



NEWTON CONSERVATORS

SUMMER ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

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

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SUMMER 2023

2023-24 Officers, Directors and Advisors

Officers

Alice Ingerson, *President*
Nyssa Patten, *Vice President*
Michael Clarke, *Secretary*
Katherine Howard, *Treasurer*
Bill Hagar, *Past Co-President*
Chris Hepburn, *Past Co-President*

Board of Directors

David Backer
Peter Barrer
Barbara Bates
Dan Brody
Bonnie Carter
Samantha Corbin
Margaret Doris
Henry Finch
Maurice Gilmore
Daniel Green
Ted Kuklinski
Ken Mallory
George Mansfield
Nyssa Patten
Larry Smith
Beth Wilkinson

Advisors

AnnaMaria Abernathy
Margaret Albright
Lisle Baker
Lee Breckenridge
Lalor Burdick
Michael Collora
Ann Dorfman
Bart Hague
Alison Leary
William Leitch
Don Lubin
Brooks Mathewson
Eric Olson
Richard Primack
Eric Reenstierna
Jon Regosin
Patricia Robinson
Jane Sender
William Shaevel
Diane Tillotson
Willis Wang
Bruce Wenning

Deer Park in Webster Woods

The former "Deer Park" in Webster Conservation Area is now open to

the public. A half-mile trail loops around the property. Access points are on Hammond Pond Parkway (just north of the MBTA

tracks) and from the dirt road on the western side of Houghton Garden Conservation Area.



Entrance from east side; the small unlocked gate at right leads into the Deer Park.

Parking is prohibited on the east side of the parkway. The nearest parking is on the opposite side of the parkway, 300 yards north near Beacon Street. Use caution crossing the parkway. Access to the Deer Park is easier from the east side, from the dirt road that extends south from Suffolk Road on the west side of Houghton Garden.

You can also reach this dirt road by taking an easy half-mile walk from the DCR

Hammond Pond Trail Parking. Walk on the Blue Trail next to the pond until it turns left just before the MBTA tracks. Continue straight across the tracks, walk past the entrance to Houghton Garden, and turn left before the chain link fence.

If you enter from the east side, go straight through the gate in the old Deer Park fence. The trail that goes to the left, around the fence, is a rough route adjacent to the MBTA tracks. It leads to Hammond Pond Parkway and doesn't offer access to the Deer Park.



Ira Wallach memorial plaque

is named in memory of Ira Wallach, who was a member of the Conservation Commission for 28 years and its chair for 23 years.

The Deer Park trail is marked with white blazes. It forks in several places. The trail

Continued on page 2

History

The Deer Park land was bought by Edwin and Jane Webster in the late 1800s. Jane, a noted conservationist, introduced deer to their estate. The Websters later donated much of their land to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for preservation as a conservation area. The donated land is now part of the DCR Hammond Pond Reservation. (A fanciful history of the area appears on the Conservators' website and in the 2020 winter newsletter as "A Letter from Edwin Webster." <https://newtonconservators.org/webster-letter/>)

In 1968, the City of Newton acquired a large parcel of land from the Webster estate by a "friendly" eminent domain taking. In a friendly taking, the property owner wishes to sell to the government, but needs to have the government use its eminent domain power to eliminate title problems or other legal issues.



1970 dedication plaque

the 1970 dedication of the reservation. This area was later combined with land acquired in 1974 and 2019 to form the current Webster Conservation Area.

This land, including the Deer Park, was named the Newton Webster Reservation in honor of the family. A plaque near the Hammond Pond Parkway entrance to the Deer Park commemorates

The Deer Park was eventually surrounded by a chain link



An example of fence damage in Deer Park

By 2014, the deer were gone, and the fence was in rough shape. With the deer no longer taking care of property maintenance, the area became overgrown with vines and brush. Prior to creating the trail loop and opening the parcel



Goat herd helps clear oriental bittersweet.

bittersweet, so the Conservation Commission contracted heavy mowers and bush cutters. Now, routine mowing is helping to reestablish and maintain the meadow. ♦

— Dan Brody



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