

Your Blue Hills

The Newsletter for Supporters of Friends of the Blue Hills

FRIENDS OF THE
BLUE HILLS
PROTECT • PRESERVE • PARTICIPATE

SPRING 2026

Dear Friend,

As we welcome spring 2026, I'm excited to share that Friends of the Blue Hills is launching a new **three-year strategic plan**. This plan will guide our work to protect and improve the Blue Hills Reservation. It is based on input from members like you, park and community partners, and visitors to the park.

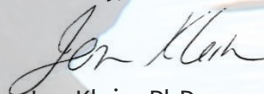
The plan focuses on several goals: welcoming a more diverse group of partners to use and care for the park, highlighting and expanding the fun activities available to our community, reintroducing Friends of the Blue Hills to a wider audience, and continuing strong advocacy for the park and its visitors.

If you enjoy hands-on work in the park, don't miss **Green Up the Blue Hills** on May 9. This is our biggest event of the year to remove invasive plants. It's an inspiring day when 100 volunteers come together to care for the landscape we all love.

Later this summer, we're bringing back our popular **Fishing in the Park** series, in partnership with Elevate Youth. It's a great way to give young people meaningful outdoor experiences. The first session is on June 25. All supplies and instruction are included!

Thank you for being part of this growing, vibrant community. Together, we are building a more inclusive and stronger Blue Hills.

Warmly,



Jen Klein, PhD
Executive Director

"I have been using the Blue Hills since I was born. It is part of my backyard, and I always enjoy having access to it. That is why I support the Friends of the Blue Hills, because they are the only agency that I know of that is trying to preserve it." –Jay M.

Photo: 2025 Fishing in the Park event

How To Train for a Spartan Race — Blue Hills Style!

By Nick Iandolo, FBH member

For years, I lived next to one of the most valuable obstacle course racing (OCR) training grounds in the region and didn't know it. That changed more than five years ago when I began my OCR journey — a sport I quickly grew to love.

That training ground is the Blue Hills Reservation — 7,000 acres of rugged terrain, winding trails, and steep climbs right here in our backyard. As an OCR athlete, primarily racing Spartan events, I'm fortunate to train in the Blue Hills almost daily. The varied landscape challenges my endurance, strength, and grit, helping me prepare for some of the toughest races in the sport.

For more of Nick's story (including his favorite training trails in the Blue Hills), check out our blog.



Nick often wears a weighted vest while on training runs up and down Great Blue Hill.



Houghton's Pond offers not only picnic tables but also plenty of play space.

4 Places to Picnic in the Park

Spring is now here — a perfect time for a picnic in the park. There are some amazing picnic spots with intimate elevated vistas, as well as more traditional locations for larger parties. Pack a snack and try one of these spots.

Houghton's Pond has restrooms, changing rooms, parking, and trail access. Propane grills are allowed, and when the pavilion snackbar is open you can grab food after you park.

Eliot Tower offers impressive views from this historic landmark, with picnic tables surrounding the tower.

Ponkapoag Pond, especially near the AMC Family Cabins, offers water views, shade, and picnic tables.

Quincy Quarries offers open space and dramatic rock faces. Bring a blanket and enjoy the colorful urban artwork.

Remember: the park closes at dusk, alcohol is not allowed, and groups of 25+ need a DCR special-use permit. As always, "leave no trace" by packing out all trash when you head home.

Visit the About section at friendsofthebluehills.org for answers to common park questions.



Who in the World is William F. Rogers?

by Nick Iandolo, FBH member

If you've visited the Blue Hills Ski Area, you may have seen the big DCR sign with his name on it with no idea why. Turns out, Rogers was a devoted civic leader from Braintree, Massachusetts, whose lifelong passion for the Blue Hills helped transform the reservation into a cherished public recreation area.

Serving for many years as Braintree's town moderator, Rogers earned a reputation for fairness, dedication, and deep community commitment. Beyond town governance, he became one of the region's most persistent advocates for preserving and improving public access to the Blue Hills Reservation, believing its forests, hills, and vistas should be enjoyed by all residents of Greater Boston.

For more of the story, visit our blog.



Scan the QR code or visit the [FBH calendar](#) to volunteer for a trail work event this spring!

Trail Volunteers Plan Ahead for 2026 Season

By John Harrell, Volunteer and Education Program Manager

On a snowy day last month, 25 dedicated trail volunteers — including leaders — met at the Milton Public Library. Together, we looked back on 2025, celebrating 29 public stewardship events, 274 volunteers, and 610 volunteer hours. We also discussed priorities and trail work for 2026 and shared the upcoming schedule of events. Several are already posted on the FBH calendar and open for sign-up.

One lesson learned is the importance of reporting trail work in our public database. This allows us to see what work has been completed, accurately track volunteer hours, and plan future public events and projects. So, the new Bloomerang volunteer database is arriving just in time! It will help us better track hours and stay connected with FBH volunteers.

Even with snow on the ground, the meeting was meaningful and productive. We left feeling focused and ready to continue caring for and improving Blue Hills trails — together.



We're spring cleaning the office closet, and FBH merch is now on sale. Click the Shop button on our website. Get it while you can!

Welcome to Our Newest Friends!

We're excited to welcome the newest members of the Blue Hills community. Your support helps care for this special place we all love.

Together, we can protect the Blue Hills, inspire people to take care of it, and make sure it stays beautiful for everyone to enjoy, this spring and for years to come.

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