

PARKS



ARE HERE

FOR YOU

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Dear Friends,

We want to begin by thanking you. In a year that disconnected us from each other in countless ways, we have been grateful to you—the park users—for your encouragement, motivation and support both past and present. Everyone who makes up the Conservancy—our staff, Board of Directors, Board of Park Advisors and our many donors and volunteers—bolstered our spirits daily as we navigated our place in the puzzle of pandemic relief.

Last year, as the Emerald Necklace welcomed record numbers of visitors, our goal to connect people and parks became more urgent than ever. Amidst persistent unknowns, we asked two questions. *“How can our work improve lives right now, in this present moment of crisis?”* and *“How can we ensure this vital resource will better serve our community in the future?”*

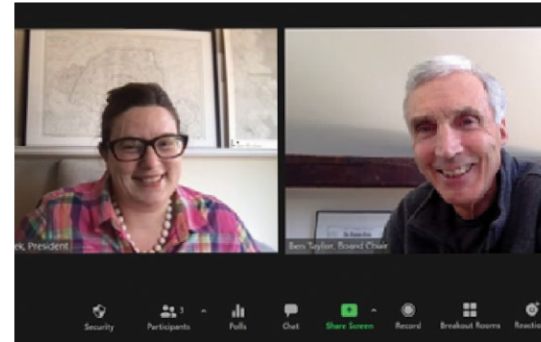
In the following pages, you will find the beginnings of our answers to these questions. Our focus on user safety, education, communication and engaging programs this year has been a nimble and direct response to fill the gaps created by COVID-19. The Conservancy’s Virtual Engagement Response Team helped users of all ages discover new ways to explore the parks, and not only shifted our popular Summer on the Emerald Necklace series to a virtual format, but, for the first time ever, extended the series to subsequent seasons. Our education

programming also became virtual and increased capacity, ensuring that we could mentor and provide opportunities for a greater number of underserved youth while many summer programs elsewhere were unavailable. And, through it all, our committed volunteer leaders supported and advised us on countless iterations of plans, contingencies and pivots.

The events of 2020 highlighted our strengths and our weaknesses, which is why we’re not stopping here, but committing to a more inclusive, safer and healthier Emerald Necklace. For many, this summer was a wake-up call to address systemic racism. We are partnering with Grayscale Collaborative to pinpoint our inequities as an organization and a park system, and with their guidance working to envision and implement our role as advocates and allies.

The Conservancy’s Olmsted Tree Society sprinted toward the end of its groundbreaking five-year Tree Management Plan, addressing the health of over 3,500 trees this year. And our advocacy efforts in Franklin Park, Charlesgate Park and along the Arborway gained significant momentum thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Board of Park Advisors and other community volunteers.

It’s hard to know what ‘normal’ will look like in the coming months, and, while we hope for recovery and dream of hugging loved ones, we want to



carry with us the important lessons learned this year—the lesson that greenspace is one of our most resilient resources and that connection to each other and the earth is not to be taken for granted. We know the trees and ponds and pathways that brought us comfort this year will continue to be here for us as we heal.

Thank you for your role in helping the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and our parks meet this difficult moment in history, and thank you for your ongoing support as we forge a greener future for all.

Karen Mauney-Brodek
President

Ben Taylor
Board Chair



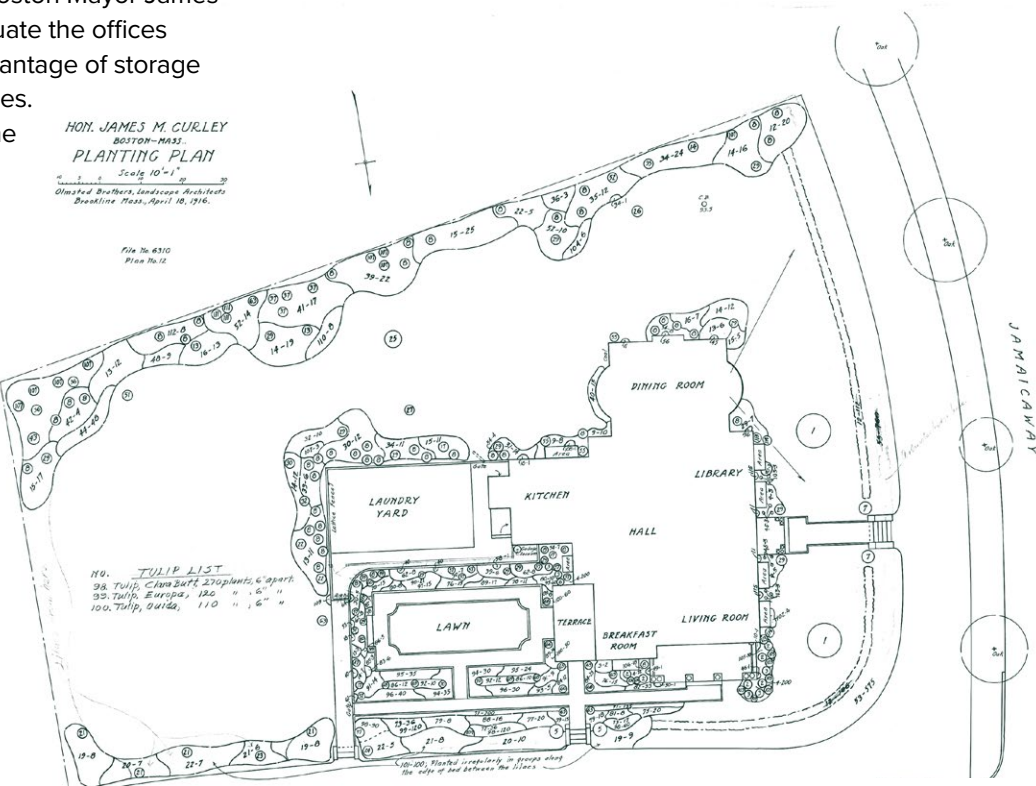
The Conservancy Expands into the Curley House



