

Historic Litchfield Green

■

Comprehensive Revitalization Plan



December 2020

■

For the
Borough of Litchfield, Connecticut

Prepared by
Heritage Landscapes LLC
Preservation Landscape Architects and Planners
34 Wall Street, Norwalk CT 06850 & 501 Lake Road, Charlotte VT 05445

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- L2 2020 Landscape Plan
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- L4 2020 Small Features Plan

4 Litchfield Green Revitalization Plan

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- L8 Circulation, Topography and Small Features Plan
- L9 Lighting Plan
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- L11 Phasing Strategy Diagram



Acknowledgements

For the development of the **Historic Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan (HLGCR Plan)**, the Borough of Litchfield sought to revitalize the landmark Litchfield Green aligned to the history, character and community values of this important central commons, while avoiding any inappropriate changes. With much appreciated funding for professional services from the Seherr-Thoss Foundation, an inclusive process was undertaken. The planning work began with appointing a Litchfield Green Advisory Committee (**LGAC**) including people involved in the community and representing a variety of perspectives. Their first task was to develop a request for proposals and secure the services of a talented team. The committee members included Michael Reardon, Chairman, Cathy Fields, Stacie Kavle, Dirk Patterson, Bruce Schnitzer, Diane Stoner and Jonathan Wilson. Their contributions to this **HLGCR Plan** are recognized and appreciated.

The **HLGCR Plan** presented here, directs the future of this outstanding historic New England Green by setting a course that will define the Litchfield Town Green for generations to come. Heritage Landscapes LLC, of Norwalk, Connecticut and Charlotte, Vermont partnered with the Borough of Litchfield and Committee to meet borough and community objectives and address issues while respecting the deep heritage of this important landscape.

Heritage Landscapes began their tasks with developing an understanding the origins and evolution of Litchfield Green. Thanks go to the Litchfield Historical Society for providing access and expertise on the historic documents in their collections. The historic graphics included in this report are provided courtesy of the Litchfield Historical Society.

The planning process benefitted from a series of community listening meetings, committee workshops over concept plans and alternatives, and email exchanges with community members. Many thanks are extended to those who participated in this important process that welcomed community viewpoints and considered them in developing the agreed future directions captured in this report.

The **HLGCR Plan** addresses the East, Center and West Green landscapes of this 3-acre public space at the heart of town to include turf, shade trees, sidewalks, war memorial monuments, seating and lighting. Noting that the tree canopy today is quite diminished from the historic tree cover, a series of historic aerial photos, included on these pages, also gave an overview of the continuity of the Green. These aerial photographs, when joined with surveys and images that capture the Litchfield Green through time, will underpin this design and planning effort.

The **HLGCR Plan** recommends actions, both short and long term. Outcomes include: tree planting, circulation, monuments, signage and furnishings plans and guidance within the plan report. This planning work forms a foundation for long term-stewardship of the Litchfield Green.



With deep appreciation, we give thanks to everyone in Litchfield who contributed to the **Historic Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan** and offer our gratitude to the Seherr-Thoss Foundation for their generous gift of a plan development fund.



1 Introduction

A. Planning Objectives and Approach

Litchfield Green stands as a central feature of the Borough and Town and as an outstanding historic New England green. The Borough of Litchfield sought a design plan to revitalize the Green and its use addressing persistent issues while ensuring continuity. There was a sense that revitalization of this cherished community landscape was possible without inappropriate transformation.

Through a competitive process, Heritage Landscapes LLC (**HL**) was selected to partner with the Borough of Litchfield for this effort. The Borough is represented by a Litchfield Green Advisory Committee (**LGAC**). Bringing 33 years of professional work on landscapes of community heritage, **HL** is fully able to meet Borough and community objectives while respecting the deep heritage of this important landscape. Prior Heritage Landscapes project credits demonstrate a depth of skill in appropriate preservation and renewal of historic places to include a dozen greens and small parks and some 46 National Historic Landmarks. The **Historic Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan (HLGCR Plan)** addresses the East, Center and West Green landscapes of this three-acre green space of turf, shade trees, sidewalks, monuments and furnishings. State and local roads, parking, crosswalks and residential and commercial land uses surround the Green and, while the scope focuses on the landscapes of the Green, these adjacencies are considered to address connectivity and visual presence within the community. This planning effort defines the character and details of the Litchfield Green for generations to come.

This collaborative **HLGCR Plan** results in recommendations for short- and long-term actions, developed in conjunction with the **LGAC** and community through a series of committee and community workshops. Outcomes include an updated 2020 landscape plan, noting all features of the existing Green, a proposed tree planting plan and plans addressing circulation, monuments, signage and furnishings. The **HLGCR Plan** forms a foundation for a future policy manual for long-term stewardship of this historic community landscape.

B. Planning Process and Tasks

Beginning with the project start-up meeting, the **LGAC** and **HL** discussed a series of relevant issues to be considered. These issues include physical ones, such as lack of a crosswalk or curb, use issues such as limited functionality of East Green, and matters of character to include a general loss of trees over recent years. That discussion identified the primary use of each area of the Litchfield Green as:

- West Green - events and community celebrations
- Center Green - commemoration with memorials
- East Green - enjoyment as a simple green space to view or walk through

This planning project recognizes that the historic Green is an important contributing element of the Litchfield Historic District, a National Historic Landmark listed in 1968. **HL** gathered historic images and documents at the Litchfield Historical Society archives to understand the evolution of this landscape captured in images. **HL** studied historic documentation to determine historic landscape character, continuity, change and evolution over time. **HL** applied federal guidance on historic landscapes. As described in national landscape preservation guidance, character-defining features include:

- Land use and spatial and visual organization
- Topography and drainage
- Vegetation of all types
- Circulation systems, such as sidewalks and roads
- Non-habitable structures
- Objects, such as monuments
- Small-scale furnishings, such as benches and signage

At the same time, **HL** carefully reviewed the recent survey map in conjunction with field reconnaissance efforts to identify the 2020 landscape character and features of the Green. Fieldwork included tree identification noting genus, species, size, visual health. The base plan survey provided by Hrica Associates LLC was further refined with the addition of all the small-scale elements and tree details. By carrying out this foundational work, **HL** became knowledgeable about the history of the Green and character of the 2020 landscape.

At this stage of the work, historic research and field study findings were assembled into the initial chapters of this report. A public informational meeting brought Litchfield neighbors up to date and sought inputs. The presentation illustrated project planning objectives, history, evolution and character of the Green today. Public comments were noted and incorporated into these early findings.

Based on the foundational task outcomes and community input, alternatives were explored to address identified issues. Additional review and comment with advisory committee and community workshops helped build consensus on the suggested approaches to revitalization. Based on these exchanges, this final plan synthesized all the supportive documentation and critical feedback.

A series of plan drawings accompany the **HLGCR Plan** illustrated narrative. Included following each respective chapter, drawings illustrate the 2020 landscape and the proposed comprehensive revitalization of the Green.

1 Introduction

- L1 Responsibilities Plan
- L2 2020 Landscape Plan
- L3 2020 Trees Plan
- L4 2020 Small Features Plan
- L5 Comprehensive Revitalization Plan
- L6 Removals Plan
- L7 Tree and Shrub Planting Plan
- L8 Circulation, Topography and Small Features Plan
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The process undertaken to shape and develop this detailed plan for the revitalization of the Green responds to the rich landscape history, current needs and community desire for enriched use and engagement with the Green. Through outreach and involvement, the Litchfield community remains a vital member in this collaborative team to steward Green into the future.

C. Understanding the Litchfield Green Today

Dialogue with the advisory committee provided information which, joined with observations on the landscape, brought together an understanding of current community uses, issues and opportunities. These points are organized as follows.

C1. Everyday Uses, Organized Uses and Events

- Existing and desired uses varies between the three interrelated landscapes. East Green is underutilized and desired to become more of a destination for activities. Center Green is generally a commemorative and ceremonial space. West Green accommodates concerts in the park and other organized gatherings and events including summer Wednesday night concerts. Enhancements to the Green should support these uses.
- The Green is used for individual pleasure by walking and sitting within the landscape and is also enjoyed as a scenic view by people driving along East and West Streets or visiting surrounding establishments. Few spaces are available for rest or informal gathering. The shaping of such spaces should be considered.
- The Borough holds management responsibility for the Green. While Borough ordinances address several issues, there are no formalized policies for uses of these community landscapes. Use of the Green for organized events is approved by the Board of Warden and Burgesses, aligned to ordinances. Use policy guidance for the Green would enhance clarity moving forward. Having an agreed policy document would aid in counteracting the perception of subjective approval and disapproval. Various policy items can be considered without overregulating.

C2. Public Notice and Community Involvement

- Public notice was provided throughout the **HLGCR Plan** development. Press releases informed the community that plan development was underway. Notices in advance of community review meetings informed about details and content to encourage participation. Press releases were provided to community-frequented websites and area newspapers. Community comments were also received directly via email to committee members and **HL**.
- This completed **HLGCR Plan** may aid in identifying potential projects for donation funding. Approaching community donors with thoughtful proposed projects provides a framework for discussion and engagement on next actions toward revitalization.
- Engagement of State legislators, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation in ongoing planning and implementation processes may aid in gaining future support for revitalization projects on the historic Green.

C.3 Overall Character, Cohesion and Clutter of Elements

- Existing sidewalks direct people through the Green rather than inviting visitors to linger or explore this public landscape. In particular, East Green is underutilized and can be perceived as quite separate from the Center and West Greens. Efforts should provide a welcoming landscape to visitors.
- The mix of elements present on the Center Green, including benches, cannon, flagpole, water fountain, tree memorials, signs, etc., contribute to a somewhat disorganized space. Improved visual harmony of the space may be pursued while protecting the commemorative use and historic value of Center Green.
- Limited community, historic or contextual information is provided within the Green. Though additional signage is not permitted on the Green. Making community and historic information more readily available can better engage visitors and contribute to a more fulfilling experience.
- Varying styles of landscape furnishing contribute to visual clutter. Design standards that align to historic character for furnishings like benches and water fountains can improve stylistic landscape harmony.
- Existing diversity of lighting types adds to visual clutter. Greater cohesion and lighting best practices should be considered

C4. Trees

- The Center Green was relatively open historically, while the West and East Greens were shaded by the canopies of large trees. The predominant tree in the early years was American elm.
- There are fewer trees on the Green in 2020 than existed in the past. Strategic removal, replanting and management of trees should reflect historic character, reverse tree loss and address contemporary tree disease and insect vectors to best steward the publicly-valued canopy into the future.

C5. Monuments

- Current placement and organization of monuments on the Center Green is not thoroughly considered as each monument grouping is experienced separately from the others. This fragmentation requires walking on grass and complicates mowing movements. There is no universal access on a firm surface for those in wheelchairs, pushing strollers, or using canes or crutches. An improved treatment for monuments developed in consultation with the community and local veterans groups can alleviate these issues. This **HLGCR Plan** provides an agreed-upon design to reorganize the monuments that makes them more engaging and provides a sense of commemoration and honor within the context of the historic Green.
- The practice of installing small memorial plaques on donated trees contributes to the accumulation of small-scale elements. When positioned above grade, these objects complicate mowing and future management in cases where trees have declined and been removed. If plaques are to remain, they should be flush to the surrounding grade. Adjustment to a memorial plaque policy should be considered.

C6. Traffic Presence and Noise

- Heavy traffic along Route 202 is a constant presence on the north side of the Green and persistent use of West and East Streets is also common. Use of the north margins of all three green spaces is affected by this continuous vehicular flow.
- The interface between vehicle traffic, parking and pedestrians creates conflict at several locations. Solutions including relocated crosswalks with accessible curbs make the Green more pleasant, unified in appearance, navigable and provide a greater feeling of safety.
- Vehicle noise particularly from Route 202 disrupts the potential peace of the Litchfield Green. There are methods to reduce noise at the wheelbase of the cars by adding a solid barrier of earth, a fence or a wall at about three feet in height along the north perimeter. This kind of addition would be a significant change to the character of the north edges of the Litchfield Green. Positive community opinion and an approval process would be required.

C7. Physical Conditions & Miscellaneous Items

- Topography, surface drainage and potential subsurface water movement contribute to poor drainage and recurrent soggy conditions and standing water on the East Green. Raising of street grades on Routes 118 and 202 over decades contributes to this issue as does lack of curbs on Route 202. A multi-pronged approach will be required to deflect water accumulation and improve surface drainage and infiltration.
- Current base survey information does not include below-grade utilities including water sources and electric lines along West Street that feed five lights. Contact with the Town of Litchfield, Director of Public Works and Town Engineer may provide further details of town infrastructure within the Green.

1 Introduction

- The Garden Club of America will be celebrating the landscape tradition of the New England Town Green in 2021, held in Hartford, CT. The Litchfield Green likely will be a focus of thematic tours or other activities related to the celebration.

This planning project considers each element of these itemized lists, in order to address the full range of considerations and opportunities available to Litchfield Green in this Comprehensive Revitalization Plan.



2 Litchfield Green Historic Evolution

A. Litchfield Green, Evolved Historic Landscape

The Litchfield Green evolved over a period of over two hundred years to take the form we see today. A 1948 text addressing the greens of New England emphasized that these spaces are common property of the community maintained by the town.¹ The character of these public landscapes is described as including elms, bandstands, green turf, white steeples and other features, arranged in “attractive patterns” as a green oasis in many New England towns. The green in Litchfield is described in this text as one of the most peaceful and lovely examples to be used as a pattern for the typical village green. By the mid-twentieth century, the Litchfield Green was the heart of a colonial and colonial revival village. However, it evolved through the decades from a partially built up area, to an unattractive wasteland, and eventually to the East, West and Center Green of today. This historical overview draws on several texts and accounts, employing illustrations from the Litchfield Historical Society, to depict the landscape character of this evolving public commons.

B. Before Litchfield

Several native tribes occupied the area prior to development of Litchfield. In 1657, lands were sold to settlers William Leewis and Samuel Steele by leaders of the Kepaquamp, Querrimus and Mataneage tribes who called the area Bantam.² This region was known for great tracts of pitch pine and white pine, historically referred to as Greenwood.³ An early writer noted the condition of the pioneer town where “little openings had been made in the primeval forest, by the axes of settlers. Forty or fifty log cabins were scattered over the site now occupied by the village . . . A temporary palisade stood where our court-house now stands.”⁴

Upholding the prior forest and present Green is Hartland Schist, an underlying rock consisting of clay shale, limestone and sandstone according to an early source, with a silvery mica-schist appearance of fine grained stone.⁵ As in much of Connecticut, glacial action created mixed soils with

boulders and stones; hardpan subsoil is noted in historic accounts. This varied geology likely relates to the underground water movements that influence the Litchfield Green to this day.

C. Early Village

The Village was laid out by a settlement company into 60 lots within an area 8.75 miles east to west and 7.5 miles north to south. Incorporated in 1719, Litchfield served as the county seat for Litchfield County with a courthouse and a county jail noted as fixed points in the layout of settlement lots. New England towns and villages traditionally included a central green space, called a common, green or park.⁶ Open space was preserved at a primary road intersection for public, common use. In Litchfield, Middle Street in those early days was 28 rods wide, which at 16.5 feet per rod, yields 462 feet in street width.⁷ This early commons concurrently served as a thoroughfare and other broad uses including livestock grazing, militia training, the marketing and trading of goods and the exchange of news. At the heart of the shared open space, the meetinghouse acted as a community meeting hall for business and judicial hearings as well as Congregational Church religious services on Sunday (Figure 2.1). The first meetinghouse stood from around 1726 until it was sold and replaced by 1762.⁸ Sequentially added churches also were positioned on the Green.⁹ The Tappan Reeve Law School located there in 1784 and the Litchfield Female Academy opened in 1792, focusing on higher education for girls. Both of these schools were national firsts and highly regarded institutions in the early United States. Harriet Beecher (Stowe), born in Litchfield in 1811, studied at the Academy prior to her national fame as an abolitionist and author.¹⁰ These notable educational institutions were an impetus for early community growth. An 1803 published account notes the character of the early Green:

“Fragment[s] of old fences, boards, woodpiles, heaps of chips, old sleds bottom upward, carts, caskets, weed and loose stones lying along in wild confusion . . . [with] ruts and gutters with stones at every step [and] deep gullies in from of every house. . . droves of sheep and hogs infest the green. . .”¹¹

By 1798, an arriving pastor described Litchfield as a “delightful village. . . with a population enlightened and respectable.”¹² The center of Litchfield framed by town streets today, originated in the mid-nineteenth century. The 1762 meetinghouse in the center of the Green showed extensive decay by the 1820’s. The community chose to dismantle it and build a replacement church north of the Green.¹³ This decision to relocate, likely driven by efforts to separate the roles of church and state, created a civic-owned open space without a central architectural structure and reframed the Green as a public park. The 1852 village map depicts East Park and West Park as defined spaces resembling the overall shape of the current Green (Figure 2.2). An 1836 illustration shows a town approached through farm fields, with a church in the center framed by houses (Figure 2.3). An 1851 view of the center of town depicts a centennial celebration in an open central area with tents set up to accommodate crowds. Scattered canopy trees and fences also appear in this view (Figure 2.4).

D. Village Improvement, late 19th Century

The Litchfield Village Improvement Company incorporated in 1875, with a purpose of “improving streets, parks, public grounds and public buildings”¹⁴ (Figure 2.5). This organization was credited as a major factor of the town’s transformation into a scenic community.

In the 1880s village center, wide streets accommodated traffic via horseback, wagon and carriage, over loose materials, possibly dirt and gravel, while hitching posts and gas street lamps defined a zone for pedestrians along the commercial buildings (Figure 2.6). The town center character evolved by the 1880s, as a stereopticon view records mixed turf, trees, fences, a war memorial obelisk and a flagpole on the Green of that time (Figure 2.7). In this view, the memorial is located in what is now known as the East Green, with hemlock, maple and elm trees of varying ages scattered around it. As a community gathering place, the Green was a place to take photographs of the assembled community for sleigh ride (Figure 2.8).

By the 1880s, the three parks of the Green, west, center and east, were defined with wide streets in irregular patterns around them. An 1884 view shows ragged streets and open non-street areas crossed by beaten footpaths (Figure 2.9). Fences and new tree plantings record progress on defining the Green in other circa 1880s views (Figures 2.10, 2.11 and 2.12). The character of the East Green continued to evolve as young trees grew and benches were added to encourage sitting and relaxing, likely the work of the Village Improvement Company (Figure 2.13).

The streets remained wide, while historic photographs record some improvement in road surface as it appears smooth, less rutted, and perhaps less muddy (Figures 2.14, 2.15 and 2.16). These historic images also depict more orderly green spaces improved with smooth surface grading, tree plantings, fences and a flagpole on Center Green. At this time, Center Green appears to have circular margins to accommodate carriage and wagon traffic near the commercial services. A remark on the furnishing of the public space in a July 1883 note indicates that “Deacon S.H. Dudley of Bantam, put up a patent swing in the East Park, on Monday, which seems to be a valuable affair of its kind, enabling the person in the seat to swing himself.”¹⁵ The Soldier’s Monument was noted as located precisely at Latitude 41 degrees 44’48” North, Longitude 73 degrees 11’25” West of Greenwich, standing at approximately 1,080 feet elevation as recorded in 1889.¹⁶

In 1892, the East Park, as it was then known, was quite densely covered with a monocultural stand of American elm (Figure 2.17). At that time, the war memorial obelisk remained on the East Green. In the 1890s, the West Green was also heavily shade by deciduous trees including elm and what appear to be maple and oak (Figure 2.18).

