Brookfield Revitalization A Small Town Case Study

Greg Dembowski
Economic Development Manager
gdembowski@brookfieldct.gov
203-740-3865

October 2020



AGENDA

Town Profile

Defining the Need

Taking Action

Results

Take-Aways



BEFORE

AFTER





TOWN PROFILE

Demographics 17,000 residents Older population

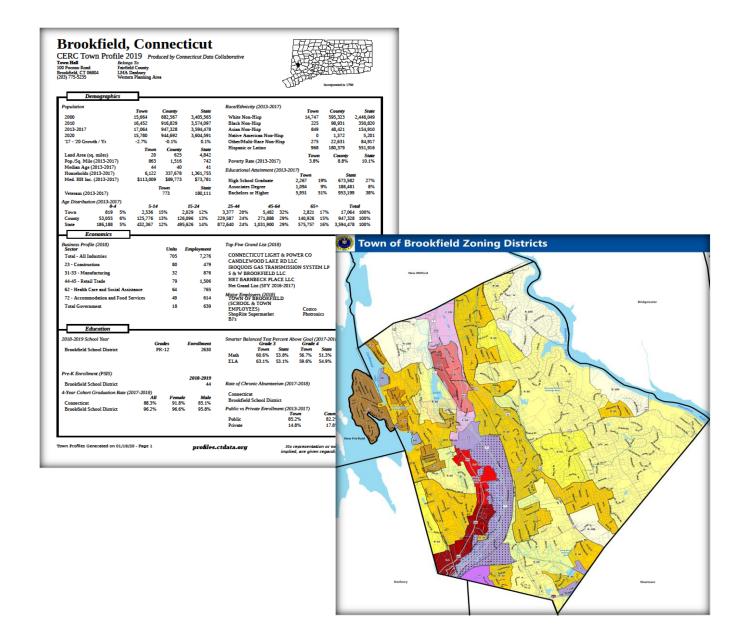
Economics
Primarily Retail Trade
Very Little Industrial

Government
Town Meeting
\$24 million municipal budget

Labor Force
Low Unemployment
Travel to Work Out of Town

Housing Very High Owner-Occupied single family home ownership

Quality of Life Great Schools, Parks, Recreation





DEFINING THE NEED

Demographic Study

Community Input

Guiding Principals

Physical Conditions, Market Factors

Create/Sharing a Vision





Four Corners

Brookfield Town Center

Revitalization Plan

TAKING ACTION

Full Engagement by all Land Use Commissions

POCD

Zoning Regulation Changes

Creating the Town Center District (TCD)

Creating an Action Plan

Pursuing Every Funding Opportunity

Economic Development Commission STRATEGIC PLAN

November 2018

Vision Statement > Top 5 Goals > Action Plan

VISION STATEMENT: The Brookfield Economic Commission seeks to assist in the quality and sustainable growth to meet our community needs. The Commission collaborates with commercial enterprises, civic organizations and the Town's boards and commissions to help businesses prosper while maintaining our Town's character.

Goal #1: Develop and nurture businesses that will bring a vibrant economy to Brookfield consistent with our values and goals.

ACTION PLAN #1: EDC Members visit and engage 2-3 existing business owners per quarter to increase

Brookfield's existing commercial base. ACCOUNTABLE: Dana Ferraro.

achieving its Vision. ACCOUNTABLE: Dana Ferraro

Goal #2: Participate on Town boards, task forces and organizations that work to improve the Town's quality of life.

evelopment Services Meetings – Jim Fisher

Zoning Board of Appeals – Greg Dembowsl

ACTION PLAN #2: The EDC will schedule a joint meeting with each of the following commissions to ommunicate our Strategic Plan and to better understand their priorities as they relate to advancing i

