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Climate Change Hits Newton

Connecting people to protected open space is our important priority. There are other issues that are important to support to preserve our environment. Climate change and the greenhouse gas emissions that cause it are two of them. Newton folks generally feel personally safe from climate change. Until recently, the consequences of climate change in our Garden City have not been overwhelming. Yet, extreme weather events in the past two years have impacted us, and we need to pay attention.

Extreme Weather

In the summer of 2023, unusual rainfall caused devastating results. Homeowners in the Oak Hill neighborhood saw their



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

The field near Nahanton Street is where flooding occurred.

basements ruined by water intrusion due to heavy rainfall that was greater than city's drainage system capacity. The road next to Newton Community Farm flooded

due to inadequate drainage; the resulting contaminated overflow into the farm field caused deep flooding, which killed plants and caused the farm produce to be unhealthy and unsalable. An estimated 20% of the yearly harvest was lost.



Graphic courtesy Depositphotos.com

That same summer, smoke drifted here from Canada wildfires caused by drought

conditions. The result was dangerous air quality for weeks, threatening the health of Newton residents. Similarly, in October this year, smoke from brush wildfires in Salem, MA, affected air quality here, prompting health alerts.

It is difficult to attribute any specific extreme weather event to climate change. But we do know that climate change is expressed in changing weather patterns over time. Newton residents have experienced climate change as the driving force for two dramatic changes in our weather patterns: warmer temperatures and alternating periods of drought and heavy rainfall.

Warming

New weather patterns have already impacted life in Newton. Let's start with warmer temperatures.

Bird, butterfly, and insect naturalists are noticing changes in wildlife populations due to rising temperatures. Insects are showing up a week or two earlier than historically typical times. Newton birders are aware of significant changes in the bird population

...Climate Change Hits Newton continued from page 1

and timing of bird migration. Causes include the effects of climate change on breeding ranges, smoke from wildfires, and timing mismatches between insect populations and migration patterns.

Birders have also seen fewer migrating birds passing through Newton on their way north to arctic tundra areas that are now less habitable due to climate change.



The population of the Massachusetts State Bird, the Black-capped Chickadee, has been dropping over time. As temperatures warm, the Carolina Chickadee is taking over its historic niches. The Black-capped Chickadee has been predicted to be extinct in our state by 2050.

Black-capped Chickadee

Years ago people enjoyed ice skating on Bullough's Pond, Crystal Lake, and on the Charles River at Ware's Cove in Auburndale. Due to warmer weather, such enjoyment has not been available recently, and the skating shack at Bullough's Pond was demolished in 2017.

Some schools without air conditioning had to cancel classes in June 2024 due to heat. Schools without air conditioning are installing cooling centers to protect student and staff health. The need for "snow day" school closures in the winter has diminished. Some administrators are considering formally instituting "high heat days" in the spring and fall instead.

As late as 2013, the need for air conditioning in new school construction was heavily debated, with some arguing that it was not needed. Now in 2024 air conditioning in all new schools is considered essential. For new school playgrounds,

there have been requests for shade structures with roof components to keep school children from overheating outdoors.



Tomato plants grown at Newton Community Farm.

At Newton Community Farm, extra high heat has caused tomato plants to stop

growing and has occasionally forced staff to leave the field to protect their health. Similarly, the farm stand has been closed on very hot days to protect staff health. (Frost dates have not

changed, however, which poses a risk to gardeners like me who try to take advantage of the warmer growing season.)

Drought and Downpours

Climate change has also caused changes in precipitation patterns. Although overall annual precipitation has only slightly increased, the frequency of dry periods and intensity of occasional rainstorms has changed dramatically. Newton's storm drainage system has been designed over the years for historically heavy rains, but the drainage system has been overwhelmed several times in recent years by unprecedented rainstorms, nevertheless.



Newton public library parking lot during flooding.

The Newton Library parking lot drainage system has worked well since it was rebuilt to current standards two years ago. But in 2023 the lot flooded anyway because the downstream drainage system could not absorb a heavy downpour. Recently the ponds near City Hall were dredged to help prevent Library parking lot flooding in the future. All over the city, the new precipitation patterns will force re-examination and expensive expansion of the capacity of drainage pipes and culverts.

One Newton Conservators Board member has observed soil erosion in Webster Woods resulting from heavy precipitation.



Ground water well and irrigation system at Newton Community Farm.

Unprecedented varying precipitation patterns include long periods of drought. Fortunately, Newton Community Farm has a reliable groundwater well and

irrigation system enabling vegetable production to survive drought. However, the labor required to continuously relocate irrigation equipment around the field sometimes prevents staff from doing their normal work.

