

Magazine Beach Partners

2018 Annual Report

1st Annual Meeting

October 30, 2018

LBJ Apartments

150 Erie St.



Magazine
Beach Partners

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

MagazineBeach.org

Dear Friends of Magazine Beach,

Though it is only October, we can already say that this has been a banner year at the park, with the Powder Magazine turning 200 years old and Magazine Beach Partners, officially one. Working closely with the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), we have catalyzed a series of major physical improvements. These include:

- Completing and opening a new spray deck
- Removing a broken wading pool
- Reseeding the park’s lawn
- Completing the renovation of the Powder Magazine
- Building an ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch and river outlook

Independently, we’ve made a series of tactical improvements to the park, adding:

- 16 Adirondack chairs
- 2 portable toilets
- a willow tree

And through collaboration, we’ve additionally brought to the park:

- 5 interpretative signs about the Charles River watershed
- a wildflower meadow
- 100s of wetland plants

The park is more inviting than ever! But, there’s more work to do. Community members have told us that the Powder Magazine could be, but is not yet, a place where people could gather. They also told us they would like more opportunities to engage with the river: they want "open views," and they want to be able to walk, push tricycles and wheelchairs, bike, and relax on improved river paths. Working together, we can transform the Magazine and the riverbank into a welcoming public space for social and natural interactions—promoting community and health.

Over the past year, we’ve continued to work with DCR and landscape architects Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge (CSS) to refine the plans for this transformation. Here, in Magazine Beach Partners’ first annual report, you can learn more about these plans, as well as our progress, programs, and finances. You’ll also learn about the many entities, organizations, and individuals who have made critical park improvements possible.

To the stewarding of Magazine Beach! Thank you for partnering with us. Your support makes this possible.

Cathie Zusy

President of Magazine Beach Partners

Cover image courtesy of Cambridge History Commission.

Board of Magazine Beach Partners

Cathie Zusy President	Brian Conway	Peter Klinefelter
Marge Amster Treasurer	Richard Garver	Heather Saforrian
Ken Carson Secretary	Decia Goodwin	

Magazine Beach, a 17-acre state park along the Charles River, is an invaluable green urban commons for Cambridge and beyond. People come from near and far to picnic under its old shade trees and swim in its free, Olympic-sized pool.



On July 4 weekend, the park fills with families, friends, and neighbors picnicking, swimming, and splashing.

A Calendar of Recent Physical Improvements

September 2017: R. Bates completes spray deck: Ribbon cutting: June 8, 2018

December 2017-Feb. 2018: McConnell Enterprises removes broken wading pool

May-July 2018: DCR reseeds lawn

May 2018:

*Meadowscaping for Biodiversity (M4BD) donates wildflower meadow

*Turner Construction donates 2 picnic tables

*MBP donates 16 Adirondack chairs

June 2018:

*DCR installs 5 interpretative signs about the watershed developed by MBP, the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and DCR

*Cambridge donates 100s of plants for wetland nursery

August 2018: Campbell Construction Group, LLC, completes interior renovation of Magazine. Ribbon cutting: July 7, 2018

July-October 2018: R. Bates builds canoe/kayak launch & outlook.
Groundbreaking: June 22, 2018. Ribbon cutting: date TBA

September 2018:

*DCR applies mulch to trees and cuts dead wood from poplars

October 2018:

*DCR repairs 9 broken benches and installs ADA-compliant curb ramps at parking crescent

*Charles River Conservancy (CRC) volunteers paint benches



The spray deck opened June 8th with a ribbon cutting and a Toddlers’ Dance Party with Cambridgeport’s own DJ, Professor TEA (aka Tom Malone).
Photo by Bimal Nepal.



At the Sept. 16 Benefit Party, decorative lights, food, drink and guests brought life to the newly restored Powder Magazine. Photo by David Torrey.



The ADA-compliant canoe/kayak launch and outlook is almost complete.

