

Facilities and Services

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

MASTER PLAN, 2001

- Excellent drinking water, but under current pricing and distribution conditions, peak summer use is testing the limits of the supply (p6)
- Dead end lines and undersized pipes severely compromise town firefighting capabilities (p6)
- Limited sewer lines, unpaved roads, and strained water supply (p6)
- Acknowledge the connection between provision of infrastructure and how a community grows (p6)
- External force affecting future land use is regional growth pressure, the internal force is the inadequacy of zoning regulations (p11)
- Outdated infrastructure made Hatfield less attractive for new development (p65)
- Water supply – Town reservoir, West Hatfield Well, and Omasta Well, with majority of water drawn from the reservoir due to cost to operate wells, even with wells requiring no treatment.
 - 95 percent of community is served by public water. (p65)
 - Current distribution is composed of asbestos-cement pipe, susceptible to leaks. Not fully adequate on Rtes 5/10, 6” diameter where it should be 12” to serve business and homes. (p65)
 - Eliminate dead end water line at North Main Street (p66)
 - North Street pipe size upgrade from 4 inches to 8 inches (p66)
 - Need to continue 10-inch line from Depot Road (p66)
 - Straits Road extension was defeated at Town Meeting (p66)
 - Metering for all users by 2005? (p66)
- As of 2001, WWTP is 13 years old (35 years in 2023). One-third of town is served by system. (p66)
- Businesses on Rt 5/10 are not connected to town sewer. On septic (p67)
- Town landfill is capped. Waste taken to Northampton. 70 percent bring their waste and recycling to transfer station, 30 percent utilize private contractors. (p67)
- Cede responsibility for school issues to other committees already working on the topic. Breor Elementary School and Smith Academy. Smith Academy Trust funds system. (p70)
- Some town roads are not paved and there is no consensus on whether or not they should be. (p71)
- Rail line may be underutilized for freight traffic (p72)

- Village-centered post offices are important centers of social activity (p72)
 - Make Capital Improvements Planning (CIP) process more transparent (p72)
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MASTER PLAN LAND USE UPDATE, 2012

- Since the 2001 Master Plan, there was implementation of many regulatory recommendations (p7):
 - developing elderly congregate housing
 - adopting the Community Preservation Act, a Transfer of Development Rights Bylaw, a by-right farmland cluster zoning bylaw and establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee
 - implementing a stormwater management bylaw
 - Identified Growth and Development Issues (p14)
 - Balancing the Need to Expand the Town's Tax Base Through Increased Economic Development While Preserving Hatfield's Rural Character
 - Impact of Development on Open Space and Environmentally Sensitive Areas
 - Mitigating the Impacts of Development
 - Balanced Development on Route 5/10
 - Lack of a Written Municipal Infrastructure Improvement Plan
 - Lack of Permanent Farmland Preservation
 - Large Areas of the Town Zoned for Commercial and Industrial Uses are Constrained Environmentally
 - Housing Opportunities for Young Families and Elders are Limited
 - Balancing the Need for Alternative Energy while Maintaining the Rural Character of the Community
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TOWN CENTER REVITALIZATION STUDY, 2010

- Community Vision for Properties or Areas of Interest (p7)
 - 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 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 Vision: An energy efficient Town Hall that makes greater use of existing space to the benefit of all town residents. (p27)
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HMP, 2021

- A project to extend the Town sewer line on West Street is currently being completed, and will allow the building of a mixed-use development that will include a 150,000 square foot industrial building as well as 30-46 condominium units. Other development in the last five years has included the Five Colleges Library Annex at 202 Plain Road, as well as scattered single-family homes. These new developments are located in areas with other development. (p9)
- The Town of Hatfield has a water distribution system with about 37 miles of water mains ranging from 2” to 16” in diameter. Town water sources include two wells, West Hatfield and the Omasta Well, and the Hatfield Reservoir located in West Hatfield. (p11)
- Approximately one-half of Hatfield is tied into the town’s sewer system. Sanitary sewer service is provided to homes and businesses only on Elm Street, Main Street, North Street, Colonial Acres, Chestnut Street, Nolan Circle, School Street, and portions of Prospect Street, Bridge Street, King Street, Plantation Road, Elm Court, Old Farms Road, Raymond Avenue, Dwight Street, Church Street, North Hatfield Road and the southernmost portion of West Street. (p11)
- Schools – Hatfield Elementary (is this Breor) and Smith Academy (p11)
- Flooding can cause direct damage to critical facilities and result in roadblocks and inaccessible streets that impact the ability of public safety and emergency vehicles to respond to calls for service.
- Buildings, infrastructure, and other elements of the built environment are vulnerable to inland flooding. Buildings within the floodplain are highly vulnerable to inland flooding and are likely to become increasingly vulnerable as riverine flooding increases due to climate change (resilient MA, 2018). (p30)
- At a neighborhood to regional scale, highly developed areas and areas with high impervious surface coverage may be most vulnerable to flooding. Even moderate development that results in as little as 3 percent impervious cover can lead to flashier flows and river degradation, including channel deepening, widening, and instability (SHMCAP, 2018). Additionally, changes in precipitation will threaten key infrastructure assets with flood and water damage. (p30)
- Hatfield has two dams located within its boundaries on the Mill River and Running Gutter River, which are legacies of Hatfield’s industrial heritage. The D.F. Riley Grist Mill Dam on the Mill River near Prospect Ct is privately owned, old and

