

Meeting Minutes

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.



Committee Members

Mary Knittle, Chair
Stefanie Covino, Vice Chair
Ted Conna
Nathan Fournier
Evelyn Herwitz
Deirdra Murphy
7th member TBD

Contacting the Committee

Department of Sustainability and Resilience
Address: 455 Main Street, Room 108,
Worcester, MA 01608 (by appointment)
Email: GreenWorcester@worcesterma.gov
Website:
www.WorcesterMA.gov/GreenWorcester

Department of Sustainability and Resilience

Our Mission:

To implement the ambitious and urgent goals of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan (GWP), a roadmap for making Worcester the greenest mid-size city in the country.

Our Staff:

John Odell, *Chief*
Jacquelyn Burmeister, *Lakes & Ponds Program Coordinator, Lakes and Ponds Program*
Jessica Davis, *Project Manager*
Nick Pagan, *Senior Environmental Analyst, Lakes and Ponds Program*
Luba Zhaurova, *Director of Projects*

Accessibility:

The GWAC is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. Should you require interpretation, auxiliary aids, services, translations, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please contact the DSR a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Translations:

Hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y otras adaptaciones con solicitud previa.
Avisanos por
greenworcester@worcesterma.gov

CITY OF WORCESTER

Meeting Minutes

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, October 24, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Esther Howland Room, City Hall

This meeting will be held in-person at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will additionally have options to participate remotely by joining online or by phone. To attend this meeting virtually, see the bottom of the agenda for details.

Attendance:

Present

District 1: Evelyn Herwitz

District 2: Nathan Fournier

District 4: Ted Conna

District 4: Deirdra Murphy (online)

District 5: Stefanie Covino, Vice Chair

Absent:

District 1: Mary Knittle, Chair

Staff:

John Odell

Jessica Davis

Luba Zhaurova

Call To Order at 5:37pm by Stefanie Covino, Committee Vice Chair

1. Welcome. The Vice Chair read out the rules of meeting conduct.
2. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2022
 - a. Member Conna confirmed that committee minutes are not uploaded online until the committee approves them.
 - b. Member Conna asked that the committee approve the minutes and add addition details at the next meeting to not delay the minutes going online. Vice Chair Covino responded that once minutes are approved, they cannot be edited, and reminded Member Conna that the public can watch the recording online if they would like more details. Member Conna motioned to continue this item to the next meeting. Evelyn Herwitz seconded. The Committee voted 5-0 to continue approval of the September 19, 2022, meeting minutes to the next meeting to allow Member Conna opportunity to revise the minutes.

3. Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar

- a. Vice Chair Covino confirmed that GWAC will meet once per month in 2023, except for February, August, and December when there will be no meeting.
- b. Ms. Zhaurova noted that DSR staff did take Jewish and Christian holidays and school vacation weeks into consideration when drafting the calendar.
- c. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the 2023 meeting calendar as is.

4. New Business

- a. District 3 Vacancy Filled – Mary Leovich (starts 12/12/2022)
- b. Presentations by Community Groups:
 - i. Mass Audubon. Deb Cary, Community Advocacy and Engagement Manager, Jennifer Madison, Regional Director, and Martha Gach, Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator presented on the organization’s work. (Attachment A)
 1. Deb Cary commended the committee’s work and asked how they bring all active sustainability groups in the city together. Member Conna stated the feeling and question was mutual. Deb Cary recommended having a conference of sorts for all the sustainability groups to get a chance to talk with each other. Member Covino invited the Mass Audubon group to participate in the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Committee meetings. Mr. Odell recommended putting the discussion of creating a conference on the agenda to a later meeting. Member Herwitz remarked that a conference to connect different groups in the city is a great idea and asked what a group like Mass Audubon would want to get out of a conference like this. Jennifer Madison mentioned she would like to see a map of all Worcester’s sustainability groups’ work that can be used to create a story for the public.
 2. Member Conna suggested that the Mass Audubon use their outreach to help spread the word about the work that DSR and GWAC are doing and asked how the Mass Audubon gets every 7th grader to come and visit the Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary. Deb Cary stated that the Worcester Educational Foundation pays for the program.
 - ii. Introduction to City Budgeting Process
 1. Mr. Odell explained the basics of the budgeting process and timeline.
 2. Member Herwitz asked how the committee should play a role in the budgeting process. Mr. Odell responded that committee’s main priority should be helping with implementation of the Green Worcester Plan, and there is little assistance GWAC can provide in terms of DSR’s budget development process.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Update on Pocket (Miyawaki) Forest Pilot
 - i. Member Herwitz recommended putting the pilot within the city’s “heat island” and relayed that the City of Worcester planning department staff recommended avoiding previously conserved land as it likely already has vegetation, but instead considering tax title properties. She also communicated that during the winter months, she and Member Fournier will scope out the best sites and DSR staff will begin looking for funding sources.
 - ii. Member Covino mentioned a study by a student at Clark University that had tax title data and focused on reducing flooding in city owned properties.
 - iii. Member Conna asked if Member Herwitz has a parcel size minimum. Member Herwitz did not have a minimum or maximum lot size. Member Fournier reiterated that this project is scalable, and that many different sizes could work.

- iv. Member Herwitz affirmed that this project is still in the research stages and as she finds the answers to these questions she will report back to the committee.
 - v. Member Murphy recommended reaching out to the Worcester Native Plant Initiative (WNPI) who have been working to plant more native species in the city. Member Fournier had recently had lunch with a leader of WNPI and they show interest in partnering once the committee is out of the planning stages. Jennifer Madison, on behalf of Mass Audubon, expressed support and interest in collaborating.
- b. GWAC's letter for requested qualifications for new City Manager update
- i. Mr. Odell stated that staff is very close to resolving the process for getting the letter to the City Council. He will update the committee again at the next meeting.

6. DSR Updates

- a. DSR Staff hiring update
- i. Mr. Odell stated that DSR is in the final stages of hiring two new DSR positions, a Senior Energy Manger who will oversee the city's energy performance contract, and an Energy Analyst who will help DSR analyze municipal energy usage.
- b. Upcoming GWAC Tours – Spring 2023
- i. Ms. Zhaurova stated that the tour for the Upper Blackstone water treatment plant will be rescheduled for the Spring when the weather is better and that DSR Staff will help the committee find tours for other locations, if there is still interest.
- c. Departmental Goals – moving towards net zero
- i. New Municipal Aggregation contract – increasing the renewable energy content
 - 1. Mr. Odell stated that the city has an electric aggregation program whereby the City of Worcester bundles electricity supply of its residents to get a more favorable rate and term through a third-party vendor. He explained that the city's former contract with Direct Energy expires in December 2022, and a new contract will start in January 2023. He noted under the new contract electricity prices will increase, due to global energy crises, but still will be better than the National Grid's basic service price for the first 6 months; and that the people in the program will be receiving 52% of their energy from renewable local sources.
 - 2. Vice Chair Covino highlighted that there is a pamphlet available to learn more about the city's aggregation program. She additionally reminded the committee and the public that National Grid has instituted a Winter Customer's Saving Initiative to help residents pay their winter electricity bills. Mr. Odell added that participating in the National Grid's programs doesn't preclude one from being on the aggregation program as well. (Attachment B)
 - 3. Member Herwitz stated that the Telegram & Gazette did a story highlighting the electricity price hikes.
 - 4. Vice Chair Covino noted that the aggregation program is an opt-out program meaning residents are automatically enrolled. Mr. Odell clarified that new residents may see National Grid as their supplier initially, but that they will automatically be enrolled in the program by default. He also emphasized that residents may leave the program at any time.
 - ii. EV Charging stations – 25 Meade Street, public garages, and feasibility study
 - 1. Ms. Zhaurova stated that two electric vehicle charging stations have been installed at 25 Meade Street. These charging stations have the capability to charge four vehicles, including inspectional services' two current electric vehicles. These vehicle charging

stations are not open to the public, but they mark an opportunity to continue to electrify the city's fleet.

2. Ms. Zhaurova stated that DSR has installed, but not yet activated, charging stations at three public garages: Federal Plaza Garage, Pearl Elm Garage, and Worcester Common Garage. Once activated each garage will have the capability to charge six electric vehicles simultaneously.
3. Ms. Zhaurova stated that the city is launching a feasibility study for adding new electric vehicles to the city's fleet. While installing the new electric charging stations, the city found that the primary obstacle isn't purchasing the vehicles but installing charging stations due to constraints on the current electrical grid. The study will encompass five municipal locations, and integrate the city's current vehicle electrification plan. She stated that she expects the study to take at least 6 months and plans to apply for additional grant funding.

iii. Green Worcester ElectriCITY branding

1. Mr. Odell commended Member Herwitz on the new ElectriCITY branding and explained that a designer has put together a media packet for the city that will be used for all outreach. Ms. Zhaurova clarified that "ElectriCITY" is umbrella branding. DSR expects there to be subdivisions in the future for different programs.
2. Member Herwitz commended the department on creating this branding inexpensively and efficiently. She continued discussing that the largest challenge of the project is how to effectively explain what an aggregation plan is.

