



Fresh Pond Master  
Plan Advisory Board



# 2025 Season Volunteer Report

Ranger Amanda Garms, Cambridge Water Dept.  
March 19, 2026

# Opening with gratitude

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- Thank you to the reservation for allowing us to take care of her
- Thank you to the volunteers for helping us to do so



## The Peace of Wild Things

Wendell Berry

When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

from *Openings: Poems* (1968)

# Overview:



**GROUP DAY OF SERVICE  
OPPORTUNITIES**




**FRESH POND STEWARDS  
PROGRAM**



**PUBLIC EVENTS**



**PARTNERSHIPS**



# 2025 Group Day of Service – Who, What, Where?

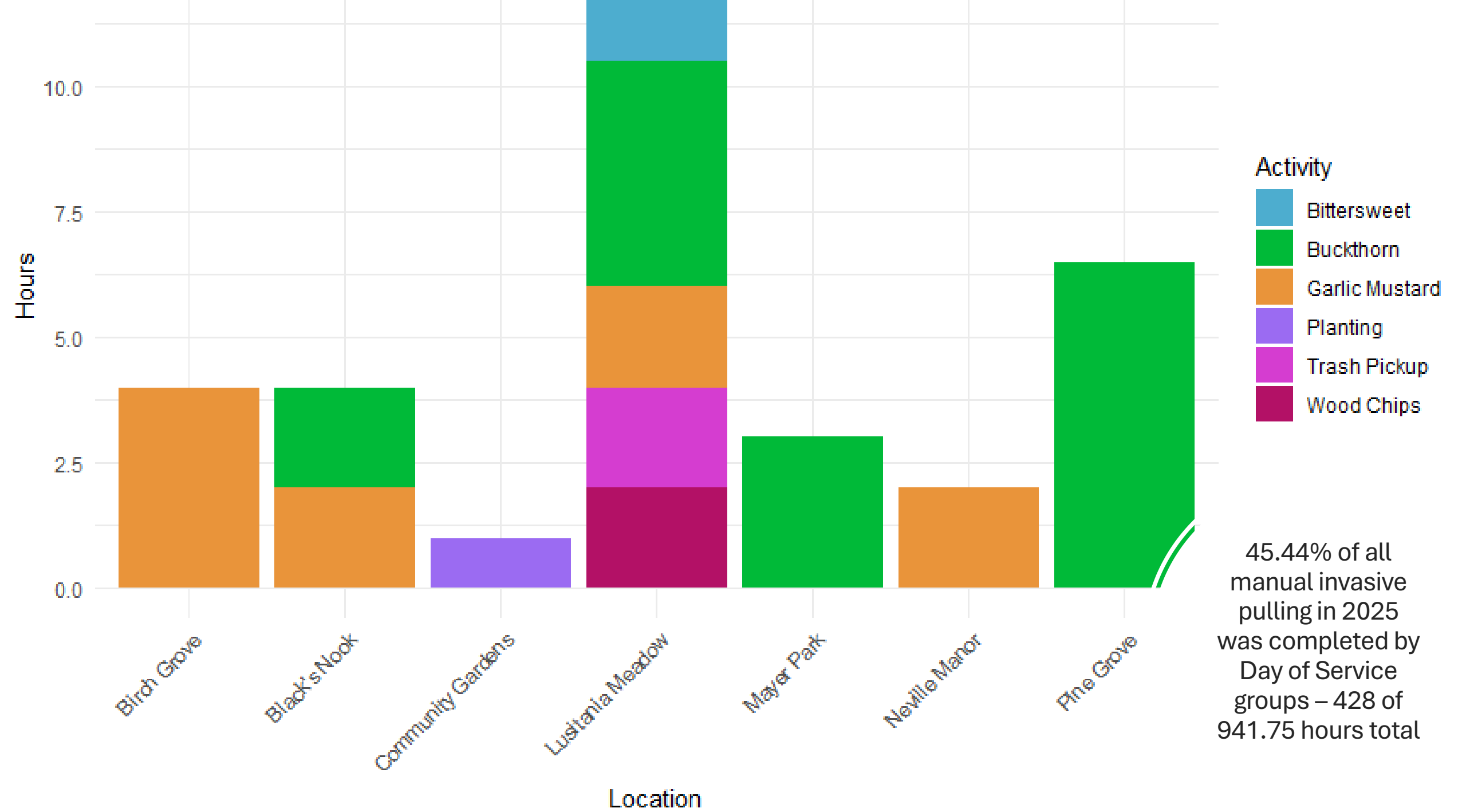
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**13** organizations, **16** events,  
**241** volunteers completing **499**  
hours of service



