



Waltham Land Trust

is a non-profit corporation dedicated to creating a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open space.

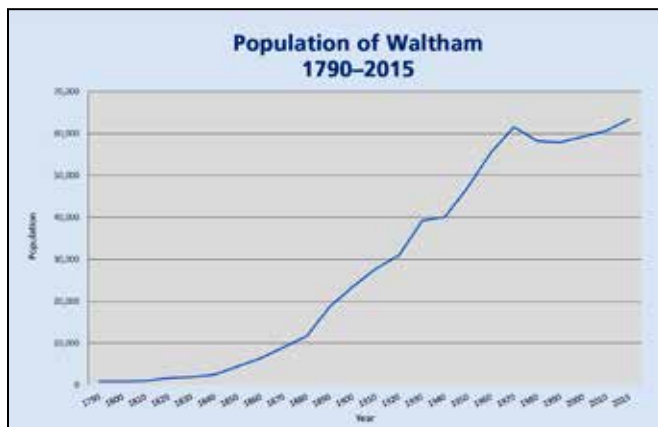
JOURNAL SPRING 2017

Waltham Then and Now

Marie Daly

When we drive down Moody Street today, many of us are unaware that this busy thoroughfare and dense neighborhood were once a bucolic farm and abundant riverside marshes. Previously a community of farms and woodlands, Waltham is now an urban district of housing, industries and commercial businesses. Yet some areas of the city have been preserved as open space for all to enjoy. This initial article of a series on the changes in Waltham's environment over the years will document one of the first large-scale developments – the Southside neighborhood.

The population of Waltham in 1790 was 882, and the vast majority of households were engaged in farming. The area south of the Charles River was part of the town of Newton. But within 25 years, Waltham residents would witness a major transformation in the town's enterprises. The establishment of the Francis Cabot Lowell mill on the Charles River in 1814 brought workers from the hinterlands of New England, and later, Ireland, Italy and Canada. Soon after, the sons of farmers moved to Main Street to set up businesses that served the growing population. By 1830, the number of Waltham inhabitants had grown to 1,857. Nevertheless, farmsteads continued to occupy most of the land in the town. As a consequence of intensive, widespread agriculture, hilly areas were the only places in the town where stands of trees existed, many of them woodlots for the farmers at their bases. The rest of the open space consisted of farm fields for produce and orchards, pastures for cattle, and wetlands.



The original commercial center of Waltham was near the Linden Street – Main Street intersection, and businesses spread westward along Main Street, a busy thoroughfare for traffic and stagecoaches plying between Boston and Framingham, Worcester and Springfield. By 1830, the business and domestic populace centered along Main, Elm, and River Streets near the mill. In the 1830s, Central Street was developed, and in the following decades, residential and business growth continued westward along Main Street, Felton Street, Charles Street and School Street. Until 1847, when the Moody Street Bridge was built, only a foot bridge on the dam spanned the river near the mill. By the 1850s, mill employees and commercial shops were expanding southward from Main Street along Moody Street and across the Charles River.

The Southside Neighborhood

The neighborhood we now call the Southside was originally part of the town of Newton. In the 1831, the farms of John Cory and Bradshaw Stearns were situated along High Street. In that year, the Stearns farm was located on High Street near what is now Stearns Street, while Cory's 70-acre farm was located at what is now 119 Adams Street, corner Cherry Street. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the Georgian-style Bemis-Fuller (later Cory) house was probably built ca. 1776 by Deacon Joseph Fuller of the Second Church of Newton. Incorporated in 1825, the Newton Chymical Company manufactured "oil of vitriol" or

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(((BREAKING NEWS)))

The Waltham Land Trust is thrilled the Bentley Trustees have approved construction of the next leg of the **Western Greenway** along their campus south of Beaver Street. Once built, this section, along with the part through Historic New England's Lyman Estate that is now being negotiated, will connect the Storer Conservation Lands at Stonehurst to the **Mass Central Rail Trail**, a multi-town, multi-use path that will eventually cross the entire state from east to west.

