

Growing Alarm About Our Trees

By Laura Beebe and David Dobrindt

If you've noticed clear-cut areas around the perimeter of the Blue Hills Reservation, you're not alone. Trees in the park are protected by law, but ones nearby on private and town land are not and may fall victim to developers and landowners who remove them illegally.

Trees provide many benefits. They offer protection from sun, heat, and rain; lessen traffic noise; absorb pollution; help clean our water; feed wildlife; and beautify the landscape. Trees are a valuable component of a town's infrastructure.

Trees around the Blue Hills also offer an ecological buffer zone that protects the natural environment and keeps the forest healthy.

We need to look out for the trees in our neighborhoods and along our streets. If you see an activity that threatens trees, contact your town's conservation

commission, planning board, the town tree warden, or the town planner. Even after an area is cleared, it's not too late to weigh in. Many towns require that cut trees on town land be replaced. Strong advocacy by all of us can ensure proper remediation.

Let's unite and protect the trees and natural areas near the Blue Hills. Maintaining the trees in our beautiful towns benefits us all.



The health of the Blue Hills depends on the natural buffer that is provided by the trees and land surrounding it.



Photo by Ken Cohen, Brockton

Geologist is a "Rock Star" in the Blue Hills

Les Tyrala, a registered geologist, led a fascinating geology walk in April to explore volcanic bedrock and glacial features of the Blue Hills. Over a dozen intrepid hikers scaled the rocky terrain to learn more about the geological process.

Hundreds Participate in Peek-a-Blue Kickoff!



Calling all parents, grandparents and child care providers! A new season of our popular Peek-a-Blue Hikes has begun! Come join us every other Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Houghton's Pond for free, guided, one-hour hikes. The snacks are free, and strollers are welcome. For more information and a schedule, visit FriendsOfTheBlueHills.org/peekablue. Many thanks to our sponsors, AFC Urgent Care, L.L. Bean-Legacy Place, and Milton Junior Woman's Club.

Hundreds Pitch in to Green Up the Blue Hills

Nearly 200 people helped out at Green Up the Blue Hills, our annual stewardship event. After meeting at Houghton's Pond, volunteers fanned out across the Blue Hills Reservation, removing storm debris that blocked the trails, repairing the historic Broderick Stables, and scraping gypsy moth larvae from trees. It wasn't all work and no fun, though, as younger volunteers enjoyed face painting, crafts and a scavenger hunt while helping protect the Blue Hills Reservation.



Melissa Nelson of Stoughton had a long line of children eagerly waiting to be transformed into a fairy or spirit animal.



Caleb Beebe of Milton and Kristen Kercher of Bedford, NH cleared the trails.

Many thanks to our Green Up Sponsors:

- Boston Solar
- Eagle Farms
- Home Depot
- Milton Garden Club



Scarlet Rothstein of Brookline scraped gypsy moth egg sacs from trees.



Scouts from Dedham volunteered at Green Up.

Looking for a Legacy?

You don't have to be wealthy to make a big difference to the Blue Hills. Leave a gift of any size in your will, and you will help to preserve this very special and beautiful natural resource. Learn more at FriendsOftheBlueHills.org/skyline-society.

The Friends of the Blue Hills newsletter is produced four times a year.

Editors: Anne Comber, Judy Jacobs, Barbara Kirby

Layout: Donald Souliere

Visit us on the web at www.FriendsOftheBlueHills.org or call 781-828-1805 for membership, maps and schedule information.
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

The Hills Meet the Sea for Our Dinner at the Top of the Blue Hills!

For this year's exclusive Dinner in the Blue Hills Raffle, you have a chance to enjoy a mouth-watering dinner for six provided by Siros or Port 305 of Marina Bay, two of the most popular restaurants in Quincy!

The winner will be served a three-course meal by the chef in an exquisite setting at the top of the Blue Hill Observatory with a 360 degree view of Boston, the Blue Hills and the ocean.

Tickets are \$15 each or 3/\$35 and can be purchased online on our secure website: FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/raffle2018.

The winning ticket will be drawn at our Annual Celebration to be held on Thursday, October 4. You need not be present to win.

S I R O S
restaurant • bar • functions



This spring, Emmi Kurosawa revealed the three types of carnivorous plants on Blue Hills A-Live. Visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/blue-hills-a-live to see the video.

Blue Hills A-Live

Weekly Insights into the Blue Hills

Whether you're friendly with Facebook or not, explore the history and ecology of the Blue Hills and keep up to date with issues impacting the park.

Ever wonder about the history of Eliot Tower? Do you know about the carnivorous plants at Ponkapoag Bog? Are you concerned about crossing the trails at Routes 138 and 28? Get the inside scoop from experts on these topics – and more – on the weekly Facebook Live video series, called Blue Hills A-Live. Not on Facebook? Not a problem. See them all – and ask your questions – on our website at FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Blue-Hills-a-Live.

Photo Contest Deadline is Sunday, September 9, at 5 pm!

Show your love for the Blue Hills by entering a photo in the Seasons of the Blue Hills Photo Contest! You could win one of two \$250 gift certificates to L.L. Bean ... and be included in the Seasons of the Blue Hills calendar!

One prize will be awarded to the photographer with the photo that has the most electronic votes, and another prize will be awarded by a panel of judges. But don't wait—submit your photos now! The contest ends Sunday, September 9. Visit FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/photo-contest for details.

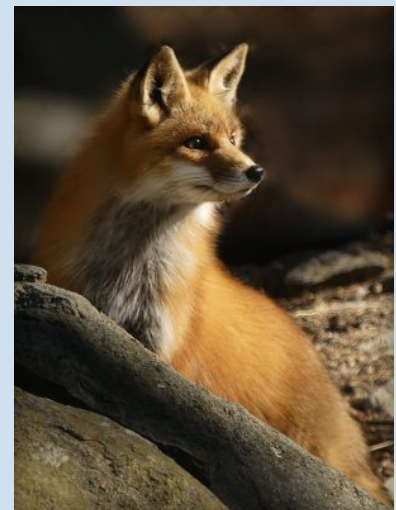


Photo by Rita Stuopis, Canton



Friends of the Blue Hills
P.O. Box 416, Milton, MA 02186

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Save the Date for our Annual Celebration!

Thursday, October 4, at the Canton Town Club

Please join us for this special evening of food, friends and festivities. Watch for your invitation in the mail!

For more information, please visit

FriendsoftheBlueHills.org/Celebrate2018.

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