

Webster Woods Graffiti

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

In recent years, the Webster Woods and Hammond Pond area have been plagued by an epidemic of graffiti on rock cliffs and boulders in a dozen locations on both sides of the Hammond Pond Parkway. The graffiti has often been painted in vivid color at prominent locations, though it has also been created in less-frequented spots. Such disrespectful and unlawful activity damages the natural experience of being in the woods, as described by Jennifer Steel in the Fall 2023 issue of this newsletter.

A couple of years ago, at the invitation of the Newton Conservation Office, a group of volunteers took on and completed a project to paint over the graffiti with shades of gray paint so that they were no longer noticeable. Only a few new graffiti have appeared since then, and these have been promptly painted over.

Hopefully, these volunteer efforts to cover up the graffiti right away will lessen or even eliminate its future occurrence. ♦

Here are some examples of graffiti before and after treatment:

Before



After



A large graffiti of red and white lettering on a hidden rock face on the ridge above Hammond Pond; before treatment and after

Before



After



Sunflower and lettering graffiti on a hidden rock face on the back of the ridge above Hammond Pond

Before



After



Bright green lettering graffiti on a high rock face was painted over using a long pole with a paintbrush tied at the end

Before



After



Multicolored graffiti on a rock face in the northwest section of the woods

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