



A PUBLICATION OF
 BROOKLINE GREENSPACE ALLIANCE
 SPRING 2004

Place

“Place is the vessel in which the spirit of community is kept.”

This first issue of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance publication **Place** represents more than a name change. In addition to many more photographs of the special places and people of Brookline, going forward we intend to include the best ideas we can find that address the issues affecting open space in Brookline. We hope you will find our new publication thoughtful and engaging. For more about our thinking, see page 11.

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Alliance Expands Programming

HALL'S POND LEARNING PROJECT NOW BROOKLINE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING PROJECT

In January of this year, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance expanded its educational programming for the community when it adopted the Hall's Pond Learning Project. This innovative educational program was created and developed by the Friends of Hall's Pond several years ago with the goal of educating the community about our local natural environment in order to foster a greater sense of responsibility and stewardship for the sanctuary.

The program was initially funded with a grant from the Brookline Community Fund and the MHS Charitable Foundation and is now funded by the Blossom Fund and Bay State Federal Savings Charitable Foundation. A steering committee made up of Brookline resident Barbara Mackey, Conservation Commission member Gail Fenton and Driscoll School teacher Eris Doorneweerd has been nurturing and directing the program for the last several years. According to Barbara Mackey, the originator of the project, “Our committee feels strongly that helping people feel attached to a place engenders stewardship. If we can establish and keep a program running, particularly with an emphasis on children, the sanctuary will remain in good hands into the future. At this point we believe that Brookline GreenSpace is the ideal organization to do that.”

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance has adopted the program so it can be continued and expanded to other parks and sanctuaries in Brookline. “It made sense for BGSA to team up with the

Friends of Hall's Pond in order to build on the great work they have done. Since our mission goes beyond a single sanctuary, it allows us to offer the program at other parks and sanctuaries throughout Brookline,” said BGSA Director Tina Oddleifson. To reflect the expansion, the new name of the program is the Brookline Environmental Learning Project.

The Learning Project offers field trips, workshops and other programs at sanctuaries and parks throughout Brookline, free of charge. Over the past two years the Learning Project has worked with the Brookline Public School system, the Brookline summer camp program and the Brookline Senior Center. With the expanded Learning Project, and the field trip program developed by Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, plus special events such as Earth Night Brookline—an environmental film program, the organization now offers a full complement of activities for the community. This spring, activities include field trips for local elementary schools at a local sanctuary with an experienced naturalist; a van tour of accessible parks and open spaces for Brookline Seniors, a birding trip to Hall's Pond and a stroll with the Town's Tree Warden, Tom Brady, to learn how the urban forest contributes to our quality of life. For a complete schedule of field trips for the general community visit

www.brooklinegreenspace.org or call 617-277-4777.



Inter-generational group enjoy photography project at Hall's Pond sponsored by Brookline GreenSpace Alliance and Brookline Senior Center. (Brookline GreenSpace extends a special 'thank you' to Moto Photo for donating cameras and processing to the Brookline Environmental Learning Project.) Photo Tina Oddleifson

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 Brookline Youth Baseball
 Campaign to Preserve St. Aidan's
 Chestnut Hill Garden Club
 Chestnut Hill Village Alliance
 Climate Change Action Brookline
 Fisher Hill Association
 Friends of Billy Ward Playground
 Friends of Boylston Playground Assoc.
 Friends of Brookline Reservoir
 Friends of Carlton Street Footbridge
 Friends of Corey Hill Park
 Friends of Cypress Field
 Friends of Dane Park
 Friends of Emerson Garden
 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 Littlefield Park
 Friends of Lost Pond
 Friends of Monmouth Park
 Friends of the Muddy River
 Friends of the Old Burying Ground
 Friends of Sargent Pond
 Garden Club of Brookline
 Lincoln School PTO Landscape Committee
 Linden Parks Association
 Museum of Transportation
 Putterham Garden Club
 Restore Olmsted's Waterway Coalition
 Salisbury Road-Corey Farms
 Neighborhood Association

