



Newton Conservators E-Bulletin

Friday, April 22, 2022

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



Happy Earth Day!

Earth Day is a day to reflect on what we can do to help this planet we live upon. This weekend we have a number of events in which you could partake including walks, invasive pulls, and educational events.



We will have an information table tomorrow at the [Shops of Chestnut Hill](#) where you can find out more about our organization and even go for a short [Mini-Walk](#) to the adjacent Webster Woods Conservation Area! Also check out the Newton Pollinator Group's table at the [Earth Day Fair](#) at City Hall on Sunday afternoon.

Our invasive pulls are once again open to the public including a number of events as part of [NewtonSERVES](#) on Sunday, May 1 and are now posted on our website in the events section. While pre-registration is encouraged for NewtonSERVES, we will have forms if you wish to register that day on-site.



- [Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull](#) - 4/23
- [Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook](#) - 4/24
- [Quinobequin Rd Invasives Pull](#) - 4/24
- [Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull](#) - 5/1 - NewtonSERVES
- [Houghton Garden Invasives Pull](#) - 5/1 - NewtonSERVES
- [Dolan Pond Invasives Pull and Cleanup](#) - 5/1 - NewtonSERVES

Don't forget to save the date **Wednesday, May 4** for our Newton Conservators [Annual Meeting](#) with election, awards, and a special presentation "Newton: Land of the Massachusetts." by **Sagamore Faries Gray** and **Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon** of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#). Regrettably, due to the increase in Covid numbers and safety concerns, Newton Conservators has decided to convert the meeting to a FREE virtual one. See the [event notice](#) for full details.

Newton Conservators continues our free [Spring 2022 Webinar Series](#) with a wonderful range of topics again this season presented by local nature experts. You will need to sign up for each webinar separately and in advance. Here are the two remaining webinars:



- [Spring Warblers in Newton - Pete Gilmore - 5/11/22](#)
- [Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future - Marc Welch - 6/15/22](#)

Our [Spring 2022 Walk Series](#) is underway already and, like last Fall's series, includes a number of kid oriented events. The kid's events require pre-registration. Get outside in nature with local nature experts! Note that we have added an Aqueduct Walk with Henry Finch this Sunday (4/24) and the dates of the Kids events in May and June have been changed since our last e-Bulletin. See the latest details of our remaining walks in our events listings online or later in this e-Bulletin.



- [Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 4/23/22](#) (Note: fully booked)
- [Aqueduct Walk - Henry Finch - 4/24/22](#)
- [Changing Landscape of the Webster Woods - Richard Primack - 5/7/22](#)
- Birding at Dolan Pond - 5/7/22 (Tentative - watch for details)
- [Birding at Cold Spring Park - Pete Gilmore - 5/8/22](#)
- [Kids - Nature Ecology Games - Barbara Bates - 5/28/22](#)
- [Kids - Webster Woods Adventure - Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin - 6/11/22](#)
- [Fern Walk at Saw Mill Brook - Don Lubin - 6/11/22](#)

Our [Spring 2022 Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is online and was mailed last month to members requesting the printed edition. It contains the following interesting articles and features:

- [Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial](#) - Maria Rose
- [Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods](#) - Richard Primack
- [Enjoy Nature...with webinars from Newton Conservators](#) - Beth Wilkinson
- [Invasive Team Update](#) - Katherine Howard
- [Spring 2022 Walks](#) - Samantha Corbin
- [New Membership System: Little Green Light](#) - Katherine Howard

You may see some changes in receiving our eBulletin in the near future as we have moved our database to a new platform as you will read in the Spring Newsletter. We will be working on verifying emails for our friends and members who receive our eBulletin. Remember that You can subscribe by sending an email to ebulletin@newtonconservators.org or unsubscribe by clicking the unsubscribe link at the end of this email.

