



## Newton Conservators

# E-Bulletin

Friday, September 7, 2018

... Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961



## Fall Events Issue

Don't miss the final list of our fall walks in this e-Bulletin. Debuting this year is Brooks Mathewson's bird photography walk on October 20. There are perennial favorites, too: Bill and Dottie Hagar's Canoe and Kayak Trip at Nahant Park will start off the season on September 29. Haynes Miller and Pete Gilmore will lead bird walks in October; Henry Finch will take hikers along the Aqueducts. Chris Hepburn will lead the final event on October 27 with a modified version of his geology walk, which will extend beyond Newton's borders for the first time.

Please also join us for some of our invasives removal sessions this fall as well. It is impossible for our relatively small crew of volunteers to control those plants everywhere they grow. We are concentrating on several large areas, and even there, it sometimes feels like a losing battle. Please remove those plants where you find them. You can find more information about them at: <https://bit.ly/2C7IINV>.

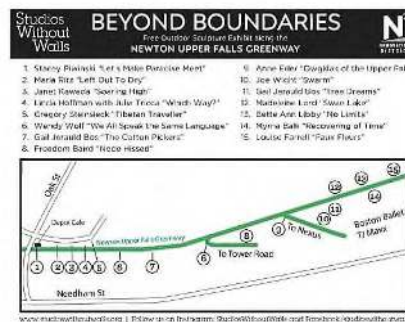
Watch for our tables at the upcoming Newton Community Farm Festival (September x) and the Green Expo at the Harvest Fair (October x). We will also have tables on some of the Farmer's Market this fall. We will be at the Cold Spring Park Farmer's Market on Tuesday, September 18 and again on Tuesday, October 16 from 3:45 pm until 6 pm. Look for us at the Elm Street Farmers Market in West Newton on Saturday, September 15 and again on Saturday, October 6 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm (Note: side tours to Dolan Pond Conservation Area will be available at 10:30 am). Wishing you a fun fall in Newton's open spaces!

- Beth Wilkinson (President) / Ted Kuklinski (e-Bulletin Editor)

## Calendar of Events

### Sunday, September 9 (Final Exhibit Day!) Beyond Boundaries - Free Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Upper Falls Greenway

Don't miss the final days of the whimsical free sculpture exhibit along the Upper Falls Greenway. This weekend is a perfect time to discover both the Greenway and the Exhibit which is an artistic exhibit by the group, Studios Without Walls ([www.studioswithoutwalls.org](http://www.studioswithoutwalls.org)) and features works by 14 artists. The Upper Falls Greenway ([www.upperfallsgreenway.org](http://www.upperfallsgreenway.org)) is a one mile long multi-use path parallel to Needham Street along an abandoned rail spur. The art will be at various points along the trail starting at Oak Street near the Depot Café and extending down the trail to the Avalon Apartments. Free parking next to the Boston Ballet School at 153 Needham St, Newton Highlands, MA 02461. You may also enter the Greenway near the Depot Coffee Shoppe at 1225 Chestnut St, Newton, MA 02464. The Newton Needham Regional Chamber has a nice background article on the exhibit at <http://www.nnchamber.com/news/free-sculpture-exhibit-brings-together-arts-business>.



### Thursday, September 13, 7:15 pm Webster Woods Community Preservation Committee Public Hearing Room 204, Newton City Hall

The Community Preservation Committee will hold a public hearing on a preliminary proposal relating to Webster Woods next Thursday, September 13 at 7:15 PM in Room 204 at City Hall. Specifically, the Conservation Commission is asking the committee to approve \$100,000 to be used to hire legal counsel and other experts to assist the City in acquiring the wooded portion of the land with, potentially,



an appropriate buffer as well. Information on the proposal can be found online at <http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/planning/cpa/projects/webster.asp>. The CPA Program Manager for Newton is Alice Ingerson ([aingerson@newtonma.gov](mailto:aingerson@newtonma.gov) or 617.796.1144). This is an important step that will equip the City with a top team of legal and other experts to achieve our goal of permanent protection. At a later time, it is expected that there will be a return to the CPC to approve a purchase of the land, but that step is some time away. You are encouraged to attend and to demonstrate your support for protecting Webster Woods.

