

Client: Urban Wilds Initiative,  
Boston Parks and Recreation  
Department

Designers: Nina Shippen, Susan Opton

Design completed: Fall 2004

Installation: Fall 2007

This striking site of a former Roxbury Puddingstone quarry in Jamaica Plain had devolved into a neglected tangle of wooded growth after the quarry ceased operation in the 1930's, becoming a neighborhood liability.

The Urban Wilds Initiative required an ecology-based design and restoration plan for this 1.5 acre natural area adjacent to a public elementary school, a residential neighborhood, and hospital. Landscape designers Nina Shippen and Susan Opton improved access and circulation, enhanced trails, added signage and increased native plantings.



Three years after planning began, an army of community and corporate volunteers helped plant native trees and shrubs to restore this unique neighborhood park. As a result of their tireless advocacy and hands-on determination, the Friends of Nira Rock and Paul Sutton, Urban Wilds Coordinator, have transformed a dangerous and foreboding place into a beautiful and nurturing greenspace.



*“The COG designer’s enthusiasm for the project – and her thorough, beautiful design – was instrumental in building the community’s involvement in salvaging this forgotten property and turning it into a phenomenal success story.”* Will Crosby, Friends of Nira Rock