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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your 2013 investments in the Emerald Necklace Conservancy! In 2013, the Conservancy celebrated 15 years of connecting people and parks. Your contributions helped improve access to the parks, develop projects to care for the park ecosystem and create programs for people of all ages.

This past year also marked the 10th Anniversary of Party in the Park and the launch of the Olmsted Tree Society Fund to care for the Emerald Necklace’s tree canopy. Thanks to the generosity of more than 800 attendees at the annual lunch honoring the late Boston Parks Commissioner Justine Mee Liff, $940,000 was raised for this vital initiative. Having completed an inventory of 7,000 individual trees and thousands more in the woodlands and along the waters’ edge, the Conservancy is preparing timelines and cost estimates as part of a maintenance plan for our most valuable trees.

We are grateful to the more than 90 volunteers who ensured that Party in the Park was such a success. Only ten years ago, Wendy Shattuck founded Party in the Park, and since then $3 million has been raised for a variety of important park projects including the Kelleher Rose Garden fountain in Back Bay Fens. We completed the majority of the work on the $550,000 fountain project last year and look forward to a ribbon cutting in spring, 2014.

In addition to maintenance, restoration, and the fundraising to accomplish our goals, an important part of the Conservancy’s mission is to bring people into the Emerald Necklace to enjoy the benefits of nature. A growing body of scientific, peer reviewed studies indicates that natural areas, particularly those in urban environments, have positive effects on physical and mental health. The Conservancy’s Summer Sundays in the Park, docent-led tours, Circle The City and volunteer programs are some of the ways we engage thousands of people annually in the park. Thanks to you, our Green Team and Youth Leadership programs continue to educate the next generation of park stewards while providing needed summer and after-school employment for urban youth.

As the Conservancy looks forward to the next 15 years of restoring and maintaining the Emerald Necklace, increasing access to the parks and providing educational programming for people of all ages, we are inspired by the commitment and generosity of all our friends and donors. Many, many thanks for everything you do to support the Emerald Necklace!

Ben Taylor
Chair

Julie Crockford
President
Sharing a passion for the parks

Barbara Nazarewicz, a docent perspective
By Anne Mackin

When Barbara Nazarewicz and her fiancé moved from San Francisco to Boston, they chose their Fenway neighborhood by looking at a city map that showed the neighborhood nestled into a big U-shaped sweep of parks that turned out to be part of Boston’s Emerald Necklace. When she arrived and saw the parks, and began to use them—running along the Fens and the Riverway—she was impressed. “When you run along parts of the Muddy River,” she said, widening her eyes, “you feel like you’re in a rural oasis.” She smiled. “It’s the genius of Olmsted.” She began researching the parks online, and that research led her to the Conservancy and its docent training program.

Barbara, a landscape architect, now spends one Sunday a month leading interpretive tours of the Emerald Necklace’s Back Bay Fens as a Conservancy Docent. She brings more than youthful energy to the Conservancy. Her professional credentials and connections give her a special role. In addition to her job with a local design firm, Basia works with the American Society of Landscape Architects on their Emerging Professionals Committee. At the ASLA’s 2013 national conference in Boston, Barbara led a tour of ASLA members through her neighboring part of the Emerald Necklace, helping them learn from Olmsted’s masterpiece.

“I consider myself an ambassador for the parks,” she explained. “It’s important to me to reach people who may not be aware of the parks or their importance.”

“I consider myself an ambassador for the parks,” she explained.

“Parks,” she adds with conviction, “make the city livable. They give us places to exercise, to relax, and to enjoy natural beauty. As more of us arrive who need and appreciate the parks, the importance of parks is growing. I think this will enhance support for the Conservancy and increase our fundraising leverage. And part of the message I want to get out, when I speak on behalf of the Conservancy, is the importance of public-private partnerships in caring for great public treasures like the Emerald Necklace.”
“Isn’t it beautiful,” asks Katie, peering through the temporary fence around the Kelleher Rose Garden in the Back Bay Fens. She is looking at the water soaring up from the restored fountain, a recently completed project of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. The fountain, undergoing a test run before being shut down for the winter, sits among the 1,500 or so rose plants in the Kelleher Rose Garden, where Katie volunteers regularly in the Conservancy’s “Tuesdays with Roses” program.

Katie sought volunteer work when she arrived in Boston soon after completing her graduate work in Criminal Justice. She saw it as a way to meet people and learn about her new community. “I love pruning and weeding in the Rose Garden,” she says. “There are usually about 15 of us working together for a couple of hours after work, one day a week.”

The weekly routine varies. “Ray [Oladapo-Johnson, the Conservancy’s Director of Operations] or others will show us what to do. This past spring, for example, rabbits devastated the garden. So we had to replant or replace some of the rosebushes. Then, after a rainy period, we might weed. And in late fall, we mulch the roses, or ‘put them to bed’ as Ray says”.

Katie has been volunteering at the rose garden for a few years, and feels she’s seen an influx of young blood in the volunteer group. She, herself, volunteered with an environmental group in college and feels that everyone now has a better understanding of the importance of green spaces and environmental stewardship.

“What I love best about gardening here is that you can really see the impact of the work you’ve done. And you can see the impact of [the] Rose Garden on peoples’ lives, too.”
Circle The City

Circle The City creates a connection between neighbors and nature on car-free, open streets. Thousands flocked to Huntington Avenue on July 14 and Blue Hill Avenue on September 29 to play on the street. From drumming circles to zumba, a rock climbing wall to bike tune-ups, there was something for everyone. Residents on Blue Hill Avenue in Dorchester told us:

“It was healing.”

“I’ve lived here for 31 years and this was the best thing that has ever happened here.”

“I had one of the best times I ever had at Open Streets, Open World.”

Party in the Park

As one of the most anticipated social events in Boston, The Party in the Park is one of Boston’s surest signs of spring. To date, the luncheon has generated a $3 million fund for the Emerald Necklace parks. Proceeds from the 10th anniversary Party in the Park founded the Olmsted Tree Society to care for and protect the parks’ beautiful and priceless tree canopy and woodlands.
The Olmsted Tree Society was established in 2013 to address the serious needs of the aging tree canopy in the Emerald Necklace. Launched by the Conservancy’s Justine Mee Liff Fund Committee, and thanks to the generous support of donors, sponsors and guests of the 10th annual Party in the Park, $940,000 of the initial $1 million goal has been raised for this spendable fund. We are grateful to the Norman and Muriel Leventhal Family and the Plimpton Shattuck Fund for their leadership giving to this important initiative.

In collaboration with our public partners, the Conservancy hired Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture (KZLA) for the project. Over 7,000 heritage and specimen trees, 200 acres of woodland, as well as parkway and riparian trees have been surveyed, assessed and plotted using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The resulting comprehensive tree maintenance and management plan will guide future pruning, planting, and maintenance priorities in Franklin Park, Jamaica Pond, Olmsted Park, the Riverway and Back Bay Fens as well as along the parkways.

Members of the Olmsted Tree Society help ensure the health of the park’s trees now and for future generations. To learn more about how you can “adopt” and maintain a heritage tree, plant a new tree or provide much needed soil remediation, fertilizer and watering, visit our website or contact Susan Knight at 617-522-2700.

We are grateful to all who helped launch the Olmsted Tree Society through direct donations and sponsorships and ticket purchases at the 10th anniversary Party in the Park.
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“Trees cool our streets, sidewalks, and homes on hot summer days. Trees increase property values and encourage neighborhood revitalization. They help clean our air and reduce pollutants that cause respiratory diseases, including asthma. Most important, trees make our city an even more beautiful place to live, work and visit.”

Toni Pollak, Commissioner, Boston Parks Department

We have done our best to accurately list our donors. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors and contact the office to help us correct our records. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Peter Thorne and Katherine Gross created the Charlotte Foundation in the late 1990s to pursue a shared interest in social justice. Katherine, with a background in community organizing and nonprofit management, took the helm of the foundation.

Both had grown up in or near New York City, with a fondness for Olmsted’s Central Park. When they began a life together in Boston, they appreciated the city’s livable size, its culture of social activism, and its claim to another Olmsted masterpiece: the Emerald Necklace.

They had enjoyed walking or biking parts of the Emerald Necklace, but they gained an entirely new appreciation for the parks during a Conservancy-sponsored Duck Tour of Emerald Necklace highlights. As the well-known amphibious craft wound around the Fenway and along Olmsted’s parkways, they discovered parts of the Emerald Necklace they had never seen, and they marveled at the extent and variety of the parks. “A rose garden in the middle of the city? And meadows hidden in drifts of woodlands? We didn’t know these things existed,” explains Katherine. “We began to understand the beauty, the complexity, and the variety of the Emerald Necklace that day, and its ties to Boston’s many different neighborhoods.”

