



Newton Conservators
E-Bulletin
Friday, April 5, 2024

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

Spring Activities with Newton Conservators!



Seems like April waited a few extra days to fool us this year by reminding us not to put the snow shovels away just yet!

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

If you have been curious about the sport of **Orienteering** and would like to improve your map reading and navigational skills, we are having two free [Orienteering Clinics tomorrow, Saturday, April 6](#), in cooperation with Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture in Auburndale Park. Despite all the gloomy rain and snowy weather this past week, Saturday morning might actually be okay before rain starts again in the afternoon. Register online and get your compasses ready!

Don't miss the partial solar eclipse in Newton on the afternoon of Monday, April 8 with maximal lunar coverage of the sun (93%) around 3:30 pm. See more info in our Events listing below.

Then, on **Thursday, April 11th**, we'll have our second spring webinar on the topic "[Coexisting with Coyotes in the Suburban Communities](#)" with MassWildlife's Furbearer Biologist **Dave Wattles**. And on **Sunday, April 14th**, you will find us at the [Vernal Pool BioBlitz](#) in Nahanton Park with naturalist **Jon Regosin**.

On Sunday, April 21, come visit our table at [Green Newton's Earth Day Celebration](#) at Newton North High School and if you feel energetic, join our [Newton Aqueducts Hike](#) in the afternoon, led by Henry Finch.

Make sure to preregister for [NewtonSERVES](#), on Sunday, May 5 at one of our four open space work sites at Cold Spring Park, Dolan Pond, Nahanton Park, or Houghton Garden.

And tickets are now available for our in-person [Annual Dinner Meeting](#) on **THURSDAY, May 9** at Post 440 where our featured speaker will be **Michael Piantedosi**, Director of Conservation for Native Plant Trust.

The [Spring Issue of the Newton Conservators Newsletter](#) is available on our website, in case you don't receive the printed edition in your mailbox.

Our updated volunteer web page lists current opportunities to help with walks, conservation restrictions, invasive plants, biodiversity, community events, photojournalism, publicity, and even helping with this e-Bulletin! 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.

Upcoming Events

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/>

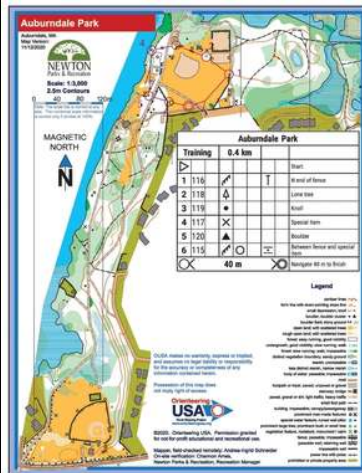
Join Newton Conservators and the Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department for a free “Introduction to Orienteering Clinic.” What is orienteering? It’s like a hike and scavenger hunt mixed into one. Participants use a detailed map to navigate through the trails, looking for specific orienteering 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. The weather is looking good for Saturday morning. Please dress for the weather (outerwear and shoes) and bring your own water bottle and a compass if you have one. Maps will be supplied.

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.

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 cames@newtonma.gov.

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.

Monday, April 8, 2024, 2:15 pm - 4:39 pm (Peak Coverage at 3:30 pm) Partial Solar Eclipse in Newton

Newton will be in the path of the solar eclipse this coming Monday afternoon, but only partially. The eclipse here will begin around 2:15 pm, with peak coverage of around 93% around 3:30 pm, and ending at 4:39 pm. The path of totality is, unfortunately, a bit further west and north of Newton. The weather forecast for Newton is sunny with a high of around 60F.



The Mass Department of Education has a website with useful links devoted to the eclipse in Massachusetts at: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/stem/stem/eclipse.html>.

An excellent detailed worldwide map of the path of the eclipse can be found at this link (this link centered on Newton):

http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/solar_eclipses/TSE_2024_GoogleMapFull.html?Lat=42.33744&Lng=-71.20886&Elev=40.0&Zoom=14&LC=1

You can click on any spot to find out eclipse details for that location.

