

**Property: Waban Hill Reservoir**

**Newton Conservators Conservation Restriction  
Monitoring-2022**

**BACKGROUND:**

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY:** Waban Hill Reservoir

**Address of Property:** Ward St.

**Newton- Assessor Data Base #63007 000**

**2. Current Property Owner and Address—if City of Newton, Department Responsible for Property** Parks Recreation and Culture

**Telephone #** 617-796-1507, **Email** lpdemorizi@newtonma.gov

**Is there any knowledge of the property being transferred, leased or sold?**

No

**3. Date of Inspection** 8/16/2022

**4. Monitor/s** Nyssa Patten, Peter Barrer

**5. Name of Owner or Representative Present During Inspection** N/A

**If Owner Not Present, was Owner Contacted Prior to Visit** Yes \_\_\_ No x

**Method of Contact or Attempt** Luis Demorizi of Parks, Recreation and Culture had planned to join us, but got Covid and could not be there when we visited

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**INSPECTION VISIT:**

**6. Briefly Describe the Nature and Methods of the Site Visit**

Walked around the fence, taking photos, making observations, discussing issues and changes since 2021 visit.

**7. Current land use: also list and describe any changes in land use since last inspection, if none, so state.** None.

**8. List any man-made alterations since the last monitoring visit, (i.e. construction, dredging, clearing of fields, trail work, tree work, invasive plant removals, etc.) and note location(s) on the route map and attach maps, photographs, and illustrations as helpful.**

Gatehouse exterior seemed cleaner and in better shape, but ivy is regrowing up brick wall on sides and back. Debris in reservoir has been removed. About ten young trees planted near surrounding roadways. Welcoming signage with rules has been installed. Plants growing through fence have been trimmed back to fence line.

**9. List any natural alterations since the last monitoring visit, (i.e., flooding, fire, insect infestations, tree damage, invasive plants, etc.). Note the location(s) on the route map and attach maps, photographs, and illustrations as helpful.**

Invasive plants inside the fence have multiplied in spite of invasive pull by Newton Conservators in October of 2021. Plants included Tree of Heaven, Glossy Buckthorn, Black Swallow-wort, etc.

Some erosion on grassy slope.

**10. List areas in need of discussion or review (depositing/dumping, wetland alteration, excavation, residential structures, tree or shrub removal, agricultural structures, damage to the property, etc.).**

Repeating comment from 2021 CR report:

Vegetation growth on reservoir wall. Roots continue to damage wall, cutting back every few years is apparently not sufficient for long term health of wall. Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Dept. (PRC) needs to MAKE A PRIORITY for a long term plan for wall maintenance. May require a joint consultation with a civil engineer and vegetation maintenance contractor. Luis was not with us on the visit so we were unable to learn if PRC has made progress on this priority.

**11. Monitor comments: list any other observations or comments, information requests, etc. Also note any rare or unusual plant or animal life or sign thereof seen.** We saw several people using the walkway during our visit.

**12. Are there any items that monitors should be aware of pertaining to future visits, including land owner contact or access to the property?** We should make an effort to request the Friends group to join us on the 2023 visit.

**13. Are the terms of the Conservation Restriction being upheld? If not, explain?**

Yes.

**14. Do the owner(s)/representative(s) seem familiar with the terms of the Conservation Restriction?** Yes, Luis was familiar with the CR on previous visit.

**15. Is any follow up needed? If so, why?** Plan for removal of invasive vegetation on granite wall is essential for long term stability of the park.

**16. List attachments to this report (route map, photos, notes, etc.). Be sure provide a route map of the path walked and locations where on-site photos or other observations were made. Sign and date all materials.**

**15 Ground photographs** 1 Base Map 0 Illustrations 0 Aerial photographs

     Other, explain:



**Route Map with waypoints shown.**



**Waypoint 1:** new welcome sign



**Waypoint 1:** Clean looking gatehouse



**Waypoint 2:** Tree of Heaven



**Waypoint 2:** debris from tree trimming



**Waypoint 2:** trimmed vines re-climbing



**Waypoint2:** Poison ivy encroaching on path





**Waypoint 3:** trimmed Tree of Heaven



**Waypoint 3:** trimmed Tree of Heaven



**Waypoint 4:** vines covering retaining wall



**Waypoint 5:** Tree of Heaven grove



**Waypoint 6:** new tree plantings



**Waypoint 7:** Black swallowwort pods on fence





**Waypoint 8:** new tree plantings



**Waypoint 9:** are next to gatehouse much clearer of bittersweet vines



**Waypoint 9:** soil erosion on hill

**Name of Monitor/s (please print):** Nyssa Patten, Peter Barrer

**Signature of Monitor/s:**

*Peter J Barrer*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Nyssa Patten*  
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**Date:** 8/16/22