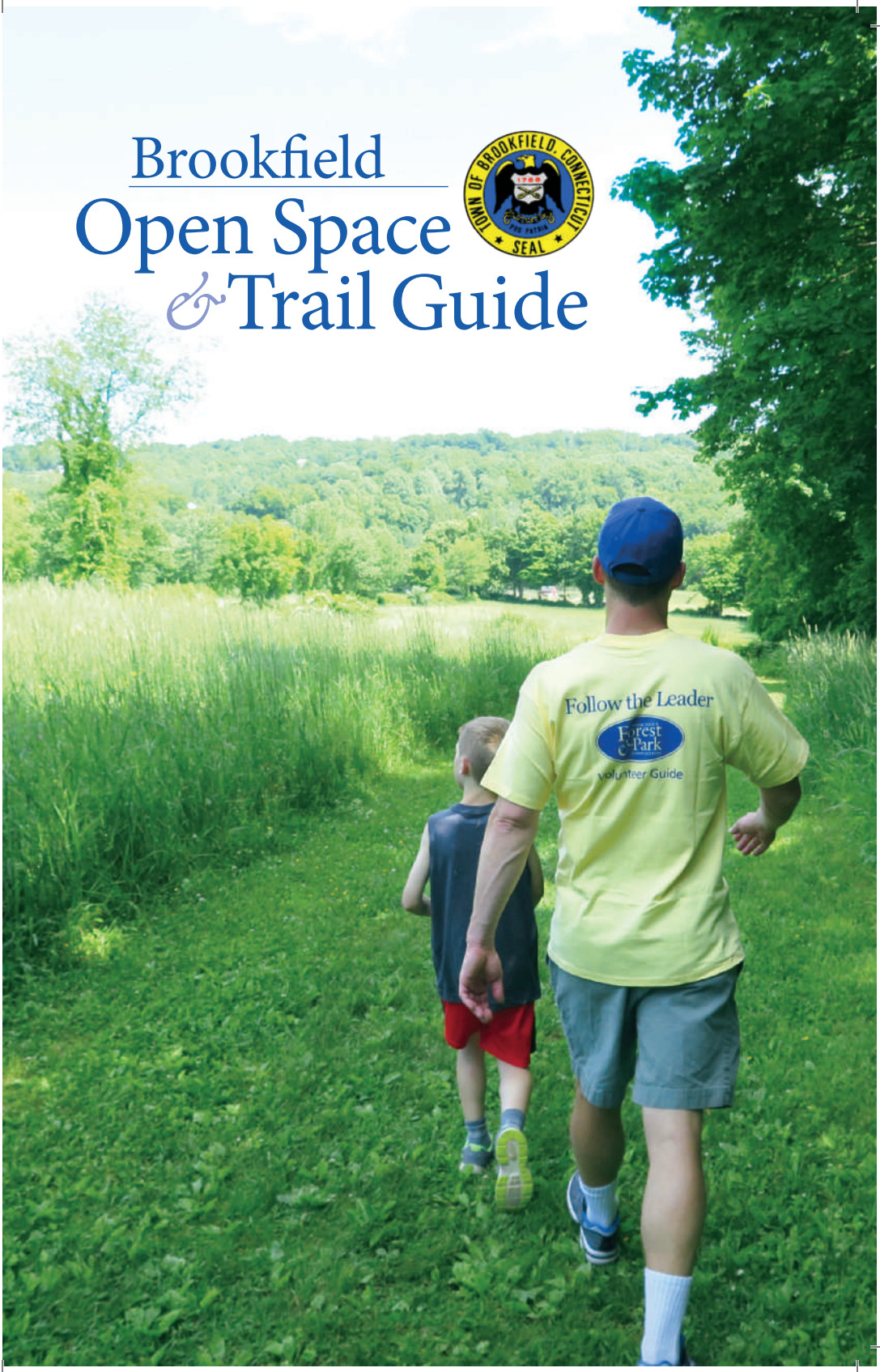
Brookfield Open Space & Trail Guide



BEFORE
OLD

The Brookfield Conservation Commission offers these beautiful trails and open spaces to the public for a variety of passive activities. Please note that you are responsible for any injuries or harm, and please be responsible and treat yourself, the trails, and open spaces with respect to keep them safe and fun for everyone to enjoy!

Thank you for your cooperation!

Brookfield Conservation Commission

Please pay attention to your location. If you have an emergency, call 911. For any non-emergency, please call the Brookfield Police Dept .at 203-775-2575.

Brookfield Open Space & Trail Guide

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The Conservation Commission is responsible for guide content and editing with the help and contributions by Parks & Recreation and Brookfield Open Space Legacy.

Design/Illustration: www.farrelldesign.com

Enjoy Your Open Spaces

The properties in this book belong to the Town of Brookfield, the Brookfield Open Space Legacy and the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust, Inc. and are open to the public free of charge.

The following rules apply to all of Brookfield's open spaces:

- Open from Dawn until Dusk
- All dogs must be leashed and cleaned up after.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed (except farming equipment with approval of Parks & Recreation & Conservation Commission)

MAP LEGEND

- Property Boundary
- Meadow
- Municipal Land
- Water
- Paved
- Trail
- Gravel Trail
- Boardwalk
- Stonewall
- Shrubs
- Large Rock
- Large Tree
- Wetlands
- Waterfall
- Windmill
- Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Parking

Please take only pictures, leave only footprints!

What does the Brookfield Conservation Commission *do?*

Presently, Brookfield has 1,300 acres of open space including private land trusts.

The Brookfield Conservation Commission was formed in the late 1960's in order to oversee the acquisition and inventory of town-owned open space. Throughout 1970-2005 an increasing number of parcels were purchased. Presently, Brookfield has 1,300 acres of open space including private land trusts. Previously, the duties have been primarily to inventory open space, advise the Planning Commission on any subdivisions, and oversee the open spaces in Brookfield with the help of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department.

The duties of the Conservation Commission have increased over the past 10 years with the acquisition of additional space as well as leasing four homes on open space. Some other duties include updating our

Brookfield Trail Guide, working with the Connecticut Historic Preservation Office to improve the Gurski Homestead property, maintenance of wooded areas, haying of field areas, wildlife management, signage and kiosks in open spaces and forestry and trail management. We also coordinate volunteer efforts for work on open spaces, plan events for Arbor Day, Earth Day and the Brookfield Farmfest all to bring awareness and an understanding of the importance of our open spaces.

