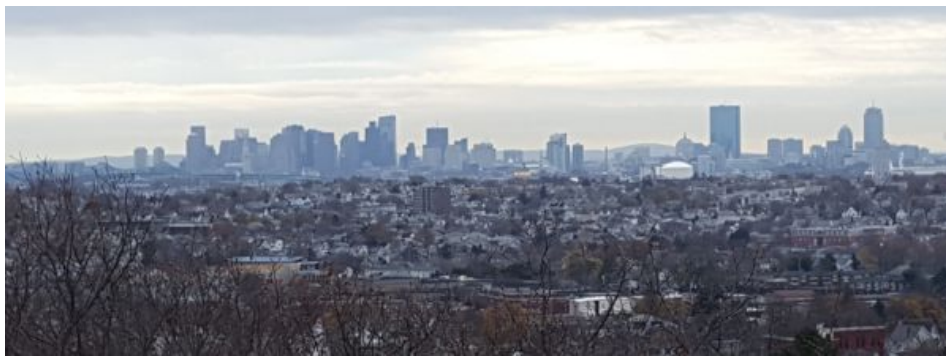


High Rock Update, Discussions and Considerations for Enhancements

Revision 7, December 2, 2017



In November 2016, a social media post described, in a relatively lengthy expose, some of the background and hinted history of "High Rock". You can read about that here: <https://goo.gl/ChYbw8>

In October 2017, a number of residents - from around the city - helped with a High Rock cleanup event. You can read about that event in the Advocate newspaper: <https://goo.gl/V3UAtv>

Research continued. Initially, details were few and the historical record was hard to come by. However, thanks to the help of City Planner Michelle Romero, we now have significant information and definitive documentation.

Key documents have been located and organized; these document the history of High Rock as public land in Malden. In addition, community-driven discussions are ongoing and expanded beyond the initial group of "clean-up climbers".



Events and Next Steps: *Hike High Rock! Planned for Saturday, December 2, 2017 - group gathering around the (unmarked) entrance at 3:15 PM. The plan is to hike to the top for a sunset viewing at 4:12 PM. Entry to High Rock public land is between 85 Rockingham Ave and where High Rock Road meets Rockingham Ave.*

Background

Based on research conducted in 2017, Resolve # 676 of 1972 by the City Council reveals portions of High Rock had long ago been deemed a public space and subsequently referred to as "Vietnam War Memorial Park":

"That it is the sense of the City Council that that parcel of land, containing 1434 square feet, granted to the City of Malden for "Public park purposes" in 1917 by the deed of one Conrad Sawyer and now held by the City Treasurer and known by him as "Red Number 191" be named and known forever after as "Vietnam War Memorial Park" in honor of those men who gave the supreme sacrifice for their country, their lives." Signed by Councillor Ward 6, Thomas Cosgrove, Jr.

The donated parcel referred to in Resolve #676 of 1972 is depicted near the center of the following plan and described deed; both of which contain identifying information:

- [High Rock Deed Plan 2011.pdf](#)
- [CCP 353-15 Amend Deeds.pdf](#)
- [High Rock Vietnam Memorial Resolve 676 of 1972.pdf](#)
- See also <http://www.cityofmalden.org/content/gis-tax-maps>

Various ideas circulated beginning in 2016 on how to improve this open space at High Rock. A group of community members are in the early stages of shaping a proposal for next steps. Any suggestions or ideas you have to contribute are welcomed. Recently, there seems to be interest coalescing around a few ideas to enhance that open space.

Phase I - Site Signage

Phase II - Trail Establishment

Phase III - Flagpole Revitalization

Phase IV - Urban Forest Educational Park

Phase V - Military Service Exhibit

Community discussions are now underway. There is a design concept circulating on ways to enhance the experience and enjoyment of this open, historic, public space. It will be exciting to see what Malden can do to enhance the experiences of that historic public space.

