

The background features a stylized landscape. The top half consists of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles of varying shades, creating a mountain range effect. The bottom half is a solid, bright orange color, representing a field or grass. The text is centered in the orange area.

Waltham Land Trust's Stewardship Training

April 18, 2026

WLT's Mission

The Waltham Land Trust's mission is 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.

Waltham Land Trust's People

- Founded in 1999 by neighborhood associations (HPA, PHAG, Beaver Brook, Island), community activists, environmentalists, and “just plain folks”
- Currently 15 Board Directors, 8 Advisors
- Executive Director, 30 hours/week.
Tech & Development Manager, ~10 hours/week
- 6 committees of board members, ED, others
- 440 paying members receive *The Journal*
- 3000 supporters receive upcoming event e-blasts
- 400 trained volunteer stewards--including you!

WLT's Funding

- Membership dues (individuals and businesses) and individual contributions
- Major special events -- *Green Space Blues Jam* May 15 band, snacks, drinks, auction. *WG5K* in October.
- Grants from local foundations, family foundations, the Commonwealth
- Fundraisers: Wed. 4/29 Jake n JOES, group table @ 6 p.m. (WLT gets 20% when you tell them to "flag your check" in person or pick "fundraiser" online)

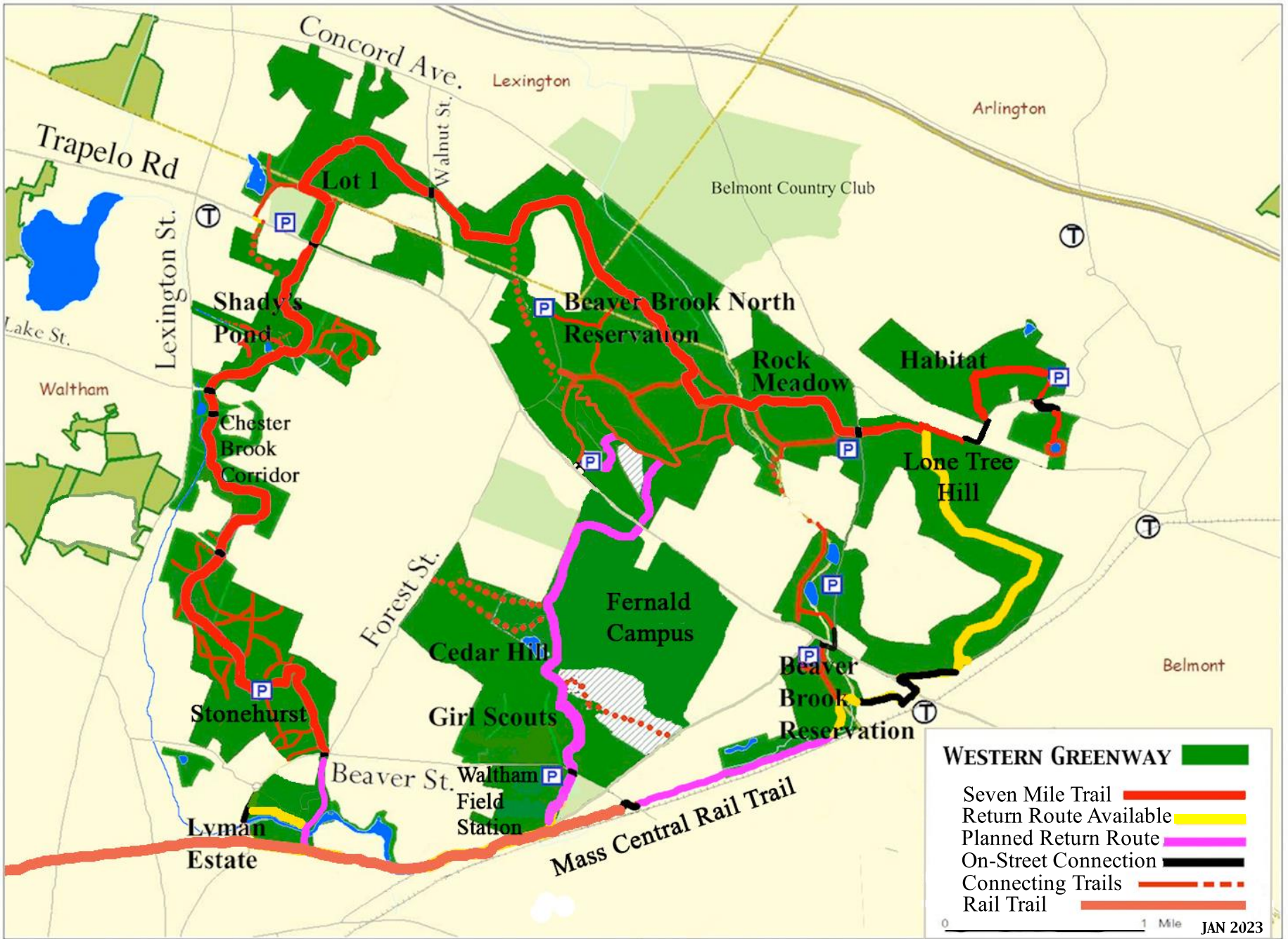
WLT's Volunteer Stewards

- Regularly monitor section of trail
- On your own or with others
- Complete [Reporting Form online](#) every time
- Remove trash (we provide bags & gloves)
- Can remove invasive plants once trained
- Plant natives, mainly during group activities
- Ideally recruit new stewards while working!

WLT's Stewardship Projects

Western Greenway Trail

- Stewards established 2012
- In Waltham, from Metropolitan Parkway west to Lot 1, south to Beaver Street (map on next slide)
- Easements “owned” by WLT
- Waltham Police, Fire, and Public Works help out
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - No “official” receives report if problem



WLT's Stewardship Projects

Prospect Hill Park

- Stewards est. 2014
- Owned by City of Waltham
- Work closely with Ranger, Recreation Dept., Rec. Board
- Online Reporting form goes to Sonja & Ranger Adam

Charles River paths (incl. Woerd Woods by Watch Factory)

- Stewards est. 2014
- Owned by MA Dept. Conservation & Recreation (DCR)
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - DCR (Erica) receives if problem needs addressing

WLT's Stewardship Projects

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT)

- Stewards est. 2015
- Owned by MBTA, leased by DCR
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - DCR (Erica) receives if problem needs addressing

