

# **Wellesley's Parks, Reservations & Public Open Space**

**Prepared by  
Wellesley  
Department of Public Works  
Park & Tree Division**

**1990**

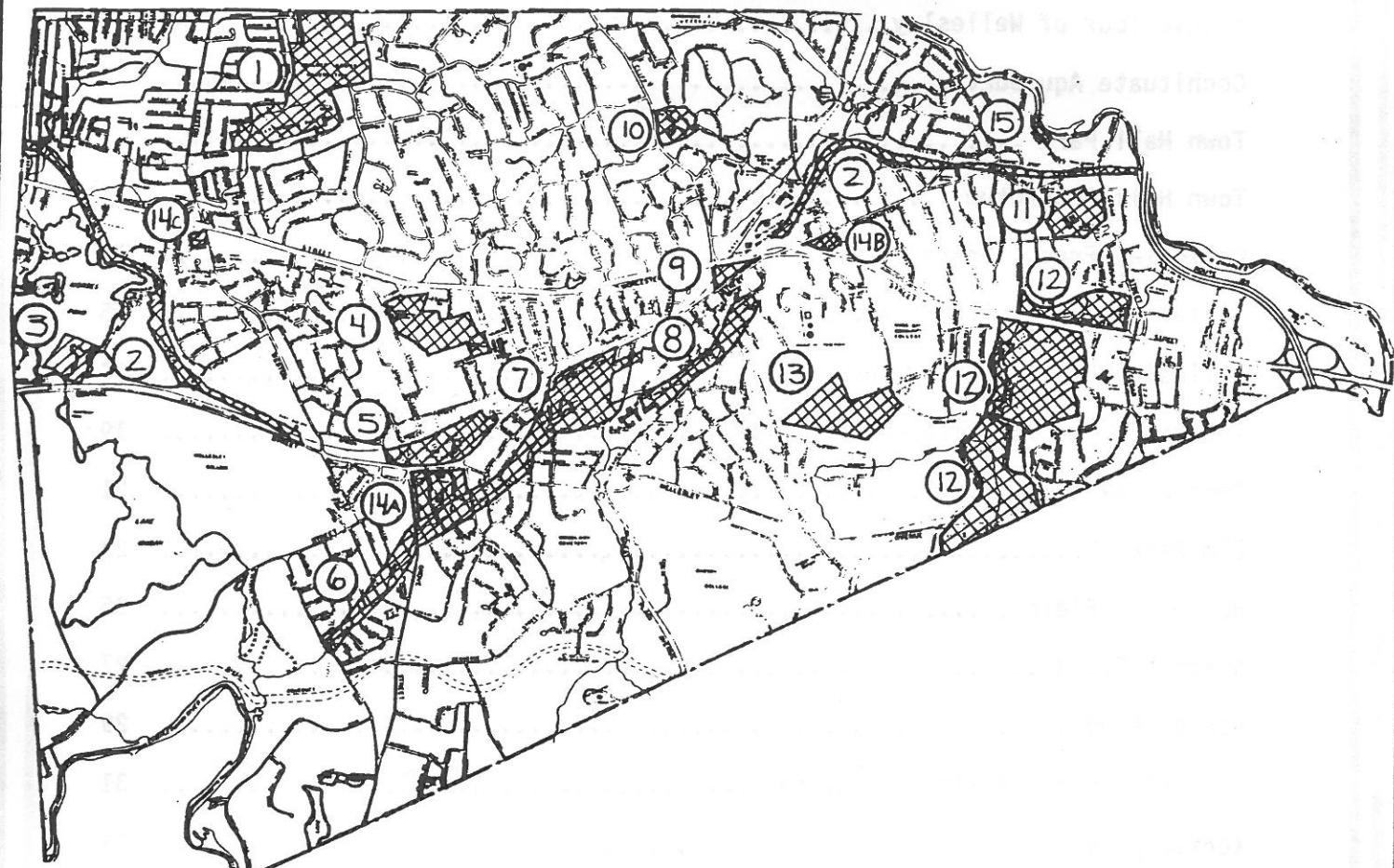
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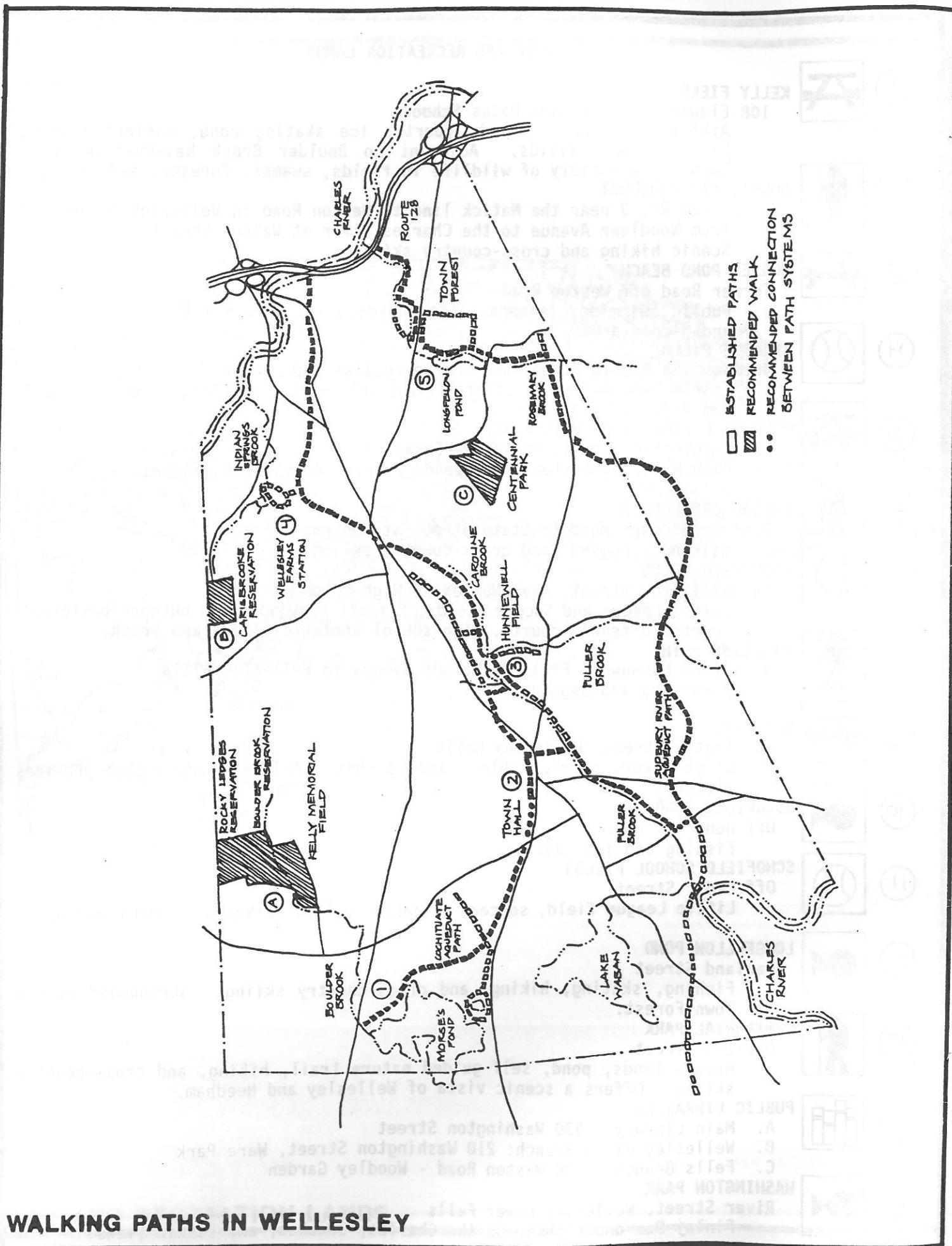
Single copy price \$3.00.



## PARK AND RECREATION LANDS

### PARK AND RECREATION LANDS

- 1 **KELLY FIELD**  
108 Elmwood Road, behind Bates School  
Athletic fields, 2 tennis courts, ice skating pond, winter sledding, Little League fields. Adjacent to Boulder Brook Reservation, which supports a variety of wildlife in fields, swamps, forests, and cliffs.
- 2 **COCHITUATE AQUEDUCT**  
Runs from Rt. 9 near the Natick line to Weston Road in Wellesley Square and from Woodlawn Avenue to the Charles River at Walnut Street.  
Scenic hiking and cross-country skiing.
- 3 **MORSES POND BEACH**  
Turner Road off Weston Road  
Public swimming, lessons, life guards, sailing and lessons, playground, and picnic areas.
- 4 **SPRAGUE FIELD**  
Between the Middle School and the Recreation Department  
Little League fields, softball, tot lot, picnic benches, 4 tennis courts, and 3 soccer fields.
- 5 **HUNNEWELL PARK (TOWN HALL PARK)**  
525 Washington Street, Wellesley Square  
Town Hall, arboretum, duck pond, picnic tables, and benches.
- 6 **FULLER BROOK PATH**  
Runs from Dover Road to State Street at Hunnewell Field  
Walking, jogging, and cross-country skiing.
- 7 **HUNNEWELL FIELD**  
On Washington Street, near Wellesley High School  
Little League and Soccer fields, 2 small playgrounds, 2 outdoor basketball courts, 8 tennis courts, high school athletic fields and track.
- 8 **CAROLINE PATH**  
Runs from Hunnewell Field to Maugus Avenue in Wellesley Hills  
A walking and jogging path.
- 9 **ELM PARK**  
Washington Street, Wellesley Hills  
Clock tower, picnic tables, and benches. A local garden club provides flowers.
- 10 **ROCKRIDGE POND**  
Off Hundreds Road  
Fishing and ice skating.
- 11 **SCHOFIELD SCHOOL FIELDS**  
Off Cedar Street  
Little League field, soccer, 4 tennis courts, basketball, and playground.
- 12 **LONGFELLOW POND**  
Oakland Street  
Fishing, skating, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Surrounded by the Town Forest.
- 13 **CENTENNIAL PARK**  
Oakland Street  
Meadow lands, pond, self-guided nature trail, hiking, and cross-country skiing. Offers a scenic vista of Wellesley and Needham.
- 14 **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**
  - A. Main Library: 530 Washington Street
  - B. Wellesley Hills Branch: 210 Washington Street, Ware Park
  - C. Fells Branch: 308 Weston Road - Woodley Garden
- 15 **WASHINGTON PARK**  
River Street, Wellesley Lower Falls  
Finlay Dam and fishway on the Charles, benches, and scenic views.



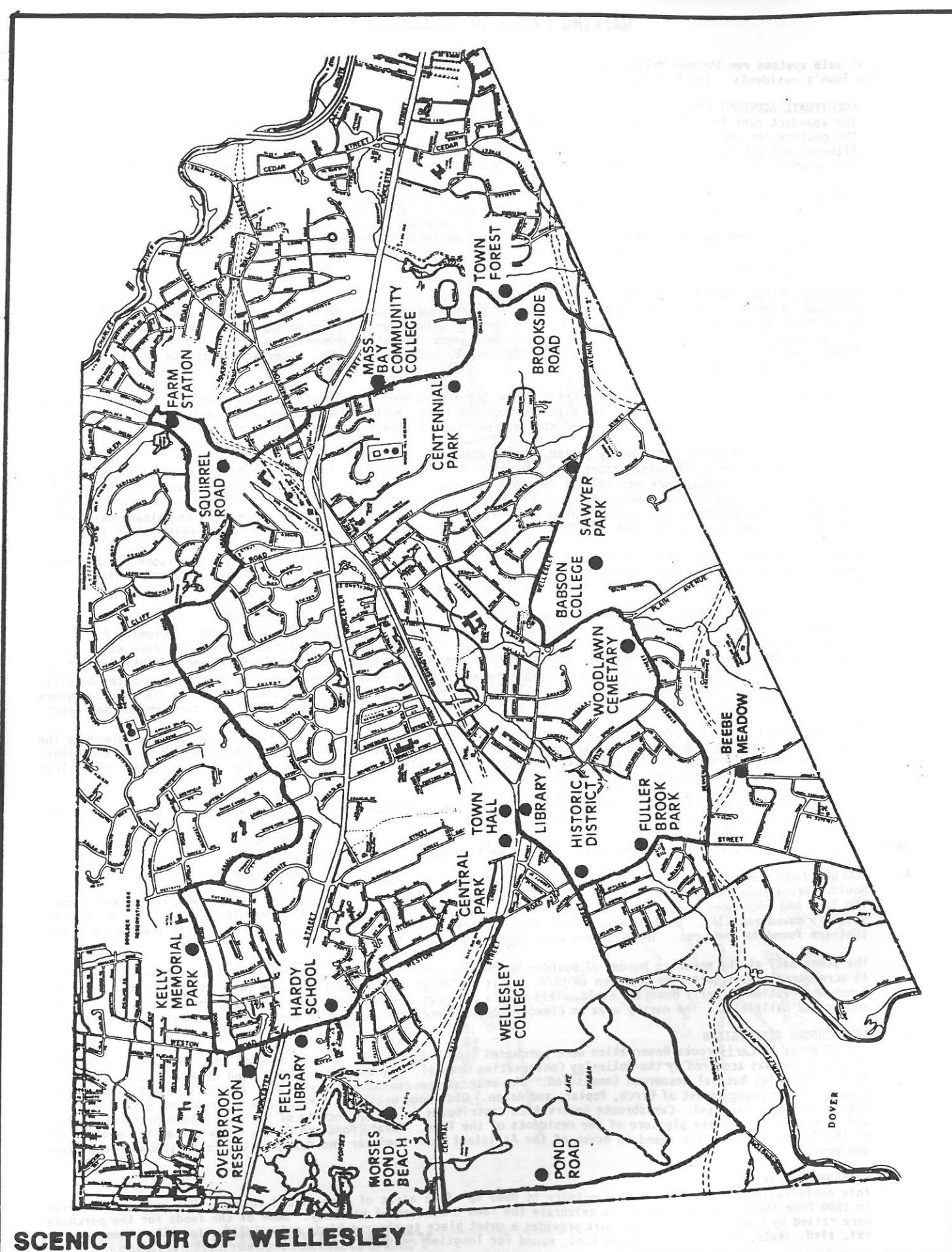
## WALKING PATHS IN WELLESLEY

### WALKING PATHS IN WELLESLEY

Several path systems run through Wellesley. They are maintained as walking or biking paths for the recreational enjoyment of the Town's residents. The five major path systems include:

- COCHITIATE AQUEDUCT PATH**  
The aqueduct runs below the ground through the Town of Wellesley. It was constructed by the MDC before the turn of the century for supplying water to Boston. The aqueduct was abandoned and deeded to the Town in 1963 for utilities. Although not yet used for electrical transmission, the aqueduct is currently used for storm drainage. The land above the aqueduct is maintained as a walking path and connects to other walking trails throughout the Town.
- TOWN HALL PARK**  
In 1887, Horatio Hollis Hunnewell deeded this land which is also known as Hunnewell Park to the young Town of Wellesley. On it, he established a Town Hall, Library, and arboretum. Today, the arboretum has grown beyond his original plans and includes 550 trees of 82 species and varieties. There are over 25 memorial trees in the park and 12 champion trees. A champion tree is the largest of its species in the state in terms of height, size of trunk, and spread of branches.
- HUNNEWELL FIELD, FULLER BROOK PARK**  
Hunnewell Field is made up of almost 60 acres in the geographic center of Wellesley. Until the late 1940's, this large tract of land was not fully utilized. When the high school was built on an adjacent site after the Depression, it was recognized that the field could serve the school, and the entire community as well. The field today contains tennis courts, football, soccer and hockey fields, track, baseball diamonds, other school sports facilities, a tot lot, and a skating pond.  
Fuller Brook Park begins at Hunnewell Field. The brook provides drainage for a good share of Wellesley and the adjacent path follows the brook for two miles through the Town. Much of the land adjacent to the brook was purchased or given to the Town as a gift from residents in order that a linear park be established.
- WELLESLEY FARMS RAILROAD STATION AND INDIAN SPRINGS PARK**  
The railroad station was a joint effort by architect H. H. Richardson and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Richardson's most famous work was Trinity Church in Boston. He also designed many other railroad stations in the style he used in Wellesley. Olmsted is well known for his work on the Boston Public Gardens and Arnold Arboretum. The pond and rhododendrons are retained from his design. The station was built by the Boston and Albany Railroad in 1885 and was purchased by the Town in 1957. The pond was dredged in 1987 and the landscape resorted in 1988.  
From the station, follow Hillside Road to the Waterway. Around the turn of the century, a developer began a model subdivision but went bankrupt before any houses were sold. It was his dream that he could control the Indian Springs Brook by paving its banks with brick which remain to this day.
- TOWN FOREST, ROSEMARY BROOK, LONGFELLOW POND**  
The Town Forest encompasses 200 acres of varied terrain - marsh, field, lake, and woodland. Rosemary Brook runs through the forest and flows into the Charles River. The brook was dammed in 1815 and Longfellow Pond was created. Today, the dam is operated by the Water Department and many of the wells that supply the Town's drinking water are located in the Town Forest. The pond has also played an important role in the history of the Town as sites of early industries, including a nail factory, a paper mill, and three ice houses that were once located on its banks. Before settlers moved to the area, the Algonquin Indians lived here and arrowheads have been found throughout the forest.  
The Town Forest is also a good place to discover Wellesley's natural history. The terrain was largely formed by the glaciers that covered the Town 15,000 to 20,000 years ago. One glacial formation in the Town Forest is the esker. This is a long, narrow ridge of gravel that was deposited by melt water flowing under the ice. The esker runs close to the eastern side of the pond.  
The pond and forest are home to a wide variety of wildlife. Visitors may see ducks, geese, turtles, fish, frogs, rabbits, pheasants, and muskrats.  
Wellesley also has parks and reservations which contain walking paths. These include:

- BOULDER BROOK AND ROCKY LEDGES RESERVATIONS AND KELLY MEMORIAL PARK**  
Boulder Brook Reservation was acquired by the Town in 1966. Its 31 acres contain open fields, woodlands, and swamps. The land had once been cleared for farming. Today, the farm has reverted back to woodlands except for a meadow, which is mowed annually. Boulder Brook flows along two sides of the reservation and was named for the huge boulders that are found in the area. The boulders were deposited by glaciers.  
The stone wall at the northern border of Boulder Brook Reservation separates it from Rocky Ledges Reservation. This 16 acre parcel was acquired by the Town in 1970. It is one of the two highest spots in Town. To the south of Boulder Brook Reservation is Kelly Memorial Field. This park's 19 acres are adjacent to Bates School and offer tennis courts, soccer and ballfields. The marshy area on Elmwood Road is sometimes flooded in the winter to create a skating rink.
- CARISBROOKE RESERVATION**  
The 13 acres of Carisbrooke Reservation were purchased from MIT in 1973. Over an acre of this land lies in the Town of Weston and was acquired by the Wellesley Conservation Council. The remainder of the land is under the jurisdiction of the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission. The reservation contains a small pond, which is home to many birds, a marsh, and a young forest of Birch, Poplar, and Aspen. Old stone walls run through the reservation, giving evidence that it was once farmland. Carisbrooke Reservation contributes to the protection of the Cold Stream Brook watershed, of the Reservation and are named in honor of the Assistant Town Engineer who designed the restoration of the brook and pond.
- CENTENNIAL PARK.**  
This conservation area and wildlife sanctuary is made up of 42 acres of meadows and forest. The land was acquired in 1980 from the Sisters of Charity to celebrate the Town's centennial birthday. Some of the funds for the purchase were raised by local residents. The park provides a quiet place to observe birds and wildlife, to walk, cross-country ski, sled, skate, or fish in Bezanson Pond, named for longtime resident and Town Engineer, John Bezanson.



