

# Ranger Newsletter

ISSUE5: April, 2023



Photo Credit: Barbara Desouza

## Welcome to the Ranger Newsletter!

In each issue, we will cover all things Prospect Hill Park. From events and programs, to stories on the trails and fun places to visit. Want to contribute a story or picture to feature in the newsletter?

Contact the Park Ranger,

Adam Green at

781-314-3452

E-Mail: [agreen@city.waltham.ma.us](mailto:agreen@city.waltham.ma.us)

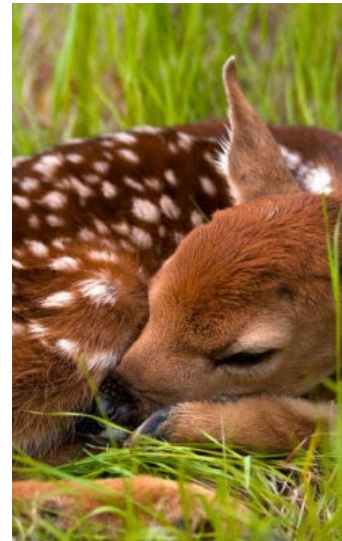
## Spring is here!

Winter did not want to give up but spring has finally arrived. Spring is the season when the landscape comes to life after a cold winter. There is stronger sunlight, temperatures begin to rise and the days grow longer. The weather can change a lot in spring. It can be sunny and dry one minute, and wet and showery the next.

## Trail Reports

Mud season is here!, Trails this time of year are typically the most treacherous. The winter loosens up soil and rocks, making footing difficult. Frequent rains can also leave the trails muddy and slippery. Please stay vigilant and safe.

Dogs off-leash are still a concern and have become a regular complaint on the trails. As a reminder, all dogs must be leashed at all times in the City of Waltham which includes all city properties.



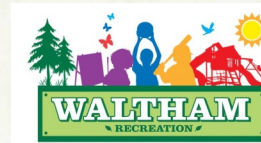
## Spring Wildlife Do's & Don'ts

- The most important thing to remember is that wildlife need very little from us, we must respect their space and do no harm.
- Feeding wildlife creates unhealthy conditions.
- Keep pets under control so that they don't injure or eat wildlife .
- Demonstrate respect for wildlife and their homes; teach children not to catch or harass them.
- Exercise caution when driving and watch the roadside for wild animals.

If you want to help wildlife near your home, consider improving the wildlife habitat around your property. Grow natural foods or cover for the animals.

If you suspect that an animal is injured or in need of assistance DO NOT move it. Please contact the Park Ranger or Animal Control Officer for assistance.

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**Black-legged Tick**



**Dog Tick**



**Lone Star Tick**



## Tick Season!

- Ticks are tiny bugs most likely found in shady, damp, brushy, wooded, or grassy areas (especially in tall grass), including your own backyard.
- Ticks can bite you and spread diseases like Lyme disease, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, tularemia, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Borrelia miyamotoi and Powassan virus.
- Ticks do not fly or jump. They attach to animals or people that come into direct contact with them.
- One of the most important things you can do is check yourself for ticks once a day.
- If you find a tick attached to your skin, don't panic. Use a pair of fine point tweezers to grip the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull straight out with steady pressure.

## Poison Ivy

- Native to New England, poison ivy is commonly found growing in a many types of habitats, including woodland edges, gardens, landscapes, roadsides, and riverbanks. It grows in areas from partial shade to full sun.
- "Leaflets three, let it be" sums up the most easily identified characteristic of poison ivy.
- Contrary to popular belief, the rash caused by poison ivy is not spread by contact with open sores. However, the tacky oil is persistent and can be spread indirectly by contact with pets, garden tools, garden gloves, shoes, golf balls, or any other object that has come in contact with a bruised poison ivy plant.



## Looking to Volunteer?

Are you looking to get involved at Prospect Hill Park or any other parks within the City of Waltham? Contact the Park Ranger!

Adam Green, Park Ranger

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