# 17.68% increase in volunteer hours from 424 hours in 2024

Organization	Date	Activity	Hours	People	Total Hours	Location
Harvard	Sunday, May 4, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	17	34	Neville Manor
Ismali CIVIC	Sunday, May 11, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	15	30	Birch Grove
Huron Consulting	Friday, May 16, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	18	36	Birch Grove
Eagle Scouts	Sunday, May 18, 2025	Planting	1	16	16	Community Gardens
Dartmouth College	Saturday, May 24, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	7	14	Lusitania Meadow
Takeda Pharma	Wednesday, May 28, 2025	Buckthorn	2.5	11	27.5	Pine Grove
Fayerweather	Friday, May 30, 2025	Buckthorn	2	20.7	41.4	Black's Nook
Fayerweather	Friday, May 30, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	48.3	96.6	Black's Nook
Cambridge Cub Scouts Pack 56	Sunday, June 1, 2025	Bittersweet	1.5	15	22.5	Lusitania Meadow
Arbor Bio	Thursday, June 12, 2025	Buckthorn	2.5	15	37.5	Pine Grove
MITRE - COASTSWEEP	Saturday, September 6, 2025	Trash Pickup	2	9	24	Lusitania Meadow
Harvard	Thursday, September 18, 2025	Wood Chips	2	14	28	Lusitania Meadow
Wave Life	Thursday, September 18, 2025	Buckthorn	3	15	45	Maher Park
Cambridge Boy Scouts Troop 56	Sunday, September 20, 2026	Buckthorn	3	11	33	Lusitania Meadow
Cambridge Cub Scouts Pack 56	Sunday, October 25, 2026	Buckthorn	1.5	7	10.5	Lusitania Meadow
Boy Scouts	Sunday, November 16, 2025	Buckthorn	1.5	2	3	Pine Grove



# Thank you to our 2025 Group Day of Service Participants!

- Harvard
- Ismaili CIVIC
- Huron Consulting
- Eagle Scouts
- Dartmouth
- Takeda Pharma
- MITRE
- Arbor Bio
- Wave Life
- Fayerweather
- Cub Scouts Pack 56
- Boy Scouts Troop 56
- Edward & Damien Buck



# Who's already booked for 2026?

Oiling benches, pulling milfoil, mulching, cleaning nest boxes, picking trash, invasives

The screenshot shows the Cambridge Water Department website. The navigation bar includes links for Calendar, Contact Us, and News. The main menu has categories like SERVICES, ENERGY REDUCTION & RENEWABLE ENERGY, PROJECTS, and FRESH POND RESERVATION. The 'FRESH POND RESERVATION' sub-menu includes WATER BILL INFO, PERMITS, WATER BOARD, and ABOUT US. The page content features a 'Get Involved' section with the heading 'Fresh Pond is also always in need of volunteers!' and a photograph of three volunteers working with a utility vehicle. A sidebar on the left lists various reservation-related topics.

Organization	Date	Activity	Hours
MITRE Group	4/18/2026	Any	2
		Trash	
Veg ER	4/20/2026	Pickup	2
		Garlic	
Harvard	4/26/2026	Mustard	1.5
Church Group	5/9/2026	Any	2
Merck Inc.	5/29/2026	Any	2
Merck Inc.	5/31/2026	Any	2
Arbor			
Biotechnologies	6/4/2026	Any	3

# Fresh Pond Stewards Program

Weekly Conservation Work  
April – October





# Volunteer for Nature!



## The Fresh Pond Stewards Program



### *Who:*

You! All ages and abilities welcome!  
Minors, please have an adult present

### *When:*

From July through October  
Every Thursday from 10am to 12noon  
Drop-in once, or every week!

### *Where:*

Volunteers meet at the "Tool Trailer"  
between the first Fresh Pond parking lot  
and the water at 250 Fresh Pond  
Parkway in Cambridge. From there we'll  
gear up and head to the day's work site.  
(Latecomers refer to the map on the  
side of the Tool Trailer)

### *What:*

Managing invasive plants, protecting resource areas, trail work and erosion control, restoring habitat, special projects, and more!

