

# Helen Heyn Riverway Conservation Area

City of Newton Conservation Area



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



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## Helen Heyn Access

Located along the Charles River near the Wells Avenue Office Park, Helen Heyn Conservation Area is readily accessed from the parking lot of #1 Wells Ave or from Nahanton Street (one can park in the Nahanton Park parking lot on Nahanton Street and cross Nahanton Street with care). Trails in this parcel can also be accessed from the west end of Saw Mill Brook Parkway via connecting trails in DCR's Charles River Reservation.

## Helen Heyn History and Features

This parcel, 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.

This conservation area was dedicated to Mrs. Helen A. Heyn in recognition of her tremendous contribution to the Newton Conservation Commission and to the preservation of open spaces in the City. Helen was the founder and secretary of the Newton Conservators and was awarded the "Most Valuable Contribution to Conservation through Volunteer Activity Award for 1979" by the Massachusetts Conservation Council.

The City of Newton acquired this 30.5-acre forested floodplain parcel in 1997, contributing to DCR's Blue Heron Trail that runs along the Charles River.

The trail takes walkers through hardwood forests, past and expansive bordering vegetated wetlands and floodplains of the Charles River, and over two tributary creeks. The diversity of upland and wetland ecosystems support a wide variety of wildlife and provides a wonderful opportunity for nature observation and bird-watching.

## Helen Heyn Trail Characteristics

Because of the parcel's varied topography and bridges, all its trails are a bit challenging. Helen Heyn contains no **\*Generally Accessible Trails**; all are **Natural Trails**.



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



**Trail width:** Generally 3 feet



**Trail length:** 1030 feet or 0.2 miles



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



**Obstructions:** In places: elevated bridges, rocky or rooty footbeds

**\*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.