



Year In Review 2022
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

GRASSROOTS SUPPORT FOR A GREEN COMMUNITY

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance recognizes the contribution of our green infrastructure to our quality of life and so we have continued in 2022 to advocate for Brookline's parks and green spaces. We supported Brookline's application for a MAPC grant, Accelerating Climate Resilience, wrote comment letters to protect Riverway Park in the Emerald Necklace and held seats on ENC Park Advisors Committee and The Muddy River Restoration Project Maintenance & Management Oversight Committee.

Beyond Brookline we have advocated for funding for State parks and for a no net loss policy for public land in the Commonwealth. An Act Preserving Open Space in the Commonwealth, the Public Lands Preservation Act, sponsored by Ruth Balser (now representing Brookline's Precincts 5, 13A, 14 & 15) was signed into law in November 2022!

We are strong advocates of the Emerald Necklace and helped honor F. L. Olmsted's bi-centennial anniversary. BGSA celebrated the Summer Solstice at Fisher Hill Reservoir Park, and awarded two significant grants to Park Friends groups through our Park Improvement Program.

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance continues to monitor the Town Parks budget to ensure level funding for the Division of Parks and Open Space. It is important to remain vigilant about maintenance while at the same time supporting sources for innovative approaches and needed updates to our facilities.

BGSA continues to submit comment letters for Town Warrant articles that positively or negatively impact open space in Brookline, including articles dealing with zoning by-laws, land acquisition and sustainability.





First event of 2022, the Brookline Tree Warden led winter tree identification walk as part of BGSA environmental learning program. A winter bird walk followed, later in the month.



In the spirit and recommendation of the Brookline Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance donated 3 trees - an American Elm, a Cornelian Cherry Dogwood, and a Stewartia to be planted at the hill along side the Denny Health Center on Harvard Street. These trees symbolize a greener, more sustainable Brookline in 2023.



BGSA provides services to Park Friends Groups. A virtual Friends Group meeting was held in June. In 2022 we were able to make significant grants to two friends groups, Friends of the Longwood Mall and Friends of Hall's Pond, to assist them in fund raising for major projects. Applications for further grants are still being accepted.

We also act as fiscal sponsor for local environmental organizations.

Please join us for our virtual BGSA Annual Meeting

Health Benefits of Green Space

Thursday, April 21, 6-7 pm

Join BGSA in promoting public health through green space

The 35th Brookline GreenSpace Alliance Annual Meeting features Patrick Kinney, the Beverly A. Brown Professor for the Improvement of Urban Health in the Department of Environmental Health at the Boston University School of Public Health.

Celebrate 35 years of environmental advocacy



Thursday April 21, 6pm

In April, BGSA celebrated 35 years of working for open space in Brookline. In May we sponsored Brookline's first Parks' Spring Fest.

Save the Date for **Spring Fest 2022**

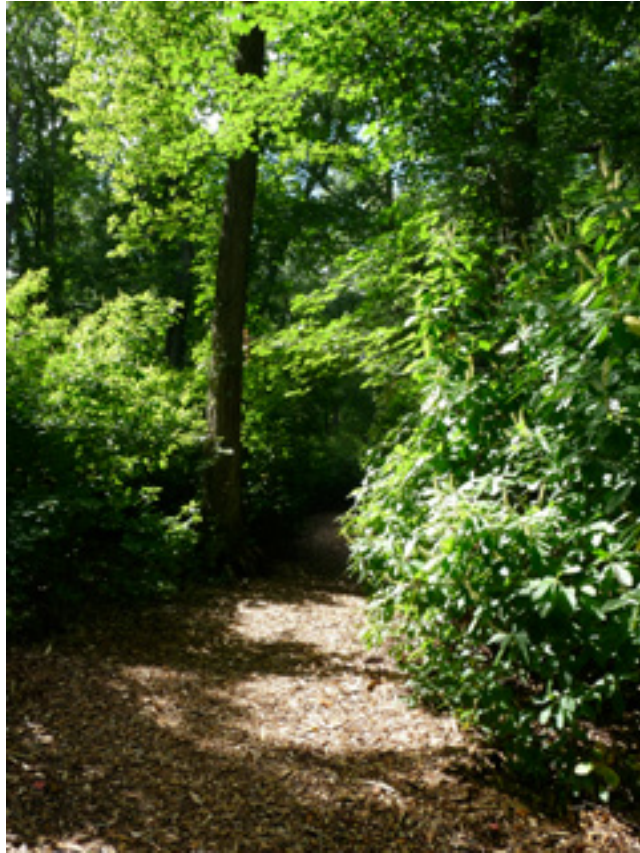
A Celebration of Trees and Fredrick Law Olmsted's Bicentennial

