

# Varick Hill Conservation Area

City of Newton Conservation Area



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



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## Varick Hill Conservation Area Access

Located in Waban, this tiny (0.19-acre) triangular parcel abuts the City-owned Cochituate Aqueduct.

The Cochituate Aqueduct, used as a footpath, runs for 3 miles (with several interruptions) from the Charles River in the west, along Waban Ave., to Newton Center Playground in the east. The Aqueduct connects walkers to the state Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR's) Charles River Reservation with its 1.4-mile trail along the Charles River.

The Varick Hill Conservation Area (and Aqueduct) can be accessed from Varick Road or East Quinobequin Road.

## Varick Hill History and Features

Varick Hill, 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 City of Newton acquired Varick Hill Conservation Area in 1977.

The steep hill at East Quinobequin Road is a popular sledding spot after a snowstorm.

## Corridors

Though this parcel is small, it is part of a larger green corridor. Corridors are important because they form connections. They provide habitat connectivity for native wildlife, sustaining natural communities, and offering wildlife access to areas for breeding, nesting, feeding, and migration.

Corridors serve people too, providing opportunities for recreation and connecting people with nature.

## Varick Hill Trail Characteristics

There are no trails on the Varick Hill parcel itself. The abutting Cochituate Aqueduct trail is generally over 6' wide, with a grassy, sometimes rocky, footbed. The hill between Varick Hill Conservation Area and East Quinobequin Road is steep.

The trails around Varick Hill are categorized as **Natural Trails\***.

**Looking for a Generally Accessible trail\* on Conservation land?** Norumbega Conservation Area, Dolan Pond Conservation Area, and Houghton Garden Conservation Areas all have Generally Accessible Trails\* and are good for 'all ages' walks.

**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'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.