

# The Patriot Ledger

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## **SIGN OF LIFE: New Bare Cove Park sign introduces visitors to local bird, animal and fish species**

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The Patriot Ledger*

HINGHAM - You never know who you'll bump into at Bare Cove Park, but now there's a guarantee you'll be able to put some names to faces.

In a small ceremony Wednesday morning, developer Thomas Hastings dedicated a new sign that identifies several wildlife species found in the park.

The 3-by-5-foot sign, which includes color photos and detailed descriptions, is meant to familiarize visitors with 18 of the most common kinds of fauna, fowl and fish living in the 480-acre park.

Hastings' firm, The Hastings Companies, is building BackRiver Townhomes, a development adjacent to the park. Under an agreement with the town, Hastings donated \$3 million for the construction of athletic fields next to the park and paid to have contamination on the property cleaned up.

The sign is beside a newly paved pathway that leads from the athletic fields into the park.

"I wanted to call attention to this fantastic wildlife habitat that too many people in Hingham aren't really aware of," Hastings said. "This is a tremendous asset, right in our back yard."

Former Bare Cove Park committee members Galen Hersey and Thomas Burbank lauded Hastings' efforts.

Burbank was eager to help with the sign, spending more than two months researching the park's wildlife through records from the New England Wildlife Center and with help from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

The end result is a who's who of park and Back River residents - like the great horned owl - and facts about things such as life spans, offspring and behaviors.

"I learned a lot myself," Burbank said with a laugh. "And there are many more birds here, but these are the ones people are likely to see."



Galen Hersey, left, Thomas Burbank, center, and developer Thomas Hastings cut a ribbon Wednesday to dedicate a new sign that offers information on many of the wildlife species found in Bare Cove Park in Hingham. (GREG DERR/The Patriot Ledger)