



Baseball field, 2005

IMPLEMENTATION

PRIORITIES AND PHASING

Priorities were established in public meetings with the Newton Parks and Recreation Department. Emphasis was placed on making the playground accessible, resolving public safety issues, and general landscape improvements.

Proposed work is divided into three phases to facilitate implementation of the improvements. While the phases have been listed in a prioritized sequence, it is understood that there are competing interests and limited funds and that the actual order of events will depend completely upon sources and availability of funds and the needs and desires of the City. Phases can also be combined or further subdivided as funding requires.

The proposed phasing assumes a long term commitment with a prioritized systems approach, as opposed to an area by area approach. The former tends to be more economical in terms of public bidding. The latter could be more appealing in that completion of an area could provide the impetus to finish other areas. It will also however create an unfinished look to untouched areas of the park until they are all complete.

Each phase includes safety pruning and other arborist work for large trees to remain along with hazardous tree removals within the general area of work. Each phase also includes utilizing excess excavated topsoil to fill in depressions.

Phase One

The focus of this phase initiates and improves accessibility to and within the playground. Proposed work includes an early action component to provide universal access to a new play structure area funded by private sources. It also includes utilizing the Mason-Rice School parking area and providing a paved pedestrian route from the parking area to the new play structure area in the playground.

With elimination of vehicular access to the playground from Tyler Terrace in the early action component, the remaining work of this phase includes providing a 12' wide paved route for emergency/service vehicles from Centre Street to all of the major recreation areas inside the playground via a new bridge over the brook from Homer Street.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

The rest of this phase also includes a new 6' wide accessible pedestrian route into the playground from Homer Street, designation of on street handicap parking on Homer and Bowen Streets, a new bridge over Hammond Brook from the Mason-Rice School parking area providing improved access to the ball fields, providing protective fencing along both edges of the brooks where deemed necessary and resolving flooding issues in the playground downstream of the site.

Phase Two

This phase continues accessibility improvements as well as providing general improvements to recreation facilities and the perimeter image of the playground.

It includes 6' wide paved pedestrian routes from Bowen Street into the playground and to the play structure area and basketball court, a path from the new bridge over Hammond Brook from the Mason-Rice School parking area to the ball fields and play structure area, and replacement of the path from the Centre Street/Tyler Terrace intersection into the playground.

Recreation facility improvements include replacement of the tennis practice court as well as the backboard, replacement of fencing around the tennis courts, and repair of the basketball court surface. Improvements to site furnishings are also included with new and additional benches, particularly related to passive recreation areas, replacement of drinking fountains and trash receptacles, and a new integrated sign system with identification signs at each pedestrian entrance and uniform regulatory signs.

Perimeter image improvements include providing a barrier rail and street trees along all public ways and vegetative screening at neighboring back yards.

Phase Three

Completion of accessibility improvements as well as general improvements to the brooks, upgrading of lighting and providing supplemental interior planting are the primary focus of this phase of work.

Accessibility improvements include a new paved pedestrian route and a new bridge over Hammond Brook into the playground from the Centre/Bowen Street intersection, a new path from the steps near the tennis courts into the park, repair of those steps, and new steps connecting the Cochituate Aqueduct trail to the park.

This phase also includes naturalizing Hammond Brook as envisioned in the Olmsted firm plans by removing walls along one or both sides of Hammond Brook and the south end of the brook from Homer Street. Deteriorated areas of the remaining channels and walls will be repaired. Lighting inside the playground will be upgraded and additional vegetation will be provided throughout the playground for shade while dense vegetation along the brooks will be reduced to open up visual access to the playground and brooks.

Future Considerations

Accessibility improvements within and to the Recreation Center as well as designation of on street handicap parking on Tyler Terrace should be a high priority, but are beyond the scope of this endeavor.

MASTER PLAN COST ESTIMATE

This estimate is presented in the phases described herein. It should be considered preliminary in nature and used for discussion purposes only. Many items should be considered flexible because of the scale and level of detail development of this plan. It should be noted that these estimated costs are for budgeting purposes only. These estimates are in year 2006 dollars and are subject to change. Although construction costs were very stable between 1990 and 1995, some have increased substantially in recent years, particularly related to oil, cement, steel, iron and copper. Estimates reflect a public bid process. Some of these costs could be reduced with selected services provided by City forces.

For the purposes of this estimate, it has been assumed that work will be completed in four consecutive years with work commencing in 2006. An assumed factor of 5% inflation per year has been included. Delays in proceeding with this work could cause inflation to easily double this estimate in a very short period. Other project costs like fees for design and permitting, reproduction of construction documents and materials testing during construction have also been included.

SUMMARY ESTIMATE

Phase One - Early Action*	106,000
Phase One - Completion	616,000
Phase Two	775,000
Phase Three	<u>1,058,000</u>
Grand Total	\$2,550,000

*Note: These costs do not include \$360,000 contributed by private donors for the new play area.



Accessibility and Rehabilitation Phasing Plan
NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND
City of Newton Parks and Recreation Department
Newton, Massachusetts

Walker-Klasing Design Group
Bellata 3 Design
Judith Nisch Engineering, Inc.
May 2008
Scale: 1" = 40'

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

DETAILED COST ESTIMATES

PHASE ONE - Early Action

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Total
Site Preparation					
Site clearing & preparation	12,450	sf	\$0.35	\$4,358	
Erosion control	800	lf	3	2,400	
Tree pruning and removals	3	ea	500	1,500	
Tree protection	200	lf	18	3,600	
Remove bit. paving @ Mason-Rice	5,100	sf	2.50	12,750	
					\$24,608
Earthwork					
Strip and stockpile topsoil	16,400	sf	0.25	4,100	
Fill at Mason-Rice drive	100	cy	15	1,500	
					5,600
Paving					
Bituminous walks	6,200	sf	3	18,600	
Handicap marking @ Mason-Rice		ls		1,500	
Repair stepped ramp @ Recreation Center		ls		5,000	
					25,100
Site Improvements					
Metal bollards	4	ea	1,500	6,000	
					6,000
Lawns and Planting					
Spread topsoil	300	cy	10	3,000	
Fine grade, hydroseed	16,300	sf	0.35	5,705	
					<u>8,705</u>
					70,013
General Conditions					
Contingency					10,502
Other Project Costs					8,085
					<u>17,400</u>
Total					\$106,000

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

PHASE ONE - Completion

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Total
Site Preparation					
Site clearing & preparation	26,200	sf	0.35	9,170	
Erosion control	1,000	lf	3	3,000	
Tree pruning and removals	14	ea	500	7,000	
Tree protection	120	lf	18	2,160	
Remove existing fence @ brook	480	lf	4	1,920	
Remove bridge	20	lf	25	500	
Remove bituminous walk @ Homer St.	920	sf	2.50	2,300	
Remove stonedust walk @ Homer St.	2,075	sf	1.50	3,112	
					29,162
Earthwork					
Strip and stockpile topsoil	42,000	sf	0.25	10,500	
Fill at Homer Street	775	cy	15	11,625	
					22,125
Paving					
Bituminous drive w/ chip seal	23,150	sf	3.75	86,872	
Bituminous walk w/ chip seal	2,000	sf	4	8,000	
Chip seal early action paving	9,800	sf	0.50	4,900	
Handicap parking signs Bowen & Homer		ls		2,000	
					101,772
Fences and Gates					
Fence @ Hammond Brook edge	410	lf	20	8,200	
					8,200
Site Improvements					
Metal bollards	2	ea	1,500	3,000	
					3,000
Lawns and Planting					
Spread topsoil	780	cy	10	7,800	
Fine grade, hydroseed	42,250	sf	0.35	14,788	
Mulch, 3" depth	10	cy	60	600	
Evergreen trees	4	ea	600	2,400	
Deciduous trees	56	ea	750	42,000	
Evergreen and deciduous shrubs	40	ea	75	3,000	
					70,588
Concrete					
Bridge floor, vehicular	240	sf	25	6,000	
Bridge floor, pedestrian	160	sf	15	2,400	
					8,400

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Masonry

Stone walls @ vehicular bridge	64	lf	1,000	64,000
Stone walls @ pedestrian bridge	58	lf	1,000	58,000
Stone wall @ Homer St. entry path	60	lf	350	21,000

143,000

386,247

General Conditions

57,953

Contingency

44,400

Inflation, 1 year @ 5%

24,400

Other Project Costs

103,000

Total

\$616,000

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

PHASE TWO

Item & Description	Qty	Unit	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Total
Site Preparation					
Site clearing & preparation	12,500	sf	0.35	4,375	
Erosion control	600	lf	3	1,800	
Tree removal and pruning	40	ea	500	20,000	
Tree protection	250	lf	18	4,500	
Remove practice court	2,140	sf	2.50	5,350	
Remove tennis court backboard		ls		2,000	
Remove CLF @ tennis courts	720	lf	5	3,600	
Remove gates @ tennis courts	3	ea	100	300	
Remove CLF along Tyler Terrace	723	lf	4	2,892	
Remove benches @ tennis courts	6	ea	200	1,200	
Remove drinking fountains	2	ea	500	1,000	
Remove basketball paving	840	sf	2.50	2,100	
Remove basketball lighting	4	ea	600	2,400	
					51,517
Earthwork					
Strip and stockpile topsoil	28,700	sf	0.25	7,175	
Fill @ Bowen Street	1,200	cy	15	18,000	
					25,175
Paving					
Bituminous concrete walks w/ chip seal	8,100	sf	4	32,400	
Tennis practice court paving/ color coat	2,140	sf	6	12,840	
Basketball court paving repairs	840	sf	6	5,040	
					50,280
Site Improvements					
Identification signs	6	ea	2,000	12,000	
Regulatory signs		ls		8,000	
Benches	14	ea	2,500	35,000	
Trash receptacles	7	ea	2,000	14,000	
Drinking fountains	2	ea	8,000	16,000	
					85,000
Fences and Gates					
Wood barrier rail	2,000	lf	45	90,000	
Tennis court fencing	710	lf	35	24,850	
Tennis court pedestrian gate	1	ea	800	800	
Tennis court vehicular gate	1	ea	3,250	3,250	
					118,900

