

Historic and Cultural

I. What has Hatfield said about this topic in earlier plans?

MHC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY TOWN REPORT-HATFIELD (1982)

Historic Overview (pages 1-2)

- Historic agricultural river town on primary north-south corridor between Northampton and Greenfield on west bank of Connecticut River.
- Important native sites documented along Capawonk Meadows near Mill River with intact fortified site at Halfway Brook around Elm Court.
- Early English settlement from Hadley by mid-1600s with surviving town plan and burying ground at center and mill site along Prospect Street. Well-preserved houses from mid-1700s remain with authentic examples of Connecticut Valley doorways. Possibility of Federal Period houses, cottages, and barns along Elm-Main Street and King Street areas.
- Commercial tobacco became a profitable industry in the mid-1800s. Architectural examples, including agricultural buildings, from the mid to late 1800s remained when this report was published.
- Despite some visible disrepair, Hatfield Center and Bradstreet Village retained remarkable historic character with little obvious commercial intrusion. The Mill River factory site showed loss of historic fabric.

HATFIELD MASTER PLAN FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (2001)

Community Feedback (4th page of plan)

- Values included rural character and open space and top goals included the preservation of town character.
Public Participation/Goal Setting (page 3)
- Residents defined three key areas of concern to be the management of growth and development, the preservation of the rural character of Hatfield, including historic neighborhoods, and updating infrastructure to meet community needs. *Residents want new growth and development adequate to support the town's financial needs, but not so much that the town loses its farmland, natural resources, beautiful open spaces, and historic character.*

Rural Character: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Open Space & Historic Preservation (pages 5-6)

- The town of Hatfield is at a turning point in which it must act aggressively to maintain its identity as a small, beautiful, agricultural community in the face of increasing regional growth and development pressures.
- Rural Character encompasses four aspects of the Master Plan: agriculture, natural resource protection, open space and recreation, and historic preservation.

- Historic Preservation is defined as the preservation of the integrity of all of Hatfield’s historic neighborhoods. The Hatfield Historical Commission and Hatfield Historical Society are identified as outstanding organizations committed to documenting, preservation, and protecting Hatfield’s historic heritage and culture but are noted to have challenges with lack of resources and space limitations.

Historic Preservation (pages 59-64)

- Historic preservation planning for cultural resources can help a community ensure that preservation values are considered a priority in community development decisions.
- Advantages of preservation planning include the incorporation of historic preservation goals into the comprehensive planning process; the identification of local cultural resources to lead to a better understanding of the significance of these resources and how the presence or loss of these resources affect the local quality of life; the creation of a framework for identifying and evaluating formal and informal preservation policies; and a means to promote understanding and define the rationale for exploring the designation of local historic districts and development of by-laws related to preservation.
- Limitations include the potential for community opposition to preservation goals and tension between community benefits of preservation of local resources versus property owner rights if exterior alterations are controlled under by-law.
- The Hatfield Historical Commission (HHC) favored National Register listings and cooperation between the Building Inspector and historic property owners rather than pursuing local historic district designation and it is mentioned that there was a pamphlet on the preservation of historic characteristics of a home under development for property owners.
- Other regulatory options being considered included a demolition delay bylaw and historic overlay zoning.
- At the time of this plan, the HHC had identified six historic neighborhoods (Lower Main Street, Upper Main Street, Bradstreet, North Hatfield, Elm Street, and the Mill District. West Hatfield was also being reviewed as a potential seventh neighborhood. Historic District signs and information plaques to be placed at strategic locations was mentioned as a future initiative.
- The Hatfield Historical Society (HHS) collection was turned over to the town just prior to the development of this plan, noted to include thousands of historic items stored in multiple locations, mostly located at the Hatfield Museum in Dickinson Memorial Hall. A Farm Museum was also recently developed from an existing tobacco barn.
- The town’s records since 1660, stored in vault rated for 30 minutes of fire resistance, were being transferred to a searchable database by the Town Clerk.

*AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF HATFIELD,
MASSACHUSETTS (2004)
Current Economic Profile (page 4)*

- One of the assets of Hatfield is its intact neighborhoods and beautiful and historic New England town center.