Although a precise date has not been located in the research for this narrative, the war memorial was moved to the Center Park in the 1890s (Figure 2.19). Gathering crowds wore formal attire in

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views of events recorded on Center Green, which may have been Memorial Day observances (Figures 2.20 and 2.21).¹⁷ By this time, a cannon and stack of cannon balls appeared west of the war memorial. In the photographs, turf margins were crisp and appear to be lined with a cobblestone gutter. “L” shaped planting beds with small plants at the south path entry and two additional groups of clustered shrubs appear.

E. The 20th Century Green

The Green underwent gradual changes during the 20th century. Early in the century, the obelisk, cannon and shrubs remained as did the center path which widened around the obelisk (Figures 2.22 and 2.23). Flowering shrubs proliferated as scattered elements as evident from a postcard image of the same period (Figure 2.24). Views from a slightly later date recorded changes including: a “Y” shaped path built in what appears to be bright concrete; greater shrub massing; a new, likely metal, single, upright flagpole; and, a crisp edge line that may be a vertical stone curb (Figures 2.25, 2.26 and 2.27). Adding to the collection of memorial plantings on the Green, in 1902, the Daughters of the American Republic planted a tree in memory of Litchfield’s Revolutionary War veterans for Arbor Day. In a circa 1910 postcard, East Park resembled earlier images with dense trees and a walkway; however, curbs, shrubs, fences, memorials or benches do not appear (Figure 2.28).

Edges of the public streets continued to be refined and planted during the early 20th century. The jail was featured in a 1906 postcard that clearly showed a continuous sidewalk, a tree lawn planted to elms, a gas light at the corner and a large elm, labeled on the 1907 tree map as the “Whipping Post Elm” (Figure 2.29). A view the same year along West Street captured a continuous row of large elm trees that would have been planted around 30 to 50 years earlier to achieve the size depicted (Figure 2.30).

On Tuesday, October 29th, 1907 Mary Perkins Quincy read a well-researched paper titled “Tree-Histories of Litchfield.”¹⁸ The Litchfield Historic Society holds the 26-page cursive manuscript that was read “before the Mary Floyd Tallmadge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.” This informative speech is accompanied by a map with “Tree Notes” prepared by Prof. W.E Beettos (Figures 2.31a and b). The text begins with a passage from renowned botanist Professor Asa Gray, extolling the perfection of the American elm in Connecticut where it grows in greater variety and of finer qualities than elsewhere. The long-lived native sycamore is recorded as a tree that largely shaded the village at one time. Further, the paper notes that the elms of Litchfield were inspired by homecoming Yale students who appreciated the elms planted in New Haven by Mr. James Hillhouse, along Hillhouse Avenue and elsewhere in the center of New Haven. In the center of town, the 1907 tree map shows:

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On the south side

- Sign Post Elms
- Colonial Sycamore
- Row of Elms

On West Green

- Ash
- Ash
- Elm
- Maples, 7 trees appearing in a north-south oriented row

On East Green

- McKinley Oak
- Colvocoresses Oak
- Revolutionary Soldiers Oak
- Constitution Oak
- English Oaks

On the north side

- Whipping Post Elm
- Elms
- Eaton Beech

Undated photographs of three of the large, old named oaks are contained in this local archive, and may have accompanied the report or been taken in subsequent years (Figure 2.32, 2.33 and 2.34).

In addition to individual trees, the manuscript spoke to the public parks of Litchfield, including the Green, noting that

The Parks of Litchfield have each a history in their plan and its fulfillment. In 1835, the sum of six hundred dollars was subscribed for the grading, fencing and setting out of trees in the village parks; and the work was completed in 1836.

The Center Park was the thought of Mrs. Mary Pierce. . . who furnished the necessary funds for grading of the Park, to the center of which has been recently removed the white marble monument in memory of the soldier dead of the village.

The Centre Park land was originally the parade ground of the Village militia and it was here that Col. Francis Bacon was accustomed to drill his company in the last century.

In the East Park Mr. Henry L. Goodwin had much responsibility in the planting and care of the trees and nearly twenty years later Hon. George M. Woodruff on his return from Yale College has nearly all adjoining its eastern portion set out.

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The West Park was planted out with trees by the late Daniel C. Buckley, a cabinet maker of Litchfield, an antiquarian and a lover of forestry. . . Many of the elms and maples he brought himself from the neighboring woods, in which he was assisted by his friend, Harry Bissell.

This manuscript addressed other parks and notable trees throughout the town. Many elms and rows of linden and maple were noted.

In 1913, the Litchfield Village Improvement Society engaged the insights of landscape architect John Charles Olmsted, a partner in the renowned Olmsted Brothers firm. He recommended simplicity and symmetry in the design of the Green. In the words of Litchfield historian Rachel Carley, Olmsted expressed “particular alarm over the green’s pipe railings and the haphazard placement of a cannon and clumps of shrubbery in its center.”¹⁹ Proposals for revision of the Green minimized the irregular geometries which arose from the Green’s incremental function-driven development and, instead, prioritized linear symmetry for use as a public park. Fundraising and implementation of a parallel plan to reface many of the West Street shops moved forward but appeared to have lost momentum before extensive changes were made to the Green. Instead, a 1912 plan commissioned from Torrington civil engineer Walter A. Williston may have formed the guiding document for the Green.²⁰

The First World War, known then as the Great War, influenced the character of the Green following the end of the conflict in 1918. A pair of photographs around this date shows one with the obelisk and cannon monuments and the second includes a new monument (Figures 2.35 and 2.36). Uniformed soldiers posed beside a protective cage for a newly planted tree, possibly a memorial tree planting during commemoration events (Figure 2.37). In 1920, the Village of Litchfield celebrated its bicentennial on the Litchfield Green. Onlookers filled the decorated Center and West Greens to watch a parade pass by (Figures 2.38 and 2.39).

The archival coverage of the 20th century is limited; however, a few images recorded the evolving character and related activities of the Litchfield Green. A 1934 aerial photograph captured a tree covered park with the Center Green more open than in years earlier (Figure 2.40). In June of 1933, surveying students from Camp Columbia appeared on the Center Green with survey instruments (Figure 2.41). A serious ice storm in the winter of 1942 loaded branches with ice and many trees were badly damaged (Figure 2.42). To serve as a place to obtain war bonds and stamps, a small structure was added to the Center Green around 1942 (Figure 2.43). In 1955, the large canopy trees remain and cover both East and West Greens, while the Center Green is relatively open with four conical evergreen shadows evident as well as two shade trees (Figure 2.44).

An annual tradition began on June 12, 1977 with the first Litchfield Hills Road Race. Spectators on the lawns of the Green watched the start of the race, which was signaled with a cannon shot. Then and each year since, runners sprinted west along West Street, passing the southern length of the

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Green and storefronts before touring a seven-mile route through the village.²¹ Non-competitive children's runs were added beginning in 1994 with an uphill 200-yard dash and a one-mile race. As the event grew in popularity, a competitive 2.3 mile run for 11 to 13-year-olds was added in 2000.²²

Photographs from the late 20th century reveal continuity and change within the Green. An image from 1981 shows the open Center Green with trunks of two large, old shade trees and an angular branch of a ginkgo tree (Figure 2.45). An aerial photograph depicts a substantial change in tree canopy as both East and West Green appear more open in 1991 (Figure 2.46). East Green contained very few trees in the central area at this time. Local residents note that with elevation changes stemming from adjacent road construction, East Green captured more water. The tree loss visible in the 1991 aerial may have resulted from increased stormwater capture and ponding. An aerial view from the fall of 1997 shows green foliage changing to yellow and red, and open patches of turf with fewer, larger trees evident throughout the park (Figure 2.47). This aerial photograph fully captures West and Center Greens and a portion of East Green. The open west triangle and the open Center Green contrast with the nearly full canopy cover over West Green and the visible area of East Green.

Chapter 2 Endnotes

- ¹ Louise Andrews Kent, *Village Greens of New England*, A Village Green Press Book, M. Barrows & Company, Inc., N.Y., 1948, p 48, 238.
- ² The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p9, at <http://www.archive.org/stream/historyoftownofl1920whit#page/n53/mode/2up>
- ³ Litchfield Historical Society and Alain White, *The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut*, 1720-1920. Litchfield, CT: Enquirer Print, 1920, p 2.
- ⁴ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 19.
- ⁵ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 3.
- ⁶ Louise Andrews Kent, *Village Greens of New England*, A Village Green Books Press, M. Barrows Company, Inc. New York, 1948, p 23.
- ⁷ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 40.
- ⁸ Rachel Carley, *Litchfield: The Making of a New England Town*, Litchfield, CT: The Litchfield Historical Society, 2011, 63-65.
- ⁹ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 37.
- ¹⁰ Litchfield, Connecticut History.org, accessed September 3, 2019 at <https://connecticuthistory.org/towns-page/litchfield/>
- ¹¹ James Sexton, The Litchfield Green, citing an 1803 Litchfield Monitor report. Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, TownGreens.com. Manuscript located in the Litchfield Historical Society collections.
- ¹² The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 90.
- ¹³ Rachel Carley, *Litchfield: The Making of a New England Town*, Litchfield, CT: The Litchfield Historical Society, 2011, 82.
- ¹⁴ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920, p 329.
- ¹⁵ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920
- ¹⁶ The History of the Town of Litchfield, Connecticut, 1720-1920
- ¹⁷ On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan issued a proclamation calling for "Decoration Day" to be observed annually and nationwide; he was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of and for Union Civil War veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868 to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, according to Today in History – May 30, Library of Congress, accessed at <https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/may-30>.
- ¹⁸ Mary Perkins Quincy, 26-page manuscript, "Tree-Histories of Litchfield" and W. G. Beettos, "Tree Notes" map, 1907.
- ¹⁹ Rachel Carley, *Litchfield: The Making of a New England Town*, Litchfield, CT: The Litchfield Historical Society, 2011, 194-197.
- ²⁰ Rachel Carley, *Litchfield: The Making of a New England Town*, Litchfield, CT: The Litchfield Historical Society, 2011, 196-197.
- ²¹ Lou Pellegrino, *In Smallness, There is Beauty: A History of the Litchfield Hill Road Race*, Litchfield, CT: Litchfield Historical Society, 2016, 7, 30-39.
- ²² Lou Pellegrino, *In Smallness, There is Beauty: A History of the Litchfield Hill Road Race*, Litchfield, CT: Litchfield Historical Society, 2016, 7, 58.

2 Litchfield Green Historic Evolution

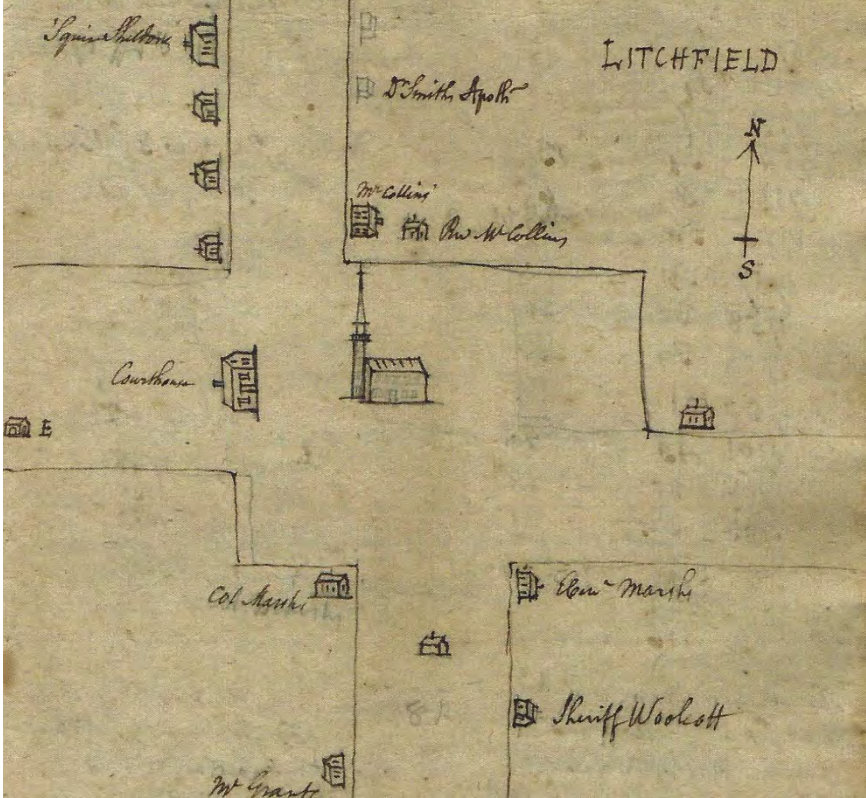


Figure 2.1 This detail of an early sketch of Litchfield by Yale president, Ezra Stiles, illustrates the town commons as an intersection of streets with the meetinghouse occupying the center of the space. (LG-Carley-66-1762-Stiles map)



Figure 2.2 After the relocation of the meetinghouse from the center of the Commons, the green spaces were reinterpreted as public parks. (LG-Carley-141-1852-Clark map)

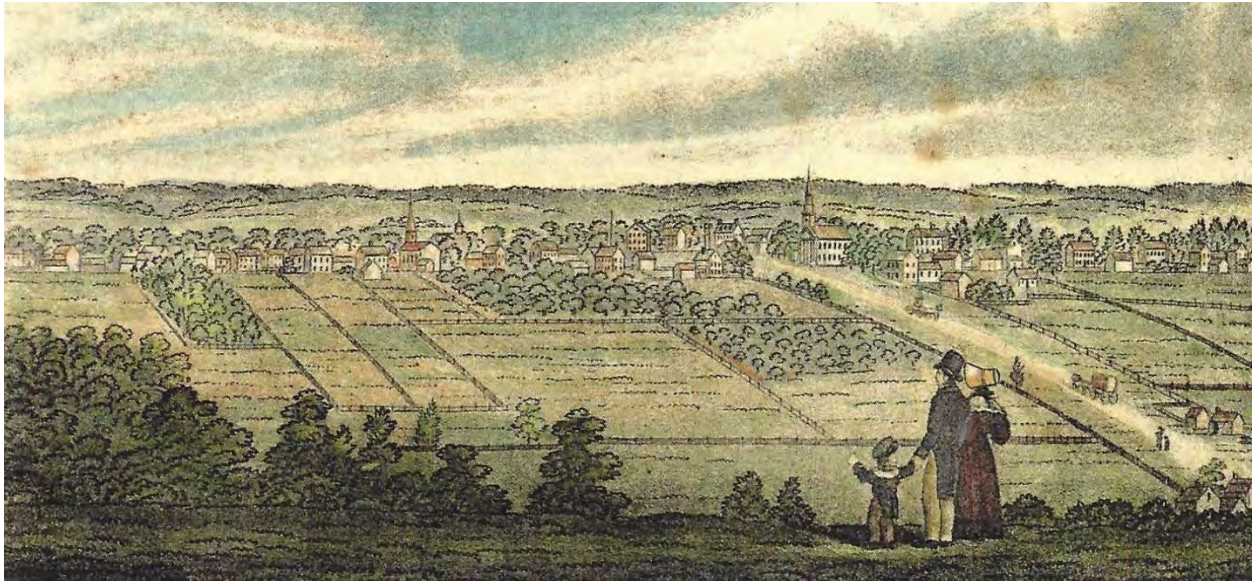


Figure 2.3 This illustration depicts the center of Litchfield from nearby Chestnut Hill showing a church at the center adjacent to a road, prior to the setting aside of the Green. (LG-Carley-xi-1836-from Connecticut Historical Collections)



Figure 2.4 This early image of what may be the Litchfield Green depicts the 1851 Centennial celebration on an open center area with trees. (LG LHS 31-1 Centennial Engrave 1851)

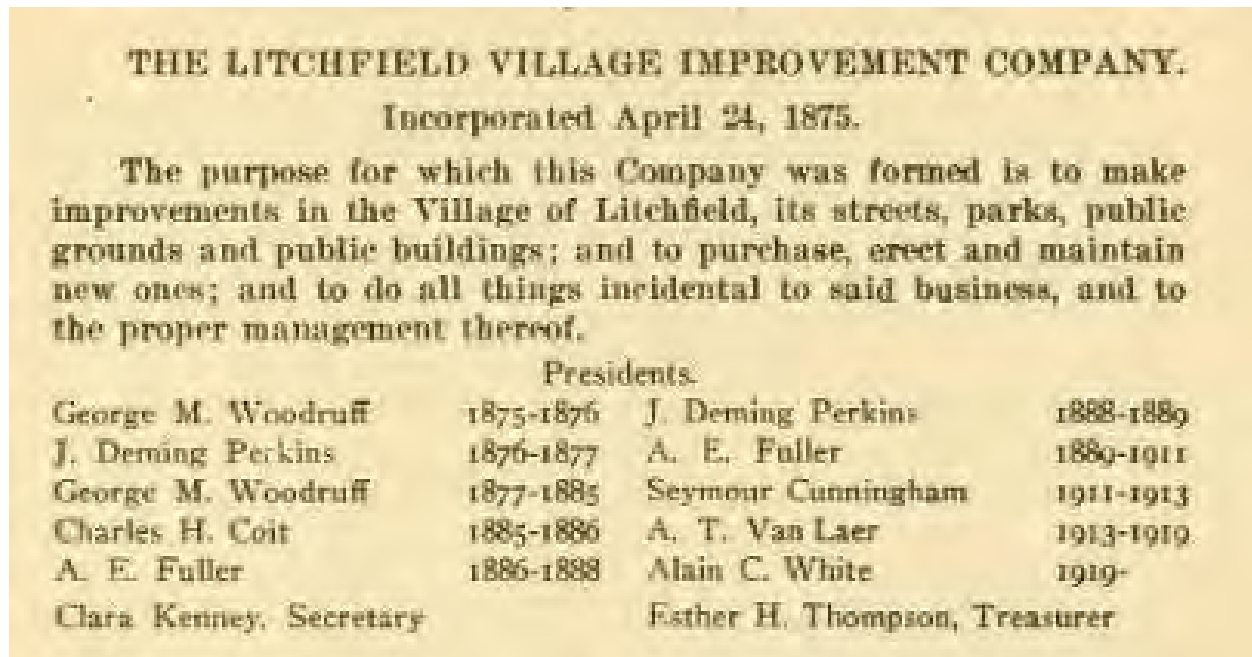


Figure 2.5 Details of the Litchfield Village Improvement Company, noted in a 1920 bicentennial publication, include the purpose, date of incorporation and listing of presidents. (LG-History of Litchfield 1720-1920 p329 Village Improve)



Figure 2.6 Across from the Green to the southwest, the street, hitching posts and gas street light are evident in this view of the commercial buildings. (LG LHS SA West St granite post light c1880s)



Figure 2.7 The memorial to Litchfield Civil War soldiers first stood on the East Green, in mixed species turf with deciduous and evergreen trees nearby. (LG LHS EastG Monument hemlock Judd Stereo Bendix c1870s-80s)



Figure 2.8 Sleighs loaded with people are seen in this winter view, presumably in the center of the village. Note the cannon in the background. (LG LHS 31-1-2 LGr Sleigh Rides 2 c1880s HL75)



