

## Acknowledgements

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# 1.0 Introduction

This Chapter describes comprehensive plans and their purpose for communities such as the Town and Village of Westfield. The planning process and the various steps completed for the plan are also outlined here. The Chapter includes a description of the goals and objectives that were used to guide the development of the plan and the overall vision for Westfield.

## .1 Purpose

### *New York State Legislation*

A comprehensive plan is a policy statement developed by a community or communities to help guide the future. The New York State legislature has found that:

- 1) significant decisions and actions affecting the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the state and its communities are made by local governments;
- 2) among the most important duties of the local government is the authority and responsibility to undertake comprehensive planning and regulate land use;
- 3) the development and enactment of a comprehensive plan which can be readily identified, and is available for use by the public, is in the best interest of the people of each community;
- 4) the great diversity of resources and conditions that exist compels the consideration of such diversity in the development of each comprehensive plan;
- 5) citizen participation in an open, responsible and flexible planning process is essential to designing the optimum plan; and
- 6) the plan is a means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people in a community and to give due consideration to the needs of the people of the region.

New York State, under Town Law section 272-a and Village Law section 7-722, enables communities such as the Town and Village of Westfield to prepare and adopt, by local law or ordinance, a comprehensive plan. Inter-municipal agreements to prepare comprehensive plans are also allowed as per section 284 in Town Law and 7-741 in Village Law. A Town or Village comprehensive plan:

"means the material, written and or/graphic, including, but not limited to maps, charts, studies, resolutions, reports and other descriptive material that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the town [Village]...The town [Village] comprehensive plan...shall...serve as a basis for land use regulation, infrastructure development, public and private investment and any plans which may detail one or more topics of a town [Village] comprehensive plan."

The New York State legislation defines the components that may be included in a comprehensive plan. These are: goals and objectives, regional context, agricultural, historic and cultural resources, environmental considerations, population and socio-economic trends, transportation facilities, public and private infrastructure, housing resources, educational, health and emergency facilities, recreation facilities and commercial and industrial facilities.

In addition, the plan can include specific policies and strategies for improving the local economy in coordination with other plan topics, proposed measures, programs, devices and instruments to implement the goals and objectives of the various topics within the comprehensive plan, all or part of the plan of another public agency or any and all items which are consistent with the orderly growth and development of the community.

### *The Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan*

The Town and Village of Westfield officials, in light of the communities slow decline in population and industry over the past ten years, have decided the time is right to prepare a policy statement that will help spark the Town and Village of Westfield's future development. The process of preparing the comprehensive plan will be complemented by a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) to ensure that the plan establishes thresholds for future development in Westfield. Specifically, the comprehensive plan for the Town and Village of Westfield will accomplish the following:

- 1) provide a basic resource document to assist in obtaining an adequate understanding of the Town and Village, its people, the natural environment and land uses;
- 2) assist the Town and Village government in making decisions on specific development proposals by providing a basis for judging whether a specific proposal is consistent with long range development objectives of the Town and Village;
- 3) help the Town and Village to determine when additional services are needed such as a senior citizens center or a youth activity facility;
- 4) provide a basic planning tool for the Town and Village in programming public facilities and utilities, in the acquisition of land and in the construction of public improvements;
- 5) serve as a comprehensive source of current information that can be used to assist the Town and Village in their efforts to receive state and federal funding and in their efforts to attract developers to the region;
- 6) direct recreation and open space opportunities for residents to improve the overall quality of life in Westfield;
- 7) attract potential developers to the Town or Village by illustrating the overall goals and objectives for Westfield over the next twenty years; and
- 8) encourage cooperation between the Town and Village of Westfield in determining the type of services they can offer to residents and businesses.

# Location Plan



## .2 Comprehensive Planning Process

To develop the comprehensive plan for the Town and Village of Westfield, a comprehensive planning process was undertaken. The process included extensive input and assistance from both the Town and Village Planning Board members who were responsible for all data collection. The following summarizes the process that was completed for the Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan.

- ! **Visioning Session - Goals and Objectives** - The Town and Village of Westfield Planning Board participated in a "visioning" session with the Consultants to develop goals and objectives. During this session, a list of issues was identified. These issues resulted in preliminary goals that were presented to the Steering Committee. More detailed objectives were developed based on the survey, additional Steering Committee meetings and input from telephone and personal interviews. These goals and objectives were refined throughout the planning process.
- ! **Data Collection** - The Planning Boards in the Town and Village were responsible for the data collection effort necessary to gather the vast amount of data required to prepare the plan. During a meeting with the Consultant, each member of the Planning Boards was assigned various pieces of information to collect. Information was presented at the Steering Committee meetings that were held the third Wednesday of each month.
- ! **Inventory** - A comprehensive inventory document was completed by the Consultant. This included information on the Town and Village regarding: economic development, environment, transportation, historic features, community facilities, open space and recreation, land use, population and housing.
- ! **Mapping** - The information obtained during the inventory was mapped on a series of overlays to show development potentials and limitations in the Town and Village of Westfield. Mapping completed includes: regional context, development limitations, land use, transportation and community facilities.
- ! **Analysis** - A complete analysis of the inventory was completed. The analysis included population analysis, analysis of housing needs, consideration of environmentally sensitive areas, economic analysis, transportation network review and assessment of historic/community facilities. This information was used to develop a basis for future land uses in the Town and Village.
- ! **Needs** - Based on all information obtained through the analysis, specific needs were identified for each of the areas inventoried. These needs were used to develop corresponding policies.
- ! **Policy Development** - Policy was developed for the Town and Village based on the analysis of the data available and the identified needs; these policies will form the basis for future Town and Village decisions.
- ! **Public Input** - Public input was an important component of the plan. Techniques used in preparing the plan include: a community survey, open house, public meetings, scoping session, committee meetings and Town/Village Board presentation.
- ! **Implementation** - Implementation of the plan will include a review process as the Town and Village experience changes in economic, social and demographic conditions. The update process also allows review of the status and effectiveness of the policies contained herein and provides a mechanism for the amendment of such policies as necessary.

### .3 Goals and Policies

The comprehensive plan will help determine the general desires and goals of a community -- what it would like to be -- into specific policies. As the recommended policies are realized, the community can then realize the goals that had been initially set forth.

Several goals and policies have been identified by the Town and Village of Westfield that correspond to each area outlined in the Comprehensive Plan. These goals and policies will serve as a source of reference for those charged with decision-making in these communities. The ultimate goal of the Comprehensive Plan was stated at the beginning of this chapter as one of the purposes of a plan as determined by the New York State Legislature:

"The plan is a means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people in a community and to give due consideration to the needs of the people of the region."

The following goals and policies for the Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan build upon this important goal. They include:

#### **Population and Housing**

**GOAL 1 - To encourage steady growth in the Town and Village of Westfield**

Policy 1.1 - to ensure that population increases do not outgrow the municipal services available in the Town and Village

Policy 1.2 - to provide employment opportunities and a high quality of life that will be an incentive for residents to locate and remain in Westfield

Policy 1.3 - to concentrate population near the Village or serviced areas to minimize the possibility of sprawl throughout the Town

Policy 1.4 - to ensure the number of apartment rental units available to residents in the Town and Village meet current and future needs

Policy 1.5 - to ensure that all residents have access to affordable housing options

Policy 1.6 - to encourage diversity in residentially zoned lands to efficiently use land, transportation, utilities and community assets

Policy 1.7 - to preserve the quality and character of existing housing

#### **The Economy**

**GOAL 2 - To diversify and strengthen the economic base in Westfield and promote steady growth of the Town and Village tax base**

Policy 2.1 - to attract new retail stores (such as clothing, furniture, housewares) to the Village and Town within the future development area

Policy 2.2 - to promote the development of businesses in the residential agricultural zoning district (for example, home-based commerce, contractors, farm and craft markets) but require a special permit for this new development

Policy 2.3 - to recognize the creation of new jobs as a priority in both the Town and Village to improve the overall economic conditions for current and future residents

Policy 2.4 - to encourage new industries to locate in the Town or Village

Policy 2.5 - to capitalize on the tourism potential of the Town and Village including Lake Erie, Chautauqua Gorge, antiques, historic sites, etc.

Policy 2.6 - to encourage agricultural diversification and alternative farming methods that will improve the economic climate of Westfield

Policy 2.7 - to promote industrial development in appropriate areas accessible by highway and rail to provide tax revenue and employment opportunities

### **Land Use**

Goal 3 - To encourage a "coordinated" land use pattern and develop a system of land use regulations that fosters the co-existence of all types of land use

Policy 3.1 - to define a future development area where development should be concentrated to protect the rural character of the Town and Village

Policy 3.2 - to protect agricultural lands and recognize their importance to the economic base of both the Town and Village

Policy 3.3 - to recognize the need for small businesses or home occupations that provide employment opportunities

Policy 3.4 - to promote mixed-use developments while minimizing land use conflicts with potential noxious uses

### **The Environment**

GOAL 4 - To maintain the integrity of and protect the area's natural resources

Policy 4.1 - to recognize the natural amenities of the Town and Village as exceptional assets that should be promoted for tourism

Policy 4.2 - to protect environmentally sensitive areas, including floodplains, wetlands, steep slopes, etc., from development

Policy 4.3 - to ensure the local fishing areas (streams, Lake) remain unpolluted

Policy 4.4 - to minimize the noise levels from truck traffic on Route 20

Policy 4.5 - to encourage the proper disposal of household toxic waste

Policy 4.6 - to ensure that agricultural land in Westfield remains viable

### **Transportation**

GOAL 5 - To maintain the existing transportation system, ensure the efficient movement of people and goods in the area, and increase opportunities for public transit for residents of Westfield

Policy 5.1 - to develop Route 5 as a parkway that includes destinations and attractions along the entire length

Policy 5.2 - to enhance linkages between Route 5 and Route 20 to draw people into the Town and Village

Policy 5.3 - to promote Route 20 as an "antique drive" that includes destination points along its entire length

Policy 5.4 - to improve the quality of all substandard roads

Policy 5.5 - to encourage pedestrian access and transportation services

Policy 5.6 - to encourage the NYS Thruway Authority to establish a "Welcome Center" between the Pennsylvania border and the Westfield exit

### **Community Facilities**

GOAL 6 - To ensure the residents of Westfield are sufficiently served by public utilities, educational institutions, libraries, health care facilities and public safety organizations

Policy 6.1 - to determine services that can be consolidated and avoid the duplication of Town and Village services

Policy 6.2 - to further study the need to expand the sewer and water systems to provide these services to additional areas of the Town

Policy 6.3 - to continue to share services such as water and sewer and concentrate these services in and around the Village

Policy 6.4 - to increase the number of adult education programs offered by the three school districts

### **Recreation**

GOAL 7 - To ensure adequate recreational opportunities are available to all age groups in Westfield

Policy 7.1 - to enhance community pride by promoting special events, parades and festivals in the Town and Village of Westfield

Policy 7.2 - to actively seek private recreational development opportunities for the Town and Village

Policy 7.3 - to develop additional recreational facilities to meet the need of Town and Village residents

Policy 7.4 - to utilize Lake Erie, Chautauqua Gorge and other unique areas as recreational resources for residents and visitors.



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## 2.0 Westfield and Its People

The Town and Village of Westfield are located in the southwestern portion of New York State. Westfield is situated directly adjacent to the Dunkirk-Fredonia area of northern Chautauqua County. Westfield has a distinct 'identity': the Town and Village have their own economic base and historic character that give the area a uniqueness among the North County municipalities. Yet, Westfield is linked to the larger region and shares many similarities in population and housing characteristics. This chapter therefore compares Westfield to the northern Chautauqua County region for analysis purposes.

The Town and Village population is approximately 5,000 people. Westfield was first settled when John and James McMahan purchased nearly 27,000 acres of land from the Holland Land Company (a group of Dutch bankers). In 1802, the first crops were planted by James McMahan; this began the settlement process for "Cross Roads" or Westfield as it is known today. Grist mills and the first saw mill were built along Chautauqua Creek as early as 1804. In 1829, the Town of Westfield was formed from parts of Ripley and Portland. As the Town grew, most of the development was centered on the east side of Chautauqua Creek; this is the center of the business district in the Village today. The Village was incorporated in 1833.

The Town is located directly on Lake Erie, and much of the Town relies on the Lake and its tourism potential. The Village is located approximately a mile from Lake Erie and can capitalize on the closeness of the Lake. The Lake has always played a major role in the economy of the area. Barcelona, formerly known as Portland harbor, includes water-related businesses in the Town. The Barcelona lighthouse was the first lighthouse in the world to be lit by natural gas in 1830. The lighthouse was built to guide the ships that would travel between Erie and Buffalo and dock at the thriving business center. The introduction of the railroad took passengers and freight that used to travel by boat, resulting in a rapidly declining harbor trade. In 1859, the lights in the lighthouse were removed.

Today, major industries for the Town and Village include farming, metal fabricating and food processing. Historically, the area has always relied on the agricultural industry; the climate and soils of the area make the Lake Plain an excellent location for grapes. The Concord grape was introduced to Westfield in approximately 1859. The industry continued to grow until a saturation of the market threatened the industry as a whole. In 1897, Dr. Charles Welch erected a building for grape juice production. With other juice producers coming to the area, Westfield became known as the Grape Juice Capital of the World.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, railroads became the major means of transportation in the Town and Village. The Buffalo and State Line Railroad Company opened a line from Dunkirk to Pennsylvania in 1852; this greatly increased access to Westfield. Today, the New York State Thruway, Route 5 and Route 20 are the major transportation corridors; this moves traffic from east to west through the Town and Village.

The Town and Village of Westfield have undergone many changes since their incorporation in the mid 1800's. This Chapter includes a brief history of the Town and Village and will explore the population and housing characteristics that exist today. The Chapter then outlines the issues and policy recommendations for the population and housing in the Town and Village.

### .1 Population Analysis

In 1990, the population of the Town of Westfield was 1,743 and the population in the Village of Westfield was 3,451. Since 1980, the population in the Town and Village of Westfield has grown slightly; the 1980 population for the Town was 1,696 and in the Village, the population was 3,358. This slight growth trend differs from Chautauqua County as a whole which experienced a loss in population of approximately 5,000 people.

The following table summarizes the change in population from 1980 through 1995 in the Town, Village, County and State:

**1980-1995 Change in Population**  
Town, Village, County and State

Location	1980 Population	1990 Population	1995 Estimated Population	Percent Change 1980-1995
Town of Westfield	1,696	1,743	1,731	2.1%
Village of Westfield	3,358	3,451	3,426	2.0%
Chautauqua County	146,925	141,895	141,677	-3.6%
New York State	17,558,000	17,990,778	18,136,081	3.3%

Source: US Bureau of Census

On the whole, the northern Chautauqua County region (defined for this study as the City of Dunkirk, Village of Fredonia, Town of Dunkirk, Town of Pomfret, Town of Portland and Town of Sheridan) has experienced a decline in population since 1980. This is due, in part, to the closure or relocation of industries, the loss of young people because of a shortage of skilled labor employment and an aging population that tends to have less children. But both the Town and Village have been experiencing a slight growth in population as people who are retiring relocate in the area and the communities have become "bedroom" communities to the cities of Dunkirk, Jamestown and Erie, PA.

Several population characteristics of the residents of the Town and Village of Westfield illustrate the existing conditions. The following analysis includes an examination of age, ethnicity, educational levels, unemployment rates, poverty level, home-ownership and population projections for the Town and Village.

**Age**

In general, the population in the Town has remained more "stable" when compared to the Village in terms of the age breakdown for each community. The following table shows the percentage of the population under 14, 15-29, 30-59 and over 60:

**Town and Village Westfield**  
Age Breakdown - 1990 and 1995

Age Group	Town		Village	
	1990	1995 Estimated	1990	1995 Estimated
Under 14	20.4%	20.3%	22.4%	23.9%
15-29	18.0%	17.9%	18.1%	19.3%
30-59	40.3%	40.3%	35.5%	38.0%
Over 60	21.4%	21.5%	24.0%	18.8%

Source: US Bureau of the Census and Claritas

In New York State, the percentage of residents over the age of 60 is 18%. The Town and Village of Westfield have a slightly higher percentage of people over the age of 60: Town - 21% and Village 24%. In 1995, the percentage of people over the age of 60 had decreased in the Village to 18.8% while the Town rose slightly to 22%. In Chautauqua County, the percentage of people over the age of 60 is 21%; this is comparable to the Town. In the northern Chautauqua County region, the percentage was 18% in 1990. In the Town and Village, the population can be expected to age over the next few decades. Overall, the age of the population in the Town and Village can expect to follow the national trend of an aging population that would require additional services.

The percentage of the population between the ages of 30-59 in the Town has remained constant between 1990 and 1995: 40%. This percentage has increased in the Village between 1990 and 1995: from 36% to 38%. In New York State, the percentage of people between 30-59 is 39%, in Chautauqua County it is 35% and in the northern Chautauqua County region it is 32%. The Town and Village are comparable to the State and County as a whole but slightly higher than the northern Chautauqua County region. This age group will tend to be less transient and more economically stable than other age groups so the higher percentage for Westfield is a positive sign of potential economic growth.

The population between the ages of 15 and 29 has remained fairly stable in both the Town and Village. The percentage for the Town was 18% in 1995; for the Village, the percentage was 19%. This age group is slightly smaller than the State and County as a whole which have 24% and 22%, respectively, of its population in this age group. This age group is a considerable resource that should be targeted as they consider the need to create employment opportunities in the area.

The percentage of residents under the age of 14 has remained constant in the Town; the Village has realized a slight increase (22% to 24%). These percentages are slightly higher than the State (19%), County (21%) and the northern Chautauqua County region (18%). This age group will require appropriate educational, daycare and recreational services. In the Town and Village, the need may be slightly higher than the needs of surrounding communities because of the higher percentage in this age group. These children can also be viewed as a resource that, if retained in the area, will add to the quality of the Town and Village of Westfield.

### *Ethnicity*

Ethnicity in a community will illustrate the specific breakdown of the population to determine special programs and services that may be required. The Town and Village of Westfield are compared to the State, County and the northern Chautauqua County region in this section to show the special needs that may exist for various groups in the two communities.

Overall, the population of both the Town and Village of Westfield is predominantly white. The 1990 US Bureau of Census shows the Town's white population is 98.2% and the Village's white population is 96%. This is significantly higher than the State's overall percentage of 62%. But Chautauqua County as a whole has a higher percentage of white residents; in 1990, the white population included 93% of all residents in the County. The Town and Village also have a higher percentage of white residents when compared to the Chautauqua County region as a whole: 87%. Many of the communities in the northern Chautauqua County region have a percentage of white residents over 92% which is similar to the Town and Village.

A breakdown of the Town and Village by ethnicity is included in the following table:

**Ethnic Breakdown - 1990**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Ethnic Group	Town	Village
White	98.2%	96.0%
Hispanic	1.2%	2.2%
African American	0.1%	0.3%
Native American	0.1%	0.1%
Asian	0.2%	0.7%
Other	0.3%	0.6%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

Other ethnic groups in the Town and Village make up under 4% of the total population; this is approximately 32 people in the Town and 139 people in the Village. These residents include the hispanic, African American, Native American, Asian and other ethnic groups. The Hispanic population includes only 1% of Town residents and 2% of Village residents. African Americans include 0.1% of Town residents and 0.3% of Village residents. Native Americans make up only 0.1% of both the Town and Village population. Asian population for the Town includes 0.2% of the population and in the Village, the percentage is 0.7%.

### *Education*

The US Bureau of Census classifies persons according to the highest level of school completed or the highest degree received. In assessing a community's employment capabilities, the level of education can indicate the type of industry or business that can be targeted in a community. The Town and Village of Westfield appear to have a higher percentage of residents that have completed high school or more education (76%).

The following table summarizes the educational attainment levels of the State, County, Town and Village:

### Educational Attainment Age 18 and Over

Level of Education	NYS	Chautauqua County	Town of Westfield	Village of Westfield
Less than 9th Grade	9%	8%	8%	8%
9th to 12th Grade	16%	17%	16%	16%
High School Graduation	29%	35%	31%	31%
Some College	18%	18%	18%	18%
Associate Degree	7%	8%	9%	9%
Bachelors Degree	13%	8%	12%	11%
Graduate or Professional Degree	9%	5%	6%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

The Town and Village have similar education attainment characteristics; when compared with the State and County, there are several slight variations in education. The percentage of people in the Town who have obtained a high school diploma is slightly higher in the Town and Village (31%) when compared to the State (29%) but slightly lower than the County as a whole (35%). 9% of residents have attained an associates degree in both the Town and Village; this is, again, slightly higher than the State (7%) and County (8%). In the Town, 12% have attained a bachelors degree while in the Village, 11% have attained a bachelors degree. The State percentage is slightly higher at 13% while the County's is significantly lower at 8%. 6% of resident over the age of 18 have received a graduate degree and 7% in the Village. This is slightly lower than the State (9%) and higher than the County (5%).

These percentages illustrate that the Town and Village of Westfield have, on the whole, educational attainment characteristics that are similar to the State and County. There appears to be a resource of educated residents that are employable in the Town and Village. This is an important resource in any community and should be capitalized on.

### *Income*

The Town and Village of Westfield have a higher median household income than the County as a whole. The Town's median income is \$25,111 and the Village's median income of \$25,140; the County's median household income is \$24,183. Both the Town and Village's median income is lower than the State: \$32,965. The cost of living is lower in Westfield than the rest of the State so the median income being lower is somewhat expected.

When analyzing a breakdown of the household income levels for the Town and Village, there are some revealing characteristics. In the Town, 30% of household income is between \$10,000 and \$20,000; this is higher than the Village (19%), the State (15%) and Chautauqua County (17%). In the Village, 29% of households have an income between \$20,000 and \$30,000; this is significantly higher than the Town (13%), State (15%) and County (20%).

Other characteristics of income that are significant show that there are no households in the Town of Westfield that earn over \$100,000 and only 2% of households in the Village; this is comparable to the percentages for the County (1%) and the northern Chautauqua County region (0%). Throughout New York State, the percentage of households that earn over \$100,000 is 6%. The following table illustrates the breakdown of income for each community:

**Household Income Levels - 1990**  
New York State, Chautauqua County, Town and Village of Westfield

Income Level	NYS	Chautauqua County	Town of Westfield	Village of Westfield
\$0-10,000	15%	18%	15%	15%
\$10,000-20,000	15%	22%	30%	19%
\$20,000-30,000	14%	20%	13%	29%
\$30,000-40,000	14%	15%	16%	12%
\$40,000-50,000	10%	11%	7%	11%
\$50,000-100,000	24%	13%	19%	11%
\$100,000 and over	6%	1%	0%	2%

Source: US Bureau of the Census

The per capita income statistic that is compiled by the US Bureau of the Census is the mean income for the "state year" computed for every man, woman and child. The figure is derived by dividing the total income of a particular area by the total population. In New York State, the per capita income is \$16,501. Chautauqua County's per capita income is \$11,287; this is significantly lower than the State per capita income. In the Town, the per capita income is \$11,619 and in the Village, the per capita income is \$11,540. These are also significantly lower than the State per capita income and indicates that Chautauqua County, the Town and Village are somewhat depressed.

### *Employment*

Employment characteristics show the breakdown of a work-force, by industry, in a specified community. According to the 1990 US Bureau of the Census, in New York State, the significant employment industries include Retail Trade (16%), Health Related (11%), Education (10%) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE - 10%). In Chautauqua County, the significant industries include Retail Trade (19%), Manufacturing Durable Goods (19%), Health Related (10%) and Education (11%).

As a whole, the most significant industries in the Town and Village of Westfield include Retail (16.3%), Manufacturing Non-Durable Goods (14.4%) and Health Related (11%). In The Town of Westfield, the most significant industries include Health Related (12%), Agriculture (12%) and Manufacturing Durable Goods (11%). In the Village, the most significant industries include Retail (21%), Manufacturing Non-Durable Goods (17%) and Education (10%).

In New York State, agriculture accounts for only 1% of all employment. In Chautauqua County, agriculture is more important in terms of employment and accounts for 4% of employment. Both the Town and Village of Westfield have a more significant portion of their total employment in agriculture: Town - 12% and Village - 3%. Agriculture is obviously an important aspect of the local economy of Westfield. As a whole, agriculture

accounts for 6% of all employment in the Town and Village.