Editor

Frances Shedd Fisher

Staff

Tina Oddleifson, Executive Director

**BROOKLINE OPEN SPACE
ADVOCATE OF NOTE****Tribute
Mary Dewart**

Mary Dewart, a founder of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance in 1988 and a valued member of our Board in the intervening years, also served as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission from 1998–2004. Trained as a landscape designer in the Radcliffe Seminars Program (now the Landscape Institute at Harvard University), Mary's professional expertise made her a particularly valuable and effective member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mary's leadership as an advocate for all of Brookline's open space resources is legendary. Mary served as a member of the Commission during the planning of the Ryder Cup in Brookline

when the Commission worked with Town leadership, the Country Club and the PGA, with the support of BGSA, to assure a successful event that would benefit all Brookline citizens. An essential element of Mary's contribution to the Town's ground breaking contract with the PGA, was an assurance that Brookline natural resources utilized for the event would be protected.

In 1995 Mary's presentation of a case study on the deterioration at a recently rehabbed local park due to lack of maintenance led the Brookline GreenSpace Executive Committee to initiate talks with Town leadership. Those talks resulted in the creation of a joint effort of the Alliance, the Town and a wide range of open space constituencies to undertake a study of open space management

in Brookline. The work of the Task Force on Open Space over a period of more than three years led to the reorganization of parks and open space management in Brookline. Mary led the Task Force effort to improve parks maintenance standards, with particular attention to historic landscape. As a result of the successful efforts of the Task Force, parks maintenance is believed to be better now than in any time in the last approximately forty years.

Thank you, Mary, on behalf of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance Board and membership and open space advocates throughout Brookline. As a member of the BGSA Board, we know you will continue to lead the effort to make Brookline a place where quality of life for all its citizens is a paramount goal of government.

**Request for feedback
from our constituents**

As your advocate for the preservation, protection and beneficial use of our community's open spaces, we would like some feedback from you, Brookline's parks and open space users. We have framed questions around two issues of current interest: first, a question on the off-leash trial for dog owners and second, a question about views on biking as a means of getting from one place to another. We'd love to engage our readers in sharing points of view, priorities and ideas for improvements. We want to know what matters to you. Our first set of questions follow. Please let us know what you think by writing to us at Brookline GreenSpace, 40 Webster Place, Brookline 02445,

or emailing us at bgsa@theworld.com.

• Off-leash hours for exercising dogs that are accompanied by owner/caretaker have been established by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Before asking Town Meeting to approve a trial, the Parks and Recreation Commissioners listened to all constituencies, including the School Committee, and attempted to accommodate all interests. As a dog owner or, particularly, as a parks user during the off-leash hours, how do you think the trial is going? Has the Commission achieved a fair balance of interests between the approximately 1,500 licensed dogs and their owners and other citizens of Brookline?

• Biking is good exercise, fun and an inexpensive and often convenient means of getting from one place to another. In addition, biking is without question an environmentally friendly means of transit. Are you a transit biker and, if so, what would you propose generally to make biking safer and more convenient? If you are a non-biker, what are your views on the impact of bikers on pedestrian and auto transit safety? You may respond anonymously or sign your response. We may publish selected responses in our fall publication, but will not use respondents' names without permission. Thank you for your interest.



Photo by Jean Stringham

Letter from the Executive Director

by Tina Oddleifson

Brookline is grappling with difficult decisions about its future. Just open the “letters to the editor” section of our local papers on any given Thursday for a sampling of the heated debate over issues such as increased development, traffic and congestion, affordable housing, historic preservation, funding for schools, declining town revenues and—implicated in all these issues —increased pressures on remaining open spaces.

We tend to compartmentalize these issues, pitting one against the other, each of us taking the side that means the most to us personally. But without a deeper understanding of how these issues are inter-related, we may never find the creative solutions that are needed to effectively plan for the future of the Town.

As an example of this problem, open space advocates have been concerned about the fact that open space and natural resources protection do not seem to carry the same weight in Brookline’s draft comprehensive plan as other issues in the community. It is not difficult to understand why this might happen. After all, we have been blessed with an historic park system left to us because of the foresight and generosity of those who came before us. Many chose to live in Brookline because of its tree-lined streets and numerous pocket parks. Suburban sprawl does not seem to be as urgent a problem as it is in outlying communities because we don’t have the space for it anyway. So why not give other issues top priority over the next ten years?

