

Parks Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 16, 2022 - 6:00 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85976481029 Meeting ID: 859 7648 1029 Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kzKXWMvI8

- Meeting Minutes Approval
- Old Business
 - Campout Cashman, July 30-31, 2022 (NYS & cub scouts)

New Business

.

- Pump Track at March's Hill (Dante Chabot)
- Pickleball signup at Perkins Park (Sophia Kirkpatrick)
- ACES tree education proposal (Lisë Reid)
- Adopt-a-trail, "share the trail" signs, and First Night (*Rick Taintor*)
- Flag application, Yankee Homecoming Flag at Bartlet Mall, July 30th Aug 7th 2022 (Jason LaCroix)
- o Jim McCarthy tree donations
- Rose bush next to Cohodas bench at Cashman Park
- Approve Betsy Ross flag at Bartlet Mall, July 4 weekend (Rich Banks)

One-Day Use Permit Application



Applicant Information					
Name of organization Newbury port	buth Services				
Contact name _ Joe Pauline					
City Newburyport					
State MA	Zip_01950				
Phone 978 - 465 - 4434					
Email Jewline @ City of new busyper					
. , ,.	r.com				
Scheduling Information					
Date of Application 6/14/22					
We request use of:	We request use of:				
Atkinson Common	Jason Sawyer Playground				
Atwood Park	Joppa Park				
Garrison Gardens	C March's Hill				
Bartlet Mall	Market Square/Bullnose				
Brown Square	Moseley Woods Pavilion				
Cashman Park	Moulton Square				
🗹 Basketball 🖾 Tennis 🗹 Ball field 🗹 Soccer	Newburyport Skate Park				
Cherry Hill Athletic Fields	Patrick Tracy Square Padice Pade				
Clipper City Rail Trail	Perkins Park Basketball Tennis Ball field				
Cornelius Doyle Triangle		a			
Cushing Park	Other	Woodman Park Other			
Dates/days requested <u>August 5th</u> and 6th Time slot requested <u>12 pm (noon)</u>	<u>а опег</u> ь				
Dates days requested <u>rogos r 6</u> and 6	INT I C				
(1 1/2 hour blocks)	10 An				
Activity Campour and Movie N:	gんヤNumber of att	endees 8			
Authorized Applicant Signature	Pomli				
E	OR INTERNAL USE ONLY				
Approval is contingent upon approval from the following		c.			
Health Department	ADDITIONAL COMINIENT	5.			
Fire Department					
Police Department	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
The second					
Licensing Commission					
City Council					
Harbormaster					
	The later of the second se				
		For Parks Commission Use			
		Date reviewed			
Submit completed form to	Approved				
Newburyport Parks Dept	Rejected				
60 Pleasant Street	Comments				
Newburyport, MA 01950					
the second se					
parks@cityofnewburyport.com					
978-465-4462		Donation received			
See page 2 for Rules and Regulations and contacts for use of o	ther narks and recreational facilities				



Newburyport City Hall 60 Pleasant Street, PO Box 550 Newburyport, MA 01950 978.465.4462 FAX 978.465.4452 parks@cityofnewburyport.com

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS

I do hereby agree to forever release the City of Newburyport, and all of its employees, agents, officials, board members, volunteers and also any and all individuals and organizations assisting or participating in use of the parkland and/or facilities of the Newburyport Parks (the "Releasees") from any and all claims, rights of action, and causes of action that may have arisen in the past, or may arise in the future, directly or indirectly, from personal injuries to me or property damage resulting from my use of the City of Newburyport Parks parkland and/or facilities. I also promise to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Releasees against any and all legal claims, suits, and proceedings of any description that may have been asserted in the past, or may be asserted in the future, arising directly or indirectly from my use of the City of Newburyport Parks parkland and/or facilities. I further affirm that I have read this Consent and Release Form and that I understand the contents of this Form. I understand that my use of Newburyport's parkland and/or facilities is voluntary, that I understand the risks of such use, and that I am free to choose not to participate in said use. By acknowledging this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS as part of this form, I affirm that I have decided to participate in this use with full knowledge and understanding of this RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS and that the Releasees will not be liable to anyone for personal injuries and/or property damage which I may suffer in said use of parkland and/or facilities.

