

WOO IN THE WOOL



PRESENT

MAY 1-8, 2021



"Cities have the capability of providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody."

—JANE JACOBS, DEATH AND LIFE OF GREAT AMERICAN CITIES

This is a Do-It-Yourself Jane Week.

All events during Jane Week this year are DIY. May we all meet outside in person next year. This year, stay safe, masked and distant on all your DIY Jane Week adventures!

Experience Worcester with the Worcester Urban Planning Partnership!

Jane Week gives Worcester residents and visitors a chance to connect to each other (virtually in 2021), explore Worcester by foot and participate in interesting discussions on how we can enhance the design and function of our city. The event is named for Jane Jacobs, an urban theorist and activist who championed a community-based approach to city building. This year, Jane Week in Worcester is composed of DIY Jane Walks, storytelling, podcast listening, and street redesign activities. Jane Week in Worcester joins an international movement that occurs the first week in May in over 250 cities across the world.

www.janejacobsinthewoo.org/jane-week-2021

[f /janeweekwoo](https://www.facebook.com/janeweekwoo)

What is the Worcester Urban Planning Partnership (UPP)?

In honor of Jane Jacobs' 100th birthday in May 2016, "Jane Jacobs in the Woo" was founded to initiate a year of conversations and actions to build a more vibrant Worcester. During this year, leaders interested in preservation, walkability, open space, and community development gathered to form a coalition later named the Worcester Urban Planning Partnership (UPP). We believe in Worcester's potential and promise to become one of the most livable cities in New England and beyond. We are working together to create a lively city with active streets, sidewalks and strong neighborhoods. The five essential building blocks include:

- **Preserve Worcester's unique attributes:** We support the creative reuse of our historic properties and advocate the development of locally owned stores and restaurants.
- **Build walkability into our street design:** We want streets for people and bicycles not just for cars! We support Worcester's adoption of a Complete Streets policy providing equitable street use for walkers, cyclists and car drivers. Additionally, we advocate for the strategic design and placement of parking lots and garages.
- **Practice excellence in building design:** We encourage mixed-use, compact development with windows and doors linking buildings to the street. We support the creation of guidelines, regulations and processes that promote high-quality architecture and best practices in urban design in Worcester.
- **Improve the Public Realm:** Well-designed sidewalks, street trees, public art, high-quality parks and green spaces make Worcester vibrant and fun and encourage more people to be on the street, participating in civic life.
- **Welcome Civic Participation in the Development Process:** We advocate for increased opportunities for the public to participate in planning processes and comment on proposed projects. Information on projects before the Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals should be made available electronically for public review. Moreover, public notification by Department of Public Works and Parks of upcoming maintenance or construction work on streets, sidewalks and street tree removals should be made to affected parties well in advance of such work.

Who was Jane Jacobs?

Jane Jacobs (1916–2006) was an American-born writer and activist best known for her writings about cities. Her first book, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (1961), upended the ideas of modernist city planning and building, and offered a new vision of diverse, fine-grained cities made for and by ordinary people. After moving from New York City to Toronto in 1968, she published six more major books about cities, economics, ethics, governance and culture, two of them Canadian bestsellers.



Ten Big Ideas

1. **Eyes on the Street:** Pedestrian traffic throughout the day, and the watchful eyes that come with it, enhance the safety of city streets.
2. **Social Capital:** The everyday activities and interactions that occur in a neighborhood slowly build up a network of relationships between neighbors. This "social capital" provides a foundation for mutual trust, shared efforts, and resilience in times of trouble.
3. **The Generators of Diversity:** Four factors in city planning and design help make the city diverse, safe, social, convenient, and economically vibrant:
 - a. **Mixed Uses:** A mixture of all kinds of residences, workplaces, and shops brings people out on the street at all times of day.
 - b. **Aged Buildings:** Humdrum, rundown buildings provide cheap space for new businesses and other low- or no-profit enterprises.
 - c. **Small Blocks:** A denser street network means more opportunities for retail and more chances for people to meet their neighbors.
 - d. **Population Density:** Simply put, you need lots of people in a small area to provide enough use for a city's streets, parks, and enterprises.
4. **Form Still Follows Function:** Fashions and technologies come and go, but what always remains relevant are the countless ways that people use the city, how the city works as a whole, and whether or not our urban design and planning reflect and serve those functions.
5. **Local Economies:** Economic growth, whether local, national or global, relies on the ability of urban economies to provide amply and diversely for themselves, rather than relying on imports.
6. **Innovation:** All new work is added to fragments of older work, like the first dressmaker to take up bra-making to improve the fit of her dresses. The greater the diversity of existing work in a local economy, the more opportunities to add new work and recombine old work in new ways.
7. **Make Many Little Plans:** The diversity of a good neighborhood can only be achieved when we allow many different people to pursue their own little plans, individually and collectively.
8. **Gradual Money:** Both diverse little plans and new kinds of work require diverse little sources of money available on an ongoing basis. Unfortunately, both public and private sources often only provide money floods and money droughts instead.
9. **Cities as Organized Complexity:** Cities function like ecosystems. Everything is connected to everything else in intricate, particular ways that cannot be captured well by statistics or formulas. Only close observation and reasoning from the bottom up will do.
10. **Citizen Science:** The people best equipped to understand urban complexity are "ordinary, interested citizens." Without the assumptions that often come with professional training, everyday users of the city can learn more freely from what they see and experience firsthand.

Written by Nate Storing for the Jane's Walk Project Office. Contact us at info@janewalk.org.

CLICK THE ICONS/EMAILS BELOW TO SEND PHOTOS AND THOUGHTS ABOUT JANE WEEK!