We are on dangerous footing if we do not understand the interconnections that parks, open spaces, and natural resources have with other priorities in the community. For example, urban design that incorporates parks, greenways, bike routes and

walking paths is now considered a critical tool in addressing spiraling health care costs in the United States, (a major financial burden on towns and cities), because it can dramatically affect the amount of exercise we incorporate into our everyday lives. Urban design that promotes more walking, biking and use of public transportation also has direct connections with the costs associated with our parking space requirements, and directly impacts air quality, climate change and overall noise levels.

In addition, businesses rate parks and open spaces as a determining

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can enhance and complement other goals in our comprehensive plan is critical. But, the fact also remains that open space goals may at times directly conflict with other plan priorities. We need to accept and acknowledge this fact by proactively discussing the highest and best use of remaining parcels of land in Brookline, taking into consideration current and future needs.

A major positive highlight of Brookline’s comprehensive plan is the recommendation for new zoning tools that will allow us to guide development and open space protection in the commu-

We are on dangerous footing if we do not understand the interconnections that parks, open spaces, and natural resources have with other priorities in the community.

factor when they re-locate to a new community, and open spaces in commercial areas play a key role in attracting customers and improving foot traffic for local businesses.

Natural resources such as the urban forest and wetland areas play a key role in regulating our air and water quality and reducing pollution and green house gasses— which has a direct connection to energy and health care costs. Parks and open spaces are also seen as an important method for curbing crime rates as they provide wholesome after-school activities for youth, can act to reduce the noise and stresses that can lead to aggressive behavior in urban environments, and enhance supportive ties between neighbors by providing areas to congregate.

Understanding that our parks, open spaces and natural resources

nity. These include an “open space zoning” designation, greenway/ open space cluster zoning and planned development districts. Support for these new tools is critical and is a step in the right direction as we look to the future.

Finally, whatever our decisions as a community, we have to be prepared to pay for the uses we choose, bearing in mind that there are two kinds of costs—the financial costs we bear as taxpayers, and the costs our decisions have on our quality of life and the health of our community. Now is the time to come together around these questions as we plan Brookline’s future.

An historic profile

EMERSON GARDEN

by Deborah Rivers

The park is a quiet retreat close to the bustle of Brookline Village and the Town's governmental center. The land was part of a 250-acre land grant made to the Reverend John Cotton in about 1638. According to Nina Fletcher Little, author of *Some Old Brookline Houses*, "The first allotment of land in Muddy River is recorded in the Boston Town Records as of Dec. 14, 1635 as follows, 'It is agreed that five men shall lay out at Muddy River a farm for our teacher Mr. John Cotton.' From this date there were many large grants to citizens of Boston."

sold two acres of their father's estate to the Town for \$45,000 to create a park.

The house and barn were moved to 74 Davis Avenue, facing the park, where they stand today. In addition to the former Elijah Emerson house, the park is surrounded by many fine examples of nineteenth century residential architecture. These

fine examples of the Georgian Revival style at 16 and 22 Emerson Street. The park is part of the Cypress/ Emerson National Register District.

In 1908, the land acquired by the Town was designated as Emerson Garden. Charles Sprague Sargent of the Brookline Park Commission was authorized to obtain a design, order fifty seats and super-

the parks director to arrange for the placing of the proper designations of the popular and scientific names of all the trees on school grounds and at Emerson Park. A pond that was part of the estate was eventually filled in. From the beginning, it appears the park was intended to serve mostly passive recreation activities. Early on, the Park Commission asked the Playground Committee to remove a volleyball net because it determined that the grounds and shrubbery were damaged by organized play and voted not to permit any activities that involved the use of apparatus, including croquet and volleyball. Children were always welcome, however, as Emerson was one of the earliest parks in Brookline with a spray pool.

In 1996, the park was renovated.



Left: Sign at the Dan Ford Playground in Emerson Garden
Photo by Jean Stringham.

Above and below: Estate at the future Emerson Garden. Photograph of an oil painting by F.T. Stuart, late 19th c. Owner unknown. Photo from the collection of Brookline Public Library

Right: Newly created Emerson Garden, c. 1910, from the postcard collection of Joel Shield.



