

“...to use my land for camping and other outdoor activities, and to do so with a feeling that it belongs to all...” Robert Sever Hale

Naturally Speaking

Surfing a Watershed

CONSIDER SURFING, in the form of a water droplet, through Hale Reservation from its highest to lowest point. Beginning at 350 feet above sea level on top of Powissett Peak your journey starts as you tumble off the rocks and travel into the woods below. Gravity continues to pull you through the leaves, over the Strawberry Hill Trail and into the little tributaries that create Powissett Brook. At one time, the journey through Hale would have then been relatively quick; the brook taking you through a few wetlands and into Dover. Today, the three dams that create Powissett, Noanet and Storrow Ponds will slow down your travels. While stopping in the ponds, all water at Hale is utilized by thousands of visitors as a recreational resource and immeasurably appreciated by the surrounding plant and animal communities. Your surfing trip will have taken you approximately two miles and your drop in elevation will be 155 feet.



The journey and story of water at Hale is critical to the recreation activities, natural landscape and environmental conditions of the 1,100 acre property. Our mini watersheds gather water from the high-lands, bring them into streams, brooks, and ponds.

To care for the water at Hale Reservation, we have taken numerous steps during the past few years. Our detailed testing programs evaluate clarity, dissolved oxygen, potential bacteria, water depth and more. We have installed aeration systems to both oxygenate and circulate water in the areas actively used for swimming. We have been documenting the visual status of our water systems with a photo library that allows us to compare changes in shorelines, wetland growth and other variables over time. Excessive run-off and erosion into our ponds can limit clarity. We have also begun to address the impact of human and wildlife use near the water. Our new (2006) dog policies require dogs on leashes near the ponds and owners to pick up dog waste. We also actively discourage geese from nesting, breeding and residing on our waterways. Our management practices are designed to help protect the invaluable water resources on Hale's property.

Water that is off our property also impacts the Hale aquatic systems. What our neighbors are doing can impact the health of our water and the future recreational use of our ponds. We hope they (and anyone for that matter) will avoid fertilizers and pesticides near

wetland areas, limit run-off, keep grass long to encourage healthy root growth, and only use fertilizers that have little or no phosphorus. If property is near wetlands, neighbors should make sure there is an ample “buffer zone” of vegetation to serve as a filter before rainwater reaches the wetland.

So, at the end of the surfing journey through Hale where does the water go? Powissett Brook leads into Dover, past Wilsendale Street and into the Charles River. The majority of the water that arrives at Hale travels this route and is a part of the Charles River Watershed. There is a portion of Hale, the southern section primarily beyond Dover Road and Powissett Street that leads to the Neponset River Watershed. Regardless, the journey for that water droplet ends miles away in the Boston Harbor.

The aquatic system at Hale, and on earth for that matter, is complex. 97% of the earth's water is salt water, thus caring for that small percentage that we use for everything from drinking, plumbing and fresh water recreation is important. Hale Reservation continues to put a concerted effort into the protection and monitoring of our water resources so we all can enjoy clean, fresh water.

SOURCES: 1. Rosinsky, Natalie M. Water Up, Down, and All Around. Minneapolis, MN Picture Window Books, 2003;
WEB SOURCES: 2. The Charles River Watershed Association, <http://www.crwa.org>; 3. The Neponset River Watershed Association, <http://www.neponset.org>



POWISSETT PRESS

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Time for Take Off

IT IS EARLY FEBRUARY as I write this letter. There is snow on the ground, a fire in the fireplace and cross country skiers enjoying the trails. It seems too early to be thinking ahead to summer when we'll all be eagerly awaiting the opening of Membership Beach and the start of the camp season. Yet as I am writing this, I spy a Chickadee flying outside my office, taking off and landing on a nearby branch. A bit out of place in this winter wonderland, but so at home

This Chickadee isn't the only thing taking off. Things here at Hale seem to be going at record speed. I must confess that it feels more like a jet liner rumbling down the runway about to ascend—or maybe just after leaving the ground. Everything at Hale is in “take off” mode. As you read through this newsletter you hear about research with our water systems, new staff, a capital campaign, an improved ropes course, major renovations and future plans. And not specifically written about in this newsletter are the very initial plans for a new bathroom at Membership Beach in a year or two and other improvements to our programs.

