



Wallingford Plan of Conservation and Development 2015 Update

Community Facilities & Cultural Resources Steering Sub-Committee

August, 2015



Introduction

- **Schools**
 - Data Update
 - Focus Group & Community Survey Input
- **Social and Community Services**
 - Data Update
 - Focus Group & Community Survey Input
- **Infrastructure & Public Safety**
 - Data Update
 - Focus Group & Community Survey Input
- **Previous POCD Goals, Objectives and Recommendations**
- **Discussion – Strategizing for the Future**



Schools

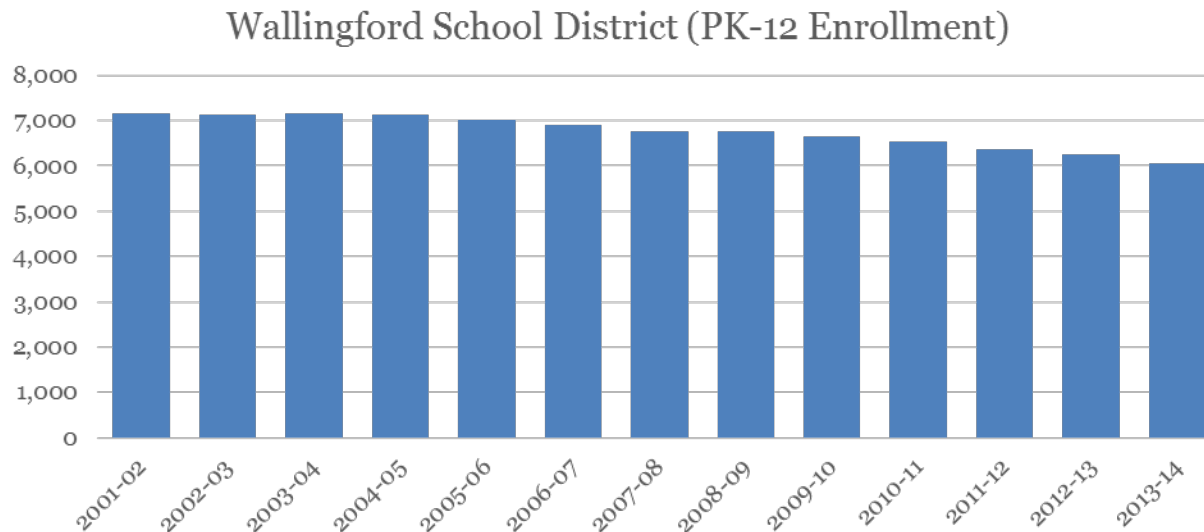
- **K-2: Cook Hill, E.C. Stevens, Highland, Moses Y. Beach**
- **3-5: Parker Farms, Pond Hill, Rock Hill, Yalesville**
- **Middle: Dag Hammarskjold and James H. Moran**
- **High: Lyman Hall and Mark T. Sheehan**
- **Private (not religiously affiliated): Choate Rosemary Hall, High Road School, Benhaven**
- **Private religious schools: Holy Trinity School, Heritage Baptist Academy**





Schools

- Rollout of full-day kindergarten for 2015-16
- Expanded Pre-K program (two additional classrooms) enabled by Smart Start state funding
- Approval of Lyman Hall athletic complex improvements (\$2.27m authorized): running track, turf field, emergency lighting (done in Nov.)
- Declining enrollment a trend since 2004-05



Source: CT CeDar (2014)



Focus Group: Schools

- Expectation that expanded public Pre-K will impact private preschools in town
- Bonding items for schools: Strategic Plan Budget identified \$13.8m in potential bonding items for 2015-16 through 2017-18