d. Departmental Goals – Climate Change Resilience

i. Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Grant Project Update

1. Ms. Zhaurova stated that DSR and DPW won an interdepartmental MVP grant to map the City of Worcester's stormwater system to identify bottlenecks and opportunities for later green infrastructure projects. The MVP grant received is for 1.2 million dollars and will cover approximately 75% of project costs. The city's consultant, Weston & Sampson, has begun the project and has teams driving around Worcester measuring the depths of the stormwater drains from manhole to the bottom of the pipes. These measurements will allow the city to identify: which direction the water is flowing in our system, if any pipes have collapsed, and insufficient capacities within any pipes. The Weston & Sampson team is gathering data from approximately 6,500 manholes and culverts city wide. The collected data will be fed into a GIS layer and a modelling software. The next step will be testing the accuracy of the model by comparing its predictions to observed flooding patterns. If the model data does not match observed local flood data, Weston & Sampson will survey more manholes. The surveying component is estimated to be complete before the ground becomes completely frozen.
2. Vice Chair Covino suggested that this project may be a good opportunity to inform the public about storm water systems and how to take care of them.
3. Member Conna asked if this field work is meant to verify the records the city already has. Mr. Odell replied that though the city has records of the sewage systems, much of the data is out-of-date and there are gaps where new infrastructure has been implemented. He continued that the gaps and outdated data prevent the city from modelling the storm water system. Modelling is key for the city to address storm water problems pro-actively. Mr. Odell stressed that many of the paper maps and data the city currently has is derived from the "as designed" schematics as opposed to the "as built" reality and emphasized that many older infrastructure projects may have been tweaked over time when newer projects were put into place. Vice Chair Covino expressed support for the project, reiterating that having data in a variety of places

including people's heads does not allow the city to model our systems, and this project will bring all the data sets together and fill in the gaps to allow for accurate modeling.

ii. Urban Heat Mapping update

1. Mr. Odell stated he expects the project to finish in the next few weeks, and that when completed the city will have heat maps for eight different climate scenarios. This data will tie in well with the new Urban Forestry Tree Commission's recommendations.
2. Member Herwitz asked if a pocket forest can contribute to the city's greening scenario. Mr. Odell confirmed that it can.
3. Ms. Zhaurova emphasizes that the project also has a great environmental justice and equity focus. Environmental Justice communities generally have less access to air conditions, those areas are hotter, and residents are often outside more waiting for buses or walking. The heat map study provides an argument for targeting tree planting in areas that need it the most.

7. Standing Items

a. Upcoming events

- i. National Grid Energy Savings Event, October 25, 4-7pm at Worcester Public Library (Attachment C)

b. Community feedback

i. Discussion of solar access issues

1. Member Conna discussed a potential proposal for helping residents maintain their "Right of Solar Access." He relayed a citizen complaint that trees are growing too tall in front of their solar arrays limiting the array's production. He worries that residents are building solar arrays based on the current landscapes, not accounting for the growth of nearby trees or the potential for new taller buildings in the future. The DSR website says there were 1500 new solar panel projects installed in Worcester in the past 10 years. He argued that many of these panels face the street, and there is a large potential for decreased solar productivity. He introduced a draft proposal (Attachment D) that would have owners of solar collectors register with the city, and the city would then work with these residents to protect solar access to their homes from shading by city owned landscaping. Under the proposal, the City would avoid planting trees that would grow large enough to shade existing solar arrays.
2. Vice Chair Covino commented that this is an interesting topic as we are dealing with competing interests.
3. Member Herwitz reacted that this is a valid policy question but believes that the Urban Forestry Tree Commission should be included in this discussion. She also emphasized that a policy would have to be very clear about what types of solar projects would qualify.
4. Member Covino suggested that research is needed on other communities that have similar policies.
5. Member Conna established that he does not want to see trees removed, and that when weighing one environmental value against another, objective criteria are needed to avoid decisions based on political clout and favor. He would like to see the city develop a solar access policy, and offered the draft proposal as a starting point for discussion.
6. Vice Chair Covino mentioned that the Mass Audubon Society has a policy team that may be able to conduct research.

7. Jessica Madison commented that there are existing GIS maps of trees, and a layer could be created with the city's solar data. These two layers, when combined, could offer insight into the problem's potential extent.
 8. Vice Chair Covino contributed that this could be a great mapping project for students she works with at Clark.
 9. Member Conna asked for the committee to make a motion to go on record requesting that such a policy be considered. Vice Chair Covino felt a motion was not needed and Mr. Odell offered to have staff investigate the issue and report back to the Committee. Vice Chair Covino suggested the Committee return to the topic once more research can be done, and Member Conna agreed.
- c. Community outreach
- i. Member Conna asked the committee to support partnering with ArtsWorcester (AW) for their IMPACT art show in collaboration with the Fitchburg Art Museum in late February through April. The AW director approves of potentially having a panel on sustainability. Vice Chair Covino asked for clarification on what supporting the project would look like. Member Conna stated that AW is willing to do outreach, but GWAC would need to plan a sustainability panel. Mr. Odell asked Member Conna to send the contact information for the director of the event to DSR staff and noted that DSR will be short staffed in the coming months. Member Conna recommended having DSR present on all the City's accomplishments at the event and not creating something new for this event. Vice Chair Covino also offered to help with this.

8. Received Communications

- a. None.

9. Other

- a. Member Conna asked for an update on interdepartmental collaboration. Mr. Odell reported on a preliminary meeting with representatives from DPW, Planning, Health & Human Services, Transportation & Mobility, and Economic Development to discuss anticipated projects and foster collaboration between departments. These meetings will continue, approximately quarterly beginning in January. Mr. Odell also said the Inflation Reduction Act tax incentives take effect in January, and staff will be researching how they can be used to prioritize and fund sustainability projects.

Adjournment

The Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm.

Mass Audubon



Mission

To protect the nature of Massachusetts for people and for wildlife.

Vision

A Massachusetts in which nature—whether found in a city park or deep inside the forests of western Massachusetts or within an urban greenway, or along the 1,500 miles of Massachusetts coastline—is valued as essential to quality of life in the Commonwealth, and people live with appreciation and respect for the complex ecological systems that sustain life on Earth, working together to ensure that they are protected.

The Origins of Mass Audubon:



“She’s wearing a dead bird on her head.”



“The Feather Trade”



The Founding Mothers:

The Massachusetts Audubon Society was founded in 1896 by Harriet Hemenway & Minna Hall

Mass Audubon's Sanctuary Network



Here's A Little History





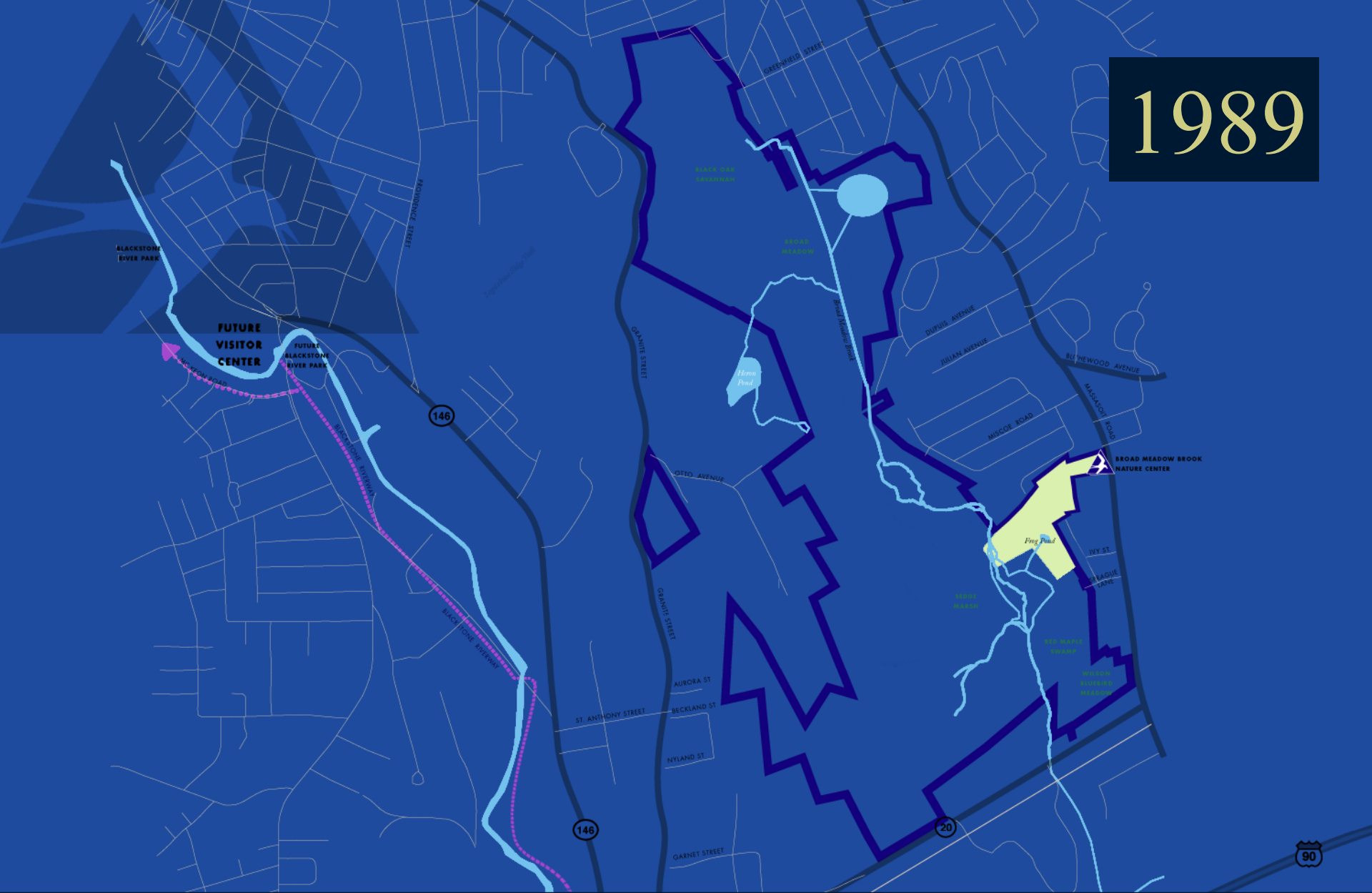
- Opened to the public in 1991
- Largest urban sanctuary in New England
- 435 acres and miles of well-marked trails (some accessible)
- Nature Play Area

