



February 12, 2015

Dear Members and Friends:

With considerable help from friends old and new, the Blackstone Parks Conservancy dramatically expanded its environmental and educational projects in 2014. Meanwhile, pleasure and recreation were not forgotten.

The sixth annual concert series drew hundreds of people of all ages to the Trolley Shelter on the Boulevard. And for the first time, innovative musical programs graced the Blackstone Park Conservation District at River Road.

A few volunteers braved the heat to tend the Boulevard gardens and manage the overhaul of the South Garden. Your donations enabled us to purchase and plant 13 new trees and to hire Groundwork Providence to prune and mulch. Thanks to you, too, we kept young plants watered in both parks, an expensive proposition in a rather dry summer.

In Blackstone Park, two environmental grants funded major trail upgrades and extensive planting, projects designed by BPC stalwarts. While making progress in the vulnerable center section, we continued to study how to address persistent challenges such as stormwater management and erosion. Our URI-trained volunteers again supervised removal of invasive plants by outside volunteers while filling a large number of garbage bags themselves. And we fulfilled a long-held dream of installing large signs with maps.

The Education Committee outdid itself in this, its second full year, creating many environmental programs for children on subjects ranging from bird banding and Narragansett songs to mushrooms and Park ecosystems. Music programs and a ride on the Seekonk River in a Save the Bay boat were also popular. And in addition to Earth Day cleanup, we collected hundreds of pounds of trash in two riverside cleanups.

A list of people and organizations who make our conservation and education efforts possible appears on the next page. One man who has made an enormous difference to the Blackstone parks and to all the city parks, departing Superintendent Bob McMahon, honors us March 10<sup>th</sup> as our speaker.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jane Peterson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Jane Peterson, President

**Annual Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Gov. Lippitt House, 199 Hope St. Parking at Wheeler School. Refreshments 6:00, meeting 6:30-6:45, followed by Speaker, Parks Superintendent Bob McMahon.**

# Projects and Progress in 2014

## Blackstone Boulevard

- Planted 13 trees chosen for beauty and suitability for site.
- Held four summer concerts at the Trolley Shelter, sponsored by Butler Hospital.
- Re-designed and refurbished the South Garden, paid for by a Senate grant.
- Weeded and maintained four gardens along the Boulevard.
- Paid Groundwork Providence to weed, water, and prune 79 trees.

## Blackstone Park Conservation District

- Stabilized and rebuilt most of the badly eroded trails in center section, lined with native trees and shrubs thanks to grants from DEM-DOT and CRMC and with help from the Appalachian Mountain Club and a Senate grant.
- The Education Committee and a subcommittee led by Elena Riverstone enabled our youngest visitors to hear stories, make and play instruments with the RI Philharmonic Music School, and make birds nests among other things. Programs aimed at older children focused on learning about and enjoying the outdoors. All ages enjoyed concerts in the park.
- Designed and installed five large signs providing information and maps for park visitors with help from SurfaceMatter Design, Providence Parks Department, the Partnership for Providence Parks, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.
- Removed trash, worked to keep invasive plants under control, and monitored previous planting projects, thanks to hundreds of volunteer hours from dedicated regular volunteers and groups from schools, religious organizations, local stores and other businesses.
- As active members of the Partnership for Providence Parks and the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership, participated in an international Landtrust Rally and the Designation Ceremony for the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership.

# BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

## Annual Financial Report FY 2014

<b><u>Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2014</u></b>		<b>71,418</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions		29,879
Membership	21,415	
Concerts	5,500	
Benches and Trees	2,964	
Grants		74,927
Eastside Marketplace Friendship Fund Receipts		796
Other		9
<b><i>Total Income</i></b>		<b>105,611</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative		-6,793
Contract work	-4,972	
Copying, mail, signage , IT	-1,493	
Events, gifts	-328	
Park		-83,602
Improvements	-79,185	
Maintenance	-4,417	
Boulevard		-15,075
Maintenance	-9,552	
Trees, plantings	-5,523	
Concerts		-4,099
Education		-871
Miscellaneous		-357
<b><i>Total Expenses</i></b>		<b>-110,798</b>
<b><i>Net Result</i></b>		<b>-5,187</b>
<b><u>Ending Balance all funds December 31, 2014</u></b>		<b>66,231</b>

# Thank You

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many individuals and organizations who supported the Blackstone Parks Conservancy in 2014. We would not exist without your advice, financial help, and volunteer hours.

April Alix, USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge Init.  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Gale Aronson\*  
Audubon Society of RI  
John Balletto  
Cynthia Bertozzi  
Boulevard Tree sponsors  
Anna Browder  
Butler Hospital  
John Campanini  
Steve Casserly, Yardworks  
Gregg Cassidy, Dept. Environmental Management  
Caitlin Chaffee, CRMC  
Beth Charlebois, Providence Parks & Rec.  
Leslie Chazan\*  
Coastal Resources Management Council  
Don Cordner \*  
Al Dahlberg, Jr.  
Carol Delaney  
Mary Dennis  
Nadine DiStefano  
Eastside Marketplace  
Peggy Edwards  
Rick Enser, Conservation Biologist  
Wenley Ferguson, Save the Bay  
Friends Nat'l Wildlife Refuges RI "Tuesday Club"  
Martha Fraenkel\*  
Senator Gayle Goldin  
Sally Godfrey  
Steven Hamburg, Environmental Defense Fund  
Hope Tunnel  
Immanuel United Church Christ  
Heidi Janes  
Johnson and Wales RAs  
Brian Johnson, bkj productions  
Ursula Kennedy  
Rich Lang  
Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey  
Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket Watershed Council  
Mary Murphy\*

Giles MacDonald, Groundwork Providence  
Michael McGlynn  
Superintendent Robert McMahon, Parks Dept.  
Margaret Megowen  
Laurita Moscatelli  
Moses Brown School  
Narragansett Boat Club  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Janis Nepshinsky, USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge Init.  
Senator Donna Nesselbush  
Wendy Nilsson, Partnership for Providence Parks  
Nancy Nowak  
Dr. Peter Paton  
Suzanne Paton, USFWS  
Eric Peterson  
Sandra Potter  
Providence Dept Parks and Rec.  
Suzanne Renfro\*  
RI Philharmonic Music School  
Rhody Native  
RI Dept. of Environmental Management  
RI Dept. of Public Works  
RI Dept. of Transportation  
Elena Riverstone\*  
Serve Rhode Island  
Chris Shafer, Appalachian Mountain Club  
Lorén Spears, Tomaquag Museum  
Douglas Still, City Forester  
SurfaceMatter Design  
Surgical Care Affiliates  
Swan Point Cemetery  
Temple Beth-El  
Tara Tsakraklides, Moses Brown  
UNFI  
Elisa Vele-Tabbador\*  
Erik Wernevi  
Whole Foods Market  
David Wrenn, Lippitt House  
Pamela Young-Lietar  
\* Committee members

## Blackstone Parks Conservancy Officers and Trustees

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