Potential Bonding Items by Year

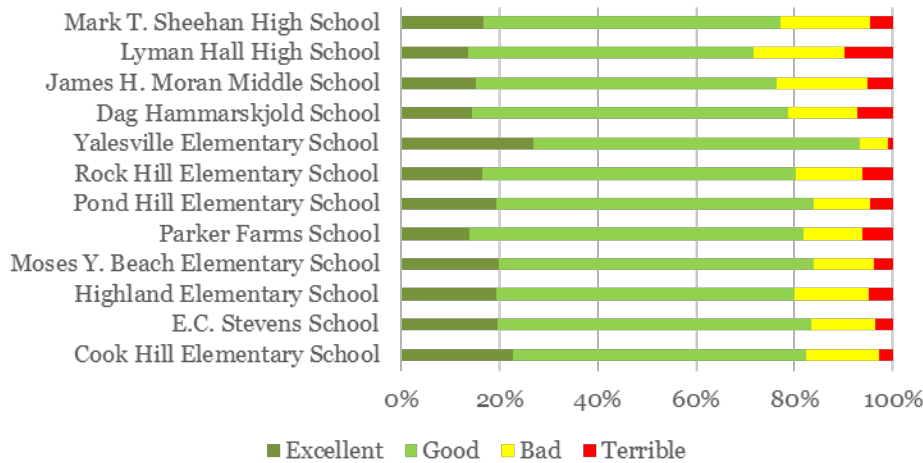
Goal Area	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Three Year
<i>Safety Guidelines</i>	\$317,175	\$27,347	\$0	\$344,522
<i>Capital Projects</i>	\$7,558,585	\$3,398,017	\$677,250	\$11,633,852
<i>Safe, Secure Learning Environment</i>	\$689,207	\$218,400	\$5,000	\$912,607
<i>Energy Efficiency</i>	\$911,500	\$4,000	\$0	\$915,500
Total	\$9,476,467	\$3,647,764	\$682,250	\$13,806,481

- Enrollment decline such that potential consolidation of high school (and possibly middle school) facilities may be considered over next decade
- Voag program at Lyman Hall: required to be open to non-residents
- CNA program moving to Sheehan (former BOE space)



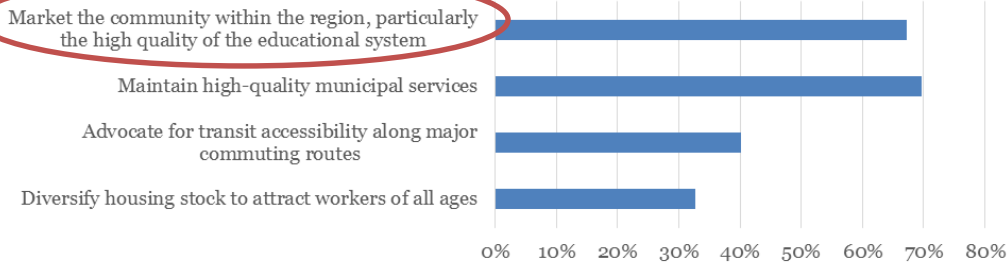
Survey: Schools

Condition and quality of school facilities



- Yalesville, Cook Hill perceived by more respondents as in excellent condition; more negative perceptions of Sheehan, Lyman Hall, and Moran schools
- Many comments show concerns about perceived decline in school quality and/or suggest improvements are needed for schools to attract skilled workers
- Specific concerns:
 - Quality of fields and grounds at high schools
 - Condition of bathrooms, locker rooms
 - Lack of AC, poor heating/energy efficiency

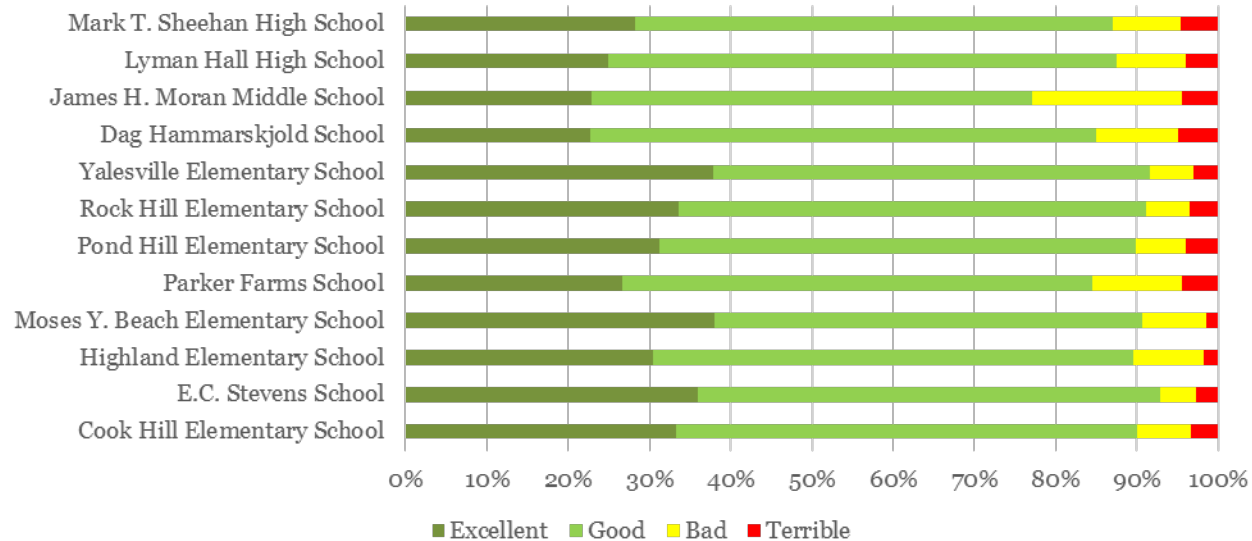
What economic development strategies might maintain and augment these characteristics of the population?





