



## Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Wednesday, February 5, 2020

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



### Is Open Space Important to You?? These are TWO important steps you can take!!

1. Please take the Newton Open Space Plan Online survey at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/37U4VdD>

2. Please attend the first of two Open Space Plan Public Hearings on Thursday evening:

**Thursday, February 6 7 - 9 pm**  
**Open Space Plan Public Hearing**  
**War Memorial Auditorium**  
**Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave**

Please help the City of Newton update its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) for 2020 - 2027. An updated OSRP is necessary to qualify Newton for state funding which supports the acquisition, protection, and enhancement of open space. Answers to this survey will shape the city's understanding of the needs and concerns of Newton's residents regarding open space and outdoor recreation in Newton. The OSRP was last updated in 2013 and is available here:

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/45077>

*Open space is defined as publicly or privately owned undeveloped land that may include passive and active recreational spaces, conservation areas, wildlife habitats, water resource*

*protection areas, parks, vacant lots or agricultural lands.*

*Open space provides numerous environmental benefits including increasing wildlife communities, reducing storm water runoff, and negating the urban heat island effect through tree cover.*

*Passive recreation refers to low impact activities such as wildlife observation, walking along Newton's wooded trails, biking along its scenic roadways, and canoeing or kayaking one of its waterways.*

*Active recreation refers to activities requiring more intensive facilities or maintenance such as the use of athletic fields, playgrounds, paved trails, or golf courses. Open space and recreational planning helps preserve open space while allowing development to occur that is consistent with the desired character of Newton.*

Don't miss your chance to weigh in on Newton's Open Space Plan which will guide the city through 2007! Taking the survey and attending the meeting are both important steps you can take to ensure open space is a priority for Newton in future years!

The [ONLINE SURVEY](#) takes a few minutes to fill out and allows you to indicate your personal open space and recreation priorities by checking off boxes. If your priorities are not covered, there are spaces for you to list other items that you think are important! The results will be compiled and will be used in planning for the next several years. This is your chance to vote FOR open space! Responses to the survey are anonymous. Please forward this email to your friends as well and encourage them to take the survey as well!

The **PUBLIC HEARING** is a great opportunity to voice your priorities and to hear what others are saying as well. The city has hired a consulting firm to help develop the Open Space Plan and they want to speak with you to know what you think is important! So please attend on Thursday evening at the City Hall War Memorial Auditorium (it is at the West end of City Hall). Plenty of parking is usually available nearby.

All of the items listed in the online survey are important for Newton's open spaces, but here are a few items that you might think about that are particularly important to open space and the need to maintain biodiversity and healthy wildlife habitat:

- Need for legal protection (against development) for all of our parks and conservation areas.
- Need to emphasize the importance of biodiversity in the city's open spaces; develop a plan for defining and assessing the existing it biodiversity and then monitoring it and finding ways to increase it.
- Need for coordinated work to increase native plants (for pollinators and all wildlife) and to control invasive plants.
- Importance of developing wildlife corridors
- Need to preserve tree canopy—in open space as well as on streets
- Need to create more trails and to maintain those that exist
- Possibility of creating a city Trails Committee or Open Space Commission to help oversee goals of the plan

- Need to include hiking, XC skiing, canoeing (including portaging paths on the Charles)
- Open waterways (rivers, lakes, etc.) clean enough for swimming, fishing, and boating
- Opportunity to add signage/maps of nearby open space in village centers
- Goal to apply to MWRA for permit for legal access to Sudbury Aqueduct.
- Discussion of ways that playing field space can be increased without taking away important conservation land.
- Consideration of ways to coordinate the work of the Parks and Rec Department and the Conservation Department to make maintenance of all open space more efficient and to help the public to learn about all of the areas.
- Encourage development of the components of Riverside Greenway along the Charles River
- Universally accessible open space areas and resources
- Areas for passive outdoor recreation (space for walking, picnicking, swimming, canoeing, etc.)

You likely have many more concerns! This is your chance to have your voice heard!

## PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



In case you missed our recent renewal letter in December, we would be very grateful for your continued support by renewing your membership. Perhaps, consider renewing at a higher level, adding an extra donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space.

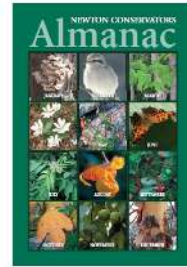
You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/renewal-2020/>. A link to our annual members' renewal letter outlining last year's activities can also be found at the above link.

Donations may be made at our secure link <https://newtonconservators.123signup.com/donation/21167>. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups including Friends of Webster Woods, Friends of Cold Spring Park, the Riverside Trails Working Group and others. As part of the donation process, you can specify a group in the "Comments" section of the form. Thanks so much!

## 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 <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/> 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!

*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.*

- E-Bulletin Editor & President Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators ([ebulletin@newtonconservators.org](mailto:ebulletin@newtonconservators.org))

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2/5/2020

E-Bulletin Feb 5, 2020 - Open Space Plan Survey and Public Hearing

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