The Conservancy’s mission of carrying on Olmsted’s democratic ideals intrigued them. Olmsted had intended his park to bring beautiful and healthful recreational settings to all city residents. “The Conservancy,” Katherine reflected, not only maintained and stewarded the city’s invaluable green spaces, but “helped the parks serve everyone in the city. And it also raised awareness of the city’s green resources. We found the Conservancy to be a unique organization, connecting Boston’s many unconnected neighborhoods. It really knocked me out to see Julie Crockford’s [Conservancy President] success on all these fronts.”

“We learned about the Green Team,” Katherine explains, referring to the Conservancy’s summer employment program for area high school students. “That really matches the mission of our foundation. We’re committed to giving young people in Boston the opportunity to explore different professional and vocational interests, and we love the leadership training program that gives kids skills to help advance them in life. We want to promote civic engagement and get young people thinking and acting on issues related to everyone’s quality of life. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy manages to pursue all those goals in a thoughtful way.”

Supporting the mission
Katherine Gross, a donor perspective

By Anne Mackin

“We found the Conservancy to be a unique organization, connecting Boston’s many unconnected neighborhoods.”
Kalvin, a senior at Boston Latin Academy and recipient of a Posse Foundation scholarship to Hamilton College, came to the Conservancy through the Mayor’s hotline for youth employment two years ago.

A successful interview landed him the job with the Conservancy’s Youth Leadership Program (YLP) and he soon was working outdoors after school with other students, getting to know them and the parks as well. He describes how he began picking up the communication skills of a more professional environment right away. “For example, I couldn’t use the nicknames I’d made up for my friends,” he smiles.

In the summer of 2011, he got to test his leadership skills as an Assistant Crew Leader for the summer Green Team. He found himself gaining confidence and also a sense of accomplishment. “It felt great to look at an area I’d worked on and think, ‘I made this impact. People can see what I did.’” That made the job more fun, he emphasizes, than the kind of busywork young employees sometimes get stuck with.

In his second summer as Assistant Crew Leader, Kalvin found himself with a new Green Team group. “I had to quickly make relationships and learn to communicate well about what needed to be done,” he explained, sounding like the leader he is. “But my first summer had prepared me for that.”

“The work could be exhausting,” he remembers, “and sometimes hot, but it was social and sometimes even fun. When I woke up, knowing I was going to be outside all day, it was a great feeling—a sense of freedom.” Reflecting on the way he saw the parks before working in them, Kalvin says, “Before I worked on the Green Team, my friends and I might cut through the parks to get somewhere else, but we didn’t really use them. But now—I just met a couple of my friends from the Green Team and we biked around the parks.”
THANK YOU
You make it all possible. The Conservancy’s 15th Anniversary year has been a celebration of accomplishments of people and projects up and down the park. Our sincere thanks to all those who contributed so generously to help us connect people and parks and conserve the Emerald Necklace.

The parks would not be the same without you.

List reflects donations from October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013.
Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions, and contact the office to help us correct our records. Thank you.

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Stop and Shop*
Wegmans*
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<td>Foundations and Corporations</td>
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**Programs**

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**Projects**

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**Events**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Events</strong></td>
<td><strong>$491,127</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$140,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General &amp; Administration</td>
<td>$147,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$288,441</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Operating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Future Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,704,085</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Asset Composition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Assets--Shattuck Visitors Center</td>
<td>$844,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Capital</td>
<td>$48,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olmsted Tree Society</td>
<td>$799,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shattuck Endowment</td>
<td>$525,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justine Mee Liff Fund</td>
<td>$2,014,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4,232,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

1) In 2013 The Emerald Necklace Conservancy changed its fiscal year end to September 30.
2) The summary presented is a financial summary (NON AUDITED) for a twelve month period which differs from the nine month period reported in the 2013 audit.

The Independent auditor’s report including financial statements is available from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s office upon request.
We collaborate  
bring people together  
remove invasive plant species  
give teens their first jobs  
lead interpretive tours and talks  
provide environmental education  
foster the next generation of park stewards  
recruit volunteers to “serve & learn”  
bring music and movies to the parks  
model projects to develop best practices  
welcome visitors to the parks at the Shattuck Visitor Center