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Levingston Cove: Improving Recreational Offerings, Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

By Luis Perez Demorizi, Director of Parks & Open Space, Parks, Recreation & Culture Department, City of Newton

Levingston Cove is one of a few public parks along the shores of Crystal Lake. The crescent-shaped, linear park covers roughly one-half of an acre. It sits at the intersection of Lake Avenue and Lakewood Road and Lakewood Road and spans north a few hundred feet to the intersection of Lake Avenue and Berwick Road in Newton Highlands. To the east, the park is bounded by Crystal Lake (which is a Great Pond under the jurisdiction of the state), and it rises to Lake Avenue on the west.

Though small, Levingston Cove is bustling with passive and active recreation. The park also serves as habitat for a variety of wildlife. Blue herons, cormorants, painted turtles, and many other animals supported by the lake can be seen from its shoreline. People enjoy fishing from the fishing wall, and taking in the scenic views. The park also provides opportunities for sitting, nature study, sunbathing, picnicking, and walking.

The existing landscape at Levingston Cove is grassy, bare, and severely damaged by compaction and erosion. The park is home

to many mature trees, including several oaks and an iconic American Elm. The shrub buffer at the shoreline is sparse. Some invasive plant species have been identified at the park, including glossy buckthorn and purple loosestrife. Circulation through the park occurs along a y-shaped network of pathways that run north-south with portions

of the pathway running behind a large concrete retaining wall dating back to the 1930s. The wall does not adequately support the recreational fishing it is most popularly known for. The park pathways and entrances also are not clearly defined, which encourages users to create new access points at will. The current pathways are often muddy from the adjacent eroding landscape and failing retaining walls.

As a result of its popularity, topography, undefined circulation, and limited public open space around the lake, Levingston Cove has suffered significant degradation and can no longer sustain use. Previous attempts to address erosion are failing; recreational fishing space is narrow; and the barren landscape falls far short of its potential. In short, ecological



Existing conditions aerial photograph



View of existing fishing wall and severely degraded landscape facing north



View of eroded pathway and degraded slopes facing south near the Lakewood Road entrance



View of eroded pathway and vegetated buffer facing south near the Lakewood Road entrance

restoration and careful consideration to expanding recreational fishing at Levingston Cove are well overdue.

Making plans to improve this park, however, came with the challenges raised in the following questions.

1. How can enhancements and improvements be designed and built to ensure accessibility throughout the park, including ADA compliance for fishing, viewing areas, and pathways?
2. How can enhancements and improvements be designed and built to protect and expand the park's ecological function while limiting disturbance to existing vegetated buffer and mature trees?
3. How do we best follow the regulations required for a Great Pond? Work within the banks of a great pond requires many environmental reviews and permitting by the local conservation commission, various branches of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and in some cases, review by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE).

While answering those questions about this shoreline park, the city engaged the community on an overall vision for this space. In 2018 and 2019, the city held multiple community meetings to help establish this vision for the park. The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department (formerly known as Parks and Recreation) brought the concept to the Parks & Recreation Commission to review the proposed park program and conceptual design. Ultimately, the commission voted to approve the preferred plan, which includes the following improvements:

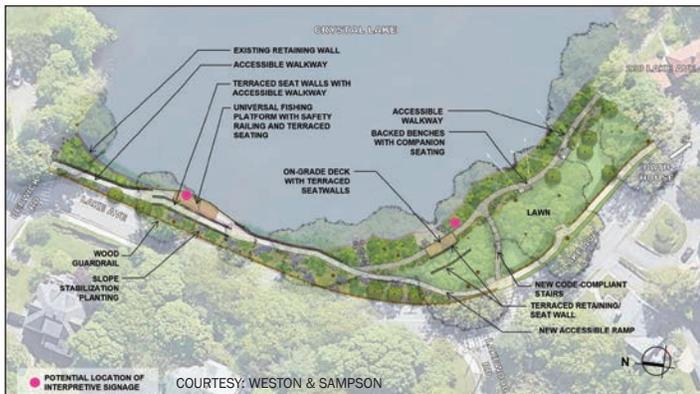
- an accessible cantilevered fishing platform
- accessible pathways, ramps, and benches
- stairs to help navigate the steep slope
- a system of terraced walls to create seating opportunities and to combat erosion on the steep slopes
- formalized park entrances and an improved pathway network that funnel pedestrian access into and through the park
- reinforcing degraded and eroded shoreline at the water's edge
- capturing on-site stormwater to help reduce runoff from the park into the lake