It is VERY important not to look directly at the sun unless you have special eclipse glasses. Here is a link to information on safely viewing the eclipse:

<https://science.nasa.gov/resource/2024-total-solar-eclipse-safety-sheet/>

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, 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/>



Join [Newton Conservators](#) and naturalist Jon Regosin for a free [Vernal Pool BioBlitz](#) at Nahanton Park on Sunday, April 14, from 3 to 4:30 pm. Vernal pools are small wetlands that are important habitats for a great diversity of amphibians, aquatic insects, and other invertebrates. We will explore a vernal pool in Nahanton Park and document what we see using the free [iNaturalist](#) app. 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.



The event leader, Jon Regosin, is the former Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and is a board member of Newton Conservators, for which he's worked on a variety of projects including the preservation of Newton Community Farm. He has a PhD in Biology from Tufts University, and his research has focused on a variety of protected species.

[Register here](#) for this event in order that we may plan for the number of participants and to alert you in case of inclement weather, rescheduling, or cancelation. You can register multiple participants in your family group with one registration. We will meet at the main parking lot for Nahanton Park, 455 Nahanton, Street, Newton. For questions, email jonathan.regosin@gmail.com. To learn more about other free Newton Conservators spring walks, webinars and events, please visit our [Events Page](#).

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 [Newton Conservators](#) on a five-mile [Newton Aqueducts Hike](#) through woods, meadows, and fields along the Newton sections of the [Sudbury and Cochituate aqueducts](#) on Sunday, April 21 at 2 pm. The hike will be led by local architect and hiking enthusiast, Henry Finch. 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 and several T stations are along the route. The aqueducts date from



the mid-1800's and originally served to provide water from the Sudbury River and Lake Cochituate to reservoirs in the Boston area. They run through Newton in residential neighborhoods and may not be familiar to many of our residents. Meet in front of the Starbucks coffee shop (474 Woodward Street, Waban) near the Waban MBTA station. For questions, contact Henry Finch (617-964-4488). To learn more about other free Newton Conservators spring walks, webinars and events, please visit our [Events Page](#).

Sunday, April 21, 2023, Noon - 4:00 pm
Newton's Earth Day Festival 2024
Organized by Green Newton
Newton North High School, 457 Walnut Street
<https://greennewton.org/earthday2024/>



Come visit our Newton Conservators booth at Green Newton's Earth Day Celebration. **Note the change of venue from previous years. This year the festival will be at Newton North High School rather than at City Hall!**

Celebrate with Green Newton at Newton's Earth Day Festival on Sunday, April 21 (12-4pm) at Newton North High School! This special event is full of opportunities to learn how to go green, live more sustainably, and save energy in your home and on the road! Plus:



- Fun activities for the whole family - live music, petting zoo, face painting, and more
- An electric vehicle expo where you can check out the latest EVs and chat with their owners
- Delicious and sustainable food

See a full list of activities and more information at <https://greennewton.org/earthday2024/>

In the event of rain, the event will take place indoors. Newton's Earth Day Festival is hosted by Green Newton, the City's Climate Team, and Newton's EV Task Force.

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:00 pm

A Year of Birds:

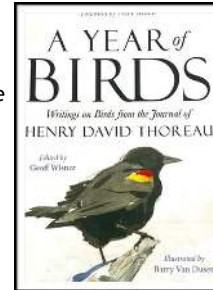
Writings on Birds from the Journal of Henry David Thoreau

Webinar presented by: Peter Alden

Register [HERE](#)



Peter Alden presents excerpts from the new book published by Mercer University Press in association with the Thoreau Society that chronicles journal entries by renowned naturalist Henry David Thoreau. From his beloved Concord home, Thoreau wrote detailed journal entries depicting the various species of birds and their behaviors. Thoreau's birding journal contrasts his meditative lifestyle against the rapid industrialization in Concord and beyond. "While millions have read Walden, many fewer have read even part of Henry's enormous Journal" writes Alden. "Virtually every day he wrote about various birds that he saw, heard, or were reported to him." Alden recounts how bird populations have changed since this time, a reminder of the fragility of our ecosystem. The passages were selected by Geoff Wisner of the Thoreau Society Board, Peter Alden was the scientific editor and wrote the foreword, while Princeton Mass artist Barry Van Dusen contributed 150 color paintings of these birds.



Hemlock Gorge Spring Cleanup

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

Sponsor: [Friends of Hemlock Gorge](#)

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.



STONE BRIDGE, NEWTON LOWER FALLS

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

Spring Birding at Cold Spring Park

Newton Conservators Walk Series

Leader: Pete Gilmore

Cold Spring Park, 1200 Beacon Street, Newton

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



May is the peak time for migrating birds passing through the Newton area on their way north. Join [Newton Conservators](#) for a free [Spring Birding Walk](#) on Sunday, May 4, from 8 to 10 am at [Cold Spring Park](#), one of Newton's premier birding locations. 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! The trip Leader is experienced birder, Pete Gilmore (petegilmore79@gmail.com). To learn more about other free Newton Conservators spring walks, webinars and events, please visit our [Events Page](#).



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Sunday, May 5, 2024

NewtonSERVES

Newton Conservators Projects

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



NewtonSERVES is Newton's annual day of service and is being administered through the Newton



Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, which is excited to share that NewtonSERVES 2024 is scheduled on Sunday, May 5th. Volunteer efforts are focused on cleaning and improving our parks, school grounds, open space areas, and conservation lands.



How do you sign up to volunteer for one of the projects, such as the four projects below that are sponsored by Newton Conservators?

First you need to go to <https://newtonma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx> and sign in or create an account if you do not already have one. You'll then be able to choose a pre-registered location looking for volunteers by going to their NewtonSERVES project page at https://newtonma.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=30296.

There you pick the desired project and complete the registration process, which involves signing a consent form. To register as a volunteer you must be 18 years of age or older. Volunteers under 18 years of age do not have to register, and MUST be accompanied by an adult. Please list any volunteers under the age of 18, on the Consent Form at the end of this registration. The project leader will reach out to you as we get closer to the event. On the day of the event, dress for the weather and bring gloves, sunscreen, drinking water and hand-tools for the given project.

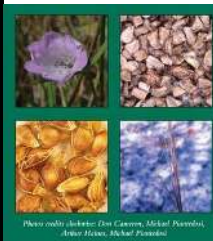
Below are the four Newton Conservators' sponsored NewtonSERVES projects:

- **Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:30 am - Noon**
NewtonSERVES at Cold Spring Park
- **Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:30 am - Noon**
NewtonSERVES at Dolan Pond
- **Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:30 am - Noon**
NewtonSERVES at Nahanton Park
- **Sunday, May 5, 2024, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm**
NewtonSERVES at Houghton Garden

Thursday, May 9, 2024 (Save the Date)
Newton Conservators' Annual Dinner Meeting
Post 440, California Street

Featured Speaker: Michael Piantedosi, Native Plant Trust

<https://newtonconservators.org/events/2024-annual-meeting-thursday-may-9-2024/>



Newton Conservators Annual Dinner Meeting will be held in-person on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at American Legion Post 440, 295 California Street, Newton. It will feature a presentation on "Seeds of Change: Promoting Plant Biodiversity in Our Community," by Michael Piantedosi, Director of Conservation for Native Plant Trust. The event will start with a social hour and cash bar at 6 pm, followed at 7 pm by dinner, a business meeting, Environmentalist of the Year and Directors' Awards, and presentation.

Tickets are \$50. Members will receive a printed invitation & reply card soon, but you can already reserve your tickets online (by May 3) [HERE](#).

Michael Piantedosi will speak about the use of native seeds to maintain overall biodiversity on public and private landscapes at all scales, from hyper-local to international. Since earning his undergraduate degree in Plant Biology & Environmental Conservation at the University of New Hampshire, Michael has worked in regional herbaria, at the Museum of Science in Boston, and with Woodman Horticultural Experiment Farm. At Native Plant Trust, he managed the New England Plant Conservation Program (NEPCoP), a regional volunteer consortium of professional botanists and ecologists, before becoming Director of Conservation in 2019.



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/>

Join [Newton Conservators](#) and [Friends of Nahanton Park](#) on Sunday, May 12 from 8 to 10:30 am for a free [Mother's Day Bird Walk](#) at [Nahanton Park](#). This 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. The group will meet at the Nahanton Street entrance to Nahanton Park which is 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. The trip Leaders are experienced birders, Alison Leary (617-821-5619) and Haynes Miller (617-413-2419). To learn more about other free Newton Conservators spring walks, webinars and events, please visit our [Events Page](#).



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' activities. Newton Family FunFEST is a celebration of art and entertainment for all ages, including live musical performances, a carnival, arts & crafts workshops, live public art event, vendor booths and more. See the link above for details.



Sunday, May 19, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Waban Village Day

Waban Center, Beacon Street

<https://wabanimprovement.org/village-day-2024/>

Look for the Newton Conservators table and tent at Waban Village Day in Waban Center. The annual Waban Village Day and Family Fun Run is on Sunday, May 19, 2024. These family-friendly events will be kicked off by the Family Fun Run at 10:00 AM and continue throughout the day in Waban Square with rides and amusements for kids of all ages, vendor tables, music, food, and ice cream.



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

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.

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 2, 2024, 10:30 am - 4:00 pm

Nonantum Village Day

Coletti-Magni Park, 386 Watertown Street, Nonantum

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

Look for the Newton Conservators table and tent at Nonantum Village Day at Coletti-Magni Park in Nonantum. The annual Nonantum Village Day, sponsored by the Nonantum Neighborhood Association, is on Sunday, June 2, 2024. This family-friendly event has something of interest for all ages, including vendor tables, music, and food.



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 about 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](https://newtonconservators.org/) (617 888 4488), and Katherine Howard of Newton Conservators (617 721 2571).



PHOTO: KEN MALLORY

Sunday, June 9 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Newton Highlands Village Day

Lincoln Street between Walnut and Bowdoin

<https://highlandsvillageday.org/>

Look for the Newton Conservators table and green tent at **Highlands Village Day**. The festival runs from 11-4. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, all children's activities are FREE! That includes bounce houses, caricatures, and face painting! Plus, enjoy delicious food, enjoy live music, and much more!



**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
- 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
- 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
- July 6 - Sat 9:30 - Hemlock Gorge
- July 7 - Sun 1-3 - Hemlock Gorge, BSW

Newton Conservators Social Media

Please consider following Newton Conservators on our social media channels and join our 963 followers on Facebook, 1052 followers on Instagram, and 156 subscribers on YouTube. The easiest way to get to our channels is from our website's 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](#).



NEWSLETTER

Preserving open space and connecting people to nature since 1961

NEWTONCONSERVATORS.ORG • SPRING 2024

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 Haggburn, *Past Co-President*

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 Barbara Bates
 Dan Brody
 Bonnie Carter
 Samantha Corbin
 Margaret Doris
 Henry Finch
 Maurice Gilmore
 Daniel Green
 Ted Kuklinski
 Ken Mallory
 Jon Regosin
 Larry Smith
 Beth Wilkinson

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 Lisle Baker
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 Eric Reenstierna
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 Diane Tillotson
 Willis Wang
 Bruce Wanning

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.



The Charles River flows through the Greenway

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

Continued on page 2



The middle of the Charles River Reservation is a tenuous ribbon of green in a highly urbanized area

More than 100,000 people live within easy walking distance

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



Stone dust trail along the Greenway

This [Spring 2024 Newsletter](#) contains the following interesting features:

- [FULL ISSUE](#)
- [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



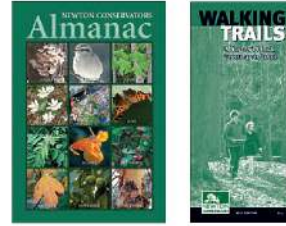
We would be most grateful if you renewed your membership or joined us officially for the first time to support our important open space work! The challenges of protecting, enhancing and expanding open space in Newton continue. We hope that you will continue to support the Conservators efforts in these 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.*

- E-Bulletin Editor: Ted Kuklinski, Newton Conservators (ebulletin@newtonconservators.org)

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