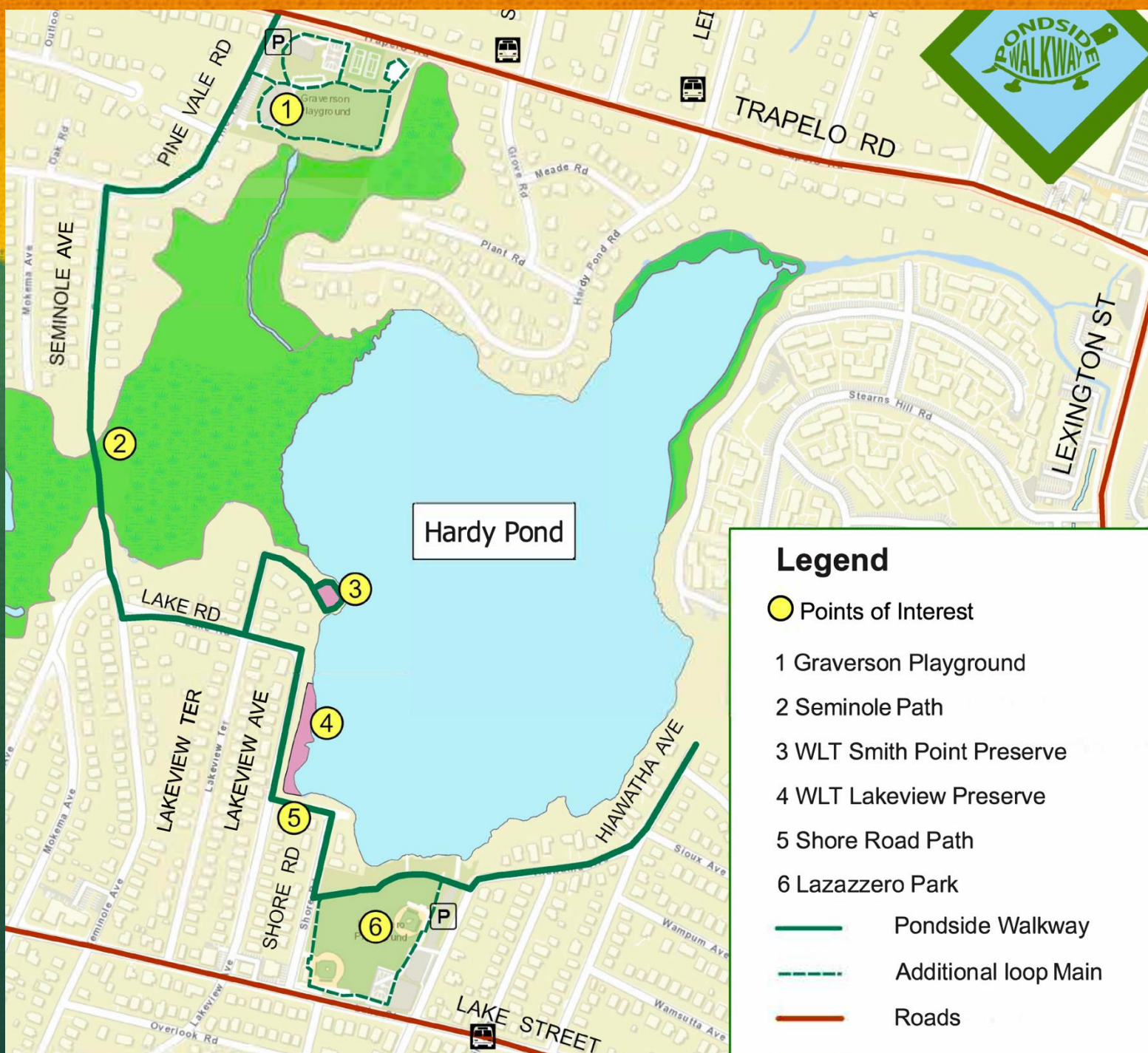
Beaver Brook North and Historic reservations

- Stewards est. 2015
- Owned by DCR
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - DCR (Chris) receives if problem


WLT's Stewardship Projects

Hardy Pond wetlands, shoreline, Smith Point, and Lakeview Avenue properties

- Stewards est. 2017
- Hardy Pond itself, wetlands and shorelines owned by public
- Lazazzero and Graverson parks owned by City of Waltham, Recreation Dept.
- Smith Point and Lakeview Preserve owned by WLT
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - No "official" receives report if problem



Legend

-  Points of Interest
- 1 Graverson Playground
- 2 Seminole Path
- 3 WLT Smith Point Preserve
- 4 WLT Lakeview Preserve
- 5 Shore Road Path
- 6 Lazazzero Park
-  Pondsides Walkway
-  Additional loop Main
-  Roads

WLT's Stewardship Projects

Wellington Fields

- Located at 775 Trapelo Road next to historic house
- Stewards est. 2021
- Owned by City of Waltham
- Work closely with Ranger, Recreation Dept., Rec. Board
- Lots of corporate/group volunteer work sessions
- Online Reporting Form goes to Sonja
 - No "official" receives report if problem

Becoming an Official WLT Steward

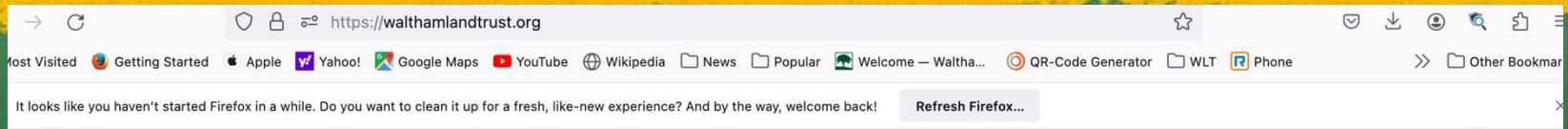
All must complete WLT interest form!

