



# Lexington Conservation

*Caring for our public land*

**May 2021**

## What can you see?

### Spring Celebration 2021 Wright Farm

**Saturday, May 1st, 12pm-4 pm**

What can you see? Birds, mammals, insects, plants - if it's alive, you can record it in iNaturalist!

Join the Conservation Office and [Citizens for Lexington Conservation](#) for a celebration of spring at Wright Farm .

**This year, we are participating in the [iNaturalist Boston Area City Nature Challenge Bio Blitz](#), so come prepared with your smartphone and help us log as many species as possible at Wright Farm!**

The City Nature Challenge uses iNaturalist, a smartphone app, to collect important data on what (besides humans) lives in our environment. iNaturalist has been sponsoring this project for 6 years, to coincide with Earth Day and celebrate biodiversity all over the world.

Parking is limited; please consider (safe) carpooling, walking or biking. Parking on Carriage Drive is allowed.

[Find out more here!](#)



Wright Farm in Autumn;  
Photo by Dick Wolk

### Encyclopedia of Life

The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL) is a on online encyclopedia intending to document all living organisms and providing global access to knowledge regarding those lifeforms on Earth. Check out our [Wildlife in Lexington website page](#) to learn all about the various wildlife in town including links to EOL cards for New England [Vernal Pools](#), New England [Urban](#)

## Pollinator Planting Kits for Sale!!! Only 3 Weeks Left

The Lexington Conservation Office and [Lexington Living Landscapes](#) are offering pollinator plant kits available to the Lexington Community. Turn your lawn into pollinator friendly habitat with *Zizia aurea* (golden Alexanders), *Monarda fistulosa* (wild bergamot), *Pycnanthemum tenuifolium* (narrow-leaved mountain-mint), and *Solidago caesia* (blue-stemmed goldenrod). Become a Pollinator



Ambassador with the purchase of 12 plants (3 plants of each species) for \$60 or a Pollinator Supporter with the purchase of 4 plants (1 plant of each species) for \$22. Don't forget to set up your [MyRec account](#) to be eligible to order. **Pick up your kit on Saturday May 15th from 9-12 at 201 Bedford Road.** [Contact Lexington's Conservation Coordinator](#) with any questions.

[Register here!](#)

## Explore Conservation Properties with [CLC](#)

### Saturday May 8: 8-10 am - Birding Willards Woods

Willards Woods mix of open fields and wood lots annually attracts a wide variety of resident and migratory bird species. Catch the peak of spring migration for an opportunity to see which species are passing through on their way to their summer breeding grounds further north. More than light rain will cancel the event. No dogs please. **Group limit - 10. Masks and pre-registration required.** Send an e-mail to walk leader John Andrews to register and receive confirmation of the meeting point location. Title your message: *Registration - Willards Woods Walk.*

Walk Leader: John Andrews ([jandrews166@gmail.com](mailto:jandrews166@gmail.com))

### Saturday May 15: 7:30-9:30 am - Birding Lower Vine Brook

Warblers are small, beautiful tropical birds that fly north to breed every year. Over 15 different species stop off in this sheltered area during their spring migration to their nesting grounds in northern New England and Canada. Depending on the weather and the foliage, you may see a dozen species in a morning. No dogs please. More than light rain will cancel the event. **Group limit - 10. Masks and pre-registration required.** Send an e-mail to walk leader Harry West to register and receive confirmation of the meeting point location. Title your message: *Registration - LVB Walk.*

Walk Leader, Harry West ([hwest2020@gmail.com](mailto:hwest2020@gmail.com))

### Saturday May 22: 10am - 12 noon - Using iNaturalist: A Walk at Whipple Hill

Do you have an interest in using online apps to identify plants, animals and wildlife in general? This exploratory walk of Whipple Hill will use iNaturalist to see what can be

learned using this handy smart phone resource. Plants will be the focus (since they are easiest to photograph) but we'll look at other organisms as available. Prerequisite: Bring your phone with iNaturalist installed and ready to use. Please try it out: take a few sample photos and have your phone enabled for cellular data. The usefulness of iNaturalist depends on taking good photos. The app may be found at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/>. It's free, but may require registration on the iNaturalist web site. **Group limit - 10. Masks and pre-registration required** . Send an e-mail to walk leader Andrea Golden to register and receive confirmation of the meeting point location. Title your message: *Registration - Whipple Hill Walk*. Heavy rain cancels. Walk Leader: Andrea Golden ([andgold@comcast.net](mailto:andgold@comcast.net))