In terms of occupation, 19% of residents in New York State are employed in the Technical/Administrative fields. Other significant occupations in the State include Professional Specialty/Managerial (17%), Executive Managerial (13%), Sales (11%) and Service (11%). In Chautauqua County, Farming/Forestry accounts for 3% of all resident's occupations. Service occupations make up 15% of occupations and is the most popular occupation in the County. Precision Production makes up 12% of the population, Technical/Administrative - 14%, Sales - 10% and Machine Operators - 10%. The following summarizes the occupations of residents in the Town and Village of Westfield:

**Percent of Residents by Occupation - 1990**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Occupation	Town	Village	Total
<b>Managerial</b>			
Executive, Administrative	19.3	10.3	13.5
Professional Specialty	7.0	10.6	9.3
<b>Technical, Sales Administrative</b>			
Support	3.3	1.5	2.2
Sales	8.1	12.8	11.1
Administrative Supplement	11.7	14.3	13.4
<b>Service Occupations</b>			
Private Household	0.0	0.4	0.2
Protective Service	3.3	1.0	1.8
Service	12.8	18.5	16.4
Farming/Forestry	7.9	4.2	5.6
Precision Production	10.6	10.6	10.6
<b>Operators/Fabricators</b>			
Machine	8.1	8.5	8.4
Transportation	1.7	1.4	1.5
Handlers	5.9	5.9	5.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census

This chart outlines the percentage of residents over 25 years of age that are employed in each occupation. In the Town of Westfield, 19% of all residents have an Executive/Administrative occupation (19%). Other significant occupations in the Town include Service (13%), Technical Administrative (12%) and Precision Production (11%). In the Village, significant occupations include (Service (19%), Technical Administrative (14%), Technical Sales (13%), Farming/Forestry (11%), Executive Administrative (10%) and Professional Specialty (10%).

### *Public Assistance/Poverty Level*

An indicator of the employment opportunities and health of the economy in a community is the percentage of residents that receive public assistance. In New York State and Chautauqua County, 9% of residents collect public assistance; this does not include those individuals that collect social security. In the Town of Westfield, the percentage of residents on public assistance is 11.6%; this is somewhat higher than the State and County as a whole. In the Village, the number of households that receive public assistance is 103 or 7.6%; this percentage is slightly lower than the State and County percentages.

In New York State, the percentage of residents that receive social security is approximately 27%. In Chautauqua County, 33% of residents receive social security; this is slightly higher than the State as a whole. In the Town of Westfield, only 23% of residents receive social security; this is significantly lower than both the State and County. The percentage of residents in the Village that receive social security is 37% which is higher than the State, County and Town. This is due, in part, to the Westfield Health Care Center skilled nursing facility available in the Village.

Poverty status is another indicator of the economic stability of a community. The higher the percent of people living below the poverty level, the more likely that community is suffering from lack of employment opportunities, lower education levels or a high number of residents with special needs (elderly, single parent families, seasonal workers). In New York State, the poverty level is 13% (2,277,296 residents). This is comparable to Chautauqua County as a whole with a poverty level of 12%. In the Town of Westfield, the percent of residents below poverty level is 9% (164 residents) and in the Village, the percentage below poverty level is 7% (240 residents). Both the Town and Village of Westfield have a lower percentage of residents below the poverty level than the State and County.

### *Projections*

Population projections have been prepared for the Town and Village of Westfield. The survival cohort population projection method involves tracking a specific age group over time and noting changes to the group's size and composition. By evaluating child-woman ratios, migration patterns and survival rates for a community, projection estimates will show the likely changes a community would experience over a specified period of time. The cohort method determines increases and decreases in population based on the previous trends; in this case, five year trends were used (1990-1995). Future projections assume that conditions will remain the same over the next twenty years. While no projection should be viewed as a guarantee, the cohort survival method is the most widely used and generally most accepted tool for preparing projections. There are trends and influences in the global economy that will also impact the future of the Town and Village of Westfield; these are not considered in these projections but they are considered as policy is developed.

For the Town and Village of Westfield, the following population projections show the expected growth/decline each community can expect:

**Population Projections 1990-2015**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Location	1990	1995 Estimated	2000	2015
Town of Westfield	1743	1731	1741	1747
Village of Westfield	3451	3426	3396	3320
TOTAL	5194	5157	5137	5067

Source: US Bureau of the Census and peter j. smith & company, inc.

Both the Town and Village have experienced a decline in population between 1990 and 1995. The population projections show that the Town could experience a slight increase in population over the next twenty years; this is less than 1% increase in population. This could be as a result of people moving from the Village or other surrounding communities in Chautauqua County. The Village, on the other hand, may experience a slight decline in population; this could result in an overall loss for the Town and Village over the next twenty years. The decrease in population over the next twenty years could be approximately 3% in the Village.

The following table illustrates the cohort survival projections for the Town and Village separated by age groups:

**Population Projections - 2015**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Age Interval	Town of Westfield	Village of Westfield
0-4	114	205
5-9	137	231
10-14	124	266
15-19	108	199
20-24	80	176
25-29	121	231
30-34	148	251
35-39	134	267
40-44	114	231
45-49	103	183
50-54	101	126
55-59	90	155
60-64	97	170
65-69	90	168
70-74	89	144
75-79	61	138
80-84	23	89
85+	13	90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1747</b>	<b>3320</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census and peter j. smith & company, inc.

Overall, the breakdown of population in the Town and Village will remain relatively constant. The age groups that experience change will see only a 0.2% - 0.3% change. This will not impact the overall population

characteristics and services that will be offered by the Town and Village.

Breakdown in population, by percent in each age group, includes:

**Percent Population Breakdown**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Age Interval	Town of Westfield		Village of Westfield	
	1990	2015	1990	2015
0-4	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.2
5-9	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.0
10-14	6.6	7.1	8.4	8.0
15-19	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.0
20-24	4.6	4.6	5.1	5.3
25-29	7.2	6.9	6.8	7.0
30-34	8.3	8.5	7.3	7.6
35-39	8.1	7.7	7.8	8.0
40-44	6.6	6.5	6.8	7.0
45-54	11.9	11.7	9.0	9.3
55-64	10.9	10.7	9.6	9.8
65-74	10.1	10.2	9.4	9.4
75+	5.7	5.6	9.6	9.5
TOTAL	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: US Bureau of the Census and peter j. smith & company, inc.

This chart shows that, overall, the Village could have a higher percentage of people over the age of 75 in the year 2015; the percentage is almost double that of the Town of Westfield. The Town could have 32% of its residents between the age of 45-74 by the year 2015. This would indicate that more elderly services will be needed in both the Town and Village. The percentage of residents between 20 and 44 could increase in the Village by approximately 1% (from 34 to 35 percent); this same age group could see a slight decline in the Town (from 35% to 34%). This will not change overall for the study area. The 15-19 year old age groups could also see minor changes in both the Town and Village. Children under the age of 15 will see a slight increase in the Town (20% to 21%) and a slight decrease in the Village (22% to 21%).

## .2 Housing Characteristics

The Town and Village of Westfield recognize the need to provide safe and affordable housing to its residents. As communities age, so does their housing stock; provisions for rehabilitation or new housing starts can help a community ensure that the housing meets the needs of current and future residents. This section offers an overview of the various housing characteristics.

### *Housing Stock Age*

Chautauqua County, as a whole, shows an aging housing stock that is predominantly single-family; roughly 50% of the housing units in the County were built before 1939. This is comparable to the age of the housing stock in the northern Chautauqua County region communities: 55%.

In the Town of Westfield, all housing units are classified as rural while in the Village they are all classified as urban. This is consistent with the character of the Town and Village. In the Town of Westfield, approximately 45% of its housing units were built before 1939. In contrast, almost 68% of all housing units in the Village of Westfield were built before 1939; this is higher than the percentage of units built before 1939 in the County. This is indicative of the historic nature of the Village and its unique character in the region. In both the Town and Village, the median year for structure to be constructed is 1939.

### *Growth Rates*

In 1990, there were approximately 62,700 housing units in Chautauqua County. This is an increase of over 11,000 housing units in the County since 1970. Over the past two decades, there has been a growth rate of approximately 10% in the number of housing units; this includes the conversion of single family homes into apartments and the development of new single family units or new apartments. In the northern Chautauqua County region communities, there has been a slight increase in the number of housing units; these communities show an increase of 1% (from 14,077 to 14,219).

In the Town of Westfield, there were 971 housing units; in the Village there are 1,443 housing units. This includes both owner and renter occupied units. The Town has approximately 40% of the total housing units and the Village has approximately 60%. The following chart summarizes the number of building permits that have been issued for new housing units in the Town since 1991. The permits issued include conventional, modular and mobile homes.

**Number of Permits Issued - 1991-1995**  
Town of Westfield

Year	Town
1991	5
1992	6
1993	10
1994	7
1995	8
TOTAL	36

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Code Enforcement Officer

In the Town, the number of permits issued for new housing units has remained relatively stable; the highest number were issued in 1993. Since 1991, 36 permits have been issued in the Town; this is a growth rate in the Town of 4% in the housing over the past five years. In the Village, information on the number of building permits for new housing is only available for June - December 1994. In 1994 1 permit was issued. As of June 30, 1996, 1 permit was issued in the Village. Overall, growth appears to be focused in the Town.

## *Housing Values*

Overall, the value of homes in the both the State and County has shown a significant increase. The average price of a home in New York State in 1980 was \$45,900; this has risen to \$131,600 (187%) in 1990. In 1990, the average value of a home in Chautauqua County was \$47,800; this is an increase of \$15,900 (50%) since 1980.

The Town of Westfield has a higher median value of a home than the County as a whole (\$48,400); this is slightly higher than the Village median value. In 1990, the median value of a home in the Village of Westfield is \$48,100; this is slightly higher than the County median value. Overall, the value of homes in the Town and Village of Westfield is lower than the median value of the northern Chautauqua County region communities: \$56,226. The value of housing in these communities range from a low of \$41,738 in the City of Dunkirk to a high of \$66,256 in the Village of Fredonia.

## *Owner/Renter*

Chautauqua County has an owner-occupied rate of 67% (41,996) of all housing units; this indicates that there are approximately 20,685 units that are rented in the County. In the northern Chautauqua County region, approximately 68% (9,038) of all units are owner occupied while 32% (4,239) are renter occupied. Rents in the northern Chautauqua County region range from a low of \$320 in the City of Dunkirk to a high of \$408 in the Town of Sheridan.

In the Town of Westfield, there are 530 owner occupied units; this is approximately 77% of the housing units in the Town. Rental units make up 157 or 23% of housing units in the Town; the median rent paid for housing in the Town is \$335. In the Village of Westfield, there are approximately 901 (68%) owner occupied housing units; there are approximately 425 (32%) rental units. Median rent in the Village is \$331.

## *Servicing*

In the Town of Westfield, there are 15 units that lack complete plumbing facilities. According to the 1990 census information, these units house 1 person and were constructed between 1940 and 1990; many of these could include hunting or camping facilities located in the Town. There are no units in the Village that lack complete plumbing facilities.

In the Town of Westfield, 302 units are served by the Village water system; this is approximately 30% of all units in the Town. Approximately 526 units are served by well (drilled or dug); this represents 54% of all housing units. Overall, 148 (15%) units in the Town have some other source of water. Because the Village has a municipal water system, almost all housing units are serviced with public water; only 17 units utilize wells and 4 units utilize other sources of water.

The Village of Westfield has a public sewer system that services the Village and portions of the Town. In the Town, 126 (13%) units are served by public sewer. Eight hundred three (83%) of units in the Town are serviced with septic tanks or cesspools. Another 7% (68) have some other means of sewage disposal. Almost all units in the Village are serviced by public sewer (1,410 units or 98%). The remaining 2% of units (33) are serviced by septic tank or cesspools.

## *Senior Housing*

There is one senior housing complex in Westfield, the Springwood Apartments on Spring Street in the Village. The five-year-old complex contains 32 units, two of which are entirely equipped with facilities for the handicapped. Over the past few years, Springwood has had a waiting list. Springwood is partially subsidized by the federal government.



There are 26 other independent housing developments for seniors located throughout Chautauqua County. Some of these are in the North County region including the Steger Apartments, Wright Apartments, Lincoln Arms and Bell Tower Apartments in Dunkirk; Green Acres and One Temple Square in Fredonia; Collins Manor in Ripley; Herbert Star Apartments in Brocton; and Hanover Hill Apartments in Silver Creek.

### .3 Population and Housing Issues and Actions

The people in Westfield are its most important resource. Retaining many of the young people that grow up and eventually move away is an important goal of this comprehensive plan. Housing variety and condition are also important issues to be addressed. The following summarizes the issues and actions concerning population and housing that should be implemented in the Town and Village of Westfield:

Issue 1 - The Town and Village, as a whole, have realized a slight decrease in their population since 1980. The Town and Village have expressed a desire to spark slow, steady population growth.

Action 1.1 - There is a need to create and encourage steady, good-paying employment opportunities in the Town and Village; this will help retain many of the young people and also help to attract new professionals to the area. A coordinated effort with the other communities in the region should be made to attract industry.

Action 1.2 - Job training skills should be taught at all levels of education in the Town and Village. A cooperative effort between education resources (Private Industry Council, Jamestown Community College, BOCES) and industries should be created to determine the specific needs of the local industries. This will help ensure local residents could be hired to help boost the local economy. Projections indicate the Town and Village could lose approximately 150 people over the next twenty years; this trend could be reversed with the creation of new employment opportunities.

Action 1.3 - Future land use planning should concentrate development in the future development area at a rate not to exceed the availability of servicing (water/sewer). Westfield's public sewer system has plenty of capacity; its water system is being upgraded to ensure sufficient water supply. People in and around the Village are currently serviced and the quality should not be jeopardized with new development.

Action 1.4 - "Quality of Life" amenities should be encouraged in the Town and Village of Westfield. Amenities such as parks, shopping facilities and a variety of housing types attract people to the Town and Village.

Issue 2 - Both the Town and Village have a somewhat older population than the State as a whole, although between 1990 and 1995 there appears to be a slight shift towards a younger population in the Village.

Action 2.1 - Local service agencies that provide for the elderly could find they are more burdened with requests for assistance in areas such as nutrition, housing and health care as the population continues to age. The percentage of residents in the Village receiving social security in 1990 was significantly higher than the State, County and Town. The Town and Village will need to provide additional services to the elderly and should work with service providers that cater to this age group.

Issue 3 - The housing stock in the Town and Village appears to be predominantly single family, older homes.

Action 3.1 - The Town and Village should promote the development of apartments, condominiums and duplexes to meet the needs of the elderly population. There is only one senior housing complex in Westfield, Springwood Apartments. It appears that housing for the elderly will be needed as the community continues to age. Not-for-profit organizations, such as Chautauqua Opportunities or the Chautauqua Home Rehabilitation and Improvement Corporation (CHRIC), should be contacted to determine their interest and potential assistance in creating independent elderly housing. These organizations should be encouraged to utilize infill techniques, when possible, in developing new housing in the Village.

Action 3.2 - Mixed use development should also be encouraged in the future development area. In the Village downtown, there are many historic buildings that could include first floor retail or office and upper floors residential. A survey to determine the need for additional office space and parking could be undertaken. If warranted, this could be followed by an inventory of available buildings offered to those interested in developing in Westfield. A program that outlines joint projects by the Town or Village with a private developer could also be established.

Action 3.3 - The Town should consider incorporating cluster housing provisions in their zoning ordinances and future subdivision regulations. This would give a developer more flexibility in new housing developments that are proposed in the Town or Village while protecting environmentally sensitive areas, including agricultural lands, and the character of the community.

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## 3.0 The Economy

Westfield, like many other rural communities in Chautauqua County, is in a period of economic transition. The agricultural base, which has long sustained many farmers and supported several local industries, is evolving: fewer farmers are operating larger farms that are more efficient and business oriented.

Despite agricultural changes, Westfield retains its title as the "Grape Juice Capital of the World". The Concord grape was introduced to the Westfield area in 1860 and is considered to be one of the finest examples of Concord grapes in the entire world. The gravel content and overall quality of the soil and a near-perfect regional microclimate are reasons cited for such high quality grapes. In the summer of 1897, Dr. Charles Welch and his father visited Westfield and selected the Village as their site for their grape juice factory. The early success of the company, as well as the favorable soil and climatic conditions along the Lake Erie Plain, caused an expansion in grape planting and encouraged other plants to be set up in Westfield. The Village of Westfield serves to this day as home to Welch Foods Inc., as well as other significant national wine and juice producers including the Growers Co-Operative and Mogen David Winery.

Other changes include the evolution of Westfield into a "specialty retail" historic district that attracts tourists from all over the world; Westfield boasts numerous antique stores that have created a "critical mass" of visitor activity. Proximity to the Chautauqua Institution contributes to the community's success in attracting visitors. Antique-oriented visitors are complemented by tourists enjoying the fishing and port community of Barcelona: a hamlet of Westfield. The sheltered waters of the harbors provided an excellent base for commercial fishing in the mid 1850's; the industry reached a peak in the 1950's and has steadily declined since that time. Barcelona today represents a recreational attraction where residents and tourists alike can enjoy the atmosphere.

The Lake Erie waterfront holds tremendous potential for the Town and Village of Westfield and the surrounding communities. As comprehensive plans are put into place throughout the northern Chautauqua County region that encourage environmentally sensitive waterfront development, Westfield could experience a steadily increasing number of visitors. Statistics about the growing tourism industry are included in this section of the Comprehensive Plan.

The following Chapter outlines the following aspects of Westfield's economy: Existing Economic Base, Local Budget, Economic Development Issues, Economic Development Policy Statements. The first three sections will serve to outline and inventory the major active industries in Westfield, current budget issues that must be addressed, current economic development issues and potentials for Westfield and the region as a whole. The fourth section represents a comprehensive list of policy statements that will help Westfield to achieve the economic development goals identified in Chapter 1.0.

### .1 Existing Economic Base

For this study, the economic base of Westfield is divided into four major categories for discussion purposes: Institutional, Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural.

## *Institutional Base*

Like many communities, the Town and Village of Westfield depend on quality institutions to provide valuable services and employ local residents. Some of the most significant services and employers in Westfield are outlined below:

### **Westfield Central School District**

The Westfield Central School District covers the entire Village of Westfield and extends into the Town south of Coon Road. The District also extends into the Towns of Ripley and Portland. The Westfield School District employs approximately 160 people, 93 of whom are faculty. Other school districts attended by Westfield residents include Sherman, Chautauqua Lake and the BOCES-LoGuidice Educational Center.

### **Westfield Memorial Hospital**

Westfield Memorial Hospital, located on East Main Street, is a not-for-profit 31 bed facility. Services include a 24-hour emergency room, surgical suites, an obstetrical unit, cardiac rehabilitation, radiology and physical therapy services. The hospital serves the western portion of Chautauqua County including Chautauqua, Dewittville, Mayville, Ripley and Sherman. The hospital employs approximately 165 people.

### **Westfield Health Care Center**

The Westfield Health Care Center, operating since 1985, has 120 beds and employs approximately 154 people. The facility offers skilled nursing services to the aged; most residents of the Health Care Center come from the Westfield area.

## *Industrial Base*

The Westfield Development Corporation has taken a proactive role in attracting economic development to the Town and Village of Westfield. The philosophy of the organization is that the Town and Village, while distinct political entities, have an economic future that is intrinsically intertwined. There can be no success or failure in the Village that will not affect the Town in some way, and vice versa. The Westfield Development Corporation's Economic Development document prepared in 1995 contains comprehensive economic information about the community and is included as an Exhibit to this Comprehensive Plan. Overall goals of the economic development plan include the following:

- ! To develop an infrastructure strategy which could be used by the Town and Village of Westfield to plan capital improvements
- ! To accommodate commercial and industrial development in an area which would have minimal impact on the historic character of the downtown district.
- ! To integrate design standards into new development which would maintain or improve the quality of life in the Town and Village
- ! To target areas currently serviced by village utilities for future development and enhanced use, in order to maximize the use of existing structures and minimize costs of infrastructure improvements.

The Town and Village have an industrial base influenced mainly by the agricultural and steel production history of Chautauqua County as a whole. The high quality of the concord grape influenced the development of significant juice and wine processors. The quality of other tender fruits and vegetables in the region spurred a major food processing industry that also extends into Westfield. Steel production induced by the development of the Erie Railroad has also contributed to Westfield's industrial base.

Significant industries in Westfield include the following companies:

#### **Welch Food Processing Plant**

The Welch Grape Juice Company was founded in 1897 by Dr. Charles Welch. After more than 50 years as a family operated business, the company was sold to J.M. Kaplan of New York City. In 1952, the growers who supplied the company began an initiative to own the company and form a national co-operative. In 1959, the company became the National Grape Growers Cooperative, and remains the largest grape co-operative in the world.

Products produced by Welch's include grape juice, jelly, jam, frozen concentrates, sodas, and white and red grape juices. The corporate headquarters of Welch's was recently relocated to Concord, Massachusetts while packaged consumer products are currently produced in North East, Pennsylvania. The Westfield facility currently employs approximately 150 people. The plant completes the initial bulk fruit processing and delivers raw supply in large quantities to vendors across the country. No packaged consumer product leaves the Westfield Plant.

#### **Growers Co-Operative Grape Juice Co.**

The Growers Cooperative was established in 1929 as an outlet for farmers within the region to sell their goods at a more fair price; the 165 participating farmers are actually the owners of the cooperative. The region served by the Cooperative stretches from Silver Creek to State Line, Pennsylvania: a 5 mile area that stretches over 90 miles along Lake Erie.

Over 25,000 tons of grapes are processed into concentrate each year; this number has risen from 1992 and is expected to rise further over the next five years. The Cooperative is responsible for both processing and marketing the grapes; 22 people are currently employed at the facility to carry out these services.

#### **Mogen David Wine Corporation**

Mogen David has been located in Westfield since the early 1950's; the company first served as a juice processing entity supplying the Mogen David Wine Corporation of Chicago. In 1969, the company began producing wine and today manufactures traditional Kosher wines as well as 20/20 fortified wines. Mogen David presently employs 65 people; this number rises to approximately 90 during the grape processing season. Mogen David is an affiliate of Franzia Winery, LP, of Ripon, California; the company has no future expansion plans in Westfield.

#### **Better Baked Foods, Inc.**

Better Baked Foods operates a bakery in Westfield and a toppings facility in North East, Pa.; the Westfield facility currently hires approximately 300 people. In July of 1996, the company announced plans to expand the Westfield bakery to bring all crust and bread production into one facility to maintain high standards of quality. The investment of \$7.3 million to accomplish this goal is the single largest investment ever made by the company. The company has recently hired a new president and Chief Executive Officer with significant experience and expertise in the food manufacturing industry.

**Renold, Inc.**

Renold, Inc was originally founded as the Ajax Company by Dr. C.E. Welch and his son in 1920; the company fabricates metal spindles, vibrators, shakers, vibratory material handling conveyors and bulk filling systems. In the early 1970's, the Ajax Company was sold to the British firm of Renold, Ltd. Renold, Inc. currently employs approximately 110 people at its Westfield headquarters and employs approximately 80 people at its Cincinnati, Ohio subsidiary.

Renold, Inc. is the thirteenth largest manufacturer in Western New York that sends products overseas; the company's original product line, couplings and spindles, is still its major one. Couplings and spindles resemble a giant socket set and are used primarily to deliver torque. Steel and aluminum mills are a primary market for this product; Al-Tech Specialty Steel, ALCAN of Oswego and Rouge Steel (a Ford subsidiary) of Detroit are major customers. Rubber tire manufacturers, aluminum foil mills and paper processors are also major clients.

Renold couplings are also crucial to the reliability of transit trains worldwide: the coupling is the key element that couples the drive motor on each axle of the mass transit car to the gear box that drives the wheels. Renold's vibratory equipment and conveyors are used in sorting and packaging operations, foundry applications, and throughout the food processing industry.

