United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Resub

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Fuller Brook Park

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Dover Road to Maugus Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Wellesley ☐ vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Norfolk code 021 zip code 02482

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ✓ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ✓ local

Brona Simon April 18, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO, MA Historical Commission Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Patricia Andrus 5/29/2013

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [ ] private
- [x] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [ ] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
1	0	sites
14	12	structures
0	0	**objects**
15	12	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION: outdoor recreation (park)
LANDSCAPE: park (city park)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION: outdoor recreation (park)
LANDSCAPE: park (city park)

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A
walls: N/A
roof: N/A
other:

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Fuller Brook Park in Wellesley, Massachusetts, is a roughly 2½ mile linear park comprising 35.2 acres that extend along Fuller and Caroline Brooks, from Dover Road on the west to Maugus Avenue on the east. The park was established by the town in 1899 for the dual purpose of improving drainage in low-lying flood-prone areas and providing parkland near the center of town. It is an early example of a suburban municipal park that reflects the influence of the progressive late 19th century Boston park movement. Three prominent designers advised on the project: landscape architects John Charles Olmsted and Warren Manning, and engineer Ernest Bowditch. In addition to its historical significance, Fuller Brook Park is valued for its natural resources and as a heavily used municipal park. Because the central section of the park, around Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School, was reworked extensively in the late 20th century as an active recreation area, it is excluded from the present nomination; thus Fuller Brook Park is considered a discontiguous district.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

General Character

Wellesley is an affluent suburban community of approximately 27,000 located in Norfolk County, Massachusetts, about 13 miles west of Boston. The area was settled in the 1600s and remained rural into the 19th century. With the advent of the railroad in the 1830s, Wellesley became a commuter suburb and was established as a separate community in 1881, breaking away from neighboring Needham. The town, which is home to Wellesley and Babson Colleges, has a strong tradition of civic improvements and retains a surprisingly bucolic character for a community so close to Boston.

Fuller Brook Park runs south of and roughly parallel to Washington Street, one of the major east/west routes through town, passing through several Wellesley neighborhoods. Major civic institutions in the vicinity of Fuller Brook Park include the Town Hall, 525 Washington Street (NRIND); Hunnewell Field, between Washington and Smith Street; Wellesley High School on Smith Street; and Hunnewell Elementary School on Cameron Street. The Cottage Street Local Historic District extends along Cottage Street on either side of the park, but the park itself is excluded from the district.

Although the park was conceived as a single unit, it now has two distinct sections, which are separated by Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School, which are excluded from the nomination. The downstream, or southern, section, which runs along **Fuller Brook**, includes segments 1A-1E. The upstream, or northern section, which runs along **Caroline Brook**, a tributary of Fuller Brook, includes segments 2A-2D. (Note: the segment numbers used to organize this nomination were developed as part of the park master plan and cultural landscape report undertaken in 2003.) The general characteristics of the park are discussed first, followed by a description of the individual segments, beginning at the southwestern or downstream end.

The park landscape varies, but consistent elements are: the **pedestrian path system**, which runs along the entire length of the park; the brooks (Fuller Brook at the western end and Caroline Brook at the eastern end); vehicular bridges that carry the cross streets over the brook; pedestrian bridges over the brook; drainage structures; and park furnishings. There is also a modern **signage system** throughout the park.

Fuller Brook Park has evolved as an integral component of its setting. The abutting properties function as a frame and context for the park. The park runs primarily through residential neighborhoods, and is surrounded by single-family homes for much of its length. Most of these are on large lots and are set back from the park.

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Generally, boundaries between private and public land are not clearly delineated, allowing an expansive and fluid quality to the landscape. In some cases private lawns feel like an extension of the park. In other cases, fences or formal plantings create a more distinct boundary. There are also a few large residential and institutional buildings abutting the park, which give those areas a more urban character.

An essential quality of Fuller Brook Park is its linearity, which is broken by cross streets. For most park users, the experience of Fuller Brook Park is one of moving through a narrow landscape with the brook and the path at its core, framed by varied passages of scenery that are shaped largely by vegetation. Within the park corridor, the arrangement of park elements responds to the natural condition of the landscape rather than to formal geometry. For most of the length of the park, the topography is relatively level with variations of only a few feet overall. Vegetation is a particularly critical aspect of Fuller Brook Park, and one that has evolved over time. Today, the park vegetation has varied types of plantings massed together to appear natural. These include low stream-edge vegetation, open lawns with scattered trees, small areas of ornamental plantings, and multi-story woodland at the edges. Most of the species found at the park are native, but there are also small areas of invasive plantings, as well as some ornamental species.

Some sections of Fuller Brook appear to be a natural stream, but much of it is actually a heavily manipulated watercourse. Over the past century, the brook channel has been straightened and lowered to drain the adjacent lands. The western end (Dover Road to Grove Street) has sections of concrete curbing to retain the banks (these are submerged below the water level for much of the year). The section north of Grove Street is wider, more meandering, and more heavily vegetated along its banks, giving it a more natural appearance. Part of Caroline Brook–one of two tributaries of Fuller Brook and the only one that is included in this nomination–is wide and swampy. East of Caroline Street, Caroline Brook runs in an underground culvert and there is no stream along the park. Drainage structures associated with Fuller Brook include two flumes (narrow stone-lined channels) built in the early 20th century for measuring the flow of the brook. One of these is now the foundation for the Morton Street pedestrian bridge.

The continuous park path was not completed until the 1930s. Today it extends along the entire length of the park although it has been rerouted at several places. The width and surface material vary along the route. Most of the path is gravel surfaced, but heavily used sections are paved with bituminous. There are also secondary intersecting paths in several locations, which date to the 1930s, and are also integral features of the park. Most of the cross streets existed when the park was established. Several have been added since, especially in the area around Hunnewell Field. These include Cameron Street, State Street, Rice Street, and Paine Street.

There are seven vehicular bridges associated with Fuller Brook Park, all of which carry two-lane local roads over the brook. The oldest appears to be the Brook Street bridge, a rough vernacular bridge that was probably built in the early 20th century. There are also three single-arched stone bridges. The Cameron Street and Wellesley Avenue bridges were built in the early 1930s specifically to enhance the park. The State Street bridge is similar to the Cameron Street bridge, although it was built in 1949. The three bridges at the western end of the park were built in 1958 as part of a major drainage project. They are all similar, with concrete structure and horizontal concrete rails in a Moderne style. There are also culverts in the northern section of the park that carry Caroline Brook under several streets. Most of the pedestrian bridges were initially built in the 1930s, but the current pedestrian bridges are late 20th century replacements. All park furnishings and signs date to the late 20th century. These include benches, guardrails, trail signs, and the playground equipment, basketball court, and little league field in Phillips Park.

Although the park functions as a linear unit, it is divided into segments by the residential streets that cross the park. The following, more detailed, descriptions are organized by segment, beginning at the southwestern end of the park. The downstream, or southern, section, which runs along Fuller Brook from Dover Road to

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State Street, includes segments 1A-1E. The central section consisting of Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School is omitted from this nomination because it has been extensively modified and lacks integrity. The upstream, or northern, section, which runs along Caroline Brook from Paine Street to Maugus Avenue, includes segments 2A-2D. The discussion of each segment includes: landscape character, stream/drainage, circulation, structures and furnishings. There are maps for each segment, as well as an overall map.

Segment 1A: Dover Road to Cottage Street

Segment 1A, which extends from Dover Road on the west to Cottage Street on the east, is located at the far southwestern or downstream end of Fuller Brook Park. It is one of the most spacious and rural sections of the park, with Nehoiden Golf Course to the west, and single-family residences on large lots abutting the park on the north and south. The houses along the northern edge of the park are generally well-screened while some of the houses to the south are more visible, with lawns running right to the edge of the park. Vegetation within the park is varied, ranging from natural woodland, which occurs along much of the northern edge of Segment 1A, to areas of lawn interspersed with trees, to ornamental plantings. Lawn areas contribute to the park-like character of the landscape. A split puddingstone boulder along the path between Vane and Winthrop Streets is a prominent natural feature. The main park path, which is gravel-surfaced and about four feet wide for most of Segment 1A, runs south of Fuller Brook for this entire segment (Photo 1). There are short, intersecting paths at Leighton Road and Appleby Street where there are also footbridges.

The section of Fuller Brook from Dover Road to just east of Grove Street was lowered and lined with **concrete curbing** in the late 1950s. In general, this section of the streambed is narrow and deep, with steep sides. Most of the curbing still exists, but it has shifted over time and is no longer effective in channeling the watercourse. During most of the year, the curbing is below water level and not very visible.

