

Appendix A: OSRP Accomplishments Since 2014

Newton's 2014-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan identified several open space needs and recommended a variety of methods to meet those needs. Many of these recommendations were included in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and have been achieved through utilization of City funds. Using City funds, Newton acquired recreation and conservation land, acquired easements, and developed and improved facilities. The City also used its funding to leverage additional monies (including Community Development Block Grant funding; state grants including Urban Self-Help, Historic Preservation Grants, Community Preservation Act funds, and the Massachusetts RELEAF Program; and private donations) for open space opportunities. In addition, certain land use controls such as cluster zoning, which densifies development therefore allowing for more green space, have been used successfully in maintaining private open space. Following is a list of open space accomplishments since 2014.

A. LAND ACQUISITIONS AND PROTECTION SINCE 2014

Acquisitions/Long-Term Leases Completed

- Rear of 300 Hammond Pond Parkway "**Webster Woods**" (taken by eminent domain from Boston College) - expanding the Webster and Cohen Conservation Areas
- **Waban Hill Reservoir** (purchased from the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority) – new park
- 99-year lease on the **Upper Falls Greenway Rail Trail** from MBTA

Conservation Restrictions Completed

- Conservation Restriction on **30 Wabasso St**, a parcel adjacent to the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area
- Conservation Restriction on **20 Rogers St**, a parcel adjacent to Crystal Lake and the Crystal Lake Bathhouse

B. CONSERVATION AREA IMPROVEMENTS, BY CONSERVATION AREA

- **All:** Trailhead signs; QR code wayfinding stickers.
- **Charles River Pathway:** 2 new benches installed
- **Dolan Pond Conservation Area:** New accessible boardwalk section constructed – Eagle Scout project; dog waste barrel and signs installed.
- **Flowed Meadow Conservation Area:** Dog waste barrel and signs installed; Eagle Scout project to repair/replace signs, install trail blaze, install boardwalks, widen and chip trails, update trail maps for the site.
- **Helen Heyn Conservation Area:** New bridge over Country Club Brook constructed – Eagle Scout project.
- **Houghton Garden Conservation Area:** Extensive phragmites treatment program completed; large-scale eastern hemlock removal because of woolly adelgid completed; new black locust boardwalks installed – donated by Conservation Area Steward; dog waste barrel and signs installed.
- **Kennard Conservation Area:** Swing arm gate to prevent vehicle access replaced; dog waste barrel and signs installed; extensive invasive species removal program completed – thanks to Friends of Kennard Park; meadow restoration project in progress – thanks to Friends of Kennard Park.
- **Kessler Woods Conservation Area:** New trail construction – in design/development.
- **Norumbega Conservation Area:** Invasive species mowing regime – on-going, New chain gate and bollard to prevent vehicle access installed, Bee-keeping – on-going, New water bars installed on the

trail leading to the Charles River installed – Eagle scout project, Large slope restoration project – in progress, Construction of a new off-leash dog park- in design/development.

- **Sawmill Brook Conservation Area:** Eagle scout projects including new trail creation, boardwalk installation, gravel parking area restoration.
- **Webster/Cohen/Old Deer Park Conservation Area:** Asbestos barn demolished; beekeeping – ongoing; invasive species removal regime – ongoing; new trail to open parcel to public access – in design/development.

C. PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BY VILLAGE

Over the past five years, the Parks & Recreation Department has completed improvements on many 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.

Auburndale

- **Auburndale Playground (“The Cove”):** Tot lot and 5-12 year-old play structures installed; donated accessible fitness station area designed for those over 55, including memorial bench, on accessible route; two tennis courts and one basketball court repaired/repainted, and pickleball court added to tennis courts; memorial bench donated to swing area; Eagle Scouts project: new ga-ga pit.
- **Burr Elementary School:** Play equipment on accessible route.
- **McGrath Playground (west):** Completed renovation of three tennis courts with fencing and fenced off-leash dog area, all on accessible route; (east): Pickleball court added to existing tennis court area.
- **Lyons Park:** Athletic field drainage feasibility study completed, drainage improvements in progress; state funding obtained for design and construction of an accessible route.

Lower Falls

- **Lower Falls Playground (Hamilton):** Grass mats added to play area for accessibility; memorial bench donated; memorial tree planted and small community garden installed.

