

# Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild Site Analysis Presentation

June 9, 2020





# INTRODUCTIONS

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Longfellow Area Neighborhood Association (LANA)

Roslindale Wetlands Task Force



# Agenda

INTRODUCTIONS &  
HOW TO COMMENT

PUBLIC POLL

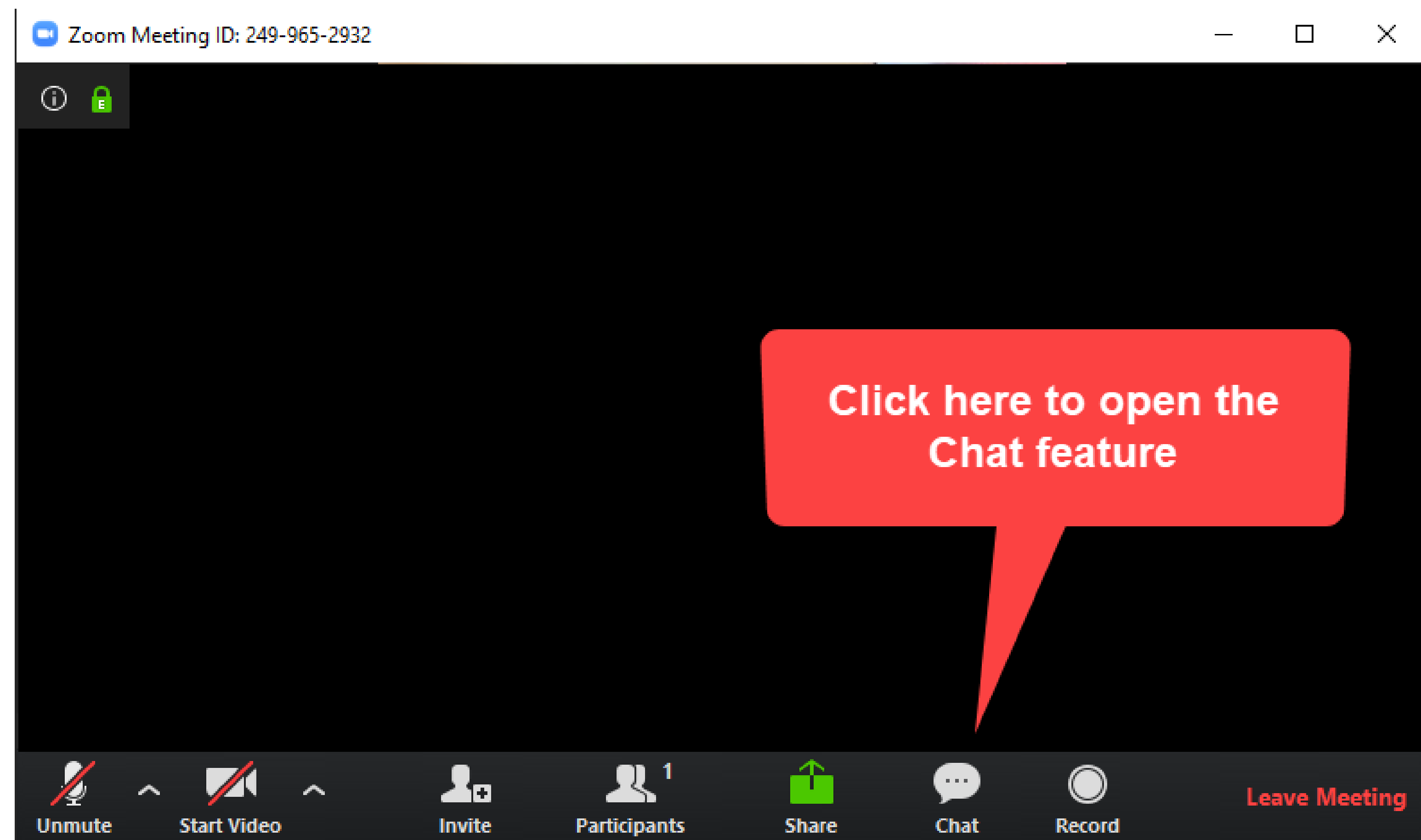
SITE ANALYSIS

INSPIRATION!

NEXT STEPS



# HOW TO COMMENT



-Please use the Chat feature to leave questions and comments throughout the presentation.

-You will be muted until the Breakout Session, but your comments will be recorded.

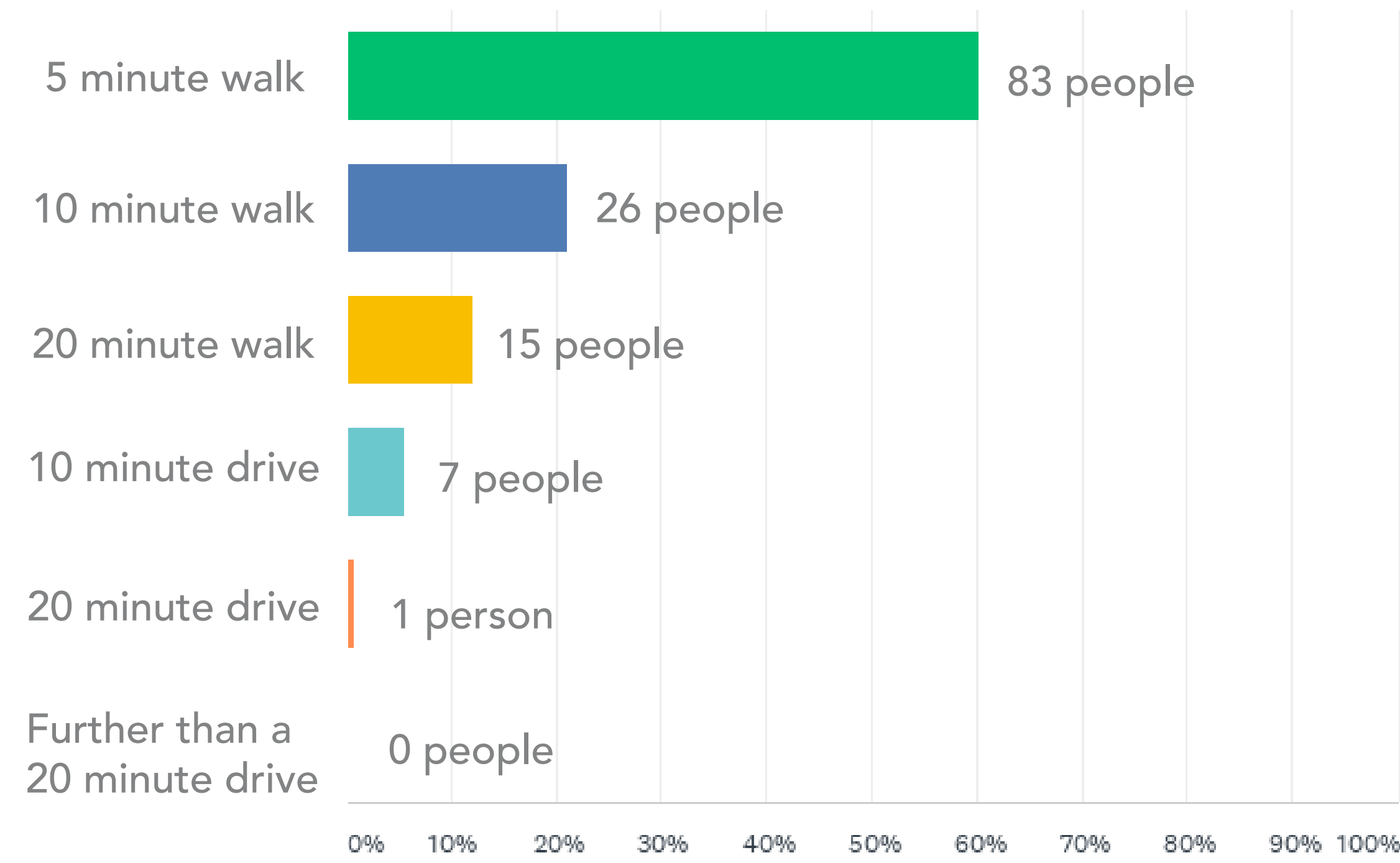






## How close to the Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild do you live?

¿Qué tan cerca de Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild vive usted?  
 Ki distans kay ou ye pa rapò ak Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

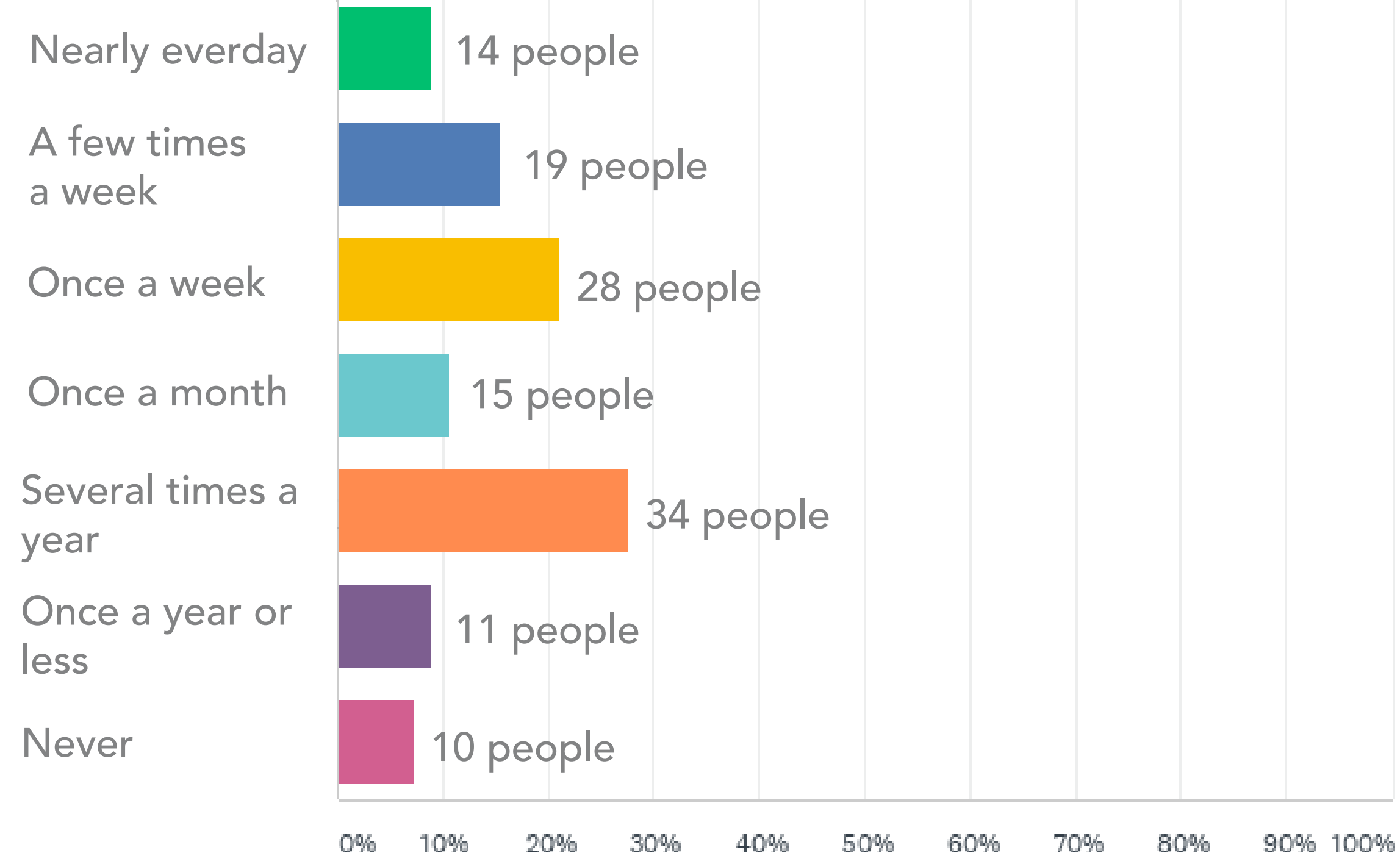


Most people who answered this survey live within 5 or 10 minute walk of the Urban Wilds.



## How often do you visit the Roslindale Wetland Urban Wild?

¿Qué tan a menudo usted visita Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?  
 Konbyen fwa ou konn ale nan Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

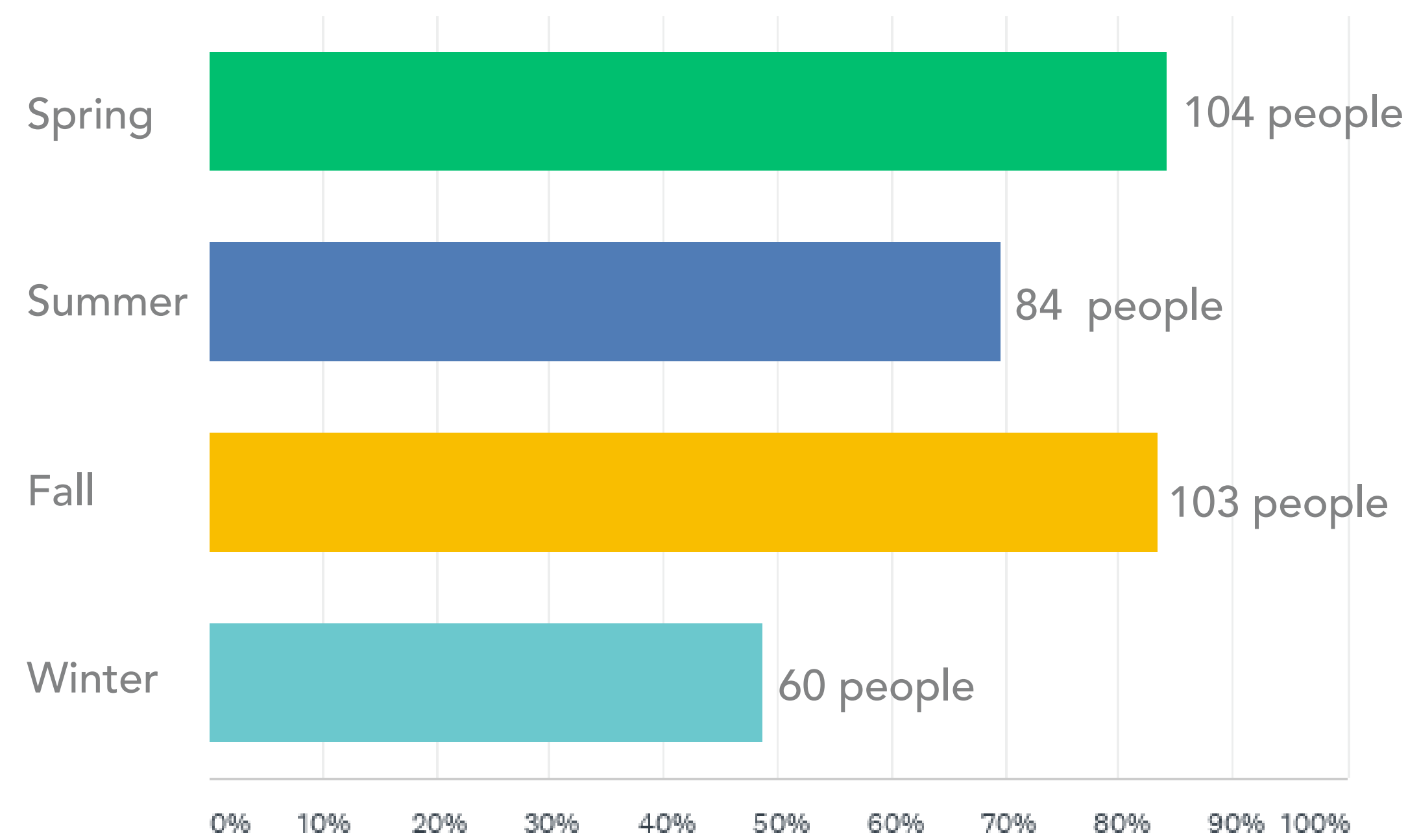


Most people who answered the survey visit the park several times a year, with many visiting once a week or more.



## What time of year do you visit the Urban Wild?

¿Cuántas veces pasas por el parque de la Lafayette?  
 ¿En qué momento del año usted visita Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?



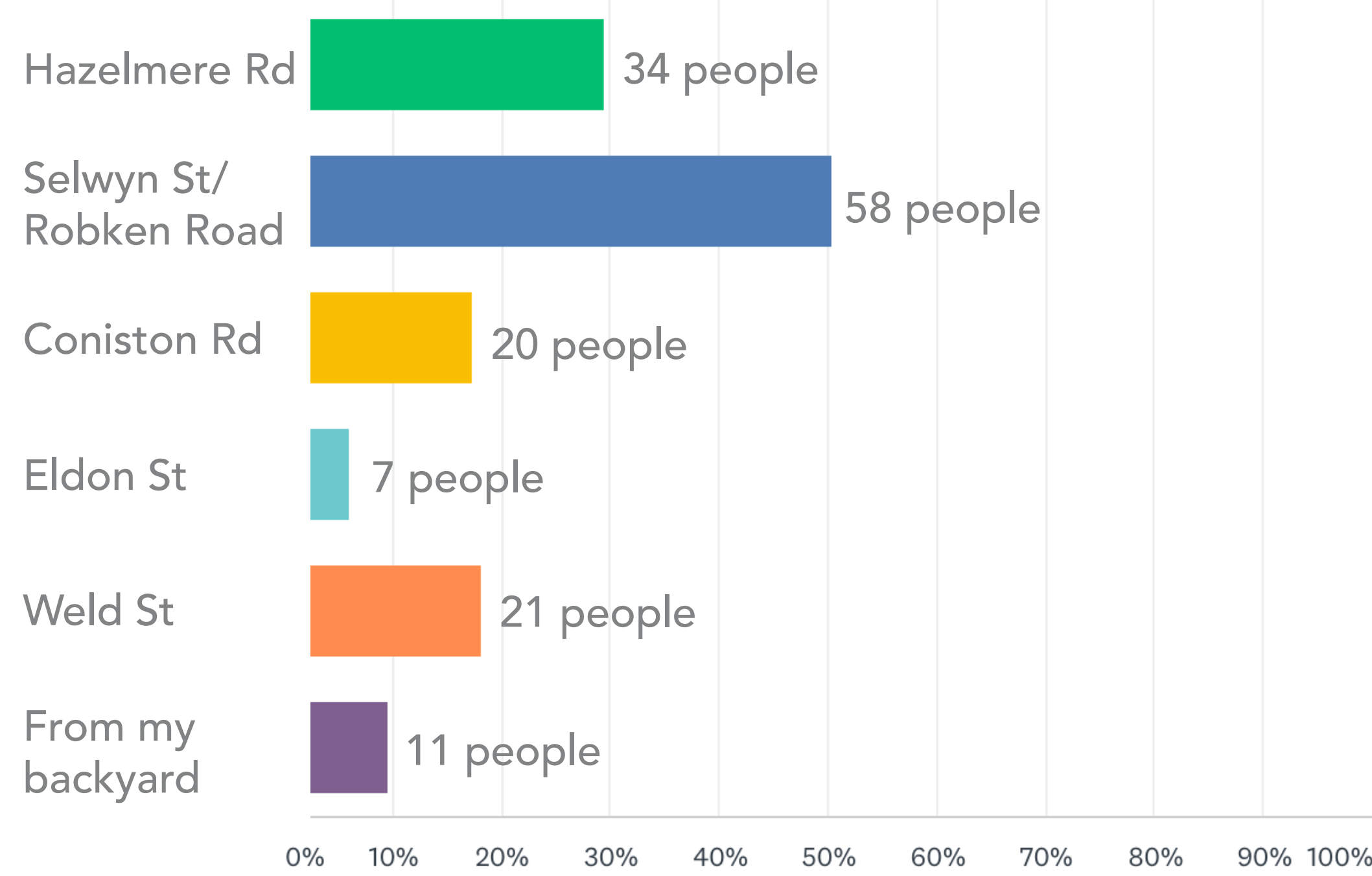
People visit the park throughout the entire year, but Spring and Fall are more popular seasons to visit.





