

# Your Blue Hills

Winter 2023

The Newsletter for Supporters of Friends of the Blue Hills



## Thank You For Protecting The Entire Park!

**Your support helps to care for trails and forest from east to west and north to south!**

As members of the Friends of the Blue Hills, you help to protect and care for the trails and forests throughout the park. In the topographical map designed by Michael DeZube, CEO of Charles River Data, you can see and appreciate the full extent of this amazing resource. From the wetland meadows

to the hills on Chickatawbut, “this land is made for you and me” (to borrow a phrase from Woodie Guthrie’s This Land is Your Land) and is home to some of the most endangered species in the Commonwealth. Your support helps remove hundreds of bags of invasives, including over 60 bags of

the fast-growing invasive vine mile-a-minute. The vine threatens endangered plants in Fowl Meadow and in the southern part of the Blue Hills. By supporting the Friends, you help to recruit and train volunteers and leaders to make this land healthy for you and wildlife, too.

# Beat the Winter Blues at Winter Fest!

**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 28  
5:00 - 8:00 pm

**WHERE:** Blue Hills Ski Area,  
4001 Washington St, Canton

At the end of the winter, do you need a little pick-me-up? Why not give yourself some cheer by attending Winter Fest! You'll enjoy an evening of winter fun. Explore the Blue Hills on a night hike or get your exercise on the slopes downhill skiing. There is plenty of inside fun too:

you can tap your feet to spirited music, taste chili from some of the best local restaurants, entertain the kids with crafts, and warm up in the company of old and new friends.

The event is free, but



please RSVP at [www.friendsofthebluehills.org/winter2023](http://www.friendsofthebluehills.org/winter2023).



## Thank You for Advocating for Public Transportation to the Blue Hills!



ERIK WITKOWSKI

It's pretty hard to get to the Blue Hills if you don't have a car, don't you agree? Many people in neighborhoods close to the Reservation – like Mattapan and Dorchester – do not own a car. That means those people living in these communities face a huge challenge getting to the Blue Hills to enjoy its beauty and recreational opportunities. Even if you have a car, parking at the Reservation on a beautiful weekend can be hard to find. That's why your support to increase public transportation options to the Blue Hills is so valuable.

*Continued page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

Recently the Friends of the Blue Hills partnered with organizations like the Urban Outdoors Association, Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition and the Wakefield Estate to successfully advocate for a study to improve public transportation from neighboring communities.

The study was informed by an Advisory Committee that included the Friends and many organizations representing the communities around the park. The final report, recently completed by the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, recommends modifying an existing bus route to provide a number of stops at some of the most popular destinations in and near the Reservation. We look forward to working with you to advocate for the MBTA to adopt the study's recommendations.

The parking lot fills up quickly at Houghton's Pond in the summer. A study that took place, thanks to Friends' members' support, recommends bus routes to increase access to the park and ease parking concerns.

## A Bash to Celebrate the Blue Hills and the People Who Care for It.

The Blue Hills Bash, this year's Annual Celebration, was a spirited and successful event. Over 100 people passionate about the Blue Hills packed the Tirrell Room. Attendees were entertained by the Tim Fay quartet, Blue Hills-related games, and an inspiring talk by Claire O'Neill, the founder of Earthwise Aware, who is as knowledgeable about the natural world as she is passionate about protecting it. Heartfelt tributes were paid to three heroes of the Blue Hills: Denny Swenson, Pete Tierney and Skip Maysles.

A huge thank you to this year's Blue Hills

Bash Committee and Courtney Pupkin. Their creative energy instilled the celebration with energy and contagious enthusiasm.



*President of the Friends, Matt Panucci, enjoyed chatting with participants at the Blue Hills. The evening included games, raffles, live music, and lots of great conversations!*



*Senator Walter Timilty awarded the event's honorees with a certificate from the state Senate in recognition of their dedication to improving the Blue Hills.*

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### **Blue Hills Champion**

Sunrise Erectors

### **Skyline Trail Supporter**

Quincy Auto Auction

### **Great Blue Hill Guardian**

Dedham Savings • HubLuv • Milton Garden Club

### **Buck Hill Benefactor**

Bank of Canton • Beth Israel Deaconess Milton • Fruit Center Marketplace • Gray, Gray & Gray • Motti Electric • Trillium

### **Hancock Hill Hero**

Knollwood Memorial Park • Poirier Sales & Service Corp

# Hundreds Enjoy the Sunset and the Blue Hills

Over 400 people hiked up Great Blue for the Fall Foliage and Sunset Hike to enjoy hot cider, snacks, and of course the fall colors and sunset! Many thanks to Orchard Cove for sponsoring the event and providing hikers with flashlights.



**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](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/support)

## Thank You to Our Partners

Colonial Road Runners  
Liberty Mutual Group  
Milton Garden Club  
Morgan Stanley: the McGowan Group  
Orchard Cove  
Patagonia  
REI Co-op  
Trillium Brewing

## You Can Decide What Your Legacy Will Be

When you name the Friends of the Blue Hills in your Will or as a beneficiary of a retirement annuity, you create your own environmental legacy. Your thoughtfulness will help protect the wildlife that you love, and will make sure that future generations can enjoy the natural wonders of the Blue Hills such as walking

the rocky Skyline Trail or strolling along the scenic path around Ponkapoag Pond. Learn more about joining the Skyline Society at [friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will). If you have questions, just let us know. Please contact Judy Lehrer Jacobs at 781-828-1805 or [judy@friendsofthebluehills.org](mailto:judy@friendsofthebluehills.org).

