



Boardwalks at Cutler Park provide visitors access to the marshes of the Charles River. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

## SECTION 3. CUTLER PARK RESERVATION

### 3.1. INTRODUCTION

Cutler Park Reservation (Cutler Park) is located along the Charles River in the towns of Needham and Dedham (Figure 3.1.1), approximately five miles northwest of the Blue Hills Reservation. It is largely situated within the river's floodplain, and subject to periodic inundation. Open water and wetlands dominate the landscape; forested uplands are less common.

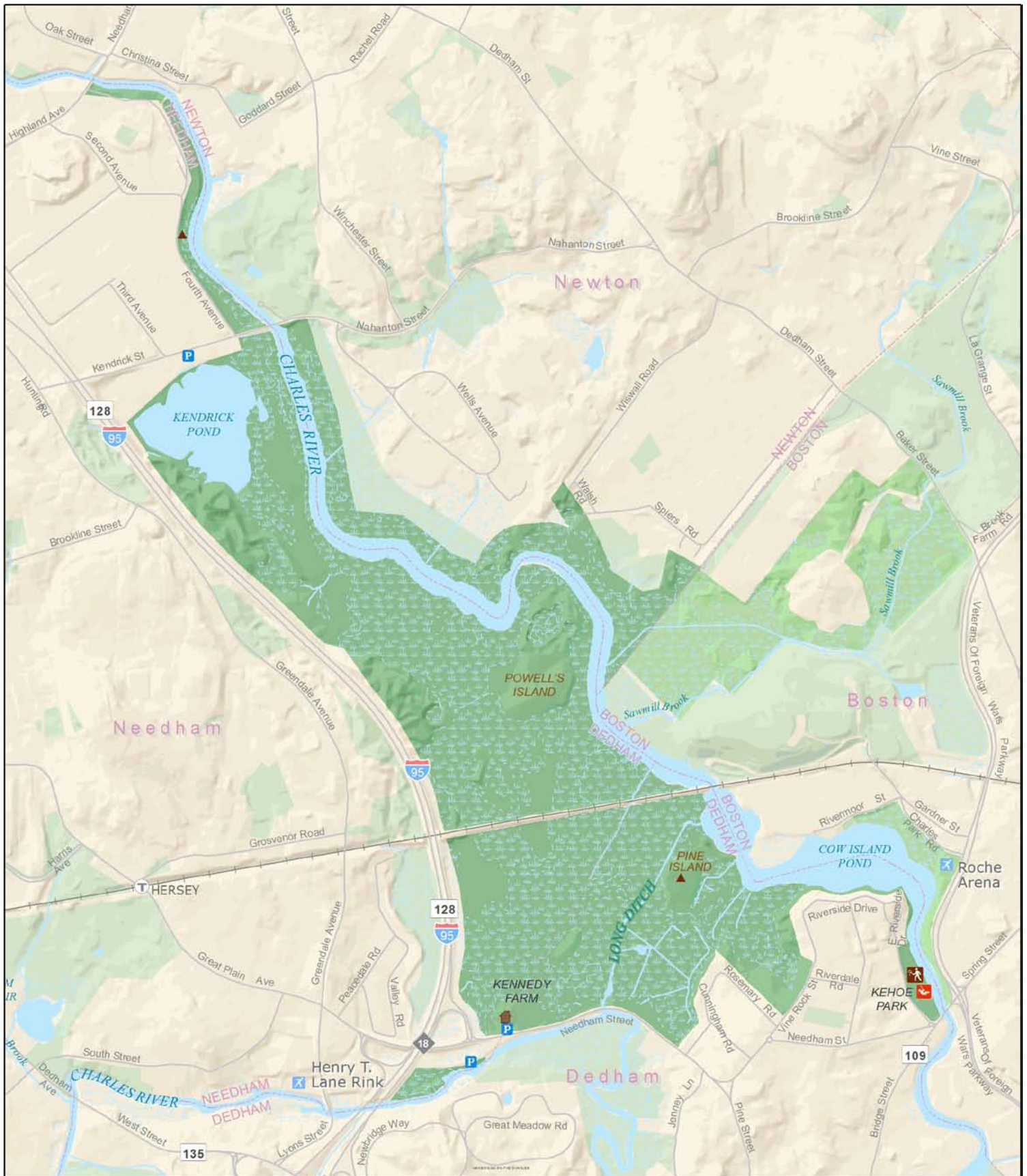
Cutler Park and associated properties were acquired as part of the Metropolitan District Commission's (MDC's) efforts to expand the Charles River Reservation in order to offset the loss of parklands at Blue Hills Reservation caused by the construction of Route 128 (MDC 1958). The low level of shoreline development combined with an extensive freshwater marsh (i.e., the Broad Meadow) helped focus protection efforts on Needham. Much of the adjacent uplands once belonged to the cities of Newton and Brookline, which had operated water works on the site. This land use minimized the amount of other development on these properties; making them appropriate for inclusion in the MDC's park system. Land acquisition, which involved a series of eminent domain takings, primarily occurred in the late 1950s;

associated legal actions continued through the mid-1960s.

Initial considerations for the park included the development of picnic areas, athletic fields, a swimming beach, boating facilities, viewing platforms, a day camp, administrative building, and a 27-hole golf course (Edwards, Kelcey and Beck 1956). However, emphasis soon shifted to maintaining "much of this area in a comparatively natural state and to encourage the wild life which presently exists there" (MDC 1958).

In 1962, the portion of the Charles River Reservation "bounded by Great Plain Avenue, state highway Route 128, Kendrick Street and the Charles River" was designated Cutler Park in honor of Leslie B. Cutler. Mrs. Cutler, a Needham resident, served in local government, was a Representative to the Massachusetts General Court from 1938–1948, and was the first woman elected to the Massachusetts Senate (Crumbaker 1992). In 1974 the Metropolitan District Commission formally voted to rename the property Cutler Park Reservation.





<span style="color: green;">■</span> Cutler Park	<span style="color: red;">⚡</span> Playground
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Blue Hills Complex Land	<span style="color: blue;">P</span> Public Parking
<span style="color: lightgreen;">■</span> Other DCR Land	<span style="color: brown;">▲</span> Pumphouse
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> Other Protected Open Space	
<span style="color: green;">▨</span> DCR Legal Interest	
<span style="color: red;">⚡</span> Athletic Court	
<span style="color: blue;">❄</span> Ice Rink	

### Cutler Park

Figure 3.1.1

1,000 Feet

Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS. 2016

LOCUS

Today, Cutler Park is best known for trail-based recreation including hiking, mountain biking, and nature study. Its trails system is part of a multi-town, multi-property trail network; the Blue Heron Trail.

The park's physical, political, and regulatory attributes are summarized in Table 3.1.1.

**Table 3.1.1. Physical, political, and regulatory settings of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Setting	Name or Metric
<b>Location:</b>	Dedham, Needham, and Newton
<b>Area (acres)<sup>a</sup>:</b>	771.98
<b>Perimeter (miles)<sup>a</sup>:</b>	16.20
<b>Landscape Designation(s)<sup>b</sup>:</b>	Parkland
<b>Legislative Districts:</b>	
House	12 <sup>th</sup> Middlesex 11 <sup>th</sup> Norfolk 13 <sup>th</sup> Norfolk
Senate	First Middlesex & Norfolk Norfolk, Bristol & Middlesex Norfolk and Suffolk

**Regulatory Designations:** Priority Habitat

- Calculated using a Geographic Information System (GIS).
- For a summary of DCR's landscape designations, see <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dcr/ld/ld-factsheet-final.pdf>.

**Associated Properties.** Four associated properties are included in this section, they are:

- **Charles River Reservation - Highland Avenue.** This 19.46 acre parcel is located in Needham along the west bank of the Charles River, between Highland and Kendrick avenues. For much of its length, this parcel is bordered by 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and serves as a buffer between industrial development and the Charles River. This property was part of the original Newton Water Works.
- **Charles River Reservation - Great Plain Avenue.** This 4.97 acre parcel is located in Needham between Great Plain Avenue and the Charles River; immediately south of Kennedy Farm. It is in the process of being transferred from MassDOT to the DCR. For this reason, this parcel is included in this Section.
- **Charles River Reservation - Newton.** This 88.99 acre parcel is located along the east bank of the Charles River, between Nahanton Street,

Newton and DCR's Brook Farm Historic Site. It was part of the initial park acquisitions in 1958. Although often considered part of Cutler Park, it was not included in the 1962 designation.

- **The Honorable Marie-Louise Kehoe Park. (Kehoe Park)** This 6.14 acre park, formerly called Riverdale Park, is located along the west bank of the Charles River, to the east of Riverside Drive, Dedham. It lies just upstream of Cutler Park. Riverdale Park was acquired by the MDC in 1931. In 2009 it was renamed in honor of Marie-Louise Kehoe who served on the Dedham Board of Selectmen for 40 years and was a Representative to the Massachusetts General Court from 1983–1995. (Chapter 499 of the Acts of 2008)

## 3.2. NATURAL RESOURCES

### Physical Features

Within Cutler Park, the Charles River lies in a relatively flat flood plain, through which the river flows from the southeast to northwest. The river and associated marsh have elevations of 86 feet above sea level. Elevations increase to both the west and east, with the highest elevations (approximately 150–160 feet) associated with a series of hills bordering Route 128. Cutler's two islands, Powell's and Pine, reach elevations of 98 and 108 feet, respectively.

Elevations in the Charles River Reservation are largely at, or near, the elevation of the river (i.e., 86 feet). In the Highland Avenue parcel, elevations reach 102 feet as you move westward away from the river. The Newton portion of the Reservation is largely marsh and forested wetlands; a few areas of high ground reach approximately 108 feet. Along the portion of the Reservation south of Great Plain Avenue, elevations range from 86 feet at the river to approximately 92 feet along the adjacent roadway.

Kehoe Park ranges in elevation from approximately 86 to 98 feet.

### Water Resources

The most notable aspect of Cutler Park is its water resources; the Charles River, Kendrick Pond, and associated wetlands. These and other water resources are summarized in Table 3.2.1.



**Table 3.2.1. Water resources of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Water Resource	Name or Metric
<b>Watershed:</b>	Charles
<b>Aquifer:</b>	
Medium Yield (acres)	248.98
High Yield (acres)	409.44
<b>Rivers and Streams (miles)</b>	5.15
<b>Vernal Pools</b>	
Certified (#)	4
Potential (#)	8
<b>Wetlands (acres)</b>	463.96
<b>Lakes and Ponds (acres)<sup>a</sup></b>	45.83

a. This category also includes open areas of major rivers, as identified in MassDEP Wetlands (1:12,000; MassGIS 2009).



View across Kendrick Pond toward Nonantum Hill in Newton. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

The segment of the Charles River between Chestnut Street, Needham and the Watertown Dam has impaired water quality (DEP 2013). Cutler Park and associated portions of the Charles River Reservation are located in this segment. Sources of impairment include:

- non-native aquatic plants
- alterations to the flow regime
- DDT
- *E. coli*
- Eurasian water milfoil
- fisheries bioassessments
- nutrient/eutrophication
- biological indicators
- PCB in fish tissues
- total phosphorous

It is unknown which of these occur in the park.

Due to the presence of PCBs and pesticides, a public health fish consumption advisory has been issued for the portion of the Charles River between the South Natick Dam and the Museum of Science Dam (HHS 2015). This includes Cutler Park, associated portions of the Charles River Reservation, and Kehoe Park. There are no signs in these parks cautioning against the consumption of fish caught in the Charles.

Portions of the middle and upper Charles River watershed have been protected for flood control purposes. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), through acquisition in fee or easements, has protected 17 natural valley storage areas totaling 8,101 acres. Wetlands in these areas function as a natural flood control system, storing storm water and delaying its release downriver (Doyle 1988). Cutler Park is one of these areas. Portions of Franklin State Forest (Section 8) are also included in the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area.

Given its ability to retain storm water, it is not surprising that much of Cutler Park is subject to flooding. (Table 3.2.2) Due to its distance from the coast, and the presence of dams down river, it is not subject to hurricane related storm surge.

**Table 3.2.2. Potential impacts of flooding to Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Type of Impact	Acres	%
<b>Flooding:</b>		
100-year Storm	635.72	82.35
500-year Storm <sup>a</sup>	682.35	88.39

a. Cumulative value; includes 100-year storm impacts.

b. Cumulative value; includes impacts of all lower category storms.

Most of Cutler Park is within the area predicted to be impacted by a 100-year flood; the entire boardwalk system is within this zone. The Kendrick Street parking lot is not predicted to be affected by either a 100 or 500-year flood. The Needham Street parking lot is predicted to be impacted by a 500-year flood.

The only infrastructure in the Charles River Reservation predicted to be impacted by flooding is “Old Great Plain Avenue”, which will be partially inundated by a 100-year flood and entirely inundated by a 500-year flood.

Approximately half of Kehoe Park's tennis and basketball courts (i.e., those closest to the river), and the entire playground are predicted to be impacted by a 100-year flood. All of its recreation facilities are predicted to be impacted by a 500-year flood.



Predicted flooding at Kehoe Park; the 100-year flood zone is represented in blue and the 500-year zone in orange. The park's athletic courts are visible at the center of the image at the boundary of the two zones. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

## Rare Species

### State-listed Species

Four state-listed species are known from Cutler Park and its associated properties. (Table 3.2.3) They are associated with rivers, river floodplains, and freshwater wetlands.

**Table 3.2.3. State-listed species of Cutler Park**  
Reservation and associated properties, as identified by the NHESP.<sup>a,b</sup>

Species <sup>a, b</sup>	Type <sup>c</sup>	MESA <sup>d</sup>
Blue spotted salamander	A	SC
Britton's violet	P	T
Long's bulrush	P	T
Umber shadowdragon	I	SC

a. Presented alphabetically, by common name.

b. Fact sheets are available at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dfw/natural-heritage/species-information-and-conservation/mesa-list/list-of-rare-species-in-massachusetts.html>.

c. Types of state-listed species include: A = Amphibian; B = Bird; I = Insect; P = Plant; and R = Reptile.

d. Status of species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA): E = Endangered, SC = Special Concern; and T = Threatened.

## Priority Habitat

Much of Cutler Park (70.51%) has been designated Priority Habitat under MESA. Exceptions include the Kendrick Pond area, the portion of the Charles River Reservation between Highland Avenue and Kendrick Street, and Kehoe Park.

## Vegetation

A "preliminary account" of Cutler Park's plants identified 343 species; primarily from the area south of the MBTA commuter rail tracks (Salicicola 2015b). Ninety-six are characterized as non-native.

Upland forests are dominated by various mixtures of oaks (e.g., white, scarlet, black, northern red). A variety of non-native plants, including ornamental shrubs and flowers, are associated with previous forestry efforts (i.e., red and Scots pine plantations) and formerly developed areas (e.g., Kennedy Farm).

Floodplain forests are dominated by red maple, a combination of red and silver maple, and in a few locations, swamp white oak. Most wetlands are dominated by herbaceous vegetation with narrow-leaved cattail one of the most common, and dominant, species.

