

2006



NEWTON
Parks & Recreation

FIVE YEAR
PARK ASSESSMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND
EVALUATION

January 1, 2006



Our Mission

To provide traditional and innovative recreation, leisure and cultural activities in a quality environment to all residents of Newton.

Fran L. Towle
Commissioner

Robert J. DeRubeis
Deputy Commissioner

INTRODUCTION

The City of Newton is fortunate to have over seventy parks and playgrounds. These recreation areas provide the citizens of Newton with many opportunities for leisure activities, sports and exercise. The task of determining and meeting the needs of the City's residents is complex. There are myriad aspects to consider when formulating plans of action.

This document is the result of countless hours of data gathering and analysis by Department staff members, including in-the-field managers of the City's green infrastructure. The objective is to attempt to establish a broad picture of the needs of the park system so as best to benefit citizens throughout Newton. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance, in conjunction with the Open Space Coordinator, examined the condition and quality of existing park elements. The Director of Special Needs reviewed the sites for accessibility and ease of use for our handicap constituents. The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Director of Urban Forestry evaluated seventy one park locations to assess their potential for development and improvement. Crystal Lake and Gath Pool were also included in this broad review, but only on a cursory basis, since a different set of criteria must be applied in analyzing these single purpose facilities. Further analysis of these two important sites must be accomplished in order to properly place them into the overall scheme of things (for prioritization purposes).

This document is intended to be an important guiding tool to be used by the Department for years to come. It provides a comprehensive look at the City's parks from a number of aspects. The information in this document will assist managers, citizens and elected officials in improving the way the City's Parks and Recreation infrastructure is further developed and maintained.

But this process is not a static one. This report is not a permanent solution. Rather, the process is dynamic, with constant re-evaluation (on a structured basis) called for based on evolving needs and resources. Even so, at any moment in time, it does provide a context for planning, evaluation, and implementation of projects as they are proposed. Finally, it is also recognized that new opportunities may present themselves over time - for instance, new land may become available - such that ongoing development and maintenance of existing lands may have to take a back seat to City property expansion. Such new opportunities must also be evaluated on their own merits, of course, and weighed against the ongoing needs of the existing Park inventory.



Evaluation Systems

☞ Five Year Park Assessment Plan Synopsis

☞ Five Year Park Assessment Planning

☞ Handicap Accessibility Prioritization Project

Reference Tables

☞ Exhibit 1 : Park and School Inventory Site Evaluations 2005, By Ward

☞ Exhibit 2: Park and School Inventory Site Evaluations 2005, By Quality Ranking

☞ Exhibit 3: Park and School Athletic Field Inventory, 2005

☞ Exhibit 4: Court Conditions

☞ Exhibit 5: Park Development Potential Ranking

☞ Exhibit 6: CIP Ranking



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

City Overview: The City of Newton is comprised of thirteen villages: Auburndale, Chestnut Hill, Lower Falls, Newton Centre, Newton Corner, Newton Highlands, Newtonville, Nonantum, Oak Hill, Thompsonville, Upper Falls, Waban and West Newton. In terms of voting and school districting it is broken down into eight wards.

Demographics: (2000 Census)

Total Population:	83,829
Male.....	38,951
Female.....	44,878
Under 5 years.....	4,401
5-9 years.....	5,014
10-14 years.....	5,267
15-19 years.....	6,653
20-24 years.....	5,133
25-34 years.....	10,809
35-44 years.....	12,823
45-54 years.....	13,400
55-59 years.....	4,408
60-64 years.....	3,281
65-74 years.....	5,918
75-84 years.....	4,667
85 years and over.....	2,055

Executive Summary

Introduction

The Newton Parks & Recreation Department has completed an assessment to address recreation, open space and park needs for the City of Newton. This assessment defines the top four sites that are allocated for master planning. The Assessment Evaluation Final Report documents park development, park elements and accessibility. The report evaluated 73 Parks & Recreation sites through the use of an inventory analysis; 5-year CIP projections; and park development appraisals.