Newton Conservators Events
*Enjoy Nature . . . with the Newton Conservators
 Walks, Webinars & More!*

Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022

Note - this event is fully booked (waitlist only)



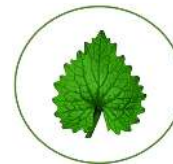
Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' board members, as they explore what's emerging now that spring is in the air at Dolan Pond. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list is available since registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



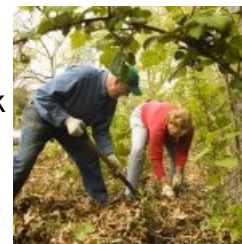
Saturday, April 23, 2022 9:30 am - Noon

Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull

**Cold Spring Park Beacon Street trailhead
1200 Beacon Street, Waban, MA**



Cold Spring 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 Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.



Saturday, April 23, 2022 1 pm - 4 pm

Mini-Walks of Webster Woods

at 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm

Earth Day Table at The Shops at Chestnut Hill

The Shops at Chestnut Hill - Mall Center Court (Level One)



As part of Earth Day Weekend, come visit the Newton Conservators information table at [The Shops at Chestnut Hill](#). We will be located in the main mall court (Center Court by the statue on Level One) and will have our popular trail guides and almanacs available as well as other information on our work preserving open space in Newton for over 60 years. Look for our table which will have a green tablecloth. Come say hello to a few of our board members and learn how you can

help keep Newton, the Garden City, even greener!

A highlight will be a series of three 30 minute round trip Mini-Walks to Webster Woods led by naturalist Barbara Bates. If you are in the Mall, you will be



escorted from our table for a short walk across the parking lot to the entrance to Webster Woods. The Mini-Walks, lasting under 45 minutes, will be starting at 1:30, 2:30, and 3:30 pm and take you through the spring woods to a high stone outcropping and a large pond where special vernal pool creatures like yellow-spotted salamanders and wood frogs breed. Shoes, not sandals, advised. If you are coming just for the Mini-walks, meet at the corner of the rear parking lot for The Shops at Chestnut Hill at 1:30, 2:30, or 3:30 pm to be joined by the folks from the Mall. Wear shoes, not sandals. For info or questions, please contact Ted Kuklinski (tkuklinski@aol.com).

Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Discovering Seasonal Changes

Leaders: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022

Note - this event is fully booked (waitlist only)



Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' board members, as they explore what's emerging now that spring is in the air at Dolan Pond. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list is available since registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



Photo: Margaret Mallory

Sunday, April 24, 2022 9:30 am - Noon

Invasives Pull at Sawmill Brook

Sawmill Brook Conservation Area, 93 Vine Street, Chestnut Hill, MA



Sawmill Brook Conservation Area 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

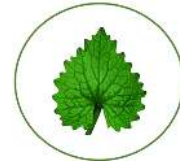


entrance and along Lagrange and Wayne, and patrol previously worked areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Francesco DiTullio and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Sunday, April 24, 2022 1 pm - 3 pm

Quinobequin Rd Invasives Pull

Radcliff Rd & Quinobequin, 24 Radcliff Rd, Waban, MA



We will control garlic mustard on the walking trail along the Charles River at Quinobequin Rd in Waban. Help keep the invaders out of this beautiful trail! Wear long pants and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will properly dispose as trash, not as yard waste.

Meet at intersection of Quinobequin Rd and Radcliff Rd, near the house at 24 Radcliff. Leaders are Ann Ritchie and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571.

Sunday, April 24, 2022 from 2 - 4 pm

Newton Aqueduct Hike

Leader: Henry Finch

Waban Starbucks, 474 Woodward Street, Waban

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Join Henry Finch for 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



Sunday, May 24, 2022 1-4 pm

Newton Earth Day Festival - Pollinator Garden

Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave

Bring your friends and family to Newton's own Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 24 from 1-4pm at the War Memorial Circle at Newton City Hall for live music, petting zoo, face painting, green technology showcase, an EV expo, nature-themed activities, snacks, and more!

