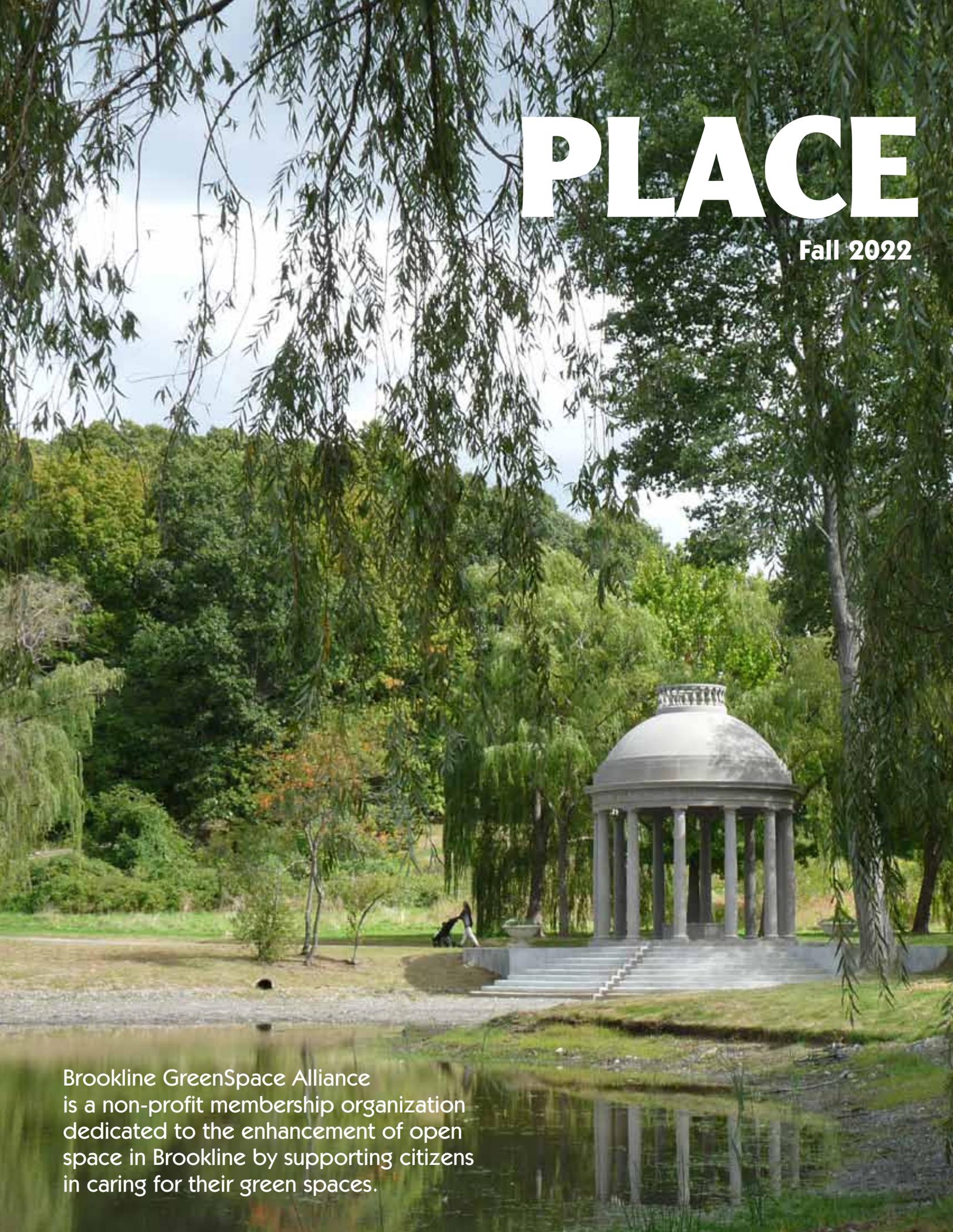


PLACE

Fall 2022



Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
is a non-profit membership organization
dedicated to the enhancement of open
space in Brookline by supporting citizens
in caring for their green spaces.

