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ANNUAL REPORT

2022

CITY of BOSTON



Parks and Recreation

boston.gov/parks

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LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Friends,

Thanks to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's resources and continuing public/private partnerships, we programmed our parks and playgrounds throughout 2022 with movies, concerts, special events, workshops, and sports for all ages. The preservation, care, and improvement of our open space under the dedicated stewardship of Parks Department staff positively affected the quality of life for residents in every city neighborhood.

The planning process for the future of our parks and tree canopy took a major step forward in 2022 with the release of the Boston Common Master Plan, the Franklin Park Action Plan, and the Urban Forest Plan—including the announcement of a new Forestry Division.

We also continued to invest in green spaces that protect our neighborhoods from coastal floods and storms as part of our efforts to strengthen our coastline with a system of resilient parks, trails, and beaches.

Our city's resilience was tested in dealing with the pandemic and has emerged stronger as the pace of life returns. During these trying times Boston's parks and open space proved more valuable than ever as places where children can play freely and people can exercise, stay healthy, and gather with friends and family. Please join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of 2022 with an eye toward the future through a comprehensive planning process, enhanced resilience strategies, equitable allocation of resources, and the programming of fun, free park activities and events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Wu". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Friends,

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department has been very busy over this last year. From the release of our Urban Forest Plan and Boston Common and Franklin Park Master Plans, numerous playground and park openings, the rededication of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial, renovations to the William Devine Golf Course, and the ongoing maintenance of our cemeteries and historic burial grounds, we have been quite active. Our team and our City have so much to be proud of.

Recently, it feels like we all have a renewed sense of appreciation and gratitude for Boston's many parks and open spaces. They offer spaces for play, exercise, and solitude. Parks can act as critical infrastructure against the impacts of climate change, like flooding and sea level rise. They help to clean our air, while reducing the heat island effect, and giving us all a chance to connect with nature. Parks are a key touchstone for our communities and help us bond with our families and neighbors. They are spaces where we make memories and it is critically important that we preserve and expand these spaces for future generations.

As Chief of the City of Boston's Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet, I am charged with supporting Mayor Wu's vision that Boston be the most resilient and just city to live in. Our Cabinet strives to ensure that all Bostonians, and particularly those who are most vulnerable, have

equitable access to climate-resilient spaces to live and play. We steward and promote Boston's historical and natural spaces as we engage residents in robust conversations about our future.

None of this would be possible without the commitment and dedication of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department staff. During the pandemic our staff went above and beyond to make sure that we were providing responsive service to the public. As you read through the accomplishments of this past year, I hope you will know that this is only possible because we have such an amazing team. Whether you are in the park for a walk or run, or taking your animal to get low cost vaccinations, or burying a loved one at one of our cemeteries, I hope you will take the opportunity to let them know what their work means to your quality of life.

Our work is also made possible because of ongoing partnerships with advocates, community groups and companies who support our work. You help keep our parks clean, sponsor our events and have been integral to bringing new parks into the city. I have such immense gratitude to work alongside you and to give back to the city that I love so much.

Thank you,



Reverend Mariama White-Hammond
Chief of Environment, Energy and Open Space

INTRODUCTION

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) creates and maintains clean, green, safe, and accessible public parks and open space throughout Boston. The Department is responsible for 217 parks, playgrounds and athletic fields, two golf courses, 65 squares, 17 fountains, 75 game courts, 16 historic and three active cemeteries, urban wilds, four High School athletic fields, and approximately 125,000 trees, all covering 2,346 acres, 1,000 of which comprise the historic Emerald Necklace. BPRD is also responsible for more than 35,000 street trees.

Throughout 2022, BPRD continued to fulfill its primary responsibility for the management of open space resources and recreation facilities within the city. Building on the legacy of such “firsts” in the nation such as the first public park, Boston Common, and the first botanical garden, the Public Garden, our staff worked year-round to maintain, preserve, and program one of the finest urban park systems in America.

Highlights of the year included the exciting news that the Department will soon have a new Forestry Division. Mayor Michelle Wu’s Capital Improvement Program funded major renovations to parks and playgrounds citywide as we incorporated sustainable practices to guide us into the next generation.

The Department’s staff fulfilled many roles as the city and country tackled the slow recovery from the worldwide pandemic. Boston Park Rangers patrolled on horseback, administrative workers handled everything from payroll to interment records, constituent services staff addressed incoming calls and emails, landscape architects and project managers oversaw improvements throughout our system while maintaining the integrity of our historic parks, and events staff planned and presented the welcome return of our pre-pandemic events schedule ranging from children’s arts and crafts workshops to concerts in neighborhood parks. These staff members are the lifeblood of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department; please join us as we celebrate their accomplishments in 2022.

