

An aerial photograph of Wallingford, Vermont, showing a mix of residential buildings, a church, and a swimming pool, surrounded by dense green forests and rolling mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

# Wallingford Town Plan

Formally Adopted • 2018 • on March XX

# Table of Contents

## The Community

Community Profile and Vision .... 4  
Outreach and Participation ..... 6  
Economic Development ..... 8  
Cultural Resources ..... 9  
Historic Resources ..... 10

## The Land

Land Use .....12  
Recreation ..... 16  
Natural Resources .... 20  
Flood Resiliency ..... 23

## Facilities and Infrastructure

Community Facilities .... 24  
Transportation ..... 30  
Housing ..... 32  
Energy ..... 33



Main Porch of the True Temper Inn. Now the Wallingford House

Technical Assistance by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission



The Wallingford Town Plan is funded in part by a Municipal Planning Grant administered by the Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, Agency of Commerce and Community Development.

## Purpose and Authorization

“To preserve Wallingford’s historical settlement pattern by encouraging residential and commercial growth in the existing village centers and promoting the continued use of the outlying lands for agriculture, forestry, recreation and other accepted uses as designated by the Town’s Zoning Regulations.”

This statement is the theme of this document. It also expresses the key criteria for weighing and judging the appropriateness of the stated goals and objectives.

The Town of Wallingford is authorized to develop a town plan by 24 VSA, Chapter 117, to address the goals set forth in §4302.

### **Relationship Between Plan And The Development Trends And Plans For The Surrounding Area**

Efforts have been made to ensure that the revised plan for the Town of Wallingford is compatible with development trends and goals set forth by neighboring communities and the Rutland Region as a whole. For the purposes of this Plan, the surrounding area includes the towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Mt. Holly, Mt. Tabor, Danby and Tinmouth.

This plan promotes the preservation of Wallingford’s historical settlement pattern through the encouragement of residential and commercial growth in the existing village centers. Consistent with the community’s rural nature, the continued use of outlying lands for agriculture, forestry, recreation, low density residential and other accepted uses are also promoted.

Similar objectives, including encouragement of development in appropriate areas, sustainable natural resource use, and limited floodplain development are evident in surrounding towns. The Town of Shrewsbury encourages the continuation of the rural, historical character of the town, a goal in line with the promotion of traditional development patterns of the area. Much of the common border with Mt. Holly and almost the entire border of Mt. Tabor occur within the Green Mountain National Forest. The Town expects that for the foreseeable future all such lands will continue to be managed by the United States Forest Service in a manner compatible with the goals of the Town. The remaining boundary with Mt. Holly involves lands rural in nature with low-density development and related farming or forestry uses. Such uses do not conflict with each other or with the Green Mountain National Forest.

Wallingford continues to have community representatives serve on regional committees such as the Regional Planning Commission and the Rutland Region Transportation Council. Cooperation with neighboring towns can be seen in Wallingford’s participation on the Mill River Union High School board and emergency mutual aid agreements with surrounding towns.

The Wallingford Plan is also compatible with the general goals and objectives of the Rutland Regional Plan, most recently adopted in June 2016



# Community Profile

**2079**

Current population of Wallingford, making the town Rutland Region's 10th largest

**881**

Full Time Residences

**47.7**

People Per Square Mile.

**141**

Vacation/Seasonal/Recreational Residences

Wallingford is located in southern Rutland County, surrounded by the Towns of Clarendon, Shrewsbury, Mt. Holly, Mt. Tabor, Danby and Tinmouth. It is ten miles south of Rutland City, placing it on the fringe of Vermont's third largest municipality.

The demographic trends in Wallingford are similar to the trends of the county and the State. The town has an aging population, where as of the 2015\* census the median age was 46, and 38% of the population is 55 or older.

\*2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 year estimates

Wallingford boasts an exceptional New England character with its numerous historic villages surrounded by a rural and scenic countryside. Land use in Wallingford reflects the historical evolution of the town from a self-sufficient farming community and commercial center to one of an increasingly inter-dependent group of communities.

A land use pattern of tightly clustered villages surrounded by open land and scattered farms and residences has given way to a pattern of more diffuse

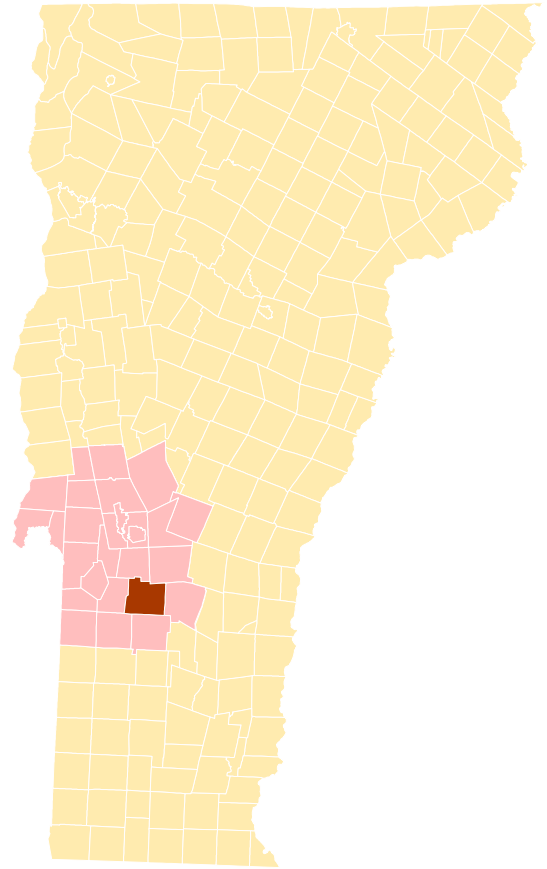


residential and commercial development. Existing land use patterns generally follow the zoning districts reflected in the Wallingford Zoning Regulations first adopted in 1971.

## Community Vision

The town plan detailed here-in has been written with the complementary goals of recognising Wallingford’s unique position as one of Vermont’s most historic towns; while at the same time understanding the need for properly managed economic growth and development. Emphasis has been placed on keeping the walkability of the existing village centers when considering economic development.

The objective regarding outlying lands used for agriculture, forestry, recreation, et al was to achieve maximum compliance with State and Federal statues with minimal infringement on the rights of land owners.



View of White Rocks From VT RT 140

# Outreach and Participation

The Town of Wallingford hosted a community dinner and forum on June 12, 2017, to which over 60 members of the community attended. Additionally, 321 members of the community participated in a town wide survey that was open from March to June 2017. These two outreach efforts garnered a breadth of suggestions for the vision of this town plan.

## Survey Responses

The survey results showed that Wallingford residents envision expanded retail opportunities in town. Responses like farmers market, breakfast restaurants, bakeries, dog parks, hardware stores, and coffee shops indicate that residents envision a vibrant commercial area in town complete with a breadth of retail choices.

### What type of new businesses would you like to see in Wallingford in the next 10 years?

290 responses

Hardware store .....	244
Laundromat .....	67
Storage Facility .....	16
Other .....	64

### What type of new food businesses would you like to see in Wallingford in the next 10 years?

299 responses

Coffee Shop .....	161
Bakery .....	170
Food Co-Op .....	112
Grocery .....	106
Brewery .....	82
Other .....	37

### What type of new / expanded services would you like to see in Wallingford in the next 10 years?

272 responses

Medical Services .....	92
Pharmacy .....	79
Senior Services .....	92
Childcare .....	62
Education Programs .....	59
Neighborhood Watch .....	67
Parks and Recreation .....	118
Tree Replacement .....	63
Library Services .....	67
Other .....	30





# Economic Development

Economic development was noted to be a sector of planning that is important to the residents of Wallingford. The 2017 survey results showed that residents are eager to see an increase in business development. Not only do residents wish to see new food retailers, like bakeries and grocery stores, but they would also like to see new businesses that employ large numbers of people.

As previously noted, the Wallingford Village is a historic district whose character and aesthetic appeal should be maintained. This area also serves as a gateway into town, and should present visitors with a pleasant first impression. There are numerous convenience stores in this village area, which presents an opportunity to work with local businesses on signage practices, to ensure that village aesthetics are not negatively affected by signage.

## Economic Development Action Items

The Planning Commission will request the Select Board to form and recruit an Economic Development committee.  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee will work with the consultant above to determine ways to bring small shops and businesses to town  
When:2021

Protect and enhance the village aesthetics and character by using zoning to regulate the percentage of storefront window space that can contain advertising. This is an effort to protect village aesthetics and to promote content neutral advertising.  
When: 2018

Hold Community Workshops on Home Occupation opportunities within town  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission will host a workshop about AirBnb and Uber/Lyft opportunities.  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission will create a Q&A list of common zoning issues related to home occupations and small businesses.  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission will have meetings with Green Mountain Power, phone utilities, and all other utilities, to discuss the options for consolidating and/or burying utility lines in downtown Wallingford  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission and the Economic Development Committee will seek funding for planting new Street Trees along Main St in downtown Wallingford.  
When: 2021

The Planning Commission will host a public informational meeting regarding the town's junk ordinance.  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission and the Economic Development Committee will seek funding to conduct a downtown beautification project. This project will include installation of a pocket park next to the library, an ADA parking lot behind the library, new benches, and bus shelters near the Boy and Boot and near the library. This project will also investigate a location for a farmers market.  
When: 2020

The Economic Development Committee will update the local business directory and the corresponding map  
When: 2019

The Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee will develop a town calendar, to better advertise and prevent overlap of town events  
When: 2019

The Economic Development Committee will develop an @destinationwallingford advertising campaign, to showcase the town  
When: 2020

# Cultural Resources

## Cultural and Social Resources

The many different social and cultural organizations in town are a testimonial to the wide variety of activities available which contribute to a strong sense of community.