With all that is going on, we have left the airport and are on our trip—a place that will include continually improving programs, better facilities and a vibrant future for Hale Reservation.

Thank you for playing your role at Hale—campers, members, friends and especially our donors are all joining us on our journey; and our wildlife friends are coming along as well. Thanks for supporting Hale and participating in our programs!

Enjoying the ride,

Eric Arnold
Executive Director

Comings and Goings

Welcome!

Christa Semerjian joined us in January as Camp Director. She grew up in Lexington, and has been involved in camp for most of her life. The past 5 years she ventured into the corporate world and is happy to return to her first love—camp. Welcome Christa.

Farewell!

Jill Massa resigned as camp director in November after working at Hale Day Camp for two summers. She will be a ‘Stay at Home Mom.’ Congratulations on the birth of Colin. Thank you for all your help!

Nancy Hartmann resigned early January to become the Camp Director at the Brooks School in North Andover. Nancy worked at Hale for three years and will be missed but she'll enjoy a much shorter commute with her new position so close to home. Good luck with your new job!

Thank you!

Jack Wiggins has served as the President of the Board of Directors for the past three years. Jack worked tirelessly to lead Hale through a Master Plan process and into our first capital campaign since the 1950's. We cannot thank him enough for all his efforts and genuine skill as a leader.

Maureen Bleday is the incoming President—you can find her “profile” in the Meet the Board section of this newsletter.



*Jack Wiggins
in the Triathlon*

- ERIC ARNOLD – *Executive Director*
- JULIA BRUNE – *Membership Beach Director*
- DIANE COLLINS – *Finance Director*
- TOM DIETZEL – *Ranger*
- ADRIENNE FARFALLA – *Education Director*
- ANDREA JENKINS – *Administrative Assistant*
- PAULA McLAUGHLIN – *Director of Development*
- ROBERT PARR – *Facilities Director*
- CHRISTA SEMERJIAN – *Day Camp Director*
- JAY WALSH – *Environmental Resource Manager*

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S OFFICERS:

- JACK WIGGIN – *President*
- MAUREEN BLEDAY – *Vice President*
- WEEZIE LAWRENCE – *Vice President*
- TRUM CARY – *Treasurer*
- BOB TRUESDALE – *Assistant Treasurer*

DESIGN – Holtz Design holtzdesign.com

Hale Reservation is a private, non-profit educational organization that manages over 1,100 acres of woodlands, including four ponds and over twenty miles of trails in Westwood and Dover, Massachusetts. Hale is most widely recognized for its summer day camp programs which annually serve over 4,400 children from over 70 communities in the Greater Boston area. Hale Reservation also offers a family program, outdoor and environmental education experiences for children and adults, and open space for casual recreational use.

The essence of Hale Reservation can be found in Robert Sever Hale's original desires for the organization he began in 1918. The current programs and land management practices are the legacy of his desire “to provide education which will develop intelligent, capable and responsible citizens” and to use the land “so long as it is charitable and benevolent in nature.” Today's programs strive to develop intelligent leaders and educated environmental citizens. We also believe that the diversity of the natural environment must be reflected back in the diversity of the people who experience our programs. Therefore, we strive to provide programs and opportunities for people of any race, background, religion or economic status.



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Hale Day Camp in Winter

by Christa Semerjian, Hale Day Camp Director

IT IS UNIQUE to be at Hale with the quiet of the off season. Snow covers the ground and brings a peaceful, beautiful quiet to the woods. The quickest way to warm up from fresh fallen snow is to walk into the main office adorned with summer pictures. These snapshots are reminders of moments caught when the trees are covered in green leaves, the sun shines hot through the branches, and children's voices carry through the woods.

There are several pictures of the Day Camp office sun bathed with camp in full swing. Children are sitting beside the office at a picnic table working on what looks to be a poster. The field to the left is green, and the area is brimming with the buzz of life, and the door to the office is wide open exposing its interior.

On a recent drive down to the Day Camp office, the image is much different. The office door is closed. There are no green fields in the background but a soft blanket of snow. The picnic table is noticeably absent as are the

children creating a poster on its benches. In what seems to be a quiet, ordinary moment, wind rustles through the trees, a crow can be heard far off calling to some unknown recipient. Further inspection of the ground shows footprints of animals that have been by. The area is still active, only with different visitors. All of the guests are important to Hale, they are what makes Hale Reservation unique!

