



ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 2, 2013, at Lippitt House, 199 Hope Street. Refreshments at 6:00; brief meeting 6:30-6:45; local history by architectural historian Mack Woodward.

February 25, 2103

Dear Members and Friends,

2012 was a year of transition for the Blackstone Parks Conservancy. We made educational outreach a key part of our mission. We expanded our ties to environmental organizations to learn how best to protect and preserve the Blackstone parks in the context of our regional environment. And we reached out to more scientists to extend our knowledge base.

In 2013 we aim to keep building on these gains. There is much to learn.

Just as past benefactors planned ahead for changing times by setting aside parkland in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so must we prepare for a future we can barely imagine. As co-stewards with the Providence Parks Department of Blackstone Boulevard Park and the Blackstone Park Conservation District, we face new challenges.

Inspired by the highly successful Audubon after-school program that brings middle school students to our woods, we created a new emphasis on education in order to help prepare future stewards of the precious natural assets bequeathed to Providence. A seasoned educator joined our board. Under his energetic leadership the new education committee is planning trail walks, informative signs and educational materials, and links to neighbors and local schools.

In the 19th century, people anticipated further shrinking of green space, which remains a problem today. Now we, their heirs, must try to figure out how best to cope with climate change and invasive plant species in the parks entrusted to our care. We need more partners and advisors familiar with these challenges.

We also need more people willing to volunteer for the committees that plan and execute our projects. We especially need a volunteer experienced in membership/outreach. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in serving on a committee for either park, for education outreach, or for signage, please tell us. Or write to us at blackstoneparksconservancy.org.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jane Peterson, President

Blackstone Park Conservancy Projects in 2012

- Produced Photo-Art Show with the Friends of Blackstone Woods and the Narragansett Boat Club.
- Joined the Providence Partnership for Parks, an umbrella organization of all city parks.
- Began in-depth research into the parks as well as interviews with local residents who remember the parks “when.”
- Ran two annual cleanups on River Road.

The Boulevard

- Hired Groundwork Providence to finish pruning the north garden and refurbish the south garden. Paid Groundwork to weed, aerate, clean, water, and chip the entire park at a cost of \$12,000.
- Planted 16 trees.
- Installed a stone bench at the Trolley Shelter.
- Organized four concerts sponsored by Miriam Hospital and Butler Hospital that drew crowds of 300 plus.
- Improved and maintained the gardens at the Trolley Shelter, the small shelter, and the Witherby statue.

Blackstone Park Conservation District

- Supported Rhode Island Natural History Survey, partners and volunteers installing the federally funded *Forest Health Works project* on Angell Street in April, planting some 1200 native plants. Provided temporary fencing. Volunteers weeded and watered.
- Worked with the forester funded by the NRCS who drafted the *forest management plan* required for certain grant applications.
- Mapped the terrain of the center section to guide us in our work to stem erosion.
- As in the past, worked side by side with the AMC volunteers and the Friends of Blackstone Woods, in two productive Trail Days funded by DEM to install new water bars and line trails with logs.

Blackstone Parks conservancy Officers and Trustees 2012

Jane Peterson, President	Anthony Hollingshead
Paul Lietar, Vice-President	Shirley Kezirian
Deming Sherman, Treasurer	Robert Murphy
Carrie Drake, Secretary	Kimberly Nelson
Gale Aronson	Ken Orenstein
Margaret Brookner	Rick Richards
Jonathan Ford	

BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

Annual Financial Report FY 2012

Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2012 **68,417**

Income

Contributions		35,285	
Membership	24,985		
Concerts, Misc.	10,000		
Contributions - benches & trees	300		
Grants		5,582	
Eastside Marketplace Friendship Fund Receipts		626	
Total Income			41,492

Expenses

Administrative		-5,334	
Contract work	-3,469		
Copying, mail, signage	-1,493		
Licenses, training	-75		
Events, Gifts	-297		
Park		-3,472	
Improvements	-1,693		
Maintenance	-1,779		
Boulevard		-25,741	
Maintenance	-10,608		
Pruning	-7,613		
Trees, plantings	-6,875		
Equipment storage	-120		
Benches	-525		
Concerts		-5,218	
Trolley Shelter garden		-2,623	
Total Expenses			-42,387

Net Result **-895**

Ending Balance all funds December 31, 2012 **67,522**

Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that supported the Blackstone Parks in 2011 with financial help or advice and volunteer hours.

Thank you for volunteer hours or gifts:

Appalachian Mountain Club
Anna Browder
Butler Hospital
City Year
Don Cordner
Mary Dennis
East Side Marketplace
Patrick Kelly
Lincoln School
Miriam Hospital
Susan Olson
Dell Sala
Swan Point Cemetery
Temple Beth-El
Whole Foods

Thank you to our advisors and partners:

April Alix, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
Wenley Ferguson, Save the Bay
Sarah Gleason, researcher
Steven Hamburg, Environmental Defense Fund
George Harvey, Providence Groundwork
Alex Knott, gardening expert
Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey
Alicia Lehrer, Woonasquatucket Watershed Council
Superintendent Robert McMahon, Providence Parks Department
Wendy Nilsson, Providence Partnership for Parks
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Stephen Porder, Brown University
Rhody Native
RI Department of Environmental Management
RI Department of Public Works
Douglas Still, City Forester
Kristen Swanberg, Audubon Society of Rhode Island
David Wrenn, Lippitt House