

get involved

Volunteers play a very significant role in maintaining Fresh Pond Reservation as a beloved community open space and protector of our drinking water supply! We greatly appreciate our volunteers' time, knowledge, and energy, and encourage involvement with fun and personally meaningful projects.

stay connected



Cambridge Water Department
Fresh Pond Reservation



@freshpondres



@CambWaterDept

contact us

To volunteer, learn more about our programs, or if you would like to be added to our monthly newsletter with information on our public programs and volunteer activities, contact

Martine, FPR Outreach Coordinator
at (617) 349-6489 or fpr@cambridgema.gov.

Ideas for volunteer projects and suggestions for public programs always welcome!



Fresh Pond Reservation
City of Cambridge Water Department
250 Fresh Pond Parkway
Cambridge, MA 02138

show fresh pond
some love

volunteer!



- **Learn** about the plants and wildlife at Fresh Pond.
- **Work** in a beautiful place with your neighbors.
- **Restore and maintain** healthy and biologically diverse habitats.
- **Tools, training, and fun provided!**

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volunteer opportunities @ FRESH POND : a community open space

Hands-On Ecological Stewardship

Fresh Pond Stewards Weekly Weeding Sessions

Join a crew of dedicated, energetic, and plant-savvy Super Weeders.

Meet your neighbors, **learn about urban plants** and watershed protection, and **help out with ecological restoration** and natural resources monitoring.

We meet at the volunteer trailer:

⇒ Thursday mornings, 10am to noon (April-Nov)

⇒ Monday evenings, 5:30 to 7:30pm (April-Sept)

Keep an eye out for larger community weed-out events on weekends!



Pond Partners



Larger groups such as companies and schools interested in volunteering at Fresh Pond can spend a day, half-day, or several days on the Reservation

helping the Chief Ranger with a specific task.

Examples of activities include

- ⇒ **maintaining pathways,**
- ⇒ **conducting FPR user surveys**
- ⇒ **removing invasive plants**

Special Events & Community Education

Cambridge Water Department hosts various large events and smaller **public programs** throughout the year, such as **Fresh Pond Day**. Volunteering at any of these events is a great way to engage with the local community!

Do you enjoy **natural history, learning and teaching, or working with kids**? We often need assistants for youth and public programs, and help with monitoring projects.

Have a **special skill or interest** relevant to Fresh Pond that you'd like to share? We are always looking for folks interested in **hosting workshops, walks, and/or lectures**.

Love **arts and crafts**? We sometimes need help **creating materials for programs** and events, **managing children's crafts,** and **distributing outreach materials**.



Census Program

In 2010, Watershed Division staff members developed the Fresh Pond Reservation Census Program to better quantify the number of visitors and to determine the many different user types. Sensors installed around the reservation count people and bikes passing by.

Help us conduct surveys of user type, group size, and travel direction to help supplement and quality check data collected from sensors.

Friends of Fresh Pond Reservation (FFPR)



The Friends of Fresh Pond Reservation is a **volunteer citizens' group** that works to help fulfill the educational and conservation goals of the FPR Master Plan that was implemented in 2001. FFPR has offered a variety of activity-based programs designed to develop nature observation skills and build community at the Reservation, such as seasonal tree and wildflower ID, photography, and migratory bird workshops.

In addition to organizing weekend programming, FFPR assists with **collecting biodiversity data** and inventories from Fresh Pond, **monitors bird boxes**, assists with **volunteer training** in invasive plant removal, maintains the **Woodland Restoration project**, and **produces maps and informational flyers** for the Ranger Station.

We welcome all who are interested in getting involved! Specifically, we are looking for folks interested in seeking a leadership role. See friendsoffreshpond.org.

Adopt-a-Habitat

- For those who'd like to put their artistic, horticultural, stewardship, or plant and wildlife monitoring skills to use, here's an opportunity to partner with folks from the water department to make a big impact on your favorite spot at Fresh Pond Reservation.
- **Once a month (or more!), visit your spot and remove litter, manage invasive species, and maintain the spot as a healthy habitat for plants, urban wildlife, and people.**
- Examples of recent projects include: woodland garden planting and maintenance, water chestnut removal at Black's Nook, parking lot garden planting, and invasive plant removal at the Kingsley Bioswale.
- **Pitch your idea or brainstorm with us!**