We also seek grants for the purchase of additional open spaces when they become available. Conservation has received grants from the Meserve Foundation, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Iroquois Gas Transmission Company, free property evaluations from the USDA Cooperative Extension Unit and a grant for a structural engineering evaluation through the Connecticut Department of Economic & Community Development.

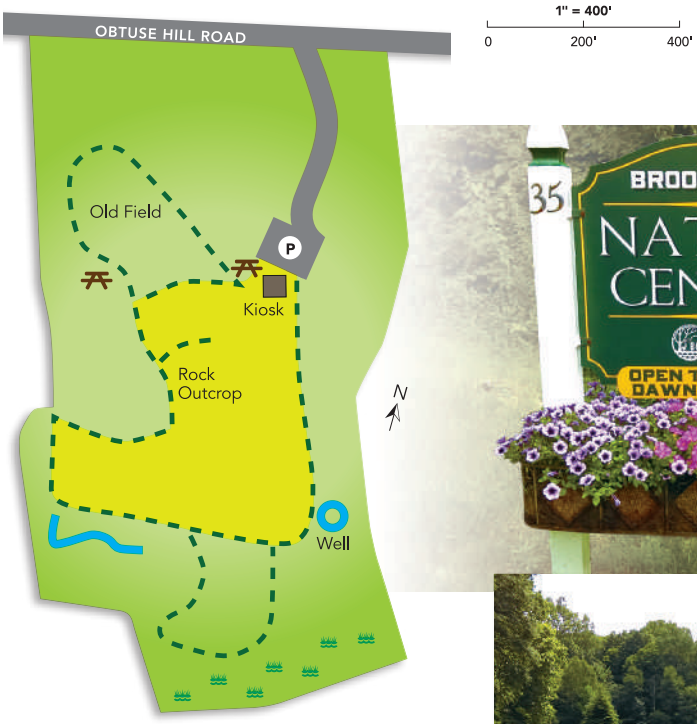
We often have events, such as Farmfest, and volunteer days when we plant trees, clear trails, build bluebird houses, head trail walks, etc., and we can always use volunteers! We work each year in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you are interested in donating open space or a conservation easement, please call Town Hall at 203.775.7316 and we'll add you to the list.

Thank you!

Brookfield Nature Center

35 OBTUSE HILL ROAD



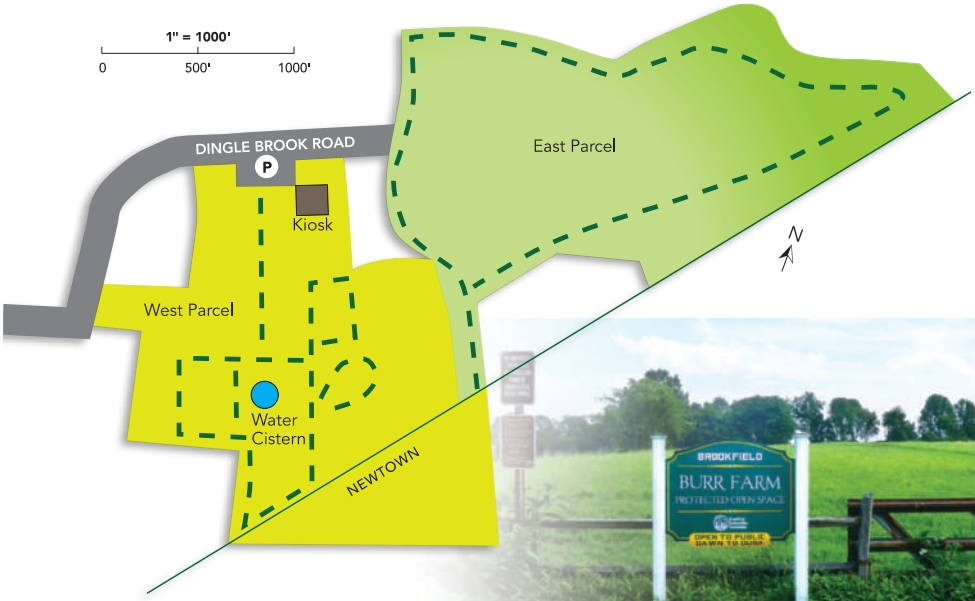
Chrissy's Garden

The Brookfield Nature Center consists of 16 acres owned by the Town of Brookfield and is managed by the Brookfield Conservation Commission. The land has a striking mix of old fields, upland woods with stands of Spruce mixed with large specimen trees of Tulip and White Oak. Merwin Brook cuts across the northwest corner of the property. The brook flows through a wooded wetland with White Ash, Elm, and Red Maple trees around it. The grassland fields are a nesting site of Bobolinks and other ground nesting birds. A careful mowing schedule is used to protect the eggs and chicks. The trails will lead you through the site.

Swing and picnic area in western section of Old Field

Burr Farm Protected Open Space

23 DINGLEBROOK ROAD



The Burr Farm Protected Open Space was purchased by the Town of Brookfield from the family of Lawrence and Helen Burr in 1999. It comprises 116 acres divided into East and West parcels, along the now unused eastern end of Lake George Road, which used to connect with Pond Brook Road in Newtown. Upon the death of Helen Burr in 1997, the land was sold to the Town of Brookfield so it could be saved from development and enjoyed by the likes of hikers, naturalists, horseback riders, cross country skiers, bird watchers, and more. The West Parcel can be accessed by way of the Meadowland Trail, on a 1.1 mile hike around the perimeter of the Upper Meadow. The fields you pass were used to grow corn and hay. The East Parcel can be hiked on the 1.4 mile, blue-blazed Dingle Brook Loop Trail, which proceeds East down Dingle Brook Road, and a short distance North or South down Lake George Road.