## Community Organizations

Churches: Baptist - Wallingford and East Wallingford,  
Congregational - Wallingford and South Wallingford,  
Catholic - St. Patrick's, Wallingford,

Gilbert Hart Library  
Friends of the Library  
Wallingford Historical Society  
Ladies Aid - Congregational Church,  
Wallingford and South Wallingford  
Green Hill Homemakers  
Rotary International - (hometown of founder Paul  
Harris)  
Mount Moriah Lodge, East Wallingford  
Eastern Star, Waverly Chapter  
American Legion, Ralph H. Pickett Post # 52  
Maple Valley Grange, South Wallingford

## Community Events

### January

Rotary Pork Roast Dinner- March too

### February

Cabin Fever Fun Day by the Conservation Commission

### May

Green Up Day Bike Safety Day,  
Bike Safety Day  
Library Plant/ Book/Bake Sale  
Memorial Day Parade  
Congregational Church Annual Breakfast

**Year Round Events:** Lego Saturday at the Library,  
Summer Recreation Program June thru August

## Cultural Resource Action Items

The Recreation Committee will organize and host movies, community lectures, open mic nights, and shows across town.

When: 2018

The Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee will develop a town calendar, to better advertise and prevent overlap of town events

When: 2019

The town will seek community arts funding

When: 2020

### June

Fishing Derby at West Hill Pond

Town Wide Tag Sale

Chicken BBQ

### August

Lobster Fest Rotary

Wallingford Days

Summer Rec Program

Chicken BBQ

Wallingford Rescue Raffle and Gala

### December

Town Christmas Tree Lighting

Christmas Bazaar

# Historic Resources

Major cultural resources include the large number of historic buildings, the historic village centers, institutions such as churches, the Historical Society, and the Grange, as well as the town's overall landscape. Wallingford is home to 176 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places and 50 buildings on the State Register of Historic Places. Furthermore, the town was the first in the state with an officially recognized Rural Resource Area extending on both sides of Route 7 generally from the Twin Bridges to South Wallingford. Like natural resources, cultural resources also contribute positively to the local economy and the quality of life.

Historic resources in Wallingford include buildings, elements of the landscape (scenic areas), archeological sites, artifacts, archives and traditional culture. The thoughtful management of our historic resources will provide the guidelines required to maintain our community's unique identity, heritage, and course of development. Considerable time and effort on the part of several Wallingford citizens during the past few years has been spent on identifying and clarifying Wallingford's historic resources. The Wallingford Village Historic District and the Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area are now officially on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of historical, architectural and archeological resources

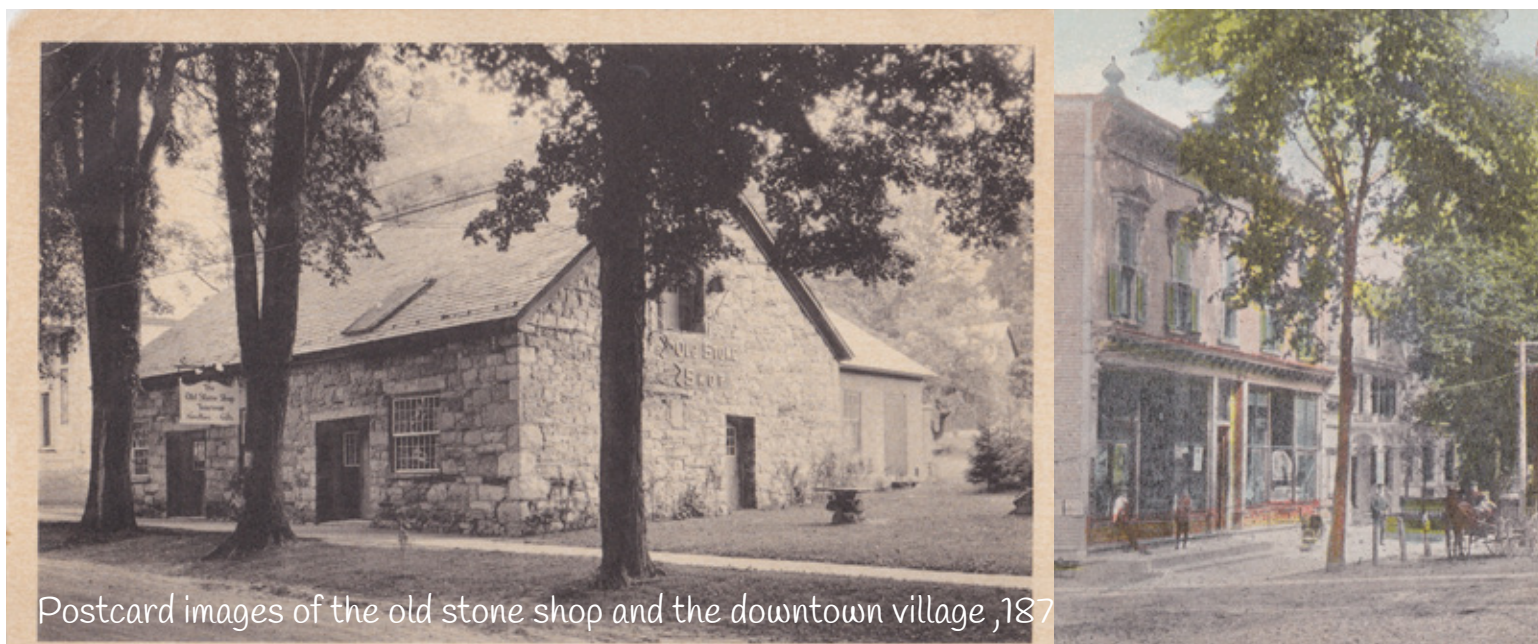
of local, state and national significance worthy of preservation. To be eligible for the National Register, buildings, complexes, districts, or sites must be at least 50 years old and must be distinctive and well preserved examples of their type and period of architecture, and/or have strong associations with important historical events or persons, and/or have the potential of yielding significant information on our history.

## Wallingford Village Historic District

We are most fortunate to have the many beautiful historic buildings and landmarks that exist in the Villages and throughout the Town of Wallingford. Wallingford Village has in excess of 144 historic structures or sites listed in part in the National Register of Historic Places, dating c. 1807 through c. 1930. A complete listing is provided in The Historic Architecture of Rutland County published by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation.

The Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resources Area Beginning at the southern edge of Wallingford Village, the Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area extends both east and west of Route 7 to South Wallingford Village. This area is entered on the National Register of Historic Places. Many historic farm homes, barns and sites are located in this area.

Settlements of Centerville and Aldrichville Centerville near East Wallingford was a lumbering settlement in the late 1800's with a sawmill and a factory which made tubs and boxes for packaging



Postcard images of the old stone shop and the downtown village, 1870



**Paul P. Harris Memorial Building, c. 1818. (Schoolhouse attended by Paul P. Harris, founder of Rotary International).**

**Wallingford House, c. 1824. (Former True Temper Inn).**

**The Old Stone Shop, c. 1848. (Batcheller Pitchfork Manufactory).**

**Gilbert Hart Library, c. 1894. (Donated by Gilbert Hart, prominent industrialist and a native of Wallingford).**

butter and cheese. A few older homes of historic nature still remain in the area. Aldrichville was also a thriving lumbering community in the late 1800's situated near Little Rock Pond, east of South Wallingford. Few traces of this historic settlement remain. After the sawmills were moved to South Wallingford, the area was abandoned.

### **Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area**

The Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area was Vermont's first rural historic district, honoring the agricultural history of the fertile valley south of Wallingford. Extending south on Route 7 for 3.5 miles, the thematic study area includes 14 farmsteads; 5 of the farms were historically associated with the Munson family. Many of the 19th century houses exhibit fine rural Vermont expressions of Federal and Greek revival design. Eclectic agrarian buildings document the

dominant 19th century trends in agriculture and dairy with English, monitor, and dairy barns. The 1888 work on the Israel Munson dairy barn by architect Clinton G Smith resulted in one of Vermont's most notable agricultural buildings.

Source: Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

### **Historical Action Items**

Create a directory display that lists the historic buildings in downtown Wallingford, and display the directory near the Boy with the Boot and the library  
When: 2020



# Land Use

Residential land uses are the predominant use of non-federal land in Wallingford. Privately owned woodland is the next most extensive land use recorded in the town, followed by farms and miscellaneous buildings and lots. Despite their significant economic impact, commercial and industrial activities occupied a relatively minor portion of the Town's taxable land area.

## Districts

### **Neighborhood Commercial**

This district contains the downtown village/historic district. The commercial uses that are present and/or desired in this district include retail store, business office, personal service business, community center, residential dwellings, hotels, and educational facilities.

### **Residential 15000**

This residential district encompasses the downtown neighborhood commercial district, and is suitable for all residential uses, professional residence/office use, home occupations, and enclosed accessory building uses.

### **Multiple Residential**

This residential district is nestled alongside the neighborhood commercial and the residential 15000 district, and is suitable for multiple family dwellings, as well as all residential uses. Additional acceptable uses include professional residence-office use, home occupations, and enclosed accessory building uses.

### **Agriculture and Rural Residential**

The remaining residential areas of the town generally have soils with low septic suitability, steep slopes or poor access to roads. This district is suitable for low density and low intensity residential, agricultural, and forest related uses. Planned Residential Development would be encouraged where soils are suitable, to encourage preservation of farm fields, viable forestry operations, or natural areas, and to avoid areas with steep slopes, wetlands or poor roads.

### **Forest and Recreation**

This large land district of town encompasses the Green Mountain National Forest as well as other large forest

blocks in town. This district is suitable for large scale uses such as agriculture, forestry, recreation, wildlife refuge, and energy/telecommunication facilities.

### **Industrial**

This district is appropriate for manufacturing facilities which are enclosed, and which store the majority of raw materials and finished product under cover. These should be uses that do not regularly emit noxious fumes, or generate high levels of noise.

The industrial area in East Wallingford might appropriately be designated Light Industrial, as well as the manufacturing area near the intersection of Maple Street and River Street. This designation is appropriate for most of the areas that are now zoned industrial.

