

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE**  
**BROOKLINE**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**FOR 1969-1974**



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**OF THE**  
**BROOKLINE**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**FOR 1969-1974**



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## CONTENTS

### 1969

	PAGE
HIGH STREET HILL IN THE EIGHTIES, BY CAROLYN H. WETHERBEE . . . . .	7
THE STORROW FAMILY OF HIGH STREET HILL, BY S. MORTON VOSE . . . . .	10
A MODERN DWELLING FROM A 19TH CENTURY STABLE, BY ROBERT M. ADAMS . . . . .	13
DESMOND FITZGERALD'S ART GALLERY, BY S. MORTON VOSE . . . . .	15
COLLECTORS AND COLLECTIONS IN GREATER BOSTON, SOME PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS, BY CHARLES D. CHILDS . . . . .	17

### 1970

OFFICERS . . . . .	19
REPORT OF THE TREASURER . . . . .	20
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS . . . . .	21

	PAGE
AMY LOWELL OF BROOKLINE: PATTERNS OF A LIFE, BY PETER C. ROLLINS . . . . .	23
HISTORY OF THE PUTTERHAM SCHOOL, BY NINA F. LITTLE . . . . .	45

### 1971

OFFICERS . . . . .	47
REPORT OF THE TREASURER . . . . .	48
ADVENTURES IN RESTORATION, BY GUSTAV D. KLIMAN . . .	49
INDIANS OF THE NORTHEAST, BY WENDELL S. HADLOCK . . .	51
A PERMANENT GREEN CORRIDOR FROM THE CHARLES TO THE CHARLES, BY JAMES WHITE . . . . .	54

### 1972

OFFICERS . . . . .	62
REPORT OF THE TREASURER . . . . .	63
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS . . . . .	64
FREDERICK HENRY HEDGE: CONSERVATIVE SCHOLAR IN A LIBERAL FAITH, BY PETER C. ROLLINS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTTO VAN OS . . . . .	65

	PAGE
THE OLMSTED FIRMS OF BROOKLINE, BY ARTEMAS P. RICHARDSON . . . . .	74
DR. GEORGE CHEEVER SHATTUCK, BY ELMER O. CAPPERS . . . .	82
250 YEARS OF TOWN GOVERNMENT IN BROOKLINE, BY ARTHUR A. O'SHEA . . . . .	85

### 1973

OFFICERS . . . . .	90
REPORT OF THE TREASURER . . . . .	91
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS . . . . .	92
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PUTTERHAM SCHOOL . . . . .	93
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH . . . . .	94
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAPERS . . . . .	95
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT . . . . .	96
BROOKLINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH: SMALLPOX AND POLIO BY DR. FRANCIS D. MOORE . . . . .	98
SOME REMARKS CONCERNING THE CABOT ESTATE, BY FRANCIS A. CASWELL . . . . .	107
THE BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, BY ELMER O. CAPPERS .	112



1974

	PAGE
OFFICERS . . . . .	119
REPORT OF THE TREASURER . . . . .	120
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ROOMS . . . . .	121
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PUTTERHAM SCHOOL . . . . .	123
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH . . . . .	124
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT . . . . .	125
PERNICIOUS ANEMIA YIELDS TO NEW ENGLAND CHARACTER, BY DR. WILLIAM B. CASTLE . . . . .	126
BY-LAWS . . . . .	132
LIST OF MEMBERS - 1975 . . . . .	138

**1971  
OFFICERS**

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**VICE-PRESIDENT**

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MR. ARTHUR A. O'SHEA, MISS MAUD OXENHAM,  
MRS. GARDNER WASHBURN, and the officers, ex-officio.

The Annual Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society will be held at the Edward Devotion House, 347 Harvard Street, Brookline, on Sunday, February 7, 1971, at three o'clock.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, Mr. Gustav D. Klimann will speak on "Adventures in the Conservation of Paintings".

