

# Plainfield, Connecticut

## Plainfield, Connecticut

### Town



Former bike shop



Seal

Location in [Windham County](#) and the state of [Connecticut](#).

Coordinates:  [41°42'N 71°54'W](#) [Coordinates: !\[\]\(f419710cbe076aa30a9c6c031b5cbe84\_img.jpg\) 41°42'N 71°54'W](#)

<b>Country</b>	 <a href="#">United States</a>
<b>State</b>	 <a href="#">Connecticut</a>
<b><u>NECTA</u></b>	<a href="#">Danielson</a>
<b>Region</b>	<a href="#">Northeastern Connecticut</a>

**Incorporated** 1699

<b>Government</b>	
• <b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Selectman-town meeting</a>
• <b>First selectman</b>	Cathy Tendrich
• <b><u>State Senator</u></b>	<a href="#">Andrew M. Maynard</a> (D-18th District)

• <a href="#">State Reps.</a>	Paul Brycki ( <a href="#">D</a> -45th District) Anne Dauphinais ( <a href="#">R</a> -44th District)
<b>Area</b>	
• <b>Total</b>	43.0 sq mi (111.4 km <sup>2</sup> )
• <b>Land</b>	42.3 sq mi (109.5 km <sup>2</sup> )
• <b>Water</b>	0.8 sq mi (2.0 km <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Elevation</b>	400 ft (122 m)
<b>Population</b> (2010)	
• <b>Total</b>	15,405
• <b>Density</b>	365/sq mi (141/km <sup>2</sup> )



## History

Plainfield was [incorporated](#) in 1699 as the town of Quinebaug and renamed the following year to its current name. The present name of "Plainfield" is descriptive of the original town site.<sup>[u]</sup> Plainfield proved to be an industrial heavyweight in the 19th and early 20th centuries due largely to the ability of the Moosup and [Quinebaug Rivers](#) to provide power to the different mills throughout town. Combined with the mills, Plainfield had incredible commerce for a small town because four railways from Hartford, New York, Boston, and Providence intersected within the town. There was also a highly acclaimed school on Academy Hill, which is how the present Academy Hill Road got its name.

Sites in Plainfield that are listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) are:

- [Central Village Historic District](#), a [historic district](#)
- [March Route of Rochambeau's Army: Old Canterbury Road](#)

## Geography

Plainfield is located at: 41.6775 N, 71.9220 W.

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#), the town has a total area of 43.0 square miles (111.5 km<sup>2</sup>), of which, 42.3 square miles (109.5 km<sup>2</sup>) of it is land and 0.8 square miles (2.0 km<sup>2</sup>) of it (1.81%) is water. From the southernmost point, Plainfield is 20 miles inland of the [Long Island Sound](#) and [Block Island Sound](#) (Atlantic Ocean). Plainfield is the southernmost town of Windham County. The Quinebaug River generally forms the western border of the town. The Moosup River feeds the Quinebaug and runs across the northern portion of town.

## Transportation

Plainfield is bisected by the Connecticut Turnpike (I-395 and CT 695) and is serviced by three exits: Lathrop Road at exit 28, CT 14A at exit 29, and CT 14 at exit 32. All exits are off the I-395 portion of the Turnpike, which runs north and south. Exit 35 off I-395 North is in Plainfield, but does not offer access to any Plainfield streets. CT 12 generally runs parallel to the west of the Turnpike, and is less than one-half mile from all three Turnpike exits.

There is no direct air, passenger rail, or navigable water access to Plainfield, although the town is serviced by the Providence and Worcester Railroad (freight only), which also parallels the Connecticut Turnpike corridor. There is no public transport system available in the town; combined with a lack of a sidewalk and/or segregated cycle facilities network and the large area of the town, this necessitates that most transit is done by car.

Providence, RI is the closest major city, 30 miles to the East. Hartford is 40 miles West. Boston, MA is 60 miles Northeast; New York City (Manhattan), NY is 120 miles Southwest. The closest international airport is T. F. Green Airport (PVD) in Warwick, RI. Nearby Amtrakpassenger rail stations include New London (NLC) and Providence (PVD); both are roughly 40 minute drives. New London is also served by the Shore Line East commuter railroad, and Providence by Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Commuter Rail.

## Demographics

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Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
<u>1820</u>	2,097	—
<u>1840</u>	2,383	—
<u>1850</u>	2,732	14.6%
<u>1860</u>	3,665	34.2%
<u>1870</u>	4,521	23.4%
<u>1880</u>	4,021	-11.1%
<u>1890</u>	4,582	14.0%
<u>1900</u>	4,821	5.2%
<u>1910</u>	6,719	39.4%
<u>1920</u>	7,926	18.0%
<u>1930</u>	8,027	1.3%
<u>1940</u>	7,613	-5.2%
<u>1950</u>	8,071	6.0%

<b><u>1960</u></b>	8,884	10.1%
<b><u>1970</u></b>	11,957	34.6%
<b><u>1980</u></b>	12,774	6.8%
<b><u>1990</u></b>	14,363	12.4%
<b><u>2000</u></b>	14,619	1.8%
<b><u>2010</u></b>	15,405	5.4%
<b>Est. 2014</b>	15,135 <sup>[2]</sup>	-1.8%
U.S. Decennial Census		

As of the census<sup>[4]</sup> of 2000, there were 14,619 people, 5,444 households, and 3,908 families residing in the town. The population density was 345.9 people per square mile (133.5/km<sup>2</sup>). There were 5,676 housing units at an average density of 134.3 per square mile (51.8/km<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the town was 96.15% White, 0.78% African American, 0.53% Native American, 0.60% Asian, 0.03% Pacific Islander, 0.63% from other races, and 1.29% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 2.63% of the population.

There were 5,444 households out of which 36.6% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 53.6% were married couples living together, 13.1% had a female householder with no husband present, and 28.2% were non-families. 21.4% of all households were made up of individuals and 8.6% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.65 and the average family size was 3.06.

In the town, the population was spread out with 26.9% under the age of 18, 8.0% from 18 to 24, 32.1% from 25 to 44, 21.6% from 45 to 64, and 11.5% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females, there were 95.8 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 92.1 males.

The median income for a household in the town was \$42,851, and the median income for a family was \$47,447. Males had a median income of \$36,785 versus \$24,026 for females. The per capita income for the town was \$18,706. About 5.4% of families and 7.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 8.2% of those under age 18 and 5.6% of those age 65 or over.

## Education



Moosup Free Public Library, about 1908

The Plainfield Board of Education (also *Plainfield Public Schools*) is responsible for the operation of schools, and operates seven facilities throughout the town.

### **Elementary (PK-5)**

- Moosup Elementary School (PK-3)
- Plainfield Memorial School (4-5)
- Shepard Hill Elementary School (PK-3)

### **Middle/Jr. High (6-8)**

- Plainfield Central Middle School

### **High (9-12)**

- [Plainfield High School](#)

## **References**

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1. [^](#) *The Connecticut Magazine: An Illustrated Monthly*. Connecticut Magazine Company. 1903. p. 334.
2. [^](#) *"Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2014"*. Archived from *the original* on May 23, 2015. Retrieved June 4, 2015.
3. [^](#) *"Census of Population and Housing"*. Census.gov. Retrieved June 4, 2015.
4. [^](#) *"American FactFinder"*. *United States Census Bureau*. Retrieved 2008-01-31.