



The Leaflet



Fall 2016

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

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You Help Bring Children Outdoors and Closer to Nature

Tour of Buttonwood Greenhouse Delights Young Students

A group of 44 students from the Hayden-McFadden School, grades 1-5, met with board members Ray Castino and Sylvia Daley this spring for a joint, after-school program with the City’s Parks, Recreation & Beaches and the Buttonwood Park Zoo.



Hay-Mac students enjoy after-school tour thanks to your support

The children toured the “working” Buttonwood Park greenhouse which was filled with annuals, perennials, and tropical plants to be planted in the coming weeks. The role of mason bees in the pollination of flowers and other plants was discussed followed by the assembling of mason bee houses at the Senior Center.

The Friends are excited to participate in more of these programs — as the three pollinator gardens and future nature trails offer many teaching opportunities.

Nature Trails Project Moves Forward Because of You

North Woods overlooking Buttonwood Pond



We continue to work with landscape architect, Ray Dunetz, on a blueprint for the development of 18 acres of nature trails in the north woods. The project, which is part of ‘*Buttonwood on the Move,*’ will have far-reaching health benefits for the entire urban community.

Did you know that the nature trails project is not a new idea? It’s in keeping with the original design of Charles Eliot — a partner in the Olmsted firm. After visiting Buttonwood Park in 1895, Eliot called for “footpaths” encircling Buttonwood Pond that would give pedestrians scenic views of the park and the pond — a tranquil retreat from the stressors of city living not unlike what is needed today.

Thank you for helping fulfill the Olmsted vision for Buttonwood Park. You are a valued member of our team! *“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller*

Friends Sponsor Free Art Lessons in the Arboretum

Donations given in memory of Florence Novick



Thanks to your generosity, local artists enjoy free art classes in the Arboretum

This July, a group of 15 local artists (and budding artists) participated in an inaugural, free art class in the Arboretum sponsored by the Friends of Buttonwood Park. Another free class was held this September. The 3-hour lessons are being taught by local artist, Lori Bradley, who “welcomed the chance to be involved with the Friends.”

The classes are funded by donations given in memory of Florence Novick who passed away this June. In October, a final class for the year will be held at a discounted rate for members of the Friends. You will be notified by email, and information will also be posted on our Facebook page.

“By seeing the park used in such an appealing way with students sitting outside, it enhances the image of the park...and widens the visibility of the Arboretum,” remarked Phoebe Girard, one of the organizers. The Friends couldn’t agree more!

Rotch-Jones-Duff Volunteers Enjoy Visit to the Park

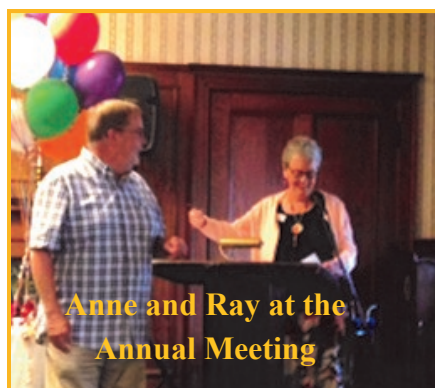
Members of the *Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum* toured the park with the Friends on a perfect, sunny afternoon last spring. One visitor called the future plans of the Friends “impressive.” And we even signed up a new member!

After walking around the Arboretum, we met up with Lorraine Perry at the Buffer Garden who educated all of us on the importance of pollinator gardens. At the old Tree Farm on Oneida Street, Anne and Ray explained the plans for the nature trails in the undeveloped north woods.

You will soon be hearing from us about a park tour this fall. We are excited to show you what you’ve made happen through your generous support and trust in us.



Anne Eades (r) points to site of nature trails on RJD park tour



Anne and Ray at the Annual Meeting

Ray Castino was elected President of the Friends at the annual meeting in May. He is a retired lawyer and a Certified Master Gardener, and has been a board member for several years serving as Vice-President and chair of the Maintenance/ Conservation Committee. Ray lives in New Bedford with his wife, Nancy.

Anne Eades will continue to serve on the board as chair of the Fund-raising /Development Committee. A beech tree will be planted in the park and a commemorative plaque displayed at the Lawler Library honoring her many years of selfless service as President.