Survey: Schools

Do you find the educational experience for your child to be...



- Most positive experiences at Yalesville, Moses Y. Beach, and E.C. Stevens
- Less positive experiences at Moran and Dag middle schools, Parker Farms
- Mixed reviews; concerns focused on:
 - Common Core
 - K-2/3-5 split



Youth Services

- **Youth Services include**
 - Alternatives to suspension program
 - Counseling and crisis services
 - Parent/child playgroup
 - Peer advocates
 - Project Graduation
 - Youth Job Bank
- **Wallingford Early Childhood Alliance Resources and Education (WE CARE)**
 - English & Bilingual playgroups
- **Increasingly limited by program and storage space constraints**





Spanish Community of Wallingford

➤ Adult programming

- English instruction & conversation groups
- Financial and computer literacy
- Social service referrals
- Translation/interpretation



➤ Children's programming

- ¡Adelante! America leadership program
- Escuela Guadalupana de Musica/Mariachi Academy of CT
- STEM Enrichment Academy
- Summer programs
- Tutoring



Social Services & Resources

- **Connecticut Food Bank**
 - HQ and distribution center under construction
- **Master's Manna**
 - Food pantry and household goods
 - Family Dining Center
 - Laundry, showers, health care services
 - ESL, skills training, and homeless outreach





Social Services & Resources

- **Senior Center**
 - Benefits/services counseling
 - Transportation and day trips
 - Health, wellness, memory care
 - Lake View Café and Senior Community Café programs
- **Current facility built in 2001**





Recreational Facilities

- **Recent improvements**
 - **Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park parking lot expansion**
 - **Dog Park off Quinnipiac St.**
 - **Doolittle Park ball field improvements**
 - **Harrison Park ball field and parking improvements**
 - **Pragemann Park parking improvements**
 - **West Side Park fields renovation**
 - **Kendrick Park playground improvements**





Recreational Programs

- Over 700 classes, events, trips, camps, and leagues
 - Day and weekend trips to PA, MA, RI
 - Summer camps for sports, STEM, robotics, engineering
 - Play groups and skills development
 - Yoga, meditation, Tai Chi
 - Fitness/cardio bootcamps
 - Dance and music

**WALLINGFORD'S
SUMMER FUN**

New! KID'S TRIATHLON
July 11th
Info on pg.2

New! FEATURED CAMP!!!
Half Day Hoop
Boot Camp
Page 9

Summer 2015
Parks & Recreation
GUIDE TO LEISURE AND FUN!

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PARKSREC@WALLINGFORDCT.GOV



Community/Cultural Groups

- Wallingford Center, Inc.
- Wallingford Educational Foundation
- Wallingford Land Trust
- Wallingford Community Women
- Wallingford Historical Society
- Local Music (Chorus & Symphony Orchestra)
- Churches and synagogues (many)
- Fraternal/service clubs (Elks, Rotary)
- Dry Dock
- Coalition for a Better Wallingford
- Wallingford YMCA
- Wallingford Dog Lover's Association
- Trail of Terror



