



THE BOSTON COMMITTEE

The Garden Club of America

THE BOSTON COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Volume II • Issue Number I

The Boston Committee is an Area Committee of the Garden Club of America. We are celebrating over 36 years of horticultural initiatives to enhance the City of Boston

THE BOSTON COMMITTEE

MISSION:

- Support the design and beautification of parks and green spaces
- Encourage civic achievement in horticulture and conservation
- Educate the public on horticultural practices and environmental issues



GARDEN



CREATE



ADVOCATE

WHAT'S GOOD!

Letter from the Editor

GCA. Garden. Create. Advocate.

These three words are at the heart of the work that we do. This year, the Boston Committee of the Garden Club of America takes up Advocacy as our key theme. In a moment when AI is a hotter topic than climate change; in a year when American farmland is shifting to data farming rather than food; in a time when our parks and open spaces are coveted by loggers, mining executives and developers; we need to stand firm in our resolve to protect our natural resources and our environment. In this issue of *What's Good*, we offer stories about Advocacy in Action and ideas about how you can add your voice to the conversation.

This is work we must do together. The time is now.
— Georgia

From Boston Harbor Now: Nature-Based Climate Solutions

Boston Harbor Now testified alongside UMass Boston's Stone Living Lab in support of legislation that would expedite the permitting of nature-based research and demonstration projects.



Two identical bills, **H.971** and **S.558**, *An Act establishing a pilot program for nature-based solutions to climate change*, would give state permitting agencies the ability to respond to the climate crisis with both flexibility and urgency and to increasingly rely on nature-based climate resilience projects to protect communities from climate change impacts.

Katherine Dafforn of the Stone Living Lab and Linda Orel from Boston Harbor Now testified before the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, bringing this critical issue to the forefront. With a successful hearing behind us, Boston Harbor Now and the Stone Living Lab look forward to working with legislators to advance this bill.

Nature-based solutions are designed to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural and modified ecosystems to address climate change impacts. These approaches include living shorelines, living seawalls, offshore reefs and other innovations that mimic natural systems and help communities adapt to climate change while providing ecological, social, and economic benefits while maintaining and improving public access.

WHAT'S GOOD!

Nature for Massachusetts: An Act Providing Nature for All



From The Trustees of Reservations:

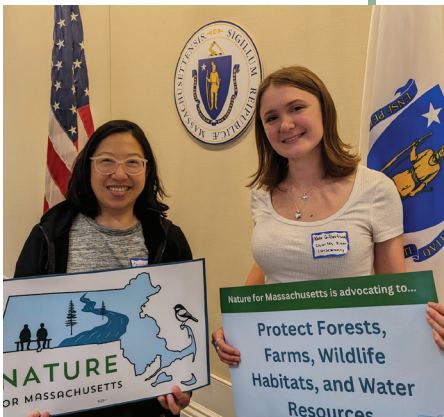
Massachusetts has the opportunity to lead the way on climate change, conserving nature, and protecting wildlife. Not only can we reach our climate goals, but create a safer, more sustainable future for generations to come. *An Act Providing Nature for All (Bill H.901)* would create a permanent “Nature for All Fund” for the purposes of acquisition, restoration or improvement of nature to create parks and trails; protect forests, farms, wildlife habitat, and water resources; and advance climate resiliency and environmental justice goals.

Join The Trustees and other organizations by adding your signature to bring this initiative to voters: www.thetrustees.org/content/nature-for-Massachusetts

From The Charles River Conservancy:

Nature for Massachusetts represents a groundbreaking coalition working to secure a stable \$100 million annually to protect our Commonwealth’s most precious environmental resources—clean water, threatened forests, fragile wetlands, and critical wildlife habitats. Through the “Nature for All” bill (*H.901/S.2571*) as well as the Protect Water and Nature Initiative (ballot question for 2026), this initiative would safeguard public lands by setting aside revenue from the existing state sales tax on sporting goods for protecting and conserving water and nature. For conservation organizations like the Charles River Conservancy—currently 90% dependent on private philanthropy—this dedicated funding stream would provide the stability needed to protect riverfront parks, extend habitat restoration projects, and work towards a cleaner Charles.

