“In an increasingly segmented society, the Emerald Necklace is the common ground that unites us—a place where people from all walks of life come together for respite, recreation and community, just as Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned more than a century ago.”

—Julie Croxford, President, Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Letter from the President

It has been a joy and honor to lead the Emerald Necklace Conservancy for the past eight years. Looking back at what we have accomplished together has crystalized my realization that great parks happen only when there is both public and private support. A strong partnership in which we all invest in our parks gives the greatest return.

Thanks to your support, our capacity and impact expanded in 2015 with the addition of new staff. Volunteer coordinator, Ellen Arinstein, is bringing record numbers of individuals and groups into the parks for clean-ups, rose care and woodlands restoration. Kent Jackson, director of education, is widening our educational reach using the Emerald Necklace as an outdoor classroom to connect schoolchildren and nature. And thanks to our new communications coordinator, Tessa Rose, we are connecting with a new audience through social media and innovative programming.

In an increasingly segmented society, the Emerald Necklace is the common ground that unites us—a place where people from all walks of life come together for respite, recreation and community, just as Frederick Law Olmsted envisioned more than a century ago. The parks are democracy come to life, connecting with a new audience through social media and innovative programming.

As I leave the Conservancy, the parks will continue to play an important part of my life. I invite you to share this annual report with friends and encourage them to join you in supporting the Emerald Necklace. It’s only when we all pitch in to help that we can make our parks great.

Julie Croxford
President

Message from the Board Chair

I’d like to share a few words with you about the accomplishments of the Conservancy under Julie Croxford’s leadership. In many ways, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy has never been stronger, its efforts never more essential in making Boston a healthy, livable city. From developing the Green Team youth program in 2008 to the opening of the Shattuck Visitor Center in 2011 to the launch of the Olmsted Tree Society in 2013 and the Speak Out series in 2016, Julie has helped increase the capacity and significance of the work we do. Programs developed during her tenure are thriving and making measurable impacts in the parks.

Susan Knight, director of development, will serve as interim president while we search for the Conservancy’s next leader. With Susan’s able leadership, an excellent staff, and your continued support, we are positioned to connect even greater numbers of people with the parks through expanded programming, educational initiatives and new collaborations.
Seeing Olmsted's genius through a singular walk

The Olmsted Tree Society (OTS) was established in 2013 to preserve and protect the trees of the Emerald Necklace.

For many, the Emerald Necklace serves as a source of great meaning and treasured memories. This holds true for Gloria Wallace, who, in 2015, sponsored a tree in memory of her late husband, Ron. Ron dedicated many years to learning, teaching and experiencing Olmsted’s masterpiece from the perspective of an artist and a true devotee of nature. His deep connection to the Emerald Necklace revealed itself in the walks he designed and guided. Here is his story.

From his first exposure to the Emerald Necklace in the early 1970’s, Ron Wallace was drawn to Frederick Law Olmsted’s ability to combine the practical needs of society with the parallel need for beauty and respite. As both an artist and later, a designer of leading-edge technology, Ron shared this unique dichotomy and later used it to introduce scores of individuals to the wonders of the Emerald Necklace.

In 1983, Ron took a year off to fully immerse himself in learning everything about the Emerald Necklace—botany, landscaping, urban topology, and about Olmsted himself. A year later, he felt equipped to offer a performance event—“On the Emerald Necklace”—a series of 35 walks taken by the artist and one individual along the entire length of the Necklace. These walks were a way for Ron to bring someone into the space and he was prepared to respond to anything that might come up for that individual. “He didn’t want to direct the participant but, rather, to interrelate with them, so that each walk was a unique, bonded perceptual experience,” offered Gloria Wallace, Ron’s wife of 15 years.

