Charles River Conservancy: working to make the urban parklands along the Charles more active, attractive, and accessible for all—from Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam.
The Charles River Conservancy is dedicated to the stewardship, renewal, and enhancement of the urban parklands along the Charles River. The Conservancy promotes the active use and vitality of the parklands, increases recreational and cultural opportunities, and works to ensure the beauty and integrity of this extraordinary public resource.

In Memoriam

In 2013, the Conservancy lost a dedicated friend of the Charles River parklands, James J. Storrow. James was a resident of Stormville, NY, where he retired and became a landscape historian with a special interest in the works of Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted. Until recently, he was working on a book about the sculptor George Edwin Bissell.

James was also a generous and involved philanthropist. He served on the Conservancy’s Board of Advisors since 2008, always bringing good humor and insight to our meetings. We are most grateful for his generosity, board service, and friendship; he will be missed.

Staff

Renata von Tscharner
President

Janet Curtis
Director of Development & Communications

Jessica Parson
Director of Projects

Danielle Stehlik
Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Hilary Burgin
Program & Administrative Assistant

Brent Whalen
Advocacy Associate

Theresa Doherty
Projects Assistant

Sam Wotipka
Conservancy Volunteers Intern

Board of Directors

Ron Axelrod, Clerk
Virginia Faute
Jennifer Gilbert
Mitch Glass
Catherine Hansen
Debra Ies, Chair

Nicole Manseau
Harry Matteson
Robert O’Brien
Joan Pickett, Treasurer
F. Thompson Knox
Richard Salzberg

Renata von Tscharner, Ex-Officio

Advisory Board

Jay Baldwin
Jamell Brazil
Jeffrey Bilezikian
Dan Calano
Dennis Carluone
Philip Crousefield
John DeWitt
Catherine Donahue
Michael Dunne
Michael Epstein
Paul Fremont-Smith, Jr.

Nicholas Godfrey
John Iansum
Mark Kneczewicz
Steven Krooper
Franz Lamorta
Henry Lee
Linda Lerner
Geraldine Pangaro
Matthew Perras
Patricia Pratt
Camelio Roosevelt

Nancy Schin
Bruce Schoenberger
Amy Segal
Paul Schoen
Lisa Stone
Mary Tumbish
Paul Walker
Judy Warren
John T. Williams
Michelle Wu
The Charles River Conservancy (CRC) has had many accomplishments over the years, but perhaps no year in the organization’s history has been as memorable as 2013. From our historic community swim in the Charles in July to a record number of volunteers serving in the parklands doing critical stewardship and maintenance work, your support has enabled us to activate and enhance the parklands in far-reaching and significant ways.

In this annual report, we are delighted to share our achievements—none of which would be possible without the dedication of people like you. Other notable programs include the Conservancy’s ever-growing advocacy campaign for bridge underpasses along the Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path and the increasingly popular Sunday Parkland Games.

In addition, with the design and construction documents for the skate park completed in 2013, as we write, the bidding process is underway to hire a general contractor. After years of planning and design, coordinating with multiple state agencies, and overcoming regulatory challenges, construction of the skate park at North Point in Cambridge will commence this spring. This project will transform a forgotten and contaminated industrial site into an incredible recreation venue for skaters and BMX cyclists. We look forward to celebrating the opening of the skate park with you later this year!

In all of the work we do, your generosity is integral to the Conservancy’s success. As we partner with the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to ensure that the Charles River parklands realize their full potential as one of the premier urban park systems in the Commonwealth, we will continue to look to you—the park users and supporters—to inform and help shape the Conservancy’s vision of a world-class urban riverfront park enjoyed by all.

Thank you for your generosity and partnership.

See you in the parklands,

Debra Iles
Chair

Renata von Tscharner
President
Conservancy Volunteers

Year-round, the Conservancy Volunteers (CV) program is providing critical stewardship and maintenance work in the parklands. From debris pick-up and tree pruning to painting railings and repairing benches to removing invasive plant species and planting daffodil bulbs, CRC volunteers are dedicated to making the parklands along the urban Charles vibrant places for respite and recreation.

In 2013, the CV program organized 65 volunteer workdays along the Charles, enlisting nearly 2,100 volunteers who contributed 6,000 hours of service. These volunteer hours amount to approximately $124,000 in donated labor to the parklands! Participating volunteers included middle and high school students, university students, corporate-sector employees, and local community members who are dedicated to the care and improvement of the parklands and the river.

Also last year, the CV program made an important addition to the CRC team—Chuck; the 2013 Chevy truck replaced our ten-year-old dump truck. Thanks to a generous foundation grant, CRC was able to purchase the truck as well as a range of landscaping tools to support the vital work of the CV program.

Fast-forward to Saturday, July 13, 2013. The health of the river has come a long way!

The Conservancy, in collaboration with DCR and the Charles River Swimming Club, organized the first public community swim in the Charles in more than 50 years. It was a momentous day in the river’s history—and for so many people who have worked for decades to improve the water quality of the river, a celebration.

With cheers of excitement and shouts of “Love that dirty water,” swimmers jumped off the dock at the Esplanade to

Swimmable Charles Initiative

Nine years ago, the Conservancy began developing the Swimmable Charles Initiative to return public swimming to the lower Charles River, a once popular activity until it was banned in the mid-1950s due to concerns about the effects of water pollution on public health.
enjoy a cool, deep-water swim in the Charles. Swimmers splashed, laughed, and treaded water in awe of the moment, as lifeguards watched from the dock and in kayaks on the water.

With your continued support, in 2014 the Conservancy will work with DCR to host additional deep-water recreational swims in the river. Are you ready to take a dip in the Charles?

Sunday Parkland Games

The Conservancy’s Sunday Parkland Games celebrated its fifth successful season in 2013. Each Sunday afternoon, June through September, the Conservancy hosted free games and athletic activities in the parklands in Cambridge, by the Weeks Footbridge. And each week, hundreds of people—of all ages and abilities—participated. Working with Knucklebones, a local athletic and events company, CRC provided equipment and instruction for a variety of games for children and adults alike. Activities included bocce, beanbag toss, mini-basketball, hula-hoops, and badminton, among many others. And thanks to the generous instructors at Cambridge-based Karma Yoga Studio, a one-hour yoga class was also available.

The Sunday Parkland Games has become a signature program of the Conservancy, providing fitness and recreation opportunities in the parklands for children and families—giving them access to athletic equipment and instruction that they might not experience otherwise. Your support makes this important program possible—we look forward to continuing the games in 2014!

Advocacy

One of the main objectives of the Conservancy is to serve as an advocate to improve the parklands, including enhancing public access. Throughout 2013 and going forward this year, CRC’s priority advocacy campaign is to persuade the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to develop pedestrian underpasses along the river pathway as part of the bridge renovations at the Anderson Memorial, Western Avenue, and River Street bridges.

The Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path is a multi-modal 18-mile loop in the parklands used by thousands of cyclists, runners, and pedestrians each day. These path users currently risk the perils of street crossings at dangerous intersections at the three bridges. If realized, the underpasses will ensure level crossing through the bridges, creating more than seven miles of uninterrupted pathway along the Boston side of the river.

Over the last year, the CRC’s underpasses advocacy campaign achieved several milestones, most notably that MassDOT agreed to modify its bridge renovation designs, moving the utilities infrastructure to allow space in the bridge abutments for “future” pedestrian underpasses. In addition, the coalition of supporters grew to more than 1,700 individuals, 49 organizations, and 37 elected officials in support of the underpasses. And in December, the Conservancy was awarded a second grant from the Barr
Foundation to advance the campaign, including developing architectural renderings of the underpasses, conducting construction permitting research, and expanding communications and outreach.

Thank you to all who committed their support to this campaign—we look forward to sharing progress in 2014!

Other CRC advocacy work in 2013 focused on Daly Field, the Environmental Bond Bill, bridge illuminations, and urban planning issues affecting the Charles River corridor.

Skate Park

Over the last year, the Conservancy in collaboration with DCR and MassDOT finalized the design and construction documents for the proposed skate park, which will be named the Lynch Family Skate Park and located in Cambridge.

The skate park design aims to maximize “green” elements, including rain gardens and vegetated swales for stormwater run-off, recycled and reclaimed building materials, native landscaping, and a construction-phase waste management and recycling plan. The site will be developed in a manner that ensures the ecological integrity of the adjacent Charles River and will blend aesthetically with the existing surrounding state parkland.

In December, the bid process came underway to choose a general contractor for the project. Once the contractor is selected and the ground thaws, construction will begin, starting with pre-loading soil on the site.

