



COMMUNITY FACILITIES

12

NEWINGTON
2020 POCD

**POSSIBLE
GOAL
STATEMENT**

***Continue to provide and maintain
community facilities to meet local needs.***

Community services (such as public works, public safety, and education) contribute significantly to Newington’s character and quality of life. For the purposes of the POCD, community facilities are considered to include buildings and other facilities which are used to provide services to residents.

The POCD does not get involved in the day-to-day operation of local departments but does look at:

- The adequacy of local facilities to meet anticipated community needs during the planning period (to 2030 or so) and beyond, and
- Whether the potential exists to expand such facilities in the future should the need arise.

Town Hall



Public Safety



Education



Recreation



Demographic Changes

Like many communities, Newington is anticipating an increase in the number of older residents and this will have implications for community facilities.

This can include more demand for services for older residents:

- Senior Center
- Tax relief
- Assistance for those choosing to “age in place”, such as “meals on wheels”
- Emergency medical
- Social services
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The following table provides a macro-level overview of community facility issues in Newington which will likely require attention over the next 10 to 20 years:

Function	Assessment
Building Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There appears to be deferred maintenance on a number of community facilities and this will eventually result in higher costs than if there was an on-going maintenance/replacement program in place (a capital improvement plan)
Library	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion / renovation is desired to meet community needs
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of investment in facilities (pools, fields, etc.) shows • Park and Recreation Master Plan (2007) is in need of updating to address current and anticipated future issues
Future Expansion Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider purchasing sites adjacent to existing community facilities if doing so will provide an opportunity to prepare for possible future expansion

The following table identifies situations which may change over the next 10 to 20 years and should be monitored:

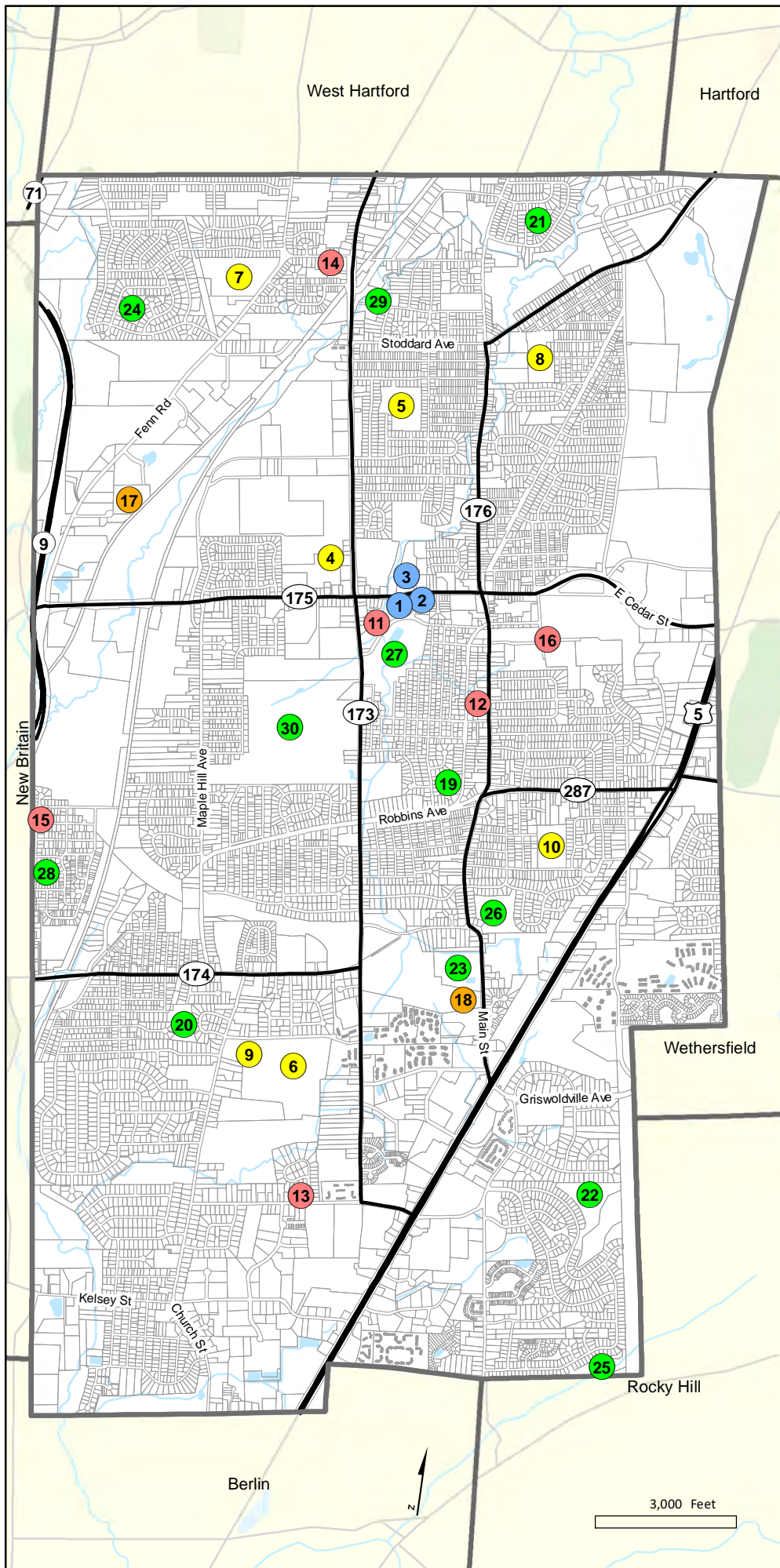
Function	Assessment
Schools / Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While existing buildings are expected to be adequate in size (since enrollment is expected to remain stable), building condition issues and programmatic changes (such as full day pre-school) may require attention • Continue to monitor enrollment changes and project future enrollments
Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor site utilization since the current facility may not be adequate for long-term community needs
Fire Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer fire department continues to work well but many communities are finding this to be more difficult than it has been – a paid department will be much more expensive and may necessitate a reconfiguration of equipment and stations • Some facilities may need upgrades to meet community needs • Facilities study programmed for 2020
Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station is cramped for current needs but may get some relief after completion of Town Hall / Community Center project • Situation should be monitored

