

City of Newton  
Recreation and Open Space Plan  
EOEA Plan Update



2003-07



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February 28, 2003

Dear Newton Resident:

As Mayor I place a high value on the importance of the natural resources, habitats, parks, recreation, and conservation assets contained within our "Garden City" and appreciate the work done by the Open Space Advisory Committee in preparing the enclosed *Recreation and Open Space Plan Update 2003-07*. I invite you to read the *Plan* not only to develop an appreciation of the open space benefits Newton residents currently enjoy, but also to gain a good understanding of the open space challenges we face moving into the future. The 5-year Action Plan summarizes our action program addressing Newton's recreation and open space needs. As we make progress in meeting these needs, we will preserve and enhance our natural resources, facilitate the availability of public land and recreational facilities, and ensure access to our open space assets and facilities to persons with disabilities and to all our residents.

Very truly yours,

David B. Cohen  
Mayor

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DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

# City of Newton, Massachusetts Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

2003-2007

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**Prepared per the requirements of the Massachusetts Executive Office of  
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**February 28, 2003**

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*Design: Richard F. Griffin*

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# Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

## City of Newton, Massachusetts

### Section 1: Plan Summary

The following outlines key themes and actions of Newton's 2003-07 Recreation and Open Space Plan Update. While many factors were reviewed in the plan update process, several important themes emerged which merit particular emphasis:

- ◆ A need to preserve and provide additional open space including pocket parks in the more densely populated neighborhoods of Newton.
- ◆ An increase in sports programs serving girls and young women has increased the use of and the need for active playfield space.
- ◆ Major progress to date in improving access for people with disabilities should continue on multiple tracks to address active and passive recreation as well as conservation areas.
- ◆ An approach which considers biodiversity and the public interest in a coordinated manner to preserve and link important natural resources increases benefits for wildlife habitat while better serving passive recreational needs of Newton residents of all ages.
- ◆ A need to emphasize linkages between open spaces using linear green-ways and pathways.
- ◆ Current economic forces have driven real estate values in Newton to unprecedented levels, making acquisition of open space highly expensive, requiring consideration of alternative means to secure open space.
- ◆ Need to reexamine incentives and disincentives within the City's zoning ordinance for creating and preserving open space.

The following items highlight selected high priority actions described in the 2003-07 Action Program:

**Action:** Acquire West Kessler Woods bordering on Saw Mill Brook (in full or part) by gift, purchase (if funds are available), or negotiate a conservation restriction.

**Action:** Acquire Angino Farm by gift or purchase (if funds are available), when property becomes available and subject to mutual agreement with the owner.

**Action:** When offered for sale, acquire three remaining lots on Wabasso Street and Forest Grove abutting the Charles River pathway.

**Action:** Reassign old Pine Street landfill site to the Parks & Recreation Department and acquire (if funds are available) the intersecting Apodemi land to enable development of needed playground/playfield facilities, all subject to environmental review.

**Action:** Implement Forte Park Phase II improvements.

**Action:** Nahanton Park Phase II – extend accessible pathway system.

The above are examples from an extensive list of actions reflecting the goals, policies, and objectives contained in the 2003-07 Recreation and Open Space Plan Update and indicate the City's continuing commitment to open space planning, acquisition, development, and management. As stated in the *Introduction*, it is anticipated that further refinement will occur as the City continues to shape this Plan Update as part of preparing it as a component of the new Comprehensive Plan for Newton.



## **Section 2: Introduction**

### ***A. Statement of Purpose***

From the floodplains along the Charles River to neighborhood playgrounds, open space plays a vital role in both the natural and built environments of Newton. With increased understanding of the interrelationships found in ecosystems, as well as increased development pressures, the need for wise stewardship of the natural assets within our City becomes more compelling.

This Recreation and Open Space Plan is a “Plan Update” to the one completed in 1995. The Plan is designed to enhance and protect Newton’s valuable natural and recreational resources in a time of escalating real estate values and tightening fiscal budgets. The City of Newton does not take for granted the positive effects that open space has on our quality of life, and seeks to deliver a plan that accommodates the future needs of the City. This Plan traces the development of the City and discusses the effect that the environment has had on Newton’s development. An overview of Newton’s geology, water resources, flora and fauna, and unique resources follows. With this data as well as community needs in mind, Newton’s Plan Update looks at the community’s overall goals for passive and active open space. An analysis of needs, and specific and general goals and objectives are included, as well as a five-year action plan. An update of accomplishments since the last plan is attached as *Appendix C*.

### ***B. Planning Process and Public Participation***

Newton’s Recreation and Open Space Plan Update (Plan) has been organized consistent with Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services guidelines. The Plan updating process was guided by the Open Space Advisory Committee, appointed by the Mayor and consisting of a broad range of participants, including representatives from regional and City agencies, conservation, recreation, environmental, and neighborhood interests, and land owners. The Plan has received input from these groups as well as from the public through a joint public hearing held with the Planning and Development Board. While the Plan represents the City’s consensus on open space at this time, it is important to note that additional refinement will occur as the City proceeds to develop the new Comprehensive Plan for Newton and further articulate recreation and open space needs and considerations as part of this process.

The following City Departments, Boards and Commissions, state agencies and citizen groups participated in the preparation of the 2003-07 Recreation and Open Space Plan Update:

Mayor’s Open Space Plan Advisory Committee  
Conservation Commission  
Department of Planning and Development  
Department of Public Works  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Planning and Development Board  
School Department

Urban Tree Commission  
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
Metropolitan District Commission  
Charles River Watershed Association  
Friends of Cabot Woods  
Friends of Nahanton Park  
Friends of Hammond Pond  
Green Decade Coalition  
Newton Conservators, Inc.  
Newton Neighborhood Network  
Newton Cemetery Corp.  
Brae Burn Country Club  
Charles River Country Club

Additional information regarding the public process is found in Section 6A. *Description of Process* and Section 10. *Public Comments*.

## **Section 3: Community Setting**

### ***A. Regional Context***

The City of Newton is located six miles west of downtown Boston in eastern Massachusetts, and lies within the Boston Basin. Newton was one of the country's first railroad suburbs, and its proximity to Boston, and well-developed transportation network, have helped make Newton the well developed and primarily residential City it is today. Newton is bordered by Waltham and Watertown on the north, Boston and Brookline on the east, West Roxbury and Needham on the South, and Wellesley and Weston on the west. Newton shares the Charles River, an important regional resource, with many of these communities.

The Boston area's economy over the past half century has fueled development pressures and escalated land values in the City of Newton. The City reached its population peak of 92,384 in the 1960's, then decreased to 82,585 in 1990, and again increased to 84,688 according to 2000 U.S. Census data. The increasing residential, commercial, and institutional development over the past century has had a range of impacts on the City—significant among them are the continuing loss of open space and the effects of traffic. Despite this development pressure, there is strong public commitment to preserve, care for, and add to Newton's open space, and to establish a balanced overall policy for open space use, taking into consideration conservation/recreation, development, and affordable housing needs.

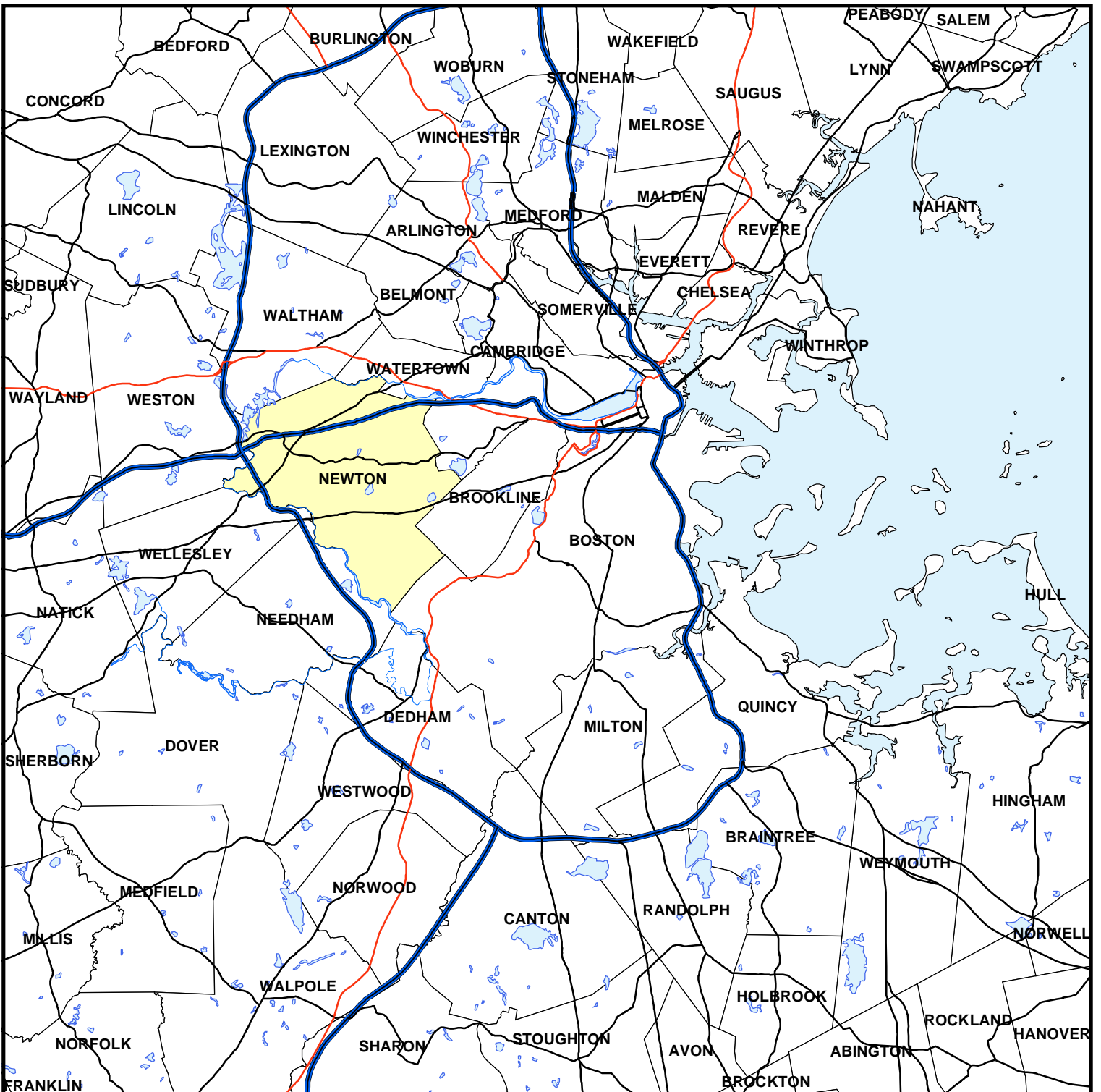
### ***B. History of the Community***

The area that is now Newton was primarily an agricultural region in its early history. It was settled in 1630 as a district of Watertown, and was subsequently annexed by Cambridge in 1636. Newton was incorporated as a separate municipality in 1688.

In 1688, Newton established its first river mill along the Charles River at Upper Falls, and shortly became home to several other mills along its riverbanks. Early mills included a sawmill, a grist mill, and a fulling mill. The mills provided the backdrop for industry in Newton that slowly evolved towards manufacturing of products such as plastics, paints, confections, etc. The manufacturing industry encouraged a growing community of workers to settle in nearby neighborhoods. This can still be seen in the pockets of worker and two-family homes surrounding the old mill areas.

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# Newton and the Boston Metropolitan Region



## Legend

- State Highway
- US Highway
- Interstate Highway
- Ponds/Rivers
- Major Rivers








MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

# Villages

## City of Newton

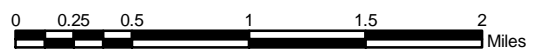


### Legend

-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Streams
-  Surface Water
-  Villages



**SOURCES:**  
 Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



**MAP DATE: February 27, 2003**

The development of Newton’s current residential character was largely shaped by the introduction of the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9, Boylston Street) and the Boston to Worcester Railroad. The construction of the Worcester Turnpike, completed in 1809, broadened Newton’s commerce by providing a way for products to be transported more efficiently and in addition, brought people to Newton on their way to Boston. The completion of the first 10-mile leg of the Boston–Worcester Railroad in 1834 to West Newton, expanded Newton’s accessibility both as a residential community and a summer haven for affluent Bostonians. For the next 60 years, frequent commuter rail service to Boston was instrumental in establishing Newton as a desirable residential suburb as many new houses were constructed in neighborhoods within easy reach of railroad depots on land that had been subdivided into building lots.

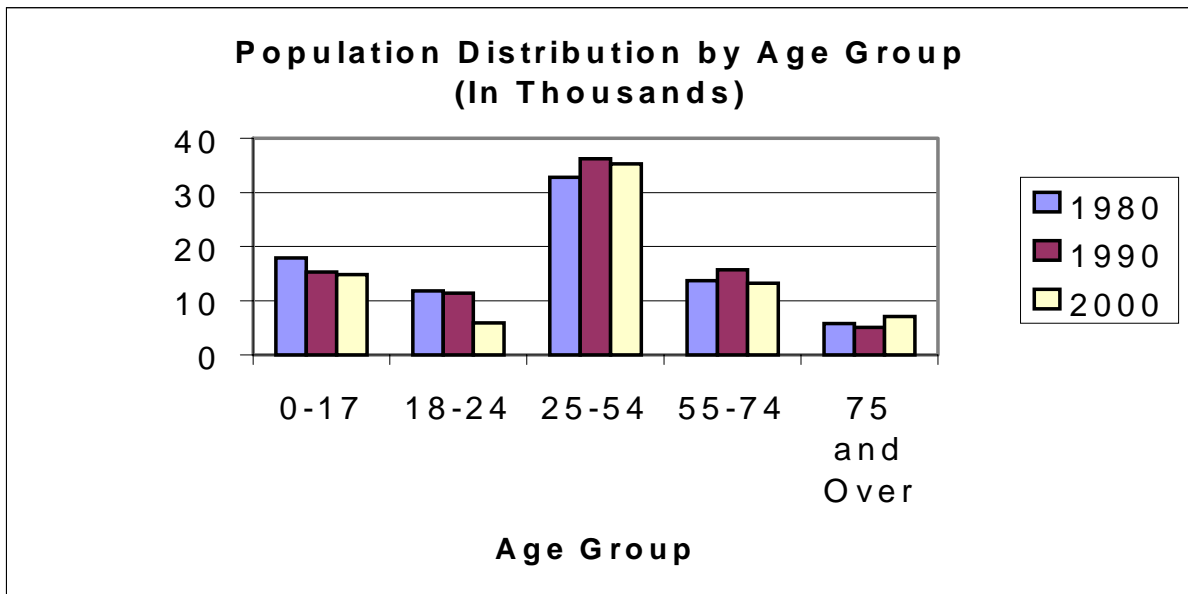
Today Newton is a mature, developed City comprised of 14 villages, each with distinct characteristics. Newton is noted for its retention of some of the finest and most comprehensive collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban residential architecture, with a wide range of building types, materials, and styles. Newton is also known as “the Garden City,” as portions of the Newton landscape were designed and laid out by such notable landscape architects as Frederick Law Olmsted and Alexander Wadsworth.

The Jackson Homestead, a Federal-style farmhouse and now nationally accredited museum and center for Newton History, was a station on the Underground Railroad.

### ***C. Population Characteristics***

#### **1. Population and Age Distribution**

Newton’s population, which peaked at 92,384 in the 1960s, increased slightly over the last decade rising from 82,585 in 1990 to 84,688 in 2000. The median age in 2000 was 40.71. There were 29,395 households in the City, of which 11,685 (39.75%) have female heads of household.



According to City Census trends, the younger age groups (those under 25) are declining, while the oldest age group (those 75 and over) is increasing. This trend to an aging population is likely to continue as “baby boomers” age.

## 2. Race and Ethnicity

While the total population in Newton grew only 0.6% from 1990 to 2000, the minority population in Newton increased by 42.9%. While the American Indian/Eskimo population decreased significantly (35.8%), the Hispanic, Other, and Pacific Islander/Asian categories increased by 28.9%, 53.3%, and 71.1% respectively.

<b>Changes in Race/Ethnicity</b>			
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>% change</u>
African-American	1,717	1,653	(3.7)
American Indian/Eskimo	95	61	(35.8)
Caucasian	76,623	73,831	(3.6)
Hispanic	1,638	2,111	28.9
Other	390	598	53.3
Pacific Islander/Asian	3,760	6,434	71.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,223</b>	<b>84,688</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Total Minority Population</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>10,857</b>	<b>42.9</b>

Source: 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census

## 3. Income

In 1999, 72% of households earned over \$50,000; 56% earned over \$75,000, 43% earned over \$100,000, and 25% earned over \$150,000, making household income in Newton significantly higher than the Massachusetts average.

<b>Newton vs. MA Income</b>		
	<b>Newton</b>	<b>MA</b>
Median Household Income	\$86,052	\$50,502
Median Family Income	105,289	61,664
Per Capita Income	45,708	29,952



#### **4. Education**

The City of Newton has always prided itself on the quality of its public school system. Newton's school system has 15 elementary, 4 middle, and 2 senior high schools. The current enrollment for FY03 is 11,276 students. Enrollment is projected to be 11,383 for FY04. In FY02, 87.4% of students went on to higher education. Currently, the School Department's operating budget from the City is \$124,695,197; and the approximate per pupil expenditure is \$11,057. Pupil teacher ratios are 20.1:1 at the elementary level, 21:1 at the middle schools, and 20.4:1 at the senior high schools. The average teacher salary is \$56,708.

#### **5. Housing**

Newton has a high rate of owner-occupied housing. Of the 32,112 housing units identified in the 2000 U.S. Census, 67.5% were owner-occupied. The Census documented 9,509 renter-occupied units in 2000 as compared to 9,158 in 1990, showing a 3.8% increase.

The median sales price for a residential unit continues to increase from \$293,400 in 1990 (according to the U.S Census), to \$572,900 as reported by Banker and Tradesman for the year 2002.

According to the Newton FY 2001-2005 Consolidated Plan for Housing and Community Development, there are approximately 1,650 affordable rental units in Newton. The majority of these units are for people with special needs, such as people with disabilities, and the elderly populations.

#### **6. Business and Employment**

The largest employment sectors in 2001, the most recent year for which data is available from the Massachusetts Department of Employment and Training, were services (56% of jobs), wholesale and retail trade (20% of jobs), and government (6% of jobs). In 2001, service and retail jobs accounted for 76% of employment. The 3,556 business establishments in Newton are located primarily in the 14 village centers. Newton's unemployment rate for December 2001 was 2.3%, versus 4.1% for Boston, and 3.7% for the State.

Newton businesses employ about 44,622 persons - the following lists those with 250 or more employees.

<p><b><u>Employers with 250-499 Employees</u></b>  C&amp;K Components  Marriott Corporation  CSC Consulting  Educational Development Center  H.C. Stark, Inc.</p> <p>Cahners Publishing  Jewish Community Center  Shaw's Supermarkets</p>	<p><b><u>Employers with 500-999 Employees</u></b>  Bloomingdales  Polaroid Corporation  Filenes  Reed Elsevier Inc.  Technical Aid Corporation</p> <p>City of Newton</p> <p><b><u>Employers with 1000-4999 Employees</u></b>  Boston College  Newton Wellesley Hospital  Reed Publishing</p>
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Sources: American Business Information Database, D & B Regional Business Directory 2002, Human Resource Departments of JCC, Marriott, and City of Newton.

## ***D. Growth and Development Patterns***

### **1. Patterns and Trends**

As mentioned earlier, transportation advancements greatly contributed to Newton's development as the mature residential city it is today. Rail service to Boston in the mid 1800's resulted in more populous villages, and the automobile made the rest of Newton accessible. Newton's population peaked at about 92,384 in the early 1960's and has declined somewhat over the last three decades.

Newton's total area is 18.33 square miles, or 11,733 acres. This includes 11,457 acres of land and 276 acres of water. Currently about 80% of Newton's 18 square miles of land is in some developed use, only 20% remaining open, with approximately half of all open land in public ownership. According to 1999 data, 49% of Newton's land area is in residential use; 5% is commercial; 1% is industrial/mixed use; and 6% is institutional, both public and private. Almost 20% of the City's land area is committed to streets.

Residential use is the predominant use of land and structures in Newton, and single-family homes occupy over 80% of all residential acreage. Over half of all residential structures are on parcels of less than 10,000 square feet.

Major types and percentages of land use in Newton are as follows:

<b>Land Use</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Residential	49%
Open Space	20%
Streets	19%
Institutional	6%
Commercial	5%
Mixed use/Industrial	1%

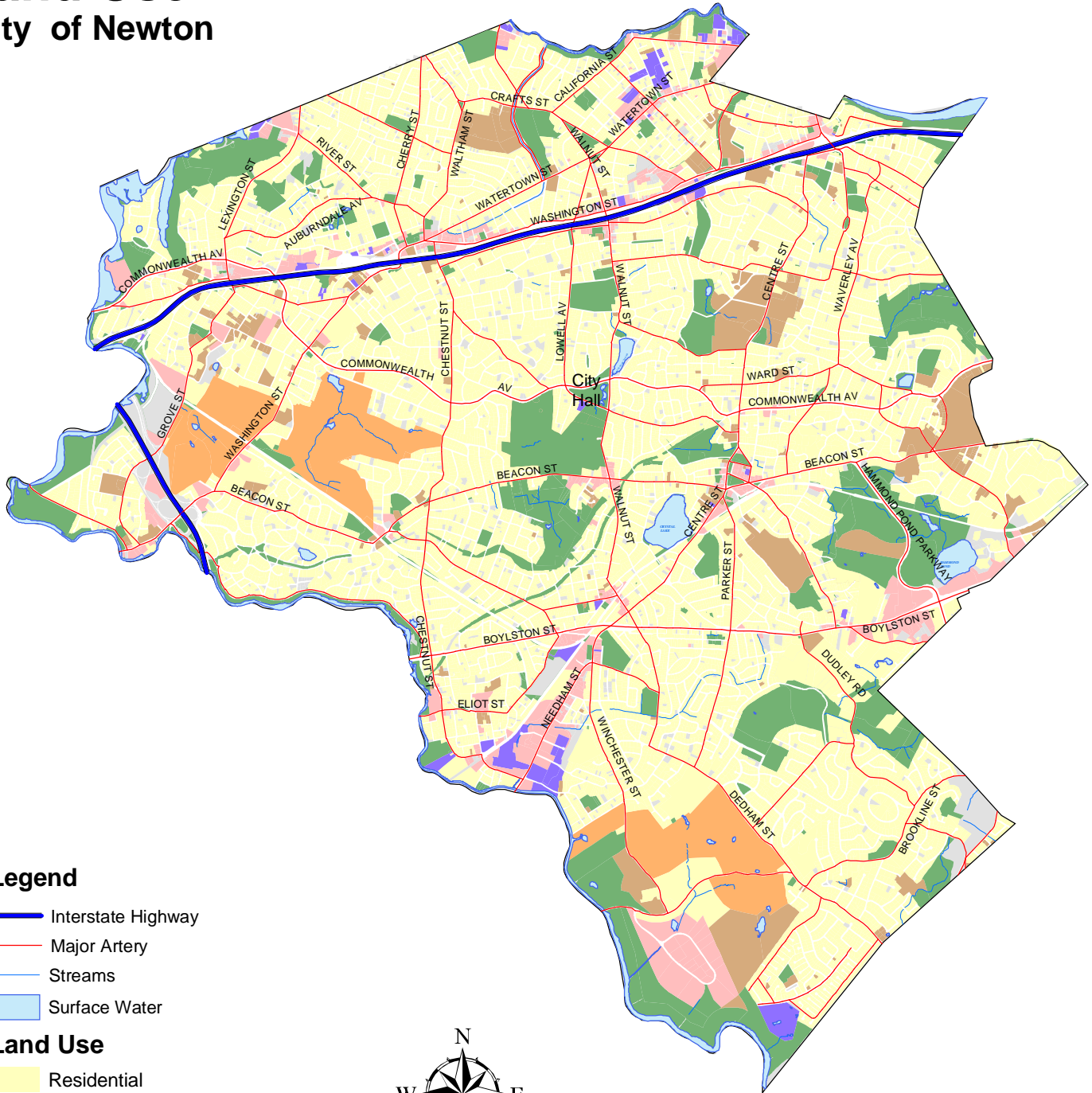
Commercial, industrial and institutional uses, although representing a much smaller proportion of uses, make a significant contribution to Newton’s economy and tax base. The distribution of uses can be seen on the following map entitled: “Land Use.”

Newton’s land use patterns are closely related to the City’s Zoning Ordinance. By regulating permitted use, location, height, shape, and lot coverage of structures, the Zoning Ordinance influences the development and the character of the City. Written, “for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, convenience, morals, and welfare of the City,” Newton’s Zoning Ordinance regulates land uses through eighteen zoning districts across the City (see “Zoning” map). In addition, certain areas of the City are covered by the Flood Plain/Watershed Protection Ordinance.





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# Land Use








## City of Newton



### Legend

-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Streams
-  Surface Water

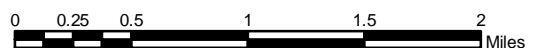
### Land Use

-  Residential
-  Commercial
-  Industrial
-  Private Golf Courses
-  Recreation, Conservation
-  Institutional
-  Other



### SOURCES:

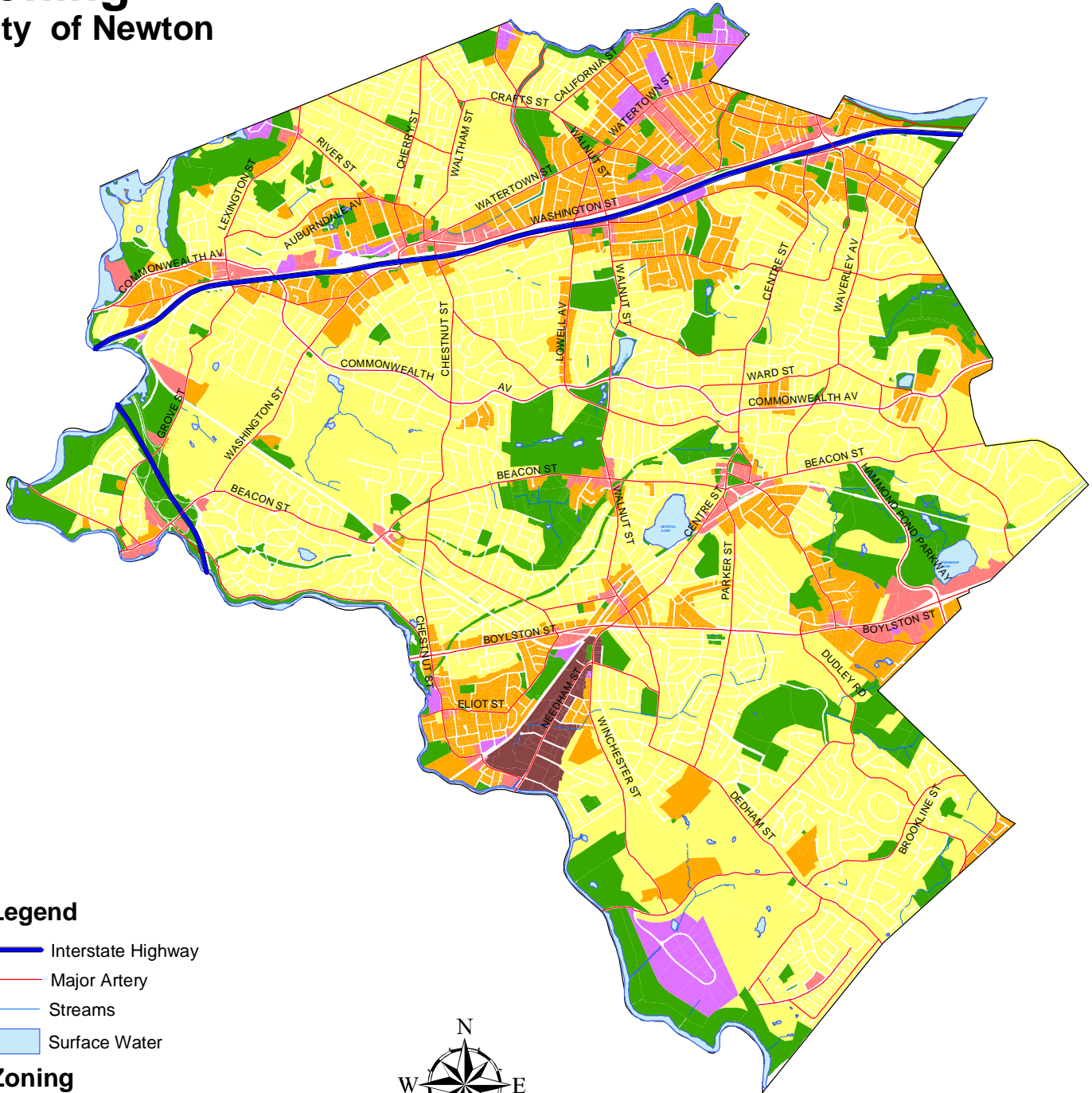
Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

# Zoning

## City of Newton



### Legend

- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Streams
- Surface Water

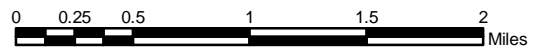
### Zoning

- Single-Family Residential
- Multi-Family Residential
- Business
- Manufacturing
- Mixed Use
- Public Use



### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

## 2. Infrastructure

### a.) Transportation (Public)

Newton has been a well-connected city since its early days, and continues to be so today. Newton is well served by public mass transit through the MBTA Light Rail, the Commuter Rail, and an express and local bus system. MBTA bus service covers many of the primary roadways of the City, and express buses from Riverside and Newton Corner to Boston provide excellent service. The MBTA Commuter Rail connects Riverside, Auburndale, West Newton, and Newtonville with Back Bay and South Station, while the Riverside Rapid Transit Green D Line connects stations at Riverside, Woodland, Waban, Elliot, Newton Highlands, Newton Centre and Chestnut Hill, with Boston (see “Public Transportation” map).

