

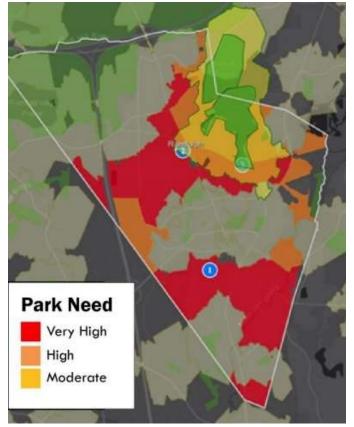
Proposed to the Randolph Community Preservation Commission, by Randolph Emerald Necklace, c/o Jesse Gordon, <u>jesse@jessegordon.com</u>, April 17, 2022

South Randolph Municipal Parks: Opening access to our conservation areas

Thousands of Randolph residents live within walking distance of two conservation areas in South Randolph, but even some close neighbors don't realize how close they live. That's because there are few signs, no "Welcome to Your Conservation Area" map, lots of "No Dumping" signs and blocked entrances -- all leading Randolph residents to stay out for years.

Take a look at this <u>park map from the Randolph Community</u> <u>Wellness Plan</u>. It shows the two conservation areas in South Randolph -- the Lokitis Conservation Area and the South Randolph Conservation Area -- they're the two green oases (parks) amidst a sea of red (high need for parks). But a park can only act as an oasis if people know that they're there -and most residents are unaware of these parks' existence!

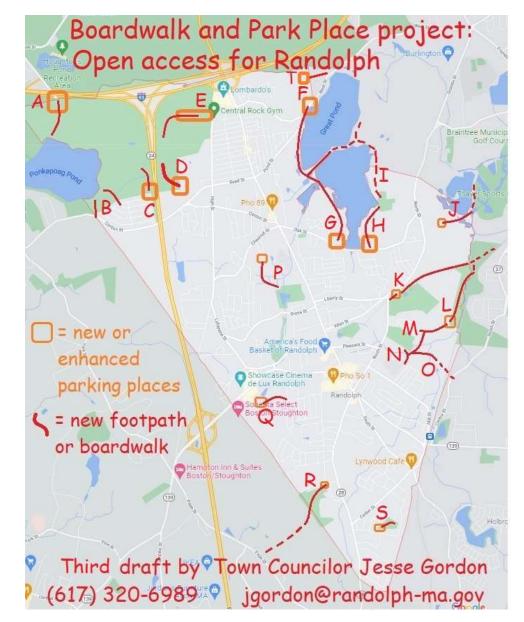
Don't believe that people are unaware about their nearest parks? I presented this plan to some South Randolph residents and one said, "I go right past the Lokitis Conservation Area on my daily walk and I never knew its name nor that it was a public park." Another resident said, "I live even closer to it, and I never even noticed it at all!"



How do we fix this? One park at a time -- we can add signs and parking places and cleaned-up park entrances -- this is the plan to get started. Future plans will address several other Conservation Areas around Randolph -- we have a dozen parks like this, all of which are PUBLIC parks but inaccessible or unknown to the public.

We can grant ourselves access to our own parks!

Let's get started with the South Randolph Conservation Area...



South Randolph Conservation Area:

There's seven acres of open space in South Randolph that few people know about -- a public park with little access to the public.

There are a couple of parking spots on North Sherwood Ave – shown here.

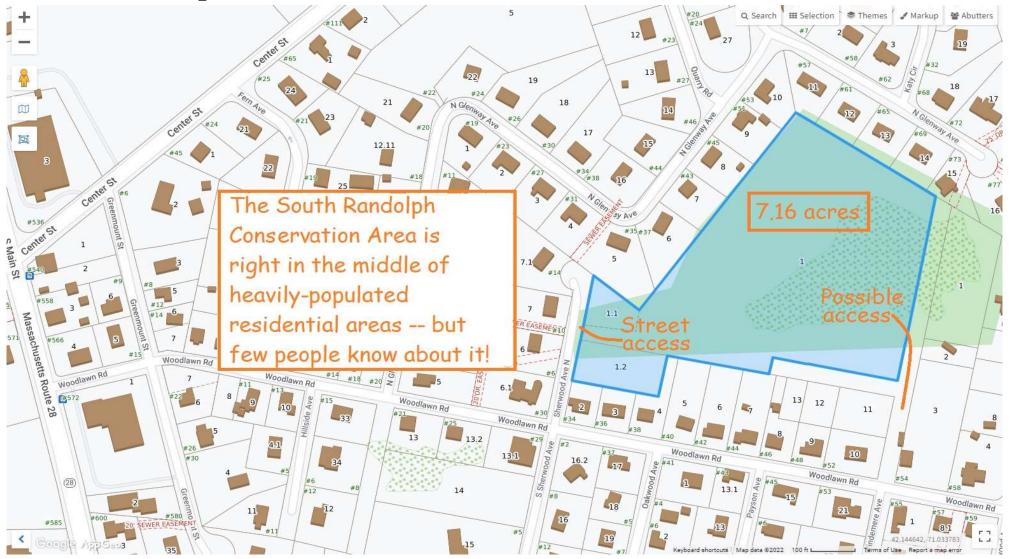
The interior of the park has some dumped litter – DPW should get it onto their maintenance schedule.

