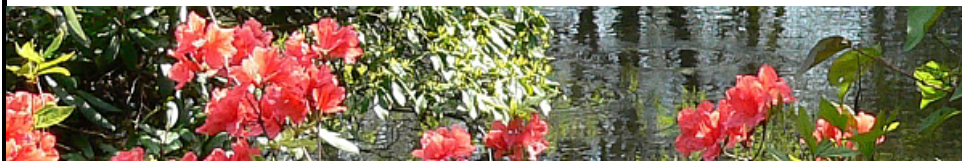




Newton Conservators E-Bulletin Tuesday, March 12, 2024

... preserving open space and connecting
people to nature since 1961



Spring is Almost Here!

What a short winter we have had this year! Perhaps the groundhog was actually right this year in its prediction of an earlier spring. Even crocuses have been spotted. Spring officially kicks in in only one week on Tuesday, March 19 at 11:06 pm. The date is a little earlier due to it being a leap year.

As usual, Newton Conservators has a great lineup of free events for the spring, including webinars, walks, invasive pulls, and other events! Check these Conservators events, and a few others we thought would be of interest below!



This **Thursday, March 14th**, is the kickoff of our free Spring Webinar Series with a talk on "**Creating Landscapes for Bird Diversity**" by Grow Native Massachusetts' founder **Claudia Thomson**. If you have been curious about the sport of **Orienteering**, we are having two free clinics on **Saturday, April 6**, in cooperation with Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture in Auburndale Park with Channon Ames. Then, on **Thursday, April 11th**, we'll have our second webinar on **Coexisting with Coyotes in the Suburban Communities** with MassWildlife's Furbearer Biologist **Dave Wattles** (who you may have seen in today's Boston Globe). Sunday, April 14th, you will find us at the **Vernal Pool** in Nahant Park on a **BioBlitz** with **Jon Regosin**. There are plenty more events after that!

The [Spring Issue of the Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is now available on our website and should be in your mailbox soon if you elect to get the printed edition.

Our updated volunteer web page lists current opportunities to help with walks, conservation restrictions, invasive plants, biodiversity, and community events. To volunteer for any of these, or talk to us about sharing skills or interests we haven't already listed, please check out <https://newtonconservators.org/volunteer/>

Hope to see you out and about in Newton's open spaces or at one of our many free events this spring. Enjoy the later sunsets and don't miss the partial solar eclipse in Newton next month on the afternoon of Monday, April 8th!

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 7:00 pm
A Decade of Tending Greater Boston Prison Yards
Speaker: Erika Rumbley
On Belonging in Outdoor Spaces Series
Register: <https://www.onbelongingoutdoors.org/erikarumbley>

Erika Rumbley, Co-Founder and Director of The New Garden Society will speak about her work training incarcerated students in the art and science of plants. For over a decade, Erika has gardened alongside students in Greater Boston prison yards. Erika also serves as the Director of Horticulture at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, where she leads a team in caring for the central atrium garden. This series is hosted by Farrington Nature Linc, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, The Walden Woods Project, Mass Audubon, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, and Codman Community Farms.

**Thursday, March 14, 2024,
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Creating Landscapes for Bird
Diversity**



**Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series
Speaker: Claudia Thomson, Founder Grow Native
Massachusetts**

Info: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/creating-landscapes-for-bird-diversity/>

Sign Up: bit.ly/49wvQM8

Our landscapes have a tremendous impact on bird diversity, and with so many native bird populations in steep decline, understanding their needs is more important than ever. With her urban garden as a case study, Claudia will explore the essential principles for creating avian-friendly landscapes for a wide variety of land bird species — from songbirds, to owls, woodpeckers, and more. Native plants provide the foundation, with healthy flora-fauna relationships that are essential for food and habitat. Also, important is the structure of the landscape itself, so that it offers varied canopy layers, protective cover, and water. Finally, she will consider the pros and cons of our human interactions with birds, using bird feeders and nest boxes, and through the design of our built environment. Every landscape matters, and each of us can make a difference!



