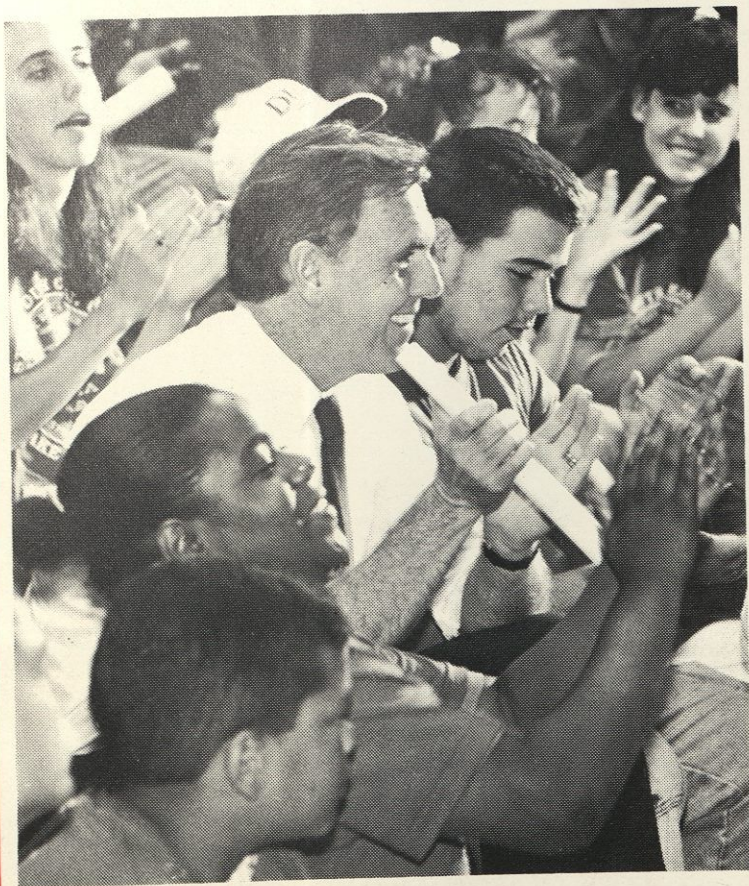




# Boston Youth Cleanup Corps





## Boston Youth Cleanup Corps

Dear Friend:

The City of Boston faces the same challenges as other American cities today. Drugs, gangs, and crime threaten to undermine the stability of our city which we have worked so hard to achieve.

I am encouraged by youth programs like the Boston Youth Cleanup Corps, a summer jobs program started in 1986 as a modest effort to tap into the energy and pride of Boston youth. The BYCC has become a full-fledged summer jobs program with an impressive list of accolades and accomplishments, and is a testimony to the teenagers who have sought to make a difference in our city.

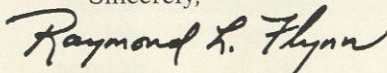
The majority of young people today are decent and hardworking with a heightened sense of community pride. If given the chance, our youth can surpass our expectations while contributing to the well-being of Boston.

In 1990 nearly 2,000 teenagers swept through the streets, parks, housing developments, vacant lots and non-profit agencies of Boston, lending a hand wherever needed.

In addition to removing 536 tons of debris, the Red Shirts worked in over 40 human service agencies, helping at day care centers, health centers, homeless shelters, and at public libraries and community schools.

As we deal with the many pressures of providing job opportunities to young people, it is appropriate that we take a moment to reflect on the positive contributions made by the thousands of teens who have participated in the program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Raymond L. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raymond" being the most prominent part.

Raymond L. Flynn  
Mayor of Boston



*"Although the Cleanup Corps workers are among thousands of youths working in summer programs in Boston, their jobs are among the most important because they are so visible in their red shirts throughout the city . . . Their presence — in rich and poor neighborhoods alike — sends a message that while a few teenagers get publicity for crime, most young people in Boston are quietly intent on leading productive lives."*

*Boston Globe editorial  
August 6, 1990*

Each summer hundreds of Boston teenagers take to the streets, parks, vacant lots, housing developments and community centers of the city. Wearing their signature Red Shirts, these work crews give Boston its annual facelift, removing debris, whacking weeds, painting benches, and helping non-profit groups provide valuable family services to the community.

The Boston Youth Cleanup Corps is a vibrant summer program that not only cleans up Boston, but also provides an outlet for hundreds of inner city teenagers to earn money, take pride in their neighborhood, and experience a sense of accomplishment that comes from dedication and hard work.