Hiking trail

Happy Landings Protected Open Space

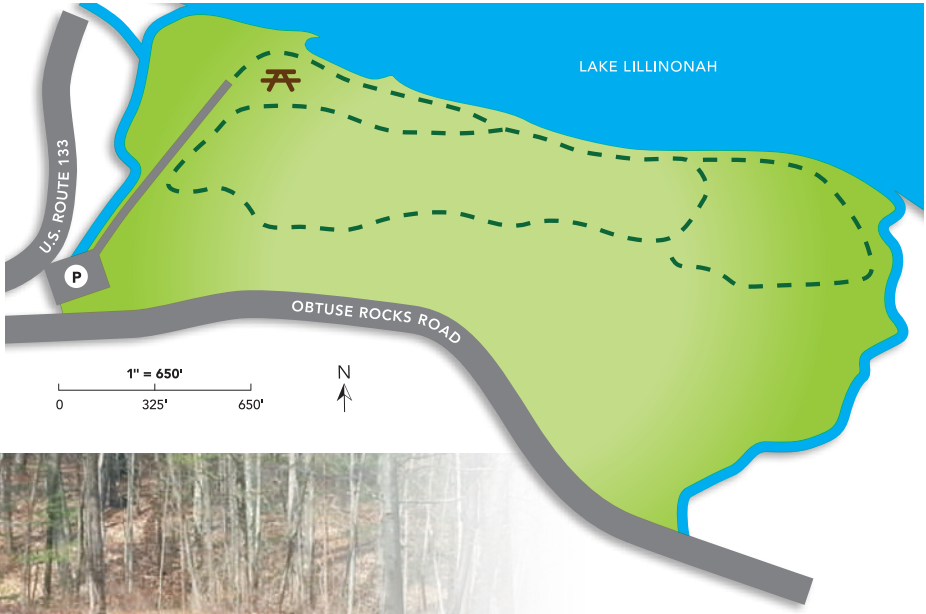
55 WHISCONIER ROAD (ROUTE 25)

Happy Landings is located at 55 Whisconier Road (Route 133) in Brookfield, CT. It was purchased as open space by the Town of Brookfield from the Gereg family in 1999. These fields and windmills have become a remaining symbol of Brookfield's rural character. The 84 acre property has a combination of rich soils, aquifer watershed with varied grasses, wetlands and hardwood forest. In order to maintain the beauty of the property, the fields are hayed each year by a farmer and trails are maintained by Brookfield Parks & Recreation.

Windmill

Lillinonah Woods

54 OBTUSE ROCKS ROAD



Located near the bridge on Route 133, Lillinonah Woods consists of 68 acres along Lake Lillinonah. This park offers fishing, hiking trails, picnic tables and parking.

Picnic area

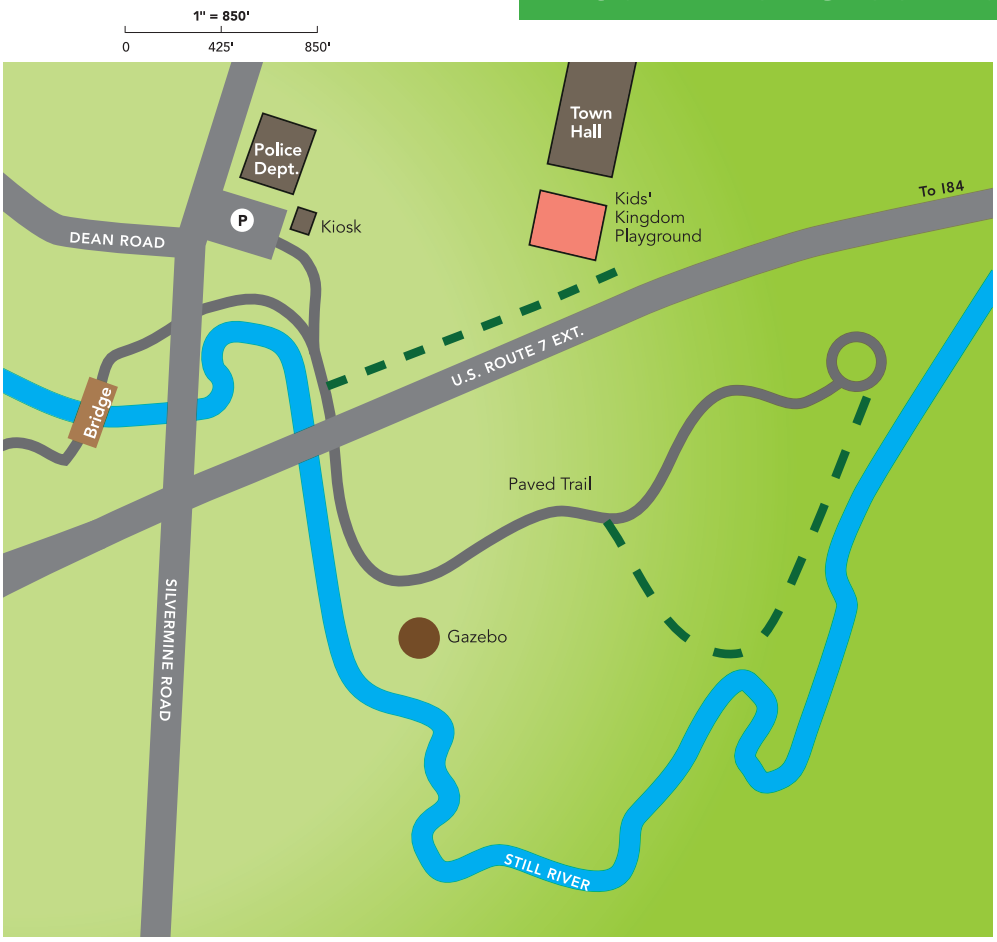
Canoeing on Lake Lillinonah

Still River Greenway

The northern section of the trail begins near the Four Corners area of Brookfield. The trail proceeds south, within the Route 202 right-of-way, for approximately a third of a mile before crossing the Still River and proceeding along the Brookfield Municipal Center. The southern section of the trail proceeds further south through Arthur Harris Park to the vicinity of Route 133 with a total trail length of almost two miles. The Greenway can also be accessed from Brookfield Town Hall and Kid's Kingdom by a trail just south of Kid's Kingdom.