“Ron was married to the Necklace; for him it became an all-consuming engagement”
—Keith Kurman

“Ron was particularly taken by Olmsted’s ability to create mini-ecosystems within the Necklace,” offered Keith Kurman, landscape designer and friend. “He was continually fascinated by the multiple layers of minutiae one finds while exploring the length of these linear parks.” Nita Sturiale, artist and MassArt colleague of Ron, recognized this as well. “Ron resonated with Olmsted’s attention to the most minute details, yet also appreciated his genius in sculpting beauty. As an artist, he recognized the need for contemplation and the transformative effects of our natural surroundings.” She noted that Ron also connected deeply with Olmsted’s sense of democracy and quiet introspection. “He carried a nineteenth-century style of gentility and progressive thought, much like the enlightened thinkers of that time.”

Ron succumbed to his battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) in August of 2015. Soon after his passing, Gloria Wallace worked through the Conservancy to dedicate a tree to honor her husband. She chose a giant Northern Red Oak adjacent to a footbridge slated for restoration. “He would have loved the fact that when the restored bridge is open once again, the tree will be there to welcome those entering Olmsted’s Riverway—much as Ron himself did in life.”

“Our Emerald Necklace Tree Management Plan informs the work we do in the parks with the help of volunteers and in collaboration with Boston Parks and Recreation, Brookline Parks and Open Space and the Department of Conservation.”
—Ray Oladapo-Johnson, Director of Park Operations

Photo above right: Friends and family gather at the tree bearing a plaque in memory of Ron Wallace.

“Ron was married to the Necklace; for him it became an all-consuming engagement”
—Keith Kurman

BY THE NUMBERS

| Emerald Necklace trees pruned | 748 |
| Shrubs and perennials planted along The Fenway | 613 |
Promoting exploration and immersion in an outdoor classroom

Education is a key component of many Conservancy programs—from docent-led tours and interpretive activities that enrich the park visitor experience to volunteer training that includes an introduction to invasive species and woodlands ecology. It is also at the heart of the Conservancy’s two signature youth initiatives: the Summer Green Team and the Youth Leadership Program (YLP), complementary programs that engage young people, ages 15—18, in hands-on stewardship activities and experiences that foster environmental awareness.

Kent Jackson, director of education, sees this growing environmental awareness first hand. “As the students develop their leadership skills, they also make that critical connection of how their park preservation efforts contribute to the environment as a whole. The majority leave here with a heightened sense of responsibility for the earth.”

As an extension of the successful impact of its youth programs, the Conservancy is now focused on expanding this type of learning to students at a younger age. “The Emerald Necklace provides a rich outdoor classroom and as more attention is paid to exposing our young people to nature, we believe the Conservancy is in a unique position to provide younger students with an entrée into the natural world, infusing them with environmental learning they’ll hopefully carry into adulthood,” offered Susan Helms Daley, Conservancy board member and chair of the Education Working Group. “The nurturing of a child’s curiosity in the outdoors—climbing, touching, observing, listening—provides powerful hands-on training.”

For Kent Jackson, that also means providing younger students with critical STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) training, particularly in the natural sciences. “Our goal will be to partner with elementary schools to extend the students’ classroom lessons into the outdoors—learning about water, air and trees—making key connections through the senses and gaining a new awareness of their surroundings.” As the world becomes increasingly complex, the effect takes us further from the natural world. “We recognize the importance of connecting children to nature, and in this case, introducing them to the Emerald Necklace, which, for many serves as their front and back yards,” states Kent.

Youth Programs are generously supported by:
Brookline Community Foundation’s Brookline Youth Fund • City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement & Employment • Gimlings Foundation Hamilton Company Charitable Foundation • Inner Spark Foundation • Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust • Steps to Success • Starbucks Foundation The Charlotte Foundation • Wilmington Trust

“The work we do in the Emerald Necklace is important because we need to keep the Earth healthy for future generations.”
—Paul, Green Team member

Summer 2015 Green Team Results
BY THE NUMBERS

Number of youth who participated in the 2015 Green Team 22
Total hours of service provided over six weeks 2,089
Estimated value of service to the City of Boston, Town of Brookline and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation $56,403
Connecting People and Parks through Restoration

Emerald Necklace Maintenance Collaborative

Conceived by the Conservancy in partnership with the MA Department of Correction, Boston Parks and Recreation and Brookline Parks and Open Space, the Maintenance Collaborative provides essential maintenance work in the parks through pre-release vocational training. The program, which marked its ten-year milestone in 2015, includes on-the-job training in parks maintenance and restoration along with weekly classes in horticulture. “Many of the men who completed the program have come back to visit. Almost all are [now] gainfully employed and attribute this to the training they received,” states the Conservancy’s director of park operations, Ray Oladapo-Johnson. The program is funded in part by the Cummings Foundation’s $100K for 100 grant program.

Volunteers for the Necklace

Volunteers are integral to the Conservancy’s mission to rehabilitate and maintain the Emerald Necklace. From helping out at events to removing invasive plants and mulching planting beds to leading interpretive tours, there are many ways that volunteers make a difference. “They are at the heart of so much of what we do,” states Julie Crockford.

“Towards the Emerald Necklace,” a local band. "You can’t keep the people out of the parks — they just keep coming back."

They bring an energy and commitment to the Emerald Necklace that is inspiring.”

In 2015, the Conservancy expanded its capacity to manage volunteer events by adding the position of volunteer coordinator to the team. The result—record numbers of groups and individuals helping to restore the woodlands, care for the roses in the Kelleher Rose Garden and clear out litter and debris along the Muddy River.

“As a forestry buff, I love having the opportunity to show volunteers how our tree management plan is put into action. It helps them see their work as part of the larger picture of maintenance and restoration of the Emerald Necklace. Every invasive plant removed and trash item picked up is a step closer to a healthier, more resilient urban forest.”

—Ellen Arnsstein, Volunteer Coordinator

Thanks to all our dedicated volunteer organizations in 2015:

Alkermes • Alnylam Pharmaceuticals • AMC • Bates College Bookings.com • Boston Area Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Boston Arts Academy • Boston Cares • Boston Collegiate Charter School Boston Volunteer Meetup • CHEM Hill • Cornerstone Research • Boston University • Boston Community Leadership Academy • Bunker Hill Community College • Colleges of the Fenway • Crossroads for Kids DataXu • Doc Wayne Youth Services/Turner Learning Center • Fenway High School • FGU Consulting • Gay for Good • Harvard Medical School Hosteling International • ICRC of Central Boston • Live Blue! Service Corps at the New England Aquarium • NBBJ • Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP • Noble and Greenough School • The North Face Northeastern University • Payette Associates • PIB Law • Ropes & Gray Showa Boston • Slalom Consulting • Signature Boston • Simmons College • Takoda Pharmaceuticals • Tufts University • FOCUS 2015 Turner Construction Company • University of Michigan Club of Greater Boston • UNASS Boston • US GAO • US Green Building Council Wellesley College’s Center for Work and Service • Yale Club of Boston
Connecting People and Parks through Community

Park events that brought people together in 2015

Party in the Park

A picture-perfect day served as backdrop to the 12th annual Party in the Park held at Pinebank Promontory overlooking Jamaica Pond. The 768 guests, many in millinery splendor, came together in support of the Justine Mee Liff Fund and to honor Mark Volpe, managing director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, as the 2015 recipient of the Liff Spirit Award.

Party-goers were treated to a musical performance provided by the BSO and a surprise announcement that Ropes & Gray would be commemorating its 150th anniversary by making a gift of 150 trees to be planted along the parkways of the Emerald Necklace.

The event raised $965,000 to care for the trees of the Emerald Necklace. Since its inception, Party in the Park has raised a total of over $7.25M to benefit restoration projects in the Emerald Necklace.

An Emerald Evening

Long-time Conservancy board member and park advocate Michael Dukakis was honored for his leadership as champion of parks and open space at An Emerald Evening, a benefit to support the work of the Conservancy held in the Koch Gallery of the Museum of Fine Arts. More than 300 guests gathered as the former governor was presented with the Olmsted Award of Excellence in recognition of his dedication to preserving and improving green space.