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Lawns and Planting

Spread topsoil	530	cy	10	5,300	
Fine grade, hydroseed	28,700	sf	0.35	10,045	
Mulch, 3" depth	20	cy	60	1,200	
Evergreen and deciduous shrubs	75	ea	75	5,625	
Evergreen trees	26	ea	600	15,600	
Deciduous trees	34	ea	750	25,500	
					63,270

Masonry

Stone gate posts	16	ea	3,500	56,000	
Tennis backboard, reinforced CMU	620	sf	20	12,400	
					<u>68,400</u>

462,542

General Conditions

Contingency

Inflation, 2 years @ 5%

Other Project Costs

Total

69,358
53,200
59,900
130,000
\$775,000

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

PHASE THREE

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Cost	Subtotal	Total
Site Preparation					
Site clearing & preparation	15,000	sf	0.35	5,250	
Erosion control	2,400	lf	3	7,200	
Tree removal and pruning	40	ea	500	20,000	
Tree protection	430	lf	18	7,740	
Remove brook walls	1,250	lf	20	25,000	
Remove brook floor	10,625	sf	3.50	37,188	
Remove utility poles and lights	by others				102,378
Earthwork					
Strip and stockpile topsoil	41,000	sf	0.25	10,250	
Excavation for brook naturalization	4,500	cy	18	81,000	
Spread excavated material	4,500	cy	10	45,000	136,250
Paving					
Bituminous paths w/ chip seal	3,270	sf	4	13,080	13,080
Site Improvements					
Metal bollards	2	ea	1,500	3,000	3,000
Lawns and Planting					
Spread topsoil	760	cy	10	7,600	
Fine grade, hydroseed	41,120	sf	0.35	14,392	
Restoration of disturbed areas		ls		20,000	
Mulch, 3" depth	25	cy	60	1,500	
Evergreen and deciduous shrubs	600	ea	75	45,000	
Evergreen Trees	17	ea	600	10,200	
Deciduous Trees	50	ea	750	37,500	136,192
Concrete					
Walk near Mason-Rice School	1,200	sf	5	6,000	
Bridge floor, pedestrian	160	sf	15	2,400	
Repair concrete steps @ tennis courts	26	ea	100	2,600	11,000

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Masonry

Cobblestones @ brook	400	cy	28	11,200	
Boulders along brook	100	lf	100	10,000	
Stone walls @ pedestrian bridge	58	lf	1,000	58,000	
Repair brook walls, 2'-0" ht.	300	lf	80	24,000	
Repair brook walls, 3'-0" ht.	150	lf	120	18,000	
Repair stone brook floor	250	sf	15	3,750	
					124,950

Electrical

Upgrade existing lighting	6	ea	12,500	75,000	
					<u>75,000</u>

General Conditions

Contingency

Inflation, 3 years @ 5%

Other Project Costs

Total

	601,850
	90,250
	120,650
	<u>176,000</u>
	\$1,058,000

*Tennis court maintenance, undated
[courtesy of Newton Historical Society]*



MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT

MAINTENANCE

The overall goal of this plan is to enhance the appearance of Newton Centre Playground wherever possible and to preserve and stabilize various components. The importance of this site to the community is emphasized by well kept lawns, other components kept in a good state of repair and an inviting informative sign system. A well maintained site tends to discourage vandalism and promotes community support. All outdoor elements require regular maintenance regardless of age or condition.

The following contains a summary of general guidelines for protection, stabilization, preservation, restoration and/or maintenance. Because of the rapid advances in knowledge and techniques today, this should serve only as a general guide. Specific changes in these recommendations, particularly in regard to materials and methods, are expected over time.

These guidelines are provided for general information and are presented on a variety of levels. Most of these techniques and materials should not be used without appropriate training, and in most cases a professional should be consulted before attempting anything. Inappropriate use of these techniques and/or materials can cause irreparable damage.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

The following is a summary of general guidelines for the maintenance of the various landscape components that make up Newton Centre Playground.

General Cleanup

Issues

Newton Centre Playground is currently maintained by Newton Parks and Recreation Department staff. The maintained area of the site is kept reasonably free of trash and leaves, and the grass is mown regularly. Leaves, fallen limbs and debris are removed in the spring.

Recommendations

Litter is a major problem in any public open space and one that must be controlled to create pride in a historic property. A neglected appearance seems to encourage vandalism or additional trash dumping. In this regard it is important to provide a moderate to high maintenance and management approach.

The site should receive complete attention in regard to cleanup at least every 4 weeks during the summer. Paper, trash or debris should be removed and trash receptacles emptied on a daily basis [at least 5 days a week] during the active season [approximately 30 weeks] and early in the day, preferably before 10 AM. During the less utilized season litter removal should occur at least once per week. Provide a general litter removal at least once a year in the spring. Additional maintenance should be provided immediately following holidays, weekends and periods of concentrated use. Provide a special crew for clean up after special events. Leaves should be removed during the fall and the grounds cleared of fallen branches.

Landscape Character and Vegetation Management

Issues

Vegetation Management

The primary goal of tree maintenance is to maintain healthy trees free of dead wood that could fall on people or park elements. The reasons for pruning trees may include reducing hazards, maintaining or improving tree health and structure, improving aesthetics, or satisfying specifics like: removing disease; removing dead, dying, interfering or obstructing branches; training young trees; eliminating screened areas to discourage loitering; and providing clearances for utility lines. The uncontrolled growth of trees and weeds hides vandals and can become a hazard to public safety.

Trees require pruning on a regular basis to protect the public from damage by falling limbs. Too many trees or trees of the wrong type can create shade that is too dense to support and maintain a stabilizing ground cover, making the surface subject to erosion. Too much shade can also be detrimental to some elements in that moisture could be retained for long durations, increasing the probability of biological growth on important park components.

Volunteer Growth

It is essential to maintain a landscape with an appropriate historic character. The character of a landscape is dynamic compared to the relative stasis of other historic structural components. Natural forces like landscape succession will change an unmaintained lawn into a forest in a relatively short period of time. The undeniable results of these forces are evident along brook and park edges.

Lawns

The primary ground cover in maintained areas is grass. It is generally in fair condition with areas of herbaceous weeds. Most lawn areas need renovation, including proper pH level and fertilization. Maintaining a healthy lawn cover with adequate light, moisture and nutrients and good maintenance procedures would reduce bare spots, weeds, moss and erosion.

Soils

Soil analysis and testing helps determine the proper quantity and ratio of nutrients and other additives to improve a soil. Tests for pH and fertility levels should be made every 3 to 5 years to determine fertility changes made with basic treatments and to give a bench mark for further soil improvements. It typically also takes 3 to 5 years for the soil and the basic treatments to reach an equilibrium.

Recommendations

Vegetation Management

New plantings and pruning or removal of trees should be done with care. Choices must be made in terms of tree thinning and selective replanting in order to maintain growing conditions for all of the site's vegetation while maintaining a collection of trees which gives character to the site's landscape. Water newly planted trees for the first 3 to 5 years, or until an irrigation system is in place. Remove guy wires, stakes and other support devices from newly planted trees after the first year.

Inspect trees to safeguard against threats to elements from root systems and falling or scraping branches. Inspections should be made on a yearly basis and after each storm where winds exceed 55 mph. Ideally, trees should be pruned to remove potentially hazardous dead wood on a yearly basis, but safety pruning every 5 years by certified arborists is acceptable. A 5 year cycle of pruning will help maintain and preserve large old trees.

Trees should be pruned in such a manner as to preserve the natural character of a plant and in accordance with ANSI 300 standards. Remove all dead wood, suckers and badly bruised or broken branches to reduce potential injury or damage to people, vehicles and structures. Remove branches to provide 8 foot overhead clearance on walks and 12 foot clearance where maintenance vehicles require access. Make all cuts at the branch collar near the trunk or branch. Do not cut the leader. Do not top deciduous trees. Do not prune evergreen plants except to remove dead and broken branches. Make all cuts flush with the trunk or branch.

The pruning of trees should only be performed or supervised by a certified arborist. It should be done by nonprofessional crews only during an emergency situation or when there is an immediate issue related to public safety. The removal of dead trees should also be done by certified arborists.

Root collars should be cleared of soil, mulch, stones, brush and other items that could hide or cause decay that could cause a tree to fail. Keeping root collars clean helps control girdling roots and decay that leads to tree decline and failure. Questionable trees with cavities, cracks or seams in main stems or branches, or fungi fruiting bodies on or around the root area should be assessed for potential tree failure.

Failure prediction with any sort of accuracy is difficult. However, performing a systematic approach of evaluating each part of a tree with proven procedures that the International Society of Arboriculture has adopted through the guide known as "A Photographic Guide to the Evaluation of Hazardous Trees in Urban Areas" will help to eliminate most of the suspected hazards. Remedial action like pruning, installing support systems and removal will help reduce the failure percentages and the damage or injury to property or persons.

Mulching: Mulch is very valuable in supporting plant growth. It allows the soil to remain open to receive moisture and promotes the exchange of gases between the soil and the air. All introduced plantings should be mulched. Trees growing in an area with a restricted root zone, low nutrient levels, pH imbalance, low moisture conditions and soil compaction decline faster as they mature. Grass and weeds also compete for nutrients and moisture. While the removal of turf or grass under the branch spread to trees is often recommended for improved tree health, it is often not appropriate where tree canopies are large in open areas.

Shrubs: Spread fertilizer over the surface of the ground surrounding shrubs once a year during the spring. Soak the area thoroughly. Edge plant beds twice a month or as needed. Ornamental trimming or pruning should be consistent with the natural landscape and historic character. Plants should appear natural and healthy as opposed to geometric and fanciful. Prune to admit light and air to the center of the shrub. Prune only as plant growth requires, generally every 2 years. Prune spring flowering shrubs after they have bloomed. Prune summer flowering and other deciduous shrubs during the dormant season. Prune evergreen shrubs in late spring or early summer. Remove dead wood at any season.

Ground Cover: Where ground cover is preferred on steep slopes and/or in wooded areas, keep weeded continually. Avoid disturbing runners. Prune regularly to maintain a low spreading appearance. Remove vertical shoots. Fertilize at the same time lawns are fertilized.