The assessment provides a valuable tool in the implementation of a five year Master Planning initiative. The goal is to attempt to identify the highest priority Park and Recreation sites for development purposes. Even with such an aggressive timeline, it appears that the time constraints involved with implementation of projects allows for only three to be underway in the five year timeframe the department is projecting taking into account the Community Preservation application process.



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

It is anticipated that the Assessment Evaluation will provide valuable information in helping to respond to planning initiatives by both public and private groups, provide us with baseline information as we look to the development of a Master Plan for Parks & Recreation lands, and aid in the evaluation of existing conditions throughout the city.

Methodology

There were two aspects to evaluating each site being considered in the planning process. The first involved evaluating the existing elements of each site, called the "micro" factors. What is actually on each site? What condition is it in? The second aspect was a separate assessment of each site on an overall basis, the "macro" factors. Where is it located? How can it be reached? And so on.

The micro analysis included:

Parks & Recreation Inventory Site Evaluations: This took into account aesthetics, site amenities, parking and turf. A quality rating was assessed based on those characteristics. (100% being the highest, 0% lowest)

Aesthetics: conception of beauty; pleasing to the senses, especially sight. How to quantify aesthetic value: curb appeal; first impression; visual diversity: abundance of visual elements (ground plane, open space, sightlines, sky, architecture, complexity or diversity of vegetation and patterns and organization within the landscape).

Basketball Cts.: Courts were assessed on their wear patterns, cracks, unevenness of the court and seal coating. Location of the cracks also had an affect on the quality level that the court received. Cracks outside of the playing surface were not as detrimental as those that located in the playing area. Basketball standards were also taken into consideration. Condition of the rims and uprights were viewed and checked for alignment.

Benches/Bleachers: Structural assessment was based on the stability of the risers and seating areas on bleachers. Wooden bleachers received lowest rating and there is an ongoing plan to replace remaining wooden bleachers with aluminum bleachers. Benches were rated on the condition of the seating area with respect to broken slats, structural integrity and settling that have left the benches out of plumb. The department has instituted a plan that has seen the removal of a number of WPA benches that were installed in the 1940's and those being replaced with plastic recyclable benches.



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Bocce Courts: Evaluated the side and back walls which should be constructed of wood, preferably pressure-treated wood supported by posts or bolted to concrete walls to provide resilience. Looked for a surface that should be relatively smooth and level, hard packed with a stone dust or other substance that allows for true rolls.

Bubblers: Baseline measure was if the bubbler was functional. If it was functional, then appraisal was made as to the structure that housed the plumbing. Looked for cracking, leaks, broken steps that impeded accessibility to the bubbler.

Clay Tennis Courts: At present there are five clay tennis courts in the City. They are located in Newton Centre. These courts are actually constructed with a HAR-TRU surface. HAR-TRU is made from billion year old Pre-Cambrian metabasalt found in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. This rock is crushed, screened, and mixed in the precise proportions necessary to produce a stable surface. Evaluation is accomplished by identifying any low areas of the court surface. When the court is leveled, the surface is observed to make sure that is smooth and firm.

Game Tables: Game tables are made of wood or concrete. Rating is based on the integrity of the material, missing components and general condition of the tables.

Irrigation: Based on age of system, coverage that the system provides and efficiency of water usage. Systems are either powered by wells or city water. Efficiency can be impacted by size of heads, type of heads, water pressure and coverage area.

Life Course: Evaluation based on current condition of exercise stations, trail accessibility, surfacing and signage.

Nature Area: Review of how well the natural areas of the park maintain and restore the parklands so that they retain their important scenic, natural and cultural values. Does the nature area preserve significant biologic, scenic and historic resources within the park or playground? Does the nature area seek a balance between environmental concerns and outdoor recreational opportunities within the park?

Parking: Assessment of parking was based on the quality of asphalt, were there marked spaces, number and size of pot holes, handicapped spaces, signs for handicapped spaces and proximity of parking to the amenities.