**High-Technology Industries**

Several high-technology firms are located in Westfield, including computer software companies, computer system designers and computer servicing firms. Some computer-related businesses have been launched as home occupations since they do not require large spaces to start up. There are many opportunities within the computer industry for spin-off businesses, and this field could experience much growth in the coming years

***Commercial Base***

The major clusters of commercial and retail services in the Town and Village of Westfield include the following:

- ! automobile and small engine repair and sales-related services
- ! contractors and home improvement specialists
- ! professional services including accountants, physicians, attorneys, counselors
- ! recreation-oriented services including taxidermy, fishing, camping, hunting and ballooning
- ! general services including beauty shops, nail salon, barbershops, funeral homes, banks, insurance companies, hardware and other standard services

Westfield enjoys a critical mass of "specialty retail" establishments and services that includes antique stores, wineries, bed and breakfast establishments, fishing charter tours and restaurants. The Town and Village are attracting an increasing number of visitors, due in large part to the proximity of Westfield to the Chautauqua Institution. The type of tourist attracted to the Institution is usually older than 40, well educated and affluent. These tourists tend to be interested in the diversity of antiques Westfield offers, sampling wines at local wineries and relaxing in the existing bed and breakfast facilities.

According to the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, more than 92% of visitors (nearly 150,000 people in one season) to the Institution traveled by private vehicle; the road most often used to access the Institution is the New York State Thruway. Westfield, with direct Thruway access, stands to attract even more visitors if a coordinated initiative to market the area is instituted.

Although many types of commercial establishments are abundant, there are no large retail chain stores in the Town and Village; residents must travel to the large commercial section of Route 60 in the Towns of Dunkirk and Pomfret, or to the nearby retail outlets over the Pennsylvania border for these types of stores. Residents have expressed a concern that a limited retail selection in both the Town and Village made accessing daily needs a major project.

### *Agricultural Base*

The Westfield Agricultural District (Chautauqua County #1) lies predominantly within the "Lake Erie Grape Belt" region. This belt extends along Lake Erie, traversing the northern border of the county and extending eastward into Erie and Niagara Counties in New York and westward into Erie County, Pennsylvania.

The following table illustrates the number of farms by principal enterprise in the Town and Village of Westfield. This information was compiled by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets as part of the 1996 Agricultural District Review:

**Number of Farms by Principal Enterprise: Westfield 1996**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Type of Farm	Number of Farms
Dairy	5
Cash Crop (Grain)	0
Cash Crop (Vegetable)	1
Orchard	9
Vineyard	63
Livestock (other than dairy)	3
Poultry	0
Horticulture Specialties	0
Sugarbush	2
Christmas Tree	0
Aquaculture	0
Other Field Crops	3

Source: Cornell Cooperative Extension

A Westfield Agricultural District Review was completed by the Chautauqua County Planning Department with assistance from the Cornell Cooperative Extension in the Spring of 1996. According to the Cooperative Extension, an estimate of gross farm sales in Westfield would be approximately \$4.5 million annually; this figure generates a considerable multiplier effect in both the Town and Village: an approximate total of \$11.25 million.

The following chart summarizes the number of farms by gross annual sales in the Town and Village:

**Number of Farms According to Gross Annual Sales**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Amount of Sales	Number of Farms
Below \$10,000	11
\$10,000 to \$49,000	30
\$50,000 to \$99,999	27
\$100,000 to \$199,999	7
\$200,000 to \$499,999	2
Over \$500,000	0

Source: Cornell Cooperative Extension

Improvements to agricultural operations are important to ensure the farm is updated to meet new demands. Overall, most capital investments ranged in the \$10,000-\$49,000 area for farms in Westfield. The following table summarizes the number of farms according to the capital investments made in the Town and Village of Westfield:

**Number of Farms According to Capital Investments 1989-1996**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Amount of Capital Investments	Number of Farms
Below \$10,000	15
\$10,000 to \$49,000	42
\$50,000 to \$99,999	12
\$100,000 to \$199,999	5
Over \$200,000	3

Source: Cornell Cooperative Extension

The southern portion of the Westfield Agricultural District is located above the escarpment and is mostly wooded, hay fields or pasture. The region along the Lake is devoted to grapes, over 80% of which are Concord; dairy and field crops comprise the remainder. Many of the vineyards are small, intensive operations that include a mixture of part-time and full time growers. Low grape prices in recent years have forced growers to reduce labor and other costs. As previously mentioned, the trend is toward fewer yet larger farms that use advanced technology for maintenance and harvesting practices.



## .2 Local Budgets

### *Town Budget*

Westfield prepares two separate budgets: one for the Village and one for the Town. The Town budget is divided into "Town-Wide", which encompasses both the Town and the Village, and "Part Town" which includes only Town residents. An interview with the Accounting Technician from the Town of Westfield focused on issues regarding the Town Budget that were significant over the past three years; the interview also provided the Technician an opportunity to raise policy issues that should be addressed regarding the budgeting process.

Issues regarding the Town Budget include the following:

- ! The Town has significantly increased the amount of interest it receives from its holdings by switching its funds into an investment program. Since 1994, the Town has increased its interest in each holding account by nearly 25%.
- ! The Town has started to contribute funds for economic development purposes. In 1995 and 1996, \$5000.00 was spent each year for the activities of the Westfield Development Corporation.
- ! The amount of revenue received for garbage fees has decreased over the past three years.
- ! The Town received new income in 1995 through the sale of forest products; this income amounted to approximately \$22,000.00 in additional revenue.
- ! Due to slow property sales, the amount of mortgage tax appropriated annually by New York State has declined over the past three years.
- ! Sales tax, distributed annually by the County, has increased approximately 16% since 1994.
- ! In 1996, \$30,000.00 was placed into the budget for planning and completing SEQRA requirements; \$7,000.00 was placed in the budget for zoning.
- ! The Consolidated Highway Fund, appropriated annually by New York State, has declined steadily over the past three years. This decline is characteristic of all communities in New York as the State has decreased the amount of funding for State-financed road projects.
- ! The annual budget for fire districts is determined by the Village; the Town does not decide or compromise on a figure.
- ! The Town has set aside some funds to construct a new town barn but no specific plans have been developed on when or where they will be constructed.

For the most part, the budgeting process was reported to be without issue.

### *Village Budget*

The Village Budget is divided into four funds: General, Electric, Water and Sewer; the Village Treasurer provided some of the most significant information regarding the Village Budget over the past three years. Significant issues include the following:

- ! Overall taxable assessment in the Village has increased \$1.2 million dollars over the past year; a \$500,000.00 increase in railroad ceilings, a \$700,000.00 increase in general tax items, and a slight increase in utility assessments contributed to this overall increase
- ! The current tax rate is \$9.27 per \$1000.00; this rate is up from \$9.01 in 1995 and \$8.66 in 1994. Part of the reason for the increase is to cover costs for a lighting program on Main Street and NYSDOT improvements along Route 20. The Board has appropriated approximately \$80,000 to cover lighting improvements; the remainder will be paid through a \$160,000 ISTE grant sponsored by NYSDOT. The tax rate should theoretically go down after the improvements are paid for.
- ! The most major overall budget increase over the past three years is health insurance; rates have risen nearly 30% since 1994.
- ! Revenue from timber sales and gas royalties in the Village have been significant. The Village made \$80,000.00 in 1995 selling timber and projects revenues of approximately \$100,000.00 in 1996. Gas royalties were \$17,000.00 in 1995 and are projected to be approximately \$15,000.00 in 1996.
- ! The expansion of Better Baked Foods will affect water, sewer and electric rates in the Village; at this time it has not been determined what the effects will be. Better Baked Foods will be paying more in taxes, but this amount has not been determined.
- ! The Village has significantly increased the amount of interest it receives from its holdings by switching a portion of their funds into an investment program. Since 1994, the Village has increased its interest in each holding account by nearly 25%.
- ! The Village has started to contribute funds for economic development purposes. Between 1994 and 1996 a sum of \$5,000.00 was appropriated annually for the activities of the Westfield Development Corporation.
- ! Money is generally put aside in the general fund for the Streets Department; by having a capital reserve the Village does not have to pay debt service when new equipment is purchased. Currently there is a capital reserve budgeted for the Main Street lighting improvement project; the next reserve project will likely be for the development of a municipal pool.
- ! The final payment was made on a \$90,000.00 interest free loan from NYSDOT in 1995; this retired debt which paid for reconstruction on Bourne Street.
- ! A new fire truck was purchased with a general obligation bond; the bond will be paid in the year 2001.
- ! Sewer rates have recently increased due to a severe lack of funding in the Sewer Department. The user rate was doubled; rates increased \$1.40 per 1000 gallons to \$2.80 per 1000 gallons.

- ! The sewer plant is 21 years old; costs of maintenance are increasing.
- ! A \$1.8 million capital improvement project for the Water Plant was recently completed to improve quality and turbidity.
- ! Many Village circuits are currently being upgraded to handle increased voltage; the voltage is necessary to accommodate the new lighting improvements along Main Street.

### .3 Economic Development Issues and Actions

The following section outlines significant economic issues the Town and Village should consider as policy statements are formulated for the Comprehensive Plan. A cohesive economic development strategy for Westfield will establish a step-by-step implementation strategy to address each of these issues:

Issue 1 - Tourism is an important industry for the Town and Village (antique shops, wineries); because of its proximity to the Chautauqua Institution, Westfield realizes the benefits of the thousands of visitors in the region through the summer.

Action 1.1 - The Town and Village should promote increased tourism and communicate this pro-tourism stance to local residents; increased communication will help to establish a consensus regarding tourism among Town and Village residents. Assistance should be offered to local businesses and owners on ways to promote, market and sell their tourism related services. A comprehensive marketing package would help with the promotion of tourism in the Town and Village.

Action 1.2 - The Town and Village should develop a coordinated marketing strategy to attract the increasing number of tourists who visit the Chautauqua Institution. Westfield should contact neighboring communities to determine ways that they may coordinate marketing efforts. This group of communities could be an invaluable resource for the Town and Village.

Action 1.3 - The Town and Village of Westfield should coordinate tourist activities with other areas of the County including Chautauqua, Lily Dale and the Dunkirk-Fredonia area. A two or three day package should be compiled that would guide a visitor through the entire region; this package could be promoted by the Chautauqua County Vacations Bureau and/or other local travel agencies.

Action 1.4 - The Town and Village should consider developing a "Railroad Market Place" along the railroad tracks, utilizing the two existing railroad buildings on English Street. The development might include a railroad museum, indoor/outdoor (in season) artisan center and farmers market. These efforts could also involve obtaining a trolley car similar to those that served Westfield in the past. The feasibility of converting existing factory buildings nearby should also be investigated. These efforts could be coordinated with local train clubs or groups.

Action 1.5 - The Town and Village should encourage and promote new festivals that are geared to local residents and tourists. These events should be scheduled throughout the year to encourage people to visit the region during all seasons. The festivals should take advantage of the Village's historic character and Town waterfront.

Issue 2 - The waterfront is an important economic development opportunity for the Town and Village of Westfield. The Barcelona harbor offers a unique waterfront experience; this area can be expanded to create a center of activity complemented by additional waterfront development along Route 5.

Action 2.1 - The Town and Village should develop a master plan for future development in the Barcelona harbor area and Route 5. This plan should also address other economic development opportunities for this area, such as commercial development.

Action 2.2 - Lake Erie at Barcelona is still actively fished for commercial sales; the Town and Village should capitalize on the fact that these waters offer fresh fish direct from Lake Erie and further promote this fishing activity. The area should be promoted through the development of brochures, slogans and advertisements; this could include coordination with other waterfront communities.

Action 2.3 - The intersection of Route 5 at Portage Road in Barcelona should become a focus for more commercial and retail development. The Town should develop gateways to Barcelona to more clearly define the entry into the hamlet area.

Issue 3 - The Town and Village lack an adequate number and variety of retail establishments

Action 3.1 - A retail market study should be conducted to determine what types of retail establishments could be supported in the Town and Village of Westfield.

Action 3.2 - Upon completion of a market study for retail establishments, entrepreneurial activity should be encouraged so local residents can start businesses that can satisfy retail demand. Incentives for business start-ups should be initiated for the Town and Village.

Action 3.3 - New economic activity should be encouraged within the future development area. The Town and Village should protect and promote its rural character by encouraging new development in or near the Village.

Issue 4 - The needs of existing businesses and industries in Westfield should be identified, including their need for specific supplies that could potentially be produced locally.

Action 4.1 - The Westfield Development Corporation should complete a comprehensive survey of local industries; this survey would help determine potential suppliers that could locate in Westfield to supply local industries. This survey should be completed in conjunction with the Chautauqua County IDA; this organization should be used to help promote Westfield to potential industries.

Action 4.2 - In the Town of Westfield, "home occupations" that are agriculture related or complementary should be encouraged throughout the Town. This will help increase the opportunity for local entrepreneurs to improve and contribute to the local economy.

Action 4.3 - The Town and Village of Westfield should establish a strong relationship with local industries with the goal of retaining them in the community; efforts could be coordinated with the Chautauqua County Department of Development. These actions would result in mutual benefits for the companies and the municipalities that would ultimately improve the quality of life in Westfield.

Action 4.4 - New commercial and industrial growth should be encouraged in or near the Village whenever possible. This will protect the character of both the Town and Village as new economic opportunities are created. For growth along Routes 5 and 20, development should be targeted in specific areas to prevent a "strip" appearance and to offer business opportunities to land owners in the Town.

Action 4.5 - The Town and Village should promote the concentration of industrial development on vacant land within existing industrial areas before extending or expanding these districts. Through the use of design standards and guidelines, the Town and Village can control the development of new industries to ensure they have a minimal negative impact on the community.



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## 4.0 Environment

An area's natural environment affords immeasurable benefits to the community, providing protection, recreation and scenic beauty as well as sustenance for people and wildlife. With its location in rural Chautauqua County, Westfield possesses some of the best natural features and resources this region has to offer: prime agricultural soils, a varied landscape, superb vistas, numerous wooded areas, an extensive waterfront. The Westfield community recognizes the value of these resources. Any future development should respect the natural environment, not unnecessarily encroaching upon these non-renewable assets.

The interplay of environmental resources and economic necessity has shaped the early Westfield community and continues to do so today. Early settlers in Westfield were predominantly farmers. Most farms centered around a dairy but also included a variety of other uses to meet the basic needs of the family: sheep for wool clothing, hogs and grain crops for food, poultry, an apple orchard and maple trees for maple products. Today, the perfect combination of prime soils and climate have allowed agriculture to continue as the very lifeblood of Westfield's economy. The number of dairy farms has greatly declined, while grapes have become the predominant crop.

The abundant waterfront in Westfield led to the growth of the fishing industry at Barcelona Harbor. Fishing became a commercial industry in 1852 as railroads made it possible to transport fish to other locations. Although commercial fishing has greatly declined, enjoyment of the area's abundant waterfront has also influenced the development of Westfield parks, most notably Ottaway Park and the Barcelona Harbor area on Lake Erie.

This chapter outlines the environmental resources in the Town and Village of Westfield, focusing on mineral resources, soils, steep slopes, hydrology (groundwater, wetlands, floodplains and streams), and woodlots.

### .1 Mineral Resources

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, there is no oil production in the Town or Village of Westfield. Gas production, on the other hand, is substantial. There are 232 reported active gas wells in the Town and 12 in the Village; these produce a total of more than 7 million cubic feet of gas. There are also 20 inactive wells in the Town.

### .2 Soils

Information on soil types in the Town and Village of Westfield was obtained from the Soil Survey of Chautauqua County, New York published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Soil Conservation Service.

The primary soil types in the Town of Westfield are Niagara-Canandaigua-Minoa, Valois-Chenango-Pompton, Fremont-Schuyler, Busti-Chautauqua-Chadakoin and Erie-Langford. The predominant soil type in the Village of Westfield is Valois-Chenango-Pompton.

Westfield's location in the Lake Erie watershed has created clear areas of soil delineations. The Niagara-Canandaigua-Minoa soils are found along the shore, with the exception of the Barcelona/Forest Park area. These areas are dominated by deep and very deep soils formed in glacial lake sediments. The soils are primarily Niagara silt loam and are typically found on lake plains. They are level soils, with 0-8% slopes. The depth to bedrock is more than six feet. While the soils have a seasonal high water table (0.5-1.5 feet) from December to May, they meet the requirements for prime farmland where drained. Seasonal wetness is the main limitation for buildings with basements; frost action adds to the limitations for local roads.

The area along Route 20 including the entire Village of Westfield, and the area extending from the Village to Barcelona Harbor, is primarily made up of Valois-Chenango-Pompton soils. These areas are dominated by very deep soils formed in glacial till and glacial outwash, and are found in outwash plains of the lake plain area. The soils are gently sloping, generally between 3-15%, and well drained. The Valois and Pompton soils have a seasonal high water table with a depth of more than 3 feet. The Chenango soils have a water table depth of more than 6 feet. Many areas with these soils are used for orchards, vineyards or vegetables. The slope, seasonal wetness and high content of gravel are the main limitations affecting most uses.

Fremont-Schuyler soils are found primarily in the eastern part of the Town of Westfield. These areas consist of soils formed in acid glacial till derived mainly from shale, siltstone and some sandstone. Slopes are mainly 3-15%. Fremont soils are somewhat poorly drained; Schuyler soils are moderately well drained. These soils are also characterized by a perched high water table. Most areas with these soils are used for crops associated with dairy farming. The main limitation for farming is the difficulty in controlling erosion and installing drainage systems; the seasonal wetness, slope and the slow movement of water in the substratum limit community development activities.

The central part of the Town of Westfield is made up of Busti-Chautauqua-Chadakoin soils. These soils formed in loamy glacial till derived mainly from siltstone, sandstone and some shale. These soils make up roughly one-third of the County and are found mostly in upland areas. Slopes are in the 3-15% range. Busti soils are somewhat poorly drained and have a perched high water table from late fall through spring. Chautauqua soils are moderately well drained with a seasonal high water table. Chadakoin soils are well drained with a seasonal high water table of more than 3 feet in depth. Many areas at higher elevations and along escarpments were cleared for farming but now are idle land or have reverted to woodland. Main limitations for community development are the seasonal high water table and the moderately slow movement of water in the substratum.

Erie-Langford soils are found in the southern part of the Town of Westfield. These soils formed in loamy glacial till derived from siltstone, sandstone, shale and some limestone. The landscape consists primarily of broad, divided hilltops and hillsides on the upland plateau in the north-central part of the County. Slopes are mainly 3-8%. The Erie soils are somewhat poorly drained and have a perched high water table in wet periods. Langford soils are moderately well drained and also have a high water table during wet periods. Most areas with these soils are used for growing crops associated with dairy farming; providing drainage and controlling erosion are the main needs when farming is done. Seasonal wetness and slow movement of water in the fragipan affect community development activities.

### .3 Steep Slopes

The topography in northern Chautauqua County has three distinct features: the Erie Lake Plain, the Escarpment and the Allegheny Plateau.

- ! The Erie Lake Plain is a lowland belt along the shores of Lake Erie. This belt ranges from 2-6 miles in width and has topography similar to that of an abandoned lakebed. Its elevation ranges from roughly 570 feet at Lake Erie to 850 feet at the base of the Escarpment.
- ! The Escarpment runs parallel to the Lake Erie shoreline and roughly bisects the Town of Westfield near Mount Baldy. The Escarpment is roughly 1,600 feet in elevation in the western part of Chautauqua County.
- ! The remainder of the Town of Westfield and Chautauqua County are part of the Allegheny Plateau region. The plateau is characterized by steep valley walls, wide ridgetops, and flat-topped hills between stream drainage ways. Elevations here range from 1,300 feet in major valleys to 2,100 feet.

Lands with steep slopes (slopes greater than 15%) in Westfield are concentrated primarily south of the Village



in the Escarpment area. The steepest section follows the Chautauqua Gorge: those areas near the Chautauqua and Little Chautauqua Creeks. Chautauqua Creek makes up the Town's eastern boundary with the Town of Chautauqua; this creek is joined by Little Chautauqua Creek in the Village of Westfield and also has a steeply sloped bed. An additional section of steep slopes follows the remainder of the Escarpment area.

While steeply sloped areas have potential for recreational opportunities (hiking, picnicking, sight-seeing), they pose severe limitations for new development and should be avoided.

## .4 Hydrology

### .1 Groundwater

There are two drainage systems in Chautauqua County: the Allegheny-Ohio-Mississippi River system and the Lake Erie-St. Lawrence River system. The two systems are divided by the escarpment, therefore, the area encompassed by Westfield is nearly equally divided between the two systems. Drainage from the escarpment flows northward across the northern part of Westfield (the Erie Lake Plain area) and into the Lake Erie-St. Lawrence drainage system; this includes the entire Village of Westfield. Drainage from the southern part of the Town of Westfield flows southward into the Allegheny-Ohio-Mississippi River drainage system.

The drainage in the escarpment and lake plain areas of Chautauqua County flow through many creeks and waterways on their way to Lake Erie. The Chautauqua Creek basin is the collector for most of the groundwater in Westfield. This creek then carries the drainage north into the lake.

In Chautauqua County, the main sources of water are Lake Erie, Chautauqua Lake, drilled wells and surface water stored in reservoirs. The City of Dunkirk is the only municipality that obtains its water from Lake Erie, and the Chautauqua Institution is the only user of Chautauqua Lake for water. Westfield is one of five communities that use surface water runoff water stored in an upland reservoir (Minton Reservoir). Westfield also draws water from Chautauqua Creek. The other communities using reservoirs are Brocton, Fredonia, Ripley and Silver Creek. Water for rural areas of the County is obtained mostly from drilled wells.

The Forest Watershed Management Plan for the Village of Westfield Watershed Property provides a schedule for timber harvesting to maintain the integrity of the Village of Westfield's water supply. Refer to Section .5, Woodlots, below.

### .2 Wetlands

In order to be classified a wetland by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, an area must be at least 12.4 acres and contain specific plants, hydrology (standing water) and soils.

There is one designated wetland area in Westfield which is located west of the intersection of Sherman and Ogden Roads. State regulations require that a 100 foot buffer be maintained around wetlands to protect these environmentally sensitive areas from the adverse impacts of development.

Federal wetlands are scattered throughout the Town of Westfield, but there are less such areas in the southern part of the Town. There are also some federal wetlands in the Village located primarily in the agricultural areas.

### .3 Floodplains

The federal government has mapped floodplains in order to provide important information to communities and property owners. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) maps delineate any flood hazard areas in a community, that is, areas with a 1% statistical probability of a flood occurring each year. Buildings located in these areas typically have special flood insurance to protect against costly flood damage; banks must require flood insurance upon the sale of a home in a flood hazard area.

The Town of Westfield has several floodplains that surround its creeks and waterways. These include Chautauqua Creek, Little Chautauqua Creek, Doty Creek, Spring Creek, Bournes Creek and Freelings Creek, all of which flow into Lake Erie. In the Village of Westfield, flood hazard areas are located along the sections of Chautauqua Creek and Doty Creek that run through the Village limits.

### .4 Stream Classifications

Streams, creeks and lakes are classified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in order to maintain their quality. The classifications are:

Class A - The best uses of Class A waters are a source of water supply and drinking, culinary or food processing purposes, primary and secondary recreation and fishing. The waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class B - The best uses of Class B waters are primary and secondary contact, recreation and fishing. These waters shall be suitable for fish propagation and survival.

Class C - The best use of Class C waters is fishing. These waters shall be suitable for primary and secondary contact recreation, although other factors may limit the use for these purposes.

Maintaining the quality of Class A streams is of the utmost importance since they serve as drinking water sources. The major Class A stream in Westfield is the Chautauqua Creek north of Mt. Baldy, along with its tributaries and sub-tributaries. This creek not only feeds the Minton Reservoir but serves as a drinking water source itself. Chautauqua Creek is designated Class B near the Westfield pumping station.

All other creeks in Westfield are Class C, including Bournes, Spring, Doty, Vorce, Freelings Creeks and several unnamed tributaries which flow directly into Lake Erie. Chautauqua Creek becomes Class C north of Mt. Baldy and is so classified until it reaches Lake Erie.

A sub-classification used by the DEC denotes those streams that are trout streams. This classification, indicated by (T), is applied to waters that require greater protection than the simple A, B or C designation alone. Trout streams in Westfield are Chautauqua Creek and its main tributary, Little Chautauqua Creek, which are so designated for their entire lengths.