## Invasive Species

The plant checklist for Cutler Park (Salicicola 2015) includes 23 species considered invasive, likely invasive, or potentially invasive by MIPAG (2005). (Table 3.2.4) Ten additional species, considered invasive by Salicicola (2015b), but not listed by MIPAG, are also on the checklist.

**Table 3.2.4. Known invasive plants of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Species <sup>a</sup>	Status <sup>b</sup>
Amur corktree	I
Amur honeysuckle	P
Black swallowwort	I
Border privet	I
Common barberry	L
Common buckthorn	I
Common reed	I
Cypress spurge	L
Garlic mustard	I
Glossy buckthorn	I
Japanese barberry	I
Japanese knotweed	I
Morrow's honeysuckle	I
Multiflora rose	I
Norway maple	I
Oriental bittersweet	I
Purple loosestrife	I
Reed canarygrass	I
Rusty willow	I
Spotted knapweed	L
Tree of Heaven	I
Winged euonymus	I
Yellow iris	I

a. Presented alphabetically, by common name.

b. Plants are classified as being either Invasive (I), Likely Invasive (L), or Potentially Invasive (P) according to MIPAG (2005).

One additional species of invasive plant, not on the Salicicola checklist, has been recorded at Cutler Park. Japanese hops, a plant classified as Likely Invasive by MIPAG (2005) was identified in the park circa 2009, and removed at that time. Additional examples of this plant may still be present.

### Natural Communities

Only five natural communities, mostly Palustrine, have been identified. (Table 3.2.5)

**Table 3.2.5. Known natural communities of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Community Type <sup>a</sup>	System <sup>b</sup>	State Rank <sup>c</sup>	Source <sup>d</sup>
Alluvial red maple swamp	P	S3	1
Cultural grassland	T	N/A	1
Deep emergent marsh	P	S4	2
Level bog	P	S3	3
Shrub swamp	P	S3	2

a. Classified according to Swain and Kearsley (2011).

b. E = Estuarine, P = Palustrine, T = Terrestrial.

c. The NHESP ranks communities from most rare (S1) to the most common (S5).

d. Information contained in this table was obtained from the following sources:  
 1. RMP Planner.  
 2. DEP Wetlands (1:12,000) data layer.  
 3. Harper (2015).

The park's only identified terrestrial community type is a 1.5 acre cultural grassland associated with the former Kennedy Farm. There is no information on the park's other Terrestrial plant communities.

### Forests

Less than one-third of Cutler Park (31.82%) is covered in upland forest. These areas tend to be in the vicinity of Kendrick Pond, on the hills along the park's border with Route 128, and on Powell and Pine islands. Remnant red and Scots pine plantations occur on Pine Island and along the park's border with Vine Rock Street, Dedham. These plantations pre-date State ownership of Cutler, and are slowly being replaced by native white pine. Forested wetlands are present along some of the margins of Kendrick Pond and the Charles River. Non-forested areas include open water, marshes, and cultural grasslands.

### Wildlife

Few formal surveys have been conducted. However, Cutler Park is a birding "hotspot" and as of July 2016, 157 species have been recorded for the park (eBird 2012). An additional 71 species have been recorded at Millennium Park, which is located across the Charles River from Cutler Park. These parks, and to a lesser degree Brook Farm, provide important habitat for wintering, migratory, and breeding birds in the Metropolitan Boston area.

A survey of the fish of Kendrick Pond was conducted in 1972 (Bridges 1972). The following species were identified: largemouth bass, chain pickerel, white perch, yellow perch, bluegills, pumpkinseed sunfish, golden shiners, brown bullheads, and carp. The fish population was in “an excellent state of balance” and no management was recommended. It is unknown how closely this historic information reflects current conditions.

### 3.3. CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section describes the known and potential cultural resource areas, including pre-Contact and

post-Contact archaeological resources, and historic landscapes, buildings, structures, and objects. An overview of significant events in the history of Cutler Park is presented in Table 3.3.1. Cultural Resources are identified in Table 3.3.2.

Four archaeological resources are listed by the MHC as being in or adjacent to the Park. Because the MHC does not make information on archaeological resources available to the general public, these resources are not included in Table 3.3.2.

**Table 3.3.1. Significant events in the history of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Year(s)	Events
1931	Riverdale Park is established in Dedham along the Charles River.
1954	City of Newton connects to MDC water supply system making its water works in Needham unnecessary.
1955	The legislature authorizes that money paid for the taking of MDC lands for transportation purposes (e.g., the construction of Route 128) are to be placed into the Metropolitan Parks Trust Fund and used to purchase other lands to replace areas “taken, transferred or used.” (Chapter 693 of the Acts of 1955)
1955	The MDC is “authorized and directed to construct, improve and maintain such playgrounds, beach areas, skating rinks and other recreational facilities...as may be needed.” (Chapter 731 of the Acts of 1955)
1955	The City of Newton offers for sale all of its water works land in the Town of Needham.
1956	The Town of Needham establishes a Newton Water Lands Special Study Committee. They recommend that “the entire Charles River shorefront from Highland Avenue to the West Roxbury railroad track be kept open and in some form of public ownership, not to be built upon in any substantial way and to be accessible in perpetuity to residents...and others” (Newton Water Lands Special Study Committee 1957).
1957	The MDC is authorized and directed to “construct, enlarge and improve its recreational facilities” and may “take by eminent domain...or acquire by purchase, gift or devise, such public or private lands, water rights, easements or other interests in lands.” (Chapter 627 of the acts of 1957) This sets the stage for land acquisitions along the Charles River in Dedham, Needham, and Newton.
1958	The MDC takes by eminent domain land along the east side of the Charles River, between Nahanton Street and the Newton-Boston line, for inclusion in the Charles River Reservation. (Book 9112 Page 536)
1958	Two parcels of land “now or formerly of the City of Newton,” from Kendrick Street Needham to the Needham-Dedham line, are taken for inclusion in the Charles River Reservation. (Book 3624 Page 186; Book 3624 Page 188) The City of Newton challenges these takings; several years of litigation and negotiation follow.
1959	The Kennedy Farm in Needham and additional land in Dedham are taken by eminent domain and added to the Charles River Reservation. (Book 3711 Page 327; Book 3708 Page 309)
1961	A one-year easement is granted to the MDC to allow park access through private land along Kendrick Street.
1962	MDC “water lands...situated in the general area bounded by Great Plain Avenue, state highway Route 128, Kendrick Street and the Charles River shall be known and designated as Cutler Park.” (Chapter 347 of the Acts of 1962)
1970	Additional land in Dedham is added to the Charles River Reservation through an eminent domain taking. (Book 4671 Page 161)
1973	A permanent easement is established to allow public parking on, and park access across, private industrial land on Kendrick Street, Needham.
2008	Riverdale Park is renamed The Honorable Marie-Louise Kehoe Park. (Chapter 499 of the Acts of 2008)

Table 3.3.2. Cultural resources of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.

