

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area

City of Newton Conservation Area



To accommodate other users and to protect wildlife, vegetation, and trails:



Report an incident: Newton Police 617-796-2100

Report a trail problem: call 311 or conservation@newtonma.gov

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area

City of Newton Conservation Area

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area Access

Located in Thompsonville, Saw Mill Brook is readily accessed from the large parking lot on Vine Street and the cul-de-sac of Marla Circle. Trails in this parcel also connect to trails in St. Joseph Cemetery in West Roxbury.

Saw Mill Brook History and Features

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area, like all of Newton, was once occupied and cared for by the Massachusetts tribe, descendants of whom still live and make new history in the area.

Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area was acquired by the City of Newton “by pieces”. The 1985 acquisition of 15-acres in the low-lying interior was one of the Newton Conservation Commission’s most recent acquisitions.

This forested parcel extends along a section of the clear, perennial stream, Saw Mill Brook. During periods of high flow, the stream rushes over its rocky bottom. In periods of lower flow, the stream burbles melodically.

The trail meanders through extensive upland hardwood forest with rocky outcroppings. Bog bridges allow the trail to traverse low wooded wetlands and dense shrub thickets. Thickets of sweet pepperbush are aromatic in the summer.

The varied topography and vegetation give walkers the impression of being in undisturbed wilderness. The mature oak forest is “regal”.

Look for small cliffs and large outcrops of Roxbury Puddingstone, a conglomerate or mix of fine-grained sediments and larger rocks.

Saw Mill Brook Trail Characteristics

Because of the parcel’s varied topography, rocky outcroppings, and need for “bog bridges”, Saw Mill Brook trails are a bit challenging in places; all are **Natural Trails***.



Trail Surface: Mostly firm soil. In places: rocky, muddy, and steep



Trail width: Generally 3 feet; bog bridges are 1.5 feet wide



Trail length: 4,500 feet or 0.9 miles



Cross slope: Generally level. In places: >5%



Obstructions: In places: steps, rocky footbeds, and elevated bog bridges.

***Newton’s Generally Accessible Trails** are relatively flat, they have a firm, level footbed, and are mostly free of tripping hazards. They are wide enough to accommodate many mobility devices.

***Newton’s Natural Trails** are unimproved and may have steep, uneven, or rocky/rooty footbeds; elevated plank “bog bridges”, or other obstacles that make the trails challenging to negotiate.