Signed In Jun	Date 6/14/22
Permitted park user signature	

Printed name Joe Pauline Organization Newbusypost Youth Services Address 60 Bleasant St Newbusypost MA 01950



City of Newburyport



I AM WE March's Hill Bike Trail

Improvements Dante Chabot, 8th Grade



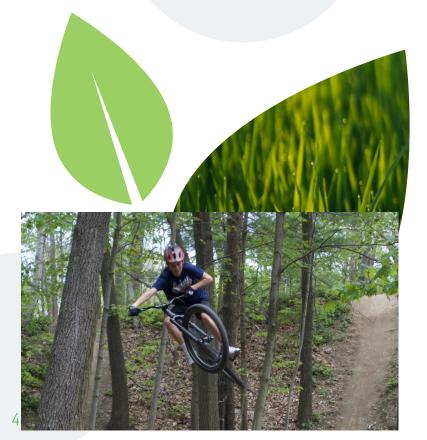
Overview

What is "I Am We" project?



The "I Am We" project is a school project on making a difference in our town, state, country or community. This could be as simple as fixing a few sidewalks or as complex as fixing a major issue in the town. Since I am passionate about mountain biking, March's Hill has been the only place in town for kids and adults like me to mountain bike, and we believe it needs to keep improving. So My I Am We project is on improving the bike trails of March's Hill for all ages.

What issues have we faced?



- Creating a coexisting environment with the neighbors.
- Obstruction to trails by adults that we have to fix over and over.
- Stealing or braking tools (that we bought and need).
- ► Leaving trash (that we clean up).
- Having ALL bikers be concerned for the March's Hill ecosystem.



Plans for improvements

- Pump track on overgrown, unused field.
- Ongoing land maintenance and regrowth - Having the young bikers become stewards of the land they use for recreation.
- Official signage with rules and code of conduct for the trails.
- Tools for maintaining trails.
- Tool bin that can be locked.





Benefits of a Pump Track at March's Hill

- Great use of overgrown unused area
- Low cost (just soil and grass)
- All ages and skill levels can use
- Use without disturbing neighbors
- GREAT exercise
- Fun and positive atmosphere
- Keep people outside and in shape
- No pollution

<u>5 benefits a pump track</u>



Overgrown unused Field





Agenda/What's next

- Unanimous approval from Water Dep in their May meeting to use field.
- Fundraising for great community park including new trees for noise/site barrier.
- Find mentors and education to help us better care for the land we are biking on.
- Make an agreement with the neighbors and walkers (i.e. - set of rules).
- Our goal for today is to get our pump track approved.



Code of Conduct For Biking March's Hill and Proposed Pump Track

Please be courteous to the neighbors and other park users by observing the following guidelines:

- ⊷ Helmets required while biking
- Bikes only (nothing motorized)
- Open dawn to dusk, do not ride when WET
- ► NO structural changes without permission
- ⊷ NO alcohol or drugs are allowed
- ⊷ NO littering, self-cleaning park
- ► NO amplified sound without a permit
- Be respective of others
- Enjoy, keep environment fun and positive



Keeping trails clean







NOT Keeping trails clean (& threatening notes)





Following pages of local online comments to posts on Nextdoor, accusing kids of land destruction, in favor of kids continuing to bike at March's Hill

...



Karen Clagett Newburyport South End • 1 day ago

I am a resident of Coffins Court, the street that leads up to the mushroomshaped water tower and that is adjacent to March's Hill. I urge anyone who likes to explore there, take a dog for a walk, enjoys nature, etc. to go and look at the destruction of the trees by the BMX bikers. There will be a Parks Commission meeting by Zoom on June 16 at 6 pm. If you are interested in conservation of the area, I urge you to attend. If you do not have access to Zoom, there will be a connection set up at the Senior Center.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85976481029 Meeting ID: 859 7648 1029



Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

Can you be more precise regarding damage to the trees? The kids have constructed guite a mountain bike track up there...and I also know much of the area along the road up to the water tower past the gate is essentially an old dumping ground of trash, leaves, yard waste and old asphalt and such...so it is certainly not a pristine natural environment...so let's not pile onto the kids without a valid reason

1 day ago Like Reply



Jonathan Brown • Upper Green

Hi Karen, I think it's fantastic that there are kids willing to put away the video games and hit the trails. It's exactly what I did as a kid. I can't image the bikes are destroying trees...do you have any pic you could share? Thanks

Share

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Pat Henault • Newburyport South End

We walked up there & did NOT see any damage, just kids having a great time.

1 day ago Like Reply Share



...

19

22

...



David Kelly • Turkey Hill / Crow Lane

They are not ruining any ecosystem or taking away any "birdsong" like was claimed in the letter to the paper. The kids are being active, making friends, and building confidence. The only problem with the situation is the "adults" going up there telling them they are destroying the environment, then blocking the trails with logs, and inexplicably calling the police.

1 day ago

Like Reply Share



Paula Katkin • Newburyport South End This is not true, the log story is fiction.

1 day ago Like Reply

See 2 more replies



Katchen Gerig • Historic Downtown

In speaking with the parks dept, The only tree removal done this winter was some maintenance by them. They have been keeping an eye on the area and said no trees were taken down over the last year..only some general maintenance by the parks dept. There is a lot of blame on the kids without digging deeper.

Share

1 day ago Like Reply Share





19

: 1

2.44



Maria Sullivan • Newburyport South End

I've only lived here 6 years - some changes to March's Hill but only in a good way! I wish my son had access to such an amazing BMX area - all done by the kids!

No trash so far. They seem to be very respectful. I'd rather that than hanging in the streets!

1 day ago

Like Reply Share



...

...



Pam Nataline • East of Atkinson Common

Like

The vegetation is stripped out roots of trees are broken. Ask the parks Department where they might be able to put a BMX area in. Marches Hill is not it.



1 day ago

Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

Share

Reply

...

Pam Marches Hill is a perfectly fine area...walk along that road...it's a dumping ground of overgrown weeds and old asphalt...if you walk down the backside along the cemetery fence you'll find another dumping ground of leaves and old grave decorations...this is not a. pristine Endangered area by any means...the kids have worked hard to make a fun place to play...if there's room for improvement...try and work WITH the kids, not against them (edited)

1d Like Reply Share





Marjorie Recinos • Newburyport South End

Bikes are not destroying trees...kids with axes are. Trees have been hacked, broken, and girdled if they were in the way of the biking path. The noise, swearing, verbal assaults on neighbors, and destruction of animal habitat is nothing anyone should turn their back on. I have lived here fo

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Jonathan Brown • Upper Green

Again, I think some pictures would be valuable. I've taken down many trees, none by Axe...hard to believe that kids are dropping trees? As a boy I spent hours in the woods with my friends blazing trails and making forts. What a memorable experience for us. When we moved on, the brush would grow back quickly. Let's try to be honest here, young boys are not a threat to the environment. Try to put yourself in a teenage boys shoes for a day...things aren't all roses for them. Boys need to be physical and to have a positive outlet. My suggestion is to let them have some fun doing what boys have been doing forever. Try not to be the lady that's provoking them, that probably won't work out well for anyone. At the same time, the boys need to be respectful to neighbors and adults alike.

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

Jonathan I'll walk the dog up there tomorrows and take some pics

1 day ago Like

Reply Share



...

...

2

...

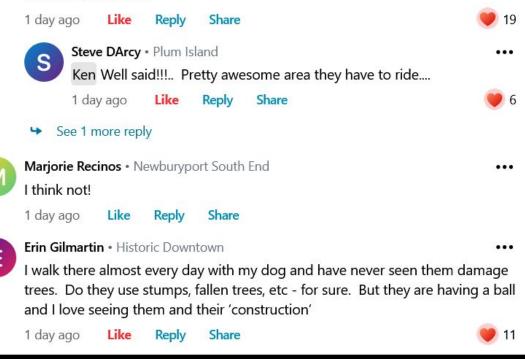




Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

And in those 28 years...how much green space has been paved over? How many places for kids to play have been built up...I walk my dog up there all the time...it's nothing special and there are literally dozens of other green spaces where bikes and dogs are forbidden...the area adjacent to the bike area is an eyesore...the kids have taken a neglected run and down area and made it their own...leave them be

...





Tracy Pezzella • Ferry-Moseley

This is exactly what the skateboard kids were up against for years.

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Margo Leanna • Brown's Park

The boys that I know who use that area take great care NOT to cause any annoyance - they even take empty bags to pick up trash - they understand it's a space/activity to preserve and protect. If one follows the reports from the parks department officials, the kids are being awesome caretakers of the space. Live happily and COEXIST.

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Search Nextdoor

It seems that about once a year a neighbor or "concerned citizen" decides that they want March's Hill for themselves and accuses the children that bike there of things that are simply untrue. The last time this happened (in 2021) the children that bike there went through the proper channel and met with the parks commission to be sure they had approval to use March's for biking. A discussion was had at a parks commission meeting and the trails were sanctioned for biking.

In recent months, there has been forestry work done by the parks and rec department (not by 13 year old kids with bulldozers as a recent letter published in the Daily News insinuated) to clear up dead and decaying trees in the the area, as well as some invasive tree species that actually do have a negative impact on the space.

I suggest that any neighbor who chose to move next to a spot that was donated by Clara Savigart DeWindt in 1954 "to ensure that Newburyport and Newbury children, as generations before them had, could use March's Hill as a recreation area," take a moment to meet these friendly, hardworking, and respectful kids who love to be outdoors and welcome the chance to introduce others to an activity they love.

At a time when so many teenagers are suffering from the mental health toll the last 2+ years have taken, let's support them in their passion and not look to take something away that they rightfully gained permission from the city for the use of.





Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

Elizabeth great post

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Lucy Sirois • Merrimac-on-the-River Elizabeth Hear hear

1 day ago Like Reply Share



Alicia Tague • Rawson Ave/Woodland St

Yes! Well said! These boys have engineered a space that is an incredible outlet for healthy risk taking. They have learned so many lessons along the way and want to work with the neighbors. They are awesome kids (I am biased- one of them is mine). Let's go to this meeting ready to listen to one another and find common ground.

23 hr ago Like Reply Share



Sue Charles • Byfield

...

4

...

2

...

7

...

Elizabeth yes to that! Outdoor recreation is absolutely essential, especially these days. Video games and virtual reality are causing kids to miss their own childhoods. These online games and social media sites are part of the cause of the widespread social malaise we are facing not only in the USA but worldwide. Outdoor recreation is one very important way to counter the scourge of computer recreation.



Search Nextdoor

50 years younger, I may have tried it. I don't know much about the sport, but maybe some girls should try it too!!!

Share

Share

14 hr ago Like Reply

Like



Alicia Tague • Rawson Ave/Woodland St

There are girl riders too! I don't want to leave them out! I usually refer to this group as "the kids" to be gender neutral and not leave any one out. Since I have a son I have a habit of saying "the boys" since they have done the majority of the building - but there are definitely girls hitting those jumps!



Add a reply...

13 hr ago



Margo Lear	na • Bro	wn's Park			
That's SO v			h!!!		
l day ago	Like	Reply	Share		

Reply



Longs as I remember parks were made for kids ,we Newburyport kids always hung in the parks. Just long as they're not tearing the place apart. It's not just some dumping grounds for dogs and green bags. (edited)

23h Like Reply Share

...

2

...

...

Ken Smith • Newburyport South End

..

...

I have walked through the area...many, many, many times...the area on coffin street past the gate is an unsightly mess...a virtual overgrown dumping ground with cable wires littering the ground, asphalt piles and overgrown weed and yard waste..there is nothing special or pristine about the area at all...you can still walk up the hill above the rail trail and not be bothered by the bikers at all...your vendetta here is inaccurate and your accusations biased and without merit... (edited)

18h Like Reply Share

Chris Neth - Merrimac-on-the-River

I grew up in Newburyport and now live on the outskirts of Newburyport. There are many beautiful places to walk, many trails and river walks etc. I haven't seen the March Hill location in many years. It seems as though many residents want open land to be beautiful with an abundance of wildlife and natural beauty. Unfortunately, that doesn't leave an area open for kids to do what kids need to do. If every parcel of open land is taken away from kids, they will become bored and they may do much worse than making a BMX trail. I sympathize with both sides but kids need a place to enjoy, have fun, distress, and socialize. It sounds like this place is exactly what they need. Not looking for an argument, just my thoughts. Everybody enjoy your day, be happy that Covid isn't keeping us masked up and enjoy the fact that kids are outside enjoying the fresh air and getting some exercise.

16 hr ago Like Reply Share



B. W. Campbell • Newburyport South End

...

1 13

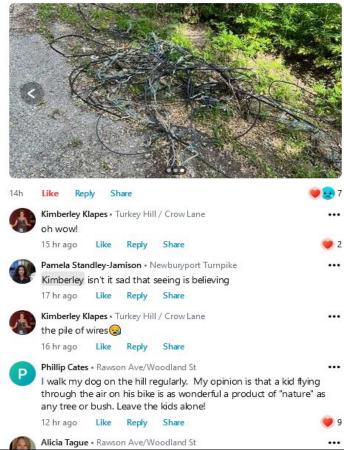
I've walked through for several years. The kids to this day have been respectful to others & the landscape really hasn't changed that much over the years.

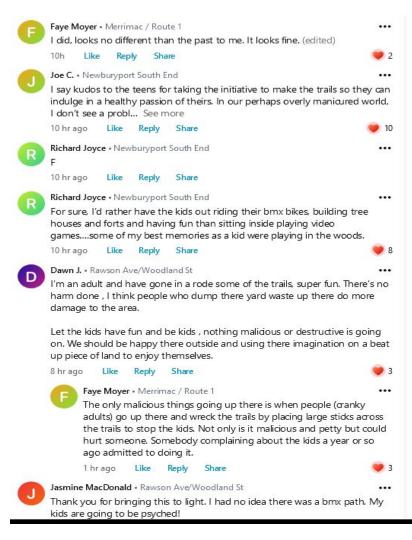
15 hr ago Like Reply Share

```
9 🙂 6
```

...