POLLINATOR GARDEN: Find out more information from Newton's Pollinator Working Group about using native plants in your garden. Visit the demonstration pollinator garden at Newton City Hall (partially supported by a Newton Conservators grant) to see how you can help sustain our native bees, butterflies, and insects and the plants that sustain them. Look for their info table at the

festival!

GREEN TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE: Are you looking to lead a greener lifestyle? We have a terrific line-up of exhibitors ready to answer all your questions on waste reduction & composting, electric vehicles, solar power, insulation, heat pumps, gardening & pollination.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DISPLAY: Are you considering an Electric Vehicle? Check out the EV Display at the festival, where many of our Newton neighbors will be available to tell you more about their experience. This is the perfect time to ask an EV owner about charging stations, EV ranges, pricing, and other questions.

FOR KIDS: Our Earth Day Festival is jam packed with fun activities for kiddos of all ages. There will be a petting zoo, face painting, books, bingo, nature themed activities, ice cream, music and more!

ENTERTAINMENT: Enjoy a fun line-up of dancers, singers & performers, including the Dark Crushes.

This event is Sponsored by [GreenNewton](#).



Sunday, May 1, 2022 9 am - Noon
Cold Spring Park Invasives Pull
Cold Spring Park Beacon Street trailhead
1200 Beacon Street, Waban, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#)
(pre-registration encouraged)



Cold Spring 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 Beacon Street parking lot areas. Wear long pants and garden gloves. The invasive plant material will be properly disposed of as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Alan Noguee, 617-564-1664 and Katherine Howard, 617-721-

2571. While pre-registration is encouraged for NewtonSERVES, we will have forms if you wish to register that day on-site.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 9 am - Noon
Dolan Pond Invasives Pull and Cleanup
Dolan Pond, near 76 Webster Park, West
Newton, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#)
(pre-registration encouraged)

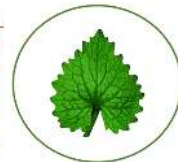


Come help us eradicate this soil-damaging invasive garlic mustard from this gem of a pocket park. We also continue to control the Japanese Knotweed; every year it



gets easier. We will also do some 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. While pre-registration is encouraged for NewtonSERVES, we will have forms if you wish to register that day on-site.

Sunday, May 1, 2022 1 pm - 4 pm
Houghton Garden Invasives Pull
Houghton Garden at MBTA tracks,
210 Suffolk Road, Chestnut Hill, MA
NewtonSERVES Project - Register [HERE](#)
(pre-registration encouraged)



Help tackle the garlic mustard and black swallow-wort near the entrance of Houghton Garden where it borders the T Track crossing to Webster Woods. Help keep these invaders out of beautiful Houghton Garden! Wear long pants tucked into socks, closed shoes, and garden gloves. Trash bags will be provided; the City will dispose properly as trash, not as yard waste. Leaders are Sally Baker and Katherine Howard, 617-721-2571. While pre-registration is encouraged for NewtonSERVES, we will have forms if you wish to register that day on-site.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 7 to 9 pm
Newton Conservators Annual Meeting on Zoom
Feature Presentation: Land of the Massachusetts
Sagamore Faries Gray & Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon
Program
Free Registration



The 61st annual dinner meeting of the Newton Conservators will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 4, 2022. The meeting will feature our annual election of officers and board as well as our annual awards ceremony. The featured speakers will be Sagamore Faries Gray and Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the [Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag](#).



[Click here for the program.](#) which also lists our awardees for this year.

The 61st annual meeting of the Newton Conservators has been moved from an in-person dinner meeting to a virtual Zoom meeting due to rapidly increasing wastewater COVID numbers and a desire to preserve the health and safety of our members, guests, and featured speakers. There will be no charge to attend the

Zoom meeting, but advance registration is required. *If you plan to have guests join you on their own devices, please know that each attendee will need their own registration reflecting their own email for Zoom to allow them to join the webinar.*

Please [click here to register](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

If you have previously purchased a ticket for the in-person dinner, you will receive an email from us offering you the option of either a full refund or converting your ticket to a tax-deductible donation or a refund.