Carolyn H. Wetherbee, *Clerk*

# BROOKLINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Treasurer's Annual Report 1970

### Cash on hand January 1, 1970

Brookline Savings Bank		
90 Day Special Account	\$16,259.19	
Regular Account	62.32	
Charles B. Blanchard Memorial Permanent Fund	504.14	
Charles B. Blanchard – One half Annual Interest accumulated Fund for Special Use	4.14	
Brookline Trust Company Checking Account	854.01	\$17,683.80

### Income during 1970

Membership Dues	\$ 1,135.00	
Interest – Brookline Savings 90 Day Special Account	916.15	
Regular Account	19.05	
Chas. B. Blanchard Memorial Fund	26.31	
Income from Estate of Josephine H. Wilder	63.67	
Book Sales – “Some Old Brookline Houses”	6.00	
Curtis “History of Brookline”	3.00	
Donations	46.55	\$ 2,215.73
		<u>\$19,899.53</u>

### Payments during 1970

Secretary's Expenses	\$ 177.73	
Treasurer's Expenses	60.69	
Insurance Premium	276.00	
Collations	20.61	
Chair Rentals	32.50	
Service Charges – Brookline Trust Company	3.60	
Bay State Historical League Dues	8.00	
New England Council Listing	5.00	
Massachusetts Tax – Secretary of State Filing	5.00	
Attorney General Filing	3.00	
Audit and Tax Services	40.00	
Putterham School – Repairs and Equipment	154.59	
First Parish Church – Annual Meeting	30.00	\$ 816.72

### Cash on Hand December 31, 1970

Brookline Savings Bank		
90 Day Special Account	\$17,175.34	
Regular Account	831.37	
Charles B. Blanchard Memorial Permanent Fund	517.30	
Charles B. Blanchard – One half Annual Interest accumulated Fund for Special Use	17.29	
Brookline Trust Company Checking Account	541.51	\$19,082.81
		<u>\$19,899.53</u>

Respectfully submitted,

J. FREDERICK NELSON,

*Treasurer*

January 5, 1970



## ADVENTURES IN RESTORATION

Mr. Klimann presented a survey of the methods used in the professional restoration of oil paintings, and began with an explanation of the terms "restoration" and "conservation". The restorer, in his words, is one who removes old varnish from both front and back of a painted canvas, and replaces missing areas of pigment. The conservator is one who projects the art object as far as possible into the future without altering the artist's original conception. He remarked humorously that the restorer and conservator are generally one and the same person, those choosing the latter designation assuming more dignity, and hence higher fees.

The field of painting conservation has made strides in the past twenty years, and the scientific community has been of tremendous help. No longer does the restorer or conservator have to pose as a pseudo-chemist. Such institutions as the laboratories of New York University, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and the Mellon Institute at Pittsburgh have specialists in the field offering assistance. Mr. William Young of the Museum of Fine Arts conservation research laboratories in Boston is the leading expert in the fields of X-ray, laser beams, X-ray defraction, and other processes for analyzing materials. By this means place of origin, date, and even sometimes authorship is determined.

Going on to a discussion of the processes used in the treatment of paintings, the speaker explained that until recently the classic and standard materials used for the coating or surface protection of oil paintings, often referred to as "varnishing", had been natural resins. These included gum mastic, damar, amber, and copal. For a number of reasons, these have now been entirely replaced. Their disadvantages included a strong tendency to yellow with age, brittleness, and with the exception of damar and mastic, insolubility. Damar and mastic were widely preferred because they could be removed with less likelihood of damaging the paint film. Further, a natural resin film had a tendency to take a purchase on the paint surface and pull it away from the ground and canvas. In the past thirty years synthetic resins have come into general use, and for good reason. They remain clear and flexible, lie on the paint film like a blanket, exerting no tension, and are soluble enough to be easily removed. They may be applied with an air brush, chances of dust and chaff getting into the painting being greatly reduced. Polyvinyl acetate, lucite, and many other synthetic resins are available to the conservator today.