The legislation addresses Massachusetts’ urgent need to meet its climate goals of protecting 30% of the state by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. This is environmental stewardship at its most practical and powerful—using existing revenue without raising taxes to invest in a future with clean water, more trails and parks, and access to nature for everyone.



NATURE FOR MASSACHUSETTS LAUNCH

at the State House: Christine Liu, and Kata Gilbertson, CRC
Photo courtesy of CRC

From Franklin Park Zoo: Bioblitz!

Join the state-wide Bioblitz by downloading the *iNaturalist app* and snapping photos of the life all around you, like fern-leaved false foxglove and orange swallow moths.

Every observation made between now and November 15 will automatically be included in the TEDxBoston: “Planet Action for Biodiversity” project.

Your observations will help state officials and biologists like us better understand how climate change impacts biodiversity over time. More: www.zoonewengland.org/protect/here-in-new-england/urban-boston-conservation-projects/franklin-park-biodiversity-project/



SPOTTED TURTLE CONSERVATION

The last of the population of rare spotted turtles in Boston is being conserved by Zoo New England.

WHAT'S GOOD!

WHITE STADIUM PUBLIC RENOVATION ALTERNATIVE

From the Emerald Necklace Conservancy:

Did you know that the Emerald Necklace Conservancy and the Franklin Park Defenders have created a *public renovation alternative* for White Stadium that provides state-of-the-art facilities for the children of Boston?

The public plan features park improvements that cost significantly less than the For-profit plan put forward by Boston Unity Soccer Partners. The fight to keep White Stadium public continues in court through a pending legal case.

You can learn more about the ongoing advocacy for a more community-oriented, public stadium project here: www.franklinparkdefenders.com/

From Massachusetts DCR: Lowell Memorial Park Reopens

The Department of Conservation and Recreation celebrated the completion of a \$1.4 million project to restore and improve access at Lowell Memorial Park, marking a significant investment in preserving Massachusetts's cultural heritage and ensuring this urban park is accessible to people of all abilities.

Lowell Memorial Park is a National Historic Landmark and National Register-listed park located in the City of Cambridge. The park is dedicated to James Russell Lowell, an 1800s-era poet, diplomat, and abolitionist. The land for the park was purchased by the Metropolitan District Commission and members of the local community in 1898 and was designed by the Olmsted Brothers as an entrance to Fresh Pond Parkway.

"This is the kind of collaboration that builds communities," said State Senator William Brownsberger. "I'm very thankful for the collaborative work that DCR did on this refresh of Lowell Memorial Park," said State Representative Steven Owens

The completion of this project is the culmination of a decade of partnership, public outreach, historic landscape stewardship, and private acts of generosity including DCR, the Cambridge Plant & Garden Club, the Cambridge Community Preservation Act, and Popplestone Foundation. Beginning in 2012, Cambridge residents approached DCR to develop a plan for the park. With community input, DCR developed a cultural landscape report and undertook the preservation of the park's

historic brick and limestone walls. DCR worked to develop a plan that focused on improved access and preservation of historic landscape characteristics, including removal of existing non-ADA compliant pathways and creation of new ADA compliant paths; planting, revitalization, and landscaping of trees, shrubs, and grass; installation of new pathways, benches, and lighting; and new identification signage and interpretive materials detailing the history of the park.