Paved trail along Federal Road

Still River Greenway

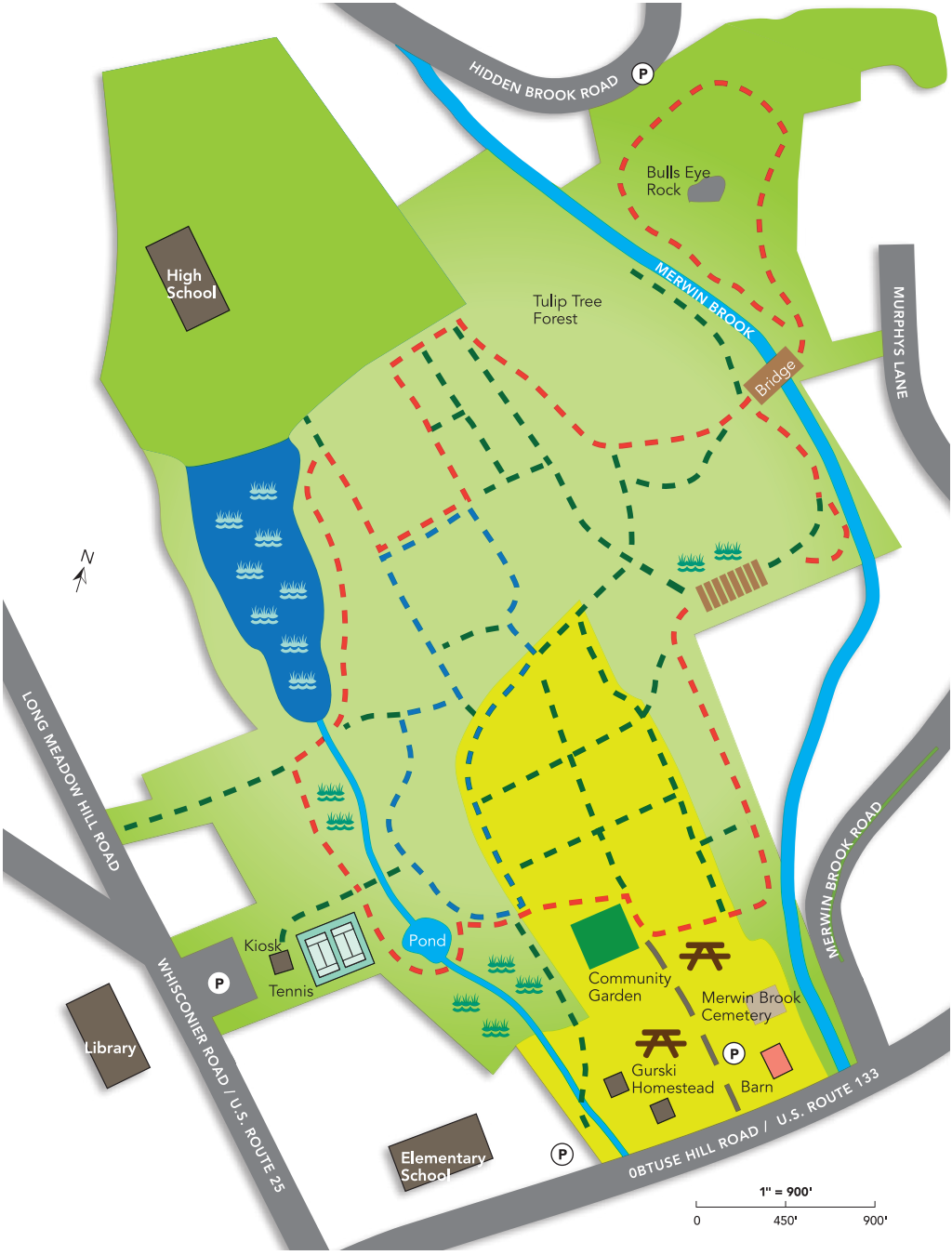


Bridge over Still River

Paved trail going under Route 7

Williams-Gurski Open Space

185 WHISCONIER ROAD



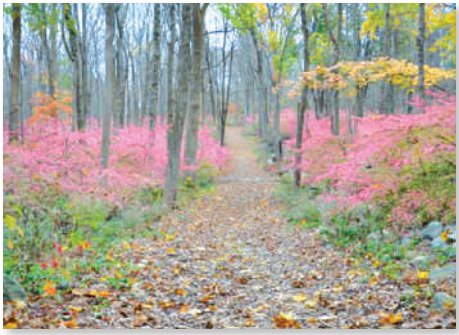
Williams-Gurski Open Space

185 WHISCONIER ROAD

Williams Park Open Space is located on 200 acres in the heart of Brookfield. The property features woodlands, streams, wetlands and hay fields. The main entrance, on Rt. 25 across from the town library, is on the eastern side of the property. Trails from here lead to the town's clay tennis courts, the hay fields and the wooded hill top. To the north, the property borders Brookfield High School. The northeast side features Merwin Brook and numerous large boulders. To the south is the Merwin Brook Cemetery, Gurski Homestead with its barn and forge and the Community Gardens. Parking is available at the main entrance and at the Gurski Homestead on Rt. 133.

The Blue Loop trail (1 mile long) winds around the wooded hilltop and the edge of the fields and the Red Loop trail (3 miles long) explores all of the park's features. All of the bridges and boardwalks throughout the park were built as Eagle projects by the town's Boy Scout Troops.

