



# Things We Love about Westport



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# 1 Long Island Sound

The town of Westport is located on Long Island Sound. It has three beaches and is known for boating, fishing, and quaint shoreline views.



# 2 Westport Schools

Rated #1 in Connecticut, Westport's public school system has over 5,000 students in grades PK, K-12 with a student-teacher ratio of 13 to 1. According to state test scores, 74% of students are at least proficient in math and 83% in reading.

# 3 Transportation

There are two commuter rail stations in Westport: Green's Farms and Westport. Both train stations received award winning renovations recently. Metro North provides a quick and easy commute to New York City. The Norwalk Transit also operates the Westport Transit District buses and provides service throughout town. Easy access to Interstate 95 and the Merritt Parkway add to Westport's commuting convenience.

# 4 Westport Library

Overlooking the Saugatuck River, the library has earned "Five-Star Library" status multiple years, only 1% of public libraries earn 5 stars. Westport's library is a community hub, people of all ages come to seek information, gain knowledge and share experiences.



# 7 Restaurant Week

In the past five years, Westport has been working hard to set the standard in gourmet foods. Once a year, more than 25 restaurants throughout Westport participate in a two week special event that features special fixed price lunch, brunch and dinner menus. Try some of the local favorites such as Spotted Horse Tavern, Terrain, Kawa Ni, and Tarantino.

# 8 Levitt Pavilion

The venue hosts one of the largest and longest-running free outdoor summer festivals in the nation. The festival is open from late June through early September, producing almost 60 nights of free arts and entertainment.



# 5 Longshore Park

Longshore is a 169 acre park. It features a premier 18 hole golf course, 9 tennis courts, paddle tennis, picnic area, 3 swimming pools, playscape, pavilion, marina, sailing school and an ice rink. There is also the Inn at Longshore by OnTheMarc, the only waterfront event space in Westport .

# 9 Westport Beaches

Westport has miles of coastline on the Long Island Sound and provides three town beaches; Compo, Burying Hill, and Old Mill. All of Westport's beaches are open with Lifeguards on duty Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

# 6 Westport Farmers Market

Westport Farmers' Market provides its community with fresh, local, healthy and seasonal food all year round.



## 10 Country Playhouse

Founded in 1931 by Lawrence Langer, the Westport Country Playhouse is a nationally recognized, not-for-profit, professional theater. The mission of WCP is to enrich, enlighten, and engage our community through the power of professionally produced theater worth talking about.



## 11 Sherwood State Park

Connecticut's first state park is still one of its finest. Have a leisurely lunch in the shade of the picnic grove, swim in Long Island Sound, or view marsh life from the observation platform at Sherwood Island. You can also find at their nature center a wide variety of displays and exhibits and learn about the rich diversity of plant and animal life.

## 12 Fine Arts Festival

Produced by The Westport Downtown Merchants Association, the festival is nationally recognized and features a premier roster of 170 national and international fine artists exhibiting in a variety of categories.

## 13 Astronomical Society

The Westport Astronomical Society (WAS) maintains and operates the Rolnick Observatory, which is open to the public on selected nights. It consists of a 40-foot tower and two auxiliary buildings at 182 Bayberry Lane in Westport. One of the adjacent buildings serves as the WAS office, containing a library of both books and videotapes. The other building is the Fred Bump Education Center.

## 14 Westport Arts Center

The Westport Arts Center is a visual and performing arts organization, dedicated to creating experiences that enrich the lives of area residents and the entire community. It is committed to preserving Westport's tradition of supporting and celebrating the arts.



## 15 Richardson Tree Farm

Cut-your-own Christmas tree farm located on 12 acre plantation in the 75-acre Audubon sanctuary. Gift shop offers wreaths, roping, tree stands, swags and more.



## 16 Annual Dog Festival

The Westport Dog Festival is an annual summer event that takes place at Winslow Park. This event is fun for the whole family and dogs are encouraged to attend! The Dog Festival includes: vendors, food trucks, face painting, caricature artist, photo board and training sessions. The event's proceeds are donated to TAILS, Westport K9 Unit, EARS, Fidelco, CT Humane Society and Adopt-a-dog.

## 17 Museum of History & Culture

The society, founded in 1889, is an organization dedicated to preserving, presenting and celebrating the history of Westport and increase awareness of preserving the town's heritage and its historic buildings and landmarks.

## 18 Community Band

The Westport Community Band, founded in 1977, is a 65-piece concert band which performs at community venues including the Levitt Pavilion, the Memorial Day parade, and various schools and nursing homes.

## 19 Earthplace

A natural history museum, nature center and wildlife sanctuary located at 10 Woodside Lane. Earthplace provides hands-on learning experiences and environmental education programs. 74 acres with 2.5 miles of trails.



## 20 Merchants Association

Downtown Westport is a unique combination of quaint New England charm and sophisticated shopping and dining in a lovely riverside setting. Experience all that downtown Westport has to offer: mom-and-pop-shops, local chains and retailers, eateries, entertainment venues and galleries.



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## 21 Community Theater

Westport Community Theatre is located in Town Hall. WCT offers high-quality productions of classic and modern plays to give the talented members of our community, newcomers as well as seasoned actors and directors, rewarding and challenging artistic opportunities.



## 22 Gilbertie's Herb Gardens

Largest herb plant grower on the East Coast with greenhouses and gift shop surrounded by theme gardens providing an experience for both the casual gardener and serious botanist. The garden also offers: annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, statuary, tropical plants, fish, pottery, fall pumpkin picking and hay rides, and more!

## 27 Woman's Club

The Westport Woman's Club, (WWC) organized in 1907, is a non-profit philanthropic organization dedicated to giving back and the raising of funds in support of the charitable, educational, cultural and public health services in Westport and surrounding towns.

## 23 Annual Minute Man Race

This event consists of a USA Track and Field Race Certified 10K run, 5K run or walk and Kids Fun Run, taking place at Compo Beach. Race proceeds directly benefit charities with an emphasis in education located in lower Fairfield County.

## 28 Westport/Weston YMCA

The Westport/ Weston Family YMCA enriches the community by developing and nurturing youth, promoting healthy living for all and fostering social responsibility. A nonprofit established in 1844 originally located in Bedford Square in downtown.

## 24 Bedford Square

Bedford Square is an iconic mixed use development – a retail, dining and residential destination that further elevates the exposure and draw of downtown Westport, Connecticut.



## 25 Food Truck Festivals

Foodies have a new avenue for food adventure! Spend the day outdoors, listen to some great music and enjoy your surroundings, all while you treat your taste buds to some fantastic flavors.



## 29 Sidewalk Sale

The much-anticipated annual Westport Sidewalk Sale allows savvy shoppers to find amazing sales throughout Main Street, Post Road and areas surrounding downtown. Shops bring merchandise to the sidewalks and offer incredible bargains. Times will vary by store, but shop early for the best selection!



## 26 Community Gardens

The Westport Community Garden provides garden plots to Westport residents of all ages. Gardeners from school age children to senior citizens can share the enjoyment of growing their own food or flowers, while sharing gardening tips with fellow gardeners. This is a true community of gardeners.



## 30 Wakeman Town Farm

The Wakeman Town Farm Sustainability Center is an organic demonstration homestead dedicated to serving the Westport Community. The Farm is a model facility created to educate the community with local healthy food production, and community service orientation. Activities include educational workshops, student internships, after-school environmental clubs, children's summer camp programs.



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