

Waban Area Council

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February 13, 2014

The Honorable Setti D. Warren
Mayor of Newton
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Request to MWRA for stairs across the Sudbury Aqueduct

Dear Mayor Warren:

We are writing to ask that you submit an official request to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority to install wooden stairs over the Sudbury Aqueduct between Stanley Rd. and Canterbury Rd. in Newton.

The aqueduct is crossed by a heavily-used footpath between the end of Stanley Rd. (in Waban) and the North side of Canterbury Rd. (in Newton Highlands). The path provides access from the Stanley Rd. neighborhood to the Eliot T station (D-line) and provides general access from one neighborhood to another. The path is also used by middle and high school students who live in the Stanley Rd. neighborhood and are dropped off on Canterbury Road when they take the late school bus.

Currently, the path is unimproved, and as a result, the sides of the aqueduct are subject to heavy erosion. In fact, this summer, the path summit was down to rock, and dirt was trucked in to replace it. In wet and snowy weather, the footing along the steep embankment is muddy or slippery. Please see attached photo #1 for a view of the path in the summer (you can see that a neighbor has tried to cut stairs into the dirt on the right).

There is a similar aqueduct trail in Wellesley, at Woodlawn Avenue, where wooden steps were constructed to successfully stabilize that path (see attached photo #2). If the MWRA were to install a similar set of stairs here, it would greatly improve the path and help prevent erosion.

Waban Area Councillor Andreae Downs has been told by the MWRA that the Authority might be willing to install similar steps over the Sudbury Aqueduct between Stanley Rd. and Canterbury Rd. if it receives an official request from your office. The Waban Area Council enthusiastically supports this pedestrian

improvement, and we are willing to assist the project in any way. If you have any questions, please contact Andreae (andreaedowns@gmail.com).

We look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will be able to assist us in this project.

Sincerely,

The Waban Area Council

By its members:

Joe Corkery

Matthew Gardella

Maureen Reilly Meagher

Barbara Bower

Rena Getz

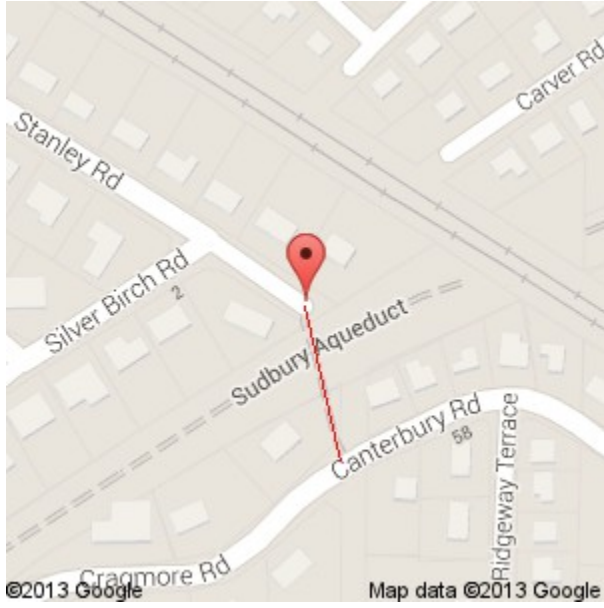
Christopher Pitts

Andreae Downs

Sallee Lipshutz

Kathy Winters

Attachments:



Picture 1 (aqueduct crossing)



Picture 2 (Wellesley aqueduct connection to the Charles River path)