Waltham Land Trust 17th Annual Meeting Recap

Diana Young

The Waltham Land Trust held its 17th Annual meeting at the First Parish Church on Tuesday, October 25 with a large audience. The meeting opened with remarks from President Nadene Stein and with the annual *Inge Uhlir Environmentalist of the Year Award*. Recently promoted Executive Director Sonja Wadman announced that this year's award was to the surprised and pleased Emily Szczypek, an excellent birder, recycler and trail steward. Emily and her husband Bob Gaffney have led the Land Trust's Duck Walk on several occasions and shared their wonderful bird photographs with many WLT members. Sonja showed a number of Emily's works.

Next, Dr. Tom French, the Director of the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program at the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, spoke about the state of wildlife in Massachusetts, explained how native species have returned into the regrown forests near to cities and towns which both reinstates native species and puts them at risk. Dr. French answered a number of questions. He is clearly someone whose knowledge is far greater than the time we had to hear him and we should see if we can find another opportunity for him to share his knowledge with us.

Marc Rudnick followed Dr. French, sharing information about the status of the many parcels of open state that the City is in the process of acquiring or developing. Marc also spoke of the Mass. Central Rail Trail. The City had put out a request for proposal for the design phase but it was withdrawn with the expectation

HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 100 Land Trust members who have selected to have their Journals sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. You can also receive the Upcoming Events postcards electronically. Please send an email with your name to swadman@walthamlandtrust.org, with the subject header "Electronic *Journal*" (and/or Event postcard) if you'd like the next *Journal* (and/or postcard) emailed to you.

Please remember that receiving *The Journal* is a privilege of membership. Be sure you are up-to-date with your dues so you don't miss the Fall 2017 *Journal*!

that a more complete RFP would be issued. [Editor's note: RFP was reissued with bid date of 4/21.]

Diana Young gave an overview of the Land Trust's financials for the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2017. The Land Trust had income of \$5,693 and equity of \$120,268. The current year's situation is expected to be tighter, as we have additional expenses, so we hope to increase membership, contributions and grants.

The financial report was followed by the election of board members. Current members John Dieckmann, Maureen Bagge Fowler, Dave Kehs and Jim Walker were returned to the Board and newcomers Phil Moser and Anna Richardson were voted in. For more information on Phil and Anna, see below. Dr. Stein also took the opportunity to thank Betsy Lewenberg for her service to the Land Trust as Betsy stepped down from the Board.

The formal meeting was followed by refreshments and networking, and we were all pleased that Dr. French stayed to continue talking with many of us until we had to leave the building.

Our New Board Directors

Philip Moser

Phil grew up in southern NH, and has been living and working in Waltham since 2005. He is a civil engineer at his day job, and joined the Waltham Conservation Commission in 2015. Phil lives with his wife Didi

near Hardy Pond in north Waltham, and also enjoys the Charles River, Western Greenway, and Prospect Hill trails.



Anna Richardson

Anna is an attorney and the Co-Executive Director of Veterans Legal Services. Anna grew up in Ithaca, New York, where enjoying the glacial waterfalls and hiking trails helped form her commitment to conservation and green space. Anna enjoys gardening and cooking, especially incorporating the herbs and vegetables from her garden into her dishes. She and her husband, Clarence, live on Bright Street where they frequently enjoy the Grove Street Green Space.

Green Space Blues Jam – Lucky 13!

Nadene Stein

Our upcoming May 20th Green Space Blues Jam – our 13th - could very well be your lucky night! Not only will we be returning to the Hobbs Brook facility at 175 Wyman Street, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Tom Dusel, but we are welcoming Sugar Ray and the Bluetones as our musical guests.

Sugar Ray and The Bluetones will make sure to provide lots of excellent music so that the floor is filled with dancers all night long! They are a five piece Chicago style blues band who have performed internationally at clubs and festivals for nearly 40 years. They have been nominated for 10 Blues Music Awards this year. Check them out on their website: sugararrayandthebluetones.com.

