



## Vibrant Volunteers

Summer 2024 Edition



Crane Beach, Ipswich - Photo Credit: Diana Nicolo

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In the spring, Volunteer Services sent out our annual Volunteer Satisfaction Survey to learn about your experience volunteering with The Trustees. Thank you to those of you who participated! We appreciate you taking the time to share your honest feedback and are pleased to share the results from the survey, and our next steps with you!

Overall, 165 volunteers responded to the survey! The questions on the survey covered your satisfaction volunteering at the Trustees, demographic information about volunteers and asked for feedback on ways we can improve.

Here is a summary of the findings from the survey:

- 94% of volunteers are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their staff supervisor.
- 84% of volunteers are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the onboarding process.
- 93% of volunteers are very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their overall experience volunteering at The Trustees.

We are really grateful for all of your thoughtful comments, ideas, and perspectives and will be using this constructive feedback to improve the volunteer experience. The feedback provided largely fell into three categories: 1) volunteer website; 2) identifiers for volunteers and 3) staff transition and communications from leadership.

Thanks to this feedback, we will be working on making improvements to Volunteer Connect and hosting a training session about using the website. To help visitors recognize volunteers, ID badges and Trustees lanyards are available to volunteers. If you don't have an ID or lanyard, and need one, please ask your supervisor or email Volunteer Services at: [volunteer@thetrustees.org](mailto:volunteer@thetrustees.org).



# Volunteer Services News

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## Volunteer Satisfaction Survey Results



Given the re-organization The Trustees went through in February, we recognize that this has been a difficult few months for volunteers with relationships with staff who were impacted. We have shared this feedback with the staff Transition Team, Trustees leadership team, and will be taking it into account in our planning for this next year.



We also received many thoughtful positive comments from the survey and appreciate and value your feedback.

Here's what you had to say...

- ✓ The most consistent comment we received was about the expertise, leadership, and commitment of the staff that volunteers work with.
- ✓ We also had great feedback about the types of volunteer opportunities and variety of impact areas that volunteers can make a difference in.
- ✓ Volunteers also appreciate the social connections they build with staff and other volunteers through working together at projects and work days.

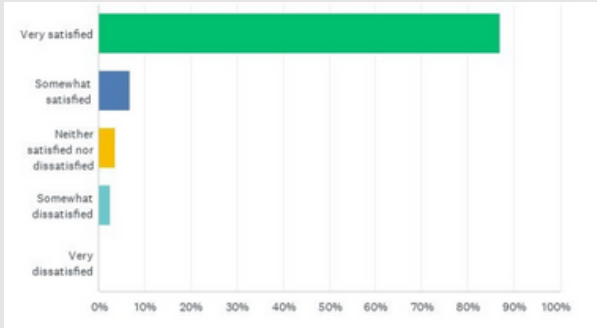
We love to hear from you, and appreciate and value your feedback and support. Seeing the commitment and teamwork of our volunteer community inspires optimism about the future of The Trustees.



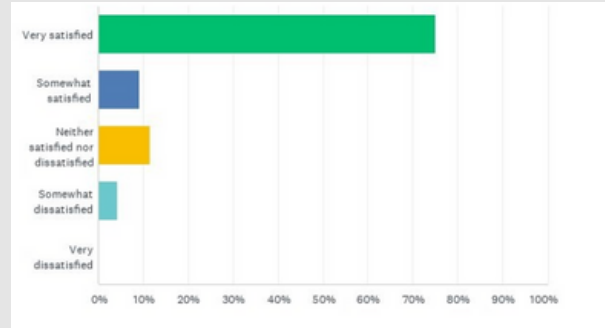
# Volunteer Services News

## A sampling of the Volunteer Services Satisfaction Survey results...

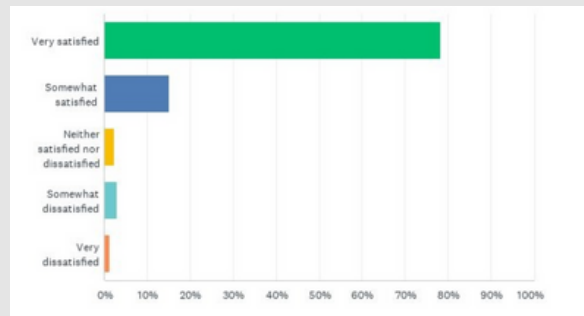
Q. 4 How would you rate your application process, onboarding and introduction to property and staff?



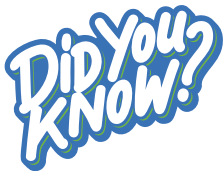
Q. 5: How would you rate your property or department staff supervisor?



Q. 6: How satisfied are you with your overall experience with tThe Trustees?



Volunteer Services is available to support you and answer your questions anytime. Please reach out to us at [volunteer@thetrustees.org](mailto:volunteer@thetrustees.org).



Volunteers have access to free and discounted admissions and memberships to some nearby museums and cultural institutions!! The Reciprocity Program is offered through a group of non-profit, environmental, and cultural institutions in New England, including:

- Museum of Fine Arts - Boston, MA
- Museum of Science - Boston, MA
- Peabody Essex Museum - Salem, MA
- USS Constitution Museum - Charlestown, MA
- MassAudubon ([massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/our-wildlife-sanctuaries](http://massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/our-wildlife-sanctuaries))

To receive the volunteer benefit, please call the institution in advance to see what form of volunteer ID they require. If you need a badge or a signed letter, please reach out to us at [volunteer@thetrustees.org](mailto:volunteer@thetrustees.org). For more information, see the attached flyer or contact Eliza at [eforman@thetrustees.org](mailto:eforman@thetrustees.org).

## Property Spotlight: Long Hill

*By Diana Nicolo, Volunteer Services Associate & Editor*

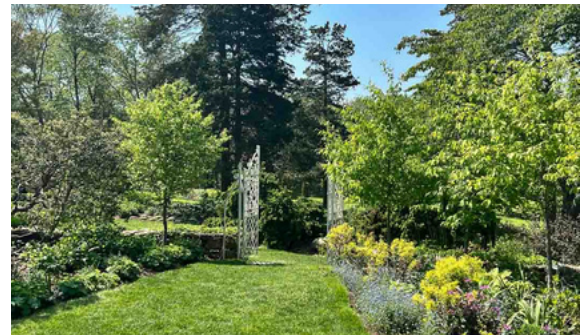
Are you looking for a beautiful and peaceful place to spend an afternoon?

Long Hill in Beverly, is the perfect spot! This beautiful 114-acre estate has such a rich history and is one of the Trustees of Reservations' hidden gems. It was once the summer home of Ellery Sedgwick, a famous magazine editor, and his wife, Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, who loved plants and gardening.



This Federal-style house was built in 1921 and is surrounded by beautiful gardens and woodlands. The mansion is an architectural treasure and assumes an air of timeless elegance. As you tour the rooms, filled with antique furnishings, exquisite artwork, and treasured family heirlooms, you will surely be transported back to a bygone era.

The gardens of Long Hill are a primary attraction and were designed by Mrs. Sedgwick with flowers and trees from around the world. As you wander through the various sections of the gardens you can enjoy vibrant blooms and wildflowers that change with the seasons. Spring is especially beautiful with the blooming colors of the azaleas and rhododendrons.



Stroll along the walkways and you'll pass interesting sculptures and little nooks where you can sit and listen to the birds chirping. On the outskirts of the gardens, there are two-miles of well marked hiking

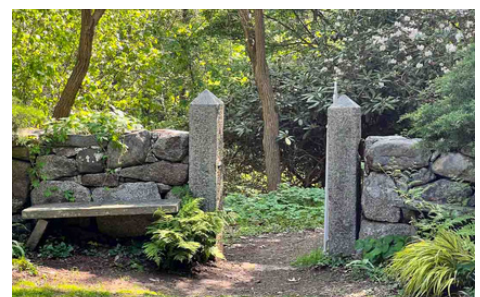


trails, including a 1.5 mile loop trail. Guided nature walks through the woodlands and gardens provide opportunities to learn about the local wildlife, native plants, and ecological conservation efforts.