By 1746, the land that would become the park belonged to the Davis family, who owned it until 1822. By 1846, Elijah Emerson had acquired parts of this tract, which became the site of his estate. (As far as is known, Elijah was not related to Ralph Waldo Emerson.) Emerson built a Gothic Revival house and barn located near what is now the center of the park. He was a wealthy merchant, director of the Second National Bank, and president of the Middlesex Horse Railroad. Elijah Emerson died in 1888. In 1907 his two daughters



include the Italianate house next door at 68 Davis Avenue and two

visit the planting. In 1912, the Commission Chairman charged

It has an active Friends Group, which has a formal agreement with the Parks and Open Space Division to maintain the eight planting beds located at the entrances and adjacent to the spray pool and play structure. The Friends usually sponsor a work day in the spring and a bulb-planting day in the fall. These planned activities have been a great way to build community and to get the neighborhood involved in caring for their
(continued on page 10)

St. Aidan's Trees Need Care Plan

Final design review is underway for the 40B mixed income development at St. Aidan's Church on Freeman Street in North Brookline. The Design Advisory Group (DAG), led by Bob Duffy, the Town's Planning Director, is composed of a number of specialists in affordable housing development, historic preservation, architecture and landscape design, as well as two neighborhood representatives. Craig Halvorson, of Halvorson Design Partnership, the landscape architecture firm that designed Post Office Square, is providing landscape design expertise to the DAG. Design review is expected to conclude by the end of June and construction is slated to commence in July of this year.

Of particular concern to Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

organizational member, Campaign to Preserve St. Aidan's, and to many BGSA constituents, is the protection of the major specimen trees at the site, including the 150 year old copper beech believed to have been planted by David Sears. After years of advocacy, the green constituency succeeded in saving

North Brookline neighborhood and to all who travel through the area.

Recognizing the community's strong interest in preserving the mature trees and implicitly acknowledging the potential negative impact of a major construction project immediately

according to Mr. Duffy.

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance has recommended to Mr. Duffy that an Advisory Committee be formed to assist the Town's Tree Warden in assuring the contractor's best efforts in protecting the trees during the construction period and assuring

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance has recommended to Mr. Duffy that an Advisory Committee be formed to assist the Town's Tree Warden in assuring the contractor's best efforts in protecting the trees.



the open space and some of its trees from development. In addition, a conservation easement will provide some public access to the corner of the site known as the "forecourt." This agreement between the property owner and the Town on behalf of neighbors and Town-wide open space interests is a benefit to the congested

adjacent to the forecourt and specimen trees, the Zoning Board of Appeals (whose approval is required for such projects) included a requirement that a management plan be developed for the trees before construction commences. As of April 20, the date of the first DAG meeting, the plan was under development

maintenance for an appropriate subsequent period.

The appropriate contacts for information on the status of the management plan are the Town's Tree Warden and Conservation Administrator, Tom Brady, and Bob Duffy, the Town's Director of Planning.

Earth Night Brookline Launched

On April 26th Brookline GreenSpace Alliance and the Coolidge Corner Theater Foundation in partnership with the Brookline Conservation Commission, Brookline Division of Parks and Open Space, Charles River Watershed Association and Brookline Booksmith hosted "Earth Night Brookline 2004" in celebration of Earth Day.

The free event featured the highly acclaimed award winning film

"Pale Male," produced and directed by Frederic Lilien. The film tells the inspiring story of the first red-tailed hawk known to have nested in modern day Manhattan, on the ledge of a Fifth Avenue penthouse overlooking Central Park. Prior to the film, Dr. Eric Strauss from the Urban Ecology Institute, gave a presentation on the importance of protecting our urban natural environment.

"The Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation was delighted to be the host of this year's collaboration inspired by our own community organizations," said Joe Zina, Director of the Coolidge Corner Theater Foundation. "We hope this will become an exciting annual environmental program that will enlighten us all to our responsibilities for protecting our

environment, nature, and humanity around the globe."

In addition to the film and discussion, movie-goers were treated to a short film about the Muddy River created by Brookline High School students, as well as a beautiful slide presentation of nature images created by local Brookline photographers. Further broadening the Earth Night event, books with environmental themes

were also on display at the Brookline Booksmith.

After the overflow audience left the theater cheering the film and the evening's programming, Kate Bowditch, Chair of

BGSA's Programs Committee, said, "Tina and I couldn't be more pleased at the enthusiasm of the crowd tonight. It certainly looks like this should be an annual event." Tina Oddleifson, Brookline GreenSpace Executive Director, added, "I'm so glad we had such an inspiring film to kick off what we hope will become a widely celebrated environmental film program."



