

### EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

The continuous fence along the Arsenal site detracts from the setting and cuts the Arsenal parkland off from the reservation. Vegetation is so heavy in some sections that the river's presence is totally concealed. The old Arsenal seawall stands in contrast to the wooded banks and opens up views to the river and the North Beacon Street Bridge. Trees are starting to grow from the cracks in the seawall but pose no immediate threat to its integrity. The trees and ground next to the seawall are in poor condition. Paths seem arbitrarily laid out.

### GOALS

- Preserve the parkway in its current state.
- Integrate the Arsenal Park (see Segment 10N) with the reservation.
- Open views to the river.
- Reconfigure the area near the seawall as a special overlook.

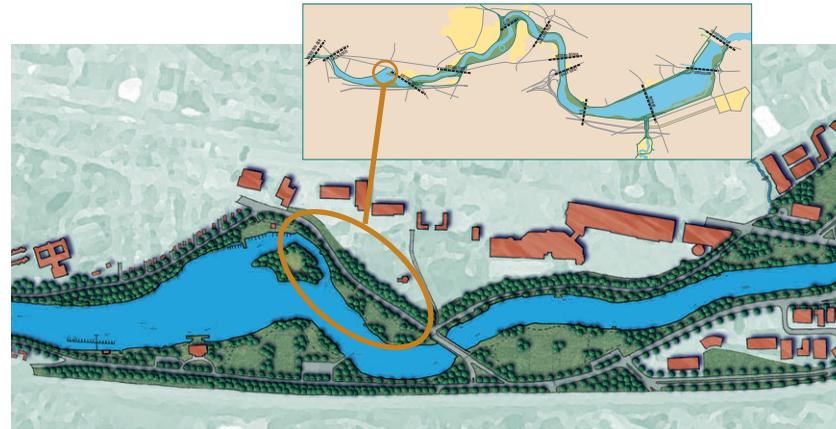
### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Remove the boundary fence along the north side of the parkway, thin the woodland slope to open views and promote better growth, and provide direct pedestrian access between Arsenal Park and the reservation.



THE ARSENAL SEAWALL ALONG THE WESTERN STRETCH OF GREENOUGH BOULEVARD.

- Establish a reconfigured overlook at the seawall with interpretive elements relating to the Arsenal. Maintain the seawall and remove trees and shrubs growing from cracks.
- Broaden the field at the eastern end of Greenough Boulevard and re-shape the paths and plantings to create a park within the reservation.



## SQUIBNOCKET PARK (10N)

*North Beacon Street between North Beacon Street Bridge and Watertown Yacht Club*

### KEY RESOURCES

- Sunrise Island
- North Beacon Street (1902)
- North Beacon Street Bridge (1917)
- Watertown Yacht Club (1942)

### INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

Densely wooded ridges frame this part of the Charles River Basin. Squibnocket Park includes a three-and-one-half-acre field on a filled terrace and two and one-half acres of woodland along the shore. The honey locusts scattered throughout the field create a lovely pastoral setting. This



open ground fills up on warm weekends with sunbathers, picnickers, and strollers. The wooded Sunrise Island forms one side of a narrow channel that provides the only access to the Watertown Yacht Club.

Squibnocket Park and half of the Watertown Yacht Club site were once a part of the Watertown Arsenal and used for military purposes. Because of ground contamination, the Environmental Protection Agency has designated this a Superfund site. The U.S. Army recently finished remediation of contaminated soil at the Arsenal site just

north of Squibnocket Park. This site is being redeveloped for commercial uses and the seven-acre, public Arsenal Park, which will include adapting the former Arsenal Commandant's House for a museum and community center. Remediation of contaminated soil at Squibnocket Park is underway with the guidance of an MDC conceptual park design.

sight lines and speeding cars. Drivers had difficulty making a left turn from Greenough Boulevard at certain times of day. North Beacon Street's recent narrowing through restriping has helped to calm traffic.

Park users approaching Squibnocket Park from upriver and local neighborhoods must get around the Watertown Yacht Club, which takes up hundreds of feet of shore. A hidden pathway follows the wooded shore and side channel formed by Sunrise Island and retreats back to the road at the Watertown Yacht Club fence.

North Beacon Street and a historic Arsenal fence cut Squibnocket Park off from the redeveloped Arsenal Park. Pedestrian activity between this new park and Squibnocket Park will increase in the next few years. There will be an increased demand for parking in the area, which will increase pedestrian crossings of North Beacon Street.

