

# Waltham Land Trust

is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving our community's natural resources for the future through education, open space acquisition and protection.



**JOURNAL FALL 2016**

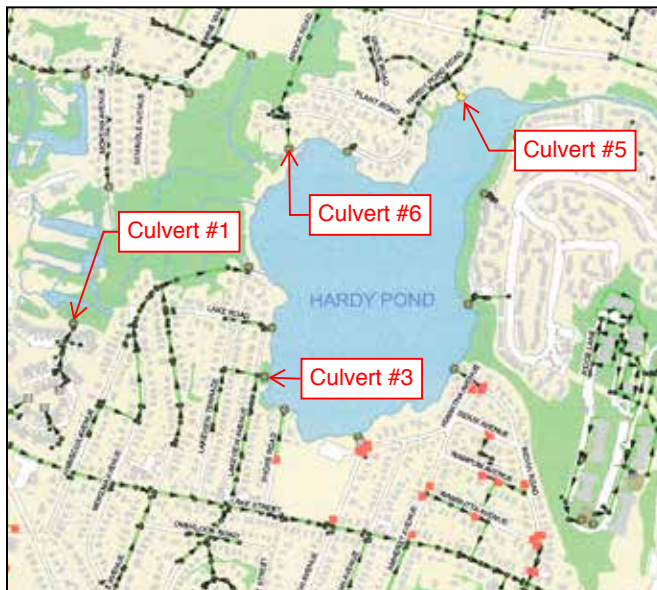
## Hardy Pond Culvert Sampling

*Phil Moser: WLT member, Hardy Pond resident*

The Hardy Pond Association (HPA), a project of the Waltham Land Trust, recently participated in a culvert sampling program in partnership with UMass Boston. This article summarizes what we learned.

### Background

Since 2012, scientists at the Freshwater Ecology Laboratory and Environmental Analytical Facility in the School for the Environment at University of Massachusetts Boston have been sampling and testing water from Hardy Pond. A significant finding from the first few years is that eutrophication is an issue at Hardy Pond. UMass Boston also evaluated several other metrics of water quality, but for the sake of brevity, this article focuses on eutrophication.



Eutrophication refers to high concentrations of nutrients (for example, phosphorus and nitrogen) in aquatic ecosystems, which leads to excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants. When the algae and plants inevitably die and are decomposed by microorganisms, the decomposition process uses up the dissolved oxygen in the water. Low oxygen conditions pose a threat to fish populations and other aquatic animals that need

dissolved oxygen to survive and thrive. Eutrophication is an issue throughout the Charles River Watershed (of which Hardy Pond is a part), and reducing the nutrient concentrations entering the waterways is therefore a priority.

### Culvert Sampling Initiative

Much of the Hardy Pond watershed surrounding Hardy Pond is drained by storm sewer systems, which carry the water through culverts and empty into the pond or surrounding wetlands. After reviewing the first few years' data for water taken directly from Hardy Pond itself, we decided that the next step should be to sample and test the water from individual culvert outfalls. Our goal was to determine whether the culvert water contributes to the high nutrient concentrations in the pond, and if so, whether some portions of the watershed contribute higher nutrient concentrations than others (so we can prioritize follow-up efforts).

We selected the following four culverts to sample (locations are shown on the map):

**Culvert #1 – King's Way:** This culvert drains into one of the wetlands bordering Hardy Pond. It serves a professionally-landscaped, multi-unit residential property.

**Culvert #3 – Lakeview Ave:** This culvert drains directly into Hardy Pond, and serves catch basins on Lakeview Ave, Lakeview Terrace, and possibly others.

**Culvert #5 – 2x Hardy Pond Rd:** This culvert is by far the largest, and drains directly into Hardy Pond. It serves catch basins on Hardy Pond Rd, Trapelo Rd, Leitha Dr, and others. It also serves as the outfall for Hardy Pond Brook, which has a large watershed in the Town of Lexington.

**Culvert #6 – 1xx Hardy Pond Rd:** This culvert drains directly into Hardy Pond, and serves catch basins on Trapelo Rd, Sheffield Rd, and others. It also serves as the outfall for the wetland behind Graverson Playground.