Ms. Thompson founded Grow Native Massachusetts in 2010 and served as the organization's President and Executive Director throughout its first decade. Her work as a landscape ecologist is also deeply informed by her personal experience over three decades, transforming her relatively small urban garden into rich habitat where she documented more than 80 species of birds. Her lifelong career in the environmental sector has included other notable roles, serving as Director of Education for the Appalachian Mountain Club, Director of Drumlin Farm for Mass Audubon, and on the board of the New England Wild Flower Society.

**Thursday, March 21, 2024, 7:00 pm
Transform your Lawn to Save our Ecosystem
Mark Richardson
Free Webinar sponsored by MetroWest Climate Solutions
Info:** <https://www.metrowestclimatesolutions.org/>
Register: <https://www.energizewayland.org/events/1335>

According to NASA, turfgrass lawn covers more of the U.S. than any other irrigated crop, while degrading our environment. Lawns are resource-heavy, requiring mowing, irrigation, fertilizer, and pesticides to thrive in New England. Learn why you should “kill your lawn” and how to replace it with beautiful and environmentally friendly gardens. Transitioning your yard to incorporate native plants helps to mitigate floods, heat waves, sea-level rise, and the mass extinction of species.

Mark Richardson, Director of Horticulture for [New England Botanic Garden](#) at Tower Hill will present. This session is hosted by MetroWest Climate Solutions. New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill opened in 1986. Today's Garden sits on 200 acres. The Garden cares for an irreplaceable collection of plants and places sustainability and environmental stewardship at the forefront of their work.



**Wednesday, March 27, 2024, 7:00 pm
The Mission of Belonging - It's not about you and it's all about you
Doug Sutherland, DEIB Consultant
Register:** <https://www.onbelongingoutdoors.org/dougsutherland>

Doug Sutherland is a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Consultant who brings his experience as a Summer Camp professional to his work. Since his first camping trip in 1987, he has introduced countless students to the outdoors. Doug will share his experiences as a Black person in rural New Hampshire, where “belonging” is an assumption for some and unattainable for others.



This series is hosted by Farrington Nature Linc, Lincoln Land Conservation Trust, The Walden Woods Project, Mass Audubon, deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, and Codman Community Farms.

Saturday, April 6, 2024

10:00 am and 10:45 am

Introduction to Orienteering Clinics

Cosponsored by:

Newton Conservators & Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture

Auburndale Cove, 92 W Pine Street, Auburndale, MA, 02466

Leader: Channon Ames, Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Dept.

Register at: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/introduction-to-orienteeing-clinic-1/>



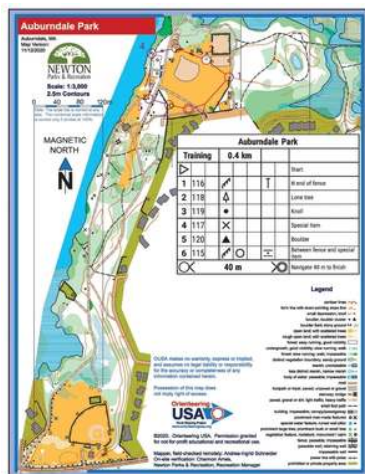
Join Newton Conservators and the Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department for a free "Introduction to Orienteering Clinic." What is orienteering? It's like a hike and scavenger hunt mixed into one. Participants use a detailed map to navigate through the trails, looking for specific orienteering controls.



There will be two introductory sessions on Saturday, April 6 with different start times. Session 1 will run from 10 am to 11:30 am and Session 2 will run from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm. Each session will include approximately 30 minutes of instruction to learn the basic skills needed to complete a beginner orienteering course. Registration for these sessions can be found below.

Participants will learn about symbols on the map, how to orient the map, tips for planning a better route, thumbing the map to keep from getting lost, and how to be sure you found the correct control on your course. After instructions, participants will head out on their own or in small groups to complete a course in Auburndale Park and Flowed Meadow Conservation area.

This program is best for children ages 7 and older. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Feel free to bring your own compass if you have one. This course can be completed without a compass, but it can be helpful when orienting the map. Please dress for the weather and bring your own water bottle.



