



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends –

In 2018 the Blackstone Parks Conservancy continued to make headway protecting and nurturing the Blackstone parks.

Surging erosion in both parks inspired new efforts to repair trouble spots and to increase public awareness of stormwater challenges ahead. Lacking major grants, the Conservancy moved forward with carefully managed small ones at York Pond. The long-planned installation of replacement trees at the edge of Blackstone Field was a triumph of collaboration between the City Forester, the Conservancy, and the Narragansett Boat Club for the sake of nature and park users both.

On the Boulevard, a 30-foot test strip of permeable stone dust introduced path users to a possible new solution for this heavily traveled way. Meanwhile, the Conservancy and the Parks Department began meeting regularly to shape the much needed, large-scale path reconstruction to begin, we hope, in 2020.

The Conservancy has a full partner in an invigorated Parks Department, which is using modern tools to enhance their responsiveness and efficiency. This allows Conservancy volunteers to intensify outreach and public education. We anticipate even more synergy in the years to come.

Our work was accomplished with invaluable organizational help from our two part-time staff and multiplied several-fold by a volunteer effort of hundreds of hours valued altogether at over \$20,000.

To better fulfill our vision, we need more financial support. We continue working hard to generate the funds needed to give these historic parks the attention they—and the community--deserve. In 2019, we see new opportunities to achieve even greater community involvement for the benefit of all visitors.

For complete details of our 2018 activities, see the list of projects and the financial report inside.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our parks. We look forward to seeing you there this year.

With best wishes,

Jane Peterson, President

Amy Larkin, Executive Director

Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Gov. Lippitt House, 199 Hope Street. Refreshments 6:00, business meeting 6:30-6:45. Alicia Lehrer, Executive Director Woonasquatucket River Watershed Council, will talk about stormwater and the Blackstone parks.

Projects and Progress in 2018

Blackstone Park Conservation District - **Park Committee**

- Increased safety on stairs above York Pond with a new handrail.
- Added two wooden sign kiosks near entrances to welcome visitors.
- Combatted trail and slope erosion: groups of local students, corporate teams, and dedicated individuals staked logs and added wood chips to stabilize trails and help control stormwater.
- Began revitalizing the wetland meadow near York Pond, clearing woody and invasive plants and seeding with native wetland mix.
- Monthly drop-in work sessions brought park users together with longtime volunteers to repair trails, fix fences, spread wood chips, remove invasive plants, and more.
- Reduced trash in the park and along the river in the citywide Earth Day cleanup and, through Save The Bay, the International Coastal Cleanup.
- Environmental stewardship continued as volunteers removed invasive and noxious plants from the North Section and the Forest Health Works Project along Angell Street.
- Selected and sited replacement trees in Blackstone Field.

Education Committee

- Organized and held numerous events and programming for adults and children including: concerts, boat rides on the Seekonk River, concerts, moonrise celebration, winter duck watching, nature programs, yoga classes.
- With the Park Committee, brought an educational component to school groups doing service work.

Blackstone Boulevard - **Boulevard Committee**

- Held four summer concerts at the Trolley Shelter, enjoyed by hundreds of residents.
- Volunteers maintained four gardens along the Boulevard.
- Planted trees chosen for their suitability and beauty. Hired Groundwork RI to water, weed, and mulch new and struggling trees. Worked with Parks Dept. to prune selected trees.
- Assessed the footpath, finding four distinct zones differing in composition and condition. Started planning for path upgrades.

BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

Annual Financial Report, FY 2018

<u>Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2018</u>	49,640
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Contributions	38,064
Membership	31,819
Concerts	3,000
Benches, trees, special projects	3,245
Grants	4,182
Other	150

Total Income	42,396
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Expenses

Administrative	-58,301
Contract work	-48,736
Copying, mail, signage , IT	-9,374
Events, gifts	-191
Park	-5,897
Improvements	-5,565
Maintenance	-332
Boulevard	-9,153
Maintenance	-6,836
Trees and Plantings	-2,317
Concerts	-5,328
Education	-436
Miscellaneous	-3,574

Total Expenses	-82,689
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Net Result	-40,293
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<u>Ending Balance all funds December 31, 2018</u>	9,347
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Thank you

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many individuals who gave advice, grants, time, and/or funds to the Blackstone Parks Conservancy in 2018. We are also deeply indebted to our many generous members.

AIPSO
April Alix
Gale Aronson
Audubon Society of RI
Stephanie Avila*
William Barry
Dan Berard
Ruth Berensen
Books on the Square
Boulevard Tree Sponsors
Sara Bradford
Anna Browder
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Joe's Backyard Band
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Lincoln School
Karen Longeteig*
Narragansett Boat Club
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Partnership for Providence Parks
Eric Peterson
Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation

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Steve Ricci, Groundwork Providence
Rhody Native
Joan Richards
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RI Dept. of Public Works (DPW)
RI Dept. of Transportation (DOT)
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Skyscrapers, Inc.
Björn Sandstede
Swan Point Cemetery
Doug Still, City Forester
J. Timmons Roberts
Scott Ruhren, Audubon Society of RI
Scott Turner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Wheeler School
Woonasquatucket Watershed Council

*BPC Committee members

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