The Newton Nexus is a city sponsored intra-city transportation system that operates on two routes and connects in Newton Centre. Started in 1997, the service currently provides Monday - Friday afternoon service on passenger shuttle buses to key employment locations, schools, and community facilities within the City. Additional transportation services are available to elders including trips to major food shopping stores, medical appointments, nutrition sites, and the Senior Center.

### b.) Transportation (Private)

The City contains approximately 300 miles of city streets plus the Metropolitan District Commission’s Nonantum Road, Quinobequin Road, and Hammond Pond Parkway. State roads include Commonwealth Avenue, Needham Street, Boylston Street, and I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike). The following table depicts the estimated average daily traffic on Newton’s primary roadways:

<b>Roadway</b>	<b>Avg. Daily Traffic Count</b>
Interstate 95 (Route 128)	145,000
Interstate 90 (Mass Pike)	98,000
Boylston Street (Route 9)	43,000
Needham Street	25,000
Washington Street	30,000
Centre Street	27,000
Galen Street	27,000
Beacon Street (east of Newton Centre)	22,000
Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30)	18,000
Watertown Street (Route 16 from West Newton)	17,000

The majority of the primary roadways traverse the City from east to west and carry large volumes of traffic going to and from the Boston city core to outlying suburbs. The City contains four major north-south routes, Centre, Walnut, Waverley/Grant and Chestnut Streets, which primarily carry intra-city traffic.

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# Public Transportation

## City of Newton






### Legend



#### MBTA Train & Trolley Lines

-  Green Line
-  Commuter Rail

#### Train & Trolley Stops

-  Green Line
-  Commuter Rail
-  NEXUS Bus Routes

#### Major Streets

-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery



SOURCES:  
 Newton Geographic Information System (GIS).  
 Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



**MAP DATE: February 27, 2003**

c.) Newton's Water and Sewer Systems

Although for many years part of the City's drinking water was supplied from wells in what is now Cutler Park in Needham, and the adjacent floodplain in Newton, almost 100% of the City's water supply and wastewater removal needs are now accommodated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA).

The City is currently working in cooperation with the MWRA to make significant investments in upgrading and maintaining its aging sewer and water systems. Much of the sanitary and storm sewer lines in the City allow amounts of preventable leakage of groundwater to seep into the lines. The result is upsetting the natural water balance in the watershed, and costs the City in excess sewerage charges.

### **3. Long Term Development Patterns**

Maintaining Newton as a community of villages and providing a “small-town feel” in an otherwise well developed environment is essential to the special character and sense of community that are among the City's primary planning values. Comprehensive planning steps, initiated with the preparation of the Framework Plan are currently underway. These include preparation of Comprehensive Plan elements addressing open space, land use/transportation, housing, economic development and historic preservation.

Managing the location and densities of businesses and residences, the pattern of circulation, the location of public facilities, and the protection of both open space and cultural resources should help to protect and reinforce the village pattern. Procedures for review and evaluation of proposed developments pursuant the Zoning Ordinance establish Special Permit and Administrative Site Plan Review requirements and steps which serve as tools in this process. In addition, the Open Space Advisory Committee initiated review of the City's cluster zoning provisions to determine whether changes are possible to apply cluster development and open space preservation mechanisms to sites under 5 acres but found this to be impracticable at this time.

Another tool is the Demolition Review Ordinance, adopted in 1985 in order to provide the opportunity to preserve historic structures. Demolition of any building that is 50 years old or older requires the approval of the City's Historical Commission. If a structure is determined to be historically significant, and preferably preserved, a one year delay of demolition can be imposed to provide time to seek alternative preservation solutions.

The City of Newton has also enacted a Tree Preservation Ordinance administered by the Parks and Recreation Department in order to protect and provide for the preservation and/or replacement of valuable trees that are being lost in connection with site development and construction of new buildings.

As Newton is already a mature suburb, there is little scheduled expansion to infrastructure, or remaining unused land available for large new subdivisions. Most current development in Newton consists of subdividing larger lots, accommodating accessory apartments, in-fill development, and demolition and redevelopment of single-family houses.

The following is an illustrative list of current development projects:

- The Ivy Drive subdivision proposal currently before the Planning and Development Board requests 3 house lots on a 1.3 acre site.
- Avalon Bay is developing 294 units, including 74 affordable housing units on a former industrial site located on Needham St. pursuant to a comprehensive permit. The developer is required to adhere to protective measures with respect to South Meadow Brook.
- A recently completed 9 attached dwelling unit development on a former church site on Watertown St., has commenced occupancy, with a 35 unit elderly housing development to follow in the near future on the rear portion of this site.
- The Terraces is a Special Permit project in the process of approval for development of 48 units on 12.68 acres of open land recently owned and partitioned from the Andover-Newton Theological Seminary.
- The Residences at Chestnut Hill recently completed construction and has commenced occupancy on a 6 acre site of former private open land. The project contains a total of 59 units both garden style apartments and attached townhouses, and included conservation measures to protect nearby wetlands and an intermittent stream that discharges into a pipe.

It is noted that six privately owned, primarily vacant large parcels (greater than 20 acres) remain in Newton. The parcels are comprised of 3 golf courses, 2 private schools, and 2 adjoining vacant (wetland/wooded upland) parcels known as East and West Kessler Woods. The City is interested in acquiring or negotiating a conservation restriction for West Kessler Woods, which abuts the City-owned Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area. The Kessler Woods properties have recently been placed on the market for sale and are further discussed along with the five other large parcels in *Appendix A – Large Parcel Analysis*.

## **Section 4: Environmental Inventory and Analysis**

The intent of this section is to provide a general background or framework which can serve as a context for evaluating the City's conservation and recreation needs and for establishing a phased action plan to address those needs.

### ***A. Geology, Soils, and Topography***

Newton lies within the Boston Basin. The Boston Basin was submerged underwater 600 million years ago and lay just to the east of a section of the Appalachian Mountain Chain, which then characterized east-central Massachusetts. The bedrock nearest the mountain surface was formed of material eroded and washed from those mountains. The heavier pebbles and cobbles settled out first, forming a Roxbury Conglomerate, while finer grained sand and clay deposits formed the parent material for Cambridge Slate and Sandstone. Interspersed through these sedimentary rocks is rock of volcanic origin, the Brighton Volcanics, the youngest of which, dike rocks, are about 150 million years old. Throughout most of Newton these forms of bedrock either outcrop or are close to the land surface (see "Surficial Geology" map).

Newton's land surface has been greatly influenced by glacial action. The last glacier receded from this area about 14,000 years ago leaving many different forms of surface deposits. The higher hills (up to 300 ft.) are drumlins: deposits which were formed under glacial ice, the long axis of which indicated the general direction of glacial movement (Oak Hill and Baldpate Hill). Another surface form is the esker: snake-like layered outwash deposits formed in crevasses or in streams under the glacier (Edmands Park, Woodland Golf Course). The two formations which cover the greatest surface area are outwash plains, formed in front of the glacier by the meandering meltwater streams and hardpan, formed of the till (material carried in the ice) which was deposited by the glacier as it melted and receded. The youngest deposits have been formed since the last glacier. These alluvial deposits include peat and stream deposits (see "Physical Geography" map).

The surface deposits of Newton are comprised of three types of soils: 1) stratified soils, formed by meltwater in front of ice flows (or Kame deposits formed by melt water from supraglacial/streams or from streams within the glacier); 2) unstratified soils, formed by glacial erosion of bedrock, and 3) alluvial soils, formed by post-glacial stream deposits.

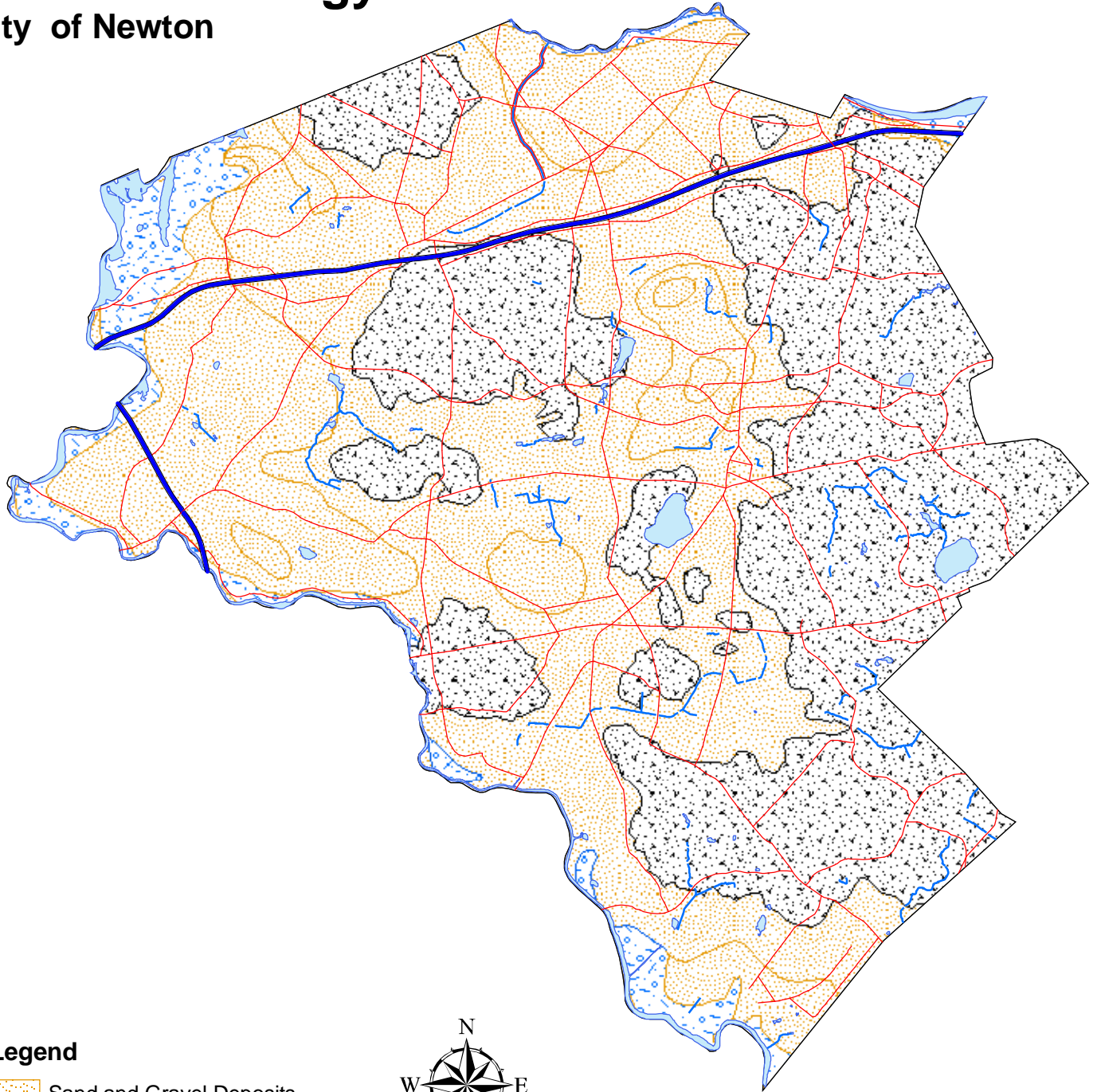
Stratified soil types most prevalent in Newton are Hinckley and Merrimac Gravelly Sandy Loam, Merrimac Sandy Loam, and Merrimac Fine Sandy Loam. These soil types are composed of granite, gneiss, quartz, and slate, are of moderate to high permeability, and become droughty during prolonged periods of dryness.

The most common unstratified soil types in Newton are Coloma Loam and Rough Stony Loam. These soils are composed of glacially eroded sandstone, slate, or conglomerate, and are of high to moderate permeability. Alluvial soil types most common in Newton are Muck and Peat. Muck is comprised primarily of decomposed organic matter, while Peat is characterized by partially decomposed organic matter. Alluvial soils are identified by their spongy, unfirm quality and the presence of standing surface water during most of the year.








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# Surficial Geology

## City of Newton



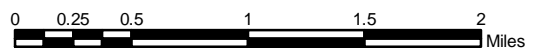
### Legend

-  Sand and Gravel Deposits
-  Till or Bedrock
-  Floodplain Alluvium
-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Streams
-  Surface Water



### SOURCES:

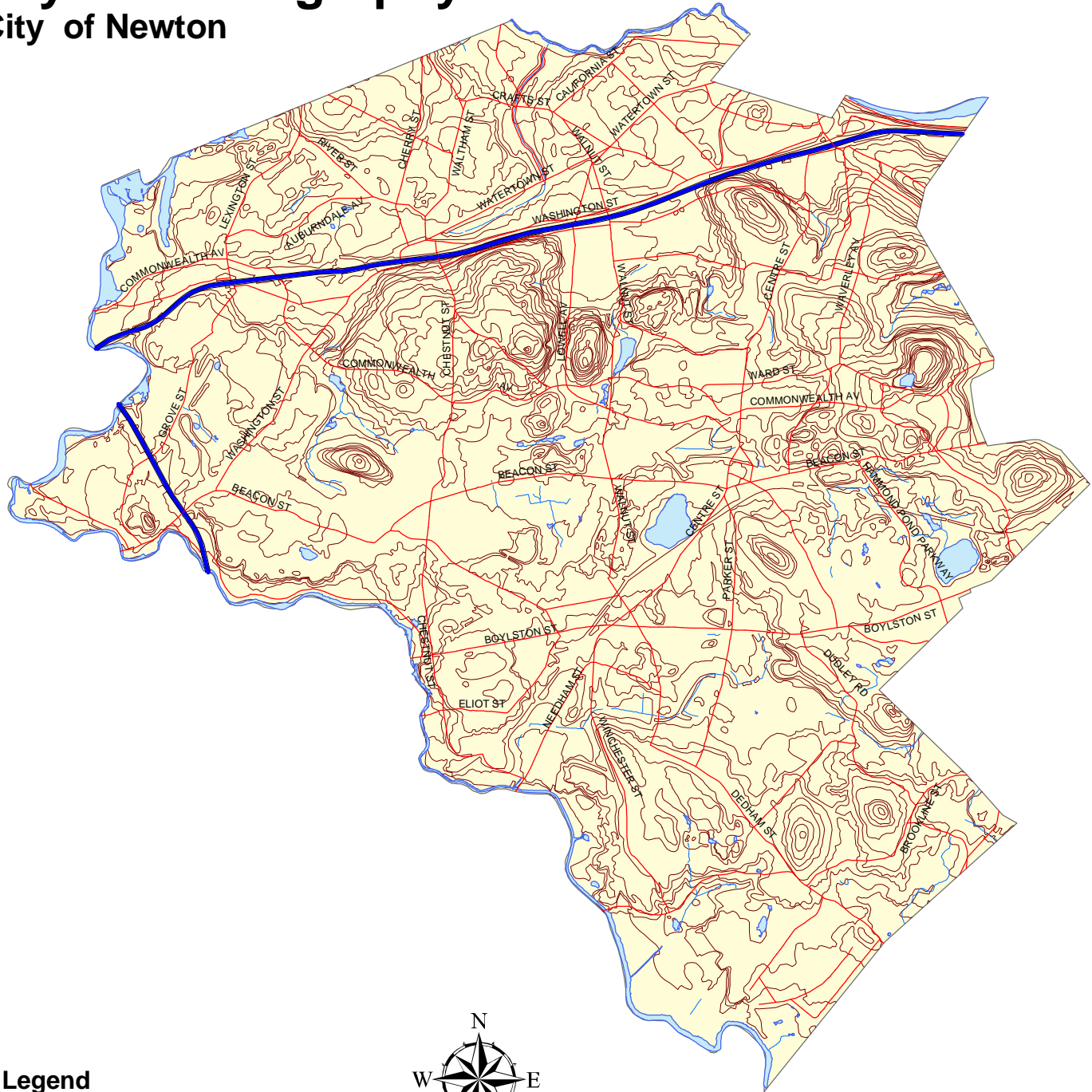
Surficial Geology data was compiled and produced by MassGIS. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003






# Physical Geography

## City of Newton



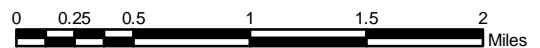
### Legend

#### Topography

-  10-Foot Contours
-  Streams
-  Surface Water
-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery

#### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

## ***B. Landscape Character***

Newton is fortunate in having a wide range of natural resources. The Charles River borders the City for approximately 12 miles, with a significant amount of publicly owned open space directly adjacent to the River. The scenic vistas and passive recreation opportunities are numerous. Land in a relatively natural state comprises approximately 20 percent of the City's total area, with woods, fields, wetlands, lakes, ponds, streams, and hills providing both a variety of wildlife habitats and pleasant and varied environments for Newton's residents to enjoy. Due to Newton's status as a maturely developed community, the remaining natural areas take on additional importance, particularly when containing significant natural assets. Such sites are identified in *Section 5, Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest*.

## ***C. Water Resources***

Open water in Newton totals 276 acres, amounts to 2.4% of total city area, and includes 14 lakes and ponds, totaling 167 acres, the Charles River, which borders Newton for 12.3 miles, and 22 streams and brooks. Newton's 268 acres of wetlands account for 2.30% of total city area. The water quality of Newton's lakes and ponds is generally good, although storm-water runoff is contributing to eutrophication in some instances. According to the Charles River Watershed Association, although the river water is getting cleaner all the time, it is not yet clean enough so that fish caught therein are safe to eat. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working on the management of storm-water runoff with Newton's Department of Public Works to improve water quality so that the Charles River meets swimming standards by 2005.

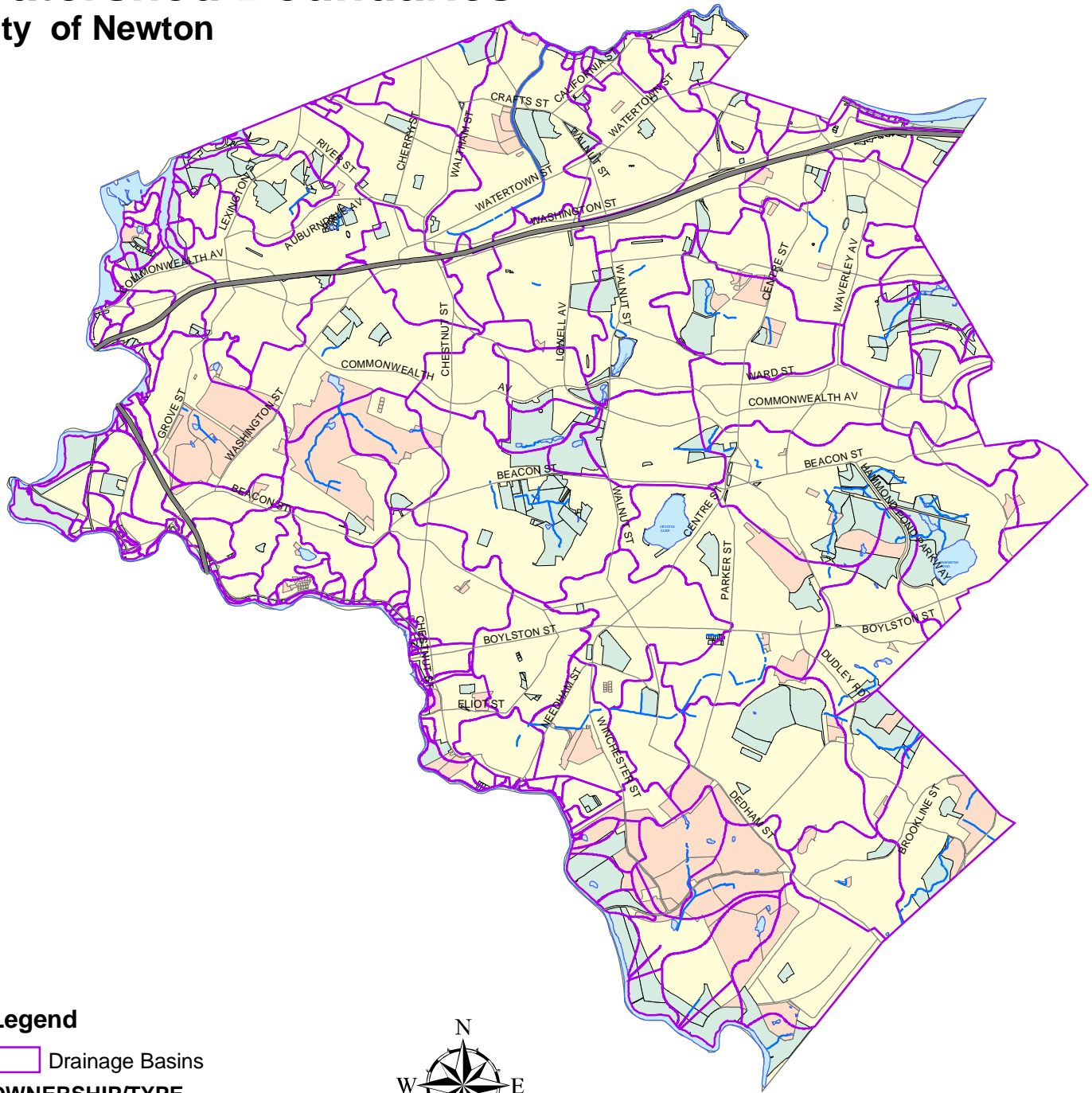
In the past, many of Newton's wetlands and ponds were drained and filled, and streams culverted for health reasons or because of development pressures. Today, none of Newton's streams flows completely in the open and wetlands have been reduced from about 1,470 acres in 1897 to 268 acres today. Most of Newton's water and wetland resources are within the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission which reviews projects under the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL Ch. 131, s. 40) and the Wetlands Regulations (310 CMR 10.00). In addition, the Commission administers the City's Floodplain/Watershed Protection Ordinance #22-22, which regulates development or activities which may interfere with these resources. Twenty-two of Newton's wetlands are permanently restricted under the State Department of Environmental Protection Wetlands Conservancy Program, M.G. L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40A. Also, a portion of the floodplain of the Charles River in southern Newton lies within the Natural Valley Storage Area B, part of an innovative flood control project of the Army Corps of Engineers which protects natural flood storage areas in the Charles River Watershed (see "Watershed Boundaries" map).



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# Watershed Boundaries

## City of Newton



### Legend

Drainage Basins

### OWNERSHIP/TYPE

Public Land/ Aqueducts

Private Land

Interstate Highway

Major Artery

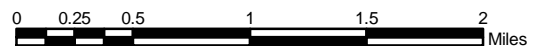
Streams

Surface Water



### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

Although for many years part of the City's drinking water was supplied from wells in what is now Cutler Park in Needham and the adjacent floodplain in Newton, almost 100% of the City's water supply and wastewater removal needs are now accommodated by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Although the system can probably continue to service most of the City's needs, action should be taken now to protect Newton's aquifers because they are potential supplemental water supply sources and they protect the quality and flow of the Charles River. The latter is important because groundwater is the primary source of water for the Charles River during the summer low flow period. If not enough water is available to maintain the flow, the river forms a series of stagnant lakes.

#### ***D. Vegetation***

Newton is in the southern edge of the transition zone between the northern hardwood association and the Oak-Hickory association, with Oaks being the dominant species. In Newton, the dominant Oak woods are characterized by a forest floor with shrubs such as Low Bush Blueberry, Sheep Laurel, Viburnum, Witch Hazel and herbaceous plants such as Canada Mayflower, Solomon's Seal, Bracken Fern, Whorled Loosestrife and Pink Lady's Slipper Orchids. Other trees found in the upland woods are Maple, Hickory and Beech. Occasionally, stands dominated by a species other than Oak are found, as in the Beech groves in the Webster Conservation Area and the Waban Ridge, the Hemlock groves in Hemlock Gorge and Norumbega Park, and the White Pine remnants in Newton Cemetery and the Pine Ridge in Waban. The lower wet areas are characterized by trees such as Red Maple, Willow, Black Tupelo, and Swamp White Oak; shrubs such as Alder, High Bush Blueberry and Sweet Pepperbush, and ground flora such as Skunk Cabbage, Cinnamon Fern, Sensitive Fern, Cattails and Reeds.

The Chestnut Hill area of Newton has a significant amount of wooded land (over 100 acres) in the Webster Conservation Area, Hammond Woods, and Temple Mishkan Tefila land. In addition, the N-Star parcels have about 43 acres of woods located on the southern border of Newton. Auburndale Park and Flowed Meadow in Auburndale offer significant amounts of wooded public open space.

#### ***E. Fisheries and Wildlife***

Newton contains an abundant and varied range of wildlife habitats which include: forest, field, wetland and water habitats. The common Oak-Hickory forest, Beech groves, coniferous stands and Maple swamps provide forest habitat; the Angino farm, the golf courses, and Kennard Park, Nahanton Park, and Norumbega Park provide field habitats; Flowed Meadow, Hammond and Winchester swamps and the Sawmill Brook wetlands provide wetland habitats; and Hammond Pond, Crystal Lake, the Charles River and associated tributaries provide water habitats. These habitats provide Newton with a variety of native and introduced species of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and fish. Newton's mammal population is comprised of indigenous species of squirrels, rabbit, raccoon, skunk, woodchuck, fox, white tail deer, and coyote. The City also operates a deer park within the Webster Conservation Area.

Newton's amphibian, fish, and reptile populations, although not adequately inventoried, contain indigenous species of frogs, fish (pan fish, carp, catfish, and bass), turtles (land and water varieties), salamanders and non-poisonous snakes. Blue-spotted salamanders, an endangered species, have been noted in the southern corner of Newton's Oak Hill Park adjacent to the Charles River.

### ***F. Scenic Resources and Unique Environments***

Although experiencing significant development during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Newton has twelve identified prehistoric sites. The majority of these are located along the margins of the Charles River and range from Middle Archaic times until European contact in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. A recent archeological dig at Houghton Gardens near Hammond Brook produced pottery shards, but no prehistoric artifacts.

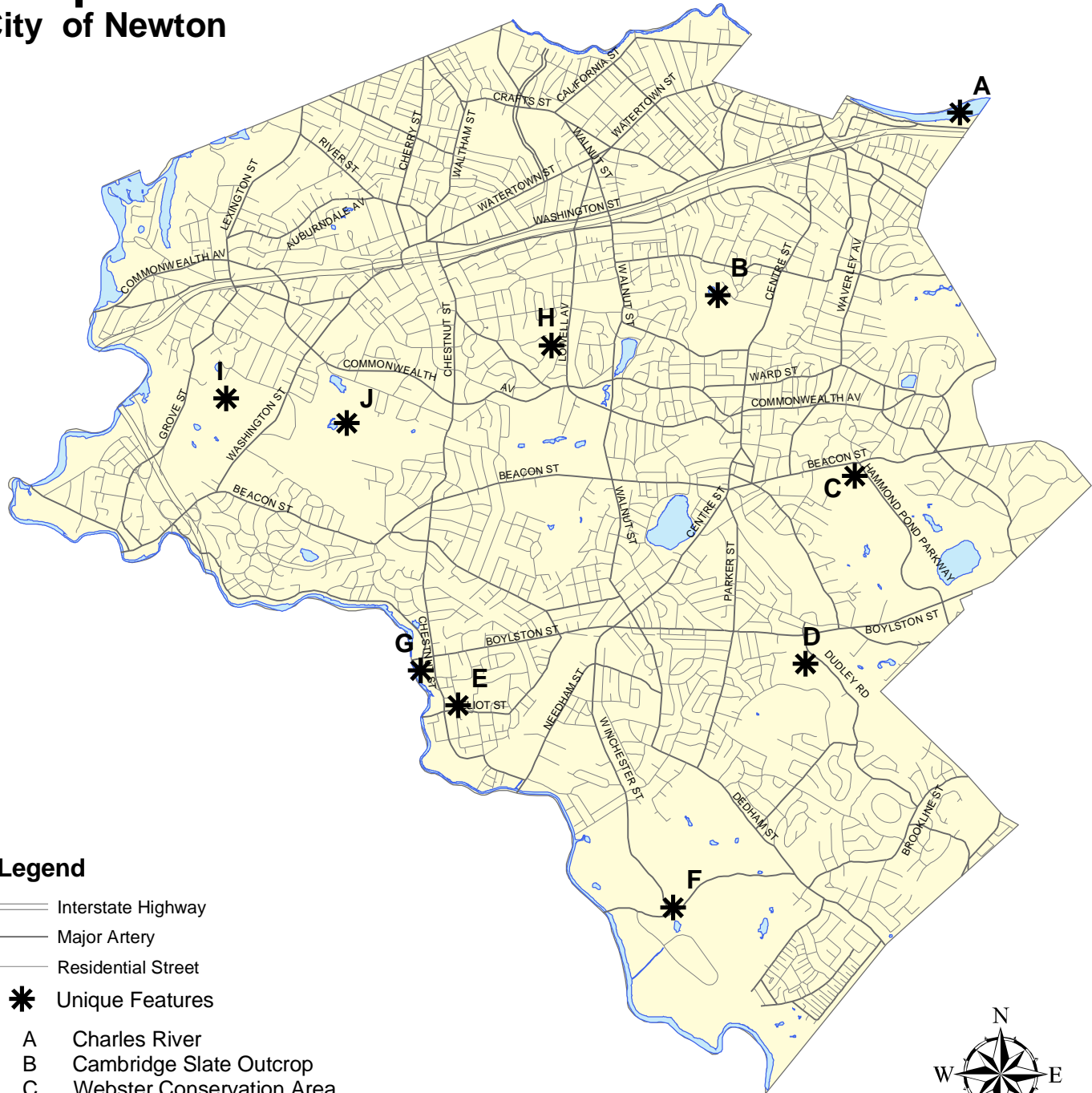
Other unique features in Newton include:

- A. The Charles River
- B. 600 Beacon Street area which contains cliffs with geological interest (Webster Conservation Area)
- C. Small but rare Cambridge Slate outcrop south of Colby Street
- D. Brighton Volcanic Rock formations at 85 Dudley Rd
- E. The Upper Falls Pothole is the only known pothole in New England
- F. Angino Farm is the only remaining farm in Newton
- G. Hemlock Gorge
- H. Brighton Volcanics outcrop with glacial scratches at the former Claflin School
- I. The Auburndale Esker at the Woodland Golf Course
- J. The Moffat Hill Drumlin in the Brae Burn Golf Course

Please see the corresponding "Unique Features" map and also the list of conservation areas.