#### SCENIC TOUR OF WELLESLEY

Wellesley offers a scenic driving tour around the Town. It passes areas of cultural, natural, and historical significance. In the autumn, the tour provides a good opportunity to enjoy the foliage. The tour passes by the following points of interest:

**WELLESLEY TOWN HALL** - The Town Hall was built by H. Hollis Hunnewell in 1883. Hunnewell gave the Town the land around the Town Hall and established an arboretum.

**WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY** - A regional library; has won an award for its architectural design.

**CENTRAL PARK** - The House and Garden Club of Wellesley provides the funds for the improvement of this award winning park including the plantings, brick walks and benches.

**POND ROAD** - This road is a designated scenic road. The purpose of this designation is to protect and preserve trees and stone walls along this attractive way. Any repair, maintenance or reconstruction done on the road requires Planning Board approval.

**WELLESLEY COLLEGE** - This women's liberal arts college was founded in 1875. There are 2300 students on this 500 acre campus.

**MORSES POND BEACH** - The facilities at this award winning beach include the beach, a bathhouse, a 275 car parking lot and a sailboat facility. The Wellesley Recreation Commission provides lifeguards and swimming instructors.

**HARDY SCHOOL** - This school opened in 1923 when children had to travel to school by trolley. Today it is one of Wellesley's six elementary schools.

**FELLS LIBRARY** - This branch of the Wellesley Free Library was built in 1858 and is the Town's oldest public building still in use. For 65 years the building was used as a one room schoolhouse and in 1923, it became a branch library.

**OVERBROOK RESERVATION** - This conservation property is under the jurisdiction of the Natural Resource Commission and contains a rough hiking trail on either side of the brook.

**KELLY MEMORIAL PARK** - The park's 19 acres offer tennis courts, ballfields, soccer and a skating rink. It is adjacent to the 16 acre Rocky Ledges Reservation, the 31 acre Boulder Brook Reservation and Katherine Lee Bates Elementary School. The reservations have several long trails and major scenic features.

**SQUIRREL ROAD** - Squirrel Road is another designated scenic road.

**FARM STATION** - This railroad station was designed by the architect H. H. Richardson and the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The pond, large trees and rhododendrons are part of the original design. The station was commissioned by the Boston and Albany Railroad in 1885 and bought by the Town in 1957. The station and grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE** - This two year college is state supported. Founded in 1961, it contains 84 acres and has over 4200 students enrolled.

**CENTENNIAL PARK** - This conservation area and wildlife sanctuary is made up of 42 acres of meadows and forest. The land was acquired in 1980 from the Sisters of Charity to celebrate the Town's centennial. The park provides a quiet place to observe birds and wildlife, to walk, fish, cross-country ski, sled and skate.

**TOWN FOREST** - The area encompasses 200 acres of varied terrain, wildlife, marshes, fields, ponds and woodlands. It is a good place to discover the natural and early history of the Town.

**BROOKSIDE ROAD** - This road is under consideration for the scenic road designation.

**SAWYER PARK** - This award winning park has a grass strip at its edge but its center has been allowed to revert to a woodland meadow. It has many wildflowers, mosses, woodland shrubs, trees, and over 15 varieties of mushrooms.

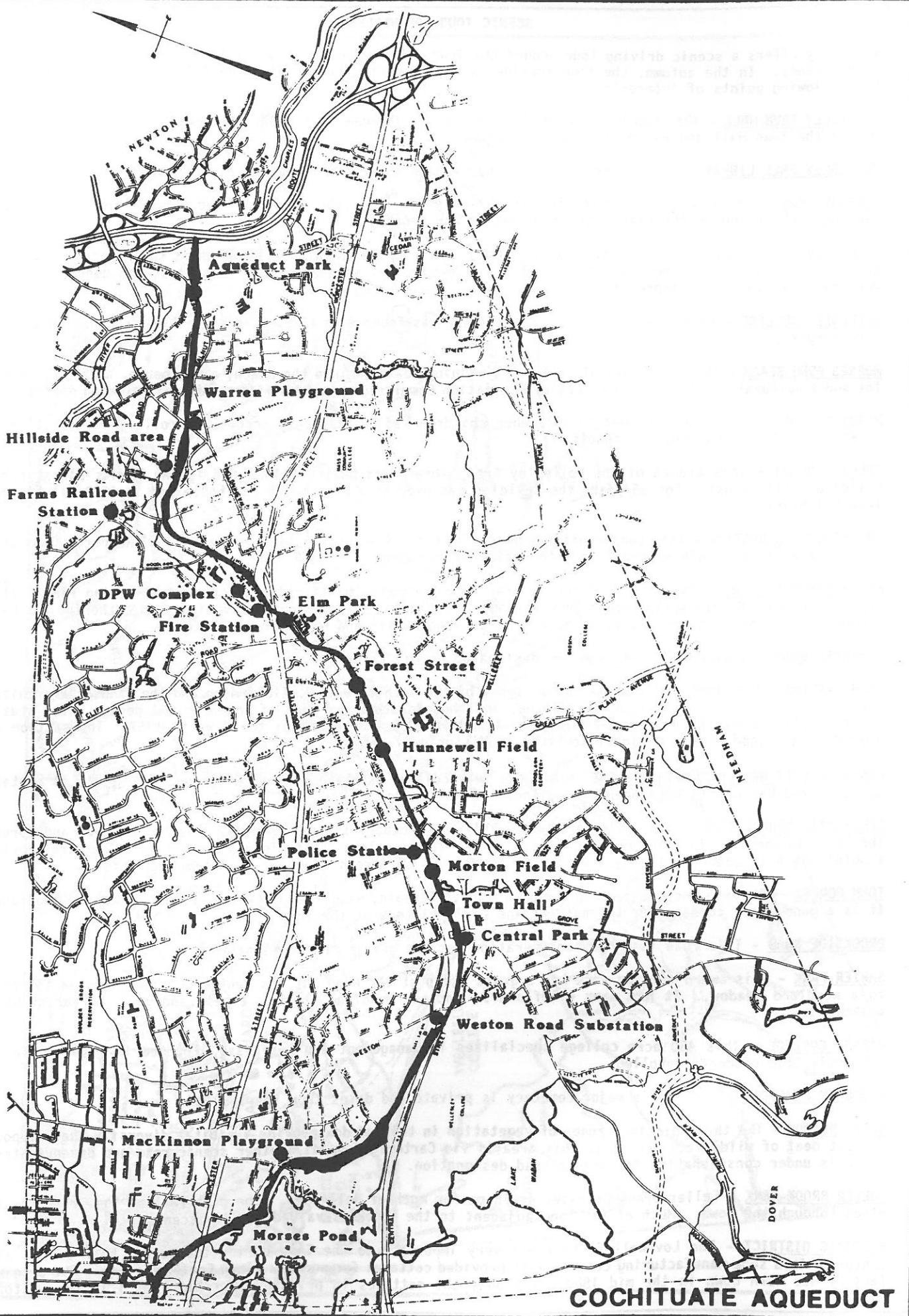
**BABSON COLLEGE** - This 450 acre college specializes in management and business. Founded in 1919, there are currently 3100 students enrolled.

**WOODLAWN CEMETERY** - The Town's major cemetery is private and dates from the 1880's.

**BEEBE MEADOW** - The three distinct zones of vegetation in this meadow provide a habitat diversity that supports a great deal of wildlife. Access to this area is via Cartwright Road, another scenic road and Bevenue Street which is under consideration for scenic road designation.

**FULLER BROOK PARK** - Fuller Brook provides drainage for much of Wellesley. The path follows the brook for two miles through the Town. Much of the land adjacent to the brook is valued for its scenery.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT** - The Lovewell Factory was very important to the Town during the second half of the 19th century. This shoe manufacturing company also provided cottages for workers along Cottage Street. The original factory was torn down in the mid 1880's and only the cottages in private ownership remain in the Historic District.



## COCHITUATE AQUEDUCT

The Cochituate Aqueduct is an underground pipe running 5.2 miles through Wellesley From the Natick line near Route 9 to the Charles River and Newton near Walnut Street. The Aqueduct began providing Lake Cochituate water to the City of Boston in 1848 and continued that function for about 100 years. During this period of time the MDC would send out its work crews who would annually sweep out the Aqueduct. When these crews came to Wellesley, they were viewed with awe and mystery.

After the MDC stopped using the Aqueduct, the Town of Wellesley expressed an interest in purchasing the property. After a few years of negotiations, the Town assumed ownership of the 55.8 acres in 1962. The land was purchased for drainage and utility purposes as well as its' use to tie together public lands such as at the Town Hall and Hunnewell Field. The land was and is still used for footpaths along most of the corridor. Since the elevation drops only one foot along the entire length in Wellesley, the path has become very popular for joggers and bicycles.

The abandoned aqueduct is a brick pipe that has an egg shaped cross-section 6 1/2 feet high and 5 feet wide. The 3 outlets and 5 inlets are the only breaks providing access for the drainage system. The outlets are at Morses Pond, the Duck Pond and at Indian Springs Brook near Croton Street.

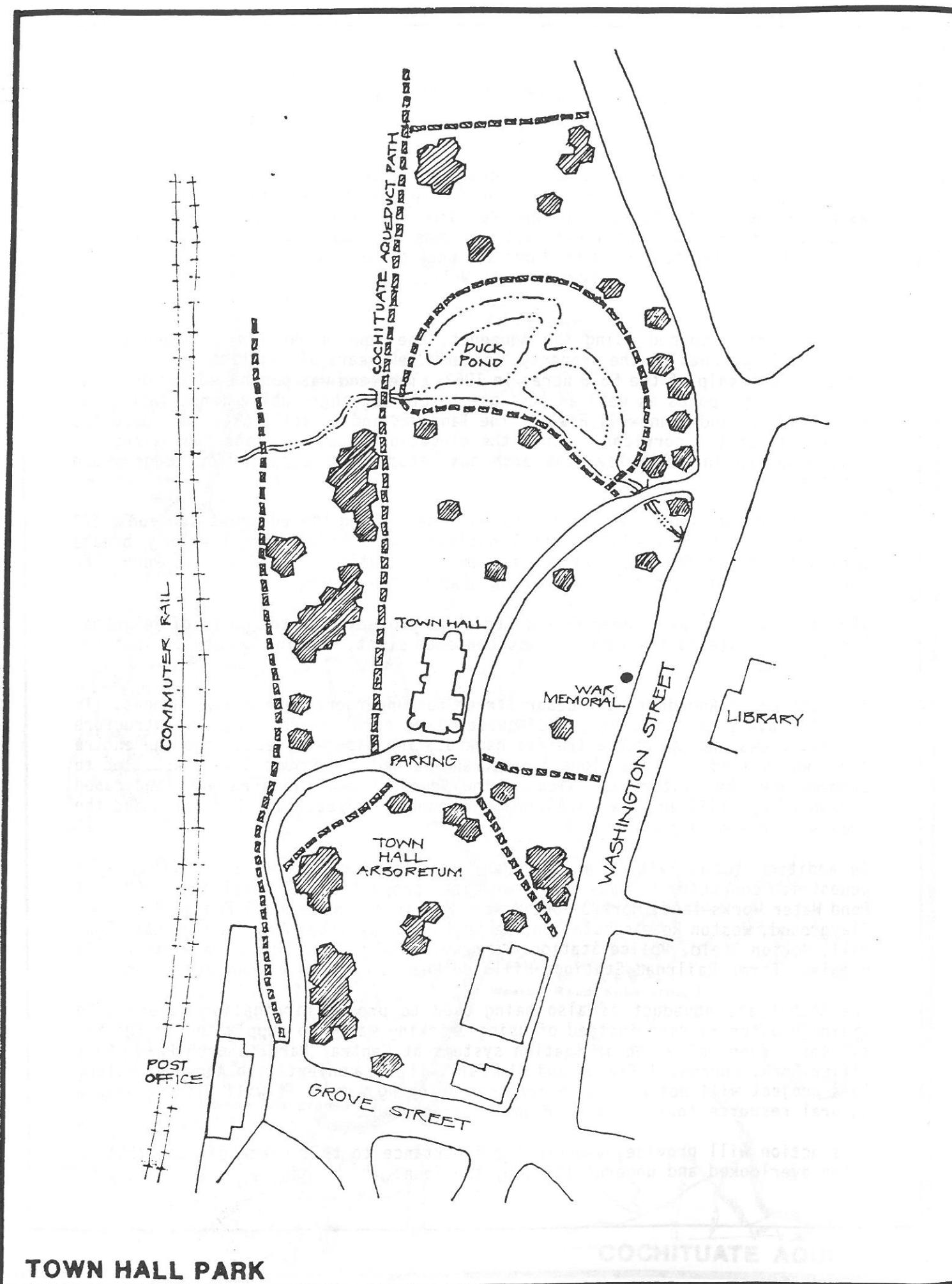
The section of Aqueduct near Forest Street is protected by the Board of Selectmen because it contains the rare in Massachusetts plant, "Spring Beauty", Claytonia caroliniana.

The section of Aqueduct near Cedar Street has undergone some major changes. In 1964 the overpass containing the Aqueduct was torn down because the structure blocked views and created a traffic hazard. The pipe was sealed and the entire slope was graded to a 5:1 slope, loamed and seeded. A monument was installed to commemorate the historical value of the Aqueduct and the area was landscaped somewhat. In 1989 an extensive low maintenance landscape was installed and the area was renamed Aqueduct Park.

In addition to activities on the Aqueduct proper, the land also serves as a pedestrian connector to many other municipal properties. These include: Morses Pond Water Works land, Morses Pond Beach, MacKinnon and Kendall Ponds, MacKinnon Playground, Weston Road substation, Central Park, Railroad Ave. Parking Lot, Town Hall, Morton Field, Police Station, Hunnewell Field, Elm Park, Fire Station, DPW complex, Farms Railroad Station, Hillside Road area, and Warren Playground.

The Cochituate Aqueduct is also being used to provide irrigation water. The drainage water is used instead of using drinking water to supply the irrigation systems. Eventually the irrigation systems at Central Park, Church Park, Post Office Park, Hunnewell Field, and Elm Park will be converted to Aqueduct water. This project will not only save precious drinking water, it will also utilize a natural resource that is not currently being used.

This action will provide even greater importance to this piece of land that is often overlooked and underutilized by the Town.



TOWN HALL PARK

#### TOWN HALL PARK

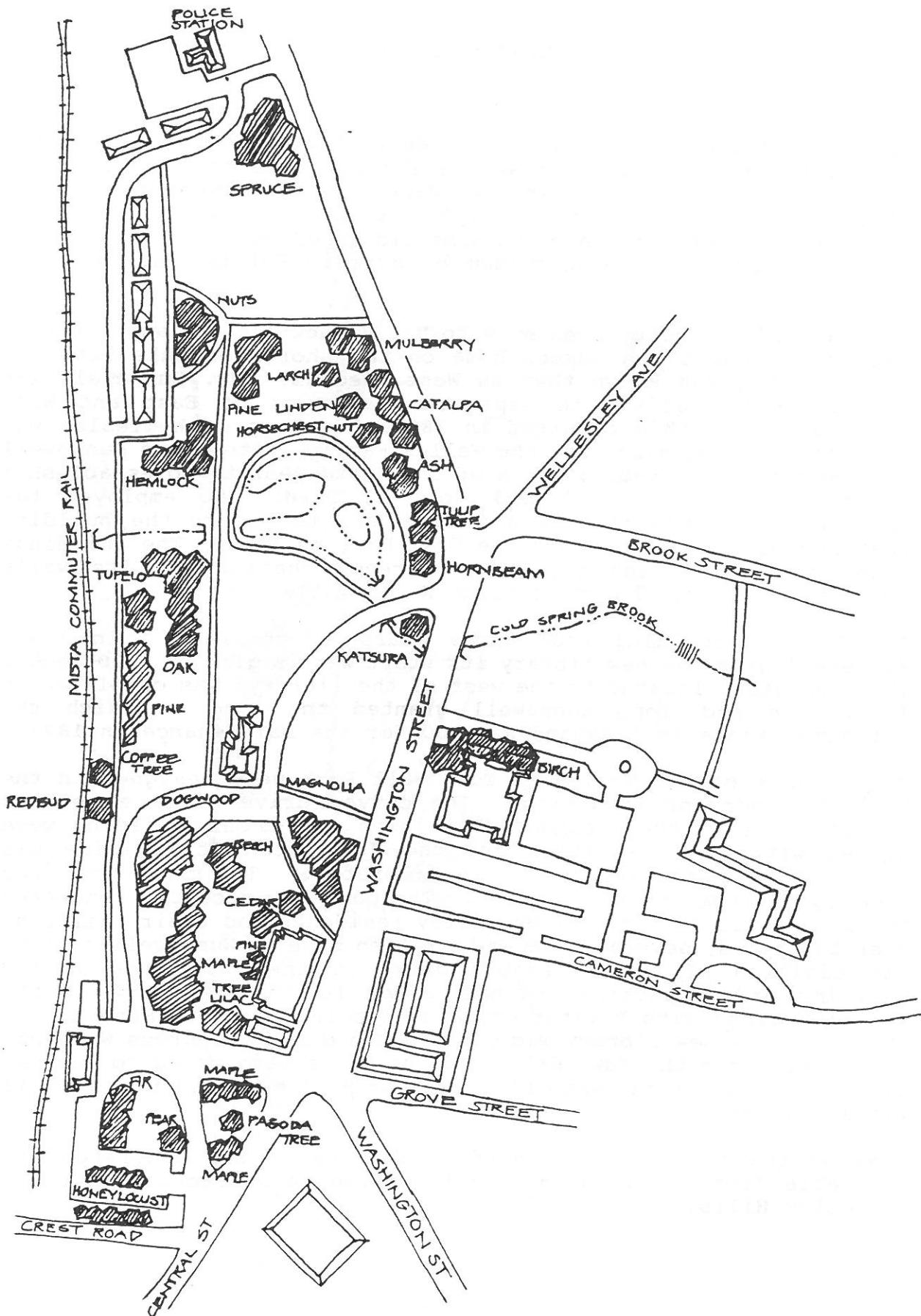
The Town Hall Park is located near Wellesley Square. The park was deeded to the Town as Hunnewell Park, but over the years it has come to be known as the Town Hall Park. The land was owned in the 1850's by Dr. W.T.G. Morton, the dentist who discovered the use of ether as an anesthetic and who also did experimental farming. His land was subsequently purchased by Horatio Hollis Hunnewell and given to the Town in 1887.

