

Walker-Gordon Field Conservation Restriction

Walker-Gordon Field is an 8-acre parcel on Charles River Street, of which half is occupied by Walker Pond. The property includes a parking lot, playground, and baseball diamond, which was undersized and limited to younger players. In 2010, the Town voted to use Community Preservation Act funds to purchase an adjacent 1.75-acre property to expand the recreation area and provide a larger outfield for the baseball diamond. This allows the Walker-Gordon field to be used by players of all ages, and allows more intensive use for younger children playing soccer. The purchase also provided additional areas bordering Walker Pond that can be used for picnic areas or retained in natural vegetation to protect the natural and scenic values of the pond and its surroundings. The purpose of the Conservation Restriction held by the Needham Land Trust is to assure that the property will be maintained in perpetuity for recreational and open space purposes, which include:

- **Open Space Preservation.** The property contributes to the protection of the scenic and natural character of the open spaces described in the Open Space and Recreation Plan of the Town of Needham and the protection of the Premises will enhance the open space value of these lands.
- **Protection of Wildlife Habitat.** The preservation of the property as open space, a portion of which is within the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland and Walker Pond will provide wildlife habitat.
- **Water Quality.** The property is adjacent to a pond and bordering vegetated wetlands, and contributes to protection of water quality and wetland species by protecting bordering vegetated wetlands, buffer zones and existing woodlands.
- **Scenic Preservation.** The property formerly contained a single family residence in a state of serious disrepair. By demolishing the single family residence and associated outbuildings and incorporating the property into adjacent public land owned by the Town of Needham has resulted in the enhancement of the streetscape along a portion of Charles River Street.
- **Recreation.** The property abuts land that is owned by the Town and used for playing fields. The property was acquired to improve the recreational purposes of the Walker-Gordon Field.