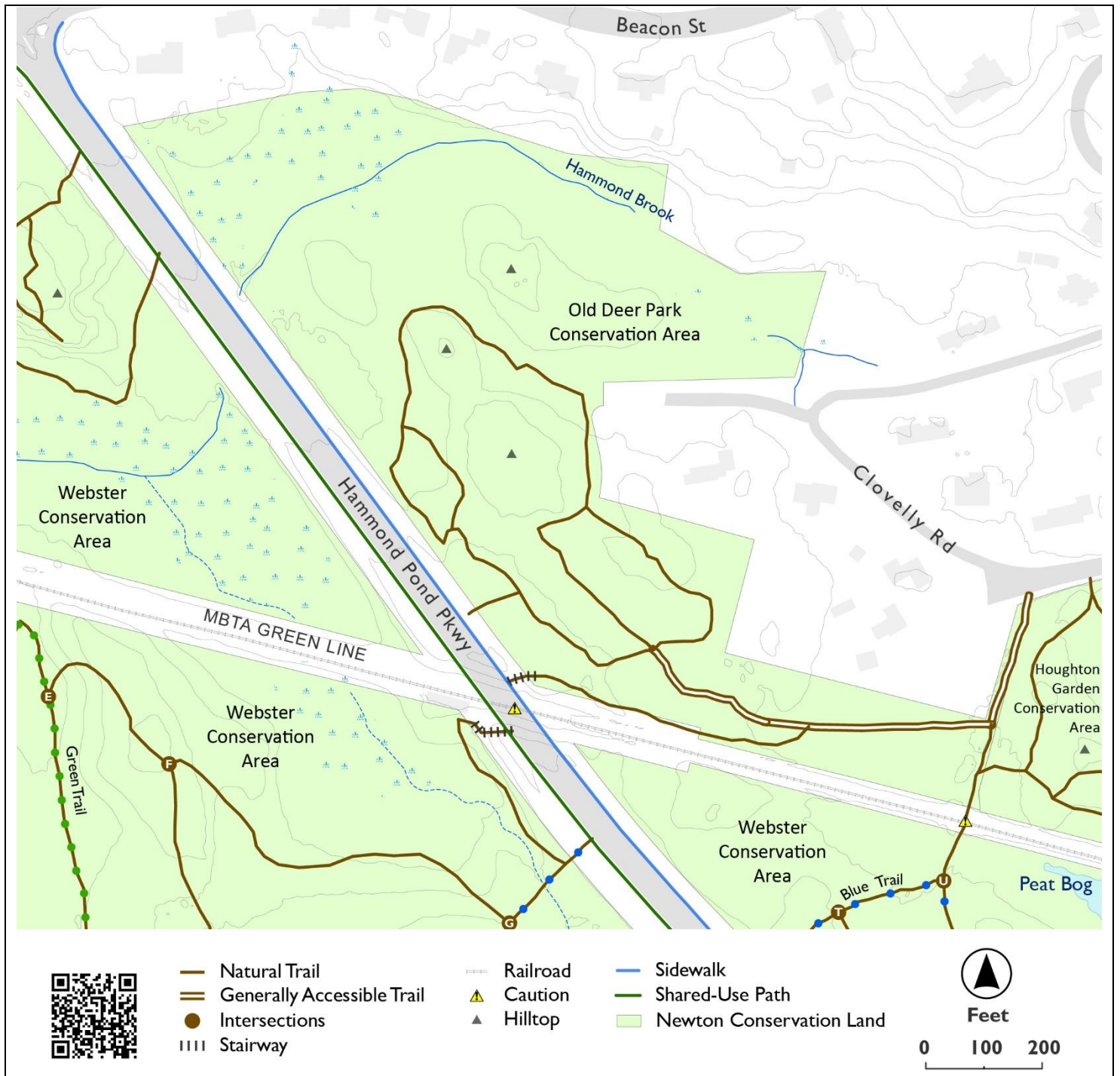


# Old Deer Park Conservation Area

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](mailto:conservation@newtonma.gov)

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## Old Deer Park Conservation Area Access

Located in Chestnut Hill, the Old Deer Park is readily accessed from Hammond Park Parkway just north of the bridge over the MBTA Green line, from Suffolk Road, and from a grassy lane off the dirt road know as Lowell Lane at the west end of Houghton Gardens.

## Old Deer Park History and Features

The Old Deer Park, 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 Old Deer Park (16.4 acres) was acquired by the City in 1971 through an eminent domain taking for conservation purposes to preclude the development of the Massachusetts College of Art. At the time, the fenced parcel held around 40 white-tailed deer, remnants of an old "venison farm". Since the deer could not be moved, the City cared for the deer and implanted contraceptives in the females to ensure that the herd would decrease and disappear over time.

Years after the last deer died, trails were constructed and the perimeter fence was opened in two locations. Now there is a path system that takes walkers through grassy meadows, between impressive rocky knolls, over a bedrock outcrop, and through forests filled with large, mature trees.

Deep in the woods, Hammond Brook runs along the northern edge of the property.

In the southeastern corner of the property is a concrete slab, the remains of an old barn that was taken down in 2015 for safety reasons. Now, it houses beehives, maintained by a licensed beekeeper who uses the bees for educational programs and research studies.

## Old Deer Park Trail Characteristics

Because of the parcel's varied topography, trails in the Old Deer Park are a bit challenging in places. The entry trail from Lowell Lane (off Suffolk and Clovelly) is **Generally Accessible**, but further in the parcel, trails are **Natural Trails\***.



**Trail Surface:** Mostly firm soil or mowed-grass, wood chips in places, steep in places.



**Trail width:** Generally 4-5 feet wide.



**Trail length:** 3,130 feet or 0.6 miles



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



**Obstructions:** None

**\*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.

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*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.*