Figure 2.9 Streets with irregular edges and non-street areas with compacted footpaths are captured in this 1884 view. (LG LHS LC Weir 1 MansionHse Bishop Groc Courthouse CGr c1884 HL11)



Figure 2.10 This view of the village center shows the state of the streets and the small portions of non-street areas with a fence and trees beginning to transform into public open spaces. (LG LHS 31-1 CGr View North pre1886 fire)



Figure 2.11 In this image, the streets and footpaths appear more orderly. The posts visible on the left are supports for small trees planted in a line. A row of continuous trees extends north along the street while to the right a very large elm rises from a residential side yard facing the East Green. (LG LHS 31-1-1 Green view north c1890s HL69)

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Figure 2.12 This view from an upper level of a nearby house records the presence of fences and recent addition of small evergreen and deciduous trees. To the left, the pump is surrounded by a white rail fence. (LG LHS 31-2 LG East Corner pump trees walks fence HL85)



Figure 2.13 A large number of small trees, about 10 to 15 years of age, and a few larger older trees surround the war memorial on the East Green. Small trees in the background of this view are aligned in rows. Wood benches to invite sitting under tree canopy on the Green. (LG LHS 31-3 East G before monument moved benches c1890 HL98)



Figure 2.14 Well defined turf areas with smooth surfaces indicate fine grading. Fences protect selected turf areas and new street tree plantings are captured on the left or west side in this image looking north. (LG LHS 31-1-1 Green view north fences c1890s)



Figure 2.15 Around the same time as the previous image (2.14), the increased care of the Green is evident. The tall flagpole and circular fence punctuate the Center Park of that time. (LG LHS 31-3 view north Center Roads c1880)

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Figure 2.16 This view captures the margin of the Center Park and depicts two layers of fencing, near the edge and around the flagpole base. (LG LHS SA1-157 Higgins Center Flagpole c1880s)



Figure 2.17 Looking southwest along the East Park path in 1892, many young elm trees cover the area. Note the war memorial to the west (right) of the path partially screened by elm trees. (LG LHS EastGreen elms walk May1892)



Figure 2.18 Tree canopy of the heavily planted West Green shade several settees, or benches, inviting people to enter and linger. (LG LHS 31-4 West Green Trees c1890s)



Figure 2.19 In this view, the war memorial is relocated to the Center Green. The large flagpole remains, while a mounting block or horse trough is positioned on the left and flowering shrubs appear within the fencing. (LG LHS 31-3 Monument from east-center c1890s)



Figure 2.20 This very clear photograph shows a community gathering on the Center Park with the obelisk in the middle of a straight path, widened around the memorial itself. The crowd is dressed in formal clothing and horses and carriages line the drive. The turf margin is well defined by a cobblestone gutter and planting beds mark the entry path. A cannon and stack of cannon balls appears west of the war memorial at this time. (LG LHS 31-3 Monument Event CenterG c1890)



Figure 2.21 This image shows the central path running straight through the turf and an open grassy area where the community can gather for events such as the rededication of the memorial, a Memorial Day service, or other celebration. (LG LHS 31-3 Monument Event CenterG Horses c1880)



Figure 2.22 The path through the Center Green is well captured in this 1903 image which also records a cannon and pile of cannon balls west of the obelisk. A few shrubs appear planted in turf within the park. (LG LHS Center Green 1903)



Figure 2.23 Another view of the war memorial and center path captures large trees and tall shrubs in this area. (LG LHS Center Green cannon one shrub c1900)



Figure 2.24 A 1900s postcard records addition of flowering shrubs set as individual elements in turf rather than being clustered into groups. (LG-LHS Center Park Monument Brickley Postcard c1900)



Figure 2.25 This view and the next capture the Center Green with a new "Y" shaped path that positions the obelisk in open turf. The street edge shows a clean line that looks like a low stone curb. (LG-LHS Center Park Y path view north sepia Brickley Postcard c1900)

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Figure 2.26 The sunlit Center Park displays a single pole flagpole, shrub masses at corners and path edges, and plantings around the cannon. (LG-LHS Center Park view north Brickley Postcard c1900)



Figure 2.27 This color postcard captures Center and part of East Parks, with the name “Shrubbery Park” used as the caption. (LG-LHS Center Park Y path Brickley Postcard c1910 2)

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Figure 2.28 East Park view shows a density of trees, while coloring obscures the difference between path and street. The street edge is not distinct. (LG-LHS EastG east Bantam Postcard c1910)



Figure 2.29 Bearing a 1906 postmark, this postcard shows mature elm trees between the sidewalk and street with a large tree to the left known as a whipping post elm. A gas light is positioned at the corner. (LG-LHS County Jail street trees Brickley Postcard 1906)

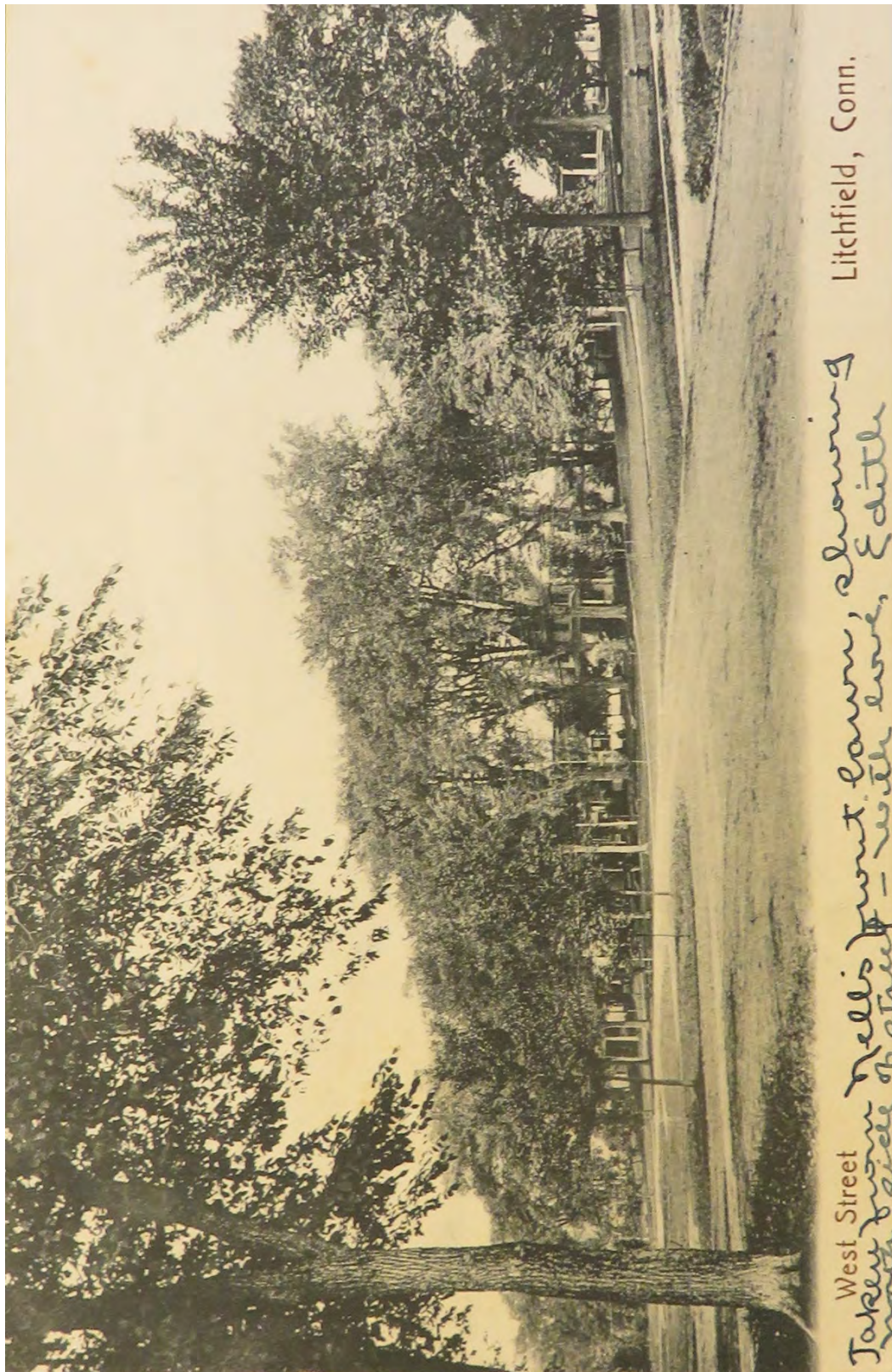


Figure 2.30 A continuous line of elm trees along West Street provides the dominant town streetscape character in 1906. (LG-LHS West Street bw Brickley Postcard 1906)

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Figure 2.31a This portion of the 1907 tree map captures the center area of Litchfield including the Greens. (LG LHS 1907 WG Beettos Tree Survey Map)

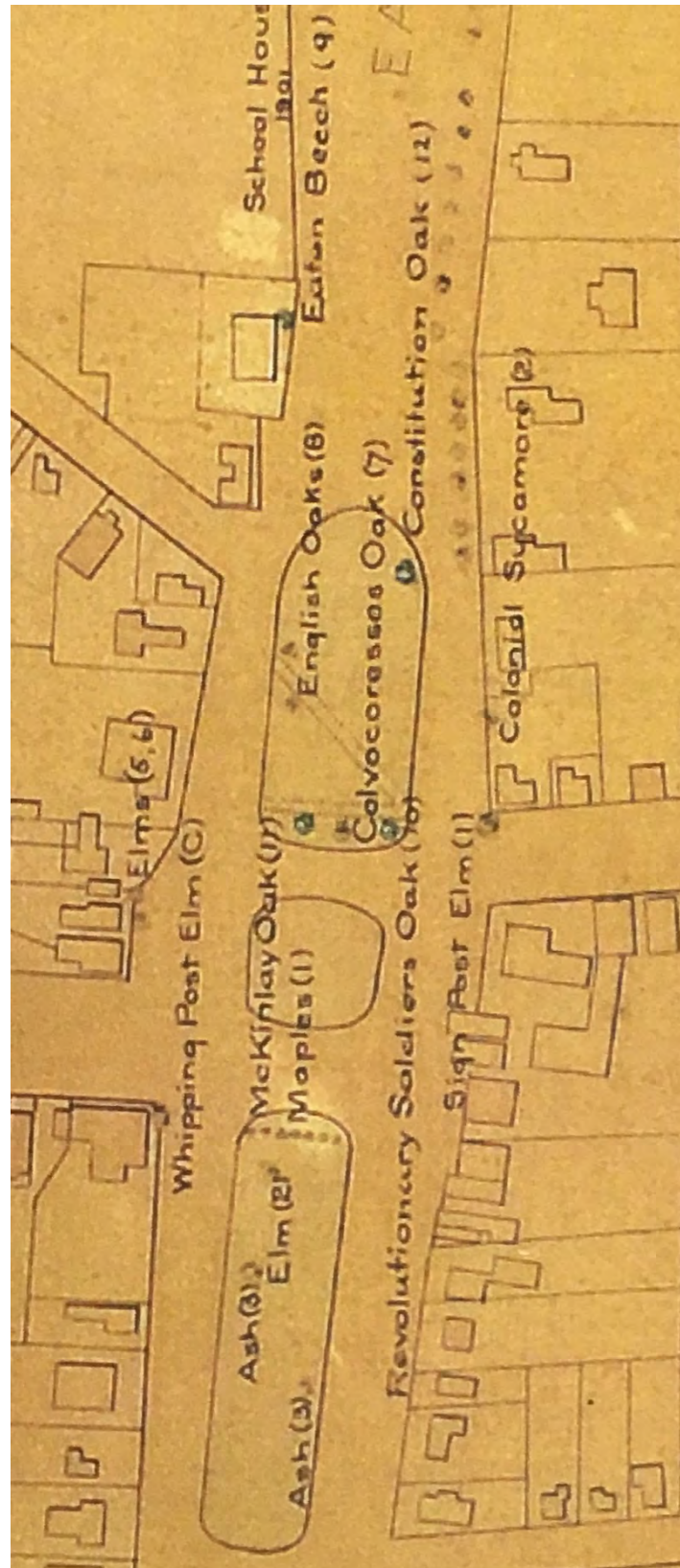


Figure 2.31b Detail of 1907 tree survey map records notable trees and tree groups on the Green and opposite sides of the streets. (LG LHS 1907 WG Beettos Tree Survey Map)

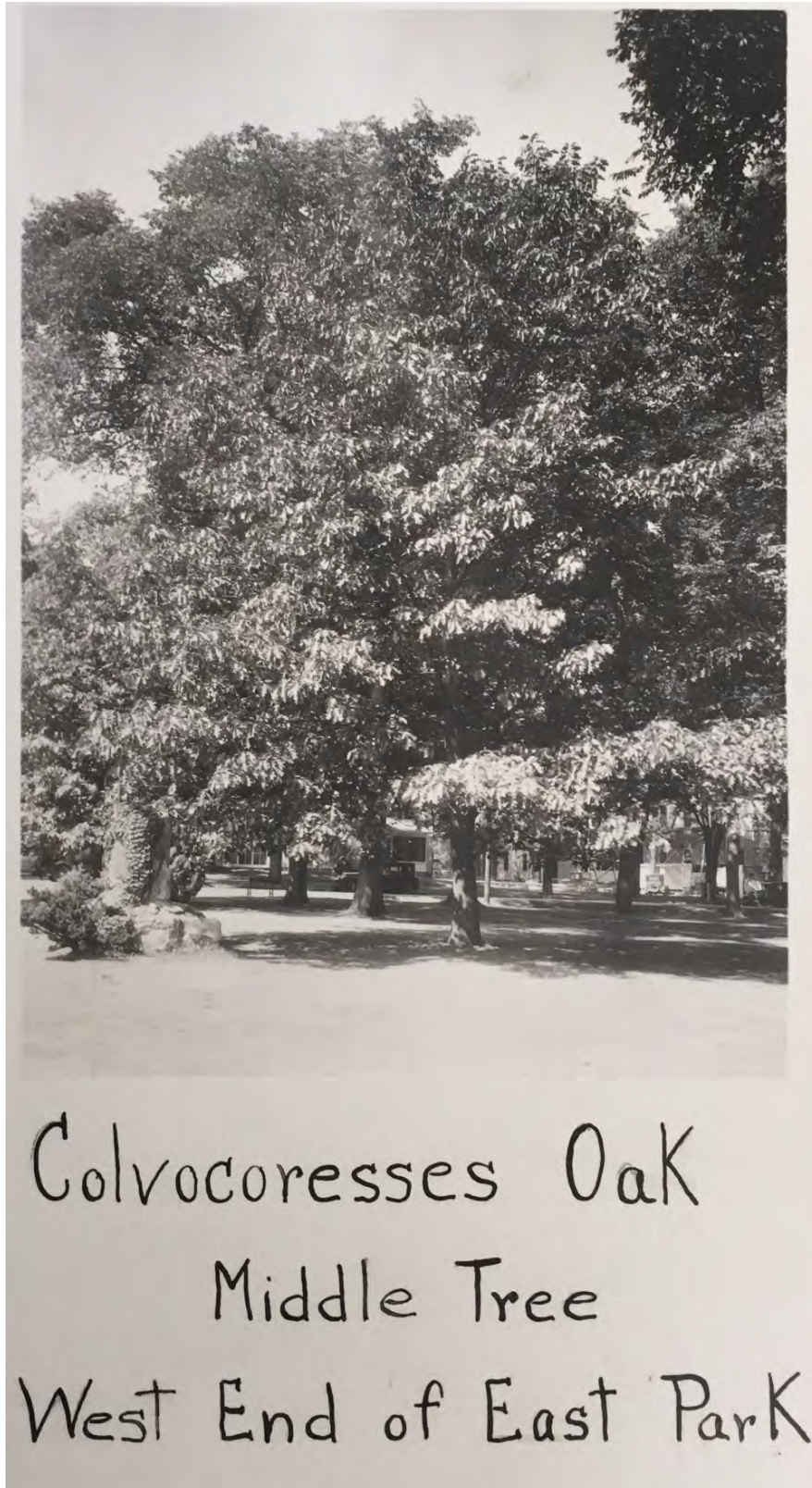


Figure 2.32 Colvocoresses Oak shown on the 1907 Tree survey and noted in the text of the speech addressing Litchfield trees. (LG LHS 31-2-1 Colvocoresses Oak middle tree west end East Park 1907)



Figure 2.33 Constitution Oak shown on the 1907 Tree survey and noted in the speech transcript.
(LG LHS 31-2-1 Constitution oak east end EastG 1907)

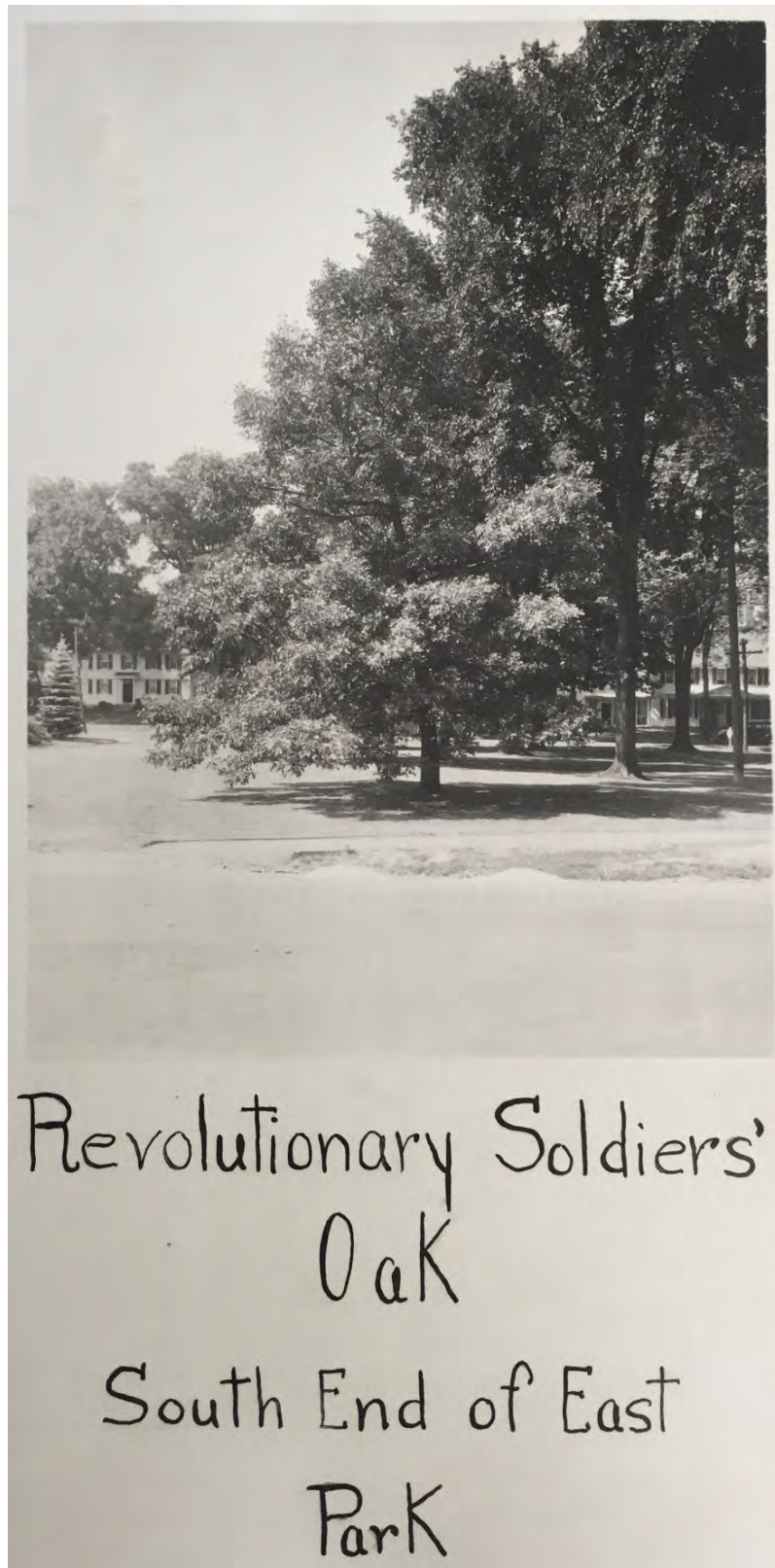


Figure 2.34 Labeled photograph of Revolutionary Soldiers' Oak, planted in 1902 and shown on the 1907 tree survey map and noted in the speech transcript. The tree currently in this location is known as the Oak of the Unknown Soldier (LG LHS 31-2-1Rev Soldiers south end Oak EastG 1907)