Clockwise from top left: The dining room and staircase of the Curley House are among its several Historically Landmarked interior elements. Upstairs, former bedrooms have been converted into colorful office space.

In fall of 2019, the Conservancy signed a 30-year lease with the City of Boston’s George Robert White Fund to expand our offices to the Curley House in Jamaica Plain. As opportunities to welcome park visitors and provide interpretive content and programming at the Shattuck Visitor Center steadily increase, and our growing staff and committed volunteers need elbow room to support the Conservancy’s multifaceted operations, outgrowing our former “home base” in the Back Bay Fens was only a matter of time. Taking over the three-story historic home of former Boston Mayor James Michael Curley allows ample space to host community meetings, situate the offices nearer the geographic center of the Emerald Necklace and take advantage of storage necessary for keeping a cache of park maintenance tools and supplies. The move supports several of our growing organization’s needs: “The Curley House allows us to truly designate the Visitor Center as a space for visitor welcome and education, providing parkgoers with resources and programming from our educational staff,” said President Karen Mauney-Brodek. “It also gives us some much-needed space for meetings, small events and volunteer supplies for those who help maintain the Necklace. We used to keep our supplies in our truck!”

The stories of Mayor Curley and Olmsted’s parks may seem disconnected, but, as often happens, Olmsted’s vast legacy touched this historic property overlooking Jamaica Pond. At a “soft” unveiling of our new offices in early 2020, representatives from the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline presented us with a print of the original landscaping plans for the house, designed by the Olmsted Brothers landscape architecture firm in 1916 – the successor firm operated by Olmsted’s sons.



Original planting plan for the Curley House, designed by Olmsted Brothers in 1916.

“The Curley House allows us to truly designate the Visitor Center as a space for visitor welcome and education, providing parkgoers with resources and programming from our educational staff.”

KAREN MAUNEY-BRODEK

Our new administrative offices, affectionately dubbed “The Curley,” have quickly proved vital to our mission, especially during the pandemic’s heightened demand for green space. Even as staff worked remotely over the past year, The Curley flexed as a staging area for our expansive parks signage system and volunteer operations, helped keep our community connected as the site of virtual events such as webinars and yoga classes and and has been a beacon of hope as we await the day when we can welcome our neighbors for an in-person look at this intriguing jewel on the Jamaica Way.

While the Curley House awaits its public debut as the Conservancy’s newest offices, the City of Boston continues to make improvements and restorations so that it will be ready to welcome visitors when it is once again safe to gather. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of the George White Fund, the owner of the Curley House, for allowing us to steward this piece of Boston history and use it to better serve our public.



A Great Year for Trees in the Necklace

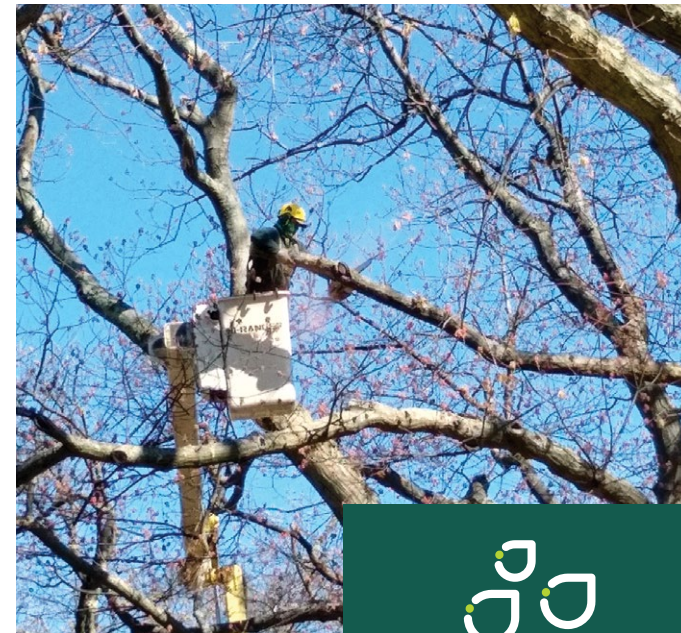
2020 was a milestone year for our Olmsted Tree Society. We completed a significant five-year phase within our ongoing Tree Management Plan and made great progress on tree pruning, inventorying and soil remediation goals. More than 3,500 trees were inspected or pruned this year alone throughout the Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park and Franklin Park—more than 40% of the Conservancy's Tree Inventory, a target never before achieved in a single year!