Timeline of Major Park Improvements

2009	DCR completes Phase I renovations, including playing fields, exercise & picnic areas and shoreline work
2012	Pedestrian footbridge built
2013	Broken playground removed
2015	Pool bathhouse roof repaired
2014-18	Powder Magazine repaired: exterior & interior
2017	Spray deck built; opened in 2018
2018	Broken wading pool removed
2018	Lawn reseeded
2018	Canoe/kayak launch expanded and outlook built

Summer Programs

Over 1,400 people engaged in programs at the park, over 13,000 swam at the pool, and countless others used the new spray deck. We offered programs for children 3 mornings a week, and staged 3 larger community celebrations.

Our most popular events:

July 3	<i>Vanessa Trien & the Jumping Monkeys</i>
July 7	Powder Magazine Birthday Party
July 22	Traditional Irish Session & <i>ArtBoat</i>
Sept. 16	Benefit Party at the Powder Magazine

We were able to deliver several dozen programs by partnering with others and because of the generosity of our sponsors. (See list, page 14.)



Vanessa Trien & the Jumping Monkeys launched Cambridge Arts' Summer in the City at the park. Photo by Greg Cook.

Stewardship

With the Charles River Conservancy, Charles River Watershed Association, Riverside Boat Club, and Charles River Cleanup Project (CRLS students), we hosted over a dozen invasive removal events and cleanups.

Working together, we:

- Pruned willows at boat launch construction site in anticipation of red-winged blackbirds' nesting season
- Cleared weed trees from western swale
- Planted willow and 100s of wetland plants
- Removed phragmites and other invasive plants
- Painted benches, painted out graffiti, and removed trash

Independently, we also served as the “eyes on the park.” On a regular basis, we walk the park and report problems to DCR and Cambridge. Thanks to our advocacy, trash cans and portable toilets are emptied; grass is mowed; fallen branches, graffiti, and abandoned bikes are removed; broken benches and water fountains are repaired; and drainage issues are resolved.

Nature and History Education

Along with mounting 5 temporary interpretive signs about the watershed, we oversaw the publication of seasonal newsletters , [Nature Notes @ Magazine Beach](#). These efforts were funded by a grant awarded to the CRWA by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program. MBP has also initiated the development of permanent markers about the history of the park, which will be mounted in 2019.

Over the summer, we offered 4 nature programs led by Mass Audubon's Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary and *Kids, Bugs, Art and the Fly, Buzz & Honk Festival*, organized by Green Cambridge's Cambridge Wildlife Puppetry Project. With our partners we presented the history of the park to 3 teen groups.

Communication

We keep current a website about the park and its programs ([magazinebeach.org](#)), which receives about 20,000 views annually per year; we maintain a Facebook page (with 485 followers); and we send 5-6 e-newsletters a year to over 1,250 engaged readers.



Working with DCR and the CRWA, we produced 5 interpretative signs about the watershed.

