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CONTACT US!



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Cambridge, MA 02138

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info@friendsofalewifreservation.org

**FRIENDS OF ALEWIFE
RESERVATION**

**The Largest Untouched Urban Wild
in the Boston Area**

Cambridge, Belmont and Arlington



*130 Acres of Marshes, wetlands,
Ponds, Streams, Forest and Vernal pools*



River Otter

A View of the Alewife Reservation

The city of Cambridge has an immense urban wild with rare wilderness animals in its northwest corner that borders Arlington and spills into Belmont. Belmont's private core forest buffer of 15 acres, and the remaining public lands make up 130 acres of fully integrated urban wild ecosystem. *The Alewife Reservation* is managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Beautiful open space and waterways include richly inhabited *Blair* and *Perch Ponds* - deep within the wooded wild on the border of Cambridge and Belmont. *Little River*, formerly *Menotomy River*, carries New England history of Native American peoples and Belmont and Cambridge agriculture. The Reservation is home to at least 20 mammal species and over 90 migrating and nesting birds. At spawning time the river provides a route to *Little Pond* for alewife herring. At *Yates Pond*, next to Alewife MBTA station, visitors and commuters might view a steeply banked 4 acre marsh pond, but it presently remains hidden behind knotweed.

The Alewife Reservation is a part of the Upper Mystic River watershed. *Little River* flows down stream, fed by *Clay Pit Pond*, *Spy* and *Little Ponds*, into Arlington's *Alewife Brook* to the *Mystic River*,

and empties into the Boston Harbor and the Atlantic Ocean. Occasionally, high waters reverse the tideland hydrology to flow from east to west, and north to south. The Reservation's open meadows, rich marshlands, and wooded uplands combine to make a pastoral location for those who stroll for exercise, spiritual renewal, pass on bicycles, walk to the T, or search for birds.

Wildlife Habitat

Naturalists have identified over 100 bird species such as the spotted sandpiper, yellow legs, kestrels, hawks, diverse sparrows, goldfinches, yellow warblers, kingfisher, black crowned night herons, chestnut sided warblers, kinglets, and many more. [Biodiversity of the Alewife Reservation Region](#) contains several charts of all bird, mammal, plant sightings. Find the Book's species diversity on the website.

Mammals include field mice, meadow voles, rabbits, raccoons, an occasional fox (red and gray), mink, river otter, fisher, and deer, all sighted at the beginning of 2008 by a professional tracker, Dave Brown. Painted turtles and an occasional snapper delight viewers on Ponds and Little River.



John Walker