Your Sanctuary in the City



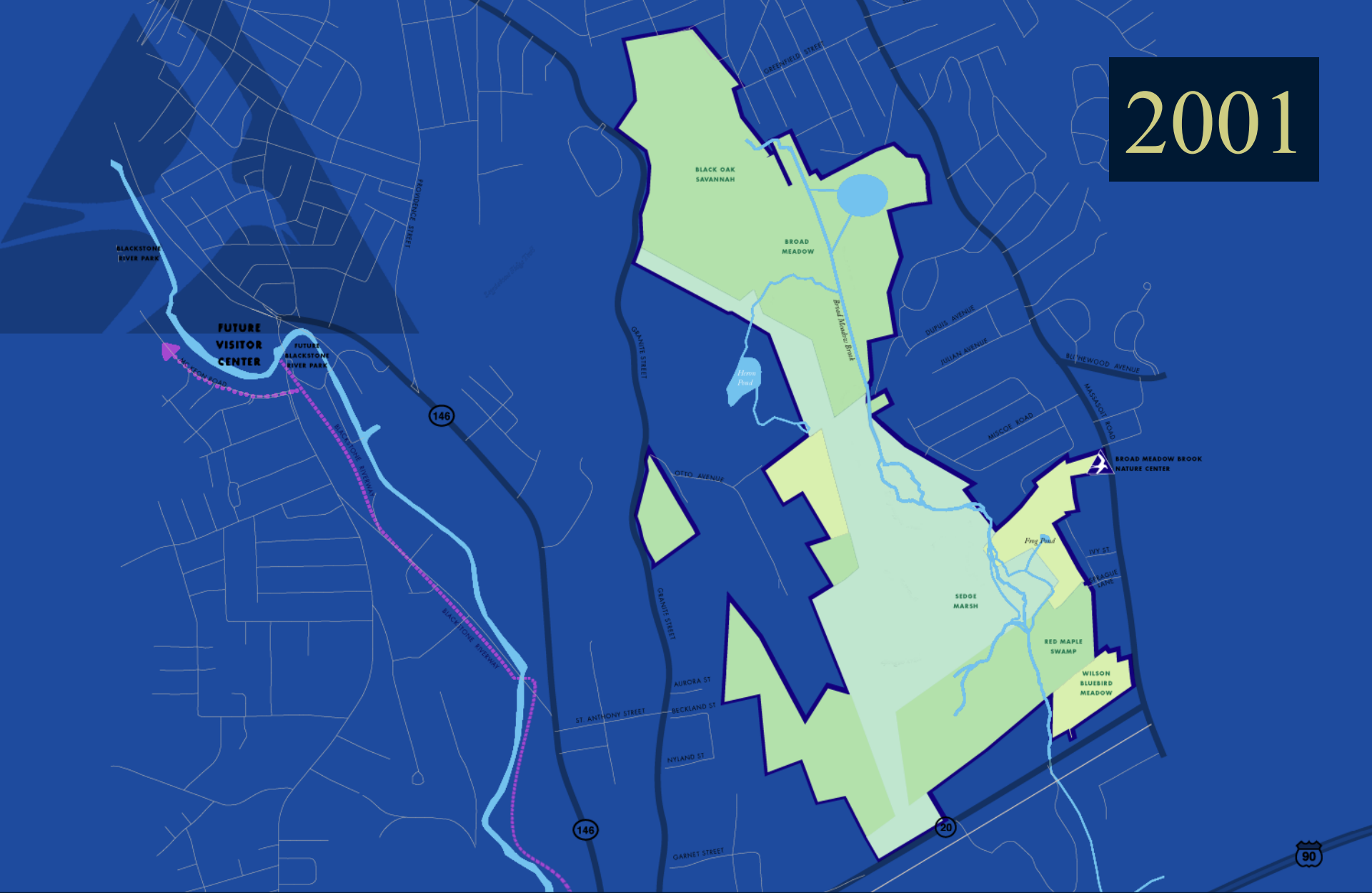
Broad Meadow Brook was established in 1990, made possible by a collaboration of public, private, and non profit interests

1989



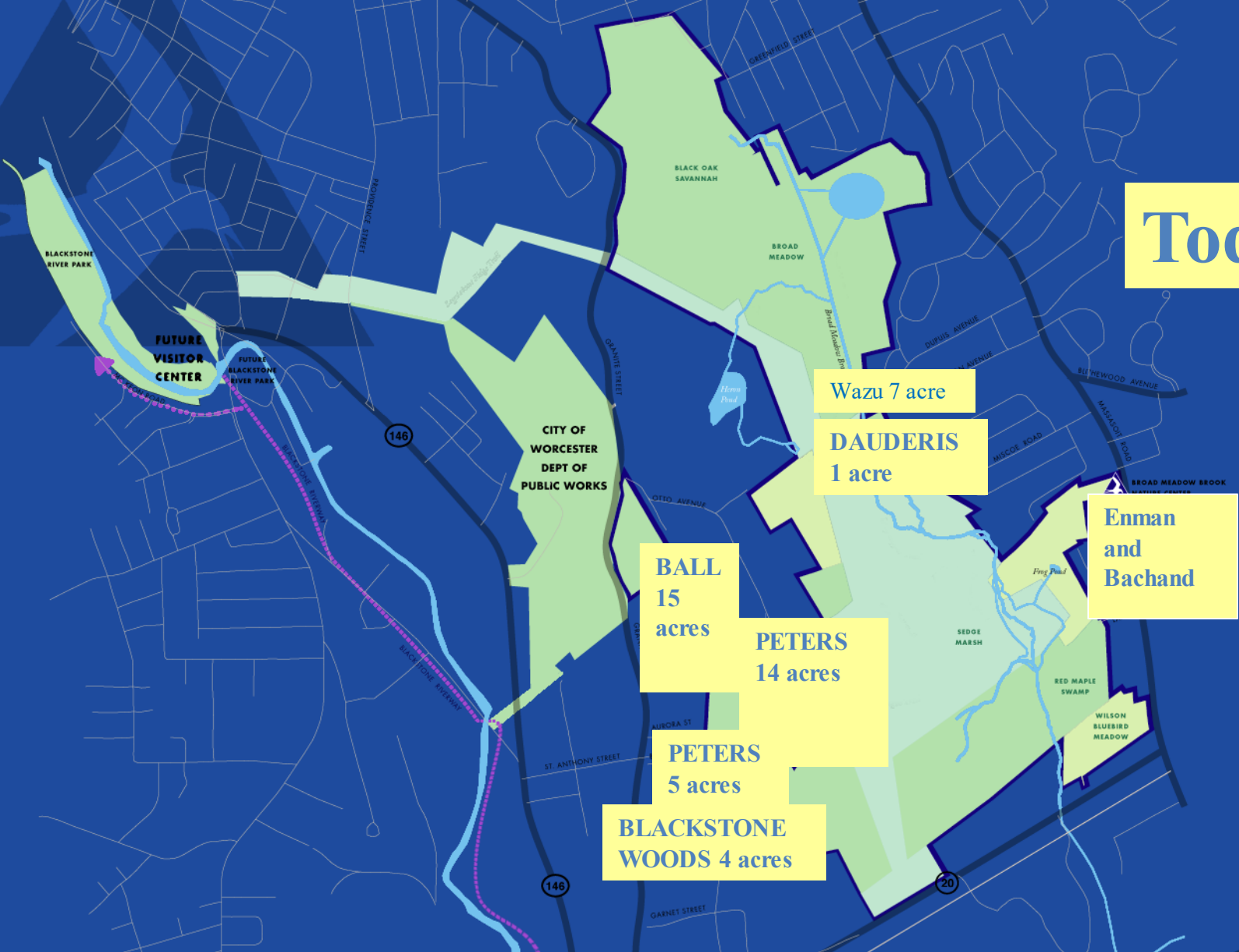
Broad Meadow Brook

2001

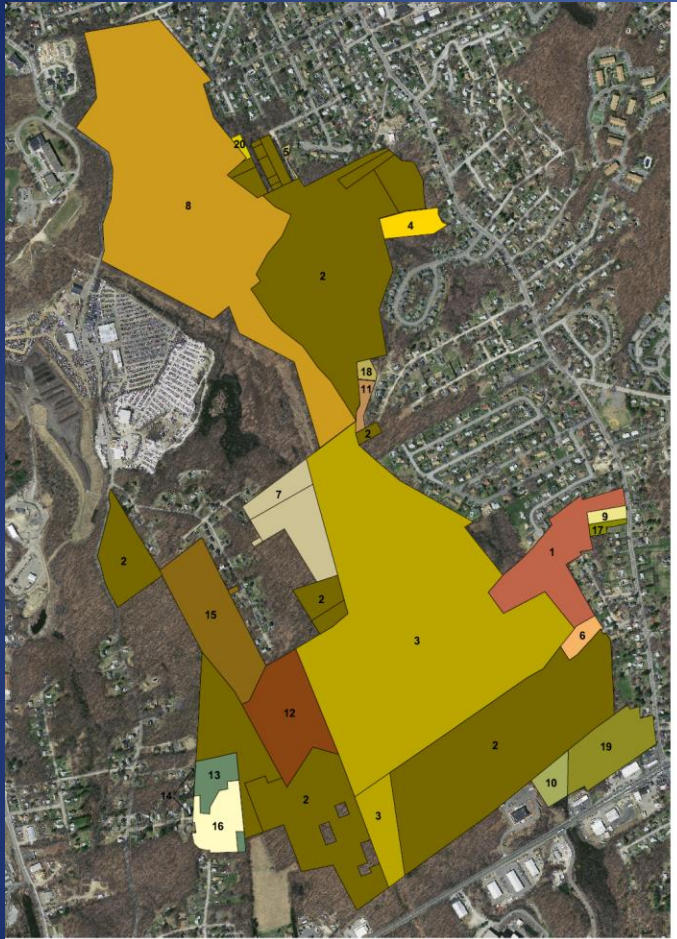


Broad Meadow Brook

Today



Broad Meadow Brook



**Broad Meadow Brook
Wildlife Sanctuary
Land Acquisition History**

A 430-acre urban sanctuary managed through cooperative agreements with the City of Worcester, National Grid, and Greater Worcester Land Trust



