

Eagle Scout Projects on Newton Conservation Land

The Newton Conservation Commission always looks forward to working with Eagle Scout candidates on projects in Conservation Areas that will benefit the natural resources and the citizens of Newton.

Conservation Commission Approval Process for Eagle Scout Projects

Any Eagle candidate must develop a project proposal and get permission from the Newton Conservation Commission to undertake work on Conservation Commission land in Newton. This requires considerable planning and leadership. The Eagle candidate must:

1. Identify a project that s/he is passionate about.
2. Present a preliminary proposal to the Conservation Office staff.
3. Coordinate with Conservation Office staff for a preliminary site visit(s).
4. Seek permission to work on Conservation Commission land by arranging with Conservation Office staff to get on the Conservation Commission's agenda to present the proposal to the full Commission.
5. Develop and present to the full Conservation Commission a final project proposal (usually in the form of a PowerPoint presentation) that clearly describes (with maps, photos, illustrations, and a narrative):
 - a. Existing conditions
 - b. The specific need/problem
 - c. The proposed solution(s) to that need/problem
 - d. The detailed scope of the proposed work (all necessary project elements/processes, e.g., materials, tools, access, waivers, and notification of neighbors)
6. Complete the BSA Eagle Scout application form and get all necessary signatures. If the project has been approved by the Commission and all necessary site visits have been conducted with Conservation staff, sign-off can be given by Conservation staff as the representative of the Conservation Commission (i.e., Project Beneficiary).
7. Get waivers signed by all project participants.
8. Execute the project -- and document the work with "before", "during", and "after" photos.
9. Arrange to present to the Conservation Commission a brief PowerPoint presentation of before and after photos and a summary of the workday(s) to allow for project sign-off.

Conservation Area Project Ideas

1. Undertake inventories of Conservation parcels noting needed improvements (all)
2. Develop and execute an outdoor education program for youth
3. Install native plants along eroded river banks
4. Improve accessibility of trails by spreading crushed stone on uneven paths
5. Build and install boardwalks in wet areas
6. Install benches where appropriate
7. Undertake removal of invasive shrubs
8. Create a trail

Other Open Space Landowners in Newton

1. Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture – Luis Perez-Demorizi <lpdemorizi@newtonma.gov>
2. Newton Conservators
3. Mass DCR – Paul Jahnige <paul.jahnige@state.ma.us>