Focus Group: Community Services

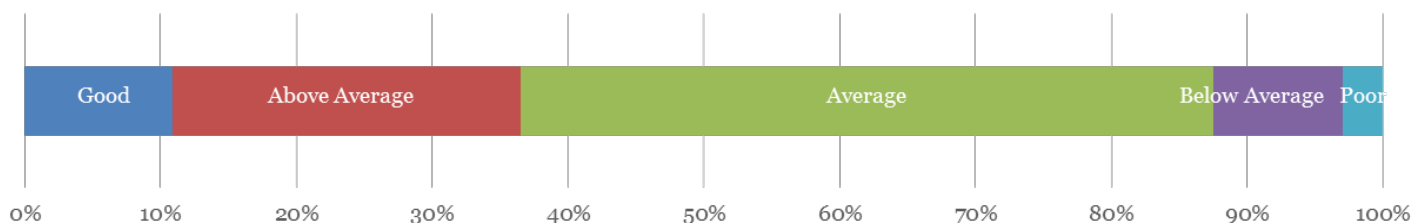
- SCOW programs have expanded rapidly in recent years (inc. music program, leadership program, STEM Academy, ESL)
- Good communication between community organizations
- Many programs constrained from growing due to space needs
 - Retrofitted/repurposed spaces can limit programming options
 - Space issues a limiting factor on growing successful programs
 - Access issues: YSS not accessible to families without cars
- Wallingford Shelter space is very tight, esp. in winter
 - Two additional family shelter units approved, on top of two existing units
- Library update very successful
- Housing Authority relocated back to Wallingford; new director on board
- Improvements needed at Wallace Park, Grand & Washington Park
- Athletics needs: fields for pick-up games, facility for skateboarders



Survey: Recreation & Services

- Many voices supporting delivering and publicizing services online through town website and/or social media
- Perceived lack of programs and social events for preteens/teens
- Condition of facilities rated by most as average or above average, but few give them top marks
 - Strong areas: trail system, library
 - Weaker areas: baseball and soccer fields, pool, parking lots at parks
 - Many comments (27/271) mention desire for a splash pad for children
 - Perception that neighboring communities offer higher-quality recreational amenities

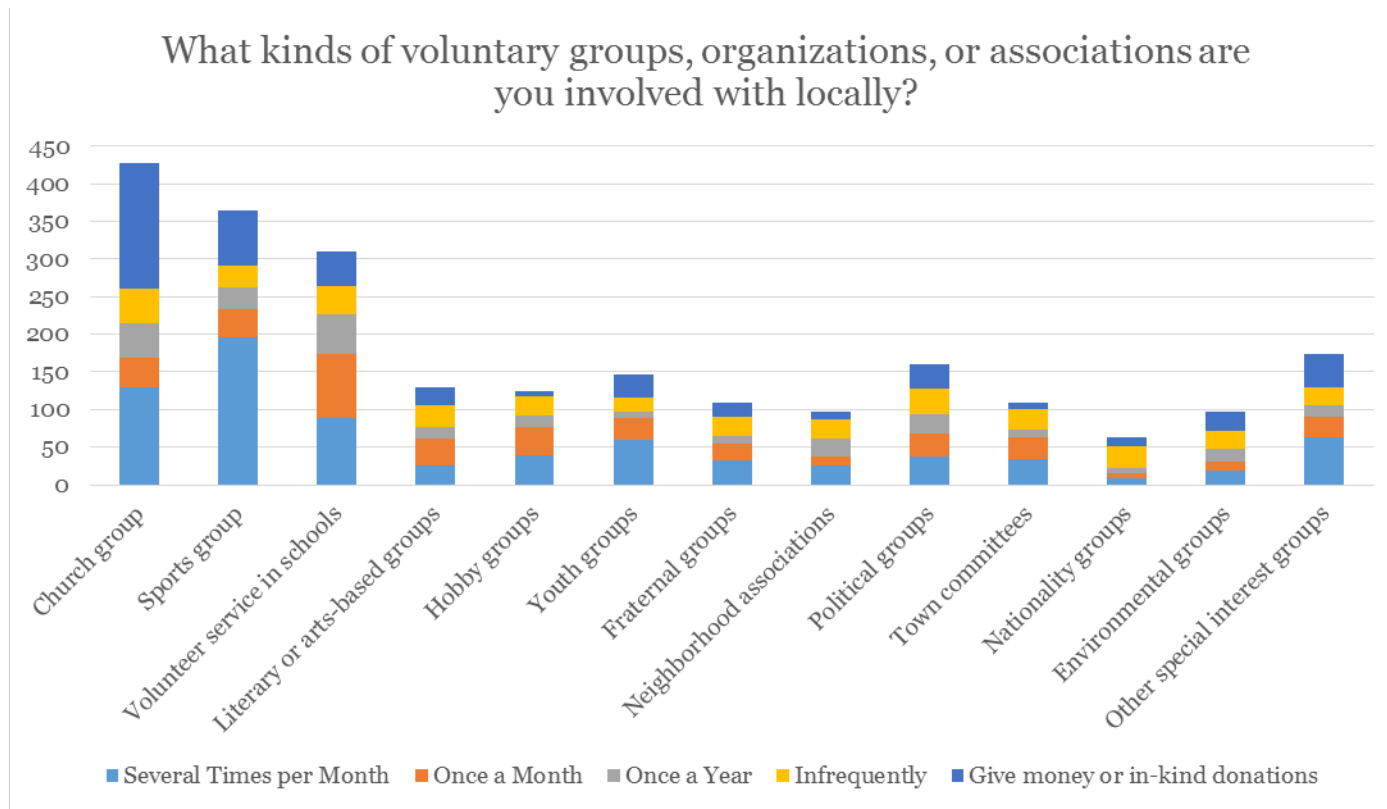
In general, do you find the condition and quality of the Town's recreational facilities to be...