We initially planned to sample two other culverts, #2 and #4 (not shown), but abandoned those two due to low water flow.

**continued on page 4**

## Brief History of Berry Park

*Marie Daly: Founding WLT Director,  
Waltham Historical Commission member*

Thousands of people have strolled along the beautiful trails of Prospect Hill Park. But many hikers have been unaware they have strayed into wooded parcel formerly owned by the Polaroid Corporation, the Berry Park Trust, and now the City of Waltham. The 20.87-acre parcel includes mature, pine-shaded woodlands, a vernal pond, colonial stone walls, and steep hillsides. The ruins of two small farms, including the residence of Abraham Hun Berry manifests the long history of this land.

In 1638, when Waltham was part of Watertown, municipal leaders divided the southeastern side of Prospect Hill into 6-acre lots called Land-in-Lieu-of-Township lots. Ancient stonewalls running along the seventeenth century lot lines in Berry Park are among the oldest relics of our colonial past.

By the 18th century, the 20+-acre parcel was owned by a descendant of an early Watertown settler. This descendant, Jacob Gale, built a Georgian-style mansion on Main Street in 1798. His house, known as the Gale-Banks house, was later purchased by General Nathaniel P. Banks. The Gale estate was auctioned off in 1852, and a Waltham farmer, Daniel Carey, purchased the Prospect Hill acres. Carey, a wealthy Waltham taxpayer who lived at the corner of Bacon and Main Streets, owned 54 acres of farmland in 1860, as well as some commercial buildings on Main Street. Since he did not live on Prospect Hill, Carey probably used his highland acres as either a woodlot or pastureland.

In 1872, Daniel Carey sold his land on Prospect Hill to Oliver R. Fletcher, a carpenter, and Edward R. Hastings, a watchmaker, and they filed a subdivision plan in 1875. Both Fletcher and Hastings built houses and lived on the new road, called Lunda Street, which ran straight north from Main Street. Although they may have operated small farms there, their main source of income was from other employment. Fletcher died in 1879, and his widow sold the Lunda Street house and land in 1881 to Almon Twing. Hastings sold his



MARIE DALY

house and land to Mary H. Berry, wife of Abraham Hun Berry, in 1895. Fletcher's land turned over numerous times in the next several decades, until Mary Berry purchased the Fletcher house and land in the 1930s.

Born in 1843 in Lynn, Massachusetts, Abraham Hun Berry had enlisted in the 8th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment in 1862, and quickly rose in rank. After the end of the Civil War, the Massachusetts governor appointed Major-General Berry as Adjutant General of the Massachusetts Militia (now the National Guard), in

which position Berry served four years. In 1872, Berry graduated from MIT where he studied civil engineering and architecture. He invented several fans for ventilating textile manufactories, and his company, A. Hun Berry Fan Company, was located in South Boston.

Abraham Hun Berry married his third wife, Mary Jewett, in 1894, and the couple moved to Lunda Street in Waltham in 1895. Although the couple ran a farm

with a few sheep and a greenhouse, their main source of income was from the manufacture and sales of fans. Hun Berry was very interested in the preservation and growth of Prospect Hill, and he served on the Waltham Park Commission from 1903 until his death in 1915. Mary Berry died in 1942, and

their only child, Helen Berry, who was an administrator at the Chapel Hill School, lived there until her death in 1968. In 1969, Helen Berry's estate sold the 20.87 acres to Polaroid Corporation.

After Polaroid closed, the former campus, which included the Lunda Street parcel on Prospect Hill, was eventually sold in 2011 to SPC Main Street LLC, headed by Sam Park. Although a subdivision plan had been filed on the Berry farm property, which had been zoned as residential, a deal was made with the City of Waltham to preserve the 20.87 acres as a park for passive recreation. A trust was formed, with Sam Park as the trustee, and Waltham as the beneficiary, to hold the acres in escrow until environmental mitigation had been carried out. The final transfer to the City occurred



MAJOR-GENERAL A. HUN BERRY.