Because You Care, Sensory Garden Gets Needed Makeover

The Friends are working to restore the Sensory Garden — adjacent to the fully-accessible *‘Wishing Rock Playground’* — to its former glory. Board member, Dianne Logan, headed a large group that cleared the area of weeds and prepared the garden for additional flowers and herbs this October that will delight all the senses.

Next year, an abundant variety of perennials will again correspond with the bronze plaques in Braille that were placed on the stone edge of the raised bed when the city created the garden eight years ago.

The Friends are asking for your help maintaining this popular spot to ensure that everyone gets to fully enjoy their day in the park.



Friends and volunteers ready Sensory Garden for new plantings this fall

*We will be “putting the beds to sleep” throughout the park this fall.
Can you help us? email friends@buttonwoodpark.org*

Our Friends Help Prominent Veterans Memorial Shine Once Again



Jewish Veterans Memorial Ready for New Landscaping

The Jewish War Memorial (1962) — located in an area of high visibility at the corner of Rockdale Avenue and Hawthorn Street — was in need of some sprucing up and new landscaping.

The monument has been powerwashed by Rex Monuments. And this fall, the Friends are planting ten holly bushes (*illex crenata*) — replacing the old shrubs removed by city arborist, Chance Perks, and his crew. A flowering cherry tree to the south will further accentuate this imposing monument.

We are grateful for the generosity of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Bedford and friends from the New Bedford High School class of 1959.

Thanks to all for your part in restoring this beautiful monument and its surroundings to a place of prominence in Buttonwood Park.

In Memoriam – Florence V. Novick

Florence Novick, a dear friend and colleague, passed away on June 3, 2016 at the age of 97. As a board member of the Friends of Buttonwood Park from its early days, Florence embodied its spirit and mission.

For many years she spearheaded the Annual Spring Cleanup of the park. Her organizational skills were inspiring. Even in her later years, the dedication and enthusiasm for the work of the Friends never faltered. We miss her sharp mind and infectious smile.

A Memorial Fund has been established in her honor to support the work she loved.



At ceremony for basketball courts 2014

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Lorraine Perry

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.

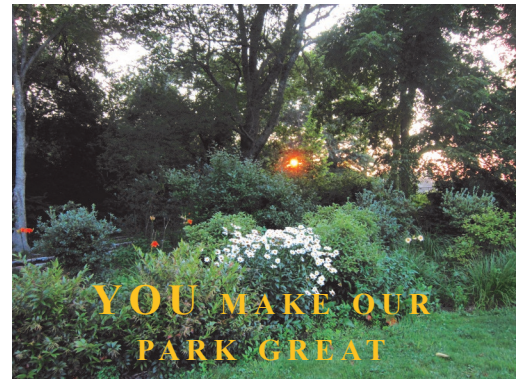


Give To Us...and Watch Your Investment in the Park Bloom!

You spent your childhood summers roaming around the woodlands. You now take your children or grandchildren to swing on the swings. You walk your dog, or walk with a friend, around the perimeter each day. Or... you may even play a few games of basketball on the new courts.

We can all agree that Buttonwood Park is a gem in our city. For thirty years, the Friends have been active stewards of this property, ensuring that the legacy and vision of Frederick Law Olmsted is protected and advanced. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on donors like you to keep that legacy alive.

One way you can make a significant difference is to designate the Friends of Buttonwood Park as a charity you want to support through a Donor-Advised Fund.



If you already have an existing Donor-Advised Fund, simply designate us as a beneficiary. Or, you may want to set aside a certain amount of that fund for us or choose a periodic gift.

Perhaps you would like to start a fund to benefit our group. All you need to do is designate Friends of Buttonwood Park to your Donor-Advised Fund Manager. And we do all the rest.

One thing is for sure. You will see your investment in us grow in the park. Your gift will bloom year after year in our gardens, our arboretum, on our walkways, and on our nature trails. And, you will have the great feeling of knowing that the thousands who play, visit, walk, and volunteer in the park each year are appreciating your gift.

What better impact can you have? Frederick Law Olmsted — if he were alive today — would probably thank you himself!

Visit our website www.buttonwoodpark.org
or email friends@buttonoodpark.org

You can also drop us a line at P. O. Box 2011 New Bedford, MA 02741