### .5 Woodlots

Wooded areas serve as a natural habitat for wildlife while providing erosion and wind protection, enjoyment and beauty for the community as a whole. The Town and Village of Westfield have many areas that are wooded.

## Environmental Considerations



Most of the wooded sections in the Town of Westfield are found south of the escarpment. A lumberyard and logging business are located in the Westfield-Sherman Road vicinity. There are also some scattered wooded areas found along the Lake Erie waterfront, enhancing the scenic quality of the Route 5 corridor. In the Village, there are wooded areas to the west, southwest and northeast of the central business district.

A Forest Watershed Management Plan for the Village of Westfield Watershed Property prepared by the firm Forecon guides the timber harvesting in Westfield as it relates to management of the surface watershed. Revised in 1993 and scheduled for revision every 10 years, the Plan schedules the number of acres to be harvested each year in order to maintain the integrity of the public water supplied to the Westfield community. The Village owns approximately 1500 acres of the watershed area; an average 30 acres is harvested per year. The yearly work plans are authorized by the Village, and harvested timber provides revenue for the Village budget.

## .6 Environmental Issues and Actions

The following issues are set forth based on the inventory of existing environmental resources in the Town and Village of Westfield. The issues are then related to specific actions that can be undertaken to address these issues.

Issue 1 - All areas of significant natural features in Westfield are not properly identified.

Action 1.1 - Significant natural features in Westfield such as the Chautauqua Gorge, other steeply sloped areas, and the State-designated wetland area should be mapped and displayed in the Town and Village offices. This will allow residents, visitors and developers to become fully aware of the location of these resources.

Action 1.2 - Significant natural features should be designated as protection areas using on-site signage to increase public awareness and foster appreciation for these resources. Such areas include the Chautauqua Gorge, the State-designated wetland area in the Town of Westfield

Action 1.3 - Town and Village offices should maintain updated maps delineating State Department of Environmental Conservation stream classifications for all streams in the Town and Village of Westfield.

Action 1.4 - The Chautauqua Creek watershed for that portion classified as a Class A stream should be mapped and referenced to evaluate any change in land use that occurs within its borders.

Issue 2 - Areas of environmental significance require protection to ensure that they are adequately preserved.

Action 2.1 - Any new development in the areas of steep slopes (greater than 15%), such as those along the escarpment and Chautauqua Gorge areas, should be reviewed to ensure that these areas are not adversely impacted.

Action 2.2 - The Chautauqua Creek drainage basin, which collects most groundwater in Westfield and carries it to Lake Erie, should be protected from contaminants. The Town should consider large-lot development (i.e. 2 acres or more), conservation district, overlay district, steep slope regulations, public purchase or development right purchase within the drainage basin.

Action 2.3 - Development should be discouraged from all areas within the 100-year flood zone areas as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Action 2.4 - Protection of Class A streams and lakes in Westfield should be a priority; this will protect water supplies and fish/wildlife habitats. The major Class A stream is the Chautauqua Creek south of Mt. Baldy. Any development in the Chautauqua Creek watershed should be carefully reviewed to ensure the quality of this important water source is not jeopardized.

Issue 3 - Agriculture is an important industry in Westfield and will continue to play a crucial role in its economy in the future.

Action 3.1 - The use of prime farmland soils, those with the ability to produce sustained high yields of crops economically, for non-agricultural purposes should be discouraged.

Action 3.2 - Accessory roadside farm stands and farm and craft markets should be encouraged, subject to the necessary permits as established in the Town/Village zoning ordinances.

Action 3.3 - Intense development should be directed toward the designated future development area instead of the outlying rural areas of Westfield.

Issue 4 - Westfield's appeal as a tourist destination depends on continued maintenance of its natural features.

Action 4.1 - The maintenance of Westfield's extensive Lake Erie waterfront is necessary to ensure the health and beauty of this invaluable resource. Any increased use of the waterfront should be monitored to minimize negative impacts of growth. Future use of the waterfront should be in accordance with State and federal coastal zone regulations.

Action 4.2 - The entrances to both the Town and Village of Westfield should be made attractive. Existing signs that are haphazardly placed should be consolidated in an arrangement that is aesthetically pleasing. This will reduce clutter, be more informative, and enhance the area's considerable natural amenities.

Action 4.3 - The Town and Village should undertake an inventory of scenic resources within their borders. Within the Chautauqua Gorge, escarpment and Lake Erie waterfront areas are numerous opportunities for enjoying scenic overlooks and vistas. Access to the privately-owned Portage Trail would require a legal designation allowing the public on this land. These areas could be designated by appropriate signage and included in promotional literature highlighting the area's natural features.

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## 5.0 Land Use

A community's land use pattern reflects its character, presenting a unique 'picture' of the system of development that has occurred there. Since land is a non-renewable resource, its use is a long-term commitment that in most cases will remain for many years to come. Conflict among land uses occurs when incompatible uses are situated close to one another. Therefore, good planning should aim to identify and minimize incompatible uses of vacant land to avoid conflicts, while allowing some intermixing of uses to provide an interesting landscape. In Westfield, there is a large amount of land that is not devoted to a particular use. This includes land that was formerly farmed or that is currently vacant or wooded. The future land use plan should identify those areas suitable for development and those best left undeveloped.

In Westfield, agriculture has been the predominant land use since its incorporation in 1833. Farm houses were constructed in conjunction with the farm land that was utilized in the Town and Village. Residential development began concentrating in the Village where more services and amenities were available.

The Village has seen the majority of commercial business in the Town and includes a vibrant central business district (CBD) that includes a variety of enterprises. Barcelona also includes a business center that was an important part of the development patterns that have arisen in the Town and Village of Westfield.

Much of the industry in Westfield has focused on agriculture and ancillary uses. In the early history of the Town and Village, most farming was completed by hand. Gradually, machines took the place of hand tools; several manufacturing plants provided the necessary machinery: agricultural implements, mowing machines, grain drills, etc.. The grape and food processing industry dominated the economy of Westfield beginning in the late 1880's. Most early industry, grist mills, saw mills, etc. focused in or around the Village of Westfield.

Both dairy farming and vineyards have been the dominant types of farming in the Town; this has resulted in a rural character that includes large farms that "dot" the entire landscape. As most of the early settlers lived on farms, agriculture was, and still is, the most important industry in the Town. Most early farms were "general character" and combined dairy, a few sheep, hogs and poultry, crops of grain, apple orchards, etc.. Farms were not devoted exclusively to fruit raising until later in the Town and Village history.

Historically, public and semi-public uses were focused near the population centers to ensure they could service people in an efficient manner. Municipal buildings, churches, cemeteries, etc. were located near or in the Village. The Village also provided water service; the first system was constructed in the late 1800's and later upgraded in the 1930's. Other services that located in the Village include the Westfield Hospital, law enforcement and fire stations.

This Chapter includes an inventory of existing land uses in the Town and Village of Westfield. This includes an inventory and description of the existing land use patterns in the Town and Village of Westfield according to eight categories: Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Agriculture, Public and Semi Public, Park and Recreation, Wooded and Open Space.

The Chapter then summarizes land use issues and outlines recommendations and policies for land use in both the Town and Village of Westfield.

## .1 Existing Land Use

On the whole the current land use pattern in Westfield appears to be well-organized, following a generally orderly scheme that is suited to the area's natural features and transportation network.

The Town of Westfield comprises 27,833 acres, exclusive of the Village, and is predominantly rural with the prime land use being agriculture. Wooded areas also make up a large amount of land area in the Town and are found mostly south of the Village. Residences are primarily concentrated along major roads and scattered throughout the Town on local roads. Commercial uses are found primarily along Route 5, Route 20 and County Route 21. The Town's waterfront area serves the recreational needs of the entire community.

The Village of Westfield covers 2,439 acres. The land use pattern in the Village has the concentrations typically associated with an 'urbanized' area. The Village serves as the center of activity for the community, with most residential, commercial, industrial and public uses located within its limits. Industrial uses have been concentrated near the railroad tracks in the northern section of the Village. There are some agricultural areas near the Village borders and a few woodlots interspersed throughout the community.

### .1 Residential

The predominant type of residential development in the Town and Village of Westfield area is the owner-occupied single-family dwelling. There are some two-family structures that have been converted from single-family structures. Very few multi-family structures exist in both the Town and Village. Single-family units include mobile homes.

Residential uses in the Town of Westfield are predominantly single-family detached dwellings. The heaviest concentrations of homes are located along the major roads in the Town: Route 5, Route 20, County Road 21 and Parker Road. Residential development extends from the Village and into the Town along most routes, tapering off on the periphery of the Town in all directions. Outlying roads contain mostly single dwellings surrounded by agricultural uses.

The Town has two mobile home parks within its borders, both of which are located on Route 20 just outside the Village limits.

There are few rental properties in the Town of Westfield that are scattered throughout the Town. The vast majority of these are single-family homes or duplexes converted from single-family homes. The Town's Zoning Ordinance allows apartments in single-family homes by permit in all but the Manufacturing District.

The Village of Westfield has higher density residential concentrations typically associated with a village. The Village's Zoning Code allows accessory apartments (a secondary apartment in an existing single family dwelling) by permit in all zoning districts except its Single Family (R1) and Industrial (I1, SI1) Districts. Residences make up the predominant use in the Village center and become less concentrated near the municipal boundary.

Most rental properties in the Village are found north of Route 20 on Jefferson, Washington, Pearl and Clinton Streets, and on the south side of Main Street. A 12-unit apartment complex is located on Grove Street; there are several other multi-family units throughout the Village.

The Village has one mobile home park located on Bourne Street.



# Existing Land Use Plan



## .2 Commercial

The Town and Village contain a variety of commercial uses including retail, office, restaurant and specialty shops. There are also commercial recreation facilities which will be described in the Recreation section. Westfield does not contain any large retail chain establishments that usually attract customers from the surrounding region; commercial uses in Westfield cater primarily to local residents and tourists.

Most commercial uses in the Town are found along Route 20 between the eastern Village limit and McKinley Road; a calculation of commercial uses along this section reveals that 47% of the front footage is devoted to commercial use. On the other portions of Route 20, businesses comprise a smaller percentage of the overall land use. From the Village limit west to the Ripley town line, commercial front footage is 6% of the total, while 2.6% of the front footage from McKinley Road east to the Portland town line is commercial. Businesses along Route 20 in the Town include a gas station, wineries, farm equipment dealerships, automobile dealers, motel, beauty salon, motel and antique shops. Other commercial uses include commercial logging and lumber businesses in the southern part of the Town.

The Village's downtown serves Town and Village residents as well as employees in the business district and tourists to the area. The commercial uses include a wide variety of convenience stores associated with a Village center: supermarkets, drug stores, restaurants, hardware store, beauty shops, banks, antique shops and several retail and specialty shops.

## .3 Industrial

Most industrial activity in Westfield occurs in the northern section of the Village near the railroad tracks, although there are a few industries in the Town. Heavy and light industrial uses are included in this category.

Industries in the Town are a welding operation, VSR Continuous, Inc. printers in Barcelona and the Chautauqua County Department of Public Works gravel pit on Taylor Road.

The largest industrial uses in the Village are the Welch Foods Processing Plant and Growers Cooperative on North Portage Street, Better Baked Foods on Jefferson Street, Mogen David Wine Corporation on Bourne Street, Renold Inc. on Bourne Street and Crown Hill Stone on Franklin Street.

## .4 Agriculture

Agriculture is the predominant land use in Westfield. The area's climate and prime agricultural soils combine to make it ideally suited for farming, in particular, the growing of Concord grapes. Farms are found throughout the Town and concentrated in two separate agricultural areas: the Lake Erie Plain and the Allegheny Escarpment in the southern end of the Town. The lake effects make the lake plain area well suited for the growing of grapes, whereas the area near the escarpment is more suited for dairy farming and forestry.

Sixty-three percent (19,219 acres) of the Town and Village is included in the State designated Westfield Agricultural District. The eight-year review of the Agricultural District has just been completed; proposed changes have been passed by the Chautauqua County Legislature and now must be approved by the State. In the Town, the District covers the majority of land north of Coon Road; a second section is located near the southern border of the Town. Areas in the Village within the District are found primarily west of Oak/Chestnut Streets and east of Persons/Grove/Spring Streets.



# Current Zoning Map



Agricultural District land areas for the Town and Village are shown below:

	<u>Town</u>	<u>Village</u>
Total Acres	27,833	2,439
Acres in Agricultural District	18,263	956
% in Agricultural District	66%	39%
No. lots in Agricultural District	796	89

The future of agriculture in Westfield and Chautauqua County points to the following trends:

- ! a consolidation of grape farms into larger farms (50 acres of vineyard per worker seems to be the most economical unit at the present time),
- ! a declining number of dairy farms, with the remaining farms having larger herds,
- ! overall farms that are larger, more efficient and more business oriented, and
- ! forestry acreage that will increase in amount and value as land moves out of farming.

### .5 Public/Semi-Public

Public and semi-public uses include non-profit organizations, schools, public facilities, and religious/church buildings.

The Town Office is located in Eason Hall on Elm Street. Westfield's Post Office is on Academy Street. The Town's Highway Garage is located on Chestnut Street.

The Village Offices are located in Eason Hall on Elm Street; the Village Police Department is also located in this building. The Fire Station is at 22 Clinton Street. Other Village buildings are the Street Department at 92 East Main Street, Electric Department at 42 English Street. The Village Waste Treatment Plant is at Hawley and North Portage Streets, and the Water Plant is on Mt. Baldy Road.

There are eight churches in the Westfield area, with most major denominations represented. All the churches are in or near the Village limits: St. Peter's Episcopal, First United Methodist, and Lakeshore Assembly of God on East Main Street; First Baptist on Kent Street; St. James Catholic on Union Street; Lighthouse Christian Fellowship on Washington Street; Jehovah's Witnesses on Academy Street; and First Presbyterian on South Portage Street.

Other large public/semi-public uses include Westfield Memorial Hospital and Westfield Central School on East Main Street, the Westfield Health Care Center on Cass Street, the Chautauqua County Historical Society in Moore Park and Patterson Library on Portage Road.

### .6 Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreational areas greatly enhance the quality of life by offering opportunities for leisure activities for residents of all ages. The Westfield area offers a wealth of passive (picnicking) and active (boating, fishing) recreational opportunities.

The only recreational areas owned by the Town of Westfield are along the Lake Erie shore. A 90-foot right-of-way located at the end of Main Street provides access to the Town-owned Barcelona Beach. The beach is used by residents but is not staffed with lifeguards. The Town also owns several adjoining parcels of land between Route 5 and the shore which make up the Barcelona Harbor area. Part of this land was jointly owned with Chautauqua County prior to 1988; after work at Dan Reed Pier was completed, the County relinquished ownership. The Town purchased an adjacent portion in 1987, with one existing cottage on the site currently serving as the Chamber of Commerce information booth. Recreational uses at Barcelona Harbor include boat launching, pier fishing and picnicking.

Commercial recreational uses in the Town include a golf course on Route 20 near McKinley Road and three campgrounds on Route 5 near Rogerville Road, Lake Street and the Portland border.

The Village of Westfield owns four parks and one ball field:

- ! Welch Field (5.3 acres), bounded by Union/Third/Elm Streets, contains an in-ground pool, playground, two basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, soccer field, football field and two tennis courts.
- ! Moore Park (3.3 acres), located at East Main and Portage Streets, contains a gazebo, playground and benches. This park is the site of the annual Arts and Crafts Festival.
- ! Lincoln-Beddell Park (0.4 acre), located at Route 20 and Portage Street, does not have any recreational facilities.
- ! Ottaway Park (17.7 acres) is located off Route 5 in the Town of Westfield. This park has indoor and outdoor pavilions, barbecue grills, playground equipment and restrooms. It is the site of the Annual Firemen's Ox Roast.
- ! Smith Field (approximately 11 acres) is a ballpark located on North Portage Road.

There is a fitness trail located at the Westfield Central School; there are no other established bicycle or hiking trails maintained by the Town or Village.

## .7 Wooded

Wooded areas in the Town of Westfield are found primarily south of the Village and are interspersed with the active agricultural parcels. Other wooded areas are located near the Barcelona area. There are also smaller, scattered wooded areas in the Village of Westfield located primarily between Gale and North Portage Roads, and between Route 20 and the railroad tracks.

## .8 Open Space

This category encompasses land with no built structures, including land formerly in agricultural use. Cemeteries are also included in this category because of their open nature and because they are forever preserved as open space.

There is little land in all of Westfield that is considered open space. Open space in the Town is found near the railroad tracks on the Portland border and between the tracks and Thruway west of the Village. Additional open space parcels are scattered near the Village boundary; parcels along Hardscrabble and Douglas Roads are predominantly open but contain a lodge and hunting club. A few vacant parcels exist in the Village, generally north of the railroad tracks.



Cemeteries currently in use in the Town are:

- ! Westfield-Portland Cemetery, also known as Union Cemetery (north side of Route 20 near the Portland Town line) and
- ! Volusia Cemetery (Pigeon Road west of Douglas Road).

Porter Cemetery on Lyons Road is no longer in use but still provides valuable information about the area's people and its history.

The following cemeteries are located in the Village of Westfield:

- ! Westfield Cemetery (south side of Route 20),
- ! Saint James Catholic Cemetery (south side of Route 20 at Watson Avenue),
- ! Old Catholic Cemetery (Union Street Extension) and
- ! Old Presbyterian Cemetery (between Union Street and Brewer Place).

## .2 Future Land Use Projections

The amount of land used for different land uses will vary in each community. There are some standards that can apply to help the Town and Village of Westfield determine their future land use patterns. In 1996, the percentage of each land use includes:

**Future Land Use Needs**  
Town and Village of Westfield

LAND USE	TOTAL ACREAGE	PERCENTAGE
Residential	2647	8.9
Commercial	390	1.4
Industrial	195	0.7
Agriculture	15,815	53.3
Public/Semi-Public	76	0.3
Parks/Recreation	602	2.0
Transportation	597	2.0
Wooded	9325	31.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,647</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

The following summarizes the acreage for residential, commercial, parks, agriculture and industrial land in the Town and Village of Westfield:

***Residential***

**Number of Units**

To calculate the approximate number of housing units needed in the Town and Village, the projected population for the years 2005 and 2015 were considered. The population projection was divided by the projected mean household size for each of the years. The 1995 mean household size was 2.5. According to projections completed by Claritas, Inc., the household size should remain the same over the five years: 2.5. Projecting this through 2015 as a linear projection, the household size is assumed to remain at 2.5.

The following formula was used to project the number of new housing units required to meet the projected population:

$$\frac{\text{Projected Population}}{\text{Mean Household Size}} = \text{Projected Number of Housing Units Needed}$$

Population projections show the population in 2005 for the Town and Village of 5,120 and in 2015, the population is projected at 5,067. Based on the above formula, the Town and Village could need approximately 2,048 housing units in 2005 and 2,027 in 2015. In 1995, there were approximately 2,419 units in the Town and Village. If these units remain in good condition, they should meet the requirements of the population over the next 20 years.

**Rental**

In the Town and Village, the percentage of residents in 1995 that rented was approximately 24%. In the County, this percentage is 33% in 1990. The Town should consider developing 5-7% more rental units over the next twenty years to more closely represent the County's percentage. A goal of 30% rentals would translate to 614 units in 2005 and 608 units in 2015. This would mean an increase of 22 units by 2005 to meet the need of the increasing number of seniors as the potential market.

**Senior Housing**

There is one senior housing complex in the Village of Westfield, the 32-unit Springwood Apartments on Spring Street. While the US Department of Housing and Urban Development has no "standard" for senior housing, they often recommend that 10% of the seniors in a community should have access to special housing opportunities. In the Town and Village of Westfield, the population over the age of 65 is 1,195; this would mean that there should be approximately 119 senior housing units in the Town and Village.

**Affordable Housing**

The standard definition of affordable housing is based on the US Department of Housing and Urban Development formula for housing program eligibility. Current guidelines for eligibility state that total rent/mortgage payment plus utilities is more than 30% of total gross income.

By reviewing the median family incomes and median rents/mortgages in the Town and Village, the level of affordability can be determined. According to the 1990 census, median family income in Westfield is \$30,221. The median rent is \$3,096 annually while the median mortgage is \$6,564 annually. An estimate of annual utility payments is approximately \$1,800.

Renters pay approximately \$4,896 annually for housing; this is approximately 17% of the median family income. Home owners pay approximately \$8,364 annually or approximately 28% of the median family income. These figures suggest that, overall, housing is affordable to most residents in Westfield.

**Residential Acreage**

To determine the amount of acreage in the Town and Village that is needed to meet the needs of current and future residents, the following analysis was completed. To ensure the protection of the character of the communities, the Town of Westfield should encourage clustered development with the following recommended guidelines:

Single Family Housing	5 units/acre
Apartment/Senior Citizen Apartments	10 units/acre

There is no need for additional single family housing in the Town and Village of Westfield based on the current supply; there is a need for additional apartments and senior housing over the next 20 years. The following summarizes the acreages necessary to accommodate residential development in Westfield over the next twenty years:

**Projected Need for Additional Housing**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Housing Type	Projected Units	Projected Acreage
Single Family	N/A	N/A
Apartments/Senior	140	14
TOTAL	140	14

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

**Commercial**

Determining the amount of commercial land that a municipality should offer varies considerably from community to community; this is especially true in rural communities. Changes in land use patterns over the past few decades have had a tremendous impact on the percentage of land that is designated for commercial use. Retail malls and plaza now include extensive parking lots to meet the needs of their customers; these parking lots occupy a tremendous amount of space and inflate the percentage of land designated as commercial.

According to a survey of several rural communities, the percentage can range from 2% to as much as 15% of the land. The American Planning Association Planning Advisory Service (PAS) updated land use ratio information in 1992. While no specific ratio is recommended for rural communities, in smaller urban areas, the percentage of land in an urban or suburban community that is designated for commercial area is approximately 10%. This percentage has risen from 2% in 1955 to 7% in 1983 to 10% in 1992. According to The Small Town Planning Handbook, a small-town, rural community usually offers between 15% and 18% of its land for commercial use.

For the Town and Village of Westfield, there are currently 390 acres of commercial land; this is approximately 1.4% of the total land area. In the Town, there are approximately 290 acres of commercial land; this is 1.0% of the total land area. There are approximately 100 acres of commercial land in the

Village; this is approximately 4.0% of the total land area.

Because of the individual nature of each community, merely offering a percentage of land to be designated as commercial could be detrimental to Westfield. Future commercial development in the Town and Village of Westfield should be concentrated within appropriate portions of the future development area, as defined in this Comprehensive Plan. This will ensure that new growth is located in areas where public services (water, sewer, major roads) can accommodate it.

**Parks**

According to standard recreational guidelines, the following are recommended standards for parks and recreation facilities:

**Future Park Needs**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Park Type	Recommended Acres (1000 Residents)	1990 Need (Acres)	2005 Need (Acres)	2015 Need (Acres)
Playground	1.5	7.8	7.7	7.6
Neighborhood Park	2.0	10.4	10.2	10.1
Play Field	1.5	7.8	7.7	7.6
Community Park	3.5	18.2	17.9	17.7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>44.2</b>	<b>43.5</b>	<b>43.0</b>

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.

Essentially, the acreage of park and recreation space will not change over the next 20 years because the Town and Village could experience a slight decline in population. Currently, there are approximately 38 acres of park land. This includes approximately 3.7 acres of neighborhood parks, 16.3 acres of play fields and 17.7 acres of community parks. There are roughly 2.5 acres of playgrounds within Welch Field, Moore Park and Westfield Central School. Based on these calculations, there are sufficient community parks and play fields for the Westfield community; however, there appear to be deficiencies of 5 acres of playgrounds and 7 acres of neighborhood parks. This makes a total of 12 acres of additional parks and recreation facilities needed in the Town and Village.

**Agriculture**

There are approximately 15,815 acres of land in Westfield that are currently farmed. The Town and Village should not necessarily designate more land as agriculture.