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Friends of Billy Ward Playground
Friends of Boylston Street Playground
Friends of Brookline Reservoir
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Friends of Coolidge Corner Library Garden
Friends of Cypress Street Playground
Friends of Dane Park
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Friends of the Green Dog Program
Friends of Griggs Park
Friends of Hall's Pond
Friends of Hoar Sanctuary
Friends of Larz Anderson Park
Friends of Lawrence Park
Friends of Leverett Pond
Friends of Linden Park
Friends of Littlefield Park
Friends of Lost Pond
Friends of Minot Rose Garden
Friends of Monmouth Park
Friends of the Muddy River
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Friends of Sargent Pond
Friends of Soule
Friends of Waldstein Park
Garden Club of Brookline
Griggs Park Neighborhood Association
Lawton Park Community Garden
Larz Anderson Auto Museum
Linden Parks Association

Editor Marian Lazar

BGSA is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax deductible.

Cover photo: New Tempietto at Larz Anderson Lagoon. See page 6 for more information.

PIP Grants Awarded

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is pleased to announce the first in a series of Park Initiative Program Grants. In this cycle of grant making two Park Friends Groups, the Friends of Hall's Pond and the Friends of Longwood Mall were chosen to receive funding for projects in their parks. The grants are made possible from funds obtained by State Representative Tommy Vitolo for the Alliance to use to support Park Friends groups.

The Friends of Hall's received \$10,000 to replace two gates that separate the Sanctuary from the active uses of Amory Park. The Alliance grant will be matched by funds raised by the Friends and the Town.

Friends of Longwood Mall received \$8,500 to be added to the Friends fundraising goal of \$25,000. The money will fund treatment of the trees on Longwood Mall threatened by Beech Leaf Disease. The Town has enough money for the initial treatment this fall but care and treatment for the trees will be ongoing and evolving.



One of the old gates at Hall's Pond that will be replaced. The existing gates are in poor repair and hard to close. New gates will be semi-self closing.