Local and Global

Beyond Newton, the Global South has been hit disproportionately by the most catastrophic events caused by climate change. In comparison, most of Newton's climate challenges have been managed without catastrophic impact.



Mini split heat pump used for home heating during winter and cooling during summer.

But worldwide experience indicates that extreme weather will continue to get worse, even here.

It is in our self-interest to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions in Newton. Newton is fortunate to have robust financial resources, both in the city's finances and in the finances of many of our wealthy residents. Our capacity has enabled us to take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The city has a plan to reduce and eventually eliminate fossil fuel consumption by its buildings and vehicles. Individual commercial building owners and homeowners are buying electric cars, induction stoves and converting heating systems away from using gas and oil. All this will help fight climate change at home and abroad.

Because emissions anywhere cause climate change everywhere, it is also in our self-interest to assist the developing countries of the Global South to thrive without fossil fuels. Financial initiatives from the wealthy Global North are a necessary part of the global solution.

I believe that all institutions of our society, including Newton Conservators, need to take emergency action to reduce the global emissions of greenhouse gases as quickly as possible. ♦

✿ Peter Barrer

Get Involved with the Conservators - Volunteers Needed

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Newton Conservators needs volunteers to help with various activities, including annual monitoring of the conservation restrictions we hold on City of Newton properties, pulling invasive plants, updating our inventory of plants and animals on Newton's public lands, and collecting new signups from interested Newton residents on our walks or at community events such as Village Days, the Harvest Fest, and others. You'll work alongside and be trained as needed by experienced Conservators' board members. If you're willing to volunteer for a couple hours, it would be most appreciated. To learn more about volunteer opportunities and contact us about them, go to newtonconservators.org/volunteer/

Thank you.



Riverside Greenway Update – November 2024

By Ted Chapman, Riverside Greenway Working Group, Project Manager

Editor's Note: Please see the online version of the newsletter to see the details of these maps.

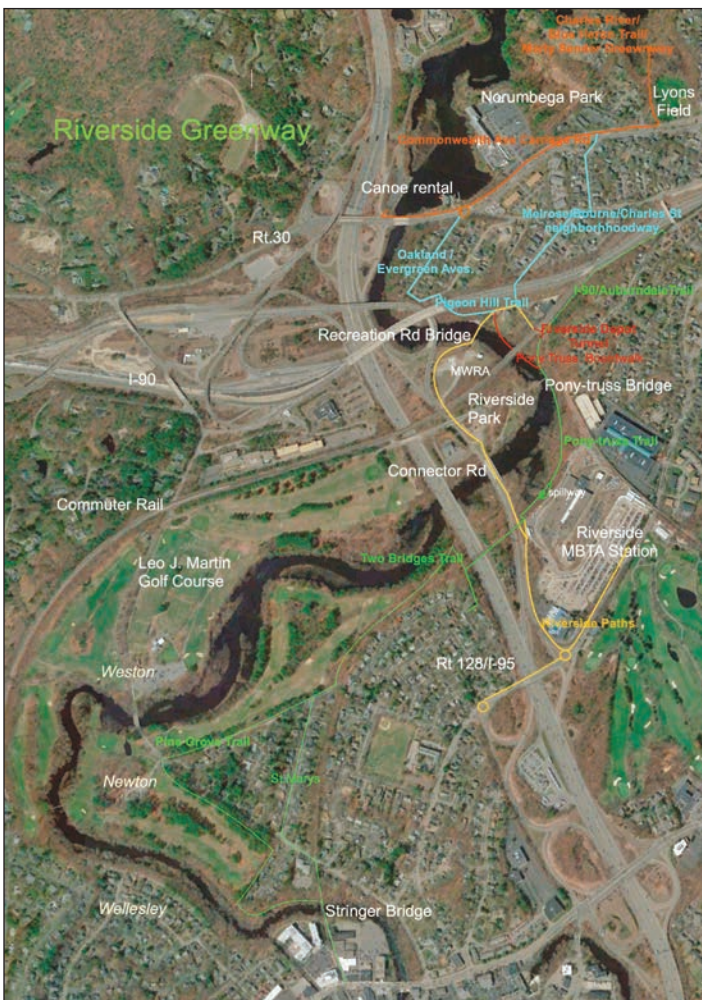
The Riverside Greenway Working Group (RGWG) formed in 2017 to actualize a vision spelled out in the “1975 Charles River Pathway Plan,” a vision of a network of trails along the Charles River between Newton Lower Falls and Auburndale. This 1975 report arose from the “1969 Newton Recreation/Open Space Plan,” which sought to build on the work of Charles Elliot, who in 1892 founded the Metropolitan Park Commission (later MDC, and now DCR) to preserve as publicly owned open space much of the banks of the Charles River. The open space plan established three goals:

1. To have a continuous footpath along the Charles River
2. To conserve the banks of the Charles in as natural a setting as possible
3. To add to outdoor recreational and educational opportunities available to the city

Some of the trails described in 1975 have already been actualized by the Blue Heron Trail, which runs a continuous route from Watertown Square to Lyons Field in Auburndale, and nearly continuous from Quinobequin Road in Waban, through the Cutler Park Reservation to Millennium Park in Roslindale. The most significant gap in the trail system is the Riverside Greenway. We have named it the ‘Riverside Greenway’ because going back to the 1850s, this was the area known as the Riverside Recreation Grounds, nicknamed ‘the Rec.’ The following report will describe the remarkable headway being made to create the infrastructure to fill this gap.

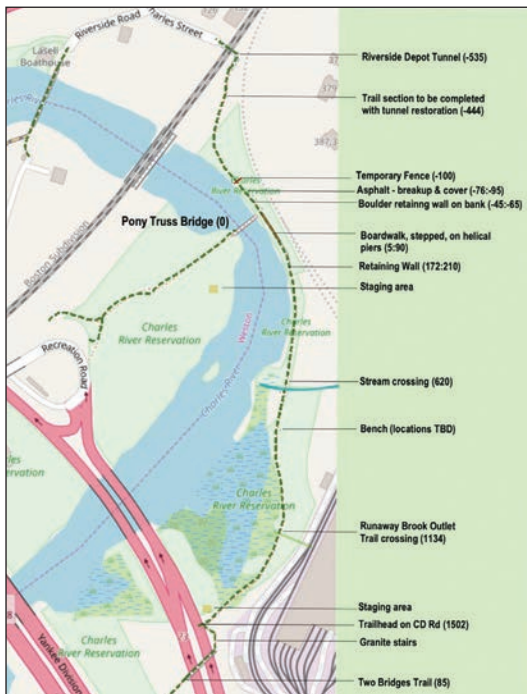
The individual construction feats to complete the Riverside Greenway continuous route from Auburndale to Quinobequin Road in Waban have received individual names:

- The Marty Sender Greenway, phases 1 and 2 (2022/2024)
- The Commonwealth Ave Carriageway (2026)
- The Auburndale Links
 - Melrose/Bourne/Charles Streets/I-90 Underpass (2025)
 - Recreation Road/Stoller Boathouse Bridge (2025)
 - Riverside Depot Tunnel
 - Pigeon Hill Trail (2030)
- Pony Truss Trail and Bridge
- Riverside Trails
 - MWRA link (2025)
 - Pony Truss-Charles River Park Boardwalk (2023)
 - Two-Bridges Trail and connections to Lower Falls/Leo J. Martin/Riverside MBTA Station
 - Riverside Development Trails
 - CD Road shared-use path (2028)
 - Grove Street separate-use trail (2028)



Graphic image of the elements of the Riverside Greenway
Courtesy Ted Chapman

1. To have a continuous footpath along the Charles River
2. To conserve the banks of the Charles in as natural a setting as possible



Pony Truss Trail schematic Courtesy Ted Chapman

The big picture is that the Pony Truss Trail was opened in 2022. It is a beautiful .3 mile walk along the south side of the Charles River from Riverside Park to the SC Road abutting the Riverside MBTA station. By 2026, a continuous accessible

bike/pedestrian route from Riverside Park downstream to the Charles River Path in Waltham will be functional. The upstream accessible routes from Lower Falls and the Riverside MBTA station will come online with the Riverside Development in 2027-8.

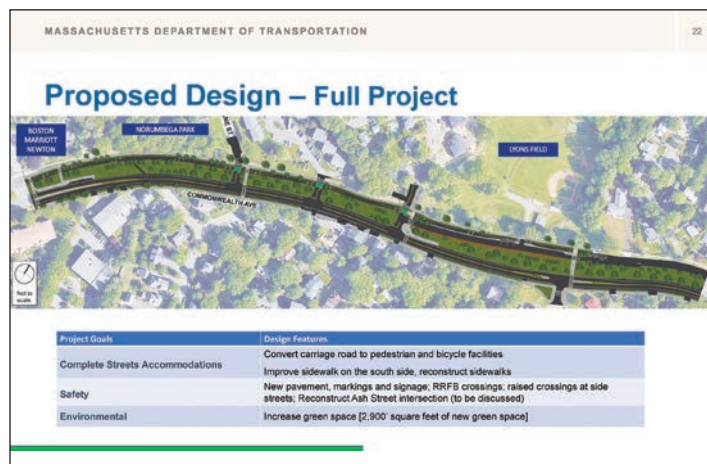


Marty Sender Boardwalk: The boardwalk on the Marty Sender Greenway below Lyons Field