**Industrial**

Standard planning guidelines for rural communities recommend that 12 acres of industrial land per 1,000 residents should be set aside for current reserve, while an additional 12 acres per thousand residents should also be reserved for future reserve. Using this standard as a guide, the Town and Village of Westfield should have 62 acres reserved for current use and an additional 62 acres reserved for the future. Westfield currently has 195 acres of land designated as industrial space. This should meet current and projected industrial needs.



# Future Land Use Plan





### .3 Future Development Area

The Town and Village of Westfield recognize the many natural assets their communities have to offer residents and tourists alike. Westfield's proximity to Chautauqua Lake and the nationally acclaimed Chautauqua Institution, as well as its location along major State and Interstate thoroughfares, contribute to its attraction. Westfield therefore can expect to see a degree of development, particularly commercial development, over the next decade. As a guide to future growth, the Town and Village have established a future development area that encompasses the area within which new development should be concentrated.

The future development area is intended as a guide and therefore does not have the weight of an official Zoning Map. Rather, the development area is intended to accomplish the following purposes:

- ! to provide a blueprint for Town officials as they revise the Town Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map;
- ! to assist Town and Village officials in their review of development proposals;
- ! to assist Town and Village officials in decisions regarding the extension of public infrastructure such as water and sewer lines, and other utilities and services;
- ! to inform potential developers of the areas where Westfield officials would like to see growth, enabling developers to steer new projects toward those areas; and
- ! to protect lands in agricultural use by steering development away from those areas that are solidly agricultural; and
- ! to enable all Westfield residents to view their communities as growing in an orderly and well-planned manner.

The future development area was devised to include the entire Village of Westfield and extend into the Town where most appropriate. The Village serves as the core of the future development area since the Village already contains the greatest concentration of development and infrastructure. Factors considered when devising the development area include: the location of public water or sewer lines, existing land use, existing zoning, environmental constraints, and future growth expectations. The development area generally follows major roads where possible. Although the development area does not indicate individual lot lines, it was intended to include the lots fronting on both sides of the street.

The future development area is shown on the previous page and includes the following:

- ! the entire Village of Westfield;
- ! the entire length of Route 20 in the Town of Westfield;
- ! the entire length of McKinley Road between Route 5 and Route 20 and the area west of McKinley to the Village;
- ! the entire length of Hawley Street;
- ! Route 5 from Edgewater Condominiums (the existing limit of the public water line) to McKinley Road.

To the south, the development area does not extend beyond the Village border, due to the steep slopes located in the Chautauqua Gorge area. These limits encompass all areas of the Town and Village that have public water or sewer services, the Barcelona area, a significant amount of land along Route 5, and the entire length of Route 20 in Westfield. It is believed that including these areas within the future development area will provide ample opportunity for existing commercial uses along Route 5 and Route 20 to expand, while allowing additional uses to locate along these corridors. The future development area, as shown, will foster the economic growth of Westfield while preserving land in active agricultural use.

## .4 Future Land Use Plan

The future development area is shown on the accompanying Future Land Use Plan for the Town and Village of Westfield. The purposes of this Plan are to illustrate a potential future growth pattern for the two communities and to serve as a guide for local officials in revising their local zoning ordinances.

The Future Land Use Plan shows eight different development classifications that help define the type of development that could be targeted for the various sections of the Town and Village. The classifications were based on existing land uses, existing zoning designations and infrastructure. They represent a balance between maintaining the rural character of Westfield while accommodating controlled development. To illustrate the classifications, the following land uses are offered as a guide. Some suggested land uses could include, but are not limited to, the following:

Waterfront Commercial - This area includes both sides of Route 5 between Light Road and McKinley Road. The general character of the area is a waterfront drive that focuses on Lake Erie as a unique experience for residential, waterfront related commercial or recreation/open space uses. All types of residential and agricultural uses could be allowed in this district based on the classifications outlined in the Town's zoning ordinance. Commercial uses here could include those dependent on water or enhanced by proximity to the water, such as a marina, boat launch, restaurant or motel. Recreation/open space uses should capitalize on the views of the Lake and the proximity of property on the waterfront; these uses could include, but not be limited to, golf courses, nature trails or picnic/viewing areas.

Commercial - This area surrounds the Thruway interchange and could become a "gateway" into Westfield. The Town should ensure that any development that is allowed in this area acts as an attraction to the two communities and invites people to visit and spend some time in Westfield. In general, this area should be used as an information center for people exiting from the Thruway. As such, information/visitor information centers, gas/convenient stations, food services, motel/hotel or small recreational areas (miniature golf, etc.) should be encouraged.

Neighborhood Commercial - This area includes the existing central business district in the Village of Westfield. The historic district should not compete with other commercial areas in the Town or Village, but should be a unique destination for those visiting the Town. Future uses could include office, personal service shop, bank, retail or specialty shop located on the ground floor of the existing structures. Second and third floor uses could include offices and residential. This diversification of uses could help produce a more vibrant and active downtown area for Westfield.

Agriculture-Commercial - This area includes all of Route 20 west of the Village and east of McKinley Road. Any development in this area should conform to the agricultural character of the Town and enhance the rural scenic drive on Route 20; any new development in this area should not interfere with the agricultural character of the Town. Residential, entrepreneurial\* and recreational uses would all be encouraged in this area of the Town through special permits or other regulatory requirements. Residential uses should be developed in such a way as to minimize the impacts of new housing on agricultural uses. Entrepreneurial\* uses here would be agriculture-compatible. As a scenic drive, Route 20 should also encourage recreational uses that complement the character of this area.

Highway Commercial - Located on Route 20 between the eastern Village boundary and McKinley Road, this area currently is the location for larger scale commercial development in the Town and Village. Residential uses should be discouraged from this area. Commercial uses could include larger commercial uses such as a retail store, car dealer or boat sales.

Residential - This area encompasses the majority of land in the Village of Westfield and is intended as a higher-density residential area. Portions of the Town between Route 5 and Route 20 are also considered appropriate locations for higher density housing. These areas are designated for higher density housing because of the availability of water/sewer and the proximity to services (commercial, industrial, recreation) in both communities.

Agriculture-Residential - The vast majority of land in the Town of Westfield lies within this area and includes all agricultural uses and larger-lot residential uses. This use conforms to the rural character of the Town and will help protect the "feeling" of the Town of Westfield. Entrepreneurial\* uses here would be the same as the Agriculture Commercial area. In those areas where agriculture no longer exists, uses should be encouraged that are consistent with the type of development that is occurring (i.e. residential only, forest related activity, etc.).

Industrial - This area is located in the northern section of the Village and extends into the Town between the NYS Thruway and the railroad tracks. The area expands existing industrial uses and includes existing industrial zones. All types of industrial uses as allowed by local zoning ordinances would be targeted to this area; non-polluting, environmentally friendly uses should be encouraged in the Town and Village of Westfield.

**\*Note:** Entrepreneurial use - those uses that are accessory to home or farm occupation. Those uses that substantially change the outside character of the property or traffic patterns may be subject to special use permit. Large commercial enterprises should be directed to conforming areas.

## .5 Land Use Issues and Actions

The land use patterns of a community will influence the overall character and quality of a community. The Town and Village of Westfield are fortunate in that the Village's historic character, surrounded by the agricultural/rural character of the Town, creates an attractive, inviting setting for both residents and tourists. The following outlines the issues and actions that should be undertaken concerning land use in the Town and Village:

Issue 1 - The zoning ordinances in the Town and Village, while updated periodically, have not undergone a significant upgrading.

Action 1.1 - Both the Town and Village have updated their zoning ordinances over the years. The Town ordinance, written in 1965, was updated in 1993. The Village ordinance, written in 1986, was last updated in 1994. While these changes are important, both the Town and Village should consider a comprehensive update of their ordinances; these updates should be coordinated so that the growth patterns in both communities complement each other. Updates should include a review of special permit uses with the aim of reducing the number of such uses. In addition, the zoning maps for the Town and Village are difficult to read and understand and should be changed to be more user friendly.

Action 1.2 - The new zoning ordinances should make reference to the future development area as a guide for the zoning designations. The future development area includes the area where new development should be concentrated to protect the rural character of the Town while allowing sufficient opportunity for new growth. Most of the land within the future development area is serviced by water or sewer and can accommodate new development; the impact of extending water or sewer lines should be thoroughly assessed through the SEQRA process. The future development area includes the Village and portions of the Town surrounding the Village.

Action 1.3 - The new zoning in the Town and Village should coordinate zones so that contiguous zoning districts complement each other. Areas where the Town and Village meet should be zoned in a consistent manner where possible. In addition, all forms and applications for the two communities should be coordinated to make the development process more efficient and easy to understand.

Action 1.4 - Through land use regulations and other Town and Village policies, more variety in housing types should be encouraged for the elderly, first-time home buyer or low income people in Westfield. This would include apartments, condominiums or duplexes. These options would benefit people who do not want to own an older home that may require extensive repairs or maintenance.

Issue 2 - Strip development is beginning to occur on Route 20 outside the Village boundaries.

Action 2.1 - Route 20 through the Town and Village of Westfield has the potential to become a destination point for the region. Since the current Town zoning includes sections of Route 20 as commercial zones, and Route 20 is included in the future development area, this area has been targeted for future growth. However, measures should be taken to ensure that development on Route 20 in the Town is done in a coordinated manner, addressing the cumulative effects of each new use. When the Town's zoning ordinance is revised, special attention should be given to identify which areas of Route 20 should require a special permit or site plan for commercial uses.

Action 2.2 - Route 20 should be developed in such a manner that it would enhance the route as a scenic drive that includes concentrations of activity that are attractively developed, with components such as shared drives, landscaping and uniform signage. The corridor should remain two lanes in keeping with the character of Westfield.

Action 2.3 - New commercial activity should be encouraged in the central business district to diversify the types of services that are available. Many residents are concerned with the lack of variety of stores and believed other types of businesses should be encouraged: convenience stores, clothing stores, specialty shops. Working with the Westfield Local Development Corporation, these types of businesses should be encouraged in the Village.

Issue 3 - Route 5 is an under-utilized asset in the Town.

Action 3.1 - Route 5 is one of the most spectacular resources in the Town of Westfield and should be better utilized. The entire corridor should be developed as a parkway with a series of destination points that focus on Barcelona. These destination points, or concentrations of activity, should include both passive and active recreation: picnic, trails, parking. A pedestrian/bicycle trail should be developed in conjunction with the parkway. Strategies to enhance the views of the lake from Route 5 could also be considered.

Issue 4 - The historic character of the Village should be protected as development is encouraged.

Action 4.1 - The Village should consider implementing an historic overlay zone in the downtown area. This would include developing design standards for any new construction or renovation to buildings or landscapes in the central business district. This would help ensure the protection of the Village historic character. The overlay district should meet with the approval of the affected property owners.

Action 4.2 - Existing businesses and property owners should be encouraged to upgrade their storefronts and buildings. This could include painting or other renovations that would improve the overall character of the downtown. Any improvements should be completed in conformance with design standards prepared for the central business district.

Action 4.3 - The Village should consider implementing a "design" board to review site plans for new businesses in the central business district. Design standards for architectural features (signs, lighting, facade materials, landscaping) should be established.

Issue 5 - Prime agricultural land is under pressure for development in both the Town and Village; as a non-renewable resource, prime agricultural land should be protected.

Action 5.1 - Agriculture has been an important part of the Town and Village's industrial development. Agricultural land is a non-renewable resource that should be protected through zoning or other land use regulations. Flexibility in the types of uses that are allowed, for example, home occupations, will create better economic opportunities for land owners and encourage them to maintain their farms. Home-based commerce, such as small contractors, would be subject to special use permit review. Farmland protection tools such as Right-to-Farm Law and continuation of the State Agricultural Districts Program should be pursued if supported by the farm community.

Action 5.2 - The Town and Village should discourage the development of major highways or utility systems in agricultural areas to protect this valuable resource. The communities should support the continuation of the agricultural districts and promote compatible "home occupations" in these areas.



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## 6.0 Transportation

An area's transportation network facilitates the movement of people from place to place, permits the movement of goods from farms and factories to their markets, and promotes the movement of tourists to and from a destination. An efficient transportation network greatly impacts the quality of life of nearly every resident.

Early travellers to the Town and Village of Westfield came to the area by horseback or on foot. As the area became more developed, stagecoaches were used to bring people into the area. Stagecoaches were two-horse wagons with canvas coverings.

In 1826, Colonel Nathaniel Bird began running a daily stage; this was complemented with a stage line between Westfield and Jamestown and the Union Stage Company's tri-weekly line between Buffalo and Erie. By the middle of the nineteenth century, railroads were being built. Westfield's first connection to the rail came in 1852 when the Buffalo and State Line Railroad Company opened a line from Dunkirk to the Pennsylvania State Line. In 1903, the first trolley, or electric powered car, entered the Town: operated by the Lake Erie Traction Company. Trolleys did not last and by the mid 1900's had been totally discontinued.

Public transportation serviced Westfield beginning in March 1926 by the West Ridge company. In 1927, bus service between Erie and Buffalo was begun.

On July 29, 1898, the first horseless carriage passed through Westfield. Within a decade, automobiles became more common and their numbers increased quickly. With the increase in automobiles, there was a need for better and more roads. Streets were paved and improved to facilitate travel through the Town and Village. Today, the automobile is the main means of transportation for residents and visitors in Westfield.

This Chapter inventories the existing transportation network in Westfield. A description of the existing road network, including state, county and local roads, is included in the Chapter. A description of air, rail and harbor facilities is also included. Transportation issues and policy statements are also included in this Chapter.

### .1 Existing Transportation Network

#### .1 Roads

This section first describes the road network according to interstate, state, county and local roads, then discusses proposed improvements.

The highest traffic volumes in Westfield occur in the northern third of the Town closest to Lake Erie. In addition to Interstate 90, the road pattern here includes major State roads as well as highly-travelled local roads extending from the Village. In contrast, the southern two-thirds of the Town is less densely populated and is served primarily by local roads.

#### *U.S. and Interstate*

The New York State Thruway traverses the northern portion of the Town of Westfield. Exit 60, located near North Portage Road just north of the Village limits, is the designated exit for Chautauqua Institute travellers to use. The New York State Thruway Authority has indicated that in 1994 the yearly traffic flow past the Westfield exit exceeded 6.2 million vehicles. This figure represents an increase of over 18% since 1990.

## *State*

New York State Route 5 (Lake Road) also spans the entire Town of Westfield along the Lake Erie shore. It is part of the Seaway Trail and was designated in 1996 as one of only 20 National Byways by the Federal Highway Administration. This scenic route has less residential and commercial development than Route 20; most of this development is concentrated in the Barcelona Harbor area.

Average annual daily traffic (AADT) on Route 5 from Ripley to Route 394 in Westfield increased from 2,100 to 2,900, or 38%, between 1983 and 1993. AADT counts from Route 394 to Brocton increased from 2,050 in 1988 to 2,950 in 1994, or 44%.

New York State Route 394 (North/South Portage Road) is the only State north-south road in Westfield, extending from Route 5 south through the Village to Mayville and Chautauqua.

New York State Route 20 is a major thoroughfare in the Westfield community, crossing the entire Town from east to west and passing through the center of the Village. This road is dotted with residences, commercial uses and public facilities. AADT counts on Route 20 from Ripley to Route 394 increased 62% between 1987 to 1993, from 1,950 to 3,150. AADT counts on Route 20 east of Route 394 include traffic up to the Fredonia Village line and therefore do not accurately reflect Westfield traffic. These counts have fluctuated greatly, from 4,800 in 1988 to 6,900 in 1991 and 6,150 in 1995.

This Comprehensive Plan discusses the development of Route 20 as a "scenic" route in Westfield. Even though Route 20 is earmarked for future development, the scenic designation is compatible with future growth. As new growth occurs, projects can be developed in a coordinated manner, with components such as shared drives, landscaping and uniform signage utilized to present an attractive corridor.

## *County*

There are four paved roads owned by Chautauqua County in the Westfield area. Chautauqua County Road 21 (Sherman Road) is a north-south road extending from the Village as Oak Street and through the entire length of the Town. This road becomes State Route 76 south of Nettle Hill Road near the Town of Sherman border. Nettle Hill Road is County Road 333 east of County Road 21. County Road 29 is the extension of Academy Street in the Village of Westfield and runs south east to the Town of Hartfield near Mayville. County Road 56 (Hawley Street) runs from North Portage Street in the Village to Route 5.

## *Local*

Most local roads in the Village of Westfield and the northern part of the Town are paved. In the Town, roads generally south of Hardscrabble Road have low traffic volumes and remain graveled.

Parker Road is the only Town road running nearly the entire length of the Town; it begins at Route 20 and extends into Sherman. According to the Town Highway Department, the Town of Westfield maintains approximately 53 miles of road: 48 paved and 5 gravel. Road specifications in the Town stipulate the following dimensions for new construction: 49.5 foot (3 rod) total right-of-way, which includes an 18 foot driving lane and 8 foot shoulders.

The Village of Westfield Street Department maintains 18.75 miles of municipally-owned streets. The majority of the streets are paved, however, there are some roads that are 'tar and stone,' but they account for less than one-third of the total street mileage. These roads are sealed every few years; there is no schedule to pave them unless their condition is poor. The Street Department follows a schedule of maintenance for road work. All work is performed by Village employees.



# Transportation Network Plan



### *Bicycles and Pedestrian*

There are 30 miles of sidewalk in the Village available for pedestrians to use. The Village does not own any of the sidewalks except those on its own property. Each property owner is responsible for the repairs to the sidewalks on their property.

While bicycles are a popular form of non-motorized transportation for many, there are no designated bikeways on local roads in Westfield, nor are there any bike paths for this type of travel. Westfield is the western gateway for the NYS Southern Tier Bicycle Touring Route which starts at Barcelona and proceeds along Route 394 and through the state to the Hudson River. The State recently installed signage to identify this route.

### *Proposed Improvements*

A major road improvement project to be undertaken by the New York State Department of Transportation is the reconstruction of Route 20 through the Village of Westfield. This project includes reconstruction of the storm sewer system in the Village and at least one bridge. In conjunction with this project, the Village will be undertaking two related tasks: (1) burying utility lines in the downtown area and (2) upgrading the Village water system to replace old, undersized water lines downtown and on East Main Street from the school east to the Village line. The water line improvements will necessitate replacing mostly four-inch and six-inch lines dating from the early 1900's with 12-inch lines to improve water pressure for fire protection. The cost of this Village work will be included in the total project cost but will be funded by the Village.

In 1996, roughly one mile of Martin Wright Road extending west from the Portland border was paved by the Town of Westfield; the remainder of the Town section of this road will be paved in 1997. The Village of Westfield will also be paving its section of Martin Wright Road in 1997.

### *Public Transit*

The Chautauqua Area Rural Transit System (CARTS) offers bus service throughout Chautauqua County, both on a demand-response basis and with scheduled runs.

For handicapped individuals, Care-Van Transportation Services provides transportation to medical appointments. Based in Falconer, the company serves eight counties in western New York and in Pennsylvania. Both ambulatory and wheelchair patients can use this service, which accepts Medicaid or private payment.

Three private taxicab companies located in the north County area (City Cab Company and Rainbow Cab Company in Dunkirk and Terminal Cab Company in Fredonia) can also serve Westfield residents, including those in wheelchairs.

## .2 Air

While there are no airports in Westfield, four facilities located nearby service the area:

- ! Chautauqua County Airport at Dunkirk - located approximately 20 miles northeast of Westfield in the Town of Sheridan. This airport is classified a "Small Aviation" airport; it does not have airline service and has a low level of aeronautical activity. The primary runway at the airport (5,000' x 100') is long enough for commuter, small passenger and small freight planes but cannot accommodate jumbo jets. The airport has roughly 23,700 annual aircraft operations and 38 based aircraft.
- ! Chautauqua County Airport at Jamestown - located approximately 30 miles south of Westfield near Jamestown. This airport is served by US Air Express with 70,000 commuter passengers a year. There are roughly 38,000 aircraft operations annually; 32 aircraft are based at the airport. A feasibility study is currently being completed for expanding the commuter service at the airport.
- ! Erie International Airport - located in Erie, Pennsylvania approximately 33 miles southwest of Westfield. The airport serves 135,000 passengers per year through US Air, Northwest and Continental Airlines.
- ! Greater Buffalo International Airport - located in the Town of Cheektowaga approximately 65 miles northeast of Westfield. The airport is considered a "medium hub" facility and served nearly 3 million passengers in 1995 via seven commercial airlines (American, Continental, Delta, Northwest, AirTran, United and US Air) and six regional commuter lines. A \$200 million expansion project for this airport is currently underway and includes a new passenger terminal.

## .3 Rail

The Conrail and Norfolk & Southern rail lines traverse the Town and Village of Westfield and lie between the New York State Thruway and U.S. Route 20. There are no operational passenger stations in Westfield, but there are two stations being maintained as historic landmarks:

- ! New York Central Passenger Station on English Street - privately owned by Historic Operations, Inc.
- ! Lake Shore Railroad Freight Station, English Street Extension - owned by Norfolk & Southern Railroad.

The Village has three at-grade crossings at West Pearl, East Pearl and Franklin Streets, all of which have gates and lights. There are five at-grade rail crossings in the Town of Westfield: Gale Street, McKinley Road, Walker Road, Light Road and Rogerville Road.

## .4 Harbor

At the center of Westfield's Lake Erie waterfront is Barcelona Harbor: a Town-owned harbor that provides water-based activities and services. The harbor has been designated a "safe harbor refuge" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (an official designation which allows the harbor to be used by craft in the event of a storm). This designation was made after a \$1.6 million project was undertaken in 1980 to improve the harbor breakwalls.

Dan Reed Pier, located at the harbor, offers many recreational opportunities. In 1988 the Town of Westfield sought to improve the pier; a \$750,000 project involving State, County and Town funds improved the launching facilities, installed 16 slips and enabled the Town to hire a Harbormaster. Other Town services at the pier include sale of fishing licenses, rental and maintenance of 20 seasonal buoys, picnic tables and grills, parking and restroom facilities. Funds generated from the pier and harbor for launching passes and slip/buoy rentals are used by the Town for salaries and routine expenses. Parking facilities at the harbor may need to be addressed if services are expanded or added.

## .2 Transportation Issues and Actions

The road and trail network of a community help to shape the development patterns that create their character. An efficient system is essential, but not at the expense of the character of the Town and Village or quality of life for its residents. The following outlines the issues and actions surrounding the transportation network in the Town and Village of Westfield:

Issue 1 - There is no sense of entry or gateway at the Thruway exit in the Town of Westfield.

Action 1.1 - The Town of Westfield should create a gateway into the Town from the New York State Thruway. This would include landscaping, signage and lighting. Signage should direct people to Barcelona and the Village with some indication of the type of experience they can expect once they reach their destination. The Thruway Authority should also be contacted to determine ways they can assist the Town and improve their properties.

Issue 2 - Transportation corridors in the Town and Village of Westfield should be promoted as tourism attractions.

Action 2.1 - Route 5 has the potential to become a tourist destination point. Already designated as part of the Seaway Trail and one of only 20 National Byways in the country, this Route could be developed as a parkway. A series of activities located along the entire Route in the Town would make Route 5 an attraction to people who visit the Chautauqua Institution, Lily Dale or other tourist attractions. The parkway should be coordinated with neighboring communities to ensure a consistent, yet unique, experience for visitors.

Action 2.2 - Another tourist potential for the Town and Village of Westfield is the creation of a scenic drive along Route 20. This road can accommodate growth, and developments could be coordinated to create an attractive corridor that would include components such as shared drives, landscaping and uniform signage. The Route 20 corridor would be linked with neighboring communities. By including concentrations of development along the Route 20 corridor, this drive can become a tourist attraction; these concentrations could include, but are not limited to, antique shops, bed and breakfasts or other tourist related activities. Trails and pedestrian facilities should be incorporated into the scenic drive experience.

Action 2.3 - Portage Road, NYS Route 394, should be enhanced to create a strong linkage between Barcelona and the Village of Mayville. This corridor is used by most visitors at the Chautauqua Institution and should be enhanced to create an experience for users. People could be drawn into Barcelona if the parkway were designed appropriately or they could be encouraged to stop along the Route at other activities. Parking facilities at the harbor may need to be addressed.

Issue 3 - There is a need for designated bikeways or bike paths in the Village of Westfield.

