

McLean's Plan for Thoughtful, Responsible Growth

By Lisa Clark, President, McLean
April 10, 2025

McLean has long been part of the heart and soul of Simsbury since 1932 when Senator George McLean set forth his vision offering a unique blend of senior living, land stewardship, and community engagement. Today, we're excited to share the next step in our journey of mission driven service to local seniors: a proposed expansion of our life plan community, which we're calling "The Meadows."

Many in our community know McLean as the steward of the 4,400-acre McLean Game Refuge—a remarkable conservation gem that spans three towns. This protected area is home to over 500 native plant species, more than 130 types of birds, and a wide variety of reptiles, amphibians, fish, and mammals. The McLean Game Refuge welcomes over 50,000 nature-loving visitors each year.

McLean is also a senior living community—home to nearly 270 seniors who live with care and services available as their needs change. Our life plan community sits on 110 acres in Simsbury and includes independent living with apartments, villas and cottages, assisted living apartments, a licensed health center, outpatient physical therapy, home care, hospice, and a wide range of outreach and support programs.

McLean is proposing to expand—not to grow for the sake of growth, but for the demand and desire for more senior housing, both in the state and within the town. Our independent living village is full. We have over 30 people on a waitlist for current options, and an additional 127 members—95% of whom are Connecticut residents—eagerly awaiting the chance to call McLean their home. Research supports the need – the surrounding market can comfortably and responsibly accommodate 100 more independent residences.

Although an early concept proposed building all 100 units on the site, we've chosen a more modest, conservation-minded approach. The current plan includes up to 26 energy-efficient duplexes, which range from 1,400 to 2,500 square feet, thoughtfully placed on our private property between the existing meadow and the Hop Meadow Country Club. The majority of the McLean meadow will remain open and accessible for our residents and neighbors to enjoy.

We're also taking extensive steps to protect the natural environment. Only 18 of the 110 acres on our Simsbury campus will be used in the proposed development. Native plantings will replace invasive species. Stormwater retention ponds and oversized culverts will improve water flow and reduce runoff—benefiting not just our property, but our neighbors as well.

When it comes to wildlife, we take our role as stewards seriously. We've partnered with Quinn Ecological, experts in amphibian and reptile conservation, to assess and protect sensitive species like the Eastern box turtle. Their findings will guide our process before, during, and after construction. We're also in regular consultation with Connecticut DEEP to ensure best practices are followed throughout.



McLean is proud of its legacy—one rooted in the vision of Senator George McLean, who believed deeply in the healing power of nature and the importance of community. This expansion honors that vision by creating more opportunities for older adults to age with dignity and independence in a setting that respects the land and enriches the Town of Simsbury. McLean's life plan community has a long-standing reputation as a place where seniors can live, at any stage in their lives, and they and their families have the comfort of knowing they have a secure plan for their future.

We invite our neighbors to learn more, ask questions, and be part of the process. We welcome dialogue because we care deeply about getting this right—for today and for the generations to come.

Lisa Clark

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President of McLean in Simsbury



Independent Living | Assisted Living | Memory Care | Outpatient Physical Therapy
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