Your luck continues all evening as you enjoy delicious food prepared for us by the Hobbs Brook chef and his team. There will be several stations and many choices available – so bring your appetite and

save room for the incredible dessert that will end the evening’s meal! You will be able to quench your thirst by drinking wine, donated by Dion’s, and beer donated by Sam Adams.

If you are really lucky, you will be on the winning end of at least one of the many silent auction items on display. These will include a combination of local restaurant gift certificates, hand-made creations and services. Make sure to visit the tables throughout the evening, in case someone outbids you for your favorite item!

The best part of this event is that when you are lucky, so is the Waltham Land Trust! Your support through sponsoring the GSBJ, purchasing tickets to our May 20th event, and/or choosing a silent auction item (or two) will directly support our mission to create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by promoting, protecting, restoring and acquiring open space! Thank you so much for your support and, please, save a dance for me!

A Fun Way to Explore

Looking to find and get to know open spaces in the greater Boston area? Perhaps you’ll enjoy orienteering.

Dave Kehs

Orienteering is a sport/activity that involves the use of a detailed map to navigate through a varied (and often wooded) terrain and follow a course that has been set up by the event organizers. The course is marked by a sequence of “control flags” or checkpoints (see Figure 1). The locations of the controls are shown as circles on the map. The controls are generally placed near some physical feature like a boulder, a cliff, a tree stump, etc. A control description (or clue) is provided for each

control. Each control also has a three-digit ID number. This enables an orienteer to verify that he or she has found the proper control. Figure 2 shows the list of clues for a recent orienteering event at Prospect Hill Park.

In order to participate in an orienteering event,

all you have to do is to sign in at the registration desk and then look at the map and walk or run through the woods to find each control. In order to verify that you’ve actually visited each control, you will carry a



DAVID KEHS

Fig. 1 Control Flag

Prospect Hill Fall 2016						
Orange	3.3 km	100 m				
						Start:
1 123						Bend in stone wall
2 124						Bend in stone wall
3 137						Between cliffs
4 119						Between boulder clusters
5 126		1.5m				Foot of cliff, 1.5m high
6 116		1m				Foot of NE cliff, 1m high
7 128		1m				W side of boulder, 1m high (water)
8 129		1m				Between boulder clusters, high
9 138						Top of hill
10 130						Boulder field
		150 m				Navigate 150 m to finish

Fig. 2 List of Clues

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Waltham Then and Now *continued from page 1*

sulfuric acid and occupied 40 acres of land between the Charles River, Newton Street, and High Street. The lands of the chemical company would become what was called the Chemistry neighborhood. The 1831 map of Newton shows extensive wetlands along the river near the current Cram's Cove and the Island neighborhood (formerly Morse Island) in Waltham. In 1849, an Act of the Massachusetts Legislature, Chapter 105, allowed Waltham to purchase from Newton for \$1,000 land south of the Charles River. The new boundary stretched from the Charles River, across from the Waltham-Watertown border to Stony Brook at South Street. An 1854 map shows that some people were living in the Southside even before the establishment of the watch factory, which was built along the Charles River in that year.

With the construction of the Boston Watch Company, later renamed the American Waltham Watch Company, the streets of the Southside were laid out in a grid and



1831 map of Newton showing area that was sold to Waltham in 1849



Fuller-Bemis house, 119 Adams Street (later owned by John Cory)



1877 panoramic view of the Southside

populated mainly by company employees. But until 1890, most of the new buildings were erected between Crescent Street and Moody Street. The Stearns farm remained undeveloped until 1886, when Sarah Stearns, the widow of Bradshaw Stearns, died. The executor of the estate, Bradshaw S. Tolman, subsequently developed the former farm into the streets south and east from Ash Street and Lowell Street.

