



Urban Roots

Healthy Trees - Healthy People

Volume II Number 1

Letter from the Chair

Domingos is a 22-year-old AIDS orphan who lives in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique. For the past five years, Domingos has made three trips each week to the Central Hospital in Maputo to visit the patients there and bring them much needed bread and bananas (hospital patients have to provide their own food). He spends long hours each week visiting with and comforting people who are dying from leprosy, cholera, and malnutrition.

Ernesto is a former street kid who also lost both parents to AIDS at a young age. He went to live in an orphanage at age 11, and is now 20 years old and in the 10th grade. Twice a week Ernesto and a few of his friends take a bus out to the Maputo city dump, which is home to about 2000 people. They take bread and water, they play games with the kids, and they help the old women move and collect their small possessions.

These kids aren't getting paid to do what they do, and do their work with absolutely no expectations. They live in a devastated city in one of the poorest countries in the world, and their personal histories are similarly astonishing. They are surrounded by so much hopelessness and darkness: Mozambique was a Portuguese colony until 1975, and between the war for independence and an ensuing civil war, the country has suffered through 30 years of active conflict.

The challenges facing this young country seem overwhelming to the point of being paralyzing. One full generation missed out on formal education due to the war. There is no local industry to speak of and, consequently, very few jobs available in the formal economy. HIV prevalence is at 16% and rising. There are few opportunities to continue one's education past the 6th grade.

But the kids I met during my time in Mozambique are bright lights who see where help is needed and take the initiative to meet those needs. They are investing their time, energy and vision in building a better Maputo.

I spent the winter in Mozambique, and I'm excited to be back in Boston. I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have so many resources, and so many amazing people to work with. We have so much, and we can do so much with what we have! We, too, are working toward realizing a common vision for a healthier and more vibrant city.

We've had a busy and successful winter at BUFC, which you will see as you read through this newsletter. We have completed an organizational development process, hosted a public lecture series, and been knee deep in planning for the '08 planting season. We are thrilled to be launching the first full year of Grow Boston Greener this spring. We hope you will join us!

Sherri Brokopp
BUFC Chair



2008 is Official Launch

2008 is the official launch year of Grow Boston Greener, a collaboration between the City of Boston and its partners in BUFC to plant 100,000 trees by the year 2020. In 2007, our pilot year, BUFC planted over 1000 trees - not a bad start!

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Organizational Development

In late January, BUFC hosted an organizational development retreat at the Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse. After a few months of working with consultants from the Executive Service Corp., the goal of this process was to formalize the BUFC structure so that we can manage our growing membership and large-scale projects without losing sight of our mission: **Healthy Trees - Healthy People!** The day was a great success and left members feeling excited about their role in BUFC!



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In the second part of 2007, Grow Boston Greener developed its official “look” with the creation of a logo. We are excited about the official launch of the program in 2008, increasing the visibility of the program and continuing to develop planting programs throughout the city.

In August, BUFC held a “Tree-Hugger-fest” tree planting for BUFC member organizations. We planted 20 trees along the Southwest Corridor Park, with help from Coalition members and community volunteers. After all the hard work, Coalition members were invited to a pot-luck cook-out at Earthworks.



Jim Hunt, City of Boston



Timberland Volunteers Planting

In September, BUFC was asked to coordinate a tree planting event for Timberland employees. We selected two sites in South Boston, Moakley Park and Mary Ellen McCormack Housing Development. We planted 100 trees on a sunny Saturday, with help from 100 volunteers from Timberland and City Year. Jim Hunt, City of Boston Chief of Environmental and Energy Services, joined us in kicking off the event, giving welcoming remarks.

As winter drew near, we started thinking about planting plans for 2008. Our goal for 2008, our first official year, is to plant 3000 trees, triple what we planted last year. April will be a busy month; our goal is to plant 1000 trees in April, culminating with the 1000th tree being planted on Arbor Day! We will keep you posted as this project develops; there will be lots of ways to get involved.

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Lecture Series with the Arnold Arboretum

The Arnold Arboretum and its partners in BUFC sponsored a three-part lecture series focused on the urban forest at the Franklin Park Golf Clubhouse.

Lecture topics included: *The Roots of Community: How Trees and Greenery Contribute to Society*, with William Sullivan; *It Takes a Village: Caring for the Urban Forest*, with Nina Bassuk; and *Branching Out: Biodiversity in the Urban Forest*, with Jeffery Iles. We had a great turn out with about 50 people attending each lecture.

We are looking forward to the spring lecture series which will feature William J. Manning, Professor of Plant Pathology, Department of Plant, Soil, and Insect Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, who will speak on the topic of *Trees in the City: Key Players in Reducing Energy Usage and Enhancing Air Quality*.

This lecture will be held on Wednesday, June 4 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Arnold Arboretum.

Lectures are free but advance registration is requested. Please call the Arnold Arboretum at 617-524-1718 x160 to register today!

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As we prepare for this exciting year, we will be hosting a number of workshops starting in April, teaching Boston residents about tree planting and maintenance.

See the next page to find out if a workshop has been scheduled in your neighborhood. Don't see one? Check the BUFC website calendar for the most updated information. These workshops are a great way to get involved in Grow Boston Greener and to learn the needs of your neighborhood even if you are a seasoned tree planter.

Visit the Grow Boston Greener Website at www.GrowBostonGreener.org.



Job Opportunity

City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department
Urban Forest/Grow Boston Coordinator

The Fund for Parks and Recreation and the Parks and Recreation Department is looking to hire an Urban Forest Coordinator. The position is part-time (with the possibility of full-time) for one year. The Urban Forest Coordinator will be working in collaboration with BUFC to coordinate efforts for the city's Grow Boston Greener initiative. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the City of Boston and its partners in BUFC to increase the Urban Tree Canopy in the City to assist in reducing climate change and heat island effect while improving air and water quality.

Responsibilities:

- Working with both public and private sector property owners to locate tree planting sites
- Increase volunteer participation with community groups in both tree planting and maintenance
- Manage logistics for planting projects
- Track Data
- Locate potential funding sources
- Act as a contact point for general public questions regarding GBG
- Develop communication tracks between the city and its partners in BUFC

Requirements:

- BA, BS in Environmental/Public Policy, Urban Forestry/Planning (or related field preferred)
- Community Outreach/Organizing Experience
- Resident of the City of Boston at the time of hire
- Arboriculture/Urban Forestry knowledge a plus

Salary will be commensurate with education, experience and proven abilities. This is a contract position, benefits not included.

Send cover letter and resume by March 18, 2008 to:
Stanley Ivan, Chief Engineer,
Boston Parks and Recreation Department,
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Third Floor,
Boston, MA 02118

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 617-635-4505.

BUFC MEMBERS

- Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
- Arnold Arboretum
- Boston Natural Areas Network
- Boston Department of Neighborhood Dev.
- Boston Parks Department
- Charles River Conservancy
- Classic Communications
- Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition
- Earthworks
- Franklin Park Coalition
- JP Trees
- Mapping Sustainability
- Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Urban Ecology Institute
- USDA Forest Service



NUCFAC Visits Boston

Last fall we had a visit by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council to Boston. BUFC hosted the NUCFAC members on a tour of planting locations around Boston. Climbing on board a tour bus on a chilly fall day, Sherri Brokopp (UEI and BUFC Chair), Eric Seaborn (Mass DCR), Leif Fixen (City of Boston Parks and Recreation), and Gretchen Folk (Earthworks) shared information on Boston's urban forest. They concluded by planting several trees at Franklin Field in Dorchester.



Workshops

GBG workshops include a discussion on the benefits of trees, how to plant trees and how to care for them in a way that will maximize their benefits. Workshop participants will receive a free tree to plant on their Boston property as part of the Grow Boston Greener initiative.

Thursday, April 3 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

VietAID, 42 Charles Street, Fields Corner
Hosted by Dorchester Environmental Health Coalition

Monday, April 7 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Plasters Union Hall, 7 Frederika St; Dorchester
Hosted by Ashmont Adams Neighborhood Association

Wednesday, April 16 - 7:00 - 9:00 PM

ABCDC Office, 320 Washington Street, Brighton
Hosted By Allston Brighton Community Development Corp.

Workshops are free but advance registration is requested. To register, contact John Walkey at walkey@bc.edu.

For More Information

To learn more about how your organization can get involved in BUFC, please visit our website at www.BostonForest.org, call 508-698-6810 OR join us at our next monthly meeting held the third Tuesday of every month. Please call 508.698.6810 for location.