On a related note, it appears that Boston College is moving forward with a plan to use the back parking lot for its campus maintenance yard, including a salt shed, mulch storage area, and vehicle and equipment storage. This is not at all welcome news, and there are concerns about light and noise and stormwater potentially transporting salt and other pollutants into the woods and the adjacent City conservation land. Since the parking lot lies outside of the jurisdiction of the City's Conservation Commission, the City is limited in terms of its review of the project. However, City staff have undertaken a thorough review of the plans and have requested a resubmittal of the plans to respond to comments. If you would like more information about this issue, please contact Barney Heath, Newton Planning Director at 617-796-1120.

While this redevelopment plan is of concern, it may ultimately strengthen the case for the City to acquire the wooded land and an appropriate buffer by showing how even limited redevelopment can adversely affect the health of the wooded ecosystem. While it may seem tempting for those who care about the woods to focus at the hearing on BC's plan for the back parking lot, the CPC has no authority over that issue--its role is to consider funding proposals. Therefore, it is hoped that all who speak at the public hearing focus on the funding proposal and the value of the woods, and not belabor BC's development plans. Thanks for your support for preserving Webster Woods!

**Saturday, September 15, 8:30 am start**  
**Bridge Building on Florrie's Path at Nahanton Park**  
**Nahanton Park Nature Center (main entrance to the park)**

The Friends of Nahanton Park will be constructing the bridge at the end of Florrie's Path beginning at 8:30 am on Saturday, Sept. 15. Please join the Friends of Nahanton Park to move materials to the site and to cut and assemble the bridge. Anyone who can help is needed and encouraged to attend. The Friends of Nahanton Park will endeavor to have all the materials ready at the Nature Center that day. The Parks and Recreation Commission has given permission to build a temporary (non-ADA compatible) bridge there. Henry Finch, an architect, is overseeing the building. We expect that this will be an all day project, but help is needed for any portion of the day available. Please bring any battery powered screwdrivers that you may have (with charged batteries). We will be cutting the materials by the Nature Center to take advantage of the power there, but will need screwdrivers or particularly battery powered ones on site. For questions or details, please contact Chris Hepburn (President - Friends of Nahanton Park) at [john.hepburn@bc.edu](mailto:john.hepburn@bc.edu) or 617-965-1137.



**Saturday, September 15, 10:30 am (repeats on Saturday, October 6)**  
**Dolan Pond Tour**  
**Elm Street Farmers Market, West Newton**



Get your veggies aalong with a free 45 minute nature and architectural tour of the nearby Dolan Pond Conservation area, a hidden gem of West Newton only a short walk from the market. The Elm St market is open from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and features live music and great local produce and other goods.



**Sunday, September 23, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm**  
**Newton Community Farm Fall Festival**  
**303 Nahanton Street, Newton MA -02459**

Come visit the Conservators table at the annual Newton Community Farm Festival. Visit the festival for a day of family fun. Celebrate the fall season with music, food, activities, and games! There will be live music from the High Strung Strummers and a kids' sing-along with Julia Priest of Music Together. Come for pumpkin decorating, face painting, a farm scavenger hunt, lawn games, great photo ops, and more. If you get hungry, there will be delicious food at the ready, including apples, baked treats and more. <https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/news-events/>



**Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**  
**Pollution Solution: Community Action for a Cleaner Charles River Workshop**  
**First Parish Church, 50 Church Street, Waltham, MA 02452**

Join the Waltham Land Trust ([www.walthamlandtrust.org](http://www.walthamlandtrust.org)) for a presentation by Elisabeth Cianciola of the [Charles](#)



[River Watershed Association \(www.crwa.org\)](http://www.crwa.org) on the history of the Charles River, its current state, and ways members of the community can help improve its health for the future. The one-hour lecture will be followed by 30 minutes of smaller group talk and interaction. Come learn how you can part of the pollution solution!

