

Assets and Challenges

Assets

Cultural / Recreational:

Elizabeth Park
ETC Gallery
Pond House
The Alley
Ichiban

Development Potential:

Retail Strip on Farmington (potential)
Goodwin Estate (Large developable property)
Connecticut Historical Society site (if/when the Historical Society moves)
Land returned to city if/when the Sisson Ave off ramp is reconfigured (NRZ proposes that this land be used for recreation area/park, since there are not parks or recreation areas south of Farmington)

Education:

Hartford Seminary
Hartford College For Women
University of Connecticut School of Law
Noah Webster School
Watkinson School *
University of Hartford *
Lots of public school alternatives:

- ◆ Classical Magnet School at Hartford High
- ◆ Academy of the Arts
- ◆ Academy of Math/Sciences
- ◆ Breakthrough Charter School
- ◆ Jumoke Academy
- ◆ Montessori School

Environmental:

Mature trees
Wildlife (birds, small animals)
Park River

* Neighboring Institutions

Assets and Challenges (continued)

Government:

Fire House on Sisson Ave
Governor's Mansion
Community Service Office & especially CSO – Officer John Bremser

Housing Stock:

Housing for many income levels and stages of life
Single family (Most in National Register of Historic Places districts)
Multi family (1-4 Family, many in National Register districts)
Apartment buildings (Many charming buildings from 1920-30s)

Institutions:

Connecticut Historical Society
United Cerebral Palsy
Village for Families and Children *

Religious Institutions:

Methodist Church
First Church of the Living God
Episcopal Dioceses
Unitarian Meeting House *
First Church of Christ Scientist
All Saints Orthodox
Shiloh Baptist
Faith Tabernacle
Grace Tabernacle
Bible Way

Diversity of People:

Age
Economic
Ethnic
Political differences
Racial
Religious
Sexual preference
Special needs

* Neighboring Institutions

Assets and Challenges (continued)

Intangibles:

Community spirit
Future focused not just status quo seeking
High level of community involvement
Invite discussion, vigorous public debate on issues
Large professional population
Large student population
Long term family presence in neighborhood, some children
returning to live as adults
Maintaining high and stable property values
Optimism
“Positive Vibes”
Tolerance
Vocal

Challenges

Quality of Life:

Need more recreational activities
Poor enforcement of parking bans during snowstorms
Poor zoning enforcement
Potholes
Rats
Too many pay phones

Issues specific to South of Farmington:

Deteriorated properties
Lack of recreational areas
Litter
Not enough parking (particularly in Southeast)
Too much density on Evergreen Avenue.

Noah Webster:

Quality of Education:

Average test scores declining
No Internet access
Quality insufficient to attract/retain large
numbers of middle class families of all races

Assets and Challenges (continued)

Physical Plant:

- Building leaks
- No elevator
- No air conditioning
- Stucco deteriorating

Farmington Avenue:

- Litter
- Panhandling
- Speeding Traffic
- Storefronts in Disrepair
- Too many commercial properties “For Sale” especially west of Tremont
- Hard to cross street especially at Evergreen
- Dangerous jaywalking
- Lack of parking ordinance enforcement
- Too much fast food

Lack of Shopping of the following desired types:

- Food market
- Shoe repair
- Bakery
- Tailor
- General Stores
- Non fast food restaurants

Police Enforcement:

- Understaffed

Image:

- Poor news coverage of neighborhood – too little, too negative
- West Enders tend to feel defensive about Hartford
- Perception of high crime rate by outsiders