The **Dover Road bridge**, which marks the western end of Fuller Brook Park, is a two-lane bridge with concrete structure and rails, which was built as part of the drainage improvements of the late 1950s. The east side is planted with junipers, a use of ornamental plantings that also occurs at several other bridges. The Cottage Street bridge, which was built at the same time, is similar. The **Leighton Road footbridge** and the **Appleby Street footbridge** are late 1980s replacements of bridges that were built in the 1930s. They have steel stringers, concrete abutments, and wooden decking and rails. Along the path on the southern side of the brook, there are several benches and trail posts. There are also several streets that dead-end at the park: Vane Street, Winthrop Street, Benton Street, Tappan Street on the south, and Appleby Road on the north. Leighton Road runs parallel to Fuller Brook on the north side for several blocks.

Segment 1B: Cottage Street to Grove Street

Much of Segment 1B continues the relatively rural character of Segment 1A, particularly at its western end where houses are set back from the park and are well screened by vegetation. On the north side, just west of Grove Street, is Wellesley Green, a large brick apartment building that provides a much more urban edge to the park. Vegetation within the park is varied, ranging from natural woodland (which occurs along much of the edge of Segment 1B), to areas of open lawn, to shrub plantings at bridges. Open lawn areas with scattered mature trees, such as that west of Grove Street, contribute to the park-like character of the landscape.

Like Segment 1A, most of segment 1B was lowered and lined with concrete curbing in the late 1950s. The curbing still exists, but it has shifted over time and is no longer effective in channeling the watercourse. In general this section of the streambed is narrow with steep sides, and largely inaccessible due to the grade and shrubby vegetation along the stream edges. There is some erosion between Cottage and Grove Streets.

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Cottage Street marks the western edge of Segment 1B and Grove Street marks its eastern edge. There are no intersecting roads in this segment, but Denton Road dead-ends just north of the park, and there is a pedestrian right-of-way from the end of the road to the park. The main park path, which is gravel-surfaced and about four feet wide for most of Segment 1B, runs south of Fuller Brook. The bridges that mark the ends of Segment 1B are the **Cottage Street bridge** and **Grove Street bridge**. Both are two-lane vehicular bridges with concrete structure and rails. They were built as part of the drainage improvements of the late 1950s, and are similar in style to the Dover Road bridge. Segment 1B has no footbridges. There are several benches of varying types in this section, and a trail sign at Cottage Street.

Segment 1C: Grove Street to Brook Street

Segment 1C, from Grove Street to Brook Street, is divided into two short blocks. The block between Grove and Cameron is narrow, but feels larger because it is well screened from surrounding properties by vegetation, and in some places by small changes in topography. Single-family houses lying along the south side of the park are barely visible through the vegetation. Hunnewell Elementary School and its large playground abut the park on the north side, just east of Cameron Street.

Vegetation in Segment 1C generally has a woodland character with naturally occurring plant associations, especially on the south side of the stream. This character is reinforced by the fact that woodland continues onto adjacent private property along the entire south side of Segment 1C. The only area of open lawn is the north side of the park near Brook Street, which is similar to some of the park-like areas in Segment 1D.

In Segment 1C, the streambed is narrow and deep at its western end, and wide and meandering at its eastern end. East of Grove Street there is a change in grade marked by the **Grove Street flume** (Photo 2), which is a narrow channel about 30 feet long and eight feet wide, with granite-block side walls reinforced with concrete at the bottom and outer edges. The concrete bottom creates a small waterfall at the southwestern (downstream) end of the flume. Upstream of the flume, the brook has a more natural appearance than Segments 1A and 1B because there is no curbing in the water. There is erosion east of Grove Street, and sediment deposits and erosion east of Cameron Street. East of the Hunnewell School, Cold Spring Brook (a small tributary) enters Fuller Brook from the north.

The main park path runs along the south side of the stream from Grove Street to Cameron Street, and on the north side from Cameron Street to Brook Street. This section of path, which is heavily used by school children, is paved with bituminous and is variable in width, typically about four feet. Sections of the path east of Brook Street are low and poorly drained in places. There is a worn path on the north side from Grove Street to Cameron Street, and on the south side east of Cameron Street.

The **Cameron Street bridge** was designed by engineer A. Stewart Cassidy in 1930 and is a two-lane vehicular bridge of mortared fieldstone face, with a single arch and stone parapet without a capstone. It is crescent-shaped in plan and there is evidence of a former lamppost mounted on the bridge. The **Brook Street bridge** is discussed in the following section. The **Cold Spring Brook footbridge** is a late 20th-century pedestrian bridge with wooden structure and rails and concrete abutment. It is similar to the Leighton and Appleby footbridges in Segment 1A, although the rails are more widely spaced. Near the Hunnewell School, three large boulders function as informal benches. There are small trail posts at Grove and Cameron Streets.

Segment 1D: Brook Street to Wellesley Avenue

Segment 1D is a particularly pleasant portion of Fuller Brook Park, largely because this area has a secluded character that belies the close proximity of the adjacent neighborhood. Houses are well screened along the entire length of this segment. The south side of the brook is wooded, with a more open landscape on the

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north, consisting of lawn areas with scattered trees along the path and a narrow strip of woodland beyond. Some areas on the north side near Wellesley Avenue are low and wet.

Fuller Brook is generally wide and meandering in Segment 1D, and is at nearly the same grade as the path. It has a natural appearance and none of the engineered character of Segments 1A and 1B, due in part to the dense, multi-story woodland vegetation along the edges of the stream. Fuller Brook is less visible from the path than it is in Segment 1C because of the heavy vegetation.

Segment 1D is one of the shortest segments in Fuller Brook Park, and has no intersecting roads. It is bounded on the west by Brook Street and on the east by Wellesley Avenue. The bituminous paved path runs along the north side of the brook for the entire segment, and is heavily used by school children and others. There is also a worn path on the south side from Brook Street to Marvin Road, which runs along the southern edge of the park near Wellesley Avenue.

The **Brook Street bridge**, like the other bridges along Fuller Brook, is a two-lane bridge, although Brook Street is narrower than most of the other cross streets and thus less of an intrusion into the park. The Brook Street bridge, a vernacular bridge with two large round culverts and concrete surround, large granite block abutments and face (later patched with brick) and a wood rail parapet is earlier and far rougher in its construction than the other bridges along Fuller Brook. The Wellesley Avenue bridge is discussed in segment 1E.

Segment 1E: Wellesley Avenue to State Street/Smith Street

Segment 1E extends from Wellesley Avenue on the west to State Street (which turns into Smith Street south of the bridge) on the east. It is a relatively long segment, unbroken by road crossings. Parts of Segment 1E have a fairly natural character, like a path through the woods. The western portion of the segment is wooded and natural on the south side, with single-family residences on the north that are partially screened by vegetation. In the eastern end of this segment there is a strong distinction between the south and north sides. Vegetation is heavier on the south and generally screens the adjacent residences from the park. On the north side, highly maintained lawns extend all the way to the brook, creating the impression that the land is actually private property rather than parkland.

The stream channel is wide, shallow, and meandering, similar to its character in segments 1C and 1D (Photo 4). There is a narrow strip of vegetation along both sides, but because it is low and the elevation of the brook is close to that of the path, the brook is clearly visible. There is a sediment deposit at the Morton Street footbridge.

The path runs along the southern edge of Fuller Brook for the entire length of Segment 1E. It has a bituminous surface, is approximately four feet wide and receives moderate use. There are no cross streets, but Morton Street dead-ends just north of the park. There is a short cross path between Morton Street on the north and Wilson/Twitchell Streets on the south.

The **Wellesley Avenue bridge** (Photo 3) is a two-lane vehicular bridge, crescent-shaped in plan, with single arch, battered, dressed granite block walls in random ashlar pattern, and granite-block coping with slight overhang. Initially built in 1891, the bridge was refaced in 1931 with a redesign by A. Stewart Cassidy. Cut-granite blocks are used for benches east of Brook Street, and there is a trail post at Brook Street. The **State Street bridge** is a two-lane, arched vehicular bridge, with mortared boulder walls and parapet, and a concrete sub-structure. The current bridge was built in 1949 when State Street was relocated. The **Morton Street footbridge** includes a granite-block **flume** for its substructure, with concrete deck and wooden rails. The flume is similar to the one near Grove Street and probably dates to the early 20th century, but the deck and rails are recent replacements. There are trail markers at major intersections.

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Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School

Note: This section of Fuller Brook Park is excluded from the nomination due to lack of integrity but the following information is provided for context. East of State Street, Fuller Brook enters Hunnewell Field, a 49-acre recreation area. At Hunnewell Field several tributaries come together: Abbott Brook from the north, Caroline Brook from the northeast, and Fuller Brook itself from the southeast. There is now little of the original Fuller Brook Park left in the Hunnewell Field/High School area, as the stream and path have been realigned over the years to accommodate athletic facilities associated with Hunnewell Field and the recent expansion of Wellesley High School.

