
Magazine Beach Partners

2022 Annual Report



April 28, 2023

Making Magazine Beach a more welcoming and vibrant park, connecting its community and stewarding its natural grounds.



Dear Friends of Magazine Beach,

2022 was a banner year for the park:

- Major park investments by the State of Massachusetts and the City of Cambridge.
- Mass Audubon activated its Powder Magazine nature center.
- The Charles River Conservancy (CRC) agreed to partner with DCR to implement the newly adopted Charles River Basin Vegetation Management Plan.
- The Cambridge Historical Commission granted the Powder Magazine a preservation award.
- Local artists Michelle Lougee and Cecily Miller engaged the community in the creation of a Plastic Tapestry art project at the Powder Magazine.
- Volunteers assisted with 16 cleanups of the park led by the CRC, Mass Audubon and MBP.

Since its inception, MBP has worked to realize the potential of the park through partnerships, advocacy, programs, publicity, grant writing, and fundraising. As longtime friends of the park, we are committed to working with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and the City of Cambridge to revitalize Magazine Beach Park—the City’s second largest park. We support the preservation of this 17-acre green open space.

Throughout the year, and especially during the summer’s heatwave, the park served as an important refuge for humans. It was also a refuge for nature in the city—the home of red-tailed hawks, squirrels, rabbits and over 100 bird species.

Thank you for your decade of support!
Cathie Zusy for Magazine Beach Partners

Magazine Beach Partners Board:

Ken Carson, Clerk

Brian Conway

Richard Garver

Decia Goodwin, Treasurer

Paul Lyons

Fred Yalouris

Cathie Zusy, President



2022 Physical Improvements

DCR:

- Renovated the bathhouse, making it ADA accessible and redid the front entrance, adding native plants. These changes were completed in time for the June 25th pool opening.
- Added sun shade to the poll area—awnings at last.
- Began the pool renovation scheduled for completion in time for summer swimming!



Programs

Mass Audubon officially began its 5-year tenancy of the Powder Magazine, creating an urban nature center. They offered drop-in programs from April to November and hosted 6 festivals and 50 paddling programs. During this time, 5,000-7,000 people visited the park. Magazine Beach Partners promoted these events on our website, magazinebeach.org, on local listservs and by postering the neighborhood.



MBP supplemented these programs by organizing Stories & Song, led by our beloved Cambridge Public Library librarians, Carol Faulkner led yoga and Carol Sylla led West African dance classes. MBP also provided Mass Audubon with history panels from our 2014 exhibit for their nature center. And, once again, we donated 30 red Adirondack chairs to the park. Park users love them.

We supported the Plastic Tapestry recycled art project. In surveys and interviews, the community has long said that they wanted the Powder Magazine to be a nature, art and

community space. The first public art project engaged almost 100 people, including Morse School students and teens from CRLS and the Cambridge Community Art Center. The tapestry is intended to provoke conversation and activism on reducing single use plastic pollution.

We also completed the text and initial designs for 6 permanent interpretative markers. These were funded in 2016 and 2018 by Cambridge CPA funds and DCR Partnership Matching funds.

DCR offered 3 sessions of Learn to Swim classes engaging 41 participants and provided cool wetness for 11,314 pool users—a great relief, especially during the summer heatwave.

Waypoint Adventure organized 11 kayaking programs for individuals with disabilities from our ADA-accessible boat launch.



Stewardship

DCR and Cambridge approved a final Vegetation Management Plan for the Charles River Basin. The CRC will collaborate with DCR in implementing this plan at the park. They will lead the removal of invasives that include ailanthus, bindweed, clematis, dodder, knotweed, oriental bittersweet and purple loosestrife.

In November the CRC also led native wildflower seeding along the shoreline with CRC, Mass Audubon staff and MBP board members. Look for these summer wildflowers and grasses: deer tongue, gray goldenrod, little bluestem, partridge pea, slender/narrow leaf mountain mint, smooth blue aster, tall white beardtongue, path rush, upland bentgrass and Virginia wild rye.

After the seeding, Mass Audubon re-secured the shoreline fencing and posted signs explaining its purpose.

The CRC also organized 14 cleanups at the park, including on Earth Day, and Mass Audubon and MBP organized 2 others. Park volunteers included employees of: Boston Consulting Group, Boston Young Healthcare Professionals, BU Delta Sigma Phi, BU FYSOP, Build On, the Green Engineer, Infinity, Media Hub, MyStryde, Philips, Vertex, Vicinity Energy, William

Raw Associates and Y.E.S. and Cub Scouts, Daisy Scouts and CRLS and Putnam Upper School students.

In June Cambridge Girl Scout Troop 62730 helped plant flowers in the spraydeck planters.



Cambridge DPW managed the maintenance of the playing fields and removed invasive plants from the bioswales. The City also watered our young trees—which are flourishing—and, thankfully, in August, the fire department put out a brush fire on the smaller soccer field and eastern bioswale. It was a very hot, dry summer.



In addition to their regularly scheduled trash pickups and mowing, DCR and the City responded to many MBP requests for graffiti, branch and trash removal. DCR provided port-o-potties beside the parking crescent, much to the relief of park users.

Advocacy

MBP signed onto letters supporting:

- Additional funding for DCR and their implementing recommendations from the December 2021 *Legislative Special Report on DCR*. According to this report, Massachusetts, one of the wealthiest states in the nation, ranks last in per capita spending on state and municipal parks.
- Funding the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project, replacing the failing viaduct with a quieter at-grade alternative, adding West Station and expanding riverside parks.

