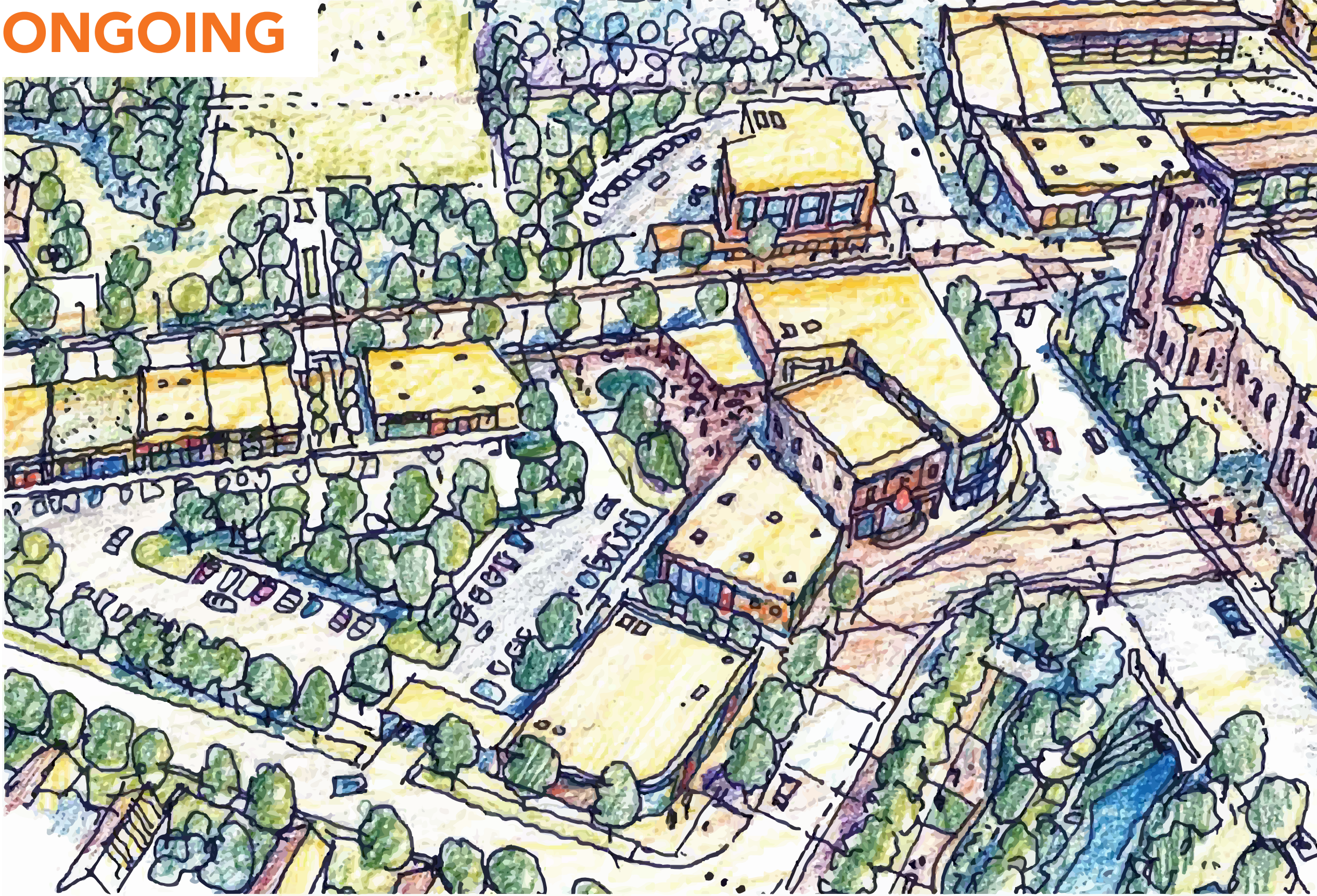


Watershops District Revitalization Plan

Springfield, Massachusetts

ONGOING



Project Team: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, HAPHousing, MHSC Neighborhood Council, Rosemary Morin, Alicia Zoeller, Brookings Elementary School

SQUARE FEET / UNITS

30 New Units

26 Rebuilt Units

FUNDING SOURCE

Barr Foundation

Description

The Watershops District Revitalization Plan focuses on revitalization strategies within sections of the Six Corners and Old Hill neighborhoods in Springfield. The plan is a continuation of ReBuild Springfield and focuses on redevelopment of Old Brookings School into housing and community areas; development of owner-occupied single-family housing on vacant lots with a higher density; three mixed-use centers; revitalization of Ruth Elizabeth Park; incorporation of pedestrian-friendly features such as street crossings and benches; and new alternative transportation and open space connections.

Opportunities

The opportunities for this plan included the availability of vacant lots that can be redeveloped as new owner-occupied housing; historic structures located in dense and walkable areas; collaboration with Springfield College; and several existing parks that could be improved and become greater neighborhood assets.

Challenges

Challenges identified include: illegal activities in the neighborhood as a whole and parks in particular; neighborhood perception that constrains redevelopment and reinvestment; concentrated areas of vacant parcels and buildings; lack of parking options for businesses; lack of funding options for redevelopment activities; and absentee landlords who do not maintain properties.