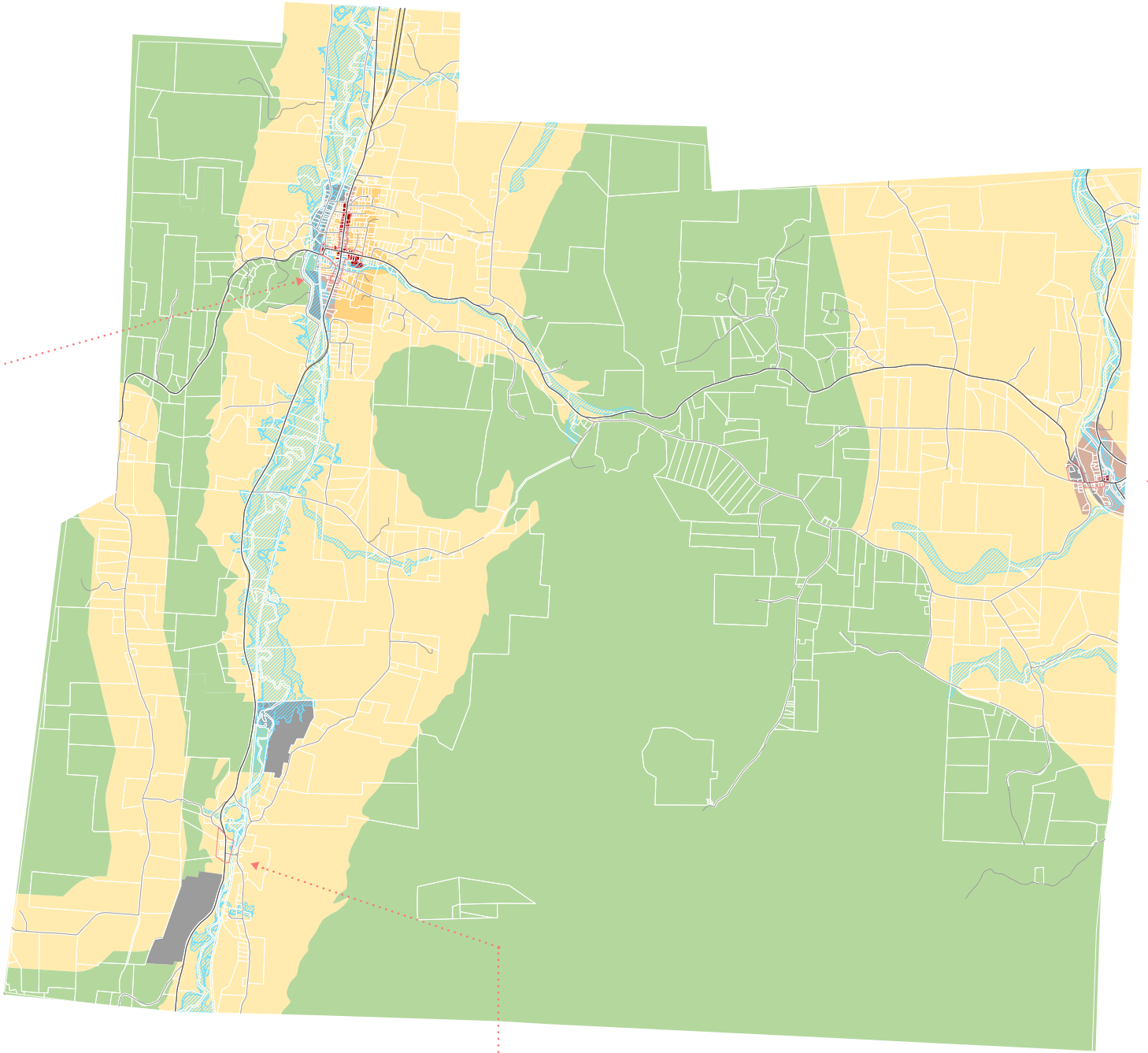
Examples of heavy industrial uses are exemplified by the former pike operation and the quarry in South Wallingford. When another sector is opened, the applicant would be required to have a hearing on a site plan to determine if the prior sector was reclaimed, and what the impacts of the new sector would be on adjacent landowners and on transportation facilities.

Light manufacturing is defined as parts assembly or woodworking; research and development laboratory; multiple family residential (over 2 units); enclosed warehouse; 1-family and 2-family dwellings; manufactured homes; enclosed service and repair establishments; public garage; public utility substation; car wash; sand or gravel pit; quarry; dairy manufacturing; accessory building use; energy generation facilities and infrastructure and telecommunications facilities. The town of Wallingford designates the industrial district as the one suitable district for commercial scale solar.

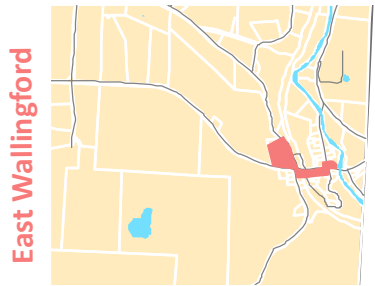
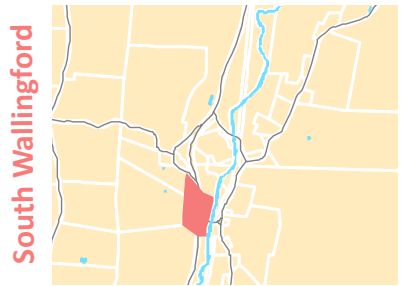
### **Floodplain Region**

The Floodplain District includes all lands shown on the Federal Flood Insurance Maps within the 100 year floodplain. Development is prohibited within the floodway (the channel or area of moving water during the 100-year flood). Development may be permitted within the floodway fringe (the area of water ponding or storage during a 100-year flood) provided that the Town has adopted floodplain regulations that are consistent with federal guidelines.

# Wallingford Future Land Use and Zoning Map



- Forest and Recreation
- Residential 15000
- Neighborhood Commercial
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Agriculture and Rural Res
- Multiple Res
- Industrial
- Designated Village Centers



## Village Areas

### Downtown Wallingford Village

This is the area of traditional, historic village development. This region begins at the south end of the current village zoning areas and extends north to the existing north edge of current village zoning districts. It extends west to Otter Creek and east to roughly the 210-meter contour line on the USGS map. In this region, which is served by municipal water and sewer, densities and uses traditional within the village will be continued, and new development will be encouraged to follow those historic patterns. The traditional mix of uses includes single, two-family and multi-family residential, retail, service/professional, lodging, restaurants, public uses, schools, libraries, churches, service clubs, gasoline stations and other similar uses. Because of the historic nature of the village, and its designation as an historic district, it is important that care be taken to preserve and enhance the historic character of the village. Development should be at a village scale, including building size and lot coverage. Also working counter to preservation of village scale and character is the increasing traffic on Route 7. The Town will continue to insist that any improvements to Route 7 in the village include speed control, traffic calming, sidewalks and pedestrian walkways, amenities in scale and aesthetic character with the village, retention of existing street trees, and addition of new plantings according to an approved street tree plan.

### South Wallingford Historic Village Region

This region includes the area of historic village settlement in South Wallingford. This region begins in the south at the corner on Route 7 just north of the limestone quarry and continues north on Route 7 to the corner just north of the Grange Hall. It extends west to roughly the 198-meter contour line and east across Otter Creek and the railroad to roughly the 198-meter contour line. This region has a community water system, but does not have a municipal or community sewage disposal facility. Densities will be determined by site suitability for on-site sewage disposal. Uses should continue to be those traditionally occurring within the village, including single and two-family residential, retail and service businesses, lodging, restaurant, public uses, service organizations, churches and other similar uses. All development should be in scale with existing development both in size of structure, and in lot coverage.

### East Wallingford Historic Village Region

Unlike the other historic villages, East Wallingford is first viewed entering from the west from a considerable elevation, giving the traveler a 'bird's eye view'. This village is also the site of historic village development, but has neither municipal water nor sewer. Therefore, densities will be determined by the capability of a site for onsite sewage treatment and location of adequate, pure domestic water. Traditional uses in the village are single and two-family residential, retail and service/professional businesses, public uses, churches, service clubs, and in the northwest quadrant, a dairy production business and a trucking business.



The village is traversed by Route 140, however, the geometrics of that road within the village provide their own ‘traffic calming.’ There are also no current plans by the State to reconstruct Route 140 in the village. If such improvements were to be planned, the same concerns discussed in the other villages would apply in East Wallingford as well.

## Special Regions

### Public Lands

The Public Lands Region includes all publicly owned lands: federal, state and local. The federal lands are primarily the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF), but also include an area along the Appalachian Trail, which is not included within the GMNF. State lands would include any fishing access areas, picnic areas, trails, highway department sheds, etc. Local lands would include school, Town office, public park land, water and sewer district facilities and other municipally owned lands. Development on municipal lands must meet local regulations. Development on state lands is required to be consistent with regionally approved municipal plans. Development on federal lands does not usually require local permits, since federal authority supercedes local regulation. However, any actions conducted by the GMNF undergo extensive public review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### Wallingford Village Gateway District

A gateway leading into the Wallingford Village on Rt 7, from both the north (beginning at the divided highway)

and the south (beginning at Twin Bridges), will ideally have street trees, attractive signage announcing the village, a building scale that is compatible to the village architecture, street lighting, vistas of the village a narrowing of the pavement, and perhaps having gravel pedestrian paths, etc.

### Route 140 East Scenic Corridor

Route 140 is a scenic drive through varied and generally undeveloped lands. The route follows Roaring Brook, is crossed by the Appalachian Trail, provides access to recreational lands in the Green Mountain National Forest, including White Rocks National Recreation Area and Wallingford Pond, and terminates at either end in a typical Vermont village. Designating the corridor as a scenic corridor in the Town Plan does not designate it as a scenic road under the state or federal scenic road program. It merely recognizes the road as a unique resource within the town, and may assist the Town in future negotiations with the state and with such entities as utility companies on the scale of highway improvements such as the width and style of bridges, the width of the ‘clear zone’, location of power lines, signage, eligibility for bike/pedestrian path funds, etc.

