

Spring serenity at Hall's Pond . . .

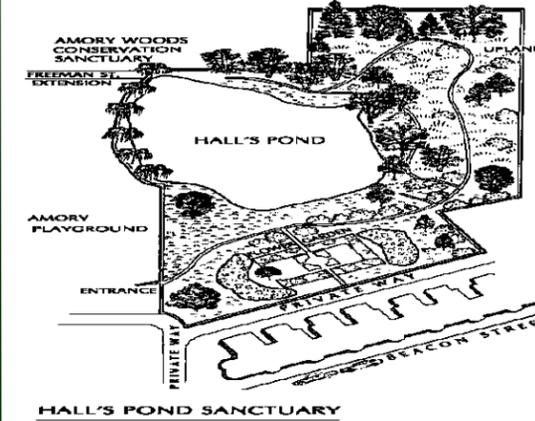


Friends of Hall's Pond

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History of Hall's Pond



Hall's Pond is one of two natural ponds remaining in Brookline. Purchased by the Town in 1975, Hall's Pond is historically significant for having been owned by Minna Hall, a co-founder of the Massachusetts Audubon Society in 1896. The Hall's Pond area has long been valued in Brookline for its open space qualities.

Amory Woods is now incorporated into and connected to Hall's Pond. It was acquired in 1977 from the Massachusetts Association for the Blind. This part of the sanctuary is wooded, has a small wetland, handicapped accessible nature trail and a gazebo.

Hall's Pond and the adjacent Amory Park provide nearly 14 acres of varied habitat and recreational land which attract a diversity of uses. The pond and uplands provide habitat for a wide variety of birds. Given its location in the densely developed urban environment of North Brookline, it is remarkable to

see great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, kingfishers, and red-winged blackbirds.

During 2000, Hall's Pond underwent the first phase of a restoration effort designed to enhance and restore conditions within and around Hall's Pond. A major component of the restoration project was the unification of Amory Woods and Hall's Pond conservation lands as one sanctuary.

The purpose of the project is to enhance the ecological integrity of the Hall's Pond Nature Sanctuary, improve water quality, improve and create wetland habitat, restore wetland functions and values, improve wildlife habitat and restore a significant and historic resource of the Town of Brookline, and the Commonwealth.



The Great Blue Heron is a frequent visitor at Hall's Pond.
photo by Bruce Wolff

SANCTUARY NEWS

PLACE
STAMP
HERE



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To me, a lush carpet of pine needles or spongy grass is more welcome than the most luxurious Persian rug.

- Helen Keller

MISSION STATEMENT

The Friends of Hall's Pond is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the nature sanctuary comprising Hall's Pond and Amory Woods in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Through the encouragement and coordination of volunteer involvement in educational, conservation and maintenance activities, the Friends seek to ensure a healthy future for this valuable urban resource.

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- Barbara Mackey
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For information about membership, please write or call:

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IT'S A GOOD SIGN
by Fred Bouchard



It's a good sign that (Hall's) pond birds are hanging around. It may be a significant avian response to HP's clean-up (I mean the larger, reconstruction effort) that many of us have seen one or two Green Herons pond-side daily since late April; they were usually here and gone in a day. Likewise, the American Bittern (spotted early on April 29th and then lost by 2 p.m.) may well have hung around until the next day as white-haired runner Bob, a birder, reported to me.

Let's see if, perchance, we manage to retain other pond-siders more than fleetingly, such as North Waterthrush, Belted Kingfisher, other herons and the fresh water Spotted Sandpiper.

Butterflies, moths and dragonflies are even likelier to be profoundly affected—I hope to the good. Who knows with which fish the pond has been stocked? Let's keep each other posted, with marks on the list or Emails.

Wednesday I saw my first Catbird and a single palm Warbler; yesterday afternoon I saw a Brown Creeper flit by in Amory Woods. You can catch me at Hall's Pond many mornings from 6:30 to 8:00 a.m. You're welcome to join my walks and can Email me for exact days.

Fred teaches Music Journalism at Berklee College of Music and hosts AGLIO (Italian Wine-Dine Club). Visit him on the web at www.fredbouchard.com or Email him at fbouchard@juno.com. This article was written during the spring migration.

SANCTUARY RESTORATION
NEARLY COMPLETE



This past winter, handsome large granite posts and heavy iron gates were installed at both the entrances to Hall's Pond. The gate from the park contains an inscription acknowledging the generosity of the Stoneman Family in contributing to the restoration. The gates were designed by Friends board member Randolph Meiklejohn. We look forward to a new sign and bulletin board to be installed this fall.

More and more, people are discovering this place of renewal and are praising its beauty and its source of solitude for connection with nature. Yet, it's rarely overcrowded. The Friends continue their traditional role as stewards and invite anyone similarly interested to join and be part of an important community activity. For more information, call (617)738-4641.



Well known birder, Bob Stymeist, leads a bird walk during spring migrations.



In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we have been taught.

-Baba Dioum

HALL'S POND LEARNING PROJECT MATURES



During a nature walk in late May, the Senior Center group explored the wooded wetland at Hall's Pond.

Starting with a focus on elementary school children, the Friends educational program has expanded to a lively and engaging project with the Brookline Senior Center. This spring, the Hall's Pond Learning Project sponsored a four-week program starting with an environmental film, continuing

with a nature walk at Hall's Pond and ending with a writing workshop led by Judith Steinburgh in June at the sanctuary. More than 80 adults from the senior program have taken part.

The Hall's Pond Learning Project this year has also sponsored more than a dozen field trips for extended day and school classes, held three workshops for teachers, and planned a program for Brookline Recreation Department's summer camp. The program is a free service supported by the Friends of Hall's Pond and grants from the Brookline Community Fund, Massachusetts Financial Services, and the Blossom Fund. Call (617)277-7444 for information.

Garden Gets a Face Lift

Over the past two years, the garden at Hall's Pond has been renewed and revitalized under the guidance of master gardeners and designers from the Friends. Starting with the removal of an overgrown yew in the center, the Friends have installed a tall concrete bowl now containing long blooming flowers surrounded with low perennials and shrubs, and edged with granite blocks. Using granite blocks and field stones, the garden is acquiring a new definition. An abundance of new plants have been added, and work continues on the back beds. Last year, the family of Jean Densmore donated a bench in her memory, which is both an attractive feature and a welcome amenity for both viewing and enjoying the garden.

The gardening team is led by Nan St. Goar and Ellen Forrester. If you able to help with the gardening, call (617)232-1627. Volunteers are being sought for weekly drop-in gardening on Thursdays from 5 to 7 and on Sundays from 2 to 4.



Just two years ago, the garden began taking shape. Now it is lush, full and well-tended by volunteers from the Friends.