

Millbrook Meadow Committee 2010 Annual Report

Once again in 2010, Millbrook Meadow was the venue of choice for the traditional community events: the Rockport Acoustic Festival, the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the Rockport Library Reading Events, the Festival for International Peace Day, and the Blessing of the Animals. We did not schedule any weddings this year due to the Dam Reconstruction Project as it would be extremely difficult to reschedule them had construction necessitated.

The Millbrook Meadow Committee held its annual Spring cleanup on May 15, 2010. We had a great turnout and would like to thank Ned Cutler, David Cutler, Will Bloomberg, Ted Tarr, Amy Seabrook, Shawn, Charmaine, Riley, and Flynn Blanchard, Mrs. Mary Devaney and her family, and Sam Coulbourn. Cleanup activities included removing fallen leaves from the King Street stairway and the Mill Lane steps sloping down to the Meadow, collecting plant debris and broken branches, and picking up the litter that had accumulated over the winter. The Committee also thanks the DPW, who did an excellent job of removing the slash pile from the cleanup in a timely manner, as well as paying their usual attention to mowing, trash removal and repairs throughout the year.

The Garden Club has done a spectacular job with the Memorial Garden by Beach Street and the Committee wishes to thank them for all their efforts. With the Meadow as the backdrop, the Memorial Garden really stands out.

The Committee's ongoing project to remove invasive plants continued with the removal of yellow flag iris (*iris pseudacorus*) from the fern bed between the benches by the path. We replaced the invasives with plantings of Blue Cardinal (*Lobelia Speciosa*) and Turtlehead (*Chelone Glabra*). Both of these are significant attractors of pollinators and butterflies. Thanks to Amy Seabrook for helping with this effort.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for the reconstruction of the dam. Any inquiries as to the status of that project may be directed to Mr. Joe Parisi, DPW Director; the Committee is preparing for a restricted event schedule this season, and will continue with its Spring cleanup and enhancement projects.

Millbrook Meadow is a unique area, a seaside meadow on Sandy Bay, featuring direct sightlines to the Atlantic Ocean and the horizon. The Committee needs everyone in the community to participate in the conservation and preservation of the Meadow. Please become members of the Committee, attend any of its meetings, community events, join us for our cleanups, or simply take a stroll through the Meadow and reflect on its beauty.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice Segel, Chairperson