We wrote to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office requesting assurance that that the high-voltage transmission lines that Eversource has proposed to run under the soccer fields are placed deeply enough to be safe for park users and living things. We also asked Eversource to accommodate cyclists during their Greater Cambridge Energy Project and to provide appropriate mitigation and remediation for their disruption at the park. The project is due to begin as early as 2024.

Funding

Phase II-2

In June the City of Cambridge announced that it would dedicate \$1.8 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Phase II-2—critical funding that will remove the park's last major eyesore. The City is also contributing \$300,000 of Community Preservation Act dollars to this project and DCR, a \$300,000 Partnership Matching Funds grant. Thank you to our biggest and most enduring partner, the City of Cambridge.



Rendering of Phase II-2

In November MBP sent DCR \$130,000 (\$80,000 raised by the community and a \$50,000 2021 state earmark) for Phase II-2. With funding complete now for Phase II-2—estimated at

\$2.2 million—DCR is scheduled to send the plans out to bid shortly. Look for construction later this year. (Note: Because of DCR processing delays, this transfer will be noted in our 2023 financials.)

This next major improvement at the park will turn the sunken parking lot between the pool and the river into a grassy beach and better integrate the pool with the park. It will create about a half acre of parkland.

Mass Audubon Programming

In January with the blessing of the Cambridge Community Foundation, MBP transferred \$2,500 for a Youth Stewardship Program to Mass Audubon, who now manage most park programs.

Plastic Tapestry Project

In June MBP donated \$1,000 to the Plastic Tapestry Project. In total \$6,936 was raised for this community art initiative.

Another Earmark

In December we received a 2022 \$50,000 earmark from the State for the park, sponsored by Representative Mike Connolly and supported by Representative Jay Livingstone and Senators Sal DiDomenico and Lydia Edwards. We are grateful for their leadership.

Over the course of the year, we received \$58,931 in donations for the park. Thank you, all!



What's Next in 2023?

- *DCR will redo the outdoor exercise equipment area, near the BU rotary.
- *DCR will reopen the newly rebuilt FREE Veteran's Memorial Swimming Pool.
- *Phase II-2 construction will begin.
- *Look for our new interpretative markers.
- *Eversource will continue planning for their Greater Cambridge Energy Project which includes putting high voltage transmission lines diagonally under the soccer fields. MBP will work with the City, DCR and Eversource to negotiate appropriate mitigation.

Please Contribute!

- Send checks made out to "Magazine Beach Partners" to MBP Treasurer, Decia Goodwin, 175 Chestnut St., Cambridge, MA 02139.
- Donate on Paypal at magazinebeach.org.
- Volunteer your time or talent! We're looking for help with photography, publicity, editing and design. Contact Cathie Zusy at czusy@magazinebeach.org or 617.868.0489.
- Cleanup volunteers, contact the CRC's Sasha Vallieres at svallieres@thecharles.org.

Remember, we're all volunteers at Magazine Beach Partners, so every dollar we raise goes directly into the park and its programs.



MBP 2022 Income and Expenses

Magazine Beach Partners 2022 Financials		
2022 Income		
Category	Source	Income
Magazine Beach Partners		\$58,931
Individual Donations	Miscellaneous	\$5055
Businesses	KimCo Realty	\$3,000
	Barret Tree East	\$250
Foundations	Fidelity Gift Fund	\$500
	CP&GC Tree Fund	\$100
Other: Earmark	MA Earmark	\$50,000
Other Interest	Bank	\$26
Plastic Tapestry Project		\$6,936
Individual Donations	Miscellaneous	\$4,436
Foundations	Mass Cultural Council: \$ for Spark / Plastic Tapestry	\$2,500
Total 2022 Income		\$65,867
2022 Expenses		
Category	Expense	Cost
Magazine Beach Partners		\$9,663
Programs	Youth Stewardship Program, yoga, & W. African dance	\$3,120
Interpretative Signs	Initial design of signs	\$5000
Plantings	Spraydeck plantings	\$66
Administrative Expenses	Internet, tax filings & insurance	\$957
Fundraising	Designing & editing 2021 annual report	\$520
Plastic Tapestry Project		\$7,800
General	Artist and curator/organizer, Community Art Center engagement, band and photography fees	\$7,800
Total 2022 Expenses		\$17,463
2022 Financials		
Total Income		\$65,867
Total Expenses		\$17,463
2021 Balance		\$156,461
Net available for future park investment		\$204,865
Restricted funds for Phase II-2		\$130,000
Restricted funds for interpretative signs		\$11,600

MBP Donors 2022

MBP

Marge Amster
Rosalie Anders
Andrew Baer
Barrett Tree Service
Cambridge Plant & Garden Club
Ken Carson & Sally Foster
City of Cambridge
Commonwealth of MA
Fran Cronin
Jean Devine
Sheila Donahue
Richard Garver
Linda Kaboolian
Sam Kendall & Cathie Zusy
Kimco Realty
Wendy Landman
Jeff Petrucelli
Melissa Smith
R. and Randy Stern
Dagmar VonSchwein & Thomas Rose
Kristen Wainwright
Pace Willisson
Jack Wofford
Zhiliang Wu

Tapestry Project

Anonymous (5)
Lorri Berenberg
Susan Berstler
Gina Casey
Commonwealth of MA
David Craft
Margaret Duignan
Suzanne Dworsky
David M. Fenchel
Ken Field
Mara Goldberg
J.J. Gonson
Marc Gregor
Dan Harkins
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Andre Kurlovs
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