Phase I - Site Signage

When you visit, you can quickly see that the High Rock site lacks basic signage at the "entry" point:



There is sign design work now underway - on a volunteer basis - for an entrance marker. Establishing park policy is important and can leverage other park policies around Malden. Establishing site-specific regulations can be complicated, as with federal national parks: <https://www.nps.gov/aboutus/lawsandpolicies.htm>.

Signage would include basic details of the “High Rock Park”, such as hours of operation, and rules pertaining to park usage. Community members throughout Malden, neighbors and city officials all have a vested interest in this.

Phase II - Trail Establishment

Small trails grants exist. These may cover upgrading trails at High Rock, establishing a sign at the entrance, and making some vandal-resistant display at the top. (Link is here - <https://goo.gl/gzGTJQ> - application deadline 2/1/18)

A key goal is improved Accessibility and Utilization of this space by different age groups and mobility abilities. Some accessibility ideas include a boardwalk area in the lower section of this public space. (The lower section is relatively level and flat, with a steep ascent approaching the center.) We may be able to obtain ideas from National Park Programs. (see <https://goo.gl/8vbMbg>)

- This would include clear survey boundaries of the property, clearly marked.

Phase III - Flagpole Revitalization



There is clearly an "ancient" flagpole base at the top High Rock, so there was surely some prior "historic memorial" at that site. The first step is to restore the flagpole and, hopefully at the same time, recognize the historic resolution naming part of this area as the “Vietnam War Memorial Park”.

This flag pole needs to be restored and lit: “The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets “ proper illumination” as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.”

- Appropriate lighting is important for the flag, and the site in general: <https://www.legion.org/flag/faq>

Phase IV - High Rock Urban Forest Educational Park

Malden is registered as a “Tree City”, voted in the Community Preservation Act during 2015, and in 2017 updated its “Open Space and Recreation Plan”. These developments provide a promising backdrop for supporting High Rock.

Malden’s High Rock area offers substantial opportunity for community members to participate (and educate) on tree topics. Community members share the following goals for a 2018 project that could take place at High Rock::

1. Increase tree cover in a densely populated neighborhoods
2. Maintain tree inventory when roadways and sidewalks are repaired
3. Improve the skills of all City Staff who plant and maintain trees
4. Fight apathy and improve livability of a dense inner city neighborhood
5. Increase stewardship for care and maintenance of trees
6. Increase community’s understanding of the value of an urban forest
7. Explore the role trees play in improving quality of life
8. Document and share tree inventory of species in High Rock Park
9. Plant trees in High Rock, clear brush and tag existing tree species
10. Work with city contractors and state officials to clean up and better maintain High Rock
11. Increase utilization of existing public Open Space, through improved signage, trails, and education
12. Enhance accessibility for different ages and mobility abilities