The practice of lining (often referred to as "relining") oil paintings has been current from very early days. Glue or even pitch was used as an adhesive for attaching paintings to either a linen backing or some hard and firm support such as a wood panel. The purpose was to lend support to the original aging and weakened canvas, and to prevent loss of paint through cracking and flaking. In fact, almost every conceivable kind of backing material has been used at one time or another, including plywood, masonite, and even glass. The latter process was introduced by a Frenchman named Monpetit, who believed that it was effective to

fasten oil paintings to glass panels with paste. The French Academy approved the method, but fortunately the practice has not survived to the present. Even now, however, with the wealth of scientific information at our disposal, practices only slightly less risky are being gradually discarded in favor of simpler, safer and more correct methods of backing oil paintings.

The modern scientific method recommended by the speaker consists of the use of a wax resin as adhesive, the original canvas being "laid down", as the process of lining is often termed, on a thin sheet of aluminum, which is in turn backed by a new layer of canvas. Mild heat and pressure have always been applied. In times past this has been accomplished with the aid of hand irons, heavy weights, screw jacks, etc., which are likely to crush and flatten the "impasto", or brush stroke surface of the painting. The present scientific process is accomplished with a vacuum press, creating a "negative pressure" in a vacuum envelope, and heated thermostatic control. The wax resin adhesive penetrates the old original and weakened canvas, and adheres to the back of the actual paint film, preventing loss by flaking, and in addition acting as a moisture barrier.

Referring to the dangers to which a painting may be exposed, the speaker identified moisture as enemy number one, followed by abruptly varying temperatures, careless handling by owners or shippers, poor judgment by the original artist in handling his pigments, etc. He emphasized that the surface of the painting belongs to the artist, and only he has the right to alter the design. Retouching of lost areas should be in keeping with the original work, and is not, or at least is no longer, deceptive, as it is easily identified if desired by use of the ultra-violet or "black" light. Mr. Klimann explained that the Society's portraits of Reverend and Mrs. Ebenezer Devotion had been treated by him with the pneumatic press, in the manner described, as well as the portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Seavey.

The program was concluded with a film showing work on the Seavey portrait, projected by Mr. and Mrs. Klimann.

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SPRING MEETING – May 16, 1971

The Spring Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society will be held at the Edward Devotion House, 347 Harvard Street, Brookline, at three o'clock on Sunday, May 16, 1971.

Mr. Wendell S. Hadlock, Director of the William A. Farnsworth Museum in Rockland, Maine, will speak on "Indians of the Northeast – Brookline's First Settlers".

Carolyn H. Wetherbee, *Clerk*

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## INDIANS OF THE NORTHEAST

by WENDELL S. HADLOCK

Ever since the early explorers, and particularly after the arrival of the Colonists, there has been intense study to inquire into the origin of the North American Indian, his way of life both social and spiritual, and strange as it may seem the greatest amount of information has been supplied in the last few years through means of archaeological exploration and research into early historical records and ethnological studies.

I should like to tell this story of the Indians who inhabited great portions of New England states, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

We know that in Massachusetts and in New Brunswick there have been found artifacts related to the paleo-Indians. These people came into this region of the northeast shortly after the break-up or "melt" of the last great glacier. They may have been living in Massachusetts as much as nine to ten thousand years ago and also in Nova Scotia at about this same date. They undoubtedly were hunting arctic caribou that were able to live close to the ice front, for at this time in our history the northeastern region must have had a tundra-like fauna and flora. The cold winds from the glacier prohibited vegetation as we now know it. Consequently, animals as the moose and later caribou were not living in this area. Some anthropologists believe that these people were traveling northward over a land mass that may have connected the Cape Cod region with Nova Scotia. How long this land mass existed, we do not know, but it is very probable that as soon as other portions of Maine rose up out of the sea to near its present level that the Georges Banks were submerged and that people coming into the area traveled along what we now think of as the coastal regions of New Hampshire, Maine and New Brunswick. Undoubtedly, if they were traveling northward, they were in pursuit of animals living in this new area as it reforested itself. The earliest dates we have of the Indians coming into Maine are about four to six thousand years ago. These people were undoubtedly hunting nomads; that is, moving with the