A detailed update of each of these elements follows, with hyperlinks for further details and visuals. The **Marty Sender Greenway** extends through Auburndale Park adjacent to the Charles River from the gate, marked by the Blue Heron granite pillars, on Islington Road at Lyons Field to the Waltham City line. Phase 1, completed in 2023, restored a 10-foot-wide stabilized stone dust path with tactile edging made of coarse stones. Phase 2 was completed in July 2024 and included a 610-foot-long

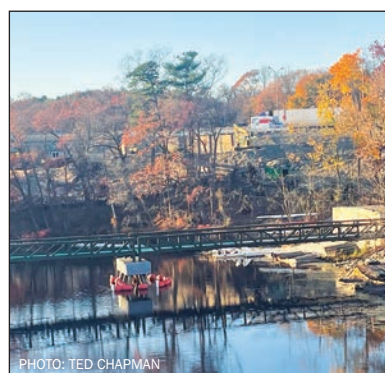
boardwalk over a perennial wet area, reconnecting the hydrology of Lyon's field to the wetland and extensive native wetland plantings. Phase 3, which will complete the path to the Waltham border, will soon begin planning.

The **Commonwealth Ave. Greenway** is a monumental project from Lyons Field to a new roundabout being built



Commonwealth Ave Carriageway Full design. Graphic image of the Commonwealth Ave Carriageway between Lyons Field and Auburn St. where it will merge with the replaced Rt 30. Charles River Bridge. Courtesy Ted Chapman

in association with the replacement of the Route 30 bridge over the Charles River. MassDOT will build a shared-use path on this bridge that connects to the boat launch area on Norumbega Road. This Commonwealth Avenue project was designed by the city and paid for by Federal Transportation Improvement Funds. This huge commitment to bike and pedestrian transport will remove the two west-bound car lanes of Commonwealth Avenue and convert them to a park with separated bike and pedestrian paths. Now under construction, the estimated finish date is mid-2026. The Commonwealth Ave Bridge and new roundabout at Auburn Street will follow. On the south side, a third of the way to Lyons Field, there is a curb break and eventually a flashing pedestrian crossing beacon side that will be the connection to the **Melrose-Bourne-Charles Street Neighborhood Way**.



Stoller Bridge/Pigeon Hill Rd.: The Recreation Road/Stoller Boathouse Bridge under construction with the I-90 Pigeon Hill Trail construction in the background.

This neighborhood way will utilize the existing street grid in Auburndale to connect to the **Charles River/Pigeon Hill Park**. The city transportation planning team is working with the RGWG team, neighborhood abutters, and Newton DPW to design and construct traffic calming/safety measures that will allow safe passage between the Commonwealth

Avenue Greenway, through the I-90 tunnel to the Charles River/Pigeon Hill Park. The park, owned by the Mass DCR, will undergo restoration when bridge construction

Continued on page 6

is complete. The restoration will include improvements to the path system connecting the Auburndale links and to the white house at 107 Charles Street, which hosts multiple AA meetings each week.



Pigeon Hill I-90 West: Looking west from Pigeon Hill, the new piers for I-90 east roadway are rising across the Charles River 40 feet south of I-90s current location. The Pigeon Hill Trail will run under this roadway.



Pigeon Hill I-90 east: Looking east from Pigeon Hill the steel foundation for the abutment under construction; the Pigeon Hill Trail will run downhill on a shelf created to the right (river side) of the new abutment.

grade 5%), allow a trail with a maximum grade of 11%. This trail will reestablish the historic connection between the river and the neighborhood of Pigeon Hill and eventually will provide a connection for recreational users to the Commonwealth Avenue Greenway and DCR Boathouse, canoe, kayak, and paddle board rental facility.

The third Auburndale link, which has been studied in detail by the RWGW with MassTrails funding, is the restoration of the **Riverside Depot Tunnel**, which crosses under the Worcester branch of the MBTA commuter rail and connects to the Pony Truss Trail. The fourth link, an alternative route to the tunnel, would connect with the Pony Truss Trail on a

The four **Auburndale Links** options take off from the park. The primary accessible route for the park is the **Recreation Road/Stoller Boathouse Bridge**, which is

nearing completion, scheduled to open in Spring 2025. This 16-foot-wide bridge will carry users to the DCR-owned MWRA bypass path. Above the park on the north, the Mass Pike (I-90) is currently being rebuilt by MassDOT at a cost of \$730M.