Vines: Many vines are not a suitable ground cover as they are difficult to control. Remove aggressive vines from the site.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Pest Management and Plant Health

Insects, diseases and other pests are a normal part of nature. The safest and most responsible approach to preserve the site's plants while safeguarding the environment is "integrated pest management" [IPM]. IPM utilizes alternatives to chemicals for pest control and establishes a monitoring system for early detection. It requires a detailed plan to inspect specific plant species at specific times to detect evidence of problems. It also requires that trained personnel inspect the grounds, detect the presence of pests and apply the proper biological controls. While IPM is an essential program to pursue, current horticultural thinking recommends that grounds care move beyond IPM or incorporate it into the principles of plant health care that involves the concepts of selecting the proper plant material for any given location and providing the supportive culture needed to maximize plant development and minimize stress.

Volunteer Growth

Most, if not all, volunteer species should be removed. Volunteer growth should be removed on a yearly basis during the months when frequency of mowing is reduced and maintenance crews have time to remove it. Because lawn areas and edges attract volunteer growth, lawns must be mowed on a regular basis to keep this under control. The edges of lawn areas and individual elements must also be constantly monitored to keep volunteer growth in check.

Lawns

Rehabilitating existing lawn areas: In large areas where weeds and other undesirable species should be removed, the soil should be loosened by power rake, vigorous hand raking or rototilling. Fertilizer and pH adjustment should be added as recommended by soil analysis. Depressions that inhibit proper drainage of an area should be filled with topsoil to blend smoothly into surrounding grades. Bare spots should be topdressed, seeded and rolled. Water must be provided to maintain a sufficient moisture level to establish grass. The best time to plant a lawn is between August 15 and October 1. If it is necessary to plant in the spring, plant as soon as the ground can be worked and when the soil is free of excess moisture.

Installation of new lawn areas: In general sod is recommended in areas that need immediate use and seed is recommended for all other areas. Seed mixes should incorporate improved, low maintenance, slow growing, drought resistant and shade tolerant seed cultivar mixes of Kentucky Bluegrass and Fescue.

Watering: Water lawns as necessary to maintain normal growth and color. Soak the entire root area. Avoid light, frequent sprinklings. Water is essential to establish a lawn. Watering established lawns during the dry months of summer does not appear to be a realistic possibility at this time given the current budget, maintenance crew size and lack of an irrigation system except at the Little League field.

Mowing: Mow to an average height of 3 to 4 inches. The most serious issue is the routine removal of grass in the immediate vicinity of trees. Power mowers can scar and damage trees, attracting insects and disease. The best current solution is to mow with lawn mowers to within 12 inches of trees and then use weed whips [rotating nylon filament trimmers] to trim the remaining area.

Frequency of Mowing: An ideal schedule would include mowing every 5 days from the beginning of the season to mid June, every 10 days from mid June to mid August, and every 5 days from mid August to the end of the season. At the very least, mowing should occur every ten to fourteen days.

Rolling: Roll lawn areas in the spring as necessary to repair frost heaving irregularities caused during the winter. Use a light roller and roll the lawn when the soil is fairly dry, and freezing weather has passed.

Aeration: Aerate compacted lawn areas twice a year, once during the spring and once during the late summer or early fall. Do not aerate when the soil is extremely wet or dry.

Erosion Repair: Repair erosion on steep banks utilizing the same methods required for lawn installation. Include 100% biodegradable erosion control fabric for large areas.

Disease and Pest Control: When chemical controls are recommended, provide appropriate pesticide application twice a year in late spring and early fall, if necessary. Do not treat a new lawn until its second year of growth. Do not burn the grass by overapplying chemical treatments

Soils

Liming: Lime serves several important functions. It is of particular value in correcting the acidity of the soil. It also changes the structure of the soil, hastens bacterial action in the soil, aids in the liberation of plant foods which otherwise remain in the soil in an unavailable form, hastens the decomposition of organic matter and supplies a small amount of calcium, one of the essential plant foods. Ground limestone should be applied every 3 to 5 years as determined by soil test results to bring lawn areas to the preferred 6.0-6.5 pH level. If a lime application is necessary, apply it 2 to 3 weeks prior to fertilizing. The soil pH must be at the proper level to make the benefits of a fertilizer available to plants. Lime should not be used in combination with animal manures or with nitrogenous fertilizers, as it causes the rapid release of ammonia. A fall application of lime provides time for it to break down in the soil before spring growth.

When applying lime for new lawn construction, it should be spread over the surface of the ground and thoroughly mixed with the upper few inches of soil. The rate of application depends upon the form in which the lime is applied and the texture of the soil. The rate of application of ground limestone should be determined by soil testing and should not exceed 75 pounds per 1,000 square feet at any one time. For new lawns lime should be applied either in early spring or late fall, with early spring [April] preferred. On established lawns or under trees, lime should only be surface applied so as not to disturb roots.

Fertilizing: Supplemental fertilizer improves vegetative health and vigor in a short period of time. Trees and lawns are both heavy consumers of nitrogen and they compete for it. Because nitrogen leaches into the soil, it should be applied annually. Application methods are different for trees and grass. If fertilizer is applied on the surface, the grass absorbs most of it.

Soil tests are required for indication of existing fertilizing needs. Lawn areas should be fertilized a minimum of twice a year to maintain a healthy lawn. Light, frequent applications of readily available nitrogen fertilizers are preferred over heavy, infrequent applications. Lawn areas generally require 0.5 pounds of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet per growing month. Application should be with a mechanical spreader when turf is dry.

All trees and shrubs to remain in open areas and at the edges of wooded areas should receive an annual application of fertilizer to sustain a reasonable level of health. Fertilizing with a slow release fertilizer with a ratio of 3-1-1 will not only improve the health, but will also prolong the life of a tree. Trees should be subsurface fertilized to a depth of 12 inches at least every other year during the growing season, with spring or fall preferred.

Circulation Systems and Materials

Issues

Well maintained, universally accessible circulation routes are key to the public's enjoyment of the site.

Recommendations

Paved Surfaces: Sweep clean paths and drives weekly from spring through fall. Repair paved areas as needed. Patch depressions of 1 inch or more annually. Repair cracks every 5 years. Repaint parking stripes every 2 years.

Maintain chip sealed surfaces as required for other paved areas. Hand sweep clean each spring to remove loose aggregate. Patch areas where aggregate has been removed due to other operations with methods and materials employed during the initial installation.

Granular Surfaces: Until the gravel or stone dust is replaced, examine walkway surfaces, after each heavy rainfall and repair erosion gullies by topdressing and compacting with path materials. Maintain the path cross section to prevent collection or diversion of overland flow. Rake granular surfaces as necessary to remove leaves, litter and other debris.

Snow removal is not provided at this site except for the service drive to Mason-Rice School. It is also not recommended because of the chip seal surface. For the service drive, which is not chip sealed, and proposed walks to the Recreation Center, remove snow, keeping it passable at all times and as safe as possible. Start snow removal when accumulation reaches 1 inch. Spread sand on icy spots and steps. The use of excessive amounts of salt for deicing is not recommended because it is toxic in excessive quantities to trees and other vegetation.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Active Recreation Areas

Issues

These facilities are the primary reason that the public comes to this site. They need to be kept in a safe, usable condition.

Recommendations

Playground Equipment: Follow specific equipment manufacturer's instructions for maintenance and schedule for inspections. In absence of such information, inspect equipment at least 3 times per year [early spring, early summer and early fall]. The inspection should include all parts including fasteners of each piece of equipment. Check for potential hazards including corrosion or deterioration from weathering, rot and/or insects. Check for sharp points, corners or edges on broken, loose, worn or missing parts. At swings, check for wear and openings on S hooks, and wear of bearing hangers. Check wood components for splinters, large cracks or deterioration. Repairs should be made immediately upon discovery of need or notification. Maintain a level play surface to prevent potholes from developing near swings and slides. Rake mulch smooth daily at slide exits and swing bases. Inspect mulch, rubber and other surfaces weekly and clear of broken glass, dangerous debris and other unwanted materials. Power wash plastic play equipment weekly to mitigate bacterial growth. Paint metal equipment once a year.

Soft Surface Courts: Prepare the courts at the beginning of each season by removing debris and loose material, rolling, providing new material for depressions, resetting line marking tapes, broom, water and roll. Inspect edging for damage on an annual basis and repair upon discovery of need. Brush tennis courts at least daily by pulling a broom or drag mat over the surface to insure the loose surface material is evenly distributed over the entire surface of the courts. Maintain the courts in a slightly damp condition. Roll the courts after heavy or prolonged rain and periodically [3 times per month] during the season when the surface is damp but not saturated. Provide minor repairs as required.

Hard Surface Courts: Sweep or vacuum clean basketball courts weekly. Provide new nets at the beginning of each season. Paint court lines each year. Repair cracks if necessary.

Baseball, Little League and Soccer Fields and Sledding Slopes: Follow guidelines for turf management. Restore infield surfaces, including filling in low spots, at least once a year at the beginning of each season. Backstops should be inspected and repaired once per season and cleaned as needed. Brooming and lining should take place as needed during the active season. The team benches should be inspected, repaired and repainted as necessary and at least once every 5 years.

Bleachers: Clean weekly. Inspect at least quarterly including all fasteners and connections. Make repairs immediately upon discovery of need or notification.

Buildings

Issues

Maintenance of buildings is essential for the public use and enjoyment of the site as well as staff accommodation and equipment storage.

Recommendations

The floors should be cleaned daily, as should rest rooms. Interior surfaces should be painted annually if needs. Exterior surfaces should be painted and cleaned as needed. Repaint structures as needed but not less than once every 5 years. Inspect roofs annually and repair upon discovery of any damage. If public use is affected, repairs should be made immediately or further damage may occur. Heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems should be inspected semi-annually. Plumbing and electrical work should be inspected annually. Nonworking lights should be replaced immediately. Special equipment should be maintained in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Remove winter accumulations of leaves each spring.

Structural Elements

Issues

Because the site is located in a northern temperate climate, structural elements are subjected to a wide range of temperatures. This thermal stress requires regular examination and subsequent maintenance of structural elements.

Recommendations

Stone Walls: Exterior stone masonry needs routine maintenance at least once every 5 years. Inspect for cracked mortar, loose or broken stones and other movement annually. Remove volunteer growth in walls annually. Repair at least every 5 years.

Bridges: Inspect support components and railings at least once a year for stability to insure structural support. Replace weak or structurally deficient components.

Chain Link Fences and Gates

Issues

Although relatively durable, they do require periodic inspections and maintenance to extend their useful lives.