**Wednesday, September 26, 9:30 am - 11:30 pm**  
**Quinobequin Trail Invasives Pull**  
**Intersection of Quinobequin Road & Larkspur Road**

Join a group working with Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) to improve the habitat along the river. The group – employees of a local business who enjoy the river and want to “give back” – will pull and cut buckthorn and bittersweet and other invasive species. Help from Conservators’ volunteers will be most welcome. Bring loppers or pruners if you can and wear long pants and garden gloves. Meet at the Quinobequin trail near 556 Quinobequin Rd, at the intersection with Larkspur Rd (park on Larkspur). Check with the website or with leader to confirm session and times. Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



**Saturday, September 29, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Hemlock Gorge and Quinobequin Trail Invasives Pull**  
**Quinobequin Road and Ellis Street Parking Lot**

We’ll continue our control of black swallow-wort and oriental bittersweet inside and around beautiful Hemlock Gorge and the walking trail along Quinobequin Rd. Wear long pants and garden gloves; bring a digging tool for the swallow-wort and loppers or pruners if you prefer to work on bittersweet. Meet at the parking lot, corner of Quinobequin Rd and Ellis St. at Rt. 9 intersection (near 2 Ellis St. Newton MA 02464). Leader is Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



**Saturday, September 29, 1:00 - 4:00 pm**  
**Canoe and Kayak Trip**  
**Nahanton Park**

This canoe/kayak trip will start in Nahanton Park. We’ll paddle upstream on the Charles against the current to the far reaches of Needham, Dedham, and Wellesley. Bring your own canoe or kayak, or rent one at the canoe/kayak rental stand in Nahanton Park. The area up-stream is a region of significant beauty and almost pristine conditions. Fall is a good time to view the many turtles and other wildlife along this stretch of water. We should see numerous fish, including pickerel, bass, and carp. We also will see many birds that make their spring/summer/fall homes in this habitat. We’ll pass by Powell’s Island, Millennium Park, and the large Dedham Ditch, then stop for lunch on Cow Island. On the return trip, the current will help carry us back. It’s an interesting trip for adults and children and usually is completed within three hours. Trip Leaders: Bill & Dottie Hagar (617-964-2644).



**Saturday, October 13, 8:00 am**  
**Nahanton Bird Walk with Haynes Miller**  
**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. 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 & Newton Conservators. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance between the JCC and the Charles. Parking is available inside the park. Cancelled if steady rain. If concerned about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419).



**Sunday, October 14, 8:00 am**  
**Fall Bird Walk with Pete Gilmore**  
**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

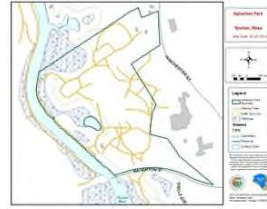




Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (617-610-2477).

**Sunday, October 14, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Woodcock Meadow (Nahanton Park) Invasives Pull**  
**Woodcock Meadow upper parking lot off Nahanton Street**

We are working to restore Woodcock Meadow to the sandy grassland meadow needed by the threatened American Woodcock. We will pull and cut bittersweet, buckthorn, black locust, black swallow-wort, and other invasive species. Meet at Woodcock Meadow near upper parking lot off Nahanton St. Leaders are Jon Regosin and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell).



**Saturday, October 20, 9:00 am**  
**Bird Photography - Walk with Brooks Mathewson**  
**Cold Spring Park**



Birds make outstanding photographic subjects. Each species presents both unique challenges as well as enormous opportunities to create inspirational, visually compelling work. In this walk Brooks will discuss the basics of bird photography and the elements involved in creating an exceptional avian image. Topics covered include choosing the right lens, understanding light, creating sharp, properly exposed images, important compositional techniques, where and when to find different species of birds in Newton and beyond, and



creating ecologically meaningful images. Park at the Beacon Street parking lot and meet at the circle. Beginners as well as experienced birders and photographers of all levels are welcome. Boots are recommended. If in doubt about the weather, please call. Trip Leader: Brooks Mathewson (617-851-3513).

