



## What would visitors do without you?

You are cutting back the trails this spring and opening up the paths for visitors to enjoy the Hills!

Priyanka from LLM Design helps maintain the trails.

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

**Without you** and the good work that members like you make possible, the forest would grow over the trails. Branches and green shoots would prevent families, bikers, and marathon

runners — among many others — from exploring the park's 125 miles of trails. You help us recruit and train volunteers from businesses (like Priyanka from LLM Design, above), Scout troops,

families, and ordinary people who simply want to give back to the park they love.

Thank you for helping to make sure the trails are ready for visitors this spring!



Pull A Little, Help A Lot

# Green Up the Blue Hills

**Saturday, April 29, 1 – 4pm**  
**Parking at Temple Beth David**  
**1060 Randolph St., Canton**

Do you want to help care for the Blue Hills and have a great time while doing great good? Then please join us for **Green Up the Blue Hills**, our annual stewardship event. People of all ages will be working to protect the forests from invasive garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard may sound like a tasty treat for a sandwich but it is most unappetizing to woodland areas. Introduced to this country from Europe in the 1860s, the plant was thought to have culinary and medicinal qualities. Instead, it proved to be a plant with stems three or four feet high that can quickly overrun a forest floor, eliminate many healthy plant species, and destroy the ecosystem.

The good news is that it is easily controlled by simply pulling it out of the ground. When you remove garlic mustard, you help protect endangered species that live at Ponkapoag Pond and all the surrounding plants and wildlife.

At **Green Up**, you'll have lots of opportunities to play and work. You'll enjoy complimentary refreshments, crafts, live music, face-painting, and a scavenger



hunt. Interpretive staff from the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation will be on hand to talk about the importance of the work you'll be doing.

*Park at Temple Beth David and walk 3/4 mile to the site. We'll be at the nearby AMC Cabins. Register: [friendsofthebluehills.org/greenup2023](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/greenup2023). This program is supported in part by a grant from the Canton Cultural Club, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.*



Erin Alonso (left) with her daughter, Juliette.

## Blue Hills Champions: Becky and Bjorn

Do you ever wonder why some people choose to become Blue Hills Champions (by signing up for monthly giving)? Everyone has their own reasons, of course. For Becky Simonds and Bjorn Olsen, it was because — as long-time supporters of the Blue Hills — it just made sense. It was a natural progression of their commitment to and special fondness for all things Blue Hills.

Becky and Bjorn love nature walks, photography rambles, and sunset hikes. “There is so much here!” they report. “Just thinking about the park brings back so many memories.” They hold dear to their heart recollections of times bringing their son, now 23, to Ponkapoag Pond, and of enjoying a family picnic on the ski hill. Hiking in the Hills reminds Bjorn of growing up in Norway. As a Milton resident now, he



Becky Simonds and Bjorn Olsen

loves how close to home the Blue Hills are. And Becky adds, “The Blue Hills are an all-season playground.”

**To join nearly 200 passionate best friends of the Blue Hills, sign up for monthly giving and become a Blue Hills Champion here: [friendsofthebluehills.org/support/champion](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/support/champion).**

*“Being a Champion is so convenient,” Becky notes of the automatic nature of monthly giving. “And we need places like this, now more than ever.”*

## Your Photos Could Be Winners!

When you visit the Blue Hills, do you snap photos of your hiking buddies climbing a hill? Of that turtle you spotted in the grass? Of that one view that takes your breath away? Why not share your photos — and the beauty of the Blue Hills — by entering them in this year’s photo contest!

You can enter up to five photos for free, and you have four chances to win a \$250 gift certificate to Page + Waterman Gallery & Framing in Wellesley.



PHOTO: JAMIE MEDEROS

Prizes will be awarded for: the photo receiving the most electronic votes and photos judged to Best Show: “What Lives

in the Blue Hills” and “Who Visits the Blue Hills.” There will also be a Judges’ Choice category.

Many thanks to Dedham Savings and Page + Waterman Gallery & Framing for sponsoring this year’s photo contest.

**The deadline to submit your photos is Friday, September 1, at 5pm. Visit [friendsofthebluehills.org/photo-contest](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/photo-contest) to enter your photos or vote for your favorite.**

## You Are Helping Protect Public Land

For over 20 years, members and partners like you have been making phone calls, testifying at hearings and writing hundreds of letters to help protect public land like the Blue Hills. Last November, that perseverance paid off when then-Governor Charlie Baker signed into law the Public Lands Preservation Act.

This new bill will help protect the Blue Hills, and all our public parks, from losing land to private developers — for example, via a “land swap.” This happened in the early 2000s, when some land in the Blue Hills was approved to be transferred to private ownership. The legislative vote that approved the land swap took place in the middle of the night on the last day of a legislative session, without a public hearing. The Public Lands Preservation Act will also help environmental justice communities protect their open space, via new safeguards for public natural areas.

Many thanks to State Representative Ruth Balser (D-Newton) and State Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton), the primary sponsors of the bill, for their long-standing leadership. And thank you to our members, our partners, and the legislature for protecting the Blue Hills and all public lands.

For more information about how the new law will protect the Blue Hills, visit: [friendsofthebluehills.org/public-lands-protection](https://friendsofthebluehills.org/public-lands-protection).



PHOTO: MARK MILLIKEN



# Friends Beat the Blues at Winter Fest

As snow and rain fell, more than 100 hardy people celebrated February's Winter Fest at the Blue Hills Ski Area. Outdoor participants skied the slopes, while indoors, attendees enjoyed warmth from a blazing fireplace and music by the Irish band, Songs for Ceilidh. A highlight of the evening was tasting some of the best chili in the area,

served by: Abby Park of Milton, The Fours of Quincy, Fowler House of Quincy, Orchard Cove of Canton, and Quarry Restaurant of Hingham. Congratulations to Steve Cobble of Quarry Restaurant for sweeping both the judge's and popular votes.

Many thanks to our generous sponsors, including Public Lands, Morgan Stanley, and Orchard Cove.



Steve Cobble of Quarry Restaurant in Hingham won the Chili Cook-Off.



Winter Fest attendees enjoyed good conversation, delicious chili and lively music. From left: Senator Walter Timilty, Quincy City Councilor Anne Mahoney, Friends' President Matt Panucci, and Friends' volunteer and member, Farley Sullivan.



Children enjoyed crafts and face painting.



Chili judges, Nancy Graham, Betsy Lane and Georgia Lee, deposit their voting ballots after tasting and discussing their favorite chili.

Orchard Cove cooked up one of the five chili dishes that participants enjoyed during the cook-off.



PHOTO: MATTHEW THOMAS

## Leave a Gift for Future Generations

Many people who love the Blue Hills want to help protect them for years to come. Joining the **Skyline Society** by remembering the Blue Hills in your Will is a way that you can help make sure future generations can enjoy the hills too. To learn more about the Skyline Society, visit [friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/donate-in-your-will).

## Thank You to Our Partners

Colonial Road Runners  
Liberty Mutual Group  
Milton Garden Club  
Morgan Stanley: The McGowan Group  
Orchard Cove  
Patagonia  
Public Lands  
Trillium Brewing

**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.

☒ Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

Or give securely online at:  
[friendsofthebluehills.org/support](http://friendsofthebluehills.org/support)