- ✔ Grass Field
- ✔ Running Track
- ✔ Scoreboard
- ✔ 5,000 seats
- ✔ Multi-purpose Rooms
- ✔ BPS Gym
- ✔ BPS Locker Room
- ✔ BPS Sports Medicine
- ✔ BPS Field Sports & Throwing Area
- ✔ BPS Athletics Office
- ✔ BPS Track & Field Equipment Storage
- ✔ BPS Team Sports Storage
- ✔ BPS Custodial Office
- ✔ Bike Storage
- ✔ Spectator Restrooms
- ✔ Public Restrooms
- ✔ Press Box
- ✔ Basketball Courts
- ✔ Pathway Lighting



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY, MAY 2025

Photo courtesy of DCR

WHAT'S GOOD!

THE GCA POSITIONS ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES



A core tenet of The Garden Club of America's mission is to "restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement." In fulfilling that purpose, the GCA has developed position papers that articulate broad goals for advocacy efforts in the public policy arena. Underlying all of these position papers is a commitment to "independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research as the basis for formulation of public policy and legislation, as well as appropriate funding to ensure quality results."

The nine current GCA Position Papers cover the following topics:



GCA NAL MEETING, 2024
Photo courtesy of GCA

Agriculture, Soil, Seed Diversity, and Food Security:

The GCA encourages agricultural policies that support the conservation of healthy soil on farms, the protection of seed diversity and a strong, well-funded conservation title in the Farm Bill.

Clean Air:

The GCA supports the Clean Air Act and urges a reduction in greenhouse gasses through an integrated strategy of regulated emission caps, improved energy efficiency, and greater use of clean energy sources.

Climate Change:

With an emphasis on encouraging action to preserve biodiversity, the GCA is committed to educating members and communities about the causes of climate change and constructive responses.

The GCA supports policies and regulations, as well as individual initiatives, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Land Conservation:

Recognizing the ever-increasing pressure for multiple uses of federal lands, the GCA supports strengthening public policy to make conservation the priority in the management of our National Parks, wildlife refuges, forests and public lands, including tribal lands. This includes continued full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the use of the federal portion of that fund to purchase and restore public lands.

Native Plants:

Viewing the Endangered Species Act as one of America's landmark pieces of conservation legislation, the GCA supports measures to protect the nation's rare, threatened, and endangered plants and their habitat and the wildlife they support. The GCA supports workable science-based recovery programs for all species.

Oceans:

The GCA recognizes that oceans are the world's largest ecosystem, covering nearly three-quarters of Earth. The GCA supports policies and legislation to protect our nation's coastal areas and oceans from all types of pollution and environmental degradation.



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THE GCA POSITION PAPERS, *continued*

Transportation & Infrastructure:

The GCA favors legislation that encourages biodiversity in roadside plantings, fosters the creation and maintenance of scenic byways, emphasizes protection of the natural landscape, addresses the hazards of electronic billboards and underscores the importance of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process. The GCA recognizes the need to transition to a dependable grid based on clean and renewable energy resources.

Waste Management:

The GCA recognizes that effective waste management is vital to our health and well-being and encourages reducing, reusing, recycling and composting. Further, the GCA supports federal, state and local legislation and policy that supports responsible waste management.

Water:

The GCA supports policies to protect the quantity and quality of our nation's water resources. This includes preserving ecosystems and reducing water pollution through a vital and broad-based Clean Water Act, as well as protecting coastal waters and the oceans through national initiatives.

The full text of GCA Position Papers may be found on GCA's website:

www.gcamerica.org



**THE BOSTON
COMMITTEE**

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ADVOCACY AND YOU:

Ways to Learn More and/or Get Involved

Here in MA:

www.natureforma.org/

www.actionnetwork.org/letters/cosponsor-nature-for-ma

Nationally:

www.rei.com/action/network/campaigns

www.protectourwinters.org/news/campaigns/

www.nrdc.org/take-action/add-your-voice

Do you have a great story about Conservation, Horticulture or Advocacy to share with the Boston Committee?

BOSTON COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 2025

Hosted by
Mass Audubon's
Boston Nature Center
and Wildlife
Sanctuary,
Mattapan. We thank
Boston Nature Center
for their hospitality!



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We would love to hear
from you.