Pruning is no small task: it requires contractor crews, trucks and tree climbers high in the air, but, according to Conservancy Field Operations Coordinator Erica Holm,

“Investing in pruning and inspection of our urban canopy today makes for healthier, longer-living trees and healthier parks for tomorrow. Pruning dead and diseased wood now and promoting strong branch structure extends the lives of our urban trees by dozens or even hundreds of years.”

The Conservancy also prioritized tree watering to combat extreme drought this past summer, the hottest on record in the City of Boston. Some 300 young or newly planted trees were watered with 20 gallons per week in Justine Mee Liff Park, the Back Bay Fens and along the parkways over the span of ten weeks. Despite—and, perhaps, because of—this unprecedented year, the Olmsted Tree Society has been more committed than ever to its essential work of taking care of our tree canopy, ensuring the green of the Emerald Necklace is vivid for years to come.

3,500 TREES WERE PRUNED OR INSPECTED



300
YOUNG OR NEWLY
PLANTED TREES WERE
WATERED WITH
20 GALLONS
PER WEEK

Educating for a Greener Future

“Regarding the environment, climate change and environmental justice issues, I learned how important water and plants are—how they help us as well as animals.”

Planning for the future is one of the Conservancy's most important responsibilities, and educating our community's youngest park lovers is an unparalleled investment in the future of our green spaces. The Conservancy's youth education and development programs—Green Team and Youth Leadership Program—connect Boston teens to nature and provide environmental education, training in horticulture, leadership and job preparedness skills and more. In 2020, our programming was no exception, helping youth from every corner of Boston to experience nature through a fun, challenging curriculum.

Our educational staff didn't miss a beat when it came to pivoting to a virtual format, quickly rebuilding the core curriculum for remote learning and self-guided outdoor experiences. Seven teens participated in the intensive after-school Youth Leadership Program from November to March and reported a greater appreciation for the environment as a result. One student remarked, “Regarding the environment, climate change and environmental justice issues, I learned how important water and plants are—how they help us as well as

animals. Also, how those creations really need us more than we think. What goes on in the environment is on us but also has an impact on us.”

In summer, Green Team employed 31 youth in an entirely virtual program designed by our Director of Education Kent Jackson and Youth Education Coordinator Stephen Lin. By partnering with other organizations' summer programs, we were able to reach more teens with curriculum on topics such as food justice, diversity training, landscape architecture and Indigenous and European place-naming than in prior years. Participants learned valuable skills that will benefit them—and our green spaces—for years to come: 100% of Green Team members reported that their knowledge of environmental education, conservation and nature journaling increased, and all noted a greater connection to nature after taking part in the program. Showcasing unparalleled flexibility and resilience, Green Team and Youth Leadership Program members truly proved to be up to the challenges thrown at us by 2020.



100%
OF PARTICIPANTS REPORTED GREATER
CONNECTION TO NATURE AFTER TAKING
PART IN OUR PROGRAMS

Last year's Youth Leadership Program cohort at a field trip.



 **100+**
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

Volunteers Show Their Love

Last fall, the beginning of our fiscal year, began with its usual steady stream of community volunteer groups. We welcomed more than 100 volunteers from organizations such as Northeastern University's Alternative Spring Break Program, American Society of Civil Engineers, BU's Department of Physical Therapy, BU HUGS and Mandarin Oriental. In October and November, these hardworking helpers replanted at Mother's Rest and outside the Shattuck Visitor Center in the Back Bay Fens, weeded and cleaned up Liff Park and removed invasive plants in Franklin Park.

Preparing for larger and more frequent volunteer groups, we launched the Emerald Leaders program, a leadership training for managing volunteer events in the Necklace. Seven Leaders were poised to begin in spring, when the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to reevaluate our volunteer programs for the year. As COVID cases rose and the pandemic unfolded, we maintained our commitment to the safety and health of our volunteers, staff and greater community. This meant cancelling first the large-scale annual Muddy River Cleanup, then smaller group events for the rest of the fiscal year.

Undaunted, our volunteer program staff and Emerald Leaders continued, virtually, to foster a large community of passionate park users and volunteers with digital materials designed to inspire and educate about the Emerald Necklace. From presentations on invasive plant removal to works of art highlighting the Necklace's famed vistas and hidden sights, Emerald Leaders got creative with showing their love for these parks. A COVID-19 Volunteer Event Protocol was also developed for volunteers to work in safe and socially-distanced ways; coupled with volunteer event guidelines from the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation, it makes possible for the Emerald Necklace's many stewards to continue flexing their green thumbs for the good of Boston's park system. As one Emerald Leader shared,

“I am grateful to play a small role in helping to cultivate these green spaces that form an essential natural artery in the midst of our vast urban landscape.”