Picnic Tables: Reviewed quality of table through inspection of wood, seating area, absence of splintering wood, broken legs, loose bolts, vandalism and paint/stain.

Play Structures: Factors that were taken into account when rating the play structures was the age of the equipment, material that the structure was compromised of, splintering of wood on older structures, type of surfacing that was used under the equipment. Surfacing consists of fibar, rubberized surface or sand. Reviewers also looked at the number of components on a site and the diversity that it allows the users.



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

Pool/Tot Pools: Age of the facility/structure, cracking, water leakage, means of access and egress, handicapped accessibility, locker rooms, showers, shade and seating.

Sun Shelter: The composition of the structures is metal uprights to support a tin roof. With age these components deteriorate and are vandalized. Reviewers looked for damaged uprights that compromise structural integrity. Roofs that have been sheared, leaving sharp edges and holes. Most have an asphalt base, with reviewers looking for heaving, pot holes and other damage that creates an unsafe condition.

Tennis Cts: Courts were assessed on their wear patterns, cracks, unevenness of the court and seal coating. Location of the cracks also had an affect on the quality level that the court received. Cracks outside of the playing surface were not as detrimental as those that located in the playing area. Also taken into account were nets, posts and center straps. The condition of surrounding fencing was also reviewed.

Track: There are two tracks in the City. One is located at Newton North High School, while the other is located at Newton South High School. The concerns that were taken into account when rating the tracks was surface wear, bubbling, water-holding areas or cracking, depressions and loss of the rubberized surface.

Turf: Assessment of the turf was based on the quality of the turf in general. Reviewers looked at the density of turf, bare areas, and weed infestation. Evenness of the fields was assessed along with the type of grass.

The system used for the actual ratings was as follows: each of the categories was rated on a basis of one (1) through five (5), with one being the lowest and five being the highest. After each element was rated, the total for each site that was attained was divided the possible total for the site, resulting in a fractional number that was conveyed as a percentage. The full results are listed in detail in Exhibits 1 thru 4.

The highest and lowest rated sites came out as follows:

Top Five Highest Rated Sites:		Five Lowest Rated Sites:	
Warren Lincoln Playground	87%	Old Cold Springs	25%
Richard J. Forte Park	84%	Upper Falls Playground	33%
Washington Park	84%	Hunnewell Playground	36%
Weeks Field Playground	83%	Carr School	37%
Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex	80%	Joseph Lee Playground (Newton Highlands)	38%

As a reality check, the existing City Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) list of projects was examined, and a separate ranking system was utilized based on CIP priorities, and the number of projects at a specific site. Based on the CIP ranking system, the following were the top four sites:

Nahanton Park
Newton Highlands
Upper Falls
Cabot Park

The macro analysis, reviewing the overall site itself, involved the following criteria:



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

Usage: Assessment is based on the number of users along with the types of users at the site. Reviewers looked at the type of traffic that the site generated. The spectrum went from passive areas that were secluded from main thoroughfares to multi-use facilities located in densely traveled sections of the city. Another evaluation was based on whether the use was mainly neighborhood in tenor or citywide. If it was citywide the diversity and size of the groups was taken into account (i.e., schools, recreation, private groups, independent youth and adult leagues).

Accessibility: When accessibility was taken into account, the factors that impacted the decision were the location itself, ease of driving, walking, or riding a bicycle to the location. Visibility of the location from main or secondary roads. What type of parking and the amount of parking that is located at the site?

Active Potential: The sites were surveyed for the amount of active potential that could be demonstrated on a particular location. Active potential is defined as the ability to develop athletic fields, play areas and court surfaces.

Passive Potential: The sites were surveyed for the amount of passive potential that could be demonstrated on a particular location. Passive potential is defined as the use of tree lined pathways, natural areas, scenic seating, structures and amenities that promote passive activity.