- densely planting the severely degraded areas to increase wildlife habitat and curtail erosion



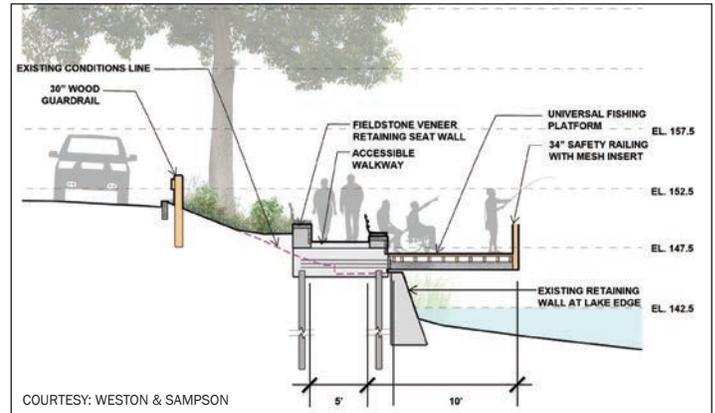
Plan View of preferred plan approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission in May of 2019

After the commission approved the project, the next steps in the design process were to complete a full topographic survey and to develop the conceptual plans into permissible, shovel-ready plans under local and state regulations. In addition, geotechnical borings were performed to confirm that the fishing platform can be anchored on land to avoid impacting the lakebed with concrete deck piers. Test pits were dug at the locations of rain gardens proposed to help control runoff from the street.

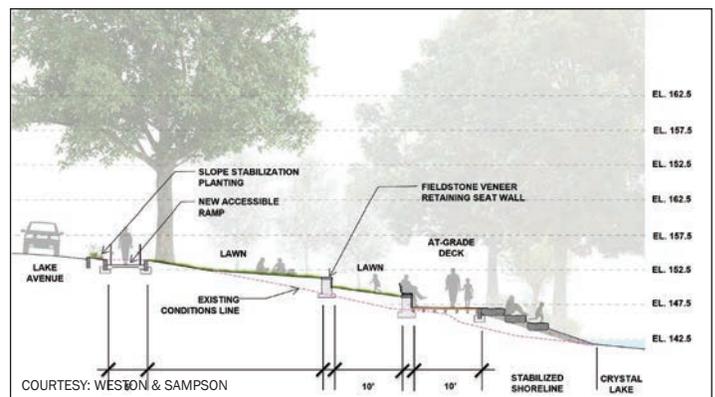


Plan View of refined adjustment to preferred plan June 2021

As the plan continued to evolve, minor changes needed to be made. The fishing platform was shifted north to avoid ledge and to minimize impacts to the existing trees growing on the slope behind it. The guardrail height at the fishing platform was modified to achieve universal accessibility for recreational fishing. The gaps between the deck planks were widened to increase light penetration to the shoreline below. And the materials for the water's edge were revised from river stone to stacked granite blocks. Many of these changes emerged from continued involvement by advocacy groups and other community members interested in the project.



Cross-section at proposed fishing platform



Cross-section at water access point

From an ecological perspective, the Levingston Cove project increases biodiversity in both plant and wildlife species by removing invasive plants and adding native trees, shrubs, and perennials. The project calls for seven trees from four different species, 818 shrubs, perennials and grasses spread across 28 species, and 492 aquatic plugs from six species to be planted. (For a list of the planting plan schedule see the online version of this newsletter at NewtonConservators.org/newsletters).

In the end, the plans to improve Louise Levingston Cove have received substantial support from the community. Once implemented, the restored shoreline park will be home to many visitors, including pollinators, birds, aquatic wildlife, and people. The city advertised the improvements project for a public construction bid. The contract has been awarded to the lowest, responsive, and responsible bidder, and the project is expected to be completed by the summer of 2023. ♦



