

New Edition of the Trail Guide

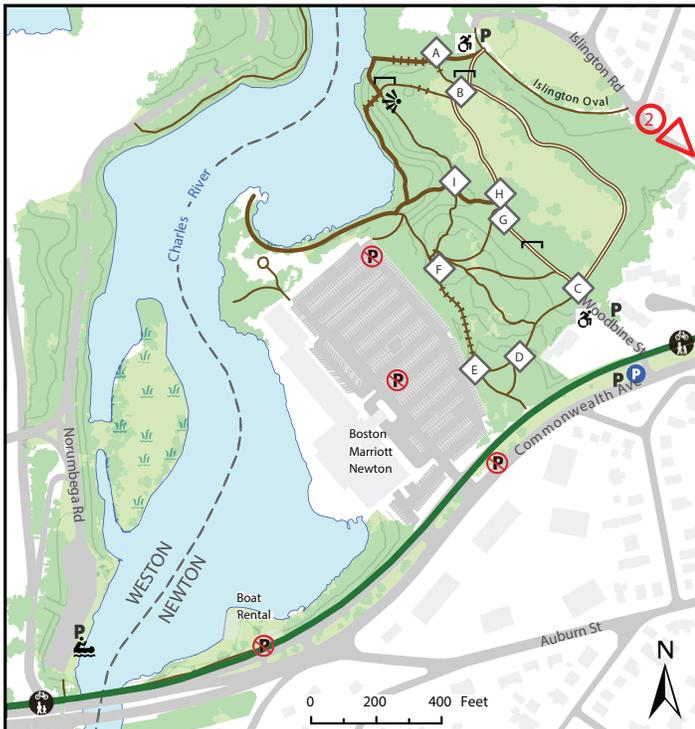
A new edition of Newton Conservators Trail Guide will soon be published. The guide has text, maps, and photos describing 28 open space sites in and adjacent to Newton.

The new guide's pages are almost 40% bigger than those in the previous guide, allowing the use of larger, more informative maps.

Site Maps

Prior editions of the guide contained hand-drawn maps. The new edition has maps created from the City of Newton Geographic Information System, or GIS, by Doug Greenfield, Newton's GIS administrator. Doug's extraordinary skills and dedication to this project were critical to its success. The maps have field-tested locations of trails, water and land features, and points of interest.

The map below is of Norumbega Conservation Area in Auburndale. It is printed here at the same size as it appears in the Trail Guide, to give you a sense of the level of detail visible in the maps.



Citywide Maps

In a pocket in the back cover of the book, you'll find a folded sheet that opens up to 18" x 24". On each side of this

sheet is a citywide map. One side shows the routes of the Blue Heron Trail (along the Charles River from Watertown Square to Cutler Park and Millennium Park) and of the Aqueduct Trails (extending to the west and southwest from Newton Centre).

The map on the other side of the sheet shows the routes of seven Long Walks that visit more than one of the sites in the book. More information about these walks, which range in length from 1.5 to 7 miles, can be found on our website at newtonconservators.org/long-walks/

The 1:25,000 scale of these maps is the same as in the paper maps published by the US Geological Survey, or USGS. These maps show enough detail that they've been used by generations of hikers to navigate trails. Our citywide maps will, for the first time, provide walkers with an easy way to follow the Blue Heron Trail or one of the Aqueduct Trails.

The citywide maps are printed on a sheet of synthetic paper called Polyart, which is waterproof and can withstand repeated folding and unfolding without tearing.

Photographs

For the first time, this edition of the Trail Guide contains full-color photos of each park and conservation area, and of other subjects, such as this photo on the page about invasive plants and pollinator gardens.



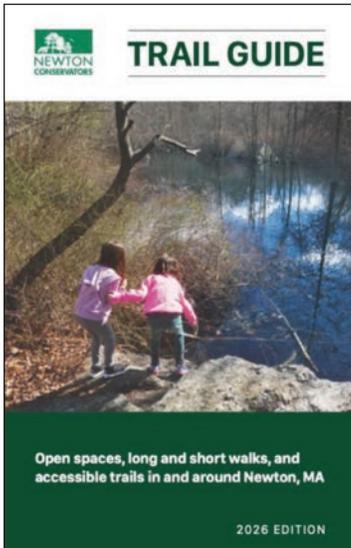
Black swallow-wort

QR Code Links to Website Resources

Our website, newtonconservators.org, has far more information than could fit in a printed guidebook. To make it easy for readers of the book to find more information about an open space site or a conservation topic, the book is full of QR codes, such as this one:



If you open the camera on your smartphone and point at the code, you should see a link to the relevant page on the website. Click on the link to open the page. The code above takes you to the page for Webster Conservation Area and Hammond Pond Reservation.



To Obtain a Copy

To order a copy of the guide, visit newtonconservators.org/buy-a-guide/ or scan this QR code:



The price of the guide is \$20 for Conservators members and \$23 for non-members, plus shipping.

Orders will be fulfilled this spring as soon as the new Trail Guide is available.

Anyone who joins the Conservators as a new member, or joined during our recent renewal season, will receive a free copy of the guide. To join, visit newtonconservators.org/membership/

Those eligible for a free guide from their recent renewals will receive their copies soon. Copies will also be for sale soon at local bookstores.

The Trail Guide was edited by Dan Brody and Todd Macalister. ♦

Annual Meeting 2026

Save The Date! Newton Conservators' Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 6 pm



PHOTO: TED KUKLINSKI

Sweat Bee

Our featured speaker will be Nick Dorian, Ph.D., pollinator ecologist and bee expert — and storyteller. He works to advance urban conservation and methods for studying wild bees and is co-author of a popular bee field guide. Dr. Dorian will introduce us to some of the fascinating wild bees of eastern North America and their varied lifestyles, habitat needs, and intricate relationships with native flowering plants and other insects and will explain why they're important for our environment. We'll learn to notice, appreciate, and how to help these important pollinators in our community.

New Insect Pest: Spotted Lanternfly is in Newton

Sadly, the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) invasive pest is now all over Newton. SLF arrived in the US in 2014 (PA) and in MA in 2021. It is destructive to certain crops and plants, weakens trees, and is a bothersome annoyance, spreading sticky honeydew which becomes moldy and smelly. We can help slow the spread by educating ourselves, and at this time of year by destroying the egg masses (found Sept - June on tree trunks, wood/lumber, rusty metal, really anything). Educational resources are at <https://massnrc.org/pests/pestFAQsheets/spottedlanternfly.html>. **Sign up for our May 14 webinar with an SLF expert! See page 10.** ♦



PHOTO: JENNIFER FORMAN ORTH

Spotted Lanternfly

🌿 Katherine Howard