Presented by the Brookline DPW



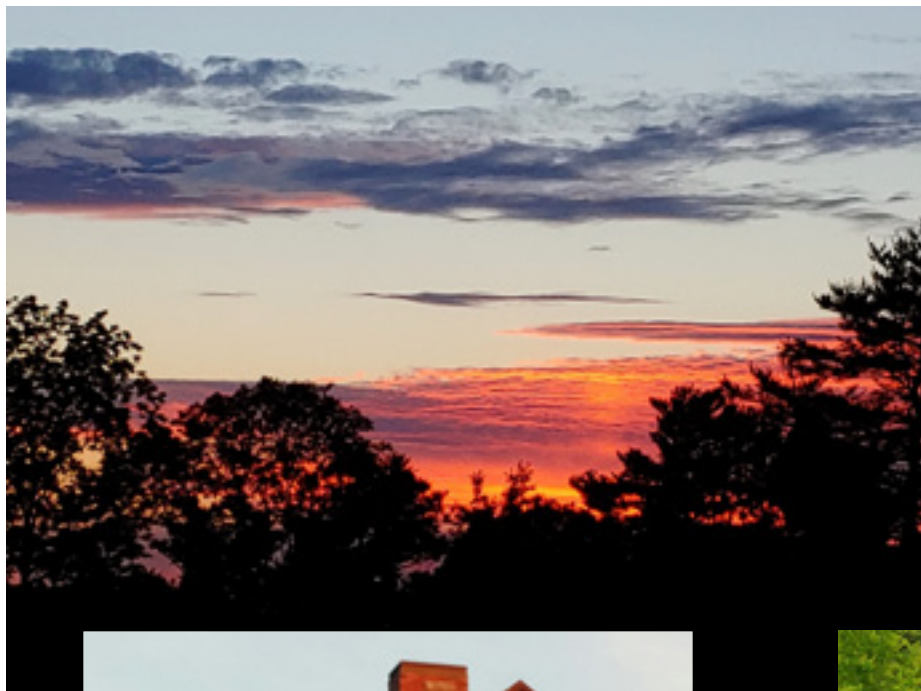
Saturday May 7th, 2022 from 11am-2pm
at Olmsted Park Allerton Overlook (rain date May 14th)

*Lawn Games *Food Trucks *Live Music
*Educational Booths *Sidewalk Art

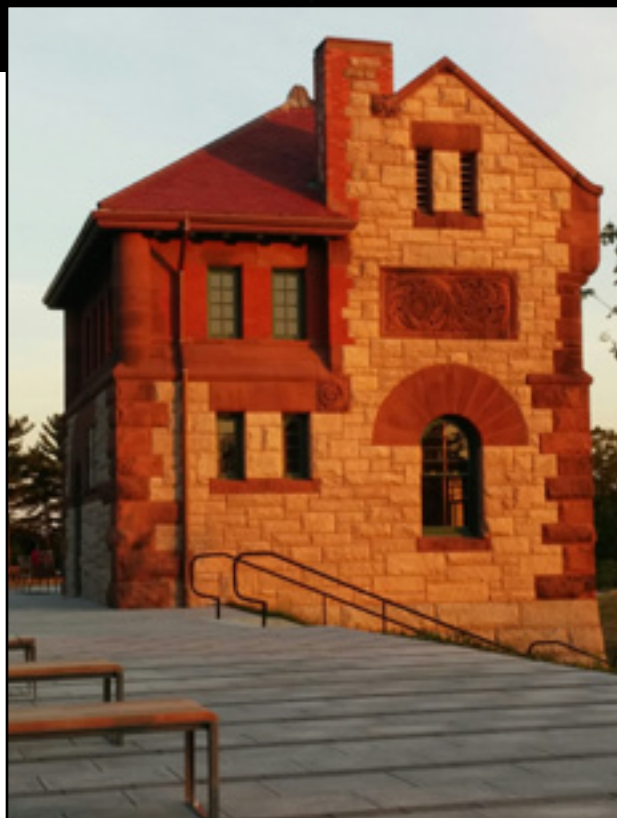


A guided nature walk at Lost Pond in June





June 21, Summer Solstice walk at Fisher Hill Reservoir Park.





Part of our community outreach included participation in Brookline Day at Coolidge Corner. It was an opportunity to share our passion for parks and open space. We also sponsored the first Park & Open Space Division Springfest and participated in the Emerald Necklace Conservancy's OlmstedNow Parkfest.



Brookline GreenSpace Alliance continued to offer its publication, PLACE. PLACE is mailed to our members and distributed at Brookline's Public Libraries and at park kiosks. Archived issues of PLACE can be found on the publications page of the BGSA website.

Financial Report

2022 was an extra-ordinary year for Brookline GreenSpace Alliance. In fiscal year 2022, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance received \$ 113,225, of which \$70,000 are committed for specific use, and spent \$34,448.

Income includes contributions to BGSA (23%), donations to organizations for which we act as fiscal sponsor (25%), and a special one-time award from the State to be dispersed as part of our support of park volunteers (44%), as well as other sources such as a contribution from the USGA (8%).

Programming comprises 84% of the BGSA expenses and consists of PLACE, our semi-annual newsletter distributed to 1,800 residents and PIP grants given to two Park Friends groups. Administrative expenses are 16% of the disbursements.

The above percentages do not reflect the many hours of unpaid professional volunteer time donated by Board members that contribute to Brookline GreenSpace Alliance operations and programming. As we are currently operating as an all-volunteer organization, we are able to rebuild our reserve fund and work toward the goal of continuing as a strong, contributing non-profit organization into the future.

We thank all of our members throughout Brookline, and several from beyond our borders, who annually support our work through donations, gifts and volunteerism and thereby support our mission of local environmental education and advocacy.