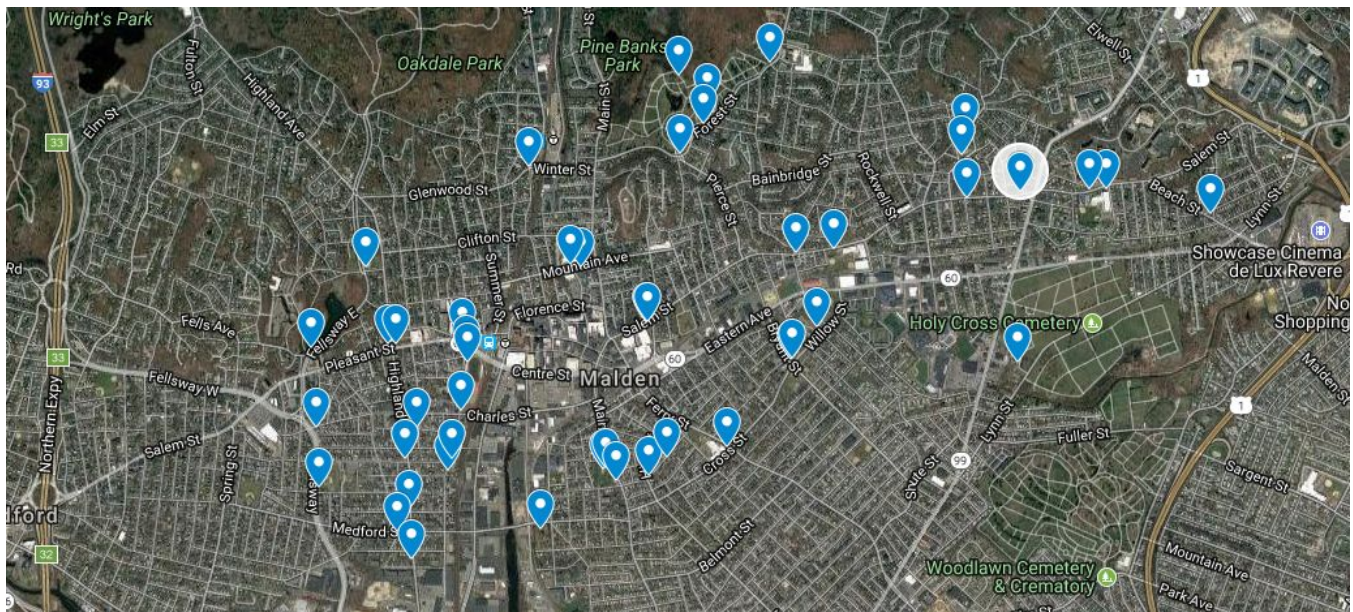
Phase V - Military Service Exhibit

A high priority is to fulfill the 1972 resolve which was passed in order to honor veterans of the Vietnam War and establish “Vietnam War Memorial Park”. The goal of this current effort goes further. There are a number of "memorials" around the city, but it appears none focus on all individuals who serve - and none seems to focus on recent years. The intent of this new installation, described here as Phase IV, would be to celebrate and inspire all residents of Malden.

Malden has an excellent "Veterans Points Of Interest Map":

<http://www.cityofmalden.org/content/malden-veterans-points-interest-map>

Many Malden military city monuments honor a single individual, or those killed in action. A visual review of Malden’s Veterans Points of interests suggests the Ward 6 area, where High Rock is located, is under-represented. Additionally, no service since the Vietnam War has been recognized.



You will find a number of memorials honoring Vietnam era veterans. Other conflicts have also been identified. Ward 4 has a monument dedicated to the WWII Veterans from Ward 4. Ward 2 has a monument dedicated by the Italian American Citizens Club to all WWII Veterans. Devir Park has a WWI Monument dedicated on July 4th, 1920 in honor of 500 Malden residents of Edgeworth A WWI Restoration Committee has been established to work on adding nearly 1,500 names. Ward 7 has a War Memorial at Suffolk Square "Dedicated to the men and women of Ward 7 who served our country in all wars."

In addition to High Rock fulfilling the goals of that 1972 resolve, an additional enhanced interpretive display could recognize all those residents of Malden who serve in one of the military branches either in the past or present. In particular, more coverage is needed recognizing / honoring people who have served in more recent conflicts, such as we've seen since 9/11. For instance, we do know there are students who go from high school into the various services - and it would be nice to recognize those who go on to become Veterans, through their public service.

The top of High Rock is a "high point" - as such it is militarily significant and symbolic while also offering a rather remarkable 360 degree view of Malden. Along with new signage and the refreshed flagpole, appropriate recognition of the resolve of 1972 needs to be provided. Extending the "Vietname War Memorial Park" to include a Military Service Exhibit would more broadly encompass and recognize those Malden residents who serve in the uniformed services.

Going beyond this basic, historic flagpole, a new kind of exhibit for all branches of military service - honoring all the men and women who serve - could be added. This would include illumination and up-lighting of an displays is required.

