

Newton Conservators, Newton's land trust and open space organization, sponsors walks in the spring and fall. We also fight invasive plant species to preserve and improve the native habitat at our parks and conservation areas. Sessions may be weather dependent — call the leader if in doubt. Check our website (newtonconservators.org) for updates to this schedule.

About the Plant Invaders



Garlic Mustard, native to Europe, was brought here in the 1800s as a medicinal and garden herb and is now an invader of our backyards, parks, forests, and conservation areas. It quickly covers vast areas, including low light forested areas, shades out other plants, chemically alters the soil to inhibit germination of competitor seeds, and alters habitat for native insects such as butterflies. In areas where it is just starting, it takes only a small effort to eliminate—it is a biennial easily identified and pulled when the second year plants are flowering in April/May. If not, each plant will scatter hundreds to thousands of seeds that will become first year plants the next year or will remain as viable seeds for several more years. Because the seeds stay so viable, the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Our efforts are effective. Garlic Mustard can be controlled with easy hand pulling, vigilance, and determination. The areas worked are much improved and require only periodic visits to catch stragglers to avoid re-infestation. The areas NOT worked are worse. **We need more help to get them under control.**



Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull, but because any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until then we must control by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job.

Our sessions also tackle black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, and black locust.

Sunday, April 24, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.
Opposite 120 Vine St., Newton, MA 02467
www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm

Sawmill Brook Park is a lovely, long, natural trail that connects Newton to West Roxbury. It has garlic mustard and black swallow-wort infestations at its entrances and along Lagrange St. and Wayne Road borders. We will spend a few hours pulling at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, patrolling previously worked areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Saturday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Garlic Mustard Pull at Dolan Pond (NewtonSERVES Project). 76 Webster Park, Newton, MA 02465
www.newtonconservators.org/5dolan.htm

Meet at the Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Street parking is available there and at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands in off-trail corners of the property and a few patches of rosettes in previously worked areas. Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. Crews also removed nearly every knotweed stem from one area, but knotweed removal takes years to complete, and each time it gets easier. We will mix in some general nature study, so bring binoculars for observing birds and other creatures that make this vernal pool area home. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. **Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.**

Sunday, May 1, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull (NewtonSERVES Project). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls and will work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. **Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Sunday, May 1, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Cold Spring Park Landfill Cleanup (NewtonSERVES Project). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461
www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Decades ago, part of what is now Cold Spring Park was used as a trash dump. For years, large pieces of metal debris littered the edge of a small seasonal wetland area in the park. In 2011, the Conservators sponsored a very successful cleanup project on Newton Serves day, with many volunteers including a Boy Scout troop, taking part. We now want to go back to finish the cleanup effort. Wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. **Leader is Dan Brody, 617-332-5418.**

Sunday, May 1, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge (NewtonSERVES Project). Near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472

www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We will continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study, so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner furthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left, and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St., a block away from the river.

Trip leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Sunday, May 15, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge #2 (repeat visit). Near Super Stop & Shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472

www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm

We will continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of the Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study, so bring binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you have them. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner furthest from the store. There is a path entrance: turn left, and follow path to the Blue Heron Bridge. Or park at Albemarle Rd. or Nevada St., a block away from the river.

Trip leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.

Saturday, May 21, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #2 (repeat visit). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461

www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves.

Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. *Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).*

Sunday, May 22, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Nahanton Park Invasives Pull. Near 507 Winchester Street Newton, MA 02461

www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm

Many native habitats, including grassland and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park is one of our open spaces suffering from infestations of invasive plant species, including black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park by spending a few hours cutting back/removing these invasive species. Sturdy shoes, long pants, long sleeves and work gloves are recommended. Meet in the large parking lot off Winchester Street. *Leaders are Duane Hillis and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).*

Sunday, May 29, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Japanese Knotweed Pull at Hammond Pond. Near 309 Hammond Pond Parkway, Newton, MA 02467

www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm

Japanese Knotweed is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, not because it's spiny or strong or even particularly hard to pull. But any small root fragments left behind spring back to life the following year. Scientists seek biological control agents, but until they find some, we are stuck controlling the plant by hand. Persistence pays with this species, and eradication is possible, but it takes several years to truly finish the job. Bring pitchforks, garden spades, and hand pruners, if you have them. Meet at small parking lot off Hammond Pond Parkway at Route 9 adjacent to pond at "The Street" mall. *Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.*

Sunday, June 5, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #3 (repeat visit). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461

www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm

This session will be followed by a 12-2 Invasive Plant educational walk through Cold Spring Park led by Bruce Wenning, horticulturalist. Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours checking the Cochituate Aqueduct walk, to keep it under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter the park at the Beacon Street entrance. Turn left and go to the far end of the parking lot (circle) to meet group. *Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).*

Sunday, June 12, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Houghton Garden/Webster Invasives Pull. Opposite 210 Suffolk Rd., Newton, MA 02467

www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm

We are tackling garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods and near the deer park. Help us keep these invaders out of Houghton Garden! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet opposite 162-210 Suffolk Rd. (off of Hammond Street) at the entrance to Houghton Garden. *Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).*

Saturday, June 18, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Charles River Quinobequin/Hemlock Gorge Invasives Pull. Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464

www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We have expanded our efforts to control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also in the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! In case of poison ivy, wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the parking lot at corner of Quinobequin Rd. and Ellis St. at Rt. 9 intersection. *Leaders are Jerry Reilly and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).*