

Friends of Buttonwood Park



The Leaflet



Winter 2017

Protect the past, Improve the present, Plan for the future

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Can you picture yourself in this scene?



Buttonwood Pond Overlook

We are “On the Move” again!

Where are we headed next? You may be surprised! Story on pg. 2

Thanks To You, Our Students Are Learning Lessons Beyond the Classroom

Last fall, twenty students from the Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech High School helped plant a large number of trees that had been donated to the Friends earlier in the year.



*Voc-Tech students
unwrap root ball*

City Arborist, Chance Perks, instructed them on correct planting methods and demonstrated selective pruning of evergreens. A few students expressed interest in a career in forestry. Thanks to you, students also learned first-hand the importance of giving back to their community.

Thank you to the students, the faculty at GNB Voc-Tech, Ray and Andrea of the Friends, and Chance Perks and the city crew. This would have been an impossible job without your help!



Chance Perks prunes newly-planted evergreen

Together, We Are Moving Ahead with the North Woods Trail Project

Master Plan is complete, thanks to your generosity



For many years, as you may already know, the northern area of Buttonwood Park — 18 acres of valuable parkland — remained undeveloped for recreational purposes. You may have driven by or walked around and seen the brambles and the overgrowth obstructing vistas of Buttonwood Pond, Buttonwood Brook, and the wetlands meadow. But that is about to change with the completion of the **Buttonwood Park North Woods Master Plan**.

This spring we will start work developing a new trail system through wetlands and forested upland in the North Woods — taking one more step towards continuing the pedestrian walkway completely around Buttonwood Pond

The **first phase** of this project focuses on improvements in the Buttonwood Brook section of the Park and calls for a long-term invasive species removal and control program, restoration of existing bridges, and construction of a new bridge for better access across Buttonwood Brook.

While we are in the initial stages of Phase I — with much more work to be done — we will be actively seeking your input so you have greater opportunities to enjoy your beloved park, — the “Crown Jewel” of the city’s park system.

This is the 2nd project of the Friends’ **‘Buttonwood on the Move’ Health Initiative** — after the 3 basketball courts — to promote and encourage physical activity and overall well-being. We are “on the move” so you can move more in your park!

Thank you for helping us get this important project off the ground. Your gifts ensure that Buttonwood Park remains an urban haven where the entire community can access the health benefits of nature.



Rosa 'Tiki' photo by Rebecca Bullene

Save The Date

Saturday, June 3, 2017
Brooklyn Botanic Garden Tour
‘gardens in a Garden’

The 52-acre Brooklyn Botanic Garden was founded in 1910 and is located in the New York City borough of Brooklyn in the Prospect Park neighborhood. It includes numerous ‘gardens in the Garden,’ several pavilions, an aquatic plant house, an art gallery, and a bonsai museum, among other attractions. In the Cranford Rose Garden, there are over 1,000 species and varieties — making it “one of the largest collections in North America.”

As a member of the Friends of Buttonwood Park you will receive a discounted rate.
If you are not a member, this is a good time to join. Visit our website and become a member today.

www.buttonwoodpark.org

Because You Care, Bristol Aggie Students Plant Milkweed to Help Endangered Monarch Butterflies

An energetic group of students from Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton planted milkweed in our new Butterfly Garden along the rebuilt wall in the dell this past September — as well as in the pollinator garden at the Buttonwood Zoo.

The plantings will attract Monarch butterflies whose numbers are dangerously low due to the use of pesticides that destroy their food supply.

Thank you to the students, and their instructor, for a productive day's work in the park.

We also thank the City's Department of Public Infrastructure, and Naomi Carney and the Sheriff's Work Program crew for clearing the gardens and preparing them for planting. A special thank you to Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreation & Beaches for the grant that funded the plantings.



Bristol Aggie students water new plantings in Butterfly Garden

Springtime Guided Tours in the Park's Arboretum

Come enjoy what you have made possible

Would you like to learn more about the 16 specimen trees in our Arboretum? The Friends are offering guided tours to schoolchildren, individuals, and groups this spring.

For easier identification, our knowledgeable tree guides will point out the sizes, shapes, and margins of the leaves and their placement on the twigs, the colorings and markings of the bark, the seasonal fruit and flowers, and the height of the trees at maturity. We also have educational materials for our young visitors.

For more information or to schedule a tour, email friends@buttonwoodpark.org or call Anne Eades at (508) 996-1299



Arboretum's majestic Fernleaf Beech

Thank you!

Loyal donors, like you, support the work of the Friends year after year. Without you, we would not have the beautiful park that everyone enjoys today. Our 2016 Holiday Appeal was even more successful than the previous year.

We can't thank you enough for all that you will make possible through your giving. We will keep you updated on your donations at work in the upcoming editions of our newsletter.

Friends of Buttonwood Park is an all-volunteer (501)(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1986

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Monthly Giving Club

***Join as a Member of Special Friends. Your support will go even further.
It's easy, free, safe, and will help save hundreds of dollars annually.***

We thank you for all your past support of the Friends. It has helped us care for and protect free, green space that has brought enjoyment to so many, created lasting memories, and provided a tranquil retreat for those who live in the city.

Now there's an easy way to help your support go even further. You can assist us on an on-going basis by joining as a member of **Special Friends** — a select group of committed supporters.

Your gift of \$10 or more will be automatically charged to your credit card or checking account each month. It's easy, free and — most importantly — safe. And it will give the Friends a source of income they can count on every month. It also helps save time and money on printing and mailing costs, which allows us to spend more on the park's maintenance, programs, and projects.

We realize committing to a monthly charge may be a big step for you. But please know that, should your circumstances change, you can always modify the amount. Or cancel should you change your mind.

Please join Special Friends today! To get started, please visit our website www.buttonwoodpark.org or email friends@buttonwoodpark.org

Like Us On
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Mission Statement

*'Stewardship,
Protection, and Renewal'*

Our mission is the maintenance and improvement of the park with a focus on supporting and executing projects and activities that contribute to the physical and mental well-being of our urban population — while protecting and preserving the park as a historic landscape.

Because of your support...

***beauty of the park
shines through
even in the dead
of winter***

photo:
David St.Germain



You Are Needed!

We could use your help this spring cleaning the gardens and also watering newly-planted trees through the first frost. If you can be of any assistance, please email us at friends@buttonwoodpark.org