



## THE BOSTON COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER Volume I • Issue Number 1

*The Boston Committee is an Area Committee of the Garden Club of America. We are celebrating over 35 years of horticultural initiatives to enhance the City of Boston*

### THE BOSTON COMMITTEE ENDEAVORS TO:

- 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

## WHAT'S GOOD!

### The Esplanade Association — 2025 Blossom Fund Awardee

In 2026, the Esplanade Association is thrilled to deliver a new amenity to the Charles River Esplanade in 2026! Decades in planning and named after the oldest part of the riverfront designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted, the new Charlesbank campus will revitalize two acres that have been closed to the public since the 1990s. Year-round indoor/outdoor amenities that will increase access and welcome to Downtown Boston's historic landmarked state park.

Groundbreaking this May, the Charlesbank project will deliver an all-season pavilion with café, restrooms and community rooms, and a landscape program with lawns, courts, a plaza and stage. Native trees, supported by the Boston Committee, will canopy this new recreational, cultural, civic, educational, environmental and social destination for more people from more places to enjoy the urban outdoors. Follow progress at [esplanade.org/charlesbank](https://esplanade.org/charlesbank).



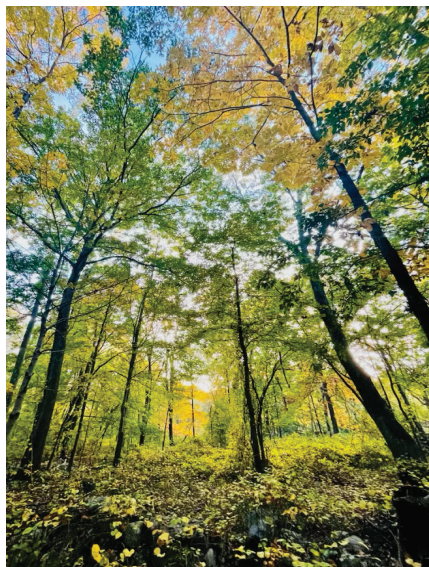
### NAL hosts the Charles River Conservancy's Laura Jasinski

Last month CRC Executive Director Laura Jasinski shared insights from the Charles River Floating Wetland at the GCA's National Affairs and Legislation (NAL) Conference in Washington, D.C. Laura highlighted the benefits of nature-based climate solutions, explaining the floating wetland's role in community engagement and sharing about how New England native flora thrive on the wetland. For more go to [thecharles.org](https://thecharles.org).

### Friends of the Blue Hills

In response to the 45-acre blaze last November in the Blue Hills Reservation, the Friends of the Blue Hills is working to raise money toward biodiversity and ecological recovery monitoring, monthly public hikes, trail work and youth field trips.

FOBH is in talks with MBTA and DCR to provide new bus service from Mattapan Square to Houghton's Pond to improve access to nature in underserved communities. The Friends launched new youth programming this spring focused on ecological restoration, outdoor wellness, habitats and ecosystems, and team building. This summer, we will introduce a new "wellness in the outdoors" featuring yoga and forest bathing. Learn more at [friendsofthebluehills.org](https://friendsofthebluehills.org).



# WHAT'S GOOD!

## GCA IN THE CITY TAKES ROOT IN BOSTON

Do you have a young friend who might be interested in joining us? Please share their name and e-mail address with us using this QR code, or email: [gcainthecity@gcameria.org](mailto:gcainthecity@gcameria.org)



## GCA In the City initiative from Garden Club of America

GCA In the City is coming to Boston this summer with a launch event in June focused on botanical mixology (incorporating flowers and herbs). Geared toward young professionals aged 25-40, GCA In the City hopes to attract the next generation of gardeners and conservationists.

GCA In The City is an offshoot of the GCA Membership Committee, and is designed to engage young professionals residing in urban areas who are not current GCA members. This initiative offers a series of educational and social evening and weekend events, providing participants with opportunities to delve into gardening, creativity, and advocacy through hands-on experiences and civic activities.



## Massachusetts Horticultural Society at Elm Bank

Join Massachusetts Horticultural Society at our upcoming classes, programs, and events! From Botanical Art & Illustration to hands-on workshops, we have a great lineup of spring classes.

Our upcoming events include our 1.3 acre Sunflower Spectacular and the New England Fall Flower Show, returning September 20-21, 2025. We're always looking for volunteers to answer questions, provide hands-on gardening help, and assist staff in preparing for thousands of visitors. Learn more [www.masshort.org](http://www.masshort.org).