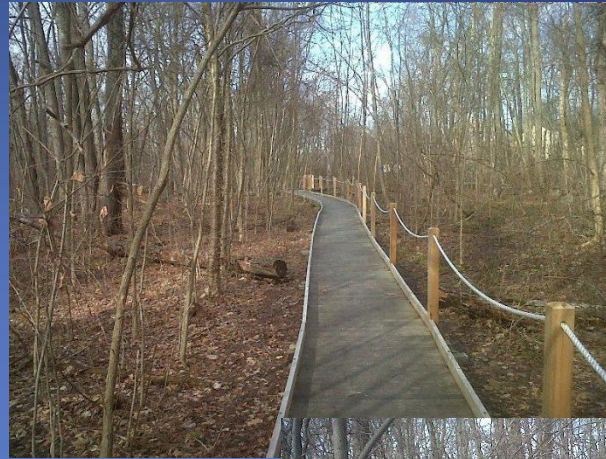
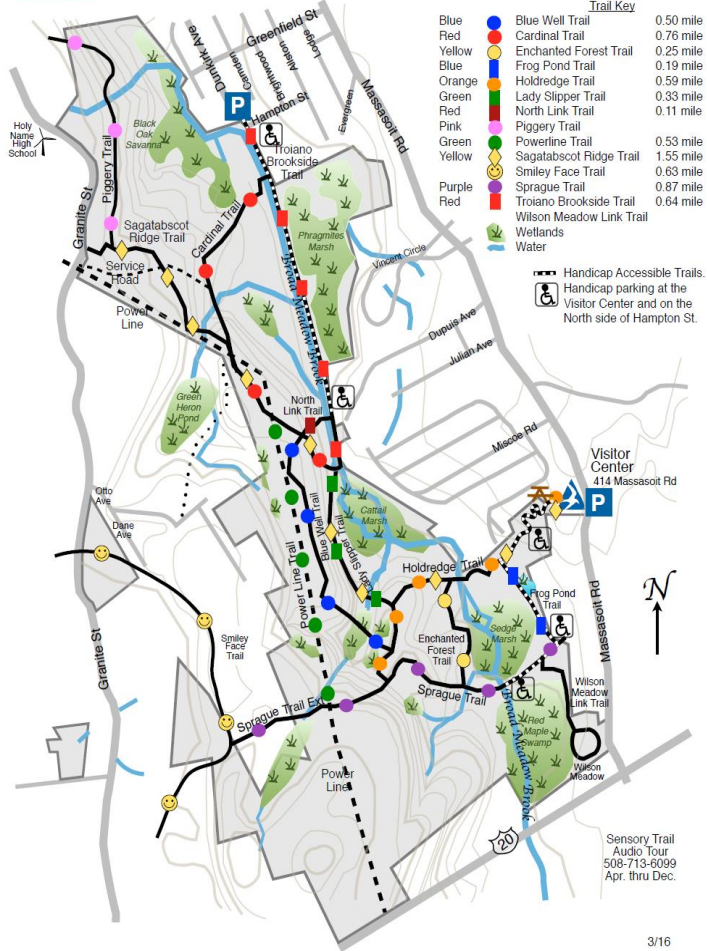
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Acquired by Mass Audubon by purchase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1990 Hollister (1) 1999 McCabe (6) 2000 Quill (7) 2002 Erman (9) 2004 Shelter Island (2) 2005 SIF First L&I (14) 2005 Shelter Island (13) 2008 Bachard (17) | <p>Acquired by Mass Audubon by donation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1995 Hahnemann Family (5) Cornie Katsopoulos Jane Pellegrino Georgia Theobald 1998 Howarth (3) 2002 Kessel (10) 2004 Shourly (11) 2011 Waza Realty Trust (18) 2013 Dury (20) 2013 Wilson (19) | <p>Sanctuary lands managed by Mass Audubon for Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New England Power (3) Worcester CC (2) <p>Parcels owned by City, CTR held by MMS or MMS/GWLT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2002 Galvin-Charlton (8) 2007 Ball (15) 2009 Shelter Island (16) |
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Prepared by Mass Audubon March 2014.
Parcels: 1=1414-01-000; 10=1414-01-000; 11=1414-01-000





Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Worcester, MA





What We Do



Education

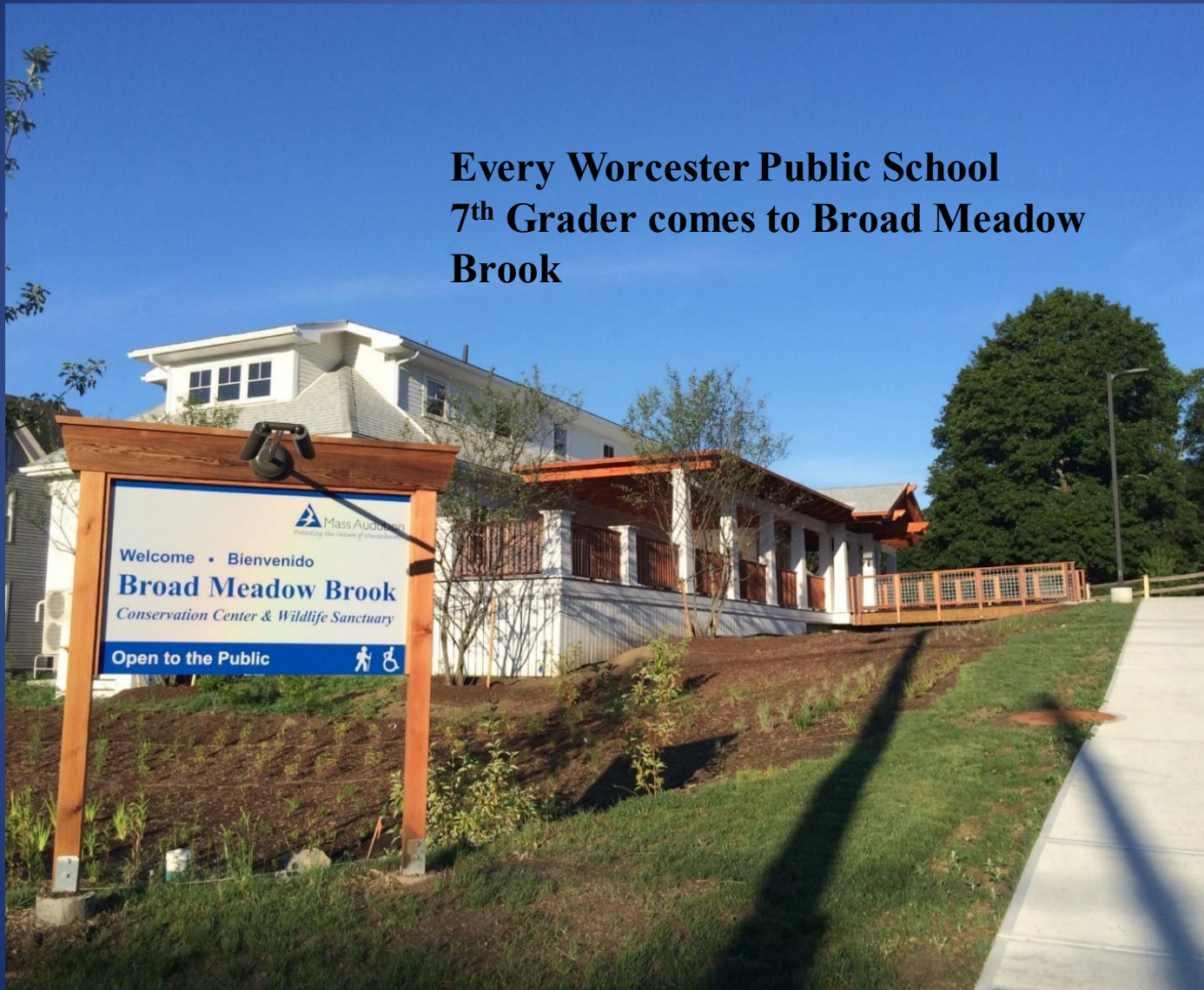


Advocacy



Land/Habitat
Protection

**Every Worcester Public School
7th Grader comes to Broad Meadow
Brook**





An example of one of many afterschool programs to explore and learn about the outdoors especially in and around the City of Worcester.