Location and Resource	Type <sup>a</sup>	Date <sup>s</sup>	Condition <sup>e</sup>	Integrity <sup>d</sup>	In Use <sup>e</sup>	Utilities <sup>f</sup>	MHC # <sup>g</sup>	Guidance <sup>h</sup>
<b>Newton Line Railroad</b>								
Railroad bridge	ST	ca. 1851	4	H	-	-	-	1
Railroad track	ST	ca. 1851	5	L	-	-	-	1
Sign	OB	-	-	H	-	-	-	1
<b>Newton Water Works</b>								
Highland Avenue landscape	LA	1890–1895	-	H	-	-	-	1
Pipe support	ST	1890–1896	3	H	-	-	-	1
Drain pipe	ST	1890–1896	4	H	-	-	-	1
Embankment	ST	1876	3	M	-	-	-	1
Infiltration Gallery	AR	1876	-	U	-	-	-	1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue pumping plant	BU	1890–1896	4	H	N	-	-	2
2 <sup>nd</sup> Avenue pumping plant staircase	ST	1890–1896	4	H	-	-	-	1
Distribution box - Basin 1	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Distribution box - Basin 2	ST	1890–1896	6	M	-	-	-	1
Well 2	AR	1890–1896	-	M	-	-	-	3
Bowl 1	ST	1890–1896	3	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 1 - Dam and spillway structure	ST	1890–1896	5	H	-	-	-	1
Bowl 1 – Spillway outlet	ST	1890–1896	5	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 2	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 2 - Dam	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 2 - Spillway outlet	ST	1890–1896	5	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 2 & 3 cascading pipe	ST	1890–1896	3	H	-	-	-	1
Bowl 3	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Bowl 3 - Spillway pipe	ST	1890–1896	3	H	-	-	-	1
Bowl 3 - Dam	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Discharge valve	ST	1890–1896	5	M	-	-	-	1
Line valve	ST	1890–1896	5	M	-	-	-	1
Cranberry bog bowl	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Cranberry bog bowl - Dam structure	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
Supply Well 1	ST	1890–1896	6	M	-	-	-	1
Supply Well 1 - Pump house	ST	1890–1896	6	L	N	-	-	1
Kendrick Pond pumping plant	ST	1890–1896	6	L	-	-	-	1
Kendrick Pond pumping plant - electrical pole	ST	1890–1896	4	M	-	-	-	1
River intake crib	ST	1890–1896	4	H	-	-	-	1
Access roads	ST	1890–1896	4	H	-	-	-	1
<b>Brookline Water Works</b>								
Brookline Water Works landscape	LA	1891	-	H	-	-	-	1
Pump house	BU	ca. 1910	5	M	N	-	-	2
Tubular wells	AR	1891	-	H	-	-	-	3
Access chamber	ST	1891	3	H	-	-	-	1
Access roads	ST	1891	3	H	-	-	-	1
Dam	ST	1891	3	H	-	-	-	1
<b>Samuel Mills Settlement Area</b>								
Cellar hole	AR	1844	-	L	-	-	-	3
Foundation	AR	1844	-	L	-	-	-	3
<b>C. H. Hardy Residence</b>	AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	3



Location and Resource	Type <sup>a</sup>	Date <sup>s</sup>	Condition <sup>c</sup>	Integrity <sup>d</sup>	In Use <sup>e</sup>	Utilities <sup>f</sup>	MHC # <sup>g</sup>	Guidance <sup>h</sup>
<b>Kennedy Farm</b>								
Kennedy Farm landscape	LA	-	-	H	-	-	-	1, 4
Farmhouse	BU	-	4	H	N	-	-	3
Barn foundation	ST	-	5	L	-	-	-	1
Well	AR	-	-	M	-	-	-	3
<b>Long Ditch</b>								
Main ditch	LA	1653	-	H	-	-	-	1
Tributary ditches	LA	1653	-	H	-	-	-	1
<b>The Causeway</b>	ST	1701	-	L	-	-	-	1

- a. Resource types include the following: AR = Archaeological; BU = Building; CM = Cemetery; LA = Landscape; LHD = Local Historic District; NRHD = National Register Historic District; OB = Object; and ST = Structure.
- b. Date of construction provided, when known.
- c. Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes as used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.
- d. Integrity is a relative assessment of the condition of a resource's retention of its historic character-defining features; H = High; L = Low; M = Medium; and U = Unknown.
- e. Use categories include N = No, building is not in use; S = Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, building is in use year-round.
- f. The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric; H = Heat; I = Internet; S = Septic system; T = Telephone; W = Water; and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.
- g. Massachusetts Historical Commission inventory number; does not include Historic Archaeological numbers.
- h. The following guidance is offered for the ongoing maintenance of these cultural resources:
1. Refer to Historic Landscapes - Built Features BMP (DCR n.d.d).
  2. Refer to Mothballing Historic Buildings BMP (DCR n.d. h).
  3. Refer to Archaeological Features BMP (DCR n.d.g).
  4. Refer to Vegetation in Historic Landscapes BMP (DCR n.d.e).

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Good information is available on the archaeology of Cutler Park. The ACOE conducted two systematic archaeological surveys (MHC Reports #25-1964 and #25-2070) as part of the Historic Properties Management Plan for the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Project. These reports provide an overview, land-use guide, and action plan within and adjacent to ACOE properties. Five pre-Contact sites were located within Cutler Park adjacent to the Charles River. Nearby tributaries, wetlands, and ponds in this Reservation provided ecosystems that would have attracted people to this place for thousands of years, and Cutler Park has a high archaeological potential for additional pre-Contact sites. Any proposed below ground impacts must be reviewed by the DCR Archaeologist.

One historical archaeological site, the C.H. Hardy Residence, is recorded for Cutler Park. This site has not been researched. It is described as a single

family dwelling house dating to the Colonial Period and used through to the Late Industrial Period.

## HISTORIC RESOURCES

Much of the acreage in Cutler Park is subject to flooding, which limited initial development to high ground (i.e., uplands on the west side of the Charles River). In the late 1800s, areas subject to flooding were developed as part of two municipal water works. The park's historic resources reflect both patterns of development.

### Historic Landscapes

**Newton Water Works.** In 1876 the Massachusetts legislature authorized the City of Newton to "take and hold, by purchase or otherwise, any lands within the Town of Needham, not more than one thousand yards distant from the Charles River, and lying between Kendrick's Bridge...and the new bridge near Newton Upper Falls" (Chapter 54 of the Acts of 1876). The City established its first water works in Needham between Highland Avenue and Kendrick

Street. This area includes what is now the Highland Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation. Chapter 302 of the Acts of 1889 expanded the City's authority to "any lands within the Town of Needham," and in 1889 the City acquired approximately 640 acres of land in Needham, between Kendrick Street and Great Plain Avenue; this area constitutes most of Cutler Park.



Newton Water Works 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue pumping house. This building had been mothballed, but has since been vandalized. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

The Newton Water Works used a bank infiltration system that used gravity to distribute, and sand banks to filter, potable water. In the 1890s the water works became more extensive and more industrialized to include pump houses, electric pumps, wells, and concrete dams. In 1954 the City connected to the MDC (now MWRA) water supply and abandoned this site. Pipes, pipe supports, remnants of pump stations, access roads, filtration beds, cisterns, and holding reservoirs may be viewed in the Kendrick Pond area and pipes, pipe supports, and a pump station may also be viewed in the Highland Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation. This landscape and its contributing elements retain much of their historic integrity. Additional information on the Brookline and Newton Water Works is available at the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum in Chestnut Hill.



Remnants of the Newton Water Works are common at Cutler Park.. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**Brookline Water Works.** The City of Brookline also had water works in the park. These facilities were far less extensive than the City of Newton's, being limited to Powell's Island in Needham and Pine Island and adjacent lands in Dedham. Brookline's activities began in Dedham with a simple bank filtration system and, over time, expanded across the river to Powell's Island in order to meet growing demand. Brookline Water Works introduced a Driven Well System in which dozens of tubular wells, some up to 100 feet long, were installed throughout the wetlands in a branch like fashion. The most extensive resources are on Pine Island and include remains of a concrete-walled building heavily covered in graffiti, numerous small-diameter steel pipes protruding a foot or two above the ground, and a large brick structure. Much of the site's historic integrity has been lost. Additional information on the Brookline and Newton Water Works is available at the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum in Chestnut Hill.