PLANNING, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCTION

The BPRD Planning, Design, and Construction Division oversees historic preservation, landscape design, capital improvements, planning, and infrastructure throughout City of Boston parks. Their work received accolades throughout 2022 including the Honor Award for Analysis and Planning from the American Society of Landscape Architects for the Moakley Park Resilience Plan. Restoration of the Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Regiment Memorial on Boston Common was an award winner from the Boston Preservation Alliance.

The reconstruction of Langone Park and Puopolo Park on the waterfront in the North End was recognized with the Public Works Project of the Year (Historical Restoration/Preservation \$5M - \$25M) from New England Chapter of the American Public Works Association, the Silver Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts, and the Climate Change Project of the Year from the Environmental Business Council of New England.

ACTION AND MASTER PLANS

In keeping with the Department's mission of planning for the future, three important documents were released in 2022: the Boston Common Master Plan; the Franklin Park Action Plan; and the Urban Forest Plan, which was announced along with the creation of a new BPRD Forestry Division.

BOSTON COMMON MASTER PLAN

In October, Mayor Michelle Wu announced the official release of the new Boston Common Master Plan, a comprehensive vision for the future of the "People's Park." A major tourist destination, cultural beacon, and neighborhood park, Boston Common is one of the most treasured green spaces in the world. The planning process incorporated the input of Boston residents and park users to create a roadmap for the preservation, maintenance, and public use of this historic green space in the heart of the city.

Recommendations included a comprehensive redesign of the Boston Common Frog Pond, including the Tadpole Playground; expanding the Visitor's Center; adding an accessible entrance at Shaw 54th Memorial; pedestrian improvements at the Charles Street entrance from the Public Garden; renovation of the heavily-used Mayor's Walk pathway; piloting restrooms in several locations; and better activation of the Boylston Street plaza and entrance.

Public engagement kicked off with an online survey and "Mini-Common" pop-up exhibits that gave residents and visitors the opportunity to comment on specific areas of the Common, evaluate current programming, and recommend potential interventions and improvements. All input was incorporated in the master plan's vision, guiding principles, goals and objectives, and recommendations.

With the release of the plan, the City of Boston invited the public to share priorities by selecting high-priority projects related to accessibility, recreational opportunities, landscape improvements, historic interpretation, restrooms, and food options during a 45-day public comment period. The plan is available online at boston.gov/boston-common-plan.

FRANKLIN PARK ACTION PLAN

In mid-December Mayor Wu announced the release of the new Franklin Park Action Plan, a comprehensive vision for the future of the 527-acre park, widely considered to be landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted's crowning achievement and the last in a trio of great parks including Manhattan's Central Park and Brooklyn's Prospect Park.



Photo: @Sahar Coston-Hardy/Esto

With the release of the plan, the City of Boston asked the public to share their perspectives on implementation by identifying community priorities among a slate of projects related to restoration of historic structures, improved

circulation for all transportation modes, dedicated spaces for cultural and recreational opportunities, and ecological considerations.

Over the course of the three-year planning process, community members and park stakeholders identified a long list of needs and wishes for the park. Highlights of the plan's recommendations include restoring and activating the Bear Dens with new uses; reintroducing the Elma Lewis Playhouse to the Overlook with a new stage, restrooms, and seating; upgrading active spaces like trails, play areas, athletic fields, and picnic sites; creating a welcoming "front porch" for the Blue Hill Avenue entrance at Peabody Circle with terraced seating; and rehabilitating the landscape of the park by removing invasive plants, cutting back vegetation to reveal the park's sweeping vistas, and planting new native species and trees.

The plan's scope covers park maintenance and management as well as cultural and recreational programming. The \$28 million investment includes \$23 million in capital funding and a \$5 million maintenance trust that was created in 2018. Earnings from the trust can be applied to maintenance expenses related to the park.

Over 26,000 individuals engaged in the planning process with more than 8,000 people providing direct input. Outreach included flyers in the community, signage in the park, email, direct mail, popup events, door-to-door canvassing, community workshops, neighborhood meetings, and communications with over 150 local organizations. The plan is available online at boston.gov/franklin-park-plan.

URBAN FOREST PLAN AND FORESTRY DIVISION

Tree canopy is a critical part of Boston's infrastructure. A thriving urban forest reduces heat levels while removing pollutants from the air. It also supports water quality and reduces the impact of flooding by intercepting large quantities of stormwater during and after rain.

On September 21, Mayor Wu announced efforts to bolster the City of Boston's tree canopy to enhance livability and public health throughout Boston's neighborhoods. The announcement included the launch of a new Forestry Division within BPRD to expand Boston's ability to maintain existing and plant new trees. The division will grow the City's tree-related workforce from five to 16, with dedicated leadership and resources to plant new trees as well as proactively inspect, maintain, and prune existing trees, focusing on under-canopied and environmental justice neighborhoods. The Forestry Division will include a Director of Urban Forestry, three arborists, three maintenance crews, and several support staff. Increased staffing will empower the Parks and Recreation Department to respond more quickly to tree maintenance requests, clear the maintenance backlog, decrease tree mortality, and focus resources on under-canopied neighborhoods.