Worcester East Middle School



Scouting Programs



- Business organizations
- Youth organizations
- Conservation groups
- Cultural institutions
- Colleges and schools
- City departments
- State agencies



Collaboration

Conferences, Meetings and Special Events



SPECIAL EVENTS

BOO MEADOW
BROOK



Many volunteers
help out at
at Broad Meadow
Brook

Pumpkin Carving

Thank You South High School!



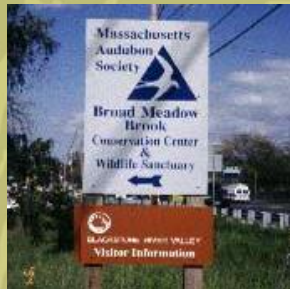
State of Ohio
Department of Natural Resources
Welcome to the
**Broad Meadow Brook
Wildlife Sanctuary**
This area is a wildlife sanctuary and is home to many species of birds, mammals, and reptiles. It is important to keep this area free of human disturbance. Please do not feed, harass, or approach wildlife. Please stay on the designated trails and do not remove any plants or animals. Please do not litter. Thank you for your cooperation.

Welcome to
Smiley Face Trail
This trail is a 1.5 mile loop trail that is suitable for all ages. It is a great place to enjoy the outdoors and see some of the beautiful scenery of Broad Meadow Brook Wildlife Sanctuary. Please stay on the trail and do not remove any plants or animals. Please do not litter. Thank you for your cooperation.





Broad Meadow Brook *For Everyone*



Increase
Public Access



Engage
and Educate
Visitors



Connect to the
Blackstone
Riverway



Preserve and
Expand the
Sanctuary

Worcester to Providence





Visitor
Center



Troiano
Brookside Trail



To Cardinal Trail
and
Lady Slipper Trails





Holdredge Trail ↗
← Frog Pond Trail

Visitor
Center
→

A topographic map of the Blackstone River watershed area, showing the river and its tributaries in blue. The map is overlaid with a grid of black lines representing subbasins. Various icons are scattered across the map, including a large deer in the upper right, a smaller deer in the lower right, a bird in the upper center, and a house in the lower left. The title is printed in blue text on the right side of the map.

**Blackstone River
Watersheds
Tributary Subbasins**



Gail's Butterfly Garden



Common Checkerspot



Painted Lady

Over the past 100 years, Gail from Troutman, Georgia, and planted this garden to attract butterflies. A species of butterfly that lives here is identified on the butterfly!



Queen Darter

Robert Frost called butterflies "flowers that fly."

Did you know... Thomas Chubb was a passionate butterfly gardener!



Common Checkerspot



Painted Lady

A successful butterfly garden needs at least 4 ingredients.



Queen Darter

Food - a variety of plants that they eat.

Shelter - Tall grasses and other plants that provide shelter for butterflies from predators.



Queen Darter



Queen Darter

Water - Most butterflies obtain water through the nectar of flowers. Butterflies that flowers with extra nectar, like Coreopsis and Butterfly Bush.



Queen Darter

Host Plants - The average adult butterfly lives only two weeks. At that time, they reproduce and lay eggs on specific plants, so that the caterpillars will eat when they hatch.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS ON TROIANO BROOKSIDE TRAIL



Heron Pond Protection Project



Why This Matters

This is an incredible opportunity to protect a large, undeveloped parcel in an otherwise urban setting. Doing so will not only conserve important natural resources, but will also improve climate resilience in Worcester while increasing access to nature for the community.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS





**The Enman house is preparing to move!!
Making way for needed parking**

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

A win-win swap

AUDUBON MOVING HOUSE TO MAKE ROOM



A two-and-a-half-story house on the Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center and Wildlife Sanctuary on Massasoit Road is being moved a couple of lots down from Broad Meadow Brook. (T&G Staff / TOM RETTIG)



The Great House Move !

Making room for more schools, camp, and parking! Come see! It worked!

RECYCLING !!!!!



We were able to expand the entrance and exit with better sightlines



Have more outside play and group program space



And increase areas for parking and for school bus and camp drop off!



Welcome • Bienvenido

Broad Meadow Brook

Conservation Center & Wildlife Sanctuary

Open to the Public



**Many “green” features- Rain Gardens
to manage stormwater**





 Mass Audubon

GOING GREEN: STORM WATER

Our Demonstration Rain Garden



This rain garden is designed to collect storm water from the roof and infiltrate it into the ground. Its native plants tolerate both wet and very dry conditions, and attract wildlife. A rain barrel also collects storm water that we use for irrigation.

Without them, storm water would flow onto the road, down the storm drain, and into Broad Meadow Brook, bringing with it pollutants and causing flooding.

Features

- A shallow basin with gentle slopes
- Soil that allows infiltration
- Moisture-tolerant plants with deep roots to trap sediment
- Attractive to butterflies and birds

Benefits

- Reduces the volume of storm water and pollution entering streams
- Creates a source of water for your yard between rainfalls
- Saves money on your water and sewer bills
- Keeps water in the ground, where it belongs
- Adds an attractive and interesting new landscape element to your home
- Provides opportunities for observing wildlife

The Problem with Storm Water

As land becomes more developed, impervious surfaces like roads, driveways and rooftops generate more storm water runoff. With fewer vegetated areas, there is less infiltration of rainwater to groundwater. The result is both greater flooding in wet weather and dryer streams in dry weather.

In densely developed areas like Worcester, homeowners can help reduce storm water impacts by building their own rain garden. Learn how to create your own at

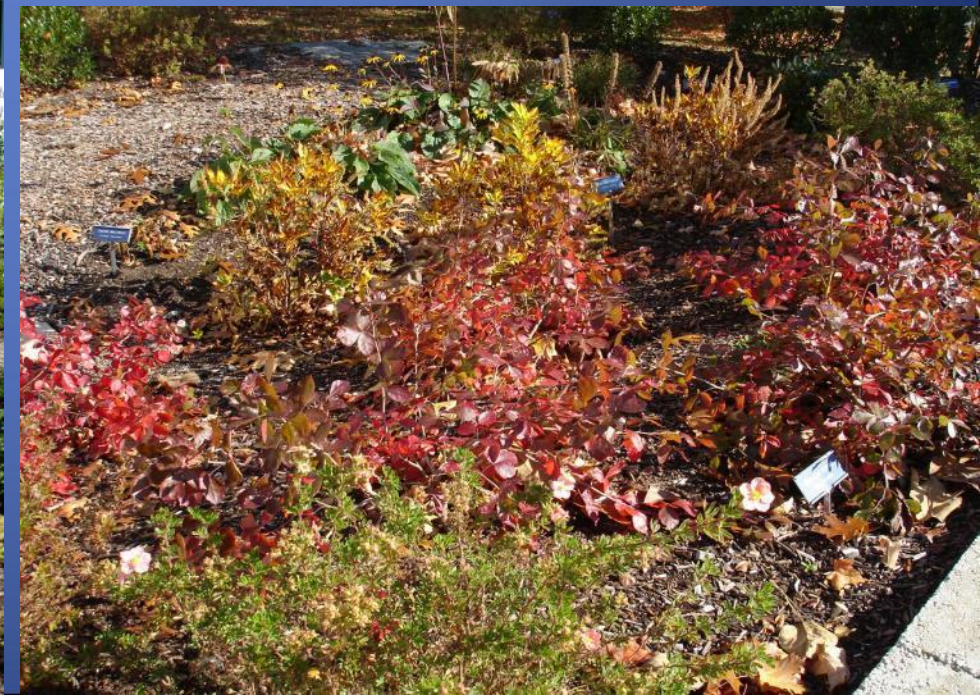
www.massaudubon.org/raingarden

This project is part of the Campaign for a Fishable/Swimmable Blackstone River by 2015



Many thanks to the following for helping support the installation of this rain garden:
Tight & Bond, Bigelow Nurseries, Blackstone River Coalition, BSC Group, Camosse Masonry Supply, Cook Company, Inc., French Foundation, Mrs. Howard Booth, Nathaniel Wheeler Trust, Precision Scapes, Inc.