**Sunday, October. 21, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon**  
**Cold Spring Park Buckthorn Demonstration Project**  
**1200 Beacon St. Newton MA 02459**



We're collaborating with horticulturalist Bruce Wenning and ecology professor Eric Olson to try to save the red maple forest, believed to be one of the oldest forested areas in Newton. The wetland forest is threatened by the takeover of invasive nonnative buckthorn as its understory. We will maintain the buckthorn-free demonstration areas to allow the forest to survive. Leaders are Bruce Wenning and Katherine Howard, 617-527-1796 (home) or 617-721-2571 (cell). Read more about this project at <http://www.newtonconservators.org>



[/Cold\\_Spring\\_Buckthorn.htm](http://www.newtonconservators.org/Cold_Spring_Buckthorn.htm)

**Sunday, Oct. 21, 2:00 pm**  
**Newton Aqueducts Hike**  
**Starbucks near Waban T Station**

Join a five-mile hike through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts. This is a steady but not fast hike. Participants should be in sufficiently good shape to keep up with the group (there are cutoffs for those who wish to shorten the hike). Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop near the Waban MBTA station. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488).



**Sunday, October 14, 10 am - 5 pm**  
**Newton Harvest Fair - Green Expo**  
**Newton Center Green, Langley Road and Centre Street**

Come visit the Newton Conservators table at the Green Expo, at the annual Newton Harvest Fair in Newton Centre sponsored by Green Newton. There will be exhibitors of the latest solutions for reducing your carbon footprint. The Harvest Fair itself will feature live entertainment all day, 100 craft vendors and informational booths, delicious food, amusement rides, and free pumpkin decorating. See <http://www.newtoncommunitypride.org/harvest-fair.html>.



**Saturday, October 27, 9:00 am**  
**Bedrock Geology of Newton and Environs**  
**Hammond Pond Parkway Entrance to "The Street"**



The geology of the Newton area tells a fascinating story of a time about 585 million years ago when Newton was part of the great southern continent of Gondwana and not far from the south pole. The rocks record a history of great volcanic eruptions and sedimentary basin deposits (the famous puddingstone!) in areas between the volcanoes. Join us and learn a bit about how the rocks tell us their story. This trip will not be one of the usual Conservator "walks" since we will need to carpool to different sites in and around Newton to see the different rock types. If there is time and interest, we may choose to go a bit beyond Newton to view rocks with a volcanic caldera from that time. Meet in the parking lot at the entrance to the Hammond Pond MDC Reservation area-east, at the west end of Hammond Pond off of Hammond Pond Parkway near Rt. 9. This is behind "The Street" complex near the movie theatre (see Newton Conservators' Walking Trail Guide, pg. 35). We will visit rocks in the woods near here, then carpool to the other exposures. Trip will about 3 hours. If there is moderate rain or worse, the trip will be cancelled. You can call the leader the evening before if in doubt. Trip Leader: Chris Hepburn (617-964-1137).



### Peter Kastner - In Memoriam

We are sad to report that Peter Kastner passed away on July 15. He was an inspirational and influential force for preservation and management of open space in Newton for over three decades, during which he served as vice-president before becoming president of the Newton Conservators from 1994 to 1996. For many years he coordinated the Conservators' walk programs, chaired the nominating committee, and served on the annual audit committee.



Peter was also a longtime observer of the Parks and Recreation Commission and helped draft procedures and standards to control the construction of structures on Park and Recreation lands. For several years he was an open space representative on the Zoning and Planning Committee as well as a member of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Long Range Planning. He advocated expansion of the Commission to include members interested in open space preservation. As a result, he and Conservators' board member Mike Clarke became alternate members of the Commission.

Finally, Peter Kastner was one of a number of active participants in the development of Nahanton Park as he helped raise initial funds for a matching \$400,000 self-help grant to improve the park. Peter helped establish the Friends of Nahanton Park and served as its president for several years. He will be missed by all of his friends and colleagues as well as others who benefit from his legacy of open-space preservation. We will always remember his warm greeting, including his wry smile when discussing topics of interest.