# Unique Features

## City of Newton



### Legend

- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Residential Street

### Unique Features

- A Charles River
- B Cambridge Slate Outcrop
- C Webster Conservation Area
- D Dudley Road - Brighton Volcanic Outcrop
- E Sullivan Avenue Pothole
- F Angino Farm
- G Hemlock Gorge
- H Claflin-Brighton Volcanic Outcrop
- I Auburndale Esker
- J Moffat Hill Drumlin



### SOURCES:

Scenic Roads from the Newton Planning Department, 1994. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

The 1973 Scenic Road Act, Mass. General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 15C, provides the City with a mechanism to designate scenic roads. Currently, there are 17 designated Scenic Roads in Newton which are listed below and depicted on the accompanying map titled "Scenic Roads".

Scenic Roads:

- a.) Brookside Avenue
- b.) Chestnut Street
- c.) Concord Street
- d.) Dudley Road
- e.) Fuller Street
- f.) Grove Street
- g.) Hammond Street
- h.) Hancock Street
- i.) Highland Street
- j.) Hobart Road
- k.) Lake Avenue
- l.) Mill Street
- m.) Sumner Street
- n.) Valentine Street
- o.) Waban Avenue
- p.) Woodcliff Road
- q.) Woodland Road

For all designated scenic roads, road-work which involves removal of trees and stone walls in the right of way requires Planning Board review and approval.





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# Scenic Roads

## City of Newton



### Legend

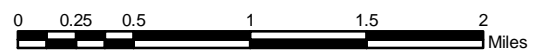
-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Residential Street
-  Scenic Roads

- Albemarle Road/Brookside Avenue
- Chestnut Street
- Concord Street
- Dudley Road
- Fuller Street
- Grove Street
- Hammond Street
- Hancock Street
- Highland Street
- Hobart Road
- Lake Avenue
- Mill Street
- Sumner Street
- Waban Avenue
- Valentine Street
- Woodcliff Road
- Woodland Road



### SOURCES:

Scenic Roads from the Newton Planning Department, 1994. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003



## ***G. Environmental Challenges***

Newton contains many areas with slope gradients of 15% or greater. Such areas may be considered as environmentally sensitive because of their potential impact on water tables, storm water runoff, flood hazards, and environmental degradation associated with soil erosion and siltation. As development pressure continues within Newton, increasing pressure will be placed upon existing undeveloped parcels, many of which contain slope gradients equal to or in excess of 15%. Steep gradients and dense soils lead to significant increases in stormwater runoff, exacerbating the flooding in low lying areas.

Most of Newton's water bodies receive some pollution from street drainage, over-fertilization from lawns and golf course fairways, road salt from winter operations and organic matter including pet wastes. Ponds and streams are rapidly filling in with sediment from street drains which need cleaning more often than the budget allows. In addition, aquatic plants grow quickly due to nutrient-laden runoff. While the removal of sediment and aquatic plants is extremely expensive, without it some ponds are vulnerable to filling in and disappearing. Removal of sediment from brooks is ongoing as a flood control measure, but wildlife habitat loss can result if the clearing is not carefully planned. Newton needs to develop a plan to ensure the water quality of these ponds and streams in order to maintain the quality of wildlife habitat, and the visual quality of these natural resources.

These and other challenges are further discussed in *Section 7, Analysis of Needs*.

## Section 5: Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest

The identification of open space needs and the development of an action plan to address conservation and recreation priorities needs accurate data regarding the City's existing supply of open space. This information is presented in the Inventory of Open Space organized by category of open space as noted in the summary table below.

### *A. General Open Space Characteristics*

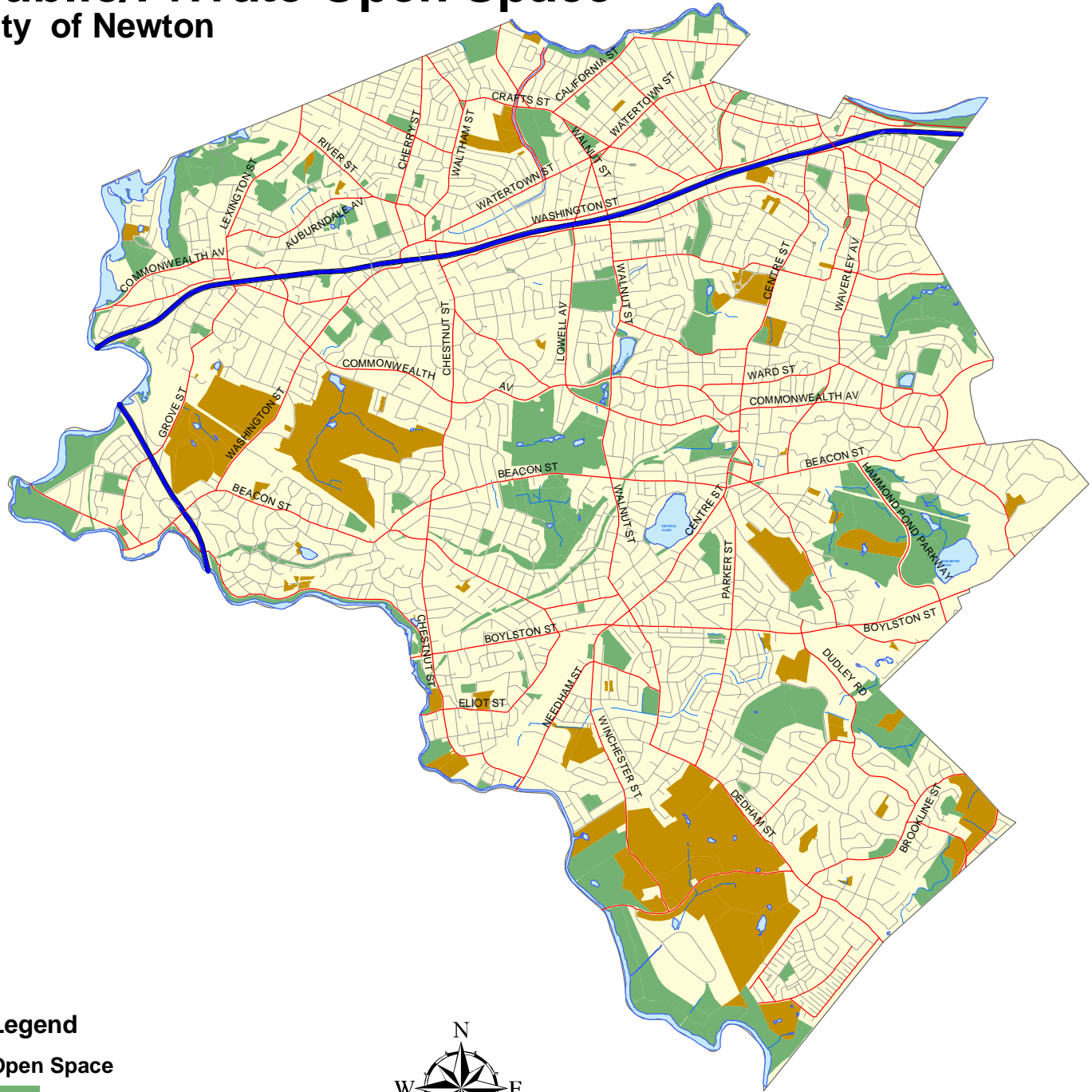
Open Space constitutes approximately 20% of the total City area. Inventoried open space generally includes land over one acre that is essentially free of structures, but in some cases also includes smaller parcels when indicative of an open space asset. This includes vacant or unused land, cemeteries, conservation land, park and recreation land as well as portions of large private estates and institutions with open land that is not immediately surrounding a house or other structures.

Private open space constitutes approximately 44.7% of total open space and occupies approximately 1,044 acres of land. The largest single use of private open space is for golf courses, accounting for 545.6 acres. Public open space covers approximately 1,291 acres, constituting about 55.3% of open space. The predominant use of public open space is for parks and recreation (see “Public/Private Open Space” map).

Category	Acres	% of Total Open Space
<b>PRIVATELY OWNED</b>	<b>1,043.55</b>	<b>44.7</b>
Primarily Vacant	231.05	9.9
Cemeteries	114.56	4.9
Golf Courses	545.60	23.4
Tax Exempt Land	152.34	6.5
<b>PUBLICLY OWNED</b>	<b>1,291.43</b>	<b>55.3</b>
City vacant – general control	94.45	4.0
Parks & Recreation	552.79	23.7
School playgrounds etc.	97.97	4.2
Conservation	267.34	11.5
<b>MDC</b>	<b>262.09</b>	<b>11.2</b>
<b>MWRA</b>	<b>16.79</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,334.98</b>	<b>100.00</b>

# Public/Private Open Space

## City of Newton



### Legend

#### Open Space

- Public
- Private
- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Secondary Street
- Streams
- Surface Water



#### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

## ***B. Changes in Open Space Inventory Since 1995 Recreation & Open Space Plan***

Updates in various categories of open space suggests modest changes since 1995 with some previously open areas coming under development. An example of formerly partially open space which has been developed since 1995 are the approximately 5 acres previously owned by the Newton Cemetery Corporation. While portions of campus open space owned by the Andover-Newton Theological School have been further developed for educational use (Hebrew College), some areas were placed under conservation restrictions. Bradford development has completed construction of upscale units on approximately 6 acres of private land located on Route 9 of which about 3 acres was previously listed as primarily vacant. Also, as noted under Tax Exempt Land below, the Andover-Newton Theological School intends to allow residential development of significant portions of previously open space on its site. Similar or new patterns may emerge in the future.

## ***C. Overview by Inventory Category***

### Private, Primarily Vacant

Land classified as Private, Primarily Vacant, includes vacant land and estates which may contain one dwelling. There are 45 parcels of land in this category, totaling 231.05 acres, of which 3 are larger than 20 acres and 9 are between 5 and 20 acres. Private, Primarily Vacant land is the most likely to be developed. East and West Kessler Woods comprising approximately 43 acres of open space has recently been put up for sale. As noted in the Action Plan, the 9.2 acre West Kessler portion should be considered for acquisition or conservation easement. (Also see *Appendix A: Large Parcel Analysis*)

### Cemeteries

Although only 4.9% of Newton's open space, cemeteries provide approximately 115 acres - a valuable resource. While structured recreation is not allowed, cemeteries are often used for a variety of passive recreational uses such as walking and bird watching.

### Golf Courses

Three large private golf courses make up the largest component of private open space (52%) in the City and provide a valuable natural resource to Newton residents. Representing 23.4% of all open space, the three golf courses nearly equal the amount total open space under jurisdiction of the City's Parks and Recreation Department (23.7%). The golf courses are the largest remaining private open spaces in the City and also represent opportunities for linking a number of significant open spaces in the western and central areas of the City.

### Tax Exempt Land

Primarily religious organizations, schools, and various institutions own tax exempt property in Newton. While most of this land is utilized to some degree, some parcels are vacant and portions of other large parcels are largely vacant. These properties represent an important open space resource and are comprised of 17 parcels totaling 152.34 acres. However, the partitioning and proposed development of approximately 12.7 acres for private residential use of undeveloped land at Andover-Newton Theological School (ANTS) will result in significant reduction of previously undeveloped open space at this locus. In addition, recent construction of Hebrew College on the ANTS site expanded institutional use while reducing undeveloped open space.

### Agricultural Land

The 2.26 acre Angino Farm is the only remaining farm in Newton, but may become available due to the death of the primary owner. As noted in the Action Plan, this land should be considered for purchase or preservation by easement or other means due to its open space value and scenic value.

### City-Owned Land

The City owns 1,012.55 acres or 78% of public open space within Newton. Most of this land is in use for active recreation with 23.7% under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department and 4.2% under the jurisdiction of the School Department. Conservation land containing unique biological, geological or environmental qualities is a major category of City-owned open land at 11.5% of open space. The balance (4%) is comprised of land under general control, under various agencies of the City (see “Conservation and Recreation Parcels” map)

### Metropolitan District Commission and Mass. Water Resources Authority

These regional agencies have jurisdiction over significant open spaces in Newton.

MDC land, including significant riparian segments along the Charles River comprises approximately 262.1 acres or 11.2% of open space. The MWRA has jurisdiction by fee or easement over many segments of the Sudbury Aqueduct and also the Waban Hill (open) reservoir.

### Aqueducts






Both the Cochituate and Sudbury Aqueducts are important linear spaces linking Chestnut Hill, Newton Centre, Newton Highlands, Waban, Newton Upper Falls, and the Charles River. While the City owns many segments of the Cochituate Aqueduct, a significant number of parcels are also in private ownership. A future goal is to make most aqueduct segments accessible and available for passive recreational uses as part of a loop pathway system connecting with the MDC Charles River Reservation.

# Conservation and Recreation Parcels





## City of Newton



### Legend

-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Secondary Street
-  Streams
-  Surface Water

### Open Space Parcels

-  Conservation Land
-  Recreation Land
-  MDC Land
-  Aqueducts

### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

The following tables inventory lands of conservation and recreation interest by ownership, area in acres, zoning, and current condition or status. Also see “Open Space Inventory” map.

***D. Inventory***

Tables are provided and organized in the following categories:

**1. Private Ownership**

- Primarily Vacant
- Cemeteries and Golf Courses
- Tax Exempt Land

**2. Public Ownership**

- City – General Control
- Parks and Recreation Department
- School Department – Playgrounds/Playfields
- Conservation Commission
- Metropolitan District Commission
- Mass. Water Resources Authority

**3. Aqueducts (various ownership)**

- Cochrane
- Sudbury

***E. Key for abbreviations used in the STATUS section of the inventory:***

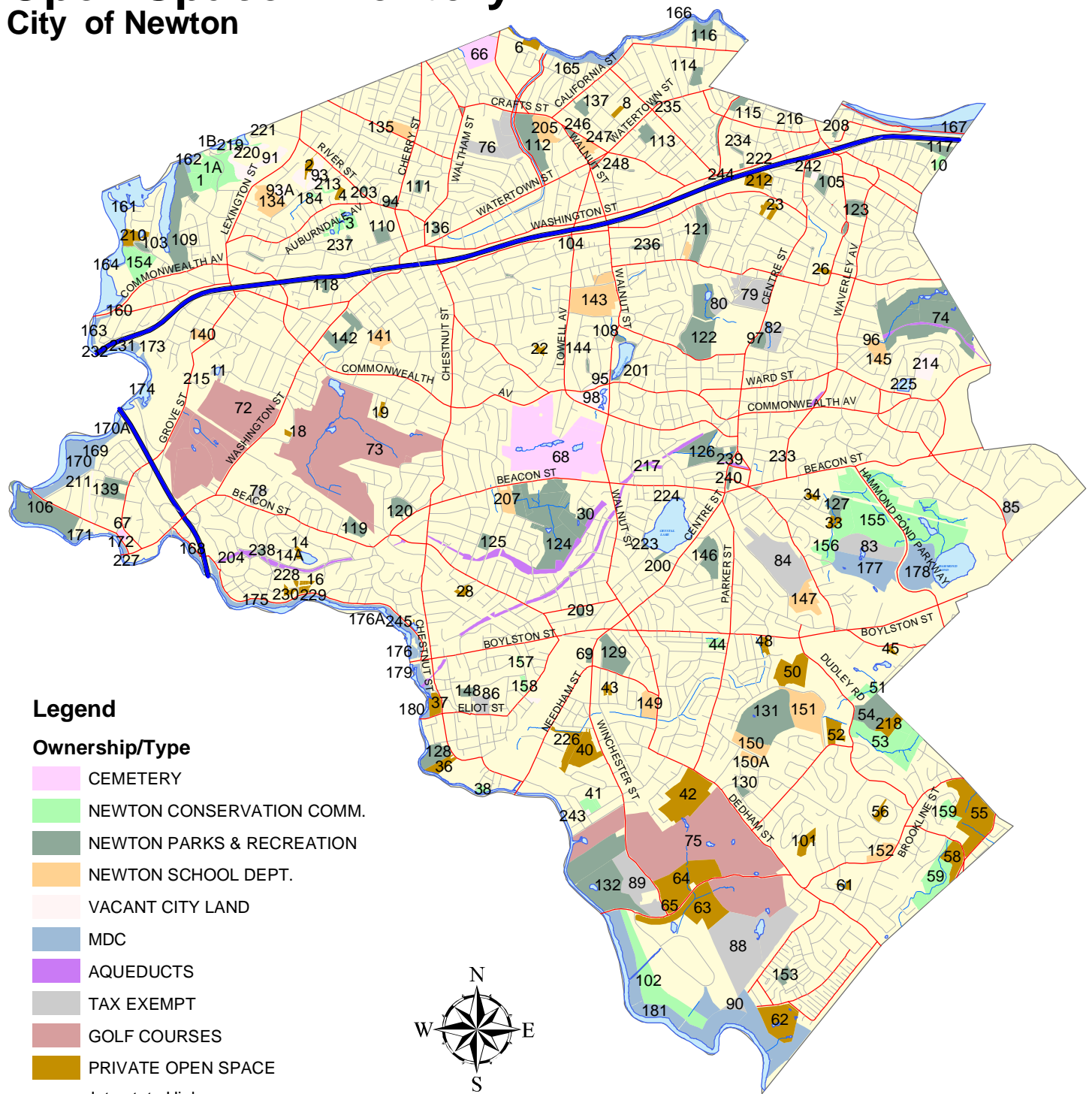
<u>Abbreviations</u>	<u>Information</u>
V	Vacant or Primarily vacant
1F	Single Family House
PK	Park
GC	Golf Course
PG	Playground
PF	Playfield
T	Tennis Court
LGTD	Lighted Recreational Area
BB	Basketball Court
CC	Conservation Area
RF	Charles River Frontage
AC	Recommended Acquisition Conservation Commission
WR	Wetlands Restriction (G. L. Ch. Sec. 40A)
CR	Conservation Restriction (G. L. Ch. 184, Sec. 31-33)
NVS	Natural Valley Storage Area "B"
FWR	Floodplain/Watershed Protection Ordinance, Sec. 22-22.
PR	Preservation Restriction (historic)

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# Open Space Inventory

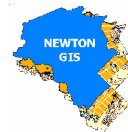
## City of Newton



### Legend

#### Ownership/Type

- CEMETERY
- NEWTON CONSERVATION COMM.
- NEWTON PARKS & RECREATION
- NEWTON SCHOOL DEPT.
- VACANT CITY LAND
- MDC
- AQUEDUCTS
- TAX EXEMPT
- GOLF COURSES
- PRIVATE OPEN SPACE
- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Secondary Street
- Streams
- Surface Water



#### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

# 1. PRIVATE PARCELS/OWNERSHIP

## PRIMARILY VACANT

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
2	44	35	70	River Street	2.18	Res. 3	V,Wooded, Part Field
4	44	17	92	Auburndale Ave.	1.36	Multi-Res.1	V
6	21	1	12	56 Farwell St.	2.87	Res. 3	IF, RF, Former MDC Reservation
8	14	8	11	Silver Lake	0.50	Multi-Res.1	Pond, FWR & Flowage Easement
12				Reserved			
13				Reserved			
14	55	14	6	Carlton Rd.	0.66	Res. 2	V, Kettle Pond WR #3, FWR
14A	55	14	21	Homewood Rd.	0.64	Res. 2	V, Kettle Pond WR #3, FWR
15				Reserved			
16	55	39	18	Irwin Rd.	2.25	Res. 2	V, Steep, Wooded, FWR (mult. undev. lots)
18	43	44	14	Stanton Ave.	0.70	Res. 1	V, Wooded Kettle
19	53	39	2,3,4,5.	Pickwick Rd.	1.13	Res. 1	V, Used as Backyards
22	32	53	7	Crestwood Rd.	1.27	Res. 1	V, Gardens
23	12	21	40	Bellevue Ave.	1.10	Res. 2	Steep, Part of Estate, CR
26	72	23	42	Park St.	1.14	Res. 2	V, Half Lawn, FWR Hyde Brook
28	54	8	41,42,43	Fairlee Rd.	1.16	Res. 2	V, Wooded Slopes, back yards
29	54	30	7	Wood End Rd.	0.68	Res. 2	V, Private .68A, City .70A, Wooded
33	65	3	11	Warren St.	2.17	Res. 2	1F,V,Wooded,FWR,Thompsonville Brook
34	65	2	2	Glen Ave.	1.19	Multi-Res.1	V, Wooded, CR
36	51	45	5	ATS(Marcy/WHDH)	4.45	Res. 1	V, RF, Open Field, FWR Antenna Cables, AC, Part.
37	51	1	6	Ellis St.	1.00	Mfg.	V,RF, Wooded, pt. of Hemlock Gorge; CR owned by MDC
210	41	26	1	Islington Road	5.62	Res. 3	Part of estate; pond
212	12	17	1	YMCA	4.00	Multi-Res. 1	Track, wooded slopes
228	55	38	15	Laura Rd.	0.43	Res. 2	V, Wooded
229	55	38	18	Laura Rd.	0.42	Res. 2	V, Wooded, Wet
230	55	38	21	Laura Rd.	1.09	Res. 2	V, Wooded, Wet
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>38.01</b>		

**PRIMARILY VACANT (cont. - p.2)**

MAP CODE	SEC.	BL.	LOT.	PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
40	83	28	16	Winchester Woods	16.18	Multi-Res.1	V, WR#12,CR Wooded, Wet, South Meadow Brook, FWR
226	83	28	1	Winchester Swamp	0.21	Multi-Res.1	Adj.To Winch. Woods/PR Cohen Tr.
226	83	28	85	Winchester Swamp	1.50	Multi-Res.1	Adj.To Winch. Woods/TRW Fasteners
226	83	28	86	Winchester Swamp	5.16	Res. 3	Adj.To Winch. Woods/HC Starck; lim.pkg.
42	83	36	38A	The Gables	9.56	Multi-Res.1	V,Wooded,Pond, CR, Wetland,FWR
43	83	8	16	Brierfield Rd.	2.00	Res. 3	V,Wooded,FWR
45	82	4	78	Spezzano Farm	2.24	Res. 3	Wooded, Wet,FWR, Hahn Brook
46				Reserved			
47				Reserved			
48	81	51	101, 103	White, et. al.	2.37	Res. 1	V,Rock Formations, Wooded
50	81	51	3	Horst Woods	8.00	Res. 1	V, Rock Formations, Wooded
52	81	51	14,19	Greenwood St.	6.82	Res. 1	V, WR,#17,Wooded, Wet,FWR
55	82	37	3	East Kessler (N-Star)	33.53	Res. 3	V, WR, #7,Wet, Wooded, Saw Mill Brook, FWR
56	82	26	7	Baldpate Hill	3.27	Res. 1	1F, Drumlin,Wooded
57				Reserved			
58	82	41	22	West Kessler (N-Star)	9.20	Res. 2	V, Wooded, WR #8, Saw Mill Brook, Mill Brook, FWR, AC Part
61	82	20	14E	Laurus Ln. Res.	1.28	Res. 2	Wooded, Wet, King Brook, FWR
62	84	10	57	Saw Mill Brook Pkwy	17.83	Res. 3	V, Radio Trans.,WR #19,Wet,NVS,FWR
63	84	34	2L	Nahanton St.	20.58	Multi-Res.3	V,WR#14,Wet,Wooded,FWR, CC Brook,CR
64	84	36	8B	Ledgebrook Condos	29.90	Multi-Res. 1	V, Wooded,Open Slope, Esker, Lacy Brook, FWR, CR
65	83	36	9	Angino Farm	2.26	Res. 1	Farm
84B	65	19	TBD	The Terraces	1.82	Res. 3	Wooded Hillside, Scenic view to Blue Hills; CR#250-01
101	82	15B	2A	Bigelow House	5.00	Multi-Res.3	Oak Hill, Drumlin, Scenic View to Needham and Blue Hills; Hist.Pres. Rest.
218	82	4	22	244 Dudley Road	3.05	Res. 1	Residence, Wooded
245	55	53	4	Quinobequin Road	0.86	Res. 2	Pond
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>182.62</b>		
<b>TOTAL PRIVATELY OWNED VACANT LAND</b>					<b>220.63</b>	<b>10.42</b>	<b>231.05 *</b>

*\*Includes privately owned vacant land totaling 10.42 acres with 2.95 acres in the Cochituate Aqueduct and 7.47 acres in the Sudbury Aqueduct inventories.*

## CEMETERIES AND PRIVATE GOLF COURSES

### CEMETERIES

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
SEC.	BL.	LOT					
66	34	2	14	Calvary Cemetery (North Street)	15.73	PUBLIC USE AND	V, WR#13, Cranberry Brook, FWR
67	42	30	10	St.Mary's Cemetery (Concord St.)	1.43	OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION	Flat, Wooded
68	64	3	9	Newton Cemetery (Walnut St.)	97.40	DISTRICT	Ponds, Arboretum, Brook, FWR
<b>CEMETERY TOTAL</b>					<b>114.56</b>		

### GOLF COURSES (Private)

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
SEC.	BL.	LOT					
72	42	9	1	Woodland Country Cl.	133.09	Res. 1,2	Rolling, Esker, Runaway Brook, FWR
73	43	45	27	Brae Burn Country Club	193.23	Res. 1	Rolling, Moffat Hill, Drumlin, Cheese Cake Brook, Pond, FWR
75	83	35	1	Charles River Country Club	219.28	Res. 1,3	Rolling Hills, Winchester Hill, Ponds, Part wooded, Lacy Brook & Country Club Brook, Rock Outcrops WR#10, WR#15, FWR, RF
<b>GOLF COURSE TOTAL</b>					<b>545.60</b>		

<b>CEMETERY &amp; GOLF COURSE TOTAL</b>					<b>660.16</b>		
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### TAX EXEMPT LAND

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
11	43	46	38	Lasell Pond	1.72	Res. 1	Pond Open, FWR
76	31	28	77	Fessenden School	24.40	Res. 3	Open Campus, PF
77				Reserved			
78	55	1	28	Newton-Wellesley Hospital	2.93	Res. 3	V, Lawn
79	13	18	1,3,4,5	Newton-Country Day School	16.17	Res. 2	V, Open Campus FWR
80	13	20	52	Boston College	4.21	Res. 2	V, Open Field, Edmands Brook, FWR
82	73	1	16A	Missionary Franciscan Srs.	10.14	Res. 2	V, Open Field, Edmands Brook, FWR
83	65	8	3	Cong. Mishkan Tefila	14.57	Res. 1	V, Wooded, Rock Outcrop, Bare Pond, FWR
84	65	19	45	Andover-Newton Theological Institute	11.00	Res. 3	V, Wooded, Drumlin, Scenic View to Blue Hills
84A	65	19	TBD	Hebrew College	1.72	Res. 3	Wooded hilside; CR#11, 67-98 (3)
85	63	31	10	Chestnut Hill School	4.78	Res. 1	V, Open Field, Specimen Trees
86	51	16	10	Stone Inst. & Home	2.02	Multi-Res 1	V, Wooded, PR
88	84	34	6	Mount Ida College	36.93	Res.1	Wooded Open Slopes,
89	83	35	4	Combined Jewish Philanthropies	17.75	Res.1	Wooded Slopes. CR (Kettle & Oak Woods)
90	84	34	2F	Wiswall Road Rear (Oak Hill Park Trust)	3.10	Res.1	V, WR #18 Wooded Slope, FWR, NVS
215	43	30	24	Lasell College	0.17	Res. 1	V
231	41	1	1	Lasell Boat House	0.21	Res. 3	RF
233	61	29	16A	Newt. Conservators; Gibbs St.	0.52	Res. 2	V, Wooded,
<b>TOTAL - TAX EXEMPT</b>					<b>152.34</b>		

