



2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**



FRIENDS
OF THE
PUBLIC GARDEN

“The Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall are living landscapes shaped by centuries of history, stewardship, and public life. **Together, they form the green heart of Boston:** welcoming civic spaces in which residents and visitors find respite amid the energy of the city.”



Front cover: Parkgoers enjoy the evening sun at the foot of the Soldiers and Sailors monument on Boston Common. Top: Leslie Singleton Adam (on left) and Liza Meyer (on right) at the 2025 Green & White. Bottom: Park users on Commonwealth Avenue Mall pause to appreciate the Patrick Andrew Collins memorial.

Dear Friends,

In 2025, as communities across Boston and beyond prepared to commemorate America's 250th anniversary, we were reminded of the essential role public parks play in our shared history and in shaping civic life.

The Boston Common, Public Garden, and Commonwealth Avenue Mall are living landscapes shaped by centuries of history, stewardship, and public life. Together, they form the green heart of Boston: welcoming civic spaces in which residents and visitors find respite amid the energy of the city. They connect us to past people and events that shaped Boston and the nation while continuing to evolve to serve the communities of today.

These three parks are places where defining moments unfold and where generations come together. At the same time, their urban forests support biodiversity and strengthen Boston's resiliency to a changing climate.

The Friends is proud to care for these remarkable spaces and ensure that the history embedded within them is understood and remembered. Through our formal partnership with the City of Boston, we steward the trees, lawns, sculptures, public art, and historic features that give each park its distinct character. We also advocate for thoughtful park management and bring people together through programs, events, education, and community partnerships.

2025 was a year of continued growth and meaningful progress. We strengthened our investment in parks care, expanded opportunities for people to experience and learn from these greenspaces, and deepened relationships with partners, downtown Boston stakeholders, and community organizations across the city. Each planting, care and preservation effort, and public program advanced a shared goal: ensuring that these parks remain healthy and welcoming for everyone.

As we reflect on the past year, we are mindful that these downtown parks are not only inherited by each generation. They are spaces we shape together. The decisions and investments we make today determine how these parks are cared for in the years ahead.

This work would not be possible without the generosity of our community of supporters and donors, volunteers, public partners, park advocates, and program participants. Thank you for investing in Boston's treasured greenspaces and for helping ensure that they continue to be places where people rest, recharge, and connect.

See you in the parks,



Liza Meyer
President



Leslie Singleton Adam
Board Chair



THE IMPACT YOU MAKE

For the past 56 years, supporters like you have enabled the Friends to care for the **BOSTON COMMON**, **PUBLIC GARDEN**, and **COMMONWEALTH AVENUE MALL**, ensuring that these greenspaces remain healthy, vibrant, accessible, and welcoming to all. Here's a sample of all that your support made possible in 2025:



36 new trees planted
and **355** trees pruned.



80,400 lbs
of carbon dioxide captured
by trees and plantings.

EXPERT PARKS CARE

43 new species of native plants introduced, such as Prairie Dropseed, Butterfly Milkweed, and Blazing Star. Because native species remain hardy in extreme weather, they require less maintenance while providing seasonal interest and an important source of food and habitat for pollinators.



People Need Parks. Parks Need People.

Join or renew your support at bit.ly/fopgdonate.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

6,000+ people enjoyed free, engaging public events hosted by the Friends, from Skating with Friends in the winter to Duckling Day in spring, to Backyard Bashes in the warmer months.



387 volunteers
rolled up their sleeves in the
parks or helped make our public
programs a success.

\$37,366 granted
to neighborhood Boston
greenspaces by the Henry Lee
Fund for Boston Parks.



11 sculptures

conserved across the
three parks.



260,000

lightbulbs installed for the Holiday
Lights on the Mall.

ART AND ACTIVATIONS



The Friends provides full-service art conservation, including examination and treatment, for Boston's largest outdoor public art collection. In addition, the Friends lights up the Commonwealth Avenue Mall each winter with the beloved Holiday Lights on the Mall tradition.

THE POWER OF YOUR GIFT

Donations from park supporters like you allow us to **CARE** for trees and turf, **CONSERVE** a historic collection of public art, and **CONNECT** generations of residents and visitors to these unique Boston greenspaces.



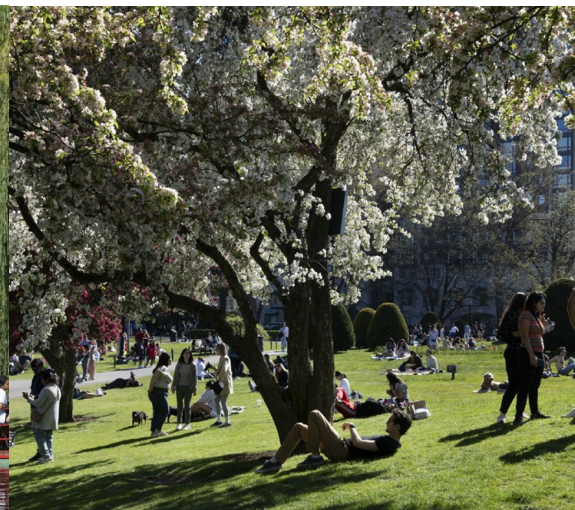
1.75 miles

of connected parkland, from
Kenmore Square to Park Street.



1,675 trees

representing 121 different species
cared for by our expert staff.



7 million

visitors to the Common,
Garden, and Mall each year.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

The Friends of the Public Garden is grateful to the more than 2,200 individuals, foundations, corporate funders, government grantmakers, and partner organizations who supported our mission and work in the three parks in 2025 with critical philanthropic donations and in-kind contributions. Our community of supporters – all of you! – span every Boston neighborhood, 151 towns across Massachusetts, and 33 different States. Thank you!

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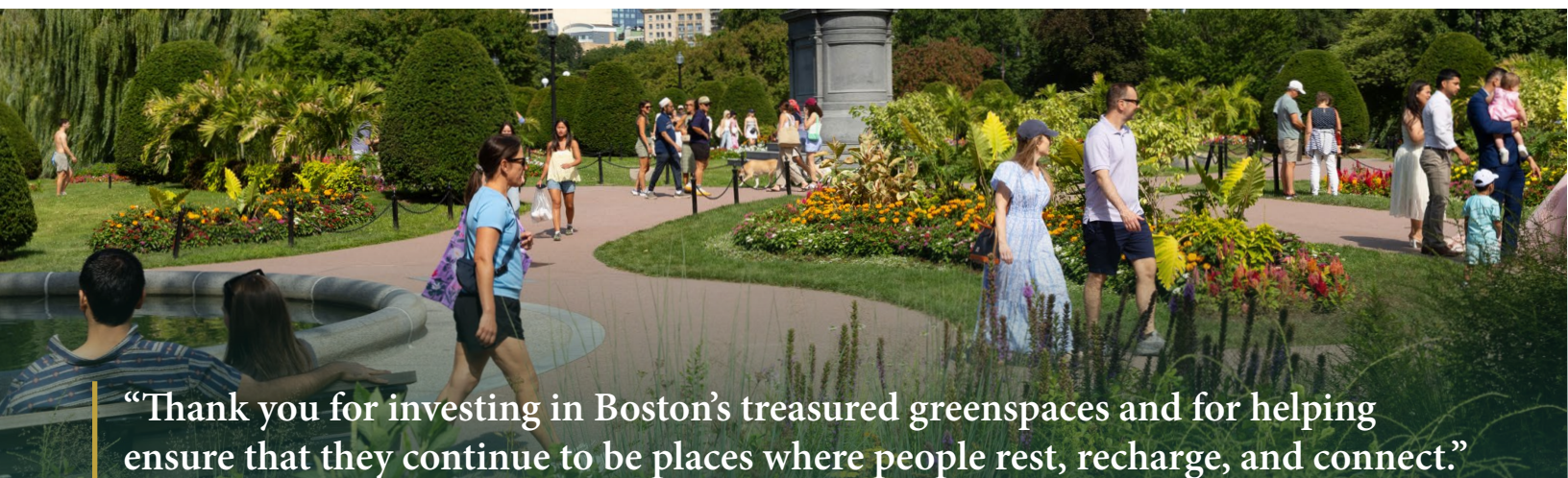
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“Thank you for investing in Boston’s treasured greenspaces and for helping ensure that they continue to be places where people rest, recharge, and connect.”

\$1-\$99

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“Each planting, care and preservation effort, and public program advanced a shared goal: ensuring that these parks remain healthy and welcoming for everyone.”

“This work would not be possible without the generosity of our community.”



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Cheryl Richards Photography
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The Friends extends our deepest gratitude to the **nearly 400 volunteers** who contributed their time, work, and guidance to parks care, special events, visitor welcome, service on committees, and more. We could not do this work without you!

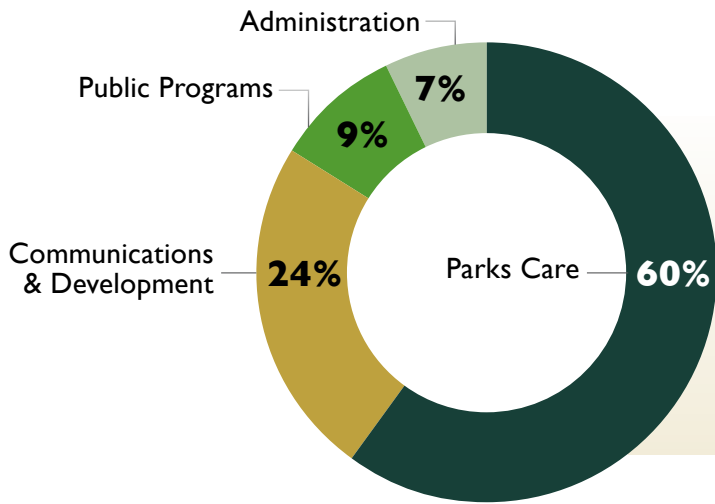
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Donor list reflects gifts received between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

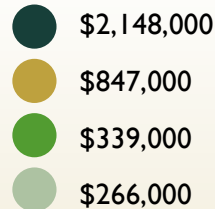
† Deceased

We have made our best efforts to accurately list our supporters. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions and contact our Development team at 617-723-8144 x203 to help us correct our records. Thank you.

