



Buckingham Pond Conservancy

Annual Meeting
March 19, 2017

Our Mission: “To coordinate existing resources and identify new resources devoted to protecting, preserving, and enhancing Buckingham Pond and its surrounding green space.”



Buckingham
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Conservancy

1. Welcome
2. Introduction of Current Board Members (2 mins)
3. Recognition of Board Members who retired in 2016 (2 mins)
4. Presentation of BPC Annual Pond Partner Award (3 mins)
5. Year in Review – 2016 (5 mins)
6. Membership Report (2 mins)
7. Treasurer’s Report – 2016 (5 mins)
8. Year Ahead – Opportunities/Plans in 2017 (5 mins)
9. Year Ahead – Threats/Needs in 2017 (5 mins)
10. Playground Survey and Neighbor/Member Input (30 mins)



2016 Year in Review – Pond and Park Efforts

1. Invasive species
 - Knotweed removal and tarping
 - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM)
 - Emerald ash borer – treatment efforts
2. Erosion control
 - New storm drain and drainage system for the playground parking lot
 - DGS coordination for other wash-out-prone areas
3. Water Dept master plan – North Euclid entrance to South Lenox entrance
 - See site plan and work scope
 - Shoreline stabilization and path improvements in targeted area
4. Fund-Raising Success
 - B&L Lake Management Plan – effective fund-raising tool
 - Jewish Federation of Northeast NY donation of \$10,000 towards shoreline stabilization and path improvements
 - Massry Family - \$25,000 challenge grant for Playground Improvements



2016 Year in Review – Treasurer’s Report

Membership Report

Significant Expenses:

(11,867) Final Payment on Landscape Master Plan

Grants and other Large Donations Received:

15,000 from Anonymous Donor Through Jewish Federation

10,000 from Bender Family Foundation

500 from Playground Fundraiser at the Point

Other Activity of Note:

(5,000) Allocated General Funds to playground

4,969 Non Earmarked donations and memberships

(This is higher than usual because of late Annual Meeting last year.)

(415) Emerald Ash Borer Treatment

(735) Mailings & Other Advertising

(338) Normal Operations (PO Box, Event permits, room rental etc.)

** No Fall Fundraiser this year, typically raises about \$3,500



2016 Current Status – Treasurer’s Report

	Last Year Balance	Current Year Activity (includes encumbered)	Available Balance
General Funds	8,372	(2,026)	6,346
Lake Management Plan	11,867	(11,867)	-
Playground		20,536	20,536
Landscape Plan	1,000		1,000
Habitat Restoration		5,000	5,000
Path Improvement		5,000	5,000
Total	21,239	16,643	37,882



2017 – Opportunities in the Year Ahead

1. Albany Water Dept.

- Completion of Master Plan for North Euclid entrance to South Lenox entrance
- Completion of work for Jewish Federation grant – shoreline stabilization and path improvements, including re-engineered South Euclid entrance wash-out area
- Invasive species removal – knotweed, water chestnut and phragmites

2. Playground Improvement Efforts

3. Fund-Raising Efforts

- Pond and Park - Federal and NYS grant opportunities
- Pond and Park - Private donations
- Playground – Massry Family \$25,000 challenge
- Playground - Commemorative brick path-paver campaign
- Playground - Summer picnic night at the park



2017 – Threats in the Year Ahead

1. DGS Budgetary Issue

- City-wide spending freeze
- Limited DGS funding for park/pond maintenance

2. Weed/algae control in pond

- Algae - Green Clean Pro (will it be as effective as copper sulfate?)
- Weed growth – Sonar applications to inhibit milfoil, duckweed, etc.
- Limited applications may mean more weeds

3. Canada geese infestation statewide – DO NOT FEED DUCKS/GEESE!!!

2017 – Need

1. Board Membership – 3 open seats
2. Skills needed:

* *PR/Marketing expertise*

* *Science/ecology expertise*

* *Master gardeners*

* *Fund-raising/development expertise*

* *Environmental engineers*

* *Professional/civil engineers*

* *Landscape architects*

* *Grant-writing expertise*



2016 Park User Survey Results

1. Nearly 200 responses
 1. Respondents from zip codes from all over the city of Albany; Troy; Colonie; Medusa; Delmar; Latham; Slingerlands; Johnsonville; and Nashville, TN
2. 51% said they visited weekly; 17% visited daily
3. Top three reasons to visit the park:
 1. Walking
 2. To be closer to nature
 3. Playground

2016 Park User Survey Results

1. Majority of respondents felt the quality of the playground was “Fair – Good”
1. Suggested improvements included:
 - More swings
 - Fitness equipment for all ages / abilities
 - New playground equipment for all ages / abilities (little kids to adolescents)





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Existing Conditions





Project Considerations

1. Space constraints
2. Safety—playground is SO CLOSE to Berkshire Blvd
3. ADA compliance is a must
4. Cost



Budget and Fund-Raising Results Playground Improvements

<u>Playground Upgrade Budget</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Approximate total cost		\$90,000
<u>Funds Committed</u>		
Bender Foundation	\$ 10,000	
Jewish Federation of NENY	\$ 5,000	
BPC	\$ 5,036	
Albany City - Rec Dept	<u>\$20,000</u>	
Total	\$40,036	
Shortfall		\$49,964
<u>Funds Needed</u>		
Massry Family - Challenge Match - expires 5/1/17	\$24,982	
Other donors by 5/1/17 deadline	\$24,982	