Development Assets (page 6)

- Cultural and environmental assets are included in a list of existing assets that might attract employers.
Existing Commercial/Industrial Areas in Hatfield (pages 7-8)
- Hatfield’s historic town center is identified as an area that has limited commercial uses combined with civic and residential uses with some key buildings like the Western Mass Regional Library building, Valley Advocate Building which could provide opportunities for adaptive reuse.

Summary of Current Zoning and Land Use Regulations (page 17)

- Examples included adoption of clear and specific standards for site plan review/approval by the Planning Board; adoption of commercial and industrial design guidelines with the Hatfield Design Guidelines Handbook slated for release in Spring of 2004; and allowance for mixed use business development as infill in the town center and other areas including retail, office, residential, and entertainment.

Inventory of Key Vacant or Underused Buildings (page 21)

- List included SciTech (Wilderness Mold/Mill Valley Molding); Western Massachusetts Regional Library Building; Valley Advocate Building; Town Center Business/Retail Center; Danco Commercial Center; West Track.
Synopsis of Hatfield’s Current Economic Profile-Development Assets (page 30)
- Includes a high quality of life that is perceived as both an untapped selling point to recruit businesses to Hatfield and as the most important aspect of life in Hatfield that residents seek to preserve.

DCR HATFIELD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT (2009)

Local History (pages 4-46)

- Hatfield occupies a floodplain on the west bank of the Connecticut River and borders Northampton, Williamsburg, Whately, and Hatfield.
- The Capawonk and Nonotuck tribes originally occupied this land and continued to fish, farm, and hunt in the area after settlers laid out this area, included in Hadley Plantation, in 1659.
- Hatfield was laid out as a linear street village as part of Hadley in 1661. A meetinghouse was constructed in 1668 and a burial ground laid out in 1669.
- Hatfield became a separate parish and town in 1670. The rich soil supported the growth of corn, wheat, and peas and the raising of cattle and goods were traded with markets in Springfield and Boston.
- By the mid-1700s Hatfield’s farmers were prospering and houses from the mid to late 1700s remain in the town center. An early 1800s broom industry lasted into the 1860s and mid-1800s tobacco cultivation led Hatfield to become the largest tobacco grower in the Valley. Shade tobacco was introduced in the early 1940s-1950s. Employment with industry, the railroad, and on farms attracted French Canadian, Irish, and

German immigrants. Post-Civil War, tobacco and onion farms were dominant and Polish, Slovakian, and Lithuanian immigrants joined the community.

- Hatfield's roots in Abolitionism included volunteering service, sheltering runaway slaves, and sending teachers to work with post-Civil War freed slaves in the south.
- Hatfield resident Sophia Smith used part of her inherited fortune to establish Smith College in Northampton and Smith Academy in Hatfield.
- In 1885, a Village Improvement Society began planting trees on main streets.
- A 1936 flood buried fields in silt and a 1938 hurricane leveled many tobacco barns and flooded the landscape with silt again. Hatfield Works Progress Administration workers built the dike bordering the Connecticut River to protect the town from spring flooding.

Priority Heritage Landscapes (pages 10-37)

- Thirty-six heritage landscapes were identified during this planning process. The highest priority landscapes were identified as Hatfield's six Burial Grounds, the Town Center, the Mill River Area, the Belden Dairy Farm, the Connecticut River Corridor, and the Great Pond.
-

TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION STUDY (2010)

Community Vision for Properties or Areas of Interest (page 7)

- Hatfield Mill Area: A recreation and leisure destination
- Connecticut River Dike Road: A beautiful, accessible, and easy to navigate recreational resource
- Center School & Grounds: An inhabited building and riverfront park that breathes new life into the center of Town
- School Street School: An inhabited building that breathes new life into the center of Town
- Town Hall & Town Barn: An energy efficient Town Hall that makes greater use of existing space to the benefit of all town residents
- Trustees of Smith Academy Park: An inviting and accessible park capable of hosting small town events
- Hatfield Elementary School Property: A large open park with the capacity to host large town events
- Parcel Behind Town Cemetery: A site for active leisure activity such as ice skating or community gardens until a different municipal purpose is needed.