Figure 2.35 Left, on axis view of street and Center Park. (LG LHS 31-1-1 Pano Cgr view north c1918 HL62)

Figure 2.36 Right, circa 1918 panoramic view of the Center Green looking northeast, shows a new monument in the southwest corner. (LG LHS 31-1-1 Pano 2 Cgr view nor-east c1918 HL65)



Figure 2.37 This 1919 image of uniformed soldiers and local officials may depict a memorial tree planting in commemoration of the First World War. (LG LHS GP ODonnell WW1 Tree planting c1919)



Figure 2.38 The 1920 Litchfield bicentennial celebration on Center Green shows the antique stone trough in front of the First World War monument with flagpole, shrubs and a few large trees. (LG-LHS-3A-7 Parade CenterG 2 Aug2 1920 bicentennial)



Figure 2.39 Parade watchers gather along the curb of the West Green, shaded by tall trees with flags strung between the trunks. (LG-LHS-3A-7 Parade WestG Aug2 1920 bicentennial)



Figure 2.40 Detail of the Litchfield Green from a 1934 Aerial photograph shows that both the East and West Greens are tree covered at this date while the Center Green included about 10 deciduous and evergreen trees and some smaller scale plantings. (LG-HA- Litchfield-Green 1934 aerial detail)

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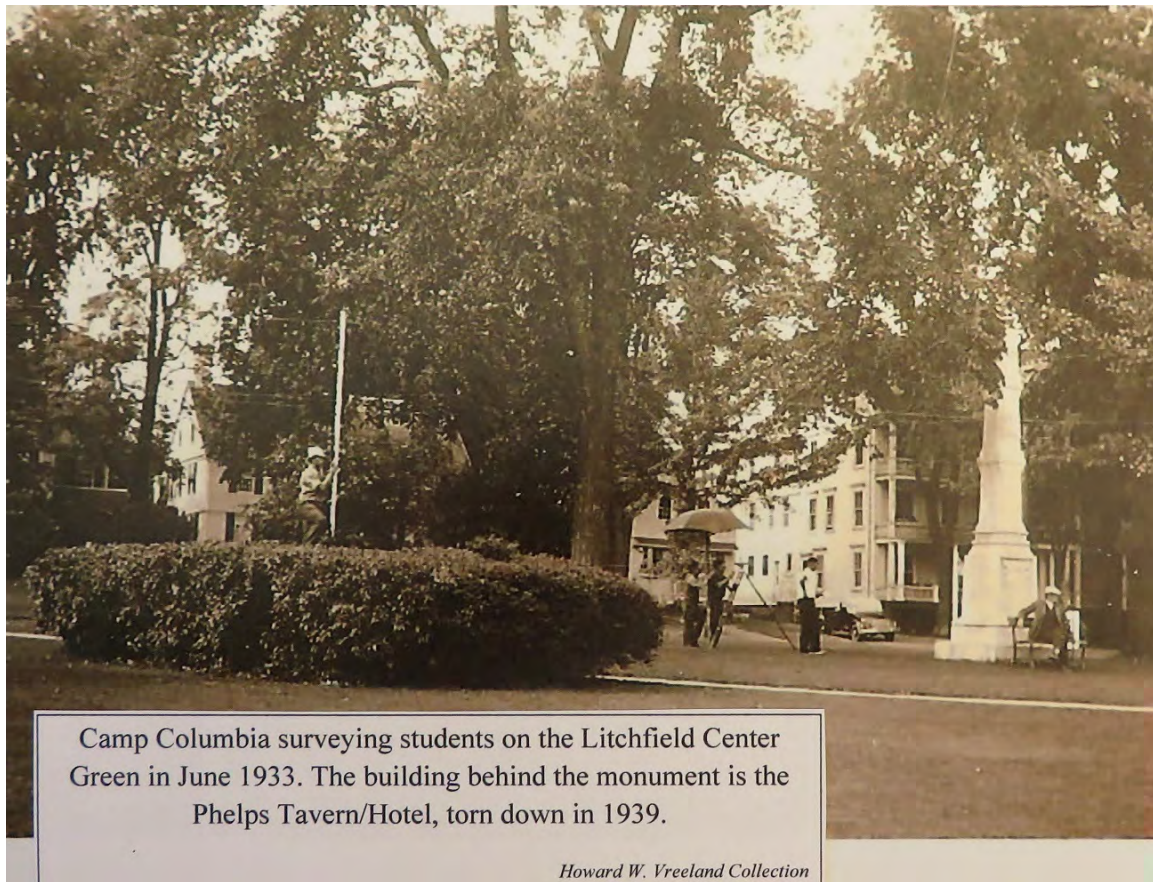


Figure 2.41 Image records to use of survey instruments on the Center Green by Camp Columbia participants. (LG-LHS-Camp Columbia June 1933 HL387)



Figure 2.42 A 1942 ice storm devastated trees throughout Litchfield. (LG LHS LC Weir Ice Storm 1942 HL21a)



Figure 2.43 A small building was apparently added to sell war bonds and stamps, as noted on the building. (LG LHS 31-3 Switzer WW2 Little House c1942 HL17)



Figure 2.44 1955 aerial photograph captures the landscape without leaves on the trees with long shadows showing overlapping tree trunks and canopies. The East Green and the West Green show trees are scattered throughout. The Center Green depicts four conical evergreens and only two deciduous trees at this date. (LG-HA- Litchfield-Green 1955 aerial detail)



Figure 2.45 The sunlit Center Green is seen in this 1981 view with a large gingko tree to the right. (LG LHS 31-3 CenterG c1981 HL92)



Figure 2.46 This 1991 aerial image indicates tree losses with less canopy coverage of both East and West green, particularly an open center to the east. The Center Green appears to show only four large trees although smaller ones may be present. (LG-GE-Litchfield Green 1991 aerial detail)



Figure 2.47 1997 aerial view shows the moderately full tree canopy of the West Green with some fall color, an open Center Green and the west end of the East Green with tree canopy and lawn, also showing some fall color. The public parking lot to the south is also visible. (LG LHS 30-5 Aerial color 1997 HL24)



3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

A. Introduction to the 2020 Landscape

The Litchfield Green landscape of today includes three areas: East Green, Center Green and West Green. A village setting of commercial, institutional and residential land uses frame these public open spaces, oriented generally east to west. Parking adjacent to the southwest side of the Green serves the commercial area.

This narrative employs contemporary and historic images to illustrate the character and features of the historic Green today. The planning work recognizes that the Green is an important contributing element of the Litchfield Historic District, a National Historic Landmark listed in 1968. In presenting the current landscape of the Green, federal guidance on historic landscape character-defining features (CDFs) is applied. These CDFs, used to organize the presentation of the existing landscape, include:

- Land use and spatial and visual organization
- Topography and drainage
- Vegetation of all types
- Circulation systems, such as sidewalks and roads
- Non-habitable structures
- Objects, such as monuments
- Small-scale furnishings, such as benches and signage

Field reconnaissance identified the landscape character and features of the Green in 2019. This fieldwork included all the elements present: trees, turf, paths, adjacent roads and parking, curbs, monuments, signs, lights and more. Tree identification noted genus, species, size and visual health. A base plan, prepared by Hrica Associates, LLC in an AutoCAD digital platform, served as the starting point for mapping the 2020 landscape. Using the fieldwork findings, this mapping was updated to include the annotated features resulting in the 2020 landscape base plan. This 2020 base plan was employed to develop four different plans as graphics that accompany this report:

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- L1 Responsibilities Plan
- L2 2020 Landscape
- L3 2020 Trees Plan
- L4 2020 Small Features Plan

These four plans depicting the current status are included as 11" x 17" fold-out drawings at the end of this chapter.

B. Land Use, Spatial and Visual Organization

Litchfield Green land use is a public landscape, a common ground providing a shared landscape at the center of the Borough. Varied uses are observed: walking within, moving through, sitting, viewing from nearby sidewalks, enjoying the scenic view when passing in a vehicle, and programmed community and commemoration activities.

Jurisdiction over the Greens, adjacent streets and sidewalks is split between the Borough of Litchfield, Town of Litchfield and State of Connecticut. **L1 Responsibilities Plan** illustrates the geographic areas of influence for each entity. The three landscape panels of the East, Center and West Greens are managed by the Borough of Litchfield. The surrounding and intersecting streets are under control of the Town of Litchfield and State of Connecticut. Due to these adjacent responsibilities some collaboration may be required to improve harmony, safety and usefulness of Litchfield Green. While the colors indicate the day-to-day responsibilities, this plan also shows the property boundaries which are irregular as they demarcate right-of-way and authority along Connecticut state highway routes.

The three areas of the Litchfield Green measure about 1,360 lineal feet from east to west including the intervening streets, dimensions of each area measured east to west are: East Green at 510 feet in length; Center Green at 176 feet at its widest point; and West Green at 590 lineal feet, including the island at the west tip. These three areas are clearly defined by the surrounding public streets. Crossing public streets align to east and west sides of the Center Green, and another street separates the triangular island at the tip of the West Green from the larger area of the adjacent greenspace (Figure 3.1).

Views are generally open throughout with few large obstacles at eye level. While standing in the Center Green, the topography allows a person to see to the ends of the East and West Greens; however, the arch of the groundplane does not allow the entire landscape to be visible from the east or west ends. The views through these landscapes are largely uninhibited, with the obelisk of the war memorial, a small building, tree trunks and a few trees carrying foliage low to the ground as the only elements screening views across the landscape. From within the three parts of the Litchfield Green, views extend outward across the surrounding streets to the adjacent frontage. To the southwest, an adjacent wide sidewalk with no lining trees permit a clear view to the dense group of

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

storefronts (Figure 3.2). To the north and east, street fronts include some street trees beyond the sidewalk. Land uses include the former jail, now a restaurant, the Litchfield Historical Society building, First Congregational Church and various commercial and residential properties.

C. Topography and Drainage

The Center Green reaches an elevation of 1,088 feet above sea level making it the highest point in the center of the Borough. The East Green drops 16 feet to an elevation of 1,072 feet and the West Green drops 24 feet to an elevation of 1,064 feet. The result is a convex vertical curve, with a high midpoint, that is characteristic of the hill and valley topography in the region. East Street Route 202, West Street Route 202, West Street and East Street Route 118 frame the Green. The Center Green generally serves as the intersection of these four regional roadways and forms a nearly level platform with grades dropping to both sides.

Each of the three areas express cross slopes, with higher ground to the north and lower ground to the south. East Green, the largest of the three panels at 1.83 acres, has dramatic topography. At the north edge, the ground slopes 18–20% down from the East Street Route 202 edge to a concave bowl shape that collects uphill storm water, including street water, from East Street Route 202, which runs overland as there is no curb along the northern edge of the East Green (Figures 3.3 to 3.5). These flows cause water to collect in the lower bowl area. The observed ponding appears to be caused by a hardpan or non-infiltrating subsurface soil layers. This surficial geology means that stormwater remains on the surface for extended periods of time. Another concave area collects and contains surface flows from the west portion of the East Green, also surrounded by a ground plane at higher elevations. The recently reconstructed path, elevated to form a ridgeline, defines the edge of this topographic bowl (Figure 3.6). The single storm water inlet along East Street Route 118 is at a low point, deeply set into a short curb line. This subsurface drain collects surface runoff from landscape and road pavements.

Center Green, covering 0.60 acres, is visually level with a modest change of grade, and has no obvious drainage issues other than areas of foot traffic compaction on turf and soils, which slows infiltration after precipitation. West Green, at 1.54 acres slopes to the southwest and displays an elevated shoulder along West Street Route 202. The sidewalk crossing West Green drops in grade north to south. In rainstorms, some ponding may occur on West Green, although surface water generally infiltrates and does not remain in ponding areas.

D. Vegetation

Trees are the visually dominant vegetation on Litchfield Green. Existing trees are more numerous on the East and West Greens, in contrast with limited tree canopy and more sunlight on the Center Green. Heritage Landscapes identified, measured and observed the trees present today. **L2 2020 Landscape Plan** and **L3 2020 Tree Plan** serve as graphic references for the existing trees. Codes

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

are shown on each tree of the plan and in the charts below. The first two letters are the code for the botanical name of the tree. The numbers, either two or one digit, indicate the diameter at breast height (DBH) in inches, measured 4 feet off the ground during the summer of 2019. In Litchfield's climate, deciduous trees over 30 inches in diameter are generally about 100 years old, with variations by species, soil quality and adjacent obstacles. The letter code A to E indicates the visual health of the canopy:

- A Good – full crown and vigorous growth, no immediate care needed
- B Fair – minor problems apparent, small dead wood to remove
- C Poor – major problems, large deadwood 3-4" diameter to remove, monitor
- D Failing – major dieback of crown, near dead or severe decline, potential hazard, monitor
- E Dead – standing hazard to remove, stump, or depression in the ground marking a lost tree

The next digit delineates visual trunk health. A "1" digit indicates no visible damage and a "2" indicates obvious trunk damage. Visible trunk damage at the Green includes wrapped roots that girdle trunks and constrict growth and vigor, extensive woodpecker holes, mower damage, one case of car collision damage and a few young trees whose growth is inhibited from planting at excessive depths.

The final letter in the tree code refers to the available area for root growth. Areas surrounding the trees that are open providing unrestricted root growth are coded "U" for unrestricted root zone. The letter "R" indicates a root zone restricted by paths, curbs, streets or other features that impinge on a full surround of soil for root growth. The following inventory lists 2020 trees by area from East to Center to West Greens:

East Green Trees List, large to small caliper (DBH)

#	Code	Botanical Name	Common Name	DBH	Cond
1	Qr48B1U	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	48	B
2	stump	unknown		36	E
3	Qa36C1U	<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	36	C
4	Qp36B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	36	B
5	Us36B2R	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	36	B
6	Qm30B1U	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	burr oak	30	B
7	Qp30C1R	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	30	C
8	stump	unknown		25	E
9	Ap22C1U	<i>Acer platanooides</i>	Norway maple	22	C
10	Qs20B1U	<i>Quercus species</i>	oak	20	B
11	Zs20D1U	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> (Fig 3.5)	Japanese zelkova	20	D
12	Qr20B1U	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	20	B
13	Qp20B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	20	B
14	Ar20B2U	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	20	B
15	Qp20B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	20	B
16	Qp18B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	18	B

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17	Us18C1U	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	18	C
18	Qr18C1R	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	18	C
19	Qp18B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	18	B
20	Ar18B2U	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	18	B
21	stump	unknown		16	E
22	Qb16C2U	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	16	C
23	Qp14C2U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	14	C
24	Ar14C1U	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	14	C
25	Qp14B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	14	B
26	Zs12A2U	<i>Zelkova serrata</i>	Japanese zelkova	12	A
27	Us12C2U	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	12	C
28	Ls10A1R	<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	sweet gum	10	A
29	Qb10A1U	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	10	A
30	Fs6A2U	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European beech	6	A
31	Us5B1U	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	5	B
32	Us3B1UM	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	3	C
33	Us2C1UD	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	2	C
34	Fs2C1UD	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European beech	2	C
35	depression	unknown		0	E
36	stump	unknown		0	E

There are 31 deciduous shade trees, four stumps and one depression on the East Green (Figure 3.7 to 3.9). Trees range in size from 48-inch diameter to two-inch diameter for a recently planted tree. The fourth tree on the list, a 36-inch diameter white oak (*Quercus alba*), is the Constitution Oak, a memorial tree (Figure 3.10). The East Green also hosts the Oak of the Unknown Soldier, a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) possibly planted as the Revolutionary Soldiers Oak on Arbor Day 1902 (Figure 3.11). Six trees display mechanical damage from mowing. Two show girdling and two young two-inch trees that are planted too deep.

Center Green Trees, large to small caliper (DBH)

#	Code	Botanical Name	Common Name	DBH	Cond
1	Gb36B1U	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	ginkgo	36	B
2	Gb30C1R	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	ginkgo	30	C
3	Qa20B1R	<i>Quercus alba</i>	red oak	20	B
4	Qa18A1U	<i>Quercus alba</i>	white oak	18	A
5	Pa16B1U	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	16	D
6	Qb16B1U	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	16	B
7	Qr14A1U	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	14	A
8	Pa12A1U	<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	12	A
9	Qb10A1U	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	10	A

Nine trees are located on Center Green including two spruce trees, the only evergreen trees on the Green. Five trees are oaks and the remaining two are ginkgo, one of which is showing decline with a C condition (Figure 3.12). The larger spruce tree incurred major trunk damage when struck by a car, is hazardous and should be removed. The remaining trees are ranked by condition as observed.

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West Green Trees, large to small caliper (DBH)

#	Code	Botanical Name	Common Name	DBH	Cond
1	Qp46B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	46	B
2	Qp44B1U	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	pin oak	44	B
3	As32B1U	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	32	B
4	Ap30C1U	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	30	C
5	As30B1U	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	30	B
6	Ap22D1U	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	22	D
7	Ap22C1U	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	22	C
8	Us20A1U	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	20	A
9	Ap20A1UG	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	20	A
10	Ar18C1U	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	18	C
11	Us18A1U	<i>Ulmus species</i>	elm	18	A
12	Ap18A1U	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	18	A
13	Fs16B1U	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European beech	16	B
14	Qr14A1U	<i>Quercus rubra</i>	red oak	14	A
15	Ap12A1U	<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	12	A
16	Qb12B1UM	<i>Quercus bicolor</i>	swamp white oak	12	B
17	As12A1UG	<i>Acer saccharum</i>	sugar maple	12	A
18	Tc10A1UGD	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	littleleaf Linden	10	A
19	Ar10A1UG	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	10	A
20	Ar10A1U	<i>Acer rubrum</i>	red maple	10	A
21	Cb8B1U	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Fastigiata'	European hornbeam	8	B
22	Fg6B1U	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	American beech	6	B
23	Upa4C1U	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese elm	4	C
	depression	unknown		0	E
	stump	unknown		0	E

While the West Green holds 23 trees, the landscape character is generally open, with large areas of sun-filled lawn (Figure 3.13 to 3.15). The observed condition of trees on West Green ranges from a to E while caliper inch diameter sizes range from 44 inches, which indicates a tree of well over 100 years, to four inches for a recently planted tree.

