

Little Field Park
Photo by Judy Wong



Notes from the Field

Over the summer and fall, many friends groups have moved the open space cause forward by advocating for policy change, cleaning up local green spaces, educating children and neighbors, and sponsoring events. Brookline GreenSpace Alliance offers support services to park friends groups through small grants, fiscal agent services, startup assistance, publicity and more. Please visit or call BGSA Executive Director, Edward Hsieh, at 617-277-4777 or visit our website at www.brooklinegreenspace.org for more information.

Chestnut Hill Village Alliance

The Chestnut Hill Village Alliance continues to promote an accessible, livable and functional Chestnut Hill Village and Route 9 corridor. During the last year, the alliance sponsored a forum including state legislative officials and Brookline and Newton municipal leaders who espoused similar goals and were impressed and influenced by the alliance's efforts. State legislators, Senator Cindy Creem, Representatives Michael Rush, Ruth Balser and Frank Smizik have proposed the Massachusetts Highway bill, which calls for "\$200,000...for the development of a comprehensive transportation, design, green space and land use plan for the Route 9 corridor in Brookline and adjacent neighborhoods" and "not less than \$500,000...for the improvement of pedestrian safety along Route 9 in Brookline, specifically the area between Hammond Street and Hammond Pond Parkway." The implementation of these acts awaits only the release of the funds by Governor Romney. In addition to policy changes, the Chestnut Hill Village Alliance has influenced physical change in Route 9 such as the repair of the Route 9 overpass at Hammond Pond Parkway, the nearly complete repair of the once crumbling wall at Wellesley Route 9, and the upcoming resurfacing of the full width of Route 9 from the Brookline/Boston border to the Brookline/Newton town line. Plus, alliance representatives are participating in Newton Chestnut Hill Association meetings to give Brookline a voice regarding planned developments that will impact Brookline. For more information, contact: Tony Andreadis, atandreadis@hotmail.com.



From left to right, Janice Kahn (co-founder of CHVA), Lisle Baker (Newton Alderman), Michael Rush (Brookline State Representative), Cynthia Creem (Brookline/Newton State Senator), Joe Geller (former Brookline Selectman), David Cohen (Newton Mayor), Frank Smizik (Brookline Selectman), Ruth Balser (Newton State Representative), Tony Andreadis (co-chair/co-founder CHVA) at the Chestnut Hill Village Alliance-sponsored forum.

Friends of Boylston Street Playground

The Friends of Boylston Street Playground proudly announces that after a long summer with the playing field closed, the playing field has reopened with its grass upgraded. The group has also been busy monitoring the continued expansion of condos in their area by promoting participation in Town planning meetings; recently, they met with the Tree Planting Committee and Brookline GreenSpace Alliance to discuss concerns over the removal of trees near the Valvoline at 303 Boylston Street. For more information contact: Dotty Bell, dotty_bell@town.brookline.ma.us.

Friends of Griggs Park

The Griggs Park Neighborhood Association (GPNA), with lots of help from the Green Dog Program dogwalkers, holds a park cleanup day every fall and spring. Neighbors, friends, and helpers from the town's Parks and Open Space Division spend the morning clearing away brush, raking leaves, pruning trees and bushes, and generally making sure Griggs Park stays beautiful. The BGSA 2005 Environmental Leadership Award was presented to Bob Kramer and Bobby Zuker for the Friends work on Griggs Park.

For more information, contact: Elaine Ober, griggs24@rcn.com.



Afternoon at Griggs Park. Photo by Marian Lazar



Friends of Hall's Pond

The Friends of Hall's Pond continues to lovingly maintain the hidden gem that is Hall's Pond Sanctuary right off Beacon Street near Coolidge Corner. The Friends perform basic cleanup, plant trees and remove invasive species. Through the Brookline Environmental Learning Project which was founded by the Friends of Hall's Pond and expanded to other sanctuaries by Brookline GreenSpace Alliance, K-7 students frequent Hall's Pond to marvel at the wonders of nature nestled right in the middle of bustling urban development. The Friends of Hall's Pond will host their annual work day at the pond on Sunday, November 20th from 11am to 2pm. For more information, contact: Bruce Wolff, balobo@juno.com or Janice Provencher, janicep2@verizon.net.



