



Annual Report for 2016, with gratitude to our members and supporters

Continuity and Innovation in Changing Times

Continuity - As it has for nearly two decades, in 2016 the Blackstone Parks Conservancy (BPC) helped manage the historic Blackstone parks whose care is entrusted to us. We used your contributions to plant and maintain trees and shrubs and bushes. And, linking up with local schools, we trained new stewards vital to the future of the parks.

Working closely, as always, with the Providence Department of Parks and Recreation we continued to prevent and abate stormwater damage in the Blackstone Park Conservation District. Resilience to increasingly unpredictable weather is a goal we share with all Rhode Island environmental groups.

Innovation - Last year we added much-needed skills to help us preserve and strengthen these parks. New board members brought expertise in marketing and landscape architecture that will help build a sustainable base for future stewardship.

A successful survey was the first step in a long-term campaign to find out more about users' interests and to recruit the new members and volunteers we need to do our job better. In 2017, you can expect to hear more about ways to engage in the parks.

The Boulevard Committee launched its first complete inventory of trees and began to devise a long-term plan for path repair. After careful research on winter moth treatment options, we sprayed one block of trees with Btk, a bacterium that targets caterpillars but is safe for humans, birds, and bees. Assessing its efficacy, and counting gypsy moth eggs, will help determine whether more spraying is needed this year on the Boulevard.

For details of our 2016 activities, see the list of projects and the financial report inside.

With best wishes,

Jane Peterson, President

Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Gov. Lippitt House, 199 Hope St. Parking at Wheeler School. Refreshments 6:00, meeting 6:30-6:45. Locally renowned landscape architect Colgate Searle will then explore layers of history in the Boulevard path from glacial times to the present for guidance on how to maintain the paths in the future.

Projects and Progress in 2016

Blackstone Boulevard - *Boulevard Committee*

- Sprayed one block of trees for winter moth with BtK, a naturally occurring bacterium that targets caterpillars but is safe for bees and mammals.
- Held four summer concerts at the Trolley shelter, enjoyed by hundreds of residents.
- Maintained four gardens along the Boulevard.
- Planted trees, chosen for their suitability and beauty. Hired professionals to water, weed, and mulch new and struggling trees.
- Began an inventory of the Boulevard's trees and path, and tackled trouble spots with solutions ranging from pruning big limbs and small trees to planting for steep slopes.

Blackstone Park Conservation District - *Park Committee and Education Committee*

- Organized a moonrise celebration, boat rides on the river, concerts, a theatrical production, trail walks, a summer bird walk, and winter duck watching. The new Children's Circle added some magic to our family events.
- Hired Groundwork Providence to water young plants along center section trails with help from volunteers. Continued trail revitalization with leadership from AMC. Other volunteer groups lined trails and added wood chips to help control stormwater.
- Monthly drop-in work sessions brought park users together with longtime volunteers to fix fences, spread wood chips, remove invasive plants, and more.
- Tackled trash in the park and along the river by joining the citywide Earth Day cleanup and, through Save-The-Bay, the International Coastal Cleanup.
- Environmental stewardship continued in the Forest Health Works Project along Angell Street, where volunteers logged 200 hours caring for plants. Elsewhere, students from local schools contributed over 400 hours of volunteer service while learning about environmental issues facing the park.

BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

Annual Financial Report, FY 2016

Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2016 **81,426**

Income

Membership Contributions	20,193
Grants	3,000
Eastside Marketplace Friendship Fund Receipts	2,156
Other	33

Total Income **25,382**

Expenses

Administrative	-8,431
Contract work	-5,745
Copying, mail, signage , IT	-2,349
Events, gifts	-337
Park	-6,895
Improvements	-4,960
Maintenance	-1,935
Boulevard	-8,921
Maintenance	-8,621
Trees and Plantings	-300
Concerts	-4,079
Education	-129
Miscellaneous	-408

Total Expenses **-28,863**

Net Result **-3,481**

Ending Balance all funds December 31, 2016 **77,945**

Thank You

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many individuals who gave advice, grants, and time to the Blackstone Parks Conservancy in 2016. We are also deeply indebted to our many generous members, who are acknowledged by letter but not listed here.

AIPSO	Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey
April Alix, USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge	Lincoln School
Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)	Mary Murphy
Gale Aronson	Wendy Nilsson, Supt. Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Audubon Society of RI	Moses Brown School
Stephanie Avila*	Narragansett Boat Club
Boulevard Tree Sponsors	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Anna Browder	Senator Donna Nesselbush
Allison Bryant*	Helene Miller, Partnership for Providence Parks
Brian Byrne, Providence Parks & Recreation	Nancy Nowak
Ken Byrne	Eric Peterson
John Campanini	Providence Country Day School
Frances Carpenter	Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Steve Casserly, Yardworks	Suzanne Renfro*
Caitlin Chaffee, CRMC	Steve Ricci, Groundwork Providence
Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)	Rhody Native
Don Cordner *	Joan Richards
Al Dahlberg	RI Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM)
Carol Delaney	RI Dept. of Public Works (DPW)
Mary Dennis	RI Dept. of Transportation (DOT)
Eastside Marketplace	RI Philharmonic Music School
Kevin Egolf	RISD P.O.S.E. Program
Peggy Edwards	Elena Riverstone*
Heather Faubert, URI	Save The Bay
Martha Fraenkel*	Serve Rhode Island
French American School of RI	Doug Still, City Forester
Friends of Gladys Potter Park	Kathleen Virginia
Senator Gayle Goldin	Wheeler School
Sally Godfrey	Woonasquatucket Watershed Council
Erin Harnett	Harriet and Jimmy Wrenn
Heidi Janes	Pamela Young*
Brian Johnson, bkj productions	* BPC Committee members

Blackstone Parks Conservancy Officers and Trustees

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