These tree charts serve as an effective summary of the tall deciduous tree shade canopy and a few evergreen trees present on Litchfield Green today. The code used to identify the tree conditions provide an overview of tree health. As indicated in this table:

Conditional Assessment of Litchfield Green Trees

Condition	East Green	Center Green	West Green	Subtotals
A excellent	4	4	10	18
B minor work	14	3	8	26
C major work, hazard	12	1	4	17
D/E hazard, demise	6	1	3	9
TOTALS	36	9	25	70

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

This visual ranking does not substitute for a condition review by a certified arborist; however, the assessment does indicate that tree work is needed. The 17 category C trees exhibit significant decline and have large deadwood to remove, while the 9 category D and E coded trees indicate potential hazards for standing trees and stump removal or soil fill needed to address depressions and remaining stumps. This summary and the **L3 2020 Trees Plan** also indicate less density on both East and West Greens. Obvious canopy openings are noted today where tree canopy was historically denser and more continuous, as recorded on earlier aerial photographs. Locals remarked that recent storms had caused considerable tree damage and removals, leaving the Green with fewer trees.

There are also small amounts of shrubs, perennials and annuals present, with mixed plantings in medians. The Litchfield Garden Club has carried out projects to add plantings to medians and intersections. An annual Christmas Tree lighting celebration on the Center Green is an important, seasonal community event. Currently two evergreen trees are present on Center Green although one is coded as D condition and should be removed.

E. Circulation Systems: Paths, Streets, Parking, Crosswalks

At the core of the business center, the three individual panels of Historic Litchfield Green sit within the intersection of three regional roadways: US Route 202, CT Route 118 and CT Route 63. Meadow Street defines the end of the West Green landscape separating it from the small turf island with a single tree to the west (Figure 3.16). This small green panel, while state-owned, is perceived as part of the Litchfield Green and is managed by the Borough.

The state routes as owned and managed by the State of Connecticut have to meet federal guidance; their utilitarian and bland appearance is a combination of regulations and dictated construction materials and methods. The Borough-owned roads which intermingle with the state routes bring slightly different materials and character that aid to meld with the state roadways yet fail to fully achieve an overall unified appearance. This lack of general cohesiveness is also affected by roadway alignments their shaping of the three panels of the Green. The perimeter of the Green responds to the irregularities in the horizontal and vertical alignments, width of travel lanes and shoulders and turning radii. Irregularities across each of these vectors result in breaks in the visual connectivity of the Green's perimeter from one panel to another. For example, there is a strained effort to maintain a consistency of curb use and materials (Figures 3.17 to 3.19). The Borough recently installed granite curbing on the south edge of the Center and West Greens to meet the state-installed asphalt curb along North and South Streets. In other areas, the Green's edges have broken sections of concrete curb, lengths with no curb, and curbs that are being driven behind for assumed ad-hoc parking. The geometry and shape of the green panels are the result of these various elements and are inconsistent when viewed as a whole. Adding to the visual disparity, variations in additional roadway landscape elements include the raised planted traffic islands on South Street and the flush curb central brick median on West Street (Figures 3.20 and 3.21).

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

West Street, south of the West Green, accommodates parking along both sides (Figure 3.22). The nose-in angled parking spaces along this segment accommodate approximately 94 vehicles. This road length includes painted parking spaces, crosswalks and areas to remain clear of stationary vehicles. North and South Streets to either side of the Center Green are lined for parallel parking with about 10 overall spaces (Figure 3.23). Further south by the Methodist Church west of Meadow Street, nose-in parking spaces for 26 cars brings the total parking count to approximately 130 (Figure 3.16). This figure does not include parking along South Street, the informal use of West Street Route 118 nor opposite the West Green against the former jail. As a note, there are approximately 58 parking spaces in the lightly used municipal lot south of the retail buildings.

Crosswalks are marked with white paint on the asphalt road surface. Several of these crosswalks are quite long. Marked crossings connect each of the accessible sidewalk aprons on the Green to the sidewalk opposite the street (Figures 3.24 and 3.25). A painted crossing to a West Green path apron leads into the turf (Figure 3.26). An atypical and variable painted surface along Meadow Street attempts to indicate safe crossing where a sidewalk is not present (Figure 3.27).

Amidst all the complex, converging traffic flow patterns, the visual distractions of extensive prominent crosswalks, the asphalt street paving frames the Green. Interestingly, the lack of a center lane marker on West Street between Meadow and South Streets creates a large expanse of asphalt. Removing a center roadway stripe is a known traffic-calming device as this open surface results in more cautious movements of both vehicle and pedestrians (Figure 3.22).

There are surprisingly few pedestrian paths on the Green. Where located, they address a direct north-south movement across the Green as with the two path segments crossing the East and West Greens (Figures 3.6 and 3.28). Neither of these spaces has a paved path to the interior of the Green nor a paved path at the landscape perimeter. In both the East and West Greens, two path segments have been removed along with the coinciding pedestrian crossing of Route 202. The paths on Center Green function in the similar practical function to cross from the center of the south edge to either corner on the north (Figure 3.29). A short path section crossing from the west leg path on the Center Green utilizing a mid-block crosswalk across North Street to the visitor information center on West Green is a modest deviation from this pattern (Figure 3.30). With the exception of the stone path connecting to the information center, paths are paved in brick unit paving and provide a consistent appearance between the three lawn panels (Figure 3.31).

There is an apparent attempt to maintain overall consistency between paving on the Green with that of the business and retail frontage sidewalk to the south where granite curb and brick pavers are used from South Street to Meadow Street. Deviations from these materials occur in two locations: the municipal parking lot where a larger yellow paver is bound by flush granite curbing and West of Meadow Street where asphalt is stamped and colored to look like brick (Figures 3.32 and 3.33). Paths opposite the Green to the north are a variety of materials with concrete and asphalt being the most common.

F. Buildings and Non-Habitable Structures

A small frame building, called the Visitor Center, is located about midway along the path between West Street and West Street Route 202 on axis with the crosswalk between Center and West Greens (Figure 3.34). The eight-foot square small structure is constructed in white clapboard with cedar shingle roof. Although similar, this structure is not the US Bonds Sales office constructed during the Second World War. The small building houses printed maps and information about Connecticut historic sites, trails and events. Limited staffing in the Visitor Center favors times of high visitation and volunteer availability.

G. Monuments and Objects

The Litchfield Green holds a variety of memorial plaques, monuments and other features for remembrance and commemoration. **L4 2020 Small Features Plan** identifies and locates monuments and objects in the 2020 landscape. The plan illustrates the presence of small features on each of the three park areas with the largest concentration on the Center Green, including the most prominent monuments for our nation's wartime efforts (Figures 3.35 to 3.43). Other memorials include the Beecher Stowe monument on the East Green which marks the location of the former church structure and commemorates the family members for their contributions to society (Figure 3.44). In addition to these features, other memorial plaques identify individuals who have made contributions to the Village of Litchfield over the decades. These include the bronze plaques on concrete stanchions that mark noted trees such as the Constitution Oak, the plaque with scantily visible words memorializing the Unknown Soldier at the base of a white oak, and many others (Figures 3.45 to 3.51). While generally smaller, these markers vary in size and materials and are variably installed flush with the grade or sited several inches above the turf. The flagpole and 1845 cast Civil War cannon are important memorials placed prominently on the Center Green. Also, in this location lies buried a time capsule scheduled for opening in 2061 upon the return of Halley's Comet. The list below of monuments and plaques on Litchfield Green are coded by location as "e" for East, "c" for Center and "w" for West.

Remembrances and Commemoration (7)

- Recruiting Tent 29th Conn. US Infantry August 18, 1862 (c)
- Litchfield Historic District 1968 Registered National Historic Landmark (c)
- Time Capsule 1980 Halley's Comet 2061 (c)
- Civil War Cannon (c)
- Lyman Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher Stowe (e)
- Survey bench marker (e)
- Water Trough WLS to commemorate the introduction of water October 1800 (w)

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

War Memorials (7)

- Civil War Obelisk date (c)
- World War 1917-1919 (c)
- World War II 1941-1947 (c)
- Korean War 1950-1955 (c)
- Vietnam War 1964-1975 (c)
- War on Terrorism (c)
- Flagpole Litchfield Lions Club in Memory of all Veterans of All Wars 1986 (c)

Named Trees of Note (4)

- Battle of Manila Bay 1893 Calvocoresses Oak 1908 (e)
- Constitution Oak (e)
- Unknown Solider (e)
- Sign Post Elm (Litchfield Historical Society street front)

Individual Tree or Garden Memorials (9)

- Philip George Walker (e)
- Helen Temkina Mack (e)
- Marker unlabeled (e)
- Dee Dee Traur (w)
- In Memory of Mark Silver Bayless, He Loved the Green (w)
- William G. Mille (w)
- Carl F. Milde (w)
- Borough Warden Oswald w Marrin 1967-1976
- In Memory of Jean M. Fitzgerald Dedicated 2017 (traffic median)

Selection and placement of these monuments over the years follows no consistent guidance, appearing instead to rely on decisions at the time. The war memorials, while all positioned on the Center Green, have little association with each other. The practice of marking memorial trees appears to have increased in recent years. The small tree markers in stone or concrete are generally above ground level by a few inches. They impede mowing and may last beyond the life of the tree they are intended to commemorate. The overall result is a scattered collection of elements with limited interrelationship or structure within the landscape. This is particularly apparent on the Center Green where the individual or grouped location of the memorials fail to harmonize within the landscape and compete with each other for attention. This visual competition can diminish the value of each monument.

Site furnishings include light fixtures and benches that contribute to landscape character in location, design, materials, details, color and function. Often thought of as permanent, these elements can be temporary, changing over time as evolution of this public space proceeds. The Litchfield Green, a National Historic Landmark at the core of the New England tradition, has variations in lighting and furnishings style from Colonial, Victorian, Colonial Revival and

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

contemporary eras. Historic views show relatively low gas lights and simple wood settees. Electricity brought in overhead power lines visible above the Green in 2020. Lighting of the Green is relatively limited. Colonial Revival-style fixtures are located in the interior along the remaining brick paths and in locations where the paths have been removed. These lights match the fixtures used along the retail and business store frontage to the south (Figure 3.52). The lights are owned and operated by the Village Borough. The taller, Victorian-style light fixtures owned by Eversource provide lighting for parking along the Greens' south edges (Figure 3.53). Opposite, along East Street Route 202, West Street Route 202 and the East Street Route 118, cobra head-style street lights affixed to wood utility poles are concentrated at intersections where illumination is desired for vehicular use (Figure 3.54). None of the three light types appear to be designed for Dark Skies compliance- an initiative to direct all landscape lighting toward the ground and limit light pollution.

Variation is also evident in the three bench styles used on the Green (Figures 3.55 to 3.57). Bench style A is the classic 6-foot-long Windermere teakwood bench. Bench B is a wood slat bench seat and back on an iron end frame with armrest in a Victorian style, fabricated and sold by DuMor, with a higher level of detail. Bench C is a simple bench with a contemporary look consisting of wood slats and iron frame ending in an armrest. In all, there are eight benches, placed in the landscape on lawn surfaces, three on West Green and five on Center Green, providing roughly two benches per acre of landscape.

Overhead traffic signals are suspended between tall wood utility poles and steel support stanchions painted green, often in combination with lower crosswalk signal posts (Figure 3.54). While these elements may appear large, current new traffic signals use a cantilever arm, requiring a larger diameter support post and foundation. Traffic signal locations and details are required to meet state design standards.

Perimeter regulatory signage, for no parking, speed limit and state route marking also conform to Connecticut regulations. A multitude of these regulatory signs for route identification, speed limits, crosswalks, turning lanes and yield signs concentrate around the Green. Their positions are assigned in regulated locations for speeds and roadways standards. Atop of the signage posts, locational signs direct drivers to nearby towns and hamlets. Often overlooked as part of the landscape background, these signs exhibit an inconsistent appearance and contribute to visual clutter.

Not seen in other greens throughout New England, a unique element of Litchfield Green is the bullhorn tower that sounds to mark 12:00 noon each day (Figure 3.58). The horn is nestled in the upper canopy of the adjacent trees and above typical pedestrian and vehicular views. The utility lines along the north perimeter at Route 202 and the light capacity electrical service crossing these landscapes are obvious and intrusive. They cannot be readily obscured in the tree canopy as branches have been cleared for 15 feet on both sides of the wires to limit storm damage.

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

A single drinking water fountain is located along the Center Green path (Figure 3.59). There are no public restrooms within the Green; however, these facilities are available near the parking lot south of retail office buildings. In 2020, no trash receptacles, bicycle racks, tables or other small-scale furnishings occur within the three parks of the Green.

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape

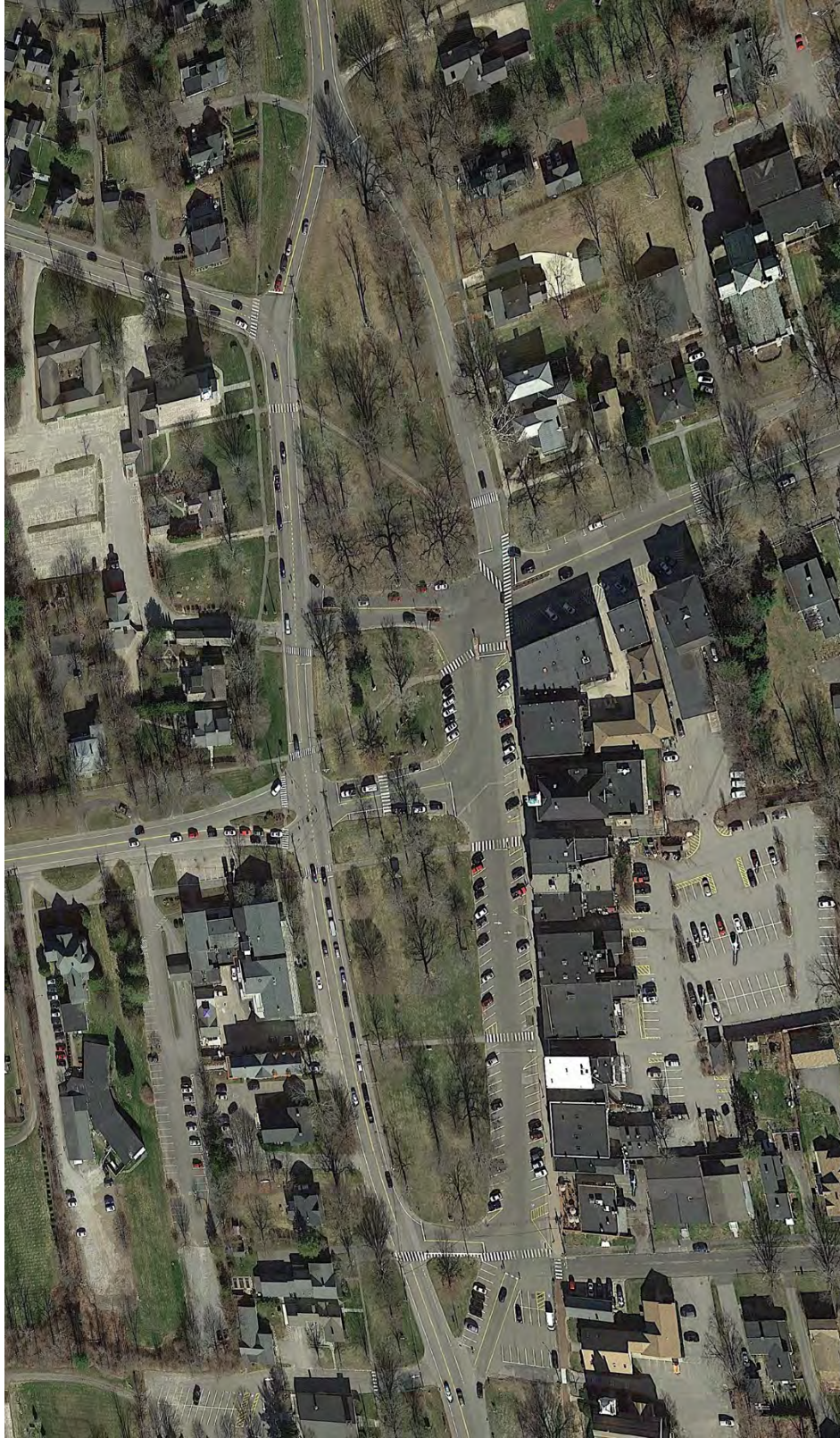


Figure 3.1 The land use of the Litchfield Green and surrounds are visible in this 2018 aerial photograph. The tree canopy and open sunlit spaces are readily apparent making views throughout the landscape available to visitors. Note north is oriented to the left. (LG-2018-Google Earth)

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.2 A small number of landscape elements screen the view from the West Green to the storefronts to the south. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (27))



Figure 3.3 The topography and drainage of the East Green are revealed in this view of the slope and hollow toward the center of the landscape. Standing water in this area relates to the loss of trees. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (247))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.4 Stormwater drainage flows into the East Green off the edge of East Street Route 202. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (255))



Figure 3.5 This view of East Green looking south shows areas in shade under tree canopy and sunny open areas where trees have been lost due to poor drainage. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (34))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.6 View of the new unit paver path on East Green depicts the path along a highpoint with grades dropping to both sides. The path is aligned to efficiently connect the east side of South Street to the north side of East Street Route 202. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (234))



Figure 3.7 A zelkova tree near power lines branches too low to replace shade canopy and impedes pedestrian-level views. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (223))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.8 A purple leaf columnar beech tree has an incongruous form and color compared to the surrounding high branching canopy trees on the East Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (235))



Figure 3.9 A disease resistant young American elm tree on East Green appears weak and is noted by local residents as not growing well in recent years. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (276))



Figure 3.10 The grand Constitution Oak, a white oak, remains in place. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (71))



Figure 3.11 The Oak of the Unknown Soldier, a pin oak, is a significant memorial tree on the East Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (71))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.12 One large, poor condition gingko tree highlights the relatively open ground plane of the Center Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (151))



Figure 3.13 The presence of only a few large trees provides for an open sky above the West Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (318))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.14 This view to the east illustrates the open lawn character of the West Green.
(LG HL 9Aug2019 (375))



Figure 3.15 The West Green displays an open sunny lawn without large centrally placed trees.
(LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (29))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.16 Meadow Street separates the triangle landscape island from the larger turf panel of the West Green. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (36))



Figure 3.17 A section of streets around the Litchfield Green lack a curb and exhibit a deteriorated edge. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (218))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.18 A segment of broken and missing concrete curb on South Street. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (221))



Figure 3.19 Along the edge of Route 202, scouring, compaction and lack of a curb are visible. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (254))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.20 The planted median of South Street Route 63 adds low green foliage separating vehicular directional flows. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (179))



Figure 3.21 Narrow brick-paved median at West Street adds a safe pedestrian space in the middle of a long crosswalk, and as a place to position the pedestrian courtesy sign. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (502))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.22 Nose-in parking on both sides of West Street provides parking for the Green and businesses. The wide street along the commercial frontage has open asphalt without a center line, a traffic calming technique that slows drivers due to uncertainty. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (323))



Figure 3.23 Parallel parking on North Street, in the midground of this view, provides parking for the Green. Parking on the south side of Center Green adds a row of cars that block views to the landscape. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (610))



Figure 3.24 A wide crosswalk spans East Street to access East Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (711))