### From where do you usually enter the Urban Wild?

¿Qué tan cerca de Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild vive usted?  
 Ki distans kay ou ye pa rapò ak Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

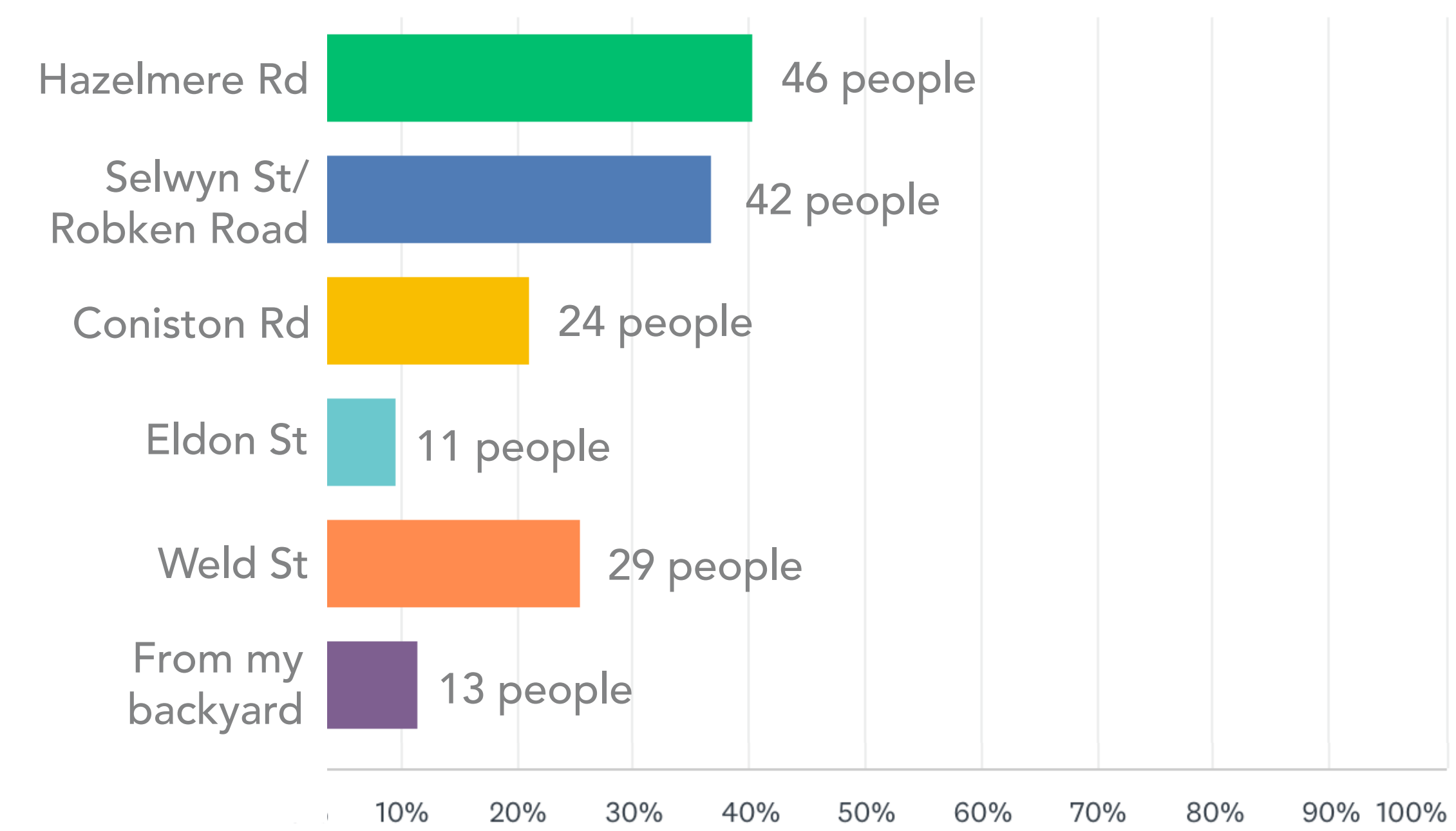


Selwyn Street/ Robken Road is the most popular entrance.

All surrounding streets as used to enter the Urban Wild. Some people enter through their backyards.

### To where do you usually exit the Urban Wild?

¿Qué tan a menudo usted visita Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?  
 Konbyen fwa ou kann ale nan Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

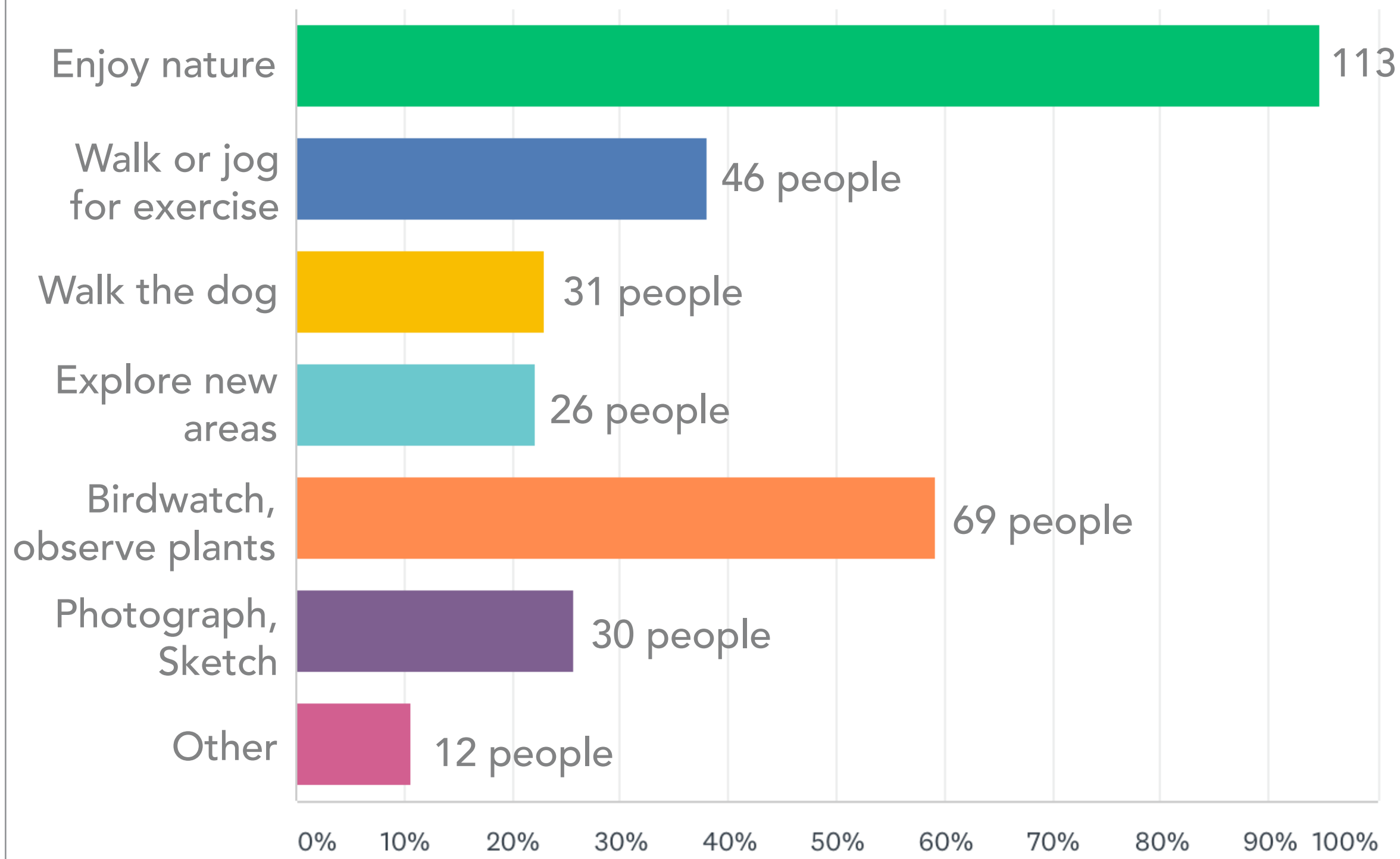


People who answered usually exit from Selwyn Street/ Robken Road or Hazelmere Road.

More people use Hazelmere Road to exit the Urban Wild than to enter. This is likely because there isn't an internal loop path within the Urban Wild and that neighborhood streets are being used to complete the loop.

### What do you do in the Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

¿Qué hace usted en Roslindale Wetland Urban Wild?  
 Kisa ou kann fè nan Roslindale Wetland Urban Wild?



The most popular activity is to enjoy nature and just be outside!

All activities reported are in line with the mission of the Urban Wild's mission.



Other activities include:  
 -Clean-ups  
 -Invasive species removal  
 -Plantings

### What do you and your friends, neighbors, and family refer to the Urban Wild as?

¿Cómo se refieren a Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild usted y sus amigos/familiares/vecinos?  
 A kisa oumenm ak zanmi/fanmi/vwazen w yo kann refere epi konpare Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?

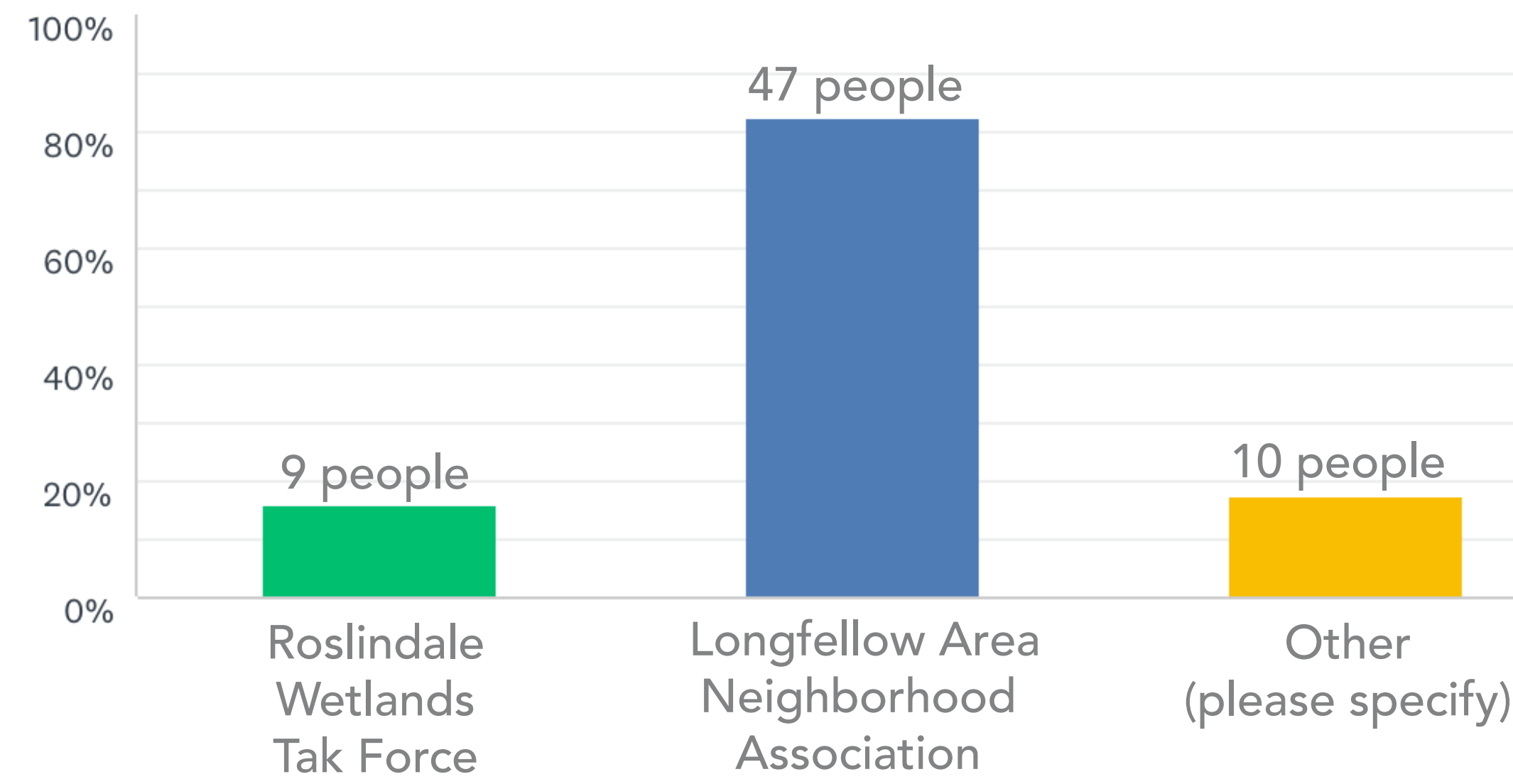


"The Wetlands" is the most common name for the Roslindale Wetland Urban Wild among people who answered.



### Are you a member of any neighborhood group or association?

¿Es usted miembro de alguna agrupación o asociación vecinal?  
 Èske ou manm nenpòt gwoup katye oubyen asosyasyon?



43% of people who took this survey are members a neighborhood group. 80% of these people belong to LANA.

### What wildlife (flora or fauna) have you observed in the Roslindale Wetland?

¿Qué vida silvestre (flora o fauna) usted ha observado en Roslindale Wetland?  
 Ki tip lavi sovaj (flòr oswa fonn) èske ou te obsève nan Roslindale Wetland?

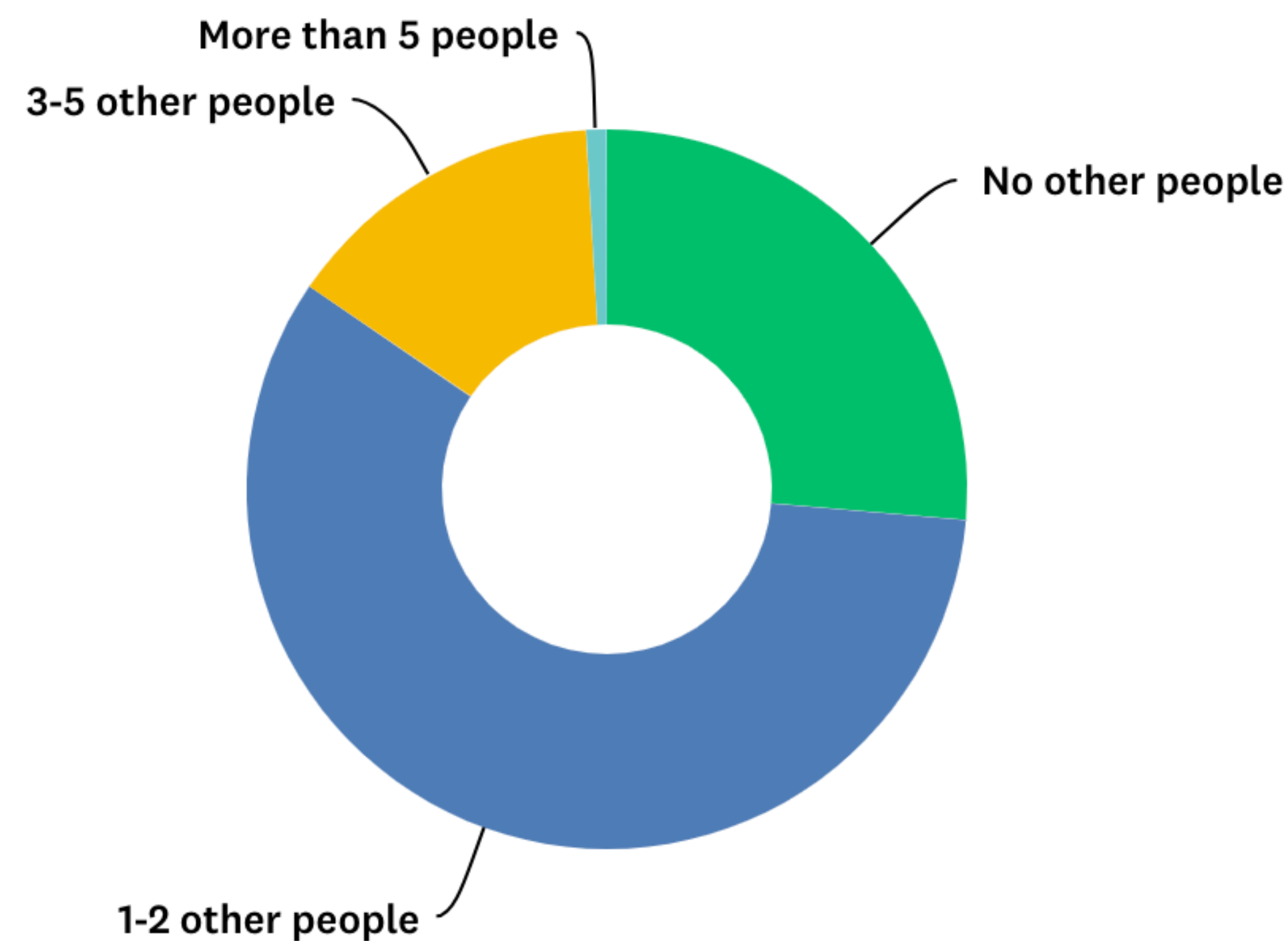


People have seen so many different types of plants and animals within the Urban Wild!

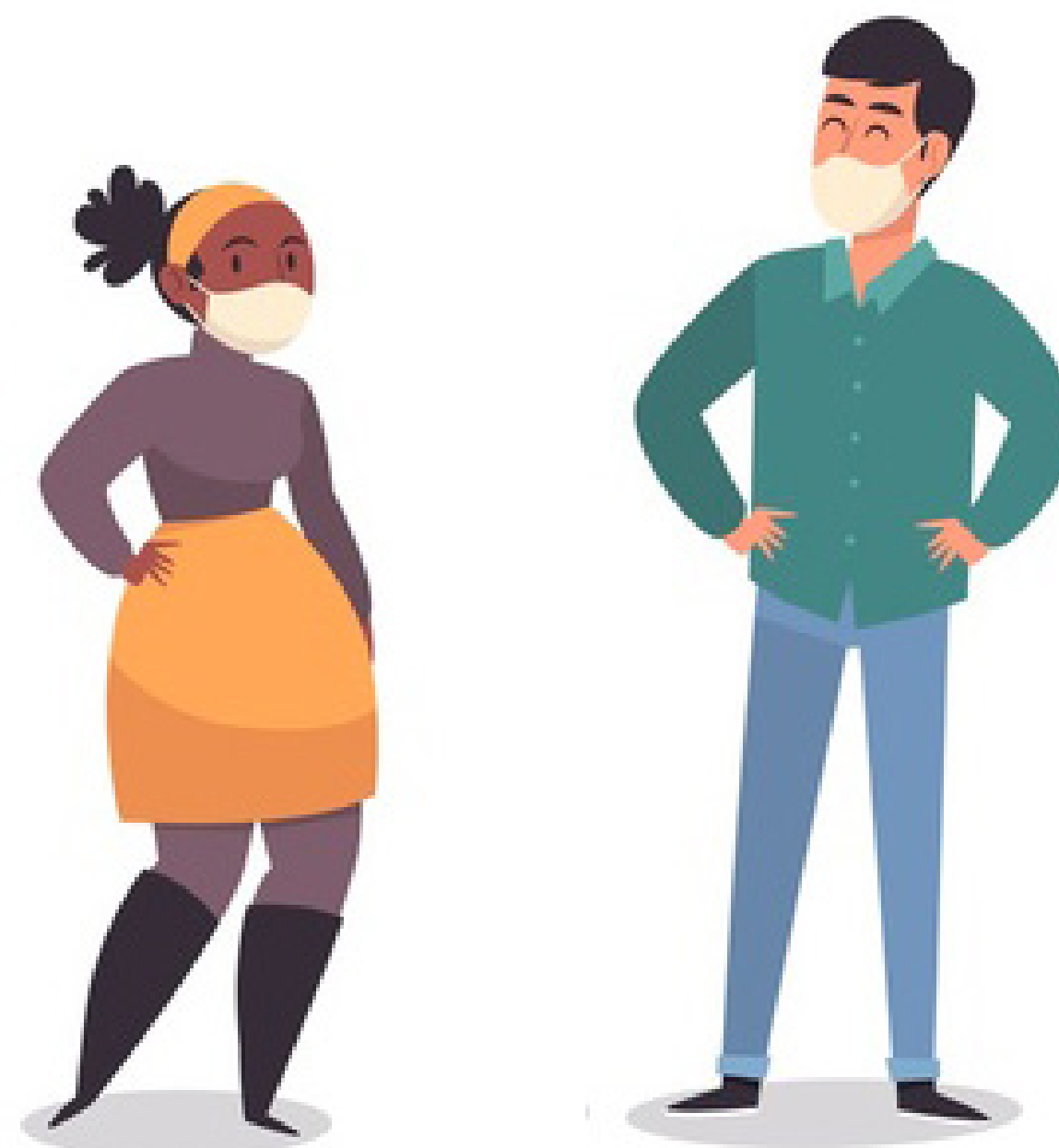
The most mentioned were difference species of birds, including ducks, woodpeckers, oreoles, red wing blackbird, and hawks!

### When you visit the Urban Wild, how many other people do you usually see?

Al visitar Urban Wild, ¿normalmente a cuántas otras personas usted ve?  
 Lè w al vizite Urban Wild, konbyen moun èske ou konn wè la a anjeneral?

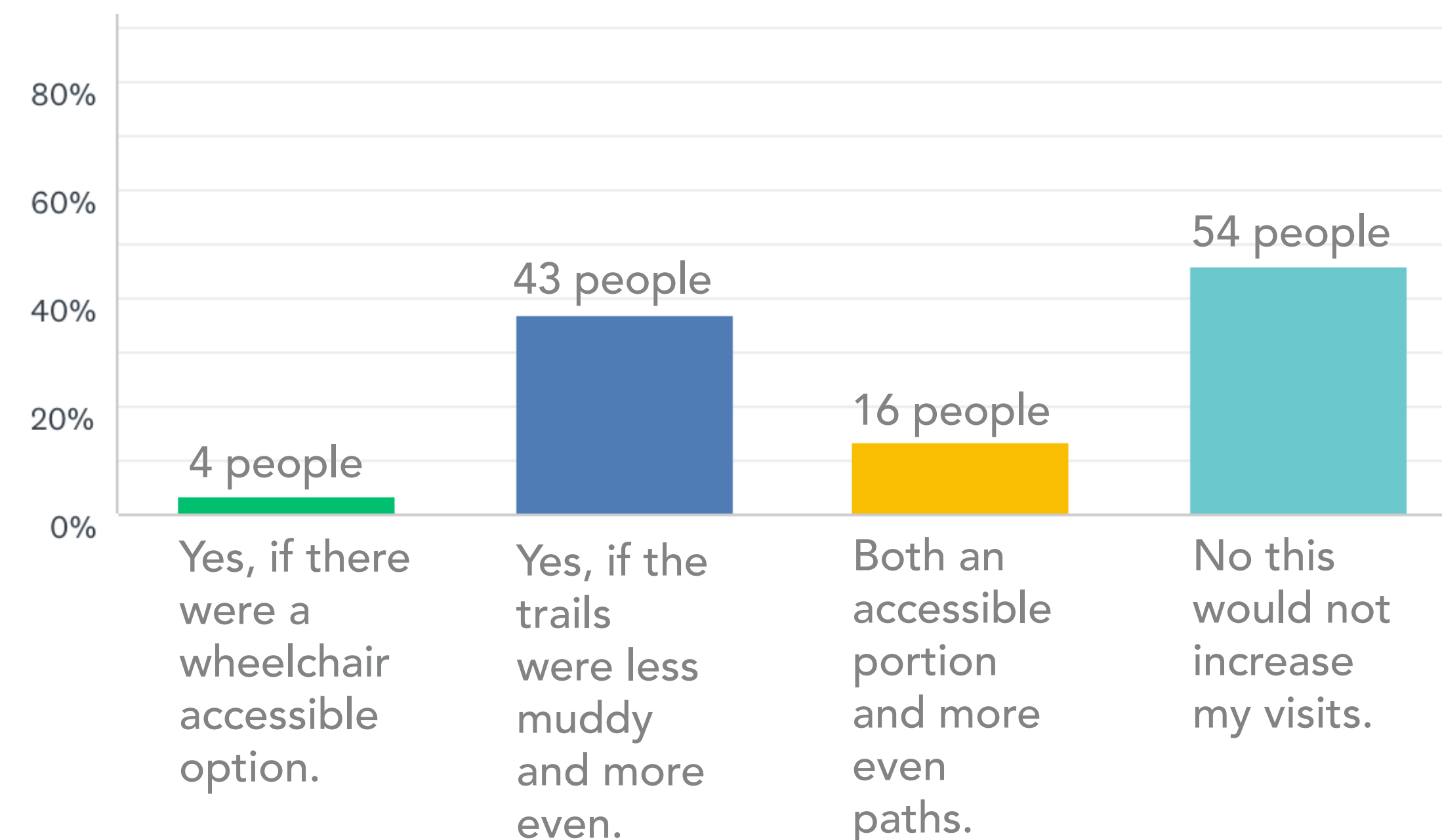


Most people reported that they see 1-2 other people when visiting the Roslindale Wetlands.



### Would you or a family member visit the Urban Wild more often if there were a wheelchair accessible portion, or if the trails themselves were more even and less muddy?

¿Usted o un miembro de su familia visitarían Urban Wild más a menudo si hubiera una sección accesible para silla de ruedas, o si los propios senderos fueran más uniformes y con menos barro?



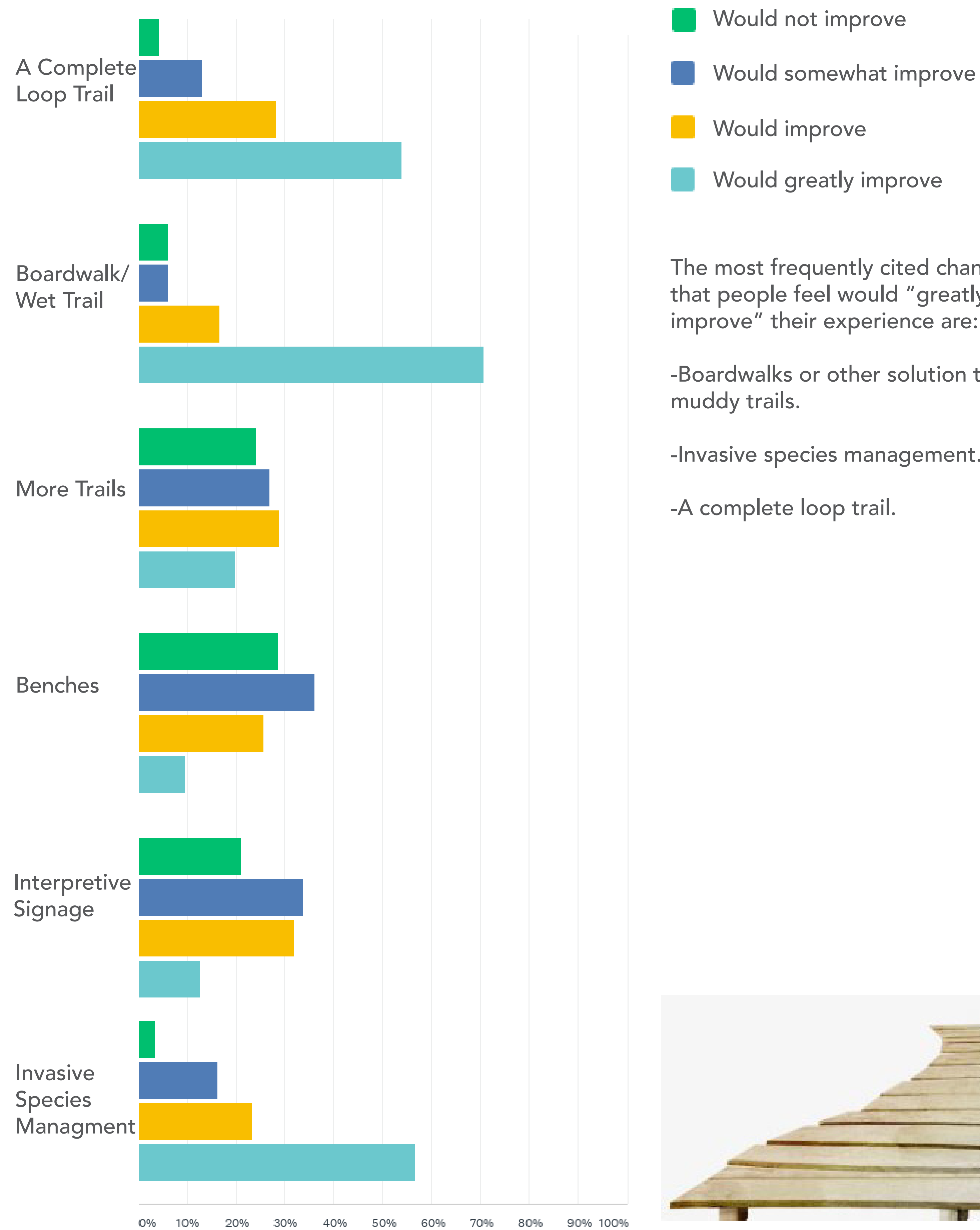
50% of people who answered said improving muddy trails would increase their visits.

17% of people expressed interest in a wheelchair accessible portion.



## What would improve your experience of the Urban Wild?

¿Cuánto mejoraría su experiencia en Urban Wild?  
Kisa ki ta amelyore eksperyans ou nan Urban Wild?



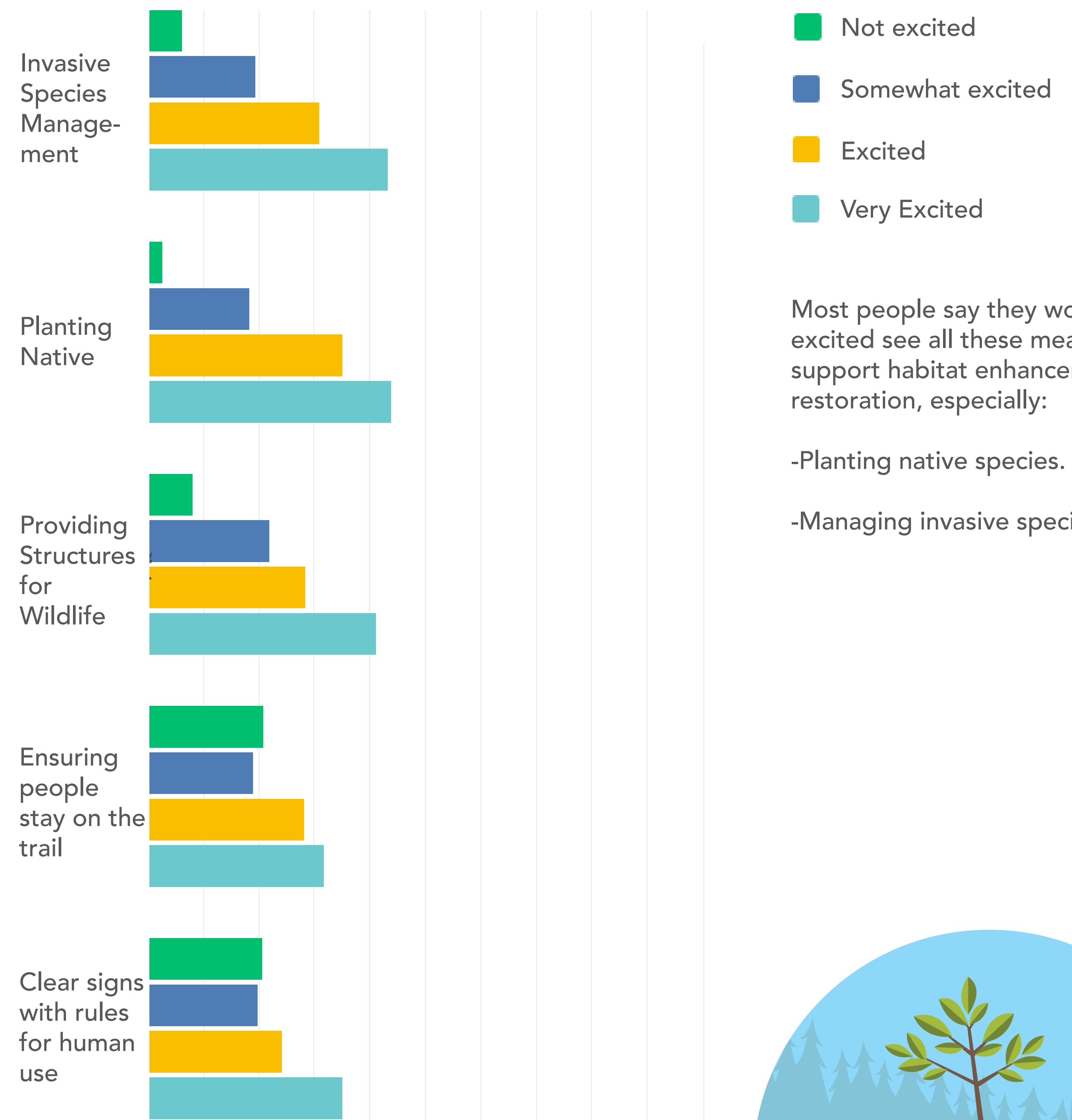
The most frequently cited changes that people feel would “greatly improve” their experience are:

- Boardwalks or other solution to muddy trails.
- Invasive species management.
- A complete loop trail.



## Which measures to support habitat enhancement or restoration would you be most excited to see?

¿Cuáles son las medidas que a usted más le gustaría ver para favorecer o recuperar el hábitat?  
Ki etap pou sipòte amelyorasyon oswa restorasyon abita èske ou ta plis renmen wè



Most people say they would be excited see all these measures to support habitat enhancement and restoration, especially:

- Planting native species.
- Managing invasive species.





## Is there anything else you would like to share about the Urban Wild?

¿Hay algo más que a usted le gustaría comentar sobre Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild?  
Èske gen nenpòt lò bagay ou ta renmen di osijè Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild la?

### The Wetlands are an Important Resource:

- Under-appreciated, under-utilized, under-managed resource
- Nearby schools should use for education
- It's had an important role providing outdoor space during the pandemic!
- It's a nice counterpart to the often busy arboretum

### Continue to Push for Parcel Aquisition and Conservation:

- Concern over housing development (on private parcels)
- City should actively pursue acquiring private parcels for conservation
- Acquire 104 Walter Street, remove hazard buildings for safety

### Conservation Concerns:

- Balancing accessibility with wildlife and natural preservation
- Need for coordination between the Arboretum over spreading invasives (Caster-Aralia tree)
- Signage for dog regulations (requires leashes)
- Trash cans at entrances with dog waste bags
- Provisions for low impact use, no interpretive signage

### Maintenance and Design Suggestions:

- Include signs with information on tick and mosquito bite safety
- Make part of Emerald Necklace (it's basically an extension of Arboretum)
- Needs on-going maintenance efforts
- Concern over hazard trees
- More wayfinding at entrances
- Interest in pollinator meadow or food forest on Coniston Paper Street
- Children would enjoy more trails



Photos by Rob Torres

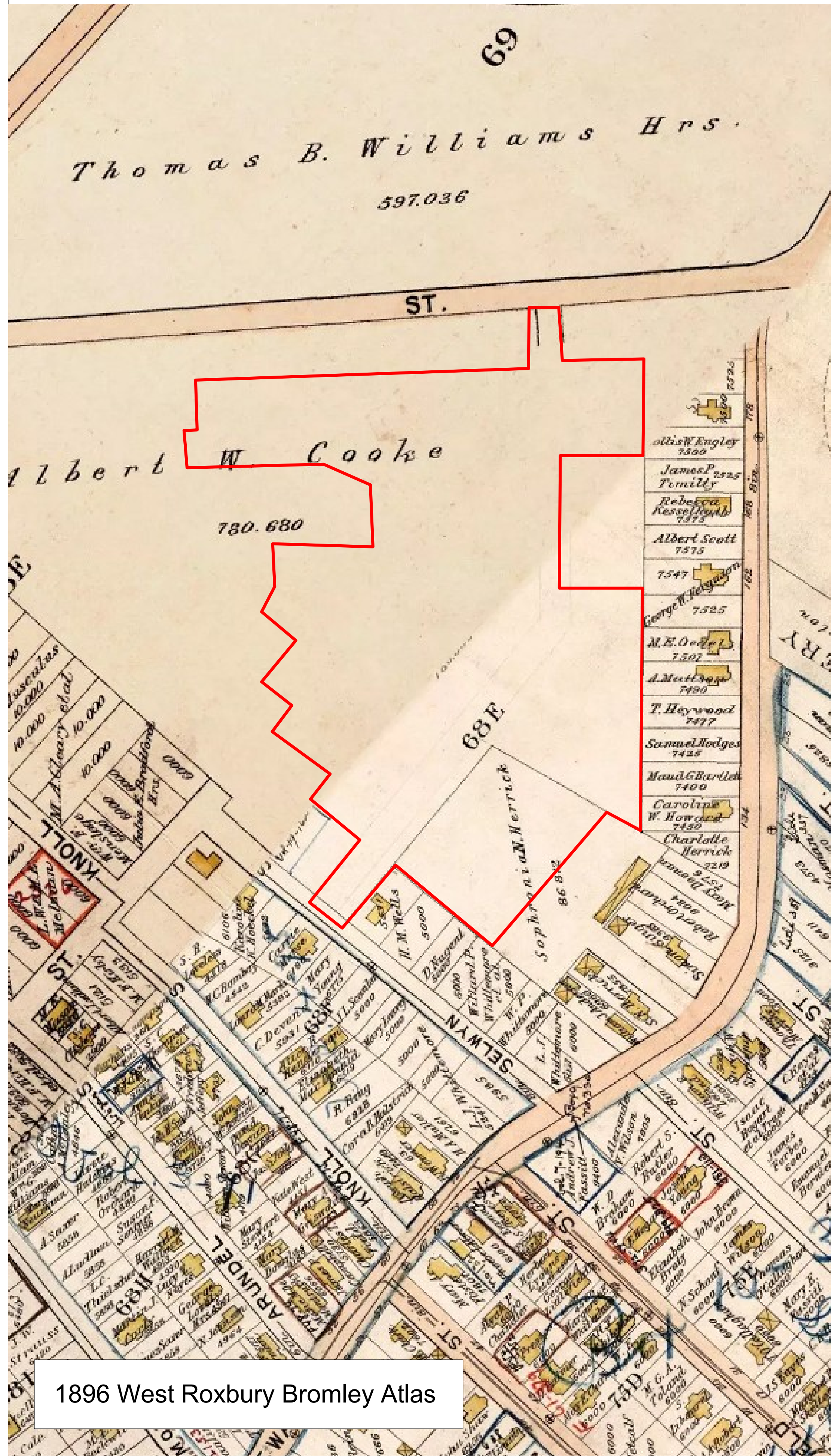


# SITE ANALYSIS

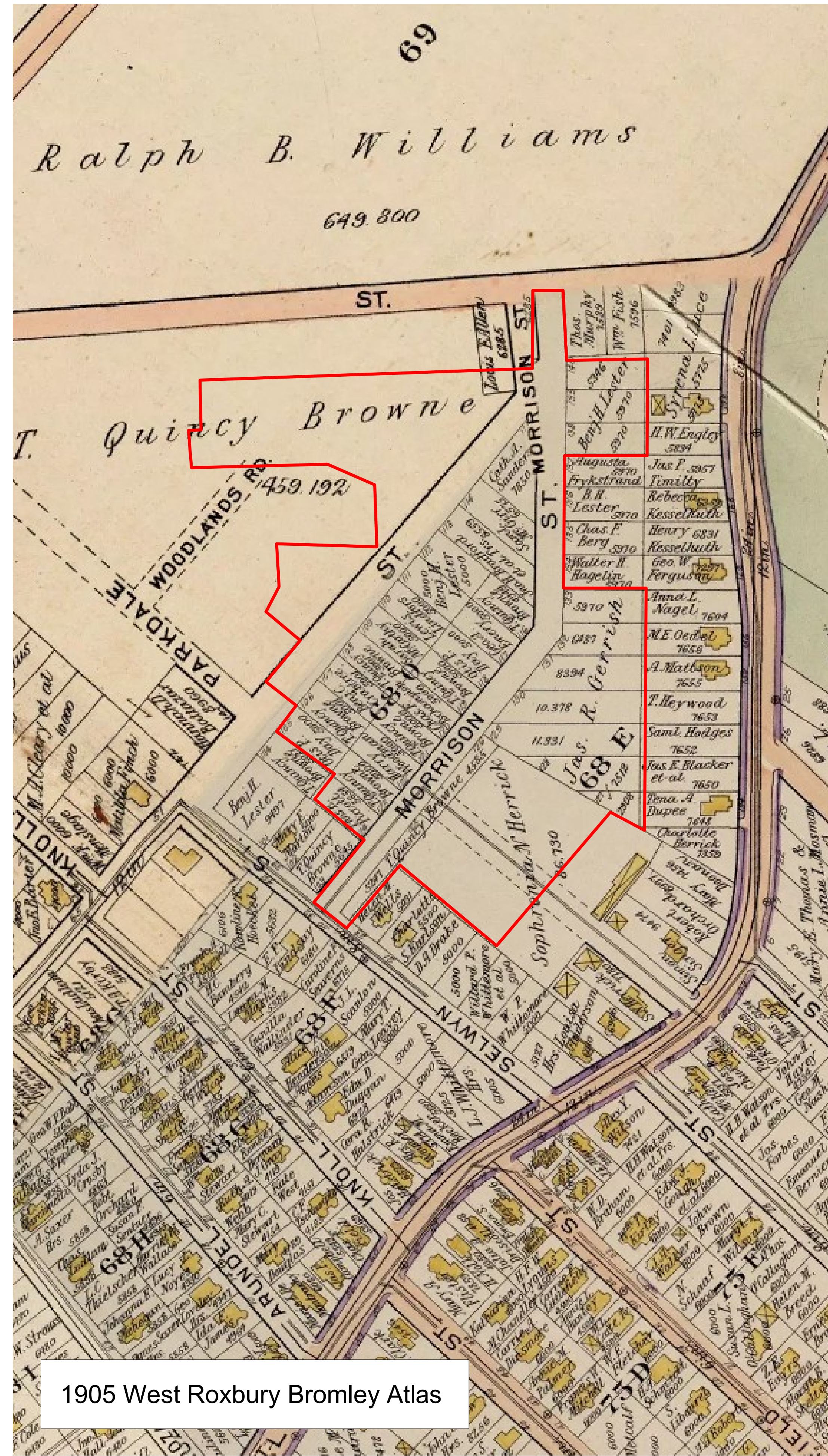




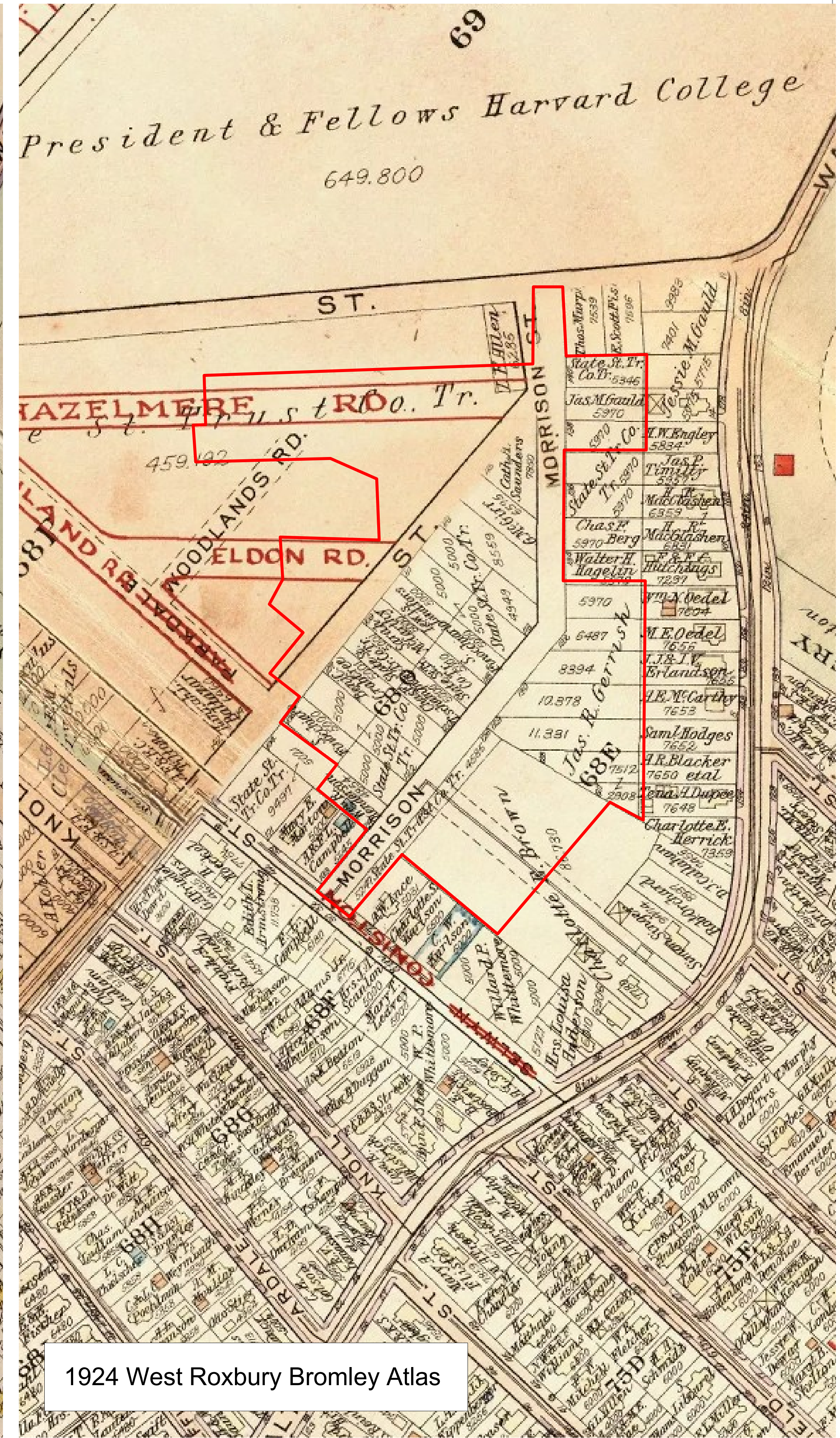
Rosindale Wetlands  
Historic Maps



1896 West Roxbury Bromley Atlas



1905 West Roxbury Bromley Atlas



1924 West Roxbury Bromley Atlas



Roslindale Wetlands  
Historic Aerials





## Roslindale Wetlands Historic Aerials

In 1976, the Boston Redevelopment Authority published a document calling for the conservation of the city's Urban Wilds (143 areas throughout the city).

The Boston Conservation Commission acquired private parcel through foreclosure: City as Eldon St I (1980s) and Eldon St II (mid 2000s).

In 2005, the Roslindale Wetlands Task Force requested the name be changed to the Roslindale Wetlands Urban Wild.



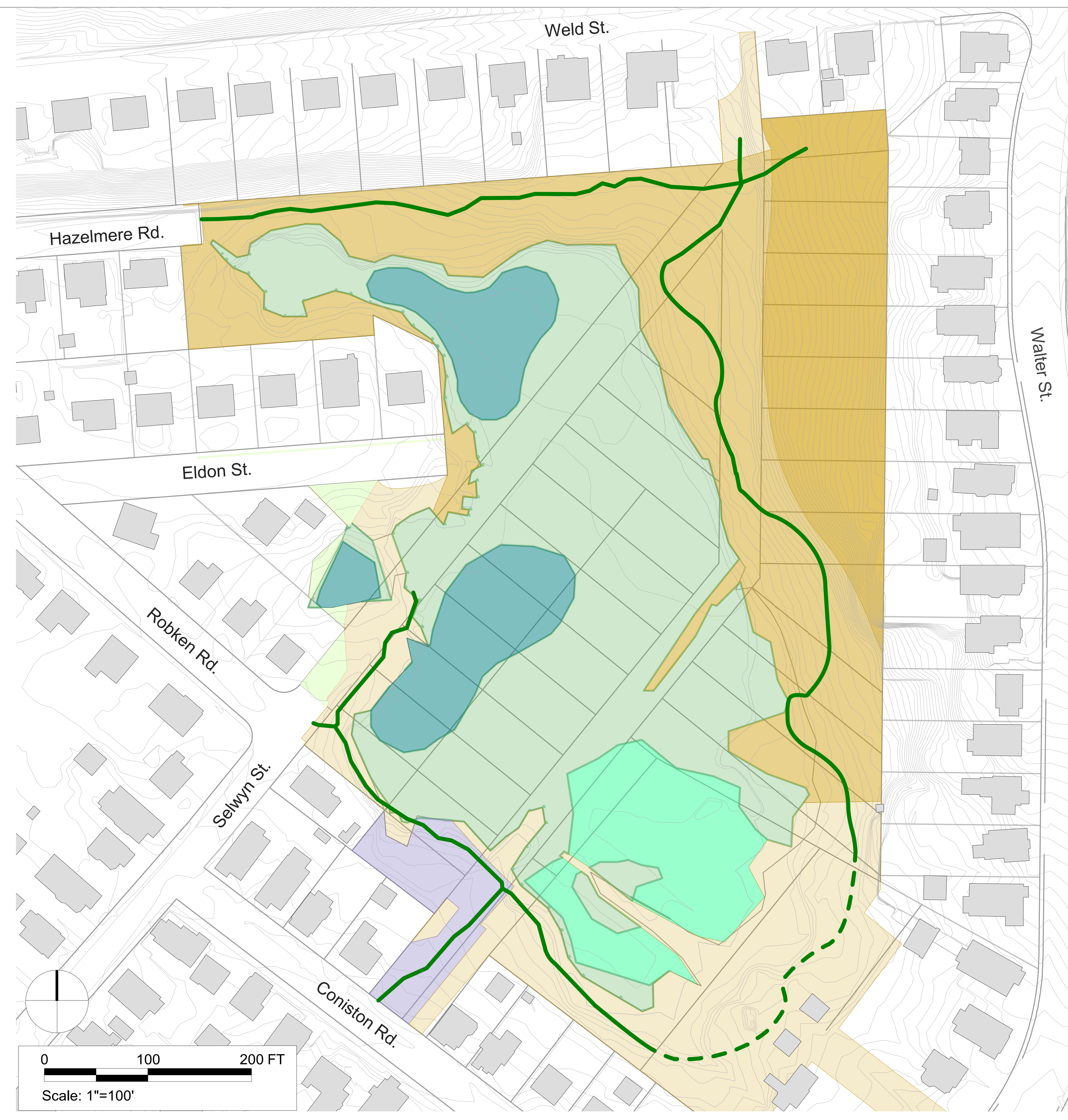




## Roslindale Wetlands Aerial Photograph & Existing Trail

- Dense and open areas visible from above
- Existing trail is not a loop, and it crosses onto private property.

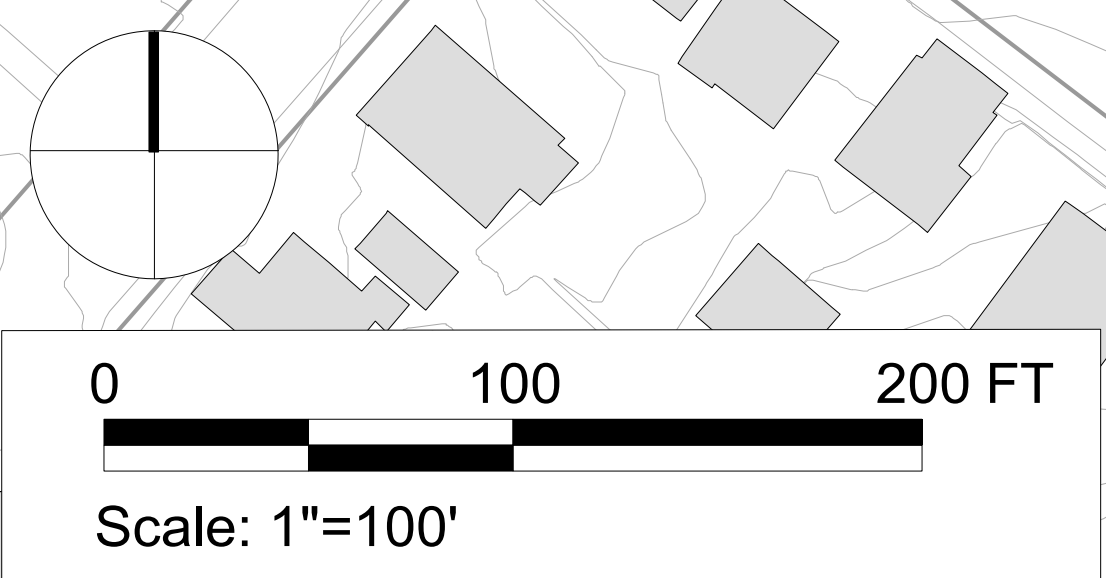
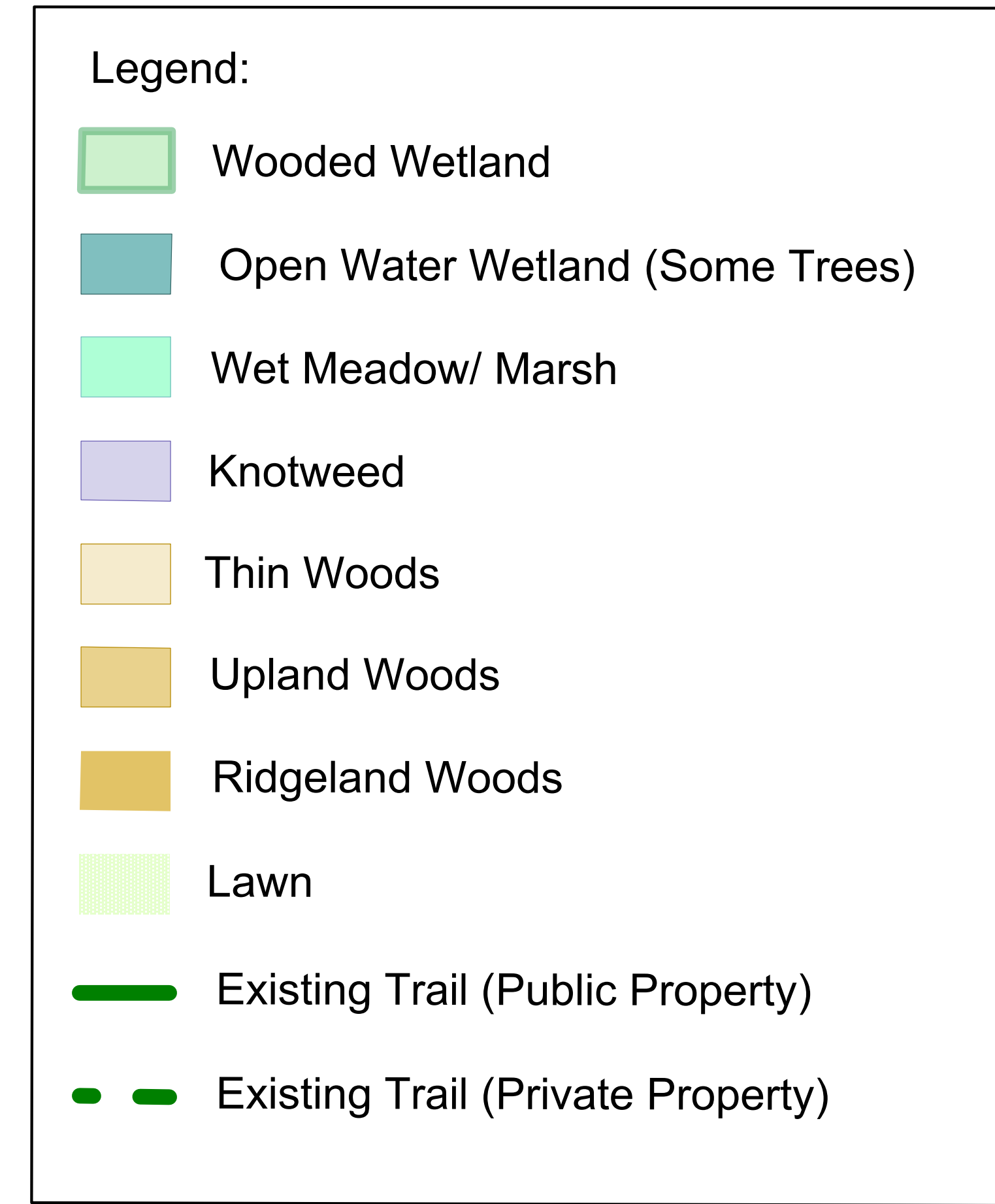




Roslindale Wetlands  
Existing Habitat Areas

Walking through the site, we also noticed some distinct habitat zones.

