

PREFACE



As a meeting place — of earth and water, city and suburb, culture and ecology — the Alewife Reservation and Alewife Brook Parkway play an important role in the lives of people and other animals alike. The area is rich with physical and symbolic connections: hydrologic connections link wetlands, rivers, floodplains, and neighborhoods; restored and protected ecosystems link wildlife habitats and thus sustain biodiversity; a network of trails and paths connects people to each other, to a significant historic legacy, and to the wilder, natural world which is the home for many animals.

Urbanization and residential sprawl damage ecosystems and disconnect people from nature, exacting a significant toll on our physical and emotional well being. This Master Plan offers a prescription for ecosystem restoration of the Alewife Brook and Reservation, one small step toward restoring the balance between human and natural communities.