Figure 3.25 A painted crosswalk across West Street connects the Litchfield commercial area with Center Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (212))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.26 Painted crosswalk crosses West Street and connects the commercial frontage to the West Green; however, the accessible curb ends in turf for a potentially future path alignment to be determined. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (321))



Figure 3.27 An irregular crosswalk and street edge adaptation along Meadow Street present the impression of a safe pedestrian space. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (627))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.28 The linear brick path crosses the West Green for direct movement between sidewalks along adjacent streets. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (18))



Figure 3.29 The accessible apron at the middle of the Center Green south edge leads to the “Y” shaped unit paver path. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (217))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.30 A paver path and crosswalk connects the Center and West Greens. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (53))



Figure 3.31 This image shows the section of stone path leading to the small Visitor Center booth as a different paving material than the path beside it. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (403))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.32 This paving material change at parking lot drive entry signals the vehicular movement and serves as a visual reminder to pedestrians. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (725))



Figure 3.33 Discontinuous painted asphalt, damaged accessible curb materials, a planter, overhead lines, signage, and a light pole indicate a patchwork of materials rather than a cohesive character to parts of the streetscape surrounding the Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (364))



Figure 3.34 The Visitor Information Booth located on the east perimeter of West Green is a small, structure that replaced an earlier, slightly larger building present in this location during the 1940s. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (401))



Figure 3.35 Aluminum flagpole donated by Litchfield Lions Club in Memory of All Veterans of All Wars June 18, 1986, is located on the Center Green. This is possibly the third flagpole on Center Green. Note also a cast iron post and luminaire that mimics an antique gas light. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (137))



Figure 3.36 This obelisk style monument engraved with the words “Pro Patria” is the main Civil War Memorial on the Green. It is located in Center Green, having been moved from an earlier location on the East Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (106)



Figure 3.37 A large boulder holds the Litchfield Historic District National Historic Landmark bronze plaque. The nomination dates to 1968, which is at the beginning of this federal preservation program. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (103))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.38 The cannon, forged in 1845, has occupied a place west of the Civil War Memorial since around 1890. A stack of cannon balls seen in historic photos are no longer present. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (533))



Figure 3.39 Located in the Center Green around 1920, the First World War 1917-1919 Memorial commemorates Litchfield residents who served in the war. Behind the monument, a row of other stone monuments, cannon, and obelisk create a loose cluster on a turf ground plane. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (120))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.40 Korean War 1950-1955 Memorial, with the names of Litchfield service members. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (129)



Figure 3.41 Vietnam War 1964-1975 Memorial, with bronze honor roll. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (131)



Figure 3.42 World War II Memorial 1941-1947, inscribed in bronze with honor roll of names. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (130))



Figure 3.43 The War on Terrorism Memorial, with honor roll inscriptions of Litchfield residents. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (132))



Figure 3.44 Placed on the west perimeter of East Green in 1908, the Lyman Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Henry Ward Beecher memorial is in a low visibility zone. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (13)



Figure 3.45 Stone marker for the site of the Recruiting Tent 29th Connecticut US Infantry August 18, 1862. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (54)



Figure 3.46 One of the earliest stone elements placed on the Litchfield Green is a carved watering trough for horses, erected by the WLS to commemorate the introduction of running water in October 1800. (HLGCRP-2019 Aug 14 (37))



Figure 3.47 Set above grade, this concrete marker with a bronze memorial tree plaque is dedicated to Borough Warden Oswald W. Marrin 1967-1976. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (105))



Figure 3.48 Marker “In Memory of Mark Silver Bayless He Loved the Green” bronze set at grade was installed after Bayless’ passing in 1986. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (42))



Figure 3.49 “In Memory of Jeanne M. FitzGerald Dedicated 2017” memorial marker flush with grade and framed by plantings. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (507))



Figure 3.50 Leaning Constitution Oak bronze plaque on a stone base. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (73))

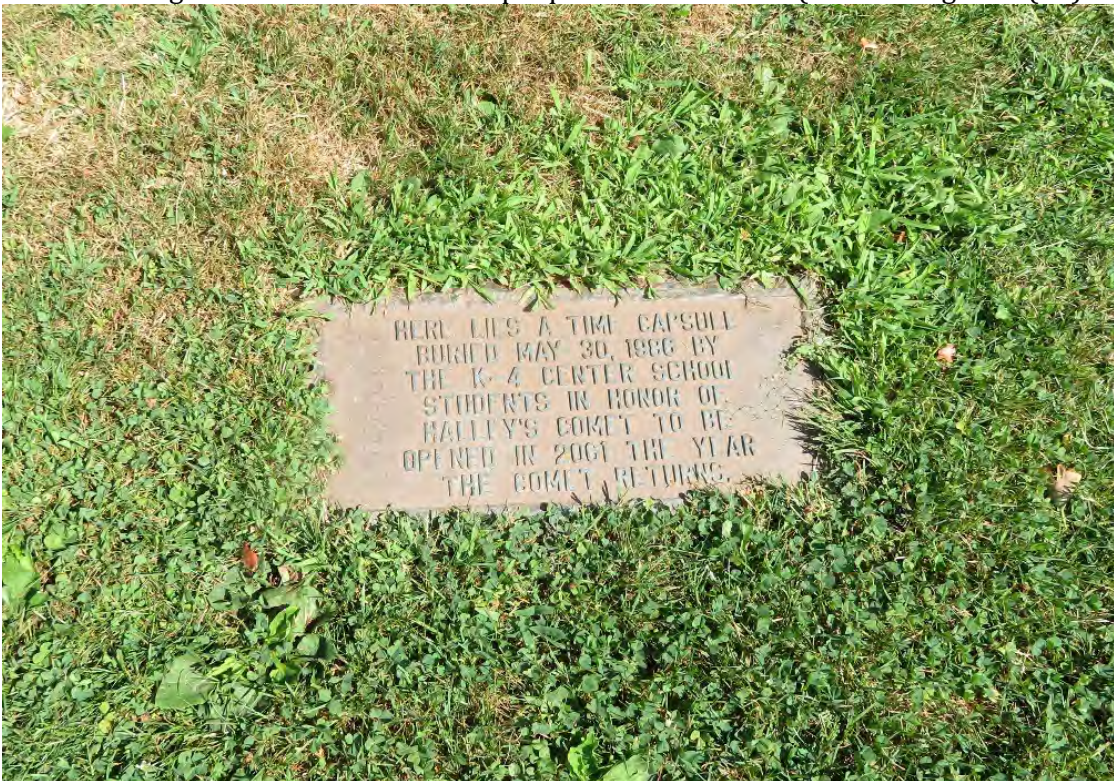


Figure 3.51 Marker for Time capsule buried May 30 1986... to be reopened 2061 the year the [Halley's] Comet returns". (LG HL 9Aug2019 (108))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.52 Colonial revival-style light fixture on the Center Green on a short pole that diffuses light outward and upward without light cut-off. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (138))



Figure 3.53 Victorian-style fixture on the south perimeter of Center Green. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (174))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.54 A Cobra head-style street light on wood utility posts along State Roadways. Also, a green metal support post for overhead utility lights and crosswalk push signal. Note the overhead electric supply wires on tall wood poles. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (436)



Figure 3.55 Three benches of two different styles placed together with turf underneath. (LG HL 9Aug2019 125)

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.56 This iron and wood slat bench, style B, placed on turf over exposed tree roots requires moving for mowing. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (392))



Figure 3.57 A newer iron and wood bench, style C, on the West Green is set on turf and requires moving for mowing. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (387))

3 Litchfield Green Existing Landscape



Figure 3.58 A tall bullhorn rises from the east edge of the West Green and sounds at noon each day. (LG-ECPhoto-HL-14Aug2019 (50))



Figure 3.59 A metal drinking fountain on the south side of Center Green has drinking water supply. There are limited water supply locations on the Green today. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (118))

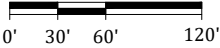
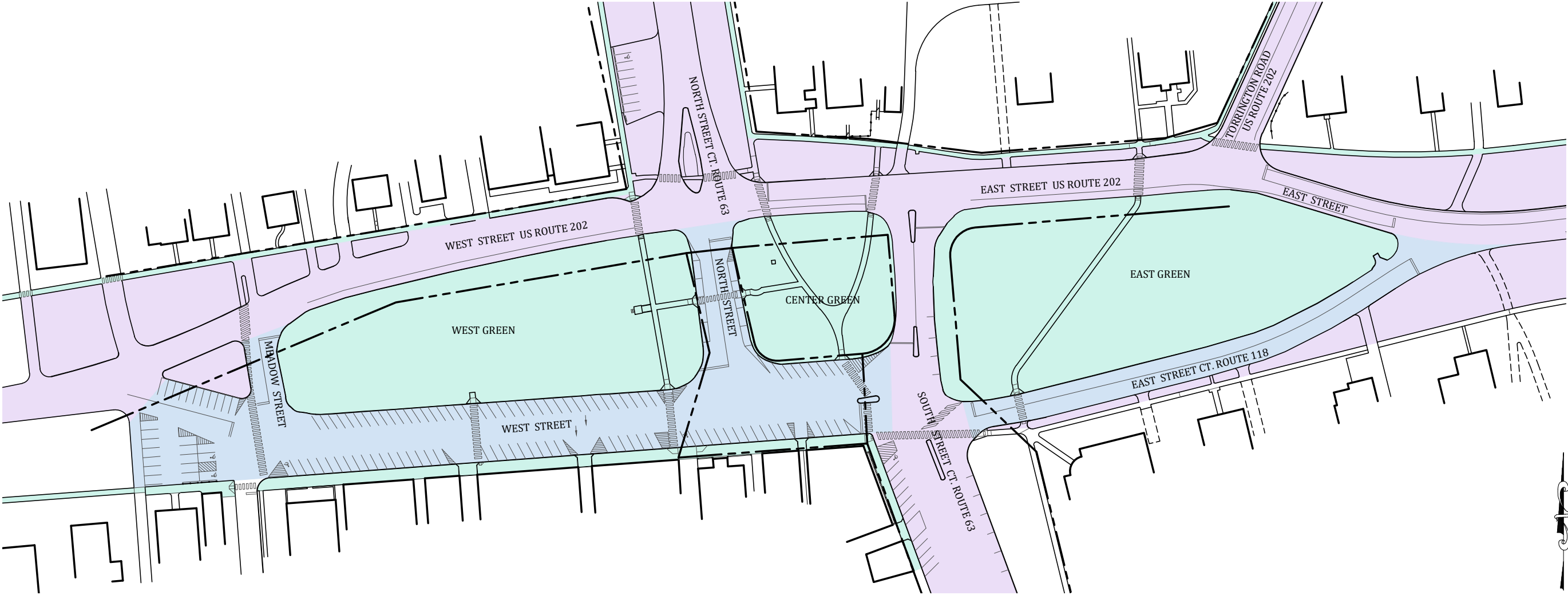
SYMBOL KEY

BOROUGH OF LITCHFIELD

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PROPERTY LINE



Historic Litchfield Green

Comprehensive Revitalization Plan

Litchfield, Connecticut

Client:
The Borough of Litchfield
28 Russell Street
Litchfield, CT 06759



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Architects & Planners
Charlotte, VT 802.425.4330
Norwalk, CT 203.852.9966

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Responsibilities Plan

Date:
December 2020

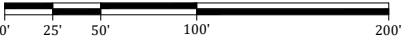
Drawing Number:

L1

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

- PLANTING
- TURF
- DECIDUOUS TREE
- EVERGREEN TREE
- ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- CONCRETE SIDEWALK
- UNIT PAVER/BRICK PATH
- 2 FOOT CONTOUR
- INFORMATION BOOTH
- MONUMENT
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE



Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork



Historic Litchfield Green
Comprehensive Revitalization Plan
Litchfield, Connecticut

Client:
The Borough of
Litchfield
28 Russell Street
Litchfield, CT 06759









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Drawing Title:
2020
Landscape
Plan
Date:
December 2020
Drawing Number:
L2

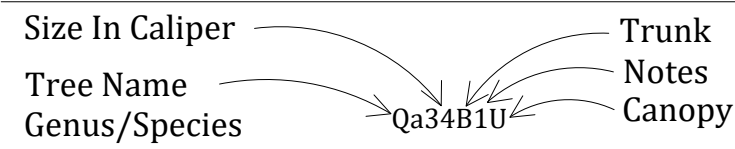
Deciduous Trees

	DBH	Canopy Diameter
	Under 4"	10'
	4-8"	20'
	9-16"	30'
	17-24"	40'
	25-31"	50'
	32" And Up	60'

Coniferous Trees

	DBH	Canopy Diameter
	8-16"	16'

Tree Species Condition Assessment Key



Canopy

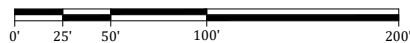
- A Good: Full Crown, Vigorous Growth, No Immediate Care Required
- B Fair: Minor Problems, Maximum Of 2" Deadwood, Minor Pruning
- C Poor: Major Problems, Deadwood Of 3-4" & Limited Major Pruning, Monitor For Hazard, Possible Removal
- D Failing: Major Dieback In Crown, Near Dead Or Standing
- E Dead, Hazard To Be Removed Dead: Stump Or Depression

Root Zone - Other Notes

- R Restricted Roots: Enclosed Within 8-10 Feet On One Or More Sides
- U Unrestricted Roots: Open
- D Planted Deep
- G Girdled
- M Mower Damage / Base Damage

Trunk

- 1 No Visible Damage
- 2 Damage Including Wounds, Mushrooms, Cracks, Or Minor Decay Issues



Historic Litchfield Green
Comprehensive Revitalization Plan
Litchfield, Connecticut

Client:
The Borough of
Litchfield
28 Russell Street
Litchfield, CT 06759



Heritage Landscapes LLC
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Drawing Title:

2020 Trees
Plan

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:
L3

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

- MONUMENT
- ⊙

TREE PLAQUE
- B

BENCH
- INFORMATION BOOTH
- ▴

FLAG
- ⊙ A

COLONIAL POST LIGHT - 14'-15'
- ⊙ V

VICTORIAN POST LIGHT - 18'
- COBRA HEAD STREET LIGHT +25'
- OHW

OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
- ⊙

PLANTER
- ⊙

DRINKING FOUNTAIN



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Drawing Title:

2020 Small
Features Plan

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:

L4

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

Historic Litchfield Green ■ Comprehensive Revitalization Plan



4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

A. Introduction to the Litchfield Green Landscape Revitalization Plan

This illustrated narrative sets forth the recommendations for the historic Litchfield Green, based on the findings of the prior chapters and the wealth of comments received from Litchfield residents at public meetings and via email. A series of six plans graphically captures the recommendations to accompany the text and illustrations.

- L5 Comprehensive Revitalization Plan
- L6 Removals Plan
- L7 Tree and Shrub Planting Plan
- L8 Circulation, Topography and Small Features Plan
- L9 Lighting Plan
- L10 Center Green Plan
- L11 Phasing Strategy Diagram

This **Historic Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan (HLGCR Plan)** was developed through a process of documentation and consultation. The plan addresses the desired character of this traditional community open space and the multiple issues raised in community, committee and local official reviews. It finds appropriate resolution and direction for actions that respect this historically important public landscape while accommodating contemporary needs and functions. The integrated set of planning drawings overlays layers of information related to the proposed landscape in order to accomplish the objectives established at the beginning of this project.

B. L5 Comprehensive Revitalization Plan Overview

This comprehensive plan depicts the proposed landscape with all the recommended actions to revitalize the Litchfield Green shown. These actions include:

- Carry out removals to make way for new work
- Plant new trees to restore lost canopy and add fall color, replace a damaged Christmas tree
- Plant a mixed shrub mass on East Green to stabilize a slope and add a vegetation mass at an accident-prone intersection to control pedestrian movement
- Fill a low area on East Green to improve drainage
- Extend the Center Green curb south to align with the West Green curb
- Move and reinstall existing War Veteran Memorials together to form a memorial area with seating and gathering space
- Move the Beecher monument away from the street edge improved viewing and access
- Build pleasant new path meandering along the south side of the Green, connecting the three areas and align new crosswalks and seating along that new path
- Improve crosswalk alignment to make clear connections with good sight lines
- Add benches on paving adjacent to the new south path and the current paths
- Install new lighting along the perimeter of the three green of a consistent style and using shielding for downward directed illumination
- Place overhead feeds of electrical lines underground to power park lights and the bullhorn

Each of the recommended items listed above is described within this narrative and shown on the collection of plans.

C. L6 Removals Plan

This plan shows the proposed layout and highlights selected removals. Removals actions include attention to poor trees, removal of overhead power lines in favor of underground replacement, removal of small memorial markers where trees are missing and removal of existing lighting to be replaced. To the degree possible graphically, these removals are shown on **L6 Removals Plan**.

Development of a tree plan for the Litchfield Green begins with removal of trees that are unhealthy, invasive or otherwise ill-suited to their location, shown on **L6**. Trees can be removed sequentially as new planting is ready to move forward. The trees in poor condition are demarcated with a “C” or “D” in the center of their tree code as shown on **L6**. Those trees assessed to be in poor or failing health through a visual survey of canopy, trunk and roots were selected for removal with the exception of large heritage trees, the Constitution Oak and the Oak of the Unknown Soldier. Twenty-three deciduous trees and one evergreen tree are recommended for removal. The condition of these trees observed to be in poor health, may be verified by a certified arborist prior to removals.

4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

The only tree species recognized to be invasive that is currently present on the Green in 2020 is Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*). This plan recommends removal of five Norway maple trees. Four of the five are in C condition, indicating poor health while the fifth is in B condition, good health, but is an undesirable tree. The issue with retaining these trees is the abundant seed source they create and the allelopathic character of the roots. An allelopathic tree produces biochemicals exuded from the roots that suppress the germination, growth, survival and reproduction of other plants under and near it. This characteristic means that even turf will not grow well under the tree canopy and beyond where roots spread. The removal of the Norway maple trees will provide space for better-suited trees to be planted as well as healthier turf grass by removing the allelopathic biochemicals.

Two Japanese zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) on East Green should be removed because they have been badly pruned under power lines, demonstrate poor form and their low branching character is not like the historic tall canopy trees. This species would not have been present in Connecticut prior to about the 1950s. Zelkova was erroneously thought to be a good substitute for American elm; however, this species never reaches to height of elm or presents the graceful overarching branch structure. Zelkova trees remain densely branched and have an inherent structural flaw in branching from the same location which leaves the tree prone to branch breakage with damage to the main trunk.

Also shown on the removal plan are two small elms and an oak that would be adversely impacted by the proposed fill on the East Green to address the stormwater runoff and frequent saturated condition. In addition, two important large old trees are suggested to remain, even with obvious decline in their health. The Constitution Oak, a white oak (*Quercus alba*), and the Oak of the Unknown Solider, a pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), at the southwest and east corners of East Green respectively, contribute significant historic value despite their assessment to be in poor condition. These two large heritage trees are recommended to remain in place with a regular inspection cycle each year and care to control decline by a certified arborist. These important trees should be removed when an arborist determines that tree conditions pose a public safety hazard. Once removed, they should be replaced-in-kind in the same location. Suitable reuse of their harvested wood may be appreciated by the community at this time.

Plan L6 also shows the removal of a midblock path and street crosswalk in its unsafe location on North Street between Center and West Greens and between parked cars. This crosswalk shifts to the south at the intersection where sight lines are clear and drivers can anticipate a pedestrian. To remove this crosswalk simply overpaint the stripping in the street.