*1886 map:  
birds-eye view  
of Lunda  
Street.*

**continued on page 6**

# Get to Know the Greenway at the Race for Open Space

Anna Scheelein: WLT member

The Waltham Land Trust (WLT) and the Race Around Waltham (RAW) Series are teaming up again this year to promote physical fitness and raise funds to protect community greenspace with the *Race for Open Space*. The Western Greenway 5K Trail Run/Walk is on Sunday, October 2, and is a wonderful opportunity to support the Land Trust and see some of the coolest parts of the Western Greenway, including its cattail marshes, mature oak-hickory forests, brooks, vernal pools, and open meadows. You can check out the plots while cruising by the community garden in Belmont's Rock Meadow or take in the beautiful views while you run through the largest contiguous wooded area in our area. Best of all, the Western Greenway 5K comes right at the start of fall when temperatures are a little cooler and this amazing open space and lush landscape is at its most breathtaking as the leaves begin to change. Whether you are an avid runner with more medals than you can count, or this is your first race, come enjoy staying healthy while you take in the vibrant foliage and wonderful wildlife, including everything from

red-tailed hawks to foxes and various migratory birds.

A trail run, the Western Greenway 5K route will take you through some of the best parts of the Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow Trails. Not a runner? Not to worry. Walkers are welcome and volunteers are always needed to direct runners on the race route, hand out water, and help clean up. Prizes for the top finishers overall, and by age and gender. We hope there will be an extra one for a lucky bib-wearer! Registration in advance is preferred; there is an addition \$5 fee for signing up on October 1 or 2. The race starts at noon, and the course begins and ends at Elsie Turner Field located at 421 Trapelo Road, Waltham. Proceeds of the Western Greenway 5K will help the WLT protect and preserve community green space throughout the city, plus hopefully build the next leg of the Greenway in Spring 2017! For more information and to register, visit [walthamlandtrust.org](http://walthamlandtrust.org) or contact Sonja in WLT's office at 781-893-3355 today!



## WORD SEARCH: Native Beetles In Massachusetts

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Flower Longhorn

Golden Tortoise  
Green June  
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Net-Winged

Oil  
Predaceous Diving  
Rainbow Scarab  
Signate Lady  
Six Spotted Tiger  
Soldier  
Spotted Cucumber  
Spotted Tree Borer

Squash Lady  
Stag  
Striped Blister  
Three Lined Potato  
Varied Carpet  
White Oak Borer



## Field Work

Scientists from UMass Boston trained a team of HPA volunteers on everything we needed to know to collect the samples, including: when to sample (three days in a row, following a significant rainfall), how to sample (techniques for rinsing and carefully filling the reusable gallon jugs without introducing air bubbles or debris), and how to label the samples. We kept the samples



cold until all three days' samples were collected, and then a volunteer would deliver the samples to UMass Boston's laboratory for testing.

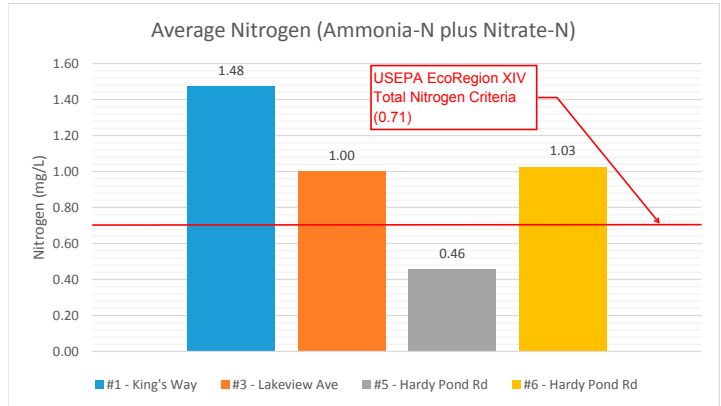
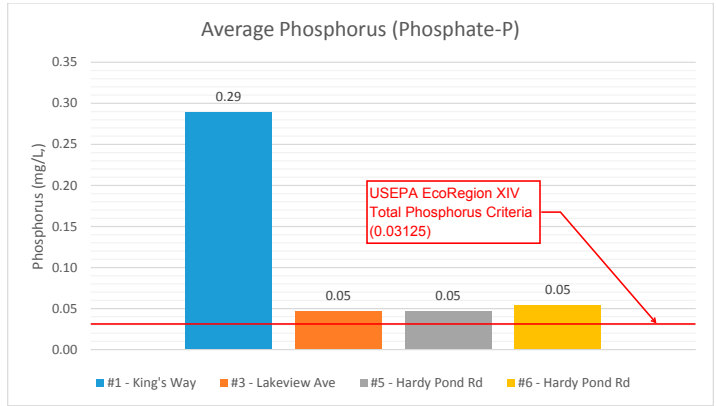
We took samples for five months: October 2015 and January through May 2016. Even before getting any data back from the lab, we were struck by the high