Brookline Water Works pump house. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**Kennedy Farm.** No information regarding the history of this farm was identified during the preparation of this RMP. Existing resources include a spring house, stone and mortar lined well, several small concrete foundations and slabs, a field stone and mortar chimney, and a fieldstone and mortar capped concrete retaining wall or foundation. The significance of these resources has not been assessed.



The Kennedy Farm spring house. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**Samuel Mills' Settlement Area.** As Dedham grew it expanded westward, into what is now Needham. Among the first settlers west of the Charles River was Samuel Mills (ca. 1619–1694). Following his acceptance as a Townsman of Dedham in 1645, Samuel Mills petitioned for, and was granted, land (Crumbaker 1992) in what is now Cutler Park. He acquired additional properties during his lifetime. In 1678 Samuel Mills and his son, Benjamin, Mills Sr., built a house and small barn, and dug a well on a

knoll on the western edge of Broad Meadow; it was located between today's commuter rail tracks and Kendrick Pond. Additional settlers arrived in the area in the 1670s and 1680s. A history of settlement is provided in Crumbaker (1992). The Mills' homestead site has been identified and cellar holes and barn foundations of later settlers are still visible in the park (Crumbaker 1992).

### Buildings

There are no historic buildings that are not associated with historic landscapes.

### Structures

There are two historic structures, Long Ditch and The Causeway; both are located in Dedham.

**Long Ditch.** The section of Dedham now called Riverdale, and formerly called Dedham Island, was once a neck of land nearly surrounded by a five mile long stretch of the Charles River. It was the construction of Long Ditch, an approximately 3.200 foot long man-made channel, that converted the neck into an island. In 1652, permission "was granted to cut a creek or ditch through the "Broad Meadows" from river to river" (Hurd 1884). Surveying and construction soon followed. The purpose of this ditch was to drain floodwaters downstream rather than allowing them to accumulate in the meadow that was being used for grazing cattle. Over time, additional drainage ditches were cut into the marsh and the ditch itself has been dredged and widened. Long Ditch, like Mother Brook which is also in Dedham, represents the beginning of centuries of modifying the flow of the Charles River.



View of Long Ditch, looking north from Needham Street, Dedham. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

**The Causeway.** In the early 1600s, settlers in Dedham would farm the “Great Playne” in what is now Needham (Crumbaker 1992). Planters travelled over “a muddy cart path cut through the tall grass and reeds of the Broad Meadows” (Crumbaker 1992). In 1701, a causeway was constructed along this path, over “the channel of “Long Ditch” where it leaves the river” (Hurd 1884). The portion of Great Plain Avenue east of Route 128 is believed to follow the path of the causeway. A portion of this path may be located in the Great Plain Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation. Given the construction and reconstruction of Needham Street, Great Plain Avenue, and Route 128, its historic integrity is believed to be low.

### Objects

A short segment of railroad is buried in the ground immediately south of the Kendrick Street parking lot. These rails were associated with Weyerhaeuser and Polaroid facilities formerly located at 60 and 140 Kendrick Street, respectively. All other historic objects are associated with the parks’ historic landscapes.

### **3.4. RECREATION RESOURCES**

Cutler Park has little recreation infrastructure; recreational activities in the park are either trail-based or water based. This level of development is appropriate given the park’s role as a flood control storage basin for the Charles River. The Highland Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation also has minimal recreation development (i.e., a picnic area). In contrast, Kehoe Park has formal recreation facilities. The following recreation activities take place in Cutler Park and its associated properties:

- Basketball (four half-courts; Kehoe Park only)
- Bicycling, mountain
- Boating, non-motorized
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Dog walking, on leash
- Fishing
- Geocaching (5 caches as of July 2016)
- Hiking
- Nature study/Photography
- Picnicking (Charles River Reservation, Highland Avenue parcel and Kehoe Park only)

- Playground activities (swings and climbing structure; Kehoe Park only)
- Running/jogging
- Tennis (Kehoe Park only)



Kehoe Park athletic courts; the Charles River lies just beyond the row of trees beyond the courts. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

Water-based recreation includes the use of car-top boats, including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards. There are several car-top boat launches in and around Cutler. Canoes may be launched from the Great Plain Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation and at Kehoe Park. Launch facilities are also available at the City of Newton’s Nahanton Park; the Town of Dedham’s Needham Street Launch near Long Ditch; and at the City of Boston’s Millennium Park. These locations may also be used for fishing access.

In addition to recreational dog walking, there is also a high level of commercial dog walking. Multiple companies, each with several dogs, may use the park at the same time.

The Kendrick Street parking lot is used as a starting location for road-based bicycling outside the park. The Charles River Wheelman, a non-profit organization of Boston-area recreational cyclists, schedules “Fitness and Master Rides” every Wednesday evening during appropriate weather. They also schedule infrequent Saturday rides through “Needham, Dover, and Beyond.” Riders park their vehicles in the Kendrick Street parking lot, and use it as the starting point of their rides.



### 3.5. INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Property Boundary

The boundary of Cutler Park is largely defined by roads and the Charles River. The park's northern boundary abuts commercial development along Kendrick Street. Its western boundary is Route I-95/Route 128. Much of its southern boundary is Great Plain Avenue and Needham Street; the remainder is residences along Rosemary Road, Dedham. Its eastern boundary is the Charles River. The park's boundaries are not marked. In contrast, ACOE easement signs are highly visible. Likely encroachments were identified along the park's boundary with residences on Rosemary Road, Dedham.

The Charles River Reservation parcels are all bounded on one side by the river. The Highland Avenue parcel is bounded on the south by Kendrick Street, on the east by the river, on the north by Highland Avenue, and on the west by residences and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Great Plain Avenue parcel falls within a triangle created by Route 128, Great Plain Avenue, and the river. The Newton parcel is bounded on the west by the river; on the north by Nahanton Street; on the east by the Helen Hayne Riverway Conservation Area, residences, and commercial properties; and on the south by DCR's Brook Farm Historic Site. None of the parcels'

boundaries are marked. No potential encroachments were identified for these parcels.

Kehoe Park is bordered on the west by Riverside Street, on the south by Bridge Street, on the east by the Charles River, and on the north by an undeveloped extension of Vine Rock Street and a parcel of the Charles River Reservation at 191 Vine Rock Street. Although its boundaries are not marked, they are easily discernible. No potential encroachments were identified for this park.

Some of the takings associated with the acquisition of Cutler Park include specific exceptions, such as a City of Newton sewer and drain easement and the right of the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad Company to operate and maintain a railroad. Readers are directed to parcel deeds for specific information on reserved rights.

#### Buildings and Structures

There are no non-historic buildings. Non-historic structures are limited to boardwalks at Cutler Park and the Highland Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation. (Table 3.5.1) There are approximately 1,600 linear feet of boardwalks at Cutler Park and approximately 75 feet of boardwalk at the Highland Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation. Conditions of these boardwalks range from good to poor. An example of a boardwalk at Cutler Park is shown in the photo on Page 3-1.

**Table 3.5.1. Non-historic buildings and structures of Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Location and Infrastructure	Date <sup>a</sup>	Condition <sup>b</sup>	In Use <sup>c</sup>	Utilities <sup>d</sup>
<b>Charles River Reservation – Highland Avenue</b>				
Boardwalk (1)	-	2	-	-
<b>Cutler Park</b>				
Boardwalks (2)	-	3	-	-

a. Date of construction provided, when known.

b. Preliminary condition assessment using the building system and equipment condition codes as used in the Massachusetts Capital Asset Management Information System (CAMIS). The following codes are used: 1 = Excellent-easily restorable to like new condition; 2 = Good-routine maintenance required; 3 = Adequate-some corrective and preventative maintenance required; 4 = Fair-excessive corrective maintenance and repair required; 5 = Poor-renovation needed; and 6 = Fail.

c. Use categories include N = No, building is not in use; S = Building is used on a seasonal basis; and Y = Yes, building is in use year-round.

d. The following codes are used to identify utilities associated with buildings: E = Electric; H = Heat; I = Internet; S = Septic system; T = Telephone; W = Water; and W(S) = Water is available on a seasonal basis. This information is included for all buildings.