Hooded Mergansers at Crystal Lake

Levingston Cove Planting Plan Schedule

PLANT SCHEDULE						
TREES						
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
COA	3	CORNUS ALTERNIFOLIA	PAGODA DOGWOOD	#5	CONTAINER	
CC	2	CARPINUS CAROLINIANA	IRONWOOD	2"-2.5" CAL.	B&B	
BN	1	BETULA NIGRA	RIVER BIRCH	12-14' HEIGHT	B&B	MULTI-TRUNK
QR	1	QUERCUS RUBRA	RED OAK	2"-2.5" CAL.	B&B	FALL DIG HAZARD
TOTAL	7					
SHRUBS AND VINES						
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
AM	44	ARONIA MELANOCARPA 'LOW SCAPE MOUND'	BLACK CHOKEBERRY	#3	CONTAINER	
CO	3	CEPHALANTHUS OCCIDENTALIS	BUTTON BUSH	#3	CONTAINER	
CA	17	CLETHRA ALNIFOLIA 'HUMMINGBIRD'	SWEET PEPPERBUSH	#3	CONTAINER	
CR	51	CORNUS RACEMOSA 'SLAVINIF'	DWARF GRAY DOGWOOD	#3	CONTAINER	
IG	19	ILEX GLABRA	INKBERRY	#3	CONTAINER	
IVB	28	ILEX VERTICILLATA 'NANA' RED SPRITE	WINTERBERRY HOLLY	#3	CONTAINER	FEMALE CULTIVAR
IMM	22	ILEX VERTICILLATA 'MR. POPPINS'	WINTERBERRY HOLLY	#3	CONTAINER	MALE CULTIVAR
MG	7	MYRICA GALE	SWEETGALE	#3	CONTAINER	
PT	9	PARTHENOCISSUS TRICUSPIDATA	BOSTON IVY	#2	CONTAINER	
RA	107	RHUS AROMATICA 'GRO-LOW'	AROMATIC SUMAC	#3	CONTAINER	
VA	84	VACCINIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM	LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY	#2	CONTAINER	
TOTAL	391					
FERNS, GRASSES, RUSHES AND SEDGES						
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
CAC	60	CAREX CRINATA	FRINGED SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
CL	78	CAREX LURIDA	SALLOW SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
CP	46	CAREX PENNSYLVANICA	PENNSYLVANIA SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
CS	78	CAREX STRICTA	TUSSOCK SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
DC	78	DESCHAMPSIA CESPITOSA	TUFTED HAIR GRASS	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
OS	18	ONOCLEA SENSIBILIS	SENSITIVE FERN	2"	PLUG	SPACE 18" O.C.
PV	20	PANICUM VIRGATUM	SWITCHGRASS	2"	PLUG	SPACE 18" O.C.
SA	49	SISYRINCHIUM ANGUSTIFOLIUM	BLUE-EYED GRASS	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
TOTAL	427					
AQUATIC PLANTING						
CODE	QTY	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	NOTES
CCO	55	CAREX COMOSA	BEARDED SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 18" O.C.
CS-A	126	CAREX STRICTA	TUSSOCK SEDGE	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
PEV	126	PELTANDRA VIRGINICA	ARROW ARUM	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
PC	112	PONTERDERIA CORDATA	PICKERALWEED	2"	PLUG	SPACE 12" O.C.
SP	25	SCHOENOPLECTUS PUNGENS	THREE-SQUARE BULLRUSH	2"	PLUG	SPACE 24" O.C.
SPA	48	SPARGANIUM AMERICANUM	AMERICAN BUR-REED	2"	PLUG	SPACE 18" O.C.
TOTAL	492					

COURTESY: WESTON & SAMPSON, INC.



A Celebration of Monarch Butterflies in Newton

What's the big deal about a small creature like the monarch butterfly? It may have something to do with the monarch being the favorite butterfly of most people and that the migrating population was recently declared "endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (iucn.org).

Monarchs (*Danaus plexippus*) are unique among New England butterflies in that they migrate such long distances. Those in the last brood of the season do not mate but instead attempt an amazing but perilous journey of many thousands of miles to a few scant areas high up in the oyamel fir (*Abies religiosa*) forested mountains of central Mexico, a place they have never seen, where they huddle and spend the winter. The following spring, they begin a trip making it as far north as Texas and mate. In a relay race, their children and grandchildren fly farther north — mate and die — until a few of the earliest ones arrive in Massachusetts around the end of May and in greater numbers in early July.

The eastern population of monarchs dropped by 84% from 1996 to 2014 due to several factors, while the western population fell almost to the point of extinction (through last year). Monarchs depend on their host plant — native milkweeds — on which to lay their eggs and for food for their larvae. No milkweed — no monarchs! Even a small patch of native milkweed can be helpful to migrating monarchs. And their beautiful flowers provide nectar not only to butterflies but to all sorts of other pollinator insects. It's important to plant milkweed native to the local area. In Newton these include common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), or butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), all beautiful in their own way.