Segment 2A: Paine Street to Forest Street

The section of Fuller Brook Park east of the high school runs along Caroline Brook. Here the landscape is dramatically different than anywhere else in Fuller Brook Park. Just beyond the high school the path enters a wooded wetland, which extends for much of Segment 2A. This area is generally unkempt, overgrown, and much wilder in character than any other segment of the park. Ironically, it is this segment that is most like the original pre-park landscape. It is a relatively wide section, with houses well screened. As Segment 2A approaches Forest Street, it rises gently in elevation and the path moves through an area of open lawn.

East of the high school the brook is wide and meandering and the channel is less defined through the swamp but becomes narrower near Forest Street. Distinctive features in this segment are the **raised manholes** of the underground sewer line that are elevated several feet above the ground plane because the area is prone to flooding. There is also a **wooden boardwalk** near Paine Street that carries the path through the wettest area.

Segment 2A begins at Paine Street, just east of the high school, and ends at Forest Street. The path through the swamp is about four feet wide and earthen, with wood chips in wetter areas (Photo 5). As it approaches Forest Street, it becomes a single track that is far narrower than the rest of the Fuller Brook Park trail system.

The **Forest Avenue culvert** consists of a culvert and headwall of large granite blocks that carries Caroline Brook under Forest Street. A late 20th century, partially elevated boardwalk carries the path over the wettest part of the swamp.

Segment 2B: Forest Street to Caroline Street

Segment 2B begins at Forest Street and continues east to Caroline Street, a very narrow neighborhood street. It marks a significant transition in the character of the park as there is no above-ground brook to the east of that road. This segment is characterized by a swath of open lawn with woodland on both sides. Residences are well screened by woods throughout the segment, giving it a rural character despite the proximity of the houses. Another characteristic that distinguishes this segment from Segments 1A-E, where the brook is a central feature of the park, is that here the brook runs along the northern edge and is largely invisible from the path. There are distinctive peeling birches on either side of Forest Street, which is one of the most noticeable uses of ornamental plantings in the park.

Caroline Brook, an intermittent stream that runs along the northern edge of the park, emerges from a **headwall** just west of Caroline Street, but is underground east of that. The brook is lined with **wooden cribbing** in some sections to prevent erosion. Two small channels run north/south across the park, emptying into Caroline Brook. **Two small culverts** with some stone facing carry these tributaries under the park path.

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The width of the path is variable through segment 2B, and is surfaced with several different types of stone mixes. In general, the path through the Caroline Brook section of the park is not as heavily used as the Fuller Brook section. There are several benches along this segment, and telephone pole guardrails are used to mark the western end of the segment at Forest Street.

Segment 2C: Caroline Street to Seaward Road

As there is no stream east of Caroline Street, the character of the parkland is a linear park but no longer a brookside park. From Caroline Street to Abbott Street, the park is a roughly 60 feet wide corridor of open turf with a row of deciduous specimen trees on either side, backed by woodland (Photo 6). There are also specimen plantings along the roadways, including flowering crabapple trees. The section from Caroline to Abbott is particularly well screened and park-like. The section from Abbott to Seaward is narrower, and is also more closely bounded by buildings and an adjacent parking lot, making it less secluded.

Segment 2C begins at Caroline Street. It is bisected in the middle by Abbott Street (a narrow road with very limited local use); Seward Road forms its eastern edge. For the entire length of this segment, the path is narrow and is surfaced with dirt, gravel, or stone dust. Late 20th-century, reused telephone pole guardrails, many of which are deteriorated, mark the road edges at several cross streets in the Caroline Brook section of the park.

Segment 2D: Seaward Road to Maugus Avenue

Between Seaward Road and Maugus Avenue, Fuller Brook Park runs along the northern edge of the park corridor. Immediately to the south is Phillips Park, a small neighborhood playground with **basketball court**, **little league field** and **playground**, which are noncontributing resources. The path then continues along the edge of Maugus Avenue for half a block until it reaches Washington Street. When Phillips Park was constructed in the late 20th century, the Fuller Brook Park path was relocated slightly to the north. The path through this section is about four feet wide and is paved with bituminous. There are no historic structures associated with this section and no brook. Adjacent buildings to the north are close to Fuller Brook Park and are not well screened, giving this segment a more urban character.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known within the boundaries of the Fuller Brook Park, sites may exist. Two sites are known in the general area (within one mile); both located on upland terraces bordering Waban Brook, a tributary of Fuller Brook, approximately 0.25 miles south of the proposed district. Environmental characteristics of the Fuller/Caroline Brook locale represent some locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. Level to moderately sloping topography characterizes most of the linear park arranged around Fuller and Caroline Brooks. The district is located within the Charles River drainage. While the above criteria are favorable for the presence of Native sites, soil drainage represents a dominant unfavorable characteristic. Most of the proposed district land was initially swampland and prone to flooding. Park construction involved straightening and dredging the brook channel and using fill from the channel to create solid ground along the park corridor. Little, if any, of the present course of Fuller Brook follows its natural route. Most, if not all, of the present stream channel has been altered or placed in enclosed culverts. Sewer construction was also completed in 1915, 1921, and in the 1980s following the course of Fuller Brook. During each phase of sewer construction, fill was regraded forming a base for the path that extends along the length of the park.

Given the above information and patterns of historic land use within the district, the potential for locating significant cultural resources, both historic and ancient Native American, within Fuller Brook Park is low. The

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poorly drained nature of the Fuller Brook Park landscape prior to park construction indicates a low sensitivity for both ancient Native American and historic resources in park area. Grading and regrading of the park at numerous times since 1899 would have destroyed any known or potential cultural resources that may have been present. No historic resources that predate park construction beginning in 1899 have been identified.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development
Landscape Architecture
Recreation

Period of Significance
1899–1962

Significant Dates
1899 Park established

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Architect/Builder
John Charles Olmsted
Warren Manning
Ernest Bowditch
A. Stewart Cassidy

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance extends from 1899, when the park was established, to 1962, the 50-year cutoff.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Fuller Brook Park is a well-preserved linear park, established in 1899 for the dual purpose of improving drainage in flood-prone areas and providing parkland through the center of Wellesley, Massachusetts. It was an early and sophisticated municipal expression of an integrated multi-purpose civic improvement project. More than a century after it was created, Fuller Brook Park continues to serve multiple functions of drainage, open space, and pedestrian transportation while retaining its naturalistic character. Two segments near the center of the park were heavily altered in the 1980s and are excluded from the present nomination; the resulting discontiguous linear park district retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a reflection of the visionary planning efforts undertaken by the town of Wellesley and its consultants, John Charles Olmsted, Warren Manning, and Ernest Bowditch, and an exemplary example of late 19th century landscape design, Fuller Brook Park is significant under Criteria A and C at the local level.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of Significance

Fuller Brook Park is significant in the areas of Community Planning and Development, Landscape Architecture, and Recreation. The design and construction of Fuller Brook Park were strongly influenced by Boston's Emerald Necklace Park System and the Boston Metropolitan Park System, and was a sophisticated expression of the ideas of these larger park systems at the municipal level.

Criterion A: Association with events that have made a significance contribution to broad patterns of history

Fuller Brook Park meets criterion A as an example of progressive community planning and development, and reflects the town's commitment over time both to creating a healthy environment in an area that had been swampy and prone to flooding, and to maintaining places of natural beauty for outdoor recreation.

The mid 19th century was a period of rapid physical and social change in the greater Boston area, with a resulting growth of cities and rise of suburban living, due in large measure to improved transportation systems. Wellesley residents placed high value on the scenic character and bountiful natural resources of their town and made a conscious effort to enhance their community and to seek progressive long-term solutions in creating the town infrastructure, particularly its park system. In 1897 the Wellesley Park Commission hired the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot to assess possibilities for the community's parks.

John Charles Olmsted, the senior partner in the firm at that time, visited Wellesley and prepared a written report dated February 9, 1897. The primary focus of the report was on Fuller Brook, but it also included general recommendations. Olmsted's report praised Wellesley's natural beauties and its "comparative freedom from objectionable features," describing the town as "a pleasing landscape composed of gently rolling fields, groves and woods, breezy hills, pretty brooks, beautiful ponds with woody borders and one of the most charming rivers in this part of the country." In language that is similar to other Olmsted reports of the time, the report enumerated the physical assets of the community and praised the citizens of Wellesley for their good judgment.

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The report urged the community to set aside between one-eighth to one-quarter of the whole area of the town for public open space that should be conceived as unified system of "public pleasure grounds and drives" pointing out that if action were taken promptly while land was still inexpensive, the cost would be far less than it would in the future. Important features cited in the report included: the Charles River, Lake Waban and the highest hills of the town. The report also recommended that there should be small neighborhood parks and playgrounds, that the town water supply be protected, that provisions be made for sewage disposal, and that low-lying land be acquired for flood control. An integral feature of the proposal was a series of parkways, modeled on those in Boston's Emerald Necklace Park system as well as Boston's Metropolitan Park System, which would connect the various parks and open spaces and provide an alternative to the town's main thoroughfares that were heavily used for commercial purposes.