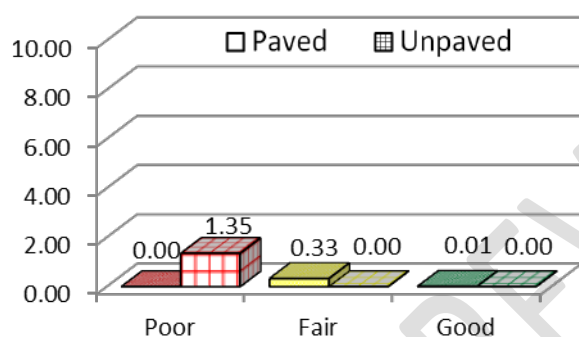
## Roads

A series of dirt, forest roads pass through the upland portions of the park. Some are associated with the former Newton Water Works, while others are associated with earlier settlements. These roads have largely been incorporated into the park's trails network.

A section of paved road runs the length of the Charles River Reservation Great Plain Avenue parcel in Needham. This road is a portion of the former layout of Great Plain Avenue. It dead ends at the edge of Route 128.

The length and condition of these roads are depicted in Figure 3.5.1.

**Figure 3.5.1. Condition and length (in miles) of roads in Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**



## Parking

There are three public parking lots. (Table 3.5.2) The first is located just outside the park on the south side of Kendrick Street, Needham. This lot is privately owned, and is used in accordance with a 1973 easement that permits parking and park access. There is only one designated HP space; less than the required minimum number (i.e., 2). The Kendrick Street lot is also used for parking for the Charles River Reservation – Highland Avenue parcel. Use of this lot is shared among park visitors and PTC employees; only a small number of spaces are available to visitors during business hours.

**Table 3.5.2. Number of public parking spaces, by location and type, at Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Location	HP	Restricted	Other	Total
<b>Cutler Park</b>				
Kendrick St. lot <sup>a</sup>	1	2	100	103
Needham St. lot <sup>b</sup>	0	0	8	8
<b>Charles River Reservation</b>				
Old Great Plain Ave, Needham <sup>c</sup>	0	0	37	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>148</b>

- Two spaces are reserved for PTC research and development employees.
- Includes paved and unpaved spaces.
- Assumes 900 feet of parking along the north shoulder of the closed road.



The Kendrick Street parking lot, the gateway to Cutler Park, is located on private commercial property. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

The second parking lot is located off Needham Street, Dedham; adjacent to Kennedy Farm. (Table 3.5.2) It is believed to be located partly within the park and partly within the road's right-of-way. Only five of the lot's spaces are paved.

Parking is also available across the road from the Needham Street lot, in the Charles River Reservation's Great Plain Avenue parcel. (Table 3.5.2) There is no formal lot at this location, only roadside parking along old Great Plain Avenue.

There is no parking lot at Kehoe Park, only roadside parking along Riverside Drive, Dedham.

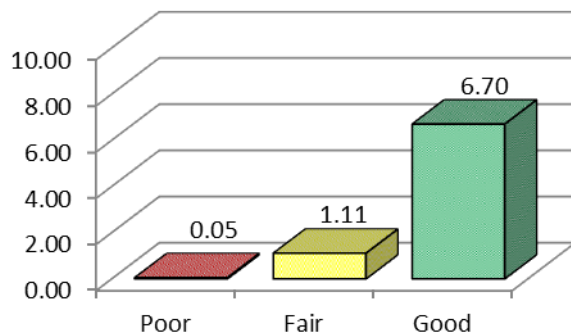
Additional parking for Cutler Park is available at the City of Newton's Nahanton Park, approximately 0.25 miles east of the Kendrick Street parking lot. This lot, along with roadside parking on Sawmill

Brook Parkway, Newton and multiple lots at the City of Boston's Millennial Park provide parking for the Blue Heron Trail. (See Trails, below for additional information on this trail.)

### Trails

Cutler's trails system is largely based on forest roads. These roads are supplemented in the uplands by sections of single track, and in wetlands by a series of boardwalks. The number of miles of trails, by condition, is presented in Figure 3.5.2.

**Figure 3.5.2. Condition and length (in miles) of official trails at Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**



A 1.25 mile long portion of the park's trails is a designated Healthy Heart Trail. This trail loops around Kendrick Pond on forest roads associated with the former Newton Water Works; it is not ADA accessible. The eastern portion of the Healthy Heart Trail is also part of the Blue Heron Trail.

The Blue Heron Trail is an approximately 9.5 mile long multi-town, multi-property trail. It passes through five DCR properties: Cutler Park; the Charles River Reservation, Newton; Kehoe Park; Havey Beach; and Brook Farm Historic Site. It also passes through the City of Boston's Millennium Park and the City of Newton's Helen Hayne Riverway Conservation Area. In the latter, the Blue Heron Trail runs concurrent with the Helen Hayne Riverway. The Blue Heron Trail is not limited to open space, and requires users to travel along sidewalks through residential neighborhoods and commercial development in Dedham and Boston.

The Charles River Reservation's Highland Avenue parcel has a trail that extends from Highland Avenue to the north, to 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the south. It was paved in 2015.

A paved sidewalk parallels the Charles River for approximately 1,100 feet at Kehoe Park. This sidewalk is part of the Blue Heron Trail.

The Town of Dedham has designated an approximately 6.5 mile loop of the Charles River and Long Ditch as the Dedham Water Trail. This canoe, kayak, and paddle board trail passes through Cutler Park and beside Kehoe Park, both of which are identified as points of interest along the trail. It has been designated a National Recreation Trail. See [www.dedhamtrails.org](http://www.dedhamtrails.org) for additional information on this trail.

### Kiosks and Signs

The park's only kiosk is located near the entrance to the Kendrick Street parking lot. Smaller map boards are located adjacent to the Needham Street parking lot, near the intersection of Vine Rock Street and Riverside Drive, and in Kehoe Park; all are located in Dedham. One additional map board is located at the southern end of Saw Mill Brook Parkway in Newton, at an entrance to the Newton parcel of the Charles River Reservation.

The park's main identification sign is located at the entrance to the Kendrick Street parking lot. A cantilevered identification sign is located in Kehoe Park, along Bridge Street, Dedham. Sign posts and a backing board are located at the entrance to the Charles River Reservation on Highland Avenue, Needham; there is no sign.

Entrances to trails in the Charles River Reservation are typically identified by a pair of granite posts, each bearing the engraved silhouette of a heron. Within the properties included in this chapter, such posts are located at the intersection of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues, the northeast corner of the intersection of Kendrick Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and adjacent to the main Cutler Park parking lot; all are in Needham. There are no posts at any of the entrances to the Newton parcel of the Charles River Reservation.



Granite posts, like this one at Cutler Park, mark main trail entrances along the Charles River Reservation. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

### **Iron Ranger**

There are no iron rangers in the park or associated properties.

### **Memorials and Markers**

A memorial stone with a metal marker is located in the Highland Avenue section of the Charles River Reservation, opposite 115 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It is in honor of Arthur Barnes (1914–1994), an advocate for the “preservation of all creation.”

## **3.6. INTERPRETATION**

There is no regular interpretive programming at Cutler Park.

