



# Ledyard Town Green Improvement Project

## Conceptual Plan

**Purpose:** The Town of Ledyard has undertaken this project to create a Town Green in Ledyard Center. The Town Green shall: help define Ledyard Centers sense of place, be a place for civic gatherings and an area for outdoor recreation for all citizens. This will be the first phase of a multiphase project.

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### Proposed Improvements

- **New Stone Wall** along 117 frontage. The stone wall shall be approximately 30" tall and shall replace the existing chain link fence. The wall will be set partially into the hillside to correct grading and allow for views into the Town Green.
- **New Street Trees** between the existing sidewalk (to remain) and the proposed stone wall. The trees in combination with the stone wall will reduce the visual width of the roadway, and will signify to drivers that you are entering an urbanized area, and will have a calming effect on traffic. Additionally the trees will provide shade to those walking along the sidewalk, making it a much more enjoyable place to be.
- **Relocated Veterans Memorial** – The current location of the Memorial is nearby, but is mostly out of site. Moving it to the center of the frontage of the Town Green would give it the prominence that it deserves. Town Greens are historically places where memorials and items of civic significance are placed.
- **New Street Plaza & Entry Area** – Town Greens are places where the community comes together. They should feel open and welcoming. A new entrance to the Green from 117 is needed to achieve this. This area would contain: a paver plaza, crosswalk(s), bench(s), signage, and steps leading into the Green. Additionally this would be an ideal location to relocate the "History of Ledyard" sign that is currently in a gravel pull-off along 117 south of the intersection with Colonial Ledyard Highway.
- **New Wooden Fence** would replace the chain link fence between the Green and the parking area. The new fence would be offset 5' from the edge of paving to allow for pedestrian access to the green without having to walk in the parking lot, as well as providing an area for snow removal. The fence could be a typical park timber guard rail, or a pasture style rail fence that is more contextual to Ledyard. The fence would have openings to allow access into the green.
- **New Parking Area Entrance** – A new entrance centralized to the parking and the Green would be created. This area would be a large stonedust plaza surrounded by a stone seat wall with a drinking fountain and a new flagpole. This would be the primary entrance for those parking at the Green, and would be a great location for ticket booths and even entrances.

- **Allée of trees** – An Allée of trees was placed along the northern edge of the Green to create separation from the school property, and create an identity for the Green. The stonedust track was placed down the center of the Allée to create an enjoyable and memorable experience. The spaces created under the canopy of the trees, is perfect for everything from farmers markets, to car shows, craft shows, and children’s day camps. We would expect this area to be heavily programmed with activities.

#### **Future Improvements:**

- **New Stage** – A new larger, modernly equipped, roofed stage/amphitheater, centralized and facing the Green would see a great deal of use. The community could host all sort of events, from High School music and coral concerts, to theater performances & concerts, to movies in the park.
- **Relocated Historic School House** – The new stage would displace the existing stage and School House. This School House is an important part of Ledyard’s history that should be preserved. We propose keeping the School House on the Town Green, but moving it closer to 117 to give it more prominence, and use it as massing along the road frontage to reinforce the transition from rural to village.
- **New Shade Trees** – Add two large specimen shade trees to frame the stage, and provide a visual boundary for the green.
- **Reduce Paving** – There is an abundance of excess paving around the pavilion and concession stand area. The paving should be limited to what is needed, so that the Green can encompass a larger area.
- **New Turf with Rainwater Harvested Irrigation** – The existing turf is worn out and highly compacted. New topsoil should be brought in and new turf established for the whole Green. For turf to be successful in civic areas it is best if it is irrigated. With the large amount of roofed and paved area at the adjacent school it would be advantageous efficient to capture the stormwater runoff and recycle it for irrigation for the new turf.

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