

Your Emerald Necklace Conservancy at Work

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is working in collaboration with our public-sector partners in Boston, Brookline and the Commonwealth with unwavering commitment to the social vision of Frederick Law Olmsted: a belief that parks serve as a meeting ground for people from all walks of life. Working in an age of urbanization and industrialization, Olmsted believed in the value of nature to restore the human mind and spirit. In the Emerald Necklace his vision was achieved. The preservation of this democratic green space is as important to our well being in the 21st century as it was in the 19th.

With your support, we have been investing in our volunteer program and the results show. In 2007, 339 volunteers contributed 968 hours on projects ranging from pruning roses to spreading soil nutrients. We hope you agree with us that this work is important to everyone who uses the Emerald Necklace park system.

Olmsted Park Woodlands

In 1886, Olmsted wrote that “mainly the value of a park depends on the disposition and quality of its woods, and the relations of its woods to other natural features.”

Our work preserving the woodlands for future generations moved forward last year in a 3-acre demonstration project just south of Leverett Pond where volunteers are removing invasive plants and rejuvenating the soil. In 2008, we will begin planting to regenerate the forest canopy and to enrich the understory. Lessons learned in this area will guide future work throughout the woodlands of the Emerald Necklace.



Re-planting the Slope near Mothers' Rest



Steep slopes pose special challenges. For the slope near Boylston Bridge in the Back Bay Fens, the Conservancy is working on a new planting scheme that will be beautiful yet tough, will prevent erosion, and will be low-maintenance. A detailed maintenance plan will ensure that plants get the care they need while they get established.

Spring Pond Wildflower Meadow

In collaboration with DCR, our volunteers are maintaining the wildflower meadow where Kelly Rink once stood — pulling out woody plants as they move in. The meadow increases species diversity and provides habitat for butterflies and birds, as well as unique beauty for the enjoyment of park visitors.





Kelleher Rose Garden

With the addition of a hundred more roses, the ambitious restoration of the historic, Shurcliff-era rose garden in the Back Bay Fens will be completed in the spring of 2008. Thousands of new roses have been planted, attractive and informative signs put in place, and all of it lovingly cared for by hundreds of volunteers in the regular *Tuesdays with Roses* volunteer evenings.

Bridle Path

The Conservancy harnessed the support of neighboring institutions to secure a DCR partnership grant to restore the former Bridle Path in the Back Bay Fens from Avenue Louis Pasteur to Forsyth Way. The new path surface will be ADA accessible. Look for construction to be completed in time for the MFA opening of their doors on the Fens.

Advocacy

The Conservancy's advocacy efforts aim to preserve and protect the special resources of this linear park system and to recapture its earlier greatness. Our Park Overseers — representatives of more than 18 partner organizations — are working with government officials, neighborhood groups, and other advocates to improve connections between and to the parks at challenging locations like the Route 9 crossing, the vicinity of the Landmark Center, and across from Jamaica Pond at Eliot St. and the Arborway. We continue to work to improve informative park signage, have begun to create a pocket visitor map for self-guided tours, and are developing a new interactive website.

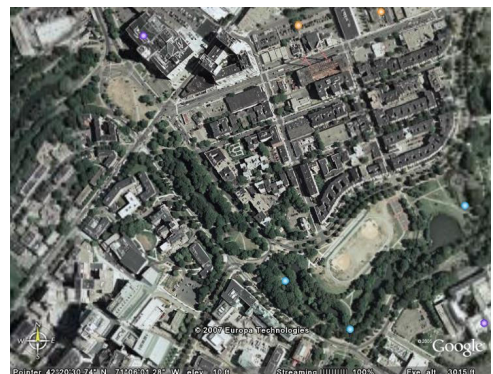


Emerald Necklace Parkway Storm Drains

In 2007 the Conservancy launched an inventory of the parkway stormwater infrastructure, mapping locations where system failures are causing erosion of parkland or sedimentation of the Muddy River. We undertook this collaboration with Charles River Watershed Association to assist DCR in its efforts to upgrade its stormwater system.

Muddy River Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project

The Conservancy continues to play a key role in partnership with Boston, Brookline, the Commonwealth, and the MMOC, reviewing the planning and the long-term commitments of the Muddy River Project. In June 2007 we were a signatory to an agreement creating a *cabinet* of the five parties. The agreement defines roles and responsibilities during construction, and most importantly, for maintenance post-construction, to ensure the long-term benefit of the project. Phase I — daylighting of the river in the vicinity of the Landmark Center — is set to begin in spring 2009.



Get Involved. With your help, these and other new and on-going Conservancy projects will ensure that the Emerald Necklace is a place for our children and grandchildren to run and play and be touched by nature. **Volunteer! Donate! Spread the Word!** info@emeraldnecklace.org