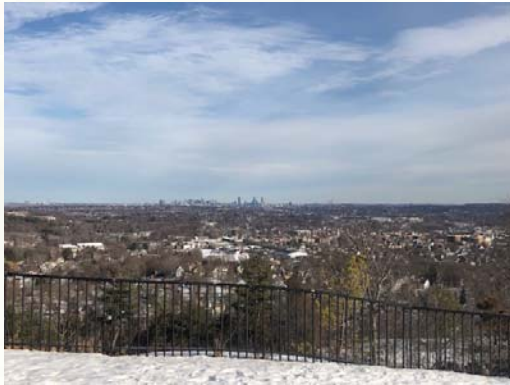


Ranger Newsletter

ISSUE: April, 2024



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

Spring has sprung!

The Vernal equinox occurred on 3/19/2024 officially transitioning us into spring!

Please be mindful as the access road will be open to vehicle traffic starting in April, gates open at 10:00am and close at 7:00pm.

Trail Reports

Higher than expected rainfall in the spring has left some trails damaged due to erosion. We continue to make repairs. Always be mindful of footing while on nature trails.

As a reminder, all dogs must be leashed at all times in the City of Waltham which includes all park properties.

Dogs off-leash are a concern on the trails.

Vigilance Around Wildlife in the Springtime

It's important to be safe around wildlife all year long, but spring is a particularly important time.

A big reason is baby animals. Birds are protective of nestlings and mammals can be defensive and unpredictable when they have vulnerable youngsters.

Please adhere to the following when in the presence of wildlife.

- Give plenty of space
- Do not approach or touch young animals, if you feel the animals may be injured or abandoned. DO NOT attempt to move them. Call the Waltham Animal Control Officer or Park Ranger.
- Do not feed wildlife
- Stay on the trail



**DO NOT FEED
THE WILDLIFE**

Ranger Newsletter



Trail Etiquette

Safety and a great visitor experience is something we strive for in the City of Waltham and you are a big part of that. We ask that you observe these main points of trail etiquette.

- Know your right of way: Hikers coming uphill have the right of way. If you're descending the trail, move aside and give space to those climbing up. For example, bicyclists yield to hikers. Please come to a full stop and step to the side to give the right of way.
- Make yourself known: When you encounter other hikers and trail users, offer a friendly "hello" or a simple head nod. This helps create a friendly atmosphere on the trail. If you approach another trail user from behind, announce yourself in a friendly, calm tone and let the individual or group know you want to pass.
- Stay on the trail: Don't step off trail unless you absolutely must when yielding. Going off trail can damage or kill certain plant or animal species and can hurt the ecosystems that surround the trail. Always practice "**Leave No Trace**" principles: Leave rocks, vegetation, and artifacts where you find them for others to enjoy.
- Do not disturb wildlife: They need their space and you need yours, too.



Trail Etiquette

- Be mindful of trail conditions: If a trail is too wet and muddy, turn back and save the hike for another day. Using a muddy trail can be dangerous, damage the trail's condition, and damage the ecosystems that surround the trail.
- Take time to listen: When hiking, let nature do all the talking. Be respectful of both nature and the other users, and keep the noise from electronic devices at bay. Not only will other visitors appreciate the peace and quiet, but so will the wildlife.
- Be aware of your surroundings: Always be aware of your surroundings when hiking. It will help keep you and any members of your group safe.



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

Office: 781-314-3452

E-Mail: agreen@city.waltham.ma.us