The announcement was timed with the release of the Urban Forest Plan, an assessment of Boston's urban forest with recommendations to improve the way trees are cared for and ensure the urban forest is available to the entire community.

The plan outlines major strategies for tree canopy management citywide and includes neighborhood-specific strategies for tree planting, preservation, and care. The new Forestry Division will use these neighborhood plans to develop specific planting and maintenance programs throughout Boston.

The Urban Forest Plan is a key component of the City's Healthy Places Initiative, which is focused on increasing open space, cooling our neighborhoods, and protecting Bostonians from the impacts of climate change. Healthy Places is a collaboration of three City plans including the Urban Forest Plan, Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston, and the seven year update to the City's Open Space and Recreation Plan which will be released publicly in 2023. All plans can be viewed online at boston.gov/healthy-places.



GRANTS

In April, the Department was awarded \$1.3 million by the City's Community Preservation Committee for the citywide Open Space Acquisition Fund. Added to the previous year's \$1 million grant, the Fund now has a total of \$2.3 million for future park and open space land acquisitions.

In September, the Department was awarded \$400,000 by the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs through its Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant program for the renovation of O'Day Playground in the South End. Construction will begin in the summer of 2023 and be completed by the beginning of summer in 2024.

The Historic Burying Grounds Initiative received two grants from the Community Preservation Act. The first grant of \$57,000 was for restoration of masonry walls, steel ornamental fencing and gates, and gravestone repair and resetting at Westerly Burying Ground in West Roxbury. The second grant of \$67,000 was for restoration of the Harmony Street wall and fence at Bennington Street Cemetery in East Boston. The design for these projects is underway and the construction work will be completed in 2023.

An application was also submitted to the Community Preservation Act office for restoration of the northeast masonry wall in the Granary Burying Ground. A designer has been hired for this project.



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PROJECTS

WALKER PLAYGROUND

Mayor Wu joined Mattapan residents for a Neighborhood Coffee Hour and the official reopening of Walker Playground at 550 Norfolk Street on June 30. The event marked the last of Mayor Wu's regularly scheduled 2022 Neighborhood Coffee Hours and the unveiling of more than \$1.7 million in park improvements.



MCCONNELL PARK

Mayor Wu joined members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, elected officials, local youth sports leagues, park neighbors, and families on July 8 for the official unveiling of \$7.1 million in improvements to McConnell Park in Dorchester's Savin Hill neighborhood. Located at 30 Denny Street, McConnell Park is a popular 6.2 acre facility that dates back to 1899. The comprehensive park renovation included the play lot, fields, passive spaces, parking, utility improvements, and improved access.

Funding was provided by the Mayor's Capital Improvement Plan supplemented by a \$1 million Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. In addition to full renovation of the athletic facilities, the park was also designed to implement climate resilient measures due to its proximity to the harbor. These include raised portions of the site, a granite block barrier wall which further extends the flood protection potential of the park, and parking lot islands designed to retain and infiltrate stormwater.

Features include the new Little League field with a batting cage, drinking fountains, and irrigation; a multi-purpose softball field with ball netting; a small soccer field in the outfield; and a Challenger ball field for inclusion leagues with a closer outfield fence and an accessible short pile artificial turf field surface. All ballfields feature new LED lighting, bleachers, and shaded dugouts.

The park experienced significant flooding in the fields and parking lot from two Nor'easters in early 2018. Stormwater made its way across the park and into low lying areas in abutter's backyards, flooding basements and properties. After these two events, the US Geological Survey identified and surveyed several high water mark elevations in Boston. With support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City unveiled its first high water mark signs codifying these historic high water levels with informational and interactive signage that will improve flood risk awareness for a variety of users and audiences, and connect residents and visitors to actions the City is taking to address these vulnerabilities.

MISSION HILL PLAYGROUND



Mayor Wu and Boston Parks Commissioner Ryan Woods joined residents on August 5 for the official reopening of Mission Hill Playground at 60 Smith Street. The playground renovation features a full basketball court so the nearby schools, Tobin Community Center, and the greater community can engage in healthy active recreation.

The Parks team worked with the Tobin K-8 School, the Mission Grammar School, the Tobin Community Center, and residents of all ages to

identify priorities for the playground. The results include features that make the park a more welcoming communal gathering place, a new full basketball court, and a more accessible playground thanks to pedestrian pathway improvements. The water spray area now has in-ground features framed by art elements against the backdrop of Boston's skyline. The scope includes all new play equipment and safety surfaces, irrigation and renovation of the ball field, drinking fountains, bench seating and picnic tables, trees, renovation of the large retaining wall, and additional lighting. The highly-used pedestrian path connecting Smith and Tremont Street is now entirely ADA compliant.

