

Your Blue Hills

Fall 2022

The Newsletter for Supporters of Friends of the Blue Hills



Your Generosity Keeps Our Trails Safe and Beautiful

Thank you for funding the trail maintenance that makes the Blue Hills special for all visitors!

IF YOU'VE EVER taken care of a lawn, yard, or garden, you know how much effort is involved even for a small area. Multiply that by 7,000 acres — the size of the Blue Hills Reservation. Hoowee, that's a lot of work!

Because of your generosity,

we can help keep trails clear and safe for all. Take the footbridge at Fowl Meadow, for example. Pictured here is volunteer Charlie Crosby, just before he trims the brush that helps keep the path clear and beautiful for all to enjoy.

You might wonder, "If

volunteers clear the trails, where does my money go?" That's a good question.

The answer is that tending to our park's 125 miles of trails requires hundreds of volunteers who need to be organized, trained, managed,

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Join Us for the Blue Hills Bash in October

You can support the park, learn lots, and have heaps of fun at the Annual Celebration

WHEN: 7:00-9:00 PM,
Thursday, October 20, 2022

WHERE: The Tirrell Room,
254 Quarry Street, Quincy

TIME FLIES, don't you know? Why not make room in your October calendar for the Blue Hills Bash? It will be good fun, and you'll support the Friends of the Blue Hills' 40-plus-years mission to protect and preserve the Blue Hills for our times and for future generations.

You will have a blast sampling appetizers, playing games, and optionally partaking of the cash bar, raffles, and silent auction.

Big bonus: You will also grow by learning about how you can help empower our communities with the many benefits of urban nature.

Special guest, Claire O'Neill, founder of Earthwise Aware, will give an uplifting talk about how conservation starts at home, in our "backyard." You'll discover how the Blue Hills is an extension of the surrounding cities and crucially important to their and our well-being.



Claire O'Neill, an expert on urban nature, will be the special guest.

We are also proud to celebrate our 2022 Honorees: Denny Swenon, Pete Tierney, and Skip Maysles.

Tickets to the Blue Hills Bash are \$50 if purchased by October 13th and \$55 each at the door. To buy your tickets, go to friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate2022.

We hope to see you there!

Enter to Win a Gourmet Picnic Dinner for 6 in the Blue Hills

Purchase a raffle ticket today and you and 5 guests could win a scrumptious meal prepared by Common Market Restaurant Group in West Quincy. The winning raffle ticket will be drawn at the Blue Hills Bash on October 20th. You need not be present to win, but you have to enter to win, so buy your raffle ticket today! Tickets are \$15 each or 3 for \$35 and can be purchased at friendsofthebluehills.org/celebrate2022.

Your Generosity Keeps Our Trails Safe and Beautiful

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and equipped. This material and logistical support demands a substantial investment of time and funds. We are so grateful for your generous commitment to making the Blue Hills safe, beautiful, and welcoming for all!



Julia Milot, a recent graduate from intern to staff member, shows off some of the many tools needed to keep the trails well maintained and safe for all.

THANK YOU for helping to keep the Blue Hills safe!



DURING MEMBERSHIP MONTH in July, members toured the park with fire ecologists Caren Caljouw and Alex Entrup and state ecologist Ale Echandi to see how the fires affect the forests, wildlife, and plants in the Blue Hills Reservation.

Fires in the Blue Hills: The Bad and the Good

What you should know and how you can help

FIRE IS MYSTERIOUS, don't you think? It can be terrible. It can be wonderful. It can bring destruction and new growth.

This spring, the Blue Hills saw uncontrolled fires burning more than 90 acres in the areas close to Buck, Walcott, Rattlesnake and Chickatawbut Hills.

As you might guess, prescribed burning is much preferred to uncontrolled fires. Because prescribed burning comes from fires set intentionally by trained professionals, these fires can be contained to targeted areas. The ecosystems in the targeted areas benefit in several ways. The fires stimulate germination of favorable forest

trees. They reveal soil layers rich with minerals crucial to fire-dependent species. And they help to keep potential wildfires more manageable by reducing hazardous fuel loading.

With all this in mind, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has completed a fire management plan for the Blue Hills. The DCR is now in the early stages of a planning process to introduce prescribed fires in the park.

According to Chief Fire Warden Dave Celino of the DCR, 98% of wildland fires are caused by people. "The surface fuels, such as leaf litter, small diameter woody debris, grasses

and shrubs," Celino says, "become available to burn during weather patterns... where we get at least three days of no precipitation combined with drying winds and low relative humidity."

Please help to protect the Blue Hills. You can do this by taking care to properly dispose of cigarette butts and other lighted materials. **Thank you!**

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Foliage & Sunset Hike

November 5th 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Enjoy the season's finest fall colors from the region's highest hill. A great event to share with friends and family! See the website and your email for details.

Good Dogs, Good Trails, and How You're Helping Promote Best Behaviors

ACCORDING TO OUR surveys, you care about the trails in many ways, including minimizing dogs off leash as well as trash and dog waste left behind.

To encourage people to care for the park in these ways, we are in the process of researching and testing which messages and which messengers

are most likely to promote best behaviors among all park goers — the vast majority of whom are already wonderful stewards of the park.

With your help, we'll always maintain a welcoming environment, where people enjoy seeing each other and saying happy hellos as we meet along our lovely Blue Hills trails!



Jen Brodbeck loves to bring her dog Betty Boop to the park every day, with leash, water, and poop bags.



Let Your Final Story Be the One You Choose

If you'd like to know more about a legacy in your Will, start here . . .

DO YOU WANT your caring commitment to the Blue Hills to echo into future generations? Please consider including Friends of the Blue Hills in your Will. You will be so appreciated by countless park goers, including the families who find visiting the park a joyous time of bonding and healing.

Your generosity will help to ensure that the Blue Hills

are always preserved and protected.

Let your final story be the one you choose — starting with this simple guide about joining the Skyline Society: friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will.

And if you have questions, we're here to help. Please contact Judy Lehrer Jacobs at 781-828-1805 or judy@friendsofthebluehills.org.

YES! I want to keep the Blue Hills trails and forests healthy for hiking and other recreational activities.

Please use my gift to maintain the trails, improve the habitat, and preserve native species against invasives to keep the wildlife and the woods safe for all visitors.

Here is my gift of \$ _____.

Return this coupon with your gift to:
Friends of the Blue Hills
PO Box 416
Milton, MA 02186

Or give at:
friendsofthebluehills.org/support

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