The year 1899 began a period of growth and change for the Wellesley Park Commission, including the creation of Fuller Brook Park, a linear park established to improve drainage and create parkland near the center of town. Wellesley's park system continued to grow rapidly during the first decade of the twentieth century.

Criterion C: Design/Construction

The park also meets Criterion C as an example of late 19th-century park planning that represents the work of three nationally prominent men: John Charles Olmsted, Warren Manning, and Ernest Bowditch, each of whom contributed to the planning of the park. Town Engineer A. Stewart Cassidy designed several of the vehicular bridges associated with the park in the 1930s.

John Charles Olmsted (1852-1920), the stepson of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., was a landscape architect and planner who spent his entire professional life at the Olmsted office. He became a partner in 1884, and in 1898, after the senior Olmsted's retirement, he and his brother Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., formed Olmsted Brothers, where he was senior partner until his death in 1920. He was also a founding member and first president of the American Society of Landscape Architects. John Charles Olmsted was a skilled designer and an advocate for systematic planning. He argued that liberal provision of parks in a community was one of the surest manifestations of the civilization and progressiveness of its citizens. He also urged that a park system should be planned comprehensively, and that the purposes to be accomplished should be clearly defined at the outset. These ideas were reflected in his park work for major cities across the country.

J.C. Olmsted's role at Fuller Brook Park was limited to an initial consultation in January 1897, arranged through Park Commissioner Joseph Peabody. His site notes offer his initial ideas about the park. However, his influence is evident in the March 1899 report from the Park Commissioners to the citizens of Wellesley, which made bold proposals for land acquisition, and anticipated that the area would one day be valued as a linear park and transportation corridor.

As a young man, Warren Manning (1860-1938) worked at his father's nursery business in Reading, Massachusetts, where he developed expertise as a horticulturist and landscape gardener. From 1888 to 1895 he worked at the Olmsted firm where he became superintendent of the planting department. While there, he worked closely with Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. on many projects, including the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893, and the Biltmore estate in Asheville, North Carolina, which Manning considered one of his most important projects. He also worked closely with Charles Eliot on surveys of the newly established metropolitan parks, and with John Charles Olmsted.

In 1896, Manning started his own business, which he continued until his death. Initially he worked primarily on

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design projects, some of which he took with him from the Olmsted office. He also became interested in large-scale planning, advocating community involvement as an essential component of the planning process. He developed a practical approach to this in the form of community days, in which citizens undertook civic projects such as building a park. In 1899, Manning was one of the founders of the American Society of Landscape Architects. His notable projects include the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, park system; a landscape design for the Stan Hywet estate in Akron, Ohio; a city plan for Birmingham, Alabama; and his pioneering work in national planning.

Manning was the landscape architect who was most directly involved in the creation of Fuller Brook Park. He was hired by the town in 1899, worked intermittently on the project until 1907, and was consulted again in 1914. Manning's primary responsibility was to lay out the boundaries of the park, working with surveyors and landowners to establish initial boundaries that were marked in the field before they were finalized. He was most likely also responsible for the plant inventory that was done at that time. He may have advised on the initial drainage work, which consisted primarily of deepening and straightening the brook channel and filling the wetlands adjacent to the brook. Plans on file in the town's planning department indicate that Manning also drew schematic plans for a carriageway in several segments of the park, and for rustic stone drainage structures, none of which were apparently implemented.

Ernest Bowditch (1850-1918) was a native of Brookline, Massachusetts, who worked as a surveyor, draftsman, and landscape gardener. He established his own office in 1871. Initially he worked primarily as a consultant to other firms, but over time he became known in his own right as a designer of estate grounds, residential subdivisions, and parks, including Rockefeller Park and Shaker Lakes Park, both in Cleveland.

Toward the end of his career, Bowditch became involved in regional and community planning. This was his role in Wellesley, where he was initially hired to oversee planning for the community's water and sewer system. He conducted a series of analyses of the town's growth, geology, hydrology, etc., as part of this effort. He also made recommendations regarding extensions to Fuller Brook Park and creation of a boulevard along the brook to alleviate traffic on Washington Street. Most of these recommendations were not implemented.

Town Engineer A. Stewart Cassidy, who had worked with Bowditch and later became town engineer, designed the Cameron Street Bridge in 1930, which was considered a model for future bridges. In 1931 he redesigned the Wellesley Avenue Bridge, which had originally been built in 1891. The designers of the other bridges are unknown.

HISTORIC CONTEXT AND SITE HISTORY

Boston's Emerald Necklace

The mid19th century was a period of rapid physical and social change in New England, with a resulting growth of cities and rise of suburban living, due in large measure to improved transportation systems. In the changing social and economic climate, Wellesley residents placed high value on the scenic character and bountiful natural resources of the town and made a conscious effort to preserve and enhance their community. Creation of regional infrastructure also impacted the community, with construction of the Cochituate Aqueduct through town in 1848 to transport drinking water from Lake Cochituate to Boston. In 1876-77 the Sudbury River Aqueduct, also part of Boston's water supply system, was built through Wellesley, opening in the 1890s. Both remain part of Wellesley's open space system today, although the Cochituate Aqueduct now carries local storm drainage rather than Boston's water.

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Boston was a leader in the 19th-century American park movement. Early park advocates offered initial visions for Boston's municipal parks, but in the 1880s and 1890s landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. was responsible for refining these concepts and for enlarging the definition of urban park to include parkways, park systems and other infrastructure such as transportation and drainage. One of Olmsted's best known and most successful projects was Boston's Emerald Necklace (NR1971), a system of parks extending from the Back Bay Fens to Franklin Park, with all units of the system linked by tree-lined parkways.

Olmsted's park designs were grounded in two major principles. He believed strongly in the social value of parks as places where people of all classes could mingle. His smaller parks and portions of the larger parks were designed to meet this need. He also embraced the restorative value of nature and felt that parks should be places where people could escape from urban sights and sounds and find tranquil surroundings that would act as an antidote to the pressures of urban life. This he accomplished in large areas called landscape parks, where the natural landscape was subtly enhanced to heighten the experience of the park user. Olmsted also stressed the importance of preserving natural features such as streams, arguing that doing so would be less expensive than filling them and forcing them into underground culverts. His design for Boston's Back Bay Fens, which transformed sewage infested tidal flats into a meandering lagoon, was a brilliant expression of this concept.[1]

The park system that Olmsted designed for Boston also included a network of parkways, which he envisioned as continuous pleasure roads linking residential neighborhoods with parks. The inspiration was derived in part from European boulevards, especially those in Paris, where Olmsted was impressed with the separation of carriages from carts and other heavy traffic, and the wide strips of lawn and rows of trees. However, unlike the straight European boulevards, Olmsted's parkways followed the contour of the land. Some parkway corridors even expanded to integrate natural features such as streams, as along the Muddy River.

Metropolitan Park System

The second precedent that would have been in the minds of Wellesley residents in the 1890s was Boston's Metropolitan Park System (NR IND). One of the people primarily responsible for the creation of the metropolitan parks was Charles Eliot, a young landscape architect who had apprenticed at the Olmsted firm. In 1890 Eliot suggested that landscapes should be preserved "just as the Public Library holds books and the Art Museum pictures -- for the use and enjoyment of the public."[2] A few years later Eliot argued that open space was an essential feature of urban communities, placing it in the same category as water supply and sewage treatment, but noted that because of other priorities, most communities were not able to act boldly to acquire parkland. This was the nucleus of an idea that led to the creation of the Trustees of Public Reservations in 1891 and the Metropolitan Park Commission (MPC) in 1893.

In 1893 Eliot and journalist Sylvester Baxter were hired by the newly formed MPC to lay out the principles of the proposed Metropolitan Park System and to recommend priorities for land acquisition. The report proposed five types of landscapes for inclusion in the metropolitan system: ocean frontage; shores and islands of the inner bay; tidal estuaries; forest uplands; and small squares and playgrounds in populated areas. For each landscape type, recommendations were offered regarding specific properties. The term "reservation" was used, rather than "park", for the larger MPC properties to distinguish them from smaller, more urban parks and to emphasize that the land was being reserved in more or less its natural state. Eliot also included pleasure

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[1] For additional information on Olmsted's park designs see Cynthia Zaitzevsky, *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1982) and Charles E. Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau, *Frederick Law Olmsted, Designing the American Landscape* (New York: Rizzolli, 1995).

