



William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Contact: Brian McNiff
Telephone: 617-727-9180

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FULLER BROOK PARK, WELLESLEY, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission approved Fuller Brook Park in Wellesley for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at its March 9, 2011, meeting. The nomination will be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, DC, for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich architectural, cultural, archaeological, and historic resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of Fuller Brook Park in the National Register will help to protect this important example of historic park planning.”

Fuller Brook Park is a roughly 2 ½-mile-long linear park comprising 35.8 acres that extend along Fuller and Caroline Brooks, from Dover Road on the west to Maugus Avenue on the east. Established by the town in 1899 for the dual purpose of improving drainage in flood-prone areas and providing parkland near the center of town, Fuller Brook Park 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: John Charles Olmsted, founding member and first president of the American Society of Landscape Architects; Warren H. Manning, who worked at the Olmsted firm before establishing his own office in 1896; and engineer Ernest Bowditch, a native of Brookline, MA. The park runs primarily through residential neighborhoods, surrounded by single-family homes for much of its length. A central feature of the park is its pedestrian path system. Fuller Brook Park’s varied plantings include low, stream-edge vegetation, open lawns with scattered trees, small areas of ornamental plantings, and multi-story woodland at the park’s edges. Most of the species found at the park are native. In 2003, the town undertook a master plan for the park; recommendations of the plan include vegetation management, path design and construction, and solving problems such as poor drainage.

Fuller Brook Park is one of 7 historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting.

Secretary Galvin serves as Chairman of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times a year.

The National Register is the nation’s official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are over 70,000 properties listed in the National Register. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has been administering the National Register of Historic Places program in Massachusetts since 1966.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission’s programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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State House, Room 337, Boston, Massachusetts 02133