

This land, adjacent to 9 Worthen Street, was donated to the Central Congregational Church in the 1970s by Ms. Elva Russell. Prior to park development in 1988, the land was overgrown with weeds, dead trees and poison ivy. It started as an Eagle Scout project by David Beaton, as a memorial to his best friend and fellow scout, Johnny Carson. Johnny, who was a member of this church, was killed in a tragic railroad accident while running with David and other members of the Chelmsford High Track Team on December 30, 1987.

The park was designed by Brenda Dudley Ball, a member of the church and of the Open Gate Garden Club in Chelmsford. Although an interior designer by profession, she has always had a love for gardening and did a phenomenal job in the design of this park. Within the design are shades of pink, yellow and white, with flowering times staggered throughout the summer. Plantings were chosen which require minimal maintenance.

Many people participated in building this park and in dedicating trees and shrubs in memory of loved ones. Another church member, Bob Moore, built the beautiful gazebo in memory of his wife, Barbara. In addition to the many shrubs that have been planted, three more Eagle Scout projects have been completed (lawn sprinkler system, entrance way fencing, and indirect lighting).

The park was dedicated on June 10, 1990. This park is maintained by mostly volunteer labor from the church and from Boy Scout Troop 74 (Johnny's Eagle Scout troop).

Even though the park is privately owned by the church, it has from the beginning been opened to the public and has seen a lot of use; picnics, weddings, prom pictures, and as a private place for a time of reflection. The park received special recognition by The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts when it was included on their 2000 edition of Massachusetts Gardens on Tour. This tour featured more than 75 gardens, historic sites and public spaces in communities across the state.

John W. Carson 5/30/2005





**JOHN R. CARSON  
MEMORIAL PARK**

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD  
IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES

1990

PUBLIC WELCOME















EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT  
B. S. A. TROOP 74

DAVID W. BEATON

PROJECT CONSISTED OF  
CLEARING LAND AND  
CONSTRUCTING WALKWAYS AND BENCHES

1988 - 1989

"IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND JOHN"