PHOTO: MARGARET MALLORY

Monarch butterfly in Wellington Park

The use of pesticides in lawn treatments and mosquito spraying can be deadly to both caterpillars and butterflies. Pesticide use in big agriculture has also killed off milkweed in the important migratory routes used by monarchs. And the invasive black swallow-wort (*Cynanchum louiseae*) tricks monarchs into laying eggs on their leaves, which the larvae don't identify as food and die. To make matters worse, there is a deadly parasite OE (*Ophryocystis elektroscirrha*) whose spores cause monarch eggs to fail to emerge or not develop fully.

Climate change can also have an impact on migrating populations. Just imagine flocks of migrating monarchs getting caught up in a hurricane, or a severe winter storm hitting the overwintering sites wiping out large segments of the monarch population. Add to that illegal logging pressure and deforestation on the oyamel trees in Mexico — local farmer activists have even been killed protecting the trees.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Leaves and seed pods of black swallow-wort

Monarchs have been of particular concern to Newton Conservators over the past several years with workshops, articles, a webinar, milkweed seed giveaways, and as a feature in our booths at fairs and village days. In 2021, our inaugural Monarch Festival served to bring together a lot of monarch enthusiasts in Newton for the first time — in particular, those who grew milkweed, had established monarch waystations, or raised monarchs

responsibly (from locally found eggs, outdoors, and in small numbers.)



PHOTOS: TED KUKLINSKI



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Volunteer monarch raisers Kim Devoe, Kate Kauch, and Brenda Walker Homan

The Second Annual Monarch

Festival, however, far exceeded expectations when over two hundred people showed up at Wellington Park in West Newton on a beautifully sunny Saturday morning this mid-September — a peak time for monarch migration through Newton. This year, in addition to Newton Conservators, the festival was cosponsored by the Newton Parks, Recreation, & Culture Department and the Friends of Wellington Park (wellingtonpark.org) to help raise awareness of the monarchs' plight and what steps can be taken locally to help. Appropriately, the festival activities were adjacent to the "Monarch Butterfly Garden" at Wellington Park.

monarchs' perilous journey from Newton to Mexico and back amid the sparsity of suitable pollinator and milkweed plants.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Parents and children create butterfly art at the festival.

Kids seem to have a natural affinity for butterflies. There were five tables worth of kid's butterfly activities and arts and crafts under the supervision of Channon Ames from

Newton Parks, Recreation, and Culture. With scissors, yarn, crayons, colorful markers, glue, paper, and games, children and parents created their own butterfly art and learned much about the monarch's life cycle from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Newton Conservator director and naturalist Barbara Bates directs a game illustrating the migration of monarch butterflies.

Mark Feldhusen, a member of the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission and Friends of Wellington Park,

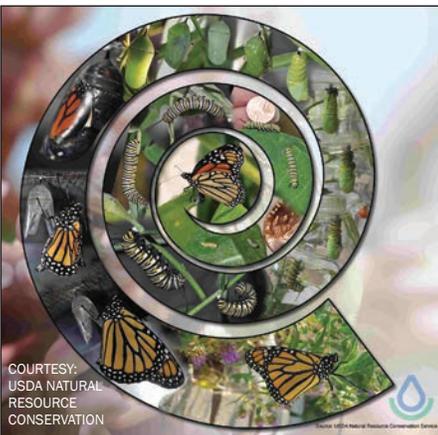


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY
Mark Feldhusen of Friends of Wellington Park leads a tour of a pollinator garden.

led a tour of the park's Monarch Butterfly Garden, a special 4' x 50' sunny plot utilizing previously unused space between a paved walkway and the fence of the adjacent

tennis court. The garden started ten years ago with a few milkweed plants, but Mark's efforts now feature multiple native milkweeds as well as a beautiful variety of other flowering plants. It lives up to its designation as an official monarch waystation (one of seven in Newton) with visiting butterflies, bees, and other pollinators throughout the summer and early fall.

Ann Dorfman, a certified master gardener, has been overseeing gardening volunteer and cleanup programs at Wellington Park for over two decades. She led a tour of Wellington Park's extensive original garden along the park border on Kilburn Road that features colorful flowering plants and shrubs throughout the entire season.