Action 3.1 - The Village should designate bikeways on the major roadways to accommodate bicyclists. Striping on the roadways would provide a safer lane for bicyclists to use, segregating them from motorists and pedestrians. These local efforts would complement the bike route signage about to be installed by the State on Route 394 between Barcelona and Mayville.

Issue 4 - Road improvements should be viewed as a means of fostering economic development in Westfield.

Action 4.1 - The Town and Village of Westfield should work with other agencies to improve and upgrade Bourne Street in the Village for industrial development. Such improvements would not only serve existing industries on this street, but would provide sufficient infrastructure to support further industrial growth.

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## 7.0 Community Facilities

The future of the Town of Westfield is built on its community services and facilities. Communities often concentrate on improving the overall education level by providing opportunities for upgrading the school systems, retraining residents and teaching language skills. A community is also built on its future population.

Part of a community's responsibilities is to provide opportunity so that the disadvantaged of today can become significant contributors to society. Communities should place an emphasis on a social strategy aimed at creating healthy, safe and socially integrated neighborhoods. Public safety and security are always a primary community concern. Police and Fire Protection have impacts on land use, social well being and the quality of life of the residents of Westfield.

Municipal water and sewage services in Westfield have developed as the community grew over the years. Since 1891, the Village has "furnish to any person or corporation all the water they wish to pay for under our schedule of rates". By the 1930's, improvements to the water system were needed; the district was enlarged and improved. A filtration plant was constructed in 1952; this modern treatment plant was needed to service the food industry and homes in the Village. The Westfield sewer system, on the other hand, began in 1910 - 1911 and has gradually increased and been improved over the years.

The Village constructed an electric plant in 1892 to service Westfield and slowly expanded to meet the needs of residents today. The telephone company in Westfield dates back to 1897; at this time the Westfield Telephone Company was created. Early years saw considerable competition from Bell Telephone System, but in 1914 their plant in Westfield was purchased by the Westfield Telephone Company.

Westfield's first organized Fire Department was formed in 1872 (Westfield Hook and Ladder Company with 30-35 members). Early equipment included ladders, pikes, poles, axes, buckets and a hand pumped engine. In 1905, the fire department was divided into the Cascade Hose Company and the Citizen's Hose Company. About 1904, the Peacock Hose Company was added and abandoned.

The Westfield Police Department was formed in 1924 and hired its first police officer. The office of Police Judge was established in 1928. The temporary detention center was located on Portage Street in the back of the then Fireman's Hall; the headquarters and lockup were later moved to the Fire Hall located on lower Elm Street. Presently, the police station and lockup are at Eason Hall.

Early log school buildings were built in each "district" and were paid for by the individual families in Westfield. New school houses were built in the early 1800's. In 1837, the Westfield Academy was constructed at the site of the present grade school playground; the academy catered to advanced pupils only.

The Union Free School was built in 1868; this housed the entire school for 30 years. The Senior High School was built in 1901 and 1902; in 1926, a junior high school was built. In 1946, Westfield became a centralized school and included all districts in the township.

This Chapter describes today's municipally-owned facilities and services that are available to the public for the health, welfare and well-being of the community. This includes an overview of municipal services, public safety, education, health care and libraries. The Chapter includes a summary of Community Facilities Issues and policy recommendations to improve the overall quality of life.

### .1 Municipal Services

Municipal services include those services provided by the Town and/or Village that are available to the public at large. These services include water, sewer (sanitary sewer and storm sewer), solid waste, electric; gas and telephone services are also discussed, though privately owned.

## .1 Water and Sewer

### *Water*

The water supply in Westfield is obtained from the Minton Reservoir on Mt. Baldy Road and from Chautauqua Creek. The Village's water plant is located on Mt. Baldy Road. Most public water lines in Westfield are owned by the Village; water lines outside the Village are privately owned. The Barcelona Water Association obtains water through Westfield but maintains its own lines. The Village lines extend into the Town in the following locations: north, to Barcelona; west, to the Edgewater Condominiums on Route 5 near Light Road, and along Route 20 to Munson Road; east, to Prospect Road; and south, to Mt. Baldy Road. Where these lines exist in the Town, the Town contracts with the Village for water services.

When the reservoir is full, the water supply is sufficient for current needs in Westfield. During grape processing season, which begins the end of September and runs for 4-5 weeks, the system may be at or near capacity. This situation may also arise during drought years. The Village then relies more heavily on water pumped from Chautauqua Creek. The Village is planning to have two new pumps installed at the pumping station to ensure a more dependable water flow.

Other improvements are required when existing four-inch cast iron pipes cannot maintain adequate flow. The Village will be upgrading the water lines along Route 20 in conjunction with the road reconstruction project. The upgrade will replace old four-inch and six-inch lines dating from the early 1900's with 12-inch lines. This will improve water pressure for fire protection downtown and on East Main Street from the school east to the Village line.

Water customers in the Village of Westfield are charged according to the size of their water line (billed monthly) or their water usage if they do not have a meter (billed quarterly). Customers outside the Village limits are billed one and one-half times the Village rates.

### *Sanitary Sewer*

All sewer lines in Westfield are owned by the Village. The lines extend north into the Town to Forest Park on Route 5. Sewer rates are calculated by number of gallons, and customers are billed bi-monthly. Residents outside the Village are charged one and one-half times the Village rates.

The Village Waste Treatment Plant is located at Hawley and North Portage Street. The plant normally runs at less than one-third of capacity. The Village will soon be replacing old effluent filters at the plant in order to maintain its efficiency.

### *Storm Sewer*

The Town of Westfield does not have storm sewers for collecting surface water drainage. This drainage is effectively handled by the system of open ditches along Town roads.

Nearly the entire Village of Westfield is served by storm sewers. Where there are still open ditches, the Village Streets Department will install a storm sewer at the request of property owners. The Department also replaces existing storm sewers with new tiles and basins in conjunction with street work. New storm sewers will be installed by the State Department of Transportation as it reconstructs Route 20 through the Village. Other planned projects include Cass Street and Chestnut Street, where backups have necessitated replacement of tiles and basins.



## .2 Solid Waste

There are no solid waste landfills within the Town or Village of Westfield. Refuse from Westfield is deposited in the Chautauqua County landfill outside Jamestown.

Property owners in the Town (and Village if they desire) utilize a ticket system to deposit refuse at the transfer station located on Bourne Street in the Village. A 25-punch ticket is purchased for \$20 which allows the user to deposit non-recyclable and recyclable refuse. Each 33 gallons of non-recyclable refuse requires one punch of the ticket. All trash, refuse and garbage brought to the collection site for disposal must be separated into recyclable and non-recyclable solid waste. Recyclables are further separated according to County regulations.

Village residents have the option of municipal garbage pickup at the curb or using the transfer station. Recycling of plastic, cans, glass and papers is also done. Garbage is picked up weekly; recyclables are picked up once a month.

## .3 Electric and Gas

The Village of Westfield Board of Public Utilities Electric Department provides electric service to the Town and Village of Westfield. The electric system dates to the early part of the century. Currently, the system capacity is roughly 30 mgw; demand is approximately 15 mgw. Some parts of the service area require upgraded circuits to accommodate increasing demand (East and West Lake Road, Sherman Road, West Main Street), as households change to electric heat or acquire additional appliances. There are two separate rates charged for electric service: residential and non-residential.

The Electric Department office and plant are located at 42 English Street.

Natural gas for both the Town and Village of Westfield is provided through National Fuel Gas Corporation. Service is offered in three classifications: residential, commercial and industrial.

## .4 Telephone

Telephone service for the Town and Village of Westfield is provided by the Chautauqua & Erie Telephone Corporation and its subsidiary: Chautauqua & Erie Communications, Inc. The company serves approximately 10,700 customers in Westfield, Mayville, Brocton, Ripley, Sherman and Findley Lake. Total lines in service number nearly 10,400.

The company offers both residential and business rates, as well as a variety of new technological information services including: Centrex Service, voice mail, video-conferencing and fiber optics. There are nearly 2,000 miles of fiber optic cable in the company's system, with all the communities served by Chautauqua & Erie Telephone to be connected by fiber optics by the end of 1996. Future goals include incorporating the area's business, medical, educational and government sectors into the fiber optic system.

Cellular phone service is available in Westfield through Cellular One-DiComm and Frontier Cellular. Cellular One serves the Town and Village governments; there are separate rates for individuals wishing this service.

## .2 Public Safety

The level of public safety affects the overall sense of security that residents feel about the community in which they live. This section inventories the various aspects of public safety (police protection, fire protection and emergency services) available to Westfield residents.

### .1 Law Enforcement

Police protection in the Town of Westfield is provided by either the Village Police Department or the Chautauqua County Sheriff's Department. The Village Police also service the lake front in the Barcelona area of the Town by informal agreement.

The Village of Westfield Police Department is staffed by a chief, four full-time officers and 10 part-time officers and is located in Eason Hall on Elm Street. Their service is supplemented by the volunteer Auxiliary Police who provide assistance with traffic and patrol duties as needed.

The Police Department conducts the D.A.R.E. anti-drug program in the local school system. Other programs include a bike safety rodeo to teach bicycle rules to children.

The Town and Village of Westfield are serviced by an enhanced 911 system which provides information on the location of the caller. This system is available throughout Chautauqua County and is coordinated by the County Sheriff's Department.

### .2 Fire Protection

Fire protection in the Village and Town of Westfield is provided by an all-volunteer department with 60 members. The fire station is located at 22 Clinton Street in the Village, where 13 vehicles are housed: 3 cars, 3 engines, 1 ladder truck, 1 tanker, 3 rescue vehicles and 2 miscellaneous vehicles. The department handles roughly 35 calls per month (fire and rescue). In addition to fire fighting duties, the department conducts educational sessions in the Westfield Schools during Fire Prevention Week.

The Town of Westfield maintains yearly contracts with the Village of Westfield and with the Town of Sherman for fire protection. The Westfield Fire District covers the Village and extends to Coon Road in the Town; the Sherman Fire District serves the area south of Coon Road. The Town of Westfield has two appointed Fire Wardens.

### .3 Emergency Services

As with fire protection, emergency ambulance services in the Town and Village of Westfield are provided by the Village of Westfield Fire Department (north of Coon Road) or the Town of Sherman Fire Department (south of Coon Road). Within the Village of Westfield Fire Department are approximately 20 active volunteers trained in Red Cross advanced first aid. Fourteen of these are certified by New York State as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). The Fire Department does not use an outside ambulance service; all rescue activities and transportation to a hospital facility are handled by the Department.

## .3 Community Services

This section inventories the education, health care and library services available to the Westfield community.

### .1 Education

Educational facilities (pre-school, elementary, secondary and college) available to Westfield students are presented below.

#### *Presbyterian Pre-School*

The pre-school at the First Presbyterian Church is the only pre-school in Westfield. The school has classes for three-year-olds and four-year-olds. Classes meet in morning and afternoon sessions; the three-year-old classes meet twice a week, the four-year-old classes meet three times a week. The pre-school has a total of 70 students, 28 in the three-year-old class and 42 in the four-year-old class.

The school reports a short-term waiting list, but has been able to accommodate virtually all pre-school needs in Westfield.

#### *Westfield Central School District*

The Westfield Central School District covers the entire Village of Westfield and extends into the Town south to Coon Road. Historically, when the district centralized in 1946, the upper Parker Road district and the Nettle Hill district were classified as part of the Sherman School District. The Westfield District extends into the Towns of Ripley and Portland and employs approximately 160 people, 93 of whom are faculty.

The Westfield Central School building is located on East Main Street and houses grades K through 12, with K - 5 in one portion of the building and the middle school and high school in another. For the Fall 1995 school year, the District enrolled 1,056 students (455 for grades K-5, 281 for grades 6-8, 320 for grades 9-12). There were 17 students attending BOCES special education programs on a full-time basis.

The Westfield School District offers a Computer Literacy Program beginning in kindergarten and continuing through Senior High School. High School students may obtain either a local diploma or Regents diploma within a wide range of study areas including English, Social Studies, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Fine Arts and Practical Arts.

In response to steady increases in curriculum requirements at all levels, the Westfield school building has undergone a 38,100 square foot addition. The project added 10 rooms, computer labs, libraries and a gymnasium. A capital reserve fund of \$300,000 remaining from this project will be used to replace the instructional areas in the "Wayside Building," a structure built in the early 1900's that houses the agriculture, art and technology programs. A new wing will be added to the main school building in 1997, which will include a C.A.D. (computer-aided design) lab as well as significant technology equipment purchases.

The Westfield Board of Education has recently taken steps to ensure that school planning and decision making are done in a cooperative manner. In 1994, the Board adopted the School-Based Planning and Shared Decision Making Plan developed by the Shared Decision Making Committee. The Plan identified several areas to be addressed including curriculum development, extra-curricular activities and budget development. The Plan further recommended the formation of new committees to focus on these areas.



## Community Facilities Plan



### *Sherman School District*

Some Town of Westfield students south of Coon Road attend the Sherman School District. This district has 535 students and employs 86 persons, 47 of whom are faculty. There is one school building that houses K-12 as well as pre-school. The district is about to begin an \$8 million addition and remodeling project that will add new classrooms, a library and gymnasium.

### *Chautauqua Lake School District*

Some Town of Westfield students attend the Chautauqua Lake (formerly the Mayville and Chautauqua) School District. Effective July 1996, the Mayville School District and the Chautauqua School District officially merged. Students from the Town of Westfield who formerly attended Mayville are now part of the Chautauqua Lake District. A new School Board has recently been elected; this Board will be responsible for deciding the future use of the Mayville School building.

### *BOCES - LoGuidice Educational Center*

The Erie 2 - Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) provides school districts in the northern Chautauqua County region with a variety of educational services. The BOCES facility serving the Westfield area is the LoGuidice Educational Center located on Fredonia-Stockton Road in the Town of Pomfret. In 1995, 17 Westfield Central School students attended BOCES programs which are available in auto mechanics, carpentry, computer aided drafting (CAD), cosmetology, criminal justice, food trades, health assisting, office software, radio broadcasting and welding. Students are transported to and from the LoGuidice Center by Westfield School buses.

### *JobCorps*

The JobCorps is a federal program aimed at meeting educational requirements for young people who have not completed high school. The program can accept up to 240 students ranging in age from 16 to 24 years old. Students enter the program from areas throughout New York State; roughly 10% of the current 220 students are from Chautauqua County. Students live in dormitories at the JobCorps site on Glasgow Road in Cassadaga. The objectives of the two-year program are: (1) attainment of a high school equivalency (GED) diploma, (2) completion of training in a trade and (3) obtaining a driver's license. The JobCorps offers training in six trades: clerical/office, nursing assistant, culinary arts, painting, building maintenance and carpentry. Classes are held at the JobCorps' academic building on Route 380 in Stockton.

### *Jamestown Community College*

Jamestown Community College has two campuses that could serve the Westfield area. The main campus on Falconer Street in Jamestown had a 1995 enrollment of 2,200 students; the North County center on Bennett Road in Dunkirk had 342 students. The College offers three degrees: Associate in Arts (A.A.), Associate in Science (A.S.) and Applied Associate in Science (A.A.S.). There are also Certificates offered in five one-year programs: Information Processing, Computer Art and Design, Office Technology, Early Childhood and Computer Assisted Design/Numerical Control.

### *Jamestown Business College*

Located on Fairmont Avenue in Jamestown, the College offers Associate Degree programs in business under two headings: Business Administration (Marketing/Management and Accounting) and Administrative Assistant (Medical, Legal, Information Processing and Accounting). The Associate Degree programs are one or two year programs. In addition, students may obtain Certificates in Medical Office Assistant, Office Administration and Word Processing (beginning fall 1996); these are one year programs. The College averages 325 students per year. Just 40 percent of students enter the College directly from high school; the remainder are from non-traditional backgrounds, having already worked, been out of the workforce, etc. The College is a proprietary school and is not dependent on governmental funds.

### *S.U.N.Y. at Fredonia*

Chautauqua County is a part of the vast State University of New York system with the College at Fredonia. Located in the Village of Fredonia, the college offers seven four-year programs in educational studies, humanities, natural sciences, fine arts, interdisciplinary, social sciences and general studies. Graduate study is also available; most students focus on education and speech pathology.

Of the total 4,721 students enrolled at the college in fall 1995, over 98% came from New York State. Of these, 63% were from the Western or Southern Tier West regions, with 24% of this number hailing from Chautauqua County.

## **.2 Health Care**

Health care facilities in and near Westfield are summarized below.

### *Westfield Memorial Hospital*

The Westfield community is fortunate to have its own hospital, Westfield Memorial, within its borders. Located on East Main Street, the hospital is a not-for-profit 31-bed facility providing a staffed 24-hour emergency room, two modern surgical suites, family-centered obstetrical unit, cardiac rehabilitation program, CT scanning and newly updated radiological, laboratory and physical therapy units. The hospital is also a member of the Heart Emergency Network, a group of hospitals in the area utilizing specialized care for heart attack emergencies.

Westfield Memorial serves the western portion of Chautauqua County including, in addition to Westfield, the towns of Chautauqua, DeWittville, Mayville, Ripley and Sherman. This market area contains over 14,000 residents.

Westfield Memorial is affiliated with St. Vincent Health Center in Erie, Pennsylvania, WCA Hospital in Jamestown and Children's Hospital of Buffalo. These affiliations provide alternate sites for specialized diagnostic or therapeutic care that may be unavailable at Westfield. Westfield Memorial is also one of the rural training hospitals for the University at Buffalo's School of Family Medicine.

The hospital is equipped with a helicopter landing pad to handle emergency patient transport. Life Star helicopter from St. Vincent Health Center and Starflight helicopter from WCA Hospital are the primary users of the helicopter pad, although others may do so. Acute emergency patients are also transported to Westfield Memorial via the private Chautauqua County Ambulance Service (formerly WCA Services).



An expansion program for Westfield Memorial Hospital is currently being planned to meet the needs of the growing elderly population in the area as well as those of the Amish people. Although the Chautauqua County Amish population is estimated to be just 700, this group is at increased risk of disease due to its low levels of immunization and regular travel between Amish groups in and out of state. The hospital is further planning for the future needs of the area through its membership in the Chautauqua County Health Network, which also includes Brooks Memorial, Lake Shore and WCA Hospitals.

### *Brooks Memorial Hospital*

Located on Central Avenue in Dunkirk, this hospital is occasionally used by Westfield residents. The facility employs more than 500 people and has 133 beds. The hospital provides inpatient and outpatient services to roughly 60,000 people per year. Specialized services include an Ambulatory Surgery Department, Sports Medicine/Athletic Rehabilitation Program, Coronary/Intensive Care Unit and Physical Therapy Program. The hospital has recently upgraded several sections including the Radiology Department, Diagnostic Imaging Department and Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. Brooks Memorial is also undertaking construction of a new 10-bed outpatient Dialysis Unit.

### *WCA Hospital*

With 313 beds and over 1,600 employees, WCA in Jamestown has a service area encompassing 140,000 people that includes the Westfield community. There are over 100 different services provided by WCA including a cancer treatment center, neurosurgery, rehabilitation services (alcohol, medical, mental health), pain management and sports medicine center. In addition to the hospital's main facility are three family health centers located in Jamestown, Sinclairville and Randolph.

### *Lake Shore Health Care Center*

Located at Routes 5 & 20 in Irving, the Lake Shore Health Care Center provides another health care site for Westfield residents. The facility offers a variety of services on one site, including acute care (cardiac rehabilitation, CT scanning), emergency department (laser surgery, MRI) and outpatient services (ultrasound, physical therapy, diagnostic imaging). The hospital also offers a mental health access center and acute mental health unit, hospice beds, and skilled nursing home. The child and adult day care program at the hospital is the only one of its kind in the region.

### *Saint Vincent Health Center*

With over 500 beds, the Saint Vincent Health Center in Erie, Pennsylvania provides another health care option for Westfield residents. The health center served over 19,000 inpatients and provided more than 3.2 million outpatient services in 1995. A \$29 million reconstruction project was recently completed. Several medical advancements have also taken place at the health center, including an urgent care service, Pain Management Clinic and several new technologies. Saint Vincent's group of primary care physicians and specialists includes practitioners in Erie County as well as elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

### *Other Available Health Care Facilities*

The Hamot Medical Center, The Regional Cancer Center, Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and Metro Health Center are all located in Erie, Pennsylvania. Roswell Park Cancer Institute is in Buffalo.

### *Westfield Health Care Center, Inc.*

The Westfield Health Care Center on Cass Street has been operating since 1985. This skilled nursing facility has 120 beds and employs 154 people. Located two blocks from Westfield Memorial Hospital, the two facilities maintain a close relationship. The Hospital performs all laboratory work for the Health Care Center, and in fall 1996 will share the services of a Physical Therapist. Residents of the Health Care Center come primarily from the Westfield area; people from other locales also reside at the Center.

### *Private Medical/Dental Care*

With Westfield Memorial Hospital nearby, the Westfield community is well served by private physicians who maintain offices there. A dozen or more physicians have offices in Westfield, most of which are located on East Main Street in the Village. The Regional Cancer Center of Western New York is also based in Westfield, with an office at 158 East Main Street. Podiatry, optometry and chiropractic services are additionally available in Westfield.

Dental care in Westfield is provided by four dentists who maintain three offices in the area.

## **.3 Social Services**

Various social service agencies are available in and around Westfield to serve the community's residents. A summary of these agencies is presented below.

### *Y.W.C.A.*

Located at 58 South Portage Street in the building that housed the first Patterson Library, the Westfield Y.W.C.A. provides a wide range of services to the community. There are many classes available that offer instruction in crafts, skills and fitness to all age groups, including karate, aerobics, gymnastics, re-upholstery, macrame and bridge. In addition, the Y.W.C.A. offers free classes to earn a New York State High School Equivalency Diploma (GED). The agency has specialized programs and activities suited to youth and teens; movies, dances, games and ping pong can be enjoyed. There is an after-school crafts program for middle-school girls that may be expanded in the future.

An expansion of more than 3,600 square feet is planned for late summer of 1997. The expansion will include an all-purpose room and fitness room. To accompany the increase in space, new programs targeted primarily for youth and teens will be planned. The organization also hopes to increase use of the facility by seniors; it also may initiate a limited program for children in day care. The expansion will be financed through a capital campaign fund that is currently underway.

The Y.W.C.A. has a membership roster of roughly 500 persons, not including children. The agency is funded through interest from the Moore Grant, private donations, memorials, grants, membership dues and program fees.

### *Westfield Counseling Service*

Since 1965, the Westfield Counseling Service has provided free counseling to residents of the Town and Village of Westfield. The agency is staffed by a part-time counselor who sees clients at the Westfield Memorial Hospital site. Approximately 30 clients per month are seen at the agency; clients either come on their own or by referral from another agency. The Counseling Service is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors made up of local residents. Funding is received by donations, the United Way and the State Division for Youth.

### *Westfield Food Pantry*

Westfield's food pantry, located in the United Methodist Church on East Main Street, has been operating for approximately 15 years. Food is supplied to the pantry by the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry and by other local churches. The pantry mainly operates on Tuesdays between the hours of 1:00-2:30 p.m.; the Church office handles emergencies that arise at other times. Families requesting food fill out an application to verify residence within the Westfield zip code area. Currently, 50-60 families are served by the pantry per month.

### *Westfield Soup Kitchen*

Since 1992, St. Peter's Episcopal Church on Elm Street has operated a soup kitchen to assist individuals and families in the area. Food is donated by private industries and individuals, or obtained through the Dunkirk Food Bank. Staffed primarily by volunteers, the soup kitchen is open from 11:00-12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, serving 55-60 people per day. Many children are also served in summer months. Meals are free and served on a "no questions asked" basis, although donations are accepted.

### *Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, Inc.*

Located on Central Avenue in the City of Dunkirk, the mission of the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry, Inc. is to provide services and advocacy to the poor and disenfranchised throughout Chautauqua County. The Ministry is an interfaith agency supported by five denominations and over 40 churches throughout the area. Funding is also received through State grants and the United Way. The agency has been in existence since 1978 and has started such projects as the Summer Youth Work Camps, Food Bank, Food Pantry, Garment Gallery thrift shop and Rape Counseling service.