Merwin Brook Cemetery



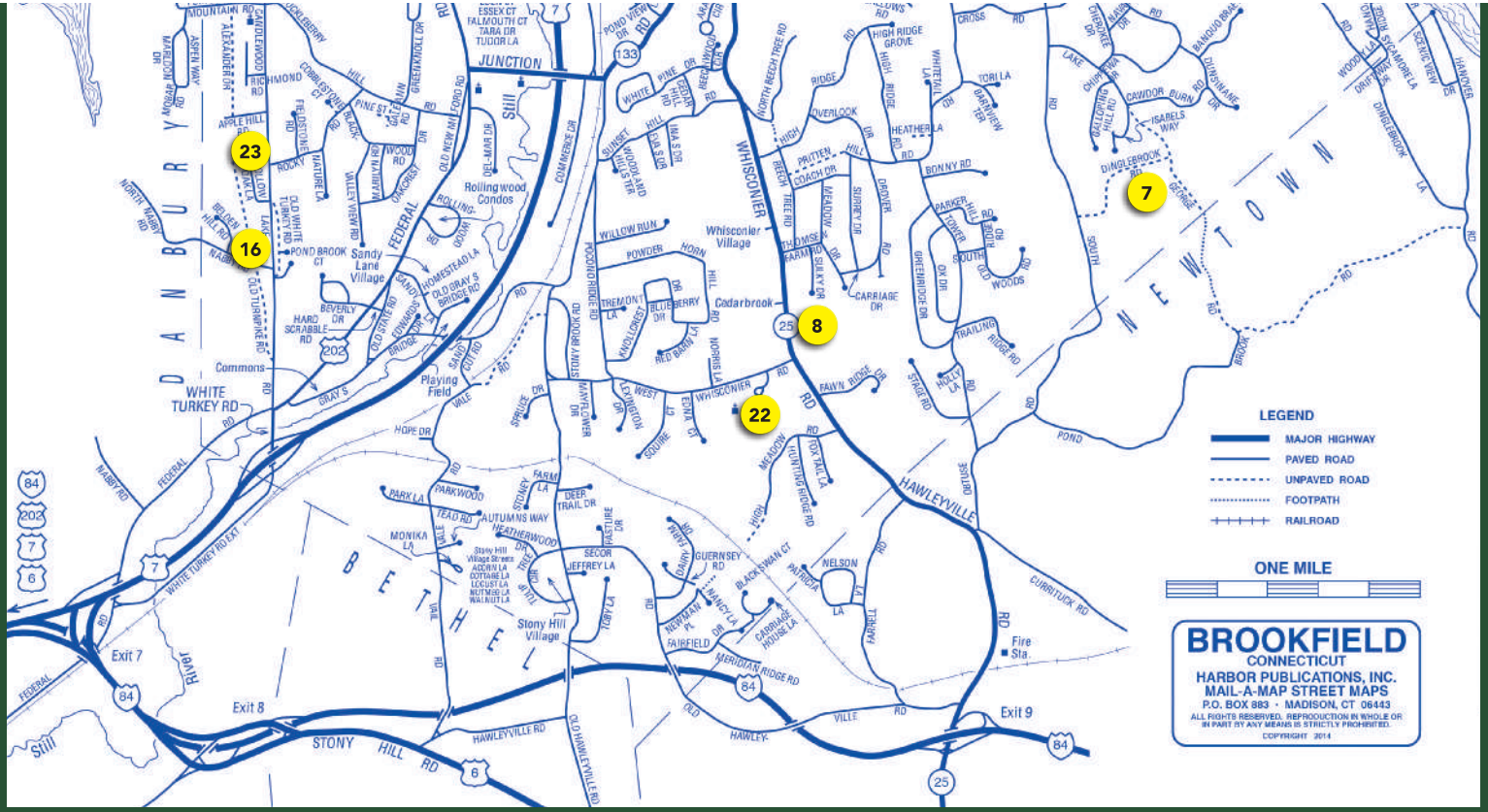
Hiking trail

Hay bales in the fields

Planting a tree at the Homestead

Brookfield

Open Space & Trail Guide Map



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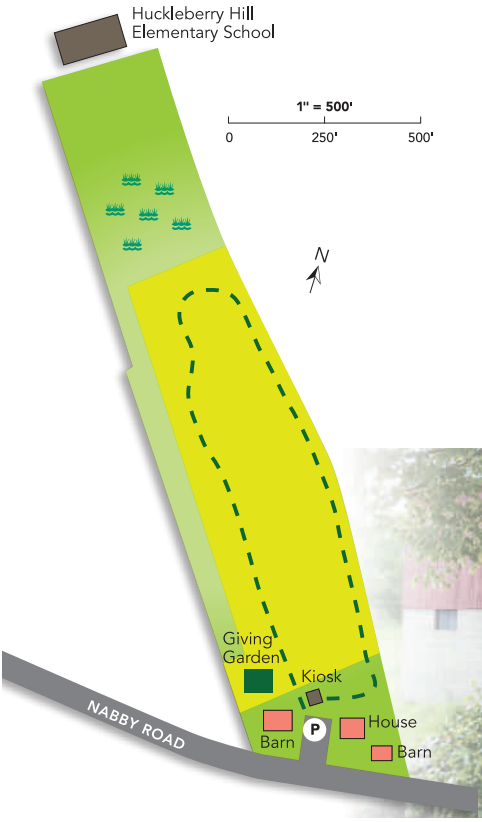
Eriksen Farm Open Space

8 NABBY ROAD



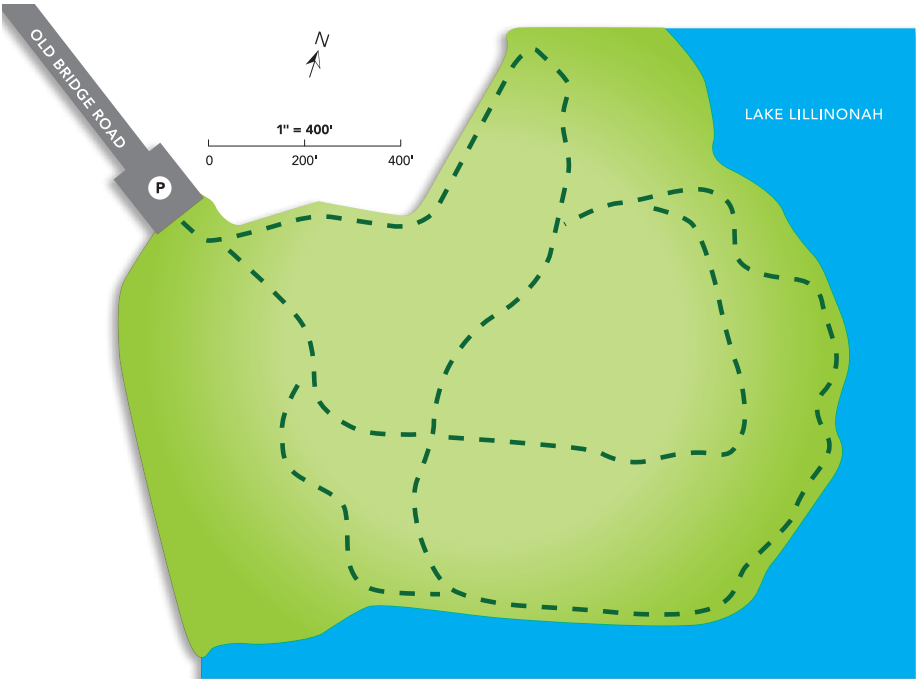
Entrance to Eriksen Farm property in winter

The Town of Brookfield bought this 20.2 acre parcel from the Estate of Ken and Gert Eriksen in 2009. A colonial farm house and two barns are part of the property which adjoins Huckleberry Hill School on the north side. A giving garden is located on the property. There is a flat, mowed walking trail about one third mile long. The north half of the property is wooded with wetlands. The house and barns are presently rented and not for public use. Eriksen Farm is located on Nabby Road just off Candlewood Lake Road.