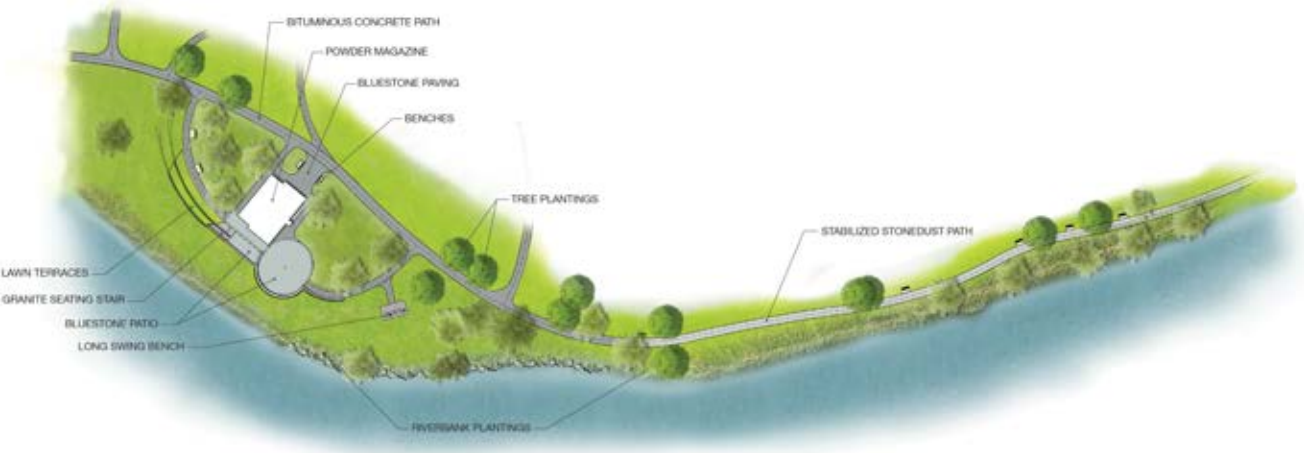
What's Next? Our Plans

Phase II

Since 2014, we've partnered with DCR, Cambridge, CSS and the community to refine a landscape plan of the park's shoreline and western section ("Phase II"). (See page 9.)

That's how parks are improved--with comprehensive plans. This design has been informed by:

- 3 public meetings in 2015 & 2016
- Over 250 surveys and interviews
- Ongoing feedback from park users



Magazine Beach
Powder Magazine Patio and Riverbank Improvements
August 2018

The first part of the plan that we'll implement, Phase II-1, will: 1. increase the public's engagement with the river and; 2. improve the area around the Powder Magazine in order to best serve a strong community-oriented tenant.

Specifically, it will:

- Open up river views
- Improve the shoreline path
- Plant native river edge vegetation
- Add seating, including a swinging bench
- Improve the area around Powder Magazine: make its patio surface smooth and ADA-compliant and open up its terrace wall to create a visual and physical connection with the river

Project Costs & Funding

CSS estimates this will cost \$1.85m. The City and DCR have pledged a total of \$310,900 for the shoreline work and DCR has just committed another \$500,000 to softscape (vegetation). A \$25,000 State budget earmark and \$50,000 of MBP community-raised funds have also been dedicated to Phase II-1. We anticipate additional commitments, forthcoming soon, to support the completion of this project. Please consider making a gift!



Rendering of Phase II-1 improvements around the Powder Magazine. By CSS.

Our Long-term View

As funding becomes available, MBP remains committed to realizing the subsequent phases of the overall park plan, as informed by Magazine Beach users. Priorities include:

- Improving care of existing trees and adding trees and native plantings
- Replacing sunken parking lot with a grassy lawn
- Adding picnic tables and benches
- Adding grills and bins for hot coals
- Adding play space for children
- Improving and widening the substandard bike and pedestrian path along Memorial Drive (in design this fall)
- Adding permanent interpretive signs (in development)
- Improving path system within park
- Adding information kiosks and improving park entrances
- Maintaining stormwater treatment basins
- Adding rain gardens
- Adding shade to spray deck and pool areas
- Adding bike racks
- Ensuring more consistent management of park maintenance

We are your partners at Magazine Beach. With Cambridge's limited open space selling at \$50 million an acre, investing in our 17-acre riverside park is both crucial and smart. Let's better what we've got.

Phase II Plan

For details about Phase II, see pages 7 & 8.