Recommendations

Inspect fences quarterly for holes, dents or other damage, and repair as needed. Repair damaged fabric as soon as possible. Replace and/or repair missing and bent components. Prepare and paint rusted sections. Repairs should be made immediately upon discovery of need or notification. Maintain gates for smooth opening and closing.

Inspect support posts at least once a year for stability to insure structural support. Replace weak or structurally deficient support posts. Rust stains on masonry and concrete copings or footings are primarily an aesthetic problem, as iron oxide deposits do not support botanic growth or harm masonry. However, rusting metal expands, and rusted support posts will crack masonry and concrete. This allows moisture penetration inside the coping or footing and eventually the wall foundation below where significant damage can occur.

Site Amenities

Issues

These are the elements that invite the public to use the site. They also provide the conveniences that much of the public has come to expect. They should be kept in a condition that sustains that sense of invitation.

Recommendations

Signs: Signs should be kept clean and legible. Text on all signs should be reviewed at least once every 5 years to insure that it is current.

Benches and Trash Receptacles: Inspect at least 3 times a year including all fasteners and connections. Repairs should be made immediately upon discovery of need or notification. Paint wood and metal components once a year. Treat unpainted wood with nontoxic wood preservative annually. Wash clean trash receptacles at least monthly from spring through fall.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Utilities

Issues

Maintenance of recommended utility systems will be essential for the rehabilitation of the playground.

Recommendations

Storm Drainage System: Inspect storm structures 4 times a year and remove sediments from catch basins in early spring or more often as required. Inspect the outlet structure at Hammond Brook 4 times a year and clean and repair as needed. Clean channels and storm piping at least every five years or more often as required. Remove all accumulated sediments, mud, leaves, litter and other debris. Repair fractures in masonry drainage structures as required.

Water Supply: Inspect all working parts and plumbing for leaks or faulty operation at least annually and repair at once.

Drinking Fountains: Inspect all working parts and plumbing for leaks or faulty operation at least annually and repair at once. Clean fountains at least weekly to maintain a neat and sanitary appearance. Drain plumbing each fall to prevent damage from frost and turn on each spring. Painted iron components should be repainted as necessary and at least every 5 years.

Irrigation Systems: Inspect all working parts and plumbing for leaks or faulty operation at least annually and repair at once. Inspect operation and distribution monthly and make repairs at once. Develop and maintain record drawings of the irrigation system.

Light Fixtures and Scoreboard: Repair damaged metal surfaces as damage occurs. Spot check and repair all surfaces every 5 years. Replace bulbs as needed, averaging every 2 years. Replace ballasts every 10 years.

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

TIME REQUIREMENTS

The chart at the right includes an estimate to the time required for various landscape maintenance tasks. Items not shown include general inspection and repair of benches, bleachers, drinking fountains, signs and fences, as well as other miscellaneous items like snow removal for the Mason-Rice School maintenance drive and walks to the Recreation Center, travel time, and equipment repair and maintenance. Event and building maintenance has also been excluded.

Monthly Distribution of Continuous Tasks

TASKS	Frequency											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Litter												
Trash Pick up	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-
General Litter Removal	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lawns												
Power Rake	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mechanical Aeration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-
Mowing [4" max]	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-
Edge Trimming	-	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	-	-	-
Fertilize	-	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	•	-	-	-
Weed Control	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-	-	-
Disease & Pest Control	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	-
Seed Bare Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-
Leaf Removal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-
Plants												
Mulch Beds	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Disease & Pest Control	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	•	-	-	-
Prune												
Spring Flowering Shrubs	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Deciduous Shrubs	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evergreen Shrubs	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dead Plants	Remove within one week											
Paved Surfaces												
Sweep Clean	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-
Soft Surface Courts	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	•	-	-
Storm Drainage												
Inspection	•	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-	•	-	-
Clean Out Catch Basins	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Irrigation System												
System Start Up	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maintain and adjust	-	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•	-	-	-
System Shut Down	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	-	-	-
Security Systems												
Inspection	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Vandalism												
Graffiti and other damage	Inspect for daily. Remove and repair damage within one week of occurrence											

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Maintenance Time Requirements for Continuous Tasks

Area and Operation	Average Frequency per Year	Minutes per 1000 SF	Area in SF	Man Hours per Year
Litter				
Empty trash receptacles	150	-	-	75
Clean receptacles	8	-	-	16
Weekly Litter Pick up	26	0.1	779,790	34
General Litter Removal	1	4	779,790	52
Plant Bed Litter pick up	26	15	13,000	84
Lawns				
Mowing	24	1.1	625,410	275
Edge Trimming	12	25	10,000 lf	50
Rolling	1	1.1	625,410	11
Fertilizing	2	1.6	625,410	33
Weed, Disease & Pest Control	2	4	625,410	83
Mechanical Aeration	1	3.5	625,410	36
Overseeding	1	15	62,500	16
Seed Bare Areas	1	30	62,500	32
Leaf Removal	1	10	625,410	104
Line Field [Soccer]	2	960	-	32
Plants and Planted Areas				
Mulch Beds	1	30	13,000	6
Prune				
Shrubs	1	60	6,400	6
Trees	3	20	x200	200
Disease & Pest Control	2	10	13,000	4
Dead Plants	4	-	-	20
Walks and Drives				
Sweep/Vacuum	24	4	41,205	66
Repair Paving	1	20	41,205	14
Playground Area				
Surface grading/raking	24	8.1	13,000	42
Powerwash Equipment	24	30	-	12
Inspect and Repair	3	480	-	24
Paint Equipment	1	960	-	16

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Soft Courts [Tennis]				
Preseason surface restoration	1	30	28,120	14
Surface grading/raking	182	2	28,120	171
Rolling	18	2	28,120	17
Repairs	26	1	28,120	12
Net Replacement	1	20	x5	2
Line Courts	1	20	x5	2
Hard Courts [Basketball and Practice Tennis]				
Sweep/Vacuum	30	3	8,015	12
Net Replacement	2	20	x1	1
Paint lines/repair cracks	1	20	8,015	3
Ballfields				
General Maintenance	26	240	x2	208
Clean Backstop	6	30	x2	6
Site Amenities				
Clean benches/bleachers	26	30	-	13
Inspect and Repair	3	240	-	12
Storm Drainage				
Inspection	3	-	-	6
Remove debris from brooks	3	10	64,040	32
Clean Out Catch Basins	1	-	-	16
Irrigation System				
System Start Up	1	5	32,400	3
Inspect and Repair	6	6.5	32,400	21
System Shut Down	1	5	32,400	3
Vandalism				
Repair Graffiti and other Damage	8	60	1,000	8
Repair Turf Damage	2	30	62,500	<u>62</u>
Total Time requirements per year				1,967

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Maintenance Time Requirements for Periodic Tasks

Area and Operation	Average Frequency	Minutes per 1000 SF	Area in SF	Prorated Hours per Year
Lawns				
Soil Test	Every 5 years	3.5	625,410	7
Lime Application	Every 5 years	15	625,410	31
Planted Areas				
Soil test	Every 4 years	3.5	13,000	1
Deep Root Fertilize	Every 2 years	-	-	40
Safety Prune	Every 5 years	-	-	10
Paved Surfaces				
Repair Cracks	Every 5 years	-	-	8
Metal Surfaces				
Repair and paint	Every 5 years	-	-	20
Repair Damaged Surfaces	Every 5 years	-	-	20
Storm Drainage System				
Clean pipes	Every 5 years	-	-	3
Site Lighting				
Replace Bulbs	Every 2 years	-	-	15
Replace Ballasts	Every 10 years	-	-	<u>3</u>
Total Time requirements per year				<u>158</u>
Grand Total Time requirements per year				2,125

The above estimates assume implementation of these recommendations and only include the area of the playground. Mason-Rice School grounds and the perimeter right of way has been excluded.

ANNUAL MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

Bark Mulch	120 CY
Fertilizer	1 TON
Lawn Seed	300 LBS
Screened Topsoil	50 CY
Tennis Court Surfacing	40 CY

PERIODIC MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

[over a 20 year period]

Lime	100 Tons
Irrigation Heads	50
Paint	20 Gallons
Light Bulbs	60
Light Ballasts	12

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Landscape maintenance for this park and many other sites is provided by the Newton Parks and Recreation Department. While it is not the responsibility of this plan to assess the entire maintenance needs of the public grounds in the City, it should be noted that Newton Centre Playground represents only a small percentage of the total land area currently maintained by the existing maintenance staff. The time requirements shown here are only for Newton Centre Playground and do not take into account the many other responsibilities of department staff. It includes maintenance of about 18 acres of land.

The total identified annual landscape maintenance time requirement Newton Centre Playground is 2,125 hours. Various maintenance responsibilities are currently contracted out to vendors that maintain the Little League field and tennis courts. The City also has a vendor that is responsible for mowing and leaf removal. These vendors reduce the annual time requirement by 763 hours, leaving 1,362 hours as a City staff responsibility.

More than 90% of the landscape maintenance requirements occur within an 8 month time frame between April and November. Using 1,840 working hours annually per staff person, which allows for holidays, vacations and sick leave, the above landscape maintenance time requirements indicates that Newton Centre Playground would benefit most with one seasonal position during the 8 month busy season assuming outside vendors maintain their current responsibilities. In addition, it is beneficial for the City to maintain an arborist on staff or in a consulting position.

Each landscape character has its own requirements and potential hazards that maintenance personnel and staff developing budgets must be aware of. There needs to be maintenance standards and an interest in upgrading training beyond a basic level. Maintaining a continuity of maintenance staff with a commitment to the preservation of a place is critical. It is also beneficial in that this specialized knowledge becomes transferred to new staff members over time.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Issues

The Newton Parks and Recreation Department is charged with being the City's agent for maintaining the park and administering regulations and improvements related to the park. The permitting of events and organized recreational use has been established to preserve the public's enjoyment and appreciation of Newton Centre Playground. Preserving the significant existing features and furnishings of Newton Centre Playground as well as ensuring that future additions conform to the character of the park is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department.

All construction in the park must be reviewed and approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. Other public agencies must be coordinated to administer Newton Centre Playground. It is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department to establish and maintain strong lines of communication and guide coordination among agencies.

