



# Bay Circuit Trail Greenway

## A note from the coordinator...

I hope you enjoy reading through our March 2026 edition of the BCT Newsletter. After a brief winter hiatus from this newsletter, I am happy to be back to keep you informed on all things BCT.

In this edition you'll find the winners of the 2025 photo contest, the opening of the 2026 Hike/Bike challenge, updates about some ongoing projects from this winter, and you can look forward to two new monthly series led by yours truly - a Women's Hike Series and a Rail Trail Ride series.

There is much to come this year and I can't wait to see you out there. I encourage you to send any updates or content you would like to see included in this newsletter to [astearns@outdoors.org](mailto:astearns@outdoors.org)

Happy Trails

-Amber Stearns, BCT Coordinator

## UPCOMING EVENTS - MARCH

See registration BCT events [HERE](#)

- 3/7 - [Intro to Snowshoeing + Winter walk on the BCT](#)
- 3/12 - [Try Exploring Andover Hike Series](#)
- 3/12 - [Frederick Douglass Pathways Info Night](#) - East Bridgewater
- 3/15 - [A late winter Willowdale Walk and Dance on the BCT](#)
- 3/21 - Saturday Morning Maintenance\* South Shore
- 3/22 - [North Shore Trail Summit](#) - Ipswich
- 3/26 - [BCT Women's Hike Series](#) - Sharon
- 3/26 - [Try Exploring Andover Hike Series](#)
- 3/28 - Saturday Morning Maintenance\* South Shore
- 3/29 - Sunday Morning Maintenance\* South Shore
- 3/29 - Sunday Afternoon Maintenance\* North Shore

\*Maintenance days are dependent on snow melt: details will be announced once we can assess the trail



## 2026 BCT WOMEN'S HIKE SERIES

Join the BCT Coordinator on a monthly Women's Hike along the Bay Circuit Trail. On the fourth Thursday of each month, we will meet up somewhere along the BCT for an hour+ hike, usually between 3 and 5 miles. Join us for one hike or try to join us for all of them! The 2026 dates and registration links are below:

| <b>Date &amp; Time</b>              | <b>Location</b>                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30</u> | <u>Moose Hill, Sharon</u>      |
| <u>April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:45</u> | <u>Rocky Narrows, Sherborn</u> |
| <u>May 28<sup>th</sup> @6pm</u>     | <u>Drumlin Farm, Lincoln</u>   |
| <u>June 25<sup>th</sup> @6pm</u>    | <u>Ashland Town Forest</u>     |
| <u>August 27<sup>th</sup> @6pm</u>  | <u>Callahan State Park</u>     |
| <u>Sept 24<sup>th</sup> @5:15pm</u> | <u>Sudbury Reservoir</u>       |
| <u>Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> @5pm</u>     | <u>Concord, MA</u>             |

## CONTACT US

### **BCT Coordinator:**

Amber Stearns  
astearns@outdoors.org

### **BCT Assistant:**

Sarah Dolan  
sdolan@outdoors.org

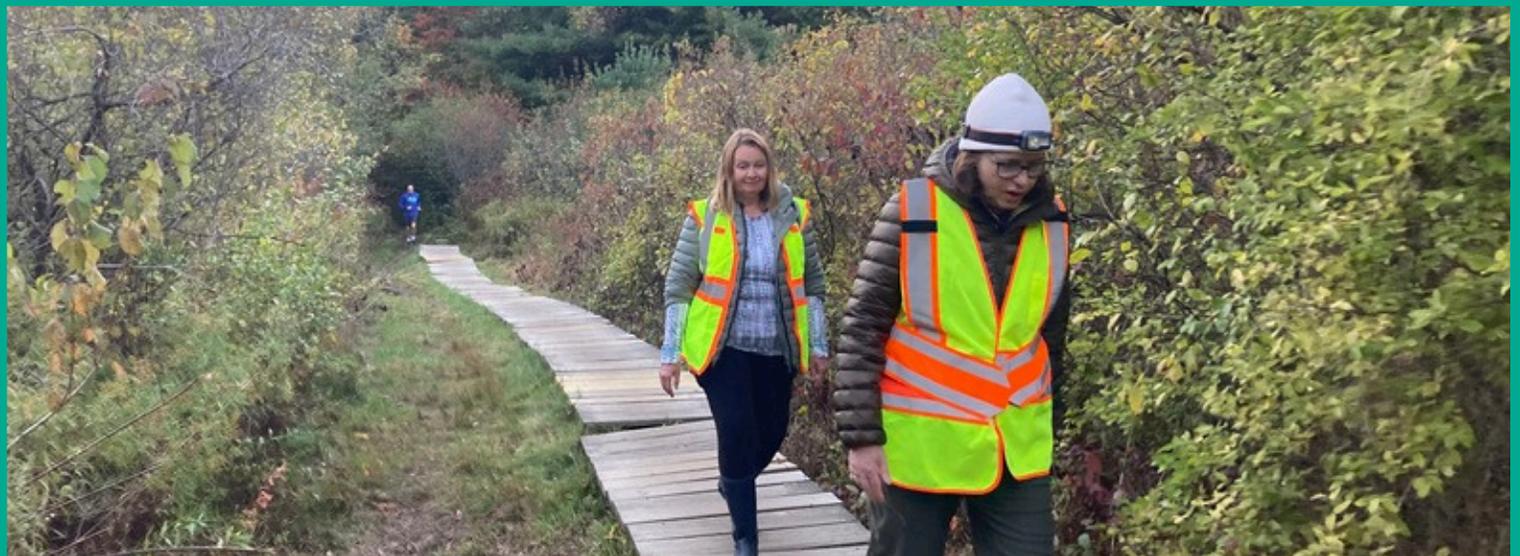
### **AMC Trail Volunteer Program Supervisor** (For

questions about training opportunities)  
Connor Piechota  
cpiechota@outdoors.org

### **BCT Website & Socials**

[baycircuit.org](http://baycircuit.org)  
IG - [@baycircuit](https://www.instagram.com/baycircuit)  
FB - [@baycircuit](https://www.facebook.com/baycircuit)

[Newsletter Registration LINK](#)



## 2026 BCT RAIL TRAIL RIDE SERIES

Join the BCT Coordinator on a monthly bike ride of the rail trails that overlap the Bay Circuit Trail. On the second Tuesday of each month, we will meet up somewhere along the BCT for an hour+ ride. These will take place on paved or stone-dust rail trails. Join us for one ride or try to join us for all of them! Event registration will become available later this season.

BFRT = Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

MCRT = Mass Central Rail Trail

| <b>Date &amp; Time</b>                 | <b>Location</b>          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <u>April 14<sup>th</sup> @5:30pm</u>   | <u>BFRT Acton</u>        |
| May 12 <sup>th</sup> @5:30pm           | MCRT - Ride w/NEMBA      |
| June 9 <sup>th</sup> @6pm              | BFRT Acton               |
| July 14 <sup>th</sup> @4pm             | Minuteman to Reformatory |
| August 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 3pm          | BFRT long(er) Ride       |
| Oct 14 <sup>nd</sup> @5pm              | MCRT Night Ride          |
| (Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> is a Wednesday!) |                          |

## TRAIL MAINTENANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Lookin to spend some time taking care of your trails? Join us on portions of the BCT that could use some love.

What to expect?

- Lopping overgrown shrubs and trees to clear the trail
- Brushing in sections of trail that have been widened or eroded
- Clearing of blowdowns
- Blazing sections that are missing directional signs

Since there is still plenty of snow on the ground, it will be a little while before we can assess what sections need the most TLC. Put these dates in your calendar until then!

### Upcoming Dates

3/21 - Southern Region  
3/28 - Southern Region  
3/29 - Southern  
3/29 - Northern Region  
4/11 - Central Region



## 2026 FULL MOON HIKE SERIES

Join Sarah Dolan, the BCT Assistant, on a monthly Full Moon Hike on the Bay Circuit Trail. During the evening of each Full Moon we will meet up somewhere along the BCT for a night hike. Join us for one hike or try to join us for all of them! Registration links with locations will be released later this season.

### Date & Time

April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7 - 9pm - Northern Region

April 30<sup>th</sup> @ 7:30 - 9:30pm - Northern Region

June 1<sup>st</sup> @ 8 - 10pm - Central Region

June 29<sup>th</sup> @ 8 - 10pm

July 29<sup>th</sup> @ 8 - 10pm

August 27<sup>th</sup> @ 8 - 10pm

Sept 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 - 8:30pm

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 - 7:30pm



## Winter Snowshoeing on the BCT

In mid-February, we hosted a winter snowshoe program at Appleton Farms to highlight the Bay Circuit Trail. Fresh snow and wide-open fields made it the perfect setting to explore this scenic stretch of the BCT. Participants learned the basics of snowshoe fit and technique before heading out on a short guided walk along the trail. Along the way, we shared winter skills, a bit of Appleton Farms history, and the importance of this unique regional trail.

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate winter and experience this vibrant piece of the Bay Circuit Trail with us! Join us on our [next snowshoe hike, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am](#)

-Sarah Dolan



## THE DIRTY HANDS PROJECT; HIKE FOR A CHANGE

“Come along as Josh Moughan of The Dirty Hands Project hikes more than 200 miles on the Bay Circuit Trail in Massachusetts to raise awareness about mental health and show why nature is a remedy for depression and anxiety.

Hike For A Change is back for its third year. From **Saturday, April 25 to Saturday, May 30**, we will once again hike the 230 mile Bay Circuit Trail, from Duxbury to Plum Island, Massachusetts. We will also be adding new hikes in Denver, CO, Charleston, SC, Peabody, MA; and an unforgettable final hike in Danvers, Massachusetts.

Mental health touches all of our lives, and Hike For A Change creates space for meaningful conversations, community, and connection. We encourage you to join us and take time to unplug, step into nature, and take time to reset your mental health. Hike For A Change is more than a hike; it's a movement.”

To join the Hike For a Change and learn more about The Dirty Hands Project, click [HERE!](#)

See the next page for information about the Frederick Douglass Trail Informational Night.

## MAP UPDATES

Multiple reroutes of the BCT took place in 2025. These reroutes are reflected in the interactive map, but are not yet shown in the pdf maps. More information will be provided on our website soon.

These reroutes include:

- Annursnac Conservation Land in Concord
- Easton trail realignment
- Massapoag Lake reroute in Sharon
- Mary French Boardwalk temporary reroute in Andover (see next page)





# Frederick Douglass Trail Informational Night

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**March 12 2026 | 7pm**

**East Bridgewater Town Hall**

Presented by Old Colony Planning Council

The effort to create a multi-use pathway through Abington, Whitman, East Bridgewater, and Bridgewater is gaining real momentum.

We'd like to bring everyone involved together for a kickoff meeting to share updates, coordinate next steps, and welcome others who may be interested in joining the effort.



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## CONTACTS:

**Matt Dyer - Old Colony Planning Council**  
[mdyer@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:mdyer@ocpcrpa.org)

**Amber Stearns - Appalachian Mountain Club/ Bay Circuit Trail**  
[astearns@outdoors.org](mailto:astearns@outdoors.org)

**Diane - East Bridgewater Rep**

## 2026 HIKE / BIKE CHALLENGE

Now more than ever, spending time outdoors has become a crucial part of staying mentally and physically healthy. Hike 50 or 100 miles, unique or repetitive, [OR Bike 100 or 200 miles] during the 2026 calendar year on the BCT and submit your log to receive a BCT patch and certificate sent out at the end of the year.

Click [HERE](#) for more info

## 2026 SEASONAL PHOTO CONTEST

We received some amazing photos in our 2025 Photo Contest which you can see on the next few pages. Thank you to all who shared their BCT experiences with us!

In 2026, we are taking a different approach to the photo contest. Instead of waiting for the end of the year to roll around, we are inviting you to submit your photos on a seasonal basis! The next window for the photo submissions will be between **Now** and **June 21<sup>st</sup>** (the Summer Solstice). We will select five winners who will be mailed BCT patches. Your photos will be showcased on the BCT website home page and on our social media.

For more info, click [HERE](#)

## TRAIL NOTICES

### **Mary French Boardwalk, Andover Reroute**

“Bay Circuit through-hikers (westbound) should proceed from the Skug Reservation left/northwest on Salem Street for 7/10 of a mile, enter the Ward Reservation on the right near the intersection with Gray Road, and rejoin the Bay Circuit Trail at the top of the hill.

Eastbound hikers may pass through the Ward and Great Swamp reservations to Gray Road and the intersection with Korinthian Way. Follow Gray Road, 5/10 of a mile, to the intersection with Salem Street. Left on Salem Street for 7/10 of a mile and right into the Skug Reservation.”

### **Poor Meadow Brook Boardwalk, East Bridgewater:**

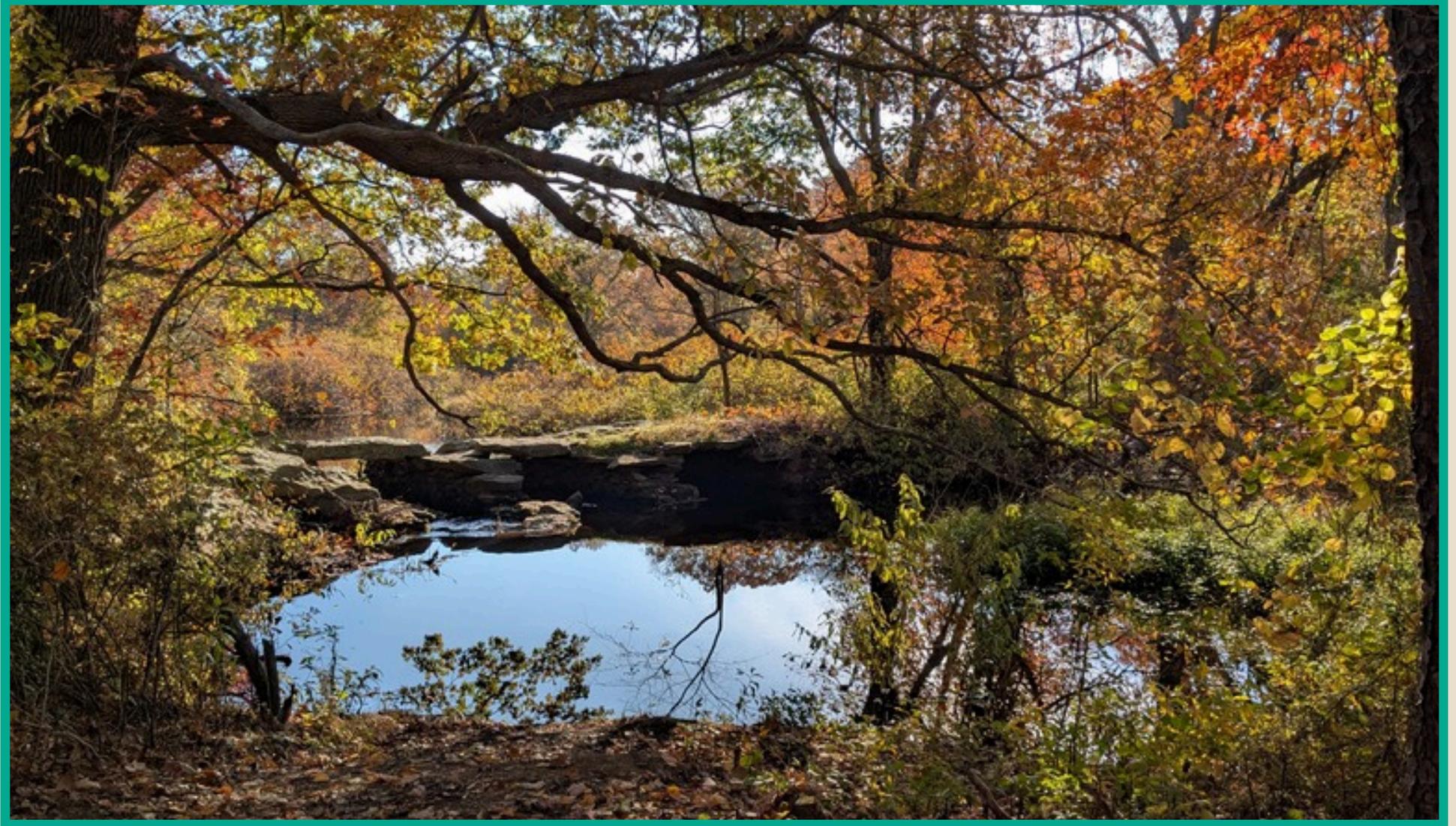
This boardwalk is no longer safely passable. A Mass Trails Grant Application has been submitted to fund the replacement of this boardwalk. Mass Trails Grant Awards will be announced summer of 2026.

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



#1. Photo by Michael Campbell - "Red Squirrel" (Harold Parker State Forest)

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



#2. Photo by Erica Leinbach - Skim Milk Bridge (West Bridgewater, MA)

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



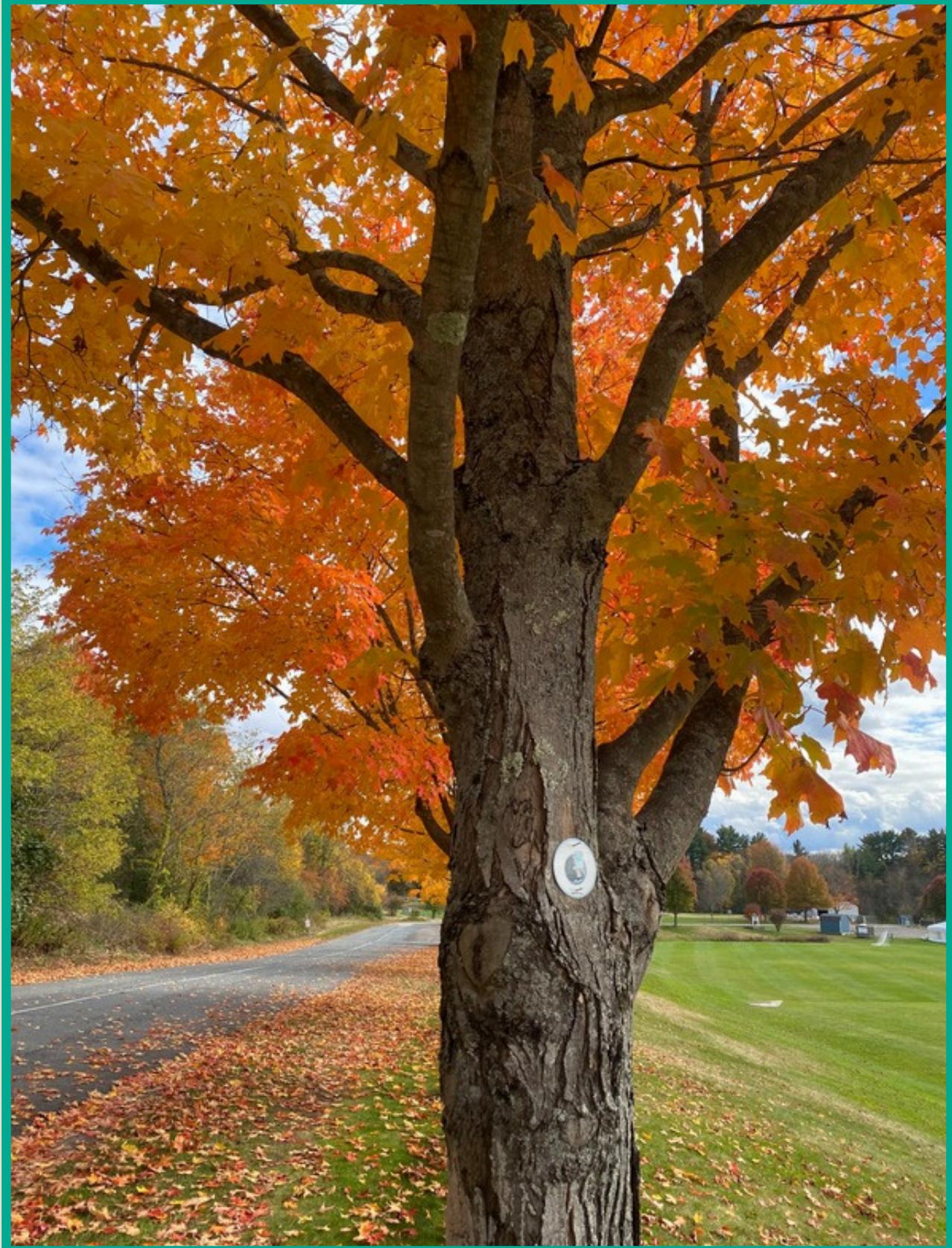
#3. Photo by Jennifer Carlino - "Easton Conservation Commission has removed over 1600 sf of invasive plants at the Old Pond Conservation Area on Foundry Street in Easton MA. Several volunteers have planted over 140 native trees/shrubs and deer fencing between September and November of 2025. The funding was provided by Taunton River Watershed Association. Thanks to all who participated!"

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



#4. Photo by Bryn Gingrich - "Holts Pond, Noon Hill"

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



#5. Photo by Bryn Gingrich - "McCarthy Park" Medfield

## 2025 PHOTO CONTEST - HONORABLE MENTION



Photo by Scott Dunbar - "Going Hog Wild on the Bay Circuit. As you pass Reynolds Landings and the road turns to gravel , you suddenly come upon hogs in the woods. There's a fence so they're not wild but they are **ABSOLUTELY SO COOL!**"