[2] Charles William Eliot, *Charles Eliot Landscape Architect* (Freeport, NY: Books for Libraries Press, 1971, reprint of 1901 edition), p. 318.

drives, known as parkways, in the reservations, many of them running along river corridors. In several articles on forestry, Eliot articulated principles for stewardship of the large reservations, which he saw as managing the forests to preserve the inherent scenic qualities of the landscape. Eliot became a partner in the Olmsted firm in 1893 and continued to work on the metropolitan parks until his untimely death in 1897, when the work was taken over by John Charles Olmsted and his brother Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.
[3]

Of most direct relevance for Wellesley was the proposal to include lands along Boston's three major river estuaries in the Metropolitan Park System, especially the Charles River, which offered two very different conditions. The banks of the lower Charles were heavily industrialized and the water was sufficiently polluted to endanger public health. Eliot envisioned damming the lower section and acquiring the adjacent lands to create a park-lined basin. The section of the Charles River upstream from Watertown was much more pristine. Here the goal was to preserve the natural scenery that still existed and where possible to construct a road or footpath along the river edge. Land acquisition for the Charles River Reservation was under way during the late 1890s, including land acquired by the MPC in the eastern part of Wellesley.

Wellesley was initially part of the town of Needham, which lies to the southeast, but was incorporated as a separate town in 1881. By then, the area already had a strong tradition of civic pride and landscape improvements. This was due in large measure to H.H. Hunnewell, a banker, financier, philanthropist, and horticulturist, who had established a landscaped estate in the community and later donated a town hall/library and adjacent park to the town. During the 1880s, the town created a municipal government and community infrastructure, including a Park Commission established in 1889. Two years later, the town appointed a committee to look into the drainage system of the town. These interrelated themes of park and drainage are central to the identity of Fuller Brook Park. In 1897, the Park Commission hired John Charles Olmsted, of the landscape architectural firm of Olmsted, Olmsted, and Eliot, for a consultation regarding potential parks for the town, including the low-lying areas along Fuller Brook near the center of town. The 1899 report from the Wellesley Park Commissioners described the problem caused by the swampy areas along the brook:

> *"If these swamps are left in private hands, it is probable that but little will be done toward remedying their unwholesomeness. On the contrary, it is inevitable, judging from experience elsewhere, that the unhealthy conditions will grow worse and worse. The natural surface drainage will be crowded upon so those floods will become decidedly troublesome. The swamps will become polluted by the overflow and seepage from cesspools and vaults; silt largely mixed with manure from road wash and from gardens and lawns will accumulate on the low lands, both choking natural drainage channels and producing beds of putrid vegetable matter in moist places, breeding virulent diseases as well as unhealthy conditions."*

In 1899, the Park Commission published its recommendations for Fuller Brook, which included acquiring the land along the brook and its tributaries, as well as some of the adjacent higher ground. It also recommended that Fuller Brook be deepened and straightened for public health and flood control, and that paths be constructed along the brook and the land treated as a linear park. Landscape architect Warren Manning, formerly of the Olmsted office, was hired to direct the initial work at the park.

Land acquisition and initial improvements at Fuller Brook were ongoing through the early 20th century. Most of the land was initially swamp. The process of park-making was one of straightening and dredging the brook channel, and using fill from the channel to create solid ground along the park corridor. During this early phase, improvements were rudimentary, and the work was more land reclamation than park design. The

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[3] Background material on the Boston and Metropolitan park systems is drawn in part from a National Register nomination for the Metropolitan Park System prepared by PAL Inc. in fall 2002.

regraded land was initially consisted mostly of open fields; some of which were mowed for hay and others, which were used for growing potatoes. Few plans or photographs have been found from this early period, other than land acquisition plans and some schematic design work on drainage structures and circulation systems by Warren Manning and his office.

By 1913, Fuller Brook Park had grown to 75 acres and about 11,500 lineal feet of brook. Around this time, the town was looking to Fuller Brook Park to meet two additional town needs: sewer and traffic. Ernest W. Bowditch, who was designing the town's water and sewer system, was also hired to study the relation between park and sewer developments. The town sewer was constructed through the parklands along Fuller Brook between 1915 and 1921, causing considerable disruption. Bowditch also recommended that a boulevard be built along the park, from the junction of Maugus Avenue and Washington Street to the Needham line following the line of the sewer, but this idea was never implemented.

The 1920s and 1930s were a time of landscape improvements at Fuller Brook Park. The work was done under the supervision of the Park Commission, apparently without involvement of a landscape architect. After sewer construction was completed in 1921, the land along the brook was regraded using fill from sewer construction, and the path was improved with the goal of creating a continuous footpath along the length of the park. Several new pedestrian bridges were built, and some planting was done. During the 1930s, a gravel-surfaced path was completed along the western section of the park from Dover Road to State Street, and the path was extended east into the Caroline Brook area on land previously acquired but not improved. This was partly to accommodate access to the new high school built southwest of Hunnewell Field in 1936, on land that had previously been part of Fuller Brook Park. Ongoing work was also underway to widen and deepen the brook, despite objections from some residents who felt this would detract from its value as a natural resource. It was during this period that Fuller Brook Park began to assume a more park-like appearance.

After World War II, the town placed strong emphasis on recreational facilities and programs, with relatively little attention to Fuller Brook. In 1955, the park system, including Fuller Brook Park, was placed under the jurisdiction of the newly formed Department of Public Works (DPW). Around that time Fuller Brook was heavily affected by two hurricanes, causing serious flooding. In the late 1950s, the town and the state DPW undertook a drainage improvement project along Fuller Brook that involved straightening, deepening, and widening the brook channel, removing trees, reshaping the banks, installing concrete-block curbing, and constructing new bridges and culverts at Dover Road, Cottage Street, and Grove Street. There was a public outcry opposing the engineered treatment of the water edges, especially the curbing, and only the western section was completed.

In the 1960s, the town established a new approach of leaving the waterways in a more natural condition. While some residents preferred that the landscape be as natural as possible, others advocated a more horticultural appearance, with planting of ornamental trees and shrubs along with natural species. Wellesley's recreation needs continued to grow during the second half of the 20th century, with particular pressure for new facilities at Hunnewell Field. A series of incremental changes resulted in the rerouting of Fuller Brook through Hunnewell Field, and placing sections of the brook in conduits. This fragmented the middle section of Fuller Brook.

The town's Natural Resources Commission was created in 1980 with responsibility for park policy, while the DPW continued operational responsibility. The intent was to balance conservation and landscape values with engineering concerns. In the 1980s, a new trunk sewer was installed along Fuller Brook from the high school west to Grove Street, once again creating substantial disruption. After the work was completed, the landscape was rehabilitated, with new footbridges and plantings.

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In 2003, the town undertook a master plan for Fuller Brook Park, including a cultural landscape report from which much of the information for this nomination was drawn. Recommendations of the plan generally relate to solving problems such as poor drainage, path design and construction, and vegetation management. Preparation of this National Register nomination was another recommendation of the master plan. Fuller Brook Park is an important feature of the community and one of many well-preserved parks in Wellesley, where the tradition of careful stewardship and thoughtful decision-making continues.

Integrity

As described in the present nomination, parts of Fuller Brook Park have undergone changes over time that have had an impact upon its integrity. Those physical features that remain in Segments 1A-E and 2A-C reflect the design intent of the original park planners, and continue to convey the park's significance. Because of ongoing changes that have occurred to the part of Fuller Brook Park that runs through Hunnewell Field, a large active recreation area, and past Wellesley High School, this section, about 1,500 feet long, is excluded from the present nomination. The result is a discontiguous district of 35.2 acres, roughly 2 ½ miles in length, that retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its significance under Criteria A and C at the local level.

The location remains constant for Fuller Brook Park, although the park has been reduced in size since 1913, as portions of it have been converted to other uses. Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Fuller Brook Park is not a single work of design, but a landscape that has evolved over the past century, as changes were made by many people. Despite loss of some areas and changes in others, most segments of Fuller Brook Park continue to reflect the 19th-century park planning ideas that shaped the landscape and the drainage improvements that were also fundamental to the park. The setting of the park has changed slowly as the surrounding neighborhood has evolved from largely undeveloped land to a 21st-century suburban neighborhood. For the most part, adjacent land uses are residential, small in scale, and most buildings are set back from the park and screened by vegetation. The materials are the physical elements of a landscape, which in this case include plant materials, the brook, paths, and structures such as bridges. While some materials have changed over time as plantings have evolved, the brook has been realigned, or bridges have been replaced, there has been a consistency of the general character of the materials since the 1930s. The quality of workmanship is most evident in the character of built features such as the stone bridges. It is also reflected in the overall stewardship of the park, and the general quality and arrangement of the plant materials. Feeling, the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period, remains a strong contributing aspect for most of the park. Association, the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property, remains strong, reflecting continuity of use that extends back to 1899.

Segments 1A-E and 2A-C of Fuller Brook Park retain the highest level of integrity in the park in terms of their present landscape character, which retains the original design intent of Fuller Brook Park in terms of its linear quality and its overall landscape character. Segment 2D retains the linear continuity of the park, but has been affected by slight alterations to the landscape, including realignment of the path and the addition of a small playground. Nevertheless, Segment 2D is included within the nominated area because it retains sufficient historic character as the park's eastern terminus to merit inclusion as the gateway into the district.