COURTESY: USDA NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION
Life cycle of a monarch butterfly from egg through caterpillar, chrysalis, and adult

Anna Sulewski, a student at Newton North explained the life cycle of the monarch with a magical puppet that could transform from a caterpillar to a chrysalis and finally to a butterfly. And there was a very popular "Monarch Migration Game" organized by Barbara Bates,

board member and co-leader of our Conservators' kids walks. Children drew colorful flowers and milkweed plants with chalk, using the adjacent basketball court as their canvas, before jumping from one to another, simulating the

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Monarch-savvy local volunteers provided free native milkweed plants, seed packets, and pods from their gardens; included were instructions on planting and growing milkweed as well as raising monarchs from local eggs. Marcia Cooper brought Green Newton's monarch decorated green bicycle, and city councilors Alicia Bowman, Andreae Downs, Pam Wright, and Bill Humphrey were also in attendance.



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Councilors Pam Wright, Alicia Bowman, Bill Humphrey, and Andrea Downs

One of the goals for the festival was to be able to show monarchs at all life stages. Everyone was fascinated by the tiny late-season egg discovered by one of the children on the underside of a milkweed leaf in the monarch garden.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF TED KUKLINSKI

Audrey Benevento helps Ted Kuklinski with release of a monarch butterfly.

brought two butterflies that had emerged before the festival and displayed them in a mesh enclosure for all to inspect up close. Before release, a crowd gathered around to watch as a small round sticker with a coded number was attached to one of the monarch's wings to help track its migration.



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Butterfly tag



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Butterfly release into monarch garden

The tags were provided by the Monarch Watch Organization (monarchwatch.org), which has been tracking monarchs by tagging for 30 years.

Highlights of the event were the butterfly releases at the festival. The monarchs were named by child volunteers who reached into the enclosure where a monarch would readily climb onto their finger. One of the butterflies took its first flight of freedom to the top of a nearby tree to the cheers of the crowd. The second was content to be placed on one of the blooming flowers in the monarch garden before it eventually flew off on the first leg of its Mexican adventure.

What can you do to help the monarchs? Plant native milkweed and other native flowering species, don't use pesticides, report sightings, be a climate advocate, and spread the word. You can find further resources on the Newton Conservators' monarchs & milkweed web page (newtonconservators.org/monarchs-milkweed). Be sure to join us in September 2023 for the Third Annual Newton Monarch Festival. ♦

✿ Ted Kuklinski

Marty Sender Trail and Riverside Greenway Updates

By Ted Chapman, Riverside Greenway Working Group, Project Manager

The Marty Sender Greenway runs from Commonwealth Avenue along the Charles River to “The Cove” in Auburndale Park, and then to the Waltham Border and the Flowed Meadow trails. A part of the Blue Heron Trail, the greenway is one of the most heavily used and accessible recreational trails in Newton. This 3,370-foot-long trail is getting a face lift to improve accessibility and deal with seasonal flooding issues. The renovation is a 3-part process orchestrated by the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

- Phase 1 (0.2 miles) from the Club House at the Cove to the pump house near the Chaske Avenue entrance was completed this spring using the City of Newton’s Community Development Block Grant funding. The source of CDBG funds is an annual grant from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to “provide decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.” Newton uses part of its block grant to improve accessibility on projects approved by the Commission on Disability.

The existing trail was resurfaced to, not only meet, but to exceed ADA requirements — highly visible, white stabilized-stone dust (stone dust with a psyllium binder) with tactile borders of river rock improves the safety for visually impaired users. This treatment was also extended to improve access to the four benches overlooking the river.

- Phase 2 (0.25 miles) will extend from the trailhead on Commonwealth Avenue to the pump house. Funding is from a MassTrails grant (\$530,000), with Newton Conservators and the non-profit Solomon Foundation contributing matching funds of \$10,000 each. The restoration will continue the resurfacing treatment in Part 1 and will highlight a 500-foot-long boardwalk over a frequently

flooded section at the base of Lyons Field. The soil under this structure will be regraded to allow for significant wetland restoration, including the introduction of native wetland plants and the removal of invasive species. The final design work is in process, with construction work scheduled for the Spring of 2023.

- Phase 3 from The Cove to the Waltham border will be next. Preliminary planning is underway.

The Spring of 2023 will be a momentous time for other components of the Riverside Greenway.