As the weather turns from the chill of winter to the early warm days of spring, the anticipation of the summer season begins. Our thoughts turn to how soon children will be swimming in the pond, running through the grass, and their laughter will carry through the woods. We look forward to our campers arrival and the joy they bring to Hale.

HDC Office open to summer breezes.



HDC Office in a blanket of winter snow.

Ropes Course Offers Universal Appeal

HALE IS EXCITED to announce the expansion of our ropes course which is being adapted to meet the needs of individuals of all abilities. Universal accessibility provides opportunities for participants, disabled or not, to experience this course while learning communication skills and gaining self confidence.

"We are excited for this addition to our ropes course. We will have so much more to offer groups and, of course, it is wonderful that the area is now accessible for people with limited mobility," said Adrienne Farfalla, education director.

This spring, when the project is complete, there will be new high and low ropes elements. The new high ropes elements are: Accessible Catwalk, Burma Bridge, Giants Swing and Angels Loft. Our existing Flying Squirrel and Zipline have also been modified for universal accessibility. The new low ropes elements are: Nitro Trolley, 3 Islands and Whale Watch. These new elements will help serve more groups and add to the adventure on our ropes course throughout the year.

The existing course has been one of Hale's most popular sites and is used year round by camps, school groups, and organizations. With the many improvements, the course is sure to have something for everyone. The new addition would not have been possible without the generosity of a grant through the Smith Family Foundation.

If your group or organization would like to schedule a ropes program at Hale, call Adrienne Farfalla at 781-326-1770, Ext 13.

Let our trained facilitators lead your next group outing or party with a teambuilding adventure!

To register for most programs, call the Hale Main Office at 781-326-1770. Search for more information about these events online, visit: www.HaleReservation.org

Family Programs

Sundays, 1pm – 2:30pm

(No walks on 3/16, 3/23, 5/11, 6/15, July & August)

FAMILY WALKING CLUB

A Hale naturalist will lead a walk exploring the seasonal landscape of Hale and sharing the wonders of its natural history. Strollers welcome. No dogs please. Meet at the Hale Main Office. FREE



Tuesday, April 1, 7pm – 8:30pm

FLIGHT OF THE WOODCOCK

The American Woodcock, one of our most bizarre and secretive forest-dwelling birds, possesses superior camouflage for its life of obscurity. However, for a short period of time in early spring, males will leave the safety of the forest to strut their stuff in a dazzling courtship display. Meet at the Hale Main Office. Please pre-register by March 25. FREE

Sunday, April 20 – Sunday, April 27

WESTWOOD EARTH WEEK

Watch for more information on our website as Hale Reservation supports the Westwood community with Earth Week activities. Contact: Jay Walsh at the Hale Main Office

Thursday, May 1, 6:30pm – 7:30pm

SPRING AWAKENINGS

Take a guided family hike and explore how our forests come alive! Meet at the Hale Main Office. FREE

Sunday, June 1, 1pm – 3pm

BIODIVERSITY DAY AT HALE

Join Nature Jay as we enjoy taking a count of different species at Hale. A fun educational opportunity for the whole family as we search for birds, plants, insects, salamanders and mushrooms. Please pre-register by May 23. FREE

Sunday, September 7

KIDZ 2 CAMP TRIATHLON

Save the date...for the fifth annual Hale Kidz 2 Camp Triathlon! Each year this event raises money to ensure that children in need are able to enjoy programs at Hale Reservation. In 2008, the adult and child races will be back. Look for training programs throughout the summer.



Thursday, October 23

HALLOWEEN HIKES

Follow the trail into our forest and along the way, meet our friends of the forest—when you find them, they will tell you about themselves. At the end of the trail, there are sure to be treats to share! Trail groups start every 15 minutes starting at 4pm through 7pm. When you register, please choose your preferred start time. Trail Groups are encouraged to be a maximum of 15. Expect your total event time to be 90 minutes. Pre-registration is required by Friday, October 17. \$8 per person

Adult Programs

Saturdays, 1pm

ADULT WALKING CLUB

Individuals 16 and older are welcome to enjoy guided hikes as we explore the trails of Hale. Walks are normally two to five miles. Meet at Cat Rock Parking Lot. FREE

Sundays, 1:30pm

TRAIL MAINTENANCE CREW

Join volunteers as they maintain Hale's trails and help with projects. A wonderful way to help out at Hale! Meet at Cat Rock Parking Lot.