The completed construction will accommodate the second of the links — a RGWG project to restore the **Pigeon Hill Road** as a trail. This trail will meet Forest Service accessibility guidelines (FSTAG). These guidelines, which are not as stringent as the ADA guidelines (max

grade 5%), allow a trail with a maximum grade of 11%. This trail will reestablish the historic connection between the river and the neighborhood of Pigeon Hill and eventually will provide a connection for recreational users to the Commonwealth Avenue Greenway and DCR Boathouse, canoe, kayak, and paddle board rental facility.



PHOTO: TED CHAPMAN

Pony Truss Bridge:

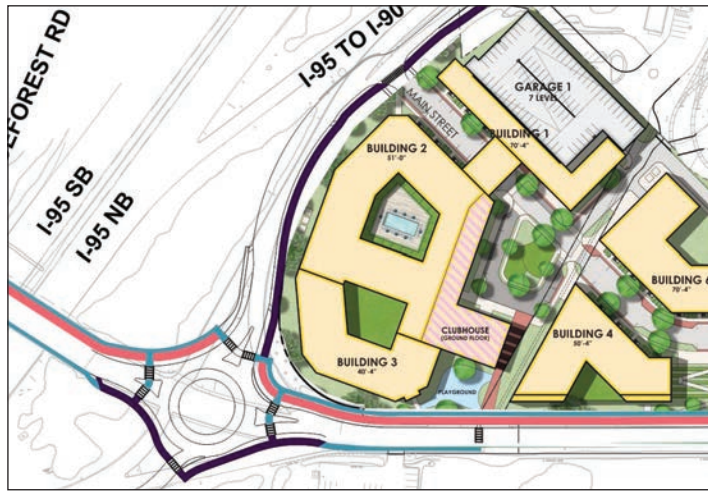
The Pony Truss bridge seen from atop the Commuter Rail Bridge. On the right bank was the boathouse for the Riverside Recreation Grounds, now a beautiful display of swamp rose-mallow Hibiscus moscheutos in July and August.

boardwalk in the Charles River under the iconic commuter rail bridge. The construction of an at-grade boardwalk in the Charles River between the Pony Truss Trail downstream from the Pony Truss Bridge to the Charles River /Pigeon Hill Park is the route favored by Mass DCR because it would be ADA compliant, making it eligible for federal funding. The construction of one or both options is part of the Riverside Development special permit negotiated by Mark Development in 2021 with funding as part of the 2021 Riverside mitigation package totaling \$3M.

The fourth iteration of a plan to develop the Riverside MBTA station is currently being resubmitted by Mark Development as a smaller, all-residential project. This size reduction will also reduce the mitigation package approved in 2021 by 30%, dropping the funding of the Riverside Trail Projects to \$2.1M. The projects to be paid for by these mitigation funds include the Depot Tunnel or Boardwalk, the CD road - MWRA connection, the connection between the Two Bridgers Trail and new path on the CD road, and finally 100% design of the Two Bridges Trail. This last item, which itself is estimated to cost \$1.5M, is listed the highest priority in the agreement signed between Mark Development and Mass DCR, DOT, and MBTA. The RGWG will seek to renegotiate these priorities to allow for actual construction of trail infrastructure rather than spending the bulk of the funds on a design for which there is no foreseeable funding in sight.

The RGWG identified the Two Bridges Trail as the most appropriate route connecting Lower Falls and the Leo J. Martin golf and cross-county skiing operation to the Riverside MBTA station. In 2017, RGWG was awarded a MassTrails grant of \$37K and hired the BSC Group to do a conceptual plan of the trail. This study estimated the construction costs to be just short of about \$1M. In 2021

DCR and Mark Development put that number at \$3.5M beyond the \$1.5M design cost. In 2020 Mass DCR funded the Lower Falls Shared-Use Trail Feasibility Study to access how to connect the Two Bridges Trail through the golf



