

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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*