Earth Night event organizers with Frederick Law Olmsted. From left: Kate Bowditch, Joe Zina, Tina Oddleifson, Elizabeth Taylor-Mead, Gerry Wright as Frederick Law Olmsted. Photo by Bruce Wolff.



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Activities

- (1) Brookline GreenSpace Field Trip to Hoar Sanctuary
- (2) Screech Owl at Hall's Pond.
- (3) Painted turtles at Hall's Pond.
- (4) Great Blue Heron at Hall's Pond
- (5 & 6) Environmental Learning Project Field Trips
- (7) Black Crowned Night Heron at Hall's Pond
- (8) Mallard Duck at Hall's Pond.

Photo 1 by Marian Lazar

Photos 2-8 by Bruce Wolff.



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Activities and Activists

Whether birding, admiring botanicals or trying to spot a rare threespine stickleback (*gasterosteus aculeatus*) in Leverett Pond, visitors to Brookline's parks and sanctuaries find nature's abundance and beauty any day of the year.

Open space advocates do much more than spring clean-ups in parks, but this is where activism begins -with caring.



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Activists

- (1) Clean up at Hall's Pond.
Photo by Bruce Wolff
- (2-4) Volunteers planting Red Berried Snowberry shrubs in Olmsted Park near Leverett Pond.
Photos by Hugh Mattison
- (5) Future parks activist, Leila Allen, one year old daughter of Selectman Bob Allen and Kenna Conley, on her first visit to Larz Anderson.
Photo by Bob Allen
- (6) Clean up in the rain at Lost Pond.
Photo by Marian Lazar

Birding in Brookline

Brookline is famous for its Brookline Bird Club, which is, of course, not limited to Brookline residents or Brookline birding sites. Novice birders and serious bird club members, including members of the Brookline Bird Club, are out in force in the spring, but birding is an engaging year-round activity

is low. (Of course, this doesn't include the cost of birding trips to Belize or Trinidad!)

The benefits of getting outside and engaging the mind in the company of like-minded gentle souls is clear, not to mention the opportunity for one-upping your friends with the discovery of a rarely seen bird. Brookline GreenSpace, Friends of Hall's Pond, the Olmsted National Historic Site, as well as the Brookline Bird Club

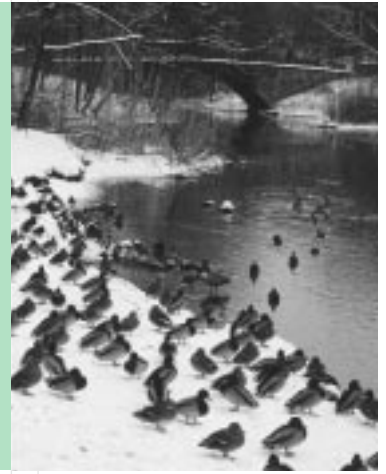
Alliance, Friends of Leverett Pond, the Olmsted National Historic Site and the Brookline Bird Club co-sponsored a morning Duck Walk around Leverett Pond in Olmsted Park in Brookline. Experienced birder and Brookline Bird Club member, Dr. Bob Mayer, led the walk. About twenty enthusiastic birders saw Mallards, Ringed-bill Gulls, Black Ducks, Canada Geese, Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers,

Sparrows, Starlings, one Robin, one Cardinal, two Blue Jays, at least one Junco and one Belted Kingfisher. One local birder's life list for Leverett Pond totals 85 separate species (but no wild turkeys, though recently seen strolling in North Brookline and Chestnut Hill).

In addition, those in attendance saw three types of nests: numerous squirrel's nests, a wasp's nest, and an abandoned Baltimore



(Left) Birders at Leverett Pond. Photo by Jean Stringham



(Right) Ducks wintering over in the Muddy River. Photo by Jean Stringham.

with many benefits. Except for a decent pair of binoculars, a good pair of sneakers, and a paperback birding book, the cost of birding

are among the groups sponsoring bird walks throughout the year.