It is noted that active and passive potential are not based on the present configuration of sites, it is based on the potential that a setting has taking into account its present make-up. If a site is being utilized with active amenities such as athletic fields and active structures it may be difficult to develop passive functions without displacement. The same holds true for the passive sites, some of which are open spaces with ecological habitats for which any change may significantly outweigh leaving the site in its present state.

Size: The size of the site was based on the viable acreage with respect to park planning and development. Viable acreage is defined as land that can be utilized when assessing the active and passive potential of a given parcel of land. The more acreage that was available on a site, the higher the ranking. 0 to .9 acre sites receive a rating of 1, 1 to 9.99 a rating of 2, 10 to 19.99 a rating of 3, 20 to 29.99 a rating of 4, and 30+ a rating of 5.

The full results of the analysis of the macro factors can appear in Exhibit 5. Since size of the site (acreage) itself is a very influential factor, we decided to look at the



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLAN SYNOPSIS

results in two ways, one eliminating the size factor completely, and one taking it into account. The top rated sites for (Park Development based on the macro factors were:

Top Four Sites

Including Acreage Criterion

Newton Highlands
Auburndale Cove
New Cold Springs
Newton Centre Park

Excluding Acreage Criterion

Newton Highlands
Upper Falls
Newton Centre Park
Newton South High



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLANNING

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Priority	Park Development	Park Elements				H. P. Accessibility
		Field Renov.	Lights	Tennis Cts.	Basketball Cts.	
Highest	Upper Falls N. Highlands Old Cold Spring Auburndale Cove	Upper Falls Nahanton Pk. Burr Park Warren Halloran Cabot Lower Falls	Halloran N.N. High N.S. High N. Highlands	Upper Falls N. Highlands Burr School N.N. High N.S. High	Upper Falls Lower Falls Carr School	N.C. Playground Auburndale Cove New Cold Spring Burr Park
to						
high						

Park Development: Through a rating system, look at Parks and Recreation sites city-wide, taking into account the park elements, handicap accessibility, usage and location, and assign to each site a rating. Based on ratings and other non-quantitative data develop a plan to renovate those sites most in need.

Park Elements: Inventory of parking, benches/bleachers, bubblers, picnic tables, structures, basketball courts, tennis courts, play structures, irrigation and the turf.

Handicap Accessibility: Developed a Comprehensive Handicap Accessibility Plan for City parks. Conducted site visits and evaluated 53 parks based on: Current handicap accessibility, City-wide usage and proximity to schools or recreation facilities. The benefits are long term vision, prioritization of needs, allocation of funds on a need basis and ultimately making the city parks accessible to all.

PARK DEVELOPMENT

Sites:

Upper Falls Playground	Ward 5	Chestnut St., Upper Falls
Newton Highlands Playground	Ward 6	10 Winchester St, Highlands
Old Cold Spring	Ward 5	Duncklee St. Highlands
Auburndale Cove	Ward 4	West Pine St. Auburndale

Criteria:

Handicap Accessibility	Turf Renovations
Park Elements	Court Renovations
Strategic Planning	Demographics



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLANNING

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY: (Based on P&R Handicap Accessibility Prioritization Project)

- Upper Falls** Ranking 4th in need out of 9 sites in Ward 5. No paths, playground and field are not accessible.
- N. Highlands** Ranking 2nd in need out of 7 sites in Ward 6. Complete strategic plan and overhaul of park is needed. This park is not accessible due to having no paths. High use site.
- Old Cold Sp.** Ranking 9th out of 9 sites in Ward 5. Park is not accessible. The entire park needs a major overhaul. Neighborhood opposition to path, which has, direct impact on ranking.
- Aub. Cove** Ranked 2nd in need citywide. Heavily used for picnics, summer concerts, ice-skating and for other passive and active recreational activities through out the year.

PARK ELEMENTS: Based on two measurement tools:

Park & Rec. Inventory Site Evaluations: This took into account aesthetics, site amenities, parking and turf. Quality rating given bases on those characteristics. (100% being highest, 0% lowest)

CIP Rankings: Looked at CIP Projects over the next 5 years at each site and rated the site on CIP priority as compared to City as a whole. Rankings based on priority from highest too lowest.