Youth Programs

Monday, April 7 – Thursday, June 5, 4pm – 6pm (select one night only)

FLYING SQUIRREL ADVENTURES

Youth groups ages nine and up will enjoy playing games within the forest, and then they will put on their harnesses and get ready to FLY! Groups will work as a team to give each person an opportunity to be launched as a flying squirrel on our ropes course. Book your flight today! Select a date between April 7 – June 5 on any Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, 4pm – 6pm. Cost: \$10 per person, \$100 minimum per group. Pre-registration required.

Tuesday, April 22, Wednesday, April 23, Thursday, April 24, 8:30am – 3pm

APRIL VACATION PROGRAMS

If you are looking for something different to do, check these out: ENVIRONMANIA, open to Pre-K – 2nd graders, will focus on nature exploration. Children will learn about animals and their habitats and get a chance to do some tracking and looking for signs of spring. Along with nature exploration each day the kids will play games and sports, do arts and crafts and try out a few science experiments.

SPRING SKILLS TEAM CHALLENGE, open to 3rd – 6th graders, will have a different set of activities each day so kids can sign up for one, two or three days of learning and team challenges. Emphasis is on playing fair and supporting everyone. We will form teams of six to eight children who will be taught skills in the morning. In the afternoon, they will play against teams from Hale and other organizations. Ribbons will be awarded to all who participate. Please pre-register by April 4. Cost: \$60 per day.



Training & Certification Courses

Hale is offering the following American Red Cross Courses in June:

- Small Craft Safety Course
- Water Safety Instructor (WSI)
- Lifeguarding Course (includes CPR/FPR, First Aid and Waterfront Module)
- Lifeguard Recertification
- CPR For The Professional
- Rescuer Recertification

To register or get more information about these courses, please check out our website www.HaleReservation.org or call the Hale Main Office at 781-326-1770.

Summer Jobs at Hale Reservation

Summer is right around the corner and there are many employment opportunities for suitable candidates: MEMBERSHIP BEACH NEEDS: an arts and crafts director and a teen program supervisor.

NORTH BEACH NEEDS: lifeguards, water safety instructors and boating instructors.

HALE DAY CAMP NEEDS: activity specialists, counselors, division directors and waterfront staff.

AGENCY CAMP SUPPORT NEEDS: environmental educators, ropes course facilitators and summer adventure staff.



Beach Outings

Plan your groups next summer outing on one of our beaches. Facilities include a sandy beach, pavilion, bathrooms, charcoal grills, and beach volleyball. Swimming, rowing, canoeing, fishing, and hiking are favorite activities. North Beach is available week day evenings 5pm – 8pm and most Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, please contact Adrienne Farfalla at the Hale Main Office, Ext 13.



Parties at Hale —Let's Party!

Looking for a unique, exciting and stress-free option for your child's next birthday party? Come to Hale and leave the planning to us! Our staff will organize fun activities based upon your child's age and interests. Each party option includes a half-hour period for you to serve cake and ice cream in a heated cabin. (Families provide their own food and drinks.) To make arrangements for your next party call Adrienne Farfalla at the Hale Main Office, Ext 13.

NATURE BIRTHDAYS: Encourage your child's curiosity and love of the natural world. For Ages: 5 – 8. Duration: 2 hrs. Cost: \$200/12 participants.

ADVENTURE BIRTHDAYS: Party participants will work together to solve a mystery. Ages: 9 – 12. Duration: 2 hrs. Cost: \$200/12 participants.

HIGH FLYING BIRTHDAYS: Take the high ropes challenge! With group support and fun you and your friends can reach new heights. Ages: 10 and up. Duration: 2 hrs. Cost \$200/12 participants.