The business meeting will start promptly at 7:00 PM and will be followed by our featured speakers. Our featured speakers are Sagamore Faries Gray and Tribal Elder Elizabeth Solomon of the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag. Their topic is “Newton: Land of the Massachusetts.”

Sagamore Gray will focus on the tribe’s long history and association with our region’s landscapes. He has worked with local historical societies in both Natick and Newton, has done field research to reveal the enduring traces that indigenous land uses and technology left on the land, and has offered numerous presentations on Massachusetts history.



PHOTO: DAN BRIELMANN

Tribal Elder Solomon will connect the tribe’s history to present policies and issues. She serves on many advisory boards, including for the Boston Harbor Islands’ Stone Living Lab, which develops collaborative approaches to managing climate change. She is committed to using her master’s degree in museum studies to bring to the forefront the voices of native communities.



PHOTO: MICHAEL RICE

We thank our generous sponsors who make the meeting possible:

- [Paddle Boston](#)
- [Lalor and Pat Burdick](#)
- [Crystal Lake Conservancy](#)
- [The Village Bank](#)
- [Lucy Caldwell-Stair](#)

Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 10-12:00 pm
[Changing Landscape of the Webster Woods](#)

Leader: BU Professor Richard Primack

Hammond Pond Parking Lot

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



Learn about how the landscape of the Hammond Woods has changed over the past

200 years. Some parts have hardly changed at all over the past century, and other parts are undergoing rapid changes. The focus will be on trees and forests, with many notable trees pointed out. Meet at the Hammond Pond parking lot, near the kiosk where the trail enters the woods. Trip Leader: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu)



Photo: Richard Primack

Sunday, May 8, 2022 from 8-11:00 am

Birding at Cold Spring Park

Leader: Pete Gilmore

Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022



This is an easy walk on flat woodland trails. We will look for resident birds as well as spring migrants. Beginners and children are welcome. Participants will meet near the turnaround at the end of the left side of the Beacon Street parking area. Pete Gilmore is an experienced birder, Newton Conservators and Brookline Bird Club board member. Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com)



Photo: Pete Gilmore

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Spring Warblers in Newton

Presenter: Pete Gilmore

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/343wZhS>



We will view the field marks (using photographs) and will listen to the vocalizations, both calls and songs, of 25 species of warblers that are in Cold Spring Park each May. The audio tapes are from the Macaulay Library of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, as are some of the photos. Most of these species are migrating through Newton to their nesting territories north of us. A few species nest in Cold Spring Park and can be experienced throughout the summer. A central theme will be to use both sight and sound to appreciate these little living jewels. Presented by Pete Gilmore, who serves on the boards of Newton Conservators and the Brookline Bird Club.



PHOTO: PETE GILMORE

Magnolia Warbler

Saturday, May 28, 2022 from 10-11:30 am

Kids - Nature Ecology Games**Leader: Barbara Bates****Riverside Park****Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022**

Learn about the life strategies of baby animals at Riverside Park by playing games focusing on camouflage, population dynamics, nurseries, and more. Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

**Saturday, June 11, 2022 from 10-11:30 am****Kids - Webster Woods Adventure****Leader: Barbara Bates & Sam Corbin****Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022**

Join Barbara Bates and Sam Corbin, Newton Conservators' Board members, in navigating the more common trails in Webster Woods while admiring rock piles, lichens, and hopefully Pink Lady Slippers! Open to children between five and nine years old accompanied by an adult. Registration limited to 12 children. A wait list will be available if registration is filled. Meeting location and directions will be mailed to all registrants before the walk. Please contact the walk leader for permission before bringing children beyond this age group. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

**Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 12:00 pm****Fern Walk at Saw Mill Brook****Leader: Don Lubin****Saw Mill Brook Conservation Area****Newton Conservators Spring Walk Series - 2022**