Auburndale Park is the first and easiest course, designed to build confidence in orienteering. It allows users to become familiar with reading a map and following trails to find control markers throughout the park. This is a great course to practice orienting and thumbing the map. The course is approximately 1.8 km long, and features mostly level trails with a few small hills. Note that the controls on this course are all very close or adjacent to existing trails. We will meet at the picnic area in Auburndale Park (aka "the Cove") on West Pine Street, Auburndale, with plenty of parking.

Registration is required so that we have enough maps and compasses on hand. Register for the specific session of interest. You can register up to 3 people together to make a team to share a map. If a session is full, then please try registering for another session. If there is sufficient demand, an additional session may be added.

The clinics will be led by Channon Ames, Recreation Manager in the Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Channon is an orienteering enthusiast and has taught many people the necessary skills to have fun in this sport. To learn more about orienteering in Newton, please check out Channon's article, "[Find Yourself in Orienteering](#)", in the current Newton Conservators Spring 2024 Newsletter. If you have questions, you may contact Channon at comes@newtonma.gov.

Once you are familiar with the orienteering techniques of this clinic, you may be tempted to try navigating some of the other Newton courses in Cold Spring Park, Kennard Park, Nahanton Park or Edmands Park. These are designed as beginner courses to help new orienteers develop their skills. There are QR codes at each control that give park facts, history and information about orienteering. Maps for each of the courses are available on the Newton Parks and Recreation website at <https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/recreation->

[programs/orienteering](#). This site also provides information about beginner training that is available through Newton Parks and Recreation to help people further develop their orienteering skills.

It is important that those engaged in orienteering be careful not to tramp through ecologically sensitive locations/habitats such as the edges of ponds and streams or into deep woods, where (however unintentionally) the seeds or roots of invasive species could be transported into areas where those species have not already taken hold. See [Jennifer Steel's article](#) in the Fall 2023 Newton Conservators to learn about the need to stick to marked trails on Newton's public lands.

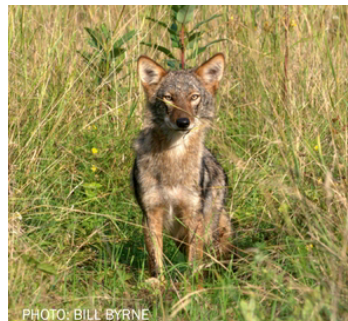
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Coexisting with Coyotes in Suburban Communities
Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series
Speaker: Dave Wattles, Ph.D, Mass Wildlife
Register: <https://bit.ly/4bAcKqc>



Info: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/coexisting-with-coyotes-in-suburban-communities/>

Eastern coyotes are found in nearly every town and city in Massachusetts, and they can thrive close to humans in a variety of habitats. Join this webinar to learn about eastern coyote biology, how coyotes use suburban areas, and how communities like Newton can take effective steps to coexist with coyotes. This talk will be presented by MassWildlife's Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist, Dave Wattles, PhD.

Dave has been studying and working with large mammals in Massachusetts since 2006, when he began collaring and studying moose for his graduate work at UMass Amherst. He has 15 years of experience conducting black bear research and has been the Black Bear and Furbearer Biologist with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) since 2016.



Sunday, April 14, 2024, 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Vernal Pool BioBlitz
Newton Conservators Walk Series
Nahanton Park, 455 Nahanton Street
Leader: Jon Regosin
<https://newtonconservators.org/events/vernal-pool-bioblitz/>



Vernal pools are small wetlands that are important habitats for a great diversity of amphibians, aquatic insects, and other invertebrates. Join us as we explore a vernal pool in Nahanton Park and document what we see in *iNaturalist*. Bring calf boots if you have them, but waterproof boots will not be needed.

At the beginning of the event, we will provide a basic tutorial on the use of *iNaturalist*, a useful smartphone app for documenting plants and animals and improving your identification skills. Although we can't predict what we'll see, we may encounter frog or salamander eggs and might hear calling spring peepers or American toads. Meet at the main parking lot, 455 Nahanton, Street, Newton. Please check the Newton Conservators' events web page if we are forced to cancel due to heavy rain. For questions, email jonathan.regosin@gmail.com.



