

Urge Botanical Park Located At Edmands

Edmands Park in Newton Centre, a wooded and scenic tract in the rear of Sacred Heart College, would be converted into a municipal botanical garden, under a proposal advanced by Alderman Peter F. Harrington of Ward 2.

As of now the area is pretty well littered with cans, bottles and other rubble.

Harrington in his proposal suggests that Mayor Monte

Basbas appoint a botanical park study committee, which would determine the cost of such an undertaking and its maintenance as a garden. Such a proposed committee would make its recommendations by Sept. 30 of this year to the Mayor, the Aldermen and the Recreation Department.

His resolution pointed out that Newton has been known as "The Garden City" but today "the City of Newton doesn't have a municipal garden park or botanical park" and added that such a proposed facility in this "large suburban community of approximately 90,000 citizens . . . would be in the good interests of the city."

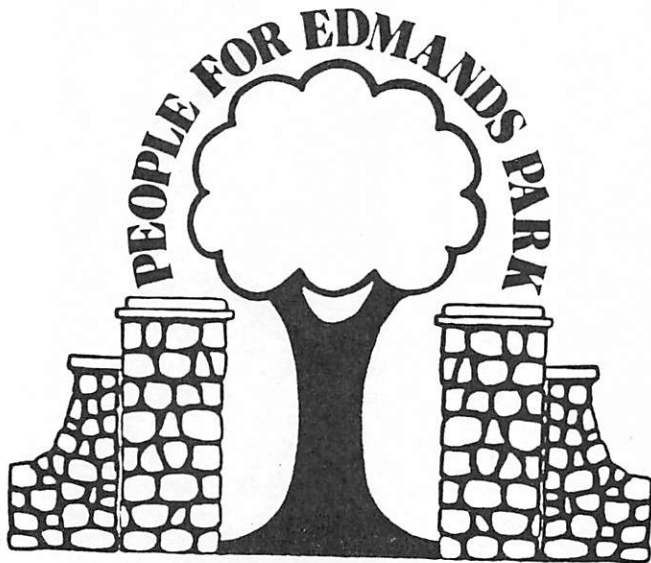
Harrington's proposed committee would be composed of the Recreation Commissioner, chairman of Recreation, Conservation; president of the Newton Conservators Inc., the head of each village garden club and five other members to be designated by the mayor.

ADDITION TO PUBLIC LANDS STATEMENT ON EDMANDS PARK

It is hoped that the clean-up will result in greater appreciation of the woods and marshland in the 32.6 acres of Edmands Park include considerable with a permanent population of muskrats, ^{bats,} rabbits, and raccoons. During the summer a mother raccoon and its were seen several times in the park and, in a hawk tentatively identified as an immature red-tailed hawk was observed feeding in one of the isolated areas. During the spring migrations, Edmands Park is frequented by numerous warblers, and summer migrants have included cardinals, indigo buntings, and a sparrow hawk. The juxtaposition of wooded and open parcels of land belonging to Newton and the Sacred Heart serves to increase wildlife populations of the park particularly in the wooded section along Mill Street.

Edmands Park is principally an oak forest where lady's-slippers still bloom in the spring and remnants of what were once stands of chestnuts appear as sprouts from the viable roots of chestnut trees devastated by the blight. A chestnut tree, 25 inches in circumference, located at the summit of the esker, has not yet succumbed to blight and yields flowers and nuts each year. Early twentieth century maps of Edmands Park predating the arrival of the blight in Newton note location and size of large trees and indicate

People for Edmands Park



PEOPLE FOR EDMANDS PARK

INVITES YOU

TO A COMMUNITY FORUM ABOUT

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Cabot School Library

March 7, 1979

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Edmands Park (also known as the Cabot Woods) is a 33-acre natural area donated to the City of Newton in 1913 by the estate of J. Wiley Edmands. It is one of the few real open spaces remaining in our community.