This conservation area runs along Saw Mill Brook. We will see woods and swamps and Roxbury puddingstone outcrops, and nearly a dozen ferns and a club-moss. Meet at the parking area off Vine Street near Wayne Road. Wear long pants and bug spray. Bring any native fern you would like Don to identify. Trip Leader: Don Lubin (617-964-4488) (don@NEfern.info)

Wednesday, June 15, 2022 7:00 pm - 8:15 pm

Newton's Street Trees: Past, Present, and Future

**Presenter: Marc Welch, City Forester
Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series - 2022**

Sign up: <https://bit.ly/3s3DCsv>



Trees growing along the roadways of Newton have been a part of the fabric of the community for over 100 years. How did these trees get here? What is their importance? What can we expect in the future? The City's street trees provide incredible benefits to the public but also require thoughtful care, planning and perspective. We will look at how the trees and their care have evolved over the years. We also will discuss ways to ensure these trees remain assets to the community.



Street Trees in Newton

Marc Welch is the City Forester and Deputy Commissioner of the Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department. He is a Massachusetts Qualified Tree Warden and Massachusetts Certified Arborist. Marc is entering his twentieth year managing the City's trees.

Co-sponsored by The Newton Tree Conservancy.

Newton Conservators Newsletter

Our Spring 2022 Newsletter is now available at <https://newtonconservators.org/newsletters>.



NEWSLETTER

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

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William Shaevel
Diane Tillotson
Willis Wang
Bruce Wenning

Rain Gardens are Beautiful and Beneficial

By Maria Rose, Environmental Engineer at City of Newton

Rain gardens are stormwater management systems designed to receive, infiltrate, and cleanse concentrated flows of stormwater. They collect polluted runoff from impervious surfaces (e.g., roofs, driveways, parking lots, and streets), allowing it to soak into the ground, where the plants, soil, and beneficial bugs filter out pollutants that are picked up by stormwater as it flows across the land. What pollutants you may ask? Many, including phosphorus, bacteria, and oil to name just a few!

It has been shown that the degradation of our streams and rivers increases with our built environment. Many studies have shown that stream ecosystems and water quality become degraded as impervious surfaces increase. When more than 10% of the land within a watershed is covered with impervious surfaces, streams are often impaired. When impervious cover exceeds 25%, severe habitat and water quality impairment tends to result (source: *Impacts of Impervious Cover on Aquatic Systems*, Center for Watershed Protection, March 2003). Installing rain gardens helps to offset the impacts of development.

There are several rain gardens here in the City of Newton. You can find them at Zervas Elementary School, Oak Hill Middle School, and soon near Crystal Lake.



PHOTO: GENE HARMOND, HARMOND DESIGN ASSOCIATES
Oak Hill Middle School roof runoff is piped to the rain garden, where the water slowly seeps into the ground. During large storm events, overflow is directed to the domed open grate.

use of plants, soil, and hydrologic processes to treat runoff in a way that mimics natural

Rain gardens planted with shrubs, grasses, and perennial plants can be a cost-effective and beautiful way to reduce runoff, improve the water quality in lakes, ponds, and streams, replenish aquifers and minimize soil erosion. Rain gardens also provide food and shelter for butterflies, songbirds, and other wildlife.

More complex rain gardens with drainage pipes and amended soils are often referred to as "bioretention." Both rain gardens and bioretention systems are types of Green Stormwater Infrastructure or more simply, **Green Infrastructure**. Green Infrastructure is the intentional

Continued on page 2

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- [Forests Changing Slowly and Quickly in Webster Woods](#)
- [Enjoy Nature...with webinars from Newton Conservators](#)
- [Invasive Team Update](#)
- [Spring 2022 Walks](#)
- [New Membership System: Little Green Light](#)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP

We would be very grateful for your continued support by joining Newton



**NEWTON
CONSERVATORS**

Conservators or 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 securely via our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/ways-to-give/>. 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 Houghton Garden, the Riverside Trails Working Group, Trails Fund, and others. As part of the donation process, you can specify specific funds. Thanks so much!

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)

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