Community Partners (page 38)

- The Hatfield Historical Commission and Hatfield Local Cultural Council were included on the list of Community Partners
-

MASTER PLAN LAND USE UPDATE (2012)

Commercial Zoning Districts (page 3)

- The historic town center includes the Town Center and Town Center Business Districts which encompass the cultural and institutional center of Hatfield and includes the Hatfield Center and Mill-Prospect Street National Register Historic Districts. The Business District located primarily along Route 5/10 is also located within the North Hatfield National Register Historic District.

HATFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (2014)

Plan Summary (page 5)

- Goals include preserving Community Character and Protecting Farmland Scenic Resources and Unique Environments (pages 34-36)
- Scenic Landscapes identified to include vistas from wooded trails along the peak of Horse Mountain; views at lower elevations from the northeast corner of Swift Plantation on Mountain Road and along Mountain Road descending to Pantry Road; Banks of Connecticut River; Canary Island Beach; the Mill River
- Distinctive geologic features include the Fertile Connecticut River and Floodplains; Great Pond and marshes; Horse Mountain and Chestnut Mountain; the Rocks Area of West Hatfield; and the Glacial Outwash Delta in North Hatfield
- Cultural and Historic Areas are found throughout the community with the following National Register listings noted in Table 7:

Name	Location	Date Registered
Billings Way Tobacco Barn	Billings Way	7/27/1994
Bradstreet Historic District	Main Street and Bashin, Cronin Hill, Depot, Old Farms and Upper Farms Roads	7/17/1997
Elm Street Historic District	Elm, Sunset and Scotland Streets and Little Neponset Road	12/7/2000
Hatfield Center Historic District	Roughly bounded by the Connecticut and Mill Rivers and Day Avenue	7/27/1994
Mill-Prospect Street Historic District	Chestnut, Bridge and School Streets, Raymond Avenue and Prospect Court	10/22/2002
North Hatfield Historic District	155-166 Depot Road, 178 North Hatfield Road and 273-336 West Street	10/30/1997
Old Mill Site Historic District	48 and 50 Prospect Streets	6/2/1982
Upper Main Street Historic District	Main Street from 83 Main Street to Cow Bridge, 1-44 King Street and 6-70 North Street	7/22/1994
West Hatfield Historic District	3-12 Church Ave, 2 Linseed Road and 23-42 West Street	2/24/2005]

Public and Non-Profit Parcels (pages 41-44)

- Municipal-owned recreation lands (42 acres) include the Lions Club Pavilion, the Hatfield Elementary School Grounds, Smith Academy Field, the Center School Grounds, the Town Hall Basketball Courts and Playground, and the Terry Blunt Watershed and Conservation Area. State recreation lands include the State Boat Ramp and Bashin Beach. Non-Profit lands include the Trustees of Smith Academy Park. The city of Northampton owns 70 acres of open space in Hatfield, mostly for watershed protection.

Status of Previous Five-Year Action Plan 2008-2013 (pages 62-65)

- Several goals had been accomplished in the Protect Community Character category with the exception of identifying and protecting designated Scenic Roads.

TOWN OF HATFIELD HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN (2015)

Age of Housing (page 33)

- More than 64% of Hatfield homes were built before 1969 and approximately 30% were built before 1939 compared to 13% nationally. Hatfield's older homes tend to be located in the three village centers of town.
- Challenges of older homes may include increased need for maintenance and repairs; poor past maintenance and repair history; challenges in design for mobility impairments; outdated and inefficient heating, cooling, and insulation systems; and abatement needs to include lead and asbestos. Rehabilitation costs to achieve code compliance can be high and deferred maintenance can result in unsafe conditions and poor quality housing.