The Town of Wellesley owes much to Mr. Hunnewell. He was a Boston banker who built his summer home on the shores of Lake Waban in 1852 in what was known then as West Needham. Mr. Hunnewell was active in the effort to separate the towns of East and West Needham. When this occurred in 1881, the Town of Wellesley was incorporated and named for the Welles Family, into which Hunnewell had married. He used 15 acres of the Morton estate to establish a library, Town Hall, and park for the Town. He employed the architectural firm of Shaw and Hunnewell to design the building that housed the Library and the Town Hall as well. The buildings were designed in the style of a French chateau and its walls contain rock from the Connecticut River Valley.

The library building took three years to complete. In 1883, Hunnewell gave the new library its start with a gift of 5000 books. The Town Hall, located to the west of the library, was completed in 1886. In addition, Hunnewell granted the land on which the building stands in 1888 and \$20,000 for its maintenance in 1897.

The grounds of the Wellesley Town Hall Park were designed in the English landscape tradition. The curved drive gives a relaxed gracefulness to the grounds. The lawns around the building were dotted with specimen trees and the Washington Street side was intended by Hunnewell to be an arboretum. The duck pond was redesigned from the Morton Farm. The pond was recently renovated and is a favorite spot for Wellesley residents and their children. Over the years, several changes have been made to Hunnewell's plan. The addition of a turn around drive to the west side of the building and a parking lot was added to the west end of the building along with a later driveway leading to Grove Street. In the 1950's, a new library was constructed directly across Washington Street from the Town Hall, and the books were moved to the new library, alterations were made, and Town Hall expanded into the old library space.

Maps of the park which identify each tree in the arboretum are available from the Town Engineer's Office, 455 Worcester Street, Wellesley Hills.



TOWN HALL ARBORETUM

#### TOWN HALL ARBORETUM

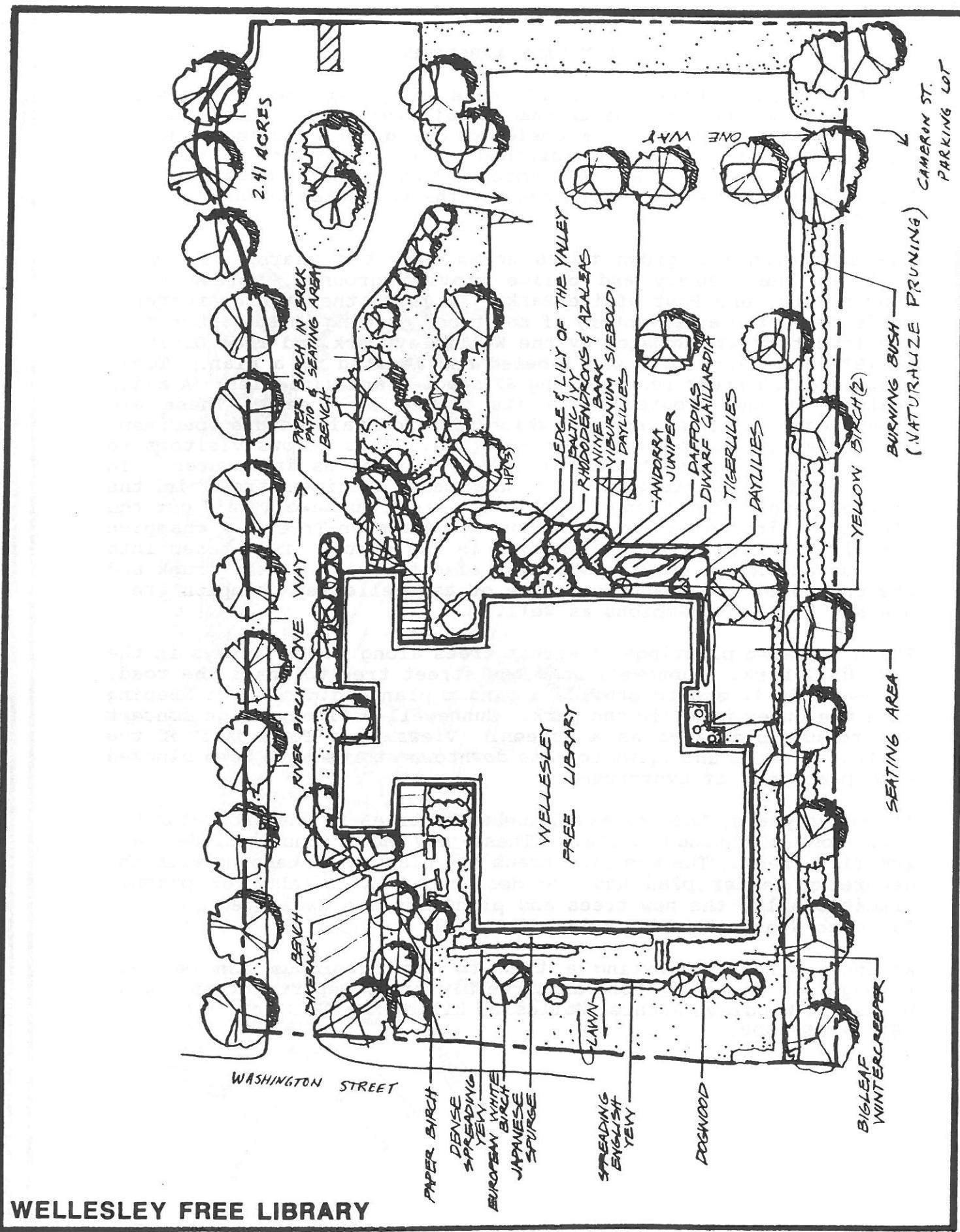
In 1887, Horatio Hollis Hunnewell gave the young Town of Wellesley 15 acres, on which he constructed a building that housed the Town Hall and the Library. He designed the grounds in the English landscape tradition and established an arboretum around the Town Hall. Hunnewell was an avid horticulturalist and used the Town Hall grounds to test the hardiness of the varieties on which he was experimenting.

The arboretum has grown to 26 acres over the years. Today it includes the library and police station grounds, Morton Park, Simons Park, and Post Office Park. In 1963, the Arnold Arboretum staff conducted an inventory of the trees growing in the arboretum. The inventory was updated by the Wellesley Park and Tree Division in 1985 and every tree was labeled and located on a plan. Today there are 550 trees representing 82 species and varieties. A major feature of the arboretum are its groves of trees. These are groupings of a single species which often contain mature specimens as well as young recently planted trees. This allows visitors to observe the changes that occur in the species as it matures. In addition to the groves, there are many specimen trees in the arboretum that have been growing there since Hunnewell laid out the plantings, including ten Massachusetts Champion Trees. A champion tree is the largest of its species in the state. This takes into consideration not only height, but also the size of the trunk and the spread of the branches. Nine of the Wellesley champion trees are New England Champions as well.

There are also plantings of street trees along the driveways in the Town Hall Park. Hunnewell used the street tree to shade the road, to beautify it and to provide a random planting design in keeping with the other trees in the park. Hunnewell's final design concept was to use plantings as a screen. Views from Town Hall of the railroad tracks and views to some downtown stores have been blocked with plantings of evergreens.

In recent years, the increased number of trees in the arboretum has been mostly through gifts. These new additions include many memorial trees. The memorial trees are planted in keeping with the arboretum master plan and are designated by a label or plaque. Traditionally, the new trees and plantings are dedicated on Arbor Day each year, the last Friday in April.

Arrangements for donating a tree to the arboretum can be made through the Wellesley Park and Tree Division, Department of Public Works, 56 Woodlawn Avenue, Wellesley Hills, MA 02181 or by calling (617)-235-7600.



WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY  
AND  
SIMONS PARK

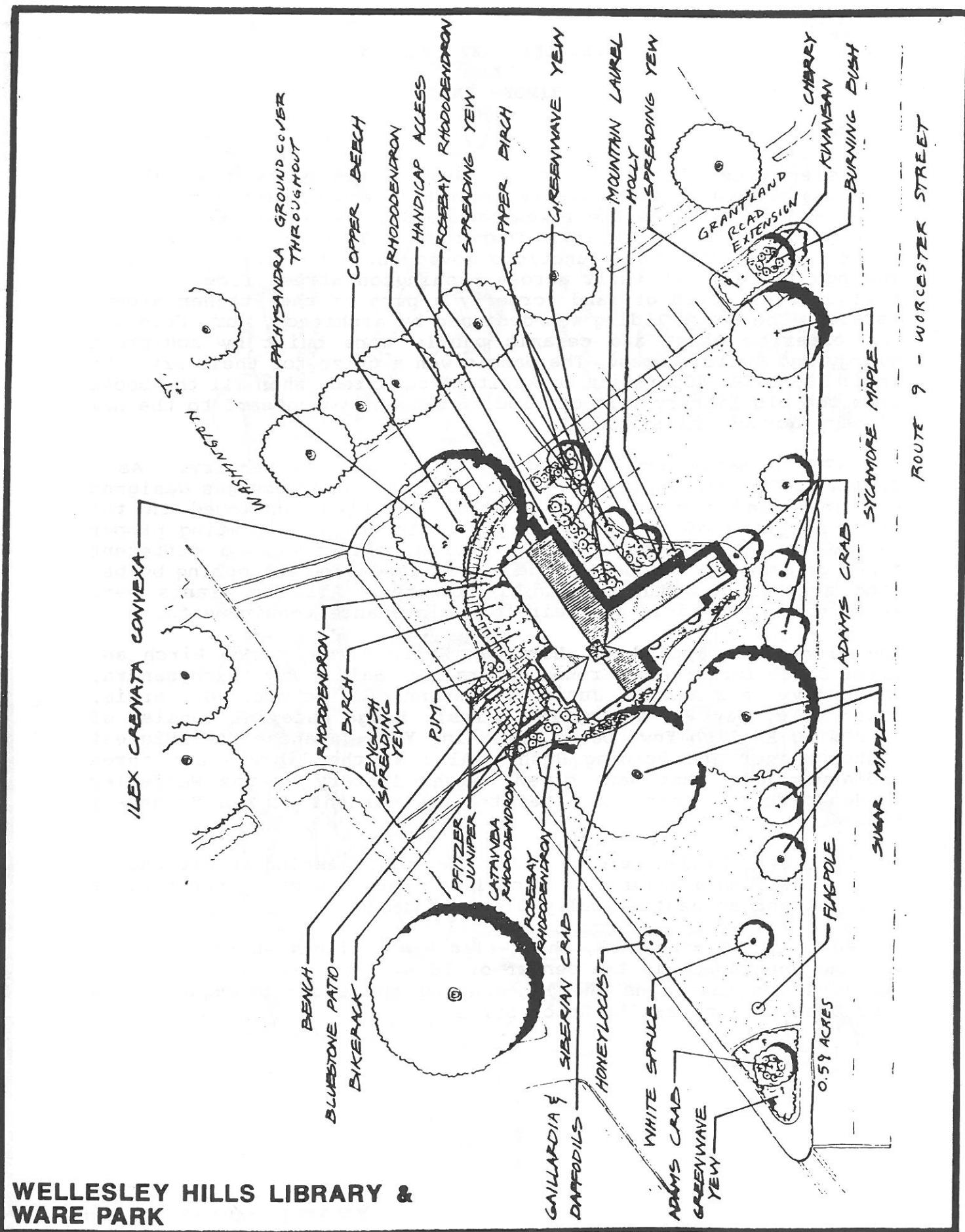
Wellesley Free Library began in 1883 as the gift of a Library building adjoining the Wellesley Town Hall and 5,000 volumes, from H. H. Hunnewell. As the Town grew so did the space needs of the Town Hall and of the Library. Therefore in 1959, a new library was built and the Town Hall functions moved into 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.



WELLESLEY HILLS LIBRARY &  
WARE PARK

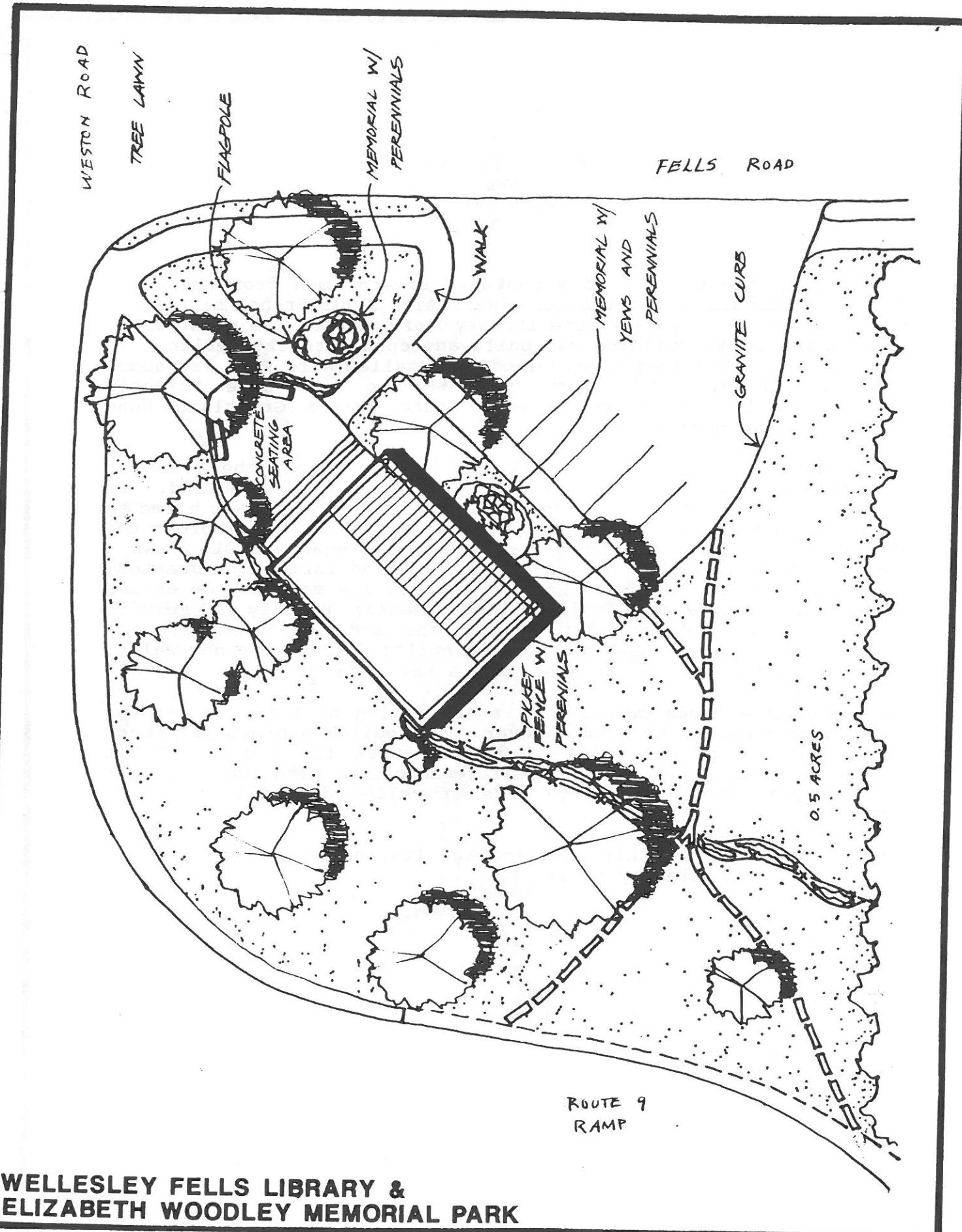
WELLESLEY HILLS LIBRARY  
AND  
WARE PARK

Soon after the turn of this century, several men from Wellesley Hills got together to establish a Wellesley Hills Branch Library in a private home. By 1927, the library had grown to the point where a branch library building was built and opened to the public. It wasn't until 1941 that a parcel of land called Ware Park was added to the library's parcel to complete the 0.59 acre triangle surrounded by Washington Street, Route 9 and Grantland Road Extension, as public land.

When the picturesque stone building was completed, the area was landscaped with trees and shrubs popular during that period. In 1977, Landscape Architect, John Wacker and Associates, was hired to provide plans to revise the total landscape, retain and improve the building's beauty and reduce landscape maintenance costs. As a result of this effort, new rolling grass land forms were created; a parking lot was designed and built; new low maintenance shrubs were added; there were drainage improvements; utility and service improvements; street sign evaluations and improvements; an outdoor sitting and reading area was built; there were new walks; a new book drop; new benches; and a new bike rack.

The landscape theme consists of a scattering of trees and shrubs set among a carpet of ground cover. The building provides a back drop for the plants while they accentuate the beauty of the building. The plants provide year round color, with the highlight of the year being the large beds of yellow daffodils in early spring.

The total design of this building and its landscape is a note of pride for all Wellesley residents.

