

Hall's Pond Sanctuary Work Plan Map



Basic Principles of Stewardship for Community Volunteers

- * Acknowledge the difference between the sanctuary's garden-like areas, which exist for the benefit of human visitors, and its natural areas, whose primary purpose is to feed and shelter wildlife.
- * Minimize disturbance of plants, soil and water, especially in natural areas. Despite the best of intentions, cleanup efforts may cause significant damage.
- * Work only on projects and in areas designated by the Commission.
- * Remove or add plants only as directed by the Commission. Non-native invasive plant species require careful management over the long term.

Approved 7-20-10 by Conservation Commission

HALL'S POND SANCTUARY WORK PLAN

Hall's Pond Sanctuary

Hall's Pond Sanctuary is one of three wildlife sanctuaries in Brookline owned by the Town and managed by the Conservation Commission. It includes a natural pond and surrounding wetlands that were once part of an Atlantic White Cedar swamp extending to the Charles River. Three and a half acres around the pond were purchased by the Town to create a sanctuary in 1975, and 1.56 acres in adjoining Amory Woods were added to the sanctuary in 1985. It provides valuable habitat for wildlife, especially migrating birds, in an otherwise heavily developed area of metropolitan Boston.

Planning, Stewardship and Stakeholders

Between 1995 and 2002, the Town planned and executed a major restoration of the sanctuary, including improvements in wildlife habitat, plant populations' management, water quality, visitor paths, and perimeter security. The Commission, the Town Parks & Open Space Division, and the Friends of Hall's Pond volunteer group, continue to collaborate on seasonal maintenance, additional improvements, and responses to natural and human impacts on the sanctuary. In 2009, they developed this work plan to guide ongoing collaboration, to preserve and protect the sanctuary, and to express a management approach based on respect for wildlife areas as natural habitat.

Zone	Name	Existing Condition	Goal	Work Activities
1	Amory Woods	Woodland with substantial overstory and large individual trees; limited shrub understory and groundcover; paths and bench	Maintain big-tree woodland character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care for large trees; prune and remove understory near stems - Remove or phase out buckthorn and other escaped ornamentals and invasive non-native vegetation - When sufficient native food and cover are established, phase out crabapples - Monitor and remove encampments and shelters - Maintain erosion control measures - Maintain MAB (Mass. Association for the Blind) gate & lock
2	Amory Woods Wetlands	Small wet depressed areas with hydric soils, regular flooding	Support wetland microhabitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize disturbance of soils and plants - Monitor and control invasives and escaped ornamental vegetation (e.g., <i>Pachysandra</i>) - Plant with appropriate native species - Maintain boardwalk and path per ADA guidelines
3	Amory Woods Former Formal Garden	Former residential property transitioning to a woodland	Guide transition to diverse woodland habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Add deciduous trees for canopy and understory - Remove or phase out buckthorn - When sufficient native food and cover are established, phase out crabapples
4	Amory Woods Norway Slope	Woodland with Norway maples and other deciduous trees; thin understory	Develop a more diverse woodland habitat with mixed deciduous and conifer trees with increased density toward Amory St.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control spread of Norway saplings with removal of saplings - Remove Norways or let them disappear - Add other deciduous trees and conifers as opportunities arise
5	Formal Garden	Cultivated garden with planting beds, lawns, ornamental shrubs and trees	Cultivated garden, with primarily native plantings and continual improvements in quality and plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weed, trim and prune - Add and replace herbaceous plants as needed, primarily with native species - Mow lawns - Maintain paths, bench, arbor, bed edges
6	Jo's Bench	Naturalized landscapes area with stone sculpture bench	Natural-looking woodland, with native plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain and manage native plantings - Remove invasives - Maintain limited access to bench
7	Open Space near Shed	Mowed lawn with planted ornamental trees	Meadow with shade trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Phase out small ornamentals - Mow twice a year - Introduce native grasses - Possibly remove turf
8	Wooded Open Space	Old lawn with encroaching shade trees, saplings, shrubs	A denser woodland with understory trees and without grass; see also Zone 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care for large trees - Add understory trees - Phase out the grass
9	Open Lawn	Mowed lawn with ornamental trees, sitting area	Open lawn, edged by native trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize disturbance of plants and soils at pond border - Increase width of non-mowed pond border - Mow lawn regularly - Phase out ornamental trees - Plant native trees, less geometrically - Maintain some water-edge access
10	Wooded Wetland	Wooded wetland with varying density, including some open and disturbed areas	A self-maintaining woodland habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize disturbance of filled-out areas - Plant with appropriate species in limited areas
11	Formal Garden Buffer	Same as Jo's Bench (Zone 6)	Same as Jo's Bench (Zone 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control saplings - Remove inappropriate non-natives
12	Upland Area	Mixed evergreen and deciduous shady woodland, with little understory	Maintain mixed woodland habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and remove encampments and shelters - Maintain pines, and as they fail, gradually replant with pines or native evergreen shrubs or trees - Minimize disturbance of soils and plants
13	Upland Meadow	Upland meadow, mowed twice a year	Maintain character and physical limits of the meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mow or brush hog twice yearly
14	Upland Pathway	Tunnel between successful and dense shrubs from restoration plantings	Open-area path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prune back shrubs and trees along path, leaving those nearest path lowest and at varying distances from path and varying heights (between 2 and 6 feet tall) - Relocate small healthy shrubs to appropriate areas
15	Essex Buffer	Deciduous woodland on a former residential property; under conservation restriction (CR)	Big-tree woodland with viewshed to pond from house per CR; see also Zone 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and care for large trees - Control non-native invasives and escaped ornamentals
16	Connector	Lawn with shade trees and path	Maintain as sanctuary "front door" and as transition from Amory Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mow lawn - Maintain path, boardwalk and sign - Consider new kiosk or notice board - Control non-native invasives
17	Constructed Wetland	Constructed wetland with overstory trees	Wetland allowing views to the pond from the west	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize disturbance of soils and plants - Protect and maintain wetland vegetation - Control non-native invasives - Monitor large willow trees
18	Sediment Forebay	Man-made storm water control structure	Maintain in operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor grate and inlet - Check weir each season - Remove basin sediments every two years
19	Chilton Buffer	Mixed deciduous woodland, with understory; some stormwater impacts	Maintain mixed woodland and develop its understory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintain gate locking system - Monitor storm water control measures - Care for large trees and monitor for removal/replacement - Maintain natives in understory - Develop visual buffer from street and parking lots