## 2. PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

### CITY OF NEWTON VACANT LAND - GENERAL CONTROL

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
91	41	31	43(part)	Flowed Meadow Rumford Ave.	13.92		WR #1, Transfer/Haul Station, Landfill, Recycling Center, FWR Transfer 28 a to CC
93	44	35	86	Pine Street	6.7	ALL CITY	Filled Wetland
93	44	35	119	Pine Street	3.48	OWNED	Filled Wetland
93A	44	35	97	Pine Street	2.97	LAND	Filled Wetland
95	24	36	1	Commonwealth Avenue, Walnut Street and Lakeview Avenue	2.03	IS IN A PUBLIC USE	V, Wooded Slope
96	73	16	22	Montrose Street	3.45	DISTRICT	Playfield, adj. to Ward School
98	64	1	1	City Hall	4.59		V, Lawn, Ponds/Cold Spring Br., FWR of NVS, Area "B", FWR
211	NA	NA	NA	Lower Falls Train Track	4.82		Pathway, Wooded, Boston/Albany RR
214	63	8	13	Waban Hill Reservoir	13.61		Covered, Res.; V
219	41	31	47	68 Wabasso St.	0.45		Joint Jurisdiction: P&R and CC.
220	41	1	44	71 Wabasso St.	0.27		To be assigned to CC.
221	41	32	7	71 Wabasso St.	0.11		Roadway; joint P&R and CC jurisdiction
243	83	33	35	Christina Street	0.41		Adj. To Christina St. Consv. Area; V, Wooded
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>56.81</b>		
					Cochituate Aqueduct	37.64	
<b>TOTAL - GENERAL CONTROL</b>					<b>94.45</b>		

**CITY OF NEWTON LAND - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
69	51	28	29	South Burying Ground (Historic Cemetery)	1.40		Cemetery
94	33	3	9	West Parish Burying Ground (Historic Cemetery)	1.62	ALL CITY OWNED LAND	Cemetery
97	73	1	18	East Parish Burying Ground (Historic Cemetery)	3.19	IS IN A PUBLIC USE DISTRICT	Cemetery
103	41	24	1	Islington Road	1.47		V, Open Field
104	24	8	1	Elmwood Park	0.64		V, Open Lawn
105	72	4	1	Farlow Park (part used for playground)	3.95		PG/PK,
106	42	27	1	Lower Falls Park (MDC Operated)	33.00		RF, FWR, GC, MDC operated, part Martin Memorial Golf Course
107	42	27	TBD	Lower Falls Park (MDC Operated)	10.18		RF, FWR, GC, MDC operated, part Martin Memorial Golf Course
108	24	38	1	Dexter RD. /Walnut St.	1.10		Wooded, Laundry Brook, FWR
109	41	22	1	Auburndale Park	29.87		PG, PF, RF, Wooded, Baseball Playgd. Skating, FWR, Picnicking (Excludes #1, Flowed Meadow)
110	33	23	1	West Newton Common	3.63		PG, PF, Level Field
111	33	30	20	Wellington Playground	1.84		PG, PF, Level Playground PG, T
112	21	22	1	Albemarle/Halloran Rec. Complex	24.87		PG, PF, CheeseCake Brook, Pool, LGT, T, FWR
113	14	16	33	Pellegrini Playground	4.21		PG, PF, LT'D, T
114	11	10	7	Stearns Playground	3.25		PG, LGT'D, T, BB
115	11	20	2	Boyd Park	2.74		PG, PF, LGT'D, T
116	11	4	13	Forte Park	6.02		PG, PF, LGT'D, T
208	71	7	41,42,43	Nonantum Place Tot Lot	0.46		PG
216	71	1	11	Carlton St. Pocket Park	0.11		Benches, Wrought Iron Fence
222	12	3	11	Walnut Pk/Washington St.	0.32		V, Open Lawn
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>133.87</b>		

**CITY OF NEWTON LAND - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT (cont.)**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
117	71	26	24	Hunnewell Playground	4.57		PG, PF
118	33	6	61	Rev. Ford Playground	2.25	ALL	PG
119	55	10	49	Waban Playground (Sch.)	4.72	CITY	PG, PF, T
120	53	32	13	Lincoln Playground	5.42	OWNED	PG, PF
121	13	1	1	Cabot Park	11.58	LAND	PG, PF, LGT'D, T, BB
122	13	20	1	Edmands Park	32.57	IS IN A	PK, Wooded, Esker, cattail marsh FWR
201	99	99	68	Bullough's Pond Park	1.50	PUBLIC USE	V, Skating, LGT'D, FWR
123	72	9	3	Burr Park	5.12	DISTRICT	PF, PG, T, BB
124	54	22	59	Cold Spring Park	66.73		WR #20, 21, PG/PF, Wooded, Cold
30	54	22	24	Cold Spring-Capasso	2.72		Spring Brook, FWR, Life Course, T, BB
125	53	16	7	Richardson Playground	2.98		PG, PF
126	64	32	1	Newton Center Playground	17.90		PG, PF, Hammond Brook, LGT'D FWR, T
127	65	2	13	Webster Playground	7.20		Undeveloped, Field, Woods, Thompsonville Brook, FWR
128	51	45	3	Upper Falls Playground	8.77		PG, PF, RF, T, FWR
129	83	3	25	Newton Highlands Playground	12.56		PG, PF, Woods, Rock Outcrops, LGT'D
130	81	9	1	Country Club Road	1.99		Gently Rolling, Wooded, Cedar Trees
131	81	51	51	Hurley Playground (So.High)	37.69		WR # 16, PG, PF, Part Undeveloped, FWR
136	31	16	17	Eden Playground	1.95		PG, PF, BB
137	23	1	20A	Carr Playground	2.96		PG, PF
139	42	21	1	Hamilton Playground	4.29		PG, PF
146	62	16	13	Weeks Playground	11.13		PG, PF
148	51	8	1F	Emerson Playground	2.65		PG, PF
153	84	19	1	Memorial Playground	3.00		PG, PF
200	62	1	1	Crystal Lake Beach	0.74		Bath House, Sailing, Skating, Swim, FWR
209	52	41	1	Hyde Playground	1.05		PG, PF
223	62	1	4	Levingston Cove	0.50		Park
224	62	1	16	Cronin's Cove	0.18		Park
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>254.72</b>		



**CITY OF NEWTON LAND - PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT (cont.)**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
132	83	35	3, 4A	Nahanton Park	57.20		RF, WR # 10, Pond, Wooded, Fields, FWR, Rock Outcrops, Vegetable Gardens
203	33	34	49	River St. Playground	0.75	ALL CITY	PG
54	84	4	23	Harrison Kennard Park	15.78	OWNED LAND	Estate, Wooded, Orchard, Perennial Garden
74	63	1	24	Newton Commonwealth Golf Course	71.80	IS IN A	Golf Course, Waban Hill, Part Wooded, Strongs Brook and Pond, FWR, C.C. Skiing
142	32	24	6	Warren Playground	10.07	PUBLIC USE	PG, PF, Cheesecake Brook, FWR, T
144	24	25	9A	Clafin Playground	1.18	DISTRICT	PG, Sledding, Steep Slope, Rock Outcrop with Glacial Scratches
234	12	5	28	Walnut Park	0.54		V, median park
235	14	11	10	Nonantum Park	0.46		V, Wooded
236	22	12	1	Washington Park	1.06		V, median park
237	33	21	1	Webster Park	0.35		V, median park
238	55	23	1	Waban Avenue Island	0.86		V
239	61	33	1	Newton Centre Common	0.55		V, park
240	61	34	1	Newton Centre Common	0.64		V, park
246	23	3	1	Linwood Ave. Island	0.99		V, median park
242	72	4	3	Chaffin Park	0.83		Park
244	12	15	14	Washington Street	0.56		Veterans Memorial
248	23	13	1	Lowell Avenue Island	0.58		V, median park
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>164.20</b>		
<b>TOTAL CITY PARKS &amp; RECREATION DEPT.</b>					<b>552.79</b>		

**SCHOOL DEPARTMENT - PLAYGROUND/PLAYFIELD PURPOSES**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
134	44	35	95	Burr Sch. Elementary	8.65		PG, PF, Former Landfill
135	34	37	21	Franklin Elementary	2.70		PG
205	21	22	2	Day Middle School	7.98	ALL	Wooded
140	43	31	2,3	Williams Elementary	1.07	CITY	PG
141	32	21	5	Peirce Elementary	1.95	OWNED	PG
143	24	18	1	Dickinson Field- Newton North	18.60	LAND IS IN	PG, PF, Stadium
145	73	16	21	Ward Elementary	1.00	A	PG
147	65	19	46	Bowen Elementary	8.79	PUBLIC USE	PG, PF
149	83	6	11	Countryside School	7.39	DISTRICT	PG, South Meadow Brook & Tributary, Wetland, FWR
150	81	51	52	Oak Hill Middle School	5.85		PG, PF
150A	81	6	1	Wheeler Road	2.44		Wooded; parking area
151	81	51	47	South High School	22.10		PG, PF, Part Wooded
152	82	21	1	Spaulding/Memorial School	3.67		PG
207	54	13	3	Zervas Elementary	5.28		Play area, Part Wooded; FWR
247	23	4	10	Education Center	0.50		Sch. Dept. Offices; Totlot
<b>TOTAL CITY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT</b>					<b>97.97</b>		

**CITY OF NEWTON - CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
154	41	23	1	Norumbega Park Conservation Area	13.27		RF, Wooded Knolls, Open Fields, FWR
155	65	1	1	Webster Conservation Area	103.84	ALL CITY OWNED	WR #5, Wooded Rock Outcrops, Pond, Brooks, FWR, Houghton Garden
156	65	4	1	Cohen Conservation Area Annex on Cohen Ter.	7.59	OWNED	Wooded, Rock Outcrops, Thompsonville Brook, FWR
157	51	15	17-20	Martin Conservation Area	0.57	IS IN	Wooded, Rock Outcrops, Thompsonville Brook, FWR
158	51	19	2-5	Frank Barney Consv. Area	1.16	A	Thompsonville Brook, FWR
159	82	37	79	Baldpate Meadow Consv. Area	4.90	PUBLIC USE	WR #7, Wooded Wetland, FWR
53	82	4	20	Kennard Conservation Area	32.28	DISTRICT	WR #22, South Meadow Brook, Wooded Rock Outcrops, FWR
51	82	4	24A	Hahn Brook Cons. Area	4.36		Wooded Wet Meadow, Hahn Brook, FWR
10	71	26	14	Hunnewell Woods Cons. Area	1.72		Steep wooded slope, pathway to Hunnewell Playground
3	33	17	15	Dolan Pond Cons.Area	8.13		WR# 12, Wetland, 3 Ponds, FWR
184	44	17	114	Kerry Ct.	0.66		Flood storage area, buffer strip
213	44	17	109	Auburndale Yard	0.79		Development buffer
59	82	41	21	Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area	19.85		Wooded, Sawmill Brook, FWR, WR #8, Rock Outcrops
44	81	36	12	Oakdale Woods Cons. Area	2.47		Wooded, Rock outcrops, Stearns Br., FWR
102	84	34	2	Charles River Pathway/Nahanton St.	30.50		V, R #11, Transfer to CC, part
38	51	46	13	Charles River Pathway/Willms. St.	1.57		RF, Charles River Pathway, FWR
204	55	27	17	Varick Hill Cons. Area	0.19		Wooded, abuts Cochituate Aqueduct
1	41	22	TBD	Flowed Meadow Cons. Area	6.85		V, WR#1, Woods, Wetland, FWR
1A	41	31	TBD	Flowed Meadow Cons. Area	19.28		V, Woods, Wetland, FWR
1B	41	31	51	Flowed Meadow Cons. Area	0.91		V, Woods, Wetland, FWR
41	83	33	32	Goddard/Christina Cons. Area	4.35		WR#9, Woods, Wetland, FWR
217	64	16	23	Wilson Cons. Area	0.50		Wooded (Sudb. Aq.); access from Coch. Aq. At Greenlawn Ave.
<b>TOTAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION</b>					<b>267.34</b>		

**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION OWNED LAND**

MAP CODE	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR DESCRIPTION	AREA IN ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
	SEC.	BL.	LOT.				
160	41	23	20	Commonwealth Avenue	1.05		RF, Police St., Canoe Rentals, FWR
161	41	27	48	Off Islington Road	0.98		RF, FWR
162	41	31	39	Forest Grove Road	2.61	ALL	RF, Frontage on Cove, WR#1, FWR
163	41	1	3,4,5	Commonwealth Avenue	3.12	CITY	RF, Steep Slope Wooded
164	41	23	18A	Off Commonwealth Ave.	0.25	OWNED	RF, FWR (rear of Marriott Pkg area)
165	21	2	3	Off California St.	5.5	LAND	RF, FWR
166	11	1	5	Riverdale Avenue	5.33	IS IN	RF, FWR (Also reverify SBL 11-4-29 w/ MDC)
167	71	13	1	Nonantum Road	13.69	A PUBLIC USE	Newton Yacht Club, Skating Rink, RF, WR
168	42	1	1	Quinobequin Road	2.92	DISTRICT	RF, Wooded, FWR
169	99	99	14	RR Right-of-Way	1.01		MDC Rail Bed (bisects golf course)
170	42	26	3	Pine Grove Avenue	26.1		Golf Course, RF, FWR
170A	42	26	4	Pine Grove Avenue	4.38		Golf Course, RF, FWR
171	42	27	8	Concord Street	2.33		RF, Wooded, FWR
172	42	28	9	Concord Street, part easement/ownership	1.34		RF, Steep Slope Wooded, FWR
173	41	5	1	Charles Street	3.24		RF, Open Field, Foot Bridge, FWR, Canoe Launch
174	42	11	2	Gilligan	8.26		RF, Wooded, FWR, Foot Bridge
175	55	43	1,2,3,5,6	Quinobeguine Road	10.53		RF, Wooded, FWR
176	55	55	2,3	Boylston Street	0.94		RF, Island Inaccessible, FWR
176A	55	55	1	Quinobequin Road	4.18		RF, Wooded, FWR
177	65	8	4	Hammond Pond Parkway (West)	38.43		PK, WR #6, Wooded Cat Pond, FWR
178	63	37	28	Hammond Pond Parkway (East)	26.43		PK, WR #6, Wooded, Hammond Pond, Brooks, FWR, Rock Ledges
179	51	1	3	Ellis Street	3.37		RF, Echo Bridge, Hemlock Gorge, FWR
<b>Subtotal</b>					<b>165.99</b>		

**METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION OWNED LAND (con't)**

MAP	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR	AREA IN		
CODE	SEC.	BL.	LOT.	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
180	51	1	12	Elliot Street	0.6		FWR, RF, Trees, Lawn, Sewer Pump Sta.
181	84	31	1	Nahanton Street	95.01		#18, Wetland, Wooded, NVS, Knolls
227	42	31	24	Cutler Park, MDC Reservation MDC Reservation	0.06		RF
232	41	1	2,2A	Rear, LF Wine Co. Adj. to Lasell Boat House	0.43		V, RF
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>96.1</b>		
<b>TOTAL - MDC</b>					<b>262.09</b>		

**MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCE AUTHORITY OWNED LAND**

MAP	IDENTIFICATION			PARCEL NAME OR	AREA IN		
CODE	SEC.	BL.	LOT.	DESCRIPTION	ACRES	ZONING	STATUS
225	63	7	1	Waban Hill Reservoir	5.1		Open Reservoir (City covered res. nearby)
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					<b>5.1</b>		
					Sudbury Aqueduct	11.69	
<b>Total MWRA</b>					<b>16.79</b>		





**COCHITUATE AQUEDUCT (p.3)**

LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION			SQ. FT. (EASEMENT IF PRIVATE)	OWNER
	SECTION	BLOCK	LOT		
COMMONWEALTH AVENUE	63	1	2	180,617	City of Newton
COMMONWEALTH AVENUE	63	1	4	16,865	City of Newton
WOODCHESTER	63	1	39	68,656	City of Newton
CHESTNUT HILL COUNTRY CLUB	63	1	40	42,950	City of Newton
CHESTNUT HILL COUNTRY CLUB	63	1	41	31,616	City of Newton
MONTROSE STREET	73	15	9	6,019	Harold Kahn
MONTROSE STREET	73	16	22	28,040	City of Newton
PRENTICE RD	73	40	11	2,550	G. & L. Karthis
GRANT AVENUE	73	41	6	4,300	Lorna Lamont
GRANT AVENUE	73	41	7	990	S. & M. Salter
WARD STREET	73	41	13	528	Herman Linda and Philip
PRENTICE RD	73	41	14	2,546	Schaffer James
PRENTICE RD	73	41	15	2,700	Mike Varsamis
PRENTICE RD	73	41	16	2,675	Mark Kramer
PRENTICE RD	73	41	17	850	Dana and Jeffrey Davis
				<b>PAGE 3 SUBTOTAL</b>	
				<b>391,902</b>	<b>9.00 ACRES</b>
					<b>8.47 CITY OF NEWTON</b>
					<b>0.53 PRIVATE</b>
	<b>Cochituate Aqueduct TOTALS</b>				
				<b>1,770,662</b>	<b>40.65 ACRES</b>
					<b>37.64 CITY OF NEWTON</b>
					<b>2.95 PRIVATE</b>



**SUDBURY AQUEDUCT**

LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION			SQ. FT. (EASEMENT IF PRIVATE)	OWNER
	SECTION	BLOCK	LOT		
ELLIS STREET	51	1	2	17,000	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
CHESTNUT STREET	51	2	8	12,941	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
WHITE PINE RD	52	10	1	57,450	Rosbeck Peter Van & Karen A Trs/Elliot Hill Realty
PLYMOUTH RD	52	1	30	81,800	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
BOWDOIN STREET	52	2	7	46,000	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
BOWDOIN STREET	52	4	5	21,320	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
DUNCKLEE STREET	52	13	1	83,970	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
KINGMAN RD	52	14	6	26,750	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
DICKERMAN RD	54	38	9	31,800	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
WOODWARD STREET	54	39	8	33,400	Metro Water & Sewer Board Aqueduct
BOYLSTON STREET	54	49	1	137,534	Teken Avraham & Augustina
CHELSEY RD	61	26	4	5,800	Minna Sliverman
SUMNER STREET	61	27	7	6,028	Samuel Roth
SUMNER STREET	61	27	8	5,775	Brian McArdle
CHELSEY RD	61	27	13	6,329	Richard Kovalcik
CHELSEY RD	61	27	14	6,260	Chin Bing & Carolina C
CENTRE STREET	61	32	1	37,600	Commonwealth of Massachusetts
				<b>PAGE 1 SUBTOTAL</b>	
				<b>617,757</b>	<b>14.18 ACRES</b>
					<b>9.01 MWRA</b>
					<b>5.17 PRIVATE</b>

**SUDBURY AQUEDUCT (p.2)**

LOCATION	IDENTIFICATION			SQ. FT.	
	SECTION	BLOCK	LOT	(EASEMENT IF PRIVATE)	
BEACON STREET	62	4	7	47,795	
BEACON STREET	64	14	13	12,232	
HANCOCK AVENUE	64	16	22	25,575	
TYLER TER	64	30	28	11,700	
TYLER TER	64	32	2	6,420	
CHESNUT ST. - BOYLSTON ST.	-	-	-	38,805	
BEACON STREET	61	23	5	11,770	
BEACON STREET	61	24	1	6,095	
BEACON STREET	61	24	2	4,877	
BEACON STREET	61	24	3	5,167	
BEACON STREET	61	24	4	5,630	
GRANT AVENUE	61	24	5	1,860	
GRAY CLIFF RD	61	24	12	1,445	
GRANT AVENUE	61	25	1	4,720	
BEACON STREET	61	25	2	4,127	
BEACON STREET	61	25	3	1,944	
DALTON RD	61	25	4	6,364	
GRANT AVENUE	61	25	5A	6,004	
DALTON RD	61	26	5	9,200	
DALTON RD	61	26	12	5,300	
				<b>PAGE 2 SUBTOTAL</b>	
				<b>217,030</b>	<b>4.98</b>
					<b>2.68</b>
					<b>2.30</b>
	<b>Sudbury Aqueduct TOTALS</b>				
				<b>834,787</b>	<b>19.16</b>
					<b>11.69</b>
					<b>7.47</b>

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## **Section 6: Community Vision**

### ***A. Description of Process***

As mentioned in the Introduction, this Plan Update was guided by the Open Space Advisory Committee, appointed by the Mayor, and incorporated contributions from a broad range of participants. These participants included representatives from regional and city agencies, conservation, recreation, environmental and neighborhood interests, and landowners. The Plan has received input from these groups as well as from the public through a joint public hearing held with the Planning and Development Board.

The mandate of the Open Space Advisory Committee is two-fold. Phase I includes preparing this update of the 1995 Recreation and Open Space Plan. Thereafter, the Committee will further shape this Plan in collaboration with the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, so that it will become a component of the City's new Comprehensive Plan addressing open space and recreation. It is anticipated this work will be completed during the spring of 2004.

During Phase I, the Committee initially met in working sessions every 2-3 weeks to prepare the draft Plan Update with the assistance of Planning and Development Department staff. On May 14, 2001, a joint public hearing was held together with the Planning and Development Board to solicit further public comment. Following the public hearing, the Planning and Development Board voted to approve the draft update for submittal to the EOE. Multiple comments received at the public hearing as well as additional written comments were reviewed by the Committee on May 17, 2001, and integrated into the Plan Update. The Plan Update was presented to the Mayor on May 22, 2001 and a draft was subsequently submitted to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) on May 31, 2001. Thereafter, the EOEA indicated on August 16, 2001 that while they acknowledged that the submitted draft was well underway, they preferred to receive the plan in a format consistent with the most recent *Workbook* issued by EOEA following the City's submittal. The current document reflects reformatting revisions and in some cases, updates occurring since the submittal of the initial draft. In addition, this reformatted document has been reviewed by the Open Space Advisory Committee, Planning and Development Board, Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Department, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.

Concurrently, the Open Space Advisory Committee has continued to further explore and follow up on themes identified in the initial draft. These include small parcels, zoning mechanisms, aqueducts, parcels at risk, and landfill parcels with potential for reuse. When completed by the Committee, this work will be integrated within the new open space plan component of the City's new Comprehensive Plan.

The City acknowledges that the preservation of open land facilitates the attainment of community qualities which reflect a high value on recreational opportunities, variety of wildlife habitat and vegetation, protection of the public against flood hazards, and improvement of air quality as well as aesthetic enrichment for residents of Newton and the metropolitan Boston region. Within the context of an overall community vision, preservation of open space needs also to be approached with due consideration of other significant community needs, such as

affordable housing, schools, transportation, and other public uses. These can best be managed through coordination of the Open Space Action Plan with other Comprehensive Plan elements.

### ***B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals***

From the outset of the process, Newton's Open Space Goals were directed towards two basic concerns:

- 1) The identification of land to be acquired or otherwise preserved as open space; and
- 2) The identification of the best potential use of such land (whether it is most suitable for conservation or for active or passive recreation).

Specifically, the goals address:

- a) Preserving the City's natural resources;
- b) Distributing new public recreational open space as equitably as possible while increasing the accessibility of public open spaces to people with disabilities; and
- c) Encouraging appropriate use of each site.

The Goals of the Recreation and Open Space Plan support the preservation of open space necessary to meet the conservation and recreation needs of the City and the region. The following describes the community's vision as a result of the Open Space Planning Process.

#### **GOALS:**

- 1. To recognize, preserve, and maintain the City's important natural assets and resources.**
- 2. To ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space for both biodiversity and public benefit.**
- 3. To integrate compatible recreation and conservation uses.**
- 4. To explore to the maximum extent feasible the appropriate courses of action necessary to protect and preserve large open spaces remaining in the City, including the golf courses and other significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.**

#### **Goal Amplification**

**Goal:** To preserve and maintain the City's important natural assets and resources.

**Discussion:** Forests, wetlands, marshes, ponds and streams once dominated Newton's 18 square miles and provided for a remarkable biodiversity of flora and fauna. Over the years, land was cleared for farms and later for houses and roads to serve Newton's growing population. To eliminate what were perceived as health hazards and to facilitate development, wetlands were drained, ponds were filled and streams culverted. In the early part of this century, inspired by

Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, who created the Boston "Emerald Necklace" and Metropolitan Park Systems, Newton embarked on a park program of its own. Edmands, Cabot and Farlow Parks were donated to the City, and the Newton Centre Playground and Auburndale Park were purchased by public subscription. While these additions were made not primarily for environmental reasons but for recreation and aesthetic ones, they frequently did preserve environmentally sensitive areas such as the wetlands in Edmands Park and many of the wetlands and floodplains along the Charles River. Even at that time, some realized the importance of saving these sensitive areas.

Most Newton residents generally care about the "garden-city" character of our community and a significant segment of the population respond favorably to a program of land acquisition for conservation purposes using various means. Many Newton residents are aware that open space itself is a valuable natural resource and is of positive value to all members in our community. In addition, open space acts as a land bank which can be used for active and passive recreation, and as a buffer to help shape the course of development in the City in an environmentally friendly manner.

Approximately 20% of the City's area is comprised of existing public and private open space. While this represents a considerable asset, various important open space needs remain unmet within the City as discussed in this Plan. A balanced approach which seeks to match the right acquisition/preservation tool with the character of a natural site in seeking to meet an identified need, will best serve the interests of both owners and the public. Some land, because of physical characteristics, warrants preservation in its natural state; other sites are better suited to meet the active and passive recreation needs of the City, and yet other land is needed and suited for affordable housing, especially for those of low and moderate incomes. Careful site planning and use controls together with agreements for open space retention makes possible the development of open land with sensitivity to impacts on both the natural and built environments.

**Goal:** To ensure an adequate amount, variety and distribution of open space for biodiversity and public benefit.

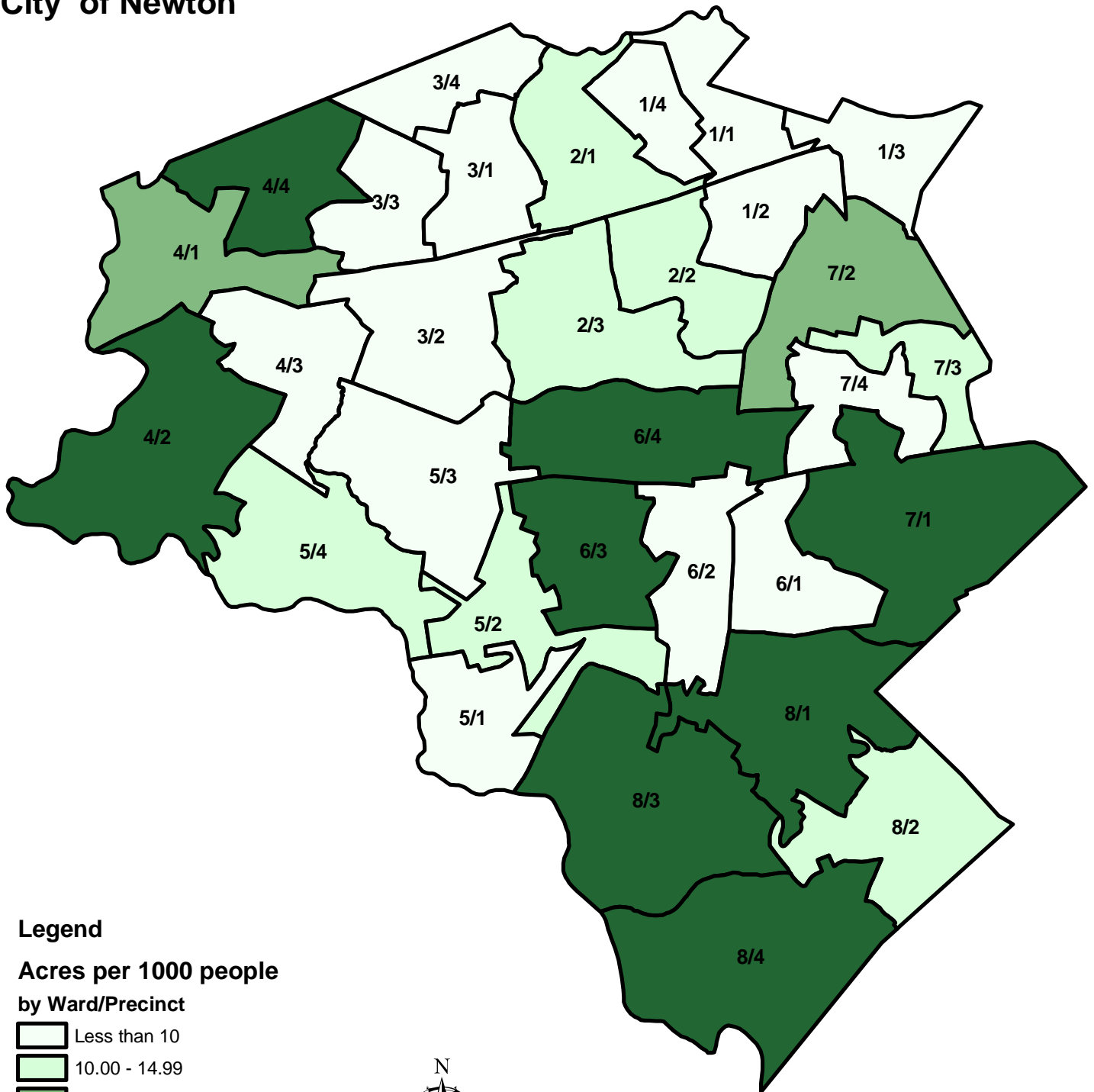
**Discussion:** Open space includes all land, both publicly and privately owned, which is essentially free of structures. This includes land used for recreation, playgrounds, parks, conservation, cemeteries, and vacant or unused land.