One option is to include at least one "perpetual" green LED (in the spirit of the current "Green Light a Vet" program). Another desired feature is to add simple, granite seating benches to rest on after reaching the summit. One additional design concept for the top of High Rock includes an inspirational display / kiosk / obelisk commemorating all of the branches of the military services.

One idea is to add an explanatory kiosk at the site honoring ALL service members - all those individuals considered veterans after serving. It's possible a design element could be included around the base of a modernized flagpole, perhaps integrating a map of Malden pointing to the various neighborhoods in the city.

As one community member said, "it would be ... nice to celebrate the living that have also served our country. There are so many different facets to our military and it would be nice to let people know that they don't have to die for our country to be appreciated."

The concept for a military monument at High Rock might include semi-circular display, perhaps circumnavigating the existing flagpole. A "logo" wreath could ring the pole - in the format of a "challenge coin" - recognizing all uniformed service members, including the following departments of the armed services:

- United States Army
- United States Marine Corps
- United States Navy
- United States Air Force
- United States National Guard
- United States Coast Guard



High Rock: Past, Present, Funding and the Future

These project priorities will require modest funding. Community members are actively pursuing grant and Community Preservation Act (CPA) support.

One of the knowledgeable community members noted: "Creation of a memorial is not allowed as a CPA project, but preservation of historic memorials are. Signage and commemorative elements are frequently allowed as a small part of a project. So, restoration/creation of a memorial might be possible under a larger proposal." It also appears there is interest among City Council members for making progress at High Rock. The usual concerns of cost, maintenance, safety etc. have been preliminarily discussed.

This document provides an example of a community driven activity striving to encourage and support open space and recreation in the community. I offer this "mini case study" for your information and background, but not for online discussion or deliberation. It's my hope this serves as an example of community driven collaboration designed to benefit the city's open space and recreation footprint.

Funding

This project is proposed to be managed and coordinated by the City of Malden and a committee of "tree" volunteers known informally as the "High Rock Appreciation Society".

A stated goal is to work closely with professional staff in the school district.

Potential public and private funding sources include:

- Community Preservation Act funds, administered by the Community Preservation Committee.



- TD Green Streets - Salem's 2013 TD Green Streets project provides a good example of what Malden might be able to do at High Rock: Salem's work encompassed planting thirteen (13) new street trees in the City's lowest income, most culturally diverse, and most densely populated neighborhood, referred to as the Point Neighborhood. More details at this link: <https://www.arborday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm#2013-salem>
- MA Gov Recreational Trails Program - Link is here - <https://goo.gl/gzGTJQ> - application deadline 2/1/18)

Project Planning

Malden's project activities will include the following:

1. recruiting and coordinating volunteers (a number have already been identified.)
2. organizing and coordinating at least two tree planting seminars
3. developing and digitally distributing material to educate and publicize the value of trees in the City of Malden
4. Encouraging youth participation and "reconnecting children with nature", as described at <https://citiesspeak.org/2017/10/26/introducing-the-cities-connecting-children-to-nature-municipal-action-guide/>

Additionally, the City of Malden and its "tree volunteers" will strive to work closely with subcontractors of the city who are doing landscaping and construction work. This effort will also reach out to state level agencies (e.g. DCR) which have an interest in urban forests.

Engaging the Schools

This project will be open to participation of K-12 schools in the city. Invitations to participate will be extended to the Superintendent's office, school principals and their teaching staff, as well as family members and guardians of students.

Students may be invited to attend Volunteer/Youth Tree Planting Seminar, tree planting events, and after the planting events work the city's DPW department and staff to refill all thirsty gator bags on a weekly basis to ensure that the newly planted trees were watered and cared for.