### **Sunday June 13: 10 am - 12 noon - iNaturalist Walk in Dunback Meadow**

This exploratory walk of Dunback Meadow will provide a second opportunity to use iNaturalist to see what can be learned using this handy smart phone resource. Plants will be the focus (since they are easiest to photograph) but we'll look at other organisms as available. Prerequisite: Bring your phone with iNaturalist installed and ready to use. Please try it out: take a few sample photos and have your phone enabled for cellular data. The usefulness of iNaturalist depends on taking good photos. The app may be found at: <https://www.inaturalist.org/> . It's free, but may require registration on the iNaturalist web site. **Group limit - 10. Masks and pre-registration required** . Send an e-mail to walk leader Barbara Katzenberg to register and receive confirmation of the meeting point location. Title your message: *Registration - Dunback Walk*. Heavy rain cancels. Walk Leader: Barbara Katzenberg ([barbara.katzenberg@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.katzenberg@gmail.com))



## **Lexington High School Conservation Club**

Last year, the Lexington High School Conservation Club was founded to protect and preserve nature in and around Lexington, and to foster a greater appreciation for nature in the student body. Since September of 2020, the Conservation Club has gained over 50 members, who participate in weekly conservation projects and citizen scientist

projects. Currently, the club is working with the Conservation Office to certify vernal pools around the town with over 15 students helping out. The club has also led many conservation efforts, such as clearing debris from trails, picking up trash, planting native species, and hosting a screening of *David Attenborough: A Life on This Planet* . The club is always willing to help out, and would love to be part of more projects!

If you have a project or any questions, please contact Alex Ordentlich (founder and president) at [alexord11@gmail.com](mailto:alexord11@gmail.com)!

## **Join our team!**

We are hiring for two positions on our summer conservation field crew and one crew supervisor. Basic job duties include mowing, brush-cutting, pruning, small construction, invasive plant removal, and native species planting. Ability to operate a Town vehicle is required; familiarity with small landscaping equipment is preferred.

Applicants must be willing to perform physical labor in the outdoors in all weather conditions and in areas with poison ivy, mosquitoes, ticks, dense brush, etc.

Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about the positions and for application

instructions. Share widely with the high school students and/or recent graduates in your life! **Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.**

## Nature Speaker Series

We've been busy putting together a series of **FREE** nature talks that will be offered this spring - from birds, to bees, to your backyard! See the topics below and be sure to mark your calendar!

Questions? Contact Conservation Coordinator Amber Carr at [acarr@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:acarr@lexingtonma.gov)

We hope to (virtually) see you there!

### All About Backyard Birds with Michele Grzenda

**Thursday, May 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM**

Are you fascinated by all the visitors coming to your family's bird feeder? Join Michele Grzenda to learn skills to identify all those colorful feathered friends you admire. She will teach you common songs and calls of our backyard birds as well as some helpful mnemonic memorization.

[Find out more including link to join](#)



### Good Owners Make Good Dogs

A free [brochure](#) on the impact of dogs on conservation lands and how dog owners can help. This brochure is approved by Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals.

As always, please follow [Lexington's dog walking rules and regulations](#) while enjoying Conservation land and other town properties.



**GOOD OWNERS  
MAKE GOOD DOGS  
RESPECTING CONSERVATION  
LAND, WILDLIFE, AND  
VISITORS**

We welcome you and your dog to our conservation land! We understand that your dog is an important part of your life, and we're pleased to provide the opportunity for you to recreate with your pet. With your help we can ensure your dog does not negatively impact water bodies, wildlife, soil, water quality, and other visitors.

