

PLACE

Fall 2009



BROOKLINE
GreenSpace
ALLIANCE
Grassroots support for a green community

In this issue

Engineering &
Hydrology

Flood of 1996

Contaminated Water

The Restoration
Project

Friends Insert

BGSA presents a photo exhibition
“Hidden Spaces, Public Places”
Hunneman Hall, Main Branch of the
Brookline Public Library.

Opening Reception
Monday, Nov. 2, 5:30 PM
Presentation and Refreshments



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.

The Muddy River: Engineering Nature

by Kate Bowditch, Hydrologist

“...the unsightly, foul-smelling, mud-bordered waterways have become... places of surpassing beauty.” From *A History of Brookline, Massachusetts* by John William Denehy, 1905

This August, as Hurricane Bill swung on an uncertain course towards New England, the Muddy River’s flood watch team went onto alert. Though the river was at its lowest flow levels of the year, its eroded banks exposed and its surface stagnant, the flood team knew what few residents think about: the Muddy River can change from a trickling tributary to a violent flood in a matter of hours.

When it rains, stormwater runoff from about two thirds of Brookline’s 6.8 square miles flows directly into the Muddy River through underground pipes; millions of gallons of water pour into the river from a handful of storm drain outfalls. Over time, thanks in large part to those surges of stormwater, the river has become choked with sediment, debris and vegetation, reducing its ability to carry floodwaters quickly out to the Charles River and Boston Harbor. The same sediment and debris have polluted the river, damaging habitats and allowing contaminants to build up.

Managing the Muddy River so it can safely handle these enormous storm flows and still survive as a tranquil, healthy stream in between storms is a tremendous challenge, and one we have been gradually losing over the past twenty years.

Conventional engineering might have had us give up on the tranquil stream. In order to control the occasional but serious floods, reduce erosion and protect property, many cities and towns have chosen to enclose streams in concrete culverts, often burying them altogether -- as we did to the Village

Urban Hydrology

1.2 inches of rain – which in Brookline might occur several times per year – generates over 32,000 gallons of water per acre. Brookline is over 4,300 acres, much of it paved over with roads and buildings and driveways, generating tens of millions of gallons of stormwater runoff in even a moderate storm. It should come as no surprise that the elevation of the Muddy River can rise three to four feet in a matter of hours.

Brook which once flowed from as far as Cleveland Circle all the way through town to what is now Leverett Pond. In the past, politicians and engineers thought these were the best solutions and generations of civil engineers became expert at sizing pipes and designing concrete stream channels. Along the way, natural streams and wetlands were lost, and larger rivers that could not be buried or culverted gradually deteriorated as pollution and occasional floods destroyed

continued on page 6

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Recollections of the Muddy River Flood October 1996

by Deborah Rivers, LEED Accredited Architect

As I started this article on a rainy September Saturday, I thought back to that weekend almost 13 years ago, in October 1996, where it rained approximately 9 inches in 3 days. On Saturday of that weekend, as we drove into the Fenway area on a routine errand we noticed that the Muddy River had overflowed its banks closing off a lane of the Riverway. This did not seem that unusual, as it is a low-lying area and there had already been quite a bit of rain. It continued to rain, heavy at times, for the rest of the day and all day Sunday.

The surprise came on Monday morning as I headed to work. When I got to the Green Line station at Brookline Hills, I found out that we were being bused to Copley because the tunnel leading to Kenmore station, and the station itself, were flooded. The MBTA had lost its institutional memory of the dam that could have been placed across the tunnel portal at the Fenway station allowing the same surplus water that caused the Riverway to flood to make its way through the tunnel to flood Kenmore station. The flood was not discovered until the first trip Monday morning when an outbound driver reached a low point in the tunnel and encountered water. The bussing continued for a week and since all the signals were wiped out, the

restored Green Line service crawled through the tunnels for several months with subterranean flag persons.

At work, one of our clients, Wentworth Institute of Technology, had recently opened a new Computer Center designed by my firm. Located on the ground floor, it was flooded as were many other ground floor spaces in the various institutions which comprise the Colleges of the Fenway including Northeastern University, Wheelock College and Simmons College. The Colleges of the Fenway have been very supportive of the Muddy River Restoration project because of its flood control provisions. Part of the original concept of the Muddy River as envisioned by Fredrick Law Olmsted was to act as a flood plain; because the system had not been properly maintained, this time it could not handle the amount of rain that fell. Fenway institutions, Brookline homeowners, T riders, and taxpayers all paid the price.

New controls are in place in the Fenway, but to avoid the far reaching consequences of floods like that in 1996, the Muddy River Project needs to move forward and widen the river bed in Brookline and Boston by removing invasive plants and dredging the River.

I hope we have learned our lesson.



Muddy River flowing over its banks after heavy rain in 2008.

Executive Director's Statement

by Edward Hsieh

This issue of PLACE is focused on one park in our town, the Emerald Necklace. We have a world-famous park system in our town to enjoy.....and to care for.

I am fairly new to town, but it seems that many in town –new and old- need reminding of the importance of the system and the commitments and responsibility our Town has to the park system. We need to be reminded that the Emerald Necklace was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the first American landscape architect, noted for Central Park in New York, who turned what was once an unhealthy swamp into an enjoyable watershed system; and that Olmsted-designed parks are so important to our state that the 1984 and 1987 MA Open Space environmental bond bills committed \$32 million to a state-wide Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Program.

After years of neglect, the Town of Brookline and City of Boston approved an Emerald Necklace Master Plan in 1989 and that Master Plan is the guiding source for the rehabilitation and restoration of the Muddy River parks in the Emerald Necklace. We need to remember that the Town of Brookline Board of Selectmen signed a Memorandum of Understanding over a decade ago agreeing to cooperate to ensure the success of a restoration project, and that other memoranda of agreement and understanding followed; and that the MA legislature at the urging of the Office of Environmental Affairs, approved \$24 million for the Muddy River Project in the 2002 environmental bond bill. But most of all we must recognize that if the Project does not go forward we could be victim to another flood while this unique gem of a park system continues to sit in a state of disrepair.

One of my coaches at a recreational sporting group, who owns a home near the Riverway, cannot emphasize enough how important it is to clean up and dredge the Muddy River. He remembers walking into his basement one

night in 1996 to find it knee deep with water. He also recounts how many times he remembers being shocked that he could see the bottom of the river at Riverway Park. It was ironic to him that a river so seemingly shallow could so suddenly trash his basement. *He* does not need reminders of how important the Emerald Necklace is to flood control and public health, and how badly it needs repair.

Riverway Park has received proportionally less money in Town funds than any other park, and delayed maintenance in the Emerald Necklace had severe consequences. This November, Brookline Town Meeting must vote YES on appropriations for restoring the Carlton Street Footbridge a historic element whose reopening was committed to in all previous agreements. Then the Town can consult with the Massachusetts Historic Commission and apply for grants to subsidize Bridge work. If it is what we want as a community, the Restoration Project will move ahead. Remembering previous commitments, we should keep our part of the agreements with Boston and the State government and invest in the Muddy River Parks. The citizens of Brookline deserve having the necessary work done to undo years of neglect because now the water is polluted, much parkland shabby, and the possibility of flooding is real.

So, it is good to focus on our own piece of the Emerald Necklace and decide together how as a community we are going to care for it so that many may enjoy, not fear, it.

Edward Hsieh,
BGSA Executive Director

NOTE: Express your opinion. Town Meeting Members contact information can be found at the Town website <http://www.brooklinema.gov/> Volunteer opportunities exist with Emerald Necklace Park Friends groups. See www.brookline-greenspace.org for information on local groups.

The Olmsted firm's plan for the Muddy River section of the Emerald Necklace, from Charlesgate to Jamaica Pond.



Creating the Emerald Necklace

by Allen Banks

Supervisory Park Ranger, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

In the mid-nineteenth century, with the explosive development and growth of cities, the opportunity to shape the American landscape was unprecedented. Frederick Law Olmsted moved to the forefront of the American park movement beginning in 1858 with his work on New York's Central Park. In Buffalo, he and his partner Calvert Vaux designed a whole system of greenspaces linked by tree-lined parkways. Olmsted would later move his home and office to Brookline and create arguably his greatest expression of integrated greenspaces - Brookline and Boston's "Emerald Necklace".

Broad in concept and exacting in detail, Frederick Law Olmsted's design for the Emerald Necklace is considered a paradigm in the development of linear park systems. Stretching seven miles, from the urbane landscapes of the Boston Common and Public Garden to the rustic meadows and woodlands of Franklin Park, this continuous green ribbon has been used and loved by people for well over a century. The "Emerald Necklace" was designed and constructed during the last quarter of the 19th century with a simple purpose: To provide a healthy environment for people where the spirit of community could be nurtured. Within this broad social context was a focused vision on how these parks could best serve the city. No where was this more evident than on his work along the Muddy River.

The Back Bay Fens

In many ways, it was solving the problem of sewage control that was the genesis of the Emerald Necklace. The area now known as the Back Bay Fens had by the mid-19th century turned from a malodorous nuisance to a full blown health hazard.

"For many years past there has been a growing feeling among the more intelligent of our physicians, whose habits of study lead them especially to watch the public health, that our high death-rates are connected more or less directly with the defects and evils of our sewerage system, more especially in the low lying and original tidal districts." From Report by the Commission to Samuel C. Cobb, Mayor of Boston, (Boston City Document 3. 1875)

"It was the necessity of meeting these difficulties [of the Fens] the entire modern park system of Boston

had its beginning." Sylvester Baxter, *Boston Park Guide*, 1898

Turning to Frederick Law Olmsted, the city sought to combine a practical water/sewerage control mechanism with a piece of pleasing landscape design. Working in tandem, Olmsted and the city's engineer, dredged, shaped, and planted out the area to restore the health of this last vestige of the colonial Back Bay. Within this design were state of the art engineering mechanisms that regulated water and sewerage and brought the area back to health. In some ways it was "progressive nostalgia" - restoring the look and feel of the original tidal area that the growth of the city had destroyed, but using modern engineering techniques to answer contemporary problems. With the area thus stabilized, the surrounding neighborhood could be developed.

The Muddy River

"Muddy River - a fresh water course bordered by passages of rushy meadow and varied slopes from the adjoining upland; trees in groups, diversified by thickets and open glades," - Frederick Law Olmsted, 1881

In the late 1870's, Olmsted began work on the Muddy River Improvement, also known as the Riverway. Building on his work in the Fens, Olmsted "suggested" that this same combination of design and engineering could be carried upstream into the Muddy River valley. Like the Back Bay Fens, the Muddy River was a tidal area which flooded periodically; it also served as an open sewer producing an unhealthy and malodorous situation.

"A very large proportion of the cases [of Typhoid] have occurred in the immediate vicinity of the brook [Muddy River], and nearly all on the low ground through which it runs. The stream is filthy beyond description and the stench arising from it at times almost unbearable." Brookline Chronicle Oct 29, 1881

In most cases, cities buried streams within culverts as a solution. Olmsted, though, felt that the Muddy River had potential to be a healthy and beautiful park.

"As an alternative to such a possible course the policy now suggested for Muddy River would look towards

continued on page 6

A Closer Look: The Muddy River Restoration Project

By Hugh Mattison, Emerald Necklace Activist, TMM Pct. 5

The Muddy River Project, permitted by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, is a flood control, water quality and habitat enhancement, and historic preservation project in Olmsted's Emerald Necklace. Brookline and Boston, owners of the land, are the proponents for the Project to which both state and federal funds have been committed. The Army Corp of Engineers will oversee the construction in the 3.5 mile area from Back Bay Fens upstream to Ward's Pond.

Sediment to be Removed	
Area	Cubic Yards of sediment to be removed
Back Bay Fens	53,000
The Riverway	31,000
Leverett Pond	29,000
Willow Pond	5,000
Wards Pond	16,000



Exposed outflow drain at Longwood Ave. shows extent of erosion. The early work, which consists primarily of excavation, is scheduled to start in 2010 at Landmark Center. Major components are daylighting two sections (about 700 linear feet) of the Muddy River that are now in culverts (pipes). Environmental restoration in the Fens, The Riverway, Leverett, Willow and Wards Ponds includes sediment removal and eradication of Phragmites (invasive reeds) from wetland and riparian areas, restoration of the historic shoreline in construction areas, and habitat enhancement to improve fisheries and amphibian habitat. These strategies will aid flood control and improve habitat and water quality.

Flood Control

Primary components for flood control are daylighting about 360 feet upstream of Avenue Louis Pasteur and about 330 feet at Landmark Center to restore the riverbed, replacing two 6-foot culverts under The Riverway and Brookline Ave. with pre-cast concrete 10' high x 24' wide arched culverts, removal of the jughandle road at

Brookline Ave., and dredging and removal of Phragmites. A 16' wide culvert will be installed at Avenue Louis Pasteur.

Water Quality

Water quality will be improved by removal of contaminated sediment and by augmenting water flow by removing invasive plants restricting the waterway. Over the last decade, both Boston and Brookline have identified and eliminated numerous Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). Best Management Practices, which include more frequent street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, and installation of particle separators, are being instituted to improve water quality and reduce sedimentation. A primary goal is to reduce Total Suspended Solids (TSS) by 30%.

Habitat Enhancement

After excavation and bank reconstruction, natural habitats will be restored. In the upper Fens area near Landmark Center, embankments will be planted with about 200 trees and shrubs.

Shorelines will be stabilized with native wetland plants, 100 habitat boulders installed to improve fisheries habitat, and 25-50 habitat logs to restore lost basking sites for turtles and amphibians in dredged areas. Removal of sediment and implementation of erosion controls in Spring Pond, which empties into Willow Pond, will restore habitat for the threespine stickleback, an endangered fish species. In addition, vegetation and other landscape features disturbed at staging areas will be restored.

continued on page 7



1920 - The finished project.

Creating the Emerald Necklace (continued from page 4)

the preservation of the present channel with certain modifications and improvements adapted to make it permanently attractive and wholesome...” Frederick Law Olmsted, *Suggestions for the Improvement of the Muddy River*, 1880.

To solve the problems of flooding and pollution, Olmsted proposed to redirect and increase the flow of the river, carefully sculpting its banks and planting over 150,000 trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Park walks, bridle paths and carriage roads were added to take advantage of the newly-created scenery.

The Olmsted firm continued the tradition of using stream valleys and waterfront for greenways in cities such as Washington D.C., Baltimore, and Chicago.

Engineering Nature (continued from page 1)

entire river ecosystems. Perhaps most surprisingly, flooding problems continue in these landscaped river systems, as urban growth and development sends ever more stormwater into pipes and streams. Fortunately, because of its centrality to the Emerald

Necklace, the Muddy River was mostly spared this treatment, although it is buried in culverts beneath the park areas in front of the Landmark Center, and some of it channeled off to the Charles River via the Muddy River conduit, before it emerges again in the Fens. So it is that today, we are lucky enough to be able to try to solve the challenges of this river – huge flash floods alternating with almost no

flow at all – with new approaches that integrate careful engineering with nature.

As Frederick Law Olmsted understood when he set out to design the Muddy River, carving a new channel, building up new banks, and planning for floodwaters, landscape design and hydrologic engineering can work hand in hand to create a river system that is both a beautiful natural environment and a functional system of “sanitary engineering.”

Today, this idea is still at the heart the Muddy River’s design. The restoration of the Muddy River, the



1892 Emerald Necklace construction photograph taken from the Longwood Avenue Bridge.

Today Providence, RI and San Antonio, TX are just two cities which have made urban watercourses centerpieces of city life.

Archive photos courtesy of the Olmsted Archives/ Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site

next phase of which is scheduled for construction starting early next year, will create a central stream channel that is designed primarily for slow, low flows, and yet can withstand occasional submersion beneath powerful flood flows. Culverts under roads and bridges will be widened to allow these flood flows to pass more quickly out to the Charles, and the whole river will be dredged to eliminate many of the contaminated sediments and invasive vegetation. Both Boston and Brookline will improve their storm drain systems, gradually reducing flood flows and pollution.

This approach to urban stream management is part of a growing engineering design approach using what is called “green infrastructure.” These systems may be carefully designed and heavily engineered, but they rely on natural vegetation and soils rather than concrete. To the passerby, green infrastructure may look simply like a shallow depression filled with plants or a meandering stream channel with broad, shrub-covered banks. To the stormwater engineer, it looks like flood control. The beauty of the design, as with the Muddy River itself, is that both are correct.

“The thing is to make it appear that we found this body of water and its shores and have done nothing to them...” Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in a letter to Rudolph Ulrich, March 24, 1894.

The Muddy River Restoration Project (continued from page 5)

Landscape

Because this work is in a park system on the state and national Register of Historic Places, the landscape plan attempts to recreate the 1920’s look as closely as practical. All replanting will be in accordance with Olmsted planting lists and design elements. Pedestrian paths will allow scenic overlooks and views of the river. The Project is intended to rehabilitate and preserve historic resources including the Carlton Street Footbridge. The arched culverts and headwalls installed as part of the daylighting in the Fenway will be faced with granite veneer to reflect the historic look of other granite bridges.

Ten species of trees, including red and sugar maple, red and pin oak, tupelo and lindens appear on the planting schedule. Landscape plans also list about 30 species of shrubs – fragrant sumac, spicebush, snowberry, yellowroot, and a variety of ferns – will grace the gentle slopes to the water. Emergent plants – plants which grow in water but pierce the surface so that they are partially in air – native to eastern Massachusetts will be planted along the shoreline to discourage re-growth of Phragmites. Lawn areas will be seeded with fescues and ryegrasses. Many volunteer trees will be removed as part of the

construction and fencing will be in place for two growing seasons around restored areas to allow new plantings to become established.

The need for this Project has come about because of years of deferred maintenance in the Emerald Necklace. The floods of 1996 and 1998 made the necessity of flood control obvious. Contaminated water and restricted waterflow, and a neglected historic resource will be corrected by the major construction of the Project and will be enhanced by Best Management Practices intended to reduce solids loading into the watershed.

This Project is diverse and complex. It brings together many elements that contribute to a healthy park which also acts as a flood plain and watershed. It will take political will, as well as engineering expertise, to implement its many aspects. But citizens of Brookline and Boston will reap benefits for generations.



Semi-circular path configuration at Allerton Overlook, restored with state funds, is similar to Carlton Street entrance in Riverway Park.

Contamination in Willow Pond

by Arlene Mattison, co-founder, FoLP; president, BGSA

Having formed a parks friend group in 1978, my neighbors and I were beginning to feel that we were advocating somewhat successfully for a park that had long suffered from neglect. When Betsy Shure Gross and I began a sub-committee of our neighborhood association to devote itself to the improvement of Olmsted Park in Brookline, we needed to be quite persuasive to convince the Town and the neighborhood that this almost abandoned park was worthy of their time and attention. Not many people had heard of the Park’s designer, Frederick Law Olmsted, or if they had, they associated him with New York. As we set out to learn more about Olmsted and his intent for the Emerald Necklace park system, we came to understand what a precious asset we had to steward.

The Town line passed through the middle of the Park; and being on the edge of town, the Park was easy to ignore. The City of Boston, the other owner, hadn’t paid attention to its side of the park for the preceding fifty years, and when Brookline wanted a scapegoat, they usually blamed Boston for the condition of the place. Urban parks were often considered surplus land instead of an amenity.

Progress may have been slow, but it was progress. We held clean-ups and pruning sessions, and historic walks, and were beginning to make the case that people should return to the park, and that the more people used it, the safer and better it would become. Then, in the early 80’s something happened that slowed our progress. Willow Pond, one of the two ponds in our park

continued on page 8



Eroded Muddy River shoreline gives little support for tree roots.

Contamination in Willow Pond (continued from page 7)

began to smell of oil. As the smell got worse we began to see a sheen on top of the water. The smell got worse and was at times nauseating. At times one's eyes burned when approaching the pond. We reported the oil contamination to the Town. While we were told it would be investigated, we were also told that it had nothing to do with the Town. As time went by and the situation worsened and we were repeatedly ignored by the Town; the Friends, fearing for the wildlife and concerned that the park experience was becoming less instead of more attractive, contacted the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It seemed a desperate act but there were environmental protections that we felt we had to avail ourselves of before animals died and the park went back to its abandoned state.

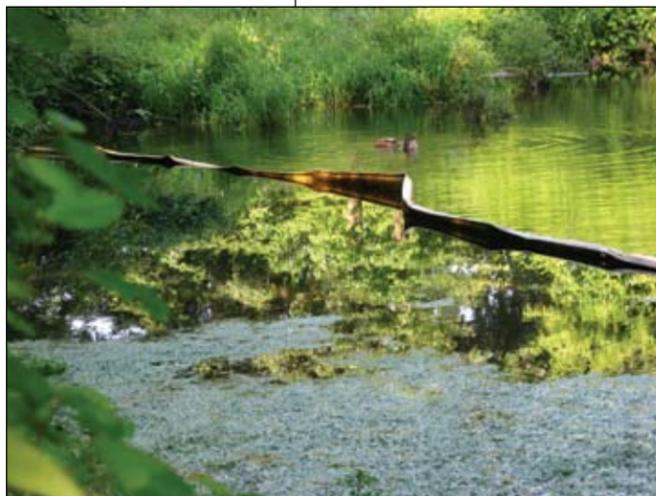
With the EPA's prodding, the Town found a leak of #2 fuel oil reaching Willow Pond from underground gasoline tanks at the former Town garage facilities on Cypress Street. The Town and the eventual purchaser of this parcel of Town land were made to install a gross particle separator to prevent further oil pollution and sediment reaching the pond. The Clean Harbors Company regularly placed and replaced booms across the water to collect the surface oil. The EPA order was assigned to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and ultimately dredging Willow Pond became part of the larger Muddy River Restoration Project. The Restoration Project concerns itself with restoring a healthy habitat and improving water

quality which is particularly relevant because it has been discovered that the clear spring pond that empties into Willow Pond is the home to the endangered threespine stickleback fish.

As a town we are now faced with a choice. If Article 5 fails and the Muddy River Project is abandoned it will remain the responsibility of the Town of Brookline to clean Willow Pond. The Town alone was the source of the pollution; and the Town alone will have to finance the remediation. It is time to dredge Willow Pond and bring Olmsted Park up to healthy environmental standards.

And so this is where we are now. The Town garage land has been developed and the underground tanks removed. Willow Pond no longer emits a powerful odor. The sediment remains contaminated. The cost to dredge the pond has been estimated to be \$2 million. Clean Harbors' booms remain on the site. The Town must file semi-annual reports to MassDEP until the sediment is removed. The cost of dredging is slated to be included in the \$91 million Muddy River Project. The neighborhood is denied a pond with clean water even though the pond is fed from sparkling clean springs. As a town we are now faced with a choice. The November Town Meeting vote to appropriate contingency funds for the restoration of the Carlton Street Footbridge will trigger an application process for bridge funding and will allow the the overall Muddy River Project to move forward. If Article 5 fails and the Muddy River Project is abandoned it will remain the responsibility of the Town of Brookline to clean Willow Pond. The Town alone was the source of the pollution; and the Town alone will have to finance the remediation. It is time to dredge Willow Pond and bring Olmsted Park up to healthy environmental standards. If Town Meeting and the Selectmen choose not to move forward with the Project, which is supported by federal, state and City of Boston funds, then we need to put Willow Pond dredging into our Capital Improvements Program and find funds to live up to our responsibility on our own.

Oil booms in place on Willow Pond.



The History of The Friends of Leverett Pond

by Rob Daves, Co-Chair, FoLP; President, High Street Hill Association; TMM, Pct. 5

The story of the Friends of Leverett Pond begins, oddly enough, with the Blizzard of 1978.

Back then, Olmsted Park, where Leverett Pond is located, looked almost abandoned. The trees were not pruned, the shrubs were overgrown and many considered the park to be a dangerous place, a buffer zone against supposedly rougher elements from "the other side". The parkland was so unappreciated that it was almost unclaimed by either Boston or Brookline ("that's not our responsibility") and was perceived as surplus property to be used as needed. When Brookline got hit with the big blizzard, the Department of Public Works used the park as a dump for the huge quantities of snow that had clogged the town.

The night before the snowstorm, however, had been trash night in parts of town and when the snow finally melted the shores of Leverett Pond were caked with trash. It was time to do something.

The High Street Hill Association (HSHA) set up subcommittee, the Friends of Leverett Pond (FoLP), initially led by Arlene Mattison and Betsy Shure Gross, to lobby the Town, and to ask neighbors to pitch in and help pick up the trash, tires and shopping carts. It was one of the first of many park friends groups in Brookline, and has been led by Louise Castle, Frances Shedd Fisher and Hugh Mattison.

One of the neighbors who answered the call was Cornelia McMurtrie, a student at the Radcliffe Seminars Landscape Design Program. She mentioned that the park was a "jewel" in a historic landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the same man that designed Central Park in New York City. The Friends discovered that their shabby park was indeed the "Emerald Necklace." So what was thought to be a civic and environmental cleanup was in fact the beginning of an important historic restoration. Furthermore, they discovered that there was already a Franklin Park Coalition and a Friends of the Muddy River and other Olmsted advocates around the country and they were facing some of the same problems. In those days little public money was being spent on passive recreational spaces and less for historic landscape rehabilitation.

It was obvious that the Friends faced a huge educational challenge-- of the governmental agencies and of the citizens who should have been the beneficiaries of a precious public amenity.

In June of 1978 the FoLP held a town-wide Celebration on the banks of the pond with music, artists, funny boat

races (the extent of the pollution wasn't yet known) and walking tours by horticulturists and preservationists.

In 1981 the FoLP worked with the Brookline Board of Selectmen, Mayor of Boston and the Harvard Graduate School of Design to host a parks convention of 450 grassroots organizers. At that meeting the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks (MAOP) was founded and the home and offices of Frederick Law Olmsted were dedicated as a new National Historic Site.

The MAOP oversaw the creation of a Massachusetts Olmsted Inventory and that led, in 1987, to a \$32 million Olmsted Historic Landscape Preservation Fund that was championed by Governor Michael Dukakis. Out of this effort came the Emerald Necklace Master Plan, an extensive blueprint for rehabilitation and restoration. The FoLP brought the new Plan to committee after committee to bring stakeholders on board and to win formal approval by the Town of Brookline for the Plan.

FoLP continued its passionate park advocacy by helping to form the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance and the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and pursuing funding such as Community Block Grants to restore the Allerton Overlook at Leverett Pond and revitalize the Babbling Brook upstream of Willow Pond. And in 2003 the FoLP commemorated its 25th anniversary with another Celebration in the Park with music and arts (this time no boats).

Most of the original FoLP activists are as active as ever today, serving on the Muddy River Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee and lobbying for the completion of the \$91 million Muddy River Restoration Project (see this fall's Town Meeting Warrant Article 5). In the last few years the FoLP has worked hand in hand with the Town's Department of Parks and Open Space to organize volunteer workgroups at Olmsted Park.

Despite 30 years of success, the challenges are still multifold. There's a need to build a public/private partnership to maintain the hard-won restored parkland - the need for public education and promotion of volunteerism in the parks is unending. At least now there's a good chance that the person you meet as you stroll along the graceful footpaths has heard of Frederick Law Olmsted.



Cleanup day at Leverett Pond.

Restored stairs at the Allerton Overlook.



The Friends of the Muddy River

The Friends of the Muddy River, Inc. began in 1980 through the efforts of a handful of Boston and Brookline citizens concerned with the environment and quality of the Muddy River and its surrounding parkland. We are committed to the maintenance, restoration and preservation of this valuable urban green space and fine example of Frederick Law Olmsted's vision and skill as a landscape architect. Because the middle of the Muddy River along The Riverway Park is the border between Boston and Brookline, the Friends support each of their park programs. We are a Boston Park Partner. Our activities include storm drain stenciling, cleanups, water testing, plantings, tree mulching, nature walks and summer concerts. Our Riverway Concert Series has been held in the park since 1985.

Friends of the Carlton Street Footbridge

Since 1999, Friends of the Carlton Street Footbridge have been a coalition of Brookline citizens supporting preservation of Olmsted's Longwood link to the Emerald Necklace. In 2002 PreservationMass designated this single-span steel truss footbridge, built to be compatible with its railroad setting, one of their Ten Most Endangered Resources because it has been uncared for and closed for over 30 years. Because Olmsted planned the footbridge as the primary



Current condition of the Carlton Street Footbridge.

entrance to Riverway Park to link the Park with the neighboring Brookline streets separated by the Boston & Albany Railroad (now the MBTA tracks), it was included in the 1990 Emerald Necklace Parks Master Plan as a priority restoration. When demolition was considered by Brookline officials, the Massachusetts Secretary of Environmental Affairs also prioritized Bridge restoration and moved it up in the schedule of historic restoration that was to be part of the \$91 million Muddy River Restoration Project.

The Friends have produced informational brochures, attended innumerable meetings, have participated in Celebrate Our Earth, and maintains a website at www.carltonfootbridge.org

Climate Change Action Brookline

Climate Change Action Brookline (CCAB) has had a rewarding summer—piloting a door to door canvassing initiative and tabling at the Farmer's Market to promote residential wind power purchases from NSTAR, home energy efficiency investments, and sign-ups for conservation learning groups called EcoTeams. This is all part of an emerging three year plan to engage up to 85% of all residences in practices to reduce carbon dioxide emissions an average of 25% each.

CCAB has launched four closely linked initiatives to accomplish its goal. A joint initiative with the Town Climate Action Committee (CAC), Brookline 2010 builds awareness and a strong base of support among residents and non-profits, institutional, and business partners during the first year of the three-year plan. We are grateful to BGSA for signing on as an early partner in this effort as well as for its support services.

CCAB established its carbon reduction goals in alignment with an unprecedented nine-community initiative.

Friends of Halls Pond

The Friends of Halls Pond invite those seeking an urban sanctuary experience in the heart of Brookline to visit this special four season "oasis in the city". Come join us for the November 22 Community Work Day and enjoy tending the Sanctuary and the Formal Garden. Learn about the plans to CELEBRATE the 35th anniversary of Halls Pond in 2010. All volunteers work with the Friends in partnership with the Town Of Brookline Conservation Commission to support the Sanctuary's needs. We proudly continue to fund the legacy of the Halls Pond Learning Project through the BGSA. For further information please contact: Betsy Shure Gross at 617-731-1448 or betsyshuregross@gmail.com

Volunteers of all ages plant new cedar trees in Hall's Pond during the Spring Community Work Day..



Friends of the Minot Rose Garden

Visitors admiring rose beds at the garden during the Rose Garden Serenade, June 14, 2009.



2009 has been a very busy year for the Friends. The rose bushes are thriving as they become better established. The coverage on the climbing rose trellis is abundant. The cool wet spring and summer gave us a long, luxurious bloom season. All this growth kept us busy keeping up with the on-going maintenance tasks in the garden.

Beyond caring for the garden we had several exciting events this year. A joint art show with the Brookline Arts Center, "Art from the Minot Rose Garden", was on display at the BAC in February and March. The Rose Garden Serenade on June 14th featured entertainment by the Coolidge Corner Community

Chorus. Our booth at the Summer Gardening Series at the Mall at Chestnut Hill, Rose day, featured a slide show and specimen roses. For more information about the Friends please see our website at www.minotroses.org or contact Linda Pehlke at minotroses@aol.com.

Friends of Fairsted is joining with BGSA, the Olmsted NHS and other organizations to host the first scholarly discussion of the work of the Olmsteds in Brookline (See details below). Last May the Friends hosted a well-attended Hard Hat Sneak Preview of Fairsted for a first public look at the rehab project that is underway at the Olmsted National Historic Site. The Friends will present a lecture by Professor Keith N. Morgan titled "Neighbors and Networks: The Olmsted Firm and the Development of Brookline, 1880 - 1936," October 26 at Wheelock College. There will be a reception at 6 PM, followed by the lecture at 7. Seating is limited; please RSVP to friendsoffairsted@gmail.com or by phone to 617-566-1639 ext. 235.

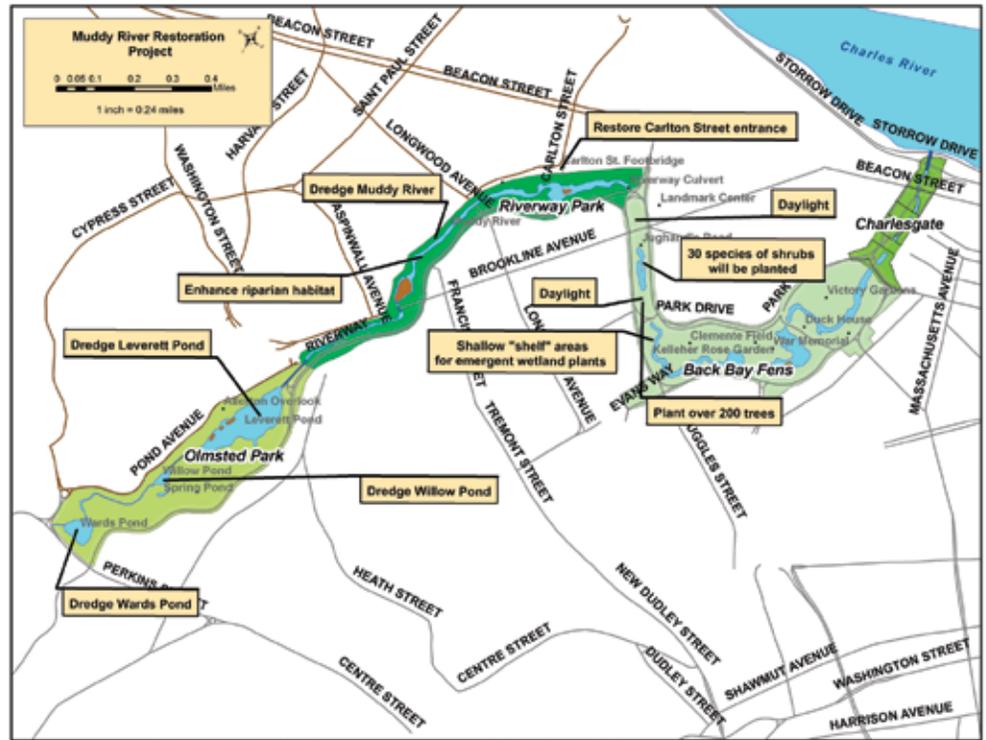
Friends of The Old Burying Ground is hosting a reprise of last year's very successful All Hallow's Day "historical scavenger hunt" at the Walnut Street Graveyard (near New Lincoln School). All families are welcome to the free event on November 1st at 2:00 PM. Prizes will be awarded!

Friends of the Brookline Reservoir

Brookline Reservoir that offers much to many: exercise, fishing, relaxation, tranquil scenes, picnic lawns and nature. In spite of the "white noise" of route 9, all this adds up to a sense of tranquility and a refuge from the busy world. The Friends of the Brookline Reservoir are puzzling over whether the daily introduction of 5 boats with two rowers each, shouted at by a coach in a motor boat would as one friend put it "destroy the peace thing." We would be interested in more "Friends" and to hear their views. Contact Lois Starkey, President of the Friends of the Brookline Reservoir at bisi.star@verizon.net.

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance points out the value of our parks and open spaces for the role they play in reducing global warming. Citizens seeking ways to lessen their negative impact on the environment can add appreciation of local green spaces to limiting water consumption, eating locally, changing to CFL light bulbs and insulating our homes, taking public transportation and bicycling or walking more, and using less and recycling to a list of what individuals can do to make a difference in protecting our planet. From a “what is good for the environment” point of view, as well as for sheer pleasure, using easily accessible parks and open spaces makes sense. BGSA hopes you will join with us to lobby for, volunteer in, and enjoy the nature in our own community.

Emerald Necklace - Muddy River Restoration Phase I Project Area



Photos in this issue are by Judy Wong, Hugh Mattison, Marian Lazar and Eunice White

Yes! I want to support the local environment.

As a member of the Alliance you'll receive our publication **PLACE**, periodic e-mail alerts to keep you informed of meetings and issues affecting local open space, notice of walks, talks, tours and educational forums as well as an invitation to our spring garden event.

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Visit www.brooklinegreenspace.org to learn about open space issues and upcoming events. Sign up for email updates at info@brooklinegreenspace.org

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