Development Constraints, Limitations, and Opportunities (page 55)

- The largest development constraint identified is weak demand.
-

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF HATFIELD (2021)

- The CPA was adopted in Hatfield in 2006 and utilized the 2001 Master Plan and 2008 Open Space and Recreation Plan to guide project funding decisions. (Page 1)

Open Space Resources and Resource Goals (pages 2-3)

- More than 1/3 of the town's 10,750 acres is agricultural land with 5,000 acres in forest and other undeveloped open-land uses.
- The Hatfield CPC seeks projects that will promote the preservation of Hatfield's rural character; acquire land in fee or conservation restrictions to protect the town's water supply; contribute to the acquisition of APR or Conservation Restrictions to protect farmland; acquire land in fee or conservation restrictions to protect woodlands, wetlands, and floodplains; and encourage and support efforts to acquire, create, preserve, and/or rehabilitate open space resources that provide recreational opportunities for residents.

Historic Preservation Goals (pages 7-8)

- The Community Preservation Act defines "historic resources" as a "building, structure, vessel, real property, document, or artifact that is listed on or eligible for listing on the state register of historic places or has been determined by the local historic preservation commission to be significant in the history, archaeology, architecture, or culture of a city or town."
- The Hatfield CPC seeks projects that encourage and support town efforts to acquire, preserve, and/or restore buildings, land, features, and structures that define the historic character of the town's historic districts; to rehabilitate and restore town-owned resources to preserve usefulness and service to residents; to acquire, preserve and/or restore artifacts, items, and documents important to local history; promote a safe, climate-controlled, fireproof, floodproof storage space, workspace, and display

space for local historic documents, records, and artifacts; to promote the study, understanding, and appreciation of events, people, features, and documents important in the town's history; and to leverage other public and private resources and funding to the fullest extent possible.

- Projects as of 2021 in this category include restoration of the front columns and steeple of the Main Street Congregational Church; preservation of historic Town Clerk vital records; restoration of tombstones, tablets, roadways, and pathways in the Hill and Main Street Cemeteries; projects to preserve the public use of Memorial Town Hall to support compliance with the ADA; and projects to preserve and restore the Hatfield Historical Museum collection.

Recreation Resource Goals (pages 9-10)

- The Committee seeks projects that encourage and support efforts to acquire, create, preserve, and/or restore recreational resources to provide active and passive recreational opportunities for residents; to promote opportunities for walking, biking, and hiking through the study and development of accessible byways, trails, and paths with appropriate signage; and to promote the development of recreational use of appropriate and accessible town-owned lands not currently devoted to recreation.
-

HATFIELD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (2021)

Community Setting (page 8)

- Hatfield is a 16 square mile historic agricultural river town on the west bank of the Connecticut River with 3,352 residents as of the 2020 census.

Floodways (pages 13-14)

- The National Flood Insurance Program has mapped areas designated as Hatfield floodways to include Running Gutter; the Mill River; Cow Bridge Brook; and Great Pond and its tributary streams. The Town Hall, Town Fire Station, Town Library, and Town Police Station are all located within the Connecticut River's 500-year floodplain.
- Maintenance is an ongoing need for the Hatfield Dike.

Critical Facilities and Evacuation Routes Potentially Affected by Hazard Areas (page 79)

- Flooding (100 year flood) – Farm fields in East Hatfield, Mill River below dam, Main Street Historic District
-

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOPS SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (2021)

Areas of Concern (page 9)

- Include Hatfield's Historic Center which includes critical town facilities and the town's historical records and archives
Societal Strengths (page 8)

- Smith Vocational School in Northampton is the regional shelter.
 - There is a strong sense of community cohesion in Hatfield, which offers an opportunity for community generated activities such as preparedness
-

HATFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (2023)

Hatfield Today (page 9)

- Hatfield has distinctive areas reflecting the Town’s history, agricultural trends, localized development types, and underlying zoning.

Cultural and Historic Areas (page 34)

- Historic districts designated at the local level project built resources from alterations out of character with historic appearances through the adoption and enforcement of a local bylaw and new construction can be encouraged to be complementary in design.