## Land Use Action Items

Continue to renew the State Designated Village Center Applications for Wallingford Village, South Wallingford, and East Wallingford.

When: 2018



# Recreation

A wide range of recreational opportunities are provided throughout Wallingford for both residents and visitors alike.

## **Wallingford Parks**

Recreation land maintained by the Town runs on both sides of Otter Creek and along Elfin Lake. The Town operates the Elfin Lake beach, staffed with lifeguards, and offers recreational programs for children. A beautiful historic footbridge over Otter Creek connects the existing playing fields with Stone Meadow and Elfin Lake to wildflower, bee, and wild life habitat.

## **Town Recreation Field**

The Town Recreation Field includes 3 ball fields, a playground, a basketball court and a tennis court on 6 plus acres on Meadow Street. The Recreation Field property was acquired in 1974, with improved facilities developed in 1976 and 1989. Recreation programs are operated throughout the summer.

The town's parks and athletic fields are supervised by a seven member Recreation Commission appointed by the Select Board. The Commission supports a variety of cultural events, and favors working with the Conservation Commission on proposals for new or expanded facilities.

Use of the recreation field is open to everyone free of charge. Activities enjoyed at the facilities on a regular basis include softball, baseball, soccer and tennis. Access is available from sunrise to sunset, from Monday through Sunday. Although no specific counts are recorded, the level of use of the facility is high and appears to be increasing.

The Summer Recreation Program is very successful. It serves children up through grade 6, including Wallingford residents, residents of neighboring towns, and summer visitors.

The condition of the recreation field is currently considered to be good, although in the future there will be a need for more intensive management and some increase in funding.

Funding for the Recreation Field is raised through the

property tax as part of the Town's general municipal budget, and through special state and federal grants. For example, the improvements made to the park in 1989 were made possible by a \$70,000 grant from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. A small scale concession has also been resumed to supplement local and federal funding sources.

## **Stone Meadow Conservation Park**

Stone Meadow comprises the land between the Town Recreation Field and Elfin Lake, accessible by foot from the village and by car on Waldo Lane. At one time a sand & gravel pit and the site of the Town transfer station, an effort was begun in 2004 to reclaim this site and return it to its natural beauty.

Today Stone Meadow boasts over two miles of walking trails, a canoe and kayak launch on Otter Creek, a 120-foot boardwalk through the wetland between Elfin Lake and the Wallingford Lodge, a rain garden at the entrance to the public beach at Elfin Lake, and a pollinator corridor featuring native wildflowers and several colonies of honey bees.

Use of the Meadow is open to everyone free of charge, and its trails are very popular year round for hiking, dog walking, biking, snow shoeing and cross-country skiing, and in the summer offer a safe and convenient means of walking to the public beach.

Along the trails the Conservation Commission has installed nine benches at scenic points, and to encourage natural inhabitants we have installed six bluebird houses, three duck boxes, and two honey bee colonies.

Stone Meadow is notable for its unique concentration of biodiversity of flora and fauna. Within its borders one can explore old growth forest, early successional meadowland, riparian lakefront & riverfront, and vernal pools. We maintain a nature camera along the trails to document the wildlife in the area, which include: deer, rabbit, mink, otter, beaver, raccoon, groundhog, chipmunk, grey & red squirrel, grey & red fox, bobcat, spring peepers, painted turtle, barred owl, ruffed grouse, pileated & downy woodpecker, wild turkey, geese, ducks, heron, bluebird, hawk, turkey vulture and more.



Elfin Lake

Funding for the Conservation Commission is raised in part through the Town's general municipal budget, in part through state and federal grants applied for, and is supplemented by the sale of honey from the bee colonies and through the generous volunteer time donated and through charitable donations.

### **Green Mountain National Forest, Long Trail, Appalachian Trail**

The Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) is a large federal land holding maintained to provide benefits - including recreational benefits - that privately owned land does not. With its large tracts of land in remote areas, the National Forest offers many opportunities to the public for back country recreation and wilderness. Along with this emphasis on outdoor recreation, the GMNF works to protect and enhance forest scenery and habitat for fish and wildlife.

The GMNF is managed by the U.S. Forest Service according to the principles of multiple use, meaning that the range of opportunities available within the forest are tailored to meet the needs of a wide variety of users. The application of these multiple use principles is spelled out in the GMNF Ten Year Plan, which was prepared with extensive public involvement

by the diverse groups of people using the forest.

Funding for the GMNF comes from the federal government. As a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Forest Service receives appropriations from Congress. It also generates revenue from timber sales, from leases and from user fees.

Of the 340,000 acres within the GMNF, 8,900 are within Wallingford. Important GMNF recreation features within or partially within Wallingford include White Rocks National Recreational Area, which contains White Rocks Picnic Area, the White Rocks Cliffs and Ice Beds, and the Greenwall Shelter. The White Rocks National Recreational Area was established by federal law for the purpose of preserving and protecting "existing and wild values and to promote wild forest and aquatic habitat for wildlife, watershed protection, opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive recreation and scenic, ecological, and scientific values."

The White Rocks picnic area takes up 10 acres near Route 140 and dates to the 1930's. It receives heavy use in the summer, being used by an average of 40 to 60 people per day. The White Rocks Cliffs and Ice Beds are unique geological features with important wildlife

and natural area values. The Greenwall Shelter is a shelter along the Long and Appalachian Trails.

The Appalachian Trail (including the Wallingford segment of the Vermont Long Trail, often called the AT/LT), is a significant recreational resource in its own right. The National Park Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of the Interior, helps manage the trail in partnership with the Forest Service, the State of Vermont and the Appalachian Trail Conference. Approximately 10 miles of the Trail are located in Wallingford, stretching along the Green Mountains from Mount Tabor to Shrewsbury. Based on available data, an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people hike at least a portion of the Appalachian Trail within Vermont annually. The section of the Trail running through the Rutland Region is one of the most heavily used, in part because its proximity to Routes 4 and 7 permits easy access by casual day hikers and serious long distance hikers alike. AT/LT Hikers often visit Wallingford's area businesses for food, supply, and other amenities.

Other important recreational trails in town include the network maintained by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers with its trail work from Massachusetts to Canada. (VAST)

### **Otter Creek**

As a recreation resource, Otter Creek offers a range of opportunities, from fishing to boating. According to The Vermont Rivers Study, fish species found in Otter Creek include brown, brook and rainbow trout, northern pike and small mouth bass.

The experience offered by Otter Creek is characterized by an extended season and easy access to flatwater, quickwater and easy rapids.

Management responsibilities for Otter Creek are shared by the Vermont Departments of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DFW issues hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, enforces state fish and wildlife laws and sponsors and manages projects to prevent poaching. DEC monitors water quality, regulates stream alterations and stream flow, and is involved in other water quality related activities. Both agencies conduct research, and work to improve fisheries habitat, and both can acquire land and water resources for water quality and habitat protection and improvement. In 1990, DFW spent \$337,000 to acquire land on Otter Creek.

### **Rural Otter Creek Valley Multiple Resource Area**

This area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and is the first Rural Resource Area designation in the state. The language establishing the district may offer some guidance here. For example, should an effort be made to preserve old barns by pursuing historic preservation grants? Should the Town apply for Community Development Block Grant funds to put together a Corridor Plan including signage, brochures, markers, viewpoints, etc? What appropriate things should be pursued?

### **Recreation Action Items**

The Recreation Committee will investigate new sites for bike paths, and then will seek funding for building new paths

When: 2019

The Conservation Committee will host an invasive plant eradication event.

When: 2018

## Natural Resources

Major natural resources in the town include its agricultural and forestlands, mineral resources, wildlife habitat, lakes and ponds, rivers and streams, and recreation areas. Many of these resources contribute directly to local economic activities, such as farming and forestry, by providing critical business ‘inputs’. Others contribute indirectly, for example by attracting travelers and tourists who purchase goods and services in the town. By making Wallingford a desirable place to live, these resources also contribute to the town’s high quality of life.

### Physiographic Regions

The town of Wallingford spans three of the five major physiographic regions of Vermont. The eastern part of the town, which contains its highest peaks and most remote areas, is in the Green Mountain physiographic region. The The Green Mountain National Forest comprises a significant part of this region. This region covers the area in town east of a line from Bear Mountain to Green Mountain, near South Wallingford.

A narrow valley corridor down the center of the town is part of the region known as the Vermont Valley. This part of the town contains flood-prone areas along Otter Creek, extensive community development and has significant sand, gravel and mineral deposits. Historically, it has been the focus of development in town. The villages of Wallingford and South Wallingford and the main north-south highway, US Route 7, are in this region. It is bounded by the Green Mountains to the east and the Taconic Mountains to the west.

The Taconic Mountain region includes the area in the town west of the Vermont Valley. The area in the town in this region is relatively small, covering mainly the area known as West Hill.

### Geology

The bedrock geology in the town is directly related to the physiographic regions and vice versa. The geologic formations underlying the town occur in the north-south strata that are folded and steeply dipping. The oldest rocks are in the eastern part of the town and the youngest are in the west.

The Mt. Holly complex, of Precambrian age, is comprised of gneiss and quartzite and underlies the

area east of Bear Mountain and White Rocks.

The Cheshire quartzite, of Lower Cambrian age, is perhaps the most noticeable geologic formation in the town. It can be seen on the rocky cliffs of White Rocks, on Green Mountain in South Wallingford and in the area known as Green Hill. This formation occurs on the western flank of the Green Mountains.

The Vermont Valley physiographic region is comprised of several narrow bands of differing geologic formations of Upper Cambrian to Lower Ordovician age. These formations include Dunham dolomite, Monkton quartzite, Clarendon Springs dolomite, and the Shelburne and Bascom formation, consisting of dolomite, limestone and marble. Several of these formations are of commercial value and are quarried in the town. These are the only currently known commercially significant geologic deposits in the town.

The Hortonville formation, of Middle Ordovician age, underlies the major portion of the Taconic Mountains in the western part of town. The rock is primarily black slate and phyllite. It can be observed in road cuts along Vermont Route 140 west of Wallingford village and along the ‘Dugway’ west of South Wallingford.