Since open space has a variety of uses and users, permanent open land should be varied, including, for example, parks, playgrounds, and conservation land located to be accessible to the City's residents including people with disabilities. While standards for what constitutes an adequate amount of open space vary, a commonly accepted factor is 15 acres per 1,000 persons as recommended by the National Recreation Association. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council standard is 10 acres per 1,000 persons. Newton currently has approximately 15.3 acres of publicly owned open space per 1,000 persons based on the 2000 population of 84,688. Also see the following maps: "Public Open Space (Acres/1000 People)" and "Total Open Space (Acres/1000 People)".

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# Public Open Space (Acres/1000 people)

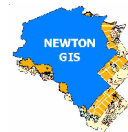
## City of Newton



### Legend

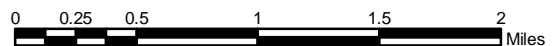
Acres per 1000 people  
by Ward/Precinct

-  Less than 10
-  10.00 - 14.99
-  15.00 - 24.99
-  More than 25



### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.

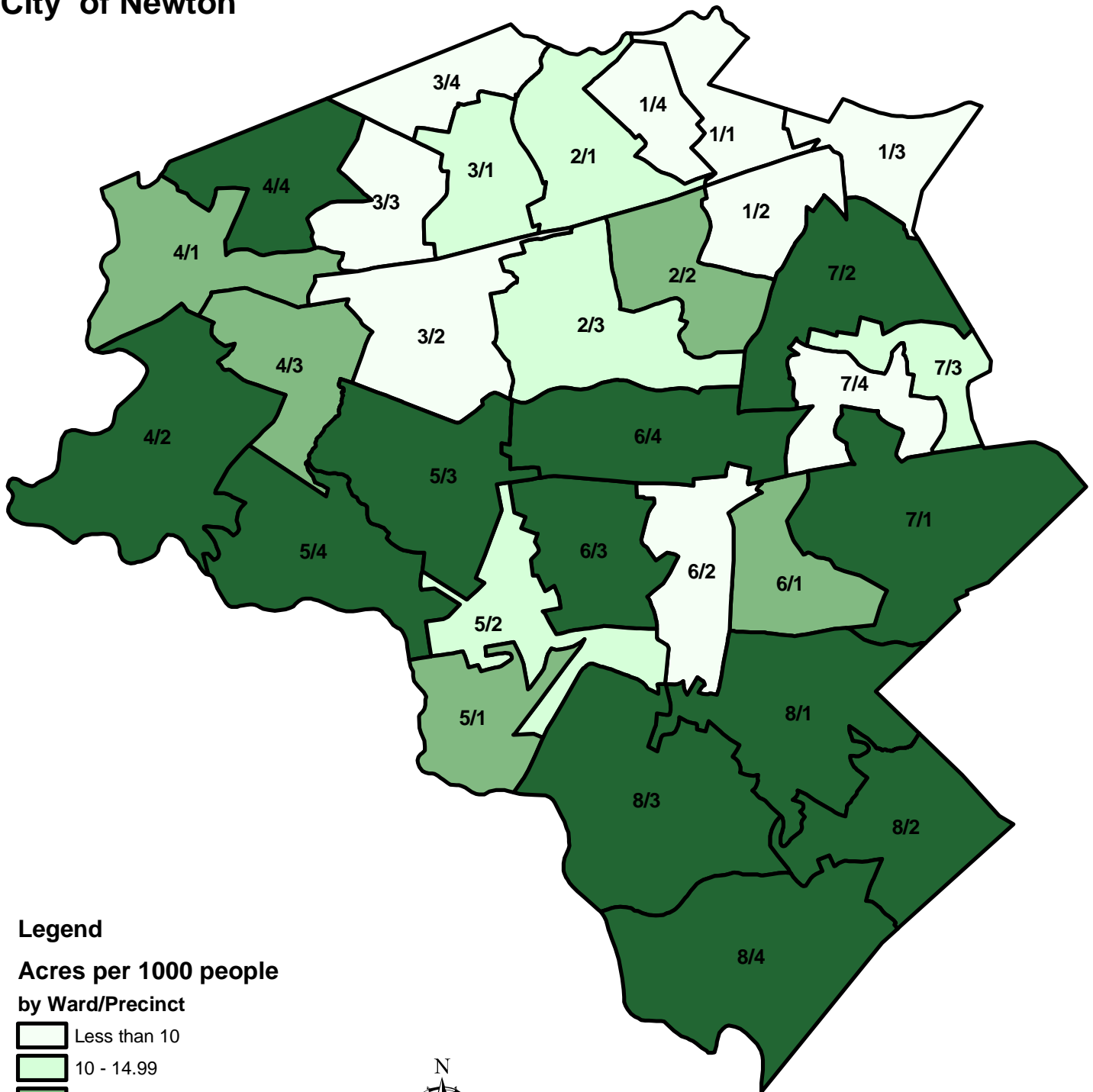


MAP DATE: February 27, 2003







# Total Open Space (Acres/1000 people)

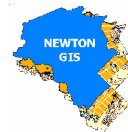
## City of Newton



### Legend

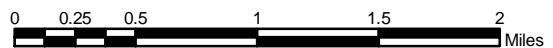
Acres per 1000 people  
by Ward/Precinct

-  Less than 10
-  10 - 14.99
-  15 - 24.99
-  More than 25



### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

The Conservation Commission Land Acquisition Program in progress has resulted in the public ownership of 267 acres since 1969.

The application of such standards City-wide, however, does not address the uneven distribution of public open space. The major portion of the City's population resides in the northern section of the City, while most of the available open land is located in the southern section. This deficiency may in part be addressed by improving accessibility to existing open spaces, especially by linking them with pathways, and, where possible, by "creating" new public open space including vest pocket parks in high population density areas which are deficient in open space.

As the opportunity to acquire open space becomes more limited, the targeting of parcels for acquisition or conversion from one use to another needs to become more strategic. One approach would be to create a standard for neighborhood parks that enables identification of deficiencies in green spaces for each discreet section of the City. Where a neighborhood falls short of the standard, particular efforts to fill such gaps might be made with small pocket parks. As part of this effort, the City will continue to reevaluate its public land for neighborhood parks including roadsides, playgrounds, and DPW land.

A second important emphasis is the focus on facilitating assembly of wildlife habitat areas of sufficient dimension to enable survival of species that are threatened by the encroachment of development. Strategic additions to major blocks of conservation land and other large open spaces in conjunction with recognizing important corridors for wildlife movement are key in this undertaking. Parcels that are contiguous with existing conservation lands should be considered for elevated priority. The value of biodiversity and protection of native species is hereby explicitly acknowledged, perhaps for the first time, in planning for open space preservation within our community.

Finally, open space for recreation should continue to be a priority. With competition for playgrounds by organized youth and adult sports increasing throughout the City, existing fields are intensively used. Demand, particularly by women's sports teams (girls and youth) continues to rise significantly. While our objective ideally may be to provide adequate playing surfaces for all who wish to use them, this is tempered by the recognition of limited availability of playing spaces of sufficient size. Nonetheless, additional playgrounds would also offer the opportunity for resting existing fields on a rotating basis so that they can be rejuvenated periodically, providing longer service to the residents of the City overall.

**Goal:** To integrate compatible recreation and conservation uses.

**Discussion:** Recreation areas in Newton have in the past been developed in response to the large demand for "active" (structured) recreation. While demand for such areas continues, recently there has been increasing citizen interest in less structured, "passive" recreation. Bicycling, hiking, jogging, cross-country skiing, and other passive recreational activities can frequently share land initially acquired for other purposes. For example, hiking, cross-country skiing and bird watching can be enjoyed in non-sensitive conservation areas. By the same token, an environmentally sensitive area, such as the wetland in Cold Spring Park, has been preserved within what is otherwise an active recreation area. A good example of integrating active and passive recreational uses is Weeks Field Park which interleaves soccer fields, a central contoured

passive recreational area and perimeter buffer zone. Multiple uses need not be confined to public open space, and can be encouraged on private land where suitable, and subject to mutually agreeable arrangements between owners and the City. Facilitating multiple use of open space will enable the residents of Newton to enjoy the maximum benefits from the City's natural resources.

**Goal:** To explore to the maximum extent feasible, the appropriate courses of action necessary to protect and preserve the large open spaces remaining in the City, including golf courses and other significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.

**Discussion:** The City of Newton faces serious fiscal constraints in the current weak economic environment as it seeks to manage the multiple needs and services expected by its residents. Significant shortfalls in state revenues in turn leading to reductions in state aid to municipalities has imposed unexpected budget cutbacks on Massachusetts cities and towns. While some additional resources have recently become available pursuant to the Community Preservation Act, the level of resources potentially needed for open space actions nevertheless tends to be significantly less than the high property values commanded by the Newton real estate market. Various methods, including local betterment assessments and devices other than acquisition in fee, such as conservation or deed restrictions as part of the special permitting process, deserve continued exploration to see if these are suitable mechanisms to help preserve the larger parcels remaining within the City. However, since many of these tools have not been used previously, the impacts of their implementation need to be examined. For example, the possible use of special zoning classifications may reduce pressure for development by lowering land values. Nevertheless, if a property owner has borrowed against his/her equity arising from current zoning classifications, there may be increased pressure to develop portions of the land rather than less. The three remaining golf courses are participating in the 61B Program which reduces the assessed value of the golf courses to 25% of their commercial value.

## **Section 7: Analysis of Needs**

Standards for quantity and distribution of public open space depend on the type of land involved. Conservation land should be evaluated primarily on the environmental merits of each individual parcel and the character of adjacent wildlife habitats. Evaluation of land to be used for active recreation should be based on established standards for population and area served, and the needs of demographic groups and neighborhoods. Other factors which must be considered are accessibility, linkage, multiple use, and the needs of special groups such as elderly and people with disabilities.

Accessibility and linkage are important factors in Newton's open space evaluation. Clearly, if an area is to be used, it must be accessible. While this may not always be possible due to terrain or due to the fragility of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, accessibility is vital for recreational lands. Providing linkage between areas improves their accessibility, and at the same time creates additional open space through acquisition, easement grants, and/or development agreements.

Newton needs to also consider its open space role within the Metropolitan Boston Region. The Charles River borders Newton for over twelve miles. The City-owned and the Metropolitan District Commission open spaces along the river are important to the region. Other areas important to the region are the Webster Conservation area, the privately owned golf courses, and the East Coast Bicycle Trail, a Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service funded project, which passes through Newton on its way from Boston to Virginia, currently utilizing existing roads.

### ***A. Summary of Resource Protection Needs***

Newton is fortunate in having a wide range of natural resources. The Charles River borders the City for approximately 12 miles, and land in a relatively natural state comprises approximately 20 percent of the City's total area. Woods, fields, wetlands, lakes, ponds, streams, and hills provide both a variety of wildlife habitats and pleasant and varied environments for Newton's residents to enjoy. If the City is to continue to benefit from these resources, it must continue to protect and enhance its identified water, land, and aesthetic resources.

#### **1. Water Supply**

Although at one time Newton relied on groundwater for its water supply, it now receives its entire supply from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority - Quabbin System. It is anticipated that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority will be able to continue to supply Newton's water requirements in the near future (25 years). Current safe yield of the system is 300 million gallons/day, and has averaged 260 million gallons/day.

A "Massachusetts Water Supply Policy Study", March, 1977 concluded that "the Commonwealth and its political subdivisions shall share in a new responsibility for the provision of water supply to all citizens which recognize the ultimate limitations of the water resource and the competing claims on use thereof, and shall more efficiently use the total water resource by balancing existing and future consumptive and non-consumptive needs." A study done for the

Massachusetts Water Resource Authority in 1986 recommended that cities and towns institute leak detection and repair programs, domestic device retro fit programs, water pricing, increases for block rate structures, non-domestic conservation, and education programs. These programs have been instituted and are ongoing.

## **2. Flooding**

From the torrent of the Charles River during a hurricane to occasional wet basements, many citizens at one time or another experience the effects of flooding. It is possible, in many instances, to minimize the potential for such flooding, given a basic understanding of the way hydraulic systems work. Wetlands, for example, during high water levels, act as sponges, soaking up substantial amounts of the excess water. After the flood has peaked, the wetland gradually releases its store of water. This gradual release has the added advantage of increasing the level of low flow during dry periods.

Positive local action has been taken to protect wetlands through adoption of a protective City ordinance, permanent state restrictions, and acquisition of ownership or conservation restrictions.

## **3. Pollution**

Since the advent of the Nation's Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) which requires that both public and private entities obtain a permit to discharge waste water into the nations' waters, the quality of the surface waters of Newton has improved slightly, due primarily to the effectiveness of the NPDES Program in limiting point source pollution (pollution from concentrated sources such as a pipe or channel). Within Newton, however, the major cause of water pollution is from non-point sources, such as subsurface waste disposal, storm water runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. Specific pollution problems which require continual surveillance are:

- Contamination of waters by the improper use or overuse of road salt.
- Oil spills.
- Sedimentation caused by poor catch basin maintenance.

The Department of Public Works has designated Crystal Lake and Waban Kettlepond as environmentally sensitive zones, and has reduced the amount of road salt used in these areas. More areas are under consideration for reduced salt zones. In addition, the City should encourage waste water recycling by Newton industries currently permitted to discharge treated waste water into the Charles River.

## **4. Charles River**

Both upstream and in adjacent towns, the Charles River and its associated groundwater systems are primary sources of drinking water for several communities. Although Newton does not currently rely on the Charles River for its own water supply, the City has accepted its role in the protection of the Charles River Watershed, both in the interests of the water supply of the region,

and in its own direct interest for a potential emergency drinking water source, and for the river's recreation and aesthetic potential.

With the advent of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Natural Valley Storage Program, flood control on the Charles River has taken a significant turn in the direction of environmental protection by maintaining the river's natural flood storage capacity. This program, along with other methods of protecting the watershed's natural flood storage capacity, such as enforcement of the City's Flood Plain/Watershed Protection Ordinance, the State's Inland Wetland Restrictions and the State Wetlands Protection Act, is vital to the safety of buildings and property along the river's edge both in Newton and downstream.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection classifies the Charles River as Class "B" waters, with the goal of active use for fishing and swimming. The quality of the water along the entirety of the Newton border often meets these goals during dry weather. However, the river often exceeds pollutant limits for Class "B" waters during wet weather events.

Many Newton citizens actively participate on task forces to monitor the Charles River as a community resource. The City is currently working to connect Auburndale Park to state parkland along the Charles River Pathway.

## **5. Lakes and Ponds**

Newton contains ten prominent lakes/ponds, of which Crystal Lake, Hammond Pond and Bullough's Pond are of the greatest size. Of these, Crystal Lake receives the most use, having a bathing beach, walking trail, fishing, and seasonal dock with boat launch. Crystal Lake and Hammond Pond are defined as "Great Ponds" under state law since they are greater than 10 acres. Crystal Lake is a rain-fed lake containing 24 acres of surface water and one outlet: Paul Brook. Hammond Pond contains 22 acres of surface water and has two outlets: Hammond Brook and Saw Mill Brook. During the 1970's the Conservation Commission, with the cooperation of the Metropolitan District Commission, the State Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, the City Department of Public Works and owners of the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center oversaw vegetation harvesting (1973, 1974, 1975 and 1979) in Hammond Pond. Financial constraints have precluded vegetation harvesting since the 1980's.

Hammond Pond's point pollution source is the state Department of Public Works' stormwater drain to the Pond from Route 9. The Hammond Pond Task Force is currently working on multiple fronts to improve water quality in the pond, such as applying for grant funding to implement "best management practices" to improve water quality.

Bullough's Pond, actually an impoundment of Laundry Brook was suffering from siltation. Corrective work was completed in 1993 with financial assistance from the Section 314 Clean Lakes Program. It is a valued visual extension of the Olmsted Ponds on the City Hall site which were also improved and plays an important role in flood control upstream of Laundry Brook.

The remainder of Newton's water bodies, although small, contribute to wildlife habitat, open space, and to Newton's visual quality. Most of these ponds receive sporadic pollution from street drainage, overfertilization from lawns and golf course fairways, and naturally occurring organic

matter. Newton needs to develop a plan to insure the water quality of these ponds in order to maintain the quality of wildlife habitat, and the visual quality of these natural resources.

## **6. Rivers, Brooks and Streams**

Newton's brooks and streams have been substantially altered from a natural state by culverting, channelization, filling and impoundment. These alterations, accompanying urbanization, have created both beneficial and detrimental impacts on Newton's environment.

Alterations have resulted in a lower water table, increased runoff and a reduction of the capacity of brooks and streams to alleviate flooding and to disperse waterborne pollutants.

Although the period in Newton's history of large scale culverting and alteration of water courses has passed, there remains a need to prevent further pollution, and to restore and maintain the natural setting of the City's remaining open brooks and streams through acquisition, easements, education of property owners, Conservation Commission vigilance and adequate City maintenance.

In 1996, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts established the River Protection Act, providing for the protection of river and adjacent bank areas. Priorities of the act are: (1) to protect the private or public water supply; (2) to protect the groundwater; (3) to provide flood control; (4) to prevent storm damage; (5) to prevent pollution; (6) to protect riverbanks containing shellfish; (7) to protect associated wildlife habitat; and (8) to protect related fisheries. The act prohibits development within 200 feet of a flowing river unless the developer can prove to the local conservation commission that a proposed project would have no significant impact on the river. The act has provided additional protection to the 12.3 miles of riverfront in Newton, giving significant status to the unique role rivers play in wetland ecosystems.

## **7. Wetlands and Floodplains**

Newton's Floodplain/Watershed Protection Ordinance Section 22-22 protects 19 major wetland areas from alteration by filling, dredging, building or dumping. The City has also accepted permanent restrictions on 22 wetland areas pursuant to the state's Inland Wetland Restriction Act, G. L., Ch. 131 s. 40A. Protection of wetlands has long been a priority within Newton. Currently, eleven wetland areas are all in or nearly all in public ownership. Two wetlands, Winchester and Nahanton are subject to permanent Conservation Restrictions as well as to the Inland Wetland Sec. 131/40A restrictions.

Wetlands provide water storage capacity, which enables them to serve as floodwater storage basins and thereby reduce flooding and erosion. Wetlands also supply water to streams during periods of low flow, and help control sedimentation and pollution by trapping organic and inorganic sediments from street runoff. In addition to improving water quality and reducing flood hazards, wetlands provide excellent wildlife habitat, a resource interest which was included in the State's Wetlands Protection Act, G. L. Ch. 131.

The floodplain in Newton is defined by Section 22-22 of the City's Revised ordinances as that area affected by the 100 year flood elevation. Newton's Floodplain Protection ordinance prohibits construction, dumping, or filling which will restrict floodwater flow or reduce

floodwater storage capacity. The ordinance prevents new construction in this hazardous area unless the work can be done without reduction of existing flood storage capacity and can be done in conformity with the Wetlands Protection Act (G. L. Ch. 131, S.40) and Wetlands Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) performance standards for bordering and isolated lands subject to flooding. The ordinance does not apply to the structures existing within the floodplain unless additions or other footprint alterations are proposed. Newton participates in the National Flood Insurance Program administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## **8. Aquifers**

Newton's aquifers are a potential supplemental water supply and are a primary source of water for the Charles River during low flow periods. The major aquifers in Newton are areas with induced infiltration flow of greater than 50 gallons per minute. These aquifers are located along the Charles River at Auburndale, Martin Memorial Golf Course, Quinobequin Road, Newton Upper Falls, and Wells Avenue. The Martin Memorial Golf Course, Quinobequin Road, and Wells Avenue aquifers are adequately protected by public ownership and floodplain and wetlands ordinances. The Auburndale aquifer is partially protected by public ownership and floodplain and wetlands ordinances, while the remainder of the aquifer is overlaid by single and two-family dwellings and the Marriott Hotel, which has a large impervious parking lot.

The City's acquisition of Norumbega Park helped to offset the Marriott's development on this aquifer. To further supplement the protection of this aquifer, it is recommended that the City pursue conservation restriction on the estate at 122 Islington Road, abutting Norumbega Park, to Islington/Kingswood peninsula.

In Newton Highlands an aquifer underlying the Charles River Country Club Golf Course, and portions of Nahanton Park function to protect the aquifer bordering this reach of the Charles River. In the future, at least a ten acre portion of the golf course in the environs of Winchester Street and the river needs to be protected from development by a conservation restriction or by dedication in the event that cluster or planned development takes place on this portion of the Club's property.

A detailed analysis of the potential impact of existing or future development of areas of groundwater and recharge areas should be done as part of any supplemental water supply and water quality improvement plan for the City.

## **9. Vegetative Types**

Newton is in the southern edge of the transition zone between the northern hardwood association and the oak-hickory association, with oaks being the dominant species. Occasionally, stands dominated by a species other than oak are found, as in the beech groves in the Webster Conservation Area and Waban Ridge, the hemlock groves in Hemlock Gorge, Norumbega Park and in the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation and in the white pine remnants in Newton Cemetery and the Pine Ridge in Waban. The lower wet areas of the City are characterized by Red Maple, American Elm and Swamp White Oak.



Newton contains approximately 1,200 acres of forested land, predominated by hardwood stands. About 330 acres are mixed hardwood/conifer stands, and 29 acres are predominantly coniferous forest. The forest land within Newton has decreased by over 20% in the last 25 years.

Open land in Newton, including tilled land, unused tillable land, and abandoned fields, has decreased by over 80% in the last 30 years. There is a need to protect open land in Newton, especially fields which are excellent wildlife habitat and provide excellent passive recreational opportunities.

Newton contains approximately 320 acres of wetland vegetation types, which are defined as Wooded Swamp, Shrub Swamp, Shallow Marsh, Seasonal Flood Basin, and Deep Marsh. Approximately 77 acres of wetland are within the boundaries of protected open space. A portion of Newton's wetland area is protected by public ownership while nearly all of the wetlands are protected by the Inland Wetlands Restriction Act and the City's Floodplain and Watershed Protection ordinance. Alterations bordering on wetlands are regulated under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Newton's immediate needs are for continuation of the program to protect the variety of wildlife habitats, vegetation types, and limited open field resources. Long range needs are for continued implementation of the Conservation Commission's plan for purchase or permanent restoration of the varied forest types within Newton and for continued vigilance against any diversion of City and State-owned lands for inconsistent uses.

## **10. Geologic Features**

Newton's bedrock is comprised of Roxbury Conglomerate, Sandstone, Cambridge Argillite or Slate, and Brighton Volcanics, overlaid by surficial deposits of sand, gravel till and alluvial soils. Where bedrock is exposed at the surface, the term "outcrop" is used. Outcrops are valuable educational and aesthetic resources. Many significant bedrock formations are already in public ownership, i.e., Hemlock Gorge (Roxbury Conglomerate), Gooch's Caves, Webster Conservation Area (Roxbury Conglomerate), and Brighton Volcanics outcrop with glacial scratches at the former Claflin School.

The City should consider acquiring or otherwise protecting the following outcrops: (1) the Brighton Volcanics outcrop in the form of two steep cliffs in the Horst estate between Dudley and Brandeis Roads, abutting the Newton South High School property, and (2) the Cambridge Slate outcrop near Colby and Centre Streets on the Boston College Law School Campus. Completion of the Conservation Commission's land acquisition plan and adherence to the intent of the scenic roads statute as applied to date in Newton will assure protection of outstanding examples of Newton's four main bedrock types. Outstanding examples of surficial deposits should also be protected, as they too represent aesthetic and educational resources, and are the basis of Newton's diversified topography, vegetative types, and wildlife habitats. The City should seek to protect the following surficial deposits: (1) the Auburndale Esker at the Woodland Golf Course, and (2) the Moffat Hill Drumlin in Brae Burn Golf Course.

## **11. Aesthetic Resources**

Newton's varied topography, vegetation, and settlement patterns have combined to produce within the City a number of unique aesthetic elements such as hilltop vistas, scenic roads, and tree-lined streets. The following needs should be considered if Newton is to retain these aesthetic resources which are integral to the City's character.

- Maintain and enhance hilltop and other scenic vistas by their identification and mapping.
- Maintain present rights of access to scenic locations and implement development controls which will secure and enhance additional scenic vistas in Newton.
- Identify and maintain major visual corridors. Examples of such corridors are Commonwealth Avenue and the Nahanton Street/Country Club Brook Valley. The approval of the Nahanton Woods site plan with a conservation restriction applied to the Nahanton Street frontage and its adjoining wetland is a significant step toward protection of this magnificent valley vista. This land use policy has been applied to the Lacy Estate, the Gosman Campus and Nahanton Park. The policy should be applied to the Angino Farm and the Charles River Country Club as well. Additional east/west corridors which warrant identification and monitoring of their streetscape qualities are Watertown Street, the Washington Street Railroad/Massachusetts Turnpike Corridor, Beacon Street, and Boylston Street.
- Enforce the Scenic Roads Ordinance.
- Provide funding for improved maintenance of outdoor public areas, appropriate to the purposes for which such areas were acquired.
- Develop special site planning standards/reviews for development or redevelopment within designated visual corridors.
- Update and Implement the 1990 Master Plan for the Newton Burying Grounds.

## **12. Agricultural Resources**

Although at one time Newton's major land use was agriculture, today there is only one small working farm of 2.26 acres left in the City. The City should encourage either continued agricultural use of the Angino Farm or limit future development to the northeast sides of the property while preserving the former planting field as a landscaped area under permanent conservation restriction as part of the Nahanton Street corridor.

### ***B. Summary of Community's Needs***

Major issues which must be considered in meeting community needs for recreational open space and conservation open space are the types of facilities needed both by the general population and by special groups (i.e., youth, people with disabilities, elderly,) and the location of facilities relative to neighborhood and City-wide accessibility. Additional issues include attention to

successful integration of passive recreation and conservation uses and sensitivity to protection of important natural resources.

Particular needs for recreation within Newton can be identified for three sub-groups of the City's population: the young, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Youth Recreation Needs. Until recently, the goal of City recreational policy has been to maintain existing playgrounds, playfields, and tot lots, reflecting a relatively stable demand for youth recreation. This has begun to change with increasing demand for recreational opportunities for youth, especially in the area of sports programs for girls. The City should be ready to stay ahead of this trend, with greater availability of facilities for youths.

Recreation Needs of Seniors and People with Disabilities. The City provides a variety of recreational programs for its elderly. Unmet needs exist in the provision of informal recreational opportunities for the elderly, such as walks and sitting places, and the removal of barriers which restrict access to recreation facilities, including fishing sites.

The City should insure that all public recreational facilities are accessible to those who have mobility limitations and should seek to provide additional passive recreation facilities responsive to the specific needs of the elderly and people with disabilities.

Recreation needs can be grouped into two basic categories; 1) active recreation, and 2) passive recreation. Active recreation is characterized by structured activities of varying intensity which involve the manipulation or alteration of the natural environment. Passive recreation is characterized by less structured, less intense activities which have a benign or beneficial impact on the natural environment.

## **1. Active Recreation**

There is currently a disparate distribution of active recreational facilities within Newton. In general, given the distribution of the City's population and of its active recreational open space, there is a need for additional facilities and improvements to existing facilities in the more densely populated northern sector of Newton. In addition, there is a City-wide need for enhancing linkages among existing and future recreational areas.

In addition to those needs identified by the 1995 Plan which have not been addressed, the following active recreation needs have been identified. They result from changing local conditions and improved knowledge of recreational needs, such as the significant increase in women's and girls' sports and the increased demand for field space.

### Summary of Active Recreation Needs

#### Acquisition

- Reclassification of the former Pine Street Landfill from the Department of Public Works to the Parks & Recreation Department and acquisition of Apodemi land bisecting the overall site, subject to review of potential environmental concerns.

- Identify and acquire suitable vacant parcels as they become available for use as vest pocket parks in densely populated neighborhoods.

## Facility Development and Improvement

### Parks

- Complete Master Plan for Cold Spring Park and complete pathway system and general improvements.
- Install special facilities designed for people with disabilities in neighborhood parks and playgrounds where feasible.

### Playgrounds/Playfields

- Implement Forte Park Phase II Improvements. (EOEA and CPA funds recently approved)
- Reconstruct playfields throughout the City.
- Develop playground/playfield facilities at old City landfill on Pine Street, pending environmental review.

### General

- Where appropriate, develop master plans for the coordinated improvement of parks and other facilities.
- Establish a program for the regular maintenance and improvement of over-utilized and under-utilized recreational facilities.
- Assure that all recreation facilities are designed or modified to be accessible to those who have mobility limitations.
- Ensure the safety of all playground equipment, following the recommendations of the Playground Safety Committee.
- Explore to the extent possible appropriate methods to protect the large open spaces remaining in the City, including the privately owned golf courses. Such options include, but are not limited to acquisition in fee, acquisition of public easements, establishment of new zoning classifications and/or the establishment of regulations for development of such areas.