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janejacobsinthewoo@gmail.com
info@preservationworcester.org

CHECK OUT OUR EXCITING EVENTS!

SPOTLIGHTS

FRONT PORCHES



[Porches](#) are that magical in-between space that fosters neighborly, walkable neighborhoods. From a safe sidewalk distance, snap a photo of your favorite Worcester front porch, and post it with your thoughts on porches as an effective design element on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages!

WALKER'S CHOICE



What design element do you think builds a vibrant, walkable Worcester? Elements can be as small as a special tree, public art piece, favorite public bench to as large as a great building, street, garden or public park. Post your photos and tell us why your nomination serves as an example of good urban design.

15-MINUTE CITY WALK

Can you walk mostly everywhere you need to go within 15 minutes from your home? Click [HERE](#) to see. Start this walk by determining the [walk score](#) of your home address. Then see if you can walk to the following within 15 minutes from your house: school, grocery store, pharmacy, community garden, doctor office, church, park, hardware store, coffee shop, restaurant, public park. What are the benefits and drawbacks of living in a neighborhood with your particular walkscore? Tell us what you learned from this exercise.

WE ❤️ STEARNS TAVERN



Let's celebrate Stearns Tavern, the winner of the 2020-2021 Jane Award! We will be posting a virtual gallery of paper hearts with your messages of appreciation and love for the project on May 4, the birthday of Jane Jacobs. What do you love about Stearns Tavern and the outside playground? Post your messages [HERE](#)!

CONVERSATIONS ON CURRENT CONTROVERSIAL LAND USES: WHAT WOULD JANE SAY?



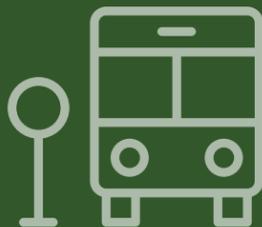
Tune in to the [Public Hearing podcast](#) as Josh Croke and Joyce Mandell channel the spirit of Jane Jacobs and imagine her reactions to Polar Park, Harding-Green and the controversy of Hillside Beach on Coes Pond. Stay tuned for the month of May for Jane-related interviews on this podcast.

ESCAPE FROM CITY HALL GAME

The skills needed to deal with municipal government and escape room puzzles are the same – a high tolerance for meaningless complexity and the ability to follow vague yet important instructions. The Worcester Regional Research Bureau has merged those two worlds in a virtual escape room presented in Google Forms. Check in on May 3 for an edutainment experience featuring puzzles and riddles designed around real things you might do at Worcester City Hall. Start your escape [HERE](#)! Those who solve the escape room should have a better understanding of the benefits of municipal knowledge, and the confidence to navigate the actual halls of local government.

TAKE THE BUS STOP CHALLENGE!

Great cities boast robust [public transportation systems](#). Find the closest bus stop to your house [HERE](#). Take a photo of the bus stop. If you were waiting for the bus at this stop, tell us what works well or poorly? Post your ideas [HERE](#).



JUST HOW WALKABLE ARE WORCESTER STREETS?

In 2019, a Worcester Regional Research Bureau [report](#) detailed the reasons why we need walkable neighborhoods. Want to improve the walkability of our city? Use the WRRB's Walkability Scorecard to assess one of your local Worcester streets and submit your findings [HERE](#).

AROUND THE COMMON, A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Preservation Worcester's self-guided walking tour of City Hall and the area surrounding the Worcester Common, highlights the history and architecture of the heart of Downtown. Click [HERE](#) to access the tour's information and maps.

BY THE CANAL, A SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Preservation Worcester's DIY tour of Worcester's Canal District highlights eleven buildings that reflect the history of both the city and the neighborhood. Discover surprising bits of history and hear stories about the people, events, and economy that made Worcester the city it is today. Click [HERE](#) to access the tour information and maps.

THE POWER OF SIGNS – THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE, CHILDREN/FAMILY ACTIVITY

Preservation Worcester reminds you of the power of your voice! Drawing on parallels between Jane Jacobs and current activists' use of signage to communicate, we want you to create your own sign to convey a message that is meaningful to you. Share your completed signs with us at info@preservationworcester.org. This activity is best for elementary school-aged children. Click [HERE](#) to download the activity.



YES, YOU CAN HIKE IN THE CITY!

Did you know that Worcester hosts the "largest urban wildlife sanctuary in New England" and has miles of dedicated nature trails within its borders? Hike one of the [trails](#) at Mass Audubon's [Broad Meadow Brook](#).



REDESIGN A WORCESTER STREET

Worcester's adoption of a Complete Streets Policy in 2017 supports the design of streets for all users – bikers, walkers and car drivers. The platform, Streetmix enables you to add bike lanes, trees, sidewalks and more to make a better Worcester Street. Click on a tutorial [HERE](#) to get you started. Share your redesigns with us!

INDIAN LAKE: A CAN-DO NEIGHBORHOOD

The Indian Lake Community Association is on fire bringing residents together to build a better neighborhood. Take a [walk audit](#) of the neighborhood or learn about the new community teaching [garden](#) that you can visit at 68 West Boylston Drive. You can bring a can of non-perishable food to place in the garden's blessing box.

BE A WORCESTER LORAX

[Trees](#) provide shelter, cooling, oxygen, beauty, serenity and more for our city. Will you speak out for the trees? Walk through the [Wetherell Park Woods](#) on the edge of Duffy Field and discover the hidden wetlands of this beloved neighborhood park. Or enjoy a stroll through Clark University's [Hadwen Arboretum](#), a museum of trees, located on May Street and Lovell.



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