On a beautiful sunny day last November Brookline GreenSpace

Ruddy Ducks, one American Coot, one Red-tailed Hawk, two Downy Woodpeckers, one Great Blue Heron, one Mockingbird, White-throated Sparrows, House

oriole's nest. The local field outing was proof once again that wild and inspiring things are all around us if we open our eyes and look.

Lincoln School Arbor Day

Four years ago the Lincoln School PTO created a Landscape Committee with a focus on the school grounds, outdoor learning and the environment. Currently they are working with students on planting a new schoolyard garden, partnering with the Town on playground improvements projects, and connecting teachers, students and Town staff through a tree-inventory project on the Lincoln campus.

For additional information on this unique initiative in education and open space advocacy, contact Randolph Meiklejohn, 617 739-0206 or www.drmeiklejohn@aol.com.

(at right) Lincoln School students celebrating Arbor Day. Photo by Randolph Meiklejohn.



Brookline GreenSpace Holds Sixteenth Annual Meeting

portion of the meeting included the election and introduction of five new Board members—Jay Gonzalez, Anita Johnson, Seth Kaplan, Sue Levy and Merelice. Retiring Board members Dorothy Baldini, Dick Garver and Joanna Wexler were warmly thanked for their contributions over their years of service to the organization.

Highlights of the event included the presentation of the Brookline

GreenSpace Environmental Leadership Award to Marian Lazar, designer of the organization's newsletter and its website, www.brooklinegreenspace.org. The award was presented by Frances Shedd Fisher, Chair of the BGSA Communications Committee. In her remarks honoring Ms. Lazar, Shedd Fisher noted "Without effective communication and publicity, we cannot accomplish our mission. As I have worked over

the years with Marian, I have seen her knowledge grow to unleash a creative dimension that puts our organization in the forefront in terms of effective advocacy. Marian's contribution to the green environment in Brookline is truly unparalleled."

The BGSA Green Umbrella Award was presented to the Lincoln School PTO Landscape Committee by Alliance Vice-President Kate Bowditch. Accepting the award on behalf of the Landscape Committee were committee members, Liz Viza and Randolph Meiklejohn.

The guest speaker for the event was Anne Lusk, whose talk was entitled "Bike, jog, in-line skate throughout Brookline: New Urban Design Forms."

Ms. Lusk is a Brookline resident and visiting scientist at the Harvard School of Public Health where she is writing a book titled *Designing a Healthy America: Bicycle Paths, Parks and Streets*.



After a walking tour of park improvements at Larz Anderson Park led by Erin Chute, Director of the Brookline Parks and Open Space Division, and Vic Walker, designer of the park's Master Plan, the sixteenth annual meeting of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance was convened by Arlene Mattison, President of the Alliance. The event was held in the Museum of Transportation in Larz Anderson Park on May 10. The business

Above left: Kate Bowditch, Liz Viza, Randolph Meiklejohn

Above right: Speaker, Anne Lusk

Right: Frances Shedd Fisher, Marian Lazar, Arlene Mattison

Photos at Annual Meeting by Bruce Wolff.

Below: Larz Anderson Carriage House, 1888, 15 Newton Street, now the Larz Anderson Auto Museum. Photo by Marian Lazar.



THE FRIENDS OF LARZ ANDERSON IS ACTIVELY SEEKING NEW MEMBERSHIP IN ORDER TO BRING MORE POSITIVE ATTENTION TO THIS HISTORIC PARK.

PLEASE JOIN US!

FOR INFORMATION CALL DOROTHY BALDINI AT 617-566-5876



Birders at Hall's Pond. Photo by Bruce Wolff

Birding at Hall's Pond

About a dozen avid and novice birders turned out for the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance sponsored bird walk at Hall's Pond on a beautiful spring morning in early May. The walk was led by local birding enthusiast Fred Bouchard. Among the many species of birds spotted were a half dozen different warblers,

including several yellow rumps, black and whites and parulas. In addition to the warblers, a downy woodpecker, a Baltimore Oriole and numerous goldfinches were seen in the leafy canopy. Mallards floated by in the pond.

The experienced birders in the group identified many birds, seen and unseen, by their distinctive and melodic songs. The group stopped by the residence of a screech owl seen seasonally, but found no one home. Visits to other sanctuaries will be planned for the future.

BROOKLINE

Past and Present



Left: Beacon Street, looking east from Hawes Street, circa 1900 - 1910, depicting young American elms planted by the Olmsted firm. Photo from the collection of Brookline Public Library

Right: Beacon Street today, looking east from Hawes Street. In 2005 reconstruction from St. Mary's to Ayr Road (in Boston) will strive to make significant safety and transportation improvements, as well as recapture the historic landscape envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted. Photo by Marian Lazar

(continued from page 4)

Emerson Garden

neighborhood park. It is a gathering place for children, dog owners and other immediate neighbors.

In August 2003, the Playground at Emerson Garden was dedicated to Daniel F. Ford. Dan was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission in 1971 and served as a member until his death in 2002. While he was heavily involved in the work at all

the Town's parks and recreation resources, Emerson Garden may have been closest to his heart. He lived two doors down from the park and walked his dog, Whiskey, there twice a day.

On Wednesday evenings in the summer, the Parks and Recreation Commission sponsors a series of concerts in Emerson Garden. The concerts provide an opportunity for the larger neighborhood to come together, picnic on the grass and enjoy a variety of musical offerings. The concerts this year will begin on June 23rd and continue

until August 4th. The professional bands play a range of music including Big Band, Swing, Ragtime, Oldies, Patriotic, Folk, Blues, Blue Grass, and Country & Western. All are welcome.

Credits: Some Old Brookline Houses, Nina Fletcher Little, Published by the Brookline Historical Society (1949)

Brookline Preservation Commission document on Brookline Parks Brookline Village Walking Tours, Town of Brookline (1981) Brookline TAB, August 28, 2003



Emerson Garden today. Photo by Marian Lazar.

FROM THE EDITOR
ON OUR NEW PUBLICATION

PLACE

by Frances Shedd Fisher

“Place is the vessel in which the spirit of community is kept.” These words reflect in the purest sense the reason we choose one place over another, the reason place matters. The spirit, the traditions, and values of Brookline are tangibly held and felt in our sense of this place. The mission of the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance is to preserve, protect and enhance open space in Brookline, Massachusetts for the benefit of the community. There are many beautiful and threatened places in the world beyond the borders of our community, and there are many worthy causes our mission does not incorporate. From the beginning, we have sought to vigorously pursue our narrow mission, believing that serving the community we call home is our direct responsibility in our effort to make a difference in a complex world. Many of our members also support organizations with

broader environmental missions, as well as issues that extend beyond those of a healthy planet earth. That is commendable and necessary; neither Brookline nor Massachusetts nor America can survive outside a global context.

What we intend in advocating for Brookline’s special open spaces and educating about the value of our green infrastructure is to nurture a culture of caring and activism. It is the citizens of Brookline who determine our priorities as a community, who define the character of this place as a special place, who ultimately make the difference. And, by any objective measure, Brookline is special – a thoughtful community with a long history of support for excellence and democratic values, a community of contributors. There is no clearer symbol of those values than Brookline’s legacy of public green spaces, large and small, and the thousands of magnificent street trees that grace our streets. Historic landscapes like Larz Anderson Park, Olmsted Park, Riverway Park, the Longwood Mall, sanctuaries like Hall’s Pond, the Hoar Sanctuary and Lost Pond,

the nation’s first public playground at Cypress Field, Putterham Meadows, Putterham Woods, and so much more—were left for our benefit and to our care by visionaries of the past. These places elevate our spirit by connecting us to Nature and to each other.

This publication has been called Alliance Update for the past 15 years. We have shared the news of our organizational members—the Friends groups, announced events celebrating our open spaces, and in recent years have called to your attention issues that threaten the future or health of our parks, sanctuaries and fields. Brookline GreenSpace Alliance will continue to do all of these things through our various communications media, including our publications, our website— www.brooklinegreenspace.org, our e-alert program, targeted mailings, the public press—including our GreenViews column in the Brookline TAB, and other public forums. In our twice a year publication, **Place**, we will in future put a greater emphasis on analysis of the policies we set and decisions we make as a commu-

nity, and their impact on our limited and essential natural resources. We intend to reach out to leaders who are asking tough questions about the trade-offs we will have to make given competition for economic and land resources, and whose ideas offer opportunities for creative solutions. We hope to bring you the best ideas our community has to offer on one of the most fundamental questions we face as a community—how we should use and protect our space—Brookline’s six square miles. We invite your participation as we move to engage our members, and all Brookline citizens, in assuring Brookline remains the place we love to call home. It is with this in mind that we have chosen ‘Place’ as the new name for our journal of ideas about Brookline.