animals over a more or less defined hunting territory. In the winter they would be in the interior hunting moose and caribou in the deep snows. At this time they could run the animal down in deep snows as the Indians made and used snowshoes to enable them to travel on the surface. With the coming of the spring thaws they moved down the rivers to their traditional gathering places such as Indian Island on the Penobscot River, Meductic on the St. John, and Norridgewock on the Kennebec. There they stayed but for a brief period of time, meeting their friends and relatives before moving further down river and on to the coast where they would stay during the summer months or until cold weather when they would again come up river and meet for their fall rendezvous with friends and relatives. After this meeting they again went into the deep woods for the winter hunting.

While on the coast, life was comparatively easy for the ocean supplied fish in great variety and they were also able to hunt muskrat, coon, beaver and other small animals.

As these were hunting, nomadic people their material wealth was very limited, for when one lives by the chase you cannot carry many household goods upon your back from one camping area to the other. The women were expected to carry the robes and what few household utensils they may have had, for the hunter went on ahead with the hopes of catching the animals. There were long periods of time in which there was very little to eat during these winter months and when they were fortunate in securing a large animal such as a moose they camped beside him until they had eaten the entire animal from his nose to his tail. They did not waste food and no portion of the animal was thrown away. The antlers were used as an aid in making their arrows by chipping stones; the hide of the animal was made into clothing, and the bones were cracked for the marrow.

It now appears that the first Indians to come into this area were followed by other groups who brought new ideas in the manufacture of implements and that there may have been hunting implements as well as designs of pots and baskets that were passed from one culture group to the other and that there was a gradual growth within the culture within certain areas. The Indians of Maine and New Brunswick were, at about 1600, being introduced to corn and Champlain in his explorations along the coast of Maine found Indians in the Saco Valley raising corn. The Penobscots and Malecite knew of this grain but had, up to this time, been unsuccessful in raising it. The Malecites were raising it successfully about 1635.

With the coming of agriculture a whole new way of life opened up for the Indians and the Massachusetts Indians had been successful in their agricultural pursuits and were able to maintain a comparatively large population, whereas the Maine and New Brunswick Indians had to live in balance with nature and it was not until a later date that they would be able to live with a mixed economy – hunting and agriculture.

The Indians met by the white man were for the most part very trusting. Even though the white man captured them and took them to England, France and Spain, the Indians aided the first settlers in many ways. Without this aid it is very doubtful that colonization could have progressed so rapidly.



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FALL MEETING – November 14, 1971

The Fall Meeting of the Brookline Historical Society will be held at Hellenic College on Sunday, November 14, 1971, at three o'clock.

Mr. James White of the Brookline Planning Board will speak on "The Green Belt Project as it concerns and will affect Brookline," after which Rev. Father Chronopoulos will speak briefly about the College and there will be a tour of the plant and the Byzantine Chapel.

Carolyn H. Weatherbee, *Clerk*

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## TOWARD A PERMANENT GREEN CORRIDOR FROM THE CHARLES TO THE CHARLES

*by* JAMES W. WHITE  
Brookline Planning Dept.  
November 14, 1971

Boston, eastern Brookline and Newton share, along their common boundaries, one of the few remaining natural open spaces of the inner Boston metropolitan area. It is an area of New England wooded hills, with trees and puddingstone, brooks and ponds, rivers and marshes. It is, in effect, a nearly open green corridor, perhaps a mile wide and eight miles long, stretching from the lower Charles River Basin on the north, up the Muddy River past Jamaica Pond, over rolling Brookline hills, and down Newton and Boston's Sawmill Brook to the middle Charles River on the south. This narrow wedge of open space still undeveloped is a fantastic phenomenon, surrounded as it is on both sides by continuous, if not encroaching, urban development. The northern link is already well known, being the publicly owned Olmsted parkway and riverway, but the remainder, made up of large estates, institutions, and cemeteries, is often hidden from view by houses, fences and forest. Most people do not realize it is there. Indeed, a Boston city planner, on being asked what the 1965 Boston Master Plan proposes as ideal land-use in this corridor wryly responded, "How do we know? We only discovered it a few days ago!" Generally speaking, most of us have assumed erroneously that what can be seen from major streets, takes place in the hinterland as well.