Our Parks—and Virtual Programs— Kept Us Together

None of us has ever experienced a year quite like 2020. With the emergence of the COVID-19 virus, the Conservancy acted quickly to adapt to the pandemic's new realities. In a typical year, the majority of our programs occur from March to October; last year, our annual Night at the Symphony—a beloved event benefitting the Justine Mee Liff Fund, with help from partners at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Four Seasons One Dalton Street, Boston—capped off our in-person events before they even got under way. The wave of postponements and cancellations that followed Governor Baker's stay-at-home order in mid-March left us, like countless organizations nationwide, updating webpages, sending frequent email updates and pushing out deadlines in hopes of eventual rescheduling.

As the perennial milestones of our programmatic year—annual Muddy River Cleanup, Annual Meeting and Party in the Park in spring—were put on hold, our would-be event attendees headed out to the Necklace. With schools, restaurants, places of worship, stores and indoor recreation destinations shuttered, our neighbors sought community, fitness and a change of scenery in their local green spaces. What they found, over days that became weeks, then months, was balance: respite and recreation; community and solitude; familiarity and novelty in a landscape that was both quotidian and ripe for discovery. At a time when giving space and getting space became paramount, the Emerald Necklace—all 1,100 acres of it—was here for you.

And you were here for us. Amidst drafting the latest communications, trouble-shooting Zoom meetings from makeshift home offices and attempting to maintain the rituals of the work week while obsessively hunting for grocery delivery timeslots, we repeatedly asked ourselves, “How are we best suited to serve our community in this challenging moment?” We focused on what you needed from the Necklace, and how we could best connect you to the ample green space in this city, to help you spread out and stop the spread.

438,000

PEOPLE CAN FIT INTO THE EMERALD
NECKLACE'S 1,100 ACRES WHILE
MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING!


6ft



836

PARTICIPANTS
ATTENDED

16

IN-PERSON AND
VIRTUAL EVENTS
IN 2020

Whether we connected with you in the parks or “Zoomed” into your home, the Emerald Necklace was a haven throughout a year when many of us sought safe refuge and a place to clear our heads or lift our spirits.

We created a *Here for You* webpage with safety guidelines for visiting the parks, lesser-known park destinations and frequently updated content for neighbors of all ages to engage with the Necklace in the parks and from homes. From scavenger hunts and musical performances to virtual lectures and activities on mapping and plant identification, we shared what we love about the Emerald Necklace, and invited you to make your own discoveries.

We also designed, installed and maintained more than fifty temporary signs throughout the Emerald Necklace to promote pandemic park etiquette in five languages, point the way to less crowded park areas and link to our Mobile Tour Guide to orient park users on the go. This tool, at www.emeraldnecklace.tours, expanded with themed and seasonal tours such as Emerald Necklace in Bloom, Stroller Tours and Hidden Gems of the Emerald Necklace to encourage self-guided and socially-distant exploration.

A staff Virtual Engagement Response Team (VERT) was assembled early on to keep local park users and far-flung Necklace fans connected in the absence of in-person programming. This nimble and creative cohort stretched well beyond their job descriptions to become videographers and film editors, educators, graphic designers, tour guides and more, producing online programs and on-demand resources for park explorers of all ages. Our traditional *Summer on the Emerald Necklace* series expanded with guided virtual tours in the parks, activity kits for families, live Zoom yoga classes, webinars and more. The events proved so popular, we continued the offerings into fall and winter. In all, we staged 16 events and countless on-demand online resources, welcoming 836 virtual attendees.

www.emeraldnecklace.org/here-for-you/

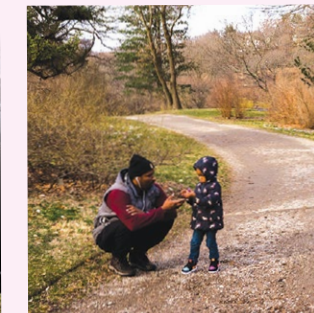
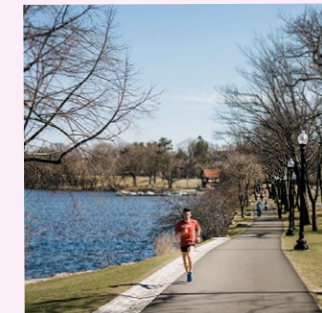
1,100



When our Annual Meeting finally took place virtually in June, it was a resounding success, with over 120 attendees, including numerous public and elected officials. Participants learned about the Conservancy’s latest projects, then were inspired by guest speakers Marie and Dan Adams of Landing Studio and Garrett Dash Nelson of Boston Public Library’s Leventhal Map & Education Center to envision Charlesgate Park’s full potential to restore critical links for recreation, transportation and green infrastructure.

