

..... Invasives Team Update



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Black Swallow-wort



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Japanese Knotweed



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Garlic Mustard



PHOTO: KATHERINE HOWARD

Multiflora Rose



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Tree of Heaven

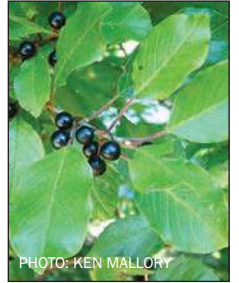


PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Glossy Buckthorn

The Newton Conservators' Invasives Team conducts invasive plant removal sessions throughout much of the year. We work in many of Newton's parks and conservation areas. The City of Newton and the state (Department of Conservation and Recreation) support us administratively and with debris removal.

Invasive non-native plants take over large areas quickly and disrupt the local ecosystems and food chains of plants, insects, birds, and other animals, harming biodiversity. Human activity caused this problem, and our intervention is needed to prevent the invasives from taking over. Our efforts make room for threatened native species, and we also add new native plantings in selected areas.

You can help by joining our efforts, or just by learning to identify the plants in your own yard and favorite areas. Newton Conservators' website section on invasive plants includes photos and tips for identification and management: <https://newtonconservators.org/invasive-plants/>

Our season starts in late winter with removal of bittersweet vines (which girdle and take down trees), buckthorn (which forms thickets and shades out natives), and large shrubs like multiflora rose, bush honeysuckle, and burning bush. By late April, it's time for garlic mustard, the easiest of all the invasives to control. On NewtonSERVES day, Sunday May 5, there will be at least three garlic mustard work sessions. In the summer we work to keep black swallow-wort (fatal to monarch butterflies) out of our parks, and we work to dig, cut, and generally discourage Japanese knotweed.

The open spaces we work in include Cold Spring Park, Hemlock Gorge, Quinobequin Road, Houghton Garden, Heartbreak Hill Park, Dolan Pond, Blue Heron Bridge, Webster Woods, Sawmill Brook, Upper Falls Greenway, Riverside Park, Pony Truss Trail, Hammond Pond, Crystal Lake, Nahanton Park, and Woodcock Meadow. We also work in the three Conservators-owned properties: Dexter Road, Awtrey Dell, and Ordway Park.

You are welcome to join in these efforts. The sessions will be published as Events on our website; and if you would like to receive notices and updates about our plans, you can get on our invasives email group list by emailing Invasives@newtonconservators.org. There is no obligation, and you can come to as many or as few of the sessions as you like. Thank you! ♦

🌿 Katherine Howard

MISSION Newton Conservators, Inc.

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 63 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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