

A Century of Parks and Recreation in Newton

Because of its relative affluence, citizen activism, and self-promotion as a desirable place to live, Newton was a foremost player in the parks, playground and organized sports movements of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Mike Clarke's talk traces the interaction of these national and international movements with Newton's improvement societies, playground, recreation and parks commissions. The early twentieth century synergy between Newton's longest-serving mayor and its first and longest-serving superintendent of playgrounds is highlighted. Period photographs of play in playgrounds illustrate their philosophy of mind and body together with the role of play, crafts and sports in children's development.

Extra points if you can guess in which park this picture was taken. A) Bullough's Pond, B) City Hall grounds, C) Brewer Playground, D) Crystal Lake, E) Hammond Pond Reservation, F) Boyd Park, G) Cabot Park H) Heartbreak Hill Park on Waban Hill, I) Auburndale.



Extra points, if you can tell where this Newton Water Pageant picture was taken.
A) Silver Lake, B) Hammond Pond C) Boyd Pond D) Crystal Lake E) the Lakes District of the Charles F) Bullough's Pond
Extra special bonus points if you can guess which opera the tableaux portrays.