### *The Resource Center*

The purpose of The Resource Center is to enable children and adults with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and to contribute to the community. Allied Industries, operated by the Center, employs clients with disabilities and provides products and services to local companies on a contract basis. There are two branches of Allied Industries, in Jamestown and Dunkirk, to serve the County. Approximately 100 area companies contract work with Allied; these companies and The Resource Center annually pay property taxes to local municipalities and school districts, including the Village of Westfield and the Westfield School District. The Resource Center provides several additional services to the disabled population including day care, day treatment, mental health services, employment assistance and vocational rehabilitation.

### *Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc.*

Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. serves economically and socially disadvantaged people in Chautauqua County. One of the largest such agencies in the area, Chautauqua Opportunities serves more than 20,000 residents each year and employs a staff of over 400. Services are available in four general areas: Education and Early Childhood (Head Start, child care, family day care training); Health and Nutrition Services (Meals on Wheels, maternal and child health, prenatal services); Community Programs (homeless assistance, family support, runaway youth shelter, adolescent pregnancy prevention); and Housing and Economic Development (housing rehabilitation, weatherization, rental assistance, budget counseling).

### *Child Care Council*

The Chautauqua Child Care Council is a service of Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. Since 1991, the Council has served as a central coordinating agency for child care services in the County. The Council maintains an inventory of all child care agencies and providers; through use of a toll-free phone number, the agency links people seeking child care with appropriate services in their geographic area. Currently there are 132 family day-care facilities in Chautauqua County, 16 group day-care facilities and 16 day-care centers. Child care referral services are also provided to local businesses. The Council receives approximately 3,000 calls per year. Additional services provided by the Council include training for child care providers seeking licensure and enhanced training for those already licensed.

Within the Town and Village of Westfield are seven family day care providers which accommodate a total of 45 children. The average number of monthly vacancies does not exceed five. The Child Care Council reports that there is always a need for more day care, especially for families with children under age two.

### *Share & Care Senior Center*

Available to all Chautauqua County residents, the Share & Care Center is located at the Eagle Street School in Fredonia. The Share & Care program serves over 300 seniors, providing such services as recreational activities, exercise classes, driving instruction, crafts and health-related clinics (flu, hearing, blood pressure). The center has been operating since 1993 and has its own governing Board.

### *Chautauqua County Office for the Aging*

The County Office for the Aging sponsors a nutrition program for seniors that meets three times a week in the Springwood Apartments on Spring Street in the Village of Westfield. The program provides lunch and an activity for the dozen or so seniors who attend. There is no charge for the program, but donations are accepted.

## **.4 Library Services**

There is one public library in Westfield: the Patterson Library and Art Gallery located on South Portage Street in the Village. The library has a total of roughly 50,000 holdings including 32,000 books and 18,000 videos, compact disks, etc. As part of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System, the library circulates roughly 100,000 items.

In 1995, the Library conducted 253 program sessions with a total attendance of nearly 6,800. The programs included:

- ! 37 adult programs (including art exhibitions, drama classes, concerts and documentary film sessions);
- ! 17 teen programs (including babysitting workshops, college preparation sessions and jewelry-making); and
- ! 199 children's programs (including story times, Head Start classes and marionette programs).

In 1994, the library underwent a \$450,000 capital improvement project which included improving access for the handicapped and installation of an elevator. In 1996 a \$37,000 restoration project moved the Library offices in anticipation of computerization of the card catalog sometime in 1997.

The Patterson Library is open six days a week year round, 57 hours per week (50 hours per week in summer). The Library employs three full-time and six part-time persons who are assisted by a staff of 20 volunteers.

In 1996 the Library's operating budget totalled \$186,775 which is broken down as follows:

- ! 50% private endowment income;
- ! 35% local government funds (16% Town, 13% Village, 6% school);
- ! 10% earned income (fund-raising);
- ! 4% State funds; and
- ! 1% Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Library System funds.

## .4 Community Facilities Issues and Actions

The community facilities that are offered by the Town and Village of Westfield contribute to the overall sense of community for existing and potential new residents. These facilities, ranging from government and municipal services to those offered by not-for-profit organizations, are an important aspect of any community. The following issues and actions concerning community facilities should be implemented by the Town and Village:

Issue 1 - There is a need to continue and improve efforts to consolidate and provide services to both Town and Village residents.

Action 1.1 - The Town and Village Boards should meet regularly to discuss issues related to the two communities. Communication between the two municipal governments is essential to ensure residents are receiving the best possible services. The preparation of this joint comprehensive plan is an important first step and should be continued on other issues: design guidelines or zoning ordinance, business or industrial development, etc..

Action 1.2 - The Town and Village of Westfield should consider taking part in the regional marketing efforts currently underway in northern Chautauqua County. This would allow Westfield to include its many assets as part of a larger region. Neighboring communities have completed an extensive planning process to position themselves as new development occurs in the area. Such efforts have included an infrastructure strategy, comprehensive plan, regional distribution center feasibility study and HUD application in a coordinated effort. By recognizing how the communities are linked, physically, socially and economically, the region should be able to obtain grants or loans and development that will help in their revitalization.

Action 1.3 - The Town and Village should continue to share services: sewer, water, municipal offices (eg. code enforcement), etc.. The Town and Village may be able to coordinate other services and reduce costs; the communities should look into potential ways to consolidate other services.

Action 1.4 - The sewer and water system should be examined to determine the potential for accommodating new development. This would lead to recommendations on how the communities should grow and improvements that should be made to the two systems. The impact of extending water or sewer lines should be thoroughly assessed through the SEQRA process

Issue 2 - The Town and Village offer many services to residents that should be continued.

Action 2.1 - The Westfield Hospital is an important resource that should be encouraged to stay and expand in the community. Not only does the hospital employ residents, but the care given at the hospital is a strength in Westfield that many communities its size do not have.

Action 2.2 - There may be a need for additional child or elder care in the Town and Village of Westfield over the next decade. A detailed study of the need for additional services should be completed to ensure the demand is met.

Action 2.3 - The school districts should continue to meet and discuss possible ways to consolidate their services.

Action 2.4 - Westfield should develop a competent and technologically adaptable workforce through coordinated training, re-education and re-training. The Private Industry Council currently offers training and should be encouraged to continue their existing programs and further advertise its advantages. Additional programs should also be considered based on the specific needs of the local industries in the region.

Action 2.5 - Neighborhood based programs such as "neighborhood watch" should be encouraged to increase safety and security in neighborhoods in the Town and Village. Neighborhood watch programs develop close relationships with police departments; this could help to increase the profile of police in the community.

Action 2.6 - The Town and Village should periodically assess the adequacy of fire protection and police services to determine if services should be added or deleted.

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## 8.0 Recreation and Cultural/Historic Resources

In addition to greatly enhancing a community's quality of life, recreation activities facilitate social interaction, exercise and fitness, and enjoyment of the community's natural features. Recreational amenities may also be a means of attracting visitors to an area.

Public recreational amenities in Westfield date back to the mid-1880's, when the Metropolitan Fair Grounds existed in an area bounded by what are now known as Spring, Bliss and South Portage Streets. During the Civil War the Fair Grounds were used as a barracks for the Ninth Cavalry, New York Volunteers.

Two significant parks in Westfield, Welch Field and Ottaway Park, were made possible through the generous gifts of Westfield residents. Dr. Charles E. Welch presented five acres to the Village in 1913 for an athletic field. Judge Arthur B. Ottaway bequeathed 16 acres of Lake Erie waterfront land to the Village upon his death in 1927. Perhaps the oldest recreational feature in Westfield is the Chautauqua Gorge, which extends south of the Village into Mayville. The Gorge follows the old French Road or Portage Trail built by de Celeron in 1753.

This chapter inventories the existing recreational opportunities in the Town and Village of Westfield as well as the organized recreational programs provided. The chapter then describes the various cultural/historic amenities available in the Town and Village.

### .1 Existing Recreational Opportunities

Residents in the Town and Village of Westfield have access to a wide range of recreational opportunities and programs. There are opportunities for passive recreation such as picnicking and bird-watching, and active recreation such as hiking, fishing, golf, swimming and hunting.

This section presents an inventory of the existing recreational facilities and programs in the Town and Village of Westfield.

#### .1 Recreation Facilities

Most recreation facilities in Westfield are Village-owned and maintained. The Village has hired a Recreation Director, and the Town contracts with the Village on a yearly basis to pay a portion of the annual recreation budget.

The Town recreational areas are located along the Lake Erie shore. Barcelona Beach at the end of Main Street provides swimming opportunities, although the beach is posted and there are no lifeguards. Access to the beach is via a 90-foot right-of-way that the Town owns.

The Town also owns and maintains a section of the Barcelona Harbor area. Visitors to the harbor can engage in fishing, boating, sight-seeing and picnicking. Facilities at the harbor include a boat launch, picnic tables, permanent charcoal grills and restrooms.

The Village of Westfield has a variety of recreational facilities at its parks and fields. Welch Field, Moore Park, Lincoln-Beddell Park and Smith Field are located within Village limits; Ottaway Park is a Village park located in the Town along Route 5. Welch Field has the most facilities of these parks and is the only park with an inground pool. Also located at Welch Field are two basketball courts, baseball and softball diamonds, two tennis courts, soccer field and playground. Moore Park has a playground, benches and gazebo. Ottaway Park is the largest of Westfield's parks and offers indoor and outdoor pavilions, grills, playground and restrooms; the preservation and enhancement of this park is important to recreation in Westfield. Lincoln-Bedell Park is the smallest of the Village parks and currently contains no facilities.

In addition to municipal facilities, several recreational activities in Westfield take place at other private locations, such as the Fish & Game Club (youth fishing derby); the school (senior breakfast, youth and adult soccer, basketball); the Methodist Church (senior dinner); and the Moose Club (horseshoes). The Westfield Y.W.C.A. also offers classes in aerobics, gymnastics and karate.

### *Boating*

The extensive waterfront in Westfield provides ample opportunity for boating, which centers on Barcelona Harbor. The Town has hired a harbormaster to manage activities at the harbor from Memorial Day to Labor Day. There are 16 transient boat slips at the harbor (rented on a daily basis), a 4-boat launching ramp, and up to 20 seasonal buoys for keeping a boat in the harbor for the season. There are 100 car trailer units on the pier as well to accommodate boaters. Barcelona Harbor also has a privately-owned marina that serves the community. Additional marinas are located in the area.

Boat launching is available both along the Lake Erie shore and at Chautauqua Lake. Chautauqua Lake offers six facilities for launching at various locations. Besides Barcelona Harbor, Lake Erie boat launches include the Dunkirk Harbor Ramp, Van Buren Point in the Town of Pomfret, Sheridan Bay and Silver Creek Ramp.

### *Campgrounds*

There are many campgrounds in and near Westfield. Lake Erie State Park is along Lake Erie, and Long Point State Park is on Chautauqua Lake.

### *Hunting/Fishing*

Chautauqua County provides ample opportunities for hunting and fishing. The rural areas of the County offer big game (white tailed deer), small game (turkey, pheasant, cottontail rabbit, squirrel, grouse), and waterfowl (duck, snow geese, Canada geese, brant).

There are also diverse fishing opportunities in Chautauqua County along Lake Erie, Chautauqua Lake and the smaller lakes, ponds and streams. Walleye, bass, trout, coho salmon, steelhead, muskellunge, perch and crappie are plentiful in the area's waters.

### *Golf*

Westfield and its environs provide excellent facilities for golfers. Both private and public 9- and 18-hole golf courses are available in the Township and nearby.

### *Hiking*

The picturesque landscape and varied natural features in Chautauqua County make hiking an enjoyable recreational activity. Along Route 394 (Portage Road) extending southeast from the Village of Westfield is the Portage Trail which follows the 500-foot deep Chautauqua Gorge. This trail, not formerly mapped or identified with signage, runs between Chautauqua Creek and Little Chautauqua Creek and has great potential for hiking and sight-seeing activities. Since the Trail lands are privately owned, legal authorization for public use would be required.



Other area trails include the 73-acre Luensman Road Overview Park escarpment between Portland and Hartfield, the Westside Overland Trail (a part of the National Trail System) running from Mayville to Panama, and the Eastside Overland Trail which runs from Arkwright to Gerry. Hiking is also available at Lake Erie State Park in Portland, Lakeside Park in Mayville, and Point Gratiot and Wright Parks in Dunkirk.

### *Skiing and Snowmobiling*

Although Westfield does not have its own downhill skiing areas, skiing can be enjoyed at nearby locations. Cross-country skiing is available in the various trail systems and parks in Chautauqua County.

Snowmobiling trails in Chautauqua County are mapped and regulated through the five snowmobile clubs. The trail system links Mayville with Silver Creek, Clymer and Allegany State Park. Snowmobiling can also be done at Lake Erie State Park in Portland.

## **.2 Recreation Programs**

The Westfield Recreation Director is responsible for administering a recreation budget of nearly \$103,000. The Director is assisted by 14 employees (13 full-time and 1 part-time) in summer months, and otherwise relies on volunteers to run the various programs offered in Westfield. Overall, attendance is very good at all activities.

Programs are offered on a continuous, seasonal, or occasional basis. There are over 25 separate programs scheduled by the Recreation Department, some of which are aimed at different age groups (youth, teens, adults, seniors) and others that appeal to people of all ages. The programs are summarized below:

### *Youth*

Programs fully sponsored by the Village are soccer, field program (games, crafts, trips, etc.), softball league and tournaments, fishing derby, roller skating and street hockey. The Village co-sponsors a Santa program.

There are also recreation programs that take place in Westfield but are administered independently, such as Little League, Midget Football, Kiwanis Youth Basketball, cheering, wrestling, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

### *Teens*

Village programs specifically aimed at teens include teen basketball and a youth job referral service (list maintained by Recreation Director). An independently-run wrestling program for teens is also offered.

### *Adults*

Village-sponsored programs include volleyball tournaments, weight training, horseshoes, basketball and ballroom dancing. Independent programs include adult community clubs, remote control car racing, Middle School PTA program, Mothers of Pre-Schoolers and Community Chorus.

## *Seniors*

Village programs for seniors include monthly bus trips and senior dinners and breakfasts.

## *General Programs*

The following recreation activities are sponsored by the Village of Westfield and are available to all segments of the population:

- ! Summer swimming program - held at the Welch Field pool; attendance 450 per day
- ! Concerts in the Park - held 8 times a year in Moore Park; attendance 75 per concert
- ! Tethered hot air balloon rides - held in Welch Field; attendance 150
- ! Annual bike ride - held on various County roads; attendance 300
- ! Annual run/walk - held on Village roads; attendance 100
- ! Christmas lighting contest - held throughout the Village; 22 participants
- ! Indoor walking program - held at Village Hall; attendance 25
- ! Wagon ride - begins at the Fire Hall; attendance 40
- ! Cruise In (vintage car show) - held in Moore Park or on Elm Street; attendance 350
- ! Aerobic Challenge (co-sponsored by the Village) - done on an individual basis; 100 participants

## **.2 Cultural/Historic Resources**

With the distinction of being Chautauqua County's first settlement, Westfield boasts a rich and extensive history. The strong sense of community responsible for its early growth continues to this day and is evident in Westfield's numerous community events and the vast historic resources that commemorate the area's heritage.

An inventory of the cultural and historic resources in and near Westfield is presented below.

### *Village of Westfield Historic Districts and Structures*

The Westfield Village Multiple Resource Area has been designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior on its National Register of Historic Places. Within this designation are two districts: the East Main Street Historic District and the French Portage Road Historic District. The area was so designated in 1983.

East Main Street Historic District - consists of Westfield Cemetery and 20 residences on East Main Street

French Portage Road Historic District - consists of over 100 properties in the Central Business District: along South Portage, East Main, Elm, Market, McClurg, First, Chase and East Second Streets including Welch Foods properties, the Patterson Library, Eason Hall, the Westfield Theatre (since demolished), and several churches and businesses.

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The Multiple Resource Area also includes 18 structures (one of which has been demolished) located throughout the Village. They are:

Rorig Bridge, Water Street (demolished)  
Thompson House, 29 Wood Street  
Mack House, 79 North Portage  
Hall House, 34 Washington Street  
Fay-Usborne Mill, 48 Pearl Street  
Reuben Gridley Wright Farm Complex, 233 East Main Street  
York-Skinner House, 31 Union Street  
Reuben Wright House, 309 East Main Street  
McMahan Homestead, 232 West Main Road  
Welch Factory Building No. 1, 101 North Portage  
Nixon Homestead, 119 West Main Street  
Ward House, 118 West Main Street  
L. Bliss House, 90 West Main Street  
Nickelplate Railroad Passenger Depot (demolished), East Pearl Street  
Lake Shore Railroad Depot, English Street  
Lake Shore Railroad Freight Station, English Street Extension  
Campbell/Taylor House, 145 South Portage Street  
Atwater-Stone House, 29 Water Street

Properties deemed to be historically significant should be identified only with the consent of the property owner.

### *Chautauqua County Historical Society*

The County's choice of Westfield as the site of its historical society attests to the area's rich history. Located in Moore Park in the Village of Westfield, the historical society is situated in the McClurg Mansion, an 1820's-era brick house that was the home of William Seward from 1836 to 1838. Visitors to the mansion can view rooms restored to this period, the Holland Land Company office, a history and genealogy library, Native American artifacts, early industry exhibitions, frame tools and early household implements.

### *Patterson Library*

The Patterson Library was first opened in 1897 in the A. L. Wells house on South Portage Street in the Village of Westfield, a building which now houses the Y.W.C.A. Once sufficient endowment funds were raised, the current Patterson Library and Art Gallery was constructed in 1908 farther down on South Portage Street.

The library not only contains roughly 50,000 holdings, but it provides a variety of multi-cultural services including art exhibitions, drama classes, craft classes, concerts and documentary film sessions. The library is a valuable resource for residents of Westfield and the surrounding community.

### *Barcelona Lighthouse*

The Barcelona Lighthouse presents an interesting glimpse into the history of Westfield. Due to the growing importance of the harbor a Lake Erie shipping point, the U.S. Congress passed an act authorizing the construction of a lighthouse there, and a sum of \$5,000 was appropriated. Completed in 1829, the lighthouse and keeper's cottage were built of split stone or brick, with the tower reaching 40 feet in height. Lighting was initially provided by 11 stationary oil lamps but in 1830 gas was piped from a nearby "burning spring," making Barcelona Lighthouse the first lighthouse in the world lit by natural gas. A significant historical feature in Westfield and all of Chautauqua County, the lighthouse is one of the most photographed lighthouses in the country. The lighthouse is on the National Historic Register, a designation indicated by a plaque on the structure. Privately owned by a Westfield resident, it is not open to the public. The Town of Westfield does pay for gas service to the lighthouse and some maintenance, while National Fuel Gas supplies and maintains the mantles.

### *Eason Hall*

Eason Hall currently serves as the center of government for both the Town and Village of Westfield. Financed through the estate of Clara Eason at her death in 1919, the building was constructed of brick with imposing white pillars at its entrance. The building was dedicated in 1925. Eason Hall is centrally located on Elm Street near Main Street and holds many Town and Village offices. Government meetings as well as other public functions are held in the building.

### *Chautauqua Institution*

Serving over 180,000 visitors each year, the acclaimed Chautauqua Institution has been a significant center for learning and entertainment for nearly 120 years. The nine-week summer program attracts visitors seeking the benefits of the "learning vacation," where instruction is combined with recreation. The Institution has been host to an impressive array of U.S. presidents, world leaders and other speakers discussing various topics such as religion, history, government and social issues. The Institution also presents world famous performers in music, dance, opera and drama. The Institution boasts its own professional symphony orchestra, opera company and art gallery. Visitors can also enjoy the Institution's 36-hole golf course and other area recreational opportunities including fishing, boating, swimming and tennis.

### *Cultural Events*

Several yearly events take place in Westfield that offer enjoyment to residents and visitors alike. The Westfield Arts and Crafts Festival, held the last weekend in July in Moore Park, is the third largest event of its kind in New York State. This festival highlights the various homemade items that are offered for sale. Ottaway Park on the shore of Lake Erie is the site of the Annual Firemen's Ox Roast, held the second Sunday in July. The yearly Cruise In, sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, offers an opportunity for automobile enthusiasts to showcase their vehicles. Held in either Moore Park or on Elm Street, this event draws roughly 350 people. The concerts held in Moore Park eight times a year are also very popular, attracting roughly 75 people each concert.

The annual Antique Show in July highlights Westfield's title as "the Antiques Capital". A well-attended event, in 1996, the 58th annual show attracted over 1,000 people. The show is sponsored by the Chautauqua County Historical Society.

Westfield is also the home of Das Puppenspiel, a professional puppeteer troupe that performs throughout the northeastern United States and Canada.

### .3 Recreation and Cultural/Historic Issues and Actions

Recreation amenities and facilities will help improve the overall quality of a community and is an important asset. The Town and Village offer an extensive recreation program and many recreation facilities: both organized and un-organized. The following outlines the recreation issues and actions that should be considered in Westfield:

Issue 1 - Although the Town and Village offer extensive programming and facilities, there may be overlapping in the services offered.

Action 1.1 - The Town and Village should complete a comprehensive inventory of all recreation facilities and programs. This would include municipally owned, school or college, private recreation and not-for-profit organization facilities. Upon completion of the inventory, the Town and Village may be able to provide the services as a cost savings to residents or participants. The communities would also be able to determine deficiencies and offer programming that is needed.

Action 1.2 - Westfield should begin establishing right-of-ways for trails and bicycle routes along Route 5 and in the Chautauqua Gorge (Portage Trail), with input from the County Forester who is experienced in acquiring easements for the County trail system. These two natural resources could be enjoyed by both residents and visitors; camping facilities and bike routes should be developed. The communities could utilize fee-simple purchase, establishment of easements, owner dedication-and-tax reduction or other appropriate means.

Issue 2 - The design of parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities is not completed in a cohesive, coordinated manner.

Action 2.1 - Design standards for all municipally owned recreation facilities should be prepared and adopted. While all facilities are unique in what they offer, people who visit the facility should have a sense of being in a park that has similar amenities: signage, furniture, trail development. This will create a "recreation system" in the Town and Village for residents and visitors rather than separate, unrelated parks.

Action 2.2 - The Town and Village should adopt a slogan and logo that is placed on all signage throughout the communities.

Action 2.3 - A regional trail system should be developed in conjunction with neighboring communities. This would include linking existing trail systems, such as the Portage Trail, with the new system, such as a trail along Route 5. Also, the trail system should be linked with adjacent communities (Ripley, Portland -- Rails to Trails -- and Chautauqua) to create a regional system.

Issue 3 - The Village of Westfield does not have a sufficiently active role in coordinating historic preservation efforts.

Action 3.1 - The State Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau has recently established "Procedures for the Certified Local Government Program in New York State". If the Town and Village of Westfield were designated as Certified Local Governments, they could develop an Historic Conservation Review Commission within the Town and Village Planning Boards for seeking funding, maintaining an inventory of historic properties and providing technical assistance to owners of historic properties.

Issue 4 - Signage for some historic and recreational amenities in Westfield is inadequate.

Action 4.1 - Many important landmarks and resources in Westfield do not have the accompanying signage to identify them. The Barcelona Lighthouse and Village Historic District are two features that would benefit from markers that highlight and inform.

Action 4.2 - The Village should consider some type of uniform street signs for those roads that make up the historic district. This would make the area instantly recognizable.

Action 4.3 - A program should be developed to distribute uniform historic markers to owners of historic buildings in both the Town and Village of Westfield. The markers would be attached to the buildings and identify them by name if appropriate and the date of construction. Placement of the markers would be done only with the approval of the property owner. This program would build on earlier efforts whereby the Village distributed historic plaques to some homes in 1983.

Action 4.4 - Signage for the Portage Trail should be developed and installed along its route to allow hikers, visitors and bicyclists a means of identifying and enjoying this valuable natural resource. This action would require legal authorization to place signs on Trail lands, which are now privately owned. Additionally, the Trail should be appropriately advertised in Westfield and Chautauqua County literature.

## 9.0 Comprehensive Plan Implementation

This Chapter summarizes the actions that have been recommended as part of the comprehensive plan. The actions are separated into population and housing, economy, land use, environment, transportation, community facilities and recreation and cultural/historic resources. An implementation matrix is also included that outlines the action, its implementation time frame and responsibility.