- Upper Falls** Ranked 70th out of 71 sites with a quality rating of 33% on P & R Inventory Eval.
Ranked 3rd out of 30 sites on CIP Ranking list.
- N. Highlands** Ranked 68th out of 71 sites with a quality rating of 38% on P&R Inventory Eval.
Ranked 2nd out of 30 sites on CIP Ranking list.
- Old Cold Sp.** Ranked 71st out of 71 sites with a quality rating of 25% on P&R Inventory Eval.
No Ranking on CIP Ranking list.
- Aub. Cove** Ranked in a tie for 30th out of 71 sites with a quality rating of 64% on P&R Inventory Eval.
Ranked in a tie for 14th out of 30 sites on CIP Ranking list.



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLANNING

PARK ELEMENTS

Field Renovations

Reconstruction would consist of re-grading, leveling, loaming, seeding/sodding and irrigation. Fields are stripped of the present turf with the soil being cultivated and preferably laser graded to accept the new turf. If irrigation is not present at the site it is installed at this time. Field is then prepped for and/seed by power raking and loosening the soil up to accept the turf. Future irrigation will only be proposed if there is a functioning well at the site.

Sites: **Upper Falls, Nahanton Park, Burr Park, Warren**

Lights

There are a number of components involved in the installation of proper, efficient lighting, they include but are not limited to the following: Quality of Light, Quantity of Light, Location of Fixtures, Fixture Mounting, Wiring, Control Devices, Costs and Maintenance

Sites:

Halloran Sports Complex - 4 fields, 56 new fixtures (11 new wire harnesses, 47 relamps, Control link, 10 year warranty)

Newton North High School - Tennis courts, 10 courts w/Level 8, 8 poles (Control link, 10 year warranty, Lighting contractor cabinets, wire harnesses)

Newton South High School - Tennis courts, 12 courts w/ Level 8, 8 poles (Control link, 10 year warranty, Lighting contractor cabinets, wire harnesses)

Newton Highlands - Replace fixtures and wiring on existing poles at football field. Upgrade electrical box. Lighting to be used for practice.

Tennis Court Renovation

Reclamation of old material to create a base, re-surfacing, installation of new net posts and fencing if required.

Sites: **Weeks, Upper Falls, Newton North, Newton South, Newton Highlands**

Basketball Court Renovations

Reclamation of old material to create a base, re-surfacing, and installation of new standards and fencing if required.

Sites: **Upper Falls, Lower Falls, Carr School**



FIVE YEAR PARK ASSESSMENT PLANNING

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY (Top four priorities citywide)

#1 Newton Centre Park (Ward 6) Tyler Terrace

Newton Centre is premier park within the City of Newton that needs to be made accessible. The park is used for city-wide events, summer camps and nearby pre-school and elementary school. A new accessible playground in Newton Centre is also in the works and makes this park a top priority. Currently this park is not accessible due to the various paths within the park do not connect. A person in a wheelchair should be able to go from Centre Street all the way over to Mason-Rice School and Pleasant Street via a path. The current paths are in poor shape and the Hut Recreation Facility at the park is also not accessible. Accessible parking needs to be addressed and the steep grade of the path coming from Tyler Terrace/Centre Street into the park should be examined.

#2 Auburndale Cove (Ward 4) West Pine Street

The Auburndale Cove is a wonderful park on the banks of the Charles River. It is heavily used for picnics, summer concerts, ice-skating in the wintertime as well as many other passive and active recreational activities. Overall, it would be great to see a path running from the Auburndale Cove all the way over to the City of Waltham. On site, the entrance to the field house is too tight for a wheelchair. A path is needed to connect to the tennis courts.

#3 New Cold Spring Park (Ward 5) Beacon Street

The New Cold Spring Park is another park that has citywide usage and should be made accessible. It is also the home of the Newton Farmer's Market in the summer/fall. Currently there are no paths through or around the fields making the park not accessible.

