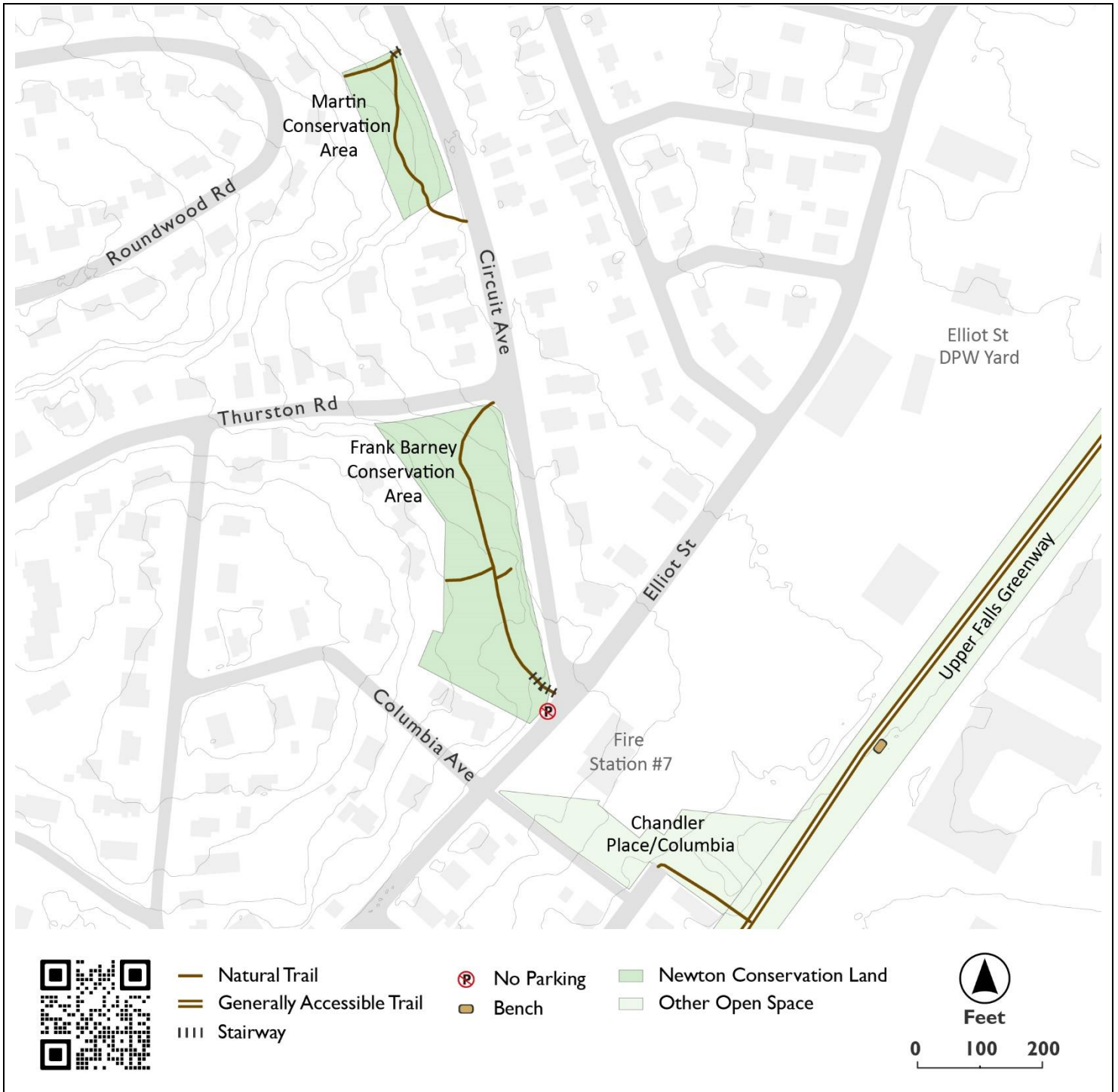


Frank Barney Conservation Area

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

Frank Barney Conservation Area

City of Newton Conservation Area

Frank Barney Access

Located in Upper Falls, Frank Barney Conservation Area is accessible from Circuit Avenue and Thurston Road. The Upper Falls Greenway rail trail to the south can be easily reached by walking. One can also access the site from the Green D-Line Elliot MBTA station.

Frank Barney 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.

The City of Newton first acquired the Frank Barney Conservation Area in 1975. In 1997, the children of the neighboring landowners sold additional land to the city, expanding the protected area.

This small (1.57-acre), forested parcel spans an impressive 25-foot tall cliff that faces Circuit Ave. The rugged footpath takes walkers up and over the top of the cliff through woods of native deciduous trees and the remains of an old stone wall.

Stairs at the southerly trailhead on Elliot Street facilitate access; a natural path leads steeply up from the corner of Circuit Avenue and Thurston Road.

Keep your eyes open for the wildflowers that bloom in the spring and the expansive outcrop of Roxbury Conglomerate ledges that descend throughout. Fringed Polygala, is one native wildflower that can sometimes be seen in bloom from May-June.

Frank Barney Trail Characteristics

Because of the parcel's pronounced topography and stairs, Frank Barney's trails are a bit challenging in places; all are **Natural Trails***.



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



Trail width: Generally 3 feet; wooden steps at the southern end are ~2 feet wide



Trail length: 640 feet or 0.12 miles



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



Obstructions: Steps and rocky footbed

***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.