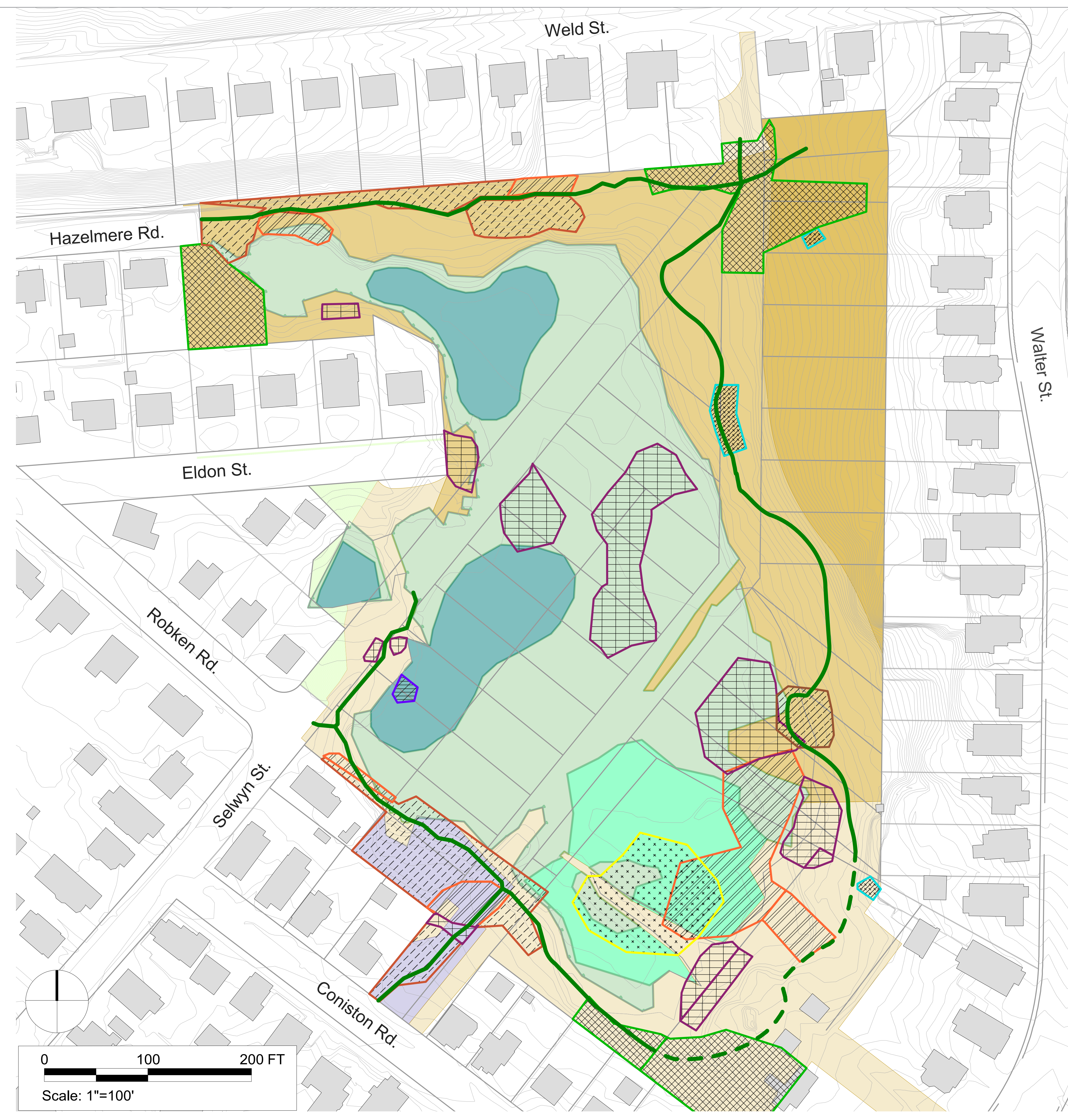
-Information from site visits and Audbon's Land Management Plan



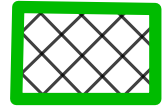

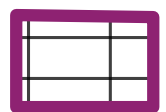



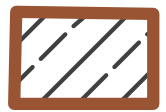
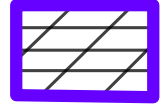




# Roslindale Wetlands Areas of Invasive Species

-Information from site visits and Audobon's  
Land Management Plan



**Legend:**

-  English Ivy
-  Japanese Knotweed
-  Multiflora Rose
-  Amur Corktree
-  Garlic Mustard
-  Creeping Buttercup
-  Castor-Aralia Tree
-  Phragmites
-  Existing Trail (Public Property)
-  Existing Trail (Private Property)

\*Norway Maples Throughout



# FAVORITE PLACES



# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Many people say the whole trail is their favorite location

-Red dots signify one "mention" of a specific location within the wetlands





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Tree and Shurb Planting Area off Hazelmere





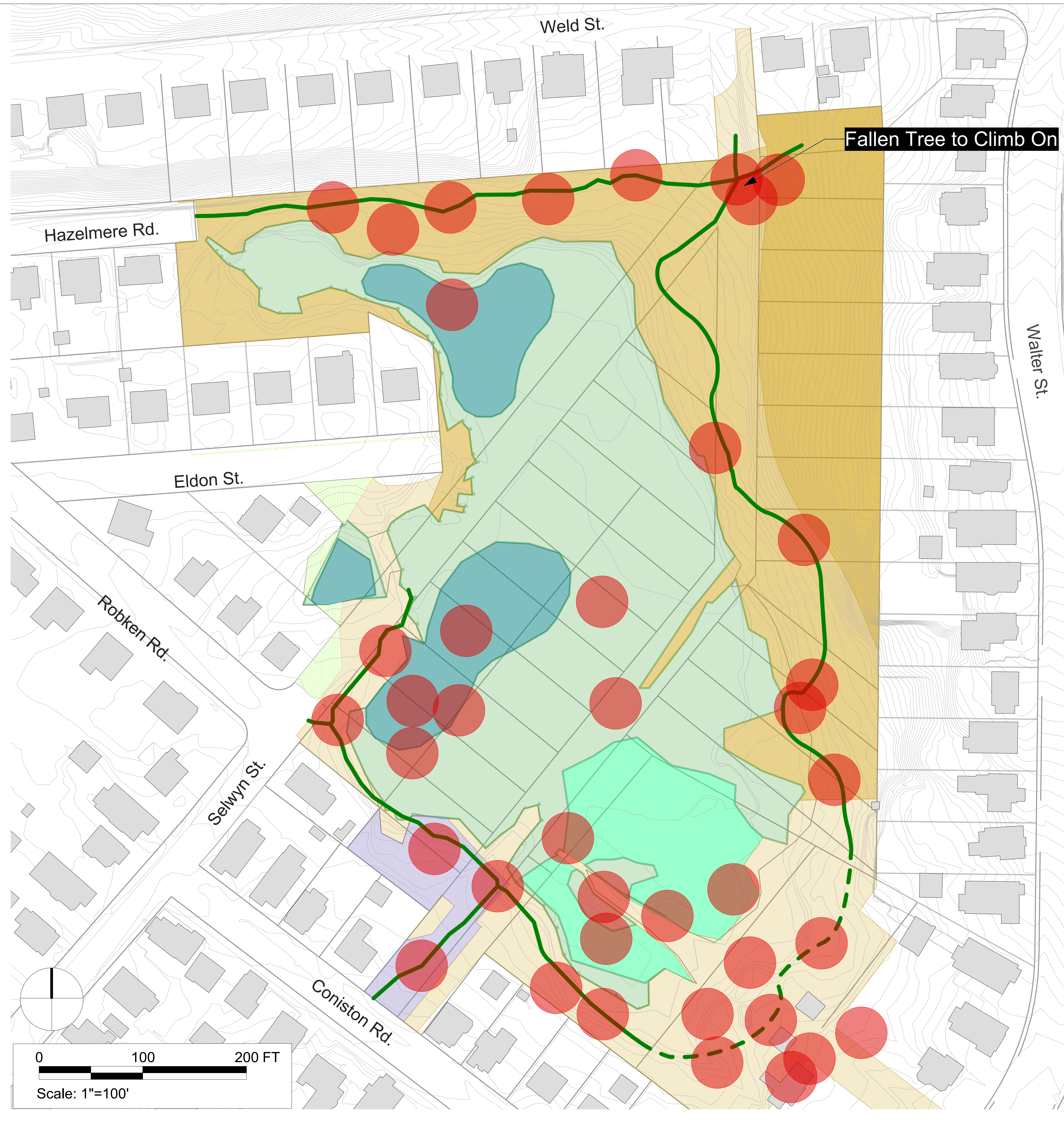
# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Trail behind Weld Street





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey



-Large fallen tree (to play on)





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Trail parallel to Walter Street





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Tree arching over path





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Abandoned Barn Area, view towards meadow



Outlook Near  
Abandoned  
Barn

0 100 200 FT  
Scale: 1"=100'



# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Open Meadow





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Seasonally flooded area



View of Seasonally Flooded Area



# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-Path between Selwyn and Barn





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-View of Pond near Selwyn Street





# Roslindale Wetlands Favorite Places Named on Survey

-The very middle



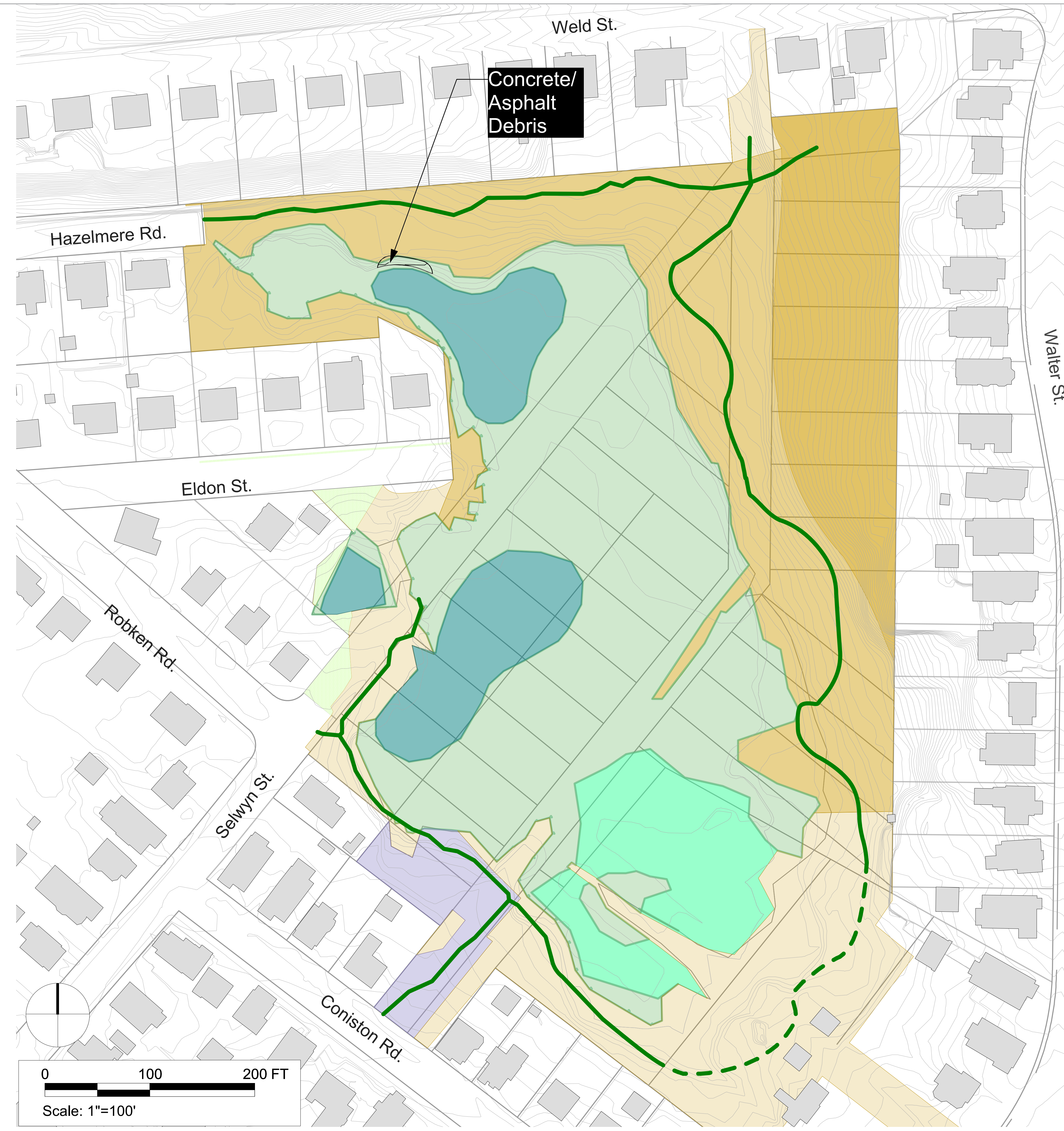


# SITE OBSERVATIONS



# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

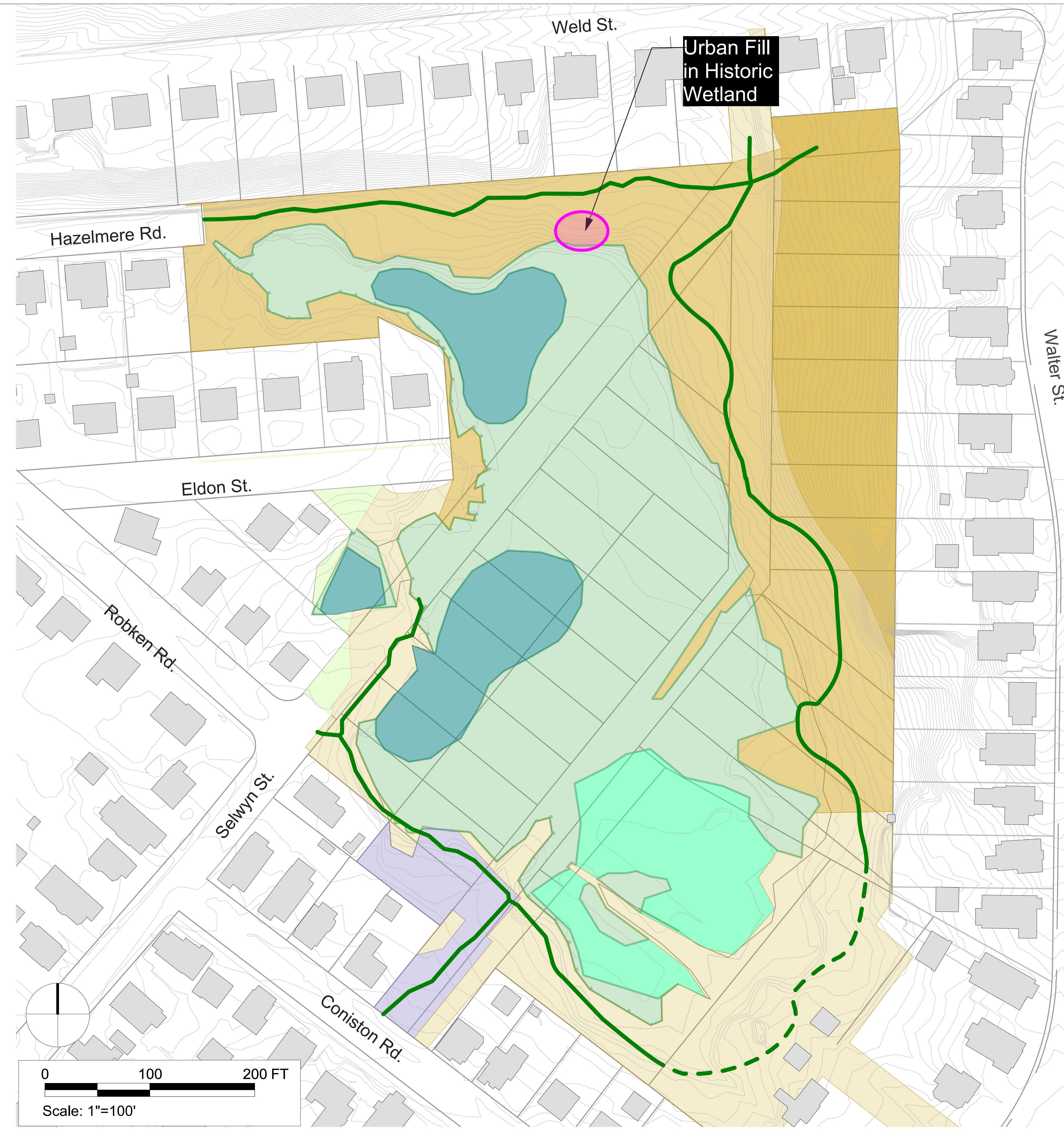
-Concrete and asphalt debris





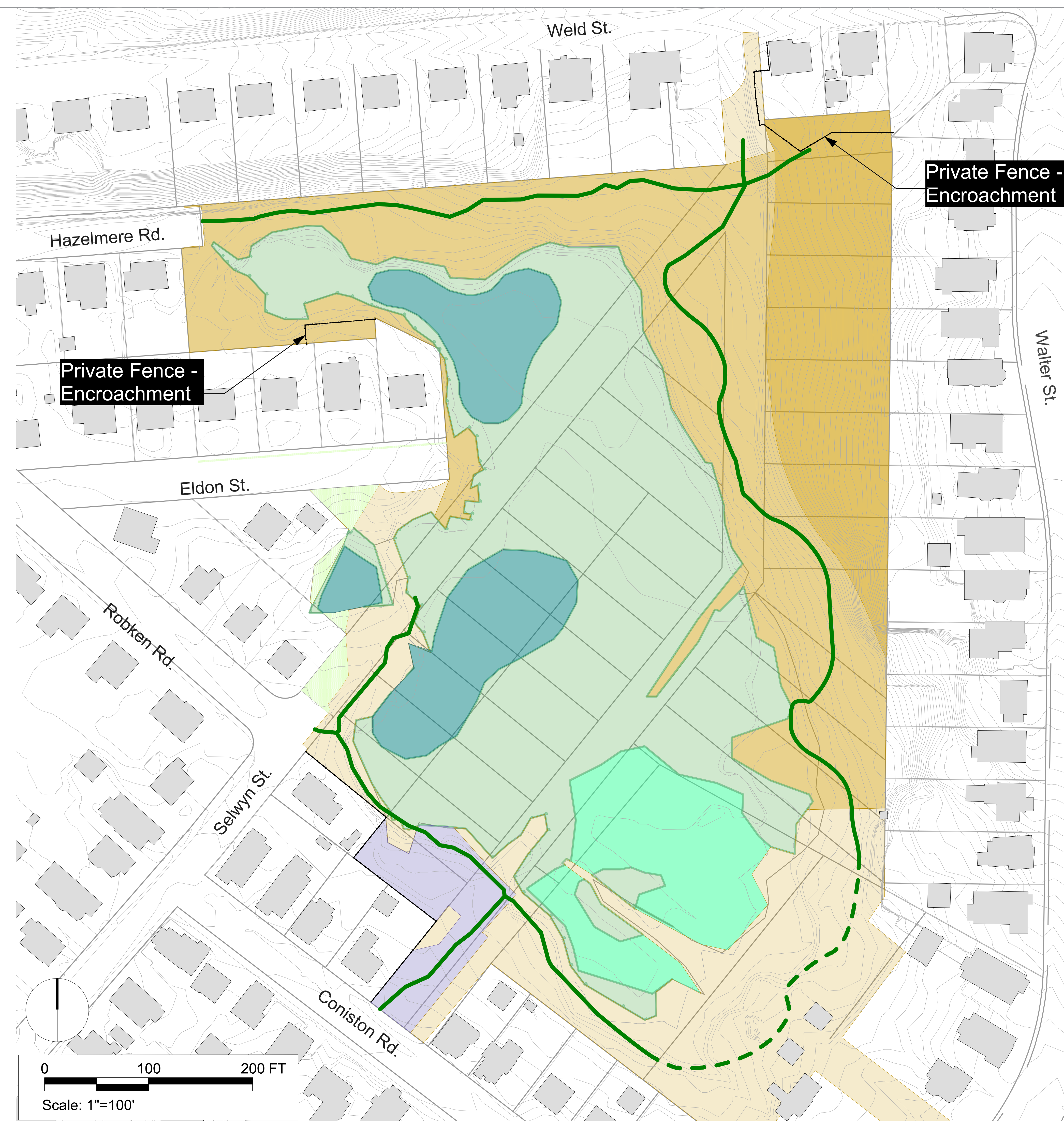
# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

