



LOCUS MAP
SCALE: 1" = 600'
NORTH

Park Description

Located in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, Edmonds Park is a 33-acre component of the Newton park system dedicated to passive recreation. Often referred to as Cabot Woods, Edmonds Park is bordered by the Law School Campus of Boston College to the east, Mill Street to the south, Blake Street to the west, and the rear lot lines of residential lots on Rochester and Westchester Roads to the north.

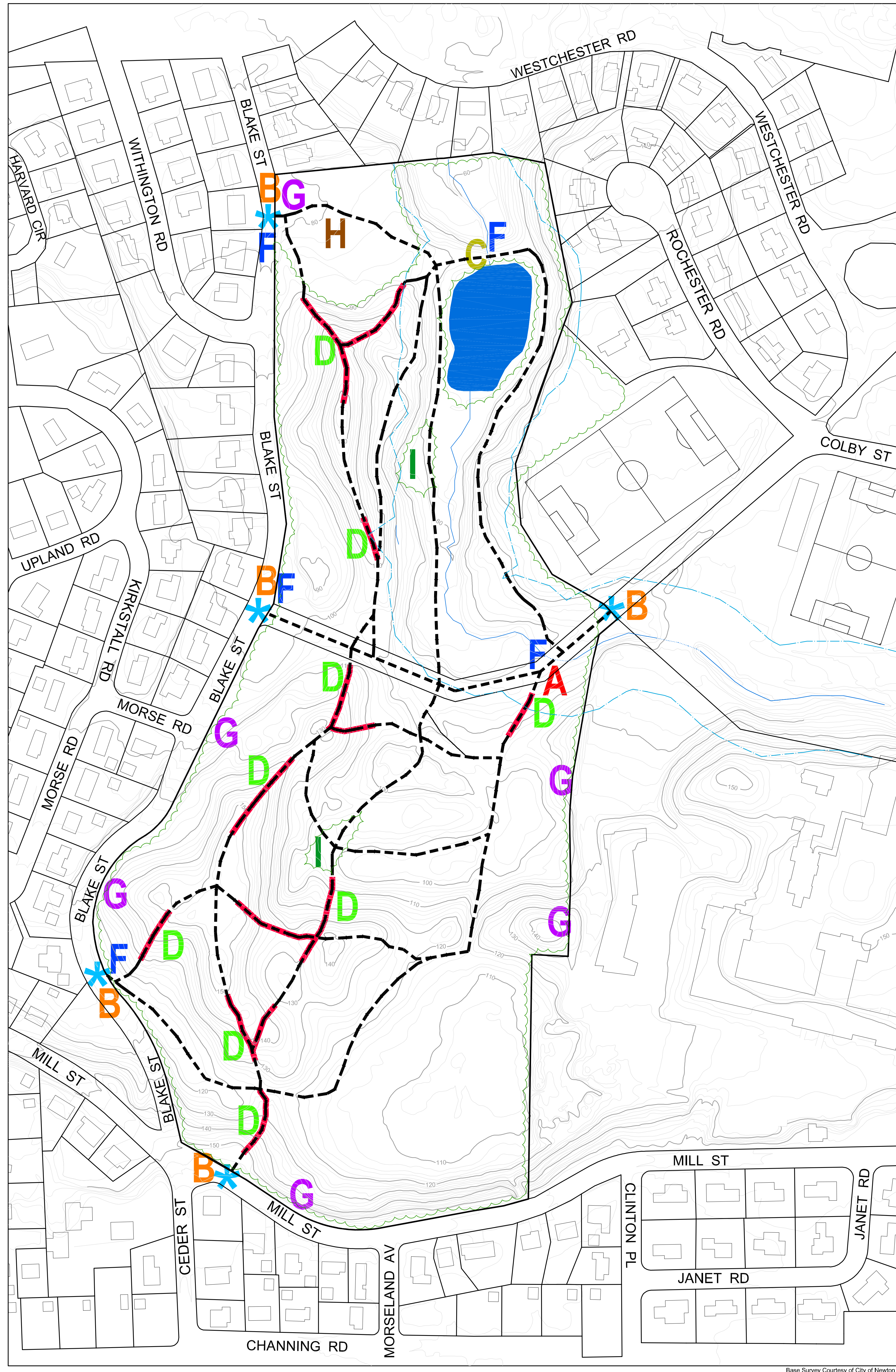
The park is bisected by a paper street known as Colby Road and an intermittent stream known as Edmonds Brook. Edmonds brook cuts across the Boston College campus and is fed primarily by runoff from the nearby Centre Street, a main thoroughfare leading from the Massachusetts Turnpike and Galen Street to Newton Centre. Edmonds Brook winds through the northern portion of the park and empties into a large wetland that at one time was used as a skating pond. The pond elevation was controlled by a concrete weir structure that no longer functions properly and has caused the pond to fill with sediment. After spilling over the weir, the brook is confined to a concrete channel that is culverted under the residential lots on Westchester Road and presumably ties into the City of Newton drainage system.