Recommendations

In terms of implementing this plan, the Parks and Recreation Department must take the lead role regarding review and approval. It is recommended that during this process, other City departments like Planning and Public Works be consulted as well as constituency groups. The public hearing process should remain part of the review and approval process for all improvements, except those of an emergency nature.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

Partnerships

Issues

Most municipally owned recreation sites like Newton Centre Playground have no endowment funds. Care and restoration is funded primarily by the efforts of the City and the use of matching grants, if available. Funding for tree planting also needs to be pursued. State programs often provide funds for tree inventory and planting.

Recommendations

A Friends Group for Newton Centre Playground would be the primary advocacy voice to insure funds are dedicated to the care and improvement of the park.

Friends Groups and Citizen Participation

Issues

Partnerships formed between municipalities and local constituency groups like neighborhood associations, various societies and friends groups can be beneficial for parks. These relationships are essential for site management and successful fund raising. Local constituency groups are effectively the eyes and ears for these resources, providing oversight and watchdog functions. Local constituency groups may also provide support for grant writing activities. Incorporation as nonprofit entities would enable them to receive funds from charitable foundations, corporations and individuals where the city is ineligible.

Constituency group and volunteer efforts could be directed toward developing strategies and efforts to preserve and improve this park including inventories, cleanups, plantings, watering of newly planted trees, public education, interpretation, special events, the development of visitor brochures and guided walks to increase public awareness of this important site.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

With the assistance of local constituency groups, support can be created by enlightening people as to the value or significance of this property to the City. Education can play a prime role in building community support. Newton Centre Playground could be used as an outdoor laboratory for local schools, giving classes in botany, biology and/or ecology.

Recommendations

The formation of a Friends Group for Newton Centre Playground is strongly recommended.

Working with Volunteers

Issues

Volunteer involvement is an integral part of the success of many projects like this. They provide the enthusiasm, energy and driving force behind most projects. Much responsibility falls to those faithful volunteers who see a project through from beginning to end.

Recommendations

Because of the nature of volunteer staff, a coordinator, preferably a paid position, is essential. The coordinator takes charge of all the varied talents and time schedules of volunteers, sets timetables for goal accomplishment, assigns tasks and follows up to insure that they are completed. This person keeps others informed and on track, and insures that each participant understands the project and his or her part in it. It is possible that one person could be responsible for coordinating the volunteer efforts in all of the City parks.

Recognition of Contributions

Issues

As funds are raised for improvements, donor recognition becomes an issue of concern.

Recommendations

Plaques, if necessary, should be grouped in an appropriate location so as not to detract from the primary experience of the park. If this is not acceptable, plaques for donated or memorial trees or benches should be mounted on concealed concrete bases and set flush with the ground. Plaques and bases should be of a uniform design with 4" x 6" x 1/4" cast bronze plaques recommended. A minimum gift level should be set to at least cover the cost of purchasing and installing a tree or bench and memorial plaque, and preferably also cover ongoing costs of maintenance and eventual replacement. It is preferred that donations be made to a Memorial Tree Fund that can also be used as an endowment.

Monuments, Memorials and Commemorative Markers

Issues

There is no policy in place regarding any aspect of monuments, memorials or markers and they have begun to appear in the playground. Lack of control can lead to a proliferation of these elements which do not necessarily contribute to the overall character intended for the playground.

Recommendations

A restricted growth policy for new monuments, memorials and markers is recommended to encourage the prudent use of Newton Centre Playground’s precious space. Establish a moratorium on new monuments, memorials and commemorative markers until an overall plan, preferably a citywide plan, for the placement of these items is developed and approved. Recommended guidelines include:

- There should be a time lag of at least 25 years between the occurrence of an event to be commemorated, or the death of a person to be commemorated, and the acceptance of applications for memorials to this event or person. This should not apply to memorial trees. If a memorial is desired, memorial plants and furnishings, like trees and benches, should be encouraged provided they fit within the overall plan for the park. The latter should be limited and both should be considered temporal memorials in that they are not intended to last forever.

- Nonnew memorials should be approved unless the events or individuals commemorated are significant and compelling, can be closely related to or associated with the City of Newton, and the memorial has compelling reasons to be erected in Newton Centre Playground rather than another location in the city.
- No new memorials or works of art should be approved unless provisions are made for the continued maintenance of at least the memorial itself and any changes made to the park to facilitate public enjoyment of the memorial.
- Any new monuments, memorials or markers should be placed in locations where they do not detract from the landscape as a whole and where they contribute to the appearance of the park. Considerations include location, size, material, texture, color and form of expression.

Events

Issues

Events tax the park’s natural resources and City department budgets for site clean up and repair. Newton Centre Playground currently hosts a number of events.

Recommendations

Strong controls are recommended for events including permit fees and bonds large enough to cover the costs of preparation, security, landscape restoration and clean up. These fees and bonds should be established by the Parks and Recreation Department. Size, types and locations of events in the park should be controlled to insure that heavy damage from overuse does not occur.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

Public Safety, Security and Public Relations with Abutters

Issues

Vehicles enter the playground after hours creating a disturbance for neighbors. Vehicles also occasionally drive onto the fields damaging them. Overly bright illumination late at night is another concern for neighbors.

Recommendations

Maintain locked gates at vehicular entrances. Unlock as required for emergency and service vehicle access. Along the edge, maintain a fenced, vegetated or other appropriate barrier edge to discourage unauthorized vehicular access into the playground.

Lights at athletic field and court facilities are discouraged to reduce disturbance to neighbors.

Dogs

Issues

The area of the soccer field is used as an unsanctioned, but not discouraged, off leash area for dogs. No significant problems have been reported to date.

Recommendations

Monitor use of the area for safety and sanitary reasons. Enforce applicable regulations.



*Newton Centre Playground, undated
[Courtesy of Newton Historical Society]*

SELECTED CHRONOLOGY

1688

Newton is incorporated as a town.

1726

Centre Park is acquired.

1848

Cochituate aqueduct provides Boston's first public water supply. The aqueduct is constructed along what will become northern edge of Newton Centre Playground.

1859

Grafton Park is acquired.

1868

Lincoln Park is acquired.

1872

Islington Park is acquired.

1873

Newton becomes a city.

1876

Sudbury aqueduct provides additional water supply for Boston. The aqueduct is constructed along what will become southern edge of Newton Centre Playground.

1877

A proposed plan for a series of parks is reported in the *Newton Republican* on February 10th.

1882

The Massachusetts Park Act becomes law, stating that a Park Commission is the only body authorized to acquire lands for park or playground purposes, for which appropriations have been made. Local papers provide commentary and opinion on this and a new city charter. The city votes for public parks.

1883

In his January 1st inaugural address Mayor William P. Ellison states "The City Council now have the power to take land for public parks, the act of the Legislature enabling it to do so having been accepted by the voters at the election held last November." "The necessity for parks is prospective rather than present; but wisdom dictates that the land for them should be secured while it is available, and of little value, rather than to wait until the city has become so thickly populated that parks are a necessity which must be supplied at a great cost." He also recommends that City Council accept a gift of land for a park in ward 7, and "that a joint standing committee on parks be appointed, whose duty it shall be . . . to comply with the conditions imposed by the donor, and also to endeavor to secure by gift, purchase, or both, suitable lots of land in other wards." The Newton Horticultural Association discusses the matter and recommends securing land for parks. Local papers provide commentary and opinion. Farlow Park is acquired.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

1884

In his January 7th inaugural address Mayor J. Wesley Kimball states "Recognizing the very great value, both as regards comfort and beauty, of forest trees as an adornment of our highways, I would recommend that the setting out of such trees along the roadsides connecting our various villages be encouraged, and that the Committee on parks be requested to aid in inaugurating such a system of ornamentation, and that a reasonable appropriation be made for that purpose." He also reports that the "question of taking public lands under the Park Act, for a public park" received "considerable attention last year before City Council" and it was their "duty to decide" on the matter. He also noted that there were "several quite small parks belonging to city". Expenditures on parks during the year included \$6,719.89 for labor and materials, and \$25,000 for purchase. Loring Park is acquired.

1885

In his January 5th inaugural address Mayor J. Wesley Kimball reports that Lincoln Park in Ward 3 and Walcott Park in Ward 4 have been given to the City on the condition that they be maintained as public parks.

1886

The Olmsted firm begins work on the Newton Centre estate of Robert R. Bishop.

1887

Frederick Law Olmsted & Co. complete a plan for Charlesbank in Boston, the first open air gymnasium and exercise facility of its kind in a public park

1888

On April 9th Robert R. Bishop presents an essay to the Neighbor's Club entitled *What can we do for Newton Centre* recommending acquisition of 7 parcels of land for an 11 acre playground west of Centre Street. Later that month the Newton Centre Improvement Association considers purchasing the estate of Geo. C. Rand on Bowen Street and Hammond Brook, but does not acquire the land. In August, a plan is prepared with a suggestion for a boundary between the proposed playground and the properties of Caroline T. and Charles. P. Clark. The plan includes a drive from Tyler Terrace to Pleasant Street, but is not implemented. Linwood Park is acquired.

1889

In his January 7th address Mayor Herman M. Burr states "The agitation for a system of parks, which led in 1882 to the passage of a State law authorizing the City Government to take land under certain conditions for public parks and squares has unfortunately, I think, subsided. There is one great need of our people which has received far less consideration than its merits - the need of public playgrounds. Having been familiar with our villages from an early childhood and remembering well the time when almost every vacant lot and pasture was a playground, I have seen the boys of Newton driven from one field to another by the steadily advancing tide of increasing population, until there is little left to them but the public streets and remote pastures and wood lots. . . . The initiative has already been taken in one of the villages by a public spirited local society and in a few months Newton centre will contain a playground easily accessible to all the communities on the south side of the city."

On April 22nd the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association shows a plan of the contemplated park and reports that the committee has already purchased one piece of land for \$4,000. The Newton Centre Woman's Club provides \$25 for the first subscription. A special deposit of \$6,000 is made by the Newton Centre Playground committee for the purchase of land for a playground. Newton Centre Playground and Allison Park Playground are acquired. The outdoor gymnasium for men at Charlesbank opens.

1890

In his January 6th address Mayor Herman M. Burr states "The last City Council, by its contribution of \$10,000 toward Newton Centre playground fund, has established a precedent from which it's successors are not likely to depart. It is much hoped that movements may be set on foot in the villages on the northern side of the city similar to that which has been so fruitful of results in Newton Centre. If two playgrounds could be provided for the four large villages the question would be well settled for all time. I hardly need remind you that every year's delay increases the difficulty of obtaining land which is suitable for the purpose at a price within the means of the citizens and the city."

