



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

April 14, 2023

Dear Members and Friends,

Blooming flowers and budding trees in the two Blackstone Parks remind all of us how much this community has done to support the Conservancy. As always, we owe our many successes to wonderful volunteers, donors, and partners. We extend a special heartfelt thanks to Bob Murphy, who retired from the Conservancy board in 2022. A longtime East Side resident, Bob was on our board since the group was founded in 2000 and was key to our development.

In 2022 we offered a full slate of free outdoor programming, as outdoor music came back stronger than ever. Nature-based events ranged from leaf art to boat rides to birding. And again we happily welcomed school groups for educational and volunteer sessions.

Upgrades and maintenance projects advanced in both parks. Volunteers tackled invasive plants, fixed trails, planted native plants, planted a thousand (!) daffodil bulbs, and picked up litter. We expanded essential tree watering in a very dry summer. On a larger scale, a long muddy stretch of the Boulevard path was renovated to a high standard, thanks to years of collaborative planning by the Conservancy and the Parks Department. We deeply appreciate the expertise and hard work of our Parks Department partners on this project - and many others.



Significant projects previously delayed by the pandemic are finally on the calendar for this year. We've allocated at least \$40,000 to two of them and are busy planning new ones in both parks. Stay tuned for news of trail improvements in the Conservation District and exciting new ideas for the Boulevard.

Changing rainfall and temperature patterns have strengthened our focus on how to meet rising challenges to tree health, habitat, trails and more. Our efforts in the Park will be guided by an updated forest management plan commissioned in 2022. On the Boulevard, we kicked off a new project to improve stormwater management and pedestrian safety.

Please join us in June for our annual meeting, just before the first Trolley Shelter concert.

On behalf of the whole Conservancy board, thank you for your engagement and support as we work together to realize our vision for these parks: Healthy Urban Green Space for All.

Sincerely,

Carrie Drake, President

Projects and Progress in 2022

Blackstone Boulevard Park

- ◆ The popular Trolley Shelter summer concerts on the Boulevard, with support from Senator Sam Zurier, returned with five shows played by favorite artists and some newcomers.
- ◆ A muddy, uneven 1,400' section of Blackstone Boulevard center path was renovated, creating vastly improved drainage and stability. Building on work begun years ago by the Conservancy and the Parks Department, the Parks' staff completed the design, planning, and construction oversight, with funding from the City's Capital Improvement Fund and Councilwoman Helen Anthony's Neighborhood Infrastructure Fund, and with contributions from the Conservancy.
- ◆ In October, volunteers planted 1,000 daffodil bulbs in three lawn areas. Daffodils from the previous year bloomed abundantly in the spring, and the 2022 planting doubles the number of flowers in 2023.
- ◆ We celebrated Earth Day with a "sticks-to-mulch" cleanup. In collaboration with Parks Dept crews, a summer Pickup Sticks helped beautify the Boulevard and improve mowing safety.
- ◆ As part of a coalition of environmental organizations, we received grant funding for design work and community outreach around a new Boulevard Gateway project managing stormwater at the south end of Blackstone Boulevard.
- ◆ Contractors watered young trees at a cost of over \$3,000, and planted and cared for five new trees.
- ◆ Volunteers, including a crew from Swan Point Cemetery, cared for Boulevard gardens at the south end, the Witherby statue, and the Trolley Shelter. An expert gardener improved the south garden with native plants.



Blackstone Park Conservation District

- ◆ A monthly “Art and Science in the Park” series shared educational activities and crafts. Our other nature-based events included a Moon Rise Celebration, two RiverRides, guided shoreline walks, and birding. Attractions such as a child-friendly scavenger hunt and the haybale art project by local artist Pam Steager drew many.
- ◆ A record number of concerts were held in Blackstone Field including Classical Indian music, Indian fusion, jazz, and roots-inflected rock. A native plant sale sprouted at one concert.
- ◆ Park-keepers at fourteen events, and working independently, fixed trails and tackled invasive plants. In partnership with Save the Bay, volunteers cleared trash along the river.
- ◆ Groups from local schools including The Croft School, Moses Brown, and Wheeler came for service work and nature study. Lincoln School and BPC volunteers partnered on stormwater education.
- ◆ We helped the City’s Departments of Public Works and Planning with public outreach for their stormwater project on Irving Avenue near the river, which will dramatically reduce street runoff.
- ◆ We worked with Groundwork RI to install three rain gardens along Angell Street, just below Paterson Park.



Pam Steager's "dragon" assisted the haybales in slowing stormwater runoff and helping rebuild the topsoil by catching soil and leaves.

BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

Annual Financial Report, FY 2022

Assets January 1, 2022		107,971
Income		
Membership Contributions	50,056	
Grants	24,514	
Investments	269	
Other	281	
<i>Total Income</i>		75,120
Expenses		
Administrative	(16,009)	
Contract work	(12,145)	
IT, printing, mail, signage	(3,452)	
Events and gifts	(272)	
Licenses	(141)	
Blackstone Park Conservation District	(1,089)	
Blackstone Boulevard	(8,233)	
Boulevard Concert Series	(7,070)	
Education	(8,549)	
Miscellaneous	(1,331)	
<i>Total Expenses</i>		(42,281)
<i>Net Result</i>		32,839
Assets December 31, 2022		140,810

Thank you

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many individuals and organizations who gave advice, grants, and time to the Blackstone Parks Conservancy in 2022. We are also deeply indebted to our many generous members.

April Alix
Robertico Arias
Gale Aronson
Councilwoman Helen Anthony
Audubon Society of RI
Dan Berard
Boulevard Tree Sponsors
Brian Byrnes
Alison Chaltas
Classical High Jazz and Rock Band
Paula Clare
Lisa Conigliaro
Don Cordner *
The Croft School
Harold Doran
Peggy Edwards
Alexander Elton, City Forester
Wenley Ferguson
Greg Gerritt
Ghost Cat Rodeo
Melissa Guillet
Horsley Witten Group
Michael Isenberg
Brian Johnson, BKJ Productions
Wendy Klein
The Lincoln School
Karen Longeteig*
Brad Marston
Helene Miller, Partnership for Prov. Parks
Miss Wensday
Moses Brown School
Narragansett Boat Club
Narragansett Bay Estuary Program
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Nickel Jukebox
Wendy Nilsson, Supt. of Providence Parks
Park-Keepers
Partnership for Providence Parks
Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Providence Dept. of Public Works
Providence Dept. of Planning

Vikaasa Ramdas
Allan Raskin
Srinivas Reddy
Steve Ricci, Groundwork RI
Christopher Riely, Sweetbirch Consulting
Amelia Rose, Groundwork RI
Save The Bay
Bob Segal
Betsy Shea-Taylor
Skyscrapers Inc
Pamela Steager
Stone Cold Gypsies
Swan Point Cemetery
Doug Still, City Forester
Rick Taylor
Emmett Van Leer
Jonathan Walsh
The Wheeler School
The Hon. Sam Zurier

*BPC Committee members

Blackstone Parks Conservancy Officers and Trustees

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Members

This a list of our members who contributed between January 1st and December 31st, 2022.

Lifetime Members, \$1,000 or more

Joseph A. Chazan
Michael and Karen Isenberg
MEE Foundation
Kevin and Amy Orth
Lori and Fred Polacek
Porter Braden Fund
Lisa and Lawrence Pryor
Rick Richards
Frederick Roses and Deidre Brown
Colgate Searle
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 Jimmy and Harriet Wrenn
 Steven and Beverly Wright
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Family, \$50-\$99

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Individual, \$1-\$49

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 Colleen Zeitz
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