MAGAZINE BEACH RESTORATION
PHASE 2 DESIGN DRAWING

CAMBRIDGE, MA 10.20.2016

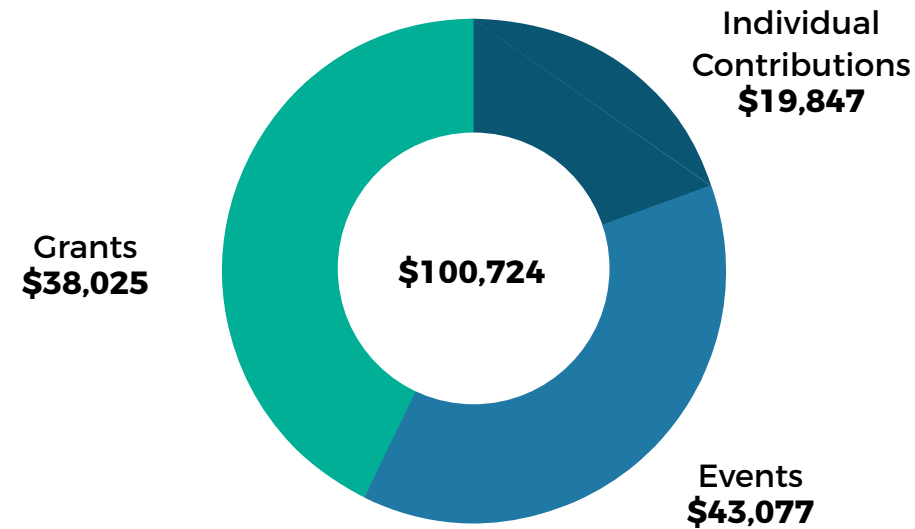
Magazine Beach Partners 2018 Financials

Background: In late 2017, a separate identity (Magazine Beach Partners, Inc.) was formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and funds raised for the park were transferred from the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association to the new entity. Our EI #: 82-2453586.

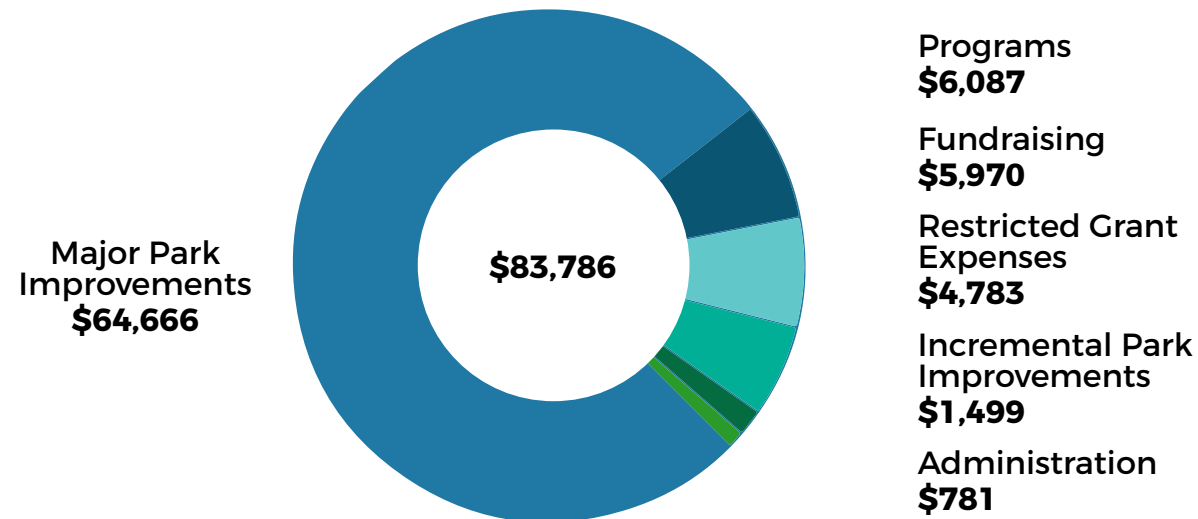
2018 Activity (through October)

\$78,741 is in the Magazine Beach Partners bank account available for future park investments. Retained revenue from prior years is \$61,803 (This includes CRA grant of \$8,143.) For program and benefit sponsors, see page 14. For detailed financial breakdown, see page 19.