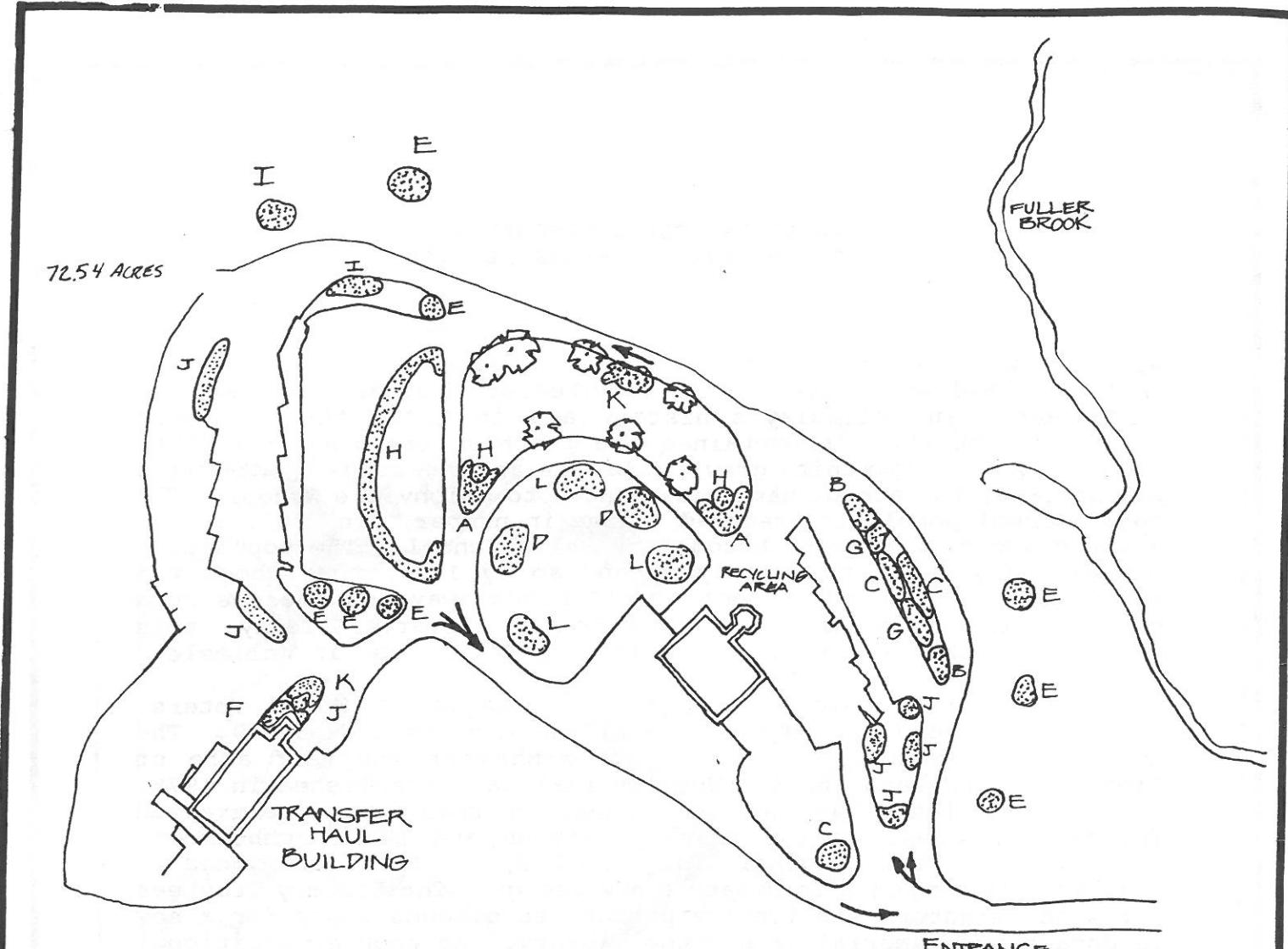


**WELLESLEY FELLS LIBRARY &  
ELIZABETH WOODLEY MEMORIAL PARK**

At the intersection of Route 9 and Weston Road is the center of a section of Wellesley called Wellesley Fells. This area was settled quite early in Wellesley's history and in 1838, the Northwest School was built. It contained one teacher, one room and three grades. As the community grew, it became an area called Unionville and in 1876, the school name was changed to Unionville School. The total school population reached twelve in number. In 1907, it was again changed in name to become the Fells School. The population of Wellesley began to rapidly expand so by 1923, the school was moved to the new Hardy School a half block away and the one room school building became the Fells Branch Library. Today, this building is the oldest public building still in use in Wellesley.

In 1977, a well loved member of the League of Women Voters, Elizabeth B. Woodley was killed near the Library on Route 9. The LWV decided to build a park in her memory on the half acre of Library grounds and the Lib Woodley Park was established in 1978. The original intent was to be a garden for reading and relaxation for the enjoyment of the library patrons and the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the original design failed, so it was abandoned in 1984 as efforts began to create a new design. The Library Trustees met with neighbors and library patrons to discuss ideas for a new landscape and memorial around the library. As soon as additional funds were obtained, the landscape was revised to include a new sitting area in front of the building; a new seven car parking lot was built; the memorials were relocated to beside the building and a picket fence was installed. The fence was reminiscent of the Unionville School picket fence. The fence was also enhanced with a border of old-fashioned perennials. The plant list includes: Yarrow, Chives, Hollyhock, Aster, False Indigo, Daisy, Bleeding Heart, Daylily, Iris, Phlox, Violets and assorted spring bulbs.

The old library and new park stand as reminders of Wellesley's glorious past, its well loved leaders and the future of a bright and beautiful Wellesley.



#### ORNAMENTAL GRASSES:

- A AVENA SEMPERVIRENS  
(ORNAMENTAL OATS)
- B CAREX PENDULA  
(SEDGE GRASS)
- C DACTYLIS GLomerata VARIEGATA  
(ORCHARD GRASS)
- D DESCHAMPSIA CAESPItOSA  
(TUFTED HAIR GRASS)
- E ERIANTHUS RAVENNae  
(PLUME GRASS)
- F FESTUCA OVINA 'GLAUCA'  
(BLUE FESCUE)
- G HOLCUS MOLLIS 'VARIEGATUS'  
(VELVET GRASS)
- H MISCANTHUS SINENSIS 'GRACILLIMUS'  
(MAIDEN GRASS)
- I PANICUM VIRGATUM  
(SWITCH GRASS)
- J PENNISETUM ALOPECUROIDES  
(FOUNTAIN GRASS)
- K PHALARIS ARUNDINACEA 'PICATA'  
(RIBBON GRASS)
- L UNIOLA LATIFOLIA  
(SPIKE GRASS)

#### THE RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL FACILITY

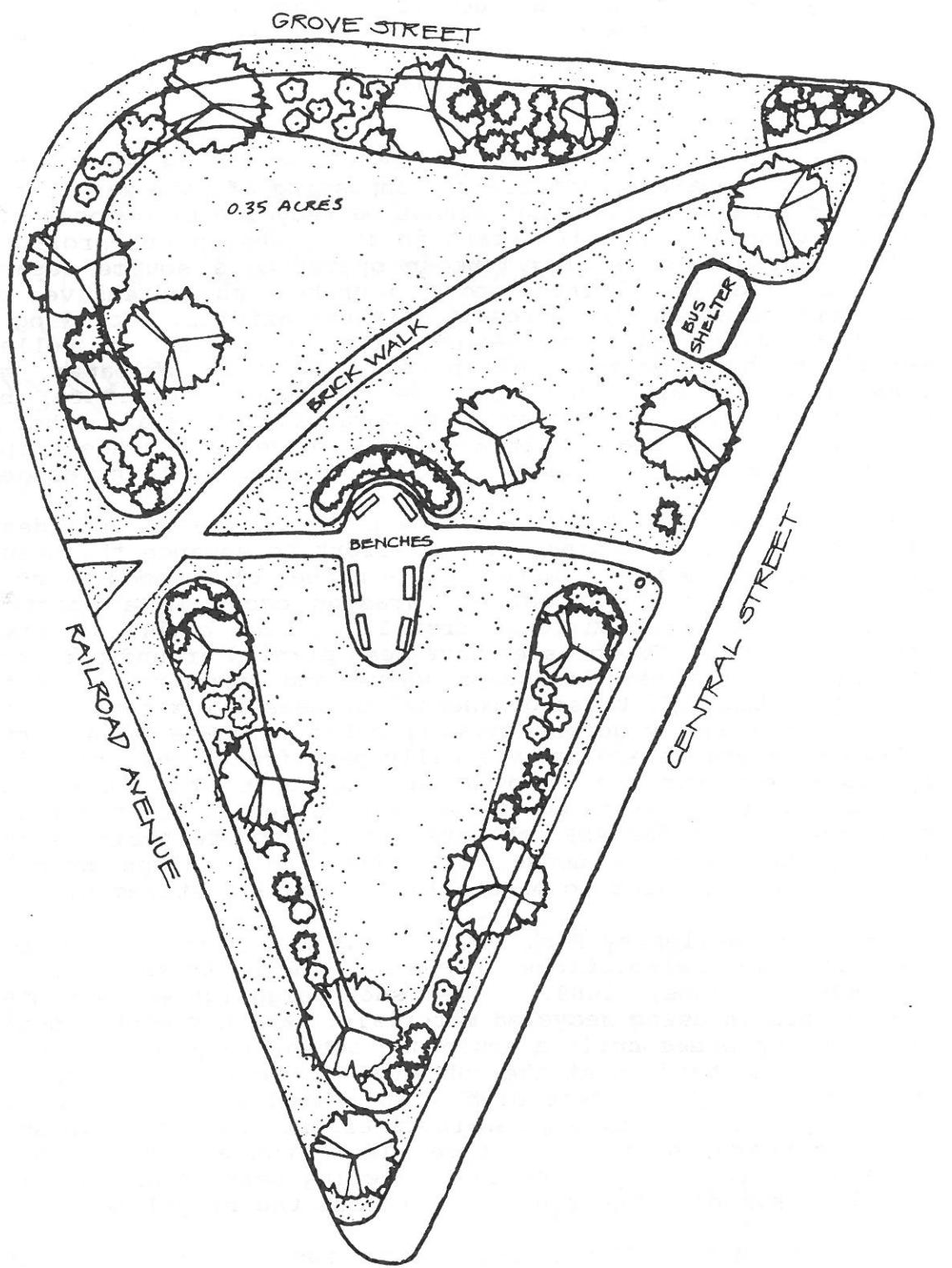
The Town of Wellesley operates a 72.45 acre Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) that has received national and international attention. Individuals and groups from municipalities around the United States and from such countries as Japan, Israel, Denmark, USSR England, Bermuda and Argentina have visited and been impressed with the park like facility.

There are three functions that are performed at the RDF - recycling of specific separated materials, composting of yard waste, and the transfer haul of refuse that cannot be recycled or composted. The recycling program had its start in 1971, when a non-profit group called "Action for Ecology" began operating a source separation recycling center. This group launched an extensive public relations campaign. As a result of these efforts, recycling today plays a major role in the handling of refuse in Wellesley. Materials that are recycled include all types of paper, glass, cans, plastic, oil, batteries, metals, wood, furniture, books, clothing and take it or leave it sections for books and other items that can be used again. In addition, leaves and grass clippings are composted. The finished leafmold is sold to Town residents.

The residents look at the RDF as a park because it includes park benches and picnic tables. In an effort to enhance the beauty of this area, it has been planted with a number of ornamental grasses. The foliage and flowers of the grasses occur in a spectrum of colors and sizes which range from 12" ground covers to six foot specimen plants. The grasses have been planted around the facility to illustrate their landscape value and year round interest. Growing at the RDF, these ornamental grasses illustrate their site adaptability and vigorous growing habit. These plants require little maintenance and are virtually pest free. The grass flowers are excellent for use in dried arrangements and the ornamental blades can be useful in cut flower arrangements. In the landscape settings used at the RDF, the grasses illustrate their usefulness as a groundcover, a hedge, a screen and a slope stabilizer. Grasses are also used to make bold, new design statements.

In 1988, the Wellesley Park Division was 100 years old. As part of the centennial celebrations, an "Art in the Park" show was held at the RDF in June, 1988. The show highlighted artists who specialized in using recycled materials. At this event, some Park Division employees built a sculpture out of recycled lumber. The sculpture is standing at the entrance to the recycling center and is 50 feet long, 14 feet high. It symbolizes how recycling in Wellesley emerged from a grass roots effort and has grown steadily over the years, so the sculpture rises from a bed of ornamental grasses and it slowly rises to a towering peak which contains the recycling symbol. The sculpture praises the recycling effort.

The success of the RDF has received coverage in Boston and national newspapers, television and in a variety of magazines. For all of these reasons, the Recycling and Disposal Facility is a source of pride for residents of Wellesley.



**CENTRAL PARK**

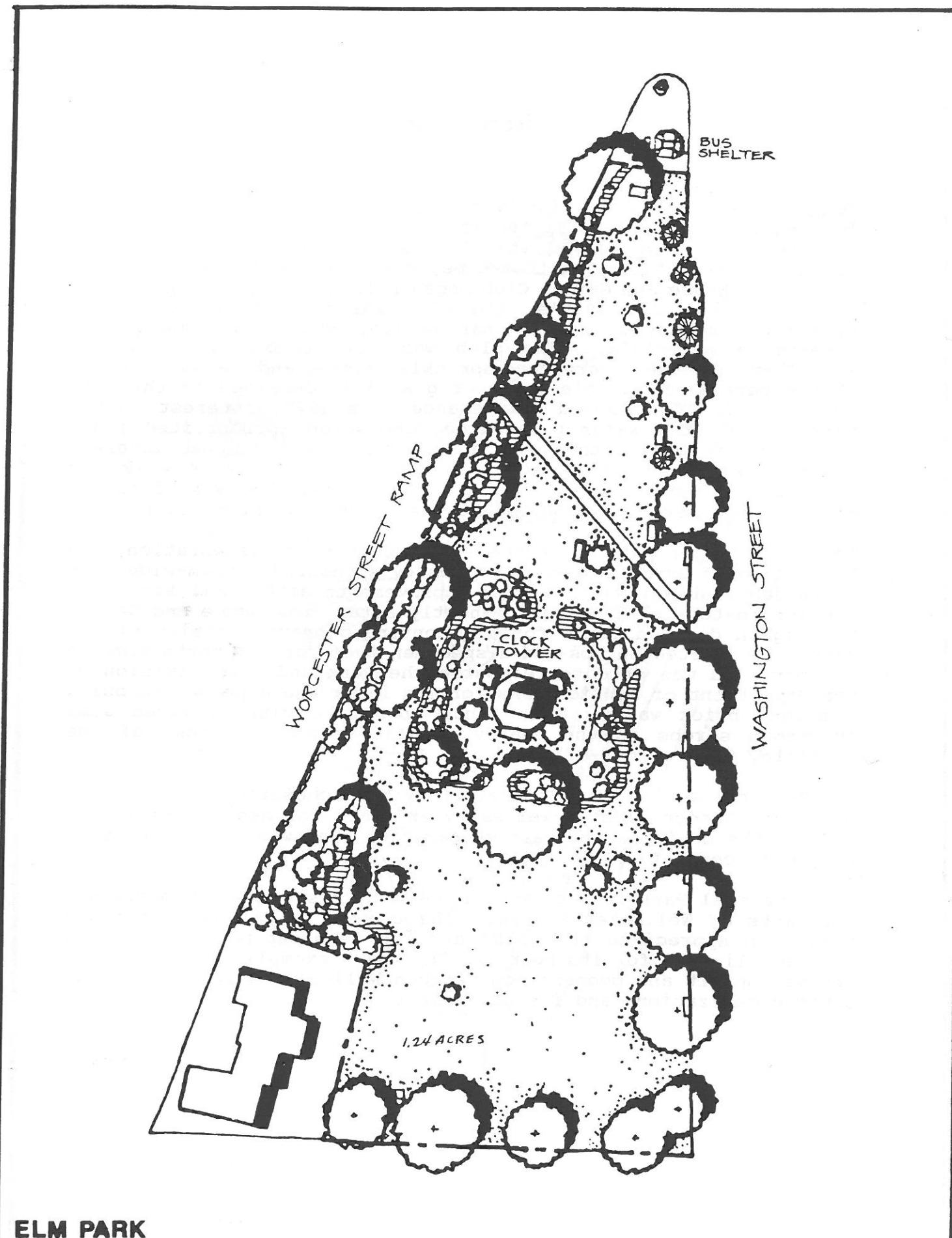
**CENTRAL PARK**

Central Park is named for its location on Central Street in Wellesley Square. This is the Town's busiest commercial district but until the late 1950's, this 0.35 acre triangular park was not given much attention. At that time, one of Wellesley's six Garden Clubs, the House and Garden Club began raising money to improve the park. By the mid 1950's, the club was able to donate small ornamental trees, broad and narrow leaf evergreens, bulbs and herbaceous materials. The club was also responsible for the installation of an underground sprinkler system and the maintenance of the park. The club's interest gradually declined in the late 60's and the DPW assumed maintenance. In 1979, interest in the park surged, the Natural Resource Commission appropriated funds that were matched by the House and Garden Club's renewed interest in improvements to the park. At this time, a brick walk and seating area were installed to provide a setting for six Victorian benches that were also donated by the House and Garden Club.

In May, 1981, as part of the Wellesley Centennial Celebration, the Federation of Garden Clubs in Wellesley sponsored a town-wide tour of garden club activities. The improvements at Central Park were a major feature of the tour. Shortly after, the House and Garden Club again donated funds for the continued beautification of the park. It donated shrubs and a specimen tree for the north side of the park and was able to reimburse the Park and Tree Division of the Department of Public Works for its labor and expenses to build a second brick walk. As a final step, the club replaced some overgrown shrubs on the nearby traffic island in front of the Wellesley Square Post Office.

In 1983, the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts presented the House and Garden Club of Wellesley an award for design excellence and for the municipal/private cooperation that was needed for this project's completion.

Today Central Park is very heavily used by residents, shoppers and merchants of Wellesley Square. The use of brick has encouraged people to appreciate the walks and the landscaping has received many compliments for its beauty. This park exemplifies the public service spirit and cooperation between Wellesley's residents, its civic organizations and its government.



