

Buffer Zones

Why Buffer Zones?

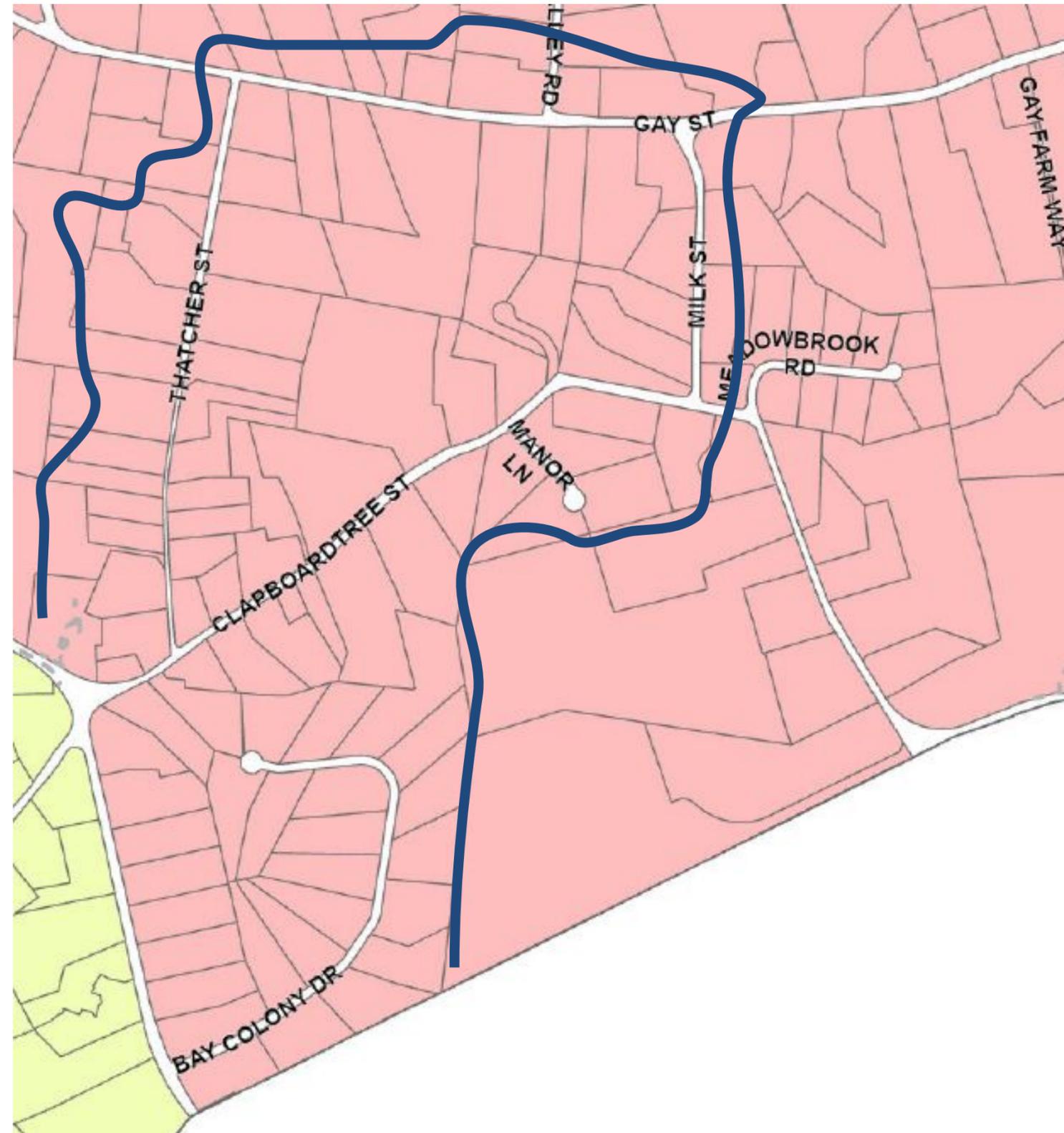
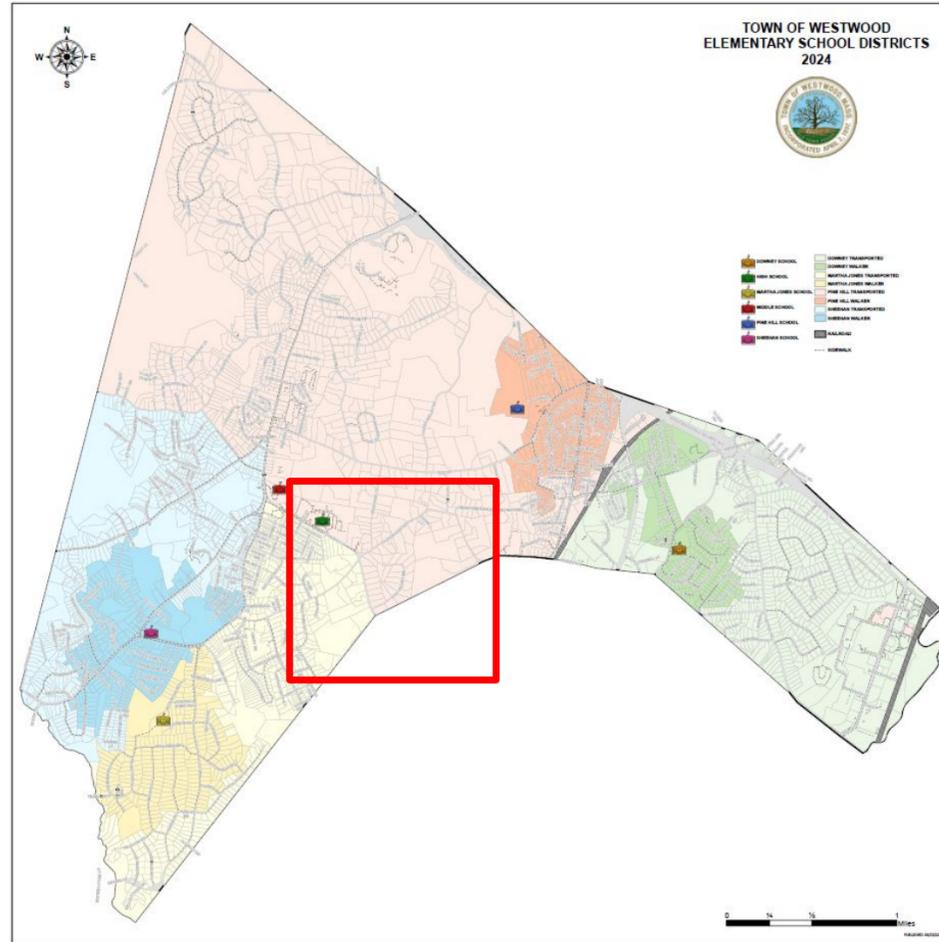
- Given the uncertainty of kindergarten enrollment, and the relatively small size of our elementary schools, buffer zones create greater flexibility in student assignment
 - Supports classes within class size guidelines
 - Supports staffing in a fiscally responsible manner
- FY2027 budget contains eleven kindergarten classrooms:
 - Four (4) classrooms at Pine Hill
 - A combined seven (7) classrooms at Downey, Martha Jones, and Sheehan
- Budget tables currently have three (3) kindergarten classrooms at Sheehan; distribution will depend on actual student enrollment

Guiding Principles

- Existing school assignment zones will remain unchanged
- Buffer zones will only be applied for class size management and enrollment relief, as needed
- Siblings will be assigned to same elementary school, whenever possible
- Identify buffer zones near pre-existing boundaries or along main roads to minimize bus detours and length of bus rides
- Current walker addresses may be included in buffer zones, but weigh this factor during student assignment
- Students in buffer zones will have bus eligibility determined in accordance with School Committee policy
- Intent to open Kindergarten registration sooner in future years

Zones in Consideration

Pine Hill



Martha Jones