The terrain is varied and hilly with a high point of approximately 154' to the south at the Cedar Street entrance and a low point of approximately 58' at the visible terminus of the concrete stream channel at the north end of the property. A majority of the park is wooded with a thick canopy of mature oaks, maples and beech. The sole open area of the park is in the northwest corner near the intersection of Withington Road and Blake Street. The one-acre area is mostly exposed gravel with little or no topsoil to support plant life. Exposed earth pathways meander throughout the park and are used extensively by the citizens of Newton. Several pathways traverse the often steep slopes in the park and across the tops of the banks of Edmonds Brook creating eroded, unsafe and unstable slopes.

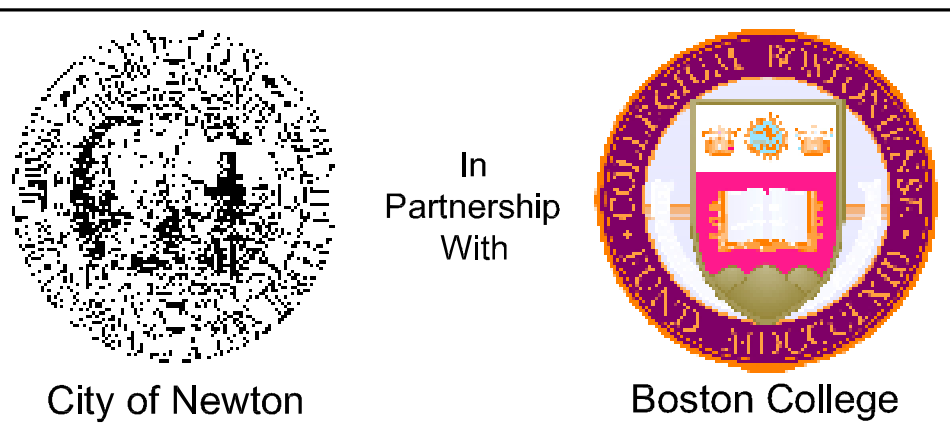
Since the park does receive continual daily use throughout the four seasons, it is in need of both repair and ongoing maintenance to continue to support this intense use. The issues identified during this brief master plan study are located to the right and address both the problematic existing condition and suggestions for proposed improvements so that Edmonds Park can continue to be a resource for the citizens of the City of Newton for decades to come.

Legend

- Park Entrance
- Path
- Path Erosion
- Edge of Vegetation
- Water Course
- Culvert
- Water Body
- Wetland Buffer



Issue	Existing Condition	Proposed Improvement
A The entrance to Edmonds Park on Colby Road, from the Boston College campus, is in need of repairs. Currently there exists a concrete culvert with remnants of bituminous concrete on the pathway above it. The proposal calls for removing the bituminous concrete and replacing the culvert with an open channel and wooden pedestrian footbridge.		
B In all there are five entrances to Edmonds Park. These include the pathway adjacent to the Boston College field on Colby Road, the opening on Mill Street at the end of Cedar Street, and three entrances along Blake Street. The master plan calls for more identifiable treatments of the entrances with recognizable openings into the park and, where appropriate, places for vehicles to safely pull off the roadway.		
C At the outlet of the pond in Edmonds Park there is a concrete weir structure. The weir is currently not functioning correctly and is in need of major repairs or replacement. The proposal calls for a new weir structure with pedestrian access across the top to connect adjacent trails.		
D Numerous paths within Edmonds Park traverse steep slopes and are in need of stabilization to repair and prevent severe erosion. The master plan proposes the rerouting of pathways away from the most severe slopes in the park and for the addition of stabilized stone dust to existing pathways.		
E Edmonds Park, although passive and naturalistic in character, is in need of substantial horticultural maintenance. The proposal calls for the pruning of dead and diseased limbs as well as the selective thinning of the existing vegetation to promote the growth of a healthier understory. This is to also include the repeated removal of unwanted nuisance plants such as olive, poison ivy, stinging nettle, and burning bush.		
F Edmonds Park has limited and inconsistent signage both at the entrances to the park as well as within. The master plan calls for signage that for the most part is not intended to be interpretive in nature, but is to serve as a directional guide for visitors.		
G The perimeter to Edmonds Park is currently made up of either stonewall sections or chain link fence, or a combination of the two. In numerous places along the perimeter of the park both the chain link fence and stonewalls are in need of repair or replacement. The proposal calls for the repointing of the stonewalls where applicable and the replacement of the chain link fence. Near entrances it may be more appropriate to use a different fence type.		
H The sole open space within Edmonds Park, adjacent to the entrance on Blake Street near Withington Road, is currently filled with remnants of bituminous paving and discarded debris. The master plan calls for this area to become an informal, gravel off-street parking area for 10-15 cars, as well as a gathering point within the park.		
I Edmonds Park is blessed with unique stone artifacts such as the pillars surrounding the pond and the chimney of the old skating hut. These existing site features are in need of repair. The proposal is for the repointing of the stonework as well as the cleanup of the existing graffiti. A more ambitious plan might include the reconstruction of the skating hut.		



Edmonds Park Master Plan

Newton, Massachusetts • Draft 17 October 2000