Entrance to Eriksen Farm property in summer

Old Bridge Sanctuary

57 OLD BRIDGE ROAD



Hiking trail

View of Lake Lillinonah

Old Bridge Sanctuary is a 25.3 acre park that was deeded to the town of Brookfield in 1965 by CL&P. Several bird species including black-capped chickadees, the tufted titmouse, and the house finch can be seen here, as well as, the downy woodpecker.

The park has a loop trail that winds along the water's edge with great views of Lake Lillinonah. The trails are moderate to steep in certain areas. Old Bridge Sanctuary is located at the end of Old Bridge Road.

Brookfield Town Hall

100 POCONO ROAD

Kids' Kingdom playground

Horse sculpture

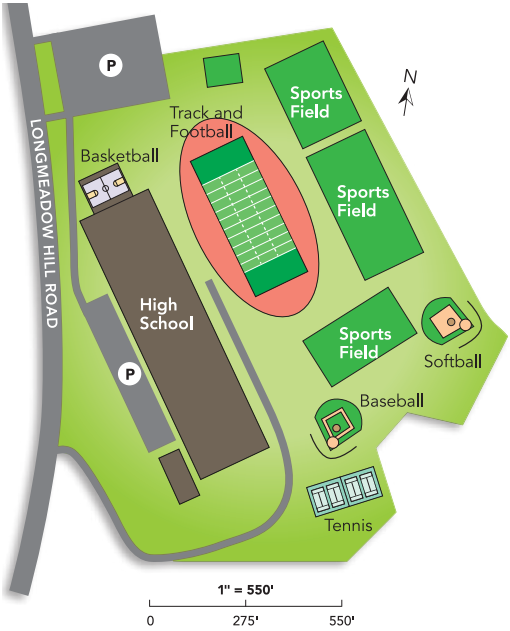
Bandstand

The grounds of Brookfield Town Hall are filled with a hub of activity centered around Kids' Kingdom Playground. There are multiple playing fields including soccer fields of various sizes and a softball field. There is a bandstand which hosts a concert series and a walking trail leading to the Greenway. Restrooms are on the premises.

Brookfield High School

45 LONGMEADOW HILL ROAD

Track and football field



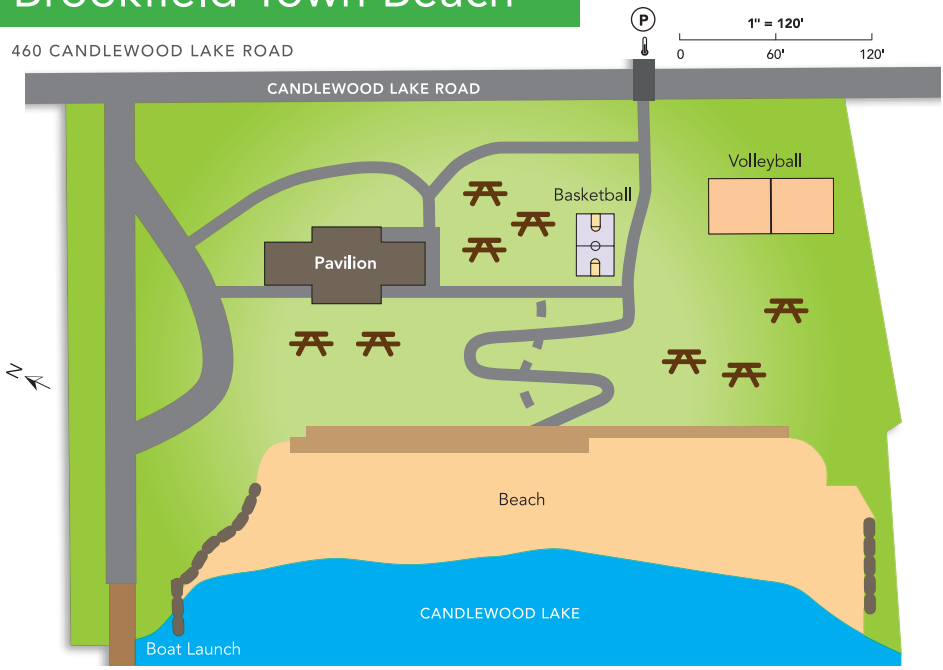
Football field

Track and baseball field

Brookfield High School is attended by students in grades nine through twelve. Its grounds include two turf fields, a track, a baseball field, a softball field, and tennis courts.

Brookfield Town Beach

460 CANDLEWOOD LAKE ROAD



Basketball court

Beach area

The newly renovated town beach officially opened in 2015. In addition to an expanded beach area, the Brookfield Town Beach has a picnic area, restrooms, and changing rooms. The multi-purpose building includes a concession stand and a community room. There is a children's basketball court and play area along with a sand volleyball court. A boat ramp is also located on the property.

Pavilion

Cadigan Park

500 CANDLEWOOD LAKE ROAD

Sports field

Basketball court

Baseball field

The newly renovated Cadigan Park officially opened in 2014. Cadigan Park has two multi-purpose turf fields, a softball field, tennis and basketball courts, and a walking path around the facility. The park also has restrooms, a concession stand, and a pavilion. Parking for the town beach is located at Cadigan Park.