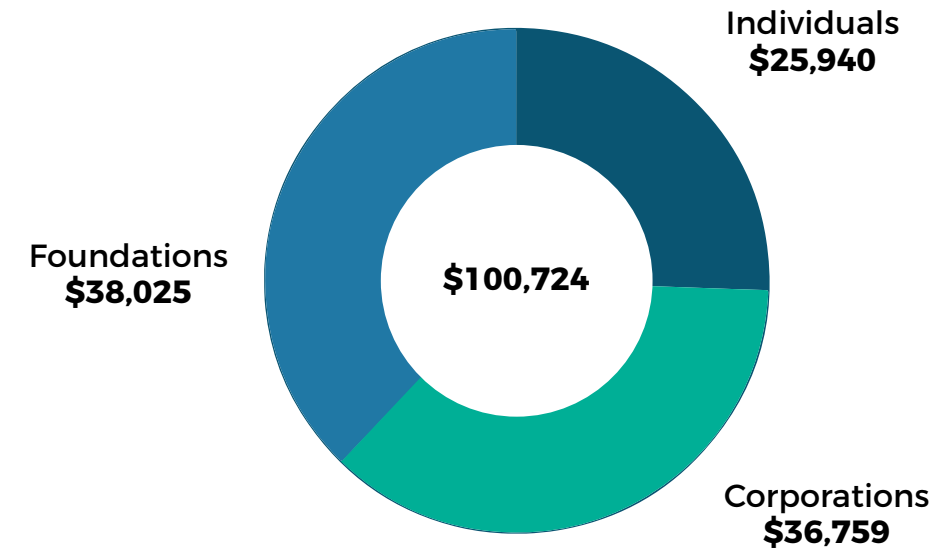
2018 Revenue and Support



2018 Expenses



2018 Revenue and Support



Magazine Beach Benefits: Funds Raised (after expenses)



*(2018 Benefit with the addition of business sponsorships of \$21,742)

In-Kind Goods & Services Donated

Benefit donations **\$2,745**
Summer program donations **\$3,210**
Total **\$5,955**
Board & professional hours **2,550 hours**
Cleanup volunteer hours **900 hours**
Total **3,450 hours** @ \$24.69 per hours = **\$85,180**
Total **\$91,136**

2018 Park Projects

In 2018, finances were put in place for the canoe/kayak launch and outlook and shoreline work.

Canoe/Kayak Launch and Outlook - estimated cost \$260,000

	Sources of funding:
\$56,523	Magazine Beach Partners (paid to DCR) DCR Partnership Matching Fund Grants for FY2017 & FY2018 and gap funding (This includes gifts from: Kimco, BioMed Realty, the Judy Record Fund/Mass Audubon, the Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation & individuals)
\$76,666	DCR Partnership Matching Fund Grants for FY2017 & FY2018
\$41,524	Additional DCR investment (needed since bids were higher than anticipated)
\$25,000	Cambridge CPA FY2017
\$44,000	Additional Cambridge investment (needed since bids were higher than anticipated)
\$16,286	Cambridge Redevelopment Authority

Shoreline Improvements - estimated cost \$310,900

	Sources of funding:
\$155,450	Cambridge CPA FY2019
\$155,450	DCR Partnership Matching Fund Grant FY2019 (Project will go out to bid as part of larger Phase II-1 project.)

Note: Park improvement projects are under the control of DCR, the owner of the property.



In June, a group of 120 local and Connecticut teens volunteered at the park. They dug up phragmites and planted hundreds of wetland plants in the eastern swale.