### Agricultural Resources

Wallingford is home to several commercial dairy and small-scale beef operations. Sheep, goats, veal, horses and other domestic livestock are also raised, and maple syrup and honey are produced. Also under the category of agriculture are some vegetable sales, Christmas tree plantations and landscaping/greenhouse operations. Agricultural limestone is also mined in the town.

Lands within Wallingford with high potential for agricultural production are focused in the Vermont Valley, as well as in selected areas in the northeast corner of town. Meanwhile, lands with high potential for forestry production follow the same general pattern as agricultural soils but are more widespread.

### Forest Blocks

Forests are a significant resource in Wallingford, making up a majority of the landscape. Currently, 32% of the town’s total land area (over 8,900 acres) is in Green Mountain National Forest or National Park Service ownership. Additionally, 24.6% (6883 acres) of the town’s private land is enrolled in VT’s Current Use Value

Program, which requires responsible management of agricultural and forest land. Protecting forest blocks for habitat connectivity is reflected in the contiguous and dominant forest and recreation district of the future land use map. It is also reflected in the existing connected networks of riparian areas, forests, and undeveloped areas, which provide adequate support for a variety of habitats and travel corridors.

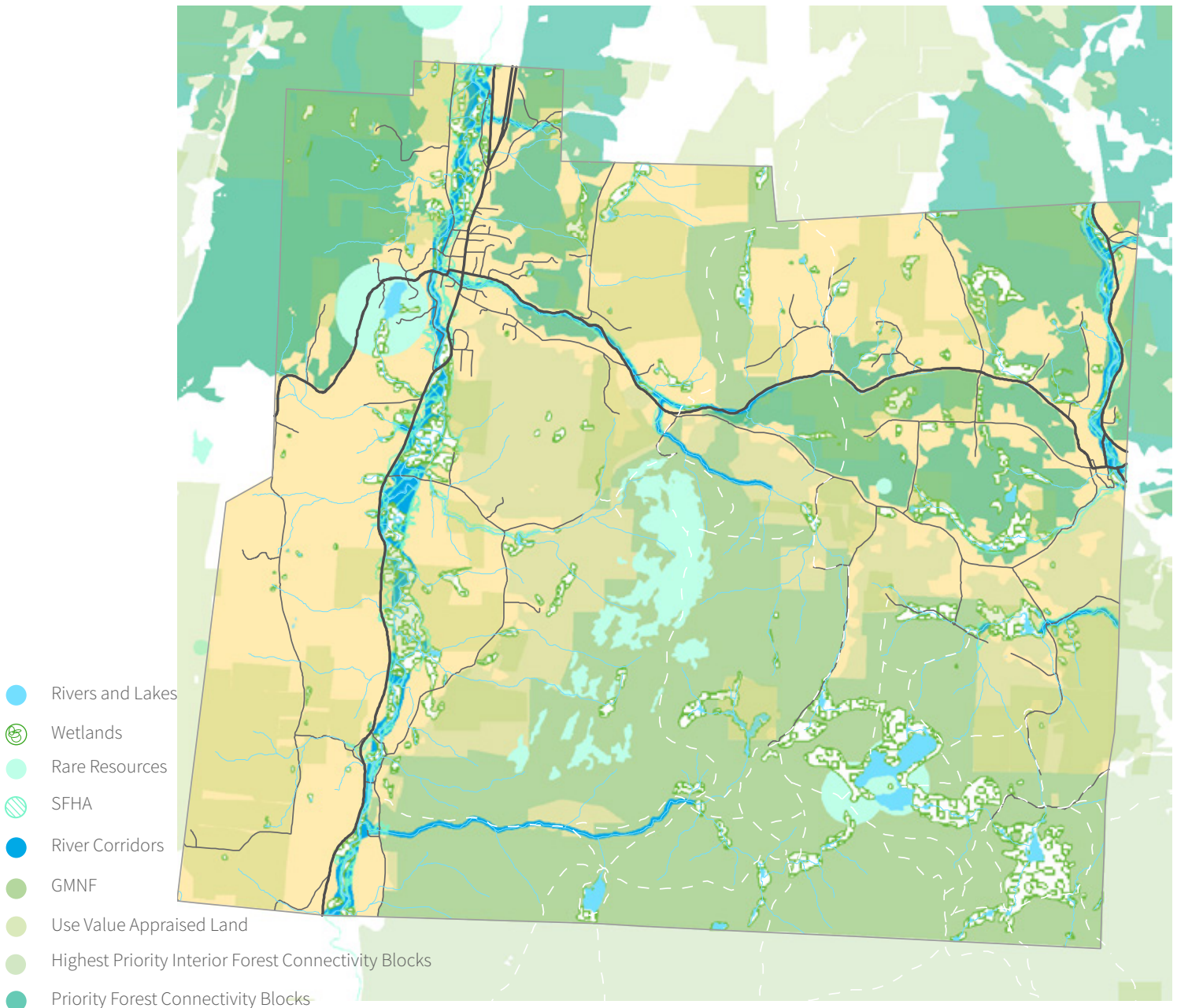
Wildlife potential is high throughout much of Wallingford, as is 'unimproved' recreation potential, although each tends to be greatest in areas dominated by water or forests. In 2008, the Staying Connected Initiative used GIS modeling to predict areas most

important for maintaining and enhancing habitat connectivity for Wide Ranging Mammals (WRM) between the Green Mountains and Adirondacks. Habitats in these areas are components of a linked network of vital wildlife-sustaining habitat, providing the opportunity for the movement, migration, and dispersal of WRM between the Green and Adirondack Mountains. The integrity of this network may be crucial for healthy and resilient WRM populations.

**Sand And Gravel**

Sand and gravel deposits underlie several areas of Wallingford with particular concentrations along Routes 7 and 140, and east of TH 15 and TH 24. Map 5

**Natural Resources Map**



shows both sand and gravel deposits (based on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils data) (formerly Soil Conservation Service) and existing sand and gravel operations. Table 5.5a indicates that about 11 percent of the town is made up of soils with sand and gravel resources. Although sand and gravel may also be found along and in many of the town's larger watercourses, commercial sand and gravel excavation from streambeds is prohibited by State law.

Commercial mineral deposits underlie a portion of Wallingford primarily along the western side of the Vermont Valley. According to company officials, there are no significant limestone/marble resources located elsewhere in the community, other than those under the ownership of the companies .

Significant commercial geologic formations include the Shelburne and Bascom formation, consisting of dolomite, limestone and marble. The material is used for aggregate in construction, and is ground and used for paper, plastic, paint and filler in various products.

Within this commercial mineral zone, several companies operate quarries. In addition, they own mineral and surface rights to areas not yet developed as quarries.

### **Soils**

A soil survey describes soil characteristics and interprets each soil's capability for various uses such as farming, forestry and community development. The soil survey can also be used to help identify prime farmland, wetlands, highly erodible land, floodplains and sources of sand and gravel.

The detailed soil maps for the town reveal that there are over 40 different types of soils in Wallingford. Two classes of agricultural soils are shown: prime and statewide. Prime soils are the best soils and meet the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) national criteria for Prime Farmland. Statewide soils are good soils that meet a slightly broader set of criteria for soils of statewide importance.

Within Wallingford, soils classified as important forest soils (Class 1, 2, 3) make up 42.6 percent of total land area. The distribution of these soils is widespread, being limited in only the rockiest and wettest parts of town.

Wallingford village is located in an area of the town with good septic suitability. Other areas with high potential for septic disposal include the areas along Hartsboro Road, along the western edge of the National Forest, and along Mill River. The area covered by Class 1 soils equals roughly 15% of the total, while areas covered by Class 2 and 3 soils cover another 63%.

### **Wetlands and Floodplains**

As shown on the map, Wallingford has wetlands scattered throughout the landscape. Wetlands provide valuable wildlife habitat, store storm water, purify surface water and groundwater, recharge aquifers, and help control erosion.

Important surface water resources (lakes, ponds, rivers and streams) include Otter Creek, Elfin Lake, Roaring Brook, Homer Stone Brook and Wallingford Pond. Groundwater resources include the aquifers for the town's water systems, and their 'source protection areas'.

## **Natural Resource Action Items**

Host Clean Water Workshops

When: 2018

Host Community Lecture series on topics like the bees at Stone Meadows

When: 2018

Host informational workshops on River Corridor Protection Language for the next Zoning Update

When: 2018

Planning Commission will ask the Select Board to consider Hiring a full time Recreation Director

When: 2019

The Planning Commission will recommend to the Select Board that the Board adopt a policy to mitigate the loss of tax revenue when private land is sold to the federal government.

## Flood Resiliency

The Otter Creek, one of the largest rivers in Vermont, has a significant presence in the Town of Wallingford - the major river runs along the length of Route 7 for the entire length of the town, and passes closely to the Wallingford downtown. Thus, when the Otter Creek floods, it poses potential damage to the populated area of town. As noted by the map on page 21, the Otter Creek is a State mapped river corridor as well as a FEMA special flood hazard flooding area. Rivers with marked river corridors are prone to erosion, and areas designated as SFHA are prone to inundation flooding.

Wallingford experienced extensive flooding during Tropical Storm Irene, for which they received FEMA assistance in the damage repairs. There have been eight floods on record in Wallingford in the past 20 years.

Areas in town that are prone to flooding include: Hartsboro Rd, south end of Creek Road, and River, Meadow, and Railroad Streets.

Critical infrastructure in town that is vulnerable to flooding includes the fire station, the school, and town garage. The Wallingford Rescue Building, however, was built above base flood elevation.

### **Emergency Relief Assistance Fund**

The ERAF fund is a State incentive program that helps towns take due diligence for disaster preparation. By adopting five preparedness plans - the Local Emergency Operations Plan, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Road and Bridge Standards, NFIP, and River Corridor Bylaws, the town will receive a 17.5% match from the State for disaster relief, leaving the town with only a 7.5% match. FEMA automatically covers 7.5% of the disaster reimbursement costs.