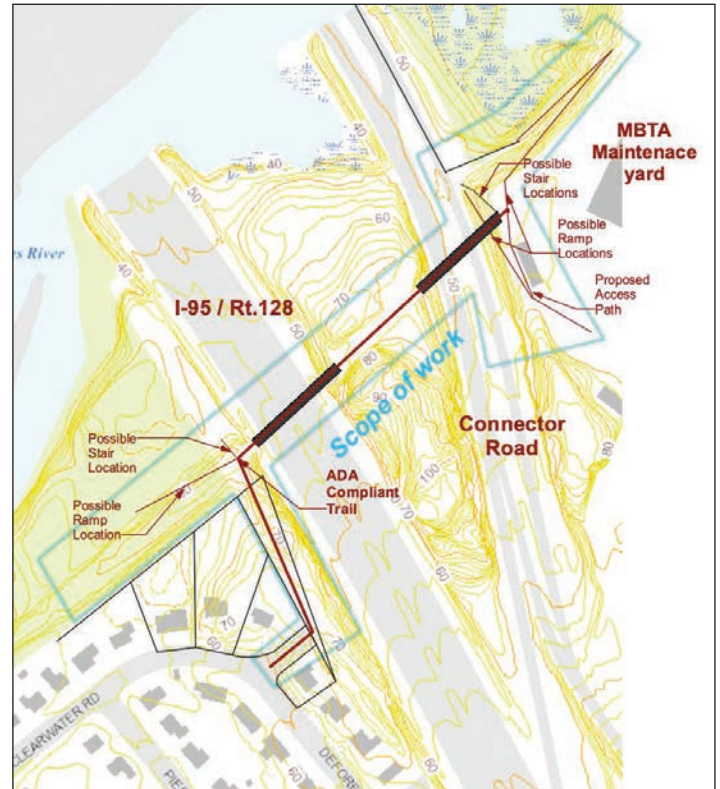
Riverside paths at I-90-N ramp
Graphic image of the bike-pedestrian Riverside paths at the I-90 north bound ramp. Courtesy Ted Chapman

course to the Blue Heron Trail along Quinobequin Road. The total cost estimated for this project was over \$8.5M. Clearly these costs are out of reach of current funding sources.

The positive news is that Mark Development will be building a safe route from Riverside to the Lower Falls street grid — a separated bike and pedestrian path on Grove Street in front of the development, through a new roundabout at the location of the I-95/Rte. 128 northbound ramp. At the roundabout, there will be a connection to the shared-use path that will run adjacent to the current CD road to Riverside Park in Weston. The separated path on the north side of Grove Street. will cross I-95 to a second new roundabout at the I-95/Rte.128 southbound exit at Asheville Street. This new trail system will provide a long-awaited safe connection between Lower Falls and the Riverside Greenway, though it lacks the recreational advantages of the Two Bridges Trail.

For the hale and hardy, there is an existing connection along railroad right-of-way across the Two Bridges Trail that crosses the CD road and I-95/Rt 128 open for foot traffic. Access requires a scramble up the embankment at the Pony Truss Trail trailhead on the CD road. At the west end of the Two Bridges Trail, there are paths to the golf course and DeForest/Clearwater Streets in Lower Falls. The street grid along Pine Grove and St. Marys Street connects to the segment of the Blue Heron Trail from Concord St, across the Trestle Bridge to Wellesley Hills. From there,

walkers can access the Wellesley trail system, and going east on Washington Street (Rt.16 and over the Cordingly Dam path to the paths on Quinobequin). Relatively safe access to Quinobequin could also be achieved at the I-90/Ashville roundabout by Mass DOT painting a shared-use path on the access road (Quinobequin East) between Grove and Washington Streets. This route is not mentioned in the 2020 DCR Study.



Schematic showing the placement of the Two Bridges Trail. Courtesy Ted Chapman

The mission of the RGWG is “to create connection and restore the legacy” of this beautiful part of the Charles River for both recreational and off-road transportation purposes. We have important collaborators in meeting these goals: Mass DOT, DCR and MBTA, the cities of Newton and Waltham, the towns of Wellesley and Weston and their trails advocates and department staff, and Solomon Foundation, and most importantly Newton Conservators. When we look at the map of the improvements underway and envisioned, they link to efforts in adjacent towns. For instance, the Town of Weston has designed and received TIP funding to build a three-mile, Route 30 shared-use path from I-90 to the Wayland border. Wellesley and Waltham each have more than 100 miles of trails that will be accessed through the Riverside Greenway. We are grateful for what has been accomplished in eight years and look forward to completing this trail network. ♦

History of Newton Parks, Playgrounds & Recreation: A Strong Alliance. New Parks or Are They Playgrounds?