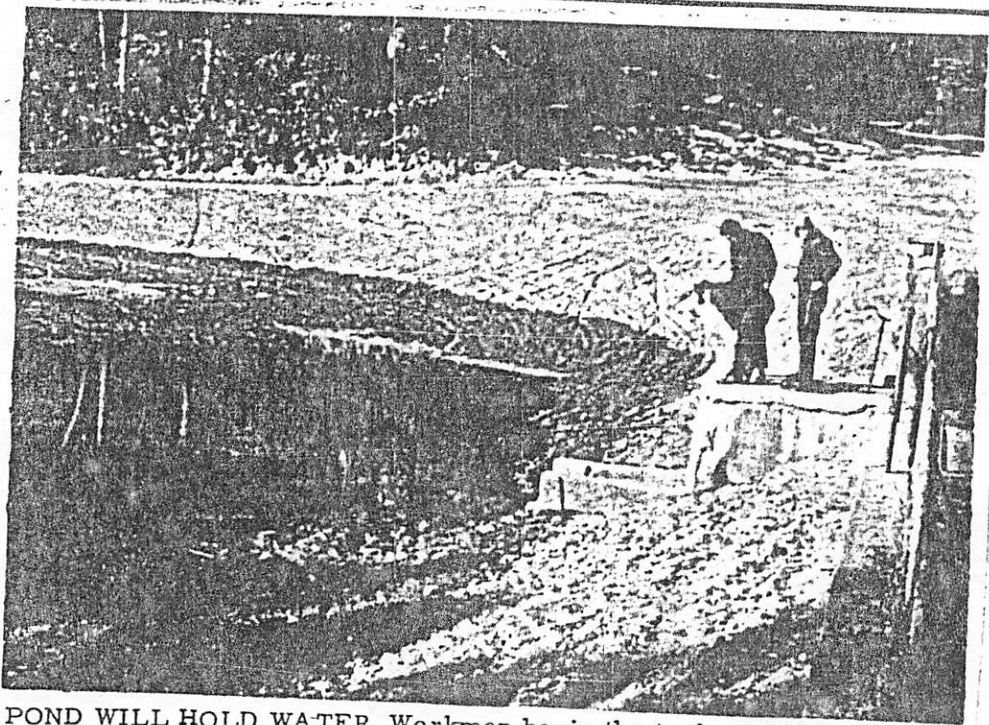
Its present condition can best be described as a combination of natural features and public neglect, as well as active abuse. If this pattern continues, Edmands Park will cease to exist as a park and will be transformed into an urban eyesore.

People for Edmands Park is a group of the Park's neighbors and others in the City who are interested in restoring the Park to its original state as a place of beauty and rest. We have attempted to bring together what is known of the land's history, its geology, its wildlife, and its present status, so that we can all act together to give Edmands Park life once more; this may be its last chance.

We are just beginning. We need to inform each other of the Park's past, and of future possibilities, before Edmands is covered by an avalanche of refuse.

At our open meeting on March 7, we will ask for your ideas. We will ask you to hear and speak to those City officials and representatives whose agencies or constituencies affect Edmands Park. We will ask you to join our strong young organization and lend your energies to the renewal of this stunning piece of land.

Come and make a commitment; it can only be to your benefit.



POND WILL HOLD WATER. Workmen begin the task of filling and cleaning Edmands Pond in Cabot Woods. Photo/Ed Doudera

At Edmands Park

Play now, skate later

Repairs which restore Edmands Pond to its original purpose of a skating area at the northern end of Edmands Park have been completed. A polyethylene liner has been installed and dirt replaced at a cost of approximately \$18,000.

The pond was constructed by WPA labor in 1934 as an ice-skating area. A log cabin shelter, a dam and spillway and boundary walls of stone and log construction were also built as part of the WPA project, as were an entrance and parking area off Blake St.

In spite of this development, Edmands Park remained largely unused. By 1952 most of the work done by WPA had been undone by vandals; the log cabin shelter at the edge of the pond was burned, leaving the stone foundation and fireplace. The

clay bottom in the pond deteriorated until the pond would no longer hold water.

What is left of the entrance on Blake St. is obscure and unmarked. Although the park has been conspicuously used by litterers, dumpers and vandals, it does not seem to have any trash containers. Some areas have a liberal sprinkling of beer cans and evidence of some recent dumping. One conservationist comments that the park is cleaner recently than ever in the past.

Fall is the ideal time to visit Edmands Park, while the sassafras is brilliant crimson beside the ruins of the log cabin and the wild asters and goldenrod are still in bloom. The 34 acres of parkland are ideal for viewing the changing colors of the season.