In the final report of the Newton Centre Improvement Association regarding a playground and park for Newton Centre they recap the process and state that in 1888 they envisioned a park and playground of about 11 acres for a cost of about \$15,000 and that they now had secured about 20 acres for about \$25,000. The citizens had contributed more than \$15,000 and the city paid \$10,000. The work of laying out a playground and park remains. They also state that their attempt to combine an ornamented ground with a playground came from the character of land and its location.

In October, a survey of Newton Centre Play Ground is completed. In December, the Olmsted firm completes the first overall sketch plan [pencil on trace] for development of the site. They also prepare a Grading Plan and supporting cross sections and profiles for a portion of the site near Centre Street.

1891

City Council approves \$1,300 to further prosecute drainage of park. City Engineer Albert F. Noyes reports that plans were prepared for drainage of a portion of Newton Centre Playground lying north of Hammond's Brook. Tile drains were laid at an average depth of 3'-9" about 24' apart discharging through a connecting pipe into the brook. He also states that it is advisable to have another section west of it completed. The system is installed by John Joyce for \$332.38. The area is graded and seeded at completion. Another \$255 is expended for material and labor. The City receives \$8 for grass from the playground from Albert H. Roffe.

On April 30th Judge R. R. Bishop reports for the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association on what had been done on the temporary ball field on Homer Street and the plan which had been prepared by Messrs. Olmsted and Co. He also reports that the grading on the Centre Street side has begun and that a strip of land from Mrs. Peck has been purchased through the generosity of Mr. Bray who furnished the needed money. There was also a gift of about 7,500 feet of land needed for the playground from Mr. L. L. Melcher.

In March, the Olmsted firm completes a Preliminary Plan for Newton Centre Playground. In July, they prepare a revised Grading Plan with supporting profiles and cross sections for a portion of the site near Centre Street.

The outdoor gymnasium for women at Charlesbank opens.

1892

On April 27th Mr. Harbach of the Newton Centre Improvement Association reports that the ballfield has been drained and leveled and would soon be seeded. The City is building a sewer through the playground that must go under the aqueduct [city of Boston] giving the opportunity to change the course of the brook.

The City prepares several plans in December related to drainage including a plan showing areas requiring drainage, a plan for surface drainage, and a plan showing proposed locations of park areas, drainage and aqueducts, all including the area of Newton Centre Playground. Much of this work is in response to order no. 11680 of 24 June 1889. The work also includes a report by the City Engineer and Edward A. Buss, CC. A chain of parkways between villages is seen as an economical location for drains and sewage. The report recommends open channel construction through parkways or reservations except through high priced localities or under special circumstances where they would be treated as ornamental rather than as a detriment to surrounding properties. An open channel treatment is recommended for Hammond Brook for a greater portion of its length.

\$1,300 is appropriated for drainage. John Joyce receives \$671.56 for labor, A. H. Roffe receives \$116.45 and C. A. Harrington receives \$36.14 for lumber.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

1893

On March 13th Mr. Noble of the Newton Centre Improvement Association suggests making a running track for boys in playground. A committee is appointed to investigate the matter. On June 12th the track committee is authorized to prepare a track and grounds for July 4th. On September 30th the Committee on grading at the Centre Street end of the playground recommends a slight change in course of the walk to make easier grades and also recommends widening the walk to 20'.

At the request of the Newton Center Improvement Society, the City sets lines and grades to lay out paths and grade up the grounds.

The Park Department lists Newton Centre Playground as 20.0 acres of 138.33 acres under their control. The playground was the largest site prior to the acquisition of additional land for park system [Lower Falls Park with 46.00 acres and Auburndale Park with 21.75 acres]. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$475.85 with another \$890.41 for care.

Metropolitan Parks is authorized with plans to acquire for public reservations some of the most desirable bits of natural scenery among the hills and along the streams of the metropolitan district, before they are improved or otherwise appropriated for private uses, all with a view of a comprehensive park scheme.

On November 9th Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot send a letter to Judge R. R. Bishop requesting overdue payment.

1894

Expenditures for material, labor and teams at Newton Centre Playground are \$399.89.

1895

On June 4th the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association is authorized to equip the tennis courts on the playground with nets, tape, etc., and provide proper care for the same. On October 9th the purchase of vacant land on Centre/Bowen Streets is discussed. Frederick Law Olmsted retires from practice in September.

1897

Additional land is acquired for Newton Centre Playground, given to the City by residents of that village. On October 5th the Park Committee reports that a proposal for flooding a portion of the playground could be presented shortly. An open air gymnasium is considered. In December a plan is completed showing areas requiring drainage throughout the city.

1898

The 1st annual report of the Street Commissioner which includes the Park Division notes that the addition to the playground in Newton Centre was laid out. Expenditures are \$1,031.24. Newton Centre Playground is listed as 16.41 acres, one of 28 city controlled parks on 159.95 acres. On January 10th the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association reports that the City Engineer and Superintendent of Streets commented on impossibility of providing skating in the park due to nature of soil. On April 6th the Parks and Grounds Committee reports that flooding for skating had been tried and that it had not worked. On June 11th the Park Committee is authorized to grade parts of the playground adjacent to the tennis courts. On October 4th the Park Committee is authorized to enclose the tennis courts with a suitable wire fence and to construct a path on the north side of the tennis courts to connect with the present path.

1899

On April 1st the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association reports that a culvert has been built over the brook at Centre Street. 3 large shrub beds have set out. An open air gymnasium has been installed, a dressing room built at the running track and the tennis courts are entirely enclosed with wire netting. Additional paths and grading has been completed and a low fence has been built to protect the path at the southwest entrance of the park on Centre Street. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$255.24.

1900

On January 11th the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association reports that a dike has been built to a flood portion of the playground for skating. The 3rd annual report of the Street Commissioner including Sewers, Street Lights, Parks and Burial Grounds notes that the amount of money [\$225.17] spent on the Newton Centre Playground has not been as large as in former years.

1901

On October 10th the Newton Centre Improvement Association votes to authorize \$100 for flooding. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$207.66.

1902

The Playground and Social Service League of Newton Centre is organized to help the playground movement. With the assistance of the municipal government new swings, sand boxes, and equipment for sports are provided for Newton Centre. The running track is repaired, fields marked off for ball games, new walks and bridges constructed, and numerous events staged. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$190.57.

1903

Mayor John W. Weeks repeats concern about Metropolitan Parks legislation and the assessments to support metropolitan parks when Newton maintains their own parks at a high standard. Auburndale Park and Lower Falls Park are transferred to the Metropolitan Park Commission with the understanding that the Commission should care for them as it does other parks of the Commonwealth, and with the provision that if the arrangement should not prove satisfactory they should be transferred back to the city. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$257.82.

1904

The American Civic League creates a Department of Public Recreation. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$259.62.

1905

Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$758.00.

1906

The Playground Association of America is organized. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$207.53.

1907

On October 8th the Park Committee of the Newton Centre Improvement Association discusses additional tennis courts, but no action is taken. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are 613.41.

1908

A new department is created by the Board of Alderman, Forestry, that is no longer under the Street Department. On February 11th Mr. Gray of the Newton Centre Improvement Association reports that the City would probably appropriate funds for park improvements. He recommends that the Association present the city with a comprehensive plan of improvements. Herbert J. Kellaway is authorized to proceed for not more than \$100. In March the City Engineer completes a survey of the playground. Mr. Kellaway completes a General Plan for the Development of Newton Centre Playground in May. Expenditures for Newton Centre Playground are \$1,657.23.

1909

Three additional tennis courts are built, a reinforced concrete bridge is constructed over Hammond Brook and a coal tar concrete walk is laid from the junction of Centre Street and Tyler Terrace, via the new bridge, to the elbow in Bowen Street. A bubble drinking fountain with single cup is erected in Newton Centre Playground and 9 other locations in the city due to the generosity of a citizen.

In the 1st report of the Forest Commissioner it is noted that a competent man is employed during the summer months to cut the grass and look after shrubs and flower beds. He states that "The playground movement has an excellent start. We hope to equip them so they will be a common meeting place for all the children of the city." He also reports that "We have developed one large playground during the year, in Newton Centre."

A description of the 1908 Kellaway plan is published in The Newton Circuit on June 11th.

The International Prison Congress, at its October meeting in Washington, adopts the following resolution:- "It is resolved that to prevent habits of vagrancy and idleness among children in large cities, there should be vast additions to playgrounds, wholesome recreation centers, gymnasiums and athletic fields as the surest preventives of juvenile mischief and crime and as affording young people places where they may learn to bear defeat with courage and success with modesty."

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

1910

In the address of Mayor Charles E. Hatfield, he states "The different wards are rapidly acquiring playgrounds and I feel that it would be a very wise policy for the city to provide more playgrounds before the larger areas are devoted to building operations." Forest Commissioner Charles I. Bucknam states "The playground has come to mean as much to the community as the public school; some educators say it means more. At any rate the growth of the movement is wonderful. Ten years ago there were sixty playgrounds in thirty cities; now there are sixteen hundred in three hundred cities." "Newton's largest playground is in Newton Centre, Ward 6, and is bounded on the north by the Aqueduct and Bowen Street, on the east by Centre Street, on the south by Tyler Terrace and on the west by Pleasant Street. During the year the ball-field and tennis courts were kept rolled, and the grass was kept cut and a man was in attendance to do any other work required." Newton Centre Playground is listed as 16.41 acres with assessed value of \$31,000.

1911

A second baseball diamond is laid out for smaller boys. Additional swings are provided during the summer. Owing to the revival of interest in archery, a range is measured off and leveled, and targets are purchased which are used during the fall.

1912

A platform for children's games is built, a set of tennis register boards is erected, tennis tape is relaid and a man is kept in attendance to cut the grass and maintain the grounds. It is recommended that sanitaries be provided for Newton Centre Playground. On 18 March an order establishes the Playground Commission with Ernst Hermann, Superintendent. About the 1st of July, control of playgrounds turned over to Playground Department.

