

Eagle Scout Projects on Newton, MA, Parkland

The Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department (PRC, Department) welcomes Eagle Scout candidate projects aimed at benefitting the City's parks, residents, and natural resources. PRC encourages Eagle Scout candidates to see themselves as leaders and project managers in this process—the Department can offer support via:

- land access
- technical advice
- the public review and approval process
- cost estimates
- select landscape materials (as available)
- certain types of landscape grading or excavation
- connecting Scouts with relevant Friends and community groups for planning and financial support

Approval Process for Eagle Scout Projects on Parkland:

1. Identify an area of interest and research potential projects in the area.
2. Meet with PRC staff to discuss feasibility and refine plan. We recommend Scouts reach out at least five months before their anticipated due date.
3. Coordinate a preliminary site visit with PRC staff and any other stakeholders to finalize plans.
4. Present a final project proposal for Department approval. If a project proposes significant changes in land use, Scout will need to present before the Parks & Recreation Commission for approval. Certain permanent elements constructed may also require Parks & Recreation Commission approval. More information about the Commission can be found here: [Parks & Recreation Commission | City of Newton, MA](#). Scout should be prepared to discuss their project, including anticipated necessary materials, tools, access, waivers, and more. Note: the Commission recesses in the summer, this may impact a project timeline.
5. After receiving approval, implement the project, keeping relevant PRC staff up-to-date on progress and any upcoming alterations. Substantial design changes require written approval from the Department. Coordinating deliveries or site access often involve multiple parties and schedules. We will be looking for leadership from the Scout for these key implementation steps, and supporting as best we can.
6. Participants who work on the project on site may be required to sign a volunteer form that will be filed with the Department.
7. Scouts should expect to primarily fundraise for their projects when necessary.
8. A final project sign-off meeting should be held along with the passing over of any drawings, manuals, maintenance schedule, etc.

Newton Parkland Project Ideas

1. Build box stairs and handrails to increase access and reduce erosion on walking paths.
2. Make Accessibility improvements to Cold Spring trail, Edmands Park, Florrie's Path, or other walking paths.

3. Refinish wooden benches around the city.
4. Add boardwalk sections to wet trail areas.
5. Build informational kiosks or community boards at trailheads or park entrances.
6. Improve a park/open space area or amenity, add a new amenity or feature.

For More Information

Contact Ahron Lerman in the Parks & Open Space office at alerman@newtonma.gov, or at 617-796-1525