

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In preparing the Westfield Master Plan, various goals and objectives were put forward, discussed and refined. These goals and objectives serve as a guide to implement and interpret the various Master Plan proposals:

1. To provide adequate light, air and open space by establishing, administering and enforcing bulk, density and design standards that are appropriate for the various zones and uses in the community.
2. To preserve and protect the suburban character of existing residential neighborhoods through:
 - a. zone designations based upon existing neighborhood development patterns and according to the environmental requirements for the respective residential uses; and
 - b. bulk, density and design standards that are appropriate for the various dwelling types in their respective zones;
 - c. discouraging through traffic in residential areas whenever possible; and
 - d. regulations to preserve and enhance visual appearance of residential neighborhoods.
3. To minimize the environmental impact resulting from development, particularly in areas of steep slope, wetlands and flood hazard areas through:
 - a. appropriate regulations that discourage disturbance of steep slopes and vegetation; and
 - b. appropriate regulations that discourage unnecessary development in wetlands and flood hazard areas.
4. To provide adequate municipal open space for a variety of active and passive recreational uses by:
 - a. maintaining the present amount of open space available to Town residents, and by providing at least 8 acres of municipal open space per 1,000 persons in the community as land becomes available; and

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- b. making improvements that encourage the use of and improve the access to passive open space areas.
5. To maintain and enhance the viability of the various business districts by:
 - a. encouraging an appropriate mix of land uses that will complement one another and meet the retail and service needs of the Town;
 - b. promoting a desirable visual environment and preserving the small town atmosphere in the business districts;
 - c. providing or requiring the provision of sufficient numbers of parking and loading spaces in the appropriate locations to serve the needs of the general public as well as the needs of patrons and employees;
 - d. promoting a desirable pedestrian environment in the downtown business district; and
 - e. discouraging automobile-only oriented development in the central business district, including "strip malls".
6. To minimize traffic congestion and provide for safe and convenient access to properties.
7. To eliminate areas of conflict or incompatibility in land use or zoning between Westfield and adjacent municipalities by:
 - a. rezoning, where appropriate, those areas that conflict with the use or zoning of adjacent municipalities; and
 - b. encouraging the buffer/separation of incompatible uses and/or zones.
8. To provide a wide range of housing types and densities in a manner that maintains and is compatible with the predominant existing single family detached dwelling development pattern through:
 - a. various zone districts that permit single-family detached, two-family and single-family attached, and multi-family dwellings where appropriate; and
 - b. density standards that reflect existing neighborhood conditions, where appropriate, as well as the needs of various housing types.

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9. To address the need of affordable housing for the local and regional population of low- and moderate-income persons by establishing various zone districts that encourage the provision of affordable housing, where appropriate.
10. To address the need for senior citizen housing through:
 - a. zone districts that encourage the development of housing units that are designed to meet the particular needs of senior citizens.
11. To promote the conservation of the various historical sites, structures and districts in Westfield by:
 - a. identifying the various historic sites, structures and districts that exist;
 - b. establishing appropriate regulations for the preservation of historic sites and structures; and
 - c. establishing appropriate regulations that encourage development and redevelopment in historic districts to be compatible with existing historic structures and sites in the district.
12. To promote the conservation of energy and the recycling of recyclable materials through:
 - a. appropriate regulations that require recycling of recyclable materials; and
 - b. appropriate regulations to encourage energy-efficient design, minimize automobile travel and encourage alternate modes of transportation.

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