1913

2 new tennis courts are built. The Forest Commissioner reports that beds are laid out and shrubs planted at the Homer Street entrance. The Bowen Street entrance is raised, graded and planted with shrubs. Playground Department establishes permit applications for use, and rules and regulations. The latter notes that dogs on leash are allowed in the playground and that horses must stay on paths. Contributions from the Social Service and Playground League pay salaries of 2 directors during July and August. Contributions from local Improvement Societies provide funds for play implements. Newton Centre Playground is listed as 21.41 acres including 4 acres of land and some buildings that are held in trust but used by the department. It has a valuation of \$38,500.

1914

World War I begins. On May 22nd The Newton Circuit publishes Kellaway's general plan of development.

1915

In his address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states "Playgrounds and their activities are today a necessity not a luxury, and that department is just as important as the Police or Fire Department. It conserves both life and property. The boy without a playground is the father of the man without a job. The secret of play is the secret of life itself. Those that make a study of the young realize that youth must have legitimate outlet for surplus vitality."

Newton Centre Improvement Association, Playground and Social Service League, and Newton Centre Woman's Club meet to raise money for moving and equipping the old building of Trinity Church to a place on the side of the playground where it would be convenient for its new use as athletic headquarters. The building is sited by Herbert J. Kellaway. The Recreation Hut, the original Trinity Church which was moved to this site when the new Trinity Church was built. The Trinity Association was established in 1889 by a group who wished to hold Episcopal services. The building was first located on Pelham Street, moved to Homer and Centre Streets and then to the park. [NHS] The Newton Circuit publishes plans and an elevation of the building on April 23rd, and a description of playground house on September 24th.

1916

The Forestry Department recommends that playground maintenance be placed under that department. A \$500 appropriation is made for a convenience station with the building donated by the city. Expenditures include \$315.69 for grading and \$29.62 for a bridge.

<p>1917 The United States enters World War I. An appropriation \$250.00 is made for grading.</p>	<p>1929 In his January 2nd inaugural address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states "Park and playgrounds attract right-minded tax-payers who are willing to pay for sunlight, beauty, the opportunity to enjoy exercise, a sense of space and contact with nature and God's great out-of-doors."</p>	<p>1932 A considerable increase has been made in appropriations since 1929 to relieve unemployment in Newton. Weekday and holiday permits include 150 for baseball, 95 for football, 6 for field hockey, and 128 miscellaneous. Sunday permits include 14 for baseball, 2,750 for tennis, and 3 miscellaneous.</p>
<p>1918 World War I ends.</p>	<p>Newton Centre Playground is listed as 25.00 acres with 7 acres used as a playground but not yet owned but held in trust for the city. 2 acres are included but belonging to the Metropolitan Water Department.</p>	<p>1933 Weekday and holiday permits include 159 for baseball, 102 for football, and 173 miscellaneous. Sunday permits include 11 for baseball, 3,482 for tennis [most in the city], and 26 miscellaneous.</p>
<p>1919 In his 1 January inaugural address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states "At Newton Centre six acres of land and a building ought at some time be acquired."</p>	<p>An appropriation of \$500.00 is made for a toboggan slide.</p>	<p>1934 Weekday and holiday permits include 94 for baseball, 80 for football, 52 for the archery range [only @ Newton Centre Playground] and 294 miscellaneous. Sunday permits include 14 for baseball, 8 for football, and 8 for archery. There are 37 days of tobogganing between December 16 and March 2.</p>
<p>1922 In his January 1st inaugural address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states that there is "considerable public demand for grading, bridges and improving of land transferred by the Metropolitan Park Commission on the Newton Centre Playground."</p>	<p>1930 In January a plan for Toboggan Slides is prepared by William P. Morse, City Engineer. An outdoor stage is created for the Tercentenary pageant. A permanent stage [outdoor auditorium of rising grass terraces] is recommended for outdoor pageantry, drama and music festivals. The Forestry Department is placed under the Street Department.</p>	<p>1938 Plans for upgrading the brooks are completed in February. Improvements include stone masonry walls enclosing a grouted stone waterway set deeper than the existing brook, realigning the junction of the 2 brooks and covering a portion of Hammond Brook adjacent to the tennis courts. Appropriations are made for park benches throughout the system. There is hope to improve sanitary facilities on playfields. A December report on Municipal Recreation in Newton by Weaver W. Pangburn of the National Recreation Association includes a recommendation for neighborhood centers.</p>
<p>1924 In his January 1st inaugural address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states "Newton is an acknowledged leader in the Recreational Movement. We are fortunate in having parks and playgrounds."</p>	<p>1931 An appropriation is made for a boundary fence and a fence around the tennis courts. It is noted that club activities at the Recreational Hut are growing more popular every year with local boy and girl scout associations, young peoples basketball clubs, and the Newton Dramatic Club.</p>	
<p>1925 In his January 1st inaugural address Mayor Edwin O. Childs states "some fencing is needed at Newton Centre Playground."</p>		

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

- 1939
A new ordinance on July 7th changes the name of the Playground Department to the Recreation Department and increases the commission from 5 to 6 members. Ernst Hermann retires after 27 years. F. E. Wilson is Commissioner. World War II begins.
- 1940
Newton Centre Playground is called William C. Brewer Playground. It is reported that "archery, long popular at Newton Centre Playground, is likely to spread to Cold Spring". Weekday and holiday permits include 39 for baseball, 7,014 for tennis [most in city], 12 for the archery range [only @ Newton Centre Playground], 15 for cricket [only @ Newton Centre Playground], 46 basketball [most in city], 40 for softball, and 294 miscellaneous. Sunday permits include 4 for baseball, 31 for archery, 3,338 for tennis, 1 for cricket and 68 miscellaneous.
- 1941
In addition to general maintenance, improvements include reconditioning the cottage. The Newton Archery Club has approximately 300 competing in tournaments. The Newton Cricket Club competes with teams from several New England cities at Newton Centre Playground. Outdoor facilities are listed as field house, storage sheds, 5 tennis courts, 2 drinking fountains, baseball diamond, archery range, toboggan slide, nursery, swings, slides, sand boxes, teeters, work benches, small games, cricket and softball diamond. Indoor activities include dancing, dramatics, boy scouts' meetings, public speaking classes, wood-craft and sewing. The United States enters World War II.
- 1942
Dim out regulations limit the night use of facilities.
- 1943
New cement steps are installed from Tyler Terrace to the tennis courts.
- 1944
Public speaking classes are added to the list of indoor activities.
- 1945
The annual 4th of July celebration, sponsored by Newton Centre Improvement Association in years past, was revived this year at Newton Centre Playground. 32 victory gardens are added to the list of outdoor facilities. World War II ends.
- 1948
A general increase in use is noted to be about 25%. The toboggan slide is very active during the winter and there is coasting on the hill next to the building. The city provides 15 toboggans for rental and purchased 7 new ones to replace 3 that were beyond repair. Improvements are made to the basketball court and backboards and the tennis backstops are repaired for a cost of \$2,102.15. Outdoor facilities are listed as field house and storage sheds, baseball diamond & backstop, 5 tennis courts, 1 basketball court, archery range, toboggan slide, softball diamond, jungle gym, swings, slides, teeters, sand boxes, work benches and gardening. Land value is listed as \$129,000 and the building value as \$7,700. Estimated value of playground equipment is \$6,102.42, barn \$2,600, and playground house \$1,200.
- 1949
There are 18 days of tobogganing and tennis exhibitions.
- 1950
There are 9 days of tobogganing and tennis exhibitions.
- 1951
Cochituate aqueduct is abandoned.
- 1952
The Homer Street entrance and service roadway is rebuilt and blacktopped. There are 17 days of tobogganing. City of Newton purchases the Cochituate aqueduct for sewer line use.
- 1954
Parks Commission is created under Public Works. There are 11 days of tobogganing with 22 toboggans available for rental. The slide is noted as extremely fast and may be used only under supervision. An increase in tennis participation is noted.
- 1955
There are 16 days of tobogganing.
- 1956
There are 20 days of tobogganing. The clay tennis courts receive daily care.

1957

A new Mason-Rice School is to be built on Newton Centre Playground on land purchased for school purposes plus land transferred from recreation use to school use. This reduces the playground to its current size of 17.9 acres. Maintenance staff makes improvements to the playground to accommodate the change. Because the new school is to be built on site of present archery range, it has to be relocated. Turf in the area is in excellent condition and is cut and relaid at the track that is to be eliminated. The old running track that had been constructed above grade level of the athletic field is considered a serious hazard to good baseball. Since it is not now being used as a track and was almost completely overgrown with grass and inadequate, it is deemed advisable to level, loam and seed this area. A 2 to 12" cut is necessary to bring the track back to turf level, plus another 8" for loam. The baseball diamond and infield is in need of complete rebuilding and regrading. "This field had originally been laid out according to scale over 40 years ago but had never been properly graded. The turf had been almost completely burned out because of the 1957 summer drought, the edges of baselines had filled in with baseline subsoil, and the edges of the infield grass were badly frayed." It is decided to rebuild to establish lines and grades according to present day standards with sod and loam from other areas of the park. The garden area has excellent loam with an average depth of 3 to 4 feet. Approximately 4,000 cy of loam are removed and stockpiled. Fill from Cleveland Street is used to raise the level of garden area. 8" of loam are placed on top and the area is graded and seeded. There are 24 days of tobogganing with 24 toboggans available for rental at \$0.50/hour. Private toboggans may be used for \$0.50 per day. The toboggan slide is featured on WBZ-TV News.

1958

There are 13 days of tobogganing with a recorded attendance of 9,398. The Recreation Department constructs an archery hut from available salvaged or second hand lumber. Newton Archers furnish all finish lumber.

1959

There are 3 days of tobogganing.

1962

A new merry-go-round is installed. The Recreation Hut is open regularly after school and Saturday mornings.

1963

A special redcoat surfacing is installed on the 5 tennis courts by the Recreation Department to allow the courts to be used much sooner after a rain. Weekly children's archery classes begin, hoping to spark revival of the Newton Archers. Golf lessons are provided.

1964

The Little League field is given heavy topdressing and reseeding. The Newton Judo Club is headquartered at the Recreation Hut.

1965

New protective fencing is installed and new water lines are installed at the Little League field by the Water Department. A new tot lot play area is installed with the "latest imaginative apparatus".

1966

A practice tennis court is installed. It is noted that the toboggan chute has night lights and a warming shelter.

1967

A new asphalt basketball court is added.

