

Healthy Urban Green Space For All

Blackstone Parks Conservancy 2010 Annual Report and Newsletter

Annual Meeting and Social on September 13!

Please join us for socializing and appetizers, followed by (short!) summaries of the Conservancy's accomplishments and goals. Historian Mack Woodward will give context to the parks in "Why Landscape". Our board members would love to meet you and hear any suggestions you may have.

Details: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 at the Trolley Shelter. Refreshments start at 5:00, presentations start at 5:30. Questions? Contact us at blackstoneparksconservancy.org

From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

The Conservancy had a busy and eventful year in 2010. We launched two major projects in the Conservation District and the Boulevard: invasive species removal and a major pruning, respectively. We overhauled our website to provide more and better information. We held a grant-funded strategic planning retreat to figure out what is next for our organization. And of course, the ongoing activities of co-stewarding the parks kept us on our toes: gardening, litter removal, dealing with the vagaries of weather (remember all that flood water last March?). Volunteers who gave many hours, donors, and granting agencies made all of this possible.

In 2011 and beyond, we are working to continue existing projects, finish a few, and facilitate community appreciation of these two special parks. Toward the latter goal we organized a community photo show in June and continued the highly successful summer concert series. Another development was the hiring of a very part-time employee, our first, who has streamlined and organized, greatly helping us with outreach. We are also working on a multi-year project to replace invasive plants near York Pond and along Paterson Street with appropriate native plants that are wildlife-friendly.

Our website continued to evolve this year with the guidance of webmaster Dell Sala. Now you can send in membership dues or other donations electronically, opt to be contacted for volunteer events in one or both parks, and more. We recently started a Facebook page and Twitter account, so it's easier to keep track of our activities. And coming soon to our site, expanded information and more useful links.

If you have not yet shared your email address with us, please consider doing so: you can help support our green mission and keep mailing costs down! We promise not to give out your contact information and to strictly limit the number of emails (you can request which type of information to receive). You can reach us blackstoneparksconservancy.org. If you prefer to reach us non-electronically, we can be reached at P.O. Box 603141, Providence, RI, 02906.

With the city constrained by shrinking budgets, volunteer efforts are more important than ever. Thank you for your support. We invite you to join us in pursuing our vision – Healthy Urban Green Space for All!

Yours,

Jane A. Peterson, President

2010 Projects and Progress

Invasive Species Targeting A Forest Health Works Project grant was awarded in 2010 to transform a degraded section of the Conservation District, at Angell Street and Parkside Road. The grant provides for professional removal of invasive plants and re-establishment of native species. Site evaluation was completed in 2010.

Major Pruning on the Boulevard Two decades had elapsed since the last major pruning of Boulevard trees. Grants and individual donations enabled us to hire professionals to prune two-thirds of the Boulevard in 2010.

Trolley Shelter Garden and Concerts The trolley shelter continued to evolve as a community gathering spot in 2010. A garden featuring flowering trees, native plants, and boulders from Swan Point Cemetery was installed with help from expert gardener Alex Knott. Board member Gale Aronson organized a series of 8 outdoor concerts with support from Butler Hospital. The concerts were enjoyed by hundreds of people ranging from serious music lovers to passing joggers.

Trail Work in Conservation District The Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club trails committee and the Parks Department continued to make headway repairing eroded sections of trails, adding fencing and defining trail edges.

Boulevard Restoration Tree replacement to restore the canopy in the spirit of the Olmsted plan is nearly complete. Watering and mulching of the new trees, as required for 5 years to establish them in good health, was continued in 2010.

Smaller Boulevard Projects Several flowering trees were planted and 5 benches were installed. Landscaping and stepping stones were installed at the Witherby Memorial statue. Weeds and invasive plant species were removed in several locations.

Website Re-launch and Green Communication We upgraded our website and increased paperless methods to recruit volunteers and inform our members.

THANK YOU to the many individuals who supported us in 2010. A big thank you also to the following organizations: Swan Point Cemetery, Butler Hospital, Rhode Island Foundation, East Side Marketplace, Whole Food Markets, Appalachian Mountain Club, City Year, Temple Beth-El, Zoo Camp on the Move, Lincoln School, Samuel Kinder and Brother Landscaping, Franklin Pierce College alumni. Also special thanks to our partners in the Providence Parks Department and 2010 event hosts Martin and Barbara Ettin.

Blackstone Parks Conservancy Officers and Trustees 2011

Jane A. Peterson, President
Paul Lietar, Vice-President
Kimberly Nelson, Treasurer
Deming Sherman, Treasurer for Blvd Completion
Carrie Drake, Secretary

Gale Aronson
Margaret Brookner
Anna Browder
Jonathan Ford

Anthony Hollingshead
Shirley Kezirian
Robert Murphy
Ken Orenstein

BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY
Box 603141, Providence RI 02906
Annual Financial Report 2010

<u>Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2010</u>		\$58,293.05
Blackstone Parks Conservancy Funds [BPC]	27,268.97	
Trolley Shelter Restoration Fund [TS]	3,013.45	
Blackstone Boulevard Restoration Account [B]	27,024.18	
*Lippitt Park Fund [LP]	986.45	

Income 2010

<u>Blackstone Parks Conservancy Account</u>		63,206.32
240 Memberships	22,673.32	
10 Gifts	246.00	
Checks from Eastside Marketplace Friendship Fund	1,537.00	
Grants	38,750.00	
<u>Trolley Shelter Restoration funds</u>		50.00
1 gift	50.00	
<u>Blackstone Boulevard Restoration Account</u>		15,411.41
Bench Donations	15,410.00	
Interest income	1.41	
<u>*Lippitt Park Fund</u>		5,000.00
Grant	5,000.00	
Total Income		\$83,667.73

Expenses 2010

<u>Blackstone Parks Conservancy Account</u>		(47,708.70)
Copying, postage, signs, website, banners, kiosk, PO Box	(2,226.58)	
Advertising, insurance, musicians for concert series	(10,152.26)	
Licenses and training	(240.00)	
Park and Boulevard restoration projects and plantings	(7,461.92)	
Events, gifts	(1,855.60)	
Trolley shelter garden	(8,157.53)	
Pruning	(14,065.59)	
Contract work	(1,354.25)	
Board members retreat	(2,194.97)	
<u>Trolley Shelter Restoration Fund</u>		0.00
0		
<u>Blackstone Boulevard Restoration Account</u>		(31,615.28)
Trees	(7,954.90)	
Deposits on benches	(12,800.00)	
Tree maintenance	(6,400.00)	
Balance for 2009 tree work/watering	(1,047.38)	
Storage for water tank	(863.00)	
Refund for bench overpayments	(2,550.00)	
<u>*Lippitt Park Fund</u>		(990.08)
Various expenses	(990.08)	
Total Expenses		(\$80,314.06)

<u>Ending Balance – all funds: December 31, 2010</u>		\$61,646.72
Blackstone Parks Conservancy Funds [BPC]	42,766.59	
Trolley Shelter Restoration Fund [TS]	3,063.45	
Blackstone Boulevard Restoration Account [B]	10,820.31	
*Lippitt Park Fund [LP]	4,996.37	

*The Lippitt Park fund has been held separately for a related parks group for a project in the Lippitt Park at the northern end of Blackstone Boulevard.