



**Friends of Nahanton Park, Inc.**

October 2011

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thanks to your generous support over this past year, the Friends, along with the Newton Conservators and City of Newton, commissioned an environmental and usage study by Mass Audubon Extension Services to help guide the future stewardship of Nahanton Park.

The study was inspired by a collective realization that long-term strategic thinking is needed to oversee future development and to ensure a healthy balance among the interests of all of the Park's constituencies.

In March, Mass Audubon's Jeff Collins presented his initial findings at a public meeting at the Newton Free Library. Collins chronicled the history of the Park, presented aerial maps of the expanse and discussed habitat loss, soil conditions, invasive species, dumping and parking challenges. Collins returned to the Park later in the spring to survey current uses including the soccer fields, community gardens and Nature Center. He is scheduled to finalize a comprehensive report by year's end.

With the invaluable Audubon study securely underway, we realize that there are other initiatives that would greatly benefit the Park and its stakeholders—initiatives that require public support. One example is to focus on our special woodcock meadow, where the species perform their unique aerial mating flight—a rare suburban sight being increasingly threatened by invasive buckhorn and black locust trees as well as an overabundance of white pine.

It is in the spirit of protecting our wonderful natural resource that we ask that you renew your annual membership or join us and become a new Friend of Nahanton Park. Your support will help us express your commitment to the Park's future.

The enclosed donor card offers an opportunity, beginning with a \$25 membership, to support and be kept updated on the Mass Audubon study and related developments. Filling out your email address on the card will help us keep you informed in a timely manner. We are also happy to receive online donations: [www.nahantonpark.org/membership](http://www.nahantonpark.org/membership). The Friends of Nahanton Park is a 501(c)3 non-profit, and all contributions are tax deductible.

We look forward to hearing from you and to maintaining the Park's accessibility to all—including the many varieties of wildlife—who delight in Nahanton Park's varied splendor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hillis".

Duane Hillis  
President