During the early decades of the 20th century, Newton became an acknowledged leader in the Recreational Movement.¹ In addition to an activist Playground Commission and Superintendent, playgrounds had a strong advocate in Mayor Edwin O. Childs, who presented substantial arguments for increased parks' acquisitions, capital improvements, as well as maintenance and personnel throughout his initial tenure of 1914–1929. Childs emphasized not only the rhetoric of the playground movement that stressed the interaction between mind and body, but also the need for able bodied young men in both manufacturing and military service.²⁻⁸



Figure 1, Mayor Edwin O. Childs c. 1914

In his 1919 address, Mayor Childs noted the pending donation of Burr Park: In the near future, the city will receive from the children the late Isaac T. and Anne F. Burr a playground, which comprises the Burr estate on Park Street in Ward 1. For years that section has been without a suitable place where boys and girls could play. Situated as it is adjoining the Bigelow school, it will be of inestimable value to the young folks of that locality...⁸

The next year, the mayor notes that Burr Playground officially being turned over to the city: A very elaborate shelter building has been constructed, with office, dressing-rooms, and shower baths.⁹ The building, fixtures and equipment are complete to the last detail. Even the coal bin has been filled. At the present time an open shelter building and a wading pool are in process of construction and a complete equipment of fixed gymnasium apparatus is being prepared.⁶⁻⁷

The Edmands family had shared its 33 acre oak forest, sometimes known as Cabot Woods, with Newton citizens for many years, and hoped their 1913 gift of Edmands Park to the city would allow this to continue. It was only when a reluctant Board of Aldermen heard that a real estate developer had offered \$10,000 for the land that it agreed to accept the gift, with the provision that the city would not be obligated to improve the land. Nevertheless, a skating pond was later created by damming the brook on the property.¹⁰

In the summer of 1914, the Commission voted to grant permission to the Playground and Social Service League of Newton Centre to move the Episcopal Church building of Newton Centre (since known as “The Hut”) onto the Newton Centre Playground along Tyler Terrace.¹¹⁻¹² This

structure was constructed on Pelham Street in 1892 as the first church of Trinity Parish in Newton Centre, then moved to the corner of Centre and Homer Streets, and finally to Tyler Terrace in 1916.

Auburndale Playground or Park or Lyons Playground or Park? While the Olmstead firm had created a plan for Auburndale Park, a design from the Auburndale Improvement Association was accepted instead.¹³ Auburndale Playground was constructed in 1914 as a part of Auburndale Park. Additional land along Commonwealth Avenue was purchased in 1938 and was included in Auburndale Playground.¹⁴ While the term “Lyons Park” appears in the 1937 minutes,¹⁵ in the following year, Auburndale Playground was renamed Thomas J. Lyons Playground in honor of a citizen of Newton, who was an active supporter of boys sports and for many years and was a member of the Playground Commission.¹⁶ The term “Lyons Park,” which now refers to the parcel on Commonwealth Avenue does not appear in the record until 1997, although a sign to this effect was on Commonwealth Avenue for some years before.

The Oak Hill Playground was named the Gobinet Hurley playground after the donor.¹⁶ The Waban Playground, on the site of the 19th century almshouse,¹⁷ was renamed the George Angier Playground after the man who was instrumental in the purchase, establishment and development of the playground and in adding a recreation room to the Angier School.^{16, 18}



Victory Field – Field Day, 1926. (Newton Historical Society)

In 1920, the use of Victory Field in Nonantum was donated by the owners of Shepherd Mills, who maintained it at no expense to the city with gymnasium apparatus, swings and sand boxes.⁷ Five years later, the mayor proposed selling Allison Park and buying Victory Field, which was much more developed.

References can be found on the online version of our newsletter. ♦

Michael J. Clarke

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Remembering Sarah (Sally) Barnett



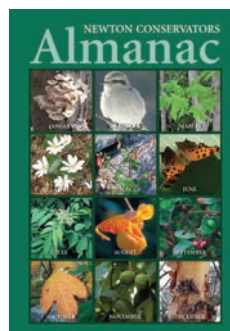
Sarah Barnett, who died on October 3, 2024, was a steadfast worker for the preservation of open space in Newton starting in the 1970s with working to help save Webster Woods. She was a member of Newton Conservators' Board of Directors from 1973 to 1984. She served as president from 1980 to 1982 and past president from 1982 to 1984. She was part of a group that won the Environmentalist of the Year Award in 1976 for producing Newton's first Open Space Plan in 1973-74. Beginning in 1976 she was a driving force in the Conservators for advocating for the former Newton Almshouse and Xaverian Brothers' Working Boys Home Lands to become Nahanton Park in 1987. In the late 1990s she worked with the Conservators as a strong advocate for placing a conservation restriction on open space as part of the development of the Andover-Newton Seminary woods for elderly housing. She loved children and introducing them to nature. Her

husband, Octo, who was a member of Newton Conservators' Board of Directors from 2007 to 2010, preceded her in passing in 2020. There was a Memorial Service at the First Unitarian Universal Society in Newton on November 24, 2024, for both Sarah and Octo. More about Sarah can be found in her obituary at: www.eatonfuneralhomes.com/obituary/Sarah-Barnett

Winter's here. Take a walk in the woods!