Hale Summer Adventures

If your program is looking for a GREAT PLACE to take an outdoor adventure then consider Hale Reservation for a wonderful day or overnight trip this summer. Our goal is to provide all groups with safe, exciting, outdoor experiences that promote group trust, cooperation and an appreciation for the natural environment. We will tailor an experience that best meets your group's needs. Last summer, almost 700 individuals in over 20 groups enjoyed a day at Hale Reservation which included environmental education, teambuilding activities, and swimming. For more information, please contact Adrienne Farfalla at the Hale Main Office, Ext 13.

New Video and Website for Hale

THERE ARE MANY things on our wish list at Hale. But just like in any family or business, we have priorities of things we must do, and things we wish we could do. For a long time, it has been our wish to have a video of Hale, one that would showcase the work we do with children while capturing the natural beauty of these amazing 1,100 acres. As we looked into the possibility of producing such a piece, we learned that it just wasn't in the budget—and wouldn't be for quite some time. It would remain on our wish list.

Then last summer, Juanita Allen, a dedicated volunteer board member, alerted us to an opportunity that might make this wish come true. Boston University's Center for Digital Imaging and Art (CDIA) was accepting applications for video projects and we quickly applied. Wish granted.

After a frenetic two weeks of filming this summer, and many more weeks of editing, we now have a video that tells the story of Hale. The experience with CDIA was so wonderful that they took on two additional projects for Hale. We now have an assortment of wonderful summer photographs and a redesign of our website. For all three projects, students were supervised by professors, and succeeded at producing professional work that would have cost Hale Reservation thousands of dollars. And since this is all part of this special program, it didn't affect the Hale budget at all.

Our sincere appreciation to the CDIA students for their efforts—our "thank you" doesn't really do justice to the wonderful work they did. Please take a moment to check out our new website (www.HaleReservation.org) which incidentally includes many of the pictures that were taken this past summer. And be on the lookout for a showing of the Hale video coming soon to a living room in your neighborhood.

Where Do Our Members Come From?

By Julia Brune, Membership Beach Director

THE WESTWOOD-DOVER Conservation Club (WDCC) originally opened Membership Beach in 1964 after the construction of Noanet Pond. At that time only families from Westwood and Dover were eligible to join. Eventually Hale's Board of Directors voted to offer swimming lessons and so the program as we know it was born, boats were bought, facilities developed, and memberships were opened to the general public.

It is fascinating to see how the Membership community has changed over the years. The numbers in the table below reflect percentages of the total membership of that year.

TOWN	1973	1997	2007
WESTWOOD	35%	22%	26%
DOVER	9%	8%	6%
MEDFIELD	5%	5%	4%
NORWOOD	11%	19%	5%
DEDHAM	13%	7%	12%
NEEDHAM	10%	4%	20%
NEWTON	6%	10%	8%
BOSTON	7%	15%	13%

Although more members come from Westwood than anywhere else, the most significant growth in memberships has been from the town of Needham. In 2000, we had 26 Needham families but by 2006 there were 128 families, nearly five times as many families in just six years. I contacted some Needham families to see why Membership Beach is so popular.

"Hale is an easy drive with NO TRAFFIC—a beautiful back roads ride! I love the drive back home (unless an overtired someone is crying) and I love being able to watch the sunset and the deer come out. At Hale, you definitely get more activities for your dollar and you gain more of a sense of community than you get at some other sites. Even kids who are not big swimmers have other diversions, such as nature, arts and crafts, fishing...Hale affords you time to spend with your children (and some very precious reading time when the kids are on a hike or in lessons!) Where else can you get campfires, an overnight camping experience and the chance to kayak and take out row boats and still be close to home?"

—Leany Sirignano of Needham

"We have found we also like the additional activities provided during the day; swim lessons, crafts, Nature Jay, fishing, the boats, playground, etc. Hale offers more to do than the pools in town. We enjoy the special nightly activities, the camp fires, luau night and the sleepovers. After being members for a few years we realized how much more than a 'membership beach' Hale really is."

—Dick Petrie of Needham

As a new summer looms, what is ahead of us? More Needham families joining the beach, or will the tide turn, and a new era start?

Membership Beach is a private beach environment open to members only, seven days a week, from the Saturday before Memorial Day to Labor Day, for one low all inclusive fee. Numbers of family memberships are limited to 420.

Friends relaxing at Membership Beach.