2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

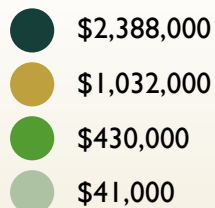


2025 EXPENSES

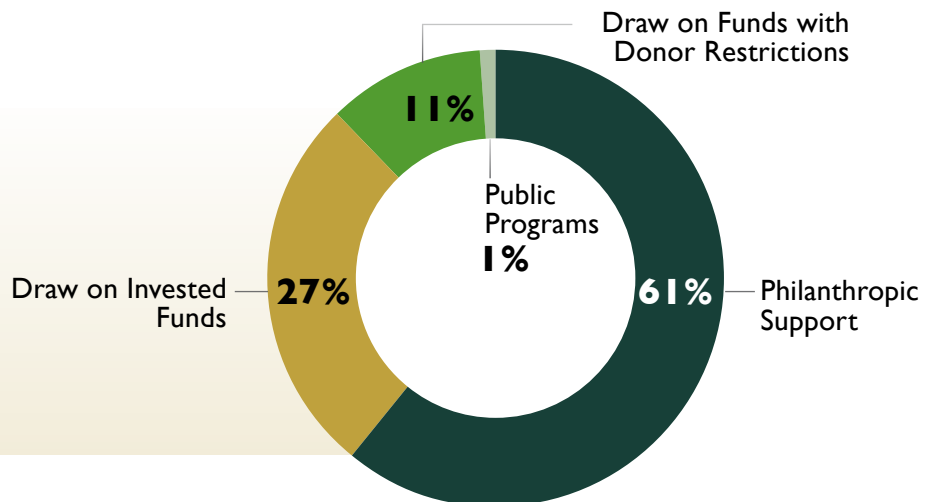


Expenses Total \$3,600,000

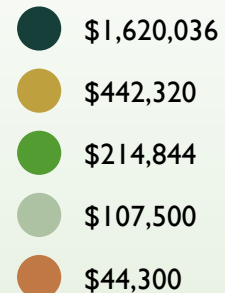
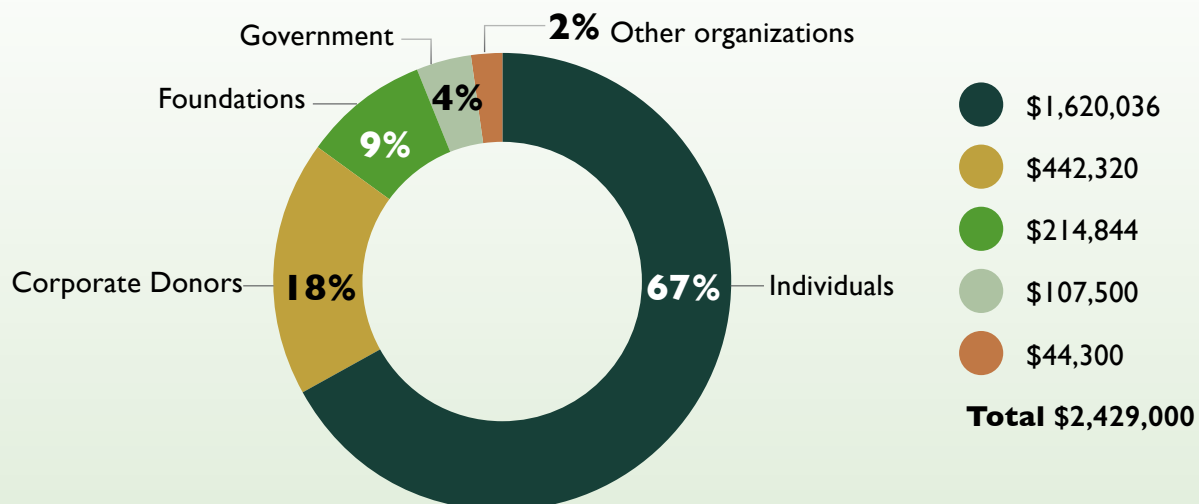
2025 INCOME



Income Total \$3,891,000



2025 PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT BY SOURCE



Total \$2,429,000

To view the Friends of the Public Garden 2025 Audited Financial Statements and Form 990, visit <https://bit.ly/fopgwhoweare>.



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