

WEST BROOKFIELD



2017 MASTER PLAN 2027

# Natural/Cultural Resources

## TOWN COMMON

The West Brookfield Town Common is the main location for community activities and leisure enjoyment. The Highway Department maintains the landscape of our beautiful common. The Common is host to numerous festivals and cultural activities like the Asparagus and Flower Heritage Festival, happening this May.



## HISTORIC RESOURCES

West Brookfield boasts a fine collection of historic homes, civic and institutional buildings and an impressive Common.

### National Historic Register Listings

- West Brookfield Center Historic District
- Wickaboag Valley Historic District
- Old Indian Cemetery
- Jedediah Foster Homesite
- Lucy Stone Homesite
- Salem Cross Inn

### Other Sights of Historical Significance

- Fort Gilbert
- Foster Hill
- Jedediah Foster Homesite
- Lucy Stone Homesite
- Old Indian Cemetery
- Rock House Reservation
- Whitefield Rock
- Ye Olde Tavern

Visit the West Brookfield Historical Commission website for more: <http://westbrookfield.org/>

## FORESTS: CHANGING LANDSCAPES

The landscape in West Brookfield and in many communities in New England have changed over the last 300 years. Early settlers and residents cleared much of the land in town for farmland and logging. Now forests are slowly starting to reclaim many of these former farmsteads. Planned forest management is vital to the continued health of West Brookfield's forests.

\_\_\_\_\_ acres of land are enrolled in the Chapter 61 program, which offers substantially reduced property taxes for managed forests. In addition, Forest Cutting Plans are submitted to the Conservation Commission to notify local Board members about forest management activities.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

[www.westbrookfieldmasterplan.com](http://www.westbrookfieldmasterplan.com)



*Town of West Brookfield Master Plan Committee*

## SCENIC LANDSCAPES

West Brookfield is characterized by a wide number of scenic landscapes including the major hills in town, Town Common, farmland, the Quaboag River, Mill and Sucker Brooks and Lake Brookhaven and Lake Wickboag



Picture from West Brookfield Historical Commission website: [http://westbrookfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/west\\_brookfield\\_common-1140x350.jpg](http://westbrookfield.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/west_brookfield_common-1140x350.jpg)

## WATER RESOURCES

- **Lake Wickaboag:** Approximately 320 acres in surface area. This lake offers rethis pond affords an excellent opportunity for community residents to enjoy fishing and water sports. The lake is extensively utilized both during the summer for swimming, fishing and boating and during the winter for skating, fishing, and motorized vehicle travel.
- **Brookhaven Lake:** approximately 44 acres in surface area with a drainage area of approximately 1.3 square miles.
- **The Quaboag River:** the most significant waterway in West Brookfield. Its drainage area is approximately 128 square miles at the Warren-West Brookfield town line. The eastern end of the valley is wide and contains approximately 280 acres of swamp. The maximum and minimum records of flow are 12,800 cfs and 6.6 cfs respectively. The river served as a means of transportation during Native American occupation and during early European settlement. The wide valley was open and upland adjacent to the river was easily farmed.



### CONSULTANT TEAM

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