## **3.7. MANAGEMENT RESOURCES**

### **Staffing**

#### DCR Personnel

Cutler Park and associated properties are managed by MassParks staff based at the Blue Hills Reservation. (See Table 2.7.1) There are no employees based at Cutler.

#### Partnerships and Volunteers

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) provide stewardship for the Charles River Reservation between Kendrick Street, Needham and Watertown Square. In the past, TTOR field staff worked to improve stewardship on the Charles River Reservation; for several years this work was done by a TTOR youth corps. The youth corps is currently

“on pause,” as TTOR reassess the future of this group (Cook 2015). The TTOR still provides groups of volunteers for special events, such as a Charles River cleanup day.

There is no friends group for Cutler.

### Safety

Local municipal fire departments provide fire response and emergency services. Personnel from DCR’s Fire Control Districts 4 and 14 provide assistance. Municipal police departments, the Massachusetts State Police (Station H-2, Framingham), and the Massachusetts Environmental Police (Regions C-6 and C-7) provide law enforcement.

### **Funding**

#### Conservation Trust Fund

There are no trust funds.

#### Retained Revenue

The park does not generate or retain revenue.

#### Other Revenues

The family of Arthur Barnes provided TTOR a \$400,000 “greenway partnership endowment” to support their stewardship activities along the Charles River. In the past, this endowment has been used for stewardship of the Charles River Reservation and for funding projects such as repaving portions of the greenway, tree work, and fence installation.

## **3.8. MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Management of DCR properties is guided by a variety of regulations, policies, BMPs (e.g., Table 3.3.2), legal agreements, and institutional knowledge. This section describes those practices unique to the management of Cutler Park. Legal agreements unique to the reservation are listed in Table 3.8.1.



**Table 3.8.1. Key legal agreements for Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Party and Subject of Agreement	Type <sup>a</sup>	Expiration Date <sup>b</sup>
<b>Department of Conservation and Recreation and The Trustees of Reservations</b> Memorandum of Agreement between Department of Conservation and Recreation, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and The Trustees of Reservations	A	2008
<b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.</b> Agreement between the United States of America and Commonwealth of Massachusetts for local cooperation at the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Areas, Project, Massachusetts	A	N/A
<b>New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, Polaroid Corporation and Metropolitan District Commission.</b> "Permanent right and easement to use" for parking and park access.	E	N/A

a. Agreement types include: A = Memorandum of Agreement; C = Conservation Easement; E = Easement; L = Lease; P = Permit; S = Special Use Permit; U=Memorandum of Understanding.

b. Year that agreement expires.

A 1973 agreement among the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, Polaroid Corporation, and MDC (Document # 339362) permanently established park access across, and public parking on, private land along the south side of Kendrick Street, Needham. Under this agreement the MDC could establish a park entrance, use this entrance "as a means of access to and from" Cutler Park; install suitable markers (i.e., signs) at the entrance; maintain the entrance's signs and landscaping; and have "equal rights, in common, for the supervised parking of any vehicles" in a designated joint parking area. This agreement made possible creation of a gateway to the park.

In 1977 the Commonwealth and the ACOE entered into an agreement whereby the Commonwealth would furnish the "non-Federal cooperation" needed to implement the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Areas Project. This cooperation took the form of: preventing "modification or alteration of existing roadways, utilities, bridges, culverts, and any other improvements" that might affect drainage

characteristics; "adopt and enforce regulations to restrict development of flood plain lands;" and operate and maintain the existing dams along the Charles River." This agreement did not provide the ACOE any legal interest in State-owned property. During the preparation of this RMP, an effort was made to locate and review an ACOE-held easement on Cutler Park. No evidence was found that such an easement exists.

Only one previous planning document was identified for Cutler Park; it is identified in Table 3.8.2.

**Table 3.8.2. Key management and guidance documents for Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Author and Document	Year
<b>R. H. Homer Associates</b> Cutler Park <i>This report is an assessment of the potential impacts of a proposed access road and parking area on the ecology of the park.</i>	1971

### Annual Maintenance

Ongoing management practices typically follow a regular schedule. Common activities, and the desired frequency with which they occur, are identified in Table 3.8.3.

**Table 3.8.3. Annual cycle of management activities at Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties.**

Activity	Spring <sup>a</sup>	Summer <sup>a</sup>	Fall <sup>a</sup>	Winter <sup>a</sup>
Litter removal - Recreation areas	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Litter removal - Trails	AN	AN	AN	AN
Maintenance - Picnic sites, fences, etc.	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Mowing and trimming	AN	E7	AN	N/A
Mulching and fertilizing	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Playground inspection	AN	AN	AN	N/A
Pruning - Trees and shrubs	AN	AN	AN	AN
Sweeping - Walkways	AN	AN	AN	AN

a. Frequency codes are: A = Annually; AN = As needed; D = Daily, # times; E = Every # days; N/A = Not applicable.

## Natural Resources

### Water Resources

There are no rare water resource management activities.

### Rare Species

There are no rare species monitoring or management activities.

### Invasive Species

Cutler's invasive species have been identified by Salicicola (2015b) as part of its efforts to inventory the park's flora. There is no ongoing monitoring or control. Infrequent efforts, such as the removal of a population of Japanese hops circa 2009, take place.

### Vegetation

Field operations personnel from the Blue Hills cut the grass at Kehoe Park on an as needed basis during the spring and fall, and approximately weekly during the growing season. Fallen leaves are collected and removed once per year, during the fall.

The cultural grassland adjacent to the Kennedy Farm is mown annually in the fall by field operations personnel from the Blue Hills.

There are no ongoing forest inventory or management activities. An "urban forestry project" took place at the north end of Cutler Park in 1972 (Lynch 1973) this involved the cutting of approximately 185 trees with the goal of creating "a natural looking English park for the next 60 years with maintenance cutting kept at an absolute minimum." Ongoing cuttings were to take place every five to ten years; they were not continued.

Downed trees and limbs are cleared or pruned on an as needed basis.

Charles River Landing, a luxury apartment complex located adjacent to the Needham parcel of the Charles River Reservation, voluntarily maintains turf and ornamental plants on that portion of the Reservation directly abutting their property.

### Wildlife

There is no stocking of fish or game species.

Four bluebird boxes have been erected along the edges of the field at Kennedy Farm.

## Cultural Resources

There are no cultural resource management activities unique to this park.

## Recreation Resources

DCR's Parks and Recreation Rules specifically prohibit hunting and trapping throughout the entire Reservation, unless authorized by the Commissioner or specifically authorized by law (302 CMR 12.11(3) ii).

The use of watercraft in the Reservation is specifically regulated by DCR's Parks and Recreation Rules (302 CMR 12:00). Only cartop boats may be launched from or used in Kendrick Pond or the Honorable Marie-Louise Kehoe (i.e., Riverdale) Park.

## Infrastructure

### Boundary

The ACOE hires contractors to monitor and mark its easements within the Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area. These contractors have posted signs at Cutler Park, indicating that portions of the park are subject to an ACOE easement. However, as previously indicated, no easement documentation was identified during the preparation of this RMP.



Although U.S. Army Corps of Engineers easement signs are prominently displayed at Cutler Park, the existence of such an easement could not be verified. (See Appendix K for photo information.)

### Buildings

Minor repairs to the Kennedy Farm building are performed by field operations personnel based at the Blue Hills.

### Roads

There are no ongoing road maintenance activities.

### Parking Areas

The 1973 easement that allows the use of the Kendrick Street parking lot does not require the DCR to maintain the parking lot.

