

5. Open Space, Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources

Open Space and Recreation Plan

Brookfield's first Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) was approved in March 2010 by the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services. The approval allows Brookfield to participate in DCS grant rounds through December 2016. The OSRP Plan is incorporated into the Master Plan in its entirety. In the interest of conservation, it is not reprinted here. Please find a copy included with this report. Copies are also available at the Selectmen's office and the Merrick Public Library, as well as at www.brookfieldma.us.

The many recommendations of the OSRP are too numerous to mention here. A list of all the action items with the entity in town responsible for implementation appears in Chapter 7, Implementation Plan.

Brookfield Heritage Landscape Inventory

In 2008, Brookfield was privileged to participate in a project sponsored by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). As a result of this project, the Brookfield Heritage Landscape Inventory Report, inventoried significant natural and cultural resources in the Town. This report is incorporated into the Master Plan in its entirety. In the interest of conservation, it is not reprinted here. Please find a copy included with this report. Copies are also available at the Selectmen's office and the Merrick Public Library, as well as at www.brookfieldma.us

The project team suggested that the following recommendations be the top three priorities for the Town of Brookfield as it works to protect the heritage landscape character of the community:

1. Adopt the Community Preservation Act
2. Establish Local Historic Districts for the Elm Hill Farm and Town Common National Register Historic Districts
3. Conduct an Archaeological Survey for the Quaboag River corridor and the shore of Quaboag Pond.

In addition, the project team recommended:

4. The town adopt a Demolition Delay Policy and a Chapter 61 Policy.
5. The town should work with local land conservation organizations for assistance with Conservation and Preservation Restrictions for key landscapes including the Richardson and Overlook Farms, and the old Boston Post Road.
6. The town should initiate public outreach to educate the local population regarding the community's heritage landscape resources, using the Heritage Landscape Report as an important first document.