**ELM PARK**

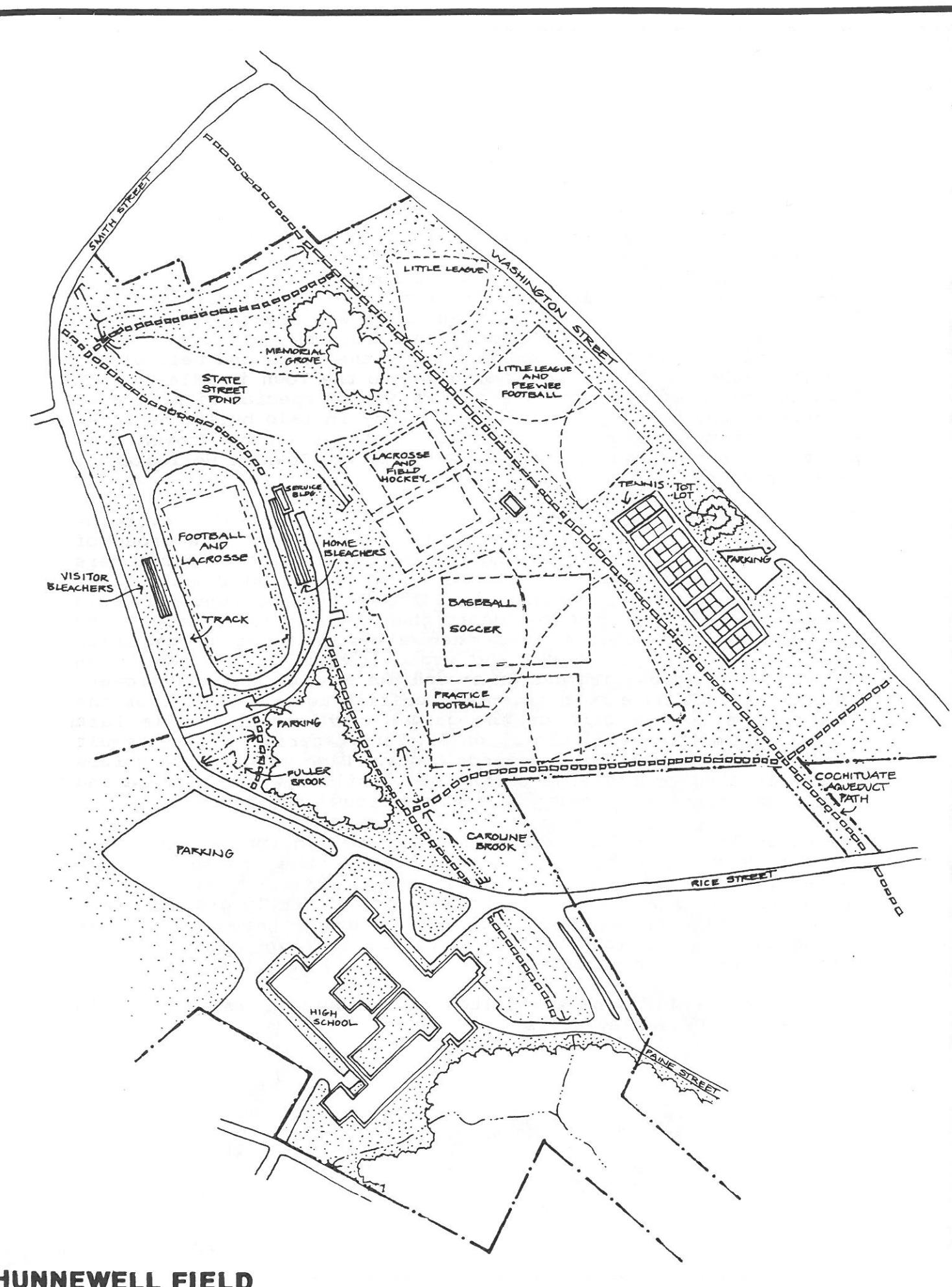
**ELM PARK**

At the intersection of Worcester and Washington Streets, in Wellesley Hills Square, is a 1.24 acre triangular park named Elm Park. The park got its name from the row of Elm trees which once surrounded it and it was the site of the Elm Park Hotel, that was torn down in 1908. In 1928, a clock tower was erected on the site under the direction of Park Commissioner Benjamin Proctor, Jr. The 65 feet high tower was designed to house the clock and bell of the old Shaw School. This school was given to the Town in 1814 by John Shaw and had been torn down. The clock was of special significance because it was made by Edward Howard, who, in 1840 built the first watch factory in America. The field stones in the tower came primarily from Wellesley and were given to the Town of Wellesley by Isaac Sprague.

The grounds around the clock tower have changed greatly over the years. When the land was first given to the Town by a group of residents in 1909, the plantings were simple. The Commissioners stated in the Town Report that year that they hoped a naturalized planting design would fit into the surrounding landscape and would be more appealing to the residents than an elaborate design. By 1960, tastes had changed and the Wellesley Hills Garden Club donated a variety of shrubs and ground covers to be used in an ornamental and flowering design around the base of the clock tower. These plantings have been recently modified again but most of the plants that were a gift of the garden club remain in Elm Park today. The most recent relocation of plant material was the result of an effort to reduce maintenance costs. High maintenance shrubs were relocated to the edge of the park while low maintenance and flowering shrubs were kept in the beds around the tower.

The Wellesley Hills Garden Club also donated an irrigation system for Elm Park. The system was installed in the mid-70's and is currently undergoing an upgrading and expansion. Part of the upgrading will involve utility groundwater currently draining away in the Cochituate Aqueduct which runs under the park. This upgrading will eliminate the need to use drinking water at this site for irrigation purposes.

All of these efforts have resulted in a beautiful focal point in the heart of Wellesley Hills.



### HUNNEWELL FIELD

Hunnewell Field, made up of over 35 acres, lies in the center of Wellesley. Eighteen of these acres were deeded to the Town around the turn of the century by Horatio Hollis Hunnewell, who was concerned with the provision of play areas for children. Over the years, the park was expanded through the donation of adjacent parcels until almost 60 acres of land was assembled. Despite changes that occurred on the land, it continues to serve its original purpose and as the major recreation area in Wellesley.

Until the late 1940's, the potential for this park was undeveloped. When the Wellesley (Gamaliel Bradford) Senior High School was built on part of the 60 acres by the Federal Public Works Administration, it was recognized that this land should be utilized. Not only could the field serve the high school students, but it was an excellent recreational opportunity for the residents of the Town as well. The Park and Recreation Commission established some facilities in a piecemeal manner - a football field, a few tennis courts, and a baseball diamond - but it lacked the funding for a large scale development of the site. Finally, in 1948, the Commission was given the authority to hire a consulting firm to plan an expansion of the facilities.

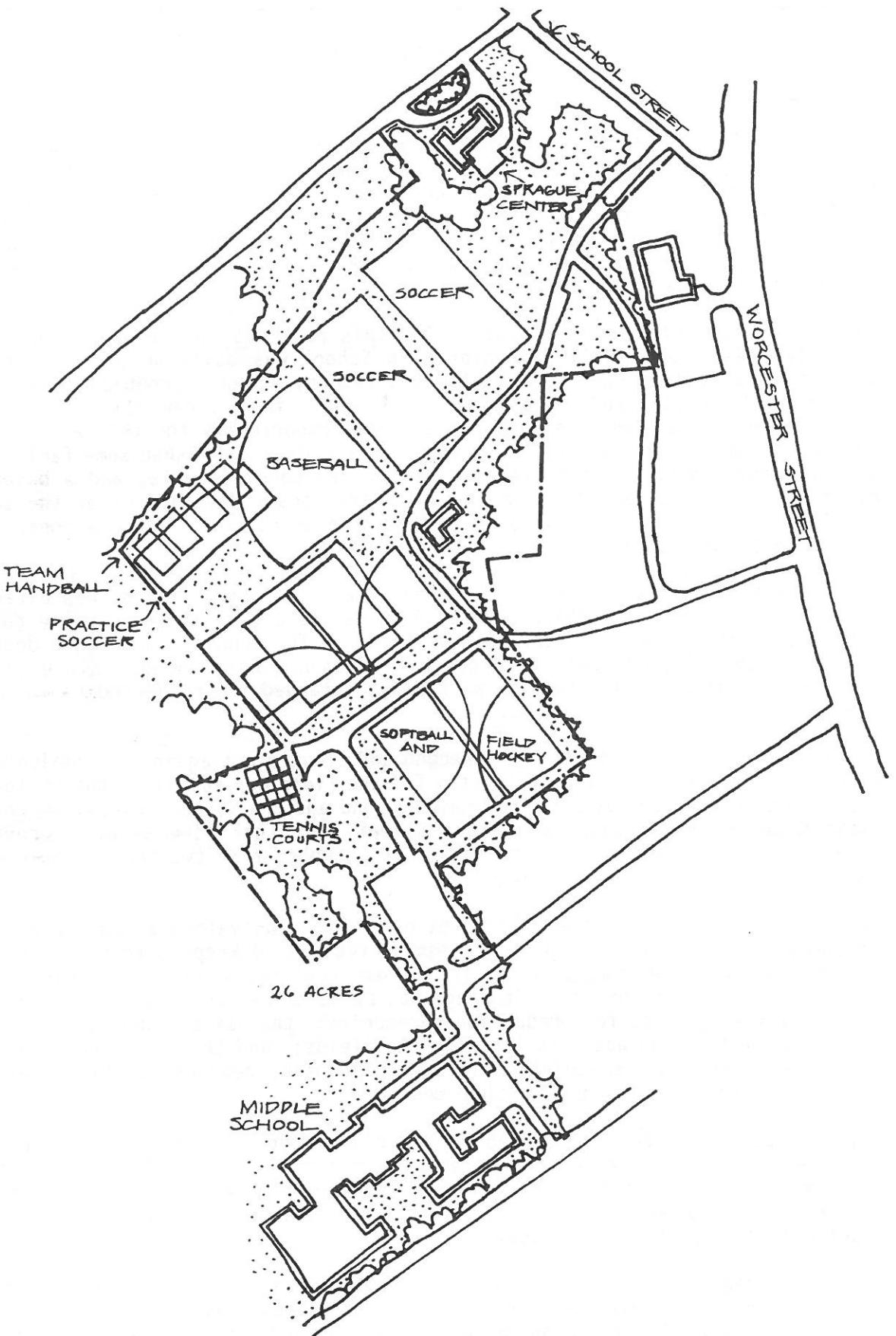
As a result of this work, several changes were made. Smith Street was extended to connect with Rice and Paine Streets in order to create a new entrance to the school and better access to the playing fields. The tennis courts were doubled in number and playing fields and baseball diamonds were added. State Street Pond, which had been used for ice hockey was enlarged and converted to an adult skating rink.

In 1978, the State Street Pond was dredged and cleaned out again. In conjunction with this project, an irrigation system for the field was installed the following year. The irrigation water comes from the pond and the system covers the entire field between the Aqueduct and State Street. At that time also, a groundskeeper's shed was included in the irrigation pumphouse so two people could work out of this shed all summer long.

Hunnewell Field has also been the focus of several innovative and award winning maintenance ideas. For example: assigning two groundskeepers to this park has cut back on maintenance manpower by 1/3; steel goal posts replace the vandalized wooden posts; a trailer-portable stage was built to replace the construction of a temporary stage used for graduation ceremonies; the use of pond water instead of Wellesley drinking water to irrigate the fields; and the use of herbicide or growth retardant in the athletic field marking paint reduces ballfield marking from every other game to every other week.

Adjacent to the State Street Pond is Memorial Grove. In May, 1919, over 300 trees were planted here to commemorate the men of the Town who had fought in World War I. In addition, five English Elms were planted for the five men who were killed in the war. The Elms have since died but many of the trees that were planted in the grove remain today.

A lot has changed at Hunnewell Field since H. H. Hunnewell first envisioned the playground here. However, his original concept and the 1948 concept plan remain basically intact. Neither plan could begin to consider the intensity of use that the field provides today. It serves the residents of Wellesley very well.



27 SPRAGUE FIELD

### SPRAGUE FIELD

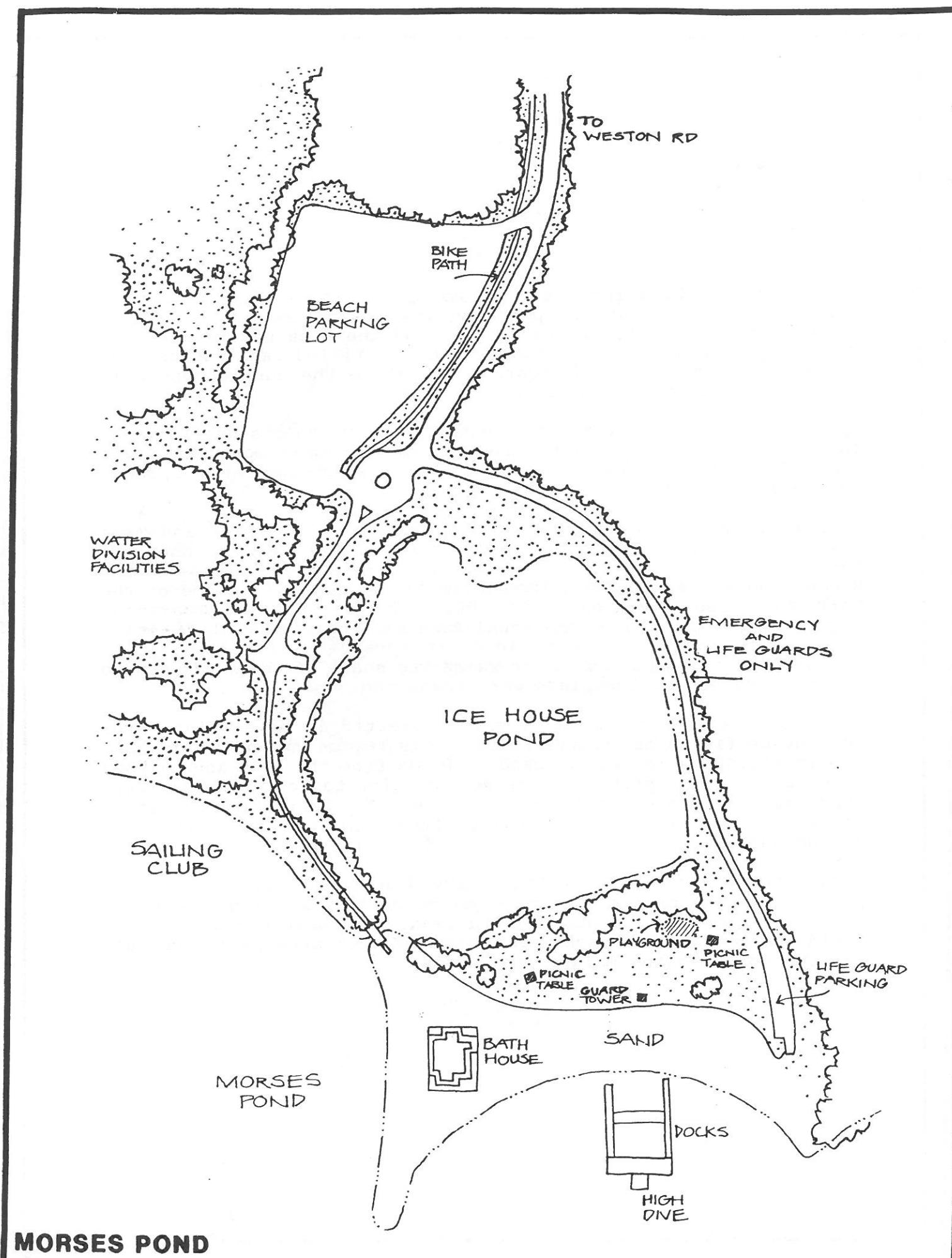
Sprague Field is located off of Worcester Street just north of Wellesley Square. An ice pond and its associated wetlands once existed on this site, but was filled and the area became known as Wellesley's "Back Bay". Since most of the filled land was used as a dump, on occasion an old car or barrel in the dump degenerates and the land above it subsides.

Sprague Field was called Junior High Field due to its proximity to the school. When the Junior High became a middle school, it was renamed Sprague Field because of its location near the Sprague Recreation Building at Oak and School Streets.

School grounds in Wellesley are maintained by the Park and Tree Division of the Department of Public Works. Any plan proposed for the grounds must strike a balance between the athletic needs of the School and Recreation Departments and the maintenance needs of the Park and Tree Division. In 1983, the Recreation Department requested \$150,000 from the Annual Town Meeting to provide a Little League field and two soccer fields at Sprague Field. The Little League Commission was unable to raise its share of the funds needed for the project so the plans were abandoned.

In 1984, the Soccer League became interested in developing three regulation fields at Sprague Field. This league was successful and raised \$35,000 which was matched by funds from the 1985 Annual Town Meeting. This project includes an irrigation system, turf improvements, and portable soccer goals. The irrigation system is fed by an underground 10,000 gallon tank, which is replenished by ground water.

Today, the 26 acre Sprague Field serves as the "flagship" or main playing fields for the Soccer League as well as serving the School and Recreation departments. In addition, maintenance costs for the field are going lower each year as the project greatly reduces all but the most routine maintenance needs.



### MORSES POND

The Morses Pond beach is located on the south side of the 109 acre Morses Pond. Developed in 1945, the beach area is about five acres in size and the adjacent parking lot can accommodate 275 cars. The pond is enjoyed by residents of Wellesley for swimming, fishing, and boating. The facility is staffed by the Recreation Commission, which provides swimming instructors and life guards. Maintenance is provided by the Park and Tree Division of the Department of Public Works. Facilities at the beach include a bath house, a sailboat launching and mooring area, picnic facilities and a small playground.

The quality of water is a major maintenance concern of the Department of Public Works. The water must be clean and clear for swimming and for recharging the municipal wells located to the west of the pond. During the summer months, the Park Division operates an aquatic weed harvester which removes weeds from the pond. The weed removal not only increases the area available for boating and swimming, but leads to an improvement in the water's recreation value. The harvesting operation removes the top five feet of weed growth as well as all the nutrients contained within the plants.

The innovative irrigation system at the beach recently won an award from the Landscape Architecture Foundation. Canadian Geese had been creating problems by nesting on the beach and feeding on the grass adjacent to it. When other solutions failed, an irrigation system was installed across the middle of the beach. The sprinkler heads are set to turn on in an erratic pattern for a few minutes at the beginning of every hour. The sprinklers scare the geese away from the beach and as a result of this system, not only is the beach cleaner, but the sand remains cooler and the grass is green and moist, making the beach even more enjoyable for residents of Wellesley.

The pond, like other Town ponds, suffers from accelerating eutrophication. Homeowners can help by reducing or eliminating use of chemical fertilizers. The Friends of Morses Pond are active in efforts to preserve this important recreational resource.



## WELLESLEY FARMS RAILROAD STATION AND INDIAN SPRINGS PARK

The Wellesley Farms Railroad Station is located in the northeast corner of the Town. It is an active commuter railroad station in a quiet, wooded residential neighborhood. The history of the station and the surrounding area is rich and makes this an interesting place to visit.

### 1. THE WELLESLEY FARMS RAILROAD STATION

The station building was commissioned by the Boston and Albany Railroad in 1885. It was designed by the architect H. H. Richardson and the 4.02 acres of grounds were laid out by the landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. The station and grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Town is currently looking for recommendations for the re-use of this attractive and historically important station building.

The design of railroad stations from this period typically stressed simplicity and convenience. Richardson's designs also stressed strength, function and unity with the site, illustrated here by the sweeping roof and stone walls. The stations were to be neat and easy to maintain. The pond at Wellesley Farms is an unusual feature. It probably would have been filled by most railroad companies except Olmsted retained it. The result was a unique and visually pleasing railroad station that was heralded internationally.

### 2. SQUIRREL ROAD

Squirrel Road is a designated scenic road under the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws. The purpose of this designation is to protect the trees and stone walls along picturesque country roads. Because of Squirrel Road's designation, any work done on the road which might affect the trees or stone walls requires notification to the Planning Board and a public hearing.