## Everybody Water

Everybody Water's mission is to help people gain access to the most basic need: clean water. Without running water in their homes, millions of women and girls are spending time collecting water instead of attending school, earning an income and pursuing their dreams.

Everybody Water offers an alternative to plastic water bottles and an opportunity to support water infrastructure in developing countries. With enormous grassroots support that began in our local community, we have found customers in forward-thinking people and companies. We're building a community united by wanting change for women and girls globally. The impact we've seen is incredible. Learn more at [everybodywater.com](http://everybodywater.com).

# WHAT'S GOOD!

## Zoo New England

In February 2025 of this year Ivan Myjer, of Building and Monument Conservation, completed a condition report for the folly tower and bridge at the Shurcliff Rock Garden. Key recommendations included replacing an existing roof slab, securing



drainage connections, and repointing of some mortar joints. We are grateful for the Blossom Fund of the Boston Committee's funding of this work to help ensure the long term preservation of this Arthur Shurcliff-designed feature and important piece of Boston landscape fabric.

In April, Franklin Park Zoo began talks and are soon to sign a contract to review ADA accessibility and regulations with KMA Architecture + Accessibility out of Newton, MA. This is critical work to support the rehabilitation of the historic garden design for accessibility as well as check for safety regulations with the re-introduction of a large lily pond to the site. We are also grateful for the Boston Committee's funding of this work.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.ivanmyjerconservation.com](http://www.ivanmyjerconservation.com)

Franklin Park Zoo's annual fundraiser gala "Zootopia" will once again feature the Shurcliff Rock Garden, and the organization is planning to open a section to the public this year. New plantings for 2025 include the completion of the "Heaths and Heathers" ericaceous garden as well as the Herb Garden. More at [zoonewengland.org](http://zoonewengland.org).

## Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Charlesgate Park, located at the intersection of Boston's Back Bay, Fenway and Kenmore neighborhoods, was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted as the critical link connecting the Emerald Necklace, the Charles River Esplanade and the Commonwealth Avenue Mall. In the 1960s, road construction was prioritized over parkland and Olmsted's once-idyllic urban greenspace was carved up for a highway overpass.

The Emerald Necklace Conservancy has been working since 2017 with multiple public agencies and organizations, including a key neighborhood park group founded with this effort—the Charlesgate Alliance. Today there is a plan to implement a revitalization of this 13-acre green space—the underutilized "clasp" of the Emerald Necklace, and reconnect access broken for over half a century.

Through diligent and thoughtful collaboration with community members and our public agencies, the Charlesgate Revitalization project is moving forward. The project has already leveraged over \$83 million in direct public investment and is on track to gain another \$100 million+ which would provide a community-friendly regional pathway network, restoring connections between the Emerald Necklace, the Charles River Esplanade and the Commonwealth Mall, invigorate and revitalize park space, allow for requested public amenities like a playground, a dog park, and seating areas, and improve the river's health in a variety of ways including the re-opening of 250 feet of the Muddy River, currently in pipes underground.

Follow our progress at [emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/charlesgate](http://emeraldnecklace.org/restoration/charlesgate).



# WHAT'S GOOD!



**THE BOSTON  
COMMITTEE**

*The Garden Club of America*

## A History of Blossom Fund Projects

### 1997

Friends of the Arnold Arboretum in support of a plan to reopen the South Gate, increasing accessibility, and to revitalize the Robert Blackwell path, including a daffodil meadow

### 1998

Kelleher Rose Garden in the Emerald Necklace

### 2000-2002

Mass Audubon's Boston Nature Center, Mattapan, to fund a butterfly garden and an allé of sugar maples

### 2002

Kelleher Rose Garden to fund irrigation and horticultural additions

### 2004

Boston Natural Areas Network (BNAN) to support Community Agriculture

### 2006

Charles River Conservancy to landscape the stairs at Eliot Street Bridge

### 2008-2012

A five-year commitment to landscape improvements at the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway

### 2013

The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park, Boston, design project

### 2013

Boston Harbor Association's Harbor Link Gardens at the Northern Avenue Bridge

### 2016

The Trustees of Reservations Windermere Community Garden in Mattapan—a project to increase food access

### 2018

The Old North Church Washington Garden Project

### 2020-2024

The Franklin Park Zoo's restoration of the Arthur Shurcliff's 1912 Rock Garden

### 2025

The Esplanade Association's native tree grove at Fredrick Law Olmsted's Charlesbank Park

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