Library Trustees

Police Commission

Board of Education Board of Finance

Board of Selectmen

Candlewood Lake Autho

Lake Lillinonah Authority

Park and Recreation Com-





RESULTS

14 Grant Application, 11 Awards 4 LoTCIP

2TA

3 STEAP

2 Community Connectivity

\$7 Million Public Investment to Date

\$2 million Town

\$5 million Grantors

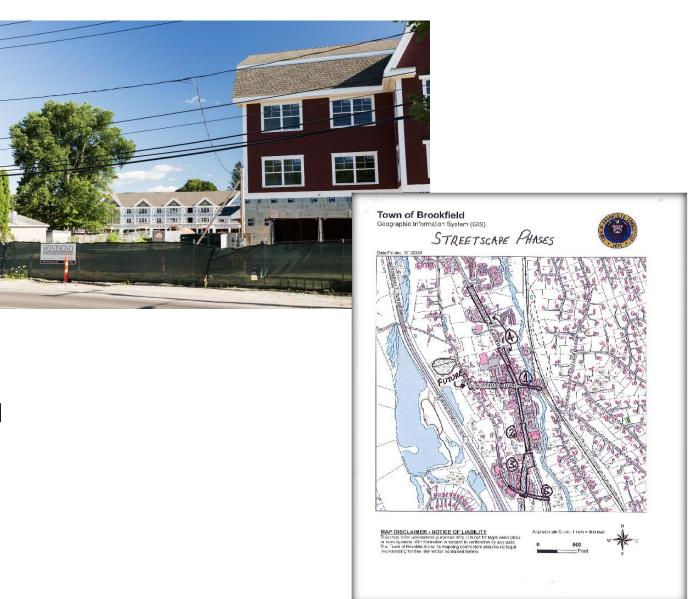
\$5 Million Planned next 3 years

Abandoned Buildings Renovated/Reopened

\$26 Million Private Investment Since 2016

\$125 Million Planned over the next 2 years

5.7% Grand List Growth (2011 - 2019)





TAKE-AWAYS

Seek Input Often and From Many Sources

Support from the Boards of Selectmen and Finance and WESTCOG

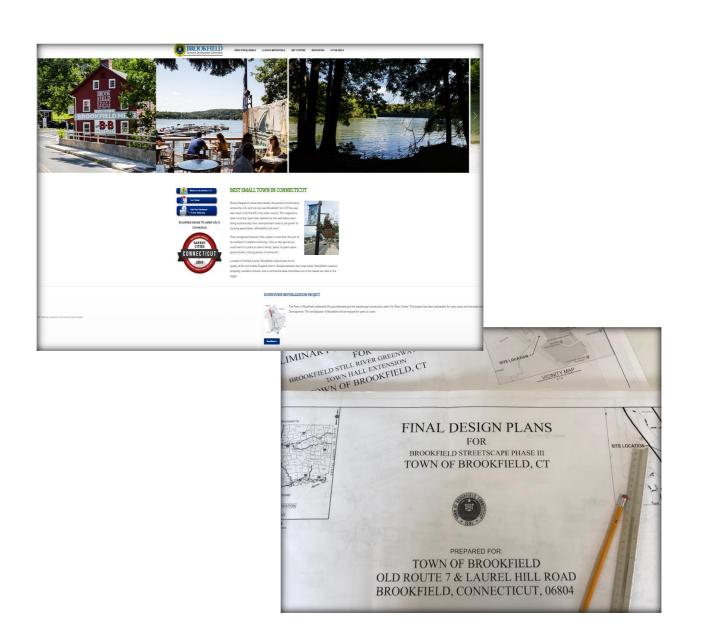
Shared Vision

Communicate Often and to Many
Social Media, Website
Attend Chamber, Town Meetings
Update Boards & Commissions
Newsletters, Print News

Build Relationships with Key Stakeholders

Attention to Detail

Small things can make a BIG difference





TAKE-AWAYS

Action Plans Should be SMART
Specific
Measureable
Actionable
Results Oriented
Time Bound

Pursue with Passion

Success Is Contagious
New \$78 Million Public School
Fortune 500 Company Relocates
Division Office
Still River Greenway Trail Extension



