to alert government members, committees and commissions to the existence and value of the city's heritage landscapes, so distribution and discussion of the report will be an important next move.

This is all part of generating community support, and community support is essential to preserving the city's heritage, be it a whip factory, an old hotel, a quarry or the fields that have been worked for several hundred years. Publicizing the report through a series of articles, presentations, and making it available to residents will be an important effort. Creating public awareness is public education and it can be approached through the schools, through the press, on-line and at special events. Above all, leading the community to recognition that it does indeed have heritage landscapes and that they make up the city's attractive character is a goal that this report can help accomplish.

The top three recommendations of Westfield are 1. adopt an Agricultural Overlay District in Wyben to protect its rural nature and encourage the use of the APR among Wyben's farmers 2. construct the rail trail and preserve the railroad structures as a means of bringing economic activity to the Center, which will help to preserve its historic buildings, structures and landscapes 3. assist Pine Hill Cemetery through the Community Preservation Act to obtain funding for cemetery restoration.

RESOURCES

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

Terra Firma #1- An Introduction to Historic Landscape Preservation Department of Conservation and Recreation Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #3- Putting Historic Landscape Preservation on Solid Ground: Identifying and Protecting Historic Roads, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #5 Putting Heritage Landscape Preservation on Solid Ground: Stones that Speak: Forgotten Features of the Landscape, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, n.d.

Terra Firma #7 - Taking Action: A Toolkit for Protecting Community Character Department of Conservation and Recreation Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2009.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances, Draft Copy March 11, 2009, typescript.

_____. MHC Reconnaissance Survey Reports, typescript,

APPENDIX A

WESTFIELD HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Note: The following chart lists all the heritage landscapes identified by residents in the public meeting as a master list. Landscapes with asterisks were designated “Priority Landscapes” by residents of the town.

HERITAGE LANDSCAPE	NOTES
AGRICULTURAL	
*Wyben Farmland Gateway	Natural/vista as well as agricultural landscape
Wolf Pit Meadows	
Farms on Route 10/202	North side of highway.
Pomeroy Farm	Russellville Road
Maple Brook Farm	On East Mountain Road
Hundred Acre Farm	
ARCHAEOLOGICAL	
Indian Burial Site	Unknown location off Route 20
Westfield brickyard	On North Road
Westfield Fairgrounds	Russellville Road
Falley Armory Home Site	Below Tekoa Reservoir dam; burned down in the late 1920s but there are remains
BURIAL	
*Pine Hill Cemetery	
Mundale Cemetery, Granville Road	
Mechanic Street Cemetery	On National Register
Granville Road Cemetery	Different than Mundale Cemetery on same road
Burial ground at Russellville and North Roads	
CIVIC	
*City Center City Hall	

Athenaeum Village green and buildings around it Residential side streets	
Prospect Hill School	Recently rehabilitated and on National Register
Franklin Street Armory	
INSTITUTIONAL	
Westfield State College campus	Buildings are not within current date eligibility for National Register but will be fairly soon.
Western Mass. Hospital	East Mountain Road
NATURAL	
Juniper Park	Area south of old Sheraton Inn that is now demolished. On Route 20.
Chapin Pond	
Vista down Little River	
Feeding Hill Road vernal Pond	
Little River Road aquifer pump station	Offers view
Crane Mill Pond vista west from Cowls Bridge	
Vista from Great River Bridge looking west to see old canal aquaduct and railroad bridge	This is the extant railroad bridge.
Westfield River Corridor	
OPEN SPACE	
Davies Home vista	Open Space vista/also Natural on Russell Road
West Parish Orchard with vistas to UMass	
Old City Island	Upstream from Whitney Field
RECREATIONAL	
Grandmother's Garden	Also known as Chauncey Allen Park
Robinson State Park - CCC, Native Americans, River buffer, bird migration	Very small portion of this park is actually in Westfield. It is better addressed as Agawam park.
*Stanley Park and Wildlife Sanctuary	

Shaker Country Club	
Bullens field grandstand	Built by WPA in 1938
Whitney Field	First playground in town
Tekoa Park	Old gravel quarry that in the 1850s became city park
RESIDENTIAL	
Crane Avenue mill worker housing	
Hampton Ponds cottages	Mostly built in 30s and now permanent homes.
Western Avenue	Vernacular 19 th century housing
House west of Armory with H. P. Smith fence cast iron ornament	
Walnut Street two houses moved from site of City Hall	One of houses split into two, too.
Dewey House and Grange Hall	Historical Commission cares for these.
Pochassic Street houses	18 th -19 th c. vernacular houses in mix
TRANSPORTATION	
Honeypot Road	
Canal system	The remains on West Road
Canal system	Additional remains at Springfield and Sandy Hill Road
Route 20 with National Guard Bridge	
Rail Trail Towpath	From canal period on East Main Street
Shaker Road	Country Club Area
Old canal New Haven to Northampton	
Portions of Canal	South Broad Street portions