### 3. THE COCHITIUTE AQUEDUCT PATH

The aqueduct runs below the ground through the Town of Wellesley. It was constructed by the MDC in 1849 for supplying Boston with water from Lake Cochituate. The aqueduct was abandoned in 1963 and was deeded to the Town of Wellesley for utilities, drainage and electrical transmission. The surface of the aqueduct is maintained as a walking path which connects to other walking trails throughout the Town. From the path, the land slopes steeply away to the Indian Springs Brook which is also located on Town owned land.

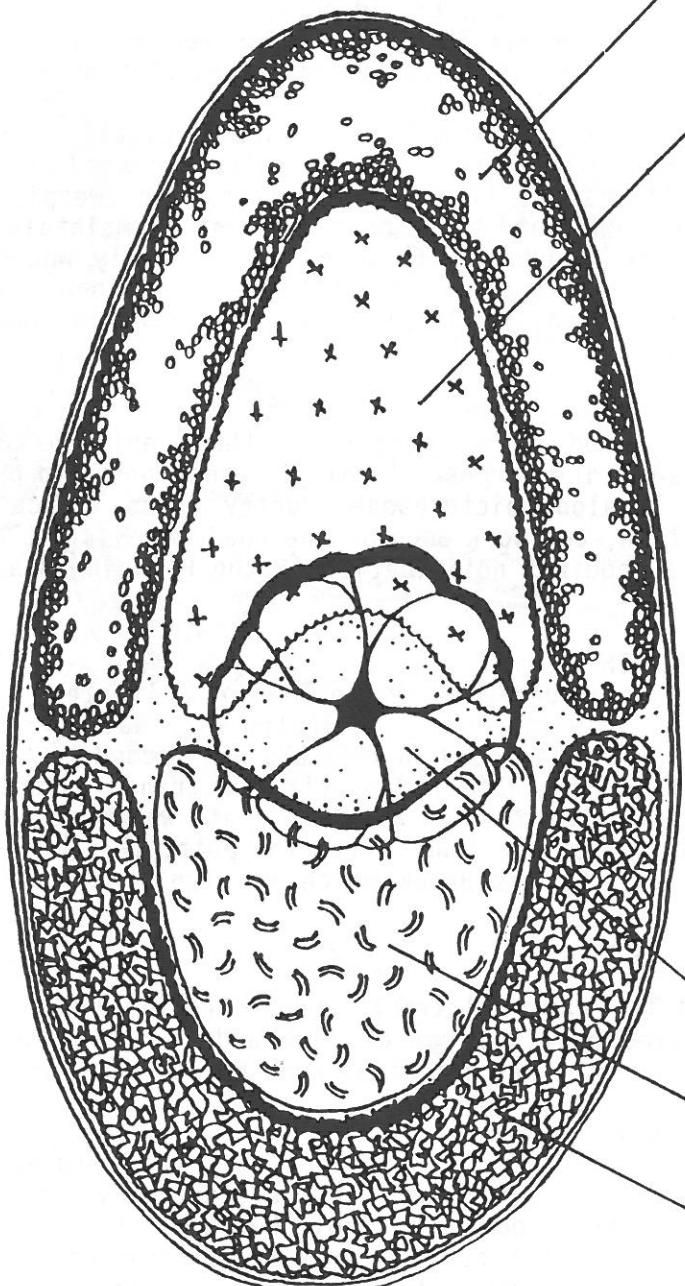
### 4. INDIAN SPRINGS PARK

From Squirrel Road and the railroad tracks down Hillside Road, Indian Springs Brook is protected by 4.9 acres of Park and Conservation land. The brook takes a 90° turn into the historical area known as the Waterway.

### 5. THE WATERWAY - THE BROOKWAY

Around the turn of the century, a developer decided to feature Indian Springs Brook to make a model subdivision. The developer paved the banks with brick, but he went bankrupt before a single house was built. Today, the road beside this brick-lined brook is known as the Brookway and is a designated scenic road. In the 1600's, this area was part of an important Indian camping ground and in recognition of this, the Yotz meadow nearby is called Coowate to memorialize the Indian settlement.

DOVER RD



WASHINGTON STREET

## XERISCAPING LOW-WATER LANDSCAPING

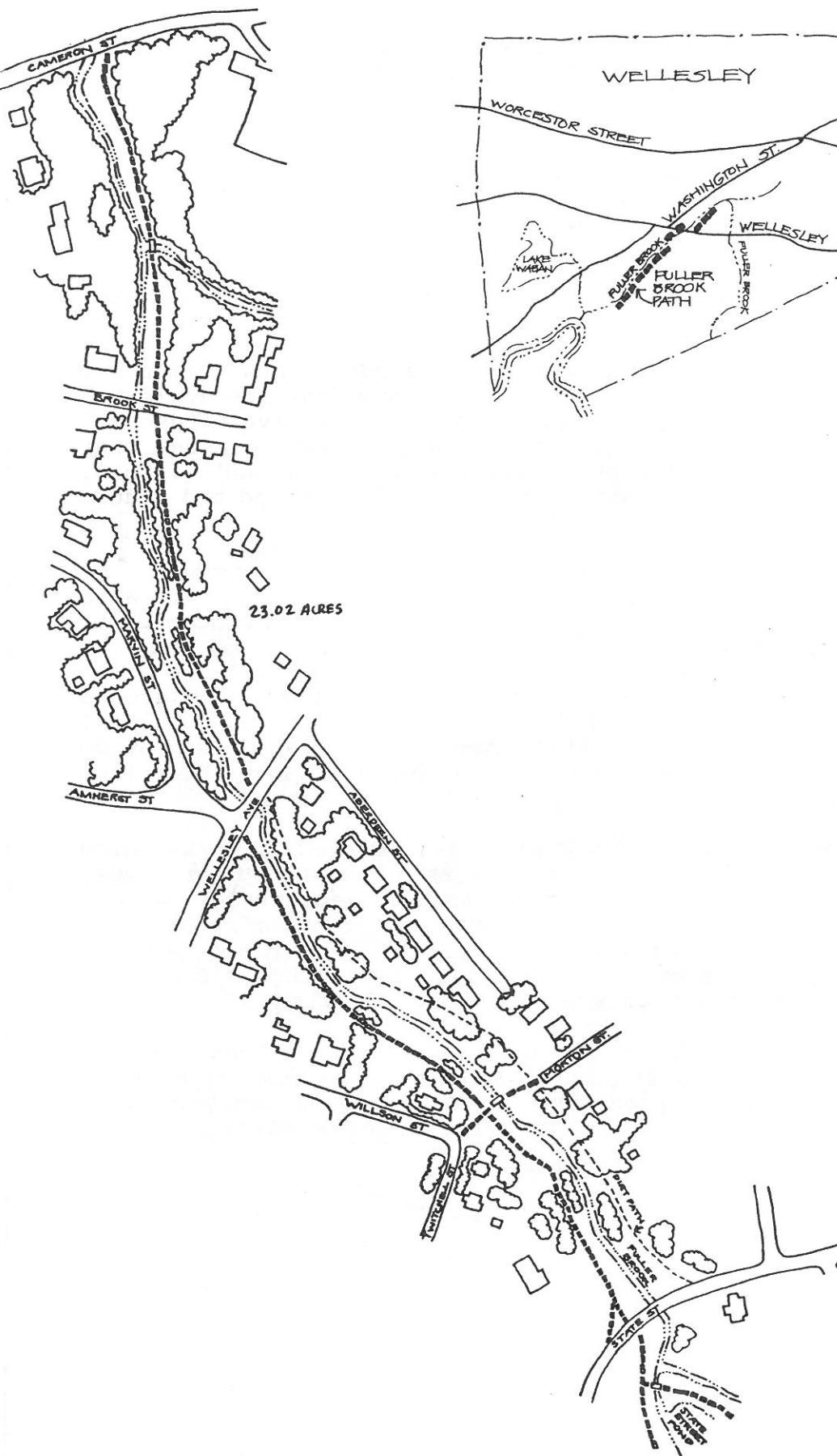
The traffic island at Washington and Dover Streets is designed to demonstrate the principles of xeriscaping. What is xeriscaping? It is landscaping using plants that do not demand large quantities of water. It is useful for areas where the loss of moisture is great. It is especially desirable for traffic islands, where the surrounding pavement creates a great deal of summer heat and water absorption is limited due to the reduced amount of surface area.

The Washington/Dover traffic island is designed to show that there are a large number of low water demanding plants that are available for use, and that they can produce a visually attractive landscape. The five varieties of perennials, shrubs and dryland grasses that are planted on the island provide a range of color and texture. The mulch serves to reduce moisture loss from the island and reduce maintenance by inhibiting weed growth.

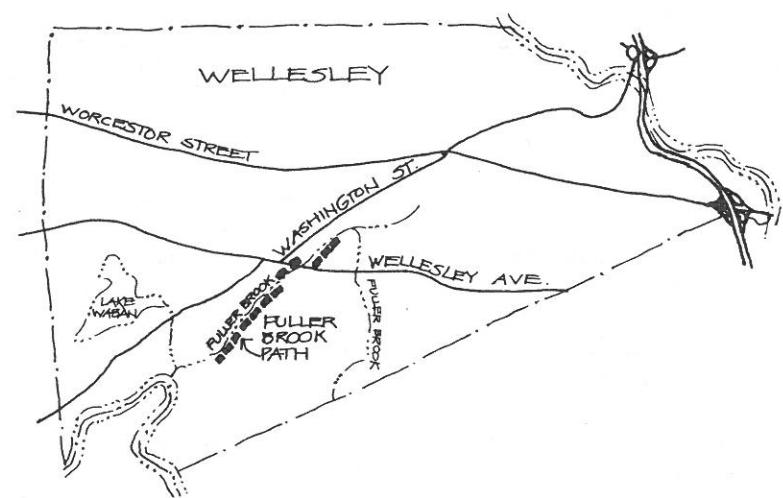
Xeriscaping can also be beneficial for your home landscape. It will help you to conserve water, which saves you money. It also can reduce your maintenance needs. There are several principles to keep in mind when designing a xeriscape. First, limit turf to areas where it is functionally beneficial. Turf requires a great deal of water and maintenance. Second, replace turf with ground covers or ornamental grasses that do not demand a great deal of water. Ground covers and ornamental grasses can be used to provide a variety of colors and textures. The results will be less lawn and more garden.

Third, group plants according to their watering needs. Turf, which needs to be watered frequently, should be separated from trees, shrubs, ground covers and flowering plants that require less water. Finally, use mulch wherever possible. Mulched planting beds can be used to replace turf areas. Mulches cool the soil and help to reduce evaporation, so plants need watering less often. They also help to prevent the growth of weeds and provide visual interest.

As homeowners plan a xeriscape garden, they will find that there is a wide variety of plants available that require low amounts of water. The use of these plants in a yard will not only make it visually attractive, but will also help conserve water and save time and money.



FULLER BROOK PATH

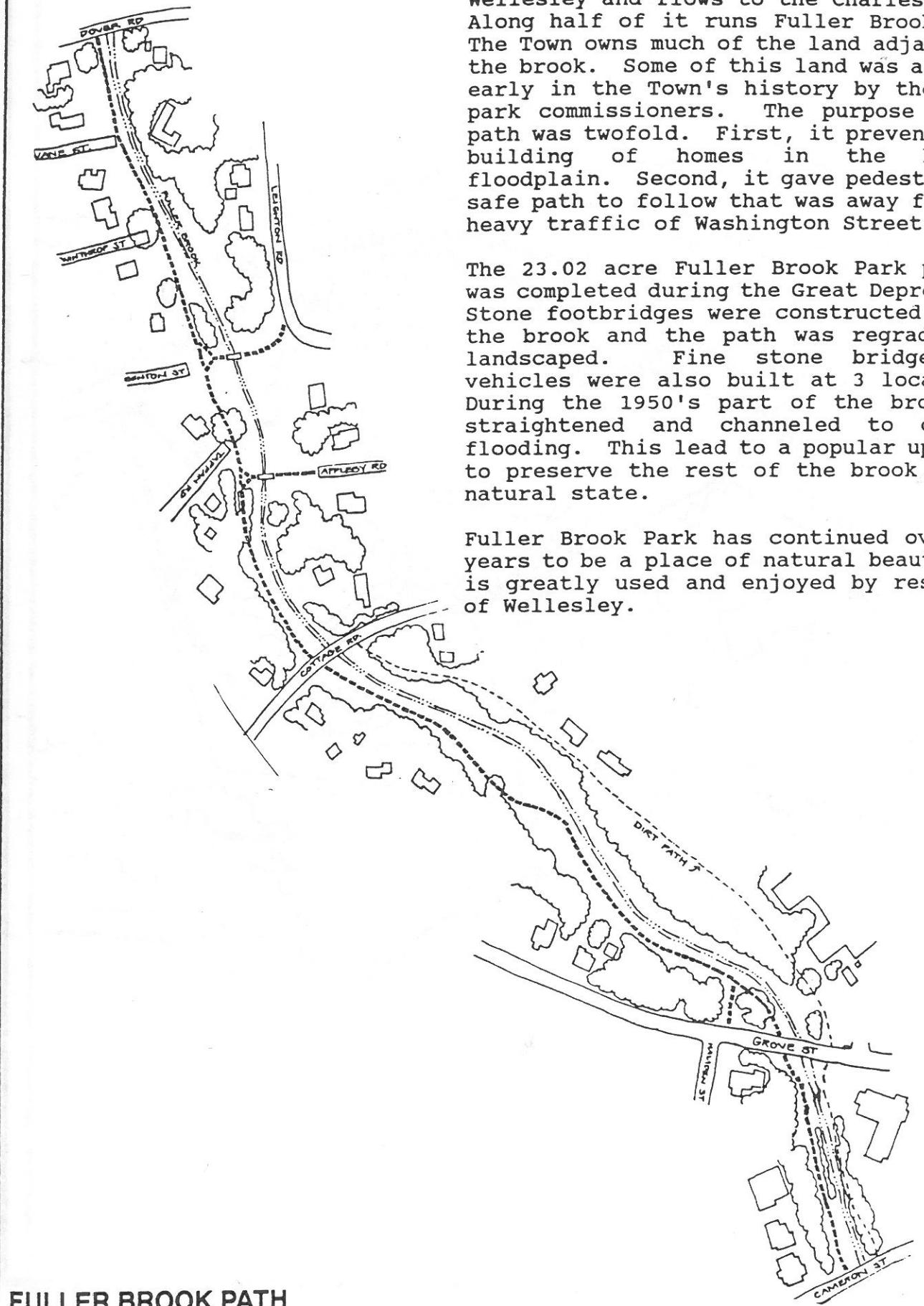


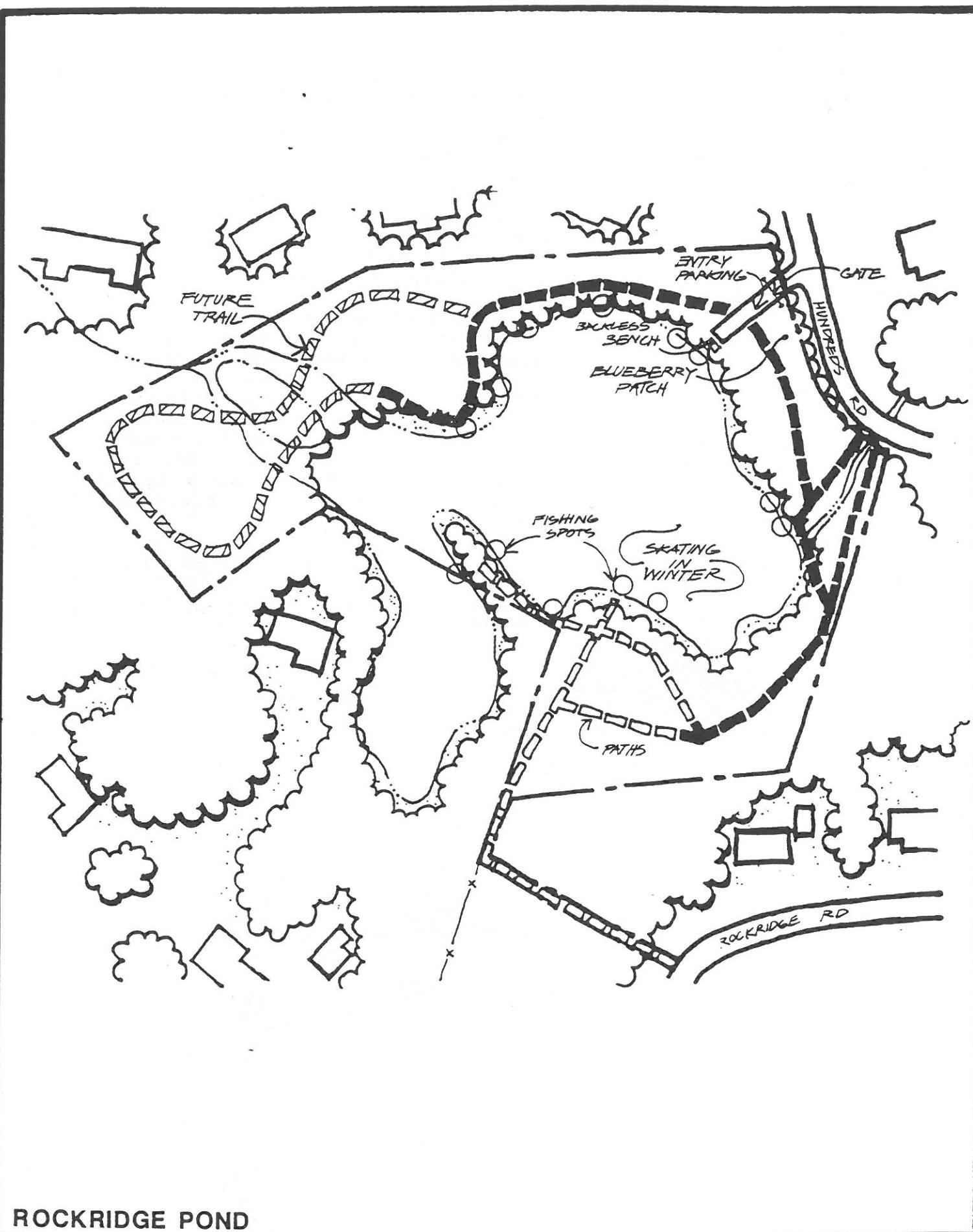
FULLER BROOK PATH

Fuller Brook drains more than half of Wellesley and flows to the Charles River. Along half of it runs Fuller Brook Path. The Town owns much of the land adjacent to the brook. Some of this land was acquired early in the Town's history by the early park commissioners. The purpose of the path was twofold. First, it prevented the building of homes in the brook's floodplain. Second, it gave pedestrians a safe path to follow that was away from the heavy traffic of Washington Street.

