

GUIDED WALKS FALL 2026

Please note: Walks are limited to 30 people. Participants must register so leaders can contact them for weather updates or changes. Please register at <https://newtonconservators.org/events/>

Saturday, Sept. 12 from 8 - 10:30 am

MORNING BIRDING IN NAHANTON PARK



PHOTO: HAYNES MILLER

Common Yellowthroat

Follow Haynes Miller, an avid birder and long-time Newton resident, as he leads fellow bird enthusiasts through Nahanton Park, one of the best birding spots in Newton with almost 200 reported species. The focus of this morning excursion will be on continuing breeders, such as House Wrens

and Common Yellowthroats, and welcoming fall migrants, especially the warblers — Blackpoll, Palm, Nashville, and many others. Meet at the Community Garden area off the Winchester Street entrance to Nahanton Park. Waterproof shoes and binoculars are recommended. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Sunday, Sept. 13, 8-10:30 am.*

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, Sept. 19 from 12 - 4 pm

4TH ANNUAL NEWTON POLLINATOR TOUR

For sign-up, see <https://newtonconservators.org/events/fourth-annual-newton-pollinator-garden-tour/>. *Rain Date: Saturday, Sept. 26, 12-4 pm.*

Sunday, Sept. 27 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm

SEE WHAT'S NEW AT RIVERSIDE PARK!



PHOTO: NEWTON CONSERVATORS

A swan glides along the Charles

Come tour the newly upgraded Riverside Park area and learn about the efforts to connect Newton's walking areas and park lands! Tod Cochran of the Riverside Greenway Working Group will lead interested walkers on a short 1.5-mile loop. Participants should meet at Riverside Park at the end of Charles Street in Auburndale

(the closest address is 107 Charles Street). From there, Tod will bring the group across the Charles on the recently reopened Lasell Boathouse Bridge, continue on the Weston side to the Pony Truss Bridge and Newton's Pony Truss Trail, and then loop back to the Charles Street parking area. Much of the walk is flat and paved, while the Pony Truss Trail is natural and narrow. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Saturday, Oct. 31, 12:30-2:30 pm.*

Trip Leader: Ted Cochran, (questions to Katherine Howard 617-721-2571)

Saturday, Oct. 3 from 10 - 12 noon

EXPLORE OAK HILL'S RIVER TRAILS



PHOTO: NEWTON CONSERVATORS

The Charles on an August evening

One of the long walks in the Newton Conservators' new Trail Guide includes the Charles River area in Oak Hill across from Cutler Park, which connects to Brook Farm and Millennium Park. Participants will meet at the end of Saw Mill Brook Parkway in Oak Hill Park (the closest address is 781 Saw Mill Brook Parkway).

We will explore the river trails (and enjoy the gorgeous views), continue to the historic Brook Farm conservation area and Millennium Park, and return the same way to the walk starting point. Total distance is about four miles; the trails are natural and mostly flat. A steady rain will cancel the walk.

Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 7, 10 am-12 noon.

Trip Leaders: Katharina Elbert, Conservators' board member, and Katherine Howard, Conservators' president (617-721-2571)

Sunday, Oct. 4 from 10 - 11 am

ENJOY THE FALL FOLIAGE AND HISTORY OF HOUGHTON GARDEN

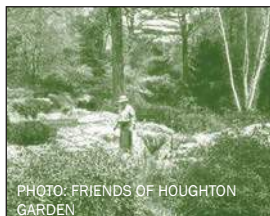


PHOTO: FRIENDS OF HOUGHTON GARDEN

Martha Houghton in her garden

Created in 1906 by Martha and Clement Houghton on what was then 26 acres, Newton's Houghton Garden was designed to take advantage of the natural contours of the landscape, including a rock garden that is now on the National Register of Historic Places and is archived at the Smithsonian.

Explore the past and the present of this woodland oasis with Michele Hanss of the Friends of Houghton Garden, a long-time park advocate and, most recently, one of the founders of Mass Parks for All, a state-wide advocacy group for open space.

Sturdy shoes and appropriate weather gear are recommended. Tour participants should meet at the Garden kiosk on 210 Suffolk Road in Chestnut Hill. The tour will go on rain or shine.

Trip Leader: Michele Hanss

Saturday, Oct. 10 from 10 - 12:30 pm

FABULOUS FALL FLORA AT EDMANDS PARK



PHOTO: JEFF ADAMS
Jeff Adams leading a walk

Join naturalist Jeff Adams for a guided walk at Edmands Park to learn how to identify the plants that shape our local ecosystem and inform our natural history. From wildflowers and towering trees to shrubs tucked along the trails, you'll discover the clues nature provides — from branching patterns and leaves to flowers, fruits, galls, and other distinctive features. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced nature enthusiast, you'll leave with practical plant identification skills and a deeper appreciation for the natural world.

Jeff is an avid outdoor enthusiast who has led plant ID walks for the Town of Lincoln, Friends of the Fells, and several other organizations. **This walk is limited to 16 people.** Terrain can be uneven and may include a steep ascent of the park's eskers. Registered participants should meet at the Blake Street entrance to the park. Parking is available along the street. *Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 21, 10 am-12:30 pm.*

Trip Leader: Jeff Adams (jeffreyradams@verizon.net; 781-866-8311)

Sunday, Oct. 11 from 8 - 10:30 am

FALL BIRDING AT NAHANTON PARK



PHOTO: HAYNES MILLER
Lincoln's Sparrow

Nahanton Park offers a mix of woodlands and meadows along the Charles River, as well as the Newton City garden plots, making it one of the best birding spots in Newton with almost 200 reported species. Join longtime birder Haynes Miller to look for late fall migrants such as Field, Savannah, Lincoln's, and

Swamp Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, and Nashville, Blackpoll, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Meet at the lot accessed by the Winchester Street entrance to Nahanton Park. Waterproof shoes and binoculars are recommended. *A steady rain will cancel the walk.*

Trip Leader: Haynes Miller (617-413-2419)

Saturday, Oct. 17 from 10 - 12 noon

NOTICING NATURE AND POETRY

Join Barbara Bates, a Newton Conservators' director and retired Mass Audubon teacher/naturalist, for an easy ramble around Cutler Park's Kendrick Pond with its waterfowl and fall foliage. We will be stopping often to simply "notice" the poetic as well



PHOTO: BARBARA BATES
Fall color in Cutler Park

as the scientific and historical sides of nature around the pond. Bring your favorite short nature poem to share as well as a pad and pencil to document what you notice for use in a poem you might like to write.

The wide trail is a 1.6-mile loop and is predominantly flat with frequent rocks and roots. Registration is required to receive instructions regarding where to meet. **The walk is limited to 20 people.** *Rain Date: Saturday, Oct. 24, 10 am-12 noon.*

Trip Leader: Barbara Bates (B.L.Bates@rcn.com)

Sunday, Oct. 25 from 2 - 3:30 pm

WHAT ARE THOSE KNOBBY ROCKS?



PHOTO: RICHARD PRIMACK
"Mountain Lion" Rock

Join Richard Primack, professor of plant ecology at Boston University, to learn about the notable rocks and geological features of Webster Woods, including the Cliffs, the Alcove, "Mountain Lion" Rock, hanging rocks, and the recent enormous rockfall. People should meet at the kiosk at the parking lot

next to Hammond Pond, where there is a path into the woods. Long pants and good footwear suggested. Terrain is steep in places. *Rain Date: Sunday, Nov. 1, 2 - 3:30 pm.*

Trip Leader: Richard Primack (primack@bu.edu)

Sunday, Nov. 8 from 10 - 12 noon

LEARN ABOUT INVASIVE TREES AND OTHER PLANTS AT COLD SPRING



PHOTO: ALAN NOGEE
Amur cork tree in Cold Spring Park

Rusty on what a non-native plant is? Curious about the plants you walk by when you stroll in the woods? Come to a guided walk in Cold Spring Park where Zach Shein, a naturalist and consultant, will point out and discuss key non-native plants and their effect on our ecosystem. Zach will also explain and provide an update on the Amur Cork Tree

removal project currently underway in the park. The terrain is generally flat with a few gentle slopes, and the footing is either compacted stones or the forest floor. A steady rain will cancel the walk. *Rain Date: Saturday, Nov. 14, 10-12 noon.*

Trip Leader: Zach Shein (zshein12@gmail.com)



Sixth Annual Newton Monarch Festival

Saturday, Sept. 19, 9-11:30 am (Rain date, Sept. 20)
Wellington Park, Kilburn Road, West Newton

Info and Registration: <https://newtonconservators.org/events/6th-annual-newton-monarch-festival/>