degree of variation in colors of the water samples (see photo above) – some were as clear as drinking water, while others looked more like tea, or something else!

## Results

Our partners at UMass Boston provided their reports in January 2016, and on 28 June 2016; the following is a brief summary of key results. Average phosphorus and nitrogen data (arithmetic mean of 15 samples) for each culvert is shown in the following charts.

1. Measured phosphorus concentrations at all culverts typically exceeded the US EPA water quality criteria for EcoRegion XIV (Eastern Coastal Plain) for Total Phosphorus. Note that only the phosphorus contained in phosphate was measured; this study did not include measuring other forms of phosphorus such as dissolved organic phosphorus or particulate phosphorus (in other words, phosphorus in particulate forms such as soil or plant material was not included in the UMass Boston analyses). Had these other forms of phosphorus been measured, the Total Phosphorus numbers would likely have been even higher.
2. Measured nitrogen concentrations at most culverts typically exceeded the US EPA EcoRegion XIV criteria for Total Nitrogen. The one exception is Culvert #5 (2x Hardy Pond Rd), which was often below the US EPA criteria. Note that only the nitrogen contained in nitrate and ammonia was



measured; this study did not include measuring other forms of nitrogen such as nitrite, dissolved organic nitrogen, and particulate nitrogen. Had these other forms of nitrogen been measured, the Total Nitrogen numbers would likely have been higher.

3. Surprisingly (at least to us lay people), we did not see any correlation between water color and measured nutrient concentrations. In fact, the opposite was sometimes true! Culvert #1 (King's Way) typically had the clearest water, but also had the highest measured phosphorus and nitrogen concentrations.

## Take-Aways

This study found that the water flowing from all four of the culverts we sampled, like the pond water itself, has excessive nutrient concentrations. We succeeded in identifying which of the four culverts tested has higher nutrient concentrations than others. We are still reviewing how best to follow up.

On a broader scale, this study highlights the challenges of addressing the many sources of eutrophication in aquatic ecosystems when:

1. Dissolved nutrients are invisible, and may be present in high concentrations even in clean-looking water.
2. Storm sewers in developed areas drain runoff quickly into aquatic ecosystems without letting it naturally filter through the ground. The storm sewers

typically include rudimentary sediment-capture features such as catch basins, but rarely include any treatment to remove excess dissolved nutrients or other contaminants.

3. From most places in a watershed, the aquatic ecosystem is out of sight and out of mind. Furthermore, most areas of a watershed are outside the jurisdictional area of the local Conservation Commission as established by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and Rivers Protection Act. In the case of Hardy Pond, a significant percentage of the watershed area is outside the City of Waltham, and lies in a neighboring town.

Stay tuned for follow-up information on the health of Hardy Pond, as well as how you can help reduce nutrient impacts from your property on the nearby aquatic ecosystems, no matter where you live. If you have ideas, we'd love to hear them!

### Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the team at the Freshwater Ecology Laboratory and Environmental Analytical Facility in the School for the Environment at University of Massachusetts Boston, including Amelia Atwood, Sarah Jacobs, Sarah Nee, Laurissa Gulich, Tresser Graves, and Dr. Alan Christian, for your invaluable partnership over the past four years.

The map of Hardy Pond showing the culverts in this study was adapted from City of Waltham map "Catch Basins with Decals 2008 through Present."

Average phosphate-phosphorus concentration (arithmetic mean of 15 samples) for each culvert, compared with USEPA Total Phosphorus criteria.