“Place is the vessel in which the spirit of community is kept” is from a speech delivered in Boston by Donald Rypkema, consultant to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, at the 1999 Annual Meeting of HistoricMassachusetts

Yes! I want to protect Brookline’s GreenSpace heritage for generations to come.

As a member of the Alliance you’ll receive our newsletter, periodic e-mail alerts to keep you informed of timely meetings and events affecting open space in Brookline, as well as invitations to educational forums and events on open space issues in our community.

Contributions are tax deductible. Neighborhood Associations and Friends groups are invited to join the Alliance. Please call 277-4777 for information

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

- () Acorn (\$25)
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- () Copper Beech (\$500)
- () American Elm (\$1,000)
- () Steward (\$2,500)

Mail to BGSA
40 Webster Place
Brookline, MA 02445

Get Connected!

Visit our website at www.brooklinegreenspace.org and find updated information on hot topics, events and other information about open space issues in Brookline. You’ll also find an open space map, directions to sanctuaries, and contact information for all the Park Friends Groups in Brookline.

Join our email list serve and you’ll receive important updates and information on events, meetings, and other time-sensitive information pertinent to open space in Brookline. Just send us an email at bgsa@world.std.com to let us know you want to join.

Field Trips

Go to www.brooklinegreenspace.org or call 617-277-4777 for more information and directions.

In case of inclement weather, call the day of a trip to learn of any weather related changes. Wear sturdy walking shoes and appropriate outerwear. Most trips involve walking on natural surfaces that can be unstable in places.

JUNE

BONELESS WONDERS OF THE NATURAL WORLD SUNDAY, JUNE 6TH 2:00 PM.

If you were about an inch long, had no bones, and wanted to live outdoors in nature, where could you go? What would you eat, how would you stay safe, and who else would be part of your community? We'll hunt for insects and other invertebrates at the D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary and learn about the lifestyles of the small and obscure.

Discover a vital part of this special community. Suitable for both children and adults. Meet at the D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary.

SEPTEMBER

2ND ANNUAL WATERSHED WALK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH 2:00 PM

Join local hydrologist, Kate Bowditch, for a walk along the Muddy River to learn about the river's hydrology, the challenges the river faces, and projects underway to restore it.

Meet at the Allerton Overlook, on the corner of Pond Avenue and Allerton Street.

DISCOVERING DANE PARK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 2:00 PM

Dane Park is one of Brookline's most recently restored park lands and is unknown to most residents. Take a walk with members of the Friends of Dane Park to learn about the plants, geological features and other interesting aspects of this forested property located in South Brookline. Meet at the main entrance to Dane Park, on Hammond Street, near Woodland Road.

OCTOBER

LOST POND NATURE HIKE SUNDAY OCTOBER 3RD.2:00 PM

Take a hike with Brookline GreenSpace Alliance and Friends of Lost Pond. Explore the varied habitats that make this area so interesting. You will see upland woods, wetlands and Lost Pond. We will discuss the natural and social history of this area and identify trees, birds and animals that call this sanctuary home. This two hour walk will start at the end of Arlington Road (north) in Brookline.

Save Trees Join our Growing E-Mail List!

You'll receive notices of important meetings, events and activities related to open space in Brookline, along with updates on projects and other information. It's a great way to stay in touch with our environment. Email bgsa@world.std.com to sign up.

Brookline Businesses for the Environment

Brookline GreenSpace Alliance thanks the following Brookline Businesses for supporting our work!

Amory Architects

Audy's Service Station

Bay State Federal Savings Bank

Brookline Booksmith

CBA Landscape Architects

Chestnut Hill Realty

Chobee Hoy & Associates

Clear Flour Bakery

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Energy Federation, Inc.

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The Pear Tree

Whole Foods Market

Thanks to Software Tool and Die for hosting the Brookline GreenSpace website – www.brooklinegreenspace.org



Brookline GreenSpace Alliance
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Brookline, MA 02445

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