In 1865, Stephen B. Cram purchased part of the Fuller-Bemis (Cory) farm along "Cram's Cove," now a 2-acre inlet at the southern end of Crescent Street. His house was situated on Moody Street at the corner of Crescent Street. He also owned part of Fox Island and Morse Island. In the 1890s, the former Morse Island was developed by the Crescent Park Land Association, Daniel O'Hara, president. O'Hara also founded the O'Hara Dial Company, which was built at 74 Rumford Avenue in 1897. By 1900, the growth of the Southside neighborhood was in full swing with new houses constructed between Moody Street and Lowell Street. But the expansion of housing did not include areas of parks, except for Robbins Park (now a parking lot),



Stephen B. Cram's orchard, Crescent Street, corner of Moody Street (now a gas station)

COURTESY OF THE WALTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

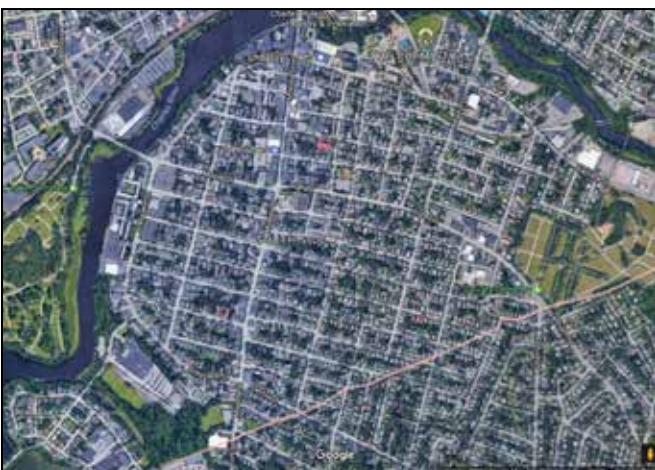


The Southside in 1900

across from the Waltham Watch Company on Crescent Street, and the Stony Batter Park (now McKenna Playground) on Newton Street. The former wetlands along the Charles River were edged by new structures on the southern end of Crescent Street.

In years past, marshes were regarded as wasteland, and many municipalities situated dumps in the wetlands. In the 1930s, the City of Waltham established next to Cram's Cove a town dump, called the Woerd Avenue landfill, which was closed in 1971. The former landfill is situated in back of Koutoujian Playground, along Woerd Avenue and Cove Street. A state-landfill report indicates the site was not lined. The City of Newton also set up a landfill along Rumford Avenue, and now operates a recycling center there.

Today, only a few green spaces remain in the Southside neighborhood, the largest being Calvary Cemetery. Robbins Park, across from the former watch factory on Crescent Street is now a parking lot. Chemistry Park was recently established on land of the former Chemistry train station on Pine Street and



Google 2017 satellite view of the Southside and Chemistry neighborhoods

Newton Street. McKenna Playground is situated along Newton Street at the Charles River and the Charles River Reservation greenway. The wetlands along Cram's Cove and the former Woerd Avenue landfill form the largest area of undeveloped land, and abut Waltham's Koutoujian Park. The City of Waltham Open Space Plan 2015 – 2022 indicates that the city is remediating the former landfill site, and plans call for paved parking, additional playing fields, walking trails and a connection to the Charles River Walkway.

Inventory Adjustments

Marc Rudnick

Changes in Waltham's Open Space

Back in 1999, the Waltham Land Trust started work on its core research project – discovering and evaluating the open space resources of the City of Waltham. Over the first few years of our existence, and with a few surprising discoveries later on, we established the Waltham Land Trust Open Space Inventory. This living document identifies the 64 parcels of Waltham land, over 4 acres in size, which contain significant open space resources. These properties are evaluated as to their risk of development, and are ranked in priority based on their ecological, geological, historic, recreational, cultural, educational and connectivity attributes.

Our Land Committee is currently making a global review of the Inventory, re-assessing the threat level for each property, updating our evaluations, and visiting sites where changes may be underway. Though the work is ongoing, several exciting findings have already emerged.