### Trails

Earthen trails and trail markings in Cutler Park and the Charles River Reservation are maintained on an as needed basis by DCR rangers based at the Blue Hills. Portions of the Blue Heron Trail not on DCR property are maintained by the land owner.

Boardwalks are walked and inspected each spring by field operations personnel from the Blue Hills. Minor repairs are made during the inspection; major repairs are made later in the year.

The Town of Dedham is responsible for maintaining markers and signs for the Dedham Water Trail.

### Kiosks and Signs

DCR employees based at the Blue Hills are responsible for updating the content of kiosks and sign boards.

## **3.9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Introduction**

This section provides recommendations for the near- and long-term management of Cutler Park and associated properties. Applied Land Stewardship Zoning recommendations provide general guidance for managing these properties. Future activities and projects should be checked against the zoning map (Figure 3.2) for consistency. Management recommendations are all high-priority, and should be addressed as soon as resources become available.

## **Applied Land Stewardship Zoning**

### **(Figure 3.2)**

The following Land Stewardship Zoning is recommended.

#### Zone 1

The following sections of Cutler Park have been designated Zone 1.

- There are no Zone 1 areas at Cutler Park.
- There are no Zone 1 areas in portions of the Charles River Reservation within the Blue Hills Complex.

#### Zone 2

- All of Cutler Park, with the exception of currently developed areas as identified in the Zone 3 description, below.
- All portions of the Highland Avenue and Newton parcels of the Charles River Reservation within the Blue Hills Complex.
- Undeveloped portions of the Great Plain Avenue parcel of the Charles River Reservation.

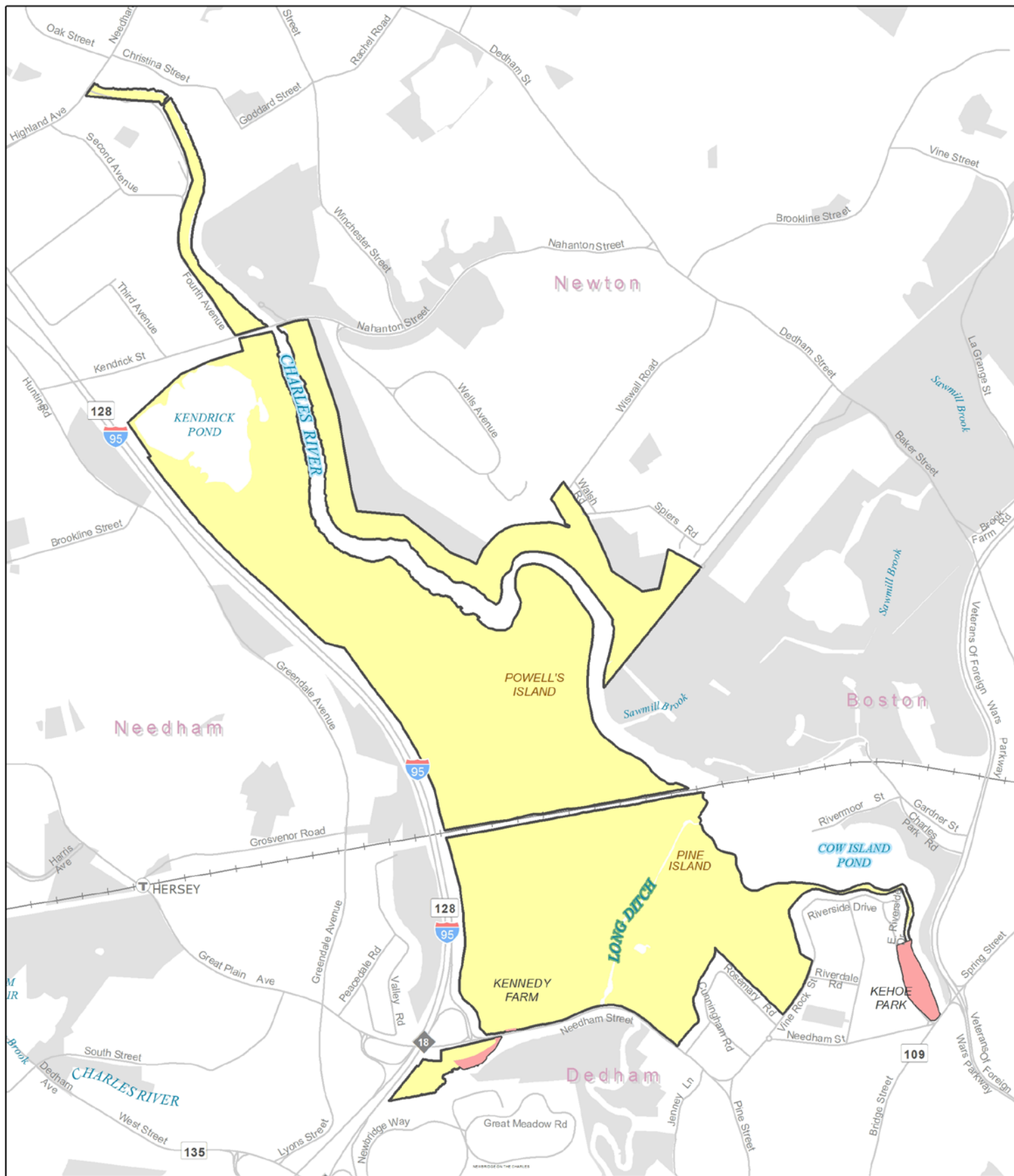
#### Zone 3

The following portions of Cutler Park and associated properties are currently developed, appropriate for potential future development, or intensively used for recreation. They have been designated Zone 3.

- Kennedy Farm, existing parking area along Needham Street, Dedham.
- Kehoe Park (all).
- Charles River Reservation – Great Plain Avenue parcel; existing roads and car top boat launch.

### Significant Feature Overlay

There is no Significant Feature Overlay.



**Legend**

- Cutler Park Reservation
- Other Legal Interest - DCR
- Other Protected Open Space

**Land Stewardship Zoning**

- Zone 1
- Zone 2
- Zone 3

## Cutler Park Reservation

Figure 3.9.1

### Recommended Land Stewardship Zoning

Geographic information provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS, 2016

1,000  
Feet

**LOCUS**

3-20



## Management Recommendations

Four priority management recommendations were developed for Cutler Park Reservation and associated properties. (Table 3.9.1) For a recommendation to be considered priority it must address one or more of the following criteria:

- Regulatory compliance or compliance with legal agreements.
- Threats to the health and safety of park visitors and employees.

- The imminent loss of a natural, cultural, or recreation resource.

Additional maintenance and management needs observed during the preparation of this RMP, but not meeting one or more of the above criteria, are not included in this plan.

All recommendations are of equal priority.

**Table 3.9.1. Priority recommendations for Cutler Park Reservation.**

Recommendation	Implementation <sup>a</sup>
Work with local Boards of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to ensure that Fish Consumption Health Advisory signs are posted at major fishing access points at Cutler Park, Charles River Reservation, and Kehoe Park.	R
Repair damage to mothballing of Newton Water Works pump house.	P, S
Work with commercial pet walkers to obtain the required permit for their commercial activity at Cutler Park.	B, L, R
Survey boundary of Cutler Park, along Rosemary Road, Dedham, to determine if encroachments have occurred; resolve as warranted.	F, L

- a. The following codes identify the party or parties responsible for implementing the recommendations: B = Bureau of Ranger Services; C = Contractor; D = Office of Dam Safety; E = Bureau of Engineering; F = Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry; L = Legal Services; O = Other; P = Bureau of Planning, Design & Resource Protection; R = Regional and district staff; S = Park Support Operations; U = Universal Access Program; V = Volunteer or partner; and X = Office of External Affairs and Partnerships.

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