



\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*

## **CONSTRUCTION TO COMMENCE ON NORTHTOWN IN AMHERST, NY**

*Northtown will be home to Whole Foods Market's first location to be built in Western New York*

**(Chestnut Hill, MA, July 1, 2016)**—WS Development announced the commencement of construction on the first phase of its redevelopment of Northtown, which will include a 50,000 square foot Whole Foods Market, America's leading natural and organic grocery store. This will be the first Whole Foods Market, to open in Western New York. WS Development purchased the 400,000 square foot Northtown Plaza located at the intersection of Niagara Falls Boulevard and Sheridan Drive in the spring of 2015.

"The new Whole Foods Market is a fantastic first step toward returning Northtown to its position as one of the most significant commercial destinations in the Buffalo region" said Brian Sciera, Vice President, WS Development. "Our vision for Northtown integrates Whole Foods Market with a mix of best-in-class, regional and national retailers and restaurants to create a special place." Sciera added.

Picone Construction will serve as general contractor for the building construction. As is the case with all Whole Foods Market locations, the design and décor is customized to reflect the culture and heritage of its local region.

"We are delighted to make the Amherst store our very first in the area," said Michael Sinatra, Public Affairs Director with Whole Foods Market's Northeast Region. "This is the ideal time to join the positive momentum that the Buffalo Niagara region is experiencing. We are eager to become part of this vibrant community and to offer Western New Yorkers our signature mix of products, including those locally sourced from the communities that surround our store."

The store is slated to open sometime in 2017.

## **ABOUT WS DEVELOPMENT:**

One of the largest privately owned retail development firms in the U.S., WS Development develops, owns, manages and leases an extensive portfolio of over 97 properties totaling more than 23M sf with an additional 4M sf under development. At each of its lifestyle centers, power centers, community centers, and mixed-use developments, WS Development is committed to long-term investments and relationships built on trust. WS Development has been a trendsetter in the industry for its portfolio of premiere, open-air shopping centers that exceed visitors' expectations with world-class retail, dining and entertainment, extraordinary architecture and dynamic community events. WS Development's premiere projects currently include Seaport Square (Boston, MA), Hilldale (Madison, WI), Highland Village (Jackson, MS), Hyde Park Village (Tampa, FL), Legacy Place (Dedham, MA), The Royal Poinciana Plaza (Palm Beach, FL), The Street (Chestnut Hill, MA) and MarketStreet Lynnfield (Lynnfield, MA).

## **ABOUT WHOLE FOODS MARKET:**

Founded in 1978 in Austin, Texas, Whole Foods Market ([wholefoodsmarket.com](http://wholefoodsmarket.com), NASDAQ: WFM), is the leading natural and organic food retailer. As America's first national certified organic grocer, Whole Foods Market was named "America's Healthiest Grocery Store" by Health magazine. The company's motto, "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet"™ captures its mission to ensure customer satisfaction and health, team member excellence and happiness, enhanced shareholder value, community support and environmental improvement. Thanks to the company's more than 85,000 team members, Whole Foods Market has been ranked as one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" in America by FORTUNE magazine for 19 consecutive years. In fiscal year 2015, the company had sales of more than \$15.4 billion and currently has more than 435 stores in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. For more company news and information, please visit [media.wfm.com](http://media.wfm.com).

## **ABOUT PICONE CONSTRUCTION:**

Picone Construction Corp. has been providing Professional Construction Services to the Western New York area since 1931. The firm specializes in General Contracting, Construction Management, and Design / Build services. Past projects stand as enduring testimonials to the integrity and commitment that has always characterized their work. Extensive experience and knowledge insures that all clients will receive the quality and value they demand.

For more information, visit [wsdevelopment.com](http://wsdevelopment.com), call 617.232.8900 or follow @WSDevelopment on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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