### .1 Amending the Comprehensive Plan

Regulations regarding amendments to a Town comprehensive plan are found in Town Law Section 272-a; for a Village comprehensive plan, these regulations are found in Village Law Section 7-722. According to these regulations, the procedures for amending a comprehensive plan are the same as those required for initial adoption of the plan.

The Town and Village of Westfield may each amend the Comprehensive Plan independently.

Specific steps to be followed are:

- ! referral of the amendment to the county planning agency,
- ! one or more public hearings held by the town board [village board of trustees],
- ! if the planning board or other board has been directed to prepare the amendment, one or more public hearings must be held by that board, and
- ! adoption of the amendment by resolution of the town board [village board of trustees].

Town Law Section 272-a-10 and Village Law Section 7-722-10 provide for periodic review of the comprehensive plan:

"The town board [village board] shall provide, as a component of such proposed comprehensive plan, the maximum intervals at which the adopted plan shall be reviewed."

The Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan shall be reviewed within one to five years of initial adoption of the Plan, and henceforth after each review.

### .2 Summary of Actions

This section summarizes the actions that should be implemented by the Town and Village of Westfield. The Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan shall be reviewed within five to ten years by the Planning Boards with the assistance of the officers and employees of the Town and Village. The Westfield Development Corporation shall be included in the review. At the time of review, the costs associated with implementing the actions recommended in the Plan should be determined. The actions from each section of the Comprehensive Plan are included and summarized below:





**Short Term Priorities**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Action		Responsibility
Action 1	Promote a task group to develop a strategy to create steady, good-paying employment opportunities in the Town and Village, coordinating efforts with the other communities in the region to attract industry.	Town Village CCIDA Industrial Round Table
Action 3	Concentrate future development in the future development area using appropriate land use regulations while not over burdening servicing capacities.	Town Village
Action 4	Encourage "Quality of Life" amenities to develop in the Town and Village (shopping, housing, recreation).	Town Village
Action 7	Encourage mixed use development in the future development area beginning with a survey to determine the need for additional office space.	Town Village
Action 8	Incorporate cluster housing provisions in zoning and subdivision regulations.	Town
Action 14	Prepare a master plan for future development in the Barcelona harbor area and Route 5.	Town
Action 16	Focus waterfront commercial and retail development along Route 5 at Portage Road in Barcelona.	Town
Action 17	Prepare a retail market study to determine what types of retail establishments could be supported in the Town and Village of Westfield.	Town Village Chamber of Commerce
Action 19	Protect rural character of the Town by promoting new economic activity within the future development area.	Town Village
Action 20	Survey local industries, in conjunction with the Westfield Development Corporation to determine their current needs and potential suppliers that could locate in Westfield.	Town Village CCIDA Chamber of Commerce
Action 21	Encourage "home occupations" that are agriculture related or complementary throughout the Town to increase the opportunity for local entrepreneurs.	Town
Action 22	Establish communications with local industries to determine their needs and future plans for expansion.	Town Village

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.

**Short Term Priorities - Continued**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Action		Responsibility
Action 23	Concentrate new commercial development on lands within the future development area; development should be concentrated in specific areas of Routes 5 and 20 rather than scattered along these roads.	Town Village
Action 24	Concentrate industrial development on vacant land within existing industrial areas before extending or expanding these districts within the community.	Town Village
Action 36	Create gateways to both the Town and Village of Westfield that includes coordinated signage and landscaping.	Town Village NYS Thruway Authority
Action 37	Prepare inventory of scenic resources within the Town and Village to promote these areas to potential tourists.	Town Village NYS DEC
Action 38	Prepare a comprehensive update of both the Town and Village zoning ordinance and zoning maps.	Town Village
Action 39	Define a future development area for the Town and Village where new development is concentrated to protect the rural character of the Town.	Town Village
Action 40	Coordinate new zoning districts to be contiguous in the Town and Village so they complement each other where possible.	Town Village
Action 42	Address the cumulative impacts of development that occurs along Route 20 in the Town of Westfield.	Town
Action 43	Develop Route 20 as a scenic drive that includes concentrations of activity and coordinated design components; the corridor should remain two lanes.	Town Village Neighboring Communities
Action 44	Encourage new commercial activity in the central business district to diversify the types of services that are available.	Village
Action 45	Create a scenic parkway along Route 5 with a series of destination points that focus on Barcelona.	Town
Action 46	Implement an historic overlay zone in the downtown area of the Village that includes design standards that will protect the Village historic character.	Village

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.

**Short Term Priorities - Continued**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Action	Responsibility
Action 47      Encourage existing businesses and property to upgrade their storefronts and buildings: painting or other renovations in conformance with design standards prepared for the central business district.	Village
Action 48      Create a "design" board to review site plans, in conjunction with design guidelines, for new businesses in the CBD of the Village.	Village
Action 49      Protect agricultural land through zoning or land use regulations while promoting home occupations to create better economic opportunities for land owners and encourage them to maintain farms.	Town Village Cooperative Extension
Action 51      Create a gateway into the Town from the NYS Thruway: landscaping, signage and lighting.	Town NYS Thruway Authority
Action 53      Create a scenic drive along Route 20 to be linked with neighboring communities.	Town Village
Action 54      Improve streetscape of Portage Road (NYS Route 394) to create a strong linkage between Barcelona and the Village of Mayville.	Town Village
Action 56      Improve and upgrade Bourne Street in the Village of Westfield for industrial development.	Village
Action 57      Establish regular meeting dates and times for the Town and Village Boards to discuss issues related to the two communities and improve communication between the two municipal governments.	Town Village
Action 58      Consider taking part in regional planning efforts to market the many assets of the two communities as part of a larger region.	Town Village
Action 70      Adopt a slogan and logo for the Town and Village that is placed on all signage throughout the communities.	Town Village
Action 72      Establish the Town and Village as a "Certified Local Government in New York State", that would develop an Historic Conservation Review Commission within the Town and Village Planning Boards to seek funding, maintain an inventory of historic properties and provide technical assistance to owners of historic properties.	Town Village

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.



**Intermediate Priorities**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Action		Responsibility
Action 2	Teach job training skills at all levels of education in the Town and Village while developing a cooperative effort between educators/industries.	Primary Schools Private Industry Council BOCES JCC
Action 9	Promote increased tourism, centered on an "Antique Capital", and communicate this pro-tourism stance to residents and businesses through the a comprehensive marketing package.	Town Village Development Corporation CCIDA Chamber of Commerce
Action 10	Develop a coordinated marketing strategy to attract the increasing number of tourists who visit the Chautauqua Institution.	Town Village Neighboring Communities Development Corporation Chamber of Commerce
Action 12	Determine the feasibility of developing a "Railroad Market Place" along the railroad tracks, utilizing the two existing railroad buildings on English Street.	Village Historic Society
Action 13	Encourage and promote new festivals that are geared to local residents and tourists.	Town Village
Action 15	Promote Barcelona as a tourist destination through the development of brochures, slogans and advertisements.	Town Development Corporation
Action 18	Encourage entrepreneurial activity for local residents to start businesses to meet retail needs through the use of business incentives (revolving loans, grants, training).	Town Village
Action 25	Map and display significant natural features in Westfield to allow residents and developers to become fully aware of the location of these resources.	Town Village NYS DEC
Action 26	Designate and protect significant natural features using on-site signage to increase public awareness and foster appreciation for these resources.	Town Village
Action 27	Maintain updated maps delineating New York State Department of Environmental Conservation stream classifications for the Town and Village of Westfield.	Town Village NYS DEC

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.

## Intermediate Priorities - Continued

Town and Village of Westfield

Action		Responsibility
Action 41	Encourage more variety in housing types for the elderly using land use regulations.	Town Village
Action 52	Develop Route 5 as a destination point for tourists in Westfield and surrounding communities.	Town
Action 55	Designate bikeways on the major roadways to accommodate cyclists in the Village using striping on roadways and provide a safe lane for bicyclists	Town Village
Action 62	Prepare a detailed study to determine the need for additional child or elder care in the Town and Village of Westfield over the next decade.	Town Village Not for Profit
Action 63	Encourage school districts to meet and discuss possible ways to consolidate their services thus reducing costs and improving efficiency.	Town Village School Districts
Action 67	Complete a comprehensive inventory of all recreation facilities and programs (municipally owned, school or college, private recreation and not-for-profit organization) to determine if additional facilities are needed in the future.	Town Village
Action 68	Obtain or designate right-of-ways for trails and bicycle routes along Route 5 and in the Chautauqua Gorge (Portage Trail).	Town Village
Action 69	Prepare and adopt design standards for all municipally owned recreation facilities to create a sense of being in a park that has similar amenities: signage, furniture, trail development.	Town Village
Action 71	Develop a regional trail system in conjunction with neighboring communities linking existing trail systems, such as the Portage Trail, with the new system, such as a trail along Route 5, with adjacent communities.	Town Village Neighboring Communities
Action 74	Develop uniform street signs for those roads that make up the historic district in the Village.	Village
Action 75	Re-institute a program to distribute uniform historic markers to owners of historic buildings in Westfield.	Town Village
Action 76	Obtain necessary legal authorization to develop and install signage along bicycle/pedestrian paths to allow hikers, visitors and bicyclists a means of identifying and enjoying the Portage Trail valuable natural resources in Westfield.	Town Village

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.

**On-Going Priorities**  
Town and Village of Westfield

Action		Responsibility
Action 5	Provide additional services to the elderly and begin working with service providers that cater to this age group.	Town Village Not-For-Profit Organizations
Action 6	Promote the development of apartments, condominiums and duplexes to meet the needs of the elderly population.	Town Village Not-For-Profit Organizations
Action 11	Coordinate tourist activities with other areas of the County including Chautauqua, Lily Dale and the Dunkirk-Fredonia area that could include a two or three day tourist package.	Town Village Development Corporation Chamber of Commerce
Action 28	Evaluate impact of changes in land use in the watershed of the Class A portion of Chautauqua Creek.	Town Village NYS DEC
Action 29	Limit development on areas of steep slopes to ensure that these areas are not adversely impacted.	Town
Action 30	Protect the Chautauqua Creek drainage basin from contaminants.	Town
Action 31	Discourage development within 100-year flood zone as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.	Town Village
Action 32	Protect Class A streams and lakes in Westfield to preserve water supplies and fish and wildlife habitats.	Town Village NYS DEC
Action 33	The use of prime farmland soils for non-agricultural purposes should be discouraged.	Town Village Cooperative Extension
Action 34	Encourage roadside stands accessory to agricultural operations.	Town Village
Action 35	Maintain the open character of the waterfront by monitoring for negative impacts of growth.	Town

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith & company, inc.



## On-Going Priorities - Continued

Town and Village of Westfield

Action	Responsibility
Action 50 Discourage the development of major highways or utility systems in agricultural areas to protect this valuable resource.	Town
Action 59 Continue to coordinate and share services (sewer, water, municipal offices), etc. to reduce costs and improve efficiency.	Town Village
Action 60 Examine the water and sewer systems to determine the potential for accommodating new development.	Town Village
Action 61 Encourage and assist the Westfield Hospital with future expansion plans in the community.	Town Village
Action 64 Consider additional training programs for training, re-education and re-training to develop a competent and technologically adaptable workforce.	Town Village Private Industry Council Not for Profit
Action 65 Encourage the use of neighborhood based programs to increase safety and security in neighborhoods in the Town and Village and create a working relationship with local police agencies.	Village
Action 66 Assess, on a regular basis, the adequacy of fire protection and police services to determine if services should be added or deleted.	Town Village
Action 73 Improve signage for important landmarks and resources in Westfield: the Barcelona Lighthouse, Village Historic District, Train Station, etc..	
Action 77 The Town and Village of Westfield Comprehensive Plan shall be reviewed within one to five years of initial adoption of the Plan, and henceforth after each review. The Westfield Development Corporation shall be included in the review, as well as employees of the Town and Village. At the time of review, the costs associated with implementing the actions recommended in the Plan should be determined.	Town Village Westfield Development Corporation

Source: Town and Village of Westfield Planning Boards and peter j. smith &amp; company, inc.

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## 10.0 Public Input

### .1 Survey

To determine the attitude of residents that live in the Town and Village of Westfield, a survey was developed and randomly distributed (See Appendix 2 - Community Survey). The survey focused on a series of questions that were designed to target specific issues in the Town and Village. These questions were separated into the following categories: Community Identity, Community Services, Recreational Activities, Environment, Transportation, Growth and Development, Land Use Regulations (Zoning, Subdivision Regulations and Housing).

The survey was randomly distributed by the Steering Committee in the Town and Village of Westfield. A total of 385 surveys were distributed in both communities; this would achieve a 95% confidence interval (+/- 5%). Random distribution of the survey was essential to ensure a representative sample of households answered the survey. Based on the percentage of population in the individual community, the number of surveys for the Town and Village was determined. The Village has a population of 3,426 or 66% of the population. In the Town, there are 1,731 residents for 34% of the total population. Therefore, 66% (254) of the surveys were distributed in the Village and 34% (131) of the surveys were distributed in the Town.

The Town and Village both received an exceptional response to the survey. In the Town, 64 surveys were returned; this is a response rate of 49%. In the Village, 119 surveys were returned for a response rate of 47%. This is an overall response rate of 48%. For the survey to be statistically significant, a response rate of 15% - 20% is required. The survey should represent the general beliefs and ideas of the residents in the Town and Village.

The following is a brief analysis of the survey results. This analysis includes a "regional" and individual community evaluation of the survey results.

#### *Community Identity*

Several questions were developed to determine the general attitude toward the Town and Village of Westfield's Identity. Over 71% of all respondents believed the rural character of Westfield should be retained; this included 75% of Town residents and 69% of Village residents. Westfield has an overall attractive physical appearance according to 83% of the survey respondents and is a good place to live according to 83% of respondents. Westfield's proximity to Pennsylvania is an asset according to 79% of respondents; this includes 83% from the Town and 77% from the Village.

#### *Community Services*

In general, residents feel safe with the police protection. The survey results indicate that 64% of the respondents feel safe in the overall study area. This includes over 78% in the Town and 49% in the Village. Most of the survey respondents have police protection provided by the Village (63%); 37% are protected by the County Sheriff. In the Village, over 90% have protection by the Village while in the Town, 39% have Village Police protection.

Fire protection is adequate according to 92% of survey respondents. Emergency rescue squads meet the needs of the Town and Village according to 88% of survey respondents; this includes 89% in the Town and 85% in the Village. In general, residents appear to be satisfied with the hospital (68% overall, 75% Town and 64% Village).

Expansion of the sewer and water services was questioned in the survey. Overall, 38% believe the water system should be expanded while 28% believe it should not be expanded. In the Town, over 38% believe the system should not be expanded. In the Village 37% believed the system should be expanded. For public sewer service, 38% believe the system should be expanded while 28% believe it should not be expanded. This includes 41% of Town respondents who believe public sewer should be expanded and 36% of Village respondents who believe the system should be expanded.

Most people who responded to the survey are happy with their local school system. Overall, 67% of respondents are happy with their district; this includes 74% in the Town and 62% in the Village. Of those responding to the survey 93% were in the Westfield School District, 5% were in the Chautauqua Lake School District and 2% in the Sherman School District. According to the survey results, over 87% of respondents believe the library system is sufficient; this includes 85% in the Town and 90% in the Village.

### *Recreation*

According to 47% of survey respondents, Westfield should provide residents with more recreational opportunities; this includes 42% in the Town and 50% in the Village. When asked if there were enough playgrounds, 68% believed the current supply was adequate. Activities for seniors are plentiful according to 58% of survey respondents. Lake Erie, as a recreational opportunity, should be increased according to 41% of survey respondents; this includes 38% in the Town and 42% in the Village. When asked if the Town of Westfield should develop a Town Park, 38% disagreed while 30% agreed. This includes 29% of Town residents disagreeing while 29% agreed; in the Village, 42% disagreed that the Town should develop a park while 24% agreed.

### *Environment*

The environment and its protection should be a priority in Westfield according to 73% of survey respondents; this included 88% in the Town and 69% in the Village. Natural features (streams, wooded area, Chautauqua Gorge) are assets according to 94% of survey respondents. When asked about their satisfaction with the recycling program in Westfield, 78% were satisfied while only 11% were not satisfied.

### *Transportation*

According to 72% of survey respondents, Westfield's road system is well maintained; the breakdown for the Town and Village includes 78% and 69% respectively. Only 22% believe that traffic congestion is a problem while 59% believe that there are no traffic congestion problems. The survey reveals that 45% of survey respondents believe that bikepaths and pedestrian walkways should be built; 31% believe they should not be developed. 31% believe that parking is a problem while 56% believe parking is not a problem in Westfield. Elderly van service is needed according to 27% of survey respondents while 25% believe the service is not needed; 49% had no opinion.

### *Growth and Development*

Goods stores are needed in Westfield according to 83% of respondents; this would include clothing, furniture and housewares type stores. More convenience goods stores (groceries) are needed according to 17%; 57% believe that additional convenience goods stores are not required in Westfield. Convenience services are needed according to only 17% of survey respondents while 60% believe they are not required; these services would include beauty shops or gas stations. Fast food restaurants/coffee shops are needed according to 34% of respondents while 48% believe they are not needed. Sit down restaurants should be encouraged according to 35% while 43% do not believe additional sit down restaurants are needed.

When asked the question "I think people should be allowed to develop businesses in the Residential Agricultural District by right", 24% agreed with this statement. When asked if they believed businesses should be allowed to develop in the agricultural district with a permit, 47% agreed.

86% of survey respondents believe that Westfield should be encouraging steady population growth; this includes 86% in the Town and 86% in the Village. Creating jobs should be a priority according to 99% of survey respondents; again, this percentage is the same for both the Town and Village. According to 93%, more industry is needed in Westfield; this includes 89% of Town respondents and 96% of Village respondents. New development should be concentrated in areas that are already developed according to 75% of survey respondents; this includes 72% in the Town and 78% in the Village. Westfield should try to attract more tourists according to 68%; this includes a breakdown of 77% for the Town and 63% for the Village.

### *Land Use Regulations*

The agricultural lands in Westfield should be protected according to 61% of survey respondents. In the Town, 69% believe they should be protected while in the Village, 57% believe they should be protected. Zoning should aim to minimize conflicts between agricultural and residential uses according to 78% of those that responded to the survey; this includes 86% in the Town and 57% in the Village. In Westfield, home occupations should be encouraged according to 74%; in the Town, this percentage is 77% and in the Village, 72%.

### *Housing*

Single family housing is readily available according to 46% of survey respondents. First-time home buyers can easily find a home in Westfield according to 42%: 36% in the Town and 47% in the Village. When asked if there were enough apartments, 36% agreed while 32% disagreed. Senior housing opportunities are adequate according to 28% of survey respondents and 34% believe more housing for seniors is needed. Mobile homes should be restricted to parks according to 67% of survey respondents; this includes 53% in the Town and 76% in the Village. Affordable housing is available according to 34% of respondents, but 42% disagree with this statement. In the Town, 47% do not believe there is enough affordable housing. Housing rehabilitation should be encouraged according to 57% of survey respondents.

### *Growth*

When asked what type of population growth expected in Westfield, 36% believed the population would decline, 30% believed there would be no change, 32% believed there would be slow growth and 2% believed there would be rapid growth. The type of economic development that would be most desirable would be decline (4%), no change (3%), slow growth (76%) or rapid growth (18%).

### *Personal Information*

Personal information on survey respondents illustrates that 89% do not have a business in their home. The breakdown of home ownership to renters was 87% to 13%. 37% of survey respondents are retired. Over 78% of survey respondents had lived in Westfield for over 16 years; 22% had lived in the Town and Village for under 16 years. The age breakdown of survey respondents shows that 6% are 20-29, 14% are 30-39, 25% are 40-49, 20% are 50-59, 20% are 60-69 and 16% were 70 or over.

## .2 Steering Committee Meetings

During the planning process, several Steering Committee meetings were held with the Consultant. The Steering Committee was comprised of members of the Town of Westfield Planning Board and Village of Westfield Planning Board. During the sessions, which were open to the public at all times, several members of both the Town and Village Board were present and provided input.

The Steering Committee completed the inventory portion of the planning process and provided accurate, up-to-date information to the Consultants for analysis. Held on a throughout the planning process, the meetings provided an opportunity for dialogue and information exchange; the meetings also provided a question and answer forum for all present.

## .3 Public Meetings and Presentations

Two public meetings were held during the planning process to allow for public comments and questions. The first public meeting included an open house and formal presentation by the Consultant. An informal session allowed residents to ask questions, view the draft plan and provide input into the plan. The second meeting included a scoping session as part of the State Environmental Quality Review Act process; this allowed residents an opportunity to identify environmental issues they believed should be addressed.

As part of the process, a presentation was made to the Town and Village Boards in Westfield. This presentation was open to the public and allowed for the two boards to comment on the process. Following these presentations, the Boards held a joint public hearing as part of the comprehensive plan adoption process to provide a final opportunity for public input.

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## Appendix 1 - Personal and Telephone Interviews

Becky Beadle, Acting Village Clerk  
Carol Best, YWCA Westfield  
Linda Briggs, Town Clerk  
Ken Brentley, Chautauqua County Airport at Dunkirk  
Stacy Cady, former Village Clerk  
Dave Cochran, Town of Westfield Highway Department  
Michaelene Comerford, Assessor  
Carol DeAngelo, Westfield Counseling Service - Westfield Hospital  
Gene DelGreco, Chautauqua County Planning Department  
Kem Dengler, Northern Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce  
Andy Dufresne, Cornell Cooperative Extension  
David Fuller, Acting Superintendent Village Street Department  
Grape Growers Cooperative  
Nancy Henry, Chautauqua County IDA  
Roger Klaus, Village of Westfield Electric Department  
Ed Kneer, Fire Chief  
Ed LeBarron, Village Street Department  
Ken Machemar, Chief, Village of Westfield Police Department  
Don McCord, Village Street Department  
David Newell, Fire Department  
George Riedesel, Chautauqua County Department of Public Works  
Doug Richmond, Barcelona Harbor  
John Seymour, Town and Village Code Enforcement Officer  
Eugene Schwarts, VP of Finance - Mogan David Winery  
Sherman Central School District  
Donna Simmons, Jamestown Business College  
Mr. Tarnopoll, Westfield Health Care Center, Inc.  
Westfield Central School District  
Lynn Vilardo, Village of Westfield Water Department  
Debbie Williams, Patterson Library  
Lori Woodward, Accounting Technician, Court Clerk, Tax Collector, Deputy Town Clerk



## Appendix 2 - Community Survey









## Exhibit A - WDC Economic Development Document

Prepared in 1995, the Westfield Development Corporation's Economic Development Document is recognized as a comprehensive analysis of the economic climate in Westfield. It identifies the opportunities for economic growth that exist in Westfield, providing a plan for the commercial and industrial development of the community.

Due to the size of this document, it could not be added as an Appendix but rather is referenced as an Exhibit to the Comprehensive Plan. A copy of the document is available in both the Town and Village offices located in Eason Hall, 23 Elm Street, Westfield.



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## Exhibit B - Written Comments

During the course of the public comment period for preparation of this Comprehensive Plan, written comments were received from several individuals. These letters were reviewed and considered for incorporation into the Plan. While the letters themselves have not been made part of the Plan, they are referenced as Exhibit B of this document. The letters are being maintained in a file located in the Town of Westfield office at Eason Hall, 23 Elm Street, Westfield.

Letters were received from the following individuals:

Helen M. Baran  
Gail L. Black  
Donald Briggs  
David R. Correll  
Gene DelGreco, Chautauqua County Planning Department  
James W. Eggert  
Patricia Fellingner  
Paul R. Fellingner  
Morton Flexer  
Jeff Greabell  
Hayden & Emma Hanks  
Fred S. Johnson  
Patricia Newell  
Joanne W. Nixon  
E. J. Nowicki, NYS Department of Transportation  
David Phillips, Chautauqua County Planning Department  
Ernest & Robert Rammelt  
Kelly Riforgiat, Chautauqua County Planning Department  
David Ross  
Stephen P. Sandle  
Anthony J. Spann

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