Record Support for Hale's Efforts

by Paula McLaughlin, Director of Development

OVER THE PAST few years, the Board of Directors and staff reviewed the needs at Hale Reservation. After surveying agency camps, participants, visitors, friends and neighbors, it was clear that people love Hale and would support efforts to make it an even more special place. But the question remained, where do we begin?

With information from our users and an environmental inventory study, a complete Master Plan was developed outlining a multi year, multi phased effort to address physical plant challenges, program development and fiscal stability. Of this plan, the first phase, a \$2,000,000 capital campaign began. The campaign will support improvements to one of the "villages" in the Master Plan and provide a modest increase in Hale's endowment. This effort has been met with great enthusiasm. As of the writing of this newsletter (February 13, 2008), 44 donors have contributed \$1,420,000.

Record Support —But Huge Challenges

Although the support for the capital campaign is spectacular, Hale must

continue to raise funds for the annual operations. Gifts to the "Friends of Hale" campaigns are what keep us going. In 2008, these gifts are needed now more than ever. Adding to our fundraising challenges this year is the United Way's decision to change some of its funding priorities. As a result, Hale Reservation no longer receives over \$60,000 to support our operations. We need our "Friends of Hale" to help close this critical gap in our funding so that Hale can continue its mission.

Hale Reservation provides—public access, miles of hiking, access to the outdoors for children and families from 70 communities, and education for over 4,400 children every year. Please show your support.

Meet the Board

Maureen Bleday – A longtime Westwood resident, Maureen has served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the past three years and will soon take over as President. A dedicated volunteer, Maureen uses her experience on town and non-profit boards, as well as her talents as a real estate attorney to advise Hale on many issues including fundraising, programming, and land use. Maureen and her husband, Ron, live in Westwood with their three sons.

"We are so fortunate here in Westwood to have Hale Reservation to enjoy with our children. Equally compelling is the fact that each summer we are able to share this unique and beautiful resource with so many children from other communities through our camping programs. It is an honor to work with an organization that does so much to promote outdoor recreation and learning experiences for children."

—Maureen Bleday

Bob Truesdale – Bob is a longtime resident of Dover and has been an open space and Hale enthusiast for many years. He has served on the Dover Board of Health for three terms and is currently serving his fourth term as a Corporate Trustee for the Trustees of Reservations.

"As a neighbor to Hale, I appreciate the efforts Hale has made to ensure that open space is a priority and that it is available for so many to enjoy."

—Bob Truesdale

DONATION INFORMATION



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www.HaleReservation.org

HALE RESERVATION began as a generous gift to all of us.

We are sustained by gifts from friends like you, enabling us to share our resources and wonderful programs.

Thank you for doing your part.

Yes, I would like to help Hale continue the tradition. Enclosed is my gift of

\$ _____

to help preserve, protect and allow for public use of the natural resources at Hale Reservation

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

PAYMENT METHOD CHECK VISA/MC _____ EXPIRATION _____

CARD NO. _____

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON MAKING A GIFT TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.

Did you know? 90 Years ago...

IN 1918, Woodrow Wilson was the President, the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, and Hale Reservation was founded.

Happy Anniversary Hale!



80 Carby Street
Westwood, Massachusetts 02090

Renovation & Construction

SO WHAT IS ALL the work being done at Hale and at the Trading Post? A capital campaign with a goal of \$2,000,000 is currently underway. Money raised will be used to improve the "Trading Post Village" as is outlined in the Master Plan created by the Board of Directors in 2006. The village includes the site behind the Trading Post, the ABC Cabin, Noanet Landing, and the Trading Post parking area. The "signature" improvement in the plan is the complete renovation of the Trading Post. In addition, there will be improved parking, new composting restrooms (including one which will be open year round for public use), upgrades to some old cabins, a new fire circle for campers and some specific locations for programming including a wildlife viewing area and a weather station.

Three partner organizations that conduct camp at Hale will immediately benefit from improvements to the Trading Post Village. Cooper Community Center from Roxbury, Bird Street Community Center from Dorchester and Massachusetts General Hospital's YouthCare Program operate programs in the buildings and sites that will be improved. The first two camps serve children from the city of Boston, while YouthCare serves children with Aspergers syndrome, a form of autism.



View of the new Trading Post

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