
Magazine Beach Partners



2024 Annual Report

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



Dear Friends of Magazine Beach,

Year round, the park continues to be an extraordinary refuge and a great free resource. Our 17 acres of green open riverside park in the heart of a city draws thousands of visitors for both rest and recreation.

In season, people enjoyed the refurbished swimming pool, splash pad, new outdoor gym and over 100 programs offered by Mass Audubon from the historic Powder Magazine. The nature paths, kayak launch, red chairs, baseball and soccer fields were all heavily used and appreciated.



The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) advanced three major initiatives: plans for broadening the Memorial Drive sidewalk from the outdoor gym across to the BU Boat House; planting trees; and advancing permitting for Phase II-2. We are particularly thrilled by the advancement of this next phase of park improvements. Over the next two years, DCR plans to transform the acre of sunken parking lot between the swimming pool and river into a grassy beach. A new dock and overlook will offer fresh opportunities to sit or fish and appreciate the river.



Major project support came from the City of Cambridge (ARPA and CPA funds) and individual contributors to Magazine Beach Partners. Thank you, all! The dock will be installed this spring and most earthmoving will happen this fall. Important news: On Tuesday, April 29 at 6pm, DCR will host a pre-construction meeting about this project via Zoom. Register [here](#).

We have new leadership at Magazine Beach Partners this year. Longtime President Cathie Zusy stepped up to the Cambridge City Council but remains active on the board. Decia Goodwin and Ken Carson now serve as co-Presidents and Vivek Sikri is a new board member. Other MBP transitions: Paul Lyons retired and we sadly lost one of our original founders, neighbor Olivia Fiske.

Spring has sprung at the park. Mass Audubon's Rob Riman just reported the return of redwing blackbirds and sighting a belted kingfisher and some killdeers. More birds will soon follow. Mass Audubon's nature center is now open on weekends. Come down and check out their free programs and activities.

We hope to see many of you at the Charles River Earth Day Cleanup Saturday, April 26th from 10am-12noon.

Happy Spring from Magazine Beach Partners!
22 April 2025

Magazine Beach Partners Board:
Decia Goodwin, co-President & Treasurer
Ken Carson, co-President & Clerk
Brian Conway
Richard Garver
Vivek Sikri
Fred Yalouris
Cathie Zusy



2024 Physical Improvements

DCR

- * For cyclist and pedestrian safety, widened the Memorial Drive sidewalk from the MWRA Cottage Farm parking lot to the BU Boathouse
- * treated aquatic invasives and the shoreline Japanese knotweed in preparation for new Phase II-2 plantings
- *planted 13 trees in October, most east of playing fields. When fully grown, tree heights will range from 40-80 feet tall: 4 maples, 3 white pines, 5 American linden and 1 sweetgum
- * Phase II-2: secured the 2 permits required for construction bidding



MWRA & DCR

- *fixed water leak in baseball field

Cambridge

- *aerated, reseeded and fertilized the soccer fields

Magazine Beach Partners

- *purchased 18 red Adirondack chairs
- *planted flowers in spraydeck planters





Programs

DCR's Veterans Memorial Swimming Pool remained the main draw to the park, attracting almost 23,000 swimmers during an especially hot summer.

Mass Audubon hosted a stellar 4th season at the park. Their nature center attracted 5,200 visitors, with two-thirds from Cambridge. Along with organizing bird walks, nature programs and preschool story hour, they engaged Zhong (Elena) Li as artist in residence and hosted poetry readings, puppet shows, yoga classes and sound bowl vibe sessions.



Bachata by the River, led by Liz and Lumyr, continued to draw big crowds to the terrace in the evenings. Mass Audubon also held four festivals, partnering with local environmental groups and debuted an outdoor exploration cart, designed by MIT Urban Risk Lab. On the water, Mass Audubon hosted over 1,500 paddlers and partnered with 22 groups to introduce teens to Charles river fun. This is the 7th year of their Cambridge youth kayaking program. Thanks to Paddle Boston for providing the kayaks!

Magazine Beach Partners contributed \$2,000 to Mass Audubon to support summer programs and hosted a few history programs as well. In July MBP helped organize history walks for Walk Boston and DCR; the latter, with historian Nina Cohen, about the Powder Magazine. MBP also shared insights of their 14-year journey of park transformation with the East Cambridge Open Space Trust.

Waypoint Adventures hosted 9 programs that brought kayaking to 60 people with disabilities.



Almost 100 Cambridge Public School 3rd graders from the Morse and King Open Schools used the park as their laboratory for Charles River studies. About eighty Amigos middle school students participated in the Canoe Mobile Project.

The Riverside Boat Club hosted a Learn to Row open house. Diana Lempel organized Full Moon Silent Walks along the River monthly from April to December. In October, the Head of the Charles Regatta launched single and double sculls from the park. And Magazine Beach hosted Central Cambridge Youth Baseball, Cambridge Youth Soccer, Meet Up soccer games and occasional Boston University quidditch matches.

Much of what happens at the park is also wonderfully unprogrammed. Users come for a dip in the pool and then utilize the benches and chairs for picnics. Others come to read, stroll, dog walk or just hang out on the lawns in the fresh air.





Stewardship

Once again, the Charles River Conservancy led major efforts to maintain the park. Along with organizing the April Earth Day Cleanup, they painted benches and picnic tables, removed graffiti, collected litter and sticks, cut back vegetation, pulled invasive weeds and raked leaves. In 2024 they brought 275 volunteers, filling 80 bags with litter and 182 bags with plant material. Volunteers included the Cambridge Running Club, Davidson College, Riverside Boat Club, the University of Florida, Alexandria Real Estate, 2seventybio and neighbors, too.



Severe weather took down several trees and big branches. DCR cleared them and then planted 13 new trees. DCR also removed many homeless encampments from the park.

240 Mass Audubon eco-volunteers removed trash, invasives and shoreline fencing. They also cataloged bird species using iNaturalist.



Advocacy

We continued to advocate with DCR and MassDOT for advancing Phase II-2 and river's edge improvements as part of the I-90 Allston Multimodal Project. We also advocated for substantial mitigation from Eversource as they turn the soccer field into a staging area for the Greater Cambridge Energy Project this winter.

Magazine Beach Partners shared the life of the park on our blog and at magazinebeach.org. In 2024, the website had over 21,000 views. It shares programming, provides updates and celebrates the community use of this open space resource.



What's Next in 2025?

- *Phase II-2 planned start
- *DCR to complete Memorial Drive sidewalk fencing improvements
- *Eversource will use the soccer field as a staging area

What we're advocating for:

- *DCR fixing the two areas of broken fence along Memorial Drive at the entrance of the park
- *DCR adding a ramp at boat launch. The stone cover continues to erode and a new solution must be found
- *DCR adding more bike racks, especially, near the swimming pool
- *DCR posting the City-funded interpretative markers
- *DCR treating the shoreline Japanese knotweed and phragmites, both invasive weeds
- *DCR allowing Mass Audubon and the CRC to sow more wildflowers
- *Cambridge planting more trees at park
- *Cambridge and DCR renewing their park management and use memorandum of understanding

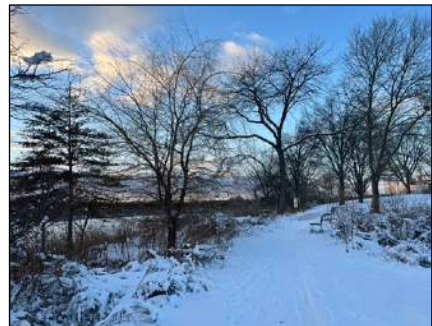
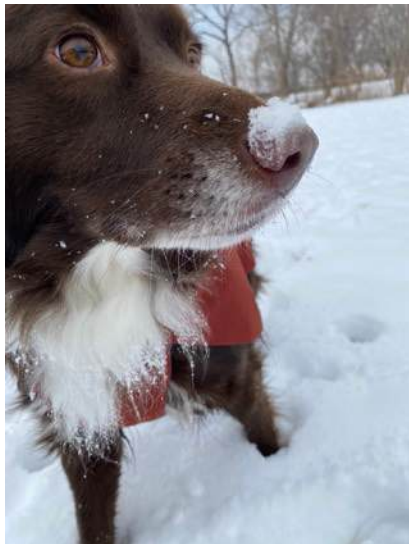


Please Contribute!

Remember, we're all volunteers at Magazine Beach Partners, so funds go directly into the park and its programs. Send checks made out to "Magazine Beach Partners" to MBP Treasurer, Decia Goodwin, 175 Chestnut St., Cambridge, MA 02139 or donate on Paypal at magazinebeach.org.

Or volunteer your time or talent! We're looking for new board members and help with photography, publicity, editing and design. Contact Decia Goodwin at deciagoodwin@gmail.org or Ken Carson at ken.l.carson@gmail.com.





Thank you, donors!

Many thanks to Ken Field, Sarah Griffith, Dan & Trudy Harkness, Caroline Reeves, the Riverside Boat Club, the Cesar Tourgee Family Fund and Pace Willsson for their contributions.

Magazine Beach Partners 2024 Financial Statement

Magazine Beach Partners 2024

| 2024 Income | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Category | Source | Amount |
| Individual Donations | Miscellaneous | |
| Foundations | Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund | \$500 |
| Non Profits | Riverside Boat Club | \$1,000 |
| Bank Interest | Eastern Bank | \$222 |
| Total 2024 Income | | \$1,722 |

| 2024 Expenses | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Category | Expense | Cost |
| Programs | Mass Audubon: yoga, dance & other | \$2,000 |
| | Cyanotype Project | \$121 |
| | Adirondack Chairs | \$478 |
| Administrative Costs | Insurance | \$667 |
| | Checks | \$103 |
| Total 2024 Expenses | | -\$3,369 |

| 2024 Summary | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | | \$1,722 |
| Total Expenses | | -3369.00 |
| Cash on Hand | 2023 Carry Over | \$74,308 |
| End Balance | | \$72,661 |