

WALKS SCHEDULE • AUTUMN 2014

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Please note: Walks meet at different times. Some trips are weather dependent. Please call trip leader if in doubt.

Sunday, September 28 at 1:00 PM

CANOE TRIP AT NAHANTON PARK

This canoe/kayak trip will start at the Nahanton Park area. This is a beautiful section of the Charles River from which you can go upstream against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham and Wellesley. Interested nature lovers can bring their own canoe or kayak to use or can rent one of them at the canoe/kayak rental stand that is located at Nahanton Park. The area up-stream is a region of significant beauty with almost pristine conditions of local marshes and tree lines. Cutler Marsh is particularly impressive with different patterns of wildlife overlapping the background tree line and marsh views. The trip from Nahanton Canoe/Kayak dock towards Millennium Park goes through several bends in the river where canoes and kayaks glide silently through the isolated wilderness areas of Massachusetts. You will slowly paddle upstream towards the park whilst passing by numerous wonders of nature. The fall is an especially good time to view the massive numbers of turtles along the shore along with other wildlife that have successfully been born to this unique stretch of water. There are numerous fish in this part of the Charles, including pickerel, bass and carp. Pickerel and bass when they are larger are piscivores and have other fish in their diet, but carp even as adults are primarily bottom feeders. You can see the tails of carp out of the water while their head is poking through the mud looking for food. We also will be observing the numerous birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this appealing habitat. We will pass by Powell's Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch and then stop for lunch on Cow Island. The trip back will be similar except we will have the current helping to carry canoeists and kayakers back. It is an interesting trip for adults and children that usually is completed within three hours.

Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644)

Sunday, October 5 at 8:00 AM

FALL BIRD WALK AT NAHANTON PARK

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for fall migrants as well as resident species. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance off Nahanton St. between the JCC and the Charles. Parking

is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Walking shoes are recommended. Co-sponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park and the Newton Conservators. Trip cancelled in steady rain but ok if light rain or drizzle. If in doubt call Trip Leader, Haynes Miller. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park.

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, October 18 at 8:00 AM (Rain Date October 19)

FALL BIRD WALK AT COLD SPRING PARK

Fall is an excellent time to look for birds. We'll explore the various habitats at Cold Spring that are available inside the park. Park at the Beacon Street parking lot and meet at circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. In case of steady rain, rain date is October 19. If in doubt, call.

Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477)

Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 PM

WEBSTER CONSERVATION AREA: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS

The MBTA Green Line bisects the large open space made up of the city's Webster Conservation Area and the DCR's Hammond Pond Reservation. Most park visitors stay on the south side of the tracks unless they're visiting Houghton Garden in the northeast corner. This 2.5-mile walk explores the parklands on the north side of the tracks, including the former "deer park" and a rock outcrop offering distant views. The area was described in an 1889 guidebook as including "walls of conglomerate rock, as tall and straight as castle-bastions, crowning the hill-tops, and menaced by storming-parties of trees, whose green banners have been planted in the crevices far up their mighty steep." The walk will begin at Hammond Pond, where we'll consider DCR's imminent construction of a floating walkway. Meet at the DCR parking lot behind The Street - Chestnut Hill, off Route 9: <http://goo.gl/maps/ASM35>.

Trip Leader: Dan Brody (617-332-5418)

PHOTOS : SUZETTE BARBIER, WEBSTER PARK: OCTO BARNETT