The total budget of \$3,255,000 was provided by the Mayor's Capital Improvement Plan including a \$400,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program.



SMITH PLAYGROUND DOG PARK

The master plan for the park, located at 235 Western Avenue, identified a need for a dog recreation space in Allston and placed it in the north half of Smith Playground on the Soldier's Field Road side of the 14.8-acre complex. Phase 2, which included the dog park and three athletic fields, began construction in 2021. Community meetings for the master plan were held in 2016 with community meetings for phase 2 held in 2019 and 2020.

The dog park has two fenced-in areas, one for large dogs and one for small dogs. Amenities for comfort include water for dogs and their humans, shade for creatures with two and four legs, and gated vestibules with leash posts and a bulletin board. Mounds and platforms create some enrichment challenges for dogs who are so inclined.



MEDINA DIXON BASKETBALL COURTS



Mayor Wu and Commissioner Woods joined members of the Dixon family and local coaches and players on August 20 for the dedication of the basketball courts at Walker Playground in Mattapan in honor of the late Medina Dixon.

At 6' 3" Medina Dixon was Mattapan and Dorchester's pride, a powerhouse who learned the game in the same park at 550 Norfolk Street where the courts are now named after her. By the time she transferred from West Roxbury High School to

Cambridge Rindge & Latin School, Medina Dixon was the top female high school player in the United States. Her level of play was so advanced that the school actually considered having her play on the boys' team but she preferred to play in the girls' league where she broke records and mentored other players. These are the first basketball courts in the City of Boston park system to be named after a woman.

COLIN'S COURTYARD

In December, the McGrath Family joined the Parks Department and Boston Housing Authority in South Boston to open a new intergenerational plaza in memory of Colin McGrath, the young victim of a car accident on L Street in 2018 shortly before his third birthday. Funding for the \$773,000 project was provided by the Capital Improvement Program and the Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund.

HYNES FIELD

The November opening at this popular West Roxbury park unveiled improvements to the little league field, softball field, basketball courts and the addition of a pickleball court, site furnishings, exercise station, spectator seating, amphitheater seating, picnic tables, tree plantings, and pruning. The \$1,272,846 project was funded by the Capital Improvement Program.

54TH MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT MEMORIAL



On June 1, thousands of people gathered on Boston Common for the rededication of the Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial by renowned sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The completion of the \$3 million restoration coincided with the 125th anniversary of the original unveiling of this nationally significant monument that has served as a catalyst for a broad conversation on race, equity, and social justice for all.

Members of the Partnership to Renew the Shaw 54th Regiment Memorial were joined by civic, elected, and military leaders for a ceremony that began with “living history” reenactors from the all-Black 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment Company A and United States Colored Troops marching up Beacon Street towards the Massachusetts State House, as the men of the 54th did in 1863 and again in 1897. The rededication ceremony marked the end of a three-year restoration process undertaken by a partnership between the National Park Service, BPRD, Friends of the Public Garden, and Museum of African American History, Boston & Nantucket.

The restoration work was led by Louis C. Allegrone Construction and its team of bronze conservators at Skylight Studios, with support from design and conservation consultant team Silman Structural Engineers. The restored monument was hoisted back to its foundation on Boston Common in March, 2021, and unveiled this year on Memorial Day weekend coinciding with its original unveiling on May 31, 1897, and the day the regiment, led by Shaw, marched down Beacon Street past the State House in 1863, as the memorial portrays.

MILLENNIUM PARK

Phase 2 of the Millennium Park multi-phased renovation in West Roxbury included paving the lower parking lots and boat access roadway and parking lot. The work was funded by \$889,776 provided by the Capital Improvement Program.

WILLIAM DEVINE GOLF COURSE

Renovations at this historic course in Franklin Park included tee reconstruction at Holes 12 and 13, pathway restoration, tree plantings and invasive plant management. Funding for the \$385,330 project was provided by the Capital Improvement Program.

CEMETERIES

The Parks Department maintains three active cemeteries managed by the Cemetery Division on more than 200 acres of land containing over 250,000 gravesites: Mount Hope Cemetery in Mattapan; Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park; and Evergreen Cemetery in Brighton. The Division also oversees the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative's 16 historic burying grounds.

During 2022, the Cemeteries Division continued to serve families in their time of need and honor the memories of their loved ones. In what is now an annual December tradition, the Division participated in the nationwide "Wreaths Across America" event dedicated to remembering the sacrifices veterans have made in wars since the American Revolution.

HISTORIC BURYING GROUNDS

Boston's most historic final resting places are preserved and maintained by the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative (HBGI), the BPRD program dedicated to the comprehensive restoration, ongoing conservation, and heritage interpretation of Boston's 16 historic burying grounds.