And, although Party in the Park, our striking annual fundraiser for the Liff Fund, was postponed to 2021, our generous supporters kept with the spirit of the luncheon and affirmed their commitment to the Necklace and the Conservancy. Funds raised will help revitalize Charlesgate Park starting later this year, when two unsightly nonstructural stone walls will be removed thanks to Party in the Park support and a matching grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. This first step will open up new sightlines in this spacious park and mark the beginning of a new chapter in Charlesgate’s long history.

Whether we connected in the parks or “Zoomed” into your home last year, the Emerald Necklace was here for us: a place to clear our heads, lift our spirits or shelter us from the stresses of the pandemic. The ability to find solitude and fresh air in a metro area of over 4 million people—or simply to lose yourself in nature — is a special thing, and doing our part to make these experiences available to our neighbors was our proudest moment in a turbulent year.



Temporary signs, social distancing and countless Zoom engagements were part of our “new normal.”



Taking a Stand for Justice

As we stood witness with the rest of the nation, we were appalled and heartbroken by the murder of George Floyd, the latest tragic victim of this country's centuries-long history of violence toward Black lives. In June, we released a statement of solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement and other organizations calling for action against systemic, racial injustice in our city. In the weeks and months that followed, we looked within to identify and address our own shortcomings in prejudices and practices that perpetuate racism.

Since then, we have been listening and learning how to be allies and advocates, how to use our position as policy influencers to promote equality in programming and access to green space and how to advance the parks of the Emerald Necklace as a place where all are welcome, and injustice is not tolerated. This commitment has influenced decisions and processes both within the Conservancy and beyond, starting with a reexamining of how the 2022 Bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted—America's public space visionary and chief architect of the Emerald Necklace—can contribute to ensuring equity, inclusion and social and spatial justice in our city now and in future.

In the parks, you made your voices heard. Amidst countless protests throughout Greater Boston, in the streets and in our public spaces, Franklin Park—the crown jewel of the Emerald Necklace—became the destination of a march of thousands gathered to condemn police brutality and demand justice for the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and too many more. This tremendous show of humanity, solidarity and support inspires our work and reminds us that the Emerald Necklace, envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted to truly serve all, continues to be a powerful locus for coming together and being “seen coming together.”

In the parks, you made your voices heard.

Advocating for a Restored Franklin Park

“Opportunities like this come once in a century, and we can't afford to miss it.”

KAREN MAUNEY-BRODEK

On the northwestern side of Franklin Park, in what was once the park's green “Heathfield,” the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital awaits demolition. The 13 acres that were carved out of the park 70 years ago to make way for the hospital have spent the last several decades as a complex of buildings and parking lots. Most of the site's services will soon move to a new facility near the Boston Medical Center, and the Commonwealth proposes providing a 99-year lease to a developer to build new facilities for current supportive services and supportive housing for the formerly homeless.

The planned demolition is a historic moment, an opportunity to reunite these lost acres with the public park. While championing the restoration of parkland to the public, we also believe that the site's supportive services are critical in Boston's ongoing opioid epidemic and advocate for locating them in a community setting that supports holistic care: one with easy access to public transit, jobs and daily necessities. Shattuck Hospital's remote and isolated location is not such a site.

Over the past year, we partnered with Northeastern University on three discrete graduate studies to evaluate alternative sites nearby—properties also owned and managed by the Commonwealth. Their research identified the largely vacant MBTA-owned Arborway Yard Bus Facility as a far superior site for the proposed services, with ready access to the Forest Hills MBTA station. Numerous community and transportation organizations have joined

us in championing this site as a better-suited location that also offers the healthful benefits of nearby open space.

For over 120 years, Franklin Park has served the surrounding communities of Roxbury, Mattapan, Dorchester, Roslindale, Jamaica Plain and beyond. While the site's 13 acres may seem insignificant in the park's total area, this site is one of many “carve outs” that, over time, have reduced the free and open area of the park by forty percent. Many of these reduced-access areas directly border the Roxbury, Mattapan and Dorchester neighborhoods, contributing to environmental inequity in our city. We hope to see the 13 acres of the previously paved-over Shattuck complex restored to Franklin Park, their public use determined by a community process.

Says Mauney-Brodek, “This moment represents an extremely rare opportunity to work collaboratively to restore parkland and provide a superior location for critical facilities close to green space and transit. Opportunities like this come once in a century, and we can't afford to miss it, even if getting two public agencies to coordinate and align timing is ‘too hard.’ We see this as a win-win-win. Our high-needs neighborhoods shouldn't have to wait another 99 years for another chance like this. This is our work, it is hard, but that is why we exist.”

Want to learn more? Visit bit.ly/RestoreFP for timelines, updates and to learn how to get involved.



Above: Lemuel Shattuck Hospital. Below: Franklin Park's open and publicly accessible space has diminished by more than forty percent since the park's completion in the 1890s.