While some built elements, such as the vehicular bridges at the western edge of the park, were rebuilt late in the period of significance, the overall scale and character of the replacements is consistent with the character of the bridges they replaced. Therefore, they are contributing resources, even though they date to the end of the period of significance, the National Register's 50-year cutoff (i.e., 1962). The curbing in the western end

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of Fuller Brook was an anomaly that was added at the same time but represents a hard-edged treatment of the river corridor that contradicted the intent of the park as a natural flood-control -area. The curbing has also settled over time, and no longer performs its intended purpose or retains the appearance that it had during its early years after its construction. Thus it is considered noncontributing. All of the footbridges have been rebuilt many times. Most of the extant ones date to the 1980s. They are similar in scale, design, and materials to the originals but are considered noncontributing resources for the purpose of this nomination. The flume that serves as a foundation for the Morton Street footbridge dates to the period of significance and is a contributing resource

(end)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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MAPS

All maps are from the Wellesley Historical Society unless otherwise noted.

1775. *Township of Needham.* (1976 reconstruction by Vaun S. Raymond published in *Five Pounds Currency, Three Pounds Corn: Wellesley's Centennial Story*)

1856. *Map of the Town of Needham, Norfolk County, Mass.* Henry F. Walling.

1897. *Atlas of the Town of Wellesley, Norfolk County, Mass.* Boston: Geo W. Stadly and Co.

1900-1924. Collection of 49 blueprints and tracing paper sketches, documenting takings for land acquisition and some early design sketches by the Manning firm, as well as one drawing by Ernest W. Bowditch. Wellesley, MA, 1900-1924. Wellesley Planning Department.

1907. "Planning Studies." Boston: Ernest W. Bowditch, Engineer. (Set of blueprints showing studies regarding various planning and infrastructure issues for town of Wellesley.)

1910. *Map of the Town of Wellesley, Mass.* Compiled from town plans by Arthur P. French. (Delineates town parkland.)

1915. *Map of the Town of Wellesley, Mass.* Compiled from town plans by Arthur P. French. (Delineates town parkland.)

1918. *Plan Showing Additions to the Wellesley Park System During Year 1918.* Arthur P. French. (Published in town's 1918 Annual Report.)

1920. *Map of the Town of Wellesley, Mass.* Compiled from town plans by Arthur P. French. (Delineates town parkland.)

1930. *Survey of Town Hall Area, 1"=80'.* Arthur A Shurtleff, Landscape Architect, survey compiled by A. Stewart Cassidy.

1938. *Map of the Town of Wellesley, Mass.* Prepared by Gleason Engineering Corporation. (Delineates town parkland.)

(end)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____ previously listed in the National Register
____ previously determined eligible by the National Register
____ designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
__x__ Federal agency Olmsted NHS
__x__ Local government Wellesley Public Library
__x__ University UMass Lowell, University of Iowa
____ Other

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WEL 953-969

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 35.2 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	19	310880	4684110	3	19	312780	4686080
2	19	311680	4685707	4	19	312510	4686900

Lat/Lon

1. 42.286259 -71.293800 2. 42.300846 -71.284600 3. 42.304345 -71.278719
4. 42.311729 -71.274976

Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination includes Segments 1A-E and 2A-D of Fuller Brook Park, whose location, parcel numbers and acreage are shown in the chart below. In each case the entire parcel is included in the nomination.

Segment	*Location*	*Assessors Parcel Number*	*Acreage*
1A	Dover Road to Cottage Street	113-37	5.3 acres
1B	Cottage Street to Grove Street	112-40	6.2 acres
1C	Grove Street to Brook Street	112-39, 112-38	3.6 acres
1D	Brook Street to Wellesley Avenue	99-111	3.5 acres
1E	Wellesley Avenue to State Street	99-110	4.8 acres
2A	Paine Street to Forest Street	76-77, 76-76, 76-75, 76-73, 76-16	4.8 acres
2B	Forest Street to Caroline Street	65-61	3.2 acres
2C	Caroline Street to Seward Road	65-62, 65-63	1.4 acres
2D	Seward Road to Maugus Avenue	64-70, 64-5	2.4 acres
	Total acres		**35.2 acres**

Boundary Justification

The parkland included in this nomination consists of 35.2 acres of Fuller Brook Park. Land southeast of Hunnewell Field that was previously part of Fuller Brook Park was transferred to the School Department in the 1930s. Other areas that were previously considered part of Fuller Brook Park have been incorporated into Hunnewell Field, which has been developed as an active recreation area; these areas no longer retain integrity as part of Fuller Brook Park and are excluded from the present nomination, resulting in a discontiguous district. The section of Fuller Brook upstream from Smith Street is unimproved wetland that is publicly owned but is not considered part of Fuller Brook Park. The section of Fuller Brook downstream from Fuller Brook Park is part of the Nehoiden Golf Course owned by Wellesley College, and is not considered part of Fuller Brook Park. The boundaries of Fuller Brook Park today include the numbered segments (1A-E and 2A-D) as shown on the attached maps.

(end)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February , 2013

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston MA 02125-

state zip code 3314

e-mail Betsy Friedberg <betsy.friedberg@state.ma.us>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Photo #	*Location/Description*	*Date*	*Photo by*
1	Section 1A–Brook and path near Dover Road, looking east	4/2007	Shary Page Berg
2	Section 1C–Grove Street Flume, view looking east	4/2007	Shary Page Berg
3	Section 1D–Wellesley Avenue Bridge	4/2007	Shary Page Berg
4	Section 1E–View near State Street, looking west	4/2007	Shary Page Berg
5	Section 2A–Wetland area east of high school, looking east	4/2007	Shary Page Berg
6	Section 2B–View east of Caroline Street, looking east	4/2007	Shary Page Berg

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Wellesley

street & number 525 Washington Street telephone 781-431-1019 x 2290

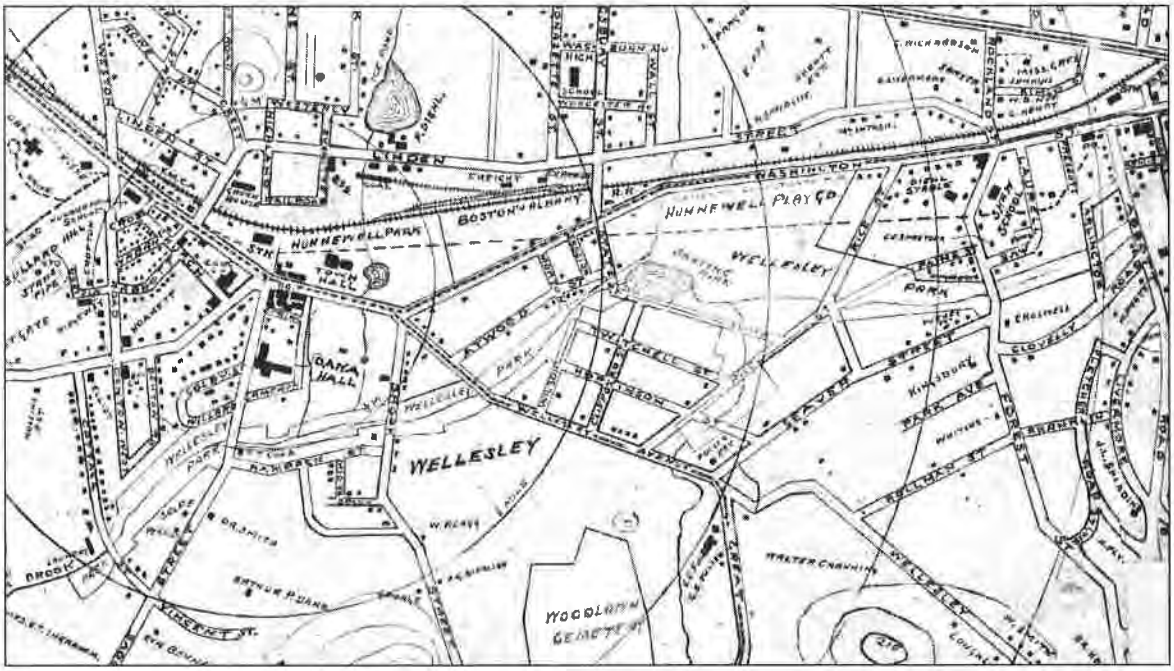
city or town Wellesley state MA zip code 02482