Contributors to Magazine Beach Park in 2018

Principal Stakeholders
Mass. Department of Conservation & Recreation
City of Cambridge

Legislators
Senator Joseph Boncore
Representative Jay Livingstone

Grantors
The Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation
The Cambridge Redevelopment Authority
The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Five Star and Urban Water Restoration Program (via the CRWA)

Corporate Sponsors

River Sustainers (\$5k and above):



Granite Champions (\$2.5k and above):



Open Space Allies (\$1k-2k):
Central Square Business Association, Charles River Conservancy
Crosby Schlessinger Smallridge, Forest City, Hyatt Regency, M.F. Keane Contracting & Serna-Zipse Family

MBP Friends (\$250-\$500):
Amazon Campus @Central Square, Barrett Tree Service East, Inc., Benjamin William Construction, Cambridge YMCA, Charles Allen Renovations, Good News Garage, Harpoon Brewery*, Hope Legal Services, Jimmy's Shoe Repair, Target* & Torrey Architecture.

*goods/materials donated

Summer Program Partners

Blue Hill Observatory
Boston Dance Alliance
Cambridge Arts
Cambridge Central Square Library
Cambridge Community Center
Cambridge Community Schools, Department of Human Services
Cambridge Department of Public Works
Cambridge YMCA
The Druid
Food for Free
Green Cambridge's Cambridge Wildlife Puppetry Project
House of the Rising Tides
Make Music Boston
Mass Audubon
Mattapan Teen Center
O'Riley Dance Studio
The School of Classical Ballet

Stewardship Partners

Cambridge Plant & Garden Club
Charles River Watershed Association
Charles River Conservancy
Charles River Cleanup Project (CRLS)
Meadowscaping for Biodiversity

Cleanup Participants: Adobe, Biogen, Boston University, Boston University Academy, Boston University Forensics, Boston Kiwanis Group, Camp Kesem at MIT, City on a Hill School (Dorchester), the community, DPW's Team Green Sense, Ernst & Young, Forward Financing Group, MIT, Mormon Youth Groups (greater Boston area & CT), Northeastern, Novartis, Pegasystems, Riverside Boat Club, Salesforce, STEAM Teen Program at Cambridge Community Center, Troop 56 (Cambridge), & Turner Construction & the community.

In-Kind Donors

Best Ever Chicken (Musicians)
DJ Professor TEA, aka Thomas Malone
Gary Blau, Photographer
Dr. Laura Brightman, Physician on-site
Central Square Florist
Charles Riverboat Company
Classic Graphics
Conway Design
Nina Cohen, Independent Scholar
Devin Ferreira, Producer & Musician
Dr. Bill Goldberg, Physician on-site
Callum Griffith, Graphic Designer
Lisa Houck, Artist
Harpoon Brewery
Home Depot
Knucklebones
David Lund, Riverside Boat Club

Bimal Nepal, Photographer
Caryn O'Connell, Development Consultant
Brian O'Donovan, Emcee
Jackie O'Riley, Irish Dance Instructor
Pagu
Laura Perovich, Researcher, Media Lab
Michael Schaffer, Photographer
Snowy Joey's Ice Cream Truck
Starbucks
Jeanne Strahan, Naturalist
Erica Swanson, Medical Assistant on-site
Toscanini's
Janet Theurer, Flower Arranger
Trader Joe's
Traditional Irish Musicians organized by Sean Clohessy, including Joey Abarta
Whole Foods

Individual Donors

\$5,000+

Anonymous 1
Anonymous 2

\$4,999 - \$1,000

Sheryl Handler
Juan Serna & Lauryn Zipse

\$999 - \$251

Cambridge Plant and Garden Club
Richard & Penny Garver
Lasky Charitable Lead Trust
Heather Safforian
Fred & Nancy Woods

\$250 - \$150

Maarten Asser
Ken Carson & Sally Foster
David Diamond & Karen Zukowski
Charles & Sheila Donahue
Brian & Lindsay Donovan
Bob Flack
Sarah Griffith & Paul Jefferson
Marc Hoffman & Jane Stolzman
Judy Nathans
Jo Ann Neusner Charitable Fund
John Shields
Martha Stearns
Sally Waldron & Bill Neukomm
Jack Wofford & Michael Lucido