Beech tree on Longwood Mall



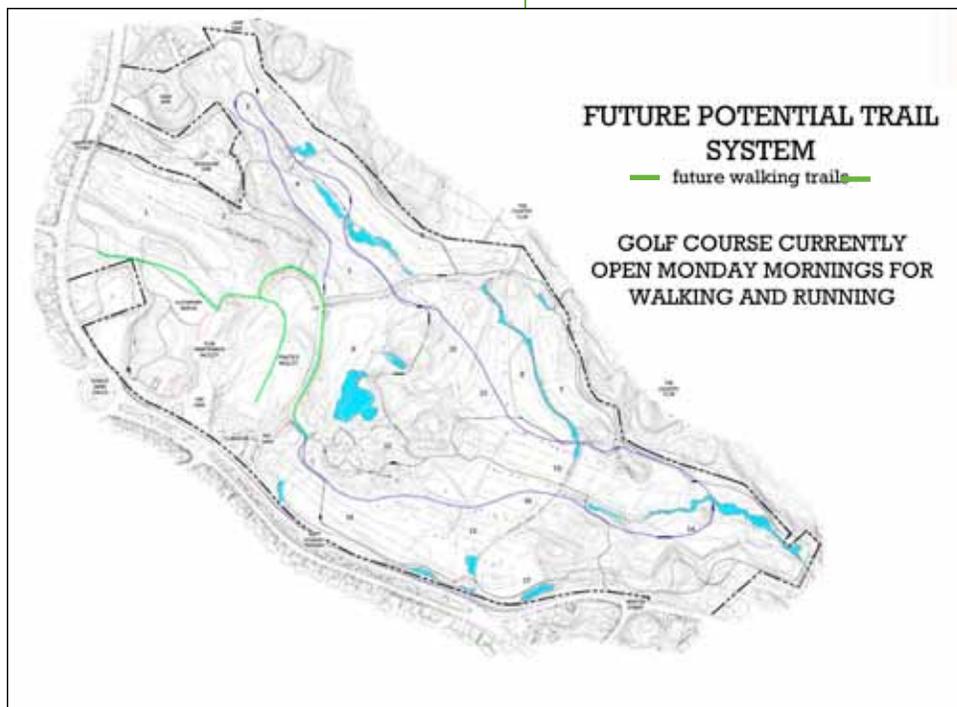
The Future of Brookline's Golf Course

By Justin Lawson, PGA, General Manager

The Robert T. Lynch Municipal Golf Course (a.k.a. Putterham Meadows or the Brookline Golf Course) located in South Brookline, is currently in the master planning process with a Design Review Committee putting together a Landscape Master Plan. The golf course property is approximately 120 acres of greenspace that features a tremendous wildlife habitat, large sections of forested land, a system of creeks and ditches, as well as an 18 hole golf course complete with a driving range and historical clubhouse. The golf course property is home to many species of wildlife including coyote, turkey, red tail hawks, fox, deer, large flocks of geese, chipmunks, turtles, squirrels and many species of birds and insects. There have even been sightings of a bald eagle, bear, and a story of a moose.... One of the most important roles the greenspace plays is the filtering and storage of storm water from the surrounding neighborhoods. The watershed this property serves is almost one square mile, which sends its runoff through the golf course and its vast system of creeks and ditches before it leaves the property in a culvert under Hammond Street. Many locals have witnessed the flood storage the greenspace provides during large rain events. Many times during the year, the property will flood during peak seasons of precipitation, which is driving the desire to have a Landscape Master Plan, so investments can be planned to ensure year round activity can be realized more consistently.

The Design Review Committee overseeing this process with the design team from Mungam Golf Design is focused on maximizing the functionality, playability, and aesthetics of the property. They are also focused on incorporating other recreational activities and have identified the possibility to add a network of trails; connecting nearby Dane Park and activating the potential of Putterham Woods; as well as an outdoor pavilion, dog park, a pond, Nordic sports, racquet center and possibly more. Another important aspect of this Landscape Master Plan is the creation of an Agronomy Plan and a Tree Management Plan. The agronomy plan will focus on providing an action plan that can provide a better management of the property to lower the amount of additional resources to maintain a healthier playing surface and property features. The plan will provide suggestions to improve the property by looking at mowing frequencies and techniques, top dressing practices, aeration techniques, sunlight/airflow management, soil ph amendments, and possibly adjusting the integrated pest management program. All these

A page from the draft Master Plan showing possible walking trails in green.



(Continued on page 4)

BGSA supports Article 10

Articles of Interest in the Fall Town Meeting Warrant

More information on all warrant articles can be found at <https://www.brookline.gov/DocumentCenter/View/35030/Article-Explanations-November-15-2022-STMI>

Article 10—Tree Protection Bylaw

Activists have tried for many years to create a means of controlling the clear cutting of properties slated for development. The proposed bylaw is based on Concord’s, which has been successfully in effect for six years. The intent of this Tree Preservation Bylaw is to encourage the preservation and protection of certain trees in connection with significant demolition and/or construction activity by designating areas of a lot where trees must be protected, and by requiring mitigation for trees that are removed by either the replanting of trees or the collection of fees to support the Town’s tree planting and maintenance efforts.

Article 33—Beekeeping

The current zoning permit process for bee hives is onerous and expensive. The revised bylaw allows keeping bees, provided that no hive may be less than 20 feet from any window, door, or other opening in any structure on any other lot; and further provided that no hive be within six feet of any lot line or placed in a location visible from the street; and subject to such restrictions as to number, and as to location and size of special structures and enclosures, as may be imposed by the Director of Public Health of the Town of Brookline. No beehive shall be placed upon a lot nor retained on a lot without a current permit provided by the Director of Public Health . This new Accessory Use will be permitted in every zoning district.

Article 39—Resolution regarding the study and use of the Golf Course

Broaden the scope of the Golf Course Landscape Master Plan to consider what other uses are feasible within the 120 acres, taking into account the wants expressed in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space 2019 Strategic Master Plan Survey. The plan should include at least one option with a 9 hole golf course. The plan should include potential uses such as a perimeter path, wetland restoration, Miyawaki forest, tree nursery, community gardens, playing fields, tennis/pickleball courts, a community pool, a fenced in dog park, and/or other recreational needs identified and expressed by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Golf Course continued from page 4

changes, along with improving the infrastructure on the property will allow for a more stable environment that will lead to less dependency on chemical inputs. This plan will allow a tailored approach to the current condition of the course and to how it develops in the future. The Tree Management Plan will be focused on reestablishing the tree canopy in certain areas on the property, while removing high risk trees that are in poor health.

I believe the comprehensive master planning process has involved extensive public input. At 11 public meetings residents engaged the committee and design team with wants, needs, and feedback. There has been a tremendous collaboration for all involved, and with the proven track record of the design team, the future of this open space is very green and its development will be exciting to witness.

Life on the Course

by Mark Lewis

I've never been a golfer but I was recently a caddy for my 13-year-old. He walked into our house on a beautiful Friday evening asking for a ride to Putterham. I was game— every parent will know the warm feeling you get when your kiddo takes the initiative and wants to do something (anything!) active and outdoors.

The fellow in charge of the clubhouse was friendly as he looked at the clock and shrugged. The sun was already low on the horizon. “You’ll be the last group.” At the first hole another golfer ran up and asked to join us. He turned out to be well-matched to my son with good tips to share. He and I swapped parenting stories. His son attends Brookline High and had begged him for years to play football. Finally, he and his wife caved with the condition he would only be a kicker. This past year he was a starting quarterback. Ah yes— how to be protective enough and not too much.

As we neared the 5th hole, a turkey started squawking at us. It took a while to locate the bird perched high in a beautiful specimen oak. The sun went below the horizon leaving us in beautiful faint light and soon enough the remaining light was following the sun elsewhere. By the time we played the last hole, it was dead dark and we had our phones out searching for the ball. My son’s best putt was a blind shot that we knew had been on the money when we heard the ball hit the flag in the hole.

The lack of light pollution coming from Putterham is a good thing that I had never before considered. This is good both for wildlife and for stargazers. Nonetheless, there are no doubt other pollutants coming from this land—fertilizers and pesticides disrupting the natural diversity in the landscape. Nonetheless, from an experience I had while taking care of beehives placed at George Wright Golf Course (Brookline Country Club has also recently had beehives), property managers can often be quite sympathetic to these concerns and willing to take actions to address them.

Putterham has recently come under scrutiny by those proposing to take it over and divvy it up into a host of other recreational facilities. I’m opposed to this idea. This piece of land is a gem and, as far as I can tell, it is being fairly well-managed. The use of the public golf course has historically been a good bargaining chip for access to other athletic facilities (e.g. local colleges and universities) as a previous issue of PLACE pointed out.

As a beekeeper and a tree-hugger, I would support curtailing or eliminating pesticides, testing the water to eliminate fertilizer runoff, exploring various ways to expand habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, installing solar panels over the parking lots, and increasing public bike and ADA connections via a newly designated trail.

While I oppose a draconian approach to Putterham, I do hope the new proposal will serve to open a dialog about specific ways in which the management of this land can continue to align with the values of our community.

Mark Lewis is a local beekeeper and member of the BGSA board



New Tempietto (Temple of Love), Causeway and Bridge at Larz Anderson Park Lagoon



September 10th marked the reopening of the structures at the Lagoon in Larz Anderson Park. All three structures were more than 100 years old and could no longer be repaired. Careful laser measurement of the temple allowed for the production of an exact replica, including the patterned floor and the “Water Sprite” font.

The occasion also marked John Bain’s retirement from the Park and Recreation Commission. John (in turquoise shirt at left) had served on the Commission for more than 30 years, many of those as chair.



Interior of the tempietto with recreated font and terrazzo floor.

The lagoon with the new causeway and bridge.



Renovated Cypress Field and Playground



Plaza at Greenough Street opposite Brookline High School: Two mature Linden trees were saved by the advocacy of GreenSpace board members Hugh Mattison and Deborah Rivers.