Forest Road to White Rocks

## Community Facilities

### Town Governance

The Town is governed by an elected Selectboard. Day-to-day administration is provided by a Town Administrator employed by the Board. The Town Administrator administers the budget and the Transfer Station. The Town Administrator also serves to coordinate other functions of government, which are not under the Administrator's direct supervision such as road maintenance, planning, assisting Select Board meetings, and records.

### Municipal Water Service

Municipal water service (as distinguished from private or on-site wells or water systems) is provided in Wallingford by the Wallingford Fire District # 1 and by the South Wallingford Water Cooperative. Operation of Wallingford Fire District # 1 is overseen by a Fire District Prudential Committee. Members of the Prudential Committee are elected to their positions by the residents of the area served by the Fire District. In addition to providing water service, Fire District # 1 also provides the village with sewer and fire protection services.

### Water Sources

The service area for Fire District # 1 includes all of Wallingford village. Fire District # 1 services over 350 connections. Water for the village comes from a well located on the Wallingford ball fields and is pumped to the storage tank on Church St. Water is delivered to users via a roughly 3000 foot long, 10" galvanized water main alongside Route 140. This main carries water to an 8" line just east of Hillside Street before reaching the village. The total quantity of water available is limited only by the size of the water system mains. All residents were put on a meter system when the water storage tank was built in 2000. Assuming water quality does not pose a problem, demand could increase by 50% and virtually all needs could be met.

Growth over the next 10 - 15 years may increase demands on the system, although probably not to the point of overburdening it. Population projections prepared for the service area by Wright Engineering indicate that demand should reach approximately 232,000 gallons per day by the year 2040. Interpolated, this would represent an average annual increase of roughly 2400 gallons per year, well within current

volume capacity. New connections within the District are made routinely upon payment of a \$250 connection fee. A tap is placed on an existing main and a curb stop installed, the maintenance of which is the responsibility of the water user. If there is an existing curb-stop, a \$25.00 paperwork fee is charged to the prospective user. The prospective water user must also file an application before the Prudential Board. Once these steps are completed, the District's inspector makes sure that all internal plumbing and plumbing connecting the structure to the curb-stop meet State regulations.

### Sewage Collection, Treatment and Disposal

Sewer service in Wallingford is provided by the Wallingford Fire District # 1. The District owns and operates a secondary level treatment sewage plant that is located behind True Temper in the village. As a secondary level facility, the plant includes an oxidation ditch, chlorine contact tank, clarifiers, and sludge drying beds. The plant was constructed in 1970 using funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has permitted capacity of 120,000 gallons per day.

The average daily flow in 2010 was approximately 70,000 gallons per day. The flow varies considerably depending on weather conditions. During rainy periods, the plant has treated over 100,000 gallons per day.

Roughly 400 customers are connected to the system. Of these, approximately 350 connections are for residential uses, 5 are for municipal uses, 29 are for commercial uses, 7 are institutional uses and 1 is a manufacturing use.

### Solid Waste Disposal

The Town of Wallingford maintains a Transfer Station located off Route 140 near the Otter Creek Bridge for the collection of solid waste and recyclables. Wallingford's solid waste program consists of small plastic trash bags, large plastic trash bags, limited bulk trash, and white items such as refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc. Wallingford also has a number of recycling programs. They consist of the following: Zero Sort recycling (glass, paper, cardboard, tin cans, aluminum cans, hard plastic bottles/containers (classes 1 -7)), E recycles (TVs, Computers, etc.), organic materials recycling (yard waste and food scraps) and metal items. Wallingford is also a member of the Rutland

County Solid Waste Management District (RCSWMD) and participates in the RCSWMD Household Hazardous Collection program which collects the following: CFL lights, batteries, oil based paint, motor oil and antifreeze.

### **Communications**

Communication services in Wallingford include local and long distance phone service, cellular phone service, cable television and Internet service.

### **Telephone Service**

Local telephone service is provided by VTEL, Comcast, and Infinity. Fiber based internet service is also now available in town.

### **Telecommunications Facilities**

Wireless telecommunications facilities are defined as land facilities supporting antennas and microwave dishes that send and/or receive radio frequency signals. These facilities include structures, towers, antennae, microwave dishes, and associated accessory buildings. There is currently a commercial wireless telecommunication facility at the Town Hall and a cell tower on Church St.. The Town should remain current with developments in the telecommunications industry and, at some time, may want to adopt more comprehensive review criteria.

Currently, full cellular coverage is available along the Route 7 corridor.

### **Library Services**

Library services are provided to the community by the Gilbert Hart Library. The library is housed in an historic structure that was built in 1894 with funds donated by Detroit industrialist, Gilbert Hart, who was born in Wallingford. It is governed by an unpaid board and is managed by two part-time paid librarians. Volunteers also donate their time to assist in the operation of the library, including evening and weekend hours.

The library is open 34 hours per week, Monday thru Saturday, and meets standards set by the Vermont Department of Libraries. On average 700 adult and 75 juvenile patrons visit the library each month, and monthly over 700 items including large print books, periodicals, movies, audiobooks, and fiction and non fiction books circulate among the patrons. Beginning in 2012, online access to the catalog allows card

holders to renew and place holds on books from home. Additionally downloadable audios and e-books are available for patrons to access through a separate website using their library number. The library hosts several programs for adults throughout the year including VT Humanities presentations, movies, and book discussions. During the summer months children visit for special programs, story hours, and performances. Visitors are also able to read local papers, use the public computers, and access the internet for their own computers.

Funding for the library comes from several different sources, including a membership drive, grants, and an annual allocation from the Town of Wallingford. The "Friends of the Library" sponsor fund-raising events, including an annual plant sale, dinner event, monthly whist parties, and an extensive book sale. In 2004, extensive renovations increased the size of the library and made all three floors handicap accessible. The community meeting room is now substantially larger. The heating, plumbing and electrical systems have all been upgraded as well. Wifi is available throughout the building. Groups such as Bone Builders and a yoga class use the community room on an ongoing basis. Through an arrangement with the Department of Libraries, books may be borrowed from other libraries using an interlibrary loan service when applicable. The library truly attempts to meet as many requests of patrons for materials as possible. Monthly communication from the library and information about events can be found in the town newsletter and on the town website.

### **Education**

#### Mill River Unified Union School District

The Wallingford Elementary School, located on School Street, is part of the Mill River Unified Union School District (MRUUSD) consisting of four elementary schools and a middle school/high school. The MRUUSD is governed by an eleven-member school board whose members are elected and serve a rotating three-year term. The configuration of the board was approved by the State Board of Education when the MRUUSD was formed and began operation on July 1, 2016. Membership on the board is proportional to town population. Currently, Wallingford is represented by four board members, Clarendon is represented by four board members, Shrewsbury is represented by two board members and Tinmouth is represented by

one board member. The board meets twice monthly, rotating meeting locations among the schools in the District. The board sets policy, presents and oversees the budget for the District which is voted upon annually by the voters of the member towns during Town Meeting Day in March, and hires and supervises the superintendent of schools.

The Mill River Unified Union School District's vision is centered around the concepts of: Thriving Students, Premier Schools, and Engaged Community

The five schools in the MRUUSD provide students with a high caliber, proficiency-based education in compliance with state law and intended to be among the best experiences available in the state. District programs and decisions maintain a focus on the following foundational beliefs:

All students feel respected, cared for, and loved.

Educators feel valued, respected and supported.

Students, educators and families work together to build positive relationships.

Students know why they are learning.

Students know what they are expected to learn.

All learners have voice and choice in their pursuit of personal growth.

Students and educators have ongoing, rigorous opportunities to learn.

Educators believe in and model learning as a lifelong process.

Educators communicate with families before, during and after challenges and successes.

The entire community benefits from the strengths of its students, staff and schools.

The MRUUSD encompasses a wide geographical area with diverse topographical features. The economy of the area has an emphasis on agriculture, recreational services, light manufacturing, contracting and retail sales.

The Wallingford Elementary School campus provides a full range of traditional subject areas for grades K-6 as well as a part-time Pre-K program. It also offers library services, music instruction, art instruction, world language, guidance counseling and special education. The school also offers a winter sports program that allows students to participate in skiing, snowboarding or skating during winter months as part of their physical education program. It is also the home to

the District's Foundations program, a unique program created to address the specific needs of children across the District who are significantly affected by childhood trauma.

Elementary aged students residing in Wallingford also have the option of exercising elementary school choice within MRUUSD, affording parents the ability to send their children to school at Wallingford Elementary School, Tinmouth Elementary School, Clarendon Elementary or Shrewsbury Mountain School. This allows parents to provide their children with the best possible educational opportunities based upon their personal learning needs.

On average, 150-160 students attend the Wallingford Elementary School campus. The capacity of the school is estimated at roughly 200 students.

The Wallingford Elementary School campus has recently undergone extensive building upgrades and renovations including renovations to the building's roof, plumbing, heating, electrical and fire safety systems as well as an efficient energy lighting retrofit.

Wallingford children in grades 7-12 attend the district's outstanding middle school and high school, Mill River Union High School, which is located on Middle Road in North Clarendon. Mill River Union High School was built by as a joint effort by the communities of Clarendon, Wallingford, and Shrewsbury in 1975. MRUHS now serves students from the original three towns, from Tinmouth, and from many surrounding communities whose students choose to attend Mill River through payment of tuition or the public high school choice law. MRUHS has a core capacity of approximately 800 students for grades 7 through 12, and current enrollment is generally in the 450-500 student range.

At MRU, academic programming is designed to motivate and challenge all students by providing project-based, hands-on, interdisciplinary and transferable skill-focused learning opportunities. Students are encouraged to take risks and transfer knowledge outside of the classroom. Highlights of our academic program include access to AP, dual-enrollment, and early college courses, a variety of honors and college preparatory programs, internships, online self-paced programming, and a focus on habits of work and core values. All students who graduate Mill River Union High

School complete personalized learning plans detailing their interests, goals, and future plans.