Questions? Contact Ranger Omar at [OMejia@cambridge.MA.gov](mailto:OMejia@cambridge.MA.gov)

## The Fresh Pond Stewards Program

Public Opportunity from Spring to Fall

21 Volunteers for more than 34 work hours  
(down from 92 hours in 2024)



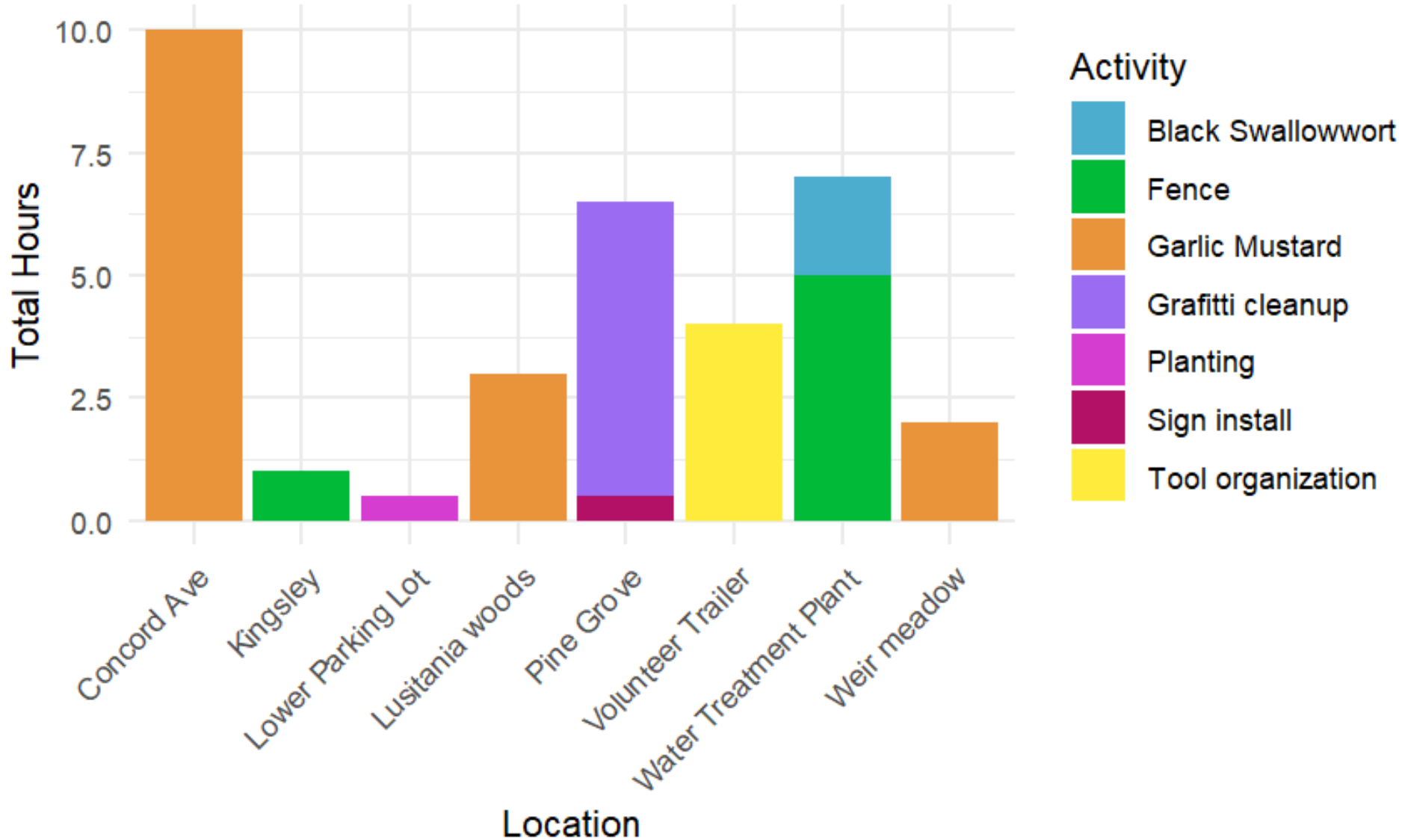
Talia & Dragon Shire

# The Fresh Pond Stewards Program

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Date	Activity	Hours	People	Total Hours	Location
Thursday, April 10, 2025	Graffiti cleanup	2	3	6	Pine Grove
Thursday, April 17, 2025	Tool organization	2	2	4	Volunteer Trailer
Thursday, April 24, 2025	Fence	2.5	2	5	Water Treatment Plant
Thursday, May 1, 2025	Fence	1	1	1	Kingsley
Thursday, May 1, 2025	Garlic Mustard	1	1	1	Lusitania woods
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Garlic Mustard	1	2	2	Lusitania woods
Thursday, May 8, 2025	Garlic Mustard	1	2	2	Weir meadow
Thursday, May 29, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	2	4	Concord Ave
Thursday, June 5, 2025	Garlic Mustard	2	3	6	Concord Ave
Thursday, July 24, 2025	Planting	0.5	1	0.5	Lower Parking Lot
Thursday, July 24, 2025	Sign install	0.5	1	0.5	Pine Grove
Thursday, August 28, 2025	Black Swallowwort	2	1	2	Water Treatment Plant
		<b>Total</b>	<b>21 people</b>	<b>34 hours</b>	