The Charles to Charles corridor is a precious outdoor recreational resource. It has special significance in its narrow shape and in its close proximity to the concentrated urban population. Parts of the corridor are already publicly owned, but there is no absolute control on the development of the remainder. Even if private landowners did not develop, there is little public access to the scenic beauty of the landscape between our public parks and spaces. By acquiring vital linkages between existing parks along this long, linear open space, hiking and bicycling trails,

picnicking, camping and conservation areas can be made available for a much larger population segment than if the public land was concentrated in one spot.

Studies have recently been set in motion by Boston and Brookline's Conservation Commissions and Planning Boards aimed at determining just which part of the corridor should and could be preserved. These groups have already agreed that if action is not taken soon, the most vital linkages may be lost. Development pressure for higher density residential development on some of the remaining estates is already being felt in both Brookline and Boston. Recent examples of this trend are Brookline's Brook House apartments beside Leverett Pond, Boston's Jamaica Tower beside Jamaica Pond, and, though undeveloped as yet, the proposal by the new owner to construct two more apartment towers on the old Cabot estate, again by Jamaica Pond. This trend, especially the latest proposal, has been viewed by many walks of life as a threat to the semi-rural quality of Jamaica Pond and vicinity. Any highrise buildings, breaking the natural beauty of the tree-line around this park will symbolize urban encroachment. Furthermore, any significant increase in residential density in this area will put a severe strain on existing highways, parkways and public utilities. Others value the natural beauty combined with the historical significance of Olmsted's creative park system, and of some of the older historical mansions still functioning as relatively large estates.

Very few of us have realized the so-called green corridor was still there, perhaps because there has been no *public access* to it. There has been no incentive to explore the woods, hills and marshes, with no trails to guide us and, until the last decade, with no obvious trend of development threatening to take it away forever.

That there is a need for all types of open space, especially more trails and pathways, there is no doubt. The U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation recommends that at least 30 acres of public open space per thousand residents be available for municipal and regional recreation. In 1965, Boston, Brookline and Newton were all short by that standard especially Boston with only 6.2 acres, Brookline with 15.9 acres and Newton with 24.1 acres per thousand residents.

We cannot rely entirely on quantitative criteria to measure need. Space is needed in the Boston region for a variety of recreational activities both passive and active. It is difficult to measure how much land is needed for trail hiking and other passive activities; thus, quantity, or acres per thousand residents, is *not* the only criteria for need. The unique *quality* of the site should also be taken into account. The 1966 *Massachusetts State Plan* proposes an emphasis on activities which have broad appeal, are in short supply, and are of traditional interest to the state. Falling in that category were picnicking, hiking, bicycling and camping, all of which could fit into our Corridor plan.

We have, in both communities, failed to continue safe pathway development connecting our existing parks, an excellent beginning of which we inherited from Olmsted's Muddy River to Jamaica Pond complex. With the exception of developing the Larz Anderson Park and Putterham Meadows, primarily a golf course, Brookline has done relatively little to make its natural beauty accessible, or at least visible, to the public. Much of the beauty of south Brookline is on private estates, seen only by landowners and their friends. To view these areas from a moving automobile on narrow public roads is a relatively difficult and dangerous trick because of auto traffic. A system of public pathways for bicycles and pedestrians could easily and cheaply be added to our public recreational opportunities, giving the average person more chance to see and hear the natural beauty of Brookline and Boston's green corridor. Historically significant homes, estates and parks are an ignored recreational and educational resource and can be more meaningful to our present humdrum lives if they are made more accessible. Historical monuments and museums could be just one of several incentives to get out and "explore" parts of Brookline, Boston and Newton.