Average combined nitrate-nitrogen and ammonia-nitrogen concentration (arithmetic mean of 15 samples) for each culvert, compared with USEPA Total Nitrogen criteria. *Both figures by author, generated from UMass Boston data.*

### References

Atwood, Amelia N.; Jacobs, Sarah M.; and Christian, Alan D. *Limnological Assessments and Trophic Status of Hardy Pond for Water-Year 2013-2014*. University of Massachusetts Boston, 30 January 2015.

Gulich, Laurissa C; Graves, Tresser C; Atwood, Amelia N.; and Christian, Alan D. *Limnological Assessments and Trophic Status of Hardy Pond for Water-Year 2014-2015*. University of Massachusetts Boston, 11 December 2015.

Nee, Sarah; and Christian, Alan D. *October Report for the Storm Water Run-Off Levels in Hardy Pond, Waltham, MA*. University of Massachusetts Boston, January 2016.

Christian, Alan D. *Water Year 2015/2016 Storm Water / Melt Water Sampling of Hardy Pond Culvert Stations*. University of Massachusetts Boston, 28 June 2016.

## Member Spotlight

*In each Fall Journal, we highlight a member of the Waltham Land Trust who brings something special to our group. Phil Moser, civil engineer and passionate Waltham Conservation Commission Board Member, lives on Hardy Pond with his wife, Didi. Read his article summarizing recent water quality testing at Hardy Pond on page 1. Phil is an active WLT Steward whom you may occasionally see removing invasive species and trash around Hardy Pond and along the Charles River and Western Greenway trail.*



DIDI MOSER

**WLT:** What is your first memory of enjoying open space and nature?

**PM:** I grew up in NH and have lots of good memories from childhood, of enjoying God's creation with my parents and three brothers. Within walking distance through the woods in our backyard was a stream that had been dammed up by beavers, and the resulting swamp was home to dozens of great blue herons; we liked to watch them nesting in the tops of the trees. Our family vacations every year were two weeks of camping in the White Mountains, rain or shine.

**WLT:** We know you are a steward along the Charles and Western Greenway. Thanks! What is the oddest and/or most beautiful thing you've encountered while being a steward?

**PM:** Seeing wood ducks and a kingfisher (both of which Didi spotted) on the Charles River between Shaw's and Newton Street a couple years ago was amazing. Another thing that puts a big smile on my face is coming

across other volunteer trail stewards (like Mike on the Charles River path) caring for our natural resources. Your dedication is inspiring.

**WLT:** What advice do you have for those looking to experience Waltham's trails and open spaces?

**PM:** Get outside and start exploring! There's more green space in Waltham than meets the eye, and more than one would expect for a city. Use Google Maps satellite view to find forested areas near where you live, and refer to the Waltham Land Trust's online trail maps of the largest areas.

**WLT:** Do you have a favorite natural place in Waltham that you can share with our readers?

**PM:** Sanderson Heights is one of the more recently-purchased, and lesser-known, parcels of green space the City of Waltham has preserved. You may have seen the city's sign on Lincoln Street, but to access Sanderson Heights, go to Jericho Hill Rd or one of the other cul-de-sacs in that neighborhood, and look for an unmarked trail into the woods. There are several unmapped trails that lead through a sunny oak forest on a glacier-carved rocky hillside. Go in the late fall through early spring to enjoy views of the Boston skyline from the summit.

**WLT:** Why do you support the Waltham Land Trust?

**PM:** For the 11 years I've lived and worked in Waltham, I've been benefiting (unknowingly, for most of that time) from the WLT's work to preserve natural resources and to build and maintain trails for everyone to enjoy. Once I found out about WLT, it was an easy choice to join and support its ongoing work.

**Berry Park** *continued from page 2*

on August 4, 2016. The Waltham Land Trust plans to hold an official celebration at the site in the near future. Stay tuned!