Once WLT gets form, added to the stewards e-list:

- mainly used by me to remind folks of activities
- stewards use it to organize small cleanups, ask ?s
- sometimes can be lots of emails
- "digest" option link at bottom of each email

Meet at office for supplies and orientation if can't
make annual training

Trail Steward Resources @walthamlandtrust.org



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[Lawrence Meadow](#)

[Save Waltham
Wildlife](#)

[Welling Fields
Restoration](#)

[Storer Land, Paine
Estate, &
Chesterbrook
Woods](#)

[The Western
Greenway](#)

[Hardy Pond](#)

[Open Space
Inventory](#)

[Volunteer Trail
Stewards](#)

[Invasive Plants](#)

[Conservation
Restrictions](#)



Jake 'n' JOE'S S

Raise money for land conservation
Tuesday, April 30th.

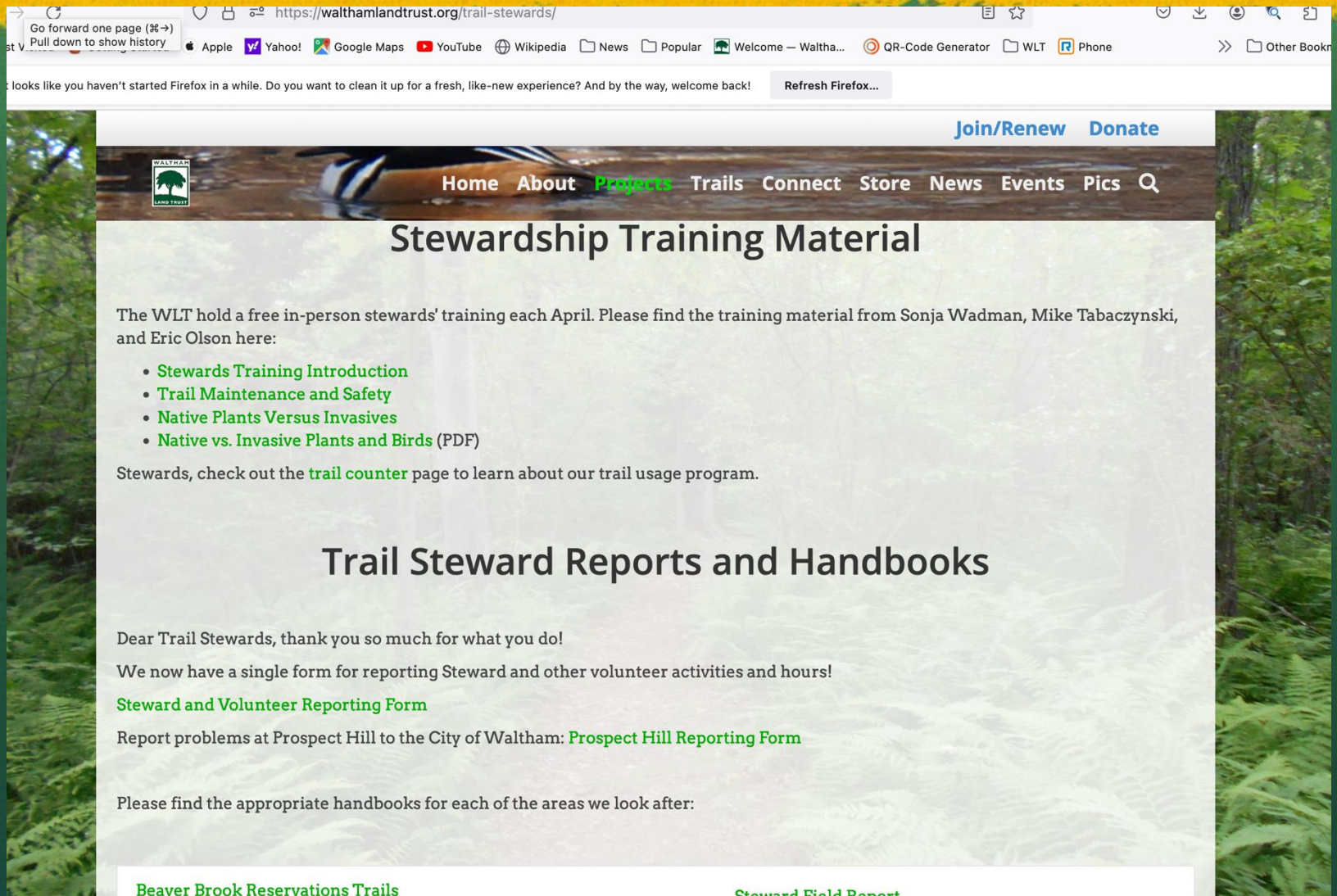
[Event Details](#)