A Park Transformation in the Making

The rebirth of Charlesgate Park from an uninviting road-locked plot to a verdant, multi-use green space that connects the Emerald Necklace to Charles River Esplanade, Commonwealth Avenue Mall and beyond takes a lot more than planning and planting. This critical Boston green space link is also a jigsaw puzzle of municipal jurisdictions—the City of Boston, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Department of Transportation (MassDOT) all have a hand in the fate of these 13 acres, while Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MASSDEP) and even the Boston Water and Sewer Commission preside over the water in the Muddy River, which empties into the Charles here.

Last year, landscape architects at Landing Studio completed a new, community-driven park design, including a universally accessible playground and a much-needed dog play area, while the Conservancy and Charlesgate Alliance kept the public informed with regular community meetings and worked to maximize the public sector’s investment in this green space lynchpin. Charlesgate is sandwiched between two major upcoming road infrastructure upgrades: to the north, Storrow Drive’s eastbound bridge is due for replacement in 2023, and, to the south, a section of the Mass Pike is slated for renovation. Leveraging these concurrent projects can bring transformational benefits to Charlesgate Park, from better access for people-powered transportation to improved water quality and urban tree canopy. The synergy even has the potential to result in the “daylighting” of the last 250 feet of the Muddy River—returning the Muddy to the surface,

where it can benefit from exposure to sun, air and native plant life after decades of confinement in aging culverts.

On the ground, incremental enhancements continue to reveal Charlesgate Park’s subtle beauty and its potential to become a vibrant urban oasis once more. Some 650 feet of chain link fence were recently taken down to improve access for park maintenance; trash and dead vegetation were removed during volunteer cleanups; and DCR’s park stewardship was complemented by Project Place’s cleanups for the second consecutive summer. We are proud of the many partners and neighborhood advocates who work tirelessly to secure victories big and small for Charlesgate and the Muddy River: Charlesgate Alliance, Charles River Watershed Association, Esplanade Association, Friends of the Public Garden, Muddy River Initiative and local elected officials—thank you for working with us to envision a better future for Charlesgate.



Left: A rendering of a “daylit” Muddy River at Charlesgate Park. Right: neighbors and stakeholders tour the park.



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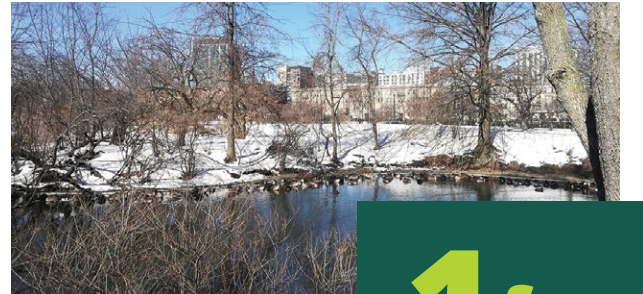
This project is worth it: it doesn’t just help our river and our parks now; it will continue to benefit our green spaces and our City for decades to come.

The Muddy Gets a Makeover

Winding its way through Boston and Brookline, from its source at Jamaica Pond to its mouth on the Charles, the Muddy River traverses several Emerald Necklace parks, and much of its watershed is Olmsted-designed land. The Conservancy itself was founded to advocate for the restoration of the river after several major flooding events shined a spotlight on decades of neglect and urban development. Today, we remain committed to restoring Olmsted’s vision for the Necklace’s central artery.

The Muddy River Restoration Project entered Phase 2 in 2020, marking a major milestone in improving the Muddy’s flood control capabilities—a goal that is increasingly urgent in the face of climate change and intensifying weather events. The US Army Corps of Engineers’ work of dredging the riverbed from Leverett Pond to Justine Mee Liff Park and in the Back Bay Fens, removing invasive plants and restoring the river’s shoreline will significantly improve natural habitat, increase the river’s visibility—literally—to surrounding neighborhoods and, most important, mitigate the potential impacts of Boston’s next “hundred-year storm”.

Restoring the Muddy means many different things. It means improving its waterflow by removing sediment, invasive plants and undersized pipes. It means healthier water, thanks to stormwater runoff systems that don’t flow directly into the river. It means rehabilitating the riverbanks, tending native vegetation after years of neglect and reestablishing habitats for birds, fish and other wildlife. While temporary fencing, large-scale equipment and occasional road closures may be the most visible signs of the project to the onlooker, the Muddy River Restoration Project is worth it: it not only helps our river and our parks now, but it will continue to benefit our green spaces and habitats downstream for decades to come.



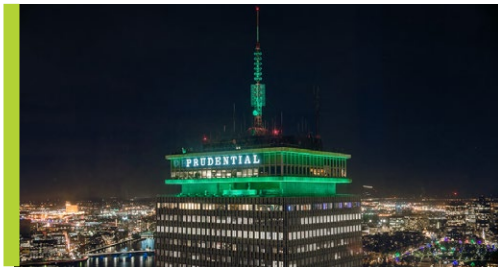
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THE NET CHANGE
IN ELEVATION FROM
THE MUDDY RIVER’S
ORIGIN TO ITS
OUTLET INTO THE
CHARLES RIVER.