Rain Garden





Welcome to the
Solar Pavilion
(donated by St. Gobain)



See energy producing
solar panels located
on south facing roof.



but despite progress to date on broader scale- we face significant challenges:

- Loss of biodiversity
- Inequitable access to nature
- Climate change



Time for a new Action Agenda... Jenn Madson, Regional Director



GO WILD

Mass Audubon's Action Agenda

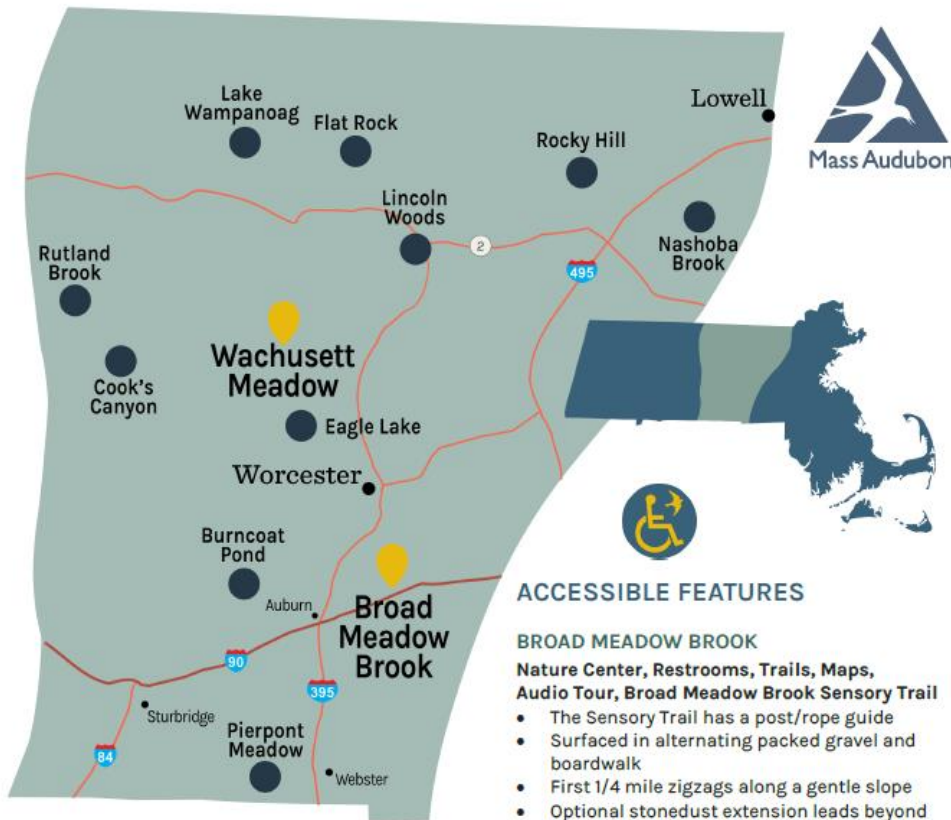
2021-2026



Mass Audubon
Protecting the nature of *Massachusetts*

Mass Audubon's Sanctuary Network





ABOUT MASS AUDUBON

With more than 135,000 members and supporters, Mass Audubon protects more than 38,000 acres of land throughout Massachusetts, saving birds and other wildlife, and making nature accessible to all. We welcome you to explore a nearby sanctuary, find inspiration, and get involved. Learn how at massaudubon.org.

ACCESSIBLE FEATURES

BROAD MEADOW BROOK

Nature Center, Restrooms, Trails, Maps, Audio Tour, Broad Meadow Brook Sensory Trail

- The Sensory Trail has a post/rope guide
- Surfaced in alternating packed gravel and boardwalk
- First 1/4 mile zigzags along a gentle slope
- Optional stonedust extension leads beyond the post/rope guide to the brook
- Audio tour
- Braille signs and tactile maps

WACHUSETT MEADOW

Nature Center, Restrooms, Mary E. Nagle Pavilion Trails:

- South Meadow Trail Spur (to the big oak tree overlooking the Beaver Wetland)
- Trail to the Nagle Pavilion



Wildlife Sanctuaries of Central Massachusetts



Mass Audubon's Action Agenda 2021-2026



Goal 1: Protect and Steward Resilient Landscapes

Protect + Steward

- Protect 30% of Massachusetts by 2026 through a public/private coalition
- Increase the pace of Mass Audubon's land protection fourfold (10,000 new acres)
- Enhance the management of 200,000 acres of forestlands for wildlife and climate resilience, while meeting the economic needs of landowners
- Restore, protect, and manage 2,500 coastal acres



Goal 2: Advance Inclusive and Equitable Access to Nature

Listen + Engage

- 20 new urban green spaces and sanctuaries by 2026
- Increase participation of children from low-income families and communities of color in educational programs (35,000 to 90,000)
- Double the total number of children who benefit from our programs (150,000 to 300,000)
- Grow scholarship funding for these programs to \$2 million annually



Summer Camp - 721 campers in 2022 all enjoying nature right here in the City of Worcester !



**Every Worcester Public School
7th Grader comes to Broad Meadow
Brook**



FREE
ADMISSION

Worcester Residents , Mass Audubon Members,
and Members of Greater Worcester Land Trust



Broad Meadow Brook

Conservation Center & Wildlife Sanctuary



The Place to Walk in Worcester!

Over 430 acres and five miles of marked trails to enjoy!
Located on Massasoit Road off Grafton Street in the southwest
part of Worcester, 3/4 mile north of Route 20.
Conveniently accessible via WRTA Route 5.

\$4 Adults | \$3 Children (2-12) & Seniors (65+)



Broad Meadow Brook Conservation Center & Wildlife Sanctuary
414 Massasoit Road • Worcester, MA 01604
508.753.6087 • email bmbrook@massaudubon.org
massaudubon.org/broadmeadowbrook

Broad Meadow Brook

What's there to do?

- Listen to the sounds of nature
- Enjoy walking 15 marked trails 
- Have a break in our picnic area
- Discover over 700 plant species 
- Explore our natural play area
- Explore a diversity of wildlife habitats 
- Learn how to protect our planet in the visitor center 
- Get inspired! 

ADMISSION

\$4 Adults
\$3 Children (2-12)
& Seniors (65+)

VISITOR CENTER HOURS

Monday: closed
Tuesday-Sunday
12:00 to 4 pm
Trails open daily from
dawn to dusk

414 Massasoit Road
Worcester, MA 01604
508-753-6087
massaudubon.org

Broad Meadow Brook stop
on WRTA Route 5.



FREE ADMISSION for Worcester Residents , Mass Audubon Members,
and Members of Greater Worcester Land Trust



Goal 3: Mobilize to Fight Climate Change

Mobilize + Advocate

- Help the state achieve net zero carbon emissions goals for 2030 and 2050
- Engage our 135,000 members to advance climate policies and solutions
- Train more than 1,000 climate and conservation advocates

Jenn Madson introduces Martha Gach,
Education Manager and Conservation Coordinator
to talk about our Youth Climate Action Program, and to highlight a
specific habitat enhancement project

Wetlands Restoration Project at BMB

- 2016 – Worcester upgraded sewer system
- Goal: self-sustaining, dynamic wetland ecosystem that
 - functions naturally, cleans & stores water
 - accessible to neighbors, residents, and visitors
 - supports wildlife
- Partners: Mass Audubon, City of Worcester, Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, Clark University





BMB Wetlands Restoration Objectives:

- **Restore the Broad Meadow Brook wetland complex:** improve streamflow & native habitat value for wildlife, increase flood storage capacity & improve water quality
- **Improve climate resilience & reduce flooding issues** for neighbors.
- **Improve water quality/quantity** in upper Broad Meadow Brook. Alleviate development impairments.
- **Re-naturalize thousands of linear feet of stream channel**, improving habitat, fish & wildlife connectivity, floodplain function, and ‘dynamic’ stream system.
- **Enhance the Sanctuary visitor experience** with improved trails & wildlife viewing opportunities.
- **Inspire stewardship** and future restoration projects through education & outreach activities.



Start of the Brook

Storm drains
2 square miles
Urbanized landscape





Midrea

- Public Trail
- Sanitary Sewer
- (separate) Stormwater System



Water leveler, aka 'beaver deceiver'



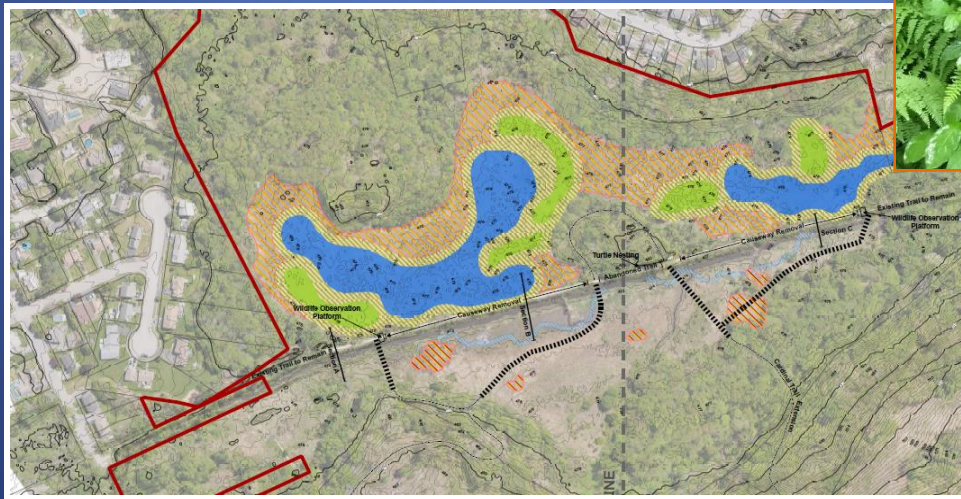




Southern Section

- Channel culverted
- 500 feet
- Secondary forest cover

- Current work: survey, hydrology & hydraulic modeling, community engagement



Stream after
July 2021
hurricane

Back to Deb to talk about Worcester Green Plan initiatives

Worcester's Green Initiatives Mass Audubon supports:

Declaration of Climate Emergency adopted by Worcester City Council in Sept 2019- *a step in the right direction but more to do- Doherty High – Net Zero plus, Solar Farm on Greenwood St Landfill, etc.*

Green Worcester Plan- Adopted by City Council Spring 2021 *now time to implement!*
Support the new Dept. of Sustainability and Resiliency

Important Goals:

**Worcester will be powered by 100% clean and affordable energy- by 2030 all municipal facilities, by 2035:100%renewable electricity citywide, by 2045: 100% renewable energy that includes heating and transportation*

**Maintain, improve , connect and expand quality natural systems in a linked network of parks, open spaces, and waterways, including street trees and public spaces*

**Resident and visitors will have numerous sustainable transportation and mobility choices*

**water and related infrastructure systems will be managed as one system to enhance sustainability and resilience*

Community Preservation Act – *provides matching funds from the state to cities and towns for historic preservation projects, affordable housing, and open space and park projects- growing support to get on the ballot for citizens to vote*

Support Worcester's New Transportation Department-
More than cars- bike lanes, walkable and safe streets for pedestrians, increased public transit services

Fare Free Bus Service with the Worcester Regional Transit Authority- WRTA
Advisory Board just voted to extend FARE FREE through June 30 2023.
ZERO FARE COALITION is active in Worcester with support from the Worcester Area Chamber of Commerce, the Worcester Municipal Research Bureau, Senator Chandler and many more- Let's Get everyone on the Bus!!!! Try Transit!!!

