

**MARLBOROUGH OLD
COMMON & BURYING
GROUND**

Rehabilitation Master Plan
City of Marlborough, Massachusetts

Project Data

Date: 1998
Size: 2 ½ acres
Context: Downtown Marlborough,
Massachusetts

Completion Date: Summer 1999

Project Description:

Inventory, analysis and evaluation of existing features
Preparation of conceptual alternatives
Public design workshop
Design development
Construction documentation

The Old Common lies in the geographic center of the City of Marlborough, Massachusetts. Established as a public green in the 17th century, the site once held the original meeting house. While the building burned in the late 1600's, Marlborough reserved the Common for a burial ground (1729) followed by a series of public school buildings (19th century). Today, the burial ground still stands, along with the imposing Classical Revival style “Walker Building.”

The Old Common’s landscape originally reflected the grandeur of the late 19th century, with towering elm trees, a graceful front walk, and sloping green. During the 1950's, a more domestically scaled planting scheme and asphalt drive disrupted this Gay Nineties feel. To rehabilitate the landscape, the final plan returns the Old Common to the late-Victorian period. The design includes new shade trees edging a re-graded front lawn with a gazebo, a new promenade lined with a herbaceous border, and a new granite post and steel rail fence and series of footpaths for the historic burying ground. While with another firm, EDC Principal Thomas Elmore worked with Project Manager Martha Lyon to complete the Rehabilitation Plan, which received funding from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management for implementation. Then they prepared the construction documents for bidding and Ms. Lyon oversaw the construction improvements.



Burying Ground with new fence and walk



Old Common with new gazebo, walks and plantings