

# Goal

## The Protection of “Webster Woods”

- ▶ Precise boundary is yet to be determined
- ▶ Mayor and City Council will determine the boundary, factoring in:
  - ▶ Legal team’s appraisal and assessment
  - ▶ Advisory Panel’s recommendation
  - ▶ Best ecological and recreational result for the larger Webster/Hammond Conservation area
  - ▶ Cost to the City

# Funding Request

## ▶ Contributions

- ▶ \$100,000 from CPC
- ▶ \$5,000 from Law Dept. } Legal team (law, appraisal, envi. science, engineering)
- ▶ Staff time (Mayor's Office, Law Dept., Planning Dept.)
- ▶ Note: Prior City funding for initial Avery appraisal = \$13,500

## ▶ Process

- ▶ Discussion with BC
- ▶ Payment of fair market value

## ▶ Timeline

- ▶ As soon as possible (Counsel has been retained and is developing the full team)

# “Webster Woods”

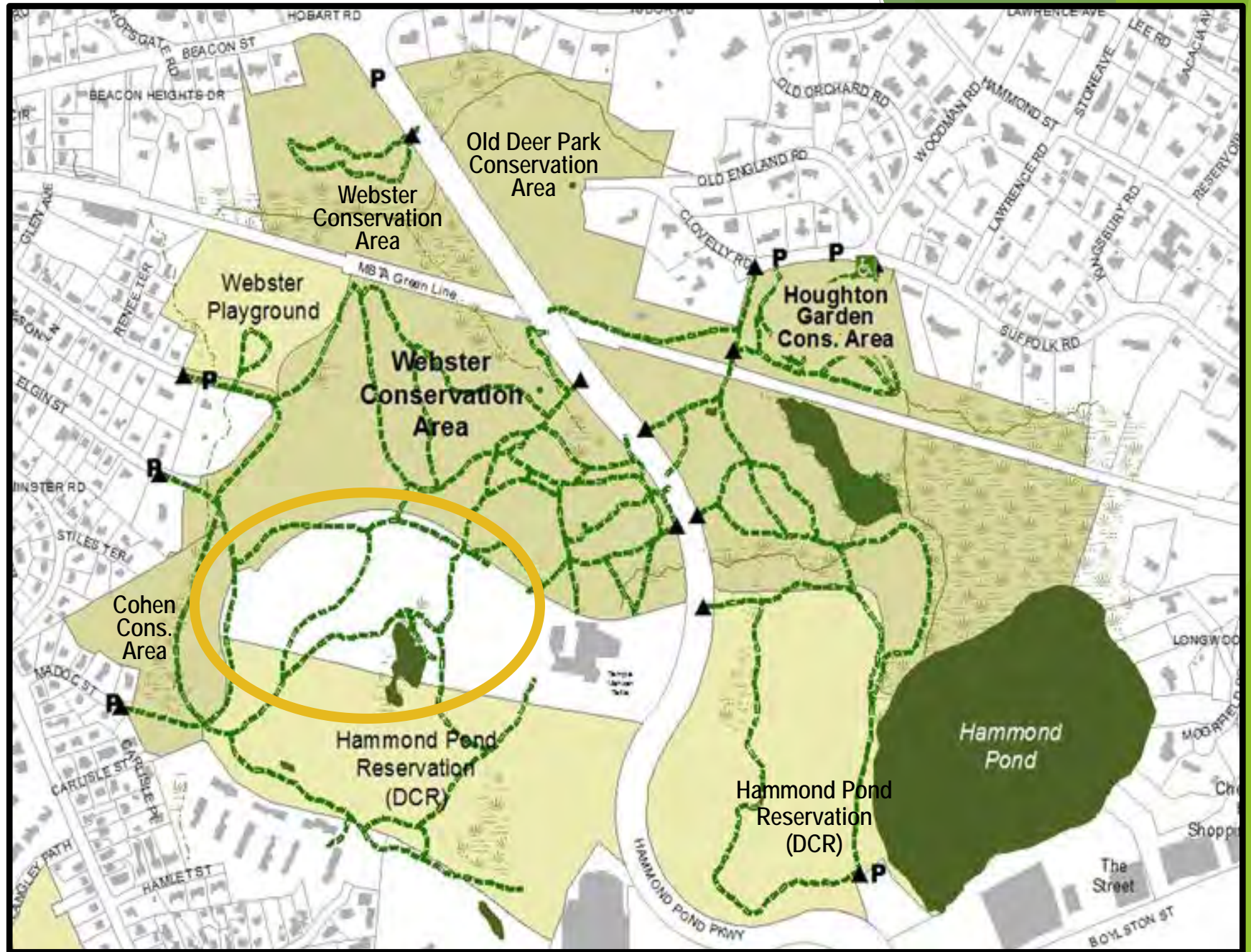
- ▶ The core of ...
  - ▶ Largest protected natural area in all of Newton ...
  - ▶ With significant ecological value
- ▶ Protection has been a priority in the Open Space and Recreation Plan for years





# “Webster Woods”

- ▶ 1650 Thomas Hammond began farming
- ▶ 1852 Railroad line was built
- ▶ **Protection has been carefully pieced together over time**
- ▶ 1916 Webster family gave land to the state (MDC)
- ▶ 1954 MDC sold ~22 acres to Congregation Mishkan Tefila (with a 99-year deed restriction)
- ▶ 1968-79 City acquired ~126 ac.
  - ◆ Webster & Deer Park ('68) - em. do.
  - ◆ Cohen ('73-75) - donation
  - ◆ Houghton ('79) - eminent domain
- ▶ 2015 Board of Aldermen resolution -- requested Mayor to “preserve the recreation and conservation character of 300 Hammond Pond Parkway”
- ▶ **Note the currently unprotected central core**





# Values: Ecological and Recreational





Gorgeous, healthy woodlands -- large trees, diverse understory, ledges, wetlands, ...





A large vibrant vernal pool (in the spring) ...





... and in the summer





Broad, open trails ...





Narrow, secluded trails ...





We have an opportunity, and an obligation, to protect Webster Woods ...





... for the generations to come.