Overhead lines that provide power to lights and the noon horn are proposed for direct subsurface burial, as each of these local service lines is a small feed. The large capacity overhead regional power lines along Route 202 and the feeds for traffic signals likely should remain overhead as the approval process for underground lines is complex and the expense of placing these lines underground is considerable as they will likely require large, expensive duct banks below grade.

4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

There are also a group of small memorial markers, set above grade today, that should be removed and, if required, replaced with granite and bronze markers or plaques positioned not more than 1-inch above the surrounding grade. This will allow for lawn mowing over the top of the markers, not manipulating around them. See also the more detailed discussion of memorial markers.

The eight tall cobra head-style street lights and the five Colonial Revival-style light posts, and possibly the Victorian-style posts along West Street, all within the Green, are proposed for removal and replacement with the selected consistent light post and luminaire. See the related discussion about lighting in the discussion of **L9 Lighting Plan**.

D. L7 Tree and Shrub Planting Plan and Plant Lists

Healthy or historically important trees to remain and those to be planted are shown on **L7 Tree and Shrub Planting Plan**. Healthy trees in the historic character of the Green provide tall canopy, shade, stature and character to the Green. The historic landscape exhibited significantly more canopy cover and more fall foliage display than currently present. This **HLGCR Plan** selects and locates 60 new trees to augment the tree canopy, more in keeping with the historic character of Litchfield Green. Trees are generally around margins, leaving sunny center areas. The added trees will also improve spatial organization and foster use by local residents and visitors with improved shade cover and increased perception of separation from busy Route 202. The Proposed Tree List includes 11 species focusing on historic types, selecting trees without current disease or pest issues. The following list enumerates the recommended trees to plant in the next three to five years.

Canopy Trees			Mature		
Count	Code	Botanical/Common Name	Height/Spread Notes		
12	Ar	<i>Acer rubrum</i> /Red maple	40-70	30-50	Red fall color
12	As	<i>Acer saccharum</i> /Sugar maple	40-80	30-60	Red-Gold fall color
6	Ns	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i> /Black gum	30-50	20-30	Red fall color
4	Po	<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> /American sycamore	75-100	75-100	Bark, wet ground
2	Qa	<i>Quercus alba</i> /White oak	50-80	50-80	Long lived
1	Qb	<i>Quercus borealis</i> /Scarlet oak	50-60	50-60	Good fall color
2	Qm	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> /Burr oak	60-80	60-80	Wet ground
5	Qp	<i>Quercus palustris</i> /Pin oak	50-70	40-60	Wet ground
12	Ua	<i>Ulmus americana</i> DED cv/ Dutch elm disease resistant cultivar elm	60-80	40-70	Wet ground
5	Ta	<i>Tilia americana</i> /American linden	50-80	30-50	Fragrant, Yellow fall
61		Count of Tall Shade Trees to Plant			

4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

Evergreen Trees

Count	Code	Botanical/Common Name	Mature Height/Spread	Notes
1	Pa	<i>Picea abies</i> /Norway spruce	40-60 25-30	Green Foliage
Note: Christmas Tree should not be <i>Picea pungens</i> /Colorado blue spruce				
1	Count of Evergreen Trees to Plant			

Plan **L7** shows the tree layout and species that should guide future tree care and renewal. Once removals and planting are complete, the Litchfield Green will hold 102 trees. There are 62 new trees shown on **L7**. A target of 100 to 120 trees is a useful gauge for the ideal tree canopy cover moving into the future. Any large planting may include a few trees that fail to thrive. The planting of all these new trees within a few years of each other will produce a majority of even-aged trees on the Green. Over time, these trees will grow and age together. The preferred situation is to have a mixed age range of trees, so that as old trees in decline are removed, new trees planted will always be of stature to provide shade and scale to the Green. Note that there are no small or mid-size trees. This approach employing tall shade trees effectively captures the historic character of the Green.

As young trees flourish in full sun, new tree locations on **L7** consider shade cast by existing large trees and anticipated full canopy size of the new trees themselves. Field placement at the time of planting will refine tree positions. An important factor to consider in the location and selection of tree species is the spill of salt-laden snow onto the north side of the landscape along Route 202. The large ConnDOT plows can laterally throw 25 feet. Sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) is sensitive to road salt and brine. These trees have been located beyond the 25-foot margin to limit salt-laden snow spill over. Early in the spring flushing this sloped area with a firehose would help reduce salt concentration.

West Green is shown with 25 new trees to be planted. Located in staggered arrangements, new oak (*Quercus* spp.), maple (*Acer* spp.), elm (*Ulmus americana*) and linden (*Tilia americana*) trees are focused around the West Green perimeter to maintain the sunny, open lawn in the central area. This sunny center is appropriate for informal daily use and has a history of community gatherings taking place, welcomed into the future.

Traditionally Center Green has been relatively open and sunny. Planting of three new maple (*Acer* spp.) trees adds canopy and fall color and a new Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) replaces the damaged spruce tree, hit by a car, and will to grow over time to serve as a community Christmas tree. Located to the south and highly visible from nearby streets and store fronts, the new spruce can serve as the town Christmas tree in the future. As a policy, the Center Green should always hold two spruce trees, one in use and one growing on, to serve the local holiday celebration.

The proposed 31 new trees, including oak (*Quercus* spp.), maple (*Acer* spp.), black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), linden (*Tilia americana*), elm (*Ulmus americana*) and sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), add diversity to the East Green canopy. The 12 elm trees, selected from Dutch elm disease resistant cultivars, will replace part of the grand arching canopy that was present historically and very

characteristic of New England Greens. A mix of existing and new trees add shade and sunlit patches to the diagonal path with staggered trees positioned throughout, maintaining an informal spacing characteristic of the historic tree canopy.

Revitalization of the tree canopy on the Litchfield Green can progress over time. Undertaking removal and new tree plantings in a coordinated manner will show progress. The recommended removals and plantings may be implemented over several spring campaigns. There is a potential to undertake tree planting as a community hands-on planting process. Heritage Landscapes has experience in securing lightweight bareroot trees in spring that can be handled easily. This approach can build community engagement.

In addition to tree renewal, plan L7 shows a shrub mass on the east end of East Green at the north slope along East Street Route 202. This 2,600 square foot shrub mass is proposed for planting in predominantly tall deciduous flowering shrubs. The intent is to provide a plant mass of shrubs on the sloped portion of the Green from the Torrington Road/East Street Route 202 intersection east toward the eastern point of East Green at East Street Route 118. Planting of shrubs on this slope with overhead utility lines above separates interior landscape from the heavily traveled Route 202. The shrub mass will also establish a clear dense edge that is visible from the intersection that may help in traffic calming at this location and reduce the frequent rate of accidents from cars driving into the landscape. The shrub selection favors native, tall, durable shrubs on the slope at shorter native varieties at the toe of the slope.

Mixed Shrub List

<u>Large Shrubs</u>	<u>Botanical/Common Name</u>
160 x 10 foot area on the slope	<i>Cornus mas</i> /Cornelian cherry dogwood
Tall deciduous flowering shrubs	<i>Kolkwitzia amabilis</i> /Beautybush
9 to 20 feet high, 6-12 feet wide	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i> /Ninebark
30 count arranged in a staggered row	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i> /Elderberry
Adjust spacing by mature size	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i> hybrids/Lilac
Plant densely	<i>Viburnum plicatum tomentosum</i> /Doublefile viburnum
<u>Small Shrubs</u>	<u>Botanical/Common Name</u>
160 x 6 foot area at bottom of the slope	<i>Rhus aromatica</i> /Fragrant sumac
2 to 5 feet high	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> /Black chokeberry
45-50 count, massed	('UCONNAM165' LOW SCAPE MOUND)
Adjust spacing by mature size, plant densely	<i>Ilex verticillata</i> 'Nana', /Red Sprite winterberry

This shrub grouping will provide seasonal interest and habitat value as bird nesting and food sources. The low hybrid winterberry requires a few male pollinators, that should be placed with the larger shrubs. Once shrubs are established, ground cover plantings of ferns and wildflowers can be incorporated below the shrubs. Selected plant materials are both hardy and durable for a moderate level of care into the future. Once the planting is established, shrub care will include annual

removal of seedling trees, pruning as required to remove winter damage, maintain overall form and manage competition, with topdressing and replacement of organic mulch.

E. L8 Circulation, Topography and Small Features

E1. PATHS AND CROSSWALKS

Expansion of the Green system of pedestrian paths supports more everyday community use of this historic landscape. An added south path forms a broader network joining the historic paths and connecting to the south and commercial core activity as well as to the quiet, leafy East Street from South Street Route 63 to the eastern end of East Green.

The addition of this south path will invite Litchfield residents and visitors to stroll or exercise making a loop with the walks across the street to the south. The added wide arch between the Center Green “Y” paths serves as a gathering space and setting for the war memorials, placing them more prominently and fostering commemorative events or personal contemplation and remembrance. The proposed pedestrian network within the green and the proposed crosswalks are shown on **L8 Circulation, Topography and Small Features Plan**. Describing the segments of this system sequentially, the elements include:

- 567 foot-long new path at Meadow Street and the south path on West Green, positioned within the landscape, not along the cube, for a pleasant stroll partially shaded by new and existing trees
- Center Green cross-linking path and war memorial setting between the arms of the “Y” walk and a new path along the extended southern edge with realigned crosswalks, for lengths of 225 new feet and 375 existing feet for a total of 600 feet
- 511 feet long, the East Green south walk connects from Center Green at the southwest corner and then extends, crossing the existing angled walk and two new crosswalks

The south path and its crosswalks measure about 1,280 feet, one-quarter mile. Forming a loop, the addition of the new path with the sidewalk adjacent to the Green along East and West Street creates a larger circuit of nearly one-half mile. Linking of the paths of the Green also forms a nearly one-half mile network for leisure and exercise. In addition to this south path, the new 90-foot-long arcing path within the “Y” creates a shape of the proposed memorial space for monuments and benches which enhance the area for seating and contemplation.

Pedestrian crosswalks at street intersections are anticipated by drivers and are safer than mid-block crossings. This **HLGCR Plan** recommends four new crosswalks along the southern side connecting the three spaces of the Green to each other and to the sidewalks to the south. Six-foot-wide walks to create a route where people can safely walk along side or pass each other.

Paths should be constructed of a durable, uniform material either to be compatible with the recently installed unit paver walks. These new walks are recommended as gray concrete with an exposed aggregate surface. A locally available small gravel would be used for the concrete mix. Concrete with an exposed aggregate is well suited for the scale and dimensions of these walks. The application of a surface retardant will allow the gravel to be exposed about one-eighth-inch to reveal a gravel-like surface appearance, which will blend into the landscape effectively. Concrete walks are highly durable with a long lifespan of 50 to 100 years in most situations. While concrete is a construction material with a high carbon footprint, Portland cement is the main carbon intensive ingredient. Carbon footprint can be reduced in proportion by adding fly ash and other specific materials.

E2. TOPOGRAPHY

Efforts on East Green should begin with addressing drainage issues before moving into tree planting and new path construction. Filling the two areas of East Green, shown in the hatched areas highlighted on Plan **L7**, with imported soils that will infiltrate would lift the cupped, water-holding landscapes to each side of the diagonal walk to alleviate standing water and drainage issues. The fill area shown to the west of the walk is 0.25 acres, while the area east of the walk is 0.35 acres. Fill depths will vary from a few inches at the margins to perhaps as much as 30 inches in order to establish grades that provide a sloped surface that will drain to the south.

Knowledgeable local sources speculate that the East Green is wet because of a perched water table or underground springs. Observations on site note that the lack of a curb to the north along Route 202 and the raising of road grades on both Route 202 and Route 118 over the years has created a basin effect. To correct the storm water capture in the landscape and often-saturated conditions, core samples and soil tests on East Green are needed to gain more technical information that will guide soil filling to lift grades. In addition, the site survey will require updating to include spot elevations in order to develop an accurate proposed grading plan. Dialogue with ConnDot should be undertaken to request a stone curb along the Route 202 frontage to direct stormwater flows along the margin of the pavement and into the drain.

E3. BENCHES AND CAFÉ TABLES AND CHAIRS

Along the new walks, bench bay locations are shown with paving extended ten feet long by three feet wide. On Center Green, one larger seating and gathering area at the monument arc is designed to accommodate two six-foot benches. Each bay has adjacent space for a wheelchair to sit beside the bench on either end. If there is a desire to use movable furniture, all or some of these bench bays could be deepened to a six-foot width, providing space for a small café table and chairs. A grouping of moveable furniture is shown on the new paving south side of Center Green (See **L10 Center Green Plan**).

A standard simple style wood bench or the clean lines of a bench with an iron frame using wood or recycled plastic wood slats can be used (Figure 4.1). The simple, sustainably-grown teakwood bench is appropriate but easily lifted into a truck. Several have disappeared from the Green to date;

however, a bench with metal legs can be secured to concrete paving with leg bolts. If moveable café tables and chairs are desired, teakwood could also be used for a harmonious pairing of furnishings though additional security measures may reduce theft. These moveable furnishings would be placed on the Green seasonally. The types of benches throughout the Green should be harmonious as a group using all the same type or a set of compatible materials and styles.

E3. SMALL MEMORIAL PLAQUES

A frequent small-scale feature of the Green is the small memorial plaques and markers located at the base of eight trees, four each on East and West Greens. There are 4 plaques proposed for removal as the trees they mark are also to be removed. These may be replaced on new tree plantings or not, based on the judgement of the Borough. Currently these small markers vary in materials and profile. Ones that are flush or nearly flush with the surrounding grade are the recommended standard design. This profile allows for turf mowing without inadvertently striking these small objects to needing to maneuver around them (Figures 4.2 and 4.3).

For replacement plaques, a recommended detail would employ a six-inch-thick granite block of about twelve inches square and set at least five inches into the grade, on top of a six-inch-deep bed of compacted gravel. This detail provides a stable element below mower blades. The face of the granite block may be carved or may hold a mounted bronze plaque with text.

Overall, the continuing use of individual plaques should be phased out, in favor of a digital map on a website rather than objects on the Green. As a policy, the addition of more plaques should be avoided. A map of the Green with the memorial trees labeled can be developed from the plans created for this project. It could be posted on the Borough website and kept up to date. A digital record of the memorial trees is preferred to adding clutter to the Green. A preferred approach to memorial trees would be to identify the tree memorials on the Borough website, not within the landscape. That digital approach also allows greater flexibility if a tree is removed due to disease or damage.

F. L9 Lighting Plan

Within the landscapes of the Green the electric supply lines, currently strung overhead, should be placed underground. These local feeds to serve light posts and bullhorn are to be fed by underground electrical lines, by direct burial installed inside a PVC sleeve. A preferred depth of not less than 30 inches to 36 inches maximum should avoid shovel depth for any future tree plantings. Underground lines should also be located on an as-built drawing that is retained by the Borough and the Town. Ideally the light removals and installation of underground wiring and new lights would proceed sequentially.

Three types of light fixtures accrued over time illuminate the Green today. These light types include: eight tall cobra head-style fixtures on wood posts at about 25 feet in height; four Colonial

Revival-style fixtures on Center and West Greens; and five Victorian-style fixtures along the West Street frontage. The Victorian-style fixture could become the standard, retaining the five currently in place on the Green (Figure 4.4). The preferred light would be about 18 to 20 feet tall with a luminaire that is shielded for full or partial cut-off, lighting the margins of the Green and the adjacent streets.

The new lights are proposed for placement basically around the perimeter at 100 to 140 foot regular spacing, with one additional light centered on the East Green diagonal walk. The proposed approach is to use a consistent, well-designed post and energy efficient light source to provide sufficient illumination to the street frontage and landscape, without bringing lighting into the interior spaces. The photometrics of the lighting spread and the downward light control should be studied and agreed to make a final selection. In addition, the technology for WIFI is advancing and there are inserts for street light bases that have WIFI signals. When the lighting is replaced, the Borough should consider adding WIFI capacity to light bases, or as appropriate at that time based on current technological advances.

G. L10 Center Green Plan

The **L10 Center Green Plan** depicts a proposed approach to assemble the war memorial monuments on the Center Green into a more respectful and functional grouping. It is useful to understand that the existing monument arrangement on Center Green is essentially unplanned having evolved over time as each monument was created and sited, or in the case of the obelisk, relocated. The Civil War obelisk was the first to be located in this public landscape, as originally positioned on East Green, and then moved to its current location on Center Green adjacent to the cannon. The First World War monument in the southwest corner of Center Green was positioned in 1919, with the consideration that only the two war monuments would be present. Thereafter, new conflicts led to the placement of additional monuments which eventually led to arrangement present in 2020. This unplanned evolution lacks cohesion and, with all the monuments placed in turf, fails to offer access for people of all abilities, a gathering space, or a way to view these commemorative veterans' memorials together.

The **HLGCR Plan** recommends moving this group of existing monuments to a cohesive and respectful setting north of the obelisk, organized in a simple, graceful arc. Locating the group of war memorials together on Center Green increases their impact, focusing the commemorative heritage of the community in one, well-designed area. Further, grouping the monuments together, as shown on **L11 Center Green Plan**, improves access while presenting the unified story of community service to honor those who served. Arranged in an arc radiating around the central First World War obelisk, the large stone monuments coalesce in a powerful narrative of Litchfield and its citizens' service to their country. The large Second World War monument is placed in the center with the others to both sides. In addition, the paved space provides the opportunity to expand the grouping at either end. The recruitment tent marker is proposed to be placed at grade

in its current location. A groundplane marker of the tent site depicts the historic location as currently marked while limiting clutter and competition with the war memorials.

Set on a paved surface that is universally accessible, the front and back of each monument can be viewed closely, engaging the public with the commemoration. Mowing activities are also simplified with no blades coming close to the stone to damage them and no close trimming required.

L10 Center Green Plan shows the south curb of the Center Green extended to align with the curb on West Green. Moving forward with this recommendation would require multiple approvals. There are several benefits to slightly enlarging Center Green by shifting the curb line south and the gathering of the monuments into a cohesive group. These include:

- Visibility and presence of Center Green is greatly enhanced with removal of the row of parked cars to the south
- A wider paved space along the south edge provides for commemoration events and for informal gatherings and daily uses
- Safety is enhanced as visibility for drivers and for pedestrians is improved
- Turning movements are easier with larger radial corners on both east and west sides
- The presence of the gathered memorialization area is increased
- Universal access is added so that people of all abilities can approach the monuments and navigate the Green

These obvious benefits should support the review and approval process for Center Green curb extension design and implementation. The improvements to Center Green, noted above, support modifying this important landscape for an increased visual and physical presence in Litchfield.

H. Signs, Wayfinding and Visitor Booth

The Borough of Litchfield strictly limits signs placed on the Green. The prohibition of signs addresses the character of the Green as a shared space without visual clutter. At the same time, the presence of informative maps, historical details and notices on upcoming events can enrich visitor experience. In particular, providing historical and current information about the Green can improve engagement with the landscape encouraging resident and guests to value this important community landscape. One way to do this is with signage, and another way is digitally on a website, enabled by WIFI on the Green. Both may be appropriate.

To respect the protection against visual clutter while providing added visitor service, this plan recommends installing a locator and wayfinding map on or near the current Information Booth or a replacement of that booth. A large locator sign may be mounted directly onto the structure, under the roof overhang for protection from natural elements. Modifications could be undertaken to open a double front door or wide opening that allows the interior space to function as a visitor self-service area. Alternately, a locator map could be developed and mounted on the outside building to

4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

provide wayfinding information when the booth is closed, while other materials would be available only when the booth is staffed.