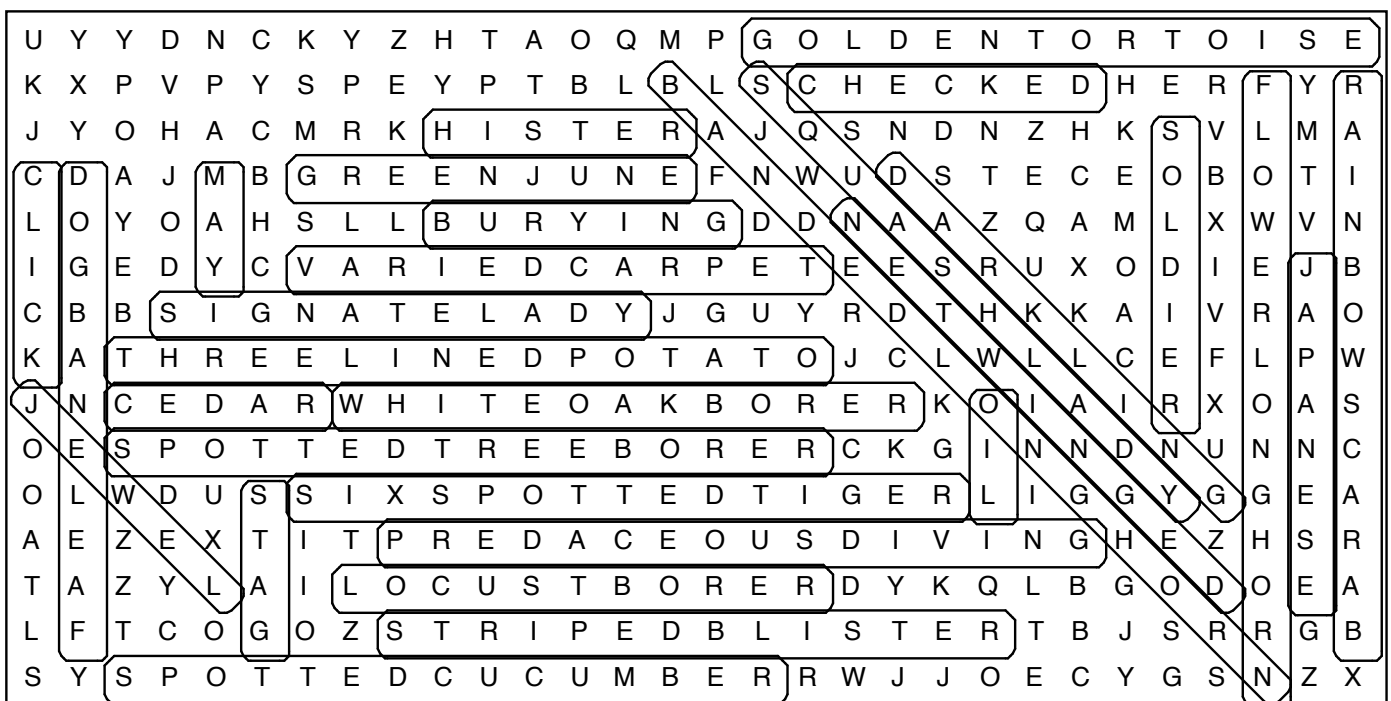
The Berry Park acres can be accessed via the Buttrick trail near the Prospect Hill Park south entrance on Prospect Hill Road. A trail map of Berry Park is included in the Prospect Hill Park map and can be downloaded from the Waltham Land Trust website.

**In Case You Missed It . . .**

Congresswoman Katherine Clark visited the Waltham Land Trust table at Riverfest, June 18, two days before she co-led a Congressional sit-in to protest gun violence.



**WORD SEARCH ANSWERS: Native Massachusetts Beetles**



## Upcoming Events

### NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY MCRT CLEANUP HIKE

*Saturday, September 24, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.*

**Park/meet along northside (AutoZone) of 140 Lexington Street parking lot**

Applaud our shared lands by beautifying Waltham's "middle" section of the proposed Mass Central Rail Trail. We'll walk and pick up trash heading west from AutoZone along the side of the abandoned railway past Bacon and Hammond streets. We'll turn around at Prospect Hill Road (where our August 9 trek to Not Your Average Joe's began) and head back. Trash bags and gloves provided. The terrain is rugged; those not confident walking on uneven surfaces should not participate.

