

## **Greetings -**

The Hallowell Conservation Commission (HCC) hopes you and your loved ones are in good health. As we all look forward to summer outdoor activities, here is our Spring update.

HCC would like to thank the local community for keeping the trails at Hallowell Recreation Area (the RES) and at Effie L. Berry Conservation Area (Berry CA) free of litter and dog waste over the last several months. The trails are being used extensively since the State's Covid-19 Stay Safe at Home order was initiated. As we move towards a safe re-opening, keep up the great trail etiquette, maintain physical distancing as needed, support local businesses, and visit the Saturday morning Hallowell Farmer's Market at Stevens Commons.

## **HCC Spring/Summer Volunteer Opportunities and Community Updates:**

### **Volunteer Opportunities -**

HCC will NOT hold group volunteer work days this Spring and Summer. However, we do ask ALL past volunteers that have cut knotweed ([\*fallopia japonica\*](#)) to continue cutting the emerging shoots in familiar areas. Two or three cuttings will be needed through the summer to discourage flowering. Three park spaces to target are: 1) both sides of the Effie L Berry Conservation Area trail before the slope down to the pond; 2) several patches off of Reservoir Rd at the RES; and 3) at Granite City Park below and north of the Crane installation. Please use physical distancing or work with household members. Shoots and stalks are easily cut close to ground with garden pruners or loppers. Fifteen to 20 minutes of cutting before or after a trail walk will be a huge help, thank you in advance! If new volunteers or past volunteers are unfamiliar with targeted areas, please email [hallowellconservation@gmail.com](mailto:hallowellconservation@gmail.com) for assistance. See attached for instructions.

### **Community Conservation Updates -**

> Earth Day 2020, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was celebrated on April 22. HCC members and volunteers working in shifts held a morning clean-up at Granite City Park. Trash and weeds were removed along the boulder row just north of the waterfront bulkhead. The river view from the Last Crane Standing looks great! See attached for before and after pictures.

> The Granite City Park crane path pollinator garden is emerging after a long winter and cold spring. HCC members will be tending to seasonal maintenance and new signage.

> Have you noticed additional tarps now covering a 20'x60' area of knotweed at the waterfront just north of Granite City Park? HCC is continuing with this experiment for invasive plant control.

We are so optimistic to conquer the invasives in that area, we will be adding a small plot of native plants late Spring.

> Effie L. Berry Conservation Area (CA) and Howard Hill Historical Park (HP) – both are fantastic additions to Hallowell’s recreational needs! HCC is aware of the wet areas from the pond on the Berry CA trail to Howard Hill HP. We are working with experts on a solution; in the meantime, please use the bog bridge provided by Kennebec Land Trust.

> Effie L. Berry Conservation Area Friend Happenings:

>>Alan Stearns, Pleasant Street resident, is connecting the neighborhood to Stevens Commons & Berry CA/Howard Hill HP. Alan has cut a trail from the Reed Center north along the ridge below Stevens Commons to the top end of Beech Street. He is continuing to work on signage and bog bridging. Check out the trail, blazed by white diamonds. Thank you, Alan.

>>Matt Morrill, mastermind behind Stevens Commons, has supported all efforts relating to Berry CA. His grounds crew maintains the area near the kiosk and last summer cut the grass along the trails towards Howard Hill HP. Thank you, Matt.

> The Hallowell Recreation Area (RES) entrance gate off of Town Farm Rd will remain locked to at least June 1. Parking is currently available along Town Farm Rd for access to trails and reservoirs. Watch City of Hallowell website for updates. HCC will share updates on our Facebook page as they become available.

> Please help keep Hallowell’s open and public spaces clean: If trashcans are full or missing, carry-out your waste. Scoop the pup’s poop and encourage others to do the same. These good practices help sustain natural resources and excellent water quality.

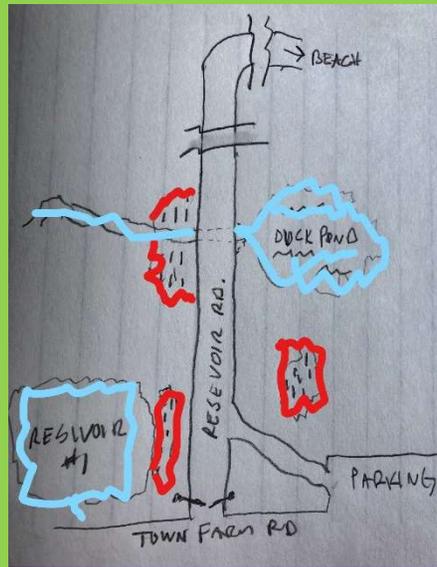
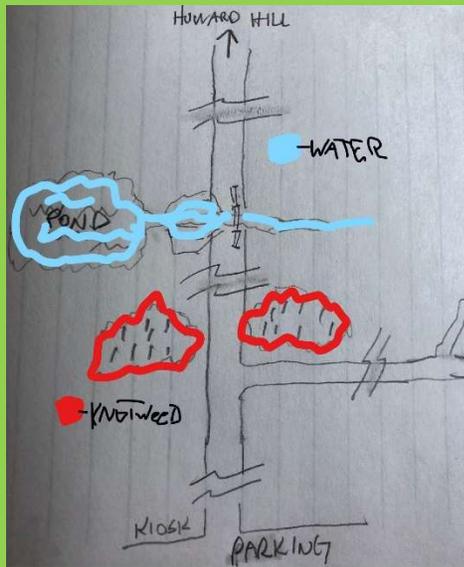
> Trail Guides for Jamies Pond, the RES, and Effie L Berry Conservation Area (connecting to Augusta’s Howard Hill Historic Park) are on the City of Hallowell website [HERE](#).

> HCC monthly meetings are May 18 and June 15. No meetings are scheduled for July and August. Check the City Calendar for details.

**Thank you for your support & stay safe,**

**Hallowell Conservation Commission**

**Effie L Berry Conservation Area & the RES** Drawings not to scale - Knotweed patches to cut in **RED** outlines !



< Knotweed shoots; in May & June cut close to ground, leave cuttings √



**Granite City Park – Earth Day 2020 cleanup**



< before



after >