Highlights in 2022 included completion of conservation work on gravestones at Eliot Burying Ground in Roxbury, one of the oldest in all of Boston dating from 1633. The scope of the \$150,050 project encompassed the conservation of over 130 gravestones and resetting of over 30 gravestones. Much of the work took place at an indoor conservation studio. The George B. Henderson Foundation contributed a grant of \$40,000 to this project.

Masonry restoration was finished on the many brick and stone walls inside Phipps Street Burying Ground in Charlestown. HBGI hired a restoration specialist to survey the condition of the walls and determine which were most in need of work. Contractors restored 12 walls, including some containing tomb entrances. The total construction cost was \$274,390. The burying ground was established in 1630.

The second phase of a project to conserve all the gravestones was started at Copp's Hill Burying Ground in the North End. The total cost of the project as bid was \$274,900 with \$100,000 provided by the Community Preservation Act.

Emergency tomb repair was performed at Central Burying Ground on Boston Common when a tomb under a path opened up. As a result, a total

of 15 underground tombs along the path were inspected for structural stability. As a result, repair of five underground tombs will take place in 2023.

A total of 35 new trees were planted in Bennington Street Cemetery, South End Burying Ground, Dorchester North Burying Ground, and Dorchester South Burying Ground while HBGI continued the battle against invasive plants in several burying grounds citywide.

MAINTENANCE

Based out of headquarters in Franklin Park, the BPRD Maintenance Division beautifies, manages, and maintains the City of Boston's park system. Our Maintenance crews care for squares, fountains, game courts, street trees, and almost 200 additional acres of urban wilds and non-traditional open space. In 2022 there were 8,175 maintenance cases received. Of those, 8,117 cases were closed or completed.

HORTICULTURE

The BPRD Horticulture Division's 13 dedicated greenhouse staff, six Public Garden staff, and Kelleher Rose Garden staff person enhance the beauty of Boston's neighborhoods and parks by producing and maintaining planting areas in City-owned parks and greenspace. The Division beautifies more than 60 dedicated planting sites throughout Boston's neighborhoods. In addition to planting these sites the Division waters and

maintains them throughout the growing season. During the early winter months BPRD gardeners tend to flowering annuals and perennials in the Franklin Park greenhouses where more than 20,000 finished plants are produced by the late spring to be used at sites all across the city.

The Horticulture's Division's Franklin Park greenhouses supply plants for celebrations such as St. Patrick's Day when shamrocks are supplied for the City of Boston's Age Strong Commission. They also supply summer flowering annuals for the Mayor's Neighborhood Coffee hours, park opening celebrations, and marigolds for the Day of the Dead ceremonies.



This past fall over 25,000 bulbs were planted in the Public Garden and another 30,000 citywide to bloom in the spring of 2023. Daffodils were also supplied for the annual BPRD bulb giveaway to garden clubs and community groups for planting in City-owned parks and greenspaces.

The Division also accepted a generous donation of plant material from the Earthshot ceremonies this fall that will be utilized in Boston Parks and greenspaces. As another year came to a close the Horticulture staff decorated the Public Garden with lights and wreaths for the annual tree lighting festivities.

GOLF COURSES

The 2022 golf season was one for the record books. The two city courses (William J. Devine Golf Course in Dorchester and George Wright Golf Course in Hyde Park) had over 90,000 rounds of golf played, topping the 2021 golf season by more than 10,000 rounds. The most exciting news for golfers will be that golf rates will remain the same in 2023.

Both courses were in great shape all year long despite an extended drought. In addition to the rebuilt Hole 12 and 13 tee boxes and a restored Hole 7 fairway at the William J. Devine Golf Course, BPRD began building new forward tees on Holes 3, 9, and 10 at the George Wright Golf Course in December. These will be ready for use sometime in early May, 2023.

The First Tee program at Franklin Park had an amazing year, one of the highlights being the successful introduction of the Junior Golf League that gave participants the opportunity to play in a competitive league against other junior golfers.

In 2022, 115 youth employees employed by the BPRD Recreation Division beautified and maintained our City golf courses. Lessons at the two sites served over 400 participants. The Department also continued its participation with the Francis Ouimet Scholarship Foundation to help deserving young men and women who have worked at golf courses in Massachusetts obtain a college education. For over 25 years more than 210 Boston Students have benefited from this program.



PERMITTING

Events held by others in Boston parks include weddings, family picnics, sports leagues, and major concerts and rallies. The BPRD Permitting Division guides event organizers through the permitting process. Customer service was a priority in 2022 with thousands of calls and emails handled throughout the year. Existing partnerships were maintained with local institutions that have invested in park improvements including Emmanuel College, Suffolk University, Northeastern University, and Emerson College.

In 2022 the Division issued 2,217 adult sports permits, 1,533 youth sports permits, 2,134 special events permits, and 219 wedding permits.