## Shine a light on Daylighting

Daylighting is a process that involves redirecting a stream which was in a culvert, pipe, or drainage system into an above-ground channel. Drainage can be improved to alleviate erosion and flooding, improve quality of water, reduce pollutant sources, and to implement a proactive drain/stream maintenance. Drainage infrastructure in some areas of town is well over 60 years old, and with an increase in



development and impervious surfaces such as I-95 doubling the amount of flow, flood storage and overall capacity are needed to be reconfigured. Lexington is also subject to the [2003 General Permit for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems \(MS4\)](#), and Vine Brook, Beaver Brook and Kiln Brook are subject to a final [Total Maximum Daily Load \(TMDL\)](#) due to bacteria impairment.

The Town of Lexington's Engineering, Highway and Conservation Divisions, along with Consultants and numerous watershed stewards, have been working on daylighting projects throughout town for a number of years. These areas include Willard's Woods, Whipple Hill, the Valleyfield neighborhood, and most recently Kiln Brook along Constitution Road. From the initial survey, investigation and design, to construction and site stabilization, the process can take about 2-3 years to complete.

Lexington is working to incorporate daylighting into as many drainage projects as possible - [check back in](#) as we explore past projects and opportunities for the future!

# Calling All Volunteers!



## Join us on Stewardship Saturdays for volunteer work and camaraderie

Next Event: Help Pull Garlic Mustard at Daisy Wilson Meadow

May 15th 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Join the Conservation Stewards to pull along the trail into the meadow from Moreland Avenue. Meet and park along Moreland Avenue at the trailhead. We will provide all tools and know-how, just bring work gloves, work appropriate clothing (no open-toed shoes), face mask, and a willingness to work!

[Find out more details and register for upcoming events!](#)

## Garlic Mustard Pull Dates 2021

### Sat May 8<sup>th</sup> 10am-12 noon Lincoln Park

Garlic mustard seeds can take up to 7 years to sprout, which requires repeated efforts to control and eradicate this aggressive invasive species. Come join [Citizens for Lexington Conservation's](#) multi-year effort to pull this year's progeny from along the pathways in Lincoln Park. Bring gardening gloves. Steady rain cancels. Meet at the Fitness Path Trail entrance on Middleby Road across from the entrance to the Bridge School where you may park. Masks required. Social distancing will be maintained due to the nature of the activity. All welcome, no pre-registration required. Leader: Keith Ohmart ([kohmart@verizon.net](mailto:kohmart@verizon.net))



Want to help at Lincoln Park but can't make May 8<sup>th</sup>? Contact David Williams for ongoing opportunities:  
781 572 4768; [williams.dg@comcast.net](mailto:williams.dg@comcast.net)

### Sat May 15<sup>th</sup> 9 am-12 pm Daisy Wilson Meadow

Join the Conservation Stewards to pull along the trail into the meadow from Moreland Avenue. Meet and park along Moreland Avenue at the trailhead.

Contact Amber Carr, Conservation Coordinator, at [acarr@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:acarr@lexingtonma.gov) or 781-698-4532.

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS!!!!!!**



## Cotton Farm Pruning

We noticed some pruning occurred at Cotton Farm in mid April. Do you know more about this effort? If you have any information to share- please contact the Conservation Office by emailing the [Conservation Coordinator](#) so we can learn more about this event.

THANKS!

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## Have Something to Share?

This is the place for all things stewardship in Lexington, including upcoming volunteer work events, newly completed projects, local trainings and educational events, as well as news from the Lexington Conservation Office. Please e-mail [landstewards@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:landstewards@lexingtonma.gov), with submissions for our next edition.

Did a friend forward you this newsletter? Sign up [here](#) by choosing Conservation News and Events!

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## Stay up to date on COVID-19

[See the Town's COVID-19 Information webpage](#)

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Lexington Conservation | 781-698-4532 | [landstewards@lexingtonma.gov](mailto:landstewards@lexingtonma.gov) |  
[www.lexingtonma.gov/conservation/conservation-stewardship](http://www.lexingtonma.gov/conservation/conservation-stewardship)

STAY CONNECTED:

