

Why a Friends Group? / What is a Friends Group?

Parks all over the City have "Friends" groups that can make (and have, in fact, made) a tremendous difference to the state of individual parks. They coordinate and focus volunteer activity, raise money, bring people to appreciate under-appreciated parks, work with and coordinate with the property owners (DCR or City).

- Friends of Hemlock Gorge was formed in the 1970's in response to decades of neglect of Hemlock Gorge and over the past 40 years revived Hemlock Gorge into a premier parkland in Newton.
- Friends of the Upper Falls Greenway organized just last month and has already raised \$1300, recruited volunteers for various projects, and is planning a series of events and volunteer activities over the coming year.

Why a Friends Group for Quinobequin?

The Upper Falls - to Lower Falls stretch of the river and the Quinobequin parkland along its banks has long been under-appreciated in general, despite the fact that lots of people **do** love having that parkland around the corner. In recent years, a number of individuals have been working on their own on various projects on Quinobequin. By forming Friends of the Quinobequin we hope to help foster those existing efforts and embark on additional improvements. By banding together publicly as a group of citizens who love Quinobequin, we can bring together other volunteers for various projects as well as more easily get the attention of the DCR and City when necessary.

What Individual Projects Have Been Happening on Quinobequin?

- * The Girl Scout Nature Markers Project - working with DCR
- * Trail maintenance and improvements - Jerry

What Projects Would You Consider helping with?

Here are a list of projects that individuals are already working on or are considering launching. Would you be interested in helping?

- * Footbridge repair
- * Trail maintenance and tree health evaluation
- * Expanding the Girl Scout Nature Markers Project
- * Flower plantings
- * Library/hammock project
- * Beating back nasty, invasive thorns
- * Dealing with Asian Bittersweet that has been pulling down trees
- * Trash pickup

Promotion of the Park

One of the most powerful ways to rally support for a park is to devise events to bring people to the park and the river. By bringing people out to use the park in various ways, we can rally support, volunteers, membership, and donations to help with projects, as in the past year in Hemlock Gorge there were:

- * Nature walk/talks
- * Feast of the Falls
- * NewTV video about the park
- * Community "Eggcellent Breakfast"
- * Walking lecture about the geology of the gorge
- * Web site postings

All of these activities bring neighbors into the park and help them to engage with it. Once there for an event, they're much more likely to become more involved with helping to preserve and improve the park.

What Kind of Activities Should We Consider for Friends of the Quinobequin? What other activities could you envision that are likely to lure people to the river?

**What Projects would you like to see? ... And, would you lead the effort?
Use as much space as you need!**

WE WANT YOUR INPUT AND INTEREST:

Even if you are on the Waban Area Council e-mail list, we want to recognize the participants in Friends of the Quinobequin separately for efficient communication.

Please fill out this form and we will keep you up to date about our meetings and activities. We ask for your e-mail address, so that we can reach you quickly with relevant and targeted information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ (home) _____ (cell)

E-mail: _____

Expertise: _____

Don't be intimidated by this question, we just want to know if you have any special knowledge or training that you might offer to help us...

Friends of the Quinobequin is a Committee of the recently created Waban Area Council. Visit our website: www.wabanareacouncil.com