ndraiser

at this fun eatery,

Trail Steward Resources @walthamlandtrust.org



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the website <https://walthamlandtrust.org/trail-stewards/>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website's navigation menu includes links for Home, About, Projects, Trails, Connect, Store, News, Events, and Pics. The main content area is titled "Stewardship Training Material" and provides information about in-person training events held by the Waltham Land Trust (WLT) each April. It lists training materials such as "Stewards Training Introduction", "Trail Maintenance and Safety", "Native Plants Versus Invasives", and "Native vs. Invasive Plants and Birds (PDF)". Below this, it mentions a "trail counter" page. The second section is titled "Trail Steward Reports and Handbooks" and thanks trail stewards for their contributions. It provides links for reporting activities and hours, reporting problems at Prospect Hill, and finding handbooks for various areas.

Join/Renew Donate

Home About **Projects** Trails Connect Store News Events Pics Q

Stewardship Training Material

The WLT hold a free in-person stewards' training each April. Please find the training material from Sonja Wadman, Mike Tabaczynski, and Eric Olson here:

- [Stewards Training Introduction](#)
- [Trail Maintenance and Safety](#)
- [Native Plants Versus Invasives](#)
- [Native vs. Invasive Plants and Birds \(PDF\)](#)

Stewards, check out the [trail counter](#) page to learn about our trail usage program.

Trail Steward Reports and Handbooks

Dear Trail Stewards, thank you so much for what you do!

We now have a single form for reporting Steward and other volunteer activities and hours!

[Steward and Volunteer Reporting Form](#)

Report problems at Prospect Hill to the City of Waltham: [Prospect Hill Reporting Form](#)

Please find the appropriate handbooks for each of the areas we look after:

[Beaver Brook Reservations Trails](#) [Steward Field Report](#)

https://walthamlandtrust.org/invasive-plants/

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the URL <https://walthamlandtrust.org/invasive-plants/>. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website's header includes a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Projects, Trails, Connect, Store, News, Events, and Pics. There are also buttons for 'Join/Renew' and 'Donate'. The main content area features a title 'Waltham Land Trust Stewards often help remove invasives' and a sub-header 'Trees & Shrubs'. Below this, a list of invasive plants is shown, each with a green plus sign to its right. The 'Burning Bush/Winged Euonymus' entry has a blue box around its plus sign. The list includes: Autumn Olive, Burning Bush/Winged Euonymus, Glossy Buckthorn, Common Buckthorn, Honeysuckle shrubs - Amur, Morrow, Tartarian, Bell's, Japanese Barberry, Multiflora Rose, Norway Maple, and Tree of Heaven / Chinese Sumac. The page is framed by a green border with a background image of ferns.

