

Westford Green Summary

The town of Westford is one of, if not the best candidate for a quintessential New England village green. The Westford green or common has a rich history and its use by the community has continued to rise in the past years (Town Common Area Enhancements Draft Report). The common also showcases an array of different tree and shrub species, which only add to its value and importance in the community.

The Westford Common is located at the center of town and surrounded by the main town office buildings, library and congregational church. The green boundaries seem well defined by the roads that surround it, but digging deeper into the history reveals that the common spreads into the neighboring lots as well, which can be observed by the town ownership of the dooryards of the homes opposite of the green (Town Common Area Enhancements Draft Report). This green has taken many forms over the years, from rough unimproved land when it was first donated to a hayfield to failed attempts at plantings of trees and finally to the current state of today (Town Common Area Enhancements Draft Report).

Currently the green sees regular use in the community in a variety of different ways. These include farmers markets, community concerts, July 4th parades, library activities, a rest area/park and ride, a hockey/skating rink and a playground among others (Melissa Manka). Current plans for the future include beautifying the green through plantings, straightening up the parking areas and installing better connections to other community buildings (Melissa Manka).

This beautifying effort was evidently clear through our surveys, as we observed many of the newly planted Swamp White Oaks, put in to combat the drainage problems on the lower reaches of the green which have proved difficult for other species. Alongside the Swamp White Oaks we observed 7 other species on the Westford Green, comprised of Maples, Oaks, Elm, Pitch Pine, Blue Spruce and Lilacs. These species ranged in size from less than 3 inches diameter at breast height of the newly planted species to over 18 inches for the largest Northern Red Oak on the green. The added value these trees provide was estimated through the i-Tree software suite and was split into five categories, energy, CO₂, air quality, storm water and aesthetic as well as an overall average. For energy we estimate \$17.94/tree, for CO₂ \$0.46/tree, for air quality

\$3.63/tree, for storm water \$4.94/tree, for aesthetic \$35.57/tree and the overall average was estimated to be \$62.53/tree.

These trees through the services they provide as well as the simple aesthetics provide both an ecological and an economic value to the green. As use continues to rise and the beautification process continues with possibly more plantings the value will only continue to rise. The Westford green is truly at the heart of the town and armed with this new knowledge, the value of the trees on the green can be fully realized alongside the many other values provided by the common space to the community.

Citations:

"A Breif History." *Town Common Area Enhancements Draft Report*.

Melissa Manka, Westford Planning Coordinator

Complete Population of Green Trees

4/28/2014

Species	DBH Class (in)								Total	
	0-3	3-6	6-12	12-18	18-24	24-30	30-36	36-42		> 42
Broadleaf Deciduous Large (BDL)										
Swamp white oak	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Sugar maple	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
American elm	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Northern red oak	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	5	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	10
Broadleaf Deciduous Medium (BDM)										
Red maple	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total	1	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Broadleaf Deciduous Small (BDS)										
BDS OTHER	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	3	0	3							
Conifer Evergreen Large (CEL)										
Blue spruce	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pitch pine	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
Grand Total	9	4	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	21

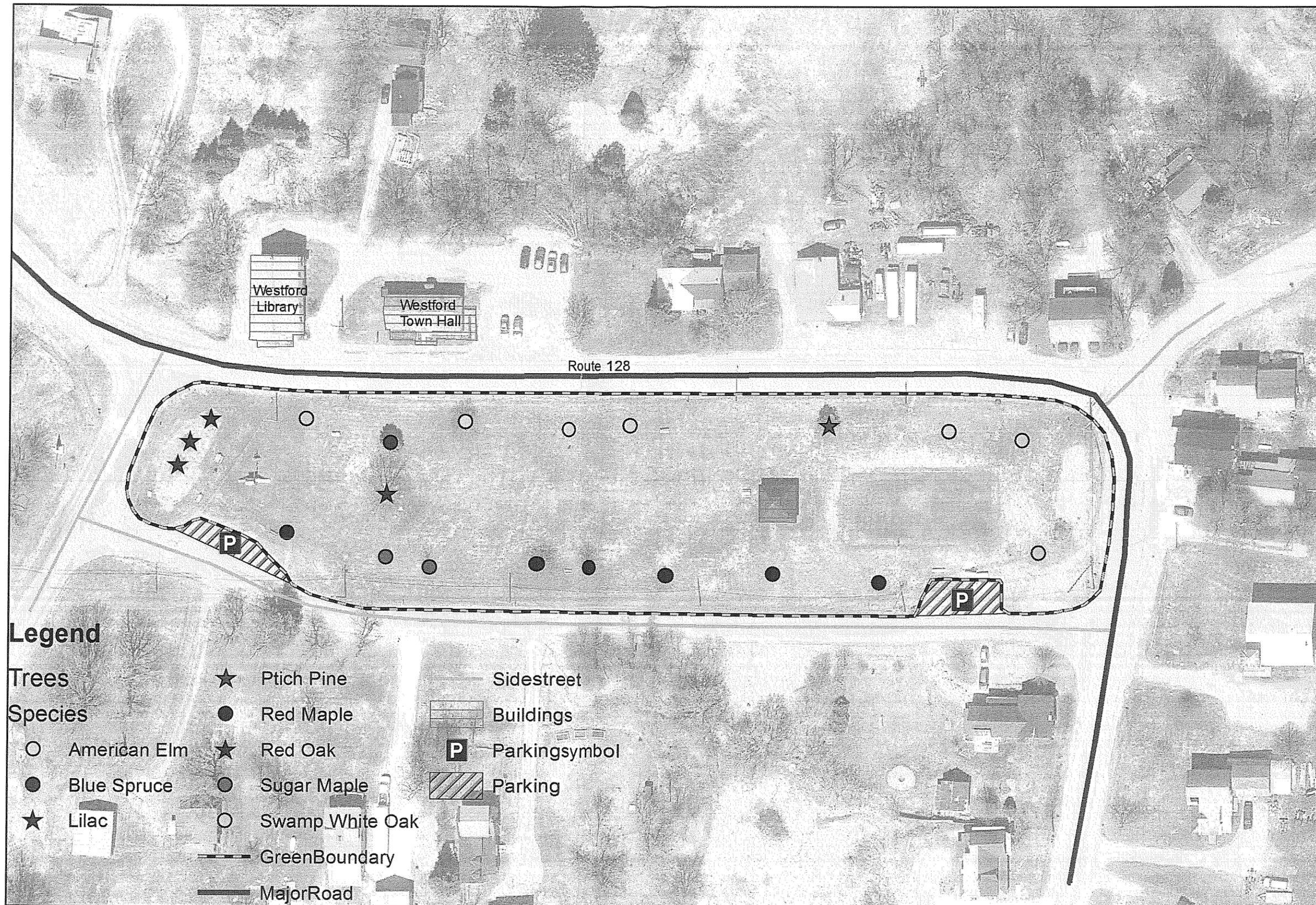
Westford

Annual Benefits of Green Trees by Species (\$/tree)

4/28/2014

Species	Energy	CO ₂	Air Quality	Stormwater	Aesthetic/Other	Total (\$) Standard Error
Red maple	14.12	0.34	2.62	4.10	47.02	68.20 (N/A)
Swamp white oak	6.34	0.13	1.08	1.27	32.84	41.66 (N/A)
BDS OTHER	2.74	0.05	0.47	0.40	7.89	11.55 (N/A)
Sugar maple	27.05	0.64	5.17	6.17	35.02	74.05 (N/A)
Pitch pine	40.33	0.97	9.49	13.37	24.02	88.17 (N/A)
Blue spruce	40.33	0.97	9.49	13.37	24.02	88.17 (N/A)
Northern red oak	82.78	2.54	17.86	24.17	56.33	183.68 (N/A)
American elm	28.17	0.77	5.38	7.02	69.75	111.09 (N/A)
Green Total	17.94	0.46	3.63	4.94	35.57	62.53 (N/A)

Westford Town Green Tree Inventory



Legend

Trees

Species

- American Elm
- Blue Spruce
- ★ Lilac
- ★ Pitch Pine
- Red Maple
- ★ Red Oak
- Sugar Maple
- Swamp White Oak

Sidestreet

Buildings

P Parkingsymbol

Parking

GreenBoundary

MajorRoad

1 inch = 92 feet