Three of the most at-risk properties had their risk levels re-assessed lower, mostly due to government action partially motivated by WLT's advocacy – Berry Farm, acquired by the City as a park, the Met State Lawns, now protected from development by a state restriction, and the majority of the land at the Fernald campus, protected as open space by acquisition with Community Preservation Act funds.

In updating the evaluations, we noted several parcels that scored higher than before on recreational value, thanks to the trail building activities of the Waltham Land Trust. The High School woods is a prime example – this once neglected and littered open space has been transformed into a hiking, biking and birding destination, with a well-marked trail, bridges over the streams, and connections to many miles of nature trails elsewhere. Beyond improving the value of the land, we hope that trail activity will also help reduce its risk of development.

Orienteering *continued from page 3*

“finger stick” that contains an electronic chip. Each control has a device that records the time of your visit on the chip. So when you cross the finish line (which is also a control), the chip will have recorded the time that it took you to find each control and the time that it took you to complete the whole course. Those with a competitive nature will enjoy tracking their completion times, while others can be satisfied with meeting the challenge of finding all the controls.

At a typical orienteering event, there may be several different courses, with varying levels of difficulty. This allows people of all ages and fitness levels to participate. For the easiest courses, the controls are generally placed in very obvious and easy-to-find places, like



DAVID KEHS

Kids' "string course" with control flag and sticker prizes

at trail junctions. For the more difficult courses, the controls are generally more hidden and therefore more difficult to locate. The most challenging courses tend to cover more distance and perhaps involve more hills. Therefore, each participant can decide how much of a physical workout they want to give themselves.

At many events, the organizers set up a “string course”, specifically for young children. Here, the controls are connected by a string or tape, to make sure that no one gets lost. Each control may have a prize, like a sticker just to add to the fun.

Part of the challenge of finding the controls, particularly for the advanced courses, is to determine a good route from one control to the next. Depending on the terrain, following a straight line might not be the best approach. It is often easier (and faster) to follow established trails for part of the way and then proceed off-trail to the control. Use of a compass is encouraged, but electronic devices like GPS receivers or smart phones are not allowed.



DAVID KEHS

Orienteering maps

Locally, orienteering events are organized by the New England Orienteering Club (NEOC) See <http://www.newenglandorienteering.org/>. An annual membership entitles members to participate in any and all events for the year. Non-members can pay a one-time registration fee to participate in an individual event.

The NEOC website shows the dates and locations for this year's events. In Waltham, there will be an event at Beaver Brook North Reservation in the spring and an event in Prospect Hill Park in the fall. If you participate in one of these events, you may find yourself travelling through parts of the parks that you normally would not visit. And if you try some of the events outside of Waltham, you may discover interesting open spaces that you've never visited.

See you on the trail.



DAVID KEHS

Start and finish points

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bertucci's Dining For Dollars Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 3, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter Street

Help us thank Bertucci's for donating 15 pizzas and 100 rolls to the Charles River Earth Day Clean-up! They also always generously donate pizzas to our Western Greenway 5K each Fall. Give the enclosed certificate to your server when you dine in or take out lunch and/or dinner with friends and family, and the Waltham Land Trust gets 15% of the food and drink sale.

Guided Walk Along the Charles River

Saturday, May 13, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

*Meet in Landry Park by the fish ladder,
154 Moody Street*

Take a break from the Watch City Steampunk Festival with an easy walk along the Charles. We'll learn about the Mill and its environs as we trek over the beautiful boardwalk that passes by the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation. After continuing under Elm Street on the new paved pathway, we'll cross to the other side of the river and look for wildlife at various places before turning around and returning to the festivities. Costumed participants encouraged!

13th Annual Green Space Blues Jam

Saturday, May 20, 7 - 11 p.m.

