

Town of Greenfield Historical Overview

In the beginning, lands now constituting the Town of Greenfield were governed by the Mohawk Indians. It is doubtful they had any permanent villages in the area as they preferred the richer bottom land near the Mohawk River where they could grow food, fish, and use the river for transportation, but they did frequent this hill country during their hunting and fishing expeditions as arrowheads and other artifacts have been found along the Kayaderosseras Creek.

When the first Europeans arrived in North America, they too favored the coastal areas, but as their populations grew, they began to migrate inland along the major rivers and lakes, as they too relied heavily on water travel. This thirst for new lands created a business opportunity for investors who purchased large areas from the natives, surveyed the wilderness, and subdivided it into smaller farm sized parcels to be sold to those interested in starting a new life. In 1761, such a purchase was made of lands stretching from the Mohawk River to the Hudson including the lands that one day would become the Town of Greenfield, it was called the Kayaderosseras Patent. The American Revolution prevented the immediate settlement of this land, but when conflict ended, families including the Morehouses, Dakes, Ormsbees, and many others began arriving.

Between 1770 and 1801, political boundaries were being drawn and re-drawn. The lands that would become the Town of Greenfield were in Albany County until Saratoga County was established. Town boundaries were even more confusing with the lands that would be Town of Greenfield being established in 1801 after having been parts of the towns of Saratoga, Balls-Town, and Milton. The first Town of Greenfield was larger than today and included what is now Corinth, Hadley, and parts of Day.

By the late 1700s to mid-1800s, industrial entrepreneurs were establishing mills along the Kayaderosseras Creek. Grist mills, sawmills, and paper mills were flourishing. In 1842, a glass factory and supporting community called Mount Pleasant was established north of Lake Desolation. By the early 1900s, a graphite mine and mill was operating on the side of the mountain above Porter Corners, and much of the land had been cleared of timber and used for agriculture.

By the early 1900s, as roads improved and automobiles replaced horses, marginal farms were being abandoned and people were seeking work and better pay outside the area. The mills could not compete with larger ones and gradually closed. After WWI, cheaper foreign graphite closed the graphite mine and mill. The Town of Greenfield began shifting from an agricultural and industrial base to a residential community.

Greenfield Today

Today, the Town of Greenfield is home to 8,200 residents of Greenfield Center, Porter Corners, Middle Grove, Lake Desolation and Maple Ave. It spans more than 41,000 acres bordering the Adirondacks to the north making it the largest town by square mile area in Saratoga County. There are two schools in the town, Greenfield Elementary and Maple Avenue Middle School, both part of the Saratoga Springs School District.

The town operates six town parks including:

Brigham Park, 18 Brigham Rd., Greenfield

This park is roughly 20 acres of heavy woods and a stone dust walking trail. There is a small pavilion with a charcoal grill and picnic tables and benches along the trail.

Brookhaven Park & Golf Course, 333 Alpine Meadows Rd., Porter Corners

The scenery is unmatched at our municipal golf course that sits on 300 acres of Adirondack vistas. The course hosts many events and tournaments throughout the year and has an on-site restaurant “The View at Brookhaven.” Across the street, Brookhaven Park has a large playground, picnic pavilion and dozens of marked trails. In the winter, the park becomes “Brookhaven Winter Park” a free ski and snowshoe park.

Kings Station Park, 4000 Route 9N, Porter Corners

Kings Station was a station depot of the Adirondack Railroad, dating back to 1865. The depot sits next to a more than 100-year-old antique, refurbished caboose. Both are set up as historic replicas and you can stop by for photos outside or attend Annual Caboose Day in August for a full tour.

Middle Grove Park, 428 Middle Grove Rd., Middle Grove

This park features a playground, walking path, tennis courts, basketball courts and many recreation fields.

Porter Corners Park, 1 Line Dr., Porter Corners

This is Greenfield’s baseball park with three ball fields. There is also a dog park on the premises and a ¼ mile Creekside trail.

Veterans Park, 6 Grange Rd., Greenfield

This is a quarter-acre parcel of land with a gazebo and a monument to honor our Greenfield veterans.

Other town properties include: Town Hall and Community Center, 7 Wilton Rd., Greenfield; and the Highway Dept, 409 Bockes Rd, Porter Corners. Greenfield Ambulance is located at 14 South Greenfield Rd., Porter Corners.