Besides being a peaceful place to enjoy the day, Long Hill hosts fun events and educational programs throughout the year. Some of their signature events include an annual plant sale, outdoor concerts, Afternoon Tea and Halloween on the Hill where hundreds of carved pumpkins are lit up and on display. There are also programs to teach people about sustainable gardening practices, plant care, and landscape design.

Long Hill House and Garden is a must-visit attraction for nature enthusiasts and those looking for a quiet and peaceful sanctuary.

Long Hill is open for the season from April 1 – October 30. However, visitor services including the main house will be closed Monday through Friday while the grounds remain open.



## Happenings Across the Commonwealth

# PRIDE MONTH

Trustees Pride is our Employee Resource Group for LGBTQ+ Employees and allies. Trustees Pride offers a safe space and forum for LGBTQIA+ employees to connect, plan events, connect with allies and celebrate diversity within the organization. Through group interaction, social events and opportunities of learning and professional development focused on LGBTQ+ issues of concern, Trustees Pride aspires to foster and nourish the values of inclusivity, belonging and welcome already celebrated by The Trustees.

This year in June, The Trustees participated in their first ever Boston Pride parade on a float built almost entirely from recycled/reused materials. It was a huge success and we want to give big thanks to the many people who helped along the way!

The Trustees are committed to ensuring that our properties are welcoming and accessible. We celebrated Pride month as an opportunity to invite and welcome all members of the LGBTQIA+ community to our properties, and our commitment to the community extends beyond the month, as we seek to create a sense of belonging for every visitor all year round.



## New artwork at deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum

Last week, deCordova installed a new sculpture, “A Snail's Pace” by Kathy Ruttenberg. Kathy Ruttenberg creates whimsical ceramic sculptures that conjoin human (primarily female), animal, and plant-based characters. Her works point to poignant qualities of the human condition while urging a sympathetic connection to the natural world. A Snail's Pace depicts a life-sized female figure crouched within a translucent snail shell. Ruttenberg notes, “The sculpture captures the moment of withdrawal when the cell phone is put down and the computer is unplugged...Perhaps it is better to be in the “bubble,” moving like a snail, protected from life's hectic pace.”



# Volunteer Opportunities

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### It's Time to Get Ready for Fall Festivals!

Volunteers are needed for the **12th Annual Craft Festival** at Fruitlands Museum to be held September 21st and 22nd, 2024!

Come join 48 juried New England Artisans to help out at this annual event. Opportunities are available to assist with admissions, parking, greeting visitors and providing wayfinding information.

### Weir River Farm Fall Festival

Come help out at the **Weir River Farm** Fall Festival, scheduled for September 28, 2024!

This Fall Festival is filled with activities including visits with our animals, live music, kids' activities, food, and fun for adults and kids of all ages!

A number of different volunteer positions are available, with shifts either 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Halloween Volunteer Opportunities:  
Halloween on the Hill - Long Hill (Beverly).

Event Volunteers  
Event Set Decorators  
Event Breakdown

### Willow Plant Maintenance - Appleton Farms

Appleton Farms is looking for a volunteer to help care for Willow plantings located in four spots across the property.

Caring for these plantings involves weedwacking surrounding vegetation to reduce competition, maintaining electric fences and tree tubes, looking for signs of predation by deer or rodents and removing invasive species.

Volunteers can create their own schedule.

Time commitment: Varies depending on the month but generally 3-4 hours a week during the summer will be required. Volunteer work will pause during the winter and pick back up in the spring.

### Volunteer Connect

Search for Volunteer Opportunities  
Check out Resources  
Learn About Community Volunteering  
Corporate Volunteering  
Frequently Asked Questions