

Newton Conservators Invasive-Plant Pulls Fall 2016

Newton Conservators fights 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, Sept. 25, 9:00 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 as well as invasions of buckthorn, barberry, and burning bush. We will spend a few hours removing those invasive plants and 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, Oct. 1, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Invasives Pull at Hemlock Gorge. Near 2 Ellis St., Newton, MA 02464

www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm

We have expanded our efforts to control buckthorn, bittersweet, burning bush, multiflora rose, and barberry infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park. Help us keep the invaders out of this beautiful park! 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. & Ellis St. at Rt. 9 intersection. **Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

Saturday, Oct. 15, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Invasives Pull at Auburndale Cove. Near 104 W. Pine St., Newton, MA 02466

We will continue the work started by the students of the Environmental Science Program to remove invasive knotweed from the Cove. The students used weed whip tools to cut the plants back in June, greatly reducing the amount of above-ground biomass present for July's work with the youth, but the resprouting was (as always) impressive. By doing a mix of cutting and digging, we can gradually eliminate this infestation, and certainly stop its spread into Flowed Meadow forest, but work has happened only a few times a year. Once a year is nearly worthless. If we can do one more event this year, we'd be that much further ahead. Depending on our turnout, we can first work to get more roots out, then weed whack any plants we don't have time to dig. 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 Auburndale Cove Parking Lot, West Pine St. **Leaders are Eric Olson, 617-872-9928 and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**



Environmental Science students and leader Geneva Boyer removing invasive knotweed in Auburndale Cove in July.