Boston Mayor Raymond L. Flynn created the Boston Youth Cleanup Corps in 1986 to meet the overwhelming need to employ the youth of Boston, and to supplement the city's ambitious capital improvement program, "Rebuilding Boston," a five-year, \$1.01 billion plan to upgrade Boston's infrastructure of roads, parks, libraries, police and fire stations, and public facilities.

The underlying premise of the Boston Youth Cleanup Corps is that giving inner city youth a stake in their own neighborhoods develops their sense of community pride. Youths who spent their day dealing with litter, graffiti and vandalism in local parks are less likely to abuse these shared community facilities, and are likely to discourage others from abusing them.

Community pride has been extended to tasks beyond neighborhood cleanups. As the program grew, it attracted the attention and praise of numerous human service providers and non-profit groups. As federal and state support of these programs declined, the program helped to fill the vacuum by employing Red Shirts to work in day care centers, Boys and Girls clubs, health centers, and community schools.

*(Continued next page)*



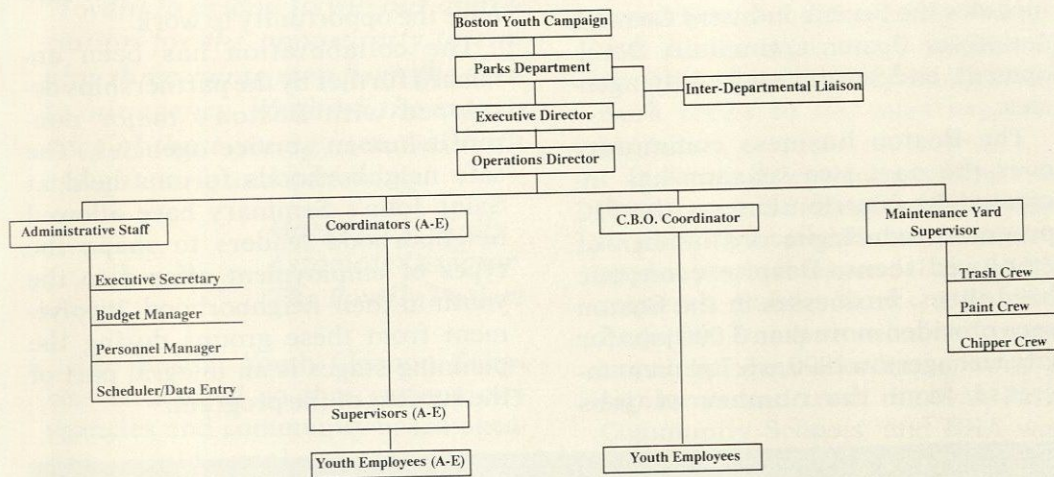
By funding jobs in human services outlets, the Boston Youth Cleanup Corps has helped deal with the impact of cutbacks, while enriching the lives of hundreds of teenagers who gained experience working in professional settings within the human services field.

The success of the program is not only measured in the tons of debris removed each summer, but also by the enthusiasm with which teenagers return to the program each year, and by the praise they receive from hundreds of residents, businesses, and agencies who have been affected by the program.





# Boston Youth Clean-up Corps Organizational Chart 1991





## PARTNERSHIPS

The Boston Youth Cleanup Corps is part of a broader comprehensive summer employment effort in Boston that includes the Private Industry Council, Action for Boston Community Development, and several major city agencies.

The Boston business community over the past two seasons has increased its contributions to the PIC program producing record numbers of employed teens. Despite economic hard times, businesses in the Boston area provided more than 3,000 jobs for city teenagers in 1990, a 5.7 percent increase from the number of jobs

granted the previous summer. Its commitment has enabled the government-sponsored programs to reach out further to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to work.

The collaboration has been enhanced further by the partnerships developed with Boston's major non-profit human service agencies. The safe neighborhoods forums held at Saint John's Seminary have allowed neighborhood leaders to shape the types of employment offered to the youth in their neighborhood. Involvement from these groups during the planning stages is an integral part of the success of the program.





## Organization of Boston Youth Cleanup Corps

*"I want to extend to you our appreciation for the opportunity to employ three young men from the area in our agency. We think the experience of these young men was both enlightening and enriching."*

*Margaret E. Kelly  
Associate Director  
The Family Project*

The Boston Youth Cleanup Corps was structured so that various city agencies and community-based agencies could pool resources and prioritize work that needed to be done throughout the city each summer.

Public Works, Parks and Recreation, the Boston Redevelopment Authority,

the Mayor's 24-hour service, Real Property, E.D.I.C., Neighborhood Services, Office of Capital Planning, Boston Housing Authority, Inspectional Services, Community Schools, and the Transportation Department all worked collectively to direct the work crews to the most necessary projects.

Tasks are delegated according to agency expertise. Neighborhood Services and Parks coordinate the intake of applicants, and respond to the hot line requests. Public Works, BRA, Real Property, Transportation, and Inspectional Services coordinate work assignments and trash removal. Parks, Community Schools, and BHA work together to deploy the workforce. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, as well as a host of neighborhood-based, non-profit organizations, provide program bases for several crews.

## Funding of Boston Youth Cleanup Corps

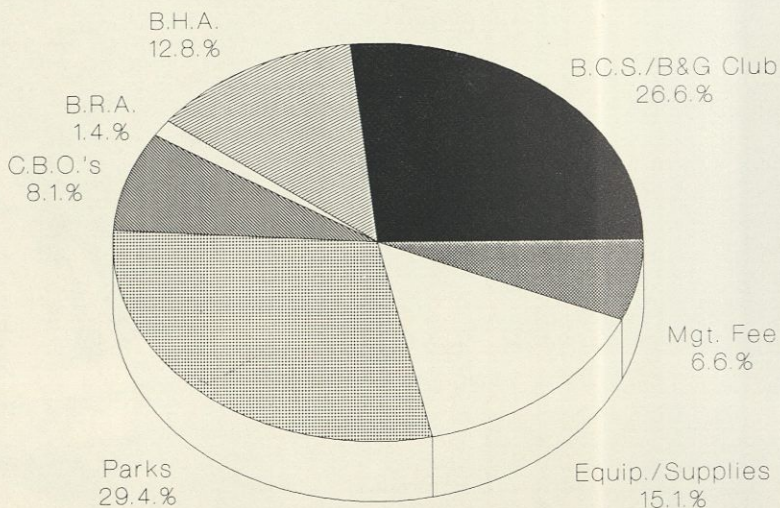
*"I would like to extend my thanks . . . for sending six wonderful young men to help out with our sites in Allston-Brighton. . . . They were a great help to us. I commend this program for doing such a super job. I wish you continued success."*

*Jacqueliene McLaughlin  
Action for Boston Community  
Development, Inc.*

The BYCC has been funded through various city agencies which contributed a portion of their operating budget each fiscal year. The Boston Redevelopment Authority, Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works, and Community Schools have been the major contributors. In addition, departments such as Health and Hospitals provide in-kind resources such as medical supplies and first aid kits.

In FY 1992 the BYCC will have its own budget line item in the City of Boston's operating budget.

## B.Y.C.C. 1990 Resource Distribution

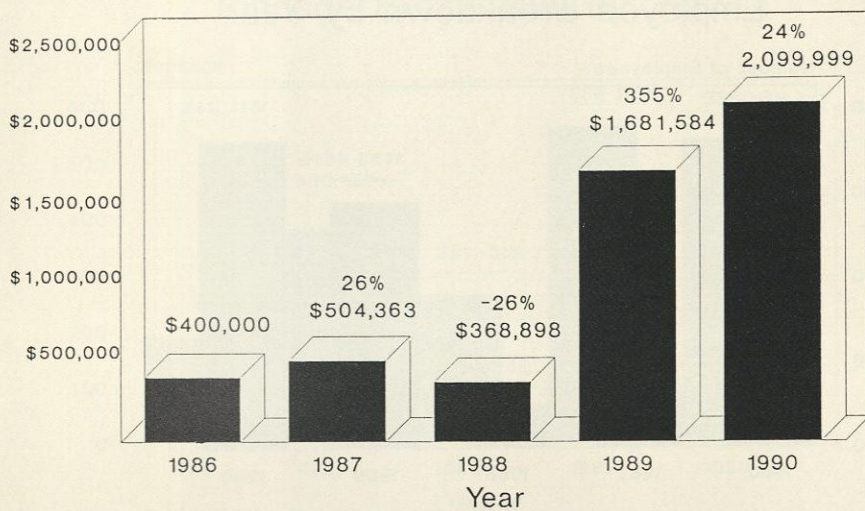






## B.Y.C.C. 1986-1990

### Budget by Year





## 1990

*"The folks you sent were great! Our yard was beginning to take on the look of a jungle. . . . Their work made a big difference to me and to all the Rosie's community."*

*Stephen Ruzanski  
Operations Manager  
Rosie's Place*

Mayor Flynn's increased funding enabled the BYCC to hire a record 1,811 teenagers, who cleaned 851 sites, collected 536 tons of debris, and extended their scope of work to 40 human services agencies throughout the city.

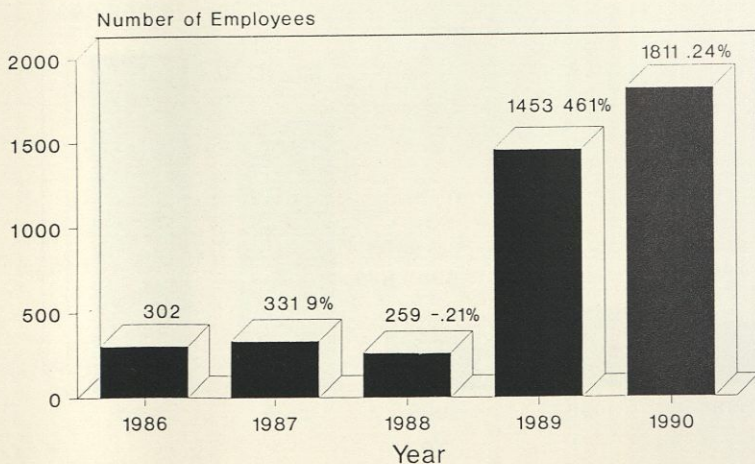
Large scale projects such as the beautification of Melnea Cass Boulevard and Blue Hill Avenue in Roxbury,

Day Boulevard in South Boston, were completed next to hundreds of smaller projects, such as cleaning up 768 vacant lots, 43 parks and playgrounds, and 40 urban wilds and community gardens.

Red Shirt crews worked as Junior Park Rangers, tackling special projects like coastal cleanup at Long Island and sprucing up Franklin Park. A Red Shirt crew joined the Parks crew to care for specialized parks projects at Franklin Park and other open spaces throughout the city.

And hundreds of Red Shirts helped out at neighborhood facilities like the Haitian Multi-Service Center, Rosie's Shelter, the Allston-Brighton C.D.C., the North Bennet Street Daycare Center, and the South Boston Community Health Center.

## B.Y.C.C. 1986-1990 Employee Breakdown by Year





## SUMMARY

*"Thank you so much for our inclusion as host site in this year's BYCC. . . . Please remember us next year when you are choosing sites. This year has been a very positive experience for everyone involved. Thank you very much."*

*Veronica Lowell-Spiny, Director  
North Bennet Street Day Center*

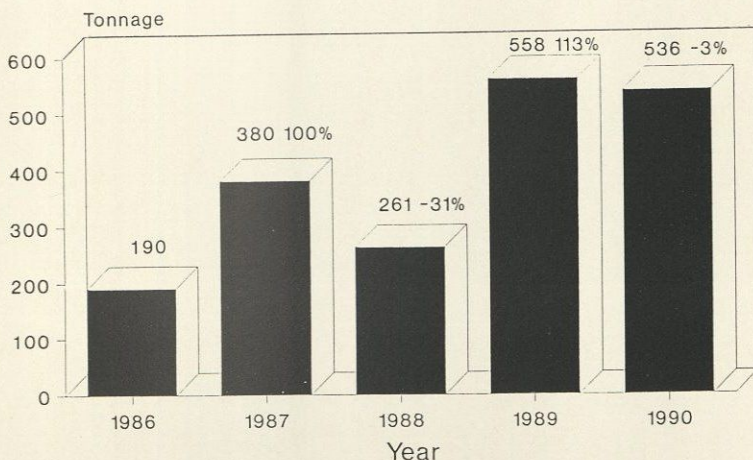
The BYCC is a significant youth program that continues to meet the changing needs of Boston's neighborhoods and to broaden the work experience for inner city teenagers.

The City of Boston has streamlined the BYCC since 1986 by centralizing administrative tasks, establishing a trash hot line for residents to report

unsightly vacant lots, providing formal training for supervisors, working with the Private Industry Council and ABCD to coordinate hiring, and reaching out to human service agencies that need assistance.

As part of Mayor Flynn's larger program the Boston Youth Campaign, the BYCC is an exceptional program that addresses the needs of Boston's youths. Teaching children responsibility, punctuality, discipline, and civic pride is a formidable task that must be shared by families, schools, churches, and by local government. The BYCC is considered an integral part of the Safe Neighborhoods Plan's larger effort to improve the quality of life for Boston residents, and to channel the energy of its youth into productive and rewarding pursuits.

## B.Y.C.C. 1986-1990 Tonnage Breakdown by Year





CITY OF BOSTON



PRINTING SECTION



City of Boston  
Raymond L. Flynn, Mayor