Left, Great Blue Heron. Right, Black Crowned Night Heron (both at Hall's Pond). Photos by Bruce Wolff

Friends of Lawrence Park

The Friends of Lawrence Park began anew planting and maintaining its circle garden this past May. After a lengthy hiatus for school and playground renovations, the Friends redesigned and replanted the site. The Brookline Parks and Open Space Division installed fresh soil and mulch and set garden path stones. The Lawrence School Fifth Grade class contributed, as they have since the conception of the circle garden in 1988, by planting annuals. The Friends' "Weekly Weeders" designed, maintained and watered the garden and will continue to tend to its upkeep throughout the growing season. In addition to the recent overhaul, the Friends have been busy raising funds and have successfully brought in contributions from many neighbors and school parents. For more information, contact: Mary Dewart, 617-734-4224.



Left, Friends replanting the circle garden. Right, Friends of Lawrence Park's circle garden two months after replanting. Photos by Mary Dewart

Lincoln School PTO Landscape Committee

The Lincoln School PTO Landscape Committee expanded its programs for students during the 2004-2005 school year with small outdoor projects for students in every grade at the K-8 school. Through gardening or planting, students received hands-on experience while helping improve the school, the neighborhood or a park. Four grades planted flower bulbs for Brookline in Bloom while others tended the vegetable garden or planted ornamental grasses and evergreen groundcover. Sixth graders laid a new brick walk, and the eighth grade raised money and dug the hole to plant a black tupelo tree for Lincoln's 5th annual Arbor Day. For more information, contact: Randolph Meiklejohn, rmeiklejohn@verizon.net or David McGowan, david.mcgowan@state.ma.us.



Lincoln School 8th grade students re-laying the edge of the brick path at the school entrance.



Lincoln School 6th grade students preparing to plant trays of vinca (periwinkle), provided by the Town.

Friends of Little Field Park

On Saturday, October 1st, the Little Field Park Association hosted an afternoon cleanup party and neighborhood get together featuring pot luck, dog show, and pony rides.

Little Field Park was designed by the office of Frederick Law Olmsted. The Friends of Little Field Park continues to dedicatedly watch over the park as it did when, over a decade ago, it rescued this historical treasure from being used as a dumping site for soil from the Heath School contaminated with diesel fuel.

For more information, contact: Linda Anna Mancini, manciniart@mac.com.



Neighbors and friends enjoy the central section of Little Field Park. Photo by Judy Wong



Neighbors and friends enjoy the pot luck during the cleanup party. Photo by Judy Wong



Sonia Hills on Gracie. Photo by Martha Sibert



Ethan and Joshua Hresko enjoy a ride on Gracie. Photo by Linda Mancini

Friends of the Minot Rose Garden

The Friends of the Minot Rose Garden have been busy tending over 300 rose bushes that were planted this spring. The roses have flourished into a stunning mix of colors, forms and scents, much to the delight of the whole neighborhood. The group has also initiated a fundraising campaign for further garden improvements including an iron fence, onsite guide, plant labels and further maintenance. A key part of their campaign involves mailing brochures to selected homes that abut the garden and partnering with 10 local businesses to display the brochure. In addition, the Friends of Minot Rose Garden are selling self-designed rose garden note cards graciously donated by Brookline Printing Company. Look for the note cards packaged with envelopes at Wild Goose Chase, Party Favors, and Unique Simchas for \$10.00; all proceeds go to the improvement and maintenance of the rose garden.

The group also currently provides an educational overview of the history of the garden via a Power-Point presentation which has already been featured at the Coolidge Corner Merchants Association and the Brookline Park and Recreation Commission; organizations interested in learning more about the garden are encouraged to inquire about the presentation. The Rose Garden is in North Brookline near Coolidge Corner.

For more information about the Friends of Minot Rose Garden, contact: Linda Pehlke, MinotRoses@verizon.net



David Cannistraro giving the Friends of Minot Rose Garden a pruning demonstration.

Photo by Linda Pehlke



Lalli Meera tying up New Dawn climbers to the trellis.

Photo by Linda Pehlke

Friends groups support the maintenance and upgrading of parks and open spaces. Their work days, fundraising and advocacy enhance the character of this town. To join a group or for more information on volunteering call Edward Hsieh at the Brookline GreenSpace Alliance office, 617-277-4777.

Photo by Linda Pehlke

