

**WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY
AND
SIMONS PARK**

Wellesley Free Library began in 1883 as the gift of a Library building adjoining the Wellesley Town Hall and 5,000 volumes, from H. H. Hunnewell. As the Town grew so did the space needs of the Town Hall and of the Library. Therefore in 1959, a new library was built and the Town Hall functions moved into the library's space. The new library was built across Washington Street from the Town Hall on 2.41 acres of land formerly a part of the Stephen Simons estate. The new building was designed by architect, Carl Koch and the exterior glass and ceramic panels were built by sculptors Gyorgy and Juliet Kepes. The panels won a prize for their art. On April 12, 1959, "Operation Bookswitch" occurred, when all the books from the old library were carried by student volunteers to the new library across the street.

In 1979, a major addition was added to the new library. As a follow up to this addition a completely new landscape was designed and installed the following year. The plan continued on the planting theme of the Town Hall Arboretum by illustrating proper use of various ground covers, a Birch collection and different types of hedges. Throughout the entire landscape are spring bulbs, some annuals and many perennial flowers. All the plants were selected on the basis of their low maintenance requirements.

The plant list includes: European White Birch, Canoe Birch and River Birch for trees; Ground covers of: Baltic Ivy, Pachysandra, Boston Ivy, and Andorra Juniper; Perennials include: Gallardia, Tiger Lily, Daylily and spring bulbs; Hedge material consist of Spreading English Yew, Dense Spreading Yew, Japanese Yew, Bigleaf Wintercreeper and Burning Bush. Also at the library are three topiary shrubs that were given to the library by the Wellesley Garden Club to honor the noted topiary gardens at the Hunnewell Estate.

The Library's landscape emphasizes the award winning architecture, while providing a major educational benefit, low maintenance plant material and an aesthetically pleasing design.

The adjoining Simons Park, which also has a rich history, provides welcome open space in the center of Town. The Garden Study Group provides and maintains the landscaping and stone benches at the Love Seat Garden next to Brook Street.