Bergen Kirk

PEOPLE FOR EDMANDS PARK
199 HARVARD CIRCLE
NEWTONVILLE, MASS. 02160

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MAILING LIST JANUARY 1979

- | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|----------|
| 1 | DAVE PETERSON | 28 4 Morse Rd | 02160 | 965-0257 |
| 2 | SHEILA BROWNSTEIN | 457 Centre St | 02158 | 332-9880 |
| 3 | John + Tami Bliss | 9 Lewis St | | 244-6495 |
| 4 | Helen Heyn | Secy Conservation Commission | | 552-7021 |
| | | | home | 527-9121 |
| 5 | Richard LeBouidge | 129 Wittington Rd | | 332-2609 |
| 6 | Sally Flynn | 33 Whitney Rd | | 965-6297 |
| 7 | Carol Gilson | 137 Harvard St | | 244-1540 |
| 8 | Bill + Ruth Dain | 199 Harvard Circle | 02160 | 244-1158 |
| 9 | Ed Richmond | 833 Commonwealth Ave | | 527-7432 |
| 10 | Bob Buxbaum | 202 Bellevue | | 332-6548 |
| 11 | Stephanie Weston Katz | 22 Lewis St | | 965-0870 |
| 12 | Sam Huntington | 20 Berkshire Rd | 02160 | 965-5063 |
| 13 | Pat Moore Marshall | 197 Blake St | | 332-1837 |
| 14 | Marion Saxe # | 45 Morse Rd | | 965-5761 |
| 15 | Susan Lieber # | 18 Rochester Rd | | 244-8500 |
| 16 | Mary Hughes | 53 Marselnd Rd. | 02154 | 965-5739 |
| 17 | Elizabeth Zuckerman # | 26 Converse Ave | 02158 | 527-7076 |
| 18 | Andy Cohen + Marcia Levitt # | 9 Cabot St | | 527-0260 |
| 19 | Peter + Joan Harrington | Lowell Ave | | |
| 20 | Lee Pappas | | | |
| 21 | Howard Frant # | 133 Westchester Rd | 02158 | 332-1515 |
| 22 | Bob ROMERO # | 15 PRINCETON RD | 02158 | 969-8734 |

Video dies plan for women

609-771-0958

* have not been to meetings, but have expressed interest.

Polly Allen 964-0675

Re: Edmonds Park

Holdings in Newton Free Library re Edmonds Park

Information on the park is contained in the following city reports:

R 352 N48P. City of Newton, Public Documents, Newton Collection

Newton Free Library

1913 - Mayor's Address, p. 8

1913 - City Engineer, p. 19

1915 - Forestry Department, p. 18 (ill)

1915 - Forestry Department, p. 22

1916 - Forestry Department, p. 2 (ill)

1916 - Forestry Department, p. 18, (ill), p. 19

Newspaper articles:

Graphic ¹³⁰ 8/2/70 p. 2 - Facelifting by special crew

Graphic 8/27/70 p. 2 - Clean up

Villager 3/9/72 - Board action hints better use

Times 10/17/73 p. - Play now, skate later

Also a study ^{of trees in Edmonds} by Newton N. HS. senior Mark Hauser, 1974.
I have it, but can't get my hand on it this moment. I don't
think it will be useful for your summary, but I shall
include it in the Bibliography.

Sheila

REPORT OF FOREST COMMISSIONER

for raising crops. This fall, however, it was found necessary to use a portion of this land for the extension of our nursery, and it is very likely that in years to come the entire piece will be required for this purpose.

There seems to be a feeling in the Board of Aldermen that because a plan for the development of an arboretum around the Technical High School Grounds has been prepared that it is going to be necessary to spend forty or fifty thousand dollars in developing it. Principally because of this feeling our request for \$1,000 in 1916 was not granted. As I have just explained in regard to Edmands Park this is an erroneous idea and I hope that the members of the 1917 Board will see fit to appropriate a small amount of money at least, to be used in construction work along the lines laid down by the plan made last year.

On a petition of some of the residents of Waban through the Waban Improvement Association the triangle in Waban Square was reconstructed and a sidewalk built on the southerly side. Other triangles on West Newton Hill were regraded and small shrubbery planted. The grass plots between Washington Street and the railroad track in Newton and Newtonville are in need of attention the coming year and should be regraded and replanted, the present land and shrubs being in very bad shape. I would recommend that the small triangular grass plots between the sidewalk and street at the junctions of Lewis Terrace and Washington Street and Mt. Vernon and Washington Streets be abolished and made into a part of the roadway.

The recommendation made by the Efficiency Expert that our parks be made more useful to the public meets with my hearty approval. It is becoming more and more an axiom of park work that parks are for the use of the people rather than for an ornament to a certain section. Mr. Cottrell says in his report, "More utilitarian areas are necessary. More shelter houses or comfort stations should be provided and fewer 'No Trespassing' signs placed on these beauty spots." Most of this advice is very good, for there are a number of places