The current booth is not the original Second World War structure seen in historic views. In 2020, the condition of this small building is deteriorating. It could be repaired or replaced with a similar structure. With the historic structure as a precedent, a new design may be developed to better accommodate the range of uses to be served. Changes to the booth will require Litchfield Historic District Commission review and approval. A third option is to place a double side wayfinding sign at the southeast corner of West Green for easy pedestrian access.

Each of these approaches is suitable. The need for some wayfinding information should be addressed. The way forward should be determined as this planning work moves into implementation.

Another aspect of signage is regulatory signage. There are a large number of signs for route identification, speed limits, no parking, and traffic control. Some of these signs are weathered and barely legible. There are rules about sign placement, but perhaps formal review of the accumulated regulatory signs could result in their reduction. The Borough should work with the Town and ConnDOT to review the current regulatory signs, upgrade the illegible ones and remove any unnecessary, discretionary or redundant ones.

I. Water Supply and Drinking Fountains

At the present time, there is no water supply piped to each area of the Litchfield Green. Water supply will be required to hand water young trees and shrubs for at least three years after planting and into the future during extreme drought periods. There is a desire to have drinking water fountains located on each of the three areas, with only one on Center Green present today. Because public water supply may be available on the adjacent street frontage, the Borough of Litchfield will need to work with the Town of Litchfield and possibly ConnDOT to extend water lines across the streets where tapping into supply is possible. The technical details of bringing water to East and West green should be further investigated through a dialogue with the Town of Litchfield.

I. L11 Phasing Plan and Next Steps

The **HLGCR Plan** sets forth a series of well-integrated actions to address current conditions and future desires while respecting the history and overall simplicity of this important community landscape. Enhanced use can be effectively integrated and the level of maintenance required can be contained through the implementation of these recommendations, sequentially, over time.

The implementation of the plan is anticipated to proceed over a series of years, rather than all at once. It is recommended that the work be undertaken area by area in order to limit disturbance

4 Litchfield Green Comprehensive Revitalization Plan & Phasing

and have part of the Green remain accessible even when work is underway. **L11 Phasing Strategy Diagram** shows three phases that can be further broken down into types of work.

Phase 1 addresses that proposed changes to the Center Green, curb line extension to the south, new walks, and relocation of the war memorial into a unified grouping. Along the south side of Center Green, the crosswalks would be realigned and connected to small segments of new paths on West and East Greens. The planting of trees with six on Center Green and 18 on West Green is shown for the first replanting efforts. In addition, relocation of the Beecher Memorial on East Green is part of the initial work. That memorial is shown with an adjacent bench pad to invite inspection and reflection.

Due to the complexity of the recommendations and the need for ConnDOT approvals, the East Green is shown as the second phase in the process of implementation. The work on East Green could begin with negotiations to secure a stone curb along Route 202 in order to control stormwater runoff. A solution for capturing storm water will be a component of the work of adding a curb. There is currently only one storm drain on East Green (Figure 4.5). Concurrently with these discussions, a technical investigation of current conditions taking soil cores to understand layers and types of soil and soil samples for composition and nutrients testing would be underway. Next steps will be determined by the outcomes of these tasks. Adding of East Green south walk and shrub and tree plantings would proceed after stormwater management and soil fills are resolved.

The completion of work on the West Green may be anticipated as the third phase. With the additional planting and new south walk and the new crossing to the east for improved pedestrian safety. The current Visitor's Booth is discussed as either being upgraded or replaced. That work may be a separate project. The renewal of lighting may be most efficient to carry out at one time throughout the three areas with underground powerlines.

It is useful to note that this is a planning document, not a construction plan. Further work on the design, details and specifications is required to prepare design development and construction documents with drawings and specifications, that would be needed to carry out the separate projects.

Progress toward implementation begins with further consensus building and the acquisition of funding for initial aspects of the plan. Even if specific components of this plan are not fully supported, other aspects can be affirmed and may move ahead to bring forward desired changes and build momentum. For example, if tree planting is widely supported, some focused tree planting work can move ahead. One good location would be along West Street where lighting with underground lines is already in place. This **HLGCR Plan** serves as a guide to the revitalization of the Litchfield Green into the future.



Figure 4.1 The sustainable teakwood bench, shown on the Litchfield Green (top image), may be used or a simple wood and metal frame bench (bottom image). Two benefits of the contemporary metal frame are the ease of replacing boards and an ability to fasten it to pavement in a bench bay, which is recommended. For new purchases, favor those fabricated from sustainably harvested teak or recycled faux wood. (LGMP-2019 Jul 9 (730), (LG HL 9Aug2019 (387)



Figure 4.2 Marking a time capsule location, this bronze plaque at grade is mounted on a base with a stone surround. It employs the recommended detail. (LGMP-2019 Jul 9 (727))



Figure 4.3 This stone and bronze memorial marker, dedicated in 2017, is flush with grade and framed by mulch and plantings. This detail is appropriate. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (507))






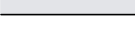





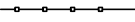

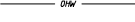


Figure 4.4 The Victorian-style fixture is mounted on a tall cast iron or aluminum light post, approximately 18-feet tall, to provide pedestrian and street lighting along the south edge of West and Center Greens. The luminaire appears to be a partial cut-off fixture, pushing light down and out. (LG HL 9Aug2019 (174))



Figure 4.5 Positioned at a low point, this large storm drain sits at the eastern tip of the East Green on East Street Route 118. For this area, it is the sole storm water subsurface capture of surface drainage from the Green and the road areas uphill. (LGMP-2019 Jul 9 (713))

SYMBOL KEY

	TURF		NEW PATH
	PROPOSED SHRUB MASS		EXISTING PAVER PATH
	2020 DECIDUOUS TREE		CONCRETE SIDEWALK
	2020 EVERGREEN TREE		ASPHALT
	PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREE		MONUMENT
	PROPOSED EVERGREEN TREE		FENCE
	2 FOOT CONTOUR		OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE



Historic Litchfield Green

Comprehensive Revitalization Plan

Litchfield, Connecticut

Client:
The Borough of Litchfield
28 Russell Street
Litchfield, CT 06759



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Drawing Title:

**Comprehensive
Revitalization
Plan**

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:

L5

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

- DECIDUOUS TREE TO BE REMOVED
- EVERGREEN TREE TO BE REMOVED
- WALK / CROSSWALK TO BE REMOVED
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE TO BE BURIED
- COBRA HEAD STREET LIGHT TO BE REPLACED
- NEO-COLONIAL POST LIGHT TO BE REMOVED
- MONUMENT TO BE REMOVED/REPLACED/RELOCATED



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Removals Plan


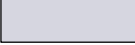

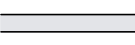



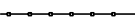

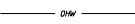

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:

L6

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

	TURF		ASPHALT PAVEMENT
	PROPOSED SHRUB MASS		CONCRETE PATH
	2020 DECIDUOUS TREE		MONUMENT
	2020 EVERGREEN TREE		FENCE
	PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREE		OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
	PROPOSED EVERGREEN TREE		



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**Tree and Shrub
Planting Plan**




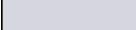



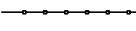


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December 2020

Drawing Number:

L7

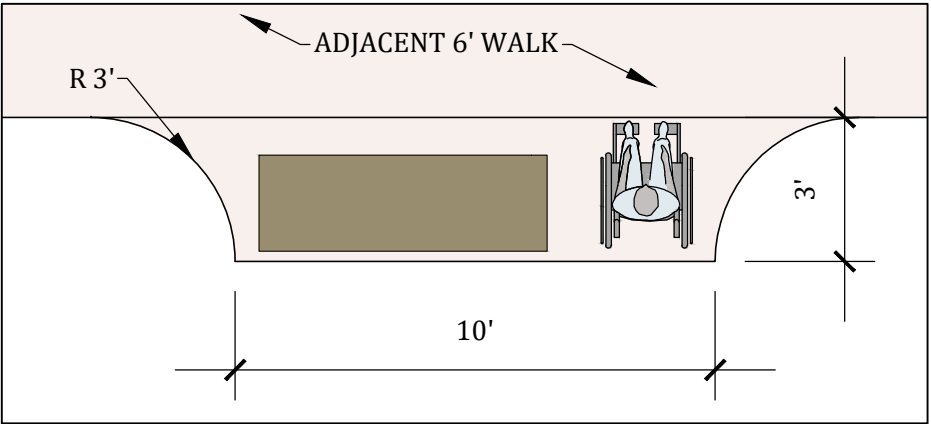
Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

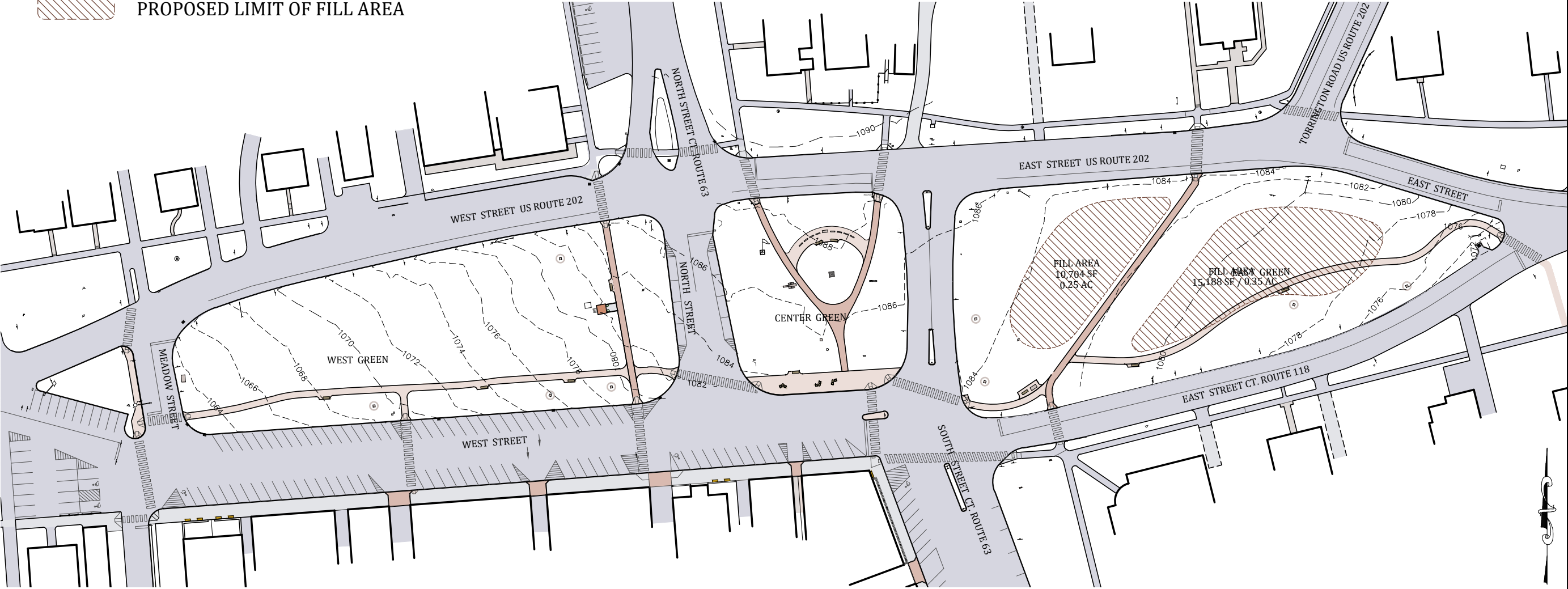
-  NEW PATH
-  EXISTING PAVER PATH
-  CONCRETE SIDEWALK
-  ASPHALT PAVEMENT
-  BENCH BAY (8)
-  MONUMENT GROUPING
-  MEMORIAL PLAQUE (8)
-  FENCE
-  2 FOOT CONTOUR
-  PROPOSED LIMIT OF FILL AREA

PATH LENGTH	EXISTING	NEW	TOTAL
WEST GREEN	170	567	737
CENTER GREEN	375	225	600
EAST GREEN	260	511	771
TOTAL NEW PATHS		1303 FT / 0.25 MI	
TOTAL PATHS		2108 FT / 0.40 MI	

SOUTH PATH	1280 FEET / 0.24 MI
------------	---------------------



BENCH BAY DETAIL SCALE: 1"=2'



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Drawing Title:
Circulation,
Topography
and Small
Features Plan

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:
L8

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

— OHW —

OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE



PROPOSED STREET LIGHT



EXISTING VICTORIAN
STREET LIGHT



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Lighting Plan

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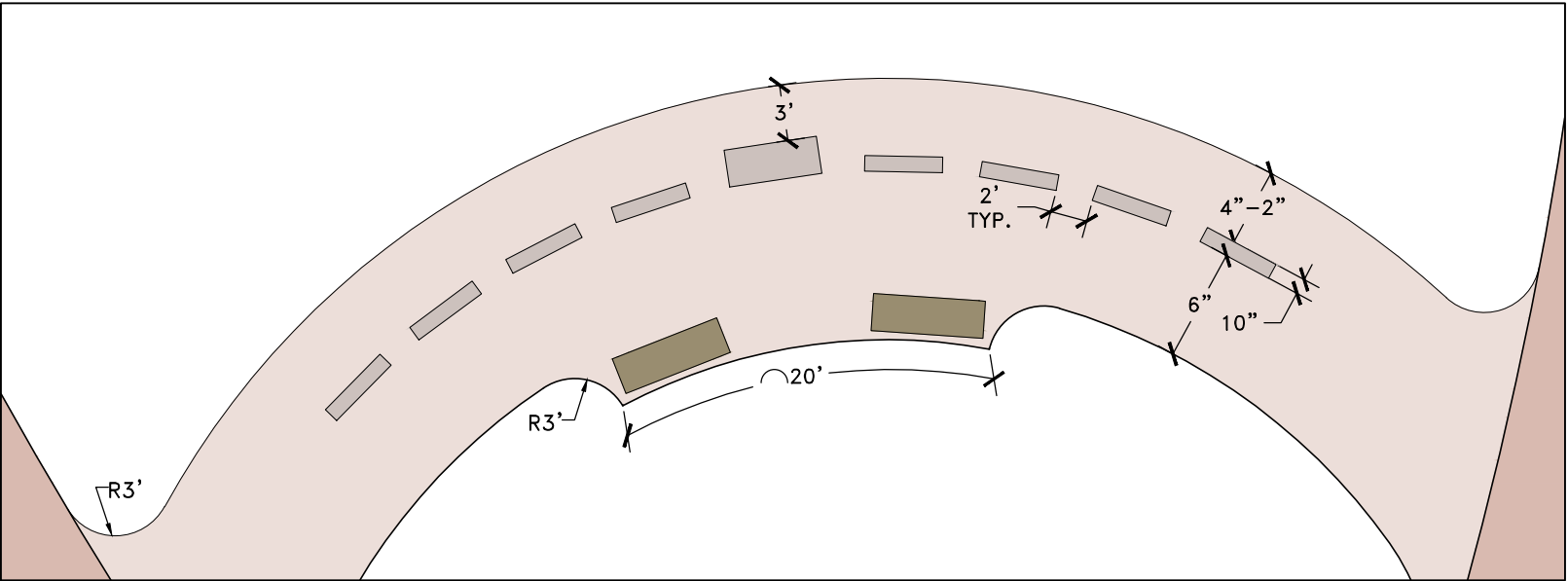
Drawing Number:

L9

Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork

SYMBOL KEY

- TURF
- 2020 DECIDUOUS TREE
- 2020 EVERGREEN TREE
- PROPOSED DECIDUOUS TREE
- PROPOSED EVERGREEN TREE
- NEW PATH
- EXISTING PAVER PATH
- ASPHALT PAVEMENT
- BENCH BAY
- MONUMENT GROUPING
- MEMORIAL PLAQUE
- FENCE
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE



PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT OF EXISTING MONUMENTS

SCALE: 1"=5'



0' 10' 20' 40' 60' Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork



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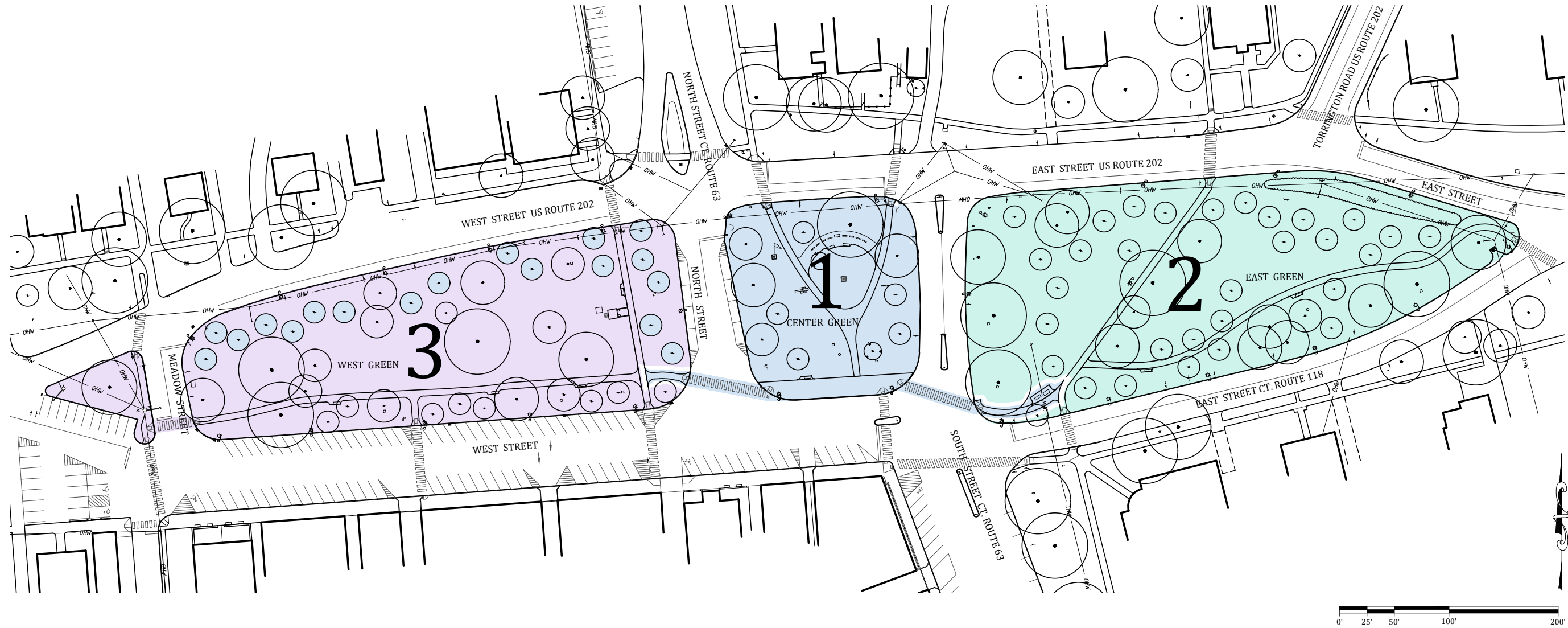
Center Green
Plan

Date:
December 2020

Drawing Number:
L10

SYMBOL KEY

- PHASE 1
- PHASE 2
- PHASE 3



Sources: 2019 Survey, HL Fieldwork



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Phasing
Strategy
Diagram

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L11