unmaintained, and is rated a "Significant Hazard" by the Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety. No dam issues to date. (p32)

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN REPORT, 2022

- The finished floor/top of concrete elevation for the building is not compliant with the 100-year or the 500-year flood. (p56)
 - Town utilizes an Enterprise Fund for its wastewater utility. Sewer user fee collected.
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MVP PLAN, 2021

- Smith Vocational School in Northampton is the regional shelter. This facility is adequately sized for Hatfield's needs. (p28)
- Cell phone coverage in the center of Hatfield is considered poor. This would make communication during a hazard difficult. (p22)
- Hatfield is home to many long-term residents who know the town and the community well. This builds a strong sense of community cohesion in Hatfield, which offers an opportunity for community generated activities such as preparedness. (p28)

II. What have been key findings and recommended actions?

MASTER PLAN, 2001

- Develop a Master Plan for town water and sewer systems with development schedules and expand facilities where planned for future development (p6) ALSO IN Economic Development Plan, 2004 (p27)
 - Prioritization schedule for infrastructure system upgrades (p6) ALSO IN Economic Development Plan, 2004 (p27)
 - Work with business to research available funds to meet the infrastructure needs of business on Rt 5/10 (p7)
 - Investigate alternative methods for reducing peak demand for water in summer months (p7) ALSO IN Economic Development Plan, 2004 (p27)
 - Allocate resources to improve school facilities (p7)
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TOWN CENTER, 2010

- Hire a consultant to develop a master plan for is area of the Town Center. (p28,30)
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MVP PLAN, 2021

- Culverts and stream crossings should be evaluated for accommodating increased flows routinely. This should happen as part of a coordinated town wide drainage plan, but individual culvert upgrades could become individual high priority projects on their own if the need to upgrade is immediate. Roads that were identified by CRB workshop participants include: Main St, Jericho Rd, Cronin Hill Rd, Chestnut St, Depot Rd, and Maple St. (p35)
 - Provide backup generators to the Capawonk Housing for the Elderly so that medical equipment and other critical infrastructure can still function during a power outage. (p35)
 - Improve communication infrastructure in Hatfield center. Investigate locations for a cell phone tower, create plans for alternative methods for broadcasting crucial emergency information. (p36)
 - Explore repair of the Grist Mill. Massachusetts Office of Dam Safety ranks the Grist Mill dam as a significant hazard due to the potential downstream damage if it were to fail. The dam has high historic value because it was the site of one of the first buildings in Hatfield and a Native American crossing. According to a participant in the Listening Session, keeping the dam has more ecological value than removing it because there are rare species behind the dam that would be damaged by its removal. (p36)
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HMP, 2021 (p106)

- Repair/replace undersized and problem culverts
- Study relocation of critical facilities out of floodplain
- Move/secure vital records; digitize records and move originals to WTP
- Upgrade WTP to be able to be a secondary emergency operation center
- Clarify with Army Corps about check valves on Hatfield Dike re. condition and importance, responsibility for maintenance.
- Establish a back-up power system (generators) for Pumping Stations
- Maintain Emergency Management Planning Committee

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?

- All boards and staff involved with permitting of land development should have regular meetings to discuss planning and development issues in the town
- Prepare an updated organizational flow chart that depicts all municipal departments, boards, commissions, committees and ad-hoc committees and outlines which entity established them and which entity they report to, including the School Department.
- Pursue regionalization opportunities to increase local government capacity and collaborate with nearby communities.
- Establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee.

Chapter background paper prepared by
Ken Comia, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission