

THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

From the Volunteer Coordinator

Summer is here, and activities in the park are in full swing. Check our [calendar](#) for a full listing of upcoming events.

In an effort to take advantage of park programming and to make your volunteer experience more FUN, this summer we will be tying service events to special events. Next month, you can come help out at our first *Cleanup and a Movie*, or *Gardening to the Classics* event. We hope to see you there!

We are also looking for help on [July 3rd and 4th](#) for the Pops Concert and fireworks extravaganza. If you were planning on coming to the park for either of those events, ask us how you can be an important Esplanade Association ambassador.

[Email us](#), or call 617 227-0365 for more information.

M.V.P. of the Month

Despite heavy and constant rains, on June 8th Price Waterhouse Cooper sent around 150 employees to pick up trash, cut down brush, prune trees and rake riverbanks. They worked in the portion of the Esplanade we refer to as the Upper Park, between the Bay State Bridge and the Bowker Overpass.



PwC volunteers removed trash, including this mattress, from under the Bowker Overpass.

Their hard work and resilience made a huge difference in this area of the park, and they generously donated new lawn care equipment to the volunteer program. We hope this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership! Thanks also go to Boston Cares for organizing the event.

Spotlight: *Invasive Species*

Many of you have participated in a riverbank invasive species removal project. These projects use guidelines in the State's Vegetative Management Plan to control the spread of aggressive plants along the banks of the Esplanade. So, what exactly is an invasive species and why do we have to work SO hard to control them?

An invasive species is one that is introduced from another biome, and which outcompetes other, native plant species for space and resources. If the plant is allowed to spread unchecked, this can result in a monoculture and a lack of species diversity. Not only does this have the potential to destroy entire ecosystems that depend on native plant systems, it can lead to massive devegetation if a disease or pest that targets these plant species sweeps through the area.

Our main aggressors on the banks of the Charles River are False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), and Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). To learn more about these and other invasive species issues visit www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov.



Volunteers from Emerson College cut down a stand of *Phragmites australis*.



Upcoming Events

[June 27th, 7-9p.m., Public Meeting and Presentation of Boat Haven Conceptual Plan](#)

[July 3rd, 4th, Be an Esplanade Assn. Ambassador](#)

[July 7th, 5:30p.m.-Sundown, Cleanup and a Movie](#)

Help clean the park after July 4th, and then settle in for a free movie at the Shell.

[July 19th, 4:00-7:00p.m., Gardening to the Classics](#)

Help care for our gardens and then enjoy a free concert.

Ongoing Opportunities

[Group Volunteering](#)
[Administrative Help](#)