

**Pine Banks Park
June 2016**

This is a satellite photo of the property, which is about 110 acres in total. The fields are all in the top left. The balance is passive recreation, with a pond and playground on Main Street. The walking trails get a lot of use, and leave the hiker with the impression of being entirely out of the city. On the far right is Mount Ephraim, which provides a panoramic view of Boston, and Revere Beach. The Park borders on Wyoming Cemetery in Melrose, and Forestdale Cemetery in Malden.

The whole property was a gift from Mayor Elisha S. Converse, the first mayor of Malden, upon his death in 1905, and it is dedicated to providing recreational use for the citizens of Malden and Melrose. The property is owned by a corporation known as Pine Banks Park, formed by special act of the legislature, chapter 393 of 1905, which implemented the terms of the will of Mayor Converse. Operations are funded annually by a minimum statutorily mandated appropriation from each city to the corporation. The Pine Banks Park Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation created in 2000 for the support of the park, and implementation of its capital projects. It is classified as a Public Charity. As a tax exempt entity it is qualified to receive tax deductible contributions and foundation grants.



A View of the Fields.

This is a photo taken in the fall of 2015. The city skyline is shown in the rear and the beach in Revere visible on the left.



The rugby field on the left is being resurfaced this spring, and comprises one of the largest artificial playing surfaces in the country. The woods to its left are being reclaimed at the same time, for passive recreation and a dog park. The fields receive constant use by teams and groups from both cities, with people walking the track at all times of day and night. The track also is the home venue for Melrose High School, with areas for discus, shot-put and javelin.

The rugby field is also the home field of the Mystic River Rugby Club, which are the Division 1 National Champions for 2016, having won the competition held in Colorado this year. They have been the home team for over 16 years now, providing volunteer help with maintenance and repair projects throughout the year. The Mystic River Rugby Club has also donated \$100,000 in cash in hand for the resurfacing project.

In a calendar year, Pine Banks Park schedules over 3,000 separate field reservations for scholastic, youth and adult groups, including baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby. The local YMCA uses the park for a summer camp for local children during the summer, ending with a festival on the last day. Also during the summer there is a youth flag rugby camp run in the evenings, as well as demonstration events for professional ball teams and scouting for farm teams. Local groups use the park for various fund raisers and family events. There is a pond in the woods on the top of the hill immediately behind the ball fields, with an adjacent play ground and picnic sites. On weekends all these areas are fully utilized during eight months of the year, with cross country skiing and snow sports during the winters.