1968

The little league field is enclosed in chain link fencing.

1970

The size of Park Commission increases from 6 to 9 members. Recreation Department headquarters are moved from City Hall to 70 Crescent Street.

1972

Pop Warner football lights are added.

1978

The toboggan slide is dismantled. Sudbury aqueduct is discontinued but maintained by MWRA as a backup source of water.

1982

Fire alarm systems are installed in Recreation Department buildings.

1983

The Parks and Recreation Department is formed as a result of a merger of Recreation Department and the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department.

1985

Park benches are repaired and painted.

1988

300th anniversary of Newton's incorporation as a Town. New playground equipment is installed at Mason-Rice School.

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

1990

Renovation of the clay courts begins. Care of trees is privatized.

1991

The Jay Gordon Little League Field is dedicated in April. In May a controversy develops over the placement of sponsor signs at the field.

1992

The basketball court is seal coated.

1993

The Recreation Hut is renovated with new ceilings, floors, paint and a heating system.

1995

The basketball court receives repairs and lighting.

1996

Art classes are provided in the Recreation Hut.

1999

School garden is added at Mason-Rice School.

2005

An accessible play area is added to the Mason-Rice school play area. In August, a plan for handicap access improvement is prepared for a path from Bowen Street to the play structure area. In September a plan for a new play structure is prepared by Landworks Collaborative. Neither plan is implemented. A jungle gym is removed from the play structure area.

[**Bold = Letters in Library of Congress folders,
not microfilmed**]

OLMSTED FIRM CORRESPONDENCE

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

27 May 1890

Letter to F. L. Armstead [FLO] signed by Albert F. Noyes, City Engineer, initialed by V

30 October 1890

Letter to Judge Robert R. Bishop from FLO & Co.

18 December 1890

Letter to Albert F. Noyes, C.E., from F. L. Olmsted & Co.

13 April 1891

Postcard to F. L. Olmsted & Co. signed by Robert R. Bishop

14 April 1891

Letter to F. L. Olmsted & Co. signed by Robert R. Bishop

22 April 1891

Letter to Avery S. Rand from FLO & Co.

23 April 1891

Proposal for Newton Center Playground by Olmsted Associates [unsigned]

8 May 1891

Letter to JCO signed by Robert R. Bishop

11 May 1891

Letter to "Dear Father" [Frederick Law Olmsted] from JCO

12 May 1891

Letter to JCO signed by Robert R. Bishop

4 June 1891

Letter to Albert F. Noyes from FLO & Co.

24 July 1891

Letter to FLO signed by Albert F. Noyes

10 February 1892

Letter to Albert F. Noyes, C.E., from F. L. Olmsted & Co.

13 February 1892

Letter to Albert F. Noyes, C.E., from F. L. Olmsted & Co.

20 February 1892

Letter to Albert F. Noyes from F. L. Olmsted & Co.

9 November 1893

Letter to Judge R. R. Bishop from Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, – requesting overdue payment

22 October 1894

Letter to R. F. Alvord, Secretary, from Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

AVAILABLE DRAWINGS

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
Project No. 1061

31 December 1869

Plan of the Estate of Charles P. Clark, Newton Centre, Mass., Scale 40' = 1", Shedd and Sawyer, Engineers, ink on linen [1061-1]

17 August 1888

Suggestion for a Boundary Between Proposed Playground and Properties of Caroline T. and Chas. P. Clark, Newton Centre, Scale 40' = 1", pencil on trace [1061-4]

17 August 1888

Suggestion for a Boundary between Proposed Public Playground and Properties of Caroline T. and Chas. P. Clark, Newton Centre, Scale 40' = 1", ink on linen [1061-3]

October 1890

Plan of Newton Centre Play Ground showing contours, Newton, Mass., Scale 40' = 1", Alfred F. Noyes, City Engineer, ink on linen [1061-2]

13 December 1890

Newton Centre Playground, Newton, Scale 40' = 1", pencil on trace [1061-6]

17 December 1890

Newton Centre Playground Grading Plan for Portion near Centre Street, Scale 40' = 1", pencil on trace [1061-8]

18 December 1890

Newton Centre Playground Profiles, pencil/ink on grid paper [1061-14]

18 December 1890

Newton Centre Playground Cross Sections to Accompany Plan for Grading Portion near Centre Street, Scale 10' = 1", pencil/ink on grid paper [1061-13]

26 March 1891

Newton Centre Playground Preliminary Plan, Scale 40' = 1", print [1061-7-pt1]

July 1891

Newton Centre Playground Revised Grading Plan for portion near Centre St., Scale 40' = 1", pencil on trace [1061-12-tp1]

9 July 1891

Newton Centre Playground Revised Grading Plan for Portion near Centre St., Scale 40' = 1", blueprint [1061-12-pt1]

10 July 1891

Newton Centre Playground Profiles & Cross-Sections to accompany revised Grading Plan, Scale for Cross-Sections, 10' = 1" Scale for Profiles: Vertical 4' = 1" Horizontal 40' = 1", blueprint [1061-15-pt1]

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

no date

View of Gate House, pencil on paper [1061-5-sh1] - Sudbury Aqueduct structure at the corner of Tyler Terrace and Pleasant Street

no date

Newton Centre Playground View of Gates, pencil on paper [1061-5-sh2] - Sudbury Aqueduct structure at the corner of Tyler Terrace and Pleasant Street

CITY OF NEWTON

March 1908

Plan of Newton Centre Playground, Irving T. Farnham, City Engineer

May 1908

General Plan for the Development of Newton Centre Playground, Herbert J. Kellaway

March 1911

General Plan for the Development of Newton Centre Playground, Herbert J. Kellaway

1 January 1930

Untitled Plan for Toboggan Slides, William P. Morse, City Engineer

26 February 1938

Hammond Brook Project, Ernest H. Harvey, City Engineer

30 August 2005

Plan for the Handicap Access Improvement at Newton Centre Playground

2 September 2005

Site Plan [for Universal Play Area], Landworks Collaborative

TREE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT

site	species	dia	biotic deficiencies	structural deficiencies	cultural def.	cond. %	appraise
1,661	ash spp	21	insect, boring	deadwood	none	1	\$70.00
1,662	maple, sugar	32	conk/fruiting bdy	included bark	none	70	\$18,200.00
1,663	maple, sugar	30	none	trunk decay	none	65	\$15,100.00
1,664	oak, white	32	none	deadwood	none	90	\$26,100.00
1,665	oak, white	31	none	none	none	90	\$24,500.00
1,666	maple, norway	16	none	deadwood	none	35	\$1,810.00
1,667	maple, norway	17	none	deadwood	none	50	\$2,910.00
1,668	pine, red	29	none	none	none	90	\$12,700.00
1,669	pine, red	18	none	none	none	85	\$4,680.00
1,670	maple, norway	19	none	trunk decay	none	40	\$2,890.00
1,671	maple, sugar	23	none	included bark	none	85	\$11,700.00
1,672		0				0	\$-
1,673	maple, norway	18	none	included bark	none	80	\$5,200.00
1,674	maple, norway	22	none	none	none	70	\$6,800.00
1,675	pine, red	18	none	none	none	70	\$3,850.00
1,676	pine, red	18	none	none	none	70	\$3,850.00
1,677	pine, red	18	none	none	none	70	\$3,850.00
1,678	pine, red	18	none	none	none	70	\$3,850.00
1,679	pine, red	18	none	none	none	70	\$3,850.00

NEWTON CENTRE PLAYGROUND

1,680	spruce, norway	19	none	none	none	85	\$8,000.00
1,681	spruce, norway	21	none	none	none	85	\$9,800.00
1,682	unknown	19	none	crook	none	75	\$-
1,683	maple, red	18	none	deadwood	none	80	\$6,000.00
1,684	maple, red	18	none	deadwood	none	80	\$6,000.00
1,685	spruce, norway	20	none	included bark	none	80	\$8,400.00
1,686	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,687	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,688	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,689	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,690	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,691	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,692	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,693	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,694	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,695	pine, white	16	none	none	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,696	maple, norway	24	none	deadwood	none	80	\$9,200.00
1,697	spruce, white	17	none	deadwood	none	80	\$5,400.00
1,698	linden, american	21	none	none	none	80	\$7,000.00
1,699	maple, silver	5	none	deadwood	none	80	\$430.00
1,700	oak, red	28	none	deadwood	none	80	\$18,200.00
1,701	oak, red	30	none	deadwood	none	85	\$22,100.00
1,702	pine, red	24	none	deadwood	none	80	\$7,800.00
1,703	maple, norway	14	none	none	none	85	\$3,390.00
1,704	maple, red	5	none	none	none	70	\$510.00
1,705	maple, red	18	none	included bark	none	85	\$6,400.00
1,706	birch, eur white	32	none	none	none	70	\$9,600.00
1,707	spruce, white	16	none	none	none	70	\$4,180.00
1,708	pine, white	19	none	none	none	85	\$8,000.00
1,709	pine, white	15	none	none	none	75	\$4,470.00
1,710	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,711	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,712	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,713	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,714	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00



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1,715	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,716	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,717	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,718	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,719	pine, red	15	none	none	none	80	\$3,090.00
1,720	maple, sugar	28	none	dieback-major	none	60	\$12,200.00
1,721	unknown	14	disease, branch	none	none	65	\$-
1,722	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,723	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,724	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,725	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,726	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,727	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,728	spruce, norway	15	none	none	none	80	\$4,770.00
1,729	spruce, colorado	16	insect, branch	deadwood	none	65	\$3,880.00
1,730	pine, white	24	none	none	none	80	\$12,000.00
1,731	spruce, norway	18	none	none	none	85	\$7,200.00
1,732	ginkgo	29	none	deadwood	none	90	\$17,300.00
1,733	maple, sugar	29	none	none	none	85	\$18,500.00
1,734	maple, sugar	28	none	deadwood	none	70	\$14,200.00
1,735	maple, sugar	21	insect, other	deadwood	none	50	\$5,800.00
1,736	maple, sugar	20	none	none	none	85	\$8,900.00
1,737	maple, boxelder	30	none	trunk scar	none	50	\$4,800.00
1,738	maple, sugar	10	none	none	none	79	\$2,180.00
1,739	maple spp	30	none	none	none	60	\$13,200.00

Note: Inventory and assessment provided by City of Newton

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