#4 Burr Park (Ward 7) Park Street

Burr Park in Newton Corner is going in the right direction in terms of handicap accessibility. It has paths and ramps within the park. However, parking and handicap parking are needed and curb cuts need to be examined. The door to the recreation facility on-site also needs to be re-worked to make it more user friendly. The park also has citywide usage with Bigelow Middle School, a pre-school, and summer camps are all frequent users.

Criteria Used:

Developed Comprehensive Accessibility Plan for City parks

Conducted site visits and evaluated 53 parks based on:

Current accessibility

City-wide usage

Proximity to schools or recreation facilities

Prioritized Handicap Accessibility Needs by Wards

Took photographs to document accessibility



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

The Handicap Accessibility Prioritization Project for City parks was created by conducting site visits and evaluating 53 parks based on: Current handicap accessibility, City-wide usage and proximity to schools or recreation facilities. The benefits of this report are a long term, it prioritizes needs, guides allocation of funds on a need basis and ultimately sets the priorities for making the city parks accessible to all.

Top Four Priorities:

#1) Newton Centre Park (Ward 6) Tyler Terrace

Newton Centre is premier park within the City of Newton that needs to be made accessible. The park is used for city-wide events, summer camps and nearby preschool and elementary school. A new accessible playground in Newton Center is also in the works and makes this park a top priority. Currently this park is not accessible due to the various paths within the park do not connect. A person in a wheelchair should be able to go from Centre Street all the way over to Mason-Rice School and Pleasant Street via a path. The current paths are in poor shape and the Hut Recreation Facility at the park is also not accessible. Accessible parking needs to be addressed and the steep grade of the path coming from Tyler Terrace/Centre Street into park should be examined.

#2 Auburndale Cove (Ward 4) West Pine Street

The Auburndale Cove is a wonderful park on the banks of the Charles River. It is heavily used for picnics, summer concerts, ice-skating in the wintertime as well many other passive and active recreational activities. Overall, it would great to see a path running from the Auburndale Cove all the way over to the City of Waltham. On site, the entrance to the field house is too tight for a wheelchair. A path is also needed to connect to the tennis courts.

#3 New Cold Springs Park (Ward 5) Beacon Street

The New Cold Springs Park is another park that has citywide usage and should be made accessible. It is also the home of the Newton Farmers Market in the summertime. Currently there are no paths through or around the fields making the park not accessible.

#4 Burr Park (Ward 7) Park Street

Burr Park in Newton Corner is going in the right direction in terms of accessibility. It has paths and ramps within the park. However, parking and handicap parking are needed and curb cuts need to be examined. The door to the recreation facility on-site also needs to be re-worked to make it more user friendly. The park is also has citywide usage with Bigelow Middle School, a preschool, and summer camps all frequent users.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 1

#1 Sterns Playground, Jasset Street (Nonantum)

Currently low-income possible handicap housing is being built nearby and the park is getting SED funds. The grade of paths should be examined. The park is off to a good start with pathways and an accessible checkerboard table and can be improved in terms of accessibility.

#2 Boyd Park Playground, Jackson-Road (Lincoln Elliot)

One accessible parking space with curb cuts and paths into the park. One of the play structures is accessible the other is not. A path running the length of the park from the playgrounds over to the ball fields would be a major improvement in terms of accessibility. An accessible water fountain is also going in the park.

#3 Charlesbank Playground, Nonantum Road (Newton Corner)

The park does have an accessible entrance with paths as well as an accessible swing. However, the large play structure is not accessible. Community Development Funds.

#4 Hunnewell Playground, Grasmere (Newton Corner)

Hunnewell Playground is not accessible. There are no paths and a very steep entrance with steps. It ranks lower on the list due to the low usage of the park.

#5 Magni-Coletti Park, Watertown Street, (Nonantum)

This park is accessible with paths throughout the park. On street parking and curb cuts.