Mill River Union High School provides interscholastic athletics for its students.

Mill River Union High School is well known for its music and arts departments. It is the home of several honors vocal musical ensembles and bands which perform across the state throughout the school year and whose members have competed on the district, regional and national levels. MRUHS Band marches annually at several parades throughout the state and participates annually in the Wallingford Memorial Day Parade. MRU's theater program, Stage 40 and its middle school theater program Stage 20 produce nationally recognized performances throughout the school year and have participated in regional and state performance events.

MRU also provides an array of extra-curricular clubs, activities, and volunteer opportunities for its students.

MRUHS students may enroll in classes at the Stafford Technical Center. The Center, built in 1974, is located in Rutland City and provides secondary technical/vocational education to juniors and senior high school students throughout the Rutland County region.

#### Rutland South Supervisory Union

Administrative and support services are provided by the staff of the Rutland South Supervisory Union. The Supervisory Union comprises the districts of Wallingford, Shrewsbury, Clarendon and the Mill River Union High School. It provides administrative, financial and purchasing support, employment services, training, special education personnel and various other services to the three elementary schools and to MRUHS. The Supervisory Union governing board consists of representative members from the three town school boards and the MRUHS Board.

#### Vermont Adult Learning

Vermont Adult Learning's Adult Basic Education (ABE) program works with adults who want to finish secondary school or learn literacy skills to improve their lives. ABE provides tutoring in reading, writing, math, English as a Second Language, and GED. Programs are also offered in life skills. One-to-one and small group tutoring is available for adults (age 16

### **Health and Wellness**

The Village of Wallingford is home to a number of health and wellness related businesses. They include:

#### **The Village Community Acupuncture**

**Thrive Center of the Green Mountains**, which offers: massage, chiropractic, holistic health education, and nutrition counseling

**Maple Leaf Clinic**, psychology

#### **Baasch Dental**

**Serenity House**, rehabilitation treatment

**Emma's House** is a head trauma therapy center. **Lenny Burke Farm** is a traumatic brain injury facility.

**Williams Microfarm** provides organic raised chicken for sale in town.

**Stone Acres Farm** provides organic vegetables.

**The Wallingford Wheeler Farm** grows strawberries, and **Spruit Farm** in town grows blueberries.

Additionally, Otter Creek Homestead and Smokey House Center are located closeby in Danby, and provide local livestock and produce. There are dozens more farm stands in Rutland County, as well as a farmers market in Rutland City.

and over) who do not have a high school diploma or cannot read and write. The program is free, there are no income eligibility requirements. ABE helps adults prepare for the GED exam, Vermont Adult Diploma Program, the driver's permit test, U.S. citizenship and the Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Since July 1996, ABE has served 7 Wallingford residents with over 500 hours of instruction.

### Advanced Education

Degree granting institutions of higher education within the Rutland County Region include Castleton University, the College of St. Joseph and Green Mountain College. All of these institutions offer two year associate's and four year bachelor's degrees in a breadth of programs, as well as degrees for a number of masters programs.

College level courses in various areas are also offered by the Community College of Vermont. CCV offers associate degrees in liberal studies, business management, early childhood education and human services, including open enrollment opportunities, while St. Michaels offers local students the opportunity to pursue Master of Science and Advanced Certificate programs in administration and management. University of Vermont courses held in Rutland complement the wide range of programs and degrees offered through UVM's main campus in Burlington.

### **Childcare**

Ensuring accessible, affordable, quality child care is integral to sound economic development planning. In addition to childcare services provided by the Wallingford school, there are currently two licensed child care providers in town. One is located in close proximity to the Wallingford Village area, and the other is located between Wallingford and Tinmouth. The town should assess at future community forums if these services fulfill all childcare needs, or if there is capacity for additional services. On the 2017 survey, 62 respondents indicated a need for additional services.

### **Fire Protection Services**

Wallingford Fire District # 1 provides fire protection service to all of Wallingford, including Wallingford Village and South Wallingford. A group of volunteers make up the regular firefighting force of the Wallingford Fire District #1.

The East Wallingford Fire Department, organized as Wallingford Fire District # 2, has 10 active members, as well as a 14-member auxiliary.

Training is an important part of fire fighting. All fire fighters involved with the District are suggested to take a training course to become part of the force. In addition, they are asked to drill one night each month to maintain their skills.

The Wallingford Fire Department is looking for land to build a new fire station to better serve the community and house its trucks and equipment.

### **Emergency Response**

Except for that portion of East Wallingford which is served by Mt. Holly Rescue, most of the town is covered for emergency response services by Wallingford Rescue. The primary emergency facility to which patients of both Wallingford Rescue and Mt. Holly Rescue are transported is the Rutland Regional Medical Center. Wallingford Rescue is a volunteer organization currently consisting Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), registered nurses and Emergency Care Attendants (ECAs). Reflecting the group's emphasis on training, all members must have as a minimum ECA State certification. The Squad also conducts at least 30 hours of training annually.

The E.M.S. District # 10 "Disaster Plan", which is coordinated by the State's Emergency Health Division, governs part of the method of operations of Wallingford Rescue by detailing plans to handle mutual aid. Under the Plan, the primary back up for Wallingford Rescue is the Regional Ambulance Service based in Rutland. In an effort to meet emergency service needs of neighboring communities, Wallingford Rescue also covers the Town of Tinmouth.

### **Public Safety/Police Protection**

Public safety in the town is provided by the Rutland County Sheriff's Department, the Wallingford Town Constable and the Vermont State Police.

### **Emergency Planning**

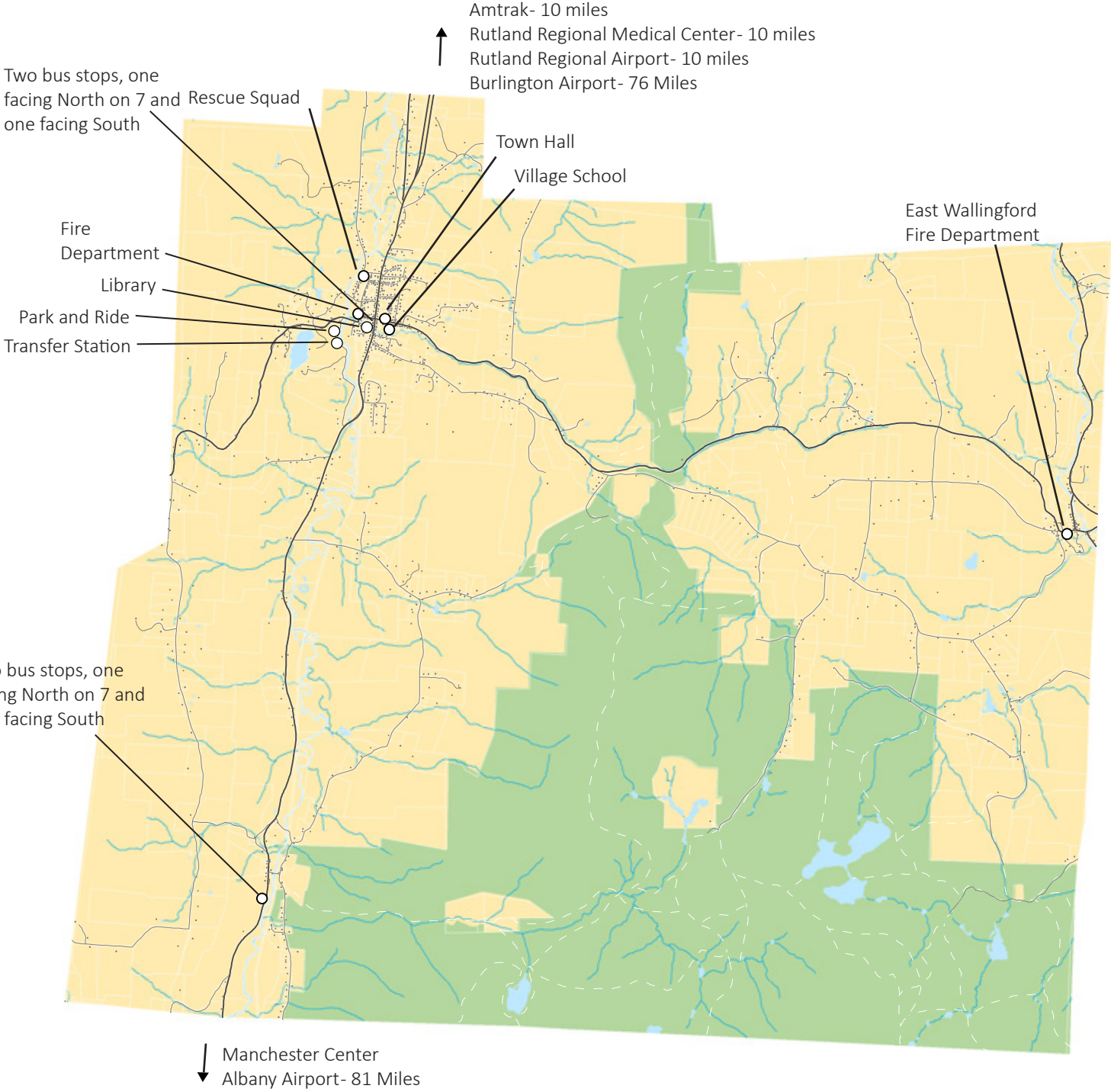
The town completes an LEOP yearly, and has a LHMP written every five years.

# Community Facility Action Items

Locate and create a permanent town museum  
When: 2021

Include in a town forum a detailed conversation about  
childcare needs within town.  
When: 2020

## Community Facilities Map



## Transportation

Primary access to the town is via US Route 7, an arterial highway that is one of the most important non-interstate highways in Vermont. Route 7 has been designated by the State as part of the National Highway System, making it eligible for a separate category of funds within the federal appropriation of funds to Vermont. Highways are the single most important component of the transportation system in Wallingford. They provide for automobile, school bus, and emergency access to all parts of the town. They also provide for the movement of goods and services, and for public transportation and bicycling.

