

## LOCAL

# New England Botanic Garden expanding with purchase of land from Town of Boylston



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BOYLSTON — The New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill announced Monday that it has acquired a 14-acre parcel of land from the Town of Boylston, allowing for the continued expansion of the garden.

The acquisition increases the botanic garden's total footprint to nearly 200 acres. According to a news release, the acquisition is the third expansion to take place since CEO Grace Elton took the helm in 2017.

Representatives for both the New England Botanic Garden and the Town of Boylston said the land was acquired for \$10,000. The acquired parcel is known as the Joslin Lot in Boylston.

According to botanic garden administrators, the parcel is largely wetland or wetland buffer. The addition will allow the botanic garden to preserve and protect valuable land.

“Environmental stewardship is a vital part of New England Botanic Garden’s mission to create experiences with plants that inspire people and improve the world,” Elton said in a statement. “Expanding our footprint with this new acquisition represents an important opportunity to continue our conservation of natural areas, increasing the diversity of native plants grown onsite, educating visitors about these plants, and fostering appreciation for our local ecosystems.”

The land acquisition was made possible through a donation from a New England Botanic Garden volunteer and former horticulturist for Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, Leslie Duthie.

The new property will be protected from any future development by a conservation restriction. The organization will be able to build low-impact hiking trails, according to the

botanic garden's release.