Two examples of how history, natural beauty and recreational pathways can be combined are the "cliff walk" in Newport, Rhode Island, linking up the opulent, now historical, mansions along the ocean front, and the tow path along the C. and O. Canal near Washington, D.C.

Very simply, then, I have tried to relate how an opportunity to preserve part of our inherited natural landscape and to provide a much needed recreational trail system so close to the inner city is about to slip through our fingers. Development of some large parcels may soon be a reality. It is no longer economical for many estates and non-profit institutions to maintain their magnificent appearance on such large parcels, and they could easily sell or develop part of their land for more income.

*What is needed, therefore, is a strong open space plan, agreed to by the communities involved, which would preserve and link up the best parts of the corridor before its open continuity is destroyed by development forever.*

### **Description of the Corridor**

The major public open spaces of Boston and Brookline, together with private estates and semi-private institutions, form the framework of the Charles-to-Charles corridor. The corridor can be thought of as three segments located along a northeast-southwest axis. (See Map No. 1.)

The first or northern segment is dominated by Olmsted Park extending from the Charles River at Charlesgate up the Muddy River to Jamaica Pond.

Segment two, or the middle segment, principally consists of private estates and existing public open spaces: Jamaica Pond, Larz Anderson

Park, and the D. Blakely Hoar Wildlife Sanctuary. Splitting to the south, linkage is possible from the Brandegee estate in Brookline to the VFW Parkway in Boston. Another axis of open space, bearing approximately northwest-southeast, could link Newton's Hammond Pond to Brookline's Lost Pond, Putterham Meadows and Larz Anderson Park and finally to Boston's Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park, forming with the first corridor, in effect, an 'X' of open space.

The open space opportunities of the third segment consists of linking the wildlife sanctuary by a trail along the Sawmill Brook, around the edge of some large cemeteries, down past the old Brook Farm, to the marshes of Cow Island Pond and the Charles River. City-owned land near this point on the Charles, now used for a sanitary land-fill, will ultimately be phased over to recreational use.

By eventually linking these three segments with safe, traffic-free pathways, the opportunities for a variety of recreational use will become almost unlimited!

The Boston-Brookline sub-regional corridor already has within it the ingredients for part of a regional park in the northern segment. The Muddy River and the Back Bay Fens, forming a common drainage way for both communities, became the major feature of the beginnings of the Nation's first regional park system. Designed by the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. in 1878, the plan now known as Olmsted Park, very simply links together by malls, riverways and parkways, a series of public open spaces, namely, the already established Boston Common and Commonwealth Avenue with the Back Bay Fens, the Muddy River, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park.

In the 1860's and 70's when the Back Bay had been filled in and construction in the City of Boston was booming, speculators and residents alike began to clamor for a solution to the foul smelling and often flooded Fens where the Muddy River and Stony Brook emptied into the Charles River. Originally retained by the City of Boston as a consultant to critique other plans, Olmsted finally submitted his own design. This plan was approved, and when implemented, solved most of the flooding and back-up problem by burying the Stony Brook in a large conduit while simultaneously retaining the Muddy River and meandering Fens as an attractive linear-type park; this tree-lined parkway served then, as it does today, to link the older downtown Boston with the newer "suburbs" of that day. It was not only a recreational system but provided a convenient circulation network for the vehicles of the day.

Within the park system Olmsted established a hierarchy of uses, later incorporated into many regional design schemes: large and medium sized parks such as Franklin and the Arboretum, smaller green places with ponds

for organized games, boating and picnicking, and the linear park and path system, for riding, hiking, biking, and pleasure driving.