Whisconier Middle School

15 WEST WHISCONIER ROAD

Whisconier Middle School

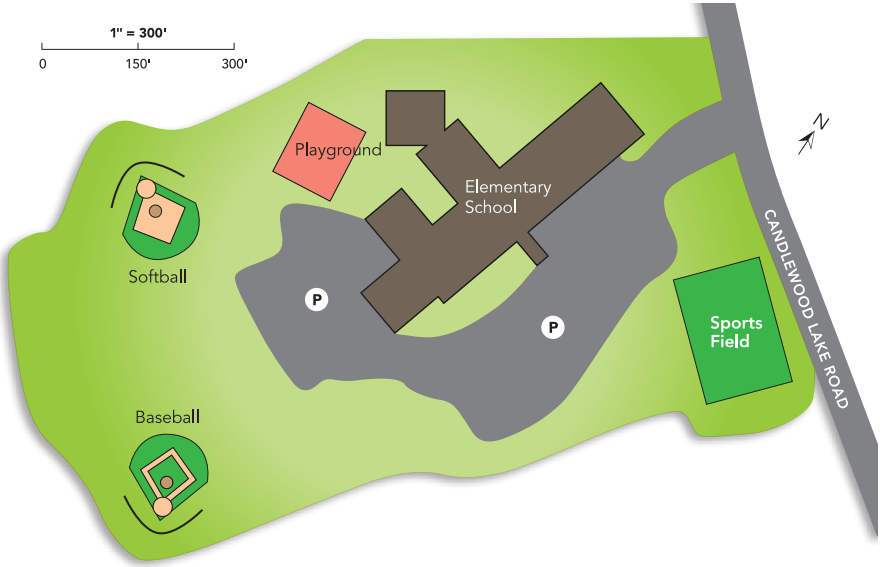
Softball field

Whisconier Middle School is attended by students in grades five through eight. The front of the school has a soccer field and additional fields are located behind the school.

Sports field

Huckleberry Hill Elementary School

100 CANDLEWOOD LAKE ROAD



Playground

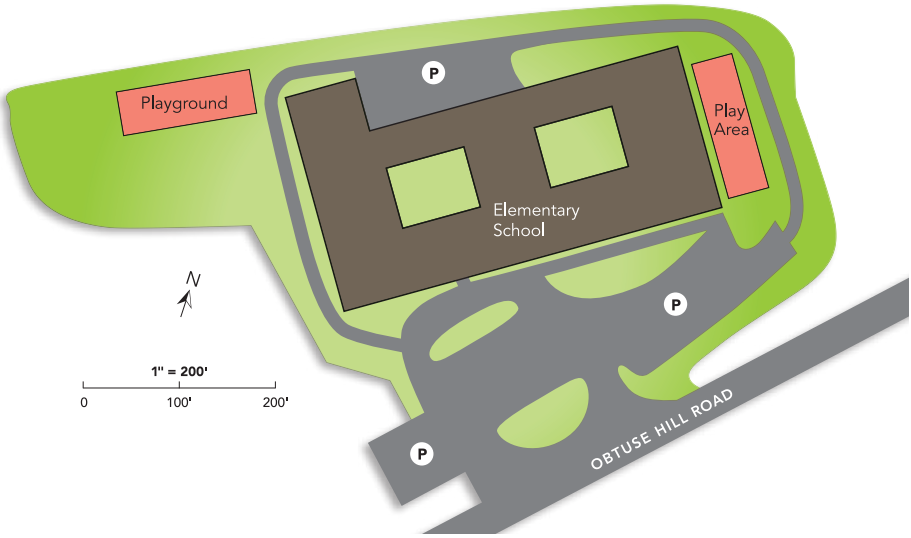
Baseball field

Earth Day at Huckleberry Hill

Huckleberry Hill Elementary School is attended by students in grades two through four. The front of the school has a soccer field. Behind the school is a baseball field, softball field, and playground.

Center Elementary School

8 OBTUSE HILL ROAD



Playground

Center School

Center Elementary School is attended by students in kindergarten through grade one. Various play areas are located on school grounds.

Buddy Bench

BOSLI Properties

THE BROOKFIELD OPEN SPACE LEGACY, INC.

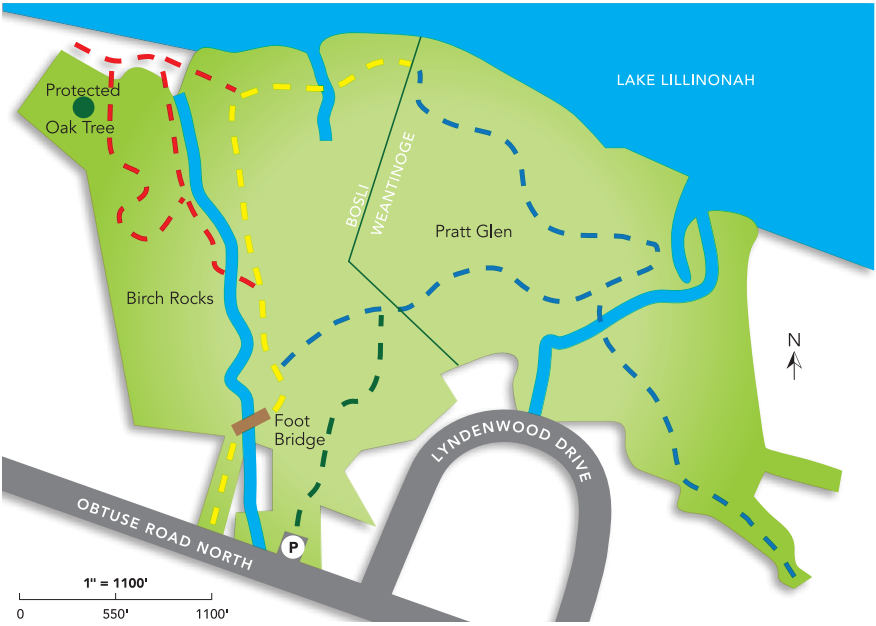
(BOSLI) is a private, all volunteer, non-profit land trust based in Brookfield, Connecticut. Founded in 1965, BOSLI's mission is to maintain and manage the properties entrusted in a responsible manner, sustain a healthy wildlife habitat and conserve our natural resources, and provide safe public access to open space for passive recreation. BOSLI currently manages over 180 acres of preserved properties throughout Brookfield. The preserves with trails include The Kahlo Trail, Birch Rocks Sanctuary, Hop Brook Sanctuary, and the Loeb Preserve. Visit BOSLI at www.BOSLI.org.