-Urban fill in historic wetland





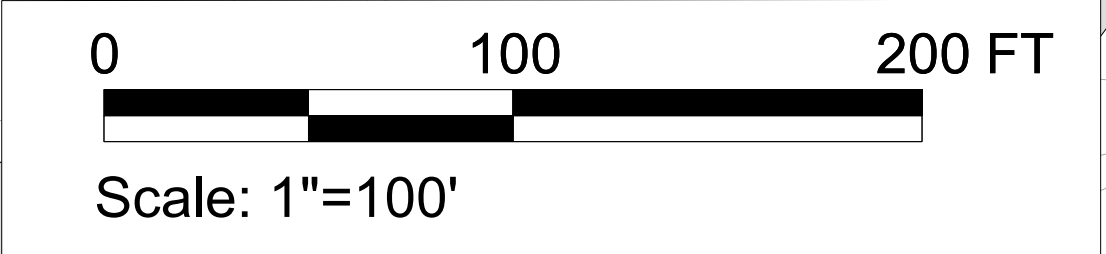
# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations



Private Fence -  
Encroachment

Private Fence -  
Encroachment

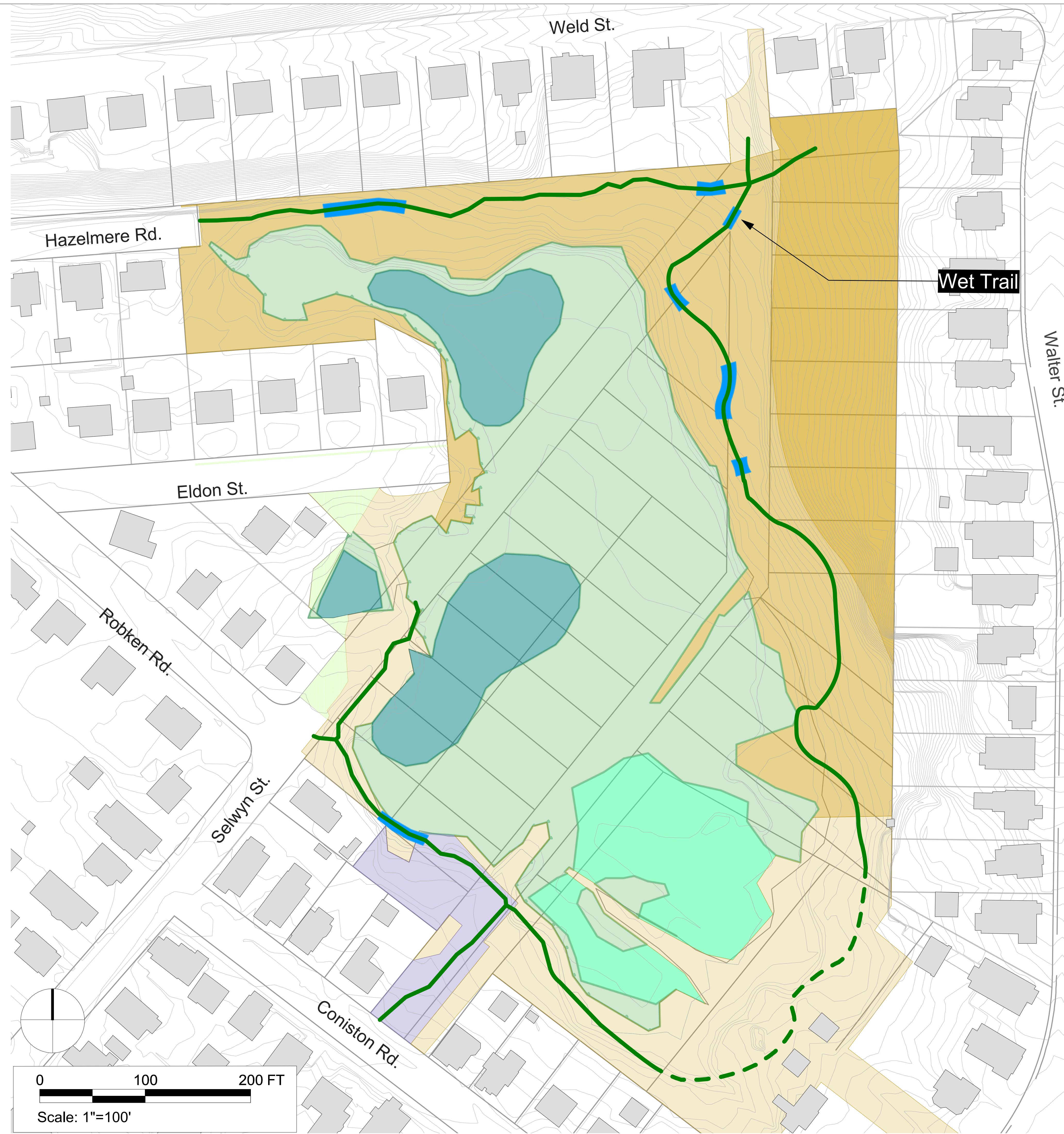
-Private fence encroachments





# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

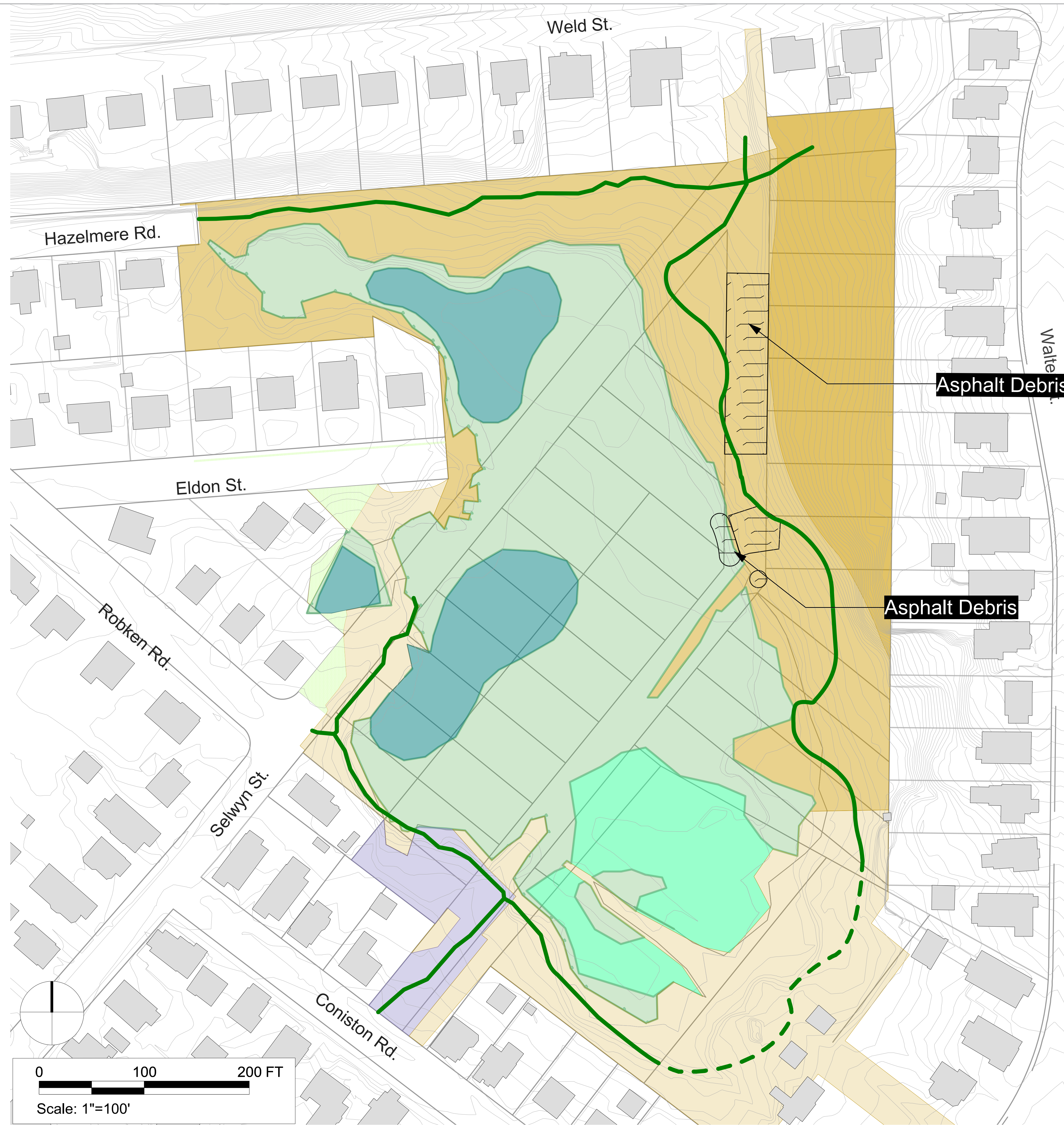
-Wet trail sections





# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

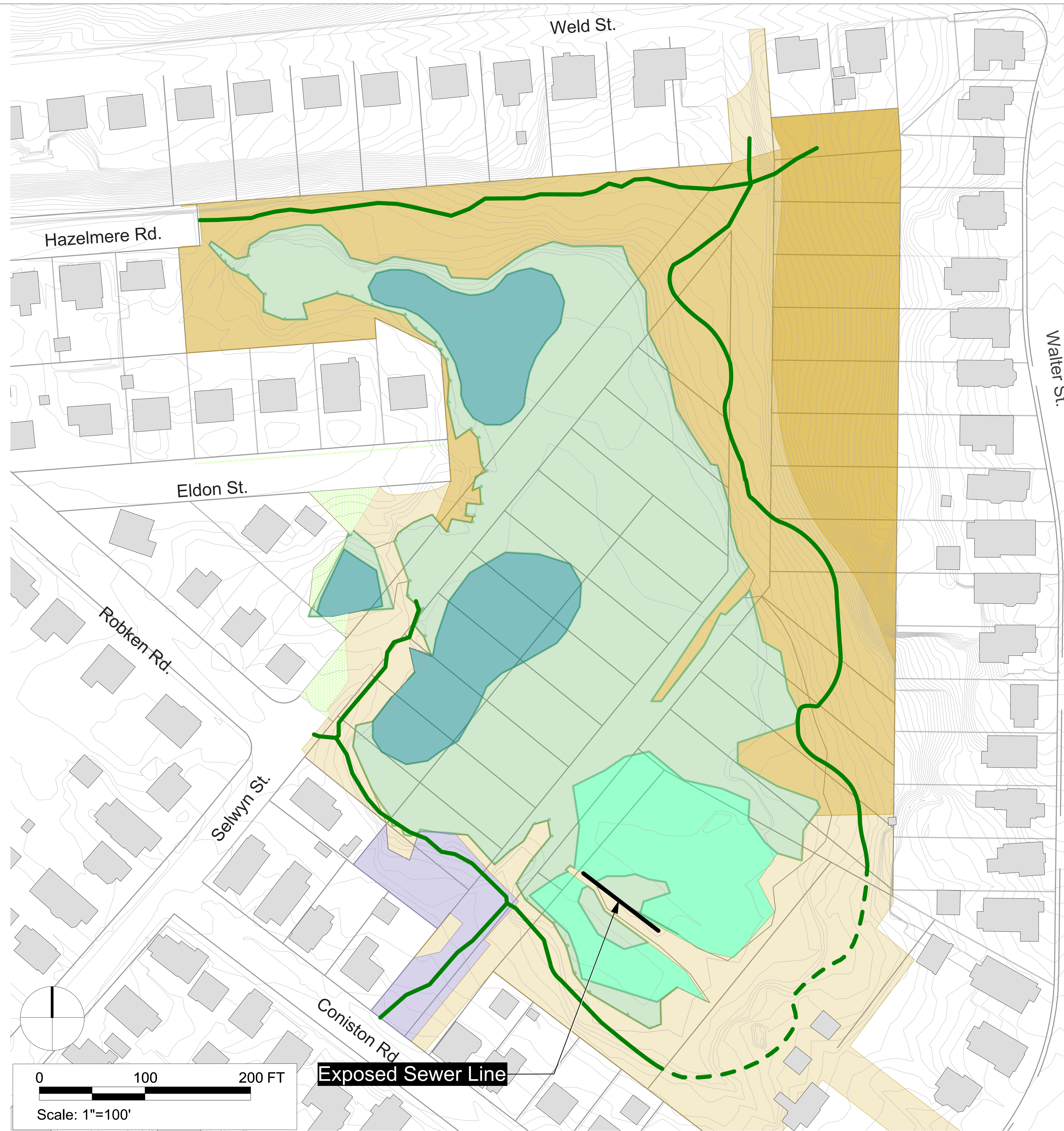
-Asphalt Debris





# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

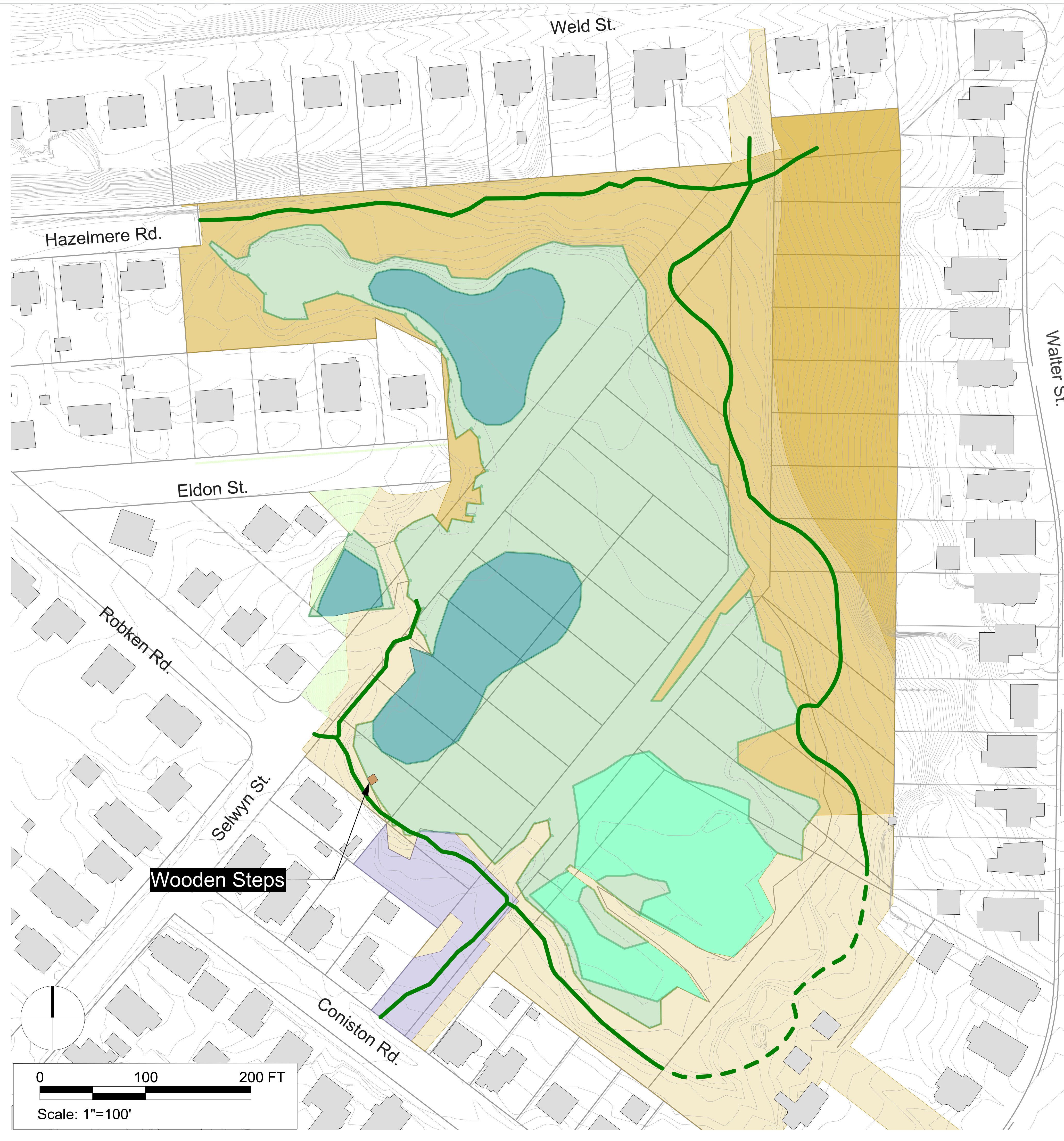
-Exposed Sewer Line (1995)





# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

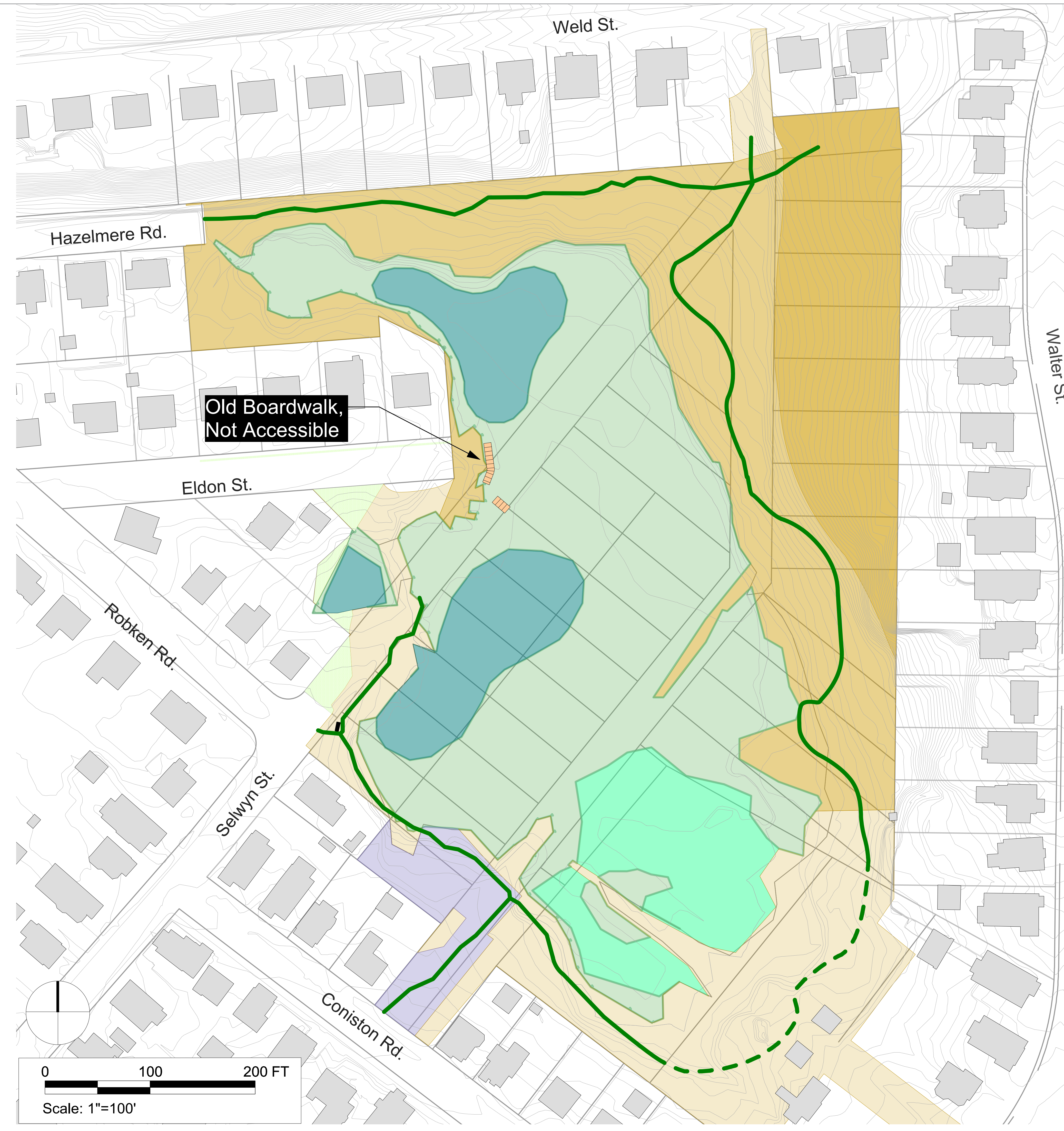
-Wooden Steps





# Roslindale Wetlands Site Observations

-Old boardwalk remains



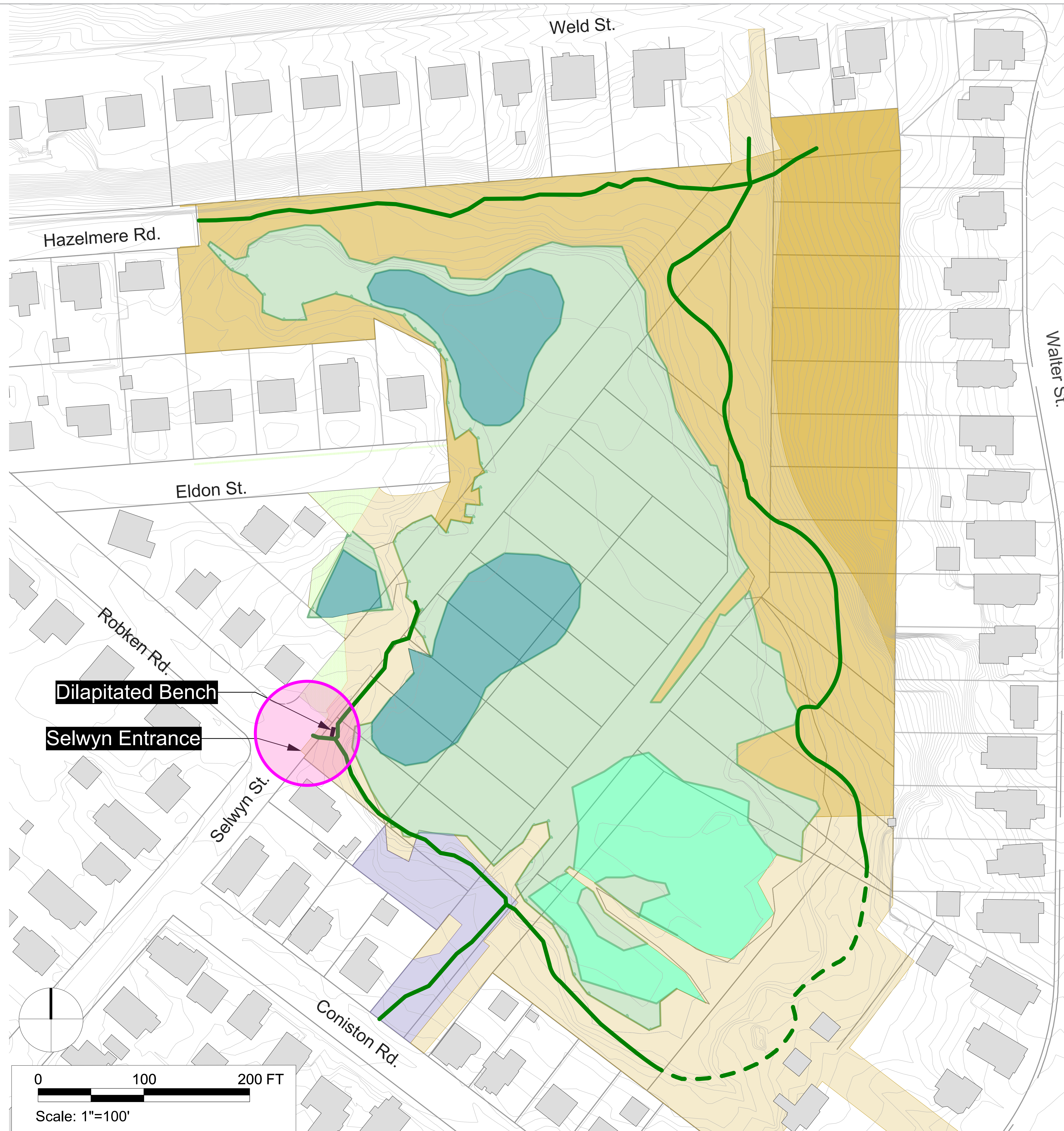


# OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT



# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

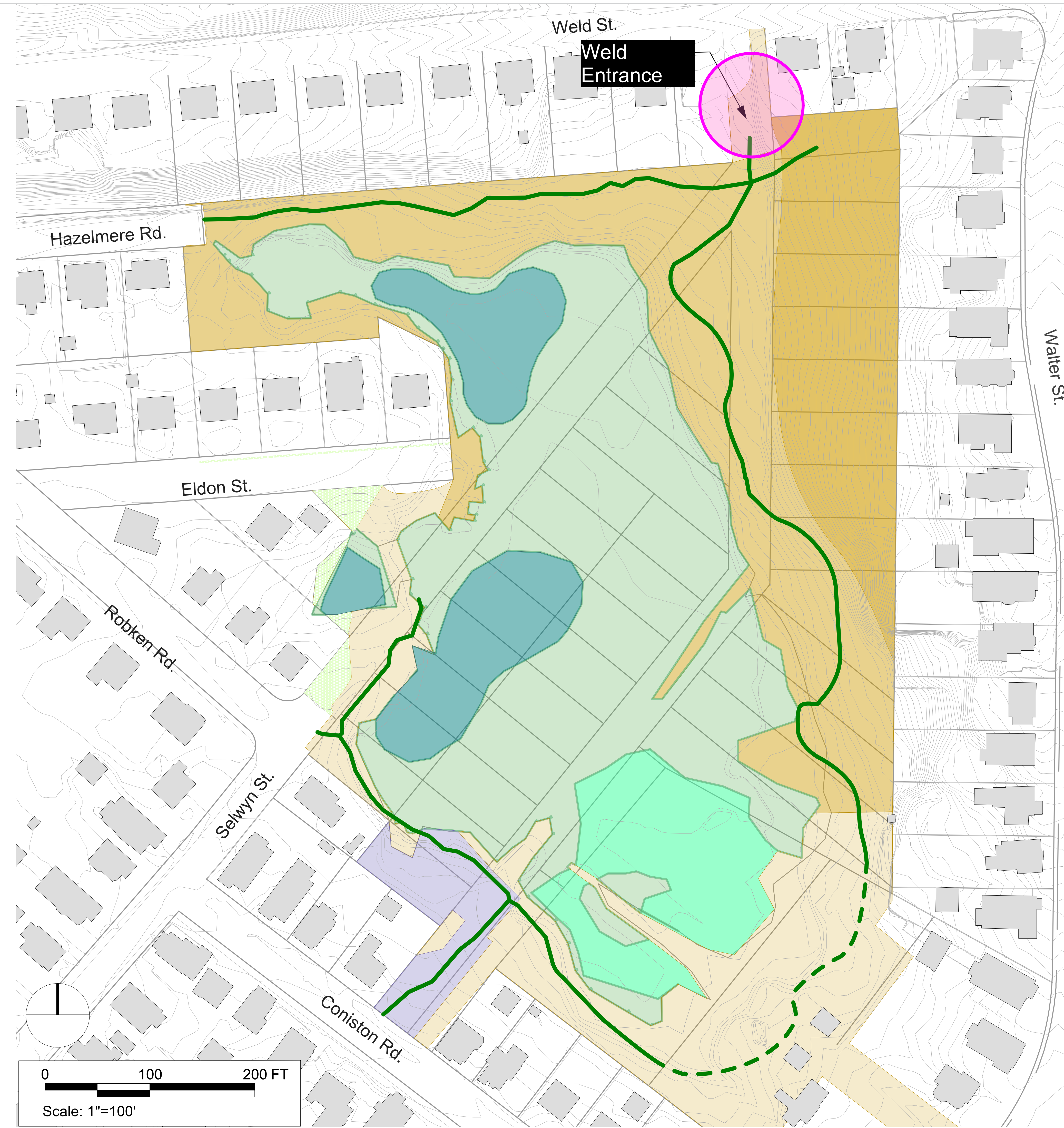
-Selwyn Street Entrance





# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

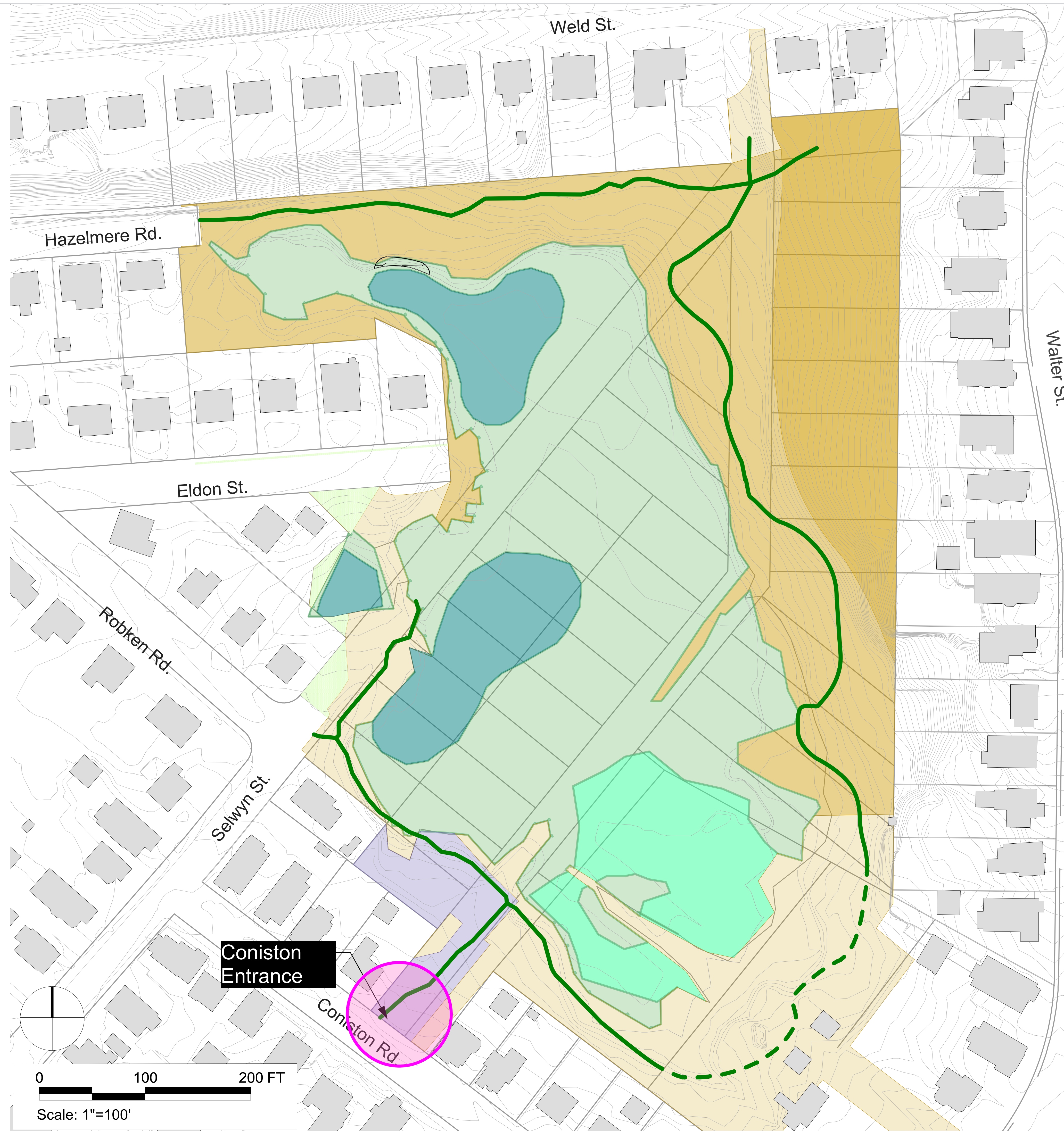
-Weld Street Entrance



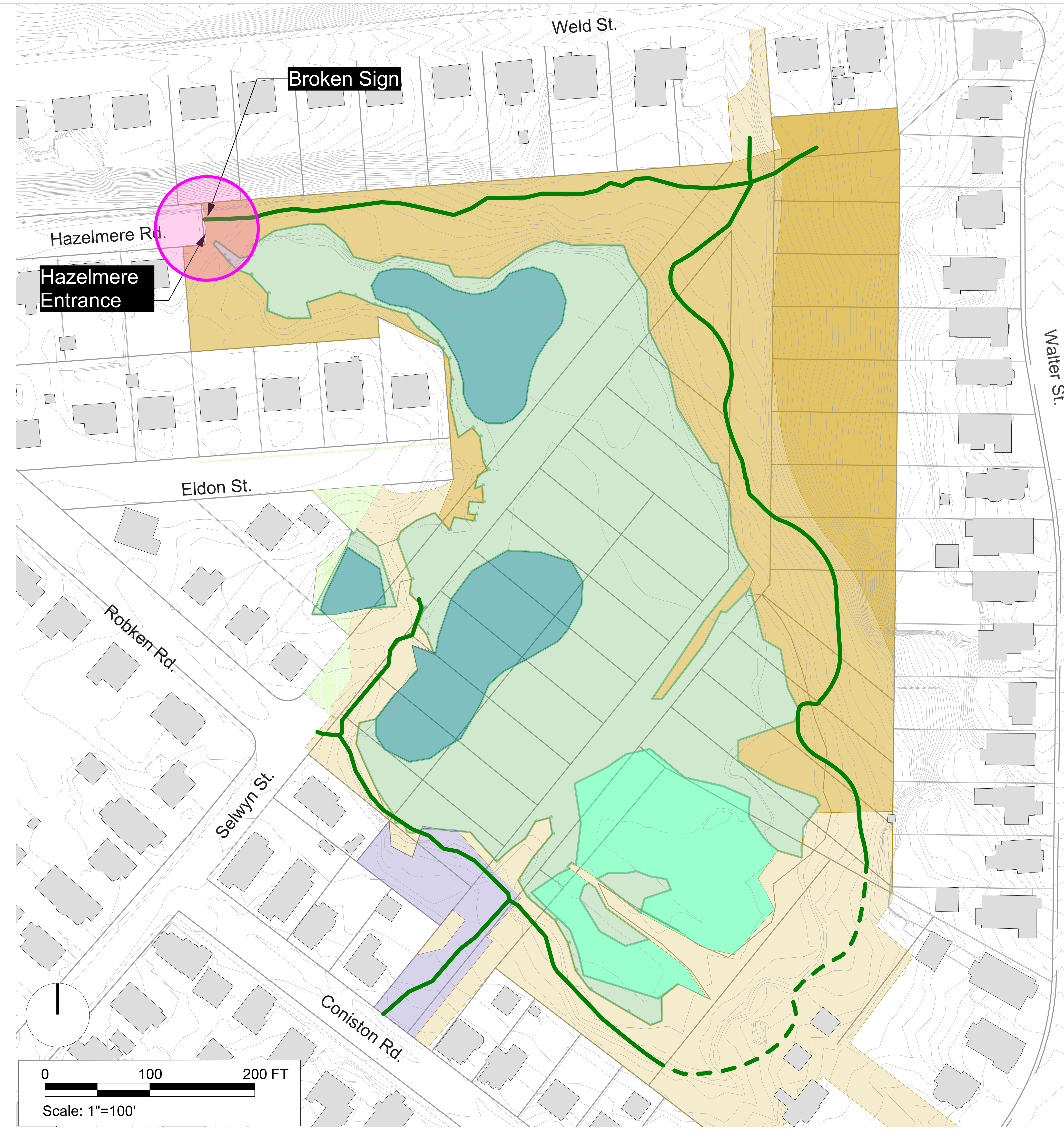


# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

-Coniston Street Entrance







# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

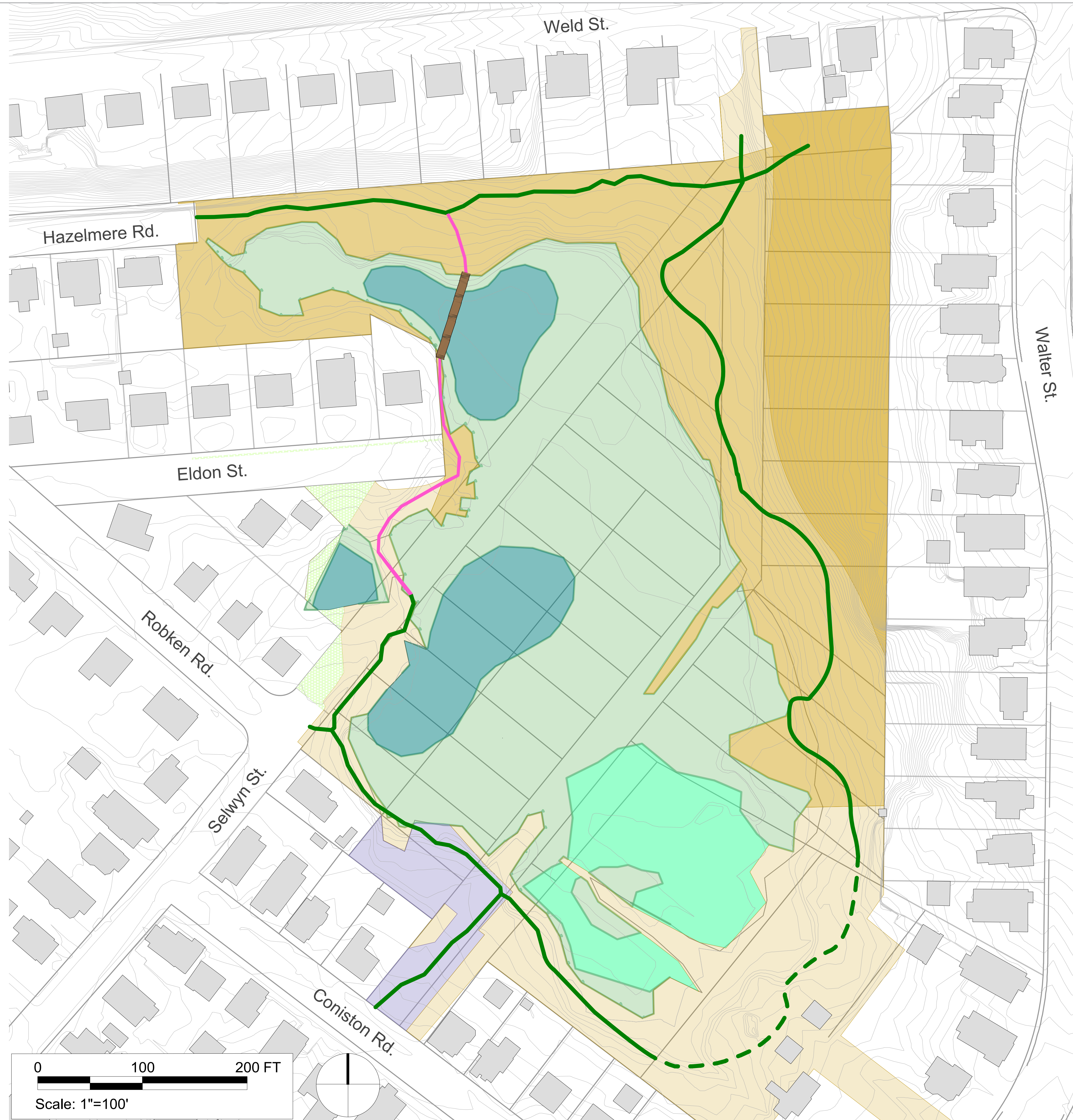
-Hazelmere Entrance





# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

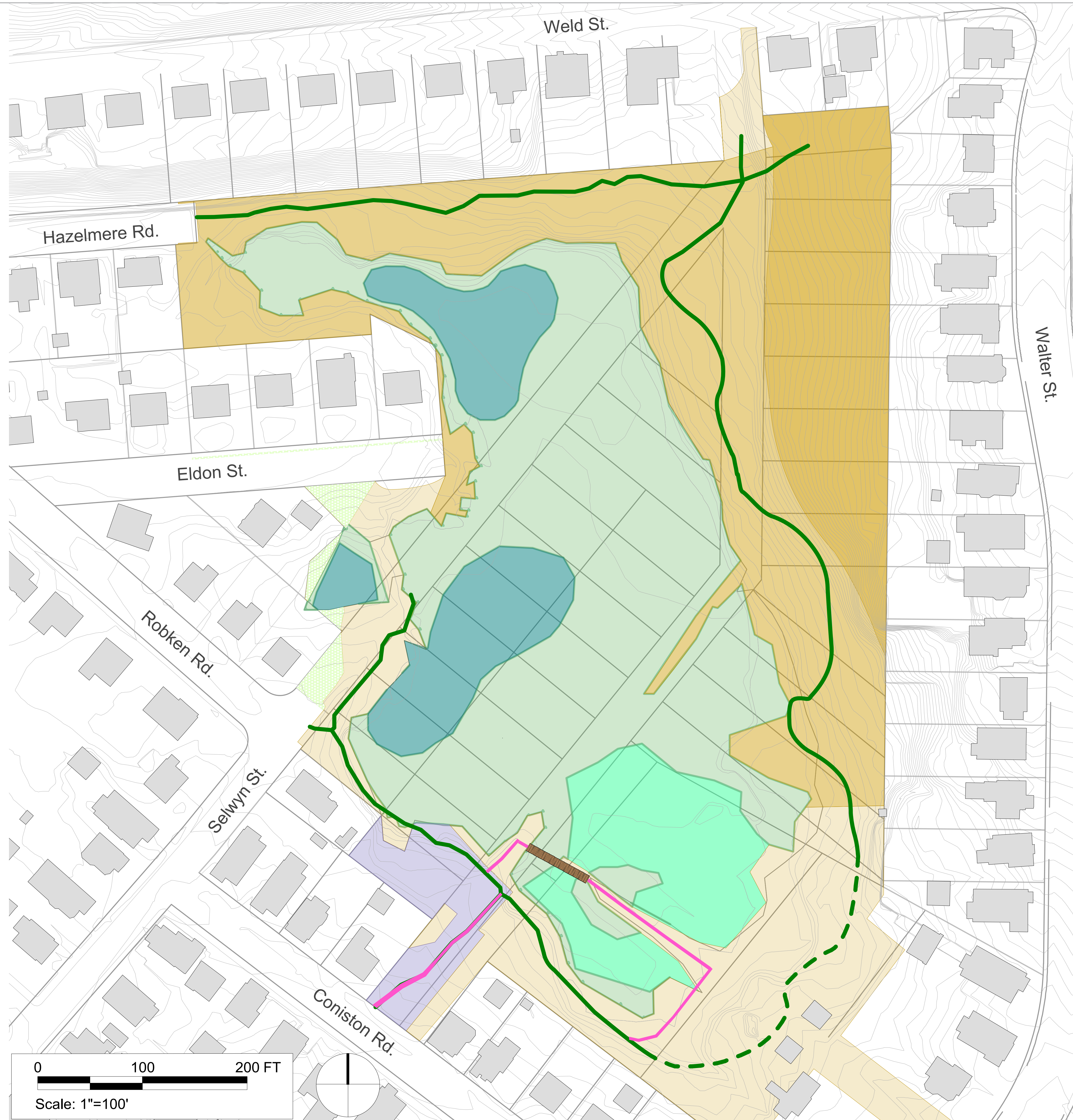
-Completing the loop trail





# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

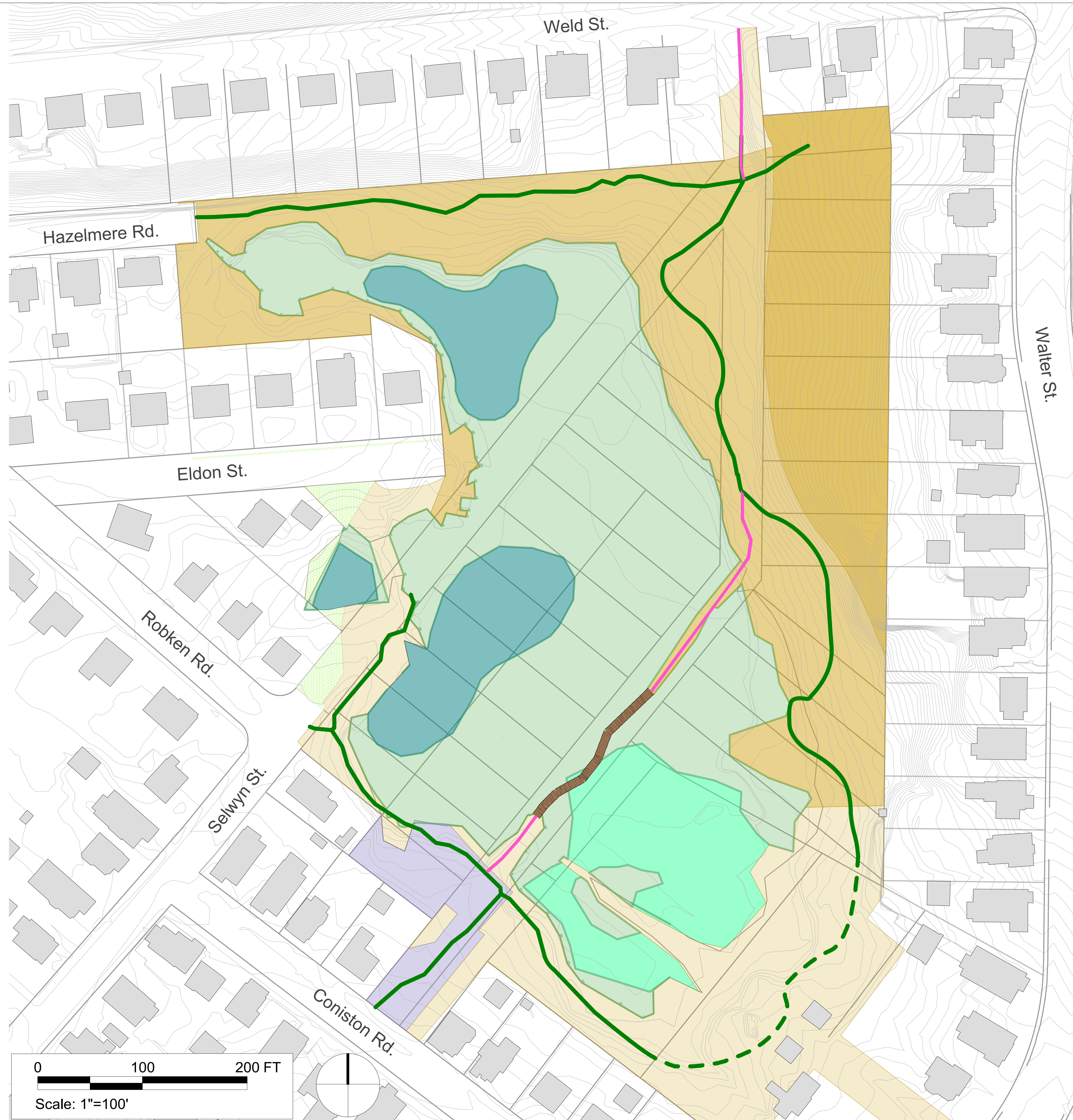
-ADA accessible meadow trail





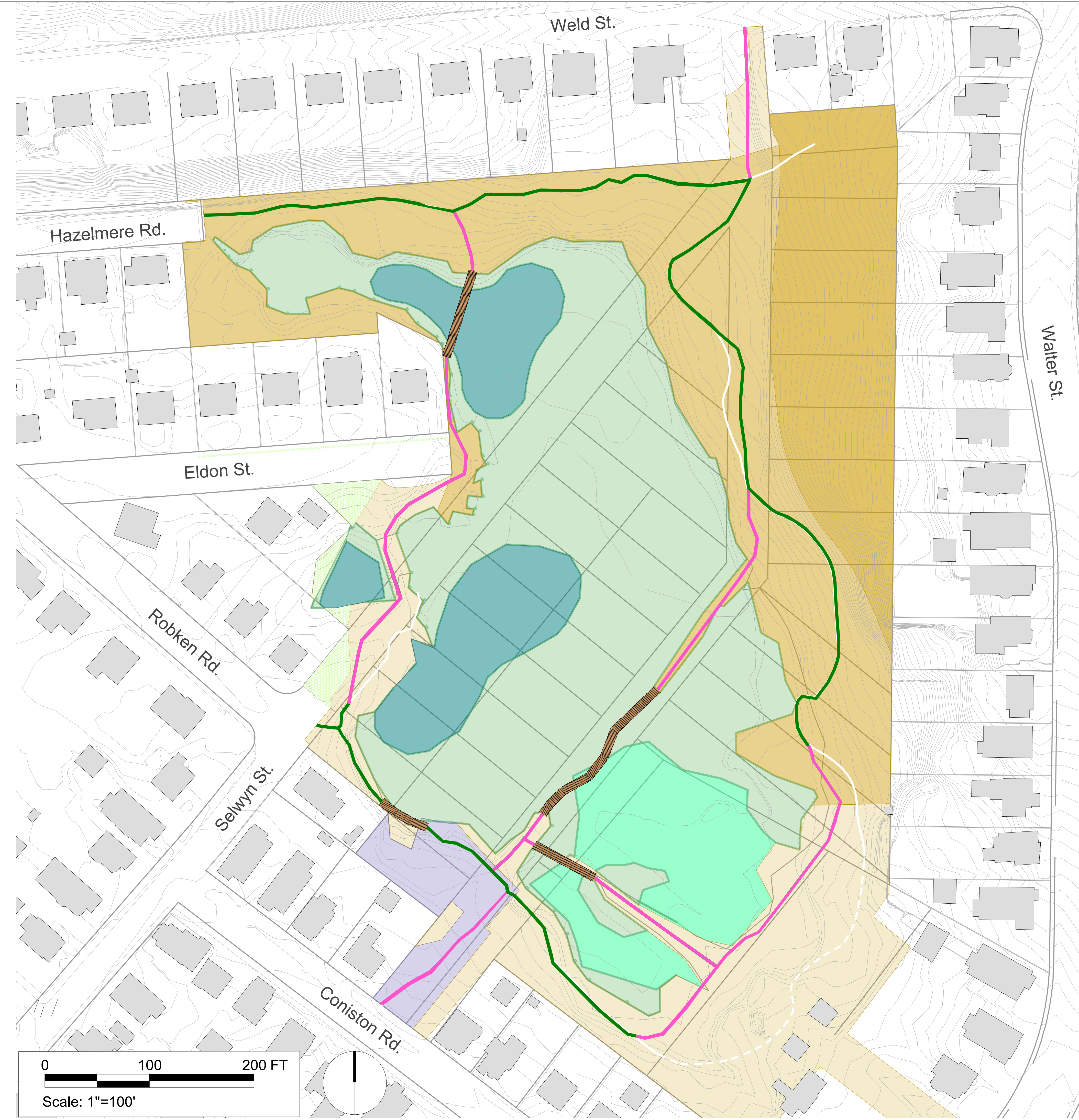
# Roslindale Wetlands Opportunities for Improvement

-Trail along Morrison "Paper" Street







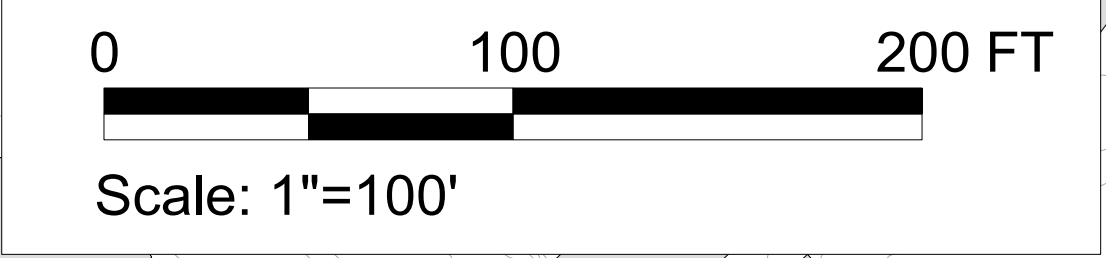


# Roslindale Wetlands Potential Loop Trails for Further Study



**Legend:**

-  Existing Trail (Public Property)
-  Potential New Trail
-  Abandoned Path
-  Abandoned Path (Private Property)





# INSPIRATION!

- Wet Trail Solutions
- Entrance Planting
- Site Furnishings
- Signage

PLEASE USE THE CHAT TO GIVE  
FEEDBACK





1. Water Bars (Divert Water Off Path)



2. Stepping Stones



2. Raised Stonedust Trail



4. Bog Bridges



5. Low, Winding Boardwalk



6. Elevated Boardwalk





7. Native Pollinator Plants



8. Woodland Flowers



9. Woodland Understory



10. Meadow with Picnic Table



11. Tall Native Plants Next to Path



12. Path Through Meadow





13. Metal Bench



14. Classic Wooden Bench



15. Wooden Log for Seating

*James Donald*



16. Rough Stone Bench



17. Smooth Stone or Concrete Bench



18. Wooden Picnic Table





19. Granite "Boston Parks and Recreation" Sign Post



20. Tree Species ID Sign



21. Boundary Marker



22. Interpretive Signage Board



23. Community Message Board



24. Vertical Interpretive Sign



25. Trail Map



# THANK YOU!

## NEXT STEPS

CONTACT: [paul.sutton@boston.gov](mailto:paul.sutton@boston.gov)



Photo by Mass Audubon



## **ROSLINDALE URBAN WILD – Public Meeting Chat – 6/9/2020**

May we post the presentation link on the website?

Which parcels are privately held? The ones outlined in red.

Who are they privately held by?

Looks a big encroachment on Walter street.

How on earth did the Masonic Temple come to own a parcel??

I am sorry I have to sign off for a work meeting but I will view the recording later - thank you so much for all your work!

Can you ask her to discuss the exit to Weld St. Is that narrow strip privately owned, I exit there all the time. It should be marked as public.

I have a picture of Fisher Cat tracks in the snow

The neighbors have been active in the improvement work and are supportive of passage to Weld

Why is this loop needed?

Walking those routes are easy in the winter, especially if iced in.

Another un necessary "improvement"

Boardwalk the perimeter path not the cut across. Leave the middle undisturbed.

Were the non-human users consulted.?

This is great. could u repeat the access from weld st

I Like loop trail options--low impact boardwalks or stepping stones? Weld St entrance needs to be open and clear...

Anything to share about the ZFeeney development proposal. Possible to buy them out?

Placing a trail along the paper street through the heart of the wetlands would impinge heavily on animal habitat.

I see the Weld st entrance as a way to bring many more people in to enjoy the property. Weld st has lots of foot, bike and auto traffic. I do not like how this is being set-up to "keep the secret jewel" secret

Those trail proposals look great! Especially excited about the loop potential.



2. seems slippery for an environment that is so often wet. 4. seems like a more feasible option, but I'd love to see 6 for the wettest areas.

Any plans to remove encroachments?

I'd love to see as much native plants as possible, and removal of as must of the invasives as possible

I like the bog bridges! wonder whether raised stone dust would be high enough as the mud is really mucky in rainy times

no signage. no furnishings are needed.

Yes to picnic table!

yes to picnic table