Survey: Community Involvement

- Highest level of volunteer involvement and financial contributions in religious and athletic groups and local schools





Historic Sites

- Nine Listed Properties
- Wallingford Center Historic District





Fire Protection

- **New North Farms Firehouse approved for Company #7**
 - \$4.6m bonded for 844 N. Farms Road facility
- **Minor improvements slated for fire HQ at 75 Masonic Avenue**





Police Department

- Police headquarters in historic Wallingford Armory at 135 North Main St.
 - Built 1920
 - Renovated for police use in 1986
- Space needs assessment conducted in 2009
 - Identified space needs of ~47,000 sq.ft. vs. current ~28,000 sq.ft.
 - Mechanical/electric/plumbing systems past useful life
 - Inadequate space for staff/fleet parking, vehicle fueling
 - Recommended new facility on alternate site (e.g. Wooding-Caplan)





Utilities

- **Covanta Waste to Energy plant: potential conversion to transfer station**
 - **Uncertainty over fiscal implications of host fee and tip fee changes**
- **Wallingford Energy: interest in adding three additional NG generators to John St. facility**
- **Electric Division Downtown Economic Development Rider—possible expansion?**





Focus Group: Safety/Facilities

- **Police station space/repair needs**
 - Questions on basis for additional space needs: new holding requirements separating youth from adults
 - Minor damage occurred during severe weather in June
- **Old fire station will be reverting to previous owner when new North Farms firehouse is complete**



Previous POCD Recommendations

➤ Priority Recommendations

- Find uses for the closed Simpson School, old American Legion building, and Caplan-Wooding property, or sell them
- Consider taking maintenance responsibility for detention basins
- Approve parking lot expansion for PD and FD
- Support library expansion efforts
- Expand municipal water to all areas zoned commercial or industrial

➤ General Recommendations

- Identify location and acquire land for new firehouse on east side
- Continue program of roadway reconstruction, repaving, and rehabilitation



Previous POCD Recommendations

➤ Priority Recommendations:

- Conduct a trails inventory with the goal of developing a network of connecting trails
- Develop more pocket parks in the more urban areas
- Provide adequate facilities for organized youth sports

➤ General Recommendations

- Support the Linear Trail and extensions
- Stop funding studies for a municipal golf course
- Encourage wetlands/wildlife habitat in former Community Lake
- Explore connecting dredge ponds near Senior Center
- Prioritize Recreation needs e.g. park facilities/pavilion upgrades, new hiking trails, pool upgrades



General Discussion

- **Specific items to consider:**
 - Global analysis of storage and program space availability and needs
 - Desire for POCD to recommend enrollment projections, study of consolidation options for middle/high school facilities, other planning for coming decade
 - Priority list for recreation: trails around Community Lake area, field improvements, skate park, splash pad, others?
 - Is any expansion of Economic Development Rider rate through Wallingford Electric appropriate, e.g. around new train station?
 - Police station space needs, any potential fire station improvement priorities should be addressed in Plan