

Welcome to Norwood Pond



Norwood Pond and the adjacent city owned land are unique and exceptional natural resources located in an otherwise populated urban setting. The combination of forests, open water, and variable topography create an unparalleled landscape for pond-related passive recreational activities.

Characteristics of Norwood Pond

Norwood Pond is a 50-acre water body which was formed as the impoundment of the Alewife Brook at the turn of the 20th century. The pond is naturally connected to the Wenham Lake Reservoir and serves as the headwaters to the Miles River. Due to its elongated shape with numerous coves there is a shore line length of about 16,000 feet--more than three times as much a circular lake would have of the same area.

Norwood Pond complements the adjacent 88-acres of city-owned land located north west of the pond. As an integral part of Norwood Pond's watershed, this area includes undeveloped woodlands, acres of wetlands, vernal pools, red maple swamps, wet meadows, freshwater marshes, and scenic vistas. The ecological diversity of the city owned land and Norwood Pond is home to a multitude of fauna, flora, and aquatic pond life.

Acknowledgements

The 2019 Kiosk and Wayfinding Sign Update Project was generously funded by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Recreational Trails Program in collaboration with the City of Beverly and Open Space and Recreation Committee volunteers.

Diversity of Life at Norwood Pond

Norwood Pond is home to a variety of large and small mammals, songbirds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and plants. It is located within the North Atlantic Flyway for migratory birds and provides an excellent opportunity for bird watching.

Mammals: Eastern red fox, opossum, Wood chucks, groundhogs, muskrat, beaver, deer, moles, bats, coyotes, mink

Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles: large mouth bass, bluegill perch, American bullfrog, Wood frogs, salamander, musk turtles, mud turtles, snapping turtles, garter snakes

Birds: Baltimore orioles, mourning doves, cardinals, robins, owls, wood peckers, warblers, swallows, finches, chickadees, nuthatches, hawks, blue jays, wood ducks, woodcocks

Benefits to Beverly Residents

- Four-season recreational activities: hiking, biking, fishing, birdwatching, skating, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing
- Educational value as a complex ecosystem to study natural habitat for aquatic life, birds, wildlife, and plant life
- Emergency water supply for drought conditions
- Potential drinking water supply
- Historical value: Stone walls dating back to 1700—1800s, old growth forests, cultural artifacts including arrowheads, fragments of pottery and chips from early stone tool manufacture
- A lasting legacy as Beverly's only freshwater park



Opossum



Starflower



Siberian squill



Wood frog



WARNING

Deer ticks, which can carry Lyme Disease, are found in this preserve. Take precautions to minimize contact: stay on trails and perform a full-body tick check at the end of your walk. Also check your children and pets.