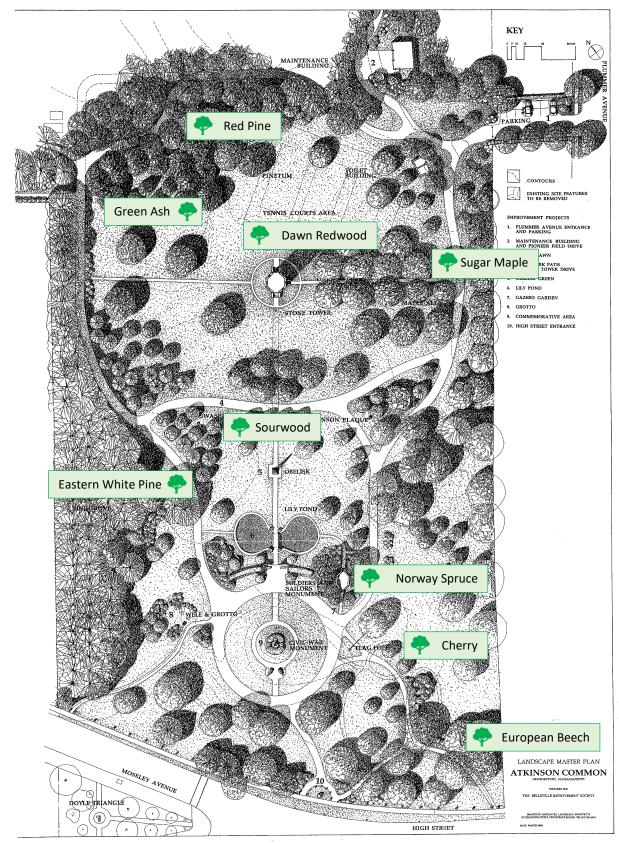
I walked up Coffin Street today and took several photos of the unsightly piles of yard waste and downed cable wires...couldn't find a single tree stump that appeared to have been cut down by the kids...the area is not such a pristine wild place to fault the kids for building a bike park (edited)







ACES Atkinson Common Tree Walk Site Map





Fraxinus pennsylvanica

During the fall in Massachusetts, the Green Ash's leaves are easily identifiable by their vibrant yellow color. The tree's wood has strong, flexible properties, and, as a result, its uses include handles of various tools and baseball

bats.



Scan here to find more information, or go to our website at link.com!

Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards (ACES) and Audrey Langley, Claudia Cummings, Lyza Marino, and Emma Low

SOURWOOD

Oxydendrum arboreum



The Sourwood tree is endemic to North America, and it's leaves, sap, and bark have used to treat illnesses. This tree blooms with white flowers that bees pollenate to help produce gourmet honey. The honey has a slight purple color and a unique taste that makes it one of the most popular and desired honeys.



Scan here to find more information, or go to our website at link.com!





Natives had been making sugar from the sap of maple trees for many years before Pilgrims landed in Plymouth Rock. From journals of early explorers, we know that maple sugar was made as early as 1609.



Scan here to find more information, or go to our website at link.com!

Alliance of Climate and Environmental Stewards (ACES) and Audrey Langley, Claudia Cummings, Lyza Marino, and Emma Low

CHERRY TREE

Prunus serotina

The Cherry Tree is among the largest, most important native cherry trees in Massachusetts. The tree's wood is used in the creation of scientific instruments, toys, and handles.



Scan here to find more information, or go to our website at link.com!

FLAG APPLICATION

Thu 5/26/2022 5:57 PM

To:Lise Reid <LReid@CityofNewburyport.com>;

You've just received a new submission to your **Contact** Form.

Submitted Information:

Name

Rich Banks

Email

banks.richard@comcast.net

Comment

Need to request the reinstalling of the Traditional 12' x 18" Betsy Ross Flag on the 4th of July, on the flag pole at the Bartlett Mall. This has been a 30+ year tradition, but has been discontinued since the Parks Commission received approval from the City Council for control of the pole.

Respectfully, Rich Banks

FLAG APPLICATION

no-reply@editmysite.com

Wed 5/4/2022 4:52 AM

To:Lise Reid <LReid@CityofNewburyport.com>;

You've just received a new submission to your Flag Application

Submitted Information:

Name Jason Lacroix

Email jasonlac73@gmail.com

Address PO Box 493

NEWBURYPORT, MA United States 01950

Phone Number 9784627676

Dates Of Display July 30th - Aug 7th 2022

Description Of Flag

Yankee Homecoming flag.