The Fens-Muddy River-Jamaica Pond combination is but one major link in a ring of greenery often referred to as an "emerald necklace". The Arborway, a tree-shaded multiple path 200 feet wide, is another link connecting Jamaica Pond to the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park. In 1890, Olmsted's pupil, Charles Eliot, extended this regional park concept southward to link the Stony Brook and the Blue Hills Reservation, a full ten miles from central Boston. According to a 1903 metropolitan plan, the smaller "necklace," as it were, was proposed to be linked eastward to several beaches and Castle Island overlooking Boston harbor via Columbia Road; although the beach was developed, the Columbia Road proposal apparently lacked the natural beauty of a waterway such as the Muddy River, and thus never became a true "link."

Since Olmsted's day part of his more successful parkland has been lost to heavy vehicular traffic along the Jamaicaway and to parking lots, such as the Sears Roebuck lot built right over part of the Fens. These areas should be restored to public recreational use, and plans for this should be part of the currently proposed corridor plan.

#### **A Proposed Plan for the Middle Segment**

Within the middle segment, near the crossing of the green axis, is the area which provides the greatest opportunity to link existing park lands, and is probably the segment of the corridor with the most variety of vistas, wetlands and forests. It is also the area which is most vulnerable to pressure for development, hence, deserves our highest priority for early negotiations with various landowners.

As part of the planning process, an inventory was made of existing land use and land ownership. Forty-three major parcels of predominantly open land have been identified on both sides of the Boston-Brookline boundary, comprising some 1,340 acres, almost equally divided between the two communities. In rounded figures about 540 of these acres are owned by the municipalities, 500 by institutions and 300 by private estates. This huge segment of open space stretches from Putterham Meadows golf course to the Arnold Arboretum, and from Jamaica Pond to the VFW Parkway.

The Conservation-Planning group has narrowed their interest down to only 13 of the 43 parcels in this middle segment. All thirteen properties are at or very close to the Boston-Brookline boundary. None of these are publicly owned and therefore some negotiation will be necessary with all of them. The properties represent some 400 acres (as shown on map No. 2), but there is no intention of acquiring all this land. In several instances modest linkages by easements will serve to interconnect major parcels with existing parks and will thus establish a sort of corridor spine. Selection of these particular properties in whole or in part is based on the following criteria:

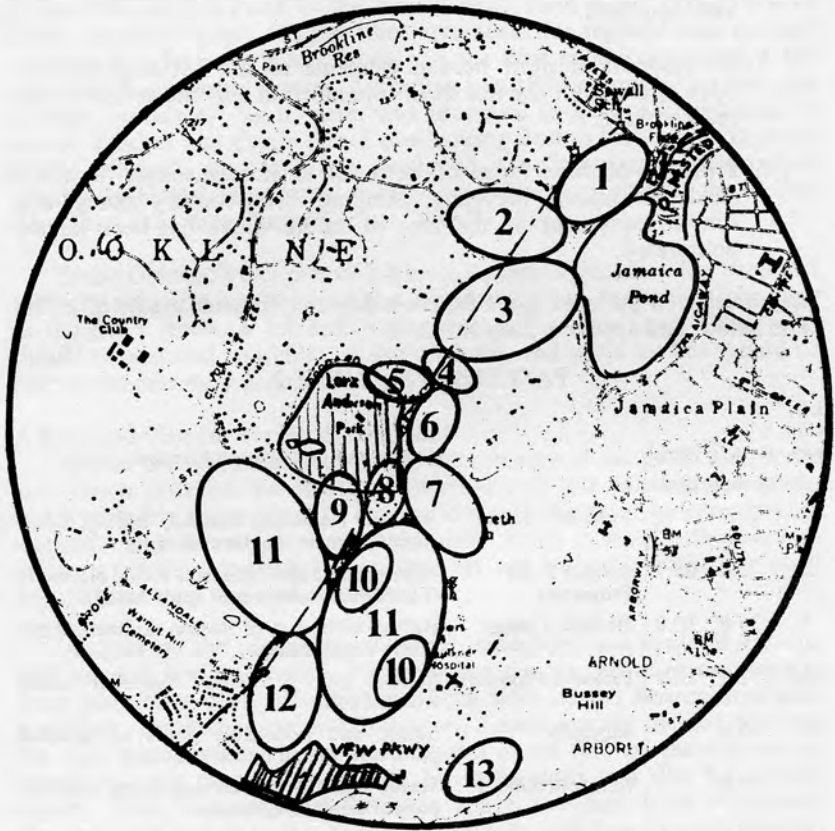


1. Creation of a continuous public open space system linking public and private open lands in the municipalities within the reaches of the Charles River.
2. Protection and enhancement of natural features of outstanding beauty. These features include ponds and wetlands, hilltops, views and woodland.
3. Pre-emption of most needed elements of the last large tract of open space from the march of urbanization and the action of the market place.
4. Provision of those forms of recreation in shortest supply for urban residents: hiking, bicycling, camping, cross-country skiing, and simple enjoyment of the face of nature which has been largely obliterated.

The parcels and the open space function they may provide are listed in the table below, and appear in map No. 2.

#### PARCELS IN SEGMENT 2

I.D. # on map.	Area in Acres		Owner	Open Space Function
	Boston Bkle.			
1.	22.7	.1	Franchi - Cabot	Historic mansions, wetland, hilltop, landscaped lawn and mature trees.
2.	5.8	28.7	Sargent Pond Properties	Nature education trail and scenic casement. (Flood plain zone would apply here)
3.	35.6	10.0	Hellenic College	Hilltop with vista of Boston skyline and the Stony Brook valley.
4.&5.	2.8	10.9	Parker & Chapman	Scenic and pedestrian easement along wooded path.
6.	7.6	-	Mahoney	Scenic and pedestrian rights of wooded path, now shared by Parker.
7.	40.0		Nazareth School	Scenic rights of woods and fields south of present school buildings.
8.	20.0		Daughters of St. Paul, Inc.	Scenic rights of eastern and southern slopes.
9.		35.0	Dexter School	Scenic easement would preserve the spectacular southwestern view.
10.	8.0	18.0	Brandegee Charitable Trust	Brandegee mansion surrounded by formal garden.
11.	33.0	72.0	Lawrence Family Estate	Opportunity to preserve unique working farm.
12.	43.3		Bakalar Estate	Beautiful woodland, brooks and rock outcrops. Possible use: group camping, swimming and nature museum.
13	5.0		Fellows of Harvard College	Possible trail easement on steep slopes forming link to Arnold Arboretum.



MAP NO. 2. MIDDLE SEGMENT PARCELS

(Early action here is important for preserving regional green corridor).

### **Future Plans for Segment Three**

The southwestern segment of the corridor extends from the intersection of the Boston-Brookline-Newton boundaries along Sawmill Brook, around several large cemeteries, to Cow Island Pond on the Charles River. The mouth of Sawmill Brook is a large marshy area valuable as a natural sponge for flood control and as a wildlife habitat. Part of this area is proposed for acquisition by the Metropolitan District Commission (M.D.C.) as part of the Charles River Watershed Program. The cemeteries, which need not be acquired, are contributing in their own way to the openness of this part of the corridor. Linkages to Newton in the northwest by trails and easements will be a subject of exploration soon.

### **How Can the Land be Preserved?**

The first step is to agree upon and adopt an open space plan. Each community must adopt such a plan to serve as a guide and safeguard against any future development which may differ from existing zoning. Secondly, the open space plan is a prerequisite for the State "self-help" open space matching fund under which the community provides half the purchase price of desired land, and the State provides the other half.

Gifts by private landowners to their respective Conservation Commissions can yield tax advantages to the owner while preserving the residential character and open landscapes of their portion of the corridor. Action by the private landowners to preserve the natural landscape may spur other actions by public agencies. The money saved through private gifts of property can be added to municipal monies as part of their share of a matching fund. In this way a larger program of preservation may be achieved with state and federal aid than is possible by municipal funds alone.

The Conservation and Planning agencies believe that if we act now, we can secure a permanent green corridor stretching from the Charles to the Charles. If we do not, who will? If we wait for others, it may be too late.