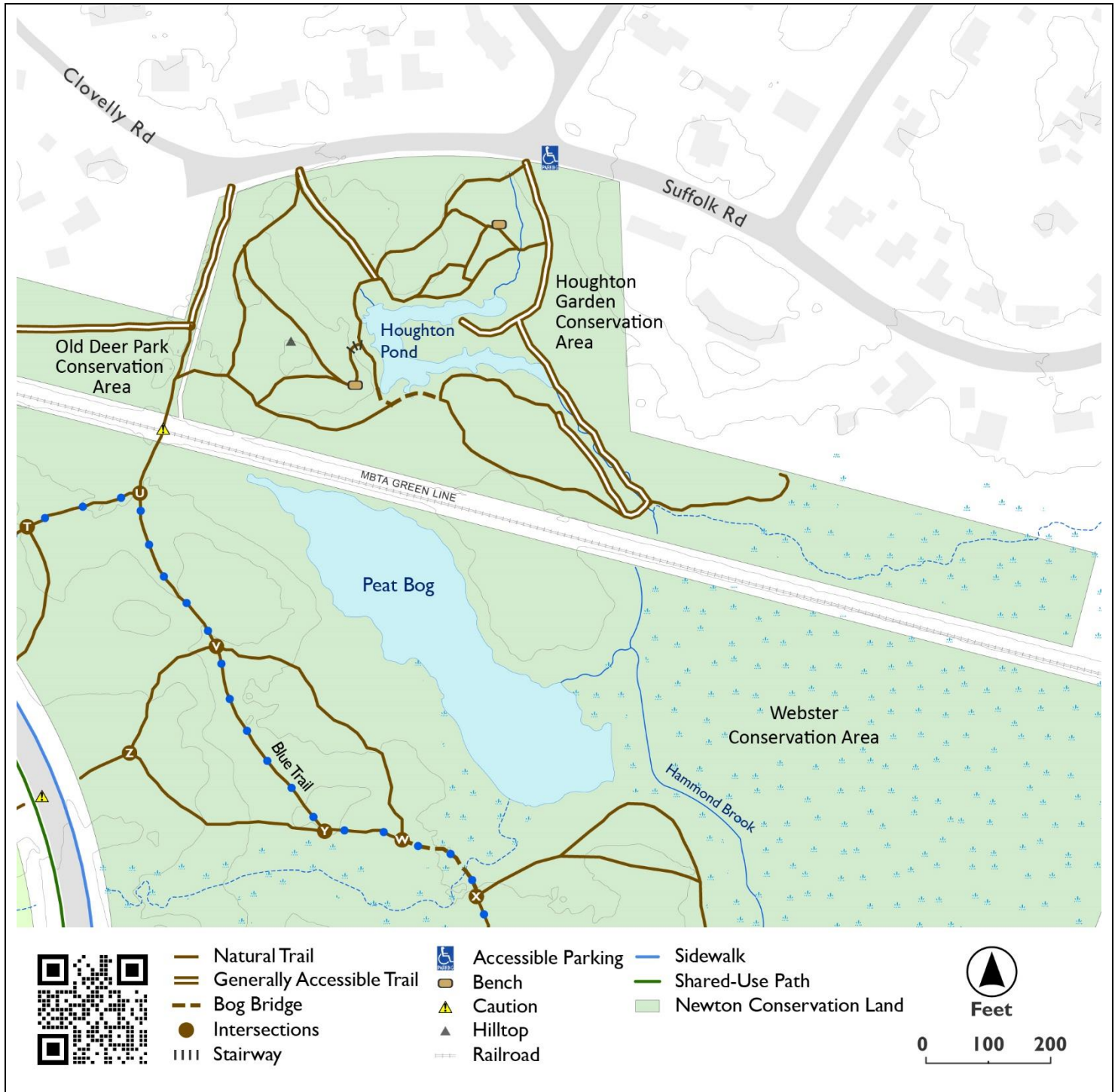


Houghton Garden Conservation Area

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

Houghton Garden Conservation Area

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Houghton Garden Access

Houghton Garden is just a half mile walk from the Chestnut Hill station on the Green Line D-Train. Houghton Garden has 2 entrance gates on Suffolk Road and one on "Lowell Lane" (the dirt road that lead south from the intersection of Suffolk and Clovelly). Lowell Lane crosses the MBTA Green Line tracks, providing easy connectivity to the large Webster Conservation Area and Hammond Reservation to the south and to the Old Deer Park Conservation Area to the west.

Houghton Garden History & Features

The Houghton Garden area, like all of Newton, was once occupied and cared for by the Massachusett tribe, descendants of whom still live and make new history in the area.

The 10-acre conservation parcel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains close to a half mile of trails that meander along streams and a pond. In 1906, Mrs. Clement S. Houghton established an English-style "wild garden" for her elegant villa with diverse alpine, conifer, flower, and rock gardens, Pockets of the old formal gardens, stone benches, and bridges remain within the natural woodlands. The Houghtons, members of the Chestnut Hill Garden Club, gave a portion of their estate to augment the Webster Conservation Area. In the 1950s, the Chestnut Hill Neighborhood Association helped protect Houghton Garden from development, and in 1968 the City acquired the land by eminent domain. Over the years restoration efforts have focused on the plantings, the trails, and the pond. One is likely to encounter many species of birds in the woods and around the pond.

Houghton Garden Trail Characteristics

Houghton Garden has significant segments of ***Generally Accessible Trails** accessed from Suffolk Road. Other trails are ***Natural Trails** with more challenging conditions.



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: 4,440 feet or 0.8 miles.



Cross slope: Generally level.



Obstructions: In places: steps and elevated bridges and bog bridges. Rocky, steep trails.

***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.

Newton Conservation Land is cared for by professional land managers, City staff, and volunteer Stewards.

To report a problem or become a Land Steward, please contact the Newton Conservation Commission

1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459 / Conservation@NewtonMA.gov / 617-796-1152.