Video at: <u>https://youtube.com/shorts/_AfjGRAS67s</u>



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South Randolph Conservation Area: Location



South Randolph Conservation Area: interior

The interior is nice for hiking (no trails for biking nor wheelchairs).

There's a stream running to a wetland area when you hike in 100 yards.

Certainly could use some amenities for kids, but a good start just to open it up for pedestrians.

There's a possible second entrance off Woodlawn Road – I'll bring that up again next year with a status on right-of-way.

Video at: https://youtube.com/shorts/_AfjGRAS67s

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Lokitis Conservation Area: main entrance

Moving a dozen blocks west....

There's 28 acres of open space on the Randolph-Avon border

There are several unmarked & unused entrances – will show them below.

What's needed here is to mark the entrances and allow parking.

Video at: https://www.youtube.com/shorts/5rNkuHKzzf0



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Lokitis extends into Avon and could provide a walking route / bicycle route to D.W. Field in Brockton (I've done it with my pre-teen son!)

That's a future project in partnership with the Avon Conservation Commission (which would extend to the "Blasting Zone" shown on the cover!)

Slide 8

Lokitis Conservation Area: Task list

- Move those big rocks back a dozen yards, to provide parking.
- Add a sign saying "Welcome to the Lokitis Conservation Area"
- This is the Highland-Stoughton St entrance; the others have no parking but should also have signage.
- Remove the "No Dumping" signs, since people ignore them anyway.
- Arrange a litter cleanup schedule with DPW to clean up all of the junk dumped already in the park (a few days' work).
- This entrance could be accessible for wheelchairs for a few 100 yards into the park (the trails are pretty clear here).

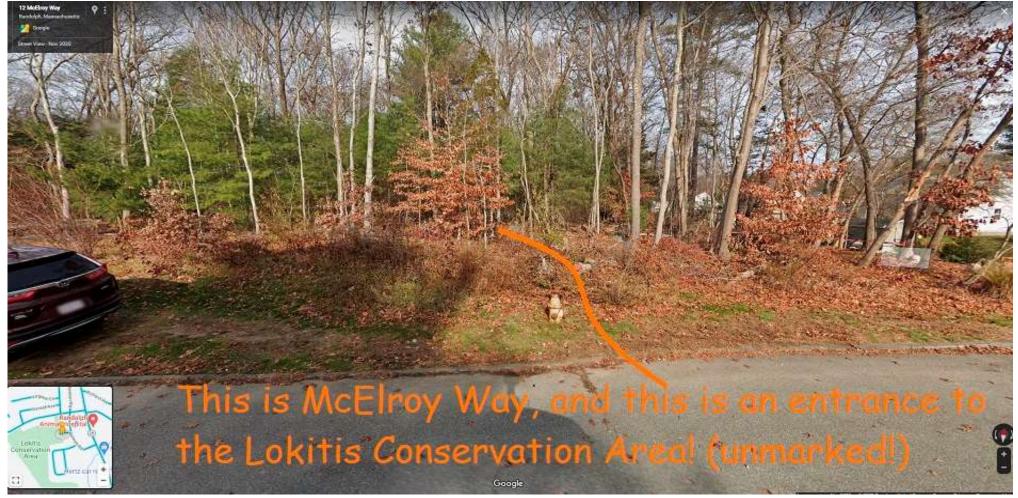




Lokitis Conservation Area: Interior



Lokitis Conservation Area: McElroy Way entrance



There are four entrances where Lokitis connects directly to public streets. Three are on Stoughton Street; and one more on McElroy Way.

Slide 11

South Randolph Park Signage

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