

# Newton Conservators Invasive-Plant Pulls Spring 2017

Newton Conservators, in addition to sponsoring walks in the spring and fall, also 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](http://newtonconservators.org)) for the separate Walks calendar and for updates to this schedule.

## Sunday, March 19, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

### Buckthorn demonstration project, Cold Spring Park.

Following up on horticulturalist Bruce Wenning's program and walk at Cold Spring Park, we will start a project to save the red maple swamp, believed to be one of the oldest forested areas in Newton. The maple and oak swamp is in danger of dying out due to its understory being shaded out by invasive nonnative buckthorn. Help us establish a buckthorn-free demonstration area to allow the forest to survive. **Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

## Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 noon

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

Meet at Webster Park (a street off Webster Street) entrance of the Dolan Pond Conservation Area in West Newton. (Park there or at the other entrances at Stratford Road and Cumberland Road.) We will tackle garlic mustard stands — come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year 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. Wear long pants and garden gloves. **Leader is Ted Kuklinski, 617-332-7753.**

## Sunday, April 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 noon

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

The park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, buckthorn, and other species. We will keep the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City is helping to ensure the plants are disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Enter 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, April 30, 12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Invasives Pull at Blue Heron Bridge** (NewtonSERVES Project) near Super Stop & shop, 700 Pleasant St., Watertown, MA 02472  
[www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm)

We will work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of Reservations with their stewardship of the floodplain forest, mixing in nature study — bring

binoculars and an insect net and hand lens if you can. Park at the Watertown Super Stop & Shop (700 Pleasant St.) at the corner farthest 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.

**Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.**

## Sunday, May 7, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

**Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook Conservation Area.** Opposite 120 Vine St., Newton, MA 02467  
[www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/26sawmill.htm)

Sawmill Brook Park is a lovely, long, natural trail connecting 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 work at each entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrol previously worked areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City continues to help us dispose as trash, not as yard waste. Meet at the Vine Street entrance. **Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Frescesco DiTullio.**

## Saturday, May 13, 12:00 noon – 2:00 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](http://www.newtonconservators.org/4charlesmoody.htm)

We continue to work along the Charles River Greenway at this bridge site, helping the Trustees of 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 farthest 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. **Leader is Eric Olson, 617-872-9928.**

## Saturday, May 20, 12:00 noon – 2:00 pm

**Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull #2** (repeat visit). 1200 Beacon Street, Newton, MA 02461  
[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm)

Cold Spring Park is being invaded by garlic mustard, knotweed, and other species. We will spend a few hours keeping the Cochituate Aqueduct walk under control after previous years' pulls, and work on the meadow and parking lot areas. 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 21, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

[www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/30nahanton.htm)

Many native habitats, including the grassland Woodcock Meadow, home to threatened American Woodcock, and open woodland habitats, are threatened by invasive plants. They out-compete native plants, reduce biodiversity and negatively impact birdlife. Nahanton Park suffers from infestations of invasive plant species, including black swallow-wort, multi-flora rose, tree of heaven, buckthorn, garlic mustard, and black locust. Join us to improve the beauty and diversity of this special park (and help the American woodcock) 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 Suzette Barbier and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).**

## Sunday, May 28, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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

[www.newtonconservators.org/18webster.htm](http://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 4, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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

[www.newtonconservators.org/14coldspring.htm](http://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. 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).**

## Saturday, June 10, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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

[www.newtonconservators.org/19houghton.htm](http://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! 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. **Leaders are Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell), and Michele Hanss.**

## Saturday, June 17, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

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

[www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/21hemlock.htm)

We will control garlic mustard, knotweed, and black swallow-wort infestations inside beautiful Hemlock Gorge Park, and also the adjoining lovely walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd. Help us keep the invaders out of these beautiful parks! 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).**

## About the Plant Invaders



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA



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**Garlic Mustard** arrived from Europe 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. It is easy to manage by pulling 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 remain as viable seeds for several more years. The plants must be disposed of as trash, not as yard waste.

**Japanese Knotweed** is a bamboo-like invader from Asia that can create dense 8' tall single-species stands. It is a tough adversary, 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.

**Buckthorn** is another non-native shrub that is proliferating in forested areas (see Cold Spring Park), covering the understory and preventing native forests from re-seeding.

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