Important consideration about the Feeney development proposal is that it is less then 100 feet from certified wetland. Also, the lay of the land from Walter past the barn is rain water run off. As climate change brings heavier rains it will flood over at times. Do not see how they can build anywhere in there.

what about bike racks - unfortunately there are no bikes allowed

I love 20, 22, and 23. I'd also like to see some "Keep Dogs on Leash" signage.

Native pollinators & wildflowers would be great (Jim Taff

I'd love to see features to support birds and bats - bat houses? Bird houses?

I like the more rustic solutions: stepping stones, rough stone bench.

More sinage the better - descrete is ok

Love your ideas overall

I like the stone dust rail for its accessibility

I think an important consideration in planning is that this is a small parcel that does have some wildlife. OUR improvements should minimize disruption to wildlife.

thank you so much - this was great!

There's a ton of old trash and debris back there. As part of the process, maybe a larger series of community cleanup days to try to get as much of that old crap out of there as possible.

The signs we have put in before have rotted in the ground so something that will not rot would be good.



Not in favor of a picnic table. A wild with a trail but not an all purpose park!

there are v good exhibits.

it would help to post this in advance of commenting.

The stone bench i like best because it would be harder to vandalize.

No picnic table--encourages trash/partying

deal w the encroachments.

Will we receive the slide deck so we can send comments on the proposals?

Did you talk about the bog boards?

Anything that is wood will rot in no time.

focus on habitat restoration vs introducing + intense human use.

we like the stone steps and the meadows

Also, you know the L in LANA stands for "Longfellow," not "Longwood."

I am late to the conversation - what is the overview of the budgetary confines of the project (as in how many of these things could we actually implement)?

I love the figure of 8 trail.

I like the loop and figure 8 trail idea.

Definitely in favor of a loop! It'd be nice to be able to make several circuits of the entire wetlands without having to exit

minimal, naturalistic treatment for trails versus stonedust and pricey wooden ones

no trail across the meadow

Yes please please clear out the entrance on Coniston Road. We'd love a picnic table and or place for people to hang out and enjoy the wilds entrance.

Never tried the Weld entrance but wonder whether it would put a lot of foot traffic through the neighbors' homes

It'd be useful to know what effects the proposed improvements would have on the wetlands \_as a wetlands\_ given the importance of wetlands in climate/flooding mitigation

I think you should plan for a Walter Street entrance, and how to incorporate 108 Walter. Your plan should recommend inclusion of 108 Walter. The trail as you outlined seems tight and should be a little farther to the southeast.



We removed even more debris when did major clean up 15 years ago.

what is the project page??

Would like to have some different trail options, so it's not the same walk every time.

This is very exciting!!

\*not homes but property

Before you end, can you say something about the timeline for this process?

Can we see some cost estimates for different materials for trail improvements?

It seems like the Conniston entrance area would be a great opportunity for a more obvious entrance. We have lived here for 4 years and assumed it was an abandoned private lot!

Thank you!

thanks for doing this.

Thanks - Good night

Complete the larger Eldon-side loop trail as the priority, with a strong boardwalk for durability and stepping stones through muddy patches where needed. Minimal and strong furniture (granite bench, granite sign post, one or two interpretive signs). Invasive trees and knotweed removal and native tree plantings with native pollinators. This project likely won't get significant ongoing maintenance or major investments, so the things built should be simple and durable. A simple reasonably dry loop route around the wetlands is the goal - people protect what they love.

Is there an improvements budget?

Will the recorded session be posted somewhere? On the project page?

got to the website - thanks!

So excited to get started!

can the rcdg be sent via email

Thank you!

Thank you!

Great presentation! Thank you!

Thank you - great!



IS this project just for planning or will construction be included?

Thank you!

Can you answer questions still?

Could you give us an idea of the relative costs of the different types of trails?

thank you!

Thanks team...good presentation!