## 2. Passive Use Recreation

The demand for many types of passive, unstructured recreation has shown a marked increase in recent years. The State Comprehensive Open Space Plan (SCORP) has identified bicycling and nature walking as the two most popular recreation activities in the Commonwealth, and these are common uses of Newton recreation land, along with jogging and cross-country skiing. Interest in historic burying grounds has grown since the last Open Space Plan. Restoration and public access to all three burying grounds would provide and add to the diversity of passive recreational amenities in Newton Corner, the Highlands and West Newton.

In Newton, the development of facilities for passive use recreation has been, until recently, secondary to that for active facilities. Fortunately, however, land acquired and/or unutilized for other purposes frequently may be used for passive recreation. For example, conservation lands and golf courses may be used for cross-country skiing, and the Commonwealth Avenue median is intensively used for jogging.

### Summary of Passive Use Recreation Needs

#### Land Acquisition (fee simple, easement, conservation restriction or other mechanism)

- Angino Farm when the property becomes available subject to agreement with the owner.
- Identify and acquire fee title or easements for parcels as a part of the Cheesecake Brook pathway system as available.
- MDC acquisition of remaining land necessary for Charles River pathway.
- City acquisition of Aqueduct/Loop Pathways and accessory uses.
- Acquisition of sufficient land adjacent to the Charles River to assure public access.
- Identify and acquire suitable vacant parcels as they become available for use as vest pocket parks in densely populated neighborhoods.

#### Facility Development and Improvement

##### Park

- Nahanton Park – Complete Phase II development of accessible pathway system.

##### Playfield and Playground

- Provide, where appropriate, passive recreational uses such as picnic and sitting areas within playfields and playgrounds.
- Provide additional outdoor swimming facilities when appropriate, including encouragement of MDC to work toward the goal of a swimmable Charles River.

### Pathway

- Enhance the use of Commonwealth Avenue for jogging and bicycling.
- Develop a City-wide bike path system including maps, route and land markings, signage, and improved road surfaces. Provide linkage of bike paths with recreational facilities and the East Coast Bicycle Trail. Bicycles are not permitted in Conservation Commission lands.
- Maintain existing paths and nature trails in park and conservation areas and develop and maintain new sections of the Charles River Pathway and new sections of the Aqueduct paths.

### Community Gardens

- Develop where feasible community garden facilities on unused City or tax-title lots in the central and northern sections of the City.

### **3. Conservation**

The Conservation Commission's 267 acres of land is devoted to passive use and wildlife preservation areas and include a historic garden, open fields, wetlands and stunning river views. All areas open to the public are heavily used and require emphasis on appropriate management. In addition, a range of continuing and new needs require attention as follows:

#### Land Acquisition (fee simple, easement, conservation restriction, other mechanisms etc.)

- Need to identify/obtain sites for passive/conservation use in areas of the City which are under-served.
- Need to continue working with City agencies and advocacy groups to identify and secure suitable sites for preservation and pathways throughout the City.
- Need to continue working with the Conservation Commission in cooperative efforts with Brookline, Waltham, and the MDC on linking open space.

## Facility Development and Improvement

- Need to continue plans currently underway to improve entry signage, pedestrian and parking access, educational signage, pathway surfaces and site furnishings at the sites open to the public for passive use.
- Need to continue improving maintenance practices as needed to suit natural areas consistent with ongoing wildlife habitat evaluations.
- Need to continue working with the Conservation Commission on making sites accessible to the disabled whenever possible, while taking into consideration the physical characteristics and environmental sensitivity of natural sites.
- Need to construct accessible pathway at Houghton Garden.
- Need to construct accessible pathway at Dolan Pond Conservation Area.
- Need to plan management of large Flowed Meadow area recently transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Conservation Commission. Transfer provides opportunities to facilitate completion of the Charles River pathway system, enhance linkages, and protect wildlife habitat.
- Need to plan management of large wooded flood plain behind Wells Ave. office park adjacent to the Charles River recently transferred from the Department of Public Works to the Conservation Commission. Transfer provides opportunities to facilitate completion of the Charles River pathway system, enhance linkages, and protect wildlife habitat.

## **4. Context of Regional and State-Wide Needs**

Newton's role in the State and Metropolitan region is unique. It forms the transition between the heavily urbanized core of Boston, Brookline, Waltham and Watertown on its north and east sides and the western suburbs of Weston, Wellesley, and Needham.

As identified in the State Comprehensive Open Space Plan (SCORP), and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's Open Space Plan, the City's major resource of State and regional significance is the Charles River and its associated park and conservation lands. In order to utilize this resource more fully, the City has established, and is in the process of implementing, its "Charles River Pathway Plan" in cooperation with the Metropolitan District Commission and the neighboring towns which border the Charles.

Other areas of State and Regional recreational importance are:

- The Hammond Pond Reservations (MDC) and the adjacent Webster Conservation Area (City),
- The Charles-to-Charles Corridor System - in cooperation with Boston and Brookline,



- The East Coast Bicycle Trail - a Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service/Department of the Interior sponsored on-street bicycle trail from Virginia to Boston,
- The link between Newton's Kennard Conservation area, Kennard Park, the MDC Lost Pond Reservation and the Conservation Commission land in Brookline, and
- The link between Newton's Auburndale Park and the MDC Forest Grove area in Waltham.

Newton needs to continue supporting regional and state efforts toward water and resource conservation and pollution abatement, and maintain and enhance cooperation with adjacent communities of Boston, Brookline, Needham, Wellesley, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown. It is also noted that Newton is a member of the Inner Core Committee (ICC), one of eight MAPC sub-regions. The ICC provides an important forum for member communities to discuss common interests, including regional open space issues and opportunities.

### ***C. Management Needs; Potential Change of Use***

#### **1. Management Needs**

The following local management related needs have been identified to help achieve a range of recreation and open space purposes:

- Enforce existing conservation legislation and ordinances
- Establish a task force to review Newton's Cluster Zoning guidelines in addition to traditional subdivisions
- Encourage where feasible, the use of tax incentives as allowed under the Conservation and Preservation Restriction Act and under the Classification and Taxation of Recreational Land Act
- Identify and map major upland vegetation types on the City's aerial photographic atlas
- Continue the development of a series of field guides, tree guides, and nature guides for use in the City's Conservation Areas
- Support the State Department of Environmental Management Program for Lake Management and encourage inclusion of Hammond Pond in the Program
- Develop special site planning standards/reviews for development or redevelopment within designated scenic corridors

- Encourage multiple use consistent with the capabilities of land and water resources
- Develop open space protection guidelines to assure that the development of large open space parcels will be compatible with the City's open space needs.

## **2. Potential Change of Use**

As a mature and well-developed city, Newton has limited opportunities for new major development or major changes of use. However, it is important to note that a number of large parcels currently exist in private ownership which are primarily vacant and have potential for future development. These include three golf courses, two schools and utility-owned land.

These large parcels, containing over 20 acres each, are further analyzed in this open space plan in *Appendix A*. As noted in Section 6B. Statement of Recreation and Open Space Goals, the City seeks to explore to the maximum extent feasible the appropriate courses of action necessary to protect and preserve the large open spaces remaining in the City, including the golf courses, and other significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities. Subject to limited resources, if feasible, actions may potentially include the protection of all or portions of the City's three remaining golf courses and the acquisition of at least a portion of the N-Star (former Boston Edison) land, also known as Kessler Woods.

## **Section 8: Goals, Policies, and Objectives**

Newton's community vision and goals for open space were described at length within Section 6. Community Vision, above. The policies and objectives discussed below help to further define a path to the realization of these goals.

Newton's recreation and open space policies seek to establish criteria for decision making and strategy implementation which will assure the achievement of open space goals. Policies address the natural environment, recreation, open space, management, and the coordination of open space policies with the goals and policies of other elements of the Newton Comprehensive Plan. Although the policies have been developed in response to goals, there is not in all cases a direct one-to-one relationship between open space goals and open space policies. Policy statements directly associated with goals are followed by a series of objectives. The more general policies with broader intent are listed separately.

Major concerns addressed by the goals include the provision of an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of conservation and recreation land and the integration of conservation and recreation uses wherever possible. The overall purpose of these open space policies is to ensure a balanced open space system and to reconcile this system with the need for affordable housing and economic development.

Newton's natural resources have not always enjoyed the degree of protection which they now have. When land in a relatively natural state was plentiful and population was sparse, great understanding of the way natural systems work was unnecessary since disturbances caused by man, though often permanent, had little impact beyond the immediate area affected. As open land diminished, the cumulative effects of development upon the environment led to an increased awareness of the importance of protecting at least some kinds of open land, such as wetlands and flood plains. While many of these sensitive areas have been identified and protected through state and city legislation, those that remain need to be identified and priorities established for their preservation. Today an increased understanding of the interrelationships found in ecosystems, the importance of biodiversity, and a better appreciation of the habitats within our City lead us to consider open space concerns in a broader and more holistic context.

**GOAL #1: To recognize, preserve, and maintain the City's important natural assets and resources.**

**POLICY: ENSURE THE PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE CITY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT.**

**OBJECTIVES: - PROTECT:**

- The Charles River and the City's streams, brooks, ponds and their banks.
- Biodiversity of natural flora and fauna, especially large green-spaces.

- Aquifers and groundwater recharge areas.
- Wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas, such as vernal pools.
- Unique natural features, such as drumlins, bedrock outcrops and woodlands, and unique vegetation and habitats.
- Land with scenic character.
- Newton's regionally significant natural resources and open space.
- Land containing trees of historic or special character, either because of their size, age or species.
- Land that affords vistas and panoramic views.

**GOAL #2: To ensure an adequate amount, variety, and distribution of open space for both biodiversity and public benefit.**

**POLICY: ENSURE A VARIETY AND DISTRIBUTION OF OPEN SPACE**

**OBJECTIVES: - PROVIDE:**

- Active and passive recreation at convenient locations throughout the City, as reflected by standards created to determine adequacy of green space for each neighborhood.
- Linkage between open spaces, where appropriate and continue linkages along the Sudbury and Cochituate Aqueducts where feasible.
- Opportunities and access for "special needs" groups, such as seniors, and people with disabilities.
- A sufficient amount of open space to fulfill the needs of residents on City-wide, village and neighborhood levels.
- Neighborhood vest pocket parks in high density areas.
- Additional recreation facilities, particularly playing fields.
- Strategic enlargement of selected conservation areas to provide greater wildlife habitat and biodiversity of species.

**GOAL #3: To integrate compatible recreation and conservation uses.**

**POLICY: ENSURE THAT FACILITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS CONSIDERS MULTIPLE COMPATIBLE USES TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE**

**OBJECTIVES: - ACCOMMODATE:**

- Growing demand for passive recreation interests and activities.
- Shared use of land for appropriate types of active/passive recreation activities in suitable areas.
- Green-space linkage between recreation and conservation areas.
- Cooperative arrangements for multiple recreation/conservation uses with owners of private lands.

**GOAL #4: To explore to the maximum extent feasible the appropriate courses of action necessary to protect and preserve large open spaces remaining in the City, including the golf courses and other significant parcels owned by institutions and private entities.**

**POLICY: PURSUE DEVELOPMENT OF MECHANISMS SUITABLE FOR PROTECTION OF LARGE PARCELS**

**OBJECTIVES: - INVESTIGATE:**

- Use of local betterment assessments.
- Use of conservation restrictions, deed restrictions, and scenic easements.
- Use of zoning mechanisms.
- Use of tax incentives.
- Use of cooperative agreements with property owners and non-profit conservation entities.
- Use of procedures linking land development with open space plan considerations as part of permitting process.
- Mechanisms successfully utilized in other jurisdictions to help protect large parcels.

In addition, the City believes it is important to articulate the following general policies:

**POLICY: OVERSEE COORDINATION OF ALL OPEN SPACE STRATEGIES AND POLICIES ENSURING THAT THEY:**

- Are consistent with the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Are supportive of energy conservation and greater efficiency in energy use.
- Are procedurally linked with land development procedures to ensure developers are required to address open space plan considerations as part of the permitting process.

**POLICY: ENSURE THAT NEWTON'S OPEN SPACES ARE ADEQUATELY ADMINISTERED, APPROPRIATELY ASSIGNED, AND MAINTAINED THROUGH:**

- Emphasizing the need for sufficient funding to adequately maintain parks, playgrounds and conservation areas.
- Review of lands to facilitate jurisdictional assignments that are most effective for control and maintenance by DPW, Parks and Recreation, and the School Department, respectively.
- Review of naming and signing procedures to better identify open spaces.

## **Section 9: Five Year Action Plan**

The purpose of this section is to establish an action program addressing Newton's recreation and open space needs within the context of the City's stated goals, policies, and objectives for open space.

Major issues identified in Section 7., Analysis of Needs which must be addressed are the continuation of the City's program to preserve and enhance its natural resources and open space land, the equitable distribution of public land and facilities, the assured accessibility of all public open space to all the City's residents including persons with disabilities, and the integration of different types of compatible open space uses.

Implementation of the action program does not end with a five year plan. The City's ongoing Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Community Development Program, and Land Use and Economic Development planning process, linked with the action program, provide a comprehensive, coordinated mechanism for meeting open space needs.

Newton's Capital Improvement Program provides a listing of all proposed capital improvements in excess of \$10,000 for a five year period, together with cost estimates, methods of financing, recommended time schedules, and estimated annual operating and maintenance costs. The most recent Capital Improvement Program (FY03-07) scheduled improvements for a variety of public facilities, including parks, playfields, streets, sanitary sewers, and storm drains. As the Capital Improvement Program includes only those physical improvements which represent an aggregate expenditure in excess of \$10,000, not all open space needs can be addressed by the Capital Improvement Program. Various other open space needs may be addressed by a combination of approaches including effective utilization of the City's Land Use planning process, Newton's Community Development Block Grant Program, and such other resources and mechanisms as discussed in this Plan.

As previously noted, this Plan Update will be further refined as the current Newton Comprehensive Plan effort continues to be articulated. When incorporated as the Recreation and Open Space element of the Newton Comprehensive Plan, it will facilitate the preservation and enhancement of the City's natural environment through coordinated and comprehensive city action. The Plan Update provides specific implementation recommendations for a variety of City policies, ordinances, and procedures which affect open space.

Newton's Community Development Block Grant Program (Community Development Program) provides Community Development Block Grant funds for a variety of small scale active and passive recreation facilities and improvements within designated target areas. The Community Development Program also assists with accessibility improvements in priority locations within the City. Characteristic of the Community Development Program is a high level of active citizen involvement in decision-making and the targeting of expenditures within neighborhoods which have been identified as having the greatest need for housing rehabilitation, for enhancement and revitalization of their social and economic environments, and which contain concentrations of low and moderate income persons.

There are a variety of techniques which can be applied to implement Action Plan recommendations. As each parcel of open space land or facility is to some extent unique, the proper tool or combination of tools to be used in any specific situation is also unique and may not involve outright purchase of land at all. Open space can be protected from development in part through wetland and floodplain restrictions. Additional open space might also be protected through creative tax policies or through acquisition of less than full title, rights of way, and scenic or conservation easements. All of these allow the owner of private property the continued use of land, while also serving the public's interests. Acquisition may occur by purchase, gift, or dedication.

The need for development can be accommodated while reserving open space through such zoning techniques as planned unit development, cluster development, Ordinance #30, contract zoning and through site plan approval of townhouse and residential construction which reserves open space in exchange for increased dwelling unit density.

Key considerations which help guide open space acquisition involve evaluating each open space parcel on the basis of criteria including but not limited to unique scenic and environmental features, recreational potential, proximity to population concentrations, the extent of existing development pressure, and the short and long term costs to the City.

The Action Program focuses upon:

- (1) Protection of the public's interests in the supply, quality and availability of land and water resources in Newton,
- (2) The appropriate use or improvement of open space lands and facilities and
- (3) The management of open space resources.

### **Conservation Action Program**

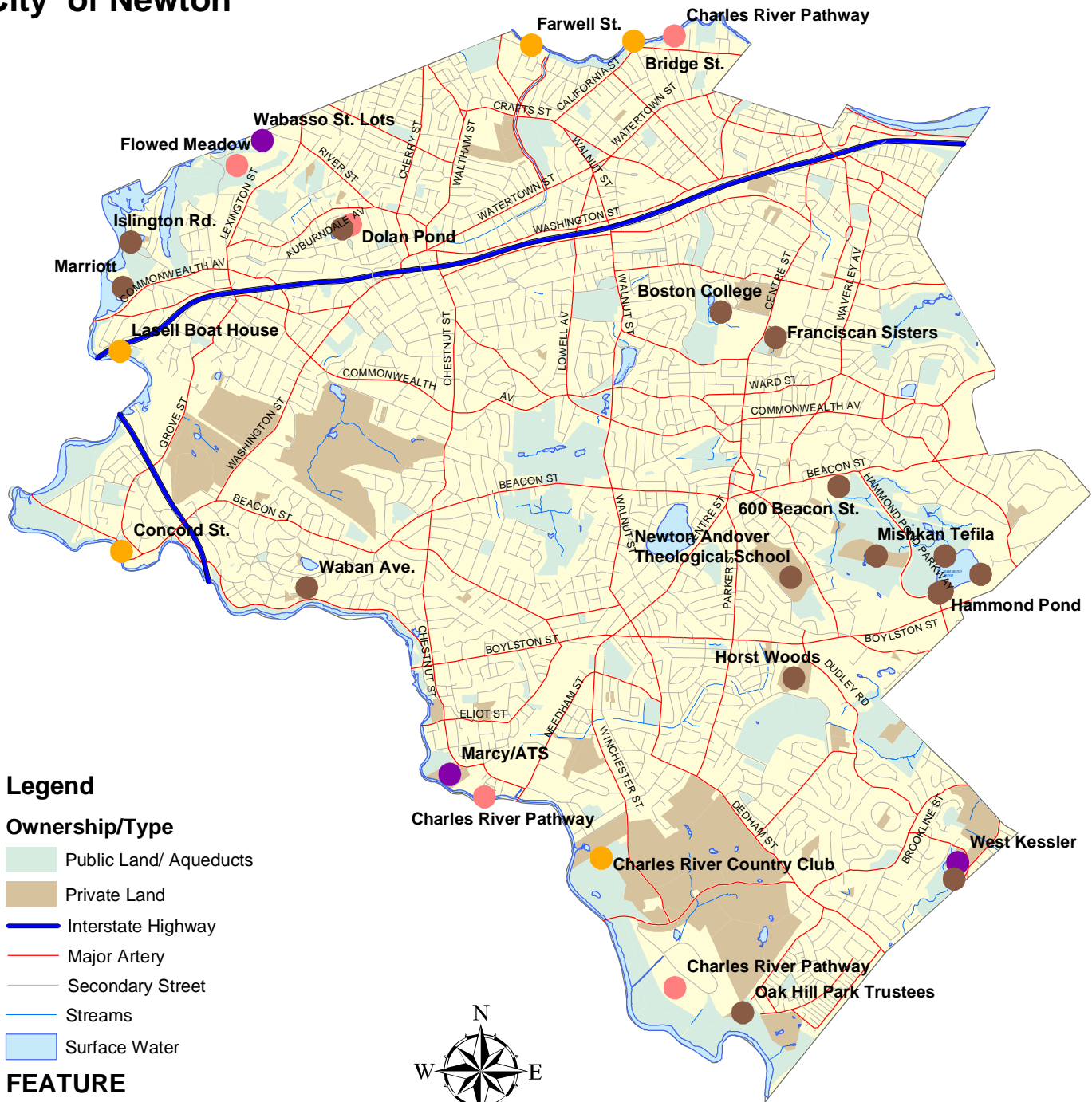
Newton's conservation goals and policies reflect awareness of the important role that open space plays in natural systems and in the built environment. Witness to this awareness are the City's actions during the past three decades with respect to the 1969 Newton Recreation/Open Space Plan, as supplemented by the 1973 Conservation Commission Plan, the 1973 Recreation Commission Plan, and the 1975 Charles River Pathway Plan, and the 1981, 1988 and 1995 Open Space Plans.

Issues which are being addressed by a continuation of the City's conservation action program are the protection of selected remaining unprotected, environmentally sensitive areas of both local and regional significance; the identification and protection of land of special conservation and/or educational interest, such as a distinctive bedrock outcrop or an area of unique vegetation; the identification and protection of land with special scenic, aesthetic, buffer, or connecting corridor value, the balancing of conservation and development needs; and the integration of conservation and passive recreation uses of open land where possible (see "Conservation Plan" map).



# Conservation Plan

## City of Newton



### Legend

#### Ownership/Type

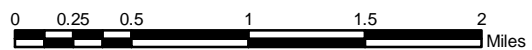
- Public Land/ Aqueducts
- Private Land
- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Secondary Street
- Streams
- Surface Water

#### FEATURE

- Acquisition
- Conservation Restriction
- Easement
- Improvement
- Transfer



**SOURCES:**  
 Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



**MAP DATE: February 27, 2003**

**The Conservation Action Program addresses:**

- (1) A clearly delineated governmental policy to further and protect the public's interest in the supply and location of land and water resources in Newton. Such resources may be acquired for public ownership, or as hereinafter listed in this Plan may remain in private ownership and management, but have their public benefits assured in perpetuity by the recording of Conservation Restrictions on such land and water resources pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 184, Sections 31-33 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Conservation Restriction Act;
- (2) Improvements to enhance land and water resources; and
- (3) Management and maintenance of land and water resources.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

<b>CONSERVATION OF LAND AND WATER RESOURCES</b>						
	<b>MAP CODE</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>				
	<i>INDEX NO.</i>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b><i>Acquisition by City of Newton by gift or purchase:</i></b>						
Acquisition of West Kessler Woods (“Edison Land”- now owned by N-Star) 9.20 acres bordering on Saw Mill Brook if funds become available, or by negotiation of a Conservation Restriction	58	X	X			
Acquire three remaining lots on Wabasso Street and Forest Grove abutting the Charles River access and pathway when offered for sale	Near 219	X	X	X	X	X
<b><i>Acquisition by City of Newton by gift, purchase or negotiation of a Conservation Restriction in perpetuity on the following whole or less-than-whole parcels:</i></b>						
122 Islington Road - CR to protect steep, wooded, gravel aquifer bordering on Charles River	210	X	X			
Missionary of Franciscan Sisters / Mt. Alvernia High School Property – CR on wooded portion bordering on Edmands Brook	82		X	X		
Temple Mishkan Tefila Woods - CR on whole parcel	83		X	X		
Boston College Law School – Newton Campus – CR to protect small, but rare in Newton, Cambridge Slate outcrop south of Colby Road	80			X	X	

Hammond Pond – CR to assure permanent public access to Pond across commercially-zoned, privately-owned, parking lot abutting Hammond Pond MDC Reservation. (Temporary access assured by July 17, 1979 Memorandum of Agreement has expired)	Adj to 178	X	X			
Hammond Pond – CR on vegetated edge of the commercially zoned, south side of the Pond	Adj to 178		X	X		
Hammond Pond – CR on privately owned residential wooded swamp and uplands on east side of Pond off Longwood Road Section 63, Block 37, Lot 13		X				
Hammond Pond same area Section 63, Block 37, Lot 14		X				
Hammond Pond same area Section 63, Block 37, Lot 17		X				
85 Dudley Road – CR on western portion of Horst estate abutting Newton South High School property to protect Brighton Volcanic rock formations	50		X	X		
Andover-Newton Theological Seminary/The Terraces Development on Institution Hill – CR to assure easement for unobstructed view south to Blue Hills	84	X				
600 Beacon Street – CR to protect cliff with geological interest					X	
Oak Hill Park Trustees' Woods - CR to protect tree cover, bordering on Charles River floodplain	90		X	X		
Marriott Hotel – CR to protect peninsula at north end abutting Charles River.	62	X				
76 Webster Park – CR on top of hill overlooking Dolan Pond Conservation Area	3	X	X			

<b><i>Acquisition by Metropolitan District Commission by gift, by purchase, or by other negotiation of the following Charles River Pathway Easements or ownership (many of these properties are also listed for possible City easements):</i></b>						
Marcy Land – American Tower Systems portion bordering the Charles River – 0.34 acre	36	X	X			
56 Farwell Street – bordering on Charles River 2.8 acres for scenic easement or conservation easement without public access	6	X	X			
Lasell College Boathouse - land owned by MDC – verify and ensure access rights	231		X			
Charles River Country Club access or conservation easement	75		X	X		
<b><i>Conservation Facility Improvement and/or Development:</i></b>						
Continue construction of Charles River Pedestrian Pathway including Williams Street improvements and marsh crossings at Nahanton St. and Wells Ave. in cooperation with MDC	38	X	X	X	X	X
Implement a passive recreation strategy for appropriate use of Flowed Meadow, an action recommended by the Flowed Meadow Planning Group	1, 1A, 91	X				
Development of parking, boardwalks, and access for people with disabilities at Dolan Pond Conservation Area	3	X				
<b><i>Management:</i></b>						
Identify and map major upland vegetation types on the City’s aerial photographic atlas		X	X	X	X	X
Continue the development of a series of field guides, tree guides, and nature guides for use in the City’s Conservation Areas		X	X	X	X	X
Support the State Department of Environmental Management P. L. 92-500 Section 314 Program for Lake Management and encourage inclusion of Hammond Pond in the Program		X	X	X	X	X

***The following actions will continue to be ongoing priorities for land and resource conservation:***

**Facility Development and Improvement**

- Develop nature trails and other suitable education facilities in Conservation Areas.
- Develop access and signage to facilitate passive recreation activities in appropriate Conservation Areas.
- Identify, preserve and protect areas of distinctive natural features, topography, ground cover and wildlife habitat.

**Zoning and Land Use**

- Utilize zoning techniques to maximize the protection of open space.
- Utilize other zoning techniques such as contract zoning and townhouse and residential conversion provisions in the Zoning Ordinance.

**Runoff Prevention**

- Continue to improve catch basin maintenance.
- Minimize runoff from developed areas by encouraging the use of natural and permeable ground cover to absorb rainfall.

**Floodplains**

- Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program by administration of the City of Newton Floodplain/Watershed Ordinance Article II Section 22-22.
- Continue support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, Natural Valley Storage Area Project and particularly NVS Area "B" in Newton.

**Regional Cooperation**

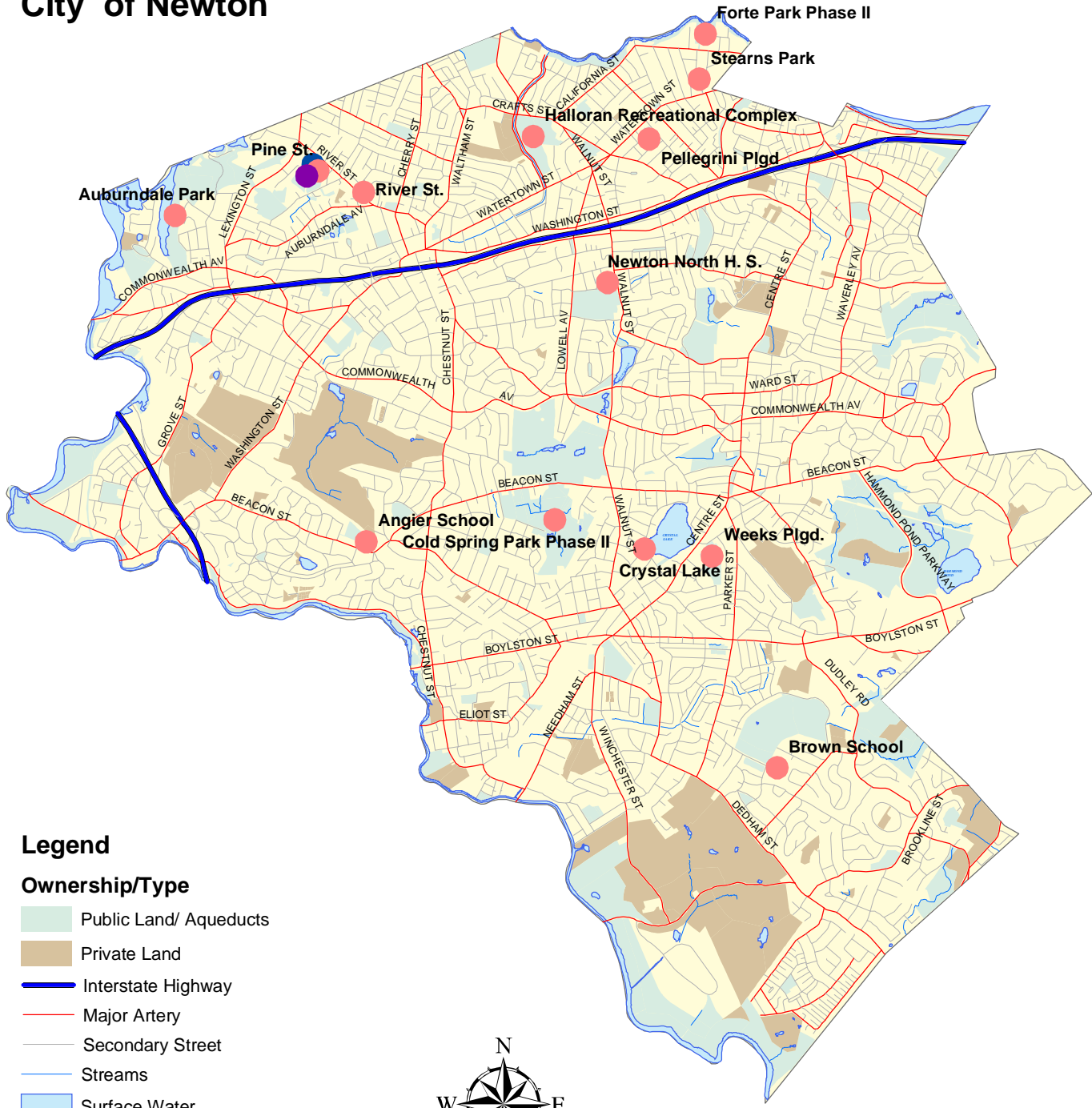
- Support regional state and associated local efforts toward water and resource conservation and pollution abatement.
- Maintain and enhance cooperation with state and adjacent communities in preservation/conservation of natural resources.

