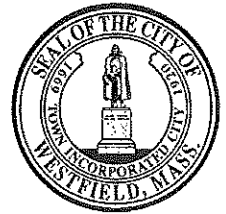


# City of Westfield

City Hall

59 Court Street • Westfield MA 01085



**Daniel M. Knapik**  
Mayor

**Telephone: (413) 572-6201**

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To the citizens of Westfield.

The project that is commonly known as **The Main/Broad Street Reconstruction Project** was conceived by the city in the later 1990's. Which of course, was many years prior to my arrival in the Mayor's office. At that time, a committee of citizens was commissioned (the Town Common Preservation Initiative), a landscape consultant was retained, and a plan for the next 100 years was created. It was recognized by the study group that the trees on the Green were in various stages of decline and in fact the Green had declined to such a state that its historic appearance had been lost over the last 40-50 years.

The study can be viewed at [www.cityofwestfield.org](http://www.cityofwestfield.org).

Some additional problems identified in the study, were that the soil had been heavily compacted over the years and not conducive to supporting a healthy tree environment. Additionally, over the last 50 years or so, invasive species of trees had been planted haphazardly throughout the Green. The recommendation to the city and subsequently endorsed by the study group was that significant reconstruction would need to occur and the city should return the Green to a state that was more in keeping with its unique history starting in 1736, where it was simply a large open area of grazing land and later in the century, a drilling ground for General Shepard's militia leading up to the Revolutionary War.

One of the key desires of the city and the citizen study group at the time (and subsequently affirmed throughout the last eight years as public hearings and meetings with city boards and commissions were held), was to make the Green a central point of entertainment and gathering for its citizens, as it had been in the late 1800's and early 1900's. This would be characterized by a large green lawn at the center surrounded by trees around the perimeter. This depiction is supported by the research that was done as part of the construction planning process. Throughout this process, public input was obtained by the citizens that attended. Adjustments were made as the process progressed over the years. The new Green has been designed to accommodate this use. The following link shows a depiction of the Green as it is proposed today.

[www.cityofwestfield.org/detpages/departments247.html](http://www.cityofwestfield.org/detpages/departments247.html).

A decision then was made by the city in the early part of the decade to proceed with a reconstruction project of the Green and restore it more in line with its colonial roots. As recently as December 2009, MASSDOT held an additional public hearing at city hall to address the project and its scope as it was prepared for final bidding.

A vote was taken by the city council to authorize funding for the city portion of this project in the fall of 2009. Again, prior to this vote, a city council subcommittee meeting was held and the

issue was debated on the council floor. Both of these events received significant coverage in the Springfield Republican and the Westfield Evening News.

I would encourage you to attend the public forum scheduled for June 14, 2010, at 7PM at the South Middle School Auditorium. At this hearing you will be updated on the Green restoration, the Great River Bridge Park construction and my own initiative to plant 200 trees in 2 years in our city neighborhoods. I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Knapik', written in a cursive style.

Daniel M. Knapik