URBAN WILDS

The Urban Wilds Program stewards the City's 30 permanently protected conservation land holdings. Its goals are to protect City-owned urban wilds and other natural areas from threats such as development, encroachment, and other uses that may harm their natural character, preserve their ecological value, and promote conservation, passive recreation, environmental education, and other similar uses.

2022 marked the substantial completion of the Roslindale Wetlands capital project. This much anticipated project included removal of dumped

fill and trash, renovation of the existing trailheads, completion of a perimeter walking trail with boardwalks and bog bridges, and restoration of the adjacent wetland buffer. A second phase in 2023 will extend ecological restoration and access improvements by formally integrating the newly acquired 108 Walter St. trailhead parcel into the 10-acre Roslindale Wetlands site.



In addition to capital renovation work, the Urban Wilds Program provided technical assistance to the City's new green jobs program, PowerCorpsBOS, through field and classroom training. Staff from Urban Wilds coordinated with PowerCorps to improve two properties in different stages of ecological restoration.

At Buena Vista Urban Wild in Roxbury, PowerCorps students learned how to identify and properly remove several key invasive plants. Urban Wilds staff also facilitated a tree planting workshop, through which PowerCorps students learned from professional arborists how to properly plant trees adjacent to the Warren Street bus stop at Buena Vista. In Hyde Park and Roslindale, PowerCorps

provided critical support in reclaiming land recently added to Monterey Hilltop Urban Wild.

Over the course of 2022, the Urban Wilds Program hosted a variety of volunteer events. More than 265 volunteers gave their time to help care for our properties, totaling about 785 hours of work. Highlights included a tree planting at Condor Street Urban Wild with local community partner NOAH CDC, several cleanups at West Street Urban Wild with help from the Neponset River Watershed Association, and many other community-driven events. Thanks go out to these partners along with the Southwest Boston CDC's Green Team, NOAH CDC's youth team, Tree Eastie, and our Urban Wilds seasonal staff for keeping our new trees watered during the prolonged and critical summer drought.

BOSTON PARK RANGERS

The Boston Park Ranger service reached an anniversary milestone in 2022 as it marked 40 years since its inception in 1982. The operation continues to follow the original concept of renowned 19th-century landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted who conceived of a program of “park keepers.” In fulfilling their roles and diverse responsibilities, the Park Rangers continue their mission of acting as ambassadors to all users of Boston’s open space and urban park system.

Educating, informing and providing public safety only offers a general overview of the services that the Park Ranger staff provides year round. Their comprehensive training is designed to have staff effectively face the challenges presented to them under all conditions and throughout the year. The Park Rangers enforce general laws and ordinances, manage medical emergencies as first responders, and fine-tune their collaborative working relationships with all of Boston’s other public safety services.



Their dedicated efforts in natural resource management, urban wildlife and animal control, includes the annual initiative in humanely controlling the Canada Goose population by means of egg addling. Responding to wildlife related emergencies is a routine component of their committed service.

The Park Rangers play an integral role in public

safety and security related needs for special events hosted and permitted by BPRD. Crowd and vehicular management and enforcement of permit-related regulations, including vendor coordination, are further examples of the role of the Park Rangers.

The nationally-recognized Park Ranger Mounted Patrol Division augments efforts in strategic deployment and crime prevention by means of high visibility patrols and public outreach through community policing. The immensely popular presence of the Mounted Park Rangers provides a sense of security and enhances public safety wherever they patrol. The specially designed educational programs developed around the Mounted Division and its stable operation add a unique feature to an established public safety service.

In 2022 the Park Rangers scheduled a number of interpretive programs based on their training and comprehensive knowledge of Boston's parks including monthly tours and hikes through various urban wilds and historic burial grounds.

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

The BPRD's seven Animal Care and Control officers responded to over 7,700 service calls in 2022. The most frequent requests included park patrols, animal bite investigations, stray cats and dogs, and injured wildlife. In addition to calls for

service, the Division held administrative hearings, operated their animal care facility, held low/no cost vaccine clinics, and maintained a pet food pantry.

In 2022, Animal Care and Control picked up over 1,800 wild and domestic animals who were then brought to the animal care facility in Roslindale for care. Some of our more memorable pets include George, the cat who was lost on Route 93 North and later returned to his very grateful owner, and Gravy the turkey who was found at Logan airport as a chick, evaluated by the veterinary team and adopted out through our animal shelter.



The Division relaunched their foster and volunteer program with a small group of dedicated individuals coming in daily to provide much-needed walks and one-on-one time. Adding to the assistance provided by Animal Care and Control to needy animals, the Division's amazing foster network opened up their homes to pets who needed a little extra TLC.

Over the last two years, committed individuals have run the Boston Marathon to raise funds for the Fund for Animal Care and Control. This year we were able to provide shelter dog training and enrichment and additional diagnostics for pets like Lollie who came in with a fractured pelvis. Lollie needed multiple X-rays and spent four months recovering in foster care.