Peter's wife, Clare, passed away last year. We miss them both. A memorial service will be held on [Sunday, September 16th at 2 PM at the First Unitarian Universalist Society](#) church (1326 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465. Donations in Peter's memory can be made to either the Newton Conservators or the Friends of Nahanton Park.

- Bill Hagar (NC Board Member)

### Frank Howard - In Memoriam

We are also sad to report that another long term Newton Conservators board member and activist, Dr. Frank Howard, passed away this past spring on April 2. Frank was a board member of the Newton Conservators from 1996 all the way through 2008.

In 2006, the Newton Conservators had honored Frank with the "Charles Maynard Johnson" award for his tireless work in helping to develop a disease resistant strain of the American Chestnut and his work with the American Chestnut Foundation and work in pollinating a Newton chestnut tree that has survived the blight that had killed so many of these stately and once plentiful trees. This particular award recognizes efforts to improve biodiversity, habitat reclamation,, and natural resource protection and Frank was most deserving of it!



In 2011, Frank (along with his wife Deb) were both honored with the Newton Conservators "Director's Award" for their lifetime of service to the Newton Conservators, to conservation, and to Newton. Frank Howard had been the "heart and soul" of the Newton Conservators board during his service from 1998 through 2008. He was tireless on our Board, representing us on the High Performance Building Coalition and on bicycling, transportation and safety committees. In addition, he produced environmental programs for New TV and articles and photographs for our newsletter.

Frank was a dedicated physicist, a consummate gentleman, and remembered as someone always eager to help out in any way he could. A memorial service as held on June 16 at Grace Episcopal Church in Newton Corner. He will be missed!

## Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Newton Conservators publishes its newsletter approximately four times a year. It is distributed by mail to the membership and is available online. Extra copies are also available at the Newton Free Library. Our Fall 2018 Newsletter is being printed and mailed to members currently and will also be posted shortly on our website at <http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletter.htm>. Here are some of the articles to check out!

- [The Canada Goose in Newton](#)
- [Introduction to the Bedrock Geology of Newton](#)
- [Beyond Boundaries: Public Art in the Upper Falls Greenway](#)
- [President's Message](#)
- [Invasive Plant Sessions Fall 2018](#)
- [Fall Walks - 2018](#)



# NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

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## The Canada Goose in Newton



Adult Canada Goose seen on a walk in Hammond Pond Woods

There are geese, and then there are geese. Let me explain.

Back in the late 1970s when I sailed the Chesapeake Bay with friends on fall "Goosing Expeditions," we would see huge flocks of Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and even swans migrating down the Eastern flyway in their distinctive V patterns. We would awaken at dawn after mooring in an estuary on the Eastern Shore of Maryland to the soft honking of Canada Geese — it almost sounded like dogs barking. I also recall enjoying watching flocks of birds come in for landing in the late evening — those geese would perform like acrobats with barrel rolls and wing waggles. But fall and spring were the only time we saw large numbers of these geese back in the 1970s.

Now there are Canada Geese everywhere there are lawns: at Crystal Lake and the Newton Cemetery, and at all the Newton playing fields and golf courses. The Canada Geese are making headlines, too. They

downed a plane in New York in 2009. They aggressively defend nests in shopping malls. They are blamed for fouling children's playing fields and swimming holes, as well as public water supplies. *And they don't seem to migrate anymore.*

### What happened?

To begin to understand the answer, let's explore some facts about this very large bird.