**Enforcement and Incentives**

- Enforce existing conservation legislation and ordinances.
- Encourage clustering techniques in addition to traditional subdivisions.
- Encourage where compatible with the public interest in perpetuity, the use of tax incentives as allowed under the Conservation and Preservation Restriction Act and under the Classification and Taxation of Recreational Land Act.








# Active Recreation Plan

## City of Newton







### Legend

#### Ownership/Type

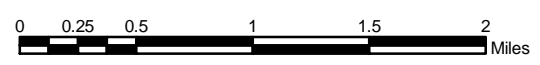
-  Public Land/ Aqueducts
-  Private Land
-  Interstate Highway
-  Major Artery
-  Secondary Street
-  Streams
-  Surface Water

#### FEATURE

-  Acquisition
-  Easement
-  Improvement
-  Transfer



**SOURCES:**  
 Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



**MAP DATE: February 27, 2003**

## Active Use Recreation Program

Goals and policies for active use recreation and an analysis of needs indicate that an action program for active use recreation should provide a level and variety of active recreational facilities which matches the needs of the City's residents, at locations which are accessible, and which are designed or modified so as to be used by those having special recreational needs, such as seniors and people with disabilities.

An active use recreation action program should seek to locate new facilities which appropriately match the distribution of the City's population. Areas of greatest population density with inadequately served facilities should receive the highest priority. The program should maximize the use of existing and new facilities by enhancing linkages between facilities and match the type of facilities provided with the continually changing needs of the City's population, reflecting, for example, the increase in the number sports programs for girls. Such changing needs suggest the necessity of improvements or expansion of certain playgrounds and playfields, while at the same time, there is a growing recognition of populations with special recreational and access needs (see "Active Recreation Plan" map).

The action program for active use recreation presents recommendations which address these needs by focusing upon: 1) the supply of active use recreational land and the need for increasing that supply or the need for changing the uses on the existing supply of land, 2) the location and type of facilities which must be provided or improved, and 3) the management techniques which must be followed to assure that needs are met in an equitable and cost efficient manner.

### ACTION PROGRAM

ACTIVE USE RECREATION						
<b>(Note that certain sites may also be listed under Passive Use Recreation)</b>						
	MAP CODE	FISCAL YEAR				
	INDEX NO.	03	04	05	06	07
<b><i>Land Acquisition:</i></b>						
Reclassify land at the former Pine Street Landfill, approximately 13 acres, from Public Works to Parks & Recreation in order to plan and develop appropriate recreation uses and facilities (subject to environmental review)	93 93A	X	X			
Acquire Apodemi Land to link two parcels of the former Pine Street landfill and enhance potential use of the overall site	2	X	X			

Identify and acquire suitable vacant parcels as they become available for use as vest pocket parks in densely populated neighborhoods		X	X	X	X	X
<b>Facility Development:</b>						
Implement Forte Park Phase II improvements (EOEA and CPA funds recently approved.)	116	X	X			
Complete Master Plan for Cold Spring Park and complete pathway system and general improve.	124	X	X	X	X	X
Develop playground/playfield facilities at former Pine Street Landfill site (subject to environmental review)	93, 93A, 2		X	X	X	X
<b>Facility Improvement:</b>						
Facilities at Stearns Park including energy efficient lighting, benches and pathways	114	X				
Improve tennis courts at Pellegrini Playground	113		X			
Repair tennis courts at Weeks Playground	146		X			
Stormwater runoff improvement and shoreline stabilization at Crystal Lake	200,223,224	X	X			
Angier playfield improvements – School Dept. Jurisdiction	120		X			
North High soccer field improvements – School Dept. Jurisdiction	143		X			
Brown Middle School baseball field improvements – School Dept. Jurisdiction	151	X	X			
River Street Playground improvements	203	X				
Halloran Recreation Complex accessibility improvements	112	X	X	X		
Bank Stabilization at Auburndale Park	109	X	X			

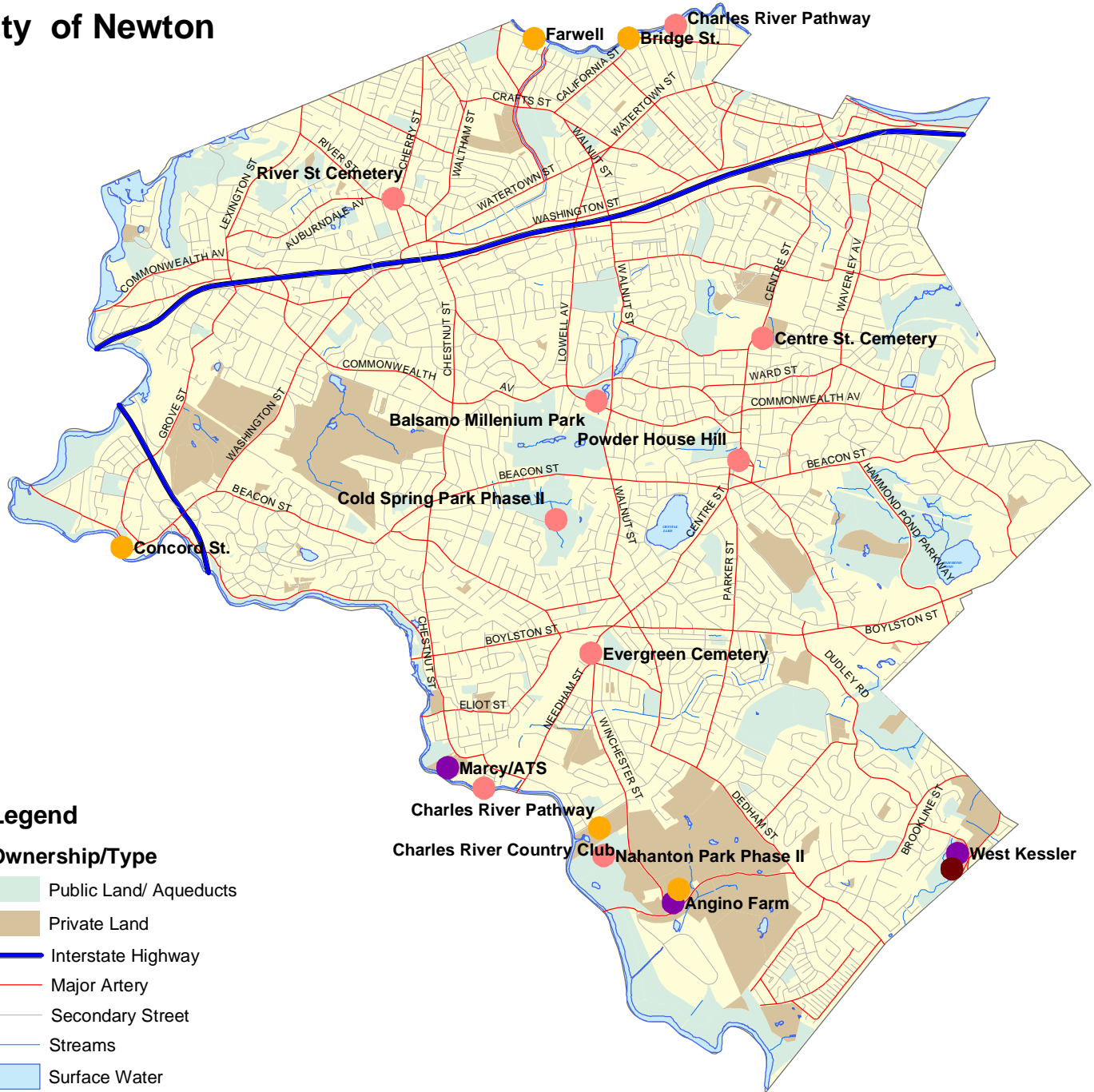
***The following actions will continue as ongoing priorities for Active Use Recreation:***

- Recreation field renovations, irrigation, and fencing throughout the City.
- Provide regular maintenance and improvements of under-utilized and over-utilized recreational facilities.
- Assure that all recreation facilities are designed or modified to be accessible to those who have mobility limitations.
- Target playground equipment and improvements to areas of greatest need.
- Investigate need for a possible skatepark facility and develop information about requirements and possible locations.



# Passive Recreation Plan

## City of Newton



### Legend

#### Ownership/Type

- Public Land/ Aqueducts
- Private Land
- Interstate Highway
- Major Artery
- Secondary Street
- Streams
- Surface Water

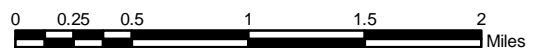
#### FEATURE

- Acquisition
- Conservation Restriction
- Easement
- Improvement
- Transfer



#### SOURCES:

Open space information compiled by the Newton Planning Department. All other map features are from the Newton Geographic Information System (GIS). Contact the GIS Administrator for further details.



MAP DATE: February 27, 2003

## Passive Use Recreation Program

The City's goals and policies for passive use recreation reflect the increasing awareness and interest within Newton and in society in general, for unstructured, environmentally sensitive, passive recreational activities. The City will continue to better assess the need for passive use recreation and to assure a balance of recreational facilities and land between active and passive recreational uses.

Issues to be addressed by an action program for passive use recreation include the multiple use of the City's passive recreational and conservation areas, where the passive use may be compatible with resource conservation; the enhancement of linkage among passive use recreational areas; the design of new recreational facilities to provide for passive as well as active use; the development of new passive use recreational areas of a type and scale which will meet a variety of passive use recreational needs, such as the Charles River Pathway which serves significant regional needs. In addition to addressing these needs, the City seeks additional, small scale passive uses such as sitting areas and nature trails which are sensitive to the specific needs of the City's elderly and accessible to people with disabilities (see "Passive Recreation Plan" map).

The following action program for passive use recreation addresses:

- 1) The supply and location of passive use recreational land,
- 2) The development of new passive use areas, and
- 3) The management of passive use recreation areas.

### ACTION PROGRAM

<b>PASSIVE USE RECREATION</b>						
<b>(Note that certain sites may also be listed under Active Use Recreation and/or Conservation Programs)</b>						
	<b>MAP CODE</b>	<b>FISCAL YEAR</b>				
	<i>INDEX NO.</i>	<b>03</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>
<b><i>Acquisition by City of Newton by gift or purchase:</i></b>						
Angino Farm 2.26 acres when the property becomes available subject to mutual agreement with the owner.	65	X	X			
Identify and acquire suitable vacant parcels as they become available for use as vest pocket parks in densely populated neighborhoods		X	X	X	X	X

<b>Reclassify, acquire fee title or acquire easements for the following parcels as part of the Charles River Pathway System:</b>						
165-199 Concord St. (river access easement)	172	X	X			
Marcy Land (American Tower Systems) - fee portion or easement along Charles River	36	X	X			
56 Farwell Street – bordering on Charles River 2.8 acres for scenic easement or conservation easement without public access	6		X	X		
Bridge Street – scenic easement	165		X	X		
Charles River Country Club access or conservation easement	75		X	X		
<b>Identify and acquire fee title or easements for parcels as a part of the Cheesecake Brook pathway system as available.</b>				X	X	X
<b>Facility Development:</b>						
Nahanton Park Phase II - Extend accessible pathway improvements	89 & 132	X				
Develop Balsamo Millenium Park at City Hall	98	X	X			
Powder House Hill Landscaping and Site Improvement			X	X		
<b>Facilities Improvements</b>						
Develop a City-wide bike path system including maps route, lane markings, signage and improved road surfaces. Provide linkage of bike paths with recreational facilities and the East Coast Bicycle Trail – DPW Jurisdiction			X	X	X	
Update and Implement the 1990 Master Plan for restoration of the City-owned burying grounds	69,94,97	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Aesthetic Character – Acquisition; Facilities Improvements</b>						
Negotiate/acquire scenic easement on appropriate portion of Angino Farm to assist preservation of Nahanton Street valley scenic corridor	65	X	X			
Remove utility poles from Commonwealth Avenue Median – DPW jurisdiction					X	X

<b><i>Aesthetic Character - Management</i></b>						
Identify and/or improve major visual corridors such as Commonwealth Avenue, the Nahanton St. Valley, Vine St.			X	X		
Develop special site planning standards/reviews for development or redevelopment within designated scenic corridors			X	X		

***The following actions will continue as ongoing priorities for Passive Use Recreation:***

Facility Development

- Provide additional opportunities for small-scale passive use recreation in conjunction with Community Development Program neighborhood improvements.
- Provide more passive use recreational opportunities such as sitting areas, walks, and specially designed nature trails for the elderly and people with disabilities.
- Promote gardening by continuing to provide community garden plots City-wide where feasible.
- Develop and implement appropriate signing program.
- Consider suitable parcels/locations for dog exercise and/or walking areas.

Management techniques for the preservation of appropriate open space:

- Enforce existing conservation legislation and ordinances.
- Enforce dog control ordinances to prevent packs and fouling of recreation spaces.
- Encourage clustering techniques rather than traditional subdivisions.
- Utilize other zoning techniques such as contract zoning and townhouse and residential conversion provisions in the Zoning Ordinance.
- Encourage where feasible the use of tax incentives as allowed under the Conservation and Preservation Restriction Act.
- Encourage multiple use consistent with the capabilities of land and water resources.

Stormwater Runoff/Floodplain Management

- Continue to improve catch basin maintenance.
- Develop and implement regular programs of outfall channel and stream inspection and maintenance.
- Minimize runoff from developed areas by encouraging the use of natural and permeable ground cover to absorb rainfall.
- Continue participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Continue support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England Division, Natural Valley Storage Area Project and particularly NVS Area "B" in Newton.
- Support regional and state efforts toward water and resource conservation and pollution abatement.

### Linkage

- Utilize acquisition to enhance connections between properties open for passive use recreation.
- Maintain existing and develop new tree paths and nature trails to facilitate public access to the Charles River Pathway, aqueduct trails and loop pathways.

### Accessibility

- Follow the recommendations and guidelines of the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and of the Parks & Recreation Accessibility Task Force to remove or modify architectural barriers which restrict access to passive recreational facilities.

### Regional Cooperation

- Maintain and enhance cooperation with adjacent communities of Boston, Brookline, Needham, Wellesley, Weston, Waltham, and Watertown regional recreational facilities.
- Work with member communities in regional organizations and agencies such as the MAPC Inner Core Committee, Metropolitan District Commission, and Charles River Watershed Association in coordinating and achieving recreation and open space use and preservation goals.

### Aesthetic Character

- Maintain and enhance hilltop and scenic vistas by their identification and mapping.
- On a case-by-case basis, secure visual or access easements or provide other development controls.
- Improve maintenance of outdoor public areas.
- Administer Scenic Roads ordinance.
- Coordinate activities of the Department of Public Works, Tree Commission, School Department, and Parks & Recreation Department to enhance the scenic character of the City by maintaining, planting and replacing trees.
- Administer Tree Ordinance.

## Section 10: Public Comments

On February 13, 2001 Mayor Cohen appointed the Open Space Plan Advisory Committee (the Committee) to guide the preparation of Newton’s open space plan effort, including the public process. Mr. James Mahoney, then chair of the Parks & Recreation Commission, was appointed to serve as chair of the Committee. The Committee is comprised of representatives from environmental and neighborhood groups including the Newton Conservators, Green Decade Coalition, and Newton Neighborhood Network; City agencies including the Board of Aldermen, Planning and Development Board, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission; regional agencies including the Metropolitan District Commission and the Mass. Water Resources Authority and owners of significant parcels of private land, such as golf courses. In addition, there are persons designated as liaison with the Newton School Department and Newton Historical Commission.

During Phase I, the Committee initially met in working sessions every 2-3 weeks to prepare the draft Update Plan with the assistance of Planning and Development Department staff. On May 14, 2001, a joint public hearing was held together with the Planning and Development Board to solicit further public comment. Following the public hearing, the Planning and Development Board voted to approve the draft update for submittal to the EOE. Multiple comments received at the public hearing as well as additional written comments were reviewed by the Committee on May 17, 2001, and integrated into the Draft Plan Update. These comments are summarized in the table below.

COMMENT	REFERENCES/ RESPONSES
<p><b><u>Ald. Gerst:</u></b> Agrees more open space is needed in the more densely populated areas of City – particularly in Newton Corner. – But no action listed in Plan to do this.</p>	<p>Goals and Action Plan discuss neighborhood open spaces &amp; vest pocket parks.</p>
<p><b><u>P. Kastner:</u></b> 1. Need to include a statement about positive communal value of open space in a democracy.</p> <p>2. Need to maintain open space; do proper signage.</p> <p>3. Vest pocket parks best approach to more densely populated areas.</p> <p>4. OS Plan should speak to open space issues only and not deal with balancing concerns with housing, etc.</p>	<p>Included in the context of goals in Vision section.</p> <p>Active Recreation Plan includes “regular maintenance” as an ongoing priority</p> <p>Goals and Action Plan discuss neighborhood open spaces &amp; vest pocket parks.</p> <p>Prior OS Plans acknowledged this important issue as does this Plan.</p>
<p><b><u>J. Moss:</u></b> Are trees integrated into OS Plan?</p>	<p>Reflected in Action Plan re: coordination of tree work among responsible public agencies; administration of tree ordinance.</p>

<p><b><u>B. Elliott:</u></b> 1. Housing irrelevant – remove.</p> <p>2. Emphasize vest pocket parks in no. part of City and include in Action Plan.</p> <p>3. Wells Ave &amp; Rumford areas are already assigned to Conservation.</p> <p>4. Put higher priority on Angino Farm and replace sites in 3 above.</p> <p>5. No mandate for making Action Plan reality – need implementation mechanism.</p>	<p>Prior OS Plans acknowledged this important issue as does this Plan.</p> <p>Goals and Action Plan discuss neighborhood open spaces &amp; vest pocket parks.</p> <p>Incorrect – but procedure is in process.</p> <p>Action Plan places high priority on Angino Farm.</p> <p>Involves multiple mechanisms including acquisitions in fee or easements, CR’s by City agencies as well as nonprofit advocacy groups. (e.g. Newton Conservators)</p>
<p><b><u>D. Dickson:</u></b> 1. Emphasize vest pocket parks in no. part of City and include in Action Plan.</p> <p>2. Raise priority of Angino Farm.</p> <p>3. Powder House Hill site in Newton Ctr. – opportunity to match MWRA funds &amp; acquire rights.</p> <p>4. Include above site in Inventory.</p> <p>5. Inventory vacant parcels (not on inventory) throughout City.</p>	<p>Goals and Action Plan discuss neighborhood open spaces &amp; vest pocket parks.</p> <p>Action Plan places high priority on Angino Farm. Also includes acquisition of scenic easement.</p> <p>Owned by MWRA – City will work with them.</p> <p>Is listed in Sudbury Aq. Inventory (11,700sf) under Tyler Terr.</p> <p>This inventory includes primarily sites over 1a and some noted sites under 1a. Additional inventory of small sites will be part of OS Phase II work.</p>
<p><b><u>DiDuca:</u></b> 1. Check &amp; include open site at corner of Washington St./Walnut Pk.</p> <p>2. Check out wooded land at rear of Jackson Homestead.</p>	<p>Lot – 14,027 SF, owned by City – included in inventory under Parks &amp; Rec.</p> <p>Developed w/school; 531,429 sf; owned by Sisters of St. Joseph. Does not have sufficient open space to be included on tax exempt land inventory.</p>
<p><b><u>S. Decter:</u></b> Ensure Edmands Pk retains passive rec. quality.</p>	<p>Current plan envisions retaining passive use &amp; “cleaning up” park.</p>

<p><b>Nonantum resident:</b> 1. Need to maintain existing park areas.</p> <p>2. Stearns Pk tennis courts are cracking – need fix; trees need attention.</p>	<p>Action Plan includes “regular maint.” as an ongoing priority.</p> <p>Action Plan anticipates pathway, lighting, and bench improvements.</p>
<p><b>Bike path group:</b> Want to add more bike-path related components and specifics.</p>	<p>Action Plan includes bike path system – defers to DPW.</p>

The Draft Plan Update was presented to the Mayor on May 22, 2001 and was submitted to EOEA with his approval on May 31, 2001 presenting the Plan Update in a format building on the City’s last prior Recreation and Open Space Plan (1995). Subsequently, the EOEA indicated that while the draft was considered substantial and qualified the City for funding, the format needed to be consistent with the *Workbook* issued by EOEA and received by the City after the initial draft Plan Update was submitted. This reformatted final Plan Update incorporates various data updates as available as well as accomplishment updates, and was reviewed and approved by the Planning and Development Board, the Conservation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Open Space Advisory Committee.

The Open Space Advisory Committee continued to further explore and follow up on themes identified in the initial and now reformatted Plan Update. These include small parcels, zoning mechanisms, aqueducts, parcels at risk, and landfill parcels with potential for reuse. Input was received from members of the Open Space Advisory Committee representing the various municipal, advocacy, neighborhood and public agencies as well as landowners. When completed by the Committee, this work will be integrated within the recreation and open space plan component of the City’s new Comprehensive Plan, currently in preparation by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.

***Letters of Review/Support – See Appendix E***

The following letters are enclosed with this Plan Update:

Newton Planning and Development Board, dated July 18, 2002

Newton Conservation Commission, dated July 31, 2002

Newton Open Space Advisory Committee, dated July 31, 2002

Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, dated August 29, 2002

Metropolitan Area Planning Council, dated November 15, 2002



## **Section 11: References**

References used in preparing this Plan include:

*A Framework for Newton's Planning*. City of Newton, Massachusetts. April 2001.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, 2001

U.S. Census Bureau (2000, 1990). Online Resource.

*Recreation and Open Space Plan*, City of Newton, Massachusetts. 1995.

The Revised Ordinances, Newton, Massachusetts. 2001. Including *The City of Newton Zoning Ordinance*, Revised 2002, and *The City of Newton Tree Ordinance*.

*The Geology of Newton*. James W. Skehan, S.J. and Catherine W. Barton, Department of Geology and Geophysics and Boston College Environmental Center, Chestnut Hill, MA. Newton Conservators, Inc., 1973.

*Building Vibrant Communities: Linking Housing, Economic Development, Transportation, and the Environment*. Department of Housing and Community Development, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, and the Department of Economic Development. September 2000.

## Appendix A: Large Parcel Analysis

Large Parcels are defined and analyzed in this open space plan as parcels that are in private ownership, primarily vacant and contain 20 acres of open area or greater.

The 6 remaining privately owned large parcels of open space account for 649.66 acres or 62% of the 1,044 acres of remaining privately owned open space. The size of the 6 parcels (all over 20 acres), underscores their importance as open space resources. The parcels are listed below by map code reference number, approximate acreage, and the Real Estate Section in which they are located.

<b>LARGE PRIVATELY OWNED PARCELS</b>			
<b>Map Code</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Real Estate Section</b>
55,58	East & West Kessler Woods (a.k.a. Boston Edison land)	42.73	8/2
72	Woodland Country Club	133.09	4/2 and 4/3
73	Brae Burn Country Club	193.23	4/3 and 5/3
75	Charles River Country Club	219.28	8/3 and 8/4
76	Fessenden School	24.40	3/1
88	Mt. Ida College	36.93	8/4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649.66</b>	

The parcels are comprised of 3 golf courses, 2 private schools, and two adjoining vacant (wetland/wooded upland) parcels known as East and West Kessler Woods.

### **I. Country Clubs: Charles River, Brae Burn, Woodland**

Newton's three private country clubs comprise 545.6 acres; or 52% of remaining privately owned open space. The impact associated with the development of any of the golf courses would be felt throughout the City, as well as within the specific neighborhoods. At present, it is in the City's best interest to encourage the existing use of these parcels.

#### **A. Charles River Country Club**

The City encourages the existing use of the Charles River Country Club, while maintaining a future interest in obtaining easements on portions of the Charles River Country Club as follows: a 22 acre portion of the 219 acre Country Club, west of Winchester Street is an important aquifer. This western-most portion contains

approximately 280 feet of Charles River frontage, and a small wetland (2.5 acres). An 8.5 acre wetland is located south of Nahanton Street. Should the Country Club contemplate total development, the City needs to explore to the maximum extent feasible all the appropriate courses of action necessary to protect and preserve this open space.

B. Brae Burn Country Club

The Brae Burn Country Club contains 193 acres of rolling hill and valley and approximately 5,000 linear feet of the Cheese Cake Brook (or approximately 5.7 acres of linear open space). Brae Burn Pond, approximately an acre and a half, is also protected from alteration by City Ordinance. Brae Burn Country Club is located within Real Estate Section 5/3 and 4/3. The Country Club comprises 95% of the total open space within Real Estate Section 5/3 and 78% of the total open space in Real Estate Section 4/3, and is, therefore, the most important open space resource in the northwestern portion of the City. As with the other country clubs, the City encourages the existing use of the Brae Burn Country Club.

C. Woodland Country Club

The Woodland Country Club contains 133 acres of open space and approximately 3,580 linear feet of Runaway Brook (approximately 5 acres of linear open space). The Woodland Country Club is located within Real Estate Section 4/2 and 4/3, and comprises 85% of the total open space in Real Estate Section 4/2, and 56% of the total open space in Real Estate Section 4/3. The portion of the Woodland Country Club within Real Estate Section 4/2 is a valuable potential public open space, as only 13% of the open space in this Real Estate Section is publicly owned. The City encourages the existing use of the Woodland Country Club, but would favor preservation of the portion of the Club located within Real Estate Section 4/2, should it be unfeasible to protect the entire site in the future.

D. Zoning Protection

In 1987 a new zoning ordinance was adopted: The Open Space /Recreation District was intended to be used to place the City's private golf courses (Woodland Golf Club, Charles River Country Club, Brae Burn Country Club) into a district which would preclude their subdivision into single-family house lots. The intention was to require a rezoning to the appropriate residential or commercial zoning category should an attempt be made to develop the land, thereby allowing the City more control. However, due to financial considerations on the part of the landowners, the golf courses were never placed in that new district. They remain in residence districts and have entered into the Massachusetts program for reduced property taxes under the provisions of MGL Ch. 61B: Recreational Land. Under that program, the valuation of the land shall not exceed 25% of fair market value. The City's commercial tax rate is then applied to find the amount of property tax due.

The Open Space/Recreation District permits agricultural activities, cemeteries, golf courses and other recreation activities as-of-right. Site Plan Approval is needed for golf and tennis pro shops, outdoor swimming pools, outdoor tennis courts, boathouses, refreshment stands, greenhouses and maintenance facilities. A Special Permit is required for dining rooms, conference and meeting rooms, indoor swimming and tennis facilities and structures which can seat no more than 200 people.

In the future, if the land were proposed to be developed, serious consideration should be given to possible cluster development at strategic locations. Clustering would allow flexibility for development while preserving the majority of the open space.

#### E. Protection through Private/Public Partnerships

In 1981, the City purchased 71 acres of the 81 acre Chestnut Hill Golf Course for the purpose of retaining the Golf Course and subsequent open space for future public use. A 10 acre portion was sold to a developer to obtain funds for the acquisition of the remaining Golf Course land and a betterment assessed on the abutters. The Course was then leased to a private operator. This allowed the City to retain the open space and the Golf Course, while creating 45 dwelling units with a minimal loss of open space.

Similar private/public partnerships could be used to facilitate preservation of the three remaining golf courses should development pressures threaten these sites.

## **II. Private Schools: The Fessenden School, Mount Ida College**

There are two private schools in the City which contain large contiguous tracts of vacant open space greater than 20 acres. They are the Fessenden School, 24.4 acres and the Mount Ida College, 36.9 acres.

#### A. The Fessenden School

The Fessenden School parcel is located within Real Estate Section 3/1 and represents 93% of the Real Estate Section's Open Space. As with the Country Clubs, the City encourages the continued use of this open space as school recreational open space. However, the School also continues to develop its campus as needed to meet institutional needs and recently constructed a significant recreational facility thereby utilizing prior open space. Should the school use of this site cease, the City would be most interested in maintaining approximately a 14 acre portion which parallels and abuts the Albemarle Recreation Area. This would include the steep slopes used for sledding in the wintertime and two soccer/football fields abutting Albemarle Road.

B. Mount Ida College

The 37 acre Mount Ida College Parcel is located in Real Estate Section 8/4 and represents 4% of the total open space within the Real Estate Section. Privately owned open space in this Real Estate Section accounts for 834 acres or 16% of the City's total open space. The City's control in this parcel is presently confined to the 2 acre Longfellow Pond and approximately 3 acres of wetland associated with the pond.