The following community facilities and services are expected to be adequate for community needs for the next 10 years or so:

- Town Hall / Community Center (once current renovation / expansion project is completed).
- Senior Center / Community Center.
- Solid waste.
- Emergency medical response.

Community Facilities

Newington, CT



General

- 1. Town Hall
- 2. Lucy Robbins Welles Library
- 3. Newington Senior Center

Education

- 4. Newington High School
- 5. Martin Kellog Middle School
- 6. John Wallace Middle School
- 7. Anna Reynolds Elementary School
- 8. Elizabeth Green Elementary School
- 9. John Patterson Elementary School
- 10. Ruth Chaffee Elementary School

Public Safety

- 11. Newington Police Department
- 12. Newington Fire Department Co 1
- 13. Newington Fire Department Co 2
- 14. Newington Fire Department Co 3
- 15. Newington Fire Department Co 4
- 16. Newington Volunteer Ambulance

Public Works

- 17. Newington Highway Garage
- 18. Transfer Station / Former Landfill

Parks and Recreation

- 19. Badger Field
- 20. Beacon Park
- 21. Beachwood Park
- 22. Candlewyck Park
- 23. Churchill Park
- 24. Eagle Lantern Park
- 25. Littlebrook Park
- 26. Mill Brook Park
- 27. Mill Pond Park
- 28. Seymour Park
- 29. Starr Park
- 30. Newington Golf Course

Do these policies and action steps make sense for Newington?

Are there any policies or action steps you feel should be added or deleted?

POSSIBLE STRATEGIES FOR 2020 POCD

A. POLICIES (Strategies anticipated to continue over time)

1. Maintain and manage community facilities and services in an efficient and cost-effective way to maximize their utility and to:
 - a. meet current community needs, and
 - b. anticipate and adapt to future community needs.
2. Undertake improvements to improve accessibility (mobility, sight, hearing, etc.) to all municipal facilities and services.
3. Whenever sites become available adjacent to existing facilities, consider purchasing those sites if doing so will provide an opportunity to prepare for possible future expansion.
4. Monitor school enrollments (and project future enrollments in order to anticipate possible future facility needs (expansion or contraction).
5. Monitor site utilization at the Public Work facility since the current facility may not be adequate for long-term community needs.
6. Continue to support the volunteer fire department.
7. Monitor space utilization / needs at the police station.

B. ACTION STEPS (Specific tasks intended to implement the POCD)

1. Establish an Infrastructure Study Committee to provide a comprehensive overview of community facility needs and issues (including deferred maintenance).
2. Undertake improvement / expansion of the Library once the Town Hall / Community Center project is completed.
3. Update the Park and Recreation Master Plan (2007) to address current and anticipated future issues.
4. Undertake the study of fire facilities with a view to long term flexibility with regard to a volunteer and/or paid department and positioning of equipment to meet long term needs.