Saturday, April 20, 2024, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Charles River Cleanup
Sponsor: Charles River Watershed Association
Register: <https://www.crwa.org/events/cleanup>

Help volunteers organized by the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) clean up the Charles River on Earth Day. Clean-up work will be done at multiple locations along the river in Newton and other communities. The Earth Day Charles River Cleanup builds on a national effort as part of American Rivers' National River Cleanup®, which has removed over 25 million pounds of trash from America's waterways. Our cleanup brings together over 3,000 volunteers each year to pick up litter, remove invasive species and assist with park maintenance along all 80 miles of the Charles River.

By volunteering with CRWA, you'll be able to participate in the cleanup of the parks, forests, and paths along the upper portion of our river in Newton, Weston, Wellesley, Dedham, and more! In an

effort to be more environmentally friendly, we encourage volunteers to bring their own pair of gloves. Trash bags, picker-uppers, and other cleanup materials will be supplied to those who wish to participate.

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**Newton Aqueducts Hike
Newton Conservators Walk
Series**

Leader: Henry Finch

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-aqueducts-hike-4/>



Join 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. Trip Leader: Henry Finch (617-964-4488)



Sunday, April 21, 2023, Noon - 4:00 pm

**Newton's Earth Day Festival 2024
Organized by Green Newton
Newton City Hall - War Memorial Circle**

<https://greennewton.org/earthday2024/>



Come visit our at Green Newton's Earth Day Celebration. Bring your friends and family to Newton's 3rd Annual Earth Day Festival for live music, green technology showcase, an EV expo, nature themed activities, food, and more. There is 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. 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. There will even be test drives available for select cars! More interested in bikes? There will be E-bikes on display so you can see first-hand how they can help get you around town! The Earth Day Festival is jam packed with fun activities for kiddos of all ages. Enjoy live music from local bands. Get ready to hear some great tunes to inspire us all on Earth Day!



Hemlock Gorge Spring Cleanup

Saturday, April 27, 2024, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Sponsor: Friends of Hemlock Gorge - <https://hemlockgorge.org/>

Hemlock Gorge - 2 Hamilton Place, Needham, MA

<https://hemlockgorge.org/events/2024-spring-cleanup-of-hemlock-gorge/>

Help clean up Hemlock Gorge during the Friends of Hemlock Gorge Annual Spring Cleanup. The Friends' Annual Spring Cleanup of the park will take place on Saturday, April 27. Parking is available at 2 Hamilton Place on the Needham side, the Mills Falls parking lot, and at the Hemlock Gorge parking lot at the intersection of Ellis Street and Route 9. Volunteers should meet at Hamilton Place from 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. The Friends will provide gloves, trash bags, and pick-up sticks.



Dress appropriately for walking off the trails and the weather. The Friends will provide a pizza lunch starting at 11:45 am with drinks, picnic tables and chairs for volunteers at the Stone Building. Let them know when you sign in if you would like lunch. The DCR will collect the trash bags the following week.

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Birding at Cold Spring Park

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Leader: Pete Gilmore

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/birding-at-cold-spring-park-6/>



Participants will meet near the turnaround at the end of the left side of the Beacon Street parking area. 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! This is a great opportunity to see some interesting birds in a wonderful location with a very experienced bird expert! Trip Leader: Pete Gilmore, (petegilmore79@gmail.com)



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Sunday, May 5, 2024 (Save the Date)

NewtonSERVES

Cold Spring Park, Nahanton Park, Dolan Pond, and Houghton Garden

<https://newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/newton-serves>

Save the date for Newton's annual service day. Newton Conservators is sponsoring four invasive removal events that day. In the morning we will be working at Cold Spring Park, Nahanton Park's Woodcock Meadow, and Dolan Pond. In the afternoon we will be at Houghton Garden. See the full Invasives Removal schedule later in this email.