There are, according to the Cornell Ornithology Lab's website, "At least 11 subspecies of Canada Goose ... although only a couple are distinctive." Here in Newton we see the most common goose, *Branta canadensis*. This is one of the largest birds you will commonly encounter with a wing span of 4 - 5.5 feet and a length of 2.5 - 3.6 feet, weighing in at 6.6 pounds on the low end to nearly 20 pounds! They compare roughly to a wild turkey but may have a longer wing span. And I'm told they are tasty, too, although I've never tried a wild

*Continued on page 2*

Here is the link to our Summer Newsletter— also chock-full of interesting information: [http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18\\_06.pdf](http://www.newtonconservators.org/newsletters/18_06.pdf). Check out some of these exciting articles:

- [Building Resiliency into the Modern Landscape](#)
- [How Large is a Vernal Pool](#)
- [Bright Colors on Birds](#)
- [Land Trust Coalition Conference](#)
- [Annual Meeting](#)
- [President's Message](#)





# NEWSLETTER

Newton's land trust working to preserve open space since 1961

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## Building Resiliency into the Modern Landscape

By Dan Jaffe, Propagator and Stock Bed Grower, New England Wildflower Society



*Aster sp.*



*Ageratum sp.*



*Fragaria sp.*



*Rhus sp.*



*Rudbeckia sp.*

Anyone who's been involved in an invasive removal project knows that the job is hardly over once the last buckthorn or garlic mustard has been pulled. Let's assume for a moment that we do indeed call the project complete after we've pulled that last plant out, and we walk away from the site feeling a wonderful sense of accomplishment. In no time at all, the thousands (if not millions) of seeds below our feet will send out radicals and begin the process of recolonizing the site. Nature abhors a vacuum, and to bare soil, one seed is much like another.



*Clay Buckthorn*

Yet this is a common mistake among invasive removals: mature plants are removed without a complete plan for further maintenance. Whether due to lagging support or simple time constraints, many invasive removal projects fail or leave us in a purgatory of constant maintenance without an end in

sight. Occasionally a post-invasion planting plan is employed though more often than not these plans do not take the real-world conditions into account. These sites are heavily disturbed with an established seed bank of invasive species. Any hope that the simple act of invasive removal will naturally lead to the reestablishment of a healthy native ecosystem is quickly squashed.

A planting and maintenance plan is essential for long-term success, and though the idea of planting bleeding heart (*Dianthus* spp.) or garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*) is often recommended, it is not a recipe for success. Instead, we should be turning to those sorts of native plants that the average gardener is happy enough to do without. We need strong-spreading, colonizing native species capable of not only dealing with difficult planting conditions but also with pushing back against would-be re-invasers. In addition to being able to handle the difficult growing conditions, we cannot forget the purpose of the work. We do not want to simply replace the invasives with any old pushy plant; we want to build habitat. With this in mind, it behooves us to choose plants

ALL PHOTOS: DAN JAFFE EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

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## Membership & Publications!



Did you know that you can Join the Newton Conservators online. And consider a gift membership for a conservation-minded friend. New members get a trail guide as well!

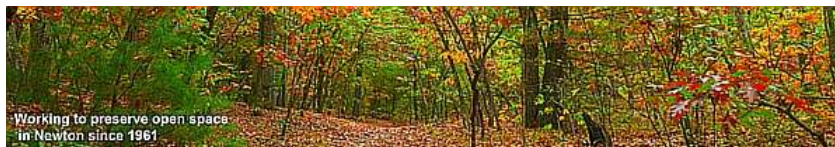
Visit <http://www.newtonconservators.org/membership.htm> for details on membership options. Did you know that you can register and pay for membership, events, buy a copy of our Almanac or newly revised Trail Guide, or make a donation to the Newton Conservators online? The Trail Guides and Almanac are also available at your local Newton Bookstores. Shop Local! Our Trail Guide and Almanac make great holiday gifts!



**Mission:** The Newton Conservators promotes the protection and preservation of natural areas, including parks, playgrounds, forests and streams, which are open or may be converted to open space for the enjoyment and benefit of the people of Newton. It further aims to disseminate information about these and other environmental matters. A primary goal is to foster the acquisition of land, buildings and other facilities to be used for the encouragement of scientific, educational, recreational, literary and other public pursuits that will promote good citizenship and the general welfare of the people of our community.

The Newton Conservators organization was formed as a not-for-profit in June 1961.

- E-Bulletin Editor Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators ([tkuklinski@aol.com](mailto:tkuklinski@aol.com))



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