Malden became a member of "Tree City USA" in 2015:

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/treeCityUSA/treecities.cfm?chosenstate=Massachusetts>

Some additional references to the TD grant application process and sample projects can be found here:

- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/grant-information.cfm>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/eligibility.cfm>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/requirements.cfm>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm>

Other local projects awarded TD grants include:

- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/documents/2016-td-greenstreets-recipients-worcester-ma.pdf>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/documents/2015-td-greenstreets-recipients-chicopee-ma.pdf>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/documents/2015-td-greenstreets-recipients-holyoke-ma.pdf>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/documents/2015-td-greenstreets-recipients-lawrence-ma.pdf>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm#2014-chelsea>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm#2014-worcester>
- <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm#2013-salem>

<https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/past-projects.cfm#2013-springfield>

Additional resources

An earlier version of this was sent Community members, Elected Officials, members of Malden's Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee etc.

"High Rock" Potential Project Funding Recap -

1. Trail Grants
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/services-and-assistance/grants-and-technical-assistance/recreational-trails-grants-program.html>
2. TD Green Streets - Community Grant - <https://www.arboday.org/programs/tdgreenstreets/>
3. Community Preservation Act Funding -
<http://www.cityofmalden.org/board-commission/community-preservation-committee>

"Green Light a Vet" program -

<https://www.facebook.com/briandelaceyforcitycouncil/posts/1983514158558953>

Malden's excellent "Veterans Points Of Interest Map" -

<http://www.cityofmalden.org/content/malden-veterans-points-interest-map>

Article on street trees -

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/regionals/west/2017/04/27/restoring-historic-tree-canopy-newton-faces-future-shaped-warming-climate/97b0jSl1ZmV0ywwHvMKv2L/story.html#comments>

Urban forest / street tree tools - <https://www.itreetools.org/>

Greening Gateway Cities -

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/pr-2016/greening-gateway-cities-tree-planting-program-expanded.html>

Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants: -

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/pr-2016/urban-and-community-forestry-challenge-grants.html>

Neighboring municipal tree initiatives

<https://www.lexingtonma.gov/tree-program>

<https://www.boston.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/caring-bostons-urban-forest>

<https://treesforwatertown.org>

<https://www.cityofmelrose.org/departments/public-works-department/trees/>

Section 11 of MGL Chapter 132 deals with a lot of the requirements for managing pests.

Link to state pesticide program: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/>

Somerville Tree Replacement Fund -

https://library.municode.com/ma/somerville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH12STSI_OTPUPL_ARTVITRPROR_S12-104TRREFU

Somerville Tree Protection Ordinance -

https://library.municode.com/ma/somerville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH9OFMI_PR_ARTIVOFAGPR_DIV1GE_S9-51PRTR

Department of Defense Uniformed Services:

<https://www.defense.gov/About/Military-Departments/Uniformed-Services/>

Service Seals / Symbols / Logos:

<https://www.defense.gov/About/Military-Departments/Military-Service-Seals/>



United States Army

The United States Army is one of the three military departments reporting directly to the Department of Defense. It is comprised of both an active and a reserve component and conducts operational and institutional missions around the world.



United States Marine Corps

The United States Marine Corps is a component of the Department of the Navy. It serves as the country's expeditionary force in readiness and carries out global missions on both sea and shore.



United States Navy

The United States Navy reports directly to the Department of Defense. It provides combat-ready Naval forces for worldwide operations focused on maintaining the freedom of the seas, deterring aggression and achieving victory at war.



United States Air Force

The United States Air Force reports directly to the Department of Defense. It trains for and maintains global superiority in air, space and cyberspace and is equipped for a rapid worldwide response.



United States National Guard

The United States National Guard is the oldest branch of the U.S. military. As a complementary force to active duty components, National Guard service members serve both community and country. The National Guard is a versatile force, able to provide support in combat missions, domestic emergencies, humanitarian efforts, homeland security operations and more.



United States Coast Guard

The United States Coast Guard safeguards the Nation's maritime interests through a variety of civil and military responsibilities. The US Coast Guard operates across the country's waterways, in our ports, at sea and around the world.