Dear Boston Food Forest friends,

When we began this project in 2013, we had no idea what our Boston community food forest would actually become. Four years later, I am astonished that we have helped shepherd SEVEN permaculture garden projects into being, spanning many of Boston’s neighborhoods! Everything that has been accomplished is because of the community stepping up to volunteer, donate, and participate.

Times like these call for coming together, meeting new people, digging in, and putting positive ideas into practice. If, like me, it’s been a while since you spent some time with the Boston food forest community, the upcoming spring season is a great time to get involved again. I’m personally looking forward to bringing my toddler son to some events where we can get our hands dirty. We hope to see you there!

This annual report shows some of the wonderful results that can grow from collaborating with each other toward a common goal. If you like what you see and want to lend some support, consider making a donation at: www.bostonfoodforest.org/donate

In Community,

Allison Meierding,
Co-founding member,
Boston Food Forest Coalition

Dear Boston-area gardeners and permaculture friends,

Thank you for showing up and carrying forward the fun work of restoring nature to our city, our yards, our neighborhoods.

This year Dorchester neighbors and garden raising volunteers from across Greater Boston broke ground on Ellington Community Food Forest with support from BFFC. To date, over 80 community members have participated in this project—hopefully this number includes you! There will be more opportunities to get involved this spring.

Last spring, we had a fruitful collaboration with the Franklin Park Zoo. Our Permaculture Fellow, Amirah Mitchell, worked closely with their Director of Horticulture, Harry Liggett, to plan a series of free workshops and lectures on the theme of Earth Care and Regenerative Agriculture.

Meanwhile, in our educational food forest at Mass Audubon’s Boston Nature Center (BNC), we continued to offer No-One-Turned-Away-For-Lack-of-Funds (NOTAFLOF) permaculture workshops. We organized a workshop series with amazing herbalist and natural medicine teachers Su Cousineau of Taproot Healing and Lauren Almquist and Mary Hansen from Gaia School of Natural Healing.

We are excited to welcome them back this spring. We are launching our tree care maintenance program, and we need volunteers to join the team to learn by doing (see more later in this annual report).

Looking forward, we are excited to announce a new team member, Laura Kakalecz, who fills the new Program Coordinator role. As the Program Coordinator, Laura will help us with our community garden raisings, gardening workshops, and permaculture speaker series. BFFC is poised to support the growth of additional food forests with neighbors in Dorchester and Mattapan, and we are always interested in hearing from you and your neighbors if you have a space you would like to transform and steward as part of our land trust coalition.

The bottom line is, together all of us are doing the hard work of healing ourselves, our communities and the land. Now more than ever, we are called to this task. Thank you for what you do to sustain our Boston Food Forest Coalition.

With deep gratitude and hope for the future,

Orion Kriegman,
Executive Director, Boston Food Forest Coalition

www.bostonfoodforest.org
We have grown a lot in the past 4 years! Here is an at-a-glance look at BFFC’s work by the numbers in 2017 alone:

- **71** Fruit & Nut Trees, Vines, and Shrubs Planted
- **800+** Youth Engaged
- **30** Workshops and Educational Events
- **915** Attendees
- **4** Garden Raisings
- **44** Donating Members
- **1,247** Subscribed Members
- **50** Neighborhood Stewards
- **800+** Youth Engaged
- **10** Workshops
- **175** Attendees

**Coalition Sites**

1. Mass Audubon’s Boston Nature Center, Mattapan
2. Eastie Farm, East Boston
3. Old West Church, Downtown
4. Egleston Community Orchard, Jamaica Plain/Roxbury
5. Leland Street, Jamaica Plain
6. Ellington Street, Dorchester
7. Jones Hill, Dorchester - breaking ground in 2018!
Ellington Community Food Forest

This year Dorchester neighbors and garden raising volunteers from across Greater Boston broke ground on the 6,732 sq. ft. Ellington Community Food Forest.

Over the course of this year, BFFC supported the Ellington Stewardship Team to host 25 community events all open to the general public—BBQs, workdays, workshops, high school volunteers, a garden raising, and numerous planning meetings. Over 77 community members participated. Stay tuned for opportunities to get involved with this project in the spring.

BEFORE 2016 Ellington Community Food Forest site before volunteers begin work.

AFTER 2017 Ellington Community Food Forest site after community members work the land.

Community members clean up the Ellington site for winter.

Design plan for Ellington site created by community members.

www.bostonfoodforest.org
Franklin Park Zoo 2017 Collaboration

Last spring, our Permaculture Fellow, Amirah Mitchell, worked closely with the Zoo New England’s Director of Horticulture, Harry Liggett, to plan a series of free workshops and free-with-admission public lectures on the theme of Earth Care—how we steward the life in the soil, the life of our gardens, and the future life destined to come.