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

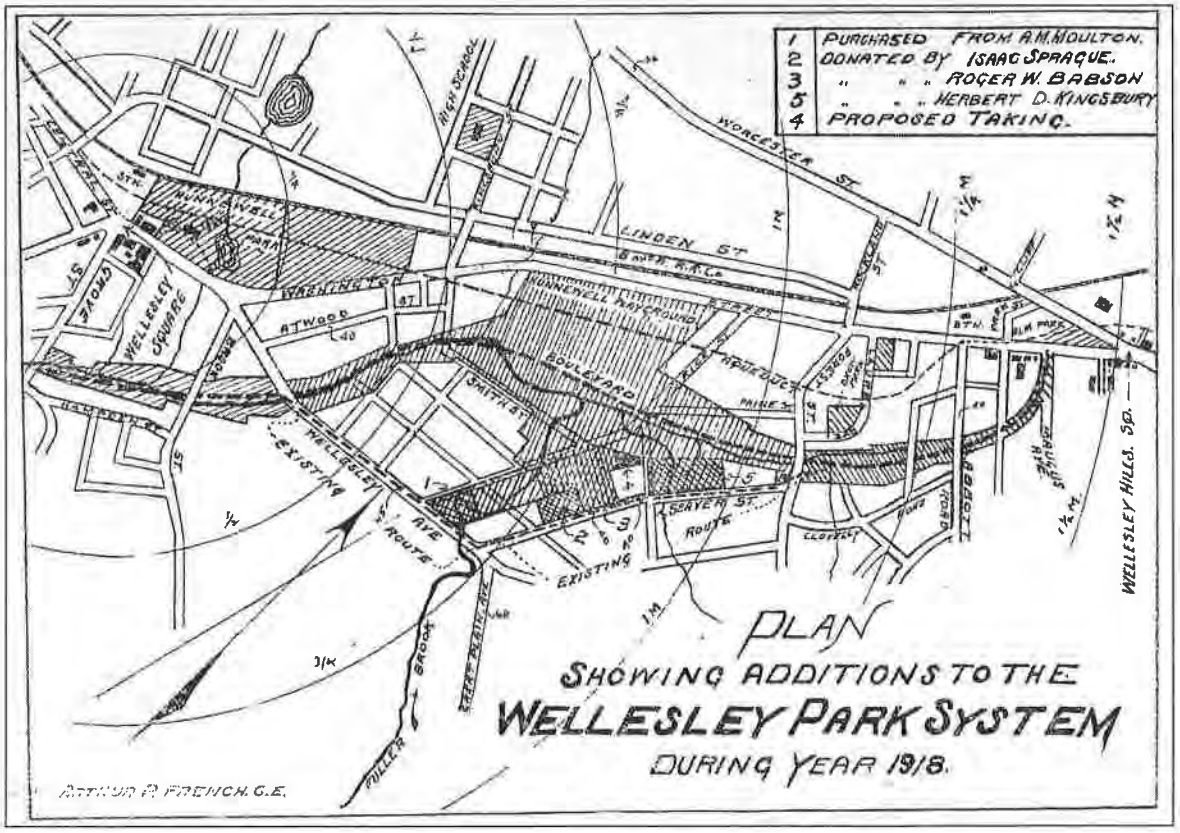
View of Fuller Brook near Grove Street, 1958. (Wellesley Natural Resources Commission files)

View of Fuller Brook near Denton Road after concrete curbing was installed, circa 1958. (Wellesley Natural Resources Commission files)

HISTORIC MAPS



Detail of 1910 town map showing extent of Fuller Brook Park in 1910. Fuller Brook still flows through Hunnewell Field as a relatively natural stream.(Wellesley Historical Society)



Map from 1918 Annual Report showing proposed land acquisition at the eastern end of the park. Note: this plan also shows a proposed boulevard that was never built.

DATA SHEET

MHC #	*Segment*	*Name*	*Location*	*Description/ Material*	*Date*	*Type (Si=Site; St=Structure)*	*Status*
	1A-1E,	Fuller Brook	Southwest end of park	Brook	N/A	N/A	
954	2A-2B	Caroline Brook	Northeast end of park	Brook	N/A	N/A	
953	All. Segments 1A-1E, 2A-2D	Fuller Brook Park	Dover Road to Maugus Avenue	Linear park	1899	Si	C
955	All, Segments 1A-1E, 2A-2D	Pedestrian Path System	Runs through entire park	Bituminous and gravel	1899, with later modifica-tions	St	C
	All, Segments 1A-1E, 2A-2D	Signage System	Throughout park	Various, wooden	21st cent.	St	NC
	1A-1B-1C	Concrete Curbing	West of Grove Street flume	Curbing in brook for flood control	1958-59	St	NC
956	1A	Dover Road Bridge	Dover Road	Concrete vehicular bridge	1958	St	C
964	1A	Leighton Road Footbridge	Leighton Road	Concrete abutments, wood supports and decking	Initially 1930s, rebuilt 1980s	St	NC
965	1A	Appleby Street Footbridge	Appleby Street	Concrete abutments, wood supports and decking	Initially 1930s, rebuilt 1980s	St	NC
957	1A-1B	Cottage Street Bridge	Cottage Street	Concrete vehicular bridge	1958	St	C
958	1B-1C	Grove Street Bridge	Grove Street	Concrete vehicular bridge	1958	St	C
968	1C	Grove Street Flume	Near Grove Street	Granite channel for measuring water flow	Early 20th century	St	C
966	1C	Cold Spring Brook footbridge	Cold Spring Brook	Concrete abutments, wood supports and decking	Initially 1930s, rebuilt 1980s	St	NC
959	1C	Cameron Street Bridge	Cameron Street	Concrete/ fieldstone vehicular bridge	1930	St	C
960	1C-1D	Brook Street Bridge	Brook Street	Vehicular bridge with culvert and granite abutment	Early 20th century	St	C

MHC #	Segment	Name	Location	Description/ Material	Date	Type	Status
961	1D-1E	Wellesley Avenue Bridge	Wellesley Avenue	Vehicular bridge, concrete abutment	1891, refaced 1931,	St	C
967	1E	Morton Street Footbridge/ Flume	Morton Street	Sub-structure is granite flume, wood supports and decking	Flume early 20th c,, Footbridge 1980s	St	Flume: C Footbridge NC
962	1E-	State Street Bridge	State Street	Vehicular bridge, concrete, stone	1949	St	C
	2A	Boardwalk	Near Paine Street	Boardwalk carries path over wet area	Late 20th century	St	NC
	2A	Raised manholes	East of high school	Manholes are raised about 3" to protect against flooding	Ca. 1980s	St	NC
963	2A-2B	Forest Avenue Culvert	Forest Avenue	Culvert, granite block abutment	Early 20th century	St	C
	2B	Caroline Brook Culverts	East of Forest Avenue	Two small culverts carry Caroline Brook under the park path, some stonework	Mid-20th century	2 St	C
	2B	Wooden Cribbing	North side of Caroline Brook near Caroline Street	Wooden cribbing to prevent erosion	Late 20th century	St	NC
	2B	Caroline Brook Headwall	Caroline Avenue	Stone headwall from which culvert emerges	Mid-20th century	St	C
	2D	Basketball Court	Phillips Park	Paved area with basketball hoops	Late 20th century	St	NC
	2D	Little League Field	Phillips Park		Late 20th century	St	NC
	2D	Playground	Phillips Park		Late 20th century	St	NC

Fuller Brook Park Historic District

Wellesley (Norfolk County), MA

April 2013

*For more information on features, see district datasheet.

Fuller Brook Park Historic District

Wellesley (Norfolk County), MA

North Section (Segment 2A-2D)

April 2013

*For more information on features, see district datasheet.

Fuller Brook Park Historic District

Wellesley (Norfolk County), MA

South Section (Segments 1A-1E)

April 2013

*For more information on features, see district datasheet.