A big thank you to our partners for helping spread the word of what it takes to keep our parks healthy, clean and accessible for all!

Partners Shine a Light on the Emerald Necklace



2020 had its fair share of surprises, but, among our reassuring constants, were old and new partnerships that highlighted the Conservancy's work and helped us reach a greater audience of park users and friends. In December 2019, the Prudential Center's 31 Nights of Light literally spot-lit the Emerald Necklace Conservancy with a dedicated evening of emerald lights atop this iconic Boston tower. Later in the winter, we were grateful to continue our years-old partnership with Boston Symphony Orchestra at Night at the Symphony, an evening of music and conversation that supports the annual Party in the Park and the Conservancy's Justine Mee Liff Fund. This year's event included a stunning reception at the recently opened Four Seasons One Dalton Street, Boston, followed by a performance at Symphony Hall, with proceeds benefitting the revitalization of Charlesgate Park.



Ever committed to uncovering the many joys of living and working in the Boston area, *Boston Magazine* amplified our efforts throughout 2020 as a Media Sponsor. From connecting residents with lesser-known parts of the Emerald Necklace by pointing the way to our mobile tour guide, to spreading word of our virtual *Summer on the Emerald Necklace* series, colleagues at the Magazine were by our side as we met rapidly changing circumstances with virtual events and nimble communications. And, in late summer, we were honored to be co-recipients of a 2020 Preservation Massachusetts Olmsted Award together with colleagues at Friends of the Public Garden. The Award recognized our joint vision and stewardship of the entire Emerald Necklace tree canopy. A big thank you to our partners for helping spread the word of what it takes to keep our parks healthy, clean and accessible for all!



Above: The Prudential Center glowed emerald green to spotlight the Conservancy as part of 2019 31 Nights of Light. Below: guests enjoy a reception at Night at the Symphony.

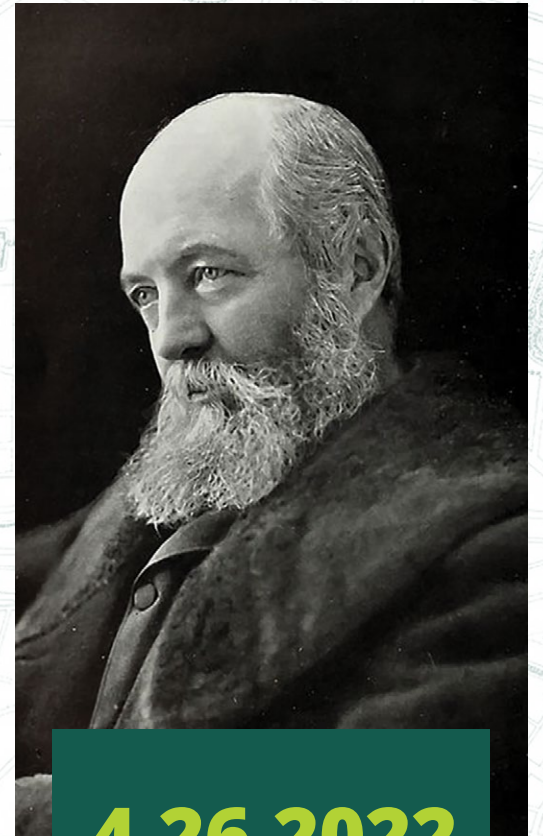
Getting Ready for a Big Birthday

April 26, 2022 will mark the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, America's first landscape architect and chief designer of the Emerald Necklace. Olmsted's legacy of more than 5,000 projects in 45 states and across several countries shaped our nation's concept of public green space, and no city captures his genius better than Boston, home to America's first example of green infrastructure and the capstone project of Olmsted's career—the Emerald Necklace.

In anticipation of this milestone, the Conservancy, in partnership with the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, MA, began planning for the Greater Boston Olmsted Bicentennial in late 2019. Initial conversations coalesced into a vision informed by the significant events of 2020 and centered on the underlying values of Olmsted's designs for public spaces as places of healing, unity and empowerment. We looked beyond park stewardship organizations like ours to broaden the conversation to include partners in arts and culture, institutions of higher learning, community development corporations, health centers and more. The resulting cohort of more than 100 individuals representing over 55 organizations, and growing—large and small, emerging and established, from Boston Harbor to Blue Hills—all share a vision for inclusive, accessible and equitable public green space in Boston, and believe in its power to heal, to unify, to empower.

And, taking an honest look at the leadership of our organizations and those steering the Bicentennial planning, we began forming a Committee of Neighborhoods to better represent all Necklace neighbors and their parks needs in our planning efforts. Meeting alongside task forces on Partnerships in Programs, Inclusion, Communication and Resource Development, the Committee of Neighborhoods will lead the design of an equitable community grants process for learning outcomes and programs for the Bicentennial that share the values of access, empowerment, unity and healing through open space. The resulting platform of cross disciplinary, citywide partnerships and programs, and a legacy of inclusive planning and decision-making, is the best birthday gift we can think of for Olmsted and our city.