\$149 - \$100

Richard & Marge Amster
Laura & Howard Brightman
David Brophy & Kathleen Corey
Henrietta Davis & Richard Bock
Preston & Olivia Fiske
Bill & Mara Goldberg
Leslie Greis
Tibor Hangyal/ Magazine Beach Shell
Dan & Gertrude Harkins
Wendy Holding
Debra L. Iles & Erik Sobel
Laura Jasinski
Charlotte Karney & Fred Yalouris
Janie Katz-Christy & Samuel Christy
Matthew Kernkraut & Ethan Leavy
Peter Klinefelter & Suo Yi Lee
Rick & Kathy Kosinski
Isabel & Charles Kurzon
David Lund & Julie Craven
Catherine Mannick
John McGannon
Margaret McNally
Steve Miller & Sally Benbasset
Joseph Moore & Annette LaMond
Sarah Morris & Jeff Michael
Carol O'Hare & Walter McDonald

\$149 - \$100 (cont.)

Stephen Oakley
Daniel Pike & Bara Litman
Susanne R. Rasmussen
Terrance & Trudy Regan
Beyhan & Charlie Roach
Tamar Schapiro
Audrey Schulman & Doug Feinberg
Katherine Seelye
Jay Shetterly & Blair Trippe
Robert Simha
Niels Sokol & Carol Smith
Carol & Gerry Tourgee
Alice Turkel & Mitch Ryerson
Minka van Beuzekom
Kristen Wainwright & Rick Harriman
Marty Walz
Bob Woodbury
Cathie Zusy & Sam Kendall

Up to \$99

Anonymous 3
Bill August
Shery & Jeffrey Berg
William Boehm
Roberto Bonilla
Rebecca Bowie
Brian Campbell & Paula Wright
Dennis Carlone
Stephanie Couch
Margaret Duignan
Fred Fantini
Jan Ferrara
Ken Field
Gladys (Pebbles) Gifford
Robb Johnson
Janet Kinasewich
Peggy & Joe Kociubes
Peggy Kutcher
Ross & Denise Miller
Judith Morse
Marty Ostrow
Sam Perry
Jim & Penny Peters
Nicholas & Anne Read
Susan Schlossberg
Melissa Ann Smith
Laurie Taymor-Berry
David & Elizabeth Torrey
Susan Turner
Marc Warner & Bonnie Burke
Harte & Silas Weiner
Pace Willisson & Wendy Rowe
Rhonda Wilson

Thank you, all!

A Step Back: An Overview of Our Funding History

At our first Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association (CNA) cleanup at the park Nov. 14, 2010, we discovered that the roof of the park’s 1818 Powder Magazine was full of holes. Within weeks, we had an estimate for its temporary repair, for which we raised \$1,990. That was the beginning of our education about collaborating with State government and our introduction to DCR. We learned that:

- 1. To repair the Magazine we would need to follow a process: first, conduct a historic structure report; then, hire an architect to propose renovations; and finally, repair the building.
- 2. Nothing happens without the support of local officials and politicians. Thankfully, we have had extraordinary support from the City, State and DCR. The engagement of Senators Boncore and Petruccelli and Representatives Livingstone and Walz has been key, as was engaging the City of Cambridge.

Raising Capital for Plans & Physical Improvements

In early 2011, we received our first of three New England Grassroots Environmental Fund grants to organize programs that would help bring attention to the need for park improvements (\$6.5k). That same year, we applied for our first Cambridge Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

We have requested and received these CPA funds:

FY2012	\$25k	Historic Structure Report for Powder Magazine
FY2014	\$100k	Stabilization of the Powder Magazine
FY2015	\$56.5k	Complete Landscape Plan
FY2017	\$116.6k	Interpretative Signage and Magazine Interior Rehab
FY2018	\$ 25k	Canoe/Kayak Launch
FY2019	\$155,450	Shoreline Edge Work
TOTAL :	\$478,650	

DCR Partnership Matching funds have matched these Cambridge dollars:

2012	\$50k	Historic Structure Report
2013	\$225k+	Stabilization of the Powder Magazine
2014	\$56.5k+	Completion of the Landscape Plan
2016	\$30k+	Canoe/Kayak Launch
2018	\$44,667	Outlook
FY2019	\$155,450	Shoreline Edge Work
TOTAL:	\$534,717+	

In FY2017 and FY2018, the Cambridge Redevelopment Authority Forward Fund donated **\$16,286**.