When built, the skate park will be the largest of its kind in New England, transforming a former contaminated industrial site into a much-needed recreation venue for skaters and BMX cyclists. The skate park will have the capacity to support community clinics and events as well as world-class competitions.

The Conservancy is grateful to the many supporters of the skate park, notably the leadership support of the Lynch Foundation, WilmerHale, LLP, City of Cambridge, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Paul and Carol Fremont-Smith, City of Boston, and an anonymous foundation. We look forward to celebrating the opening of the park later this year with all those who made this project possible.

(L) An initial skate park conceptual design under the ramps to the Zakim Bridge and (R) the final design plan including the skate plaza and landscaped areas. The skate park will become part of the state park system and managed by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.
### Financial Summary (FY13)

**Year ending September 30, 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Revenue &amp; Support</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants and Contributions, including releases</td>
<td>$477,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Goods and Services</td>
<td>78,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>17,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment and Other Income</td>
<td>5,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$578,963</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Services:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservancy Volunteers</td>
<td>$88,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active Parklands</td>
<td>70,089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocacy and Outreach</td>
<td>120,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>94,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>$373,311</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Support:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$87,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General and Administrative</td>
<td>102,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$190,360</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Operating Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$563,671</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net Asset Composition                            |              |
| Operating                                        | $292,175     |
| Board-Designated                                 | 10,000       |
| Skate Park                                       | 1,382,815    |
| Fixed Assets                                     | 34,531       |
| **Total Net Assets**                             | **$1,719,521** |

Independent auditor’s report including financial statements is available on CRC’s website at [www.thecharles.org](http://www.thecharles.org).

---

### CRC President Receives Olmsted Medal

In November, during the national meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Conservancy President Renata von Tscharner was honored with the 2013 Olmsted Medal. Named in honor of renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, the medal recognizes individuals, organizations, agencies, or programs outside the profession of landscape architecture for environmental leadership, vision, and stewardship.

In her acceptance speech, Renata explored what 19th-century landscape architect Olmsted might design today along the Charles. “I think a skate park mitigating toxic soil would have been on his list, and definitely bridge underpasses to provide uninterrupted use of the riverfront pathways for bicyclists and runners. Just like the Emerald Necklace was a sewage project, the transportation infrastructure work on the bridges lends the opportunity to create safer and separate paths.”

To the some 300 “fellow park-builders” in the room, she concluded, “I look forward to working together to continue Olmsted’s legacy along the Charles.”
The Charles River Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the individuals, businesses, and foundations that generously supported our work during fiscal year October 1, 2012—September 30, 2013. The Conservancy is fortunate to have a broad group of dedicated supporters who make crucial investments in our programs. With your support, we will continue to ensure that the Charles River parklands are more active, attractive, and accessible for all. Thank you!
Thank you to our colleagues at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for your partnership as we work together to steward, enhance, and renew the Charles River parklands.

**Business Partners**
The following companies and institutions participated in the Conservancy’s Business Partnership Program in FY13, providing leadership support of $5,000 or more:

- Accenture, LLP
- Boston University
- Converse
- Harvard Business School
- Harvard University
- InterSystems Corporation
- Mahoney’s Garden Center
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research
- REI
- WilmerHale, LLP

Thank you to the following companies that participated in the 2013 Earth Day 5% Campaign, benefitting the CRC as well as other parks organizations in the Boston Area:

- Five Plus Ice, Henrietta’s Table, JP Licks, Veggie Galaxy, and Veggie Planet

**In-Kind Gifts or Services**

- Grendel’s Den
- Home Depot (Wartown)
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Karma Yoga Studio (Cambridge)
- Mahoney’s Garden Center
- New England GiveCamp 2013
- Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Tigers and Bears
- WilmerHale, LLP

Special thanks to individuals who provided in-kind services:

- Colin Cass
- Dave Davis
- Robert F. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
- Shawn Sippel
- Jeffrey Sylvan
- Judy Warren
- Diana Ye

**Monthly Donors**

- Peter Burger
- Geraldine Herold
- Robert and Naomi Kline
- Andrew Torchia

**Matching Gifts**
The following employers matched employee contributions to the CRC:

- Eaton Vance Matching Gift Program
- Entertainment Industry Foundation/Warner Bros.
- IBM

**In-Kind Gifts or Services**

- Grendel’s Den
- Home Depot (Wartown)
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Karma Yoga Studio (Cambridge)
- Mahoney’s Garden Center
- New England GiveCamp 2013
- Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