Planning for Olmsted Now: Greater Boston's Olmsted Bicentennial kicks off in spring 2021, with programming to take place from April to October 2022. Visit olmstednow.org to learn more.



4.26.2022

**200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF FREDERICK LAW
OLMSTED'S BIRTH**

PARK SYSTEM
FROM
COMMON TO FRANKLIN PARK
PARKS ARE HERE FOR YOU / 15
CHARLES RIVER BASIN, CHARLESBANK, COMMONWEALTH AVENUE
BACK BAY FENS, MUDDY RIVER IMPROVEMENT, LEVERETT PARK
JAMAICA PARK, ARBORWAY AND ARNOLD ARBORETUM.

Thank You to Our Supporters!

Our deepest thanks to the individuals, foundations, corporations and government and institutional partners who contributed so generously to our pursuit of our mission to restore and improve the Emerald Necklace for all.

Individual Donors

\$50,000+

Brooke C. and John R. Cook ^E
Kate and Ben Taylor ^{E, L}

\$25,000-\$49,999

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“Nothing has so consistently lifted my spirits like the Emerald Necklace!”

— SALLY

THANK YOU

“These yoga classes have been extremely beneficial for me and my wife and is probably the MAIN reason that it has kept us sane during COVID. We both enjoy this tremendously and have been a constant source of joy.”

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“Since moving to the Jamaica Tower, Ward’s Pond has become my backyard... Now, with all this quarantining, there are many neighbors out picking up garbage—the woods have never been cleaner!”

— LIZ

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Donor list reflects donations between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020.

- £ Emerald Fund Donor
- £ Liff Fund Donor
- £ Olmsted Tree Society Donor

† Deceased

We have done our best to accurately list our donors. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions and contact us at 617.522.2700 to help us correct our records. Thank you.

Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2020

REVENUE

Grants and Contributions

Emerald Fund	1,955,717
Olmsted Tree Society	3,710
Justine Mee Liff Fund—Party in the Park*	216,850
Total Grants and Contributions	2,330,277
Investments & Other Income	574,662
Paycheck Protection Program	154,000
Total Revenue	\$2,904,939

EXPENSES

Programs / Projects / Events

Education & Youth Programs	163,581
Park Events and Visitor Services	169,530
Maintenance, Restoration & Volunteers	378,441
Olmsted Tree Society Tree Management Program	676,404
Justine Mee Liff Fund—Party in the Park	
Total Programs / Projects / Events	\$1,387,956

Program Support

Fundraising	408,491
Administration	358,661
Total Program Support	\$767,152
Total Expenses	\$2,155,108

NET ASSETS

Fixed Assets—Shattuck Visitor Center	685,810
Operating Funds	625,748
Olmsted Tree Society	662,054
Shattuck Endowment	834,560
Justine Mee Liff Fund**	3,712,537
Total Net Assets	\$6,520,709

This is a non-audited financial summary for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020.

The independent auditor's report, including financial statements, is available on the Conservancy's website at emeraldnecklace.org/about-us.

** Party in the Park raises funds for the Justine Mee Liff Fund.*

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Join Us in Caring for the Emerald Necklace

Restoring and improving the Emerald Necklace for all – all 1,100 acres of it – is only possible with support from friends like you. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy relies on philanthropic gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations to steward the parks for today's users and future generations of Bostonians. Make an impact for the Emerald Necklace today, and ensure its vibrancy into the future, with a gift to the Conservancy. In addition to making a donation online or through the mail, there are many ways to give, including:

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies offer a matching gift program to current employees, which could double, triple or even quadruple your generous contribution to the Conservancy – at no cost to you! Make the most of your gift today by finding out whether your company matches gifts.

GIFTS OF STOCK

To transfer a gift of publicly traded stock, simply provide your broker with the following information:

Fidelity Investments
#X01-568880
DTC#0226
Tax ID #04-3414988

Please notify our Development Office at 617.522.2700 with a description of the stock transfer (number of shares and company) so that your gift can be acknowledged accurately.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS

Giving through a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF) allows individuals, families and organizations to make tax-deductible donations of cash, stock and other assets to the Conservancy through one centralized giving account. Have a DAF? Recommend a grant to the Emerald Necklace Conservancy today!

PLANNED GIFTS

A planned gift is any gift made during life or at death as part of your overall financial or estate plan. A planned gift can allow you to make a substantial contribution to the Conservancy at a reduced cost to you and your family by:

- Taking advantage of tax benefits
- Retaining use of the asset during your lifetime, and/or
- Maximizing the after-tax benefits to your heirs.

Speak with your estate attorney about a planned gift to benefit the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and let us know if you have generously included the Conservancy in your estate plans.

To learn more about all the ways you can support the Conservancy, visit www.emeraldnecklace.org/donate.



PARKS WERE HERE FOR YOU

Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Mailing Address: 350 Jamaicaaway, Boston, MA 02130

Shattuck Visitor Center: 125 The Fenway, Boston, MA 02115

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