Spring 2017 Franklin Park Zoo Workshops included:
- **Soil Food Web**  Amirah Mitchell, 2017 BFFC Permaculture Fellow
- **Mushroom Logs**  Dan Schenk, BFFC Teacher Leader
- **Earth Day at the Zoo**  Bestbees and JP Local Artist Carolyn Lewenberg
- **Food Forest Design**  Amirah Mitchell
- **Biochar**  Michael Low of Vermont Biochar
- **Compost Tea**  Alana Godner-Abravanel
- **Gann Academy Student Volunteer Day**
- **Bionutrient Food**  Dan Kittredge of the Bionutrient Food Association
- **Restoring Ecosystems**  Jim Laurie of Biodiversity for a Liveable Climate
- **Nature Discovery**  Matt Bibeau of Institute of Permaculture Education for Children of Portland, OR

May 2017 Design Workshop: Volunteers helped build 3 “bunyip” water levels and measure the slope of the Zoo’s future food forest site.

Amirah Mitchell spreading a bag of Wine Cap mushroom inoculate through sheet mulch.

Children making seedballs.
May 2017 Design Workshop: Participants record findings for water flow on Franklin Park Zoo site.

Dan Schenk demonstrates growing mushrooms on logs.

Michael Low discusses how to make and apply biochar to the garden.

May 2017 Design Workshop

www.bostonfoodforest.org
With over 3,000 thousand visitors to the food forest in the past three years, we are excited to be starting our fourth season off well.

In 2017, we partnered with amazing herbalist and natural medicine teachers to offer two series of workshops: Nature's Remedies Series led by Su Cousineau of Taproot Healing and Plant Spirit Herbal Medicine Series led by Lauren Almquist and Mary Hansen, graduates of the Gaia School of Healing. Su led a seasonal wildflower identification walk through the food forest, and Lauren and Mary planted a medicinal mandala and tended many of the medicinal herbs growing in the food forest. They will return in the spring with more herbal workshops.

Mass Audubon has generously supported the planting of 21 fruit and nut trees at the BNC food forest this past fall. With the help of standout volunteers Gail, Diane and Margaret, we have put in place a maintenance plan for ongoing care of the food forest trees and rehabilitation of older orchard trees planted near and around the food forest. We are looking for others to join the team, adopt the trees, and learn by doing.

This spring in the BNC food forest we will be installing three new educational signs, co-created with our founding-member Allison Meierding. We will also be erecting an arbor made with rescued lumber, hand milled by founding-members Dan Schenk and Dane Smith.

Herb spiral at Mass Audubon’s Boston Nature Center.

WHAT IS A FOOD FOREST?

You are standing on the site of a food forest.

A food forest is a multi-layered, sustainable garden that mimics a woodland forest. A food forest (or forest garden) is full of beneficial plants, such as edible fruits, berries and vegetables, medicinal herbs, as well as plants that attract pest-controlling insects and build healthy soil.

Layers in a food forest:
1. canopy (tall fruit and nut trees)
2. second canopy layer (shorter fruit trees)
3. shrub layer (berries)
4. herb layer

One of the new educational signs to come to the BNC food forest site.

www.bostonfoodforest.org
Fiscal Overview from 2017

INCOME FISCAL YEAR 2017

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust for Public Land</td>
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<td>Leaves of Grass Fund</td>
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<td>Beacon Hill Garden Club</td>
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<td>New England Grassroots Environment Fund</td>
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<td>Mass Audubon’s Boston Nature Center</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$117,230.81</strong></td>
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EXPENSES FISCAL YEAR 2017

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<tr>
<th>Expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects Budget* (Gardening Materials/Plants)</td>
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<td>Consultants and Professional Development</td>
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<td>Workshops &amp; Events</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
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* includes funds allocated for 2018 garden development and future Program Coordinator

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Allandale Farm
Agricultural Hall
City Soil
Home Depot South Bay/Boston
ACE Hardware

Portland Resilience Hub
Institute for Policy Studies (IPS)
Arborway Tree Care
Core Volunteer Hours

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE ORGANIZATIONS

Gann Academy
Zoo New England
The Food Project
ACE’s Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP)
City of Boston
The Trust For Public Land (TPL)
The Trustees
Mass Audubon’s Boston Nature Center (BNC)
New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF)
Beacon Hill Garden Club
Old West Church
Portland Resilience Hub
Allandale Farm
City Soil - Ecovation Center
American Chestnut Foundation
Tripple Brook Farm
New England Wildflower Society
Agricultural Hall (Bill Perkins)
Taproot Healing (Su Cousineau)
Lauren Almquist and Mary Hansen,
Gaia School of Natural Healing
Jamaica Plain New Economy
Transition (JPNET)

BOSTON FOOD FOREST COALITION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Orion Kriegman, President
Rachele Rosi-Kessel, Treasurer
Othneil Uter, Secretary
Karen Spiller
Carlos Espinoza-Toro
Danielle Sommer
Lisa Meaders

OUR MISSION
The Boston Food Forest Coalition cultivates community, reclaims land, and educates for the future by establishing urban edible forest gardens for all. We work with local communities to create these gardens open to the public through the transfer of city-owned land into our land trust.