The 23.02 acre Fuller Brook Park project was completed during the Great Depression. Stone footbridges were constructed across the brook and the path was regraded and landscaped. Fine stone bridges for vehicles were also built at 3 locations. During the 1950's part of the brook was straightened and channeled to control flooding. This lead to a popular uprising to preserve the rest of the brook in its natural state.

Fuller Brook Park has continued over the years to be a place of natural beauty that is greatly used and enjoyed by residents of Wellesley.





ROCKRIDGE POND

ROCKRIDGE POND

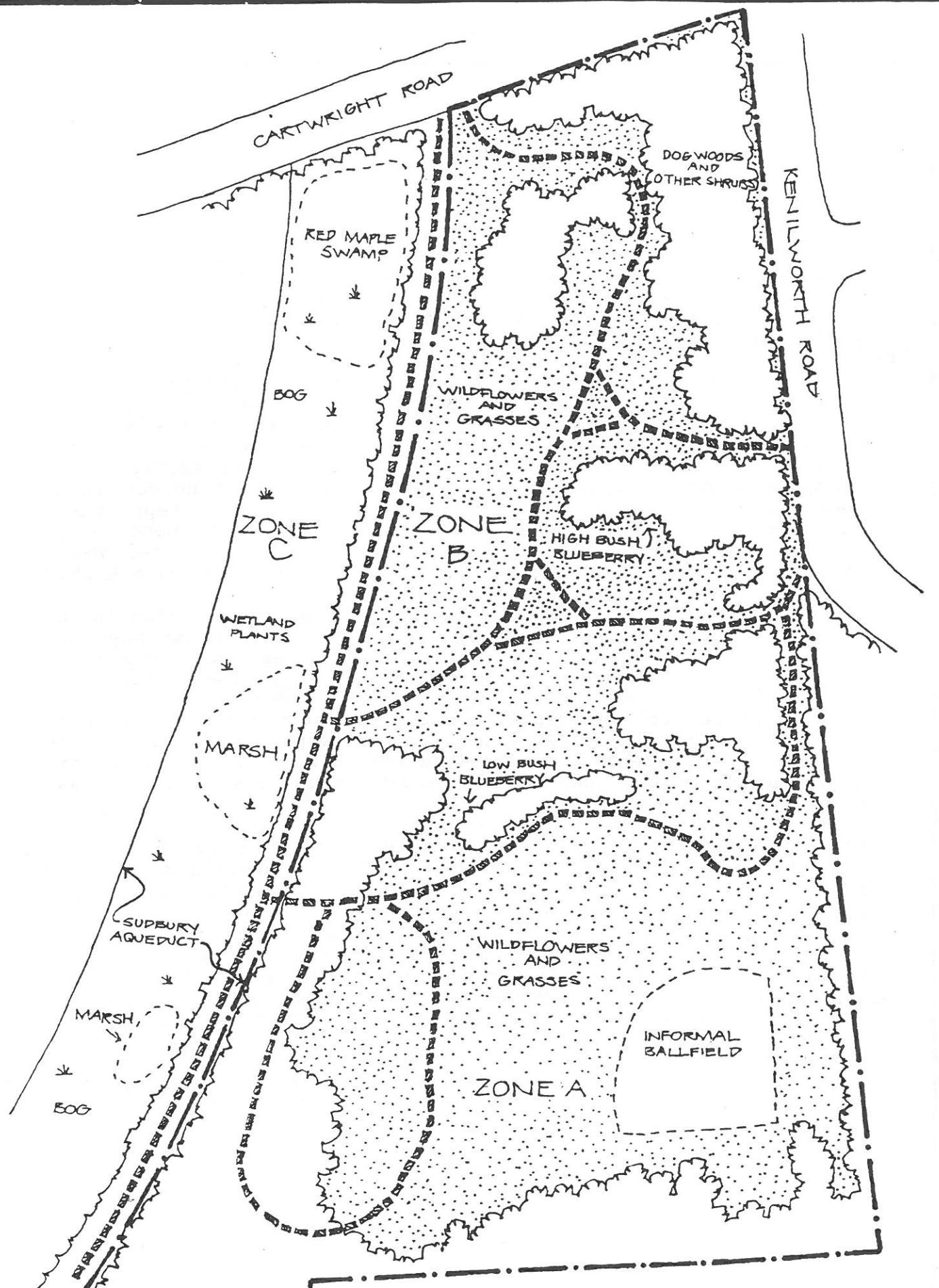
In 1926, the Town of Wellesley purchased 4.36 acres of land around most of Rockridge Pond in the residential Cliff Estates section of Wellesley. This pond, nestled among the trees is 2.1 acres in size and has 1,850 feet of shoreline. The passive recreation activities on this piece of public open space, consists of fishing, ice skating and hiking.

The woods are classified as a mixed deciduous upland forest. The major trees consist of: Red Maple, White Pine, American Elm, Tupelo and Sweet Birch. A substantial portion of the site is classified as a deciduous wooded swamp. Plants growing in these areas are: Red Maple, Sweet Pepperbush, Highbush Blueberry, Swamp Fern, Jewelweed, Royal Fern, Sensitive Fern and Cinnamon Fern. There is also a small shrub swamp containing: Sweet Pepperbush, Highbush Blueberry and Speckled Alder. Beside the pond is an emergent marsh community of plants including: Sedges, Water Hemlock, Clover, Plantain, Aster, Beggar's Ticks, and Path Rush.

The wildlife at Rockridge Pond is also quite diverse. Fish in the pond consists of: carp, bullhead, sunfish, large mouth bass and silver bass. Songbirds that nest in the area include: black capped chickadee, tufted titmouse and white breasted nuthatch. Nesting waterfowl include mallards, Canada geese, and great blue heron. There are many reptiles such as: garter snakes, painted and snapping turtles, pickerel, green and leopard frogs and spring peepers. The evidence indicates the following animals make a home at Rockridge Pond: cottontail rabbit, squirrels, mice, voles, shrew, raccoon and muskrat.

Much of the site also contains extensive areas of exposed bedrock. The pond was lowered and cleaned in 1936, according to Town records. Efforts to dredge the pond were also begun. In 1939, a leak in the dam required some repairs. Currently, the pond contains a substantial amount of sediment accumulation. The pond is now only 3 1/2 feet at its' deepest point with the average depth being 2 feet. Eutrophication and oxygen depletion have led to fishkills. A plan to dredge the pond would remove 10 feet of sediment from the deepest points and 2 feet from the majority of the pond.

The lovely site and diversity of wildlife and plants, make Rockridge Pond a valuable asset to the Wellesley environment.



39 BEEBE MEADOW

#### BEEBE MEADOW

Beebe Meadow is a seven acre parcel of extremely diverse parkland maintained as conservation land. The grass and wildflower meadow is enhanced with a variety of shrubs and a tree border. This combination of vegetation creates so-called "edges" and a habitat diversity that supports a variety of wildlife.

The diversity of the meadow is compounded by the three distinct zones of vegetation. The zones are a result of varying soils and are indicated on the map by the letters A, B and C. Zone A is made up of relatively dry soils. It is an upland meadow that has probably been filled with soil removed from developments in the neighborhood. Species growing in Zone A include milkweed, yarrow, goldenrod, clover, and purple vetch, as well as several types of grasses. The tree border in this area is made up of Red Cedar, White Pine, Pin Cherry, and Quaking Aspen.

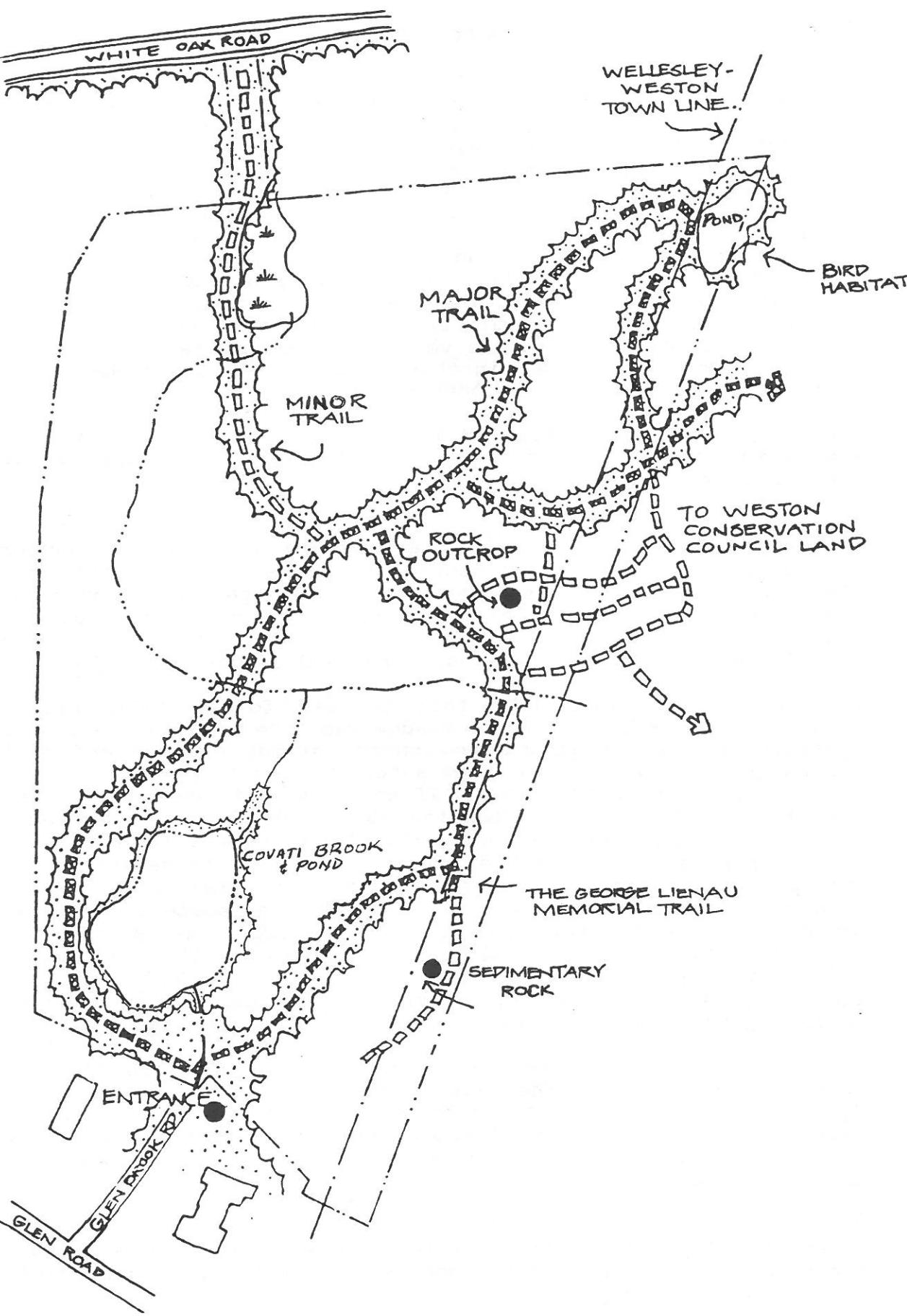
Zone B is a moister area and this is reflected in the type of vegetation that is found there: Silky Dogwood, Arrowwood, Red Maple and Green Ash.

Zone C occurs beyond the northern border of the meadow. This zone is made up of wetland and is a right-of-way for the Sudbury Aqueduct. There is a wide degree of diversity within this zone also. The majority of the zone is a bog, with patches of marsh and a Red Maple swamp in the area adjacent to Cartwright Road. The plants that grow in this zone require wet soils and include cattail, skunk cabbage, grasses, ferns and sedges.

In New England, land like this becomes forest under natural conditions. The land in Beebe Meadow was once totally cleared for agriculture. After it was no longer farmed, grasses and small shrubs grew up in the area. Now annual mowing keeps the meadow in this early successional stage. If mowing were to be discontinued, the process of natural succession would take over. First would come shrubs and then the sun-loving tree species such as White Pine, Aspen, and Poplar would grow. Notice that these are some of the species that are found in the tree border. This is because the border has not been mowed and the more advanced successional stage has been allowed to grow. The sun-loving species cast a shade that does not allow their own seedlings to survive, so the seedlings of shade-loving plants such as Maple, Oak, Ash, or Hemlock thrive. The trees which can replace themselves in the shade become the dominant, or climax, species.

The Friends of Beebe Meadow is a local group which helps to preserve the meadow. They asked Naturalist Charles Roth of the Massachusetts Audubon Society to evaluate the Meadow's care, and have encouraged the Town of implement his recommendations. The Friends of Beebe Meadow have provided a small sign and flowers to mark the area.

Beebe Meadow offers an excellent opportunity for nature walks. The diversity of plant and animal life is exceptional. By walking on the paths provided and not through the meadow itself, damage to the vegetation will be prevented.



41 CARISBROOKE RESERVATION

### CARISBROOKE RESERVATION

The 11.9 acres of Carisbrooke Reservation were purchased by the Town of Wellesley for conservation purposes in 1973. At the same time the Wellesley Conservation Council, Inc., a private land trust purchased an abutting 1.3 acre strip in Weston called the George Lienau Memorial Trail. It also abuts a large parcel of Weston conservation land and connects to the Weston trail system. Together these lands protect the Cold Stream Brook watershed.

The reservation is named Carisbrooke after a castle in England. The name was chosen by a housing developer who bought the land in 1931. In 1938 construction stopped and the remaining land was sold to MIT, from whom the Town acquired it.

The main entrance of the reservation is at Glen Brook Road, off Glen Road, near the Weston line. The reservation's trails were first seen on maps prepared around 1928. At that time the wetland near the entrance was a pond. Sedges and rushes at the water's edge caught soil and debris that formed soil. They were followed by plants that like wet soil. As the plants took over, the entire pond became filled in. Recently the pond was restored as part of drainage improvements, and was named after the Assistant Town Engineer who designed the project.

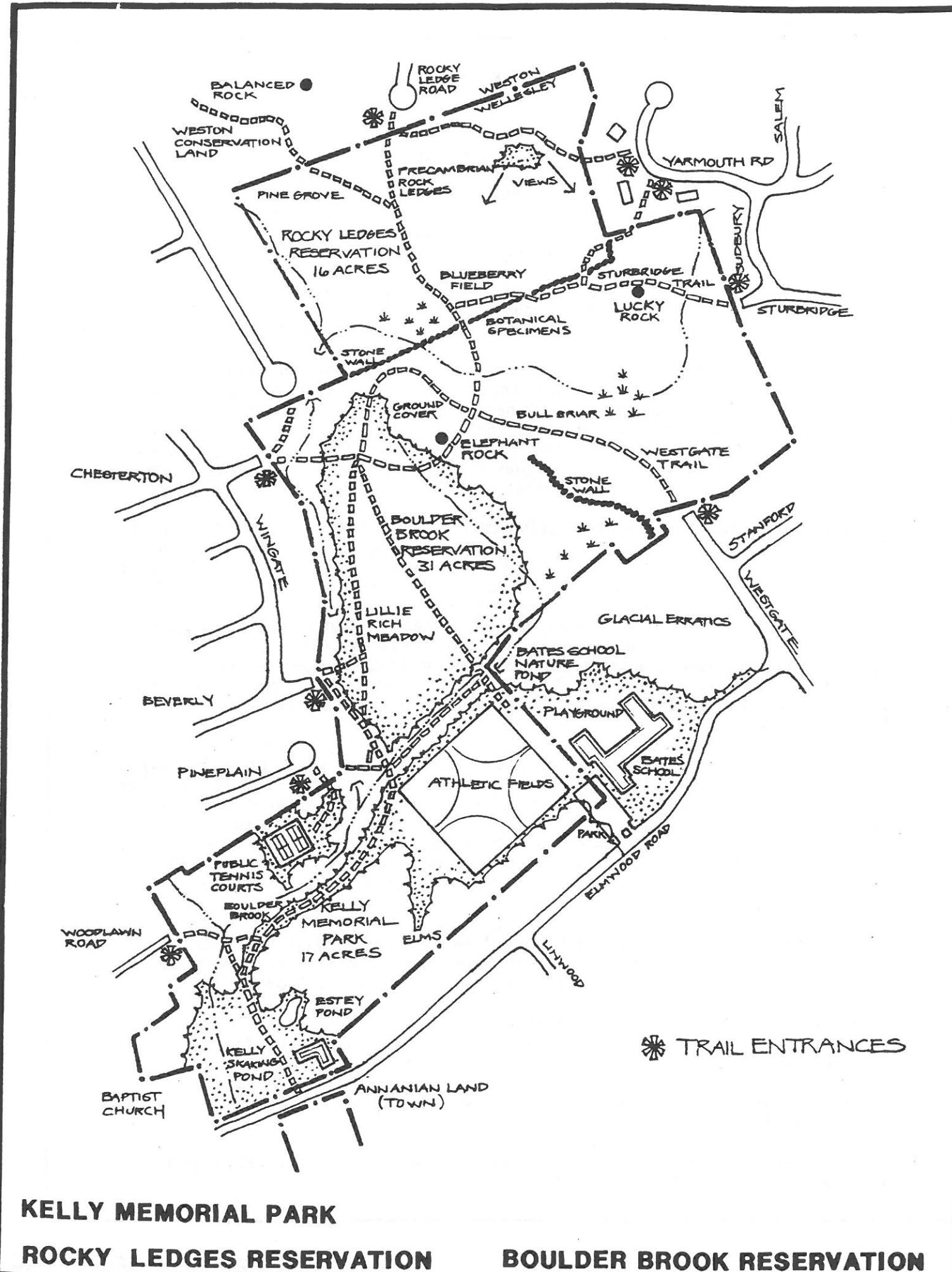
The stone walls found in the reservation indicate that this land was once cleared for agriculture. The soils in New England are very stony and farmers built walls around their fields from the rocks that had to be removed for farming. The types of trees in the reservation are also an indication that the land was cleared not too long ago. There are a great number of Birch and Aspen in these woods. These trees are typically found in a young forest. When a field is no longer planted or grazed, sun-loving shrubs move in among the grasses. They are followed by Birch, Poplar and Aspen, whose seedlings need sun to survive. They are replaced by shade-loving species such as Red Maple, Hickory, White Pine and Red Oak. Many young Oaks and Maples are growing along the path, a sign that the composition of the woods is changing.

The twigs, dead leaves, decaying branches and pine needles that lie on the forest floor are a very important part of the energy cycle. They are fed upon by bacteria. The bacteria break down the nutrients that are captured in the plant material and return them to the soil. The nutrients are then free to nourish the plants, which in turn feed a wide variety of birds, animals, and insects. The decomposition of this organic matter is also important because it enriches the soil and provides humus which acts as a sponge to soak up rain water and reduce rapid runoff and flooding.