### UNO FUNDRAISER

*Saturday/Sunday, September 24/25, 11 a.m. – close*

**155 Bear Hill Road**

Can't do the cleanup hike? No problem, celebrate National Public Lands Day by eating and drinking at this popular Italian restaurant. Uno is donating up to 20% of the weekend's proceeds (with certificate), plus 10 pies to this year's Western Greenway 5K! Let them know we appreciate their support and enjoy drinks, lunch or dinner, dine in or take out. Remember to give your server our certificate, available on our web site, so we get credit!

### WESTERN GREENWAY 5K RUN/WALK

*Sunday, October 2, noon start time*

**Start/end at Elsie Turner Field, 385 Trapelo Road**

Be a part of our fall *Race for Open Space* fundraiser as a walker, runner, or sponsor! On the same course as the last two years, the route travels through various habitats in Beaver Brook North Reservation and Rock Meadow along the Western Greenway trail. Registration fees (\$25 in advance) and race sponsorships help raise money to keep building this community path and outfit our volunteer stewards. Walkers will begin shortly after the runners depart. Families welcome!

### HARDY POND CLEANUP

*Saturday, October 15, 9:30 a.m. – noon*

**Sign-in and get supplies by the shore at Lazzazero Park, corner of Princeton and Hiawatha streets one block off Lake Street**

Help remove trash from the wetlands and shoreline of Waltham's only Great Pond (publicly-owned, greater than 10 acres in size). Be prepared to get wet and possibly dirty! Long pants and sleeves, plus boots or sturdy shoes that can get wet, are recommended. Tools, trash bags, gloves, and water will be provided. Bring an empty water bottle. All ages welcome (kids under 12 must be accompanied by an adult).

### WALTHAM LAND TRUST 17TH ANNUAL MEETING

*Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m.*

**First Parish Church in Waltham, 50 Church Street**

Attend our annual meeting to see a presentation about Massachusetts' wildlife, receive updates on issues the Land Trust is tackling, celebrate our *Inge Uhlir Environmentalist of the Year*, vote on new and returning WLT Directors, and mingle with other open space supporters.

### BERTUCCI'S FUNDRAISER

*Wednesday, October 26, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.*

**Bertucci's Italian Restaurant, 475 Winter Street**

Help us thank Bertucci's for donating delicious pizzas to our Western Greenway 5Ks and Earth Day Clean-ups! Look for the certificate on our website (or call the office to have one mailed to you), give it to the server when you dine in or take out lunch and/or dinner with friends and family, and the Waltham Land Trust gets 15% of the food and drink sale.

## HELP WLT GO PAPERLESS!

Join the 120 Land Trust members who have selected to have their Journals sent to them electronically. By opting out of the mailed hard copy, these supporters are helping WLT reduce our carbon footprint and save on costs associated with printing, postage, and transportation. You can also receive the Upcoming Events postcards electronically.

Please send an email with your name to [swadman@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) with the subject header "Electronic Journal" (and/or Event postcard) if you'd like the next Journal (and/or postcard) emailed to you. **Please remember that receiving the Journal is a privilege of membership.** Be sure you are up-to-date with your dues so you don't miss the Spring 2017 Journal!



WALTHAM



Waltham Land Trust  
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forever.*

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is published by Waltham Land Trust, Inc.  
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Waltham Land Trust, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable corporation,  
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An electronic file (pdf) of this newsletter is available on our  
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Diana Young

## Please renew or join

To renew or join please use the enclosed  
membership application and send to:

Waltham Land Trust  
PO Box 541120  
Waltham MA 02454-1120

Printed on recycled paper.

## Waltham Land Trust's Mission

To create a legacy of land conservation in Waltham by  
promoting, protecting, restoring, and acquiring open  
space.

We envision growth in public appreciation of  
natural resources, preservation and restoration of  
native habitat, and increased biodiversity to foster a  
healthier environment.

## • SPECIAL GIFT MEMBERSHIP •

Have a friend, neighbor, or relative you think would  
enjoy being part of the Waltham Land Trust? Why not  
give them a gift membership? **We are offering a special  
promotion for a limited time: 6 months for only \$10!**  
(The normal price of an individual membership is 12  
months for \$25). **Support open space for a birthday,  
special occasion, or the holidays!**

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email to <[memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org](mailto:memberlink@walthamlandtrust.org)>.

*If you're not already a WLT member and have received  
this complimentary copy, please consider joining today!*