And MBP has contributed our community donations as well to DCR:

2014	\$11,219	for the Stabilization of the Powder Magazine
2018	\$56,524	for the Canoe/Kayak Launch & Outlook
TOTAL:	\$67,743	(DCR has matched these dollars as well.)

MBP has also raised additional funds to fill critical funding gaps. For the boat launch, we brought in: City of Cambridge (\$44k), the Solomon Foundation (\$13,250), the Judy Record Fund, Mass Audubon (\$5k), Kimco Realty (\$2.5k), and BioMed Realty (\$2k).

It is by working together—City, State and community—that we’ve been able to make incremental improvements at the park. Our collaborative work has also inspired DCR to make additional investments: repairing the roof and windows of the pool bathhouse, building a spray deck, removing the broken playground and wading pool, reseeding the lawn, installing an ADA-compliant path to the Magazine, introducing curb ramps around the park, repairing benches and picnic tables, pruning trees, and making further contributions to the boat launch, the Powder Magazine renovation, and park landscape plan.

Ways to Contribute

- Send checks made out to “Magazine Beach Partners” to MBP Treasurer Marge Amster, 10 McTernan St., Cambridge, MA 02139.
- Donate on Paypal at magazinebeach.org.
- Volunteer. Contact Cathie Zusy at czusy@magazinebeach.org or 617.868.0489



The park’s new Adirondack chairs encourage people to linger.

Magazine Beach Partners Financial Statement

January - October 2018

PRIOR YEARS RETAINED REVENUE AS OF 1 JAN 2018			61,803	NOTE: Includes 2017 CRA grant of 8,143		
EXPENSES						
		CONTRIBUTION TO DCR FOR CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH	64,666	NOTE: Includes prior years retained revenue and 2017 CRA grant of 8,143		
		SUMMER PROGRAM COSTS	6,087			
		BENEFIT COSTS	2,570			
		FUNDRAISING	3,400			
		FISH & WILDLIFE GRANT (2018 expenditures, balance in 2017)	4,783			In partnership with the Charles River Watershed Association
		INCREMENTAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS	1,499			
		ADMIN	781			
		TOTAL	83,786			
INCOME						
	FOUNDATIONS					
		SOLOMON FOUNDATION CANOE/KAYAK LAUNCH GAP FUNDING CHALLENGE GRANT	13,250			
		SOLOMON FOUNDATION NEW DONOR CHALLENGE GRANT	15,000			
		JUDY RECORD/MA AUDUBON FUND DONATION	5,000			
		FISH & WILDLIFE GRANT (225 received in 2017)	4,775			Restricted grant in partnership with the Charles River Watershed Association
					38,025	
	CORPORATIONS					
		CORPORATE DONATIONS	4,500			
		SUMMER PROGRAM BUSINESS SPONSORS	11,500			
		FALL BENEFIT BUSINESS SPONSORS	20,750			
					36,750	
	INDIVIDUALS					
		INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS (NOT INCLUDING BENEFIT)	15,113			
		FALL BENEFIT INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS	1,000			
		BENEFIT TICKET & DONATION REVENUE	9,827			
					25,940	
	OTHER					
		INTEREST INCOME	9			
		TOTAL	100,724			
	CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE PARK INVESTMENTS				78,741	



Veterans Memorial Pool is the park’s chief draw. Over 13,000 swam there in 2018.



Many retreat to Magazine Beach to get away from it all, to read and enjoy the view.