RECREATION

The BPRD Recreation Division provides high quality sports activities to Boston's youth along with fitness programs for all ages. With a return to more outdoor scheduling in 2022, residents were able to choose from a calendar packed with free recreation programs and events.

The Mayor's Cup tournaments gave youngsters the opportunity to meet their peers from across the city and compete for the title of "Boston's Best" in 334 softball, baseball, street hockey, ice hockey, tennis, and cross country games, matches, and meets throughout the season. With the growing popularity of the sport, the Recreation Division also hosted the first annual Mayor's Cup Adult Pickleball Tournament in October.

In keeping with the goal of providing activities year round, more than 200 youngsters took part in our winter clinics in softball and baseball while the return of the All Girls Sports and Wellness Festival gave 287 young women a full day of activities in April at the BCYF Leahy-Holloran Community Center in Dorchester. The Festival

featured a variety of sports, games, health and wellness speakers, self-defense tactics, and aquatic activities with expert instructors.



Free winter, summer, and fall fitness classes kept more than 5,500 Bostonians moving during 576 hours of virtual and in-person classes including bootcamps, chair yoga, line dancing, barre, HIIT, yoga, family fitness, Afrobeats bootcamp, tai chi, and salsa.



BPRD Summer Sports Centers hosted more than 15,000 youngsters at East Boston Stadium, Garvey Park in Dorchester, Hunt Almont Park in Mattapan, M Street Park in South Boston and White Stadium at Franklin Park where kids were able to safely participate in activities including archery, obstacle courses, sports clinics, fitness classes, arts and crafts, and more.



Other 2022 summer programs included Willie O'Ree Street Hockey Clinics, Boston Baseball League (BCBL), Women's and Men's Adult Basketball League, Boston Neighborhood Basketball League (BNBL), Men's Softball Leagues, Tenacity youth tennis, Boston Neighborhood Soccer League (BNSL), Football Jamboree, and Junior Golf Lessons. Our Archery Program proved especially popular with over 2,752 youth and teens taking part throughout the city this past summer and fall.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

The External Affairs Division oversees the Parks Department's partnerships, public relations, ParkARTS, fundraising, special events, and programming. Signature annual events included the Rose Garden Party fundraiser, the Mayor's Garden Contest, and the popular Neighborhood Coffee Hour series which gives residents the opportunity to discuss issues and concerns with Mayor Wu and City officials in their local parks.

More than 44,000 attendees enjoyed free events and activities organized by the External Affairs team in 2022. Celebrations marked the seasons in Boston with the annual launch of the Swan Boats in the spring, the opening of the Boston Common Frog Pond for wading in the summer and skating in the winter, and the Fall-o-Ween Children's Festival celebrating autumn in New England with a wide range of free, fun, and spooky family-friendly activities.



The year kicked off when Mayor Wu and BPRD welcomed families, children, and caregivers to the annual Children's Winter Festival on Boston Common. The February school vacation event was open to all with music, giveaways, various winter attractions, treats, and crafts.

The year closed with the Department's holiday tree lighting events at Christopher Columbus Park in the North End, Martin's Park at the Smith Family Waterfront Park in South Boston, Copley Square, and BPRD's biggest event of the year, the lighting of Boston Common, the Boston Public Garden, Commonwealth Mall, and the City of Boston's official Christmas tree on December 2.

The 2022 calendar was rounded out with events organized, funded, and staffed by External Affairs including Fairy House Building Workshops, Watercolor Painting Workshops, ParkARTS Arts & Crafts Workshops, Rosalita's Marionette Puppets, Neighborhood Concerts, Tito Puente Latin Music Concert Series, Elma Lewis Concert Series, Golf Summer Concert Series, Virtual Pics in the Parks, Movie Nights, Boston Children's Rec Fest, Boston Blooms daffodil bulb giveaway, and hiking programs exploring our parks.



BOSTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Boston Parks and Recreation Commission is a seven-person review body appointed by the Mayor. The Commission was created by the vote of the people of Boston which approved Chapter 185 of the Legislative Acts of 1875. The authority of the Commission is set forth in the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 45 and in Municipal Code Section 7.4. The Commission oversees the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and has authority over the properties in its inventory. The Commission reviews projects under Municipal Code Section 7-4.11 which are within 100 feet of a publicly owned park or parkway.