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, a program of the US Census, showed in 2008 that the largest percentage of Wallingford's residents work in Rutland City (28.1%) and likewise those who work in Wallingford live in Rutland City (16.7%). However 7.1% of Wallingford residents work in town and 15.7% of those who work in Wallingford live there. This has implications on the transportation network and north-south commuter travel is the major travel pattern.

Class 2 highways secure important routes of travel between towns. The Class 2 highways include VT 140 west, Creek Rd, . Class 3 highways, as the predominant type of Town highway, provide the principal means of access to the adjacent rural, residential and recreational land uses. The transportation modes of Wallingford are displayed on the community facilities map on page 29.

Although the private automobile is and will continue to be the predominant means of transportation, other 'modes' of transportation serve Wallingford, including public transit, rail, air, bicycle and pedestrian modes. Marble Valley Regional Transit District's commuter route to Manchester traverses Wallingford and a town Park and Ride lot is located near the recreation area, just west of US7. Sidewalks on both sides of the streets are located within the village center. Improvements to the traffic lights and sidewalks have been made to the intersection of Route 7 and 140 by the State. This project brought the intersection into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Bus

The Marble Valley Regional Transit District operates TheBus, which is designed to provide transportation to and from employment opportunities. The Manchester route connects with the Green Mountain Community Network in Manchester, allowing passengers access to areas throughout Bennington County. Buses pass through Wallingford at varying times, making stops at the Wallingford House, the Cumberland Farm Store and the White Rocks Inn. For times and fares, see their website at TheBus.com.

Vermont Transit provides express services from Burlington VT to Albany NY or Boston MA. While these services pass through Wallingford, VT Transit does not have designated bus stops in town.

### Rail

Freight service passes through Wallingford and East Wallingford on tracks operated by Vermont Railway. Passenger rail via Amtrak is available in Rutland and travels south to New York City.

### Air

Air service is available at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport, located to the north in Clarendon. Cape Air regional air line connects this airport with major airlines in Boston on a daily basis. The next closest airports are located in Burlington, VT and Albany, NY.

### Highways

As the single most critical and controversial component of Wallingford's transportation system, the transportation infrastructure, traffic volumes and other impacts of US Route 7 through Wallingford Village have caused, and continue to cause, debate and division. Heavy truck traffic, and high traffic volumes generally, have had a negative impact on the quality of life of residents, and, reportedly, on the structural integrity of some of Wallingford's most important historical homes. The annual average daily traffic volume in 2011 noted 4300 vehicles on US7 50 feet south of Hartsboro Road. In 2010 6800 vehicles were counted between Elm and VT 140. On the other hand, a number of Wallingford businesses are dependent on traffic on Route 7 to sustain them. Recognizing these problems, as well as other problems in the greater Route 7 Corridor, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, in 1997, prepared a 'scoping' report on potential improvements to Route

7 from East Dorset to Wallingford. This work involved meetings with town residents and officials, as well as field investigations by professional staff. The Executive Summary of the Final Scoping Report states that, "Traffic volumes have steadily increased over the last 30 years along most of the project length and are projected to continue increasing into the next century. However, the daily traffic volumes today as well as the future projected traffic volumes can be accommodated on the existing highway with corridor improvements and management techniques identified in this Final Scoping Report and the accompanying Access Management Plan. Widening for additional travel lanes as well as a bypass freeway type roadway are clearly unwarranted well into the future and are not proposed."

The recommended alternative was to rehabilitate with two, 12-foot lanes and 8 foot shoulders in the general corridor. Widening in the Wallingford and South Wallingford Village area was limited to minimizing impacts to historic resources. Future improvements in the Wallingford Village area include maintaining pavement markings and maintaining low speed limits in the village areas. All improvements should be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Program. The Scoping Report continues by recommending that the Town coordinate with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission to discuss means of further evaluating improvements in the Wallingford Village area. Recommended for discussion include long term conversion of the existing angle parking to parallel parking, elimination of parking within 20/30 feet of the intersection of Routes 7 and 140, and improved pedestrian facilities and landscaping.

The Report acknowledges that "future access management plans for this segment recognize the considerable historic and community resources in this area. Transportation plans must recognize this fact and develop solution(s) with traffic calming and reduced design speeds as major considerations."

There is also a need for improvements to the sidewalk system throughout the village, as well as improvements or additions to curbing and drainage. On Route 7, all these improvements should be incorporated into a single project, which may need to be done in stages depending on funding. State transportation funds include an allowance of up to 10% for enhancements,

which include such items as sidewalks. The Town and the Prudential Committee should lobby hard for the inclusion of sidewalks.

There are several other areas of concern in the transportation network in Wallingford, but the most severe of these is the highway under the rail trestle on Route 103. The geometrics of the highway cause frequent accidents at this site. This project was dropped from the FHWA and AOT lists due to lack of activity over a prolonged period because of associated environmental impacts. AOT has found that relocating the roadway to address this area is unfeasible due to extensive floodplain impacts from the proposed project.

Other projects in the Agency of Transportation's Capital Program include the Rail bridge #145 in East Wallingford and 2 new Town Highway bridges that the Rutland Region Transportation Council included on the Region's list are replace bridges #59 on Creek Road (TH2) and #7W on Depot Street.

## Transportation Action Items

The Planning Commission will work with the Rutland RPC to apply for electric car charging stations  
When: 2020

The Planning Commission will work with the Prudential Committee and the Select Board to determine where new walking paths and new sidewalks could go.  
When: 2022

Advertise the Park and Ride via additional means  
When: 2018

Host a workshop about the opportunities for Uber and Lyft in town.  
When: 2019

Host a rideshare workshop  
When: 2019

# Housing

The vitality of Wallingford is dependent on the town’s ability to house its present and future residents. A sufficient supply of quality housing is the basis upon which a community builds strong, healthy families and a stable workforce, both necessary components of a sustainable economy. Stable affordable housing also lets families establish long-term community involvement.

## Housing Need and Affordability

Single family and mobile homes account for a large majority of housing in Wallingford; of the 1,040 housing units in 2000, 83% were single family and 7% were mobile homes.

Housing data from the 2015 US Census American Community Survey shows that the median household income in Wallingford is roughly \$50,000, though most homes have an income between \$60,000-75,000. On average, household property taxes amount to \$3,000.

In 1970, average household size in Wallingford was 3.42. This decreased to 3.03 by 1980, 2.71 by 1990, 2.49 by 2000 and to 2.32 by 2010.

Nationwide, a trend towards fewer persons per

household has changed the type of housing needs and increased the demand for housing, even in towns with stable populations.

A very rough indicator of affordably priced housing is when a household is paying no more than 30% of their gross income on housing costs.

While an analysis of household income and housing costs aids in understanding the affordability of Wallingford’s housing, it is understood that affordability can vary greatly based on an individual’s particular situation. Affordability is a complex issue that does not relate solely to household income. Therefore, with this data, it is difficult to make an assessment of housing need and affordability. This would be better determined by a thorough housing assessment.

## Housing Action Items

The Planning Commission will apply for grant funding in order to contract with a consultant to conduct a housing assessment of the town. This type of study will inform the town of the types of housing that are most needed, and the types that can be supported by the projected population of Wallingford. This project is also an opportunity to assess the vacant spaces in Wallingford, and which ones would be suitable for housing.

When: 2020

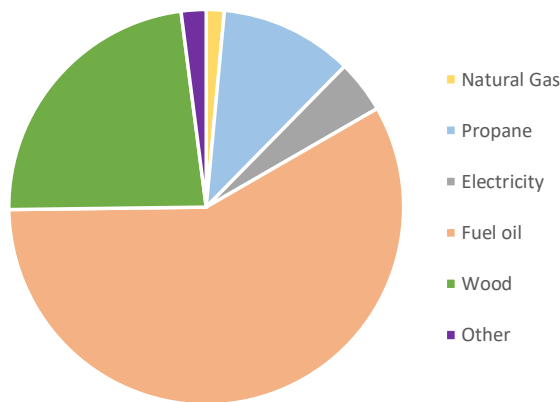


East Wallingford

# Energy

## Energy Use

Residential: Most of the residences in Wallingford use as their primary heat source either oil, propane (bottled gas), or wood, although some use electricity as a primary or secondary heat source. In those residences where the domestic water supply is not heated by a central heating system (furnace) it is normally heated by propane or electricity. Some homes use passive solar radiation as the primary heat source, although many depend to a greater or lesser extent upon passive solar for a portion of their heating needs.



Agricultural: Active farms are significant energy users, depending primarily upon electricity for barn lighting, milk cooling and other motor operated barn equipment. Field work is performed by tractors, which are predominantly diesel operated.

Public Buildings: The Wallingford Elementary School and the Town Office are heated with oil. The Town Garage uses oil and some wood.

## Electricity

Electrical service in the town is currently provided by Green Mountain Power (GMP), formerly Central Vermont Public Service, who serves electric customers in Wallingford through its Rutland District office in Rutland City. The right-of-way for the main transmission line of 46,000 volts runs north-south along Route 7. A small section of another 46,000-volt line runs through the western corner of the town. The lines are linked to both hydroelectric and gas turbine facilities.

The pattern of use of electricity in Wallingford is typical of communities of its size and type. Representatives of GMP indicate that electricity was used by town residents

primarily for cooking, lighting, and refrigeration. Some residences and farms have the capability to generate electricity through the use of renewable energy systems such as photovoltaic panels, windmills, and biomass.

## Oil

Heating oil (Number 2) is delivered by several local vendors to the users' storage tanks.

## Propane

Propane is delivered by local vendors to customers, either in form of fully charged cylinders or by tank trucks which meter deliveries into storage tanks at the users' locations.

## Wood

Most fuel wood is harvested from small privately owned woodlots or purchased from nearby suppliers.

## Energy Action Items

The Planning Commission and Energy Committee will host a workshop with Green Mountain Power and Solar Companies to educate residents on residential solar.

When: 2018

Invite Neighborworks and Habitat for Humanity to give presentations on energy efficient homes.

When: 2020