Shop online at newtonconservators.org/publications/ to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. The Almanac is \$22.45, and the Trail Guide is \$10.95.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a trail guide free with their first membership.



MISSION

Newton Conservators, Inc.

Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests, and streams which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters.

A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings, and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary, and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 63 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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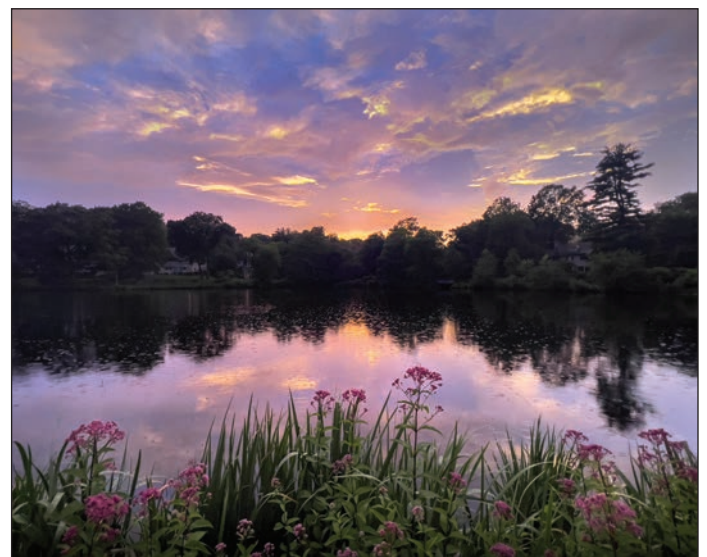
Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the newsletter: Peter Barrer, Ted Chapman, Michael J. Clarke, Ellen Faust, Katherine Howard.

Ellen Foust: An Artist's Look at Nature in Newton

Ellen Foust is a fine art photographer with a passion for teaching. Since 2018, she has been exploring the clouds at Newton's Bullough's Pond. Like Monet with his haystack paintings, Ellen returns over and over to the same scene in different seasons, weather, and times of day. Her amazing series, Cloudscapes of Bullough's Pond, has been exhibited widely throughout Newton. More recently, Ellen has photographed close-ups of the flora and fauna of Bullough's, as well as used digital editing software to imagine dreamscapes, delightful flights of fantasy riffed off of pond photographs. To date, all of Ellen's Bullough's Pond photos have been taken with her iPhone camera. Please visit the Newton Conservators' "Artists Look at Nature in Newton" on our website for more of her work and for works of other Newton artists: <https://newtonconservators.org/artists-look-at-nature-in-newton/>.

Instagram: @ellenfoustphotography

Website: www.ellenfoust.com Facebook:



► Invasives Update ◀



Newton Conservators' invasives team will continue regular field work over the winter, which is a good time to take down bittersweet vines and tackle woody shrubs. We also will use this time to review our activities and plan for future efforts. If you'd like to help and be added to our invasives email list, please let us know via email to invasives@newtonconservators.org.

Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA

.....

Individuals 70½ and older can make a tax-free gift to the Newton Conservators directly from their IRA. Please consider a gift to the Conservators from your 2024 IRA distributions. The benefits to you include the reduction in income subject to tax, even if you don't itemize, and the amount donated counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The benefits to the Conservators are immense and allow for us to continue to help preserve open space in Newton. Ask your IRA holder for a simple transfer letter or form. The Newton Conservators is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

— Thank you.

Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton, MA 02459



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

Count me in! I want to help Newton Conservators preserve open spaces and connect people to nature in Newton. Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted Additional Contribution \$_____ |

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Memberships run for the calendar year. All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

Please send checks made payable to Newton Conservators to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, OR renew or join online at newtonconservators.org/membership/.

Special Contributions:

- Trails Revolving Fund \$_____
- Land Stewardship Fund \$_____

To support other special purposes, please email us at membership@newtonconservators.org

By joining or renewing, you agree to receive our informational **emails**, which always include the option to unsubscribe.

Our **quarterly newsletter** will be sent by email only unless you check here:

- US mail only US mail and email

- I would like to learn more about volunteering with Newton Conservators.





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Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

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Common Yellowthroat
photo by Haynes Miller

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at newtonconservators.org/newsletters. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, email us at membership@newtonconservators.org.