



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor

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March 13, 2023

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to reappoint Elizabeth Wilkinson of 14 Trowbridge Street, Newton Centre as a member of the Urban Tree Commission. Her term of office shall expire on May 1, 2026 and her appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Warmly,

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

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1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton, Massachusetts 02459

[www.newtonma.gov](http://www.newtonma.gov)

Application Form

Profile

Elizabeth (Beth) A. Wilkinson
First Name Middle Initial Last Name

bethwilkinson@mac.com
Email Address

14 Trowbridge St.
Home Address Suite or Apt

Newton Centre MA 02459
City State Postal Code

What Ward do you live in?

[x] Ward 6

Home: (617) 969-4443 Mobile: (617) 966-7491
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

None Community Volunteer
Employer Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Urban Tree Commission: Submitted

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I've long been interested in maintaining (and increasing) the open space in Newton, having been on the Urban Tree Commission for nine years and a board member of Newton Conservators for ten years (and president for five of those years). I was an active member of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee for the update that was completed this year. Serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission would be a natural extension of my interest and experience. The City is approaching a time when more maintenance is needed and less funding is available. Working on that would be a rewarding challenge.

Parks\_RecCommssionResume2020.pdf

Upload a Resume

Elizabeth (Beth) Wilkinson  
14 Trowbridge Street, Newton, MA 02459  
617-966-7491 \* Bethwilkinson@mac.com

### **Objective**

To be appointed as a member of Newton's Parks and Recreation Commission with the goal of providing advice to the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department, the Mayor, and the City Council regarding sports, recreation, parks, open space, and the preservation of scenic beauty throughout the city. In that role, I would work to balance the concerns of natural open space preservation and passive recreation with those of organized sports and active recreation.

### **Summary of Relevant Qualifications**

- Member of the Newton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, 2020-2027 update
- Member of the Urban Tree Commission for nine years
- Knowledge of city through leadership positions in a variety of organizations, most recently for the conservation-related nonprofits and committees listed below and also for the PTO Council (Co-president, 1998-2000) and the Newton Free Library (Trustee, 2005-2010)

### **Related Experience**

\*Member of the Newton Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee, 2020-2027 update  
I worked with other members of the committee to help City staff to update the expiring plan, working to incorporate not only advances that had been made in the past seven years but also to reassess priorities.

\*Chair of the Mayor's Webster Woods Advisory Panel from 1/2018 to 12/2019.  
My work as chair of the panel included convening meetings of the full panel and (more frequently) the executive committee of the panel to advise Mayor Fuller and to help City staff in the successful effort to preserve Webster Woods.

\*Newton Conservators. Board member (2011-Present) and President from 2014-2019,  
Editor of newsletter (2011 to 3/2017)  
My duties as president included representing the Conservators at meeting with city Conservation and Parks and Rec departments, working to place conservation restrictions on city properties purchased with CPA funds, planning and running board meetings, overseeing the organizations advocacy for and maintenance of open space in Newton.

\*Native Plant Trust (Formerly New England Wild Flower Society). Plant Conservation Volunteer (2010-Present).  
Tasks include doing woodland surveys for rare and endangered plants, and seed collection and cleaning.

\*Newton Tree Conservancy. Member of board of directors (2010 -2016)  
I had responsibility for all membership outreach and renewals and participation in twice-yearly planting.

\*Crystal Lake Conservancy. Member of board of directors (2010-2015).  
My work for the board included participation in testing water quality, applying for grants and writing for the newsletter.

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**Education**

\*Field Botany Certificate, New England Wild Flower Society (2009)

\*Master Gardener Certificate, Massachusetts Horticultural Society (2003)

\*Master's Degree and ABD (all-but-dissertation for Ph.D.) in English and American Literature,  
Boston University (1977-1981)

\*BA in English and Philosophy, University of Rochester (1977)

**Awards**

2012 Unsung Heroine Award from Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women