Spectators watching a High School Girls' Soccer game on recently re-opened natural grass Cypress Field



New play equipment at one of the oldest playgrounds in the country.

“Play is not merely a good thing for the child; it is an essential part of the process of his growth . . . it is for the sake of play that infancy exists.”

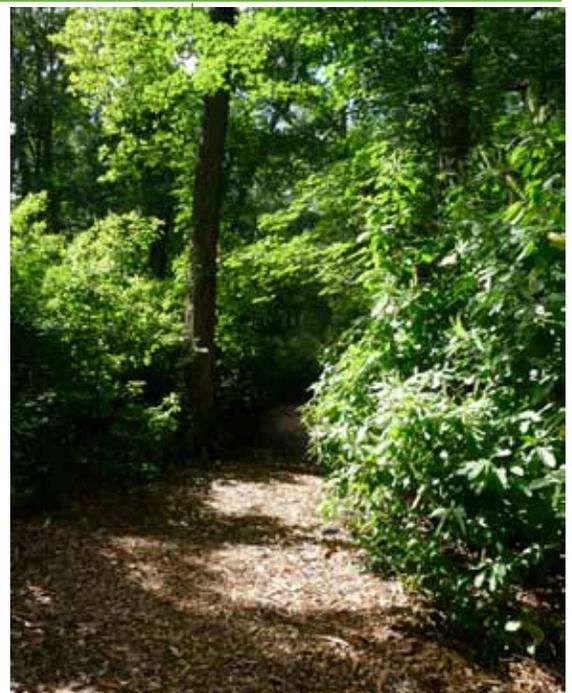
—Joseph Lee, of the Brookline Lee family, President Playground Association, 1916, often referred to as Father of the American Playground

Cypress Field and playground renovation is the result of cooperation between neighborhood groups, the Park and Recreation Commission and members of the BGSA board of directors. Two difficult issues were resolved in the planning process for the park; should there be artificial turf or natural grass and could some of the mature trees on the property be saved. The results speak for themselves.

Photos by Deborah Rivers

Lost Pond Sanctuary Trails Renewed

Thanks to a grant from The Country Club the Parks and Open Space Division was able to renew the trails in the wetlands section of the Lost Pond Sanctuary. The grant was partial mitigation for disturbance resulting from the Golf Open 2022 in June. Due to heavy foot traffic during the pandemic, and to soil subsidence, the trails had become almost impassable. Tree roots crisscrossed the trail and made walking extremely difficult. The project consisted of bringing in wheelbarrow loads of gravel to raise the level of the trail above the roots. The gravel was covered with a layer of wood chips. Eventually the chips and leaves from the trees will combine to create a natural landscape.





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Support for Friends Groups

One of the primary objectives of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is to support and foster volunteer groups who help care for our parks. Park Friends groups' contribution to the quality of life in Brookline is invaluable and BGSA acts as their backup system.

The Umbrella functions of the Alliance include acting as fiscal agent; promoting activities throughout the year through email announcements, Facebook and Twitter; holding informational meetings with the Park & Recreation Commissioner; and hosting gatherings to exchange ideas.

By supplying a strong network of park volunteers, BGSA enables individual groups to raise funds for special projects, attract more volunteers to their parks, and foster a sense of stewardship throughout Brookline.

**Join the Alliance
Get involved!**

A Year Above the Gardens

Beginning Tuesday, November 1st, and running through the end of December, the Public Library of Brookline at Coolidge Corner will be exhibiting a unique group of photographs of the Community Gardens at Larz Anderson Park. The show, entitled 'A Year Above the Gardens', consists of 22 photographs shot with a camera-drone. Taken from the identical vantage point over the course of one year, the photographic prints show the gardens in diverse times of bloom, decay, and rest. The Coolidge Corner Library is located at 31 Pleasant Street, Brookline.

The photography project is the work of John Rich, a long-time Brookline resident, professional photographer and artist.

From the artist's statement:

"By focusing on a landscape transformed through seasonal change and human intervention, the images allow us to connect to the earth and perceive the affirmative power of change."

www.johnrichphoto.com