#6 Joanne C. Pellegrini Playground, 17 Hawthorne, (Nonantum)

Accessible facility on site with a ramp at the entrance and accessible bathrooms inside. The park also has an accessible swing. The play apparatus is not accessible. The park needs an accessible path running from the parking lot over to the tennis courts and back entrance to the park.

#7 Richard J. Forte Park, 235 California Street (Nonantum)

Forte Park is accessible with excellent pathways, handicap parking spaces and curb cuts. It has the least amount of accessibility needs in the park system.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 2

#1 Cabot Park, 101 Eastside Parkway (Newtonville)

Park is not accessible. Paths are in poor condition and do not connect the entire park. Usage at the park is high and the park would benefit from a path running the length of the 11.6 acre park.

#2 Carr School, 101 Eastside Parkway

Carr School is not accessible and the park has limited paths. Depending on the future usage of the school, Carr School could become a more pressing priority.

#3 Bullough's Pond, Corner of Walnut/Comm Ave (Newtonville)

Paths and building are accessible - bathrooms are not.

#4 Newton North High School, Walnut Street, (Newtonville)

Newton North High School has all types of accessibility problems. The entrance on Hull Street is not accessible and parts of the school are not accessible (upstairs track for example). Paths are limited around the play fields making Newton North not very accessible. Again, future of the school depends on ranking priority.

#5 Russell J. Halloran Sports Complex, Albermale Road (Newtonville)

The playground and pool are accessible. The pool also has a lift for people with physical disabilities. The path running the length of the park helps make this park, which is heavily used, accessible for people with disabilities. The facility also has handicap parking spaces.

#6 Edmand's Park, Blake Street, (Newtonville)

The difficult entrance into the park makes the area not accessible. It is more open space and used for passive recreation. The park has low usage. To make it accessible would be a major overall requiring major funds.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 3

#1 Warren Playfields, 1600 Washington Street (West Newton)

Warren is not accessible due to the lack of paths. It is a large park, 10.1 acres, and needs paths to make it more user friendly to people with disabilities. It ranks high due to the adjacent housing facility, which includes the housing for the elderly and people with disabilities.

#2 John W. Weeks Playground, Elm Street (West Newton)

This park could benefit from a path going around the perimeter of the park connecting the playfields to the playground. The park also needs accessible play equipment. The park is heavily utilized.

#3 Tom Torchia Playground, Waltham Street, (West Newton)

Playfields are not accessible due to having no paths. Play apparatus at the park is also not accessible.

#4 Franklin School Playground, Franklin Street (West Newton)

Play apparatus at the school is not accessible and the limited paths to the playfields make for difficult access.

#5 River Street Playground, River Street, (West Newton)

This small park, 0.5 acres, has an accessible path and swing. CBDG just in.

#6 Wellington Playground, Kilburn Road, (West Newton)

New tennis, basketball, and accessible paths are going in at this location.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 4

#1 Auburndale Cove, West Pine Street

Per page #1 of report.

#2 Thomas J. Lyons Playground, Commonwealth Ave (Auburndale)

Marty Sender Path - extend to Cove and then to City of Waltham. Play structure is not accessible.

#3 Lower Falls/Hamilton, 545 Grove Street (Lower Falls)

Playground and tennis are not accessible. The Lower Falls Community Center is accessible with accessible parking and bathroom. However, the gym is not accessible from inside.

#4 Peirce School Playground, 170 Temple Street (West Newton)

Limited paths to playfields make accessibility difficult. This park also needs accessible play structures.

#5 Burr School Playground, 171 Pine Street, (Auburndale)

Accessible parking and paths, however, the play apparatus is not accessible. The path from Lexington Street to the school could be improved.

#6 Williams School, 141 Grove Street, (Auburndale)

Path around the border of the playfield is great. The play structure is not accessible.

#7 Reverend Louis E. Ford Playground, Curve Street (West Newton)

Difficult playground for people to find in general, which limits accessibility for all. The playground is not accessible. The low usage of the playground makes it a lower priority.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 5

#1 New Cold Springs Park, Beacon Street, (Newton Highlands)

Per page #1 of report.