Segment 1E

99-110

Segment 1D

99-111

112-38

Segment 1C

112-39

Segment 1B

112-40

Segment 1A

113-37

Fuller Brook

Nominated Land

Brook Path

Footbridge

Flume

N

0 250 500 ft

Fuller Brook Park
Wellesley (Norfolk) MA

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1. 312460 4686680
2. 312060 4685800
3. 311650 4685520
4. 310760 4683900

SCALE 1:25 000
1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND
CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

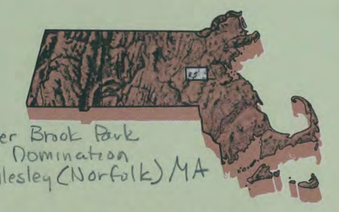
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-C3-TM-025
1987

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987

42071-C3-TM-025

Framingham
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale *metric* topographic map



Fuller Brook Park
NR Domination
Wellesley (Norfolk) MA

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978 and 1981. Field checked 1979 and 1982. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Framingham 1979 and Natick 1970
1:25,000-scale maps

Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19
Universal Transverse Mercator
10,000-foot grid ticks: Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 41 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

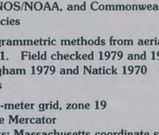
CONVERSION TABLE

Meters	Feet
1	3.2808
2	6.5617
3	9.8425
4	13.123
5	16.404
6	19.6850
7	22.9659
8	26.2467
9	29.5276
10	32.8084

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

DECLINATION DIAGRAM



UTM grid convergance (GN) and 1987 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map
Diagram is approximate

ADJOINING MAPS

1	2	3
4		5
6	7	8

1 Hudson
2 Maynard
3 Boston North
4 Marlborough
5 Boston South
6 Milford
7 Medfield
8 Norwood

ISBN 0-607-23455-5

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road; trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
- Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
- Bridge; drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
  - National, with monument
  - State
  - County, parish
  - Civil township, precinct, district
  - Incorporated city, village, town
  - National or State reservation; small park
  - Land grant with monument; found section corner
  - U. S. public lands survey: range, township; section
  - Range, township; section line; location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava; sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Fuller Brook Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000307

DETAILED EVALUATION:

✓ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 5/29/2013 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Based upon our Return of 5/31/2011 the nomination has been revised:

- additional context on the development of park planning in Boston has been provided
- the long section that has lost integrity has been deleted, resulting in a discontiguous district (acreage figure has been revised)
- The status of the footbridges rebuilt in the 1980s has been changed to non-contributing.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A&C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/29/2013

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 18, 2013

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form, resubmitted:

Fuller Brook Park, Wellesley (Norfolk), MA (NPS #11000307)

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Corrections have been made by MHC staff in response to the comments of the National Register staff, and the nomination is being resubmitted in its entirety.

Two letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Terri Tsagaris, Chair, Wellesley Board of Selectmen
David Wright, Wellesley Historical Commission
Ursula King, Janet Bowser, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission
Shary Page Berg, Consultant
Jeanne Conroy, Wellesley Planning Board

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Fuller Brook Park

MULTIPLE NAME:

~~STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Norfolk~~

DATE RECEIVED: 4/15/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/29/11
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/16/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/31/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000307

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ✓RETURN ___REJECT 5/31/2011 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached Return Sheet for detailed comment.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 5/31/2011

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Fuller Brook Park (Norfolk County, MA)
Reference Number: 11000307

Reason for Return:

This nomination is being returned for substantive reasons related to the absence of a historic context from which to evaluate the park and questions concerning historic integrity.

Context:

Fuller Brook Park is being nominated as "an example of visionary community planning" and as "an example of late 19th century park planning that represents the work of three nationally prominent men: John Charles Olmsted, Warring Manning, and Ernest Bowditch," (Section 8, p. 1), which "reflects the influence of the progressive late 19th century Boston park movement" (Section 7, p. 1). The nomination, however, does not provide any contextual information on the development of park planning in Boston and how it impacted park planning elsewhere in the state. We recommend that the form be amended to include some basic historic contextual information on late 19th century park planning and an explanation of how Fuller Brook Park is associated with and reflects the important aspects of park planning from the period. The following sources of information should be consulted in preparing the additional information:

Zaitzevsky, Cynthia. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982. Particularly relevant is the background on the Muddy River Improvement (Riverway) and John C. Olmsted's role in the Boston Municipal Park & Parkway System.

Newton, Norman. *Design on the Land.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971. General history of landscape architecture in the United States. See chapters on Boston parks and parkways and Charles Eliot and the Greater Boston reservations (Metropolitan District Commission).

Morrison, Ernest. *Thorn for Beauty.* Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, 1995. About J. Horace MacFarland, early work of the American Civic Association, and MacFarland and Manning's

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Fuller Brook Park (Norfolk County, MA)
Reference Number: 11000307

roles in Harrisburg's Waterfront Park.

Boston Parks and Parkways MPS

Historic Integrity:

The park, which has evolved and been altered over a long period of time, is described as representing the work of John Charles Olmsted, Warring Manning, and Ernest Bowditch, but it is not clear from the nomination which features of the park today can recall the work of the three men. Please provide a brief explanation of which specific features found in the park today reflect the work of the three park planners.

Fuller Book Park is nominated as a continuous 2½ mile long linear park, but the park does not retain historic integrity along its entire length, in particular in the sections labeled Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School. The nomination form notes (Section 7, p. 7) that there is now little of the original Fuller Brook Park left in these sections as the stream has been aligned over the years and the trail rerouted, and that the only reason these sections are included is because they provide a connecting link to the sections which retain integrity. This is not a sufficient justification to include these sizeable non-contributing sections of the park (from the scaled map labeled "Index Map" they appear to extend for approximately 1500 feet). The boundary should be redrawn to exclude the sections labeled Hunnewell Field and Wellesley High School and the form amended to note that they are excluded from the boundary. Please provide a new acreage figure once this is calculated.

The nomination raises questions about the historic integrity of a number of pedestrian bridges, which appear to have been rebuilt outside of the period of significance (which ends in 1961). The Data Sheet notes that the following bridges were rebuilt in the 1980s: pedestrian bridges at Leighton Road, Appleby Street, Cold Spring Brook, Wellesley Avenue, and Morton Street, yet they are all shown as contributing. If these are replacement bridges dating from the 1980s, then they cannot be considered contributing, even if they resemble the earlier 1930s bridges which they

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Fuller Brook Park (Norfolk County, MA)
Reference Number: 11000307

replaced. Please address this issue when the nomination is resubmitted.

Patrick Andrus

Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
202-354-2218
patrick_andrus@nps.gov
5/31/2011

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

April 4, 2011

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Fuller Brook Park, Wellesley (Norfolk), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Two letters of support have been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: Katherine L. Babson, Jr., Chair, Wellesley Board of Selectmen
Helen Robertson, Wellesley Historical Commission
Neal Seaborn, Janet Bowser, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission
Shary Page Berg, Consultant
Donald McCauley, Wellesley Planning Board

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

TOWN OF WELLESLEY MASSACHUSETTS

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TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

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HANS LARSEN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT

October 15, 2010

Ms. Brona Simon, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Brona:

The Wellesley Board of Selectmen is aware of and fully supports the nomination of Fuller Brook Park to the National Register of Historic Places. The Park is a well-used and well-loved treasure of our Town, and we are looking forward to having it listed on the National Register.

Yours truly,

Katherine L. Babson, Chair
Board of Selectmen

Katherine L. Babson, Jr.
Board of Selectmen, Chair

TOWN OF WELLESLEY MASSACHUSETTS

Wellesley Historical Commission

Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

WWW.CI.WELLESLEY.MA.US

March 2, 2011

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

The Historical Commission and the Natural Resources Commission of the Town of Wellesley urge a vote on March 9, 2011 in favor of the nomination of Fuller Brook Park to the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1899, eighteen years after the founding of Wellesley, the Town set aside land along the banks of Fuller Brook and Caroline Brook for both public recreation and storm water management. Today our Town's citizens still enjoy this wooded landscape as Fuller Brook Park, with its path and watercourse that wind for two and a half miles through the center of Wellesley.

The Park owes its inspiration to Frederick Law Olmsted's "Emerald Necklace" in Boston and Warren Manning, who had his start as a member of Olmsted's firm, is credited with the development of some, if not all, of the plans for the Park. The most important historical value of the park is the experience of being there, of its intended reminders of natural beauty deriving from the skilled interplay of path and stream, of varied compositions of trees and grassed topography. This continuing legacy we owe to the foresight of earlier generations.

The Wellesley Historical Commission (WHC) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) jointly initiated the process of having the Park listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004. Shary Page Berg, a landscape historian, was hired to study the Park and help define its historic character and value. She subsequently used this information to fill out the Nomination form.

In April, 2006, Philip Bergen of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), accompanied by Ms. Berg and members of the Historical and Natural Resources Commissions, walked the length of the Park from Dover Road to Maugus Avenue. Based on this site visit, the Massachusetts Historical Commission decided that all of Fuller Brook Park is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Nomination form was filed with MHC in 2008.

Recognizing the historical importance of Fuller Brook Park, the Town of Wellesley has undertaken a restoration project to preserve it for future generations. The Fuller Brook Park Preservation Project seeks to preserve, restore and rehabilitate the structural, environmental and aesthetic integrity of the historic park through improvements to its stream course, vegetation and path system. This project is a joint initiative between the Natural Resources Commission and the Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee (FBPCC), whose members include representatives from five Town Boards and Commissions, and a representative from the neighborhood. To date Phases 1, Design Criteria, and 2, Preliminary Design, have been completed. Phase 3, Final Design and Permitting, and Phase 4, Construction, are anticipated to follow pending Town funding.

The Wellesley Historical and Natural Resources Commissions are very pleased that the nomination of the Town's Fuller Brook Park to the National Register of Historic Places has reached this point in the process. We look forward to your favorable vote.

Sincerely,

Helen L. Robertson, Chairman
Wellesley Historical Commission

Neal Seaborn Chairman
Natural Resources Commission,
Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee