



Town of Hudson

Conservation Commission



Town Hall • 78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 • (978) 562-2948

Volunteers Needed



for Invasive Plant Removal at Danforth Falls Conservation Land

The Hudson Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to remove invasive plants from Danforth Falls Conservation Area, with the long-term goal of restoring and protecting the native vegetation. The Hudson Conservation Commission is a SuAsCo CISMA partner.

Interested in joining us on volunteer days? Sign up via the QR code/link below!

Why are we doing this?

Invasive plants such as Japanese Barberry, Burning Bush, non-native honeysuckle, Oriental Bittersweet, and Multiflora Rose adversely affect the health of the forest. Significant infestations can choke out native plants, hurt wildlife, and increase the number of ticks and other pests.

How you can help!

Please sign up here or email phelinek@townofhudson.org if interested in joining the volunteer list:



[Click here to sign up for our Volunteer List](#)

Project Overview

- Our goal is to restore native plant life by removing invasive species like Japanese Barberry, Burning Bush, Oriental Bittersweet, and others.
- This initiative, which began in April 2024, has seen notable progress, with native wildlife and vegetation returning to cleared areas.
- Volunteers' work allows funds to be redirected to restoration efforts, like planting native species.

What to Bring

We do have a limited number of heavy leather gloves, shovels, eye protection, and clippers for volunteers to borrow. If you have any of these items, however, we encourage you to bring them. Having a way to identify your tools is recommended, whether that be a label, flagging, etc. Recommended tools/attire for our volunteer days are:

- Heavy leather gloves
- Eye protection
- Long sleeve shirt and pants (weather permitting)
- Closed toe shoes
- Bug repellent (if needed)
- Tools (clippers, shovels, hand trowels, etc.)
- Water (be sure to hydrate!)

What to Expect

At the beginning of each volunteer day, a Conservation Commissioner will train our new volunteers, showing new volunteers how to identify the invasive plants and focus on/answer any questions they might have. Training is usually about 15 minutes. After the training, volunteers can begin pulling plants. We encourage volunteers to fact check with a commissioner or experienced volunteer any time they're unsure of a plant. We strive to preserve native plants during our pulls and encourage people to work around them as best they can.

Our invasive plant pulls usually last for about 2 hours.

If you have to leave early, or start to become tired, no worries at all! Feel free to help out for as long as you'd like. We encourage folks to also take breaks to rest and hydrate.

We ask that volunteers check their surroundings before and during the pull. Check for any hazards, including glass and large metal debris and garbage, and bring these things to a commissioner's attention. Also be sure to look for any dead trees/dangling limbs that might be near or above you, and assess their safety, especially if they're entangled in any vines/plants you're removing. After a volunteer day, always check for ticks.



Before invasive pull

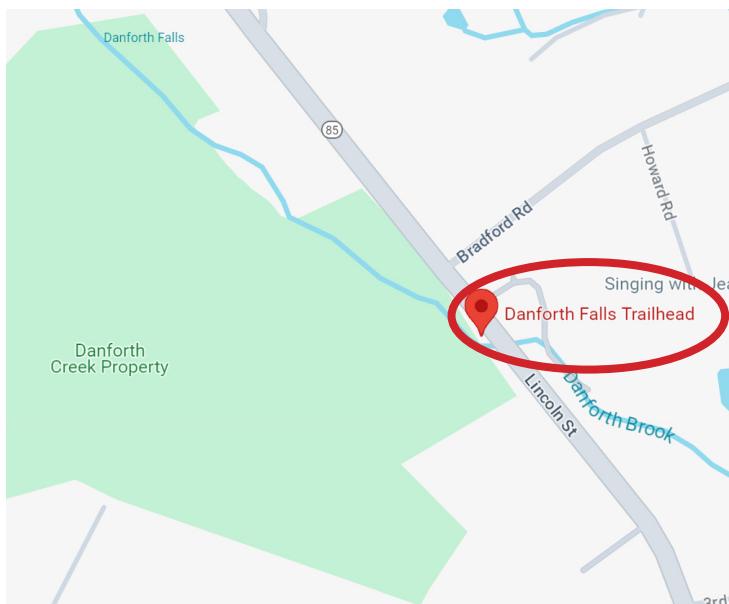


After invasive pull

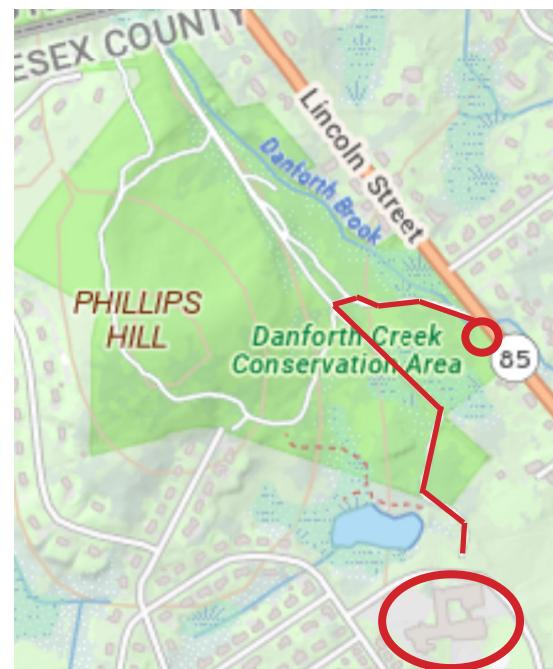
Where to Meet

We're currently meeting at the Danforth Falls Trailhead for our Invasive Pull Volunteer Days at Danforth Falls Conservation Land. If the trailhead parking lot is full, there is also an access point via trails at Farley Elementary School, with about a half-a-mile hike to the entrance.

Meeting Location



Trail from Farley Elementary School



Additional Notes

- Volunteers under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
- For children, non-thorny plants like honeysuckle or new invasive shoots are better suited for removal. (Japanese barberry is prickly!)
- For group volunteering or schedule updates, contact the organizers or join the email list.

More About the Project

The Conservation Commission and volunteers started the project in April 2024, and significant improvements in restoring the ecological health of Danforth Falls Conservation Area have been made. Many areas from which we've removed invasive plants still had a great seed bank, and we're seeing the emergence of healthy, native plants in those areas. We've also witnessed wood frogs, barred owls, and deer return to the restored areas. There's still a good chunk left to go, but seeing the early results of this initiative has been an amazing experience for the Commission, volunteers, and town residents who visit the property.

Volunteers make this project possible, and we are grateful for any time you can devote to removing invasive plants. Your involvement also enables the Commission to spend its limited funds on restoration efforts, including the purchase of native plants.

The predominant invasive plant on the Danforth Falls Conservation Area is Japanese Barberry, followed by Burning Bush, oriental bittersweet, and non-native honeysuckle. There's also a presence of Chinese privet and multiflora rose on the property. Japanese knotweed is also present in a very small sector of the conservation land, but we are having this section professionally treated and is outside the scope of the volunteer initiative.

The workdays involve pulling the invasive plants out of the ground or removing them using shovels, clippers, or garden trowels. This type of mechanical removal doesn't involve the use of herbicides or heavy equipment.

Non-native, invasive plants can severely disrupt the natural balance of an ecosystem. With your help, we can restore that balance by creating valuable wildlife habitat and better protecting our wetlands and water resources. The Hudson Conservation Commission is a SuAsCo CISMA partner. This partnership consists of organizations that intend to manage and control invasive species in the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord (SuAsCo) watershed.



Barred owl seen hunting in the areas we've cleared of invasive plants