Join/Renew Donate

Home About **Projects** Trails Connect Store News Events Pics

Waltham Land Trust Stewards often help remove invasives

Want to learn more about invasives and help remove them from our open space? Check out our [Volunteer Stewards](#) page.

Trees & Shrubs

- [Autumn Olive](#) +
- [Burning Bush/Winged Euonymus](#) +
- [Glossy Buckthorn](#) +
- [Common Buckthorn](#) +
- [Honeysuckle shrubs - Amur, Morrow, Tartarian, Bell's](#) +
- [Japanese Barberry](#) +
- [Multiflora Rose](#) +
- [Norway Maple](#) +
- [Tree of Heaven / Chinese Sumac](#) +


Vines

Online Reporting Form

Your Information

Name *
First Last

Email *

Date * / / 
MM DD YYYY

What and where?

Primary Activity * Trail Stewarding
 Trash Pickup
 Invasive Plant Removal
 Chainsaw Crew
 Other

Number of hours *

Area * Mass Central Rail Trail
 Beaver Brook Reservations
 Western Greenway
 Prospect Hill Park
 Charles River Paths
 Hardy Pond
 Other

Specific Location *

Weather *

Condition of location *

Online Reporting Form

Follow Up Actions Performed/Recommended

- Actions performed/recommended** *
- No maintenance needed
 - I performed required maintenance
 - I'll contact WLT Stewards to assist
 - There's a serious issue and an official should receive this report

Pictures

- Pictures accompanying field report?**
- Yes
 - No

Questions

Please contact Sonja at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org or 781-893-3355 regarding the Waltham Land Trust Stewardship Project.



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SUBMIT

Stewardship Handbooks

I. About This Document

The purpose of this Handbook is to:

1. Define the Beaver Brook Reservations (North and Historic) Stewardship Program.
2. Outline the responsibilities of the Stewards.

We wish to acknowledge that most of this instruction has been adapted from the *Lexington Conservation Stewards Handbook*, 2005, written by Ery Largay, Lexington Conservation Assistant, Keith Ohmart, Lexington Stewards, Mike Tabaczynski, Lexington Stewards, and Tom Whelan, Lexington Stewards.

Adaptations were made by Sonja Wadman, Waltham Land Trust Executive Director, for the first training of volunteer stewards in Spring 2012. Adaptions were revised for subsequent trainings. Background has been provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) website <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-boston/beaver-brook-reservation.html>. Comments and suggestions for improving this Handbook can emailed to Ms. Wadman at swadman@walthamlandtrust.org.

II. Introduction

Beaver Brook Historic (BBH) Reservation is the first reservation established by the Metropolitan Parks Commission, later the MDC, which is now the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) in 1893. It is still managed by the DCR and is 59 acres of open fields, wetlands and woodlands. Ponds, fields, marsh, and a cascading waterfall make the park's north section along Mill Street in Belmont a delightful place to walk or picnic. The more developed south section along Trapelo Road features ballfields, a wading pool, and a tot lot. Beaver Brook's historic significance includes reminders of its past; the remains of a 19th century fulling mill, the historic Robert Morris Copeland House (c.1835) and a monument to the Waverly Oaks, perhaps the most famous trees of the 1890's.

Beaver Brook North (BBN) Reservation represents a 254-acre transfer of a portion of the former Metropolitan State Hospital (MSH) property and former Middlesex County Hospital to the DCR. The MSH property acquisition also includes a 54-acre parcel under a conservation easement. The expanded reservation is strategically located amidst a series of open space parcels including Belmont's Rock Meadow Conservation Land, Massachusetts Audubon Society's Highland Farm, Waltham's Waltham Woods, Middlesex County Hospital open space, and Lexington's Concord