Commission Members as of December 2022

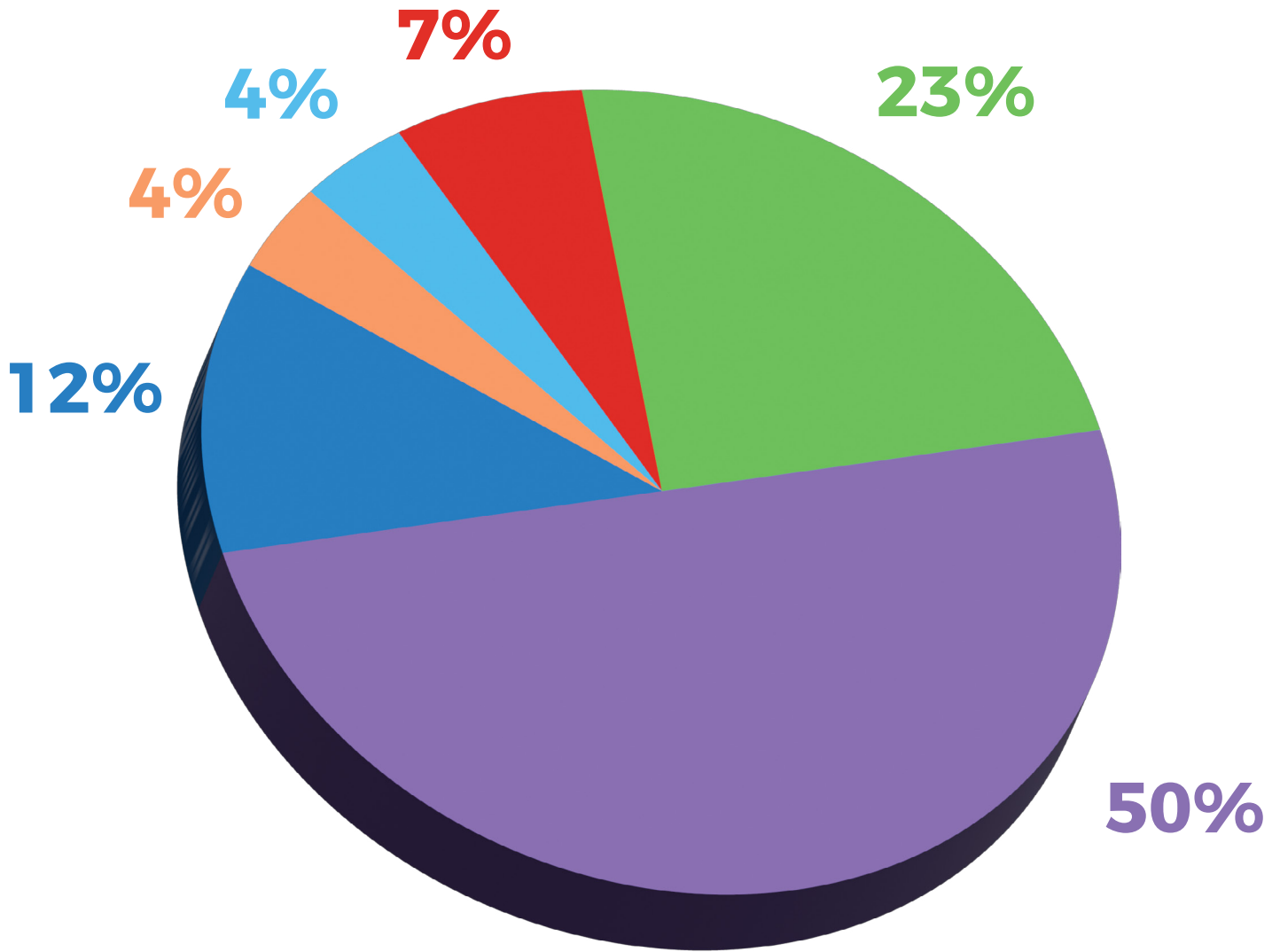
Elisa Birdseye, Associate Commissioner
Anne Connolly, Associate Commissioner
William Epperson, Associate Commissioner
Leonard M. Lee, Sr., Associate Commissioner
David Queeley, Associate Commissioner
Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment,
Energy, and Open Space
Ryan Woods, Commissioner

Carrie M. Dixon, Executive Secretary
Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect

2022 OPERATING EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES:

\$32,408,663.81



RECREATION

\$ 1,240,989.56

ANIMAL CONTROL

\$ 1,386,121.30

CEMETERY

\$ 2,371,271.56

OPERATIONS

\$ 3,718,870.07

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

\$ 7,415,134.34

MAINTENANCE

\$ 16,276,276.98

HIGHLIGHTS OF

2022



The Mayor's Mural Crew strengthened the visual landscape of our Parks.



Animal Care and Control cared for our feather and furry friends.



Hike Boston brought interpretive programming back to Boston's Wilds.



Our golf courses offered challenging courses in a beautiful setting.



Our in-person and virtual fitness classes helped us to stay healthy.



A goal without a plan is just a wish - plans all across the city.



Maintenance worked hard to keep our parks safe and clean.



The Recreation Division brought youth athletic programs across Boston.



Design & Construction broke ground and cut ribbons.



Thousands were entertained at Parks programs and events.



Boston Parks & Recreation Department
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   @bostonparksdept

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