



# ANNUAL REPORT

# 2017

## Dear Members, Supporters and Friends -

Many thanks to you all for our trail blazing year in 2017!

### Growth

Thanks to unprecedented growth in Blackstone Parks Conservancy membership last year, we were able to strengthen our activities: event programs, tree and flower plantings, anti-erosion measures, improvements to trail safety and upkeep, invasive plant removal, mulching, watering and more.

We inaugurated a special children's area in the woods of Blackstone Park, a sort of magic circle named RiverWood that has enhanced our family programming. Here, Nature Programming once a month help children learn about the park and feel at home in the woods.

### Change

Last year we added much-needed skills to help us preserve and strengthen our parks. The addition of Amy as our Executive Director has brought expertise and focus in marketing, communications, and fundraising. We launched a new brand for the Conservancy, a newsletter, increased our outreach, and are in a strong position to grow and strengthen even more in 2018.

The Boulevard Committee conducted the first complete inventory of the walking/running path. Partnering, as always, with the Providence Department of Parks and Recreation we are wrapping up plans to upgrade the path. We seek to make it safer for users while staying true to the historic landscape of the boulevard.

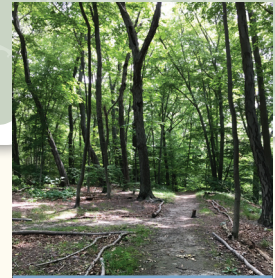
For complete details of our 2017 activities, see the list of projects and the financial report inside.

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: Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m., Gov. Lippitt House, 199 Hope St. Parking at Wheeler School. Refreshments 6:00, business meeting 6:30-6:45. Wendy Nilsson, Providence Department of Parks and Recreation will talk about the ways her department collaborates with organizations such as ours.



## Projects and Progress in 2017

### 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 4 distinct zones differing in composition and condition. Started planning for path upgrades.

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

- Organized and held numerous events and programming for legions of park visitors including:
  - Boat rides on the Seekonk River, concerts, an Elizabethan drama, children's nature programs, an East Coast River Relay, a not-so-spooky Halloween walk, Moonrise celebration, along with winter duck watching. RiverWood, a newly installed space for children, added additional magic to our family events and programming.

### Blackstone Park Conservation District - **Park Committee**

- Combated trail and slope erosion:
  - Landscape professionals stabilized the slope next to the stairs above York Pond, planted shrubs, and watered young plants along Center Section trails.
  - Volunteers comprising students from local schools, corporate groups, and dedicated individuals from the community, lined path edges and added wood chips to revitalize trails and help control storm water.
- 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 as volunteers removed invasive and noxious plants from the North Section and the Forest Health Works Project along Angell Street. Professionals were hired for heavy brush control.

# BLACKSTONE PARKS CONSERVANCY

P.O. Box 603141, Providence, RI 02906

## Annual Financial Report, FY 2017

**Beginning Balance all funds January 1, 2017** **77,945**

### **Income**

Contributions	35,721.48
Membership	31,971.48
Concerts	3,750.00
Grants	5,000.00
Eastside Marketplace Friendship Fund Receipts	887.00
Other	175.48

***Total Income*** **41,784**

### **Expenses**

Administrative	-47,328.90
Contract work	-35,552.06
Copying, mail, signage , IT	-11,380.16
Events, gifts	-396.68
Park	-8,421.63
Improvements	-6,457.74
Maintenance	-1,963.89
Boulevard	-8,368.00
Maintenance	-6,420.00
Trees and Plantings	-1,948.00
Concerts	-4,849.77
Education	-853.13
Miscellaneous	-267.59

***Total Expenses*** **-70,089**

***Net Result*** **-28,305**

**Ending Balance all funds December 31, 2017** **49,640**





## Thank You

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many individuals who gave advice, grants, and time to the Blackstone Parks Conservancy in 2017. We are also deeply indebted to our many generous members, who are acknowledged by letter but not listed here.

AIPSO  
 April Alix, USFWS Urban Wildlife Refuge  
 Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)  
 Gale Aronson  
 Audubon Society of RI  
 Stephanie Avila\*  
 William Barry  
 Books on the Square  
 Bottles  
 Boulevard Tree Sponsors  
 Anna Browder  
 Brian Byrne, Providence Parks & Recreation  
 Frances Carpenter  
 Steve Casserly, Yardworks  
 Caitlin Chaffee, CRMC  
 Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC)  
 Don Cordner \*  
 Carol Delaney  
 Mary Dennis  
 Harold Doran  
 Eastside Marketplace  
 Peggy Edwards  
 Heather Faubert, URI  
 Martha Fraenkel\*  
 Friends of Gladys Potter Park  
 Senator Gayle Goldin  
 Sally Godfrey  
 Rotem Goldshmid  
 Erin Harnett  
 Heidi Janes  
 Hope Leeson, RI Natural History Survey  
 Lincoln School  
 Mary Murphy  
 Wendy Nilsson, Supt. Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
 Narragansett Boat Club  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
 Senator Donna Nesselbush

Partnership for Providence Parks  
 Eric Peterson  
 Providence Country Day School  
 Providence Dept. of Parks & Recreation  
 Suzanne Renfro\*  
 Steve Ricci, Groundwork Providence  
 Rhody Native  
 Joan Richards  
 RI Dept. of Environmental Management (DEM)  
 RI Dept. of Public Works (DPW)  
 RI Dept. of Transportation (DOT)  
 RI Philharmonic Music School  
 RISD P.O.S.E. Program  
 Elena Riverstone\*  
 Save The Bay  
 Serve Rhode Island  
 Swan Point Cemetery  
 Doug Still, City Forester  
 Tropical Smoothie  
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
 Kathleen Virginia  
 Wheeler School  
 Woonasquatucket Watershed Council

\* BPC Committee members

### Blackstone Parks Conservancy Officers and Trustees

Amy Larkin, Executive Director

Jane Peterson, President	Anthony Hollingshead
Carrie Drake, Vice-President,	Robert Murphy
Deming Sherman, Treasurer	Ken Orenstein
Amy Zinsser, Secretary	Rick Richards
Allison Bryant	Colgate Searle
Margaret Brookner	Erik Wernevi
Jonathan Ford	