Worcester Tree Initiative with Tower Hill- *continued effort to influence and support expanded tree planting and stronger regulatory requirements for tree replacement associated with new development*

Support Urban Forestry Master Plan Completion and Implementation and active and forceful Worcester Tree Commission

Re-Open and support the Blackstone (Visitor) Center near Rt !46 – *soon to be under team management with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the City and the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Inc. ??? (Donna Williams, can you update us?)*

Complete and Keep Updated City's Open Space and Recreation Plan in order to maintain eligibility for state and federal funding for park improvements, open space acquisitions and recreation projects. For Example:

***Coal Mine Brook Park Development-** a new park now under construction on land between Plantation Street and North Lake Ave

***New idea: Extending the Blackstone Gateway Park and Boardwalk to include the Riley Stoker Property-** *a new project promoted by the Greater Worcester Land Trust*



This parking area could provide access to the boardwalks
Both current and expanded, plus the former building
could become need municipal recreational fields- stay
tuned!! 😊

WORCESTER IS FULL OF PARKS, PONDS AND PLACES TO ENJOY!!!!!!

And it is thanks to local collaborations and partnerships with neighborhood groups and city officials, conservation groups, state support, Worcester is blessed with natural resources to celebrate and steward.

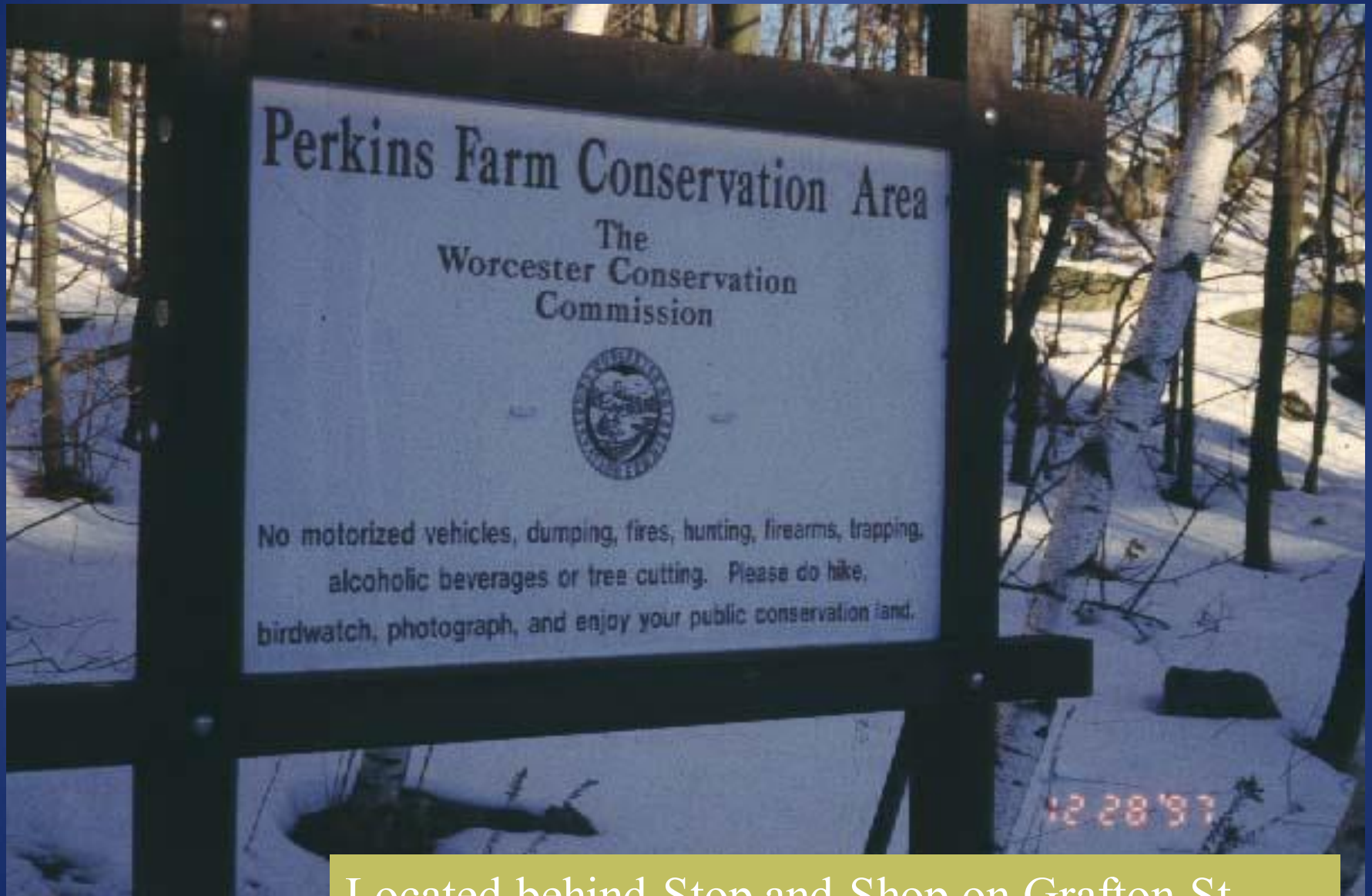


But we need to take better care of them! Fund the Park System!!!



God's Acre- one of the first conservation areas up by the airport





Located behind Stop and Shop on Grafton St



Vernal Pools- An early spring
Discovery...



Crow Hill Conservation Area – new trail head with parking across from EcoTarium.



ELM PARK





Bancroft Tower at Salisbury Park



CASCADES PARK
WORCESTER MA







Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Worcester, MA



GREEN HILL



ay. The farm is open year round and is located

Jump To... ▾





LAKE QUINSIGAMOND



Regatta Point Community Boating



COES POND BEACH



**NEW PLAYGROUND AT COES POND
AND NEW HOME FOR
HISTORIC STEARNS TAVERN- *SOON TO OPEN AS
CAFÉ AND COMMUNITY CENTER***



Indian Lake

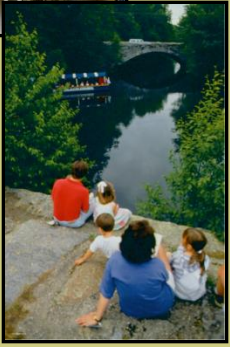
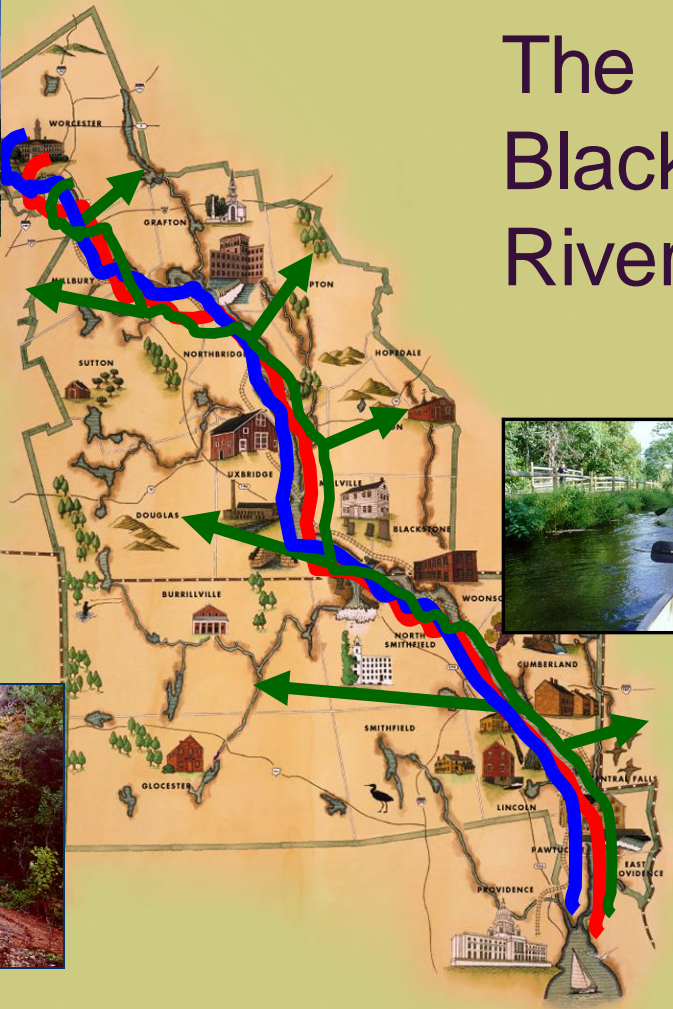