*Hobbs Brook Management facility,
175 Wyman Street*

Attend the Land Trust's major fundraiser, this year featuring local blues rockers **Sugar Ray and the Bluetones**. Ticket price (\$50 early-bird price for members) includes a delicious dinner with plenty of choices and drinks (beer, wine, non-alcoholic beverages), plus access to our silent auction. Check our website soon for details and to buy tickets.

Wagon Wheel Fundraiser

Saturday, May 27, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

*Wagon Wheel Farm Stand,
927 Waltham Street, Lexington*

It's Memorial Day weekend, time to buy garden supplies! Pick up your seeds and soil, plus groceries, deli sandwiches, flowers, fruit baskets, fish, etc. Tell the cashier you love the Waltham Land Trust, and we get 20% of your purchase. No certificate needed, but we'll provide something at our website if you need a reminder! Not valid on mulch orders, landscaping services, or deliveries.

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 3, time and location tbd

We hope to be preparing part of the next leg of the Western Greenway trail by the Bentley campus south of Beaver Street during this annual national-wide event. Watch our website for details!

Waltham Riverfest Walk

Saturday, June 17, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

*Meet in Landry Park by the fish ladder,
154 Moody Street*

Missed the walk during Steampunk? Kick off the 9th Annual Waltham Riverfest with the same easy stroll along the Charles from the Moody Street Dam downstream to wildlife viewing platforms east of Newton Street and back. We'll discuss the history of river, look for signs of wildlife, and return to Waltham Riverfest activities in time for the Opening Ceremonies and Parade. All day long, festival attendees can soak up live music on multiple stages, observe artists painting along the river, buy crafts from vendors on a closed Moody Street Bridge, enjoy kids activities, and rent canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards for cruising the river.

Summer Solstice Sunset Yoga Session

Wednesday, June 21, 7:30-9 pm

*Meet on front steps of UMASS Field Station,
240 Beaver Street.*

Come learn about all the great groups that operate out of the UMASS Field Station, including the WLT and Waltham Fields Community Farm (who are having an ice cream social this day at 6 pm). Then enjoy an outdoor yoga session in the former rose garden as the sun sets on the longest day of the year! Cost is only \$10.

WALTHAM



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Waltham MA 02454-1120
www.walthamlandtrust.org
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forever.*

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An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our
web site, <www.walthamlandtrust.org>.

Officers: Nadene Stein (President), Maureen Bagge Fowler
(Vice Pres.), David Kehs (Clerk), Marc Rudnick (Treasurer)

Directors: Natalie Berland, Martha Creedon, Marie Daly,
George Darcy, John Dieckmann, Brian McCormick,
Daniel Melnechuk, Phil Moser, Ann Richardson, Stephen
Rourke, Lesya Struz, Jim Walker, Diana Young

Please renew or join

To renew or join please use the enclosed
membership application and send to:

Waltham Land Trust
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Waltham MA 02454-1120

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Waltham Land Trust's Mission

To create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by
promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open
space.

We envision growth in public appreciation of
natural resources, preservation and restoration of
native habitat, and increased biodiversity to foster a
healthier environment.

• SPECIAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP •

Have a friend, neighbor, or relative you think would
enjoy being part of the Waltham Land Trust? Why not
give them a gift membership? **We are offering a special
promotion for a limited time: 6 months for only \$10!**
(The normal price of an individual membership is 12
months for \$25). **Support open space for a birthday, spe-
cial occasion, or the holidays!**

Like Waltham Land Trust on Facebook.
Follow us on Twitter @walthamlandtrst
See videos at youtube.walthamlandtrust.org
See photos at flickr.walthamlandtrust.org

Please send any comments to the return address, or
email to <memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org>.

*If you're not already a WLT member and have received
this complimentary copy, please consider joining today!*

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R E S T A U R A N T

DINING FOR DOLLARS FUNDRAISER

When you present this flyer, 15% of what you spend will be donated to the **Waltham Land Trust**

Wednesday, May 3, 2017. 11:00 am – 10:00 pm

Dine in, Carry Out or Delivery

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Phone 781-684-0650

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