Newton Centre

- **Nahanton Park:** Existing community garden area expanded to 100 plots, including one for Newton Tree Conservancy; memorial bench donated; Florrie’s Path extended along the Charles River; Eagle Scout projects: butterfly garden, bird houses and signs; new lawn area created at Winchester Street entrance with wood guardrail, donated tree and interpretive sign.
- **Newton Centre Playground:** Most of the accessible pathway network completed; bench donated to the universal play area; historic park sign installed at Homer Street; new I.D. sign installed for The Hut.
- **1294 Centre Street,** with I.D. sign, opened as new Parks, Recreation & Culture facility offering passive recreation programming for all ages.
- **Mason-Rice Elementary School:** Junior-sized basketball court with four standards including two accessible standards.
- **Newton Centre Green:** Seven benches donated and installed, and seven existing benches re-finished, all accessible, some with companion pads; memorial tree planted.
- **Bowen Elementary School:** Play equipment addition on accessible route.

- **Memorial Spaulding Elementary School:** New play equipment for grades K-2 and 3-5. **Ward Elementary School:** Donated playground bench; repaired/painted tennis court and two half-court basketball areas created; all new court fencing.
- **Weeks Park:** Three tennis courts repaired/repainted.
- **Newton South High School:** New accessible restroom/concession building constructed.
- **Kennard Park:** New accessible ramp added to main entrance to Parks, Recreation & Culture Department headquarters; granite bench donated; invasive species removed from southern border with conservation area, improving connectivity.

Newton Corner

- **Newton Early Childhood Program (NECP)** opened at former Aquinas College site with the installation of new tot lot play equipment.
- **Farlow Park:** New accessible stone-faced pedestrian bridge designed and constructed; historic pond basin uncovered and refurbished; donated bench with companion pad and accessible pathways.
- **Farlow Park and abutting Chaffin Park:** All fifteen historic benches refurbished.
- **Underwood Elementary School:** New 5-12-year-old play equipment with grass mats on accessible route; playfield area irrigated.
- **Burr Park:** New spray park with benches.
- **Newton Corner traffic islands (“Circle of Death”):** Invasive shrub species removed from four islands, and new planting plan approved for 2020 construction.

Newton Highlands

- **Newton Highlands Playground:** Completely rehabilitated with two lighted, irrigated, natural turf athletic fields; play equipment areas for 2-5-year-olds and 5-12-year-olds; two tennis courts; one basketball court; one dozen benches; 75 trees; one parking lot; and a fully accessible pathway system.
- **Hyde Playground:** Tot lot and 5-12-year-old play structures with grass mats on accessible route; five donated benches and improvements made to the border garden seating area.
- **Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake:** Master plan completed; one memorial bench donated.
- **Cold Spring Park:** Three tennis courts repaired/repainted; fitness station areas installed along the park trail, including an accessible one; extensive trail rehabilitation.
- **Zervas Elementary School:** New grades K-1, 2-3 and 4-5 play equipment areas, all on accessible routes.
- **Richardson Playground:** Irrigation extended to the outfield.

Newtonville

- **Bulloughs Pond Park:** Installation of pondside seating area with two benches and plantings.
- **Cabot Elementary School and Cabot Park:** New play structures constructed for grades K-2 and 3-5; two permeable-paved walkways installed from Eastside Parkway to Cabot School; refurbished fencing along Eastside Parkway; and new shade trees.
- **Cabot Off-Leash Dog Area:** New shade structure and moveable chairs added.
- **Carr Elementary School:** New ga-ga pit constructed.

Nonantum

- **Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground:** CDBG-funded Phase III design and construction completed: rear property line surveyed and low concrete block retaining wall with fence set on top; three shade trees and one dozen shrubs planted.

Upper Falls

- **Emerson Playground:** Restored, with state grant funds, with tot lot and 5-12-year-old play structures; poured-rubber surfacing; planted shade trees; installed benches; renovated basketball court, all on accessible route.
- **Upper Falls Greenway:** Former rail bed converted into one-mile-long accessible stone dust pathway between Newton Highlands and the Charles River border with Needham; new signs added; bocce courts constructed adjacent.

Waban

- **Waban Playground:** Three tennis courts and one basketball court repaired/repainted.
- **Angier Elementary School:** New play structures for grades K-2 and 3-5, on accessible route.
- **Waban Common:** Two traffic islands merged into one to improve vehicular traffic and create an accessible pocket park with all new plantings, sod, irrigation and eight benches.

West Newton

- **Gath Pool:** Rubber surfacing added to the pool decking; spray elements added to kiddie pool.
- **Davis (Family Access):** New tot lot and 5-12-year-old play equipment installed.
- **Peirce Elementary School:** New 5-12-year-old play equipment on accessible route.
- **Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex (Albemarle Playground):** New play equipment installed for Horace Mann Elementary School.
- **Wellington Park:** New bench swing; expanded garden areas; water bottle filler bubbler.