Trail Guides & Maps @walthamlandtrust.org

Trails → Choose the proper locale

The screenshot shows a Firefox browser window displaying the website <https://walthamlandtrust.org/trail-guides/>. The browser's address bar shows the URL, and the page title is "Trail Guides - Waltham Land Trust". The website's header features a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About", "Projects", "Trails" (highlighted in green), "Connect", "News", "Events", and "Pics". A search icon is also present. The main content area is titled "Trails" and contains the following text:

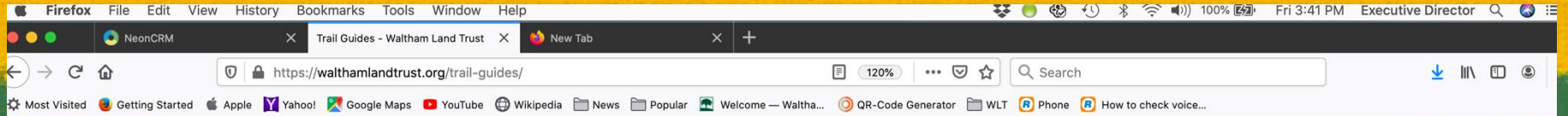
Get outside and on the trails! Waltham and its neighboring communities offer numerous well-marked and maintained trails through a variety of beautiful natural landscapes.

The WLT has produced this series of trail maps and is proud to offer them as a free resource.

Click maps to download or print!

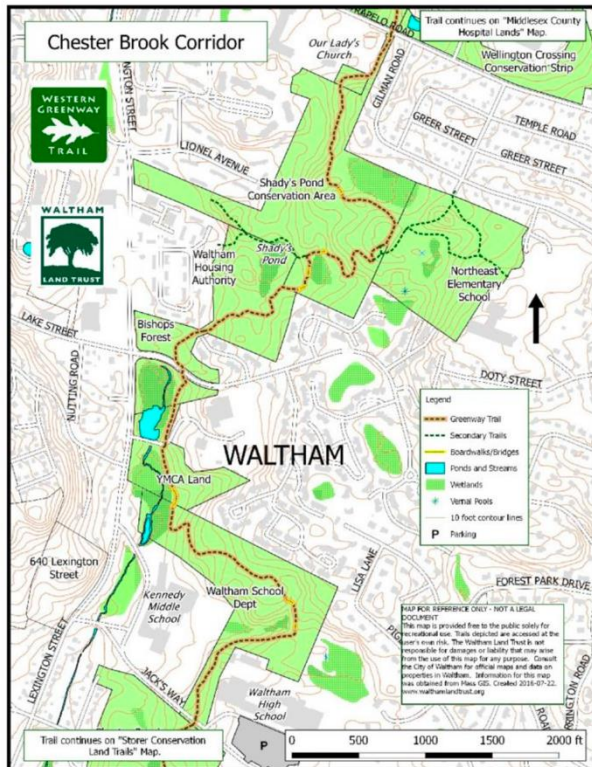
At the bottom of the page, there are two map thumbnails. The left one is titled "Beaver Brook - Historic Reservation Trails". The right one shows a map of Lexington with a scale bar ranging from 0 to 2000 feet.

More Trail Guides

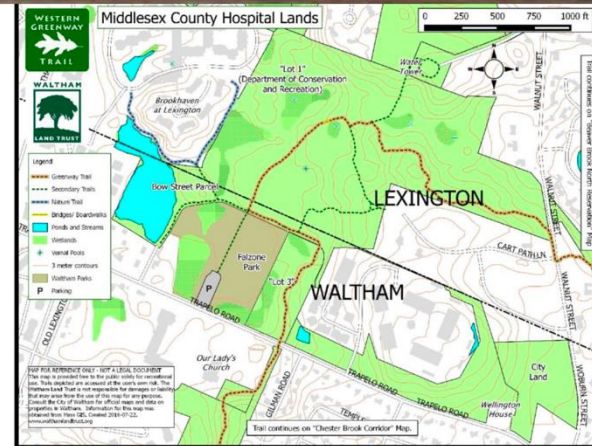


[Join/Renew](#) [Donate](#)

