

Greenovate Boston holds cleanup at Rivermoor

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Staff Reporter

Around 40 volunteers showed up to pick up trash and cut back invasive plants at West Roxbury's Rivermoor Urban Wild, near Millennium Park. The Oct. 19 event, which lasted from 9 a.m. until noon, attracted volunteers of all ages, including kids and a student group from Harvard. The volunteers came from all over New England, including West Roxbury, Roslindale, Brookline, Brighton, East Boston, and even New Hampshire.

"I really enjoy Millennium Park, so I wanted to give back by doing this clean-up," stated one volunteer from Brookline.

The Rivermoor Urban Wild is a narrow parcel of floodplain marsh along the Charles River. This city-owned urban wild forms a riparian buffer from the buildings across the street. It is also a habitat for a lot of wildlife, including swans, which were spotted during the clean-up. "It is such a pretty spot," noted one volunteer.

The goal of the Rivermoor Urban Wild clean-up was to

collect trash by the road and river, and cut back invasive plants. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department lead the education and removal of invasive species portion of the clean-up. They helped volunteers identify and remove the invasive species that were affecting Rivermoor. Using prunes and saws, half of the volunteers removed the encroaching plants while the other volunteers collected trash and recyclables.

Clean-up volunteers had to bundle up due to the cool weather, but the skies were clear and sunny. Before the clean-up began, Paul Sutton, the Urban Wild Program Manager, discussed the Charles River with volunteers. "Who knows where the Charles River begins and ends?" he asked the volunteers. Sutton explained that the Charles River begins in Echo Lake, Hopkinton and empties out in the Boston Harbor.

Sutton explained to volunteers that the Charles River is prone to flooding, especially in the spring, and Mother Brook (which connects the Neponset and Charles rivers) helps re-



About 40 residents came out recently to help clean up the Rivermoor area in West Roxbury as part of Boston's Urban Wilds Program.

PHOTO BY ARIANE KOMYATI

duce this. "In the spring, the water comes up very high," stated Sutton.

In the future, he would like to add native plants with roots that would help soak up the water to the area. Many volunteers said they would like to see more fencing and possibly a boardwalk by Rivermoor.

"This was the site of our first ever Urban Wild Clean-Up, which took place about 15 months ago," remarked David Corbie, the Greenovate Boston Outreach Manager. "It's very nostalgic being here." He also noted that the site "looks a lot better now" than it did last year. Corbie has been a part of multiple Urban Wild clean-ups, and

has removed tons of trash from the sites - including car pieces, scooters, picnic tables, and miscellaneous memorabilia.

Greenovate Boston holds about four to six Urban Wild clean-ups a year, while the Boston Parks and Recreation Department holds dozens of volunteer clean-ups throughout the year. Sutton explained that October is the "tail-end" of the clean-up season, and the Rivermoor Urban Wild event was the last Greenovate event of the year. "April, May, September and October are our busiest times for [clean-up] events," Sutton stated.

"The volunteer participation is critical because there is no

operating budget for the maintenance of Boston's Urban Wilds," explained Sutton. "We really appreciate our volunteers. A lot of people come from very far away, which is impressive."

For more information, visit boston.gov/departments/environment/greenovate-boston.

