



The City of Worcester

Executive Office of Economic Development

Planning & Regulatory Services Division

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Planning@worcesterma.gov

City of Worcester's Street Naming Guidelines

All new street names or private streets transitioning to public streets in the City of Worcester are required to conform to the following guidelines or rules in order to ensure clarity and improve public safety and convenience. City of Worcester reserves the right to change the post type (st, ave, wy, etc) of the suggested street name.

1. Street names shall not contain more than 30 characters, including the abbreviated directional (if any) and abbreviated street type.
2. No street name shall have less than 3 characters.
Note: Existing streets that consist of less than 3 characters may remain.
3. Street names that contain punctuation or special characters including apostrophes, commas, hyphens, periods, or other similar characters, are discouraged due to implications with the 911 CAD system. Existing punctuation may remain.
4. Street names shall not exceed two words, excluding the directional and street type. *Note: Existing street names with more than two words may remain.*
5. Street names shall not contain directional words or street type words.
Note: Existing streets that consist of these words may remain.
6. New street names shall not duplicate any existing street name in the City of Worcester. The street name, for purposes of evaluating whether a duplicate exists, does not include the street type. For example, Aspen Lane and Aspen Drive are duplicates under this definition. North Main Street and South Main Street are considered a single road with directionals. Names that are merely minor spelling variations of the same word are also prohibited, such as "Ashley" and "Ashlee". Please refer to the list of existing street names:
<https://www.worcesterma.gov/engineering/document-center/street-listing.pdf>
7. New street names that sound like an existing street name, or another proposed name, or that create difficulties in pronunciation are prohibited. For example, Bear Street and Bare Street are duplicates under this definition.
8. Street names using a brand name for a company or specific product or fictional character are strongly discouraged.
Note: Existing street names named in such a manner may remain.
9. Street names that are deemed offensive, obscene, lewd, profane, offensive, or derogatory of any class, race, religion, ethnic group, gender, age, or other group are prohibited. An obscene term is a word or phrase that refers to or describes sexual conduct as defined by MGL c.272, s.31.
10. The use of a person's name for a street is permitted only if the person has been deceased for a minimum of 5 years, and shall have been a person of local historical, cultural, or social importance, and made significant contributions to

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the City of Worcester, State of Massachusetts, or the United States. Such names should preferably not include titles (Dr., Mr., Ms., etc.), or middle initials. Biographical information must be submitted in support of such naming. When naming a street for an individual, consideration should be given to putting the name only on a major thoroughfare rather than a residential street.

11. Street names shall not contain numerals. For example, Second Street is not permitted to be named as "2nd Street", where the official name is "2nd."
12. Spelling of words in street names shall conform to the spelling found in standard dictionaries of the English language, US usage. Words that are taken from a foreign language, or that are difficult to spell or pronounce shall be discouraged.
13. Street names should not use non-standard spelling (such as "Olde" for "Old").
Note: Existing street names containing these types of words may remain.
14. The words "Old", "New", "Extension" should not be used to designate a section of road unless the section so designated runs parallel or near a road with the same name and is connected to the road of the same name.
15. In selecting names for streets or in renaming streets, consideration should be given to the use of names that are historically, culturally, or environmentally significant to the immediate area.
16. Street names shall be consistent as the street crosses municipal boundaries to the greatest extent possible.

Please send any questions about the City of Worcester's Street Naming Guidelines to: TrebilcockJ@worcesterma.gov or call 508-799-1400 x31437.