1. The pedestrian bridge at the Lasell boathouse between Pigeon Hill Park and the DCR trail around the MWRA to Recreation Road and Riverside Park site is scheduled for replacement by MassDOT at a cost of \$3.7 million.

2. The Commonwealth Avenue Bridge over the Charles will be replaced with the inclusion of a shared-use path connecting to Norumbega Road and future improvements along Rt. 30 in Weston. This MassDOT bridge replacement will take two to three years to complete at a cost of \$21.8 million.

3. This new shared-use path will connect directly to the new Commonwealth Avenue Greenway from the new roundabout at Auburn Street to Lyons Field. Two lanes of the existing Commonwealth Avenue configuration will be converted to separated bike and pedestrian paths that will join the Marty Sender Path at Lyons Field. The 25% design of this segment was paid for by the City of Newton and will be built by MassDOT at a cost of \$7.7 million, with construction to start in 2023.

4. These million-dollar sums are dwarfed by the Newton Weston bridge replacement at I-90/I-95, a four-year, \$351 million project to start in 2023. The construction of the Mass Pike (I-90) in the 1960s cut off the Pigeon Hill neighborhood from the Charles River. The Pigeon Hill Road is an historic landmark that connected the

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Auburndale neighborhood of Pigeon Hill to the parkland and extensive recreational facilities along the Charles River that existed in the later 19th and first half of the 20th centuries. That roadbed passes under I-90; the Newton-Weston I-90 Bridge Project is an opportunity to reconnect the Pigeon Hill neighborhood to the Pigeon Hill Park with a shared-use trail.

The Riverside Greenway Working Group (RGWG) completed a Pigeon Hill Trail 25% design using Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines — (maximum grade 8.33%) in June 2020. MassDOT will use a design-build contract to complete I-90 Bridge project providing an opportunity to include the Pigeon Hill Trail (est. \$700,000) in the scope of the larger project. Newton’s state legislative contingent, Mayor Ruthanne Fuller, the Newton City Council, bike-pedestrian advocates, and Pigeon Hill neighbors have written letters to the Secretary of MassDOT Jamey Tesler and DCR Commissioner Doug Rice requesting the design-build team be given explicit permission and funding to build the Pigeon Hill Trail.

This united voice of advocacy has a high potential to succeed because the design-build approach being used by Mass DOT allows the already-approved 25% design to be modified by the engineering firm chosen to complete

the final design and coordinate construction with the aim of increasing efficiency, reducing costs, and incorporating community benefits. The Somerville Community Path included in the MBTA Green Line extension is an example of a project added based on its significant community benefits.

The remaining components of the Riverside Greenway extending from Riverside Park to the Riverside MBTA station, the Leo J. Martin golf/cross-country facilities, Lower Falls, and beyond are part of a \$3 million package to be funded by Mark Development. Mark Development just informed the community that their work on Riverside is on hold, given the challenge of finding funding in the current economic environment. When or if work on Riverside will continue is to be determined.

In the interim, the Riverside Greenway Working Group, with its fiscal sponsor The Newton Conservators, will pursue MassTrails Funding to move these remaining projects forward in coordination with MassDOT, DCR, and the City of Newton. With more than \$380 million dollars being spent on transportation improvements near the banks of the Charles River in Newton, the time is right to complete the vision of Riverside Greenway articulated in the 1975 Charles River Pathway Plan. ♦

Final Webinar of the Fall/Winter 2022 Series

Look for more webinars in the spring!

You may register for the program using the link below or by going to the event listing at newtonconservators.org. You will receive an email confirmation after you have registered.



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES

Squirrel tracks in deep snow

Thursday, January 12 ... Reading the Stories Told by Animal Tracks and Signs

Many animals are secretive, avoiding people and finding food at night. Snow and mud provide a canvas for these animals' tracks and enable us to see who has been out and, often, what they were doing. Join Newton Conservators' Barbara Bates to learn what tracks and animal signs you can find in Newton's open spaces as well as in your own back yard.

Barbara is a teacher, naturalist and Newton Conservators' board member.

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

Support the Newton Conservators through your IRA



Individuals 70½ and older can make a tax-free gift to the Newton Conservators directly from their IRA. Please consider a gift to the Conservators from your 2022 or 2023 IRA distributions. The benefits to you include the reduction in income subject to tax, even if you don't itemize, and the amount donated counts toward the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

The benefits to the Conservators are immense and allow for us to continue to help preserve open space in Newton. Ask your IRA holder for a simple transfer letter or form. The Newton Conservators is a recognized 501(c)(3) organization.