The Olmsted Award of Excellence is awarded to an individual or organization who demonstrates an unwavering determination to carry out Frederick Law Olmsted’s vision and commitment to urban parks.
Our sincere thanks to all those who contributed so generously to help us connect people and parks and conserve the Emerald Lake. The parks would not be the same without you.

$100,000+
- Pamela Kohlberg and Curtis Greer
- Lisa and James Mooney
- Peter Lynch
- Sherwood Leventhal
- Jane and William H. Gordon
- Dana Robinson
- Robert N. Shapiro

$50,000+
- Maria and E. Davis Cucchiaro
- Isabel and Ian K. Loring
- Tracy Eagan
- John W. Humphrey
- Robert Daves

$25,000+
- The Honorable Representative Byron H. Dorgan
- Robert A. Bradfield
- Allison C. and John S. Reed
- Bruce A. Enders
- LaRue N. Simons

$10,000+
- Carole E. Mathieson and Anya R. and Peter Coffin
- Roberta and Lawrence H. Stevenson
- Julie Hume Gordon and Victoria S. Libert
- Ingrid and Julian C. S. Hays
- Elizabeth and Robert A. Mitchell

$5,000+
- Deborah Winters and Mary-Jane Ahern
- Mary and Theodore G. Cohn
- Robert T. Nardone
- Robert M. Sherman

$1,000+
- Dean J. and Susan R. Hohendorf
- Alice E. Hertog
- Margaret and Susan N. Brickley
- Mark and Lisa S. Brudnicki

$500+
- Anthony S. and Denise O. Zackova
- Tracy Eagan
- Mark and Mary P. Smith
- Loretto and Dwight Crane

$100+
- Stephanie Hobbs
- Rebecca and Donald K. Waterhouse
- Elizabeth and David B. Brafford
- Nancy S. Brickley

$50+
- Chris D. and Michael D. Fried
- Andrea and Forest L. Rice
- Michael and Margaret M. Kranz
- Mary J. and Peter C. Dean

$25+
- The Honorable Representative Byron H. Dorgan
- Robert T. Nardone
- Robert M. Sherman
- Mark and Mary P. Smith

$10+
- Nancy Ahmadifar
- Robert Daves
- Elizabeth and Robert A. Mitchell
- Robert T. Nardone

THANK YOU!

"The Conservancy has grounded me and rekindled my passion for green space and working to help protect it."

-Sarah Georgiadis, Party in the Park Committee Volunteer
## SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

### OPERATING REVENUE & SUPPORT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grants and Contributions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>$671,055</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation and Corporations</td>
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<td>Olmsted Tree Society</td>
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<td>Justine Mee Liff Fund - Party in the Park</td>
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<td><strong>Total Grants and Contributions</strong></td>
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<td>Investments and Other Income</td>
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### EXPENSES

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<th>Programs / Projects / Events</th>
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<tr>
<td>Education and Youth Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Park Events and Visitor Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maintenance, Restoration and Volunteers</td>
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<td>General and Administration</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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### NET ASSET COMPOSITION

| Fixed Assets - Shattuck Visitor Center            | $799,176   |
| Operating Funds                                   | $171,021   |
| Olmsted Tree Society                              | $985,623   |
| Shattuck Endowment                                | $587,002   |
| Justine Mee Liff Fund                             | $2,276,445 |
| **Total Net Assets**                             | **$4,819,267** |

This is a non-audited financial summary for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015. The independent auditor’s report including financial statements is available from the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s office upon request.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy is a non-profit founded in 1998 to maintain, restore and protect the parks of the Emerald Necklace designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. The historic parks under the Emerald Necklace Conservancy’s stewardship stretch from the Back Bay Fens through Brookline into Dorchester. The 1,100 acres of inviting green space connect people to the parks just as Mr. Olmsted intended when he designed it more than 100 years ago. The Conservancy works in collaboration with its public partners: Boston Parks & Recreation, Brookline Parks and Open Space, and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.