## Volunteer Steward Work Hours by Location 2025





Engaging the Community

# Public Events



- **60** volunteers
- **120** volunteer
- **>60** bags of trash
- Cleaned up the Greenway end-to-end

[blog\\_post](#)



# Watertown-Cambridge **GREENWAY CLEANUP!**

Help **Watertown Community Gardens** clean up the Watertown-Cambridge Greenway!

**March 21<sup>st</sup> 2026**  
**10:00AM - 12:00PM**

meet on the path near  
**490 Arsenal Way**

*RAIN DATE: MARCH 29<sup>th</sup>*

scan to  
sign up!



# Partnerships



**IMPROVING OUR  
KNOWLEDGE**

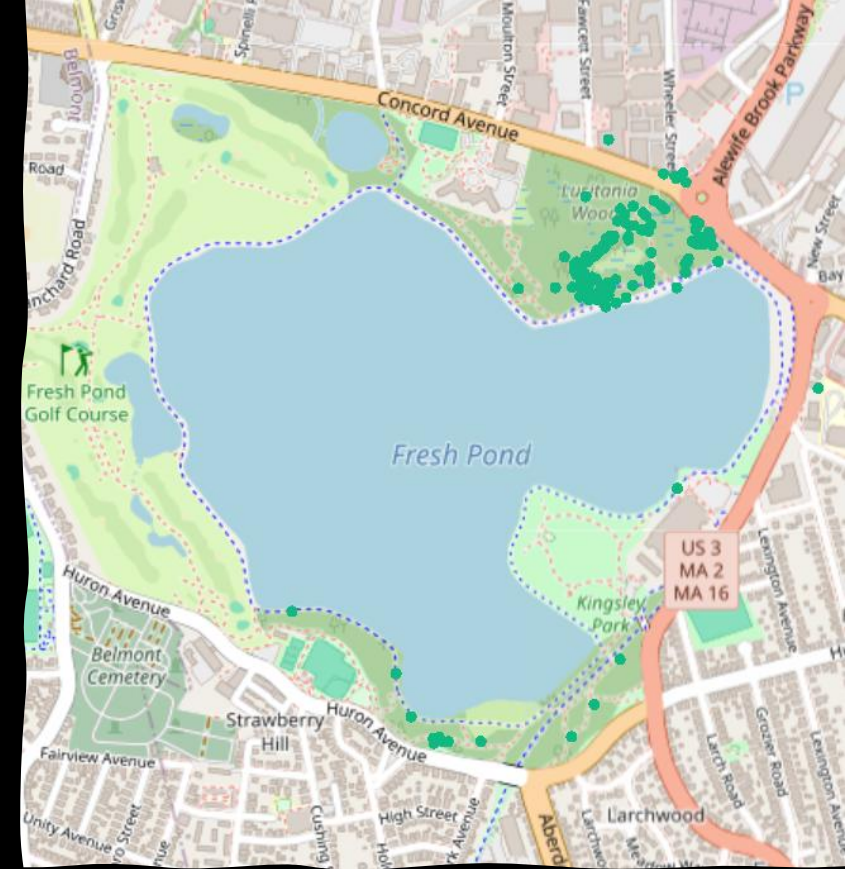


**FURTHERING THE  
MASTER PLAN**

# Earthwise Aware biodiversity studies

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- 175 phenology surveys logged in [EwA Pheno Lite](#)
- 200 documented insect-host plant interactions in [EwA Buggy](#)
- 36 Invasive species recorded in [EwA Invasive Flora Patrol](#)
- 3 weekly entries to the National Phenology Network
- Huron Ave Pine Grove Restoration Study



# The "Neville Habitat Restoration Area" Project



# Monthly Sessions from April to October 2023



2024 "Spring Cleanup" Event  
Weekly Passive Volunteer Work



**Fresh Pond Master Plan  
Advisory Board**

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**Ranger Amanda Garms, Cambridge Water Dept.**