The Blackstone Riverway

Blueway

Bikeway

Greenway

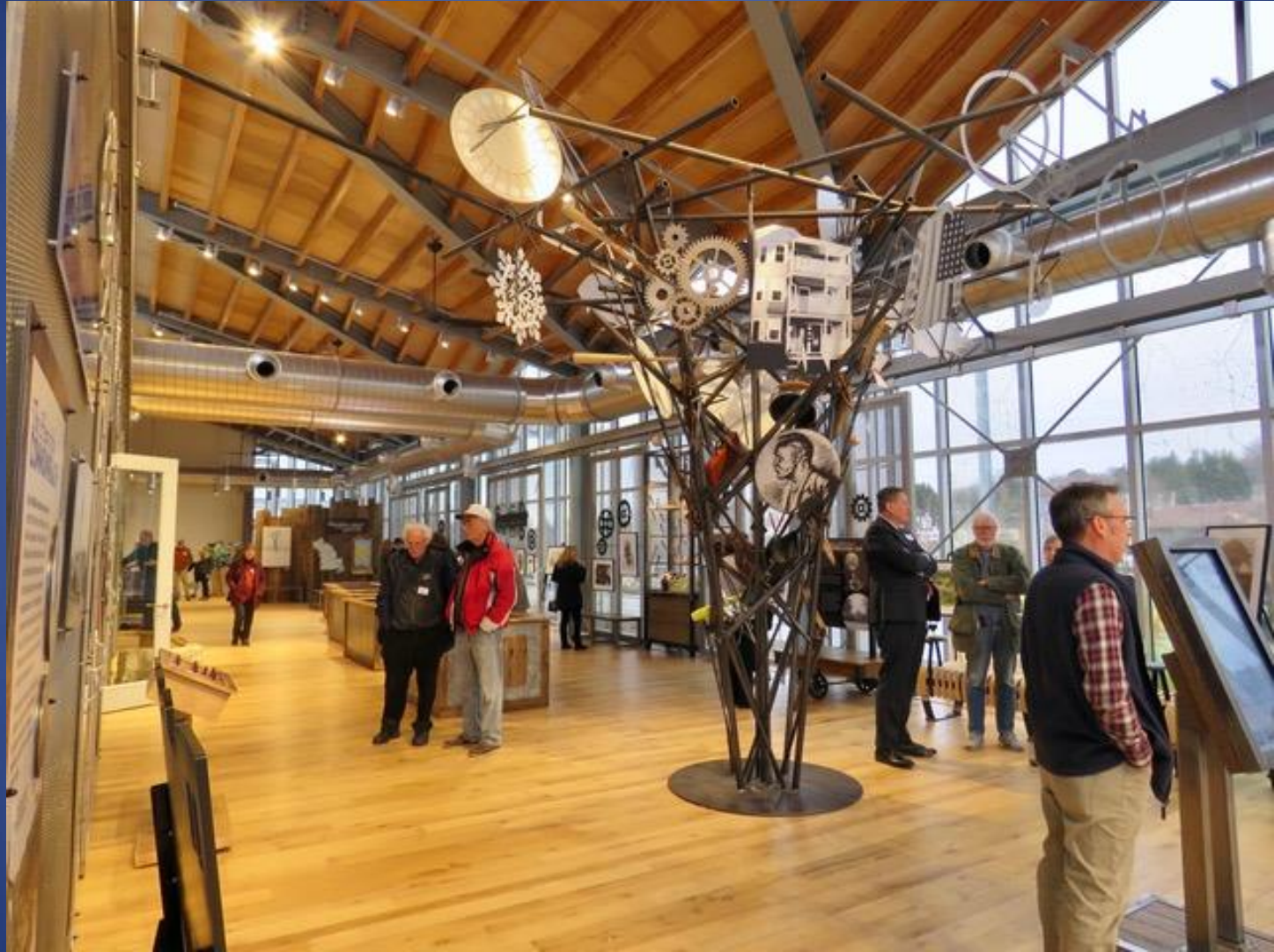


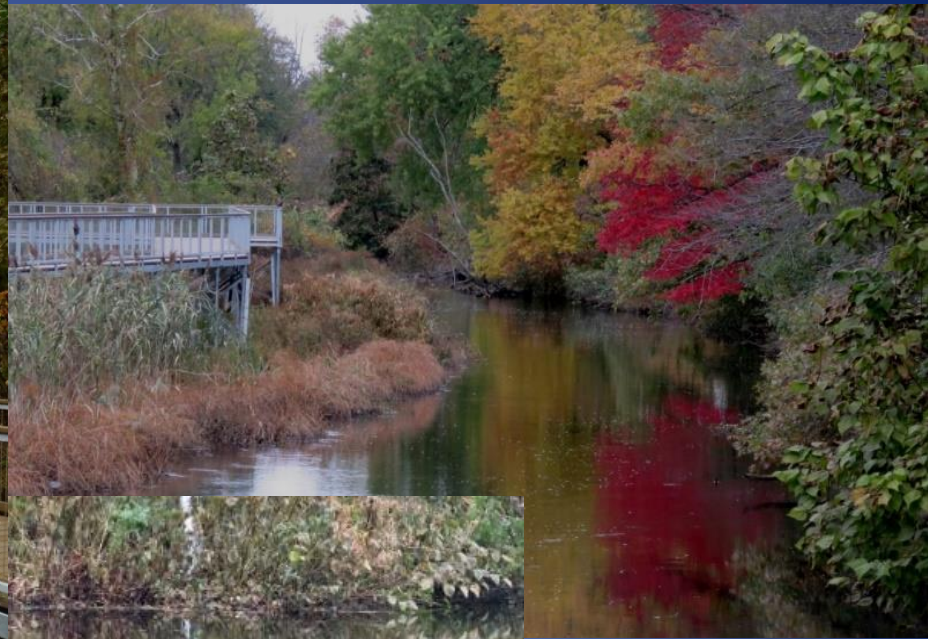


Opening of the New Blackstone River Heritage Corridor Visitor Center in Worcester

October 2018







City of Worcester's New Blackstone River Gateway Park

*(located off McKeon Rd- entrances are
across from Holy Cross
Playing Fields and at intersection of
Blackstone River Rd
and near new Blackstone River Heritage
Corridor Visitor Center)*





The Making of Worcester PASSIONATE PEOPLE

Throughout its history, Worcester has been the home of many passionate people and the movements they championed. Worcester's position as a center for education, innovation, and diversity made it an incubator for some of the biggest reforms in our nation's history.



Paulina Kellogg Wright Davis, c. 1850. Davis presided over the 1850 National Women's Rights Convention. In her opening address, she called for "the emancipation of half the world."

Women's rights

On October 23 and 24, 1850, over one thousand women and men gathered at Brinley Hall in Worcester for the first National Women's Rights Convention in the United States. Here, the objective of the women's rights movement was laid out: "to secure for [woman] political, legal, and social equality with man."

Abolitionism

By the 1850s, a few vocal residents of Worcester recognized that its many industries were complicit in, and even reliant on, the practice of human slavery on plantations in the southern states. In 1853 and 1854, Worcester City Hall hosted lectures from anti-slavery activists. At one of these lectures, Worcester's Abby Kelley Foster joined Frederick Douglass at the podium.



Frederick Douglass, c. 1852. A headliner, Douglass actively advocated for abolition and women's rights.



Abby Kelley Foster, c. 1870. A Worcester native, Foster was active in the suffrage and abolitionist movements of the mid-1800s.



Frederick Weston, born in Worcester in 1850, was the first Socialist U.S. labor organizer. He was instrumental in organizing the first labor union in Worcester, the Worcester Textile Workers' Union, and was instrumental in organizing the 1904 strike.

Workers' rights

Worcester factory and mill workers mostly stayed out of the workers' rights movement until 1915, when wartime profits made wealthy factory owners even wealthier. That year, workers at some of Worcester's biggest factories went on strike, demanding higher wages and an 8-hour workday.



Evelyn Silver and Dennis Ducsik
Regional Environmental Council
(Celebrating 50th Anniversary this year)

Onwards and Upwards!





Thanks for all you involved with
the Green City plan are doing for
Worcester *(and please come visit Broad Meadow Brook!!)*

Worcester's Green ElectriCITY program's new supply contract takes effect in December

What's new?



Lower prices than National Grid's record-high winter prices



More renewable electricity



GREEN WORCESTER
ELECTRICITY



Learn more at GreenWorcesterElectricity.com or call 833-926-1207.



cityofworcester • Follow



cityofworcester Energy prices are surging. Starting in December, residents and businesses participating in the Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation Program will notice some changes to their bills. Program prices are rising to market levels, but all program participants will still have lower rates than National Grid's record-high winter prices all while receiving more of their electricity from renewable sources.

Go to the Green Worcester Electricity link in our bio or call 833-926-1207 to learn more.

#greenworcester

1w



icepro30 Ngrid going to .34 per kwh....wtf

6d Reply



biscegliatina @angelstouchbylisa

6d 1 like Reply



jasminejinaortiz.author 🙄🙄🙄

6d Reply



monahanerin This is so sad how do they expect us to survive with everything on the rise... the world we live in is scary & nobody cares about us poor/middle class people...

6d 1 like Reply



— View replies (3)



locallynn @ladyhunter_of_housedell @wnemeroff 🙄

1w Reply



156 likes

7 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...

Post

NATIONAL GRID

ENERGY SAVINGS EVENT

Worried about paying high energy bills this winter?

Consider attending a National Grid event at the Public Library this coming Tuesday explaining options for managing your bills this winter & beyond!

Learn more at: ngrid.com/madiscount & ngrid.com/winter



national**grid**