

Protect Webster Woods!

Congregation Mishkan Tefila owns 22 acres of land (shown in yellow in the photo below) that is surrounded by publicly owned conservation land. The city-owned Webster Conservation Area is to the north and west, and the state-owned Hammond Pond Reservation is to the south and east.



This drawing presents a development that could be possible around the wetlands.

While Bare Pond and a small buffer zone around it is protected from development by state wetlands regulations, most of the land could be developed by Boston College for use as dorms, classrooms or office buildings, or parking lots. Such development would be a devastating blow to a beloved conservation area.

While the plan shown above for development of the site is not currently under consideration, it gives an idea of the extent of development that might be possible on the land.

Please contact Mayor Setti Warren and members of the Board of Aldermen to urge them to take action to preserve this conservation land. ■

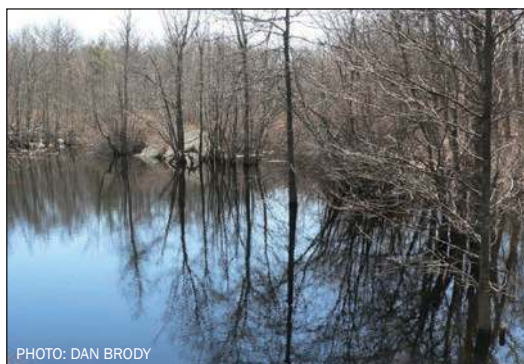
☙ Dan Brody

For links to additional information or to contact Mayor Setti Warren and members of the Board of Aldermen:

1. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/masssparks/region-boston/hammond-pond-reservation.html>
2. <http://newton.wickedlocal.com/article/20150805/NEWS/150808134>
3. <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/executive/contact.asp>
4. <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/default.asp>

In August 2015, local news media reported that the congregation is close to reaching an agreement to sell its property to Boston College. The college's plans for the land are unknown, but a sale would increase the likelihood of development of some or all of the land. The Board of Directors of the Newton Conservators has written a letter to Mayor Setti Warren and the Newton Board of Alderman urging them to take action to protect this land.

The land owned by the temple is mostly undeveloped woodlands. Until 1954 it was part of the state reservation. It includes Bare Pond, a vernal pool that has been the site of Newton Conservators walks. The image below superimposes an aerial photo of the temple's buildings and parking lots onto a map of the woods. Note that the main east-west trails are on land owned by the temple, which is in white on this map.



◀ Bare Pond Vernal Pool

PHOTO: DAN BRODY