LOEB SANCTUARY rises to an elevation of almost 500 feet offering vista views. Loeb is adjacent Bloom Preserve owned by the Newtown Forest Association (NFA). BOSLI and NFA are working together to provide better access to Loeb by linking our trails. Loeb is best accessed from the Tower Road entrance to Bloom Preserve and following the trail that leads up to an 18 acre open hillside meadow where you have a 30-mile view to the south and west. Periodic mowing maintains the meadow, reduces invasive vegetation, and provides grassland species such as bobolinks with an ideal environment. Atop the meadow are bluebird and tree swallow nest box trails.

HOP BROOK SANCTUARY is a 42 acre wildlife refuge for wetland flora and fauna. The wetland sanctuary is home for many species of wild birds. Visitors can observe the inhabitants of this unique ecosystem up close. Access to the sanctuary is from the cul-de-sac at the end of High Acres Road and from Long Meadow Hill Road between house addresses 124 and 128. A newly cleared trail leads from the cul-de-sac to a boardwalk that connects to the opposite side and exits on Long Meadow Hill Road. Parking is available on High Acres Road but not along Long Meadow Hill Road. Note that the boardwalk is temporarily closed — we are raising the funds needed to repair/replace the boardwalk.

Birch Rocks Sanctuary

OBTUSE ROAD NORTH



Birch Rocks trail

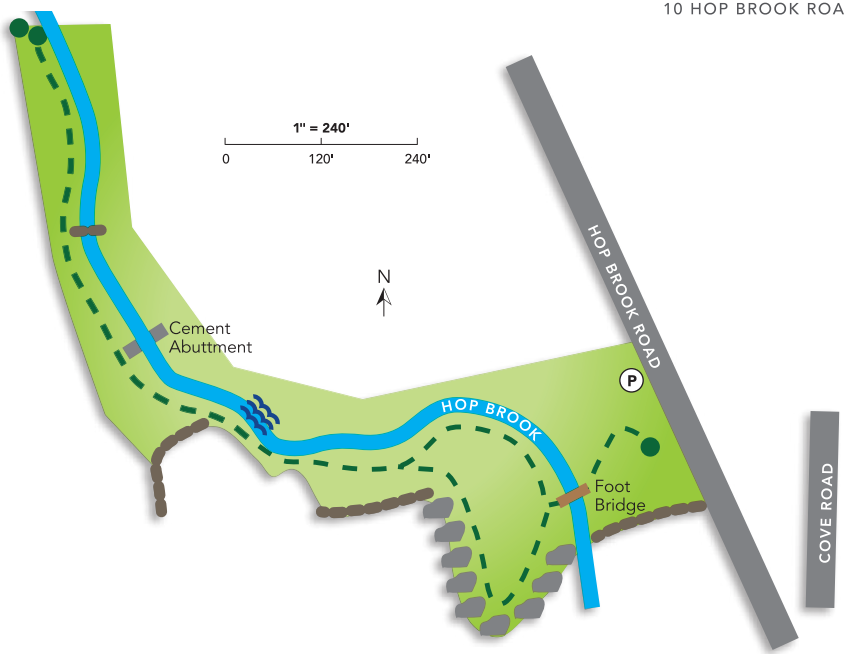
A view of Lake Lillinonah

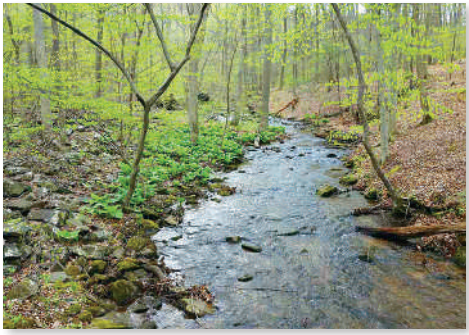
Birch Rocks Sanctuary is a 101 acre preserve of mixed hardwood and hemlock forest. The half-mile yellow trail is a walker's trail that slopes gently down to the shore of Lake Lillinonah. The red trail branches off the yellow trail and is more rugged forming a one mile loop that leads to an ancient, protected oak tree and connects back to the yellow trail by Lake Lillinonah.

Birch Rocks neighbors Pratt Glen Preserve, a 74 acre refuge owned by the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust. A three mile trail branches off the yellow trail in Birch Rocks and loops through Pratt Glen's blue trial, then rejoins the Birch Rocks yellow trail along Lake Lillinonah. A parking area with a trail that leads directly to the three mile loop is located on Obtuse Road North.

Kahlo Trail

10 HOP BROOK ROAD





Hop Brook

Trail foot bridge

The Kahlo Trail is a .5 mile loop that begins and ends on Hop Brook Road and follows the Hop Brook along its western bank. A beautifully constructed footbridge crosses the brook, thanks to the Boy Scouts. With its small waterfalls and calm pools the Kahlo Trail is a perfect place for a peaceful and relaxing walk. The entrance to the Kahlo Trail is on Hop Brook Road between house addresses 6 and 12. Look for the short, above ground utility post. Cars can park on the street or on the shoulder between the row of large rocks and the utility post.

Trail Notes

Brookfield Open Space and Trail Amenities Guide

Pg#	Location	Sports Fields	Basketball Courts	Boating	Fishing	Trails	Picnic Area	Playground	Rest Rooms	X-Country Skiing	Swimming	Tennis Courts	Track
6	Brookfield Nature Center					X	X			X			
7	Burr Farm Protected Open Space					X				X			
8	Happy Landings					X	X			X			
9	Lillinonah Woods			X	X	X	X						
10	Still River Greenway					X							
12	Williams-Gurski Open Space					X	X			X		X	
16	Eriksen Farm Open Space					X							
17	Old Bridge Sanctuary				X	X						X	
18	Brookfield Town Hall	X				X	X	X	X	X			
19	Brookfield High School	X											X
20	Brookfield Town Beach		X	X			X	X	X		X		
21	Cadigan Park	X	X			X	X		X			X	
22	Whisconier Middle School	X	X					X					
23	Huckleberry Hill Elementary School	X						X					
24	Center Elementary School	X						X					
26	Birch Rocks Sanctuary					X				X			
27	Kahlo Trail					X							

Brookfield Conservation Commission

Town of Brookfield
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