At the request of the Town of Watertown, the Massachusetts Highway Department has narrowed North Beacon Street to two lanes between Watertown Square and Charles River Road and added parking and bicycle lanes on both sides. There has been little increase in traffic along this stretch in recent years, and projected volumes—even taking into account the Arsenal development—are moderate. The calming effect on traffic of the narrowing has been noticeable.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS OF NORTH BEACON STREET ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE WITH THE REDEVELOPMENT OF ARSENAL PARK.

#### EXISTING CONDITIONS AND ISSUES

Canada geese, attracted by the mowed turf, have become an increasing nuisance in recent years. Only 200 to 300 feet of the 1,700 linear feet of shoreline along Squibnocket Park are open to the river. Dense trees and a low herbaceous border block views upriver. Several factors isolate Squibnocket Park from the rest of the reservation and nearby neighborhoods.

The excessive, 60-foot width of North Beacon Street and the absence of curb cuts along it once encouraged speeding. Cars entered the residential neighborhood at high speeds, causing numerous accidents. Pedestrians had difficulty crossing North Beacon Street at the bridge because of poor

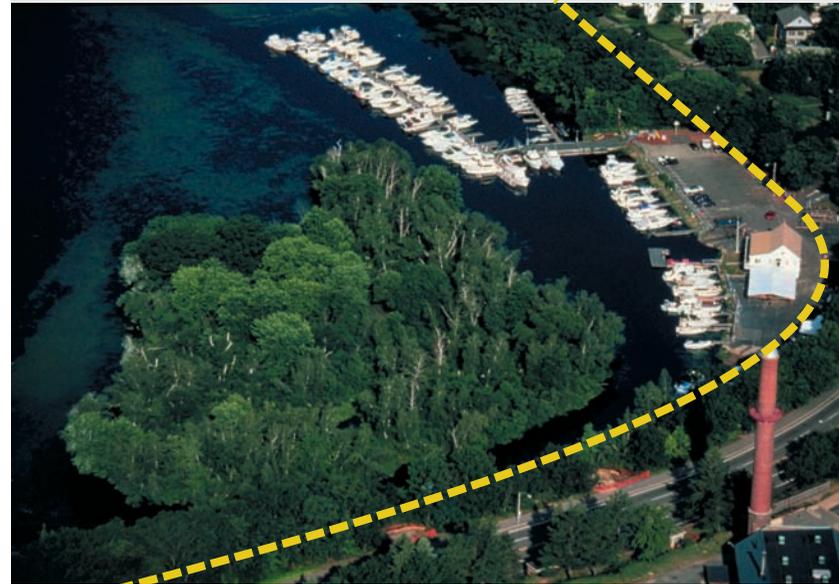


## GOALS

- **Improve Squibnocket Park and North Beacon Street to provide greater access to the reservation for neighborhood residents and regional users.**
- **Make Squibnocket Park a model for achieving environmental health and balancing park use with natural resource protection.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to improve the environmental condition and the value of Squibnocket Park as a passive recreation area.**
- **Support the Army Corps of Engineers' plans to mitigate contaminated sediments in the river.** If dredging is required, insure that sufficient water depth is achieved to maintain boat access to the Watertown and Newton Yacht Clubs. In the event that dredging is not feasible and the yacht club sites become inaccessible to vessels, restore these sites to parkland and passive use.
- **Preserve Sunrise Island as a wildlife bird sanctuary. Prevent access to this island.**
- **Restripe North Beacon Street to accommodate travel lanes, parking lanes, and bicycle lanes along either side of the parkway.**
- **Provide short right-turn lanes at the Arsenal site, Charles River Road, and Greenough Boulevard if required.** Maintain the two lanes eastbound across the North Beacon Street Bridge for cars to queue. Westbound, use one lane as a dedicated right turn lane, and, if practical, place a pedestrian island at the Greenough intersection to improve pedestrian safety.



PROPOSED PATH EXTENSION PAST THE WATERTOWN YACHT CLUB.

- **Connect Squibnocket Park and Arsenal Park with improved crosswalks at the North Beacon Street Bridge and a new pedestrian crosswalk at the midpoint of North Beacon Street** leading to a new gateway and path to Arsenal Park. Place signage at the crosswalks to protect pedestrians. If these signs are ineffective, consider full signalization of these intersections.
- **Provide an improved pathway connection between Charles River Road and Squibnocket Park through the Watertown Yacht Club.** Such an action will require phasing out on-site boat storage and reclaiming the storage and maintenance yard for a pathway extension. Coordinate this work with Army Corps site remediation plans.
- **Develop a continuous soft path set back at least twenty feet from the shore.**
- **Provide one or two small wooden landings along the shore for canoes and kayaks.**