Many of the plants along the trail are not natives, especially near the houses. Plants such as Winged Euonymus (Burning Bush) and Barberries have been planted in gardens and their seeds have been carried to the reservation by birds.

There are two geologic features of interest along the trail. The first is the outcropping of exposed granite bedrock. The other is an exposed sedimentary rock which has a red color caused by iron compounds. Notice the vertical lines in the rock. These are actually layers that were deposited horizontally when the rock was being formed. The rock was pushed upwards at an angle by movement in the earth's crust.

With its pond, wetlands and stands of mixed hardwoods, the reservation provides an excellent habitat for birds and wildlife.



## KELLY MEMORIAL PARK

## ROCKY LEDGES RESERVATION

## BOULDER BROOK RESERVATION

### KELLY MEMORIAL PARK, ROCKY LEDGES AND BOULDER BROOK RESERVATION

Boulder Brook Reservation was purchased in 1966 by the Town of Wellesley from Mrs. Lillie P. Rich to provide recreation and conservation land in the northwest part of Town. The 31-acre parcel was named after Boulder Brook, which flows through the reservation and takes its name from the giant glacial boulders found there.

In 1970 the reservation was expanded by the addition of Rocky Ledges, 16 acres of steeply rising land to the north. This land, originally planned for housing, was obtained in exchange for Town-owned land off Albion Road. The two reservations, totalling 47 acres, extend from the Weston line to the Bates School grounds and Kelly Memorial Park, 17 acres acquired in 1942 and named for John and Joseph Kelly, brothers who died in World War II.

There are 11 entrances to Boulder Brook Reservation from the streets which dead-end there, plus two access points in Weston. Large groups should use the parking area off Elmwood Road at Kelly Pond or the lot at Bates School during non-school hours. Active recreation facilities including ballfields, soccer, tennis courts and a skating pond are found in Kelly Park. Boulder Brook Reservation is ideal for family outings, environmental study, and just getting away from it all. Quiet recreation such as hiking, bird-watching, cross-country skiing and photography are enjoyed here.

Because of the varied terrain - field and forest, swamp and clifftop - the area supports a variety of wildlife. Originally cleared for farming, most of the land has reverted to woodland. The Lillie Rich Meadow is kept open by mowing to provide habitat for the many birds and animals which require open land or edge areas for survival.

But woodlands at Boulder Brook are not all the same. Swampy lowlands are characterized by Red Maple, Willows and many Ferns. Rocky highlands are covered with Red and White Oak and Red Cedar. In between are found White Pine, Pitch Pine, Hickory and Maple, with Blueberries, Sweet Fern, Dogwood, Bullbriar and Buckthorn forming an understory. Where field and forest meet, the edge habitat is exceptionally rich in plant and animal species. Edges are characterized by fast-growing, short-lived and sun-loving trees such as Aspen, Birch and Poplar. As the woodlands mature, climax species including White Pine, Red Oak, Red Maple and Hickory will predominate.

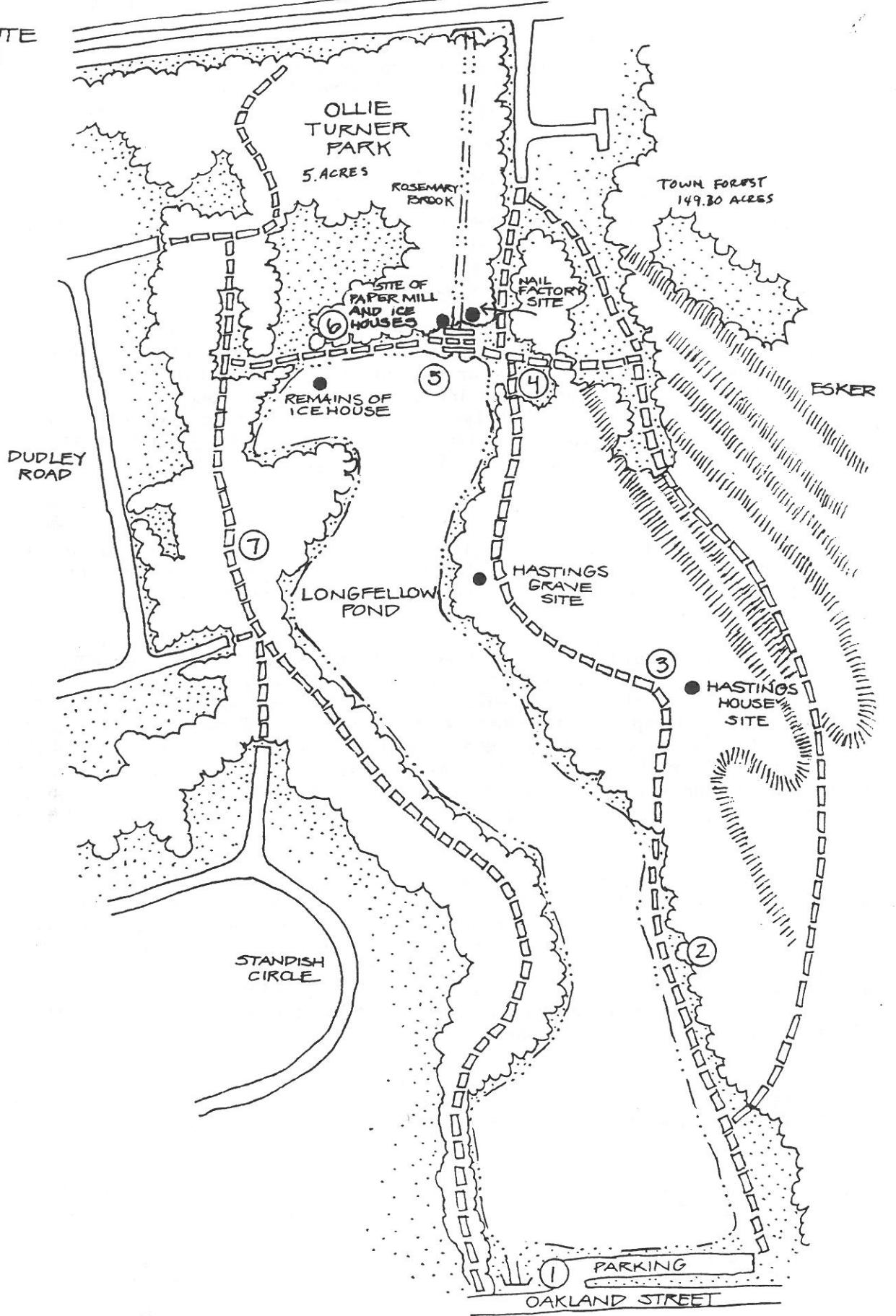
The retreat of the glacier 10,000 years ago created the geological interest of Boulder Brook and Rocky Ledges Reservations today. The glacier carried in and dropped huge boulders from other places (glacial erratics) while scouring away the local rocks to expose volcanic Precambrian granite, diorite and diabase 550-million years old. The "Geological Story of Wellesley", obtainable from the Wellesley Conservation Council, is a good guide. Glacial grooves (striae) are visible on the clifftop at Rocky Ledges, where the view from the 302-ft. elevation is rewarding to the energetic climber.

The guidemap on the opposite page will help newcomers with the maze of trails connecting points of interest on the two reservations. Remember that major trails are blazed with blue dots for entering and yellow dots for leaving the reservation.

Regulations for the use of Wellesley's parks and reservations may be obtained from the Natural Resources Commission or the Town Clerk in Town Hall. Lands are open from sunup to sundown. Motor vehicles, dumping, littering, unleashed pets, firearms, and alcoholic beverages are prohibited. All plants and animals are protected - please do not pick plants or disturb wildlife in the park.

We hope you enjoy your visit. Please respect the natural features and land so others may enjoy them.

ROUTE  
9



LONGFELLOW POND

#### LONGFELLOW POND AND OLLIE TURNER PARK

**STATION 1 - THE POND:** Longfellow pond was formed in 1815 when Rosemary Brook was dammed to supply power to a nail factory. The pond was named for Nathan Longfellow, who operated a mill that made wallpaper from 1836 to 1870. The pond was drained in the early 1950's in order that the Algonquin natural gas pipeline could be laid across it. A short time later, the south edge of the pond was straightened and cleared and the Oakland Street parking lot was installed using dredge spoils. This open edge contrasts with the marshy areas further along the path which allow pond life to be observed.

Longfellow Pond lies in the 149.3 acre Wellesley Town Forest. The pond and woodlands are home to many species of fish, songbirds, and water fowl. Listen for pheasants and look for Canadian geese and Mallard ducks. Look in the water for the round nests made near the shore by sunfish.

**STATION 2 - THE SHORE:** The path that runs along the eastern edge of the pond was once a cart path named Old Rosemary Brook Road. Marsh plants abound on this shore, including cattail and arrowhead. Cattails provide shelter for birds and animals and were used by Indians for mats and thatch. The brown "cattail" is the female flower. Sedges and duckweed are plants that begin the process of changing the pond to marsh. Some wildflowers that like the wet soils near the water's edge are purple loosestrife, wild iris, and Joe-Pye-weed.

**STATION 3 - THE HASTINGS HOUSE:** Aaron Hastings was an early settler of Wellesley. He built his home by Longfellow Pond in 1833 and its chimney can still be found. A granite grave marker was placed alongside the path by the Hastings family in 1848 to mark the spot where earlier gravestones had been removed.

The plants that are found in the forest are different from the ones growing beside the pond. The woodland species prefer drier soils and shade. Look for False Solomon Seal, Black Oak, Witchhazel, and Viburnum. Mockorange and Daylilies grow near the site of the Hastings House. These plants were brought to the area by the early settlers.

**STATION 4 - THE GRAVEL PIT:** Notice the ridge that runs parallel to the eastern edge of the pond. This is an esker. When glaciers moved through this area about 15,000 years ago, they carried with them gravel and boulders from Vermont and New Hampshire. Water that flowed under the ice created a narrow ridge of gravel that remained after the ice melted. Esker gravel was used for road construction. An excavation pit can be found at the base of the esker. When the mining for gravel was stopped, the pit was regraded and planted.

**STATION 5 - THE DAM:** There were three industries that once operated from this end of the pond: the nail factory, the paper mill, and three ice houses. Before refrigeration, ice was cut from the pond in the winter and stored in sawdust in the ice houses for use in the summer. In the water you can see the remains of the ramps that were used to move ice from the pond to the ice houses.

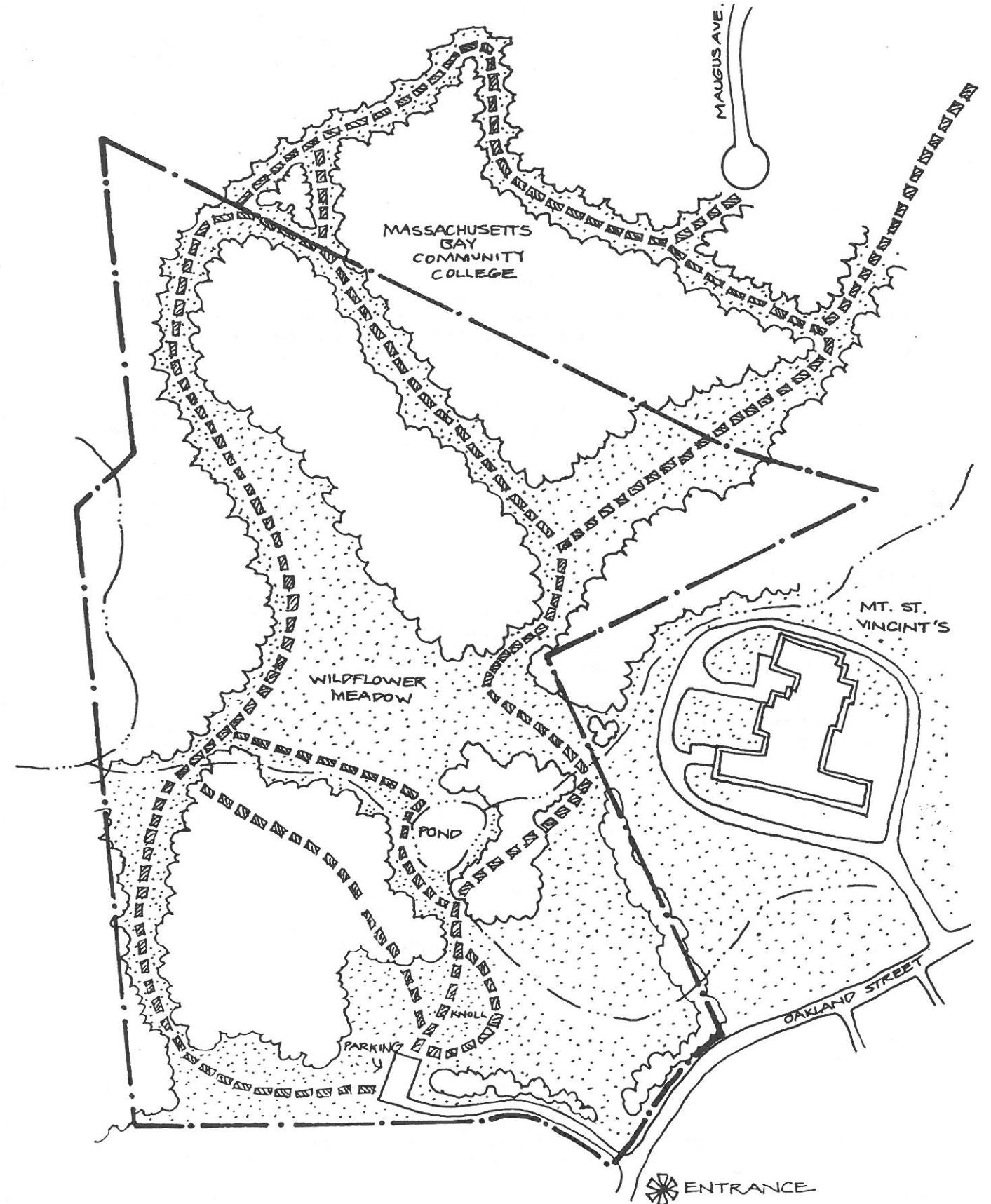
The wildlife at this end of the pond includes rabbits, muskrats, turtles, frogs, and insects. The brook contains baby eels, crayfish, and salamanders.

**STATION 6 - THE OLLIE TURNER PARK:** This 5 acre park is a good area to observe plant succession. At the edge of the forest is the low growth that would cover the field if it were not mowed. The early successional plants are sun-loving. After low shrubs take over the field, species such as Aspen, Birch, Poplar, and White Pine move in. They cast a shade that does not allow their own seedlings to survive. Instead, the seedlings of shade-loving plants thrive, such as Maples, Oaks, Ash, Hemlock, and Hickory. These trees can replace themselves in the shade and then become the dominant climax species.

**STATION 7 - THE FOREST:** While walking along the path, try to identify the following plants: Hemlock, Birch, Red Maple, False Lily-of-the-Valley, Solomon's Seal, Roses, White and Red Pine, White Oak, Green and White Ash, and Hay-scented Fern.

The forest has several layers that support different species. The upper part is the canopy, where leaf-eaters, beetles and caterpillars live. The next layer is the smaller trees, the understory, where songbirds and squirrels are found. The shrub layer is made up of shrubs and seedlings which provides food and shelter for small mammals, birds, and insects. Near the ground is the herb layer with its ferns, mosses, grasses, mushrooms and wildflowers. This layer is home to snakes, mice, toads, and insects. The forest floor is made up of dead leaves, pine needles, twigs, seeds, fruits, and animal droppings. Earthworms, millipedes, fungi, and bacteria live on this organic material and cycle it back into the food chain.

We are grateful to the Wellesley Conservation Council, which has prepared a detailed study of this area entitled "The Web of Life Around Longfellow Pond".



CENTENNIAL PARK

CENTENNIAL PARK

Centennial Park is made up of 42 acres of woodland and meadow. Hiking and nature trails link it to a trail system that extends from the Town Forest at Cedar Street to the Fuller Brook Pathway System at Maugus Avenue. The park was purchased in 1980 from the Sisters of Charity in celebration of the Town's Centennial. Residents of Wellesley helped to raise the funds necessary for this acquisition and continue their help and support through the Friends of Centennial Park. The entrance, which looks like a private drive, is off Oakland Street, marked by a large wooden sign.

Centennial Park is maintained by the DPW's Park and Tree Division in accordance with policies established by the Natural Resources Commission. This policy has three objectives. The first is to provide a recreational opportunity for Town residents of all ages: birdwatching, hiking, jogging, cross-country skiing, fishing, photography and picnicking.

The second objective is the preservation of the park's natural resources. The park has woodlands and meadows as well as a pond. All three are important in maintaining a diversity of wildlife. Without a management program, however, the meadows and pond would be lost due to the process of succession. This land was once cleared for agriculture. When farming stopped, grasses and shrubs grew up. Mowing keeps the meadow in an early successional stage by preventing seedlings from becoming established. To preserve wildlife habitat, meadows are never all mowed in a single year.

Crownvetch is an attractive but aggressive invader which was introduced by an abutter to control erosion of the steep slopes. The Crownvetch has now spread into the meadows by birds and animals. Poison Ivy, whose seeds are valuable bird food, is controlled along paths. In season, blackberries are abundant and available for the picking.

Bezanson Pond, named for Wellesley's long-time Town Engineer, also needs maintenance. It must be cleared of silt and leaves that interfere with the flow of water. The shrubs at the pond's edge help to catch silt before it reaches the water, but can take over the pond, changing it to marsh and wooded swamp. The pond provides a home for many species. It flows by way of Academy Brook to Rosemary Brook and Longfellow Pond. The Rosemary Brook watershed supplies much of the Town's well water.

The third objective is to educate. The diversity of plant and animal life make it an excellent place to observe natural processes. The meadows north and south of the entrance are made up primarily of tall grasses, a good home for pheasants. Wildflowers are especially abundant in the meadow on the opposite side of the pond. Many species of birds can be seen, including redtailed hawk, bobwhite, great horned owl, mourning dove, barn swallow, mockingbird and red-winged blackbird. Small mammals such as red fox, skunk, rabbit and raccoon have also been observed.

Soil Conditions vary through the park. A glacial esker is located to the south of the pond. This is a ridge of sand and gravel that was deposited by streams of melt water which flowed under the glacial ice. The esker is well drained, making it suitable for growth of Pitch Pine, White Pine and Red Cedar. Hemlocks favor cooler areas and therefore are found on the north side of the esker. Red Oak grows on the upper slopes of Maugus Hill. Other trees and shrubs found in Centennial Park include Wild Cherry, Birch, Aspen, Maple, Ash, Blueberry, Euonymus, Buckthorn and Blackberry.