[Home](#) [About](#) [Projects](#) [Trails](#) [Connect](#) [News](#) [Events](#) [Pics](#)

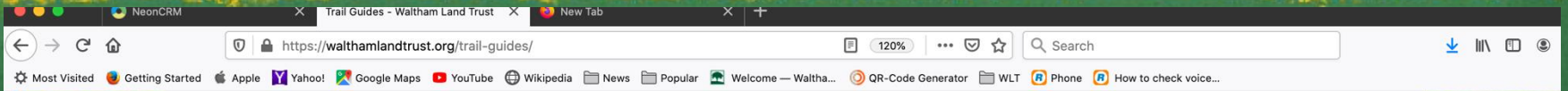


Chesterbrook Corridor

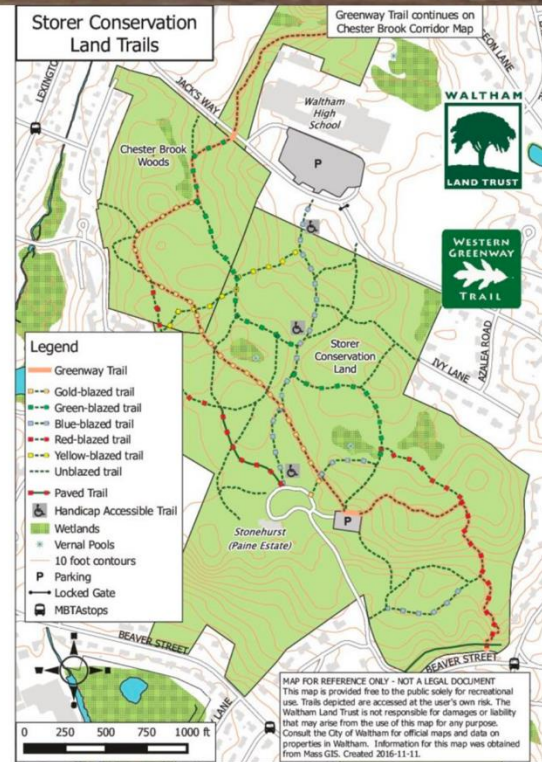


Middlesex County Hospital

More Trail Guides



Home About Projects **Trails** Connect News Events Pics Q



Storer Conservation Trails

Upcoming Group Events

- Charles River Earth Day Cleanup Sat. April 25, 10-noon, park/meet @ Shaw's, 130 River St. *ATTENDANCE HIGHLY DESIRED*
- Friends of PHP kickoff event Sun April 19, 10-noon
- We encourage stewards to self-organize small events on your own (with WLT support/supplies)
- Active stewards will organize work parties
 - Hardy Pond area and Wellington (Betty MacKenzie)
 - Along Charles River (Emily S. & Jeremy P.)
 - MCRT, Chester Brook Corridor, and Lyman (Charlie)

Stewardship Supplies



WALTHAM

LAND TRUST

Volunteer *Sonja*
Trail Steward

Waltham Land Trust, Inc.
P.O. Box 541120
Waltham, MA 02454-1120
781-893-3355
info@walthamlandtrust.org
www.walthamlandtrust.org

Protecting Waltham's land ... forever.

TICK IDENTIFICATION CARD

				
nymph	male	female	male	female
	Deer ticks		American dog ticks	

(actual size)

MA Department of Public Health
617-887-6800

Supplies & Meetings

Trash bags, gloves, WLT Steward business cards,
Band-Aids, poison ivy wipes, WLT safety vest

Hand tools: small loppers, a few Nifty grabbers

Monthly (optional) Stewards meeting

- Second Wednesday, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- Virtually via Zoom

Email Sonja (swadman@walthamlandtrust.org) or
call office (781-893-3355) to schedule appointment

THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUR TRAILS!