Unique Environments and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (page 35)

- Areas of concern include Hatfield’s historic center within the 500-year flood zone which contains critical Town facilities including the Town Hall, the town’s historical records and archives, the police and fire station, and the Capawonk Housing for the Elderly

II. What have been key findings and recommended actions?

MHC RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY TOWN REPORT-HATFIELD (1982)

Survey Observations (page 16)

- Hatfield should expand inventory work to include all of Main and Elm Street resources as well as outlying villages of West and North Hatfield and Bradstreet with the potential of establishing districts at Bradstreet and the town center.
 - Archaeological potential is noted for subsurface remains of a freed slave village on Northampton Road, likely in vicinity of West Hatfield, as cabins remained in the early 1900s.
-

HATFIELD MASTER PLAN FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY (2001)

Growth, Development, and Economic Character (pages 5 and 20)

- Recommendations included adopting site plan review/approval for all commercial and industrial uses; adopting the Community Preservation Act and establishing a local preservation fund; reviewing, amending, and developing zoning regulations; adopting commercial and industrial design guidelines; and promoting limited business development as infill in the town center.

Rural Character: Agriculture, Natural Resources, Open Space & Historic Preservation (page 5)

- Recommendations included prioritizing farmland preservation, expanding the review responsibilities of the Hatfield Historical Commission, and researching the utility of creating a historical overlay district in Hatfield.

Design and Aesthetics of Commercial Development (page 30)

- Hatfield does not have to lose its historic character in order to incorporate chain or industrial buildings.

Promote limited Business Development as Infill in the Town Center (page 32)

- The town should adopt stringent design guidelines to keep new business building construction consistent with the historic character of the town center.

Historic Preservation Recommendations (pages 63-64)

- Adopt provisions of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act which would support local historic preservation work.
- Expand the review responsibilities of the Hatfield Historical Commission. Suggestions included the development of non-regulatory design guidelines in the form of a handbook, and design review in overlay districts or at certain development benchmarks. The HHC should demarcate Hatfield’s historic neighborhoods so the integrity could be understood and preserved.
- Research the creation of an historical overlay zoning district to support historic resources within the overlay area.

AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF HATFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS (2004)

Proposed Hatfield Economic Development Strategies (page 31)

- Strategies include developing available economic assets, infrastructure improvements, marketing Hatfield, and creating economic development incentives that are appropriate to agricultural businesses.

DCR HATFIELD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT (2009)

Hatfield’s Burial Grounds - Recommendations (page 13-14)

- The Town should continue to care for all cemetery grounds and stones and should follow guidance in the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation’s *Preservation Guidelines for Municipally Owned Historic Burial Grounds and Cemeteries*.
- A cemetery preservation plan should be developed to address overall preservation and specific concerns. It should include specifications and budget and could use the Amherst plan as an example.
- Conservation work and funding for planning could be sought through Hatfield’s Community Preservation Act funds or the Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant or Preservation Projects Fund.
- Markers should be documented and conditions should be monitored.

- Outreach and engagement with youth could support teaching local history and stone conservation.

Hatfield Center and “The Square” - Recommendations (pages 17-18)

- Consider adoption of a Demolition Delay bylaw based on age to enable a specified period of time to come up with alternatives to demolition of historic buildings.
- Consider adoption of a Scenic Roads bylaw and designated appropriate roads, including those of the Center, as scenic to ensure a review process when cutting or removal of trees on these roads is proposed.
- Consider adoption of a Transportation Corridor Protection bylaw for Elm, Maple, Main, and North Main Streets to preserve natural and man-made resources such as road alignment, width of the pavement, street trees, sidewalks, and curbing and to prohibit certain uses and provide rules on setbacks, commercial parking and landscaping and provide a no-disturb buffer along town-owned streets.
- Consider making designating the Center as a Local Historic District to provide a review process for proposed exterior alterations and construction visible from the public way that might adversely alter the historic feature of significant Hatfield buildings.
- As an alternative, consider designating the Center as an Architectural Preservation District so that construction and alterations are reviewed by a board but the findings are advisory rather than regulatory. The process would allow collaboration with a property owner to identify significant historic features and provide recommendations for best practices to approach rehabilitation as a way of maintaining the integrity of the historic Center.
- Consider reestablishing the lost street trees around The Square.

Mill River District – Recommendations (pages 23-24)

- Pursue Community Preservation Act funds for an engineer to evaluate the dam for safety and determine the cost for rehabilitation.
- Consider the adoption of an Archaeological Resource Protection bylaw to encompass the Prospect Street-Mill Historic District to ensure review of proposed development within the district by the HHC or a Hatfield Archaeology Committee.
- The Dam is a contributing resource within a National Register District and area around the falls has been noted to have archaeological potential for Native American activities and Colonial settlement industries. If dam demolition is proposed, the HHC and Hatfield Conservation Commission should request participation in the Section 106 Review and Environmental Review process. If demolition occurs, consideration should be given to installing a low-head hydro power generator.
- Consider reapplying for a FHWA transportation enhancement grant to restore the bridge and restore the connection between the two sides of the river to positively impact the inn and provide a nice bicycle route for residents and visitors.
- Explore the feasibility of constructing access to the river below the falls for water access or a small picnic area and seasonal launch location.
- Consider adopting an Architectural Preservation District within the Prospect-Mill River National Register Historic District boundaries as a zoning district to ensure review and approval of additions, major alterations, demolitions, and new

construction and ensure that additions and new construction respect the scale, massing, setback, streetscape, and materials of existing buildings.

Oscar Belden Farm – Recommendations (pages 28-29)

- Collaborating with the property owner to place sensible preservation restrictions on the buildings could result in a tax deduction without compromising the current use. Historic New England is mentioned as a resource to potentially devise and hold the restriction.
- If this income-producing property were listed on the National Register, it could be eligible for a 20% Historic Tax Credit if and when it needed rehabilitation. (*would this be a large enough project to be eligible?*)
- Consider adopting an Agricultural Preservation Bylaw to support farming economics by allowing accessory uses that supplement farming income such as restaurants, educational center, and bed and breakfast businesses.
- The Community Preservation Committee and Agricultural Advisory Board could explore the potential of designating Community Preservation Act funds to this and other historic farms in the community for building restoration if and when the need arises.

Great Pond – Recommendations (page 32)

- Consider adopting a Scenic Vista Protection bylaw to encompass the Pond and wetlands and apply design criteria to any tree removal and new construction of buildings, roads, or the addition of lighting that would compromise the community's views of Great Pond.
- Utilize Community Preservation Act Funds to acquire land or Conservation Restrictions on land that might come out of Chapter 61A protection in the future.
- Promote public education about the history of the ponds to include Conservation Commission-led field trips, interpretive signage, and a raised viewing deck.
- The Conservation Commission could enact a Wetlands Protection bylaw to protect this resource

Connecticut River Corridor (pages 36-37)

- Hatfield Agricultural Advisory Board could propose an amendment of the Chapter 61A regulations
- The town could work with owners to encourage placement of land in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program
- Consider adopting an Agricultural Preservation bylaw to allow accessory uses that supplement farming income.
- The HHC could consider supporting an archaeological site survey to identify sensitive areas and pursue an Archaeological Resource Protection Bylaw

Inventory and Documentation (pages 39-40)

- The HHC should continue to survey properties for the MA Historical Commission database and update older survey forms.
- The Great Pond should be added as a National Register listing with a boundary extension of the Bradstreet Historic District. Local Historic District designations

could be pursued in the Center along Elm, Maple, and Main or at least along Main and a Transportation Corridor bylaw should be enacted for Elm, Maple, and Main Streets.

- Utilize the complete list of the town’s heritage landscapes to guide future documentation and funding.
-

Town Center Revitalization Study (2010)

Summary Recommendations (page 37)

- Develop Master Plans for Hatfield Mill Area, Town Hall-Center School-School Street School Areas
 - Create a town-wide trails system including maps and develop a map and narrative of all parks in Hatfield, available on the Town website
 - Adopt regulations that encourage preservation of the Town Center’s historic features (ex. Local Historic District or Architectural Preservation District)
 - Encourage joint use or sharing of Town-owned properties
 - Utilize CPA funds to support work, including historic preservation
 - Market the town center as a cyclist destination
 - Consider amending dimensional requirements of Town Center and Town Center Business Zoning Districts to promote compatible development
 - Apply for designation of River Road-Main Street-Maple Street-Elm Street to be part of the existing Connecticut River Scenic Byway
-

MASTER PLAN LAND USE UPDATE (2012)

Growth and Development Recommendations (page 16)

- Educate younger generations about the need to preserve the rural character of Hatfield

Farmland Preservation (page 18)

- Encourage participation in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program
- Increase use of the Chapter 61 program and town review of the land conversion

Manage Residential Development (page 20)

- Favor compact village center and cluster development
 - Promote compatible infill construction
 - Adopt design standards to guide and control the exterior appearance of new commercial and multi-family townhouse style development
-

HATFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (2014)

Five Year Action Plan 2014-2019 (page 56)

- Recommendations include promoting the value of the Town’s defining natural and man-made resources by working with farmers on the continued promotion of

farmland protection and continued related events such as the annual agricultural fair and road raise for fundraising and promotion.

- Securing long-term protection of scenic landscapes and vistas by promoting the value of Hatfield’s landscape and vistas through photographic and other exhibits.
 - Supporting the protection of restoration of historic buildings and places by continuing to promote listing of sites on the National Register of Historic Places and seeking funding for the preservation of significant town artifacts.
 - Protecting Farmland with objectives including promoting coordinating technical assistance to landowners to implement protection strategies and establishing a local agricultural preservation program by drafting a local APR bylaw and presenting for vote at Town Meeting.
-

TOWN OF HATFIELD HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN (2015)

Recommended Actions (pages 68-73)

- Recommendations include the adoption of an Accessory Apartments bylaw; the adoption of Residential Design Guidelines so that all new homes meet community aesthetic standards with the Historical Commission as a responsible entity along with the Planning Board; and the establishment of a Municipal Housing Rehabilitation Program to assist income-eligible households to make necessary repairs to their homes.
-

HATFIELD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (2021)

Existing Mitigation Capabilities/Strategies (pages 78-79)

- Identify areas in the community that are flood prone and define methods to minimize the risk. Review National Flood Insurance Maps.
- Strict adherence should be paid to land use and building codes, (e.g. Wetlands Protection Act), and new construction should not be built in flood-prone areas
- Drainage recommendations include street designs to use Low Impact Development drainage systems to closely mimic natural systems that allow for percolation, groundwater recharge and stormwater quality and reduce runoff.

Prioritized Implementation Plan (page 104)

- Study relocation of critical facilities out of floodplain
 - Move/secure vital records; digitize records and move originals to WTP
-

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE BUILDING WORKSHOPS SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (2021)

Top Recommendations to Improve Resilience to Hazards (page 30)

- Top actions include planning for the relocation of Town Center Critical Facilities out of the Floodplain; conducting a town-wide drainage and stormwater study and strategy and planning for future climate-resilient development.
-

*HATFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN (2023)
Seven-Year Action Plan 2023-2029 (page 61)*

- In support of the goal “Protect Community Character,” recommendations included continue working with farmers to promote farmland protection; promoting the value of the Town landscape and vistas through photographic and other exhibits; continuing to work towards listing of site on the National Register of Historic Places; and seeking funding for the preservation of significant town artifacts.

III. What are best practices for consideration on this chapter topic?

What should Hatfield be thinking about that might best help plan for the future, ensure greater resilience?

One suggestion is to consider making buildings more flood resilient at the current locations rather than moving locations of central resources and even moving buildings out of the flood zone. The National Park Service has new [Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings](#) and there are examples of this type of resiliency work in other parts of the country.

Most plans have identified the high value of Hatfield’s historic built resources like architecture, the land’s archaeological potential, and the abundance of historic landscapes and scenic vistas. Continue to explore ways to protect the longevity of these resources in a manner that suits the community.

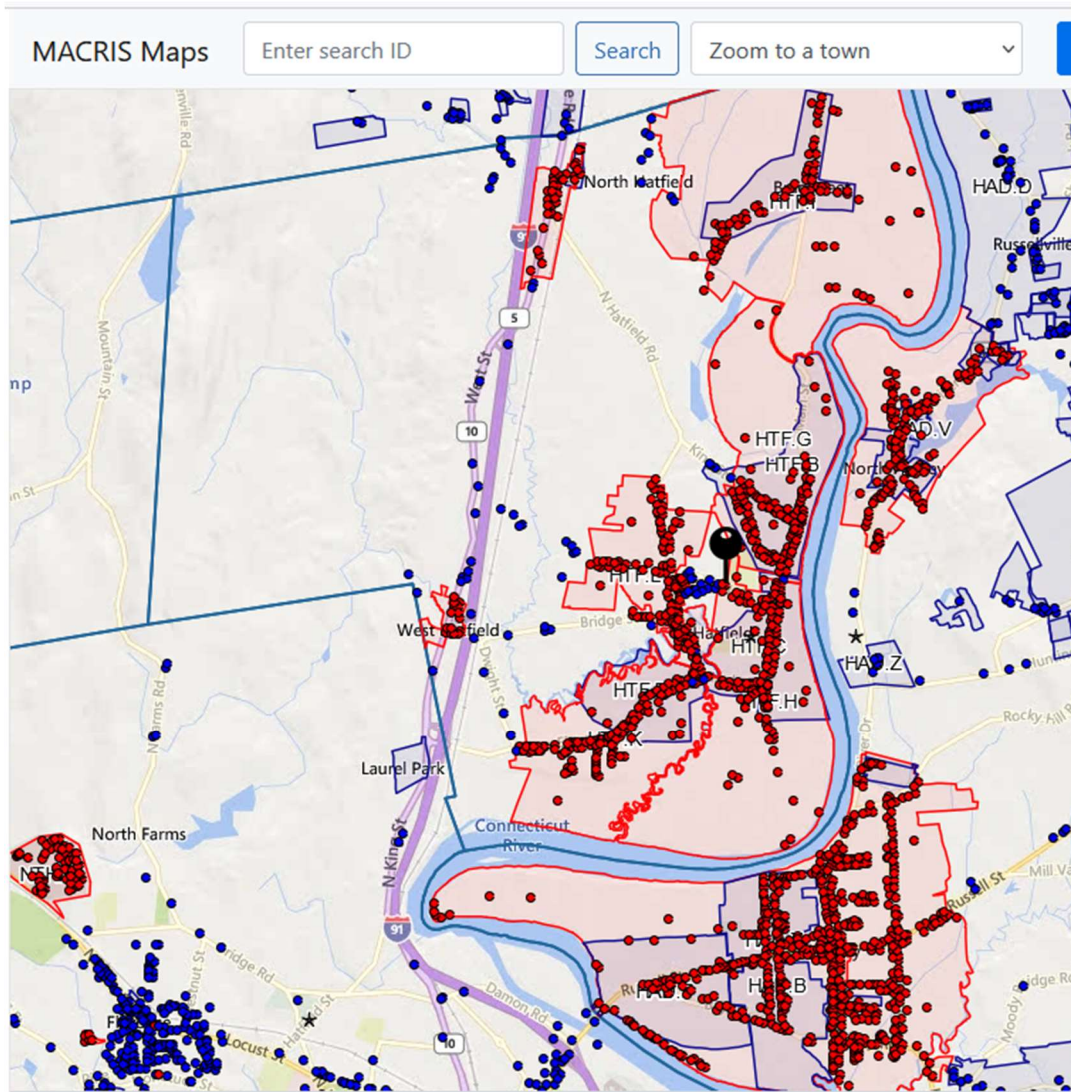
More research and outreach will be needed to better understand the local cultural traditions of Hatfield and how best to support, honor, and protect these traditions.

Photos that would be useful for chapter

Photos of identified priority historic built resources, landscapes, and scenic vistas throughout the community as well as images of any types of community cultural gatherings.

Maps needed for chapter

MHC MACRIS Map showing inventoried datapoints with an overlay of the flood zone map. Below is a telling map from [MACRIS](#), showing most of the town and providing a visual of how much inventory work has happened in Hatfield and how many historic resources (blue) and National Register resources (red) have been identified. Hatfield is in great shape regarding inventory work but depending upon the date of the work, some of it may benefit from being updated to meet current Massachusetts Historical Commission standards.



Chapter background paper prepared by
Shannon Walsh, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission