



Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.

November 2025

Dear Friends of Nahanton Park,

The vibrant fall colors are now beginning to fade and the weather's turning crisp. This means it is time to renew your membership in the Friends of Nahanton Park. We hope that you have enjoyed the park this summer and will be able to continue to do so throughout the fall. As you know, the park is the home for many varied activities and is a wonderful Newton resource. Just being able to have a local area where you can walk in a peaceful setting, hear the birds singing and enjoy the outdoors is so refreshing and uplifting and for many, the reason they utilize the park. But Nahanton Park is home to many other activities including youth soccer games and practices, the City's Environmental Nature Camp for students, and canoe and kayak rentals for excursions on the Charles River. The Community gardens continue to have hard-working gardeners who produce bountiful harvests of vegetables and beautiful flowers. Bird watchers know Nahanton Park as a local "hotspot" because of its varied habitats and have now reported seeing 195 species there, including both local nesters and migrating birds. We are happy to report that because of the environmental rehabilitation work being done in Woodcock meadow, the Woodcocks are continuing to use this habitat in the spring for their spiraling courtship flights and nesting activities. Perhaps you have joined Haynes Miller and Alison Leary who led bird-watching walks in the park this year, co-sponsored by our Friends group.

Katherine Howard and a group of volunteers from the Friends, Newton Conservators and Boy Scouts remain busy at the park removing non-native invasive plants. While it seems to be a never-ending battle, they have clearly made an impact and the invasives are now better controlled than they ever have been. We thank all these volunteers for their efforts.

The President and Vice President of the Friends participated in an important meeting about the park last spring with the Director and Assistant Director of Open Space for Newton's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department (PRC), the City's Chief Environmental Planner and head of the Conservation Commission, a representative from the City Council and representatives from the Newton Conservators. Improvements needed at the park and future plans for it were considered. The meeting was then followed by a walk-through of the park to see many of the things discussed, such as future mowing plans for the large meadow between the upper and lower gardens, upkeep of Florrie's Path for accessibility, needed repairs for the Nature Center, the Community gardens, beehive issues, and a Conservation Restriction for Nahanton Park. I'm afraid to say that the Conservation Restriction promised by the City for the park is still not in place, but it has not been forgotten and is still being worked on by the City's law department. However, I am happy to report that following the meeting the bridge, built by the Friends of Nahanton Park, over the small intermittent stream crossing Florrie's path which had floated off of its foundation during high water in the spring, was moved back into place by the PRC. Now the path along the entire Charles river side of the park can again be used.

In order to help protect the unique treasure that is Nahanton Park, now and in the future, we hope you will renew your annual membership or join us as a first-time Friend of Nahanton Park. Please also inform friends and neighbors who use and enjoy Nahanton Park about us as well. We need people like you to be advocates for the park, to help maintain Nahanton Park's unique beauty and accessibility, and to support the habitat for wildlife living there.

The enclosed donor card offers an opportunity, beginning with a \$25 membership, to be a member of the Friends of Nahanton Park, to aid the park, and to be kept updated on important Park issues, activities and walks. Providing your email address on the card will help us send you information on events at the park. The Friends is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and all contributions are tax deductible.

We look forward to hearing from you, and working together, maintaining Nahanton Park's unique features and accessibility for the enjoyment of all.

Cordially and with thanks,

Chris Hepburn

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