

THE ESPLANADE ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER NEWS

From the Volunteer Coordinator

The holiday season is upon us, yet it feels like summer ended only a couple of weeks ago. The final brilliant fall colors on the Esplanade are slowly giving way to the browns and chill of winter.

We have had a great last month of volunteer projects and groups. We finished painting 90% of the Storrow Drive green fence, we planted 2,000 tulip bulbs in the front of the Hatch Shell, and we have been filling hundreds of paper bags with leaves. We also kicked off our first "Adopt-A-Section-of-The-Esplanade" partnership with [The Advent School](#) where each of their 150 students planted a Daffodil bulb around the benches next to the Arthur Fiedler statue.

Our [Boston Model Sailing Club](#) wrapped up a very successful season with over 1,000 park visitors coming to Storrow Lagoon to watch our remote controlled model Lasers and CR 914's sail. About half of these visitors, of all ages, then took us up on our offer to try actually sailing a boat. Many became converts and appreciated our free service; preserving the historic tradition of model boat sailing on the lagoon. **We have a NEW program this winter with a model boat building workshop at the Hill House.**



Upcoming Events

Want to run for The Esplanade Assoc. in the 2008 Boston Marathon? [Click here](#) to apply. Spaces are limited!

Sign up NOW for our NEW winter **Remote Controlled Model Sailboat Building Workshop** with John Storrow from our own Boston Model Sailing Club March 1st, 15th, and 29th, 2008 1pm-4pm at Hill House Firehouse, 127 Mount Vernon St. [Click here to register](#)

Ongoing Opportunities

[Group Volunteering](#)

[Administrative Help](#)

M.V.P. of the Month-SquashBusters & Excel Academy Charter School



Two volunteer groups share top honors this month for their positive attitudes and their commitment to working very hard to clean up the area around the Hatch Shell. [SquashBusters](#), a youth enrichment program that combines squash, academics, and community service, came out to weed and cut invasives along the river bank on two afternoons. [Excel Academy](#), a free public charter middle school with a college prep curriculum serving a majority Latino and low-income student population, raked over 50 bags of leaves and loved every minute! Thanks to [Boston Cares](#) for bringing us these positive youth volunteers, who are our October **Motivated Volunteers for the Park**.

Spotlight: Save the Esplanade Blog Launched



Last month, The Esplanade Association launched www.savetheesplanade.blogspot.com, our first blog, focused on the opposition efforts of the Storrow Drive temporary by-pass road. On it, you will find information on how to help with the efforts to preserve the Esplanade and make your voice heard, an on-line petition to endorse, an impact map, what The Esplanade Association's position is, recent news articles, and various other postings. We hope you will add your thoughts, concerns, and viewpoints to the dialogue.

Currently, the commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), has delayed filing a key environmental impact report that would move the project forward. DCR will spend 6.8 million dollars on interim repairs to the Storrow Drive Tunnel. These repairs are expected to keep the tunnel safe and open for at least five years while a final plan for tunnel reconstruction and interim transportation is resolved. Undertaking interim repairs and delaying the report does not mean the proposal to put a road through the park has been withdrawn, but that the discussion on how to proceed has been delayed, indefinitely.

For more info or to RSVP to Jen Roy: jroy@esplanadeassociation.org, or www.esplanadeassociation.org