**III. Other Privately Owned Land; East and West Kessler Woods (a.k.a. 'Boston Edison Land' – now owned by N-Star )**

East Kessler Woods is located within Real Estate Section 8/2 and contains 33.5 acres of wetland and wooded upland which represents 22% of the total open space in this Real Estate Section. Control in the East Kessler Woods is at present limited to the City's and State Department of Environmental Management's continued protection of approximately 8 acres of wetland and City control over approximately 600 linear feet (1 acre) of the Saw Mill Brook northeast of the wetland. West Kessler Woods contains 9.20 acres of wetland and wooded upland across Vine Street from East Kessler Woods. The West Kessler parcel abuts the City-owned Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area. The prior license to traverse the Edison land between the City's two parcels was extinguished when Edison decided to sell their land on a previous occasion as a result of utility de-regulation. As the parcels have again recently been placed on the market for sale, the City has initiated negotiations with N-Star seeking an arrangement for preserving open space while accommodating reasonable development. The City will also be seeking development partners willing to work with the City in achieving its vision for a balanced development.

**IV. Existing and Proposed Protection**

<b>LARGE PRIVATELY OWNED PARCELS</b>				
<b>Map Code</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Existing Protection</b>	<b>Proposed Protection</b>
55	<b>East &amp; West Kessler Woods (a.k.a. Boston Edison land)</b>	42.73	9.0	9.20
72	<b>Woodland Country Club</b>	133.09	5.0	R/E sec 4/2
73	<b>Brae Burn Country Club</b>	193.23	7.0	TBD
75	<b>Charles River Country Club</b>	219.28	12.0	22.0
76	<b>Fessenden School</b>	24.40	0.0	14.0
88	<b>Mt. Ida College</b>	36.93	5.0	0.0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649.66</b>	<b>38.0</b>	<b>45.20+TBD</b>

As the above table indicates, approximately 38 acres of open space is presently protected by Federal/State Law and City Ordinance, which represents 5.9% of the 649.66 acres of large privately owned parcels. The City is interested in protecting an additional 45.20 acres (along with further areas to be determined and calculated) by direct acquisition, easement, or development agreement, in the event any of the large parcels advance toward development.

**V. Unprotected Open Space**

Assuming that it may be feasible to undertake the protection of the areas discussed above, the following summarizes areas which would remain largely unprotected.

<b>LARGE PRIVATELY OWNED PARCELS WITH UNPROTECTED AREAS</b>		
<b>Map Code</b>	<b>Identification</b>	<b>Acres</b>
55	<b>East &amp; West Kessler Woods (a.k.a. Boston Edison land)</b>	24.53
72	<b>Woodland Country Club</b>	TBD
73	<b>Brae Burn Country Club</b>	TBD
75	<b>Charles River Country Club</b>	185.28
76	<b>The Fessenden School</b>	10.40
88	<b>Mt. Ida College</b>	31.93
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>252.14*</b>

\*Not including areas to be determined.

**VI. Conclusion**

The City's interest in maintaining the open space within the 6 large parcels listed may potentially include the protection of all or portions of the City's three remaining golf courses and the acquisition of at least a portion of the N-Star (Boston Edison) land. If realized, this would envision the possible retention of approximately 250 - 500 acres of open space.

## Appendix B: Inventory of Conservation Restrictions

A conservation restriction or easement is a written agreement between a property owner and a governmental agency which restricts development of the owner's land. The City and/or the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs have entered into 12 CRs with private owners to date. These 12 existing CRs protect 66.33 acres of open space. In addition, private/City conservation restrictions exist on five (5) properties, totalling 6.56 acres. CRs are in process for additional properties and will be reported once completed. The CRs are inventoried below:

INVENTORY OF CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS				
Map Code	I.D.	Name/Location	Acres	Protected
63	CR#1	Nahanton Woods Nahanton Street	20.58	Wetland, WR#14, Country Club Brook
	CR#2	Charles River pathway – Saco St., Upper Falls	1.10	Riverfront, pathway
42	CR#3	The Gables Condominium Dedham Street	9.56	Wooded, wet, pond
	CR#4	Parker Street 7 Parker Street	0.18	Lawn
	CR#5	Pomeroy House Church/Eldredge Street	0.90	Estate, lawn
	CR#346-80(2)	Oak Hill Ober Road	0.85	Wooded hillside
	CR#239-88	Hampton Place 77 Florence Street	2.50	Hahn Brook, wooded
89	CR#6	Jewish Philanthropies Winchester Street	1.00	Wooded kettle
40	CR#7	Winchester Park Winchester Street	12.40	Wooded wetland
64	CR#8	Ledgebrook Nahanton Street	14.00	Open lawn, woods
89	CR#9	Jewish Philanthropies Oak Grove	3.00	Wooded hillside

	CR#10	Laura Estates	1.50	Steep hillside, native dogwood, wetland
	CR#11	Hebrew College; Herrick Rd.	0.8	Wooded hillside; Area #1 – general protect.
	CR#11	Hebrew College; Herrick Rd.	0.6	Wooded hillside Area #2 – landscaping allowed
	CR#12	180 Elgin St.	0.71	Wooded wetland incl. Thompsonville Brook
	CR#67-98(3)	Hebrew College; Herrick Rd.	0.32	Area #3 – per Rest. Cov. 3/1/2000
	CR#256-99	509 Hammond Street	0.5	Wooded hillside adj. Hammond Pond
	CR#261-00	Lasell Pond/Haskell Pond	2.39	30 yr. Deed restrict. (expires 2030); pond, woods and field
		<b>Total</b>	<b>72.89</b>	
<b>Conservation Restrictions in Process</b>				
	CR#239-398	74 Longwood Rd.	0.25	Wooded wetland adj. Hammond Pond
	CR#239-403	545 Hammond St. Lot 2, aka Lot 2 Moorfield Rd. (Jick)	0.25	Wooded wetland adj. Hammond Pond
	CR#239-390	360 Boylston Street Bradford Development	TBD	Wooded wetland adj. Hahn Brook
	CR#250-01	The Terraces, Cypress St.		Pathway easement for pub. access; perpetual deed restriction.
	CR#250-01	The Terraces, Cypress St.	1.82	Wooded hillside; height restriction; vista to Blue Hills
		<b>Total</b>	<b>2.32</b>	



## **Appendix C: Open Space and Recreation Plan Accomplishments Since 1995**

Analysis of Newton's current open space needs was conducted by updating the 1995 Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan. Those recreation needs that are still valid were identified and background data and resource constraints were compared with updated open space, goals and policies and the inventory of existing open space.

### 1995 OPEN SPACE PLAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Newton's 1995 Recreation and Open Space Plan identified a number of open space needs and recommended a variety of methods to meet those needs, including acquisition of recreation and conservation land or interest in land, acquisition of easements, facility development and improvements, and land use controls. Many of these recommendations were included in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and have been achieved through utilization of City funds. The City has also used its funding to leverage additional monies, including Community Development Block Grant funding, state grants including Urban Self-Help, Historic Preservation Grants, and the Massachusetts RELEAF Program; and private donations. In addition, certain land use controls such as cluster zoning which complements the open space acquisition program, have been used successfully in maintaining private open space. The City is also routinely working in cooperation with the Metropolitan District Commission, the City of Waltham, and the City of Brookline on common projects.

### Land Acquisition, Facilities Improvement and Program Improvement since 1995

Since 1995, the following acquisitions, property improvements and program improvements have been completed or are currently scheduled (i.e. funds allocated):

#### ***Conservation:***

#### Acquisitions Completed:

- MDC access easement at 1 Bridge Street, entrance to Cheesecake Brook Pathway

#### Conservation Restrictions Completed:

- Conservation Restriction on steep wooded slope and floodplain/wetland at Irwin Road, Rokeby Road and Quinobequin Road
- Conservation Restriction on 509 Hammond Street on wooded slope adjacent to Hammond Pond
- 30 Year Conservation Restriction on 13.2 acres adjacent to Lasell Village, including Lasell Pond
- 180 Elgin Street – Vacant Lot – Conservation Restriction to protect tree cover on both sides of Thompsonville Brook in north end of the Webster Vale

### Transfers Completed:

- Three City-owned parcels totaling 50,925 square feet, adjacent to the Barney Conservation Area in Upper Falls, reassigned to the Conservation Commission
- Flowed Meadow – approximately 20.2 acres, adjacent to the Rumford Ave. landfill were declared surplus by DPW and have been reassigned to the Conservation Commission.
- Charles River Pathway at Wells Ave. – 30.5 acres behind Wells Office Park have been declared surplus by DPW and have been reassigned to the Conservation Commission.

### Conservation Restrictions Scheduled:

- Conservation Restrictions on private property at 74 Longwood Road and 545 Hammond Street, Lot 2 (a.k.a. Moorfield Rd.) for wooded swamp adjacent to Hammond Pond
- Conservation restrictions on private property at two new developments – Bradford Development, 360 Boylston St., and The Terraces, Cypress St. (originally part of the Andover-Newton Theological School property).

### Property Improvements:

- Further development of Charles River Pathway at Wells Avenue in cooperation with the MDC

### Properties Scheduled for Improvement:

- Restoration and accessibility improvements at Houghton Garden (underway)
- Construction of accessibility improvements at Dolan Pond (underway)
- Construction of accessibility improvements at Nahanton Park, Phase II (substantially complete)
- Plans under review for accessibility improvements at Burr Park and Ware's Cove

### Programs Improved:

- Aerial photographs and interpretations of wetlands have been integrated into Newton GIS maps.
- Development of evaluations of wildlife populations to inform maintenance practices on certain properties
- Proposed creation of signage on certain properties highlighting species of note

- Implementation of new state-wide storm water regulations by the Conservation Commission and City Engineer
- Establishment of the Hammond Pond Task Force working for the betterment of the pond.
- Establishment of the Friends of Dolan Pond, an informal group of neighbors, helping with pond clean-up, publishing a local newsletter, and conducting bird walks

***Recreation:***

Properties Improved:

Over the past five years, the Parks & Recreation Department has completed improvements on 42 parks, playgrounds, playfields and schoolyards. These improvements include accessibility for citizens including those with disabilities, landscaping, play equipment, lighting, barriers, and benches. Work was performed on properties throughout the City, and in eligible areas was done in cooperation with the Community Development Program. Highlighted projects include:

- Forte Park Phase I Project (Phase II funds from EOEA and CPA recently approved)
- Nahanton Park Phase I Project including development of Florrie's Path along the Charles River
- Crystal Lake improvements to bath house, renovations to improve accessibility including access to bathrooms.
- Albermarle Park pathways for spectator access and access to Gath Pool and bath house
- Accessibility improvements to Gath Pool
- Ware's Cove facilities
- Newton Center Playground
- Renovation of Weeks Playfield

Properties Scheduled for Improvement:

- Special pathways and picnic areas for use by the elderly and people with disabilities at Auburndale Park.

### Program Improvements:

- Establishment of the Parks & Recreation Accessibility Task Force.
- Establishment of the Newton Playground Safety Committee.
- Establishment of the Integrated Pest Management Program.

### ***City-Owned Open Space Properties to be Assigned:***

- 68 and 71 Wabasso Street adjacent to the Charles River. The property was acquired by the City after 1995.

### Open Space Management Accomplishments:

Since the development of the City's first Open Space Plan in 1969, the City, as a means of contributing to the preservation of open space, has enacted development regulations by amending its Zoning ordinance as follows:

Floodplain and Watershed Protection Provisions: (Adopted 1971 and amended in 1983 as a non-zoning ordinance administered by the Conservation Commission.) Restricts construction, excavation or dumping in open brooks, streams, ponds and wetlands

Inland Wetland Restriction Act of 1968: The City, as a means of permanently protecting its major wetlands, accepted in 1977, permanent restriction (by the State Commissioner of Environmental Management) of 22 wetlands in Newton in accordance with the provisions of the Inland Wetlands Restriction Act of 1968, G. L. Ch. 131 S. 40A.

Townhouse Development: (Adopted 1976) Allows construction of attached dwellings in certain zoning districts, provided that a minimum of 50% land area is set aside as open space. In Residence 2 Districts this requirement is 65% and in Residence 1 Districts it is 70%.

Cluster Development: (Adopted 1977) Allows dwelling construction on lots with less area than that required by the Zoning Ordinance, provided that open space is set aside. A slight increase in density is allowed.

Ordinance #30: (Adopted 1974, Revised 1978) Ordinance #30 provides a mechanism for the preservation of large residential structures in Single Residence 1, 2, and 3 and Multi-Residence 1 Districts which have become uneconomical or impractical for single-family occupancy without necessitating a change to institutional use, demolition, or the subdivision of the property to the maximum permitted under the Zoning Ordinance. Ordinance #30 allows large structures on large lots to accommodate more than one dwelling unit-- by providing increased development flexibility, consistent with the "cluster" concept, without an increase in overall development density, while preserving the visual appearance of the premises, and in a majority of instances the preservation of open space. (See Zoning Ordinance Sections 30-8 (b) (10) and 0 - 9 (c)).

Open Space/Recreation Zoning: (Adopted 1987) Section 30-7 provides for the protection of Open Space and Recreation Areas within Newton. The Ordinance was passed by the Board of Aldermen on August 3, 1987.

Landmark Preservation Ordinance: (Adopted 1993) Section 22-90 provides for encouragement of compatible development and the discouragement of destruction or damage to landmark properties.

Community Preservation Act: (Adopted by vote of Newton residents November 2001) The CPA enables the raising of additional funds through a 1% real estate tax surcharge and state matching funds for qualified purposes. These purposes include open space, recreation, historic preservation, and community housing. The Newton Community Preservation Committee was formed in February 2002 to study needs, possibilities and resources, and to prepare recommendations to the Board of Aldermen for the use of these funds.

## **Appendix D: Accessibility Statement**

### **Accommodations for Equal Access in the City of Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan Update**

#### **I. Commitment To Equal Access**

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act [Public Law 101-336, 1990] requires state and local governments to address the issue of accessibility for people with disabilities. It states that “..no individual with a disability shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity”.

It is the intention of the City of Newton to abide by the rules and regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Public facilities, accommodations, services, and activities that are available to able-bodied citizens should be available to all citizens, regardless of age or whether or not they have a disability. The City will, therefore, make a concerted effort to provide equal access to its facilities to all citizens and not, through neglect or failure to act, deny its facilities to anyone.

The City of Newton seeks to provide usable open space that is accessible to all residents of the City. Open space within the City will include public recreation areas, public parks, and public conservation lands. Thus the City will attempt to create accessibility to all its open space areas that are available to the public, accommodating people with disabilities in as many of these park, recreation and conservation areas as can be achieved within reasonable financial constraints, and terrain permitting within geographic constraints.

The City will continually assess its open space areas and make on-going efforts to provide accessibility for people with disabilities in public lands that have public uses and that are not now accessible to people with disabilities. The access needs of each publicly supervised and maintained park, recreation area and conservation area will be addressed with a goal of providing access to as many of these areas as possible. Access planning shall include parking facilities, pathways, trails, play areas, signage, equipment, and toilet facilities so that, wherever possible, they will be readily available to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities.

#### **II. Administrative Requirements**

- A. Designated ADA Coordinator – see Attachment I letter by Mayor David B. Cohen dated October 27, 1998 designating Ms. Beverly Stachowitz, Director of Human Services as ADA Coordinator.
- B. Grievance procedures – see Attachment II entitled “Grievance Procedure”.
- C. Public notification requirements – see Attachment III entitled “Public Notification Policy”.

D. Participation of individuals with disabilities

The Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities has actively been addressing accessibility issues City-wide since its formation as a special mayoral committee in 1975. Many access improvements have been implemented in public as well as in private facilities and buildings as a result. The Committee chair as well as several other members are persons with disabilities or have family members with disabilities. Members of this Committee serve on the Parks and Recreation Department's special Accessibility Task Force which together with the Department's Director of Special Needs have the responsibility for assessing accessibility conditions of recreation facilities.

Also see Attachment IV entitled "ADA Statement, City of Newton".

**III. Parks and Recreation Department Accessibility Progress Report**

As noted above, the Parks and Recreation Department Accessibility Task Force (Task Force) has been established and is working to:

- Assess recreation facilities in the City to determine the current status of accessibility for people with disabilities.
- Develop recommendations to improve access.
- Prioritize projects.
- Provide implementation recommendations.

Due to the significant number of recreation facilities, the Task Force developed a list of priority facilities which were to be initially evaluated based on intensity of use. These facilities, in order of priority, are as follows:

1. Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex
2. Crystal Lake
3. Auburndale Cove
4. Nahanton Park
5. Burr Park
6. Cold Spring Park
7. Lower Falls Community Center
8. The Newton Center Hut.

As a result, many access improvements have been installed at nearly all of the above sites. These improvements include ramps, pool lifts, toilet and shower improvements, spectator areas, accessible paths, and the like. The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to completing the needed improvements as funds become available. The Task Force will continue to monitor progress and report to the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation.

In the next phase the Task Force will identify the next priority group of recreation facilities so that access needs may be assessed and improvements scheduled. Thereafter, Task Force will then complete assessing all the remaining recreation sites.

#### **IV. Conservation Commission Accessibility Progress Report**

A review of Conservation Areas has found that at the present time none of these Areas is accessible. However, plans have been developed to improve accessibility at the following locations:

- Houghton Garden  
This turn-of-the-century rock garden is part of the Webster Conservation Area in Chestnut Hill. Portions of the Garden are slated for accessible pathway improvements in 2002/03 to allow accessibility to two different areas, which provide views of the unusual plants and the water feature in the center of the Garden. Plans have been approved by the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, the Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, the Mass. Historical Commission and the Conservation Commission. This project is currently under construction.
  
- Dolan Pond Conservation Area  
This area is located in West Newton and has an abundance of wildlife due to its variety of wetland resource areas. Portions of the existing pathway system are relatively flat. Plans for improving accessibility have been approved by the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, the West Newton Advisory Committee and the Conservation Commission. Construction is scheduled for 2002/03 to provide parking, boardwalks and an observation deck suitable for wheelchairs. The project is currently under construction.
  
- Future improvements  
At the present time two additional areas are under review for possible accessibility improvements:
  - Charles River Pathway at Williams St.
  - Norumbega Park Conservation Area

Many of the Conservation areas are unsuitable for access because they are hilly, rocky and/or wet, or they serve as sanctuaries for the benefit of wildlife and access by the general public is not appropriate. However, the Commission will continue to assess the areas under its jurisdiction and develop access improvements where feasible and subject to availability of financial resources.

#### **V. Employment Practices**

See Attachment IV entitled "ADA Statement, City of Newton" by the ADA Coordinator.



## Attachment I

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

October 27, 1998

Beverly Stachowicz, Director  
Human Services Department  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Dear Ms. Stachowicz

I hereby appoint you to serve as ADA Coordinator for the City of Newton. Your duties shall include coordinating the City's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as described in 28 CFR 35.107, consistent with policies and procedures that the City may adopt from time to time. I consider these new duties to be part of your position of Director of Human Services.

Very truly yours

David B. Cohen  
Mayor

cc. Edward G. English, City Clerk/Clerk of the Board  
Dolores Hamilton, Personnel Director

1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02159  
[www.ci.newton.ma.us](http://www.ci.newton.ma.us)

## **Attachment II**

### **GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

The City of Newton has adopted a grievance procedure providing for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints alleging any violation of state and federal laws and regulations protecting individuals from discrimination based on her/his race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, which shall not include persons whose sexual orientation involves minor children as the sex object, age, ancestry, disability or marital status in the provision of or access to services, employment and activities.

The laws and regulations may be examined in the office of Dolores Hamilton, Director, Department of Human Resources, and when appropriate, Beverly Stachowicz, ADA Coordinator, both at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton Centre, MA 02459. These persons have been designated to coordinate the efforts of the organization to comply with the regulations:

1. Where possible, a complaint should state the name and address of the person filing it, briefly describing the alleged action prohibited by the laws and regulations and the date it allegedly occurred.
2. A complaint should be filed in the office of Dolores Hamilton, Director, Department of Human Resources and when appropriate Beverly Stachowicz, ADA Coordinator, within a reasonable amount of time (no more than thirty (30) days) after the person filing the complaint becomes aware of the action alleged to be prohibited by the laws or regulations.
3. Dolores Hamilton, Director, Department of Human Resources and when appropriate Beverly Stachowicz ADA Coordinator shall investigate the complaint to determine its validity. These rules contemplate informal but thorough investigations, affording all and their representative, if any, an opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
4. Dolores Hamilton, Director, Department of Human Resources and when appropriate Beverly Stachowicz ADA Coordinator shall issue a written decision determining the validity of the complaint no later than (30) days after its receipt and issue a corrective action plan where necessary.
5. Dolores Hamilton, Director, Department of Human Resources and when appropriate Beverly Stachowicz ADA Coordinator shall maintain the files and records relating to complaints filed hereunder. Names of the persons designated above to conduct this effort may assist persons with the preparation and filing of complaints, participate in the investigation of complaints and notify the Chief Executive Officer of the resolution of the complaints.

6. The right of a person to the prompt and equitable resolution of a complaint filed here under shall not be impaired by the person's pursuit of other remedies, such as the filing of a complaint with the Office for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Health and Human Services and/or any other federal agency, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination and/or any other state agency or any state or federal court.

7. These rules shall be liberally construed to protect the substantial rights of interested persons, to meet appropriate due process standards and assure compliance with the law and regulations.

David B. Cohen, Mayor

## **Attachment III**

### **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION POLICY**

**The City of Newton is committed to making it possible for people with disabilities to attend public meetings and events which are sponsored by agencies of the City.**

In a public meeting or event attempts should be made to schedule it at a site which is handicapped accessible. Event announcements should include, at least, the following information:

- Whether or not the event is to be held in a handicapped accessible barrier free location. Accessibility includes accessibility from public transportation to the site and availability of accessible bathrooms.
- Whether or not there is handicapped parking available.
- Auxiliary aids will be provided upon request.

Announcements of an event should include a phone number and address of the sponsor so that the person with a disability could request communication aids, such as an assistive listening device, interpreter, etc.

It is appropriate to set a deadline for notification, after which time auxiliary aids cannot be promised. The deadline must give the person with a disability ample time to respond.

Interpreters who use sign language for the deaf may be needed for an event. The Massachusetts Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 617-740-1600 may be helpful in obtaining them. Because of the great demand for interpreters, this agency should be contacted at least two to three weeks in advance. Costs may vary depending on the situation.

Questions regarding the Public Notification Policy, Americans with Disabilities Act, or requests for assistance in obtaining auxiliary aids may be directed to the Department of Human Services at 617-796-1280.

Revised June, 2002

## **Attachment IV**

### **ADA Statement City of Newton**

The City of Newton is committed to the fair and equal employment of all people. The City of Newton does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, disability, genetic information or status as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era.

The City will follow applicable Federal and State guidelines and statutes as they relate to reasonable accommodation of individuals with disabilities and their capabilities to perform essential job duties. It is the policy of the City of Newton to reasonably accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities unless the accommodation would impose an undue hardship. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations will be provided to qualified individuals with disabilities when such accommodations are directly related to performing the essential functions of a job, competing for a job, or to enjoy equal benefits and privileges of employment. This applies to all applicants, employees, and employees seeking promotional opportunities.

Any person having inquiries concerning the City of Newton's adherence to the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, or other civil rights laws should contact the Director of Human Resources at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459, (617) 796-1260, or the ADA Coordinator at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459,(617) 796-1280.

Beverly Stachowicz, ADA Coordinator

## **Appendix E: Review/Support Letters**

**The following letters are enclosed with this Plan Update:**

- ◆ Newton Planning and Development Board, dated July 18, 2002
- ◆ Newton Conservation Commission, dated July 31, 2002
- ◆ Newton Open Space Advisory Committee, dated July 31, 2002
- ◆ Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, dated August 29, 2002
- ◆ Metropolitan Area Planning Council, dated November 15, 2002

CITY OF NEWTON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
1000 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE  
NEWTON CENTRE, MA 02459

July 18, 2002

Mr. Juris G. Alksnitis, Associate Director  
City of Newton Department of Planning and Development  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RE: Open Space Plan

Dear Mr. Alksnitis:

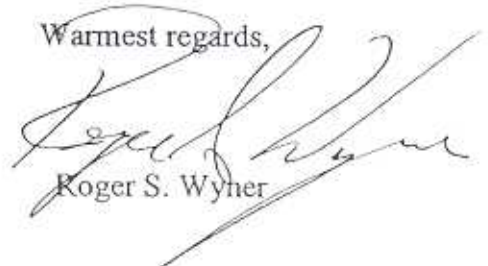
In accordance with instructions voted and approved by the Planning and Development Board on July 15, 2002, please accept this correspondence as a formal letter of support and approval for the City of Newton, Massachusetts Open Space and Recreation Plan update.

As the Planning Board's representative to the Open Space Advisory Committee, I had the opportunity to work with you and Advisory Board Chairman James E. Mahoney and other members of the committee in the research and analysis of Open Space issues as well as the review of the various maps and the invaluable technical support provided by other members of the Planning Department.

Upon review of the recent Plan Update, I commend you for a job well done. It is a well presented and complete analysis and report of existing conditions, needs, and goals in the best interests of our community.

I learned a great deal from my experience on the Advisory Committee and appreciate the opportunity to serve.

Warmest regards,



Roger S. Wyner

A:juris



David B. Cohen  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Department of Planning and Development  
Michael J. Kruse, Director

Telephone  
(617) 552-7135  
Telefax  
(617) 965-6620  
E-mail  
mkruse@ci.newton.ma.us

July 31, 2002

Mr. Michael Kruse  
Director of Planning and Development  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

RE: Draft Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan Update

Dear Mr. Kruse:

The members of the Conservation Commission and their staff had the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan Update as reformatted for submittal to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA).

At their meeting on July 25, 2002, the members voted unanimously to support its submittal to EOEA. They look forward to using it as a basis for the planning, acquisition and improvement of the City's most important resources.

Sincerely,

FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Martha J. Aherin Horn  
Sr. Environmental Planner

Cc: Juris G. Alksnitis, Associate Director of Planning and Economic Development



July 31, 2002

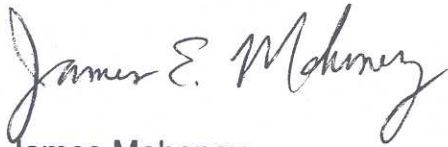
Mr. Michael Kruse  
Director of Planning and Development  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

**RE: Draft Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan Update 2003-07**

Dear Mr. Kruse:

As you know, the Open Space Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), working with Planning staff has been closely involved in the preparation of the Newton Recreation and Open Space Plan Update. We believe the current draft Plan Update as reformatted for submittal to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) reflects a good consensus regarding open space issues, goals and actions appropriate for our community and recommend that it be transmitted to the EOEA.

Sincerely,



James Mahoney  
Chairman  
Open Space Advisory Committee

Cc: Juris G. Alksnitis, Associate Director of Planning and Economic Development

2002 9 - 6 JES



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114-2119

JANE SWIFT  
GOVERNOR

BOB DURAND  
SECRETARY

Tel. (617) 626-1000  
Fax (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/envir>

August 29, 2002

Michael Kruse, Director  
Department of Planning and Development  
City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Ave.  
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Open Space and Recreation Plan

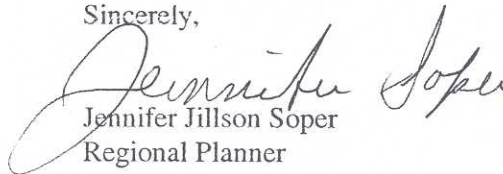
Dear Mr. Kruse:

Thank you for submitting Newton's Open Space and Recreation Plan to this office for review for compliance with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan Requirements. I am pleased to write that the plan is approved. This final approval will allow Newton to participate in DCS grant rounds through August 2007.

The Plan Summary was particularly well done. It should serve well as an Executive Summary, and help the recreation and conservation departments justify their needs. I also recommend that you request that the Metropolitan Area Planning Council review your plan, and incorporate any of their comments as the Open Space Advisory Committee sees fit.

Congratulations on a job well done. Please call me at (617) 626-1015 if you have any questions or concerns about the plan.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Jillson Soper  
Regional Planner

cc: David B. Cohen, Mayor  
Conservation Commission  
Recreation Commission  
James E. Mahoney, Open Space Advisory Committee





# Metropolitan Area Planning Council

60 Temple Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02111 617-451-2770 fax 617-482-7185 www.mapc.org

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November 15, 2002

Juris G. Alksnitis  
Associate Director of Planning and Economic Development  
City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Mr. Alksnitis:

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council has reviewed the City of Newton's Recreation and Open Space Plan Update 2003-2007. The plan is thorough and well-written. We offer the following comment to help strengthen the plan.

**The Inner Core Committee** - Within the discussion of the regional context, there should be mention made of the open space planning activities of surrounding communities. In addition, it should be noted that Newton is a member of the Inner Core Committee, one of eight MAPC subregions. The Inner Core Committee is a group of communities that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest and is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Joan Blaustein  
Land Resources Planner

Cc: James Miller, MAPC Representative, City of Newton  
Joel Lerner, Division of Conservation Services