



2017 Annual Report – Boston Common

Shaw Memorial

\$69,775

In partnership with the Parks Department and the National Park Service, we are working on a major restoration project for the Shaw Memorial. NPS will be the lead, as they are contributing half of the total \$2.8 M cost from funds that come from a national Helium Fund, which requires the NPS to be in charge of the project. We will be working in close collaboration with them on this.

Pruning

\$76,400

Working closely with the City's Tree Warden, Greg Mosman, we review the health of specific trees and their pruning needs. Total number of trees pruned over the past year is 130. Our pruning program is generally geared toward dead/weak branch removal, crown thinning and crown raising for vehicular clearance, on an area-by-area basis working across the Common. One additional benefit of the pruning program is that hardly any tree damage occurred during high wind events.

Disease Control

\$63,300

We continued to collect data on Elm bark beetle activities with traps that were monitored for frequency and number of beetles. This data builds on the previous years' data to provide the Friends and the Parks Department with the information necessary to focus insecticide and fungicide applications when and where most needed. This program supplements our ongoing efforts to monitor the condition of limbs and foliage.

Soil Improvement and Fertilization

\$103,600

We contracted with Cambridge Landscape to amend the soil with a liquid application consisting of micronutrients, seed mix, as well as fungicide in addition to the existing cultural program of aerating and seeding.

Irrigation **\$31,850**

The Friends has assumed responsibility for the Common's irrigation systems. Our first task has been working with the city to repair a broken gate valve, replace a backflow preventer to the main pump and change out numerous irrigation heads.

Off-Leash Dog Areas **\$28,400**

We continued to rotate off leash dog panels throughout the year. The Friends and the Parks Department agree that this program is not sustainable for the future but will continue until the Common Master Plan is completed.

Sculpture Conservation and Maintenance **\$71,925**

The Friends' Collections Care Manager, Sarah Hutt, continues to coordinate with the Parks Department, especially with the restoration of swords to the Shaw Memorial and the Soldiers and Sailors monuments. We continued our sculpture conservation work, with regular cleaning and inspections. During the summer we cleaned the following sculptures: The Papal Mass Tablet, Marquis de Lafayette Plaque, and Commodore John Barry.

Park Rangers **\$1,666**

This is the Common's allocation for the \$5,000 contribution to the Friends of the Boston Park Ranger Mounted Unit. This is not in the FY18 budget.

TOTAL Expenditures **\$446,916**

Submitted by Beatrice Nessen, Common Committee chair