#2 Emerson Playground, 45 Pettee Street (Upper Falls)

The playfields and playground are not accessible. The adjacent housing facility and the amount of senior programs run by the recreation department at this site make it a high priority.

#3 Hyde Park Playground, Lincoln Street, (Newton Highlands)

Playfields and playground are not accessible. 1 accessible checkerboard table.

#4 Officer Robert Braceland Playground, Chestnut Street (Upper Falls)

No paths, playground and field are not accessible.

#5 Lincoln Playground, Montclair Street, (Waban)

Path from the street to the playground is in the works. An accessible play structure is going in this spring thanks to a community build.

#6 Angier School, 1697 Beacon Street, (Waban)

Park and play apparatus are not accessible. Needs a pathway. A community build is on the way for new play structures.

#7 Zervas School, 30 Beethoven Street, (Waban)

One school age play apparatus is accessible; access limited to area with paths.

#8 Richardson Playground, Allen Ave

Community Build project just completed. Needs paths, playground and fields are not accessible.

#9 Old Cold Springs, (Newton Highlands)

Park is not accessible. The entire park needs a major overhaul. Neighbors don't want a path and have shelved a development plan.



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 6

#1 Newton Centre Park, Tyler Terrace (Newton Centre)

Per page 1 of report.

#2 Joseph Lee Playground, 10 Winchester Street (Newton Highlands)

Complete strategic plan & overhaul of park is needed. The park is not accessible due to having no paths. High use site.

#3 Thompsonville Playground, Cypress Street (Thompsonville)

Housing is going in near park, which will increase the parks usage. No entrance from Langley Road. Paths are needed.

#4 Weeks Field Playground, Newton Centre, Locksley Road

Great park, but no paths make it not accessible.

#5 Crystal Lake, 16 Rogers Street, (Newton Highlands)

Bathhouse is fully accessible, new accessible wheelchair is on site in 2004. Portable walkway over the sand has been talked about and would help users with physical disabilities. Pavement is too steep of grade down to sand on the opposite side of the ramp.

#6 Mason-Rice Playground, 149 Pleasant Street (Newton Centre)

The playground is not accessible. However, the path from the playground should connect to the rest of the park.

#7 Louis Levingston Cove, Rogers Street, (Newton Highlands)

Accessible; great path



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 7

#1 Burr Park, 142 Park Street, (Newton Corner)

Per page #1 of this report

#2 Ward School Playground, 10 Dolphin Road, (Newton Centre)

Accessible playstructure is terrific. Limited paths to fields make for limited access.

#3 Farlow Playground, Eldredge Street, (Newton Corner)

Playstructure is not accessible. However, excellent paths throughout the park.

#4 Webster Field, Warren Street, (Newton Centre)

Open Space



HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY PRIORITIZATION PROJECT

Ward 8

#1 Newton South High School, 140 Brandeis Road, (Newton Centre)

Limited accessibility. Needs path behind school connecting playfields and then over to the middle schools.

#2 Charles E. Brown & Oak Hill Middle School, Wheeler Road (Newton Center)

Limited accessibility. Needs path behind school connecting playfields and then over to the High School.

#3 Countryside School, 191 Dedham Street, (Newton Highlands)

Some pathways in playground / limited accessibility.

#4 Memorial Spaulding Playground, 250 Brookline Street (Newton Centre)

Just added new playground equipment. Limited accessibility.

#5 Memorial Playground, Stein Circle (Newton Centre)

Accessible. Paths around perimeter.

#6 Nahanton Park, 455 Nahanton Street (Newton Highlands)

Accessible paths (Flores paths) and accessible facility.

#7 Kennard Park, Dudley Road, (Newton Centre)

Open Space. Estate given to City of Newton. Low usage / not accessible.



*REFERENCE TABLES

* Reference Tables is a separate Document. Refer to web page.