



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

Christal Russo – Chair
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Date: March 15, 2026

To: Abutters of Crane Park (322V Main Street), Wilbraham Residents & Taxpayers

Re: Village Center Pedestrian Access and Safety Plan

Dear Abutters and Residents,

This correspondence serves as a second notification to abutters regarding an ongoing study referred to as the Wilbraham Village Center Pedestrian Access and Safety Plan. You are receiving this notice because a portion of your property is located within a 600-foot radius of Crane Park, located at 322V Main Street.

An initial outreach was conducted in the summer of 2025 and distributed to residents within a 300-foot radius of the park. The Wilbraham Economic Development Committee (WEDC) has since expanded the abutter notification radius in order to reach additional residents and increase awareness of this planning effort. As a result, this may be the first correspondence you have received regarding this project.

The WEDC is a seven-member volunteer board appointed by the Board of Selectmen. The committee advocates on behalf of the Town of Wilbraham to promote responsible growth within the business and residential communities.

The Town of Wilbraham was fortunate to receive federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. In December 2022, the EDC was allocated \$50,000 in ARPA funding to procure a feasibility study exploring the potential development of a municipal parking lot in the Village Center, with capacity for approximately 30 vehicles. The goal of this effort is to improve access to Crane Park and the surrounding Village Center. The proposed study area is located in the eastern portion of Crane Park, which is owned by the Town of Wilbraham.

The WEDC has since engaged Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), a regional civil engineering firm, to conduct a feasibility study and develop conceptual plans for the proposed Village Center Pedestrian Access and Safety Plan. As part of this planning process, it is important to identify stakeholders and

gather input regarding existing conditions and potential improvements. As a nearby property owner, you are considered a stakeholder, and this notification is one of several steps intended to ensure transparency and encourage public participation.

The WEDC would like to highlight several key points:

- There is currently no approved project or pending construction associated with this effort.
- The purpose of the study is to evaluate pedestrian safety and access within the Village Center and to develop a conceptual plan that addresses identified concerns.
- Initial evaluation of the project area indicated the need to expand the study scope to include potential traffic-calming measures in key areas of the Village Center.
- Several site visits and meetings were conducted with Town Engineer Tonya Capparello and Town Veterans' Agents Jered Sasen and Patrick Renna. These discussions resulted in a conceptual plan to reconfigure the park's memorial monuments to improve accessibility and visibility. The large Civil War Monument is intended to remain untouched as the anchor of Crane Park and the Town Center.
- A draft concept plan has been completed and will be posted on the Town of Wilbraham website for public viewing. www.wilbraham-ma.gov
- **A public information session will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 6PM at the Wilbraham Senior Center located behind Town Hall (250 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095).** The purpose of this session will be to answer questions and gather feedback from abutters and residents. Representatives from VHB will be present to address technical questions. **We encourage your attendance and look forward to your feedback!**

As many residents have observed in recent years, the Village Center is experiencing growth and revitalization. This presents an exciting opportunity for the Town and its residents. Establishing a walkable Village Center with safe and well-planned parking will support both new and existing businesses while improving accessibility for residents and visitors.

It is important to note that all existing and planned businesses in the Village Center have been reviewed through the Town's Planning and Zoning Boards and meet the minimum parking requirements established in the Wilbraham Zoning By-Laws. The purpose of this study is to explore opportunities to reduce parking congestion along Main Street and improve pedestrian safety, with the broader goal of fostering a safe and walkable Village Center.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the WEDC at: wedc@wilbraham-ma.gov Additional information will be shared as the planning process continues.

We look forward to working collaboratively with residents and stakeholders as this effort moves forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Christal Russo
Chair, Wilbraham Economic Development Committee

Jeffrey A. Smith
Vice Chair, Wilbraham Economic Development Committee