— Thank you.

Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton, MA 02459



Time to Renew Your Membership!!

We hope you will continue to support the Newton Conservators' efforts to protect, enhance and expand open space in Newton by renewing your membership for 2023. Perhaps consider renewing at a higher level, adding a new donation, or purchasing a gift membership for someone else who is passionate about open space. You can fill out the form below and send to us at Newton Conservators, P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Thank you.



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR JOIN TODAY!

YES, count me in! I want to be a nature steward and help Newton Conservators protect and preserve the natural areas in our community.

Please renew/accept my tax-deductible membership at the level checked below:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Directors' Circle | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Family Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$125 Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Sustaining Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Contribution \$ _____ |

**Want to make an even bigger impact?
Help us support these special funds:**

Woodcock Meadow \$ _____ Trails Fund \$ _____
Ordway Endowment Fund \$ _____
Land Stewardship Areas \$ _____ Other \$ _____

I would like to volunteer!

Memberships run for the calendar year. All new members receive *Walking Trails in Newton's Parks and Conservation Lands*.

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Please make checks payable to Newton Conservators, Inc. and send to P.O. Box 590011, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or visit <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/> to renew or join online. Consider including Newton Conservators in your estate planning. Contact us at president@NewtonConservators.org.

Yes, I agree to receive emails from the Conservators!
I'd like the quarterly newsletter...
 via US mail via email Both

MISSION

Newton Conservators, Inc.

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.

Newton Conservators was formed as a not-for-profit organization 61 years ago in June 1961.

The Newton Conservators' Newsletter® is published four times each year by the Newton Conservators, Inc., in June, September, December, and March. Deadlines for these issues are the second Friday of the month before the issue is published.

We welcome material related to our mission from any source. Send proposed articles or letters by email in MS Word or rich text format to articles@newtonconservators.org. Digitized photographs, maps, and diagrams are also welcome.

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Thanks to the following contributors to this edition of the Newsletter: Ted Chapman, Luis Perez Demorizi, Katherine Howard, Ted Kuklinski, and Beth Wilkinson.



► Invasives Update ◀

The Newton Conservators' invasives team continues occasional field work over the winter, which is a good time to take down bittersweet vines and tackle woody shrubs. We also will use this time to review our activities and plan for future efforts. If you'd like to help and be added to our invasives email list, please let us know via email to invasives@newtonconservators.org.



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Do You Use Amazon for Purchases for your Home or Business?

As explained in past newsletters, Amazon Smile is a program through which Amazon donates 0.5% of most purchases (yes, \$5 of every \$1000) to a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization of your choice (the Newton Conservators, we hope!).



How does one use Amazon Smile? Instead of going to Amazon.com, you go to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you will be asked to choose a nonprofit organization to receive the bonus donation. Enter "Newton Conservators," and you are ready to go. The rest of your shopping proceeds exactly the same as if you had logged in to Amazon.com initially.

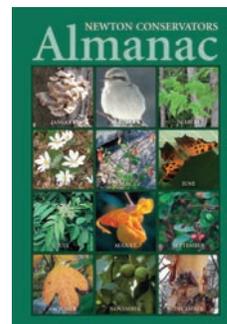
Even with relatively few members using the program so far, the rewards have grown. For the first quarter we participated in 2014, we received \$22.32. In 2018, we received \$171.04, and it has now grown to \$100 per quarter.

If you have any further questions about the program, check the FAQ page:
<https://smile.amazon.com/about>.

Winter's here. Take a hike!

Shop online at newtonconservators.org/publications/ to purchase Newton Conservators' publications. The Almanac is \$19.95 + shipping, and the Trail Guide is \$8.95 + shipping.

- Members receive a discount from these prices when purchasing online.
- New members receive a trail guide free with their first membership.





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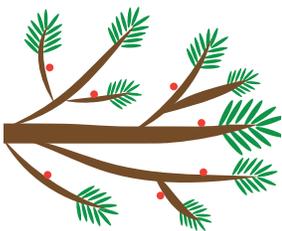
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NEWSLETTER

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

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Grasshopper Sparrow
photo by Haynes Miller

Go Green! ...and all the other colors of the rainbow. You can view this newsletter at newtonconservators.org/newsletters. To elect not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, email us at membership@newtonconservators.org.