

THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

From the Volunteer Coordinator

July has been a VERY busy month for our volunteer program, with over 300 volunteers in the park with 15 different projects. August will be even busier, bringing us over 400 volunteers for a variety of projects including invasive species cutting, fence painting, concert ushering, model boat sailing, and park user counting! Our summer teen program has also brought us 8 teens from the Boston Youth Fund who have been working up to 25 hours each week in the park.

A big focus of early August volunteering is finishing up our summer counting days. We hope you can help us out with this very important study! Also, on Wednesdays we are in need of volunteers either to usher from 6pm to 9pm for the Boston Landmarks Orchestra concerts at the Hatch Shell or to help us from 6pm to 8pm with our Boston Model Sailing Club program (no sailing experience required). We are also in need of help with a special project involving "behavioral mapping". We need help documenting park activities (ranging from cycling to sitting). The research method requires 2 people to walk the 3-mile length of the Esplanade together, counting who's doing what, using customized forms; it takes about 1 1/2 hours each time and should only be done once per day at designated times. Training is this Saturday, August 4th from 10:30am to 1:00pm.



Upcoming Events

Saturday-August 4, 7am-7pm,
Park User Counting Project

Saturday-August 4, 10:30am-1pm,
Behavioral Mapping Project

Sunday-August 5 & 12, 3pm-5pm,
Boston Model Sailing

Wednesday, August 8, 7am-7pm,
Park User Counting Project

Wednesday-August 8, 15, 22 & 29,
6pm-9pm, Ushering at Hatch Shell
for Boston Landmarks Orchestra

Wednesday-August 22 & 29,
6pm-8pm, Boston Model Sailing

Ongoing Opportunities

Group Volunteering
Administrative Help

M.V.P. of the Month-Boston University's Upward Bound Program



BU hosts a summer program called Upward Bound which is a federally funded college prep program for potential first-generation college and low-income Boston Public High School students. The program serves 85 students who are recruited from target high schools or neighborhoods in Boston. Two different groups came out on our hottest afternoons in July to cut back the invasive species (non-native plants) growing thick along the riverbank in front of BU. They worked hard and had wonderful positive attitudes doing such physical labor in the heat. For their time and energy they are our July Motivated Volunteers for the Park.

Spotlight: Our Summer Teen Leadership Program Is In Full Swing!

Our pilot summer of our Teen Leadership Program began on July 9th, with eight teens working through August for 25 hours a week on the Esplanade. Funding for the teens salaries has been provided by the Boston Youth Fund and funding for the entire program was provided by the Blossom Fund and Bank of America. Our Teen Leadership Program Supervisor, Ninya Loeppky, has developed wonderful opportunities for our teens each week including a day out on the Charles River Cleanup Boat, painting a mural underneath the Bowker Overpass by Mass Ave, ushering at orchestra concerts, fence painting, pruning trees, and learning how to sail at Community Boating. They are learning and experiencing new things each day about what it means to be park stewards caring for a major urban park space and how much of a difference they can make as teen leaders.

