

# NEPONSET RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

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## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
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### **Lending a Hand To Beautify Pine Tree Brook**

Clasping a variety of garden tools, women, men and children waited by Milton's gurgling Pine Tree Brook, one recent Saturday morning. Local residents, members of the Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood Association, and staff of the Milton Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Neponset River Watershed Association (NepRWA) exchanged hellos, awaiting direction from Dick Russell, head of the Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood Association.

Soon, energized with coffee and warmed by the sun, nimble fingers unfolded long yard-waste bags. Milton DPW staff readied a back-hoe and dump truck. Dick Russell pointed-out sites along Pine Tree Brook, and people headed-out to clean-up banks, pathways and adjacent woods.

By removing litter, residents were cleaning-up a treasured natural resource, beautifying their neighborhood, and spending a morning in the sun, sharing laughter and meeting new people. Participants uncovered old bike wheels, wire fencing, foam insulation, cans and metal chairs, among other objects.

Soon, Milton's Pine Tree Brook will be the site of even more activity. Through a partnership between NepRWA and the Milton DPW, work will be done to improve the Brook's water quality. Years of water-testing by NepRWA have detected occasional elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria. These bacteria often result from animal waste that has been left on paths, sidewalks, roadways and lawns, and has been pushed into a waterway by rainwater and melting snow. Water containing pet waste can carry bacteria, viruses and other materials that are unhealthy for both people and aquatic ecosystems.

NepRWA and the Milton DPW have begun a public education campaign to inform Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood residents about the impact of daily activities and pet-care on the health of Pine Tree Brook. This summer, progressive water-filtration devices will also be built along Pine Tree Brook to clean contaminated water. An adjacent pathway will also be improved, and interpretive signage, trashcans and mutt mitt stations will be installed.

The progressive water-filtration structures will consist of specialized gardens (*bioretention cells*). These structures will filter water that flows into the Brook from pathways and streets just north of the waterway, between Blue Hills Parkway and Thacher Street. Water that drains directly into the Brook from the Home, Inc. development just south of the waterway will also be diverted into an old creek-bed to enable water to filter through the ground before joining Pine Tree Brook.

You may have already seen evidence of the NepRWA/Milton DPW partnership; canvassers have gone door-to-door in the Pine Tree Brook Neighborhood, talking about the effects of daily activities on the Brook, and distributing informational brochures and dog tags. Worn by local

dogs, the bone-shaped tags indicate pet-owners who pick-up after their dogs and who understand the link between pet-care and Brook quality. If you're a Milton dog-owner who'd like a dog tag, please contact Carly Rocklen at NepRWA, 781-575-0354, [rocklen@neponset.org](mailto:rocklen@neponset.org).

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