- 9:30 am -12:00 pm @ Cold Spring Park
- 9:30 am -12:10 pm @ Dolan Pond
- 9:30 am -12:00 pm @ Nahanton Park / Woodcock Meadow
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm @ Houghton Garden



Watch for more details. Registration is strongly encouraged for participating and registration **goes live on Monday, March 18**. Sign up for the site for which you want to volunteer. Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department is organizing NewtonSERVES and here is the official website for registration: <https://newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/newton-serves>

Thursday, May 9, 2024 (Save the Date)

Newton Conservators' Annual Dinner Meeting

Post 440, California Street, Nonantum

Featured Speaker: Michael Piantedosi, Native Plant Trust

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/newton-conservators-annual-dinner-meeting-save-the-date/>

For this year's annual meeting, we will return to Post 440 on California Street in Nonantum. The event will start with a social hour at 6 pm, followed by a sit-down dinner at 7 pm, to be followed by a brief business meeting, awards ceremony and our featured presentation, "*Can Pollinator Gardens and Conservation Lands Work Together to Increase Biodiversity in Our Community*" by Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation for [Native Plant Trust](https://nativeplanttrust.org/).

Michael will talk to us about the different (and overlapping) benefits of both cultivated pollinator gardens and natural, wild open space. In recent years, environmentalists have planted pollinator gardens throughout our region in order to support threatened bees and butterflies. That work is critical but not sufficient. In addition, we all must continue to support our forests and wild meadows, which are home to a greater diversity of native plants. Watch for more information.



Ladyslippers

Sunday, May 12, 2024, 8:00 am - 10:30 am

Mother's Day Bird Walk at Nahanton Park

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Cosponsored by Friends of Nahanton Park

Leaders: Alison Leary & Haynes Miller

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/mothers-day-bird-walk-at-nahanton-park/>



Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands, wetlands, edge habitat, and meadows along the Charles

River, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton for migrants as well as resident species. Meet at the Nahanton Street entrance next to the river. Parking is available inside the park. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginners as well as experienced birders are welcome. Waterproof shoes are recommended. The walk will be canceled in steady rain. Trip Leaders: Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Saturday, May 18, 2024, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Newton Family FunFEST

Newton City Hall - War Memorial Circle

<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/cultural-development/family-funfest>

Look for the Newton Conservators table and tent at the Newton Family FunFEST. We'll have some kids's activities. Newton Family FunFEST is a celebration of art and entertainment for all ages including live musical performances, carnival, arts & crafts workshops, live public art event, vendor booths and more. See the link above for details.



Thursday, May 23, 2024, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Pesticides and Children's Health:

How can we protect our community?

Newton Conservators Spring Webinar Series

Speaker: Sarah Evans, PhD

Register: <https://bit.ly/3wduVlc>

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/pesticides-and-childrens-health-how-can-we-protect-our-community/>



Sarah Evans, Assistant Professor of Environmental Medicine and Public Health at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, will share the latest science on how pesticides impact health, children's unique vulnerability, and steps that families can take to reduce pesticide exposures.

Sarah Evans PhD, MPH, obtained her doctorate in neuroscience from Weill Cornell Medical College and her master's degree in public health from Mount Sinai, where she also completed a three-year fellowship in Environmental Pediatrics. Her research focuses on how early-life environmental exposures shape the brain and behavior. Dr. Evans is committed to translating research into action to promote safer practices and policies that protect families from toxic chemicals.



Sarah Evans

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Spring Ramble Through Webster Woods

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Leader: Barbara Bates

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/spring-ramble-through-webster-woods/>



Join Barbara Bates from Newton Conservators for an easy 1.5 mile ramble in Webster Woods to see what's in bloom and "what's cooking" in the vernal pool Bare Pond. We will follow the Red trail to Bare Pond, pick up the Green trail to Cake Rock, Gooch's Cave, the dell along Thompsonville Brook, and return via the Red trail past Cat Pond. The trail can be rocky and muddy in places and there are one or two steep places. Bring insect repellent and dress accordingly. No pets allowed. Rain cancels the walk. If in doubt, email Barbara before 9:30 AM on the date of the walk. Trip Leader: Barbara Bates, (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Sunday, June 9 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Exploring Hemlock Gorge

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Co-sponsored by the Friends of Hemlock Gorge

Leaders: John Mordes & Katherine Howard

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/exploring-hemlock-gorge/>



Join us for a tour of this gem of a park, "hidden" at the intersection of routes 9 and I-95, once a Sunday destination for thousands of Boston city dwellers, and designed by Charles Eliot of the

Olmsted design firm. We will visit the historic Echo Bridge, talk some history and geology, and enjoy the stunning topography and views. The walk includes some steep slopes and uneven terrain. Meet at the Hamilton Place entrance/lot off Central Ave (on the Needham side of the Charles River). In the event of steady rain, check the website. Trip Leaders: John Mordes MD, president of [Friends of Hemlock Gorge](#) (617 888 4488), and Katherine Howard of Newton Conservators (617 721 2571).



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Keep up to date on our events on our [website](https://newtonconservators.org/events/) at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>



Black Swallow-wort



Japanese Knotweed



Garlic Mustard



Multiflora Rose



Tree of Heaven



Glossy Buckthorn

Invasive Removal Events

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/>

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.

Here is the current list of possible invasive removal events. Watch for them on the Events page of our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/> or email us to be certain.

- April 21 - Sun 9:30-11 Cold Spring Park
- April 27 - Sat 9:30-12. Hemlock Gorge cleanup - Scouts doing invasives
- April 28 - Sun 9:30-11. Sawmill Brook
- May 4 - Sat 9-11 Quinobequin
- May 4 - Sat 1-3 Upper Falls Greenway
- May 5 - Sun 9:30-12 Cold Spring Park, NewtonServes
- May 5 - Sun 9:30-12 Dolan Pond, NewtonServes
- May 5 - Sun 9:30-12 Nahanton Park Woodcock Meadow, NewtonServes
- May 5 - Sun 1-3 - Houghton Garden. NewtonServes
- May 11 - Sat 9:30-12 Cold Spring Park
- May 11 - Sat 1-3 Riverside Park and Pony Truss Trail
- May 12 - Sun 9:30 - 12 Saw Mill Brook
- May 12 - Sun 2-4 Blue Heron Bridge
- May 18 - Sat 1-3 - Nahanton (Woodcock Meadow)
- May 19 - Sun 1-3 Houghton Garden
- May 25 - Sat 9:30 Cold Spring Park
- May 26 - Sun 12-1:30 Quinobequin

- June 1 - Sat 9-12 Hammond Pond, knotweed
- June 2 - Sun 9:30-12 Saw Mill Brook
- June 2 - Sun 1-4. Blue Heron Bridge
- June 8 - Sat 9:30-12 Cold Spring Park
- June 15 - Sat 9:30-11:30 Dolan Pond, knotweed
- June 15 - Sat 2-4 Hemlock Gorge
- June 16 - Sun TBD Crystal Lake
- June 29 - Sat 9:30-12 Cold Spring Park, BSW & Wisteria
- June 30 - Sun 1-3 Crystal Lake BSW, Bittersweet
- July 6 - Sat 9:30 Hemlock Gorge, BSW
- July 7 - Sun 1-3 Hemlock Gorge, BSW

Other News

Pollinator Display at Newton Library through March

<https://www.facebook.com/NewtonCommunityPollinatorProject/>



Be sure to check out the Pollinator Display Case in the main lobby at the Newton Free Library through the end of March. Learn a little bit about the importance of pollinators and native plants. The display

was designed and put together by Alicia Bowman and Cindy Callaway of the Newton Community Pollinator Project. The group organized the Pollinator Garden Tour last fall (save the date of Sunday, September 15 for the 2nd annual tour!), the City Hall demonstration garden, the Pollinator Toolkit on our website. Also, did you know that a volunteer team has been organized by Ann Dorfman to help maintain the wonderful pollinator garden at the Newton Free Library?



Newton Community Farm - Open Enrollment for CSA Shares

<https://newtoncommunityfarm.org/produce/csa/>

Registration is now open to everyone for the Newton Community Farm Summer CSA program! There are only a few shares remaining, so get yours quickly before they sell out! Traditionally, CSA sharers receive significantly more value for their money than buying from the grocery store. You can buy a weekly share, split a share with a friend, or sign up for an alternate-week share. See the link above for full details.

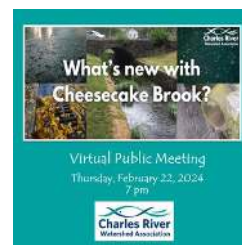


Cheesecake Brook Stream Restoration

<https://www.crwa.org/stream-restoration>

In case you missed it, watch the recent public meeting co-hosted by Charles River Watershed Association and the City of Newton about a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management looking to keep pollution out of Cheesecake Brook, evaluate fish and wildlife passage, and help green the Albemarle corridor. Learn more at www.crwa.org/stream-restoration and watch the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0C-UIHRj3k>

There are also educational resources on how you can help protect the water quality of the Charles River Watershed by making small changes to your property like adding rain gardens and other natural features!



Social Media

Please consider following Newton Conservators on our Social Media channels and join our 950 followers on Facebook, 1044 followers on Instagram, and 154 subscribers on YouTube. The easiest way to get to our channels is from our website home page menu bar (see the red circled area below). Just click on the small icons on the right of the menu bar for Facebook, Instagram, and

YouTube respectively.



Newton Conservators Newsletter

The Spring 2024 edition of our Newton Conservators is now available on our [website](https://www.newtonconservators.org).



NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2024

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Jane Sender
William Shaevel
Diane Tillotson
Willis Wang
Bruce Wenning

The Charles River Greenway at 30

By Richard B. Primack (a lifelong Newton resident and professor at Boston University)

The Upper Charles River Reservation, one of Newton's open-space gems, is

home to the Charles River Greenway, beloved and heavily used by pedestrians, joggers, dog walkers, and bicyclists, as well as fishers, bird watchers, and people seeking the tranquility of nature. The Greenway, opened to the public around 1992 and completed in 2004, is now around 30 years old!

The Greenway, also sometimes called the Pathway, runs along both sides of the river from Galen Street in Watertown through Newton to Moody Street in Waltham and then on to Commonwealth Avenue in Newton and Weston. Its paths are wide and well-maintained, built with a combination of asphalt and stabilized stone dust or with elevated boardwalks

where the terrain is steep or wet. From the Greenway, the Charles River is almost always visible, with frequent overlooks and footbridges that cross the river.

In some places, the Greenway feels wild, where it enters stands of red and silver maples. Elsewhere the Greenway feels more urban as it

passes parking lots, warehouses, industrial companies, private homes, and apartment buildings.



Aerial view of the Greenway courtesy of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)



Stone dust trail along the Greenway



The Charles River flows through the Greenway

The Greenway is so much a part of the fabric of Newton, Watertown, and Waltham that it

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- [The Charles River Greenway at 30](#)
- [Find Yourself in Orienteering](#)
- [WinterFEST in Cold Spring Park](#)

- [Enjoy Nature...with Webinars from Newton Conservators](#)
- [Spring 2024 Walks](#)
- [Spring 2024 Invasive Plant Sessions](#)

PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NEWTON CONSERVATORS MEMBERSHIP



We would be most grateful if you renewed your membership or joined us officially for the first time to support our important open space work! The challenges of protecting, enhancing and expanding open space in Newton continue. We hope that you will continue to support the Conservators efforts in these regards by renewing your membership for 2024 or joining us if you are not.

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. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, we also accept donations for a number of affiliated local open space groups. As part of the donation process, you can specify specific funds. This year we call your attention to our special "Trails Fund" in support of additional trails work in Newton. Thanks so much!

Our [Trail Guide](#) and [Nature Almanacs](#) make great holiday presents and are available on our website. The Trail Guide is included as part of your initial membership package.

You can renew or join the Newton Conservators online at <https://newtonconservators.org/membership/>. Donations may be made at our securely via our website at <https://newtonconservators.org/ways-to-give/>.



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 is committed to fostering a sense of belonging for all people in Newton's open spaces by:

- *planning and evaluating all of our activities through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) lens*
- *continually educating ourselves and our constituents about DEIJ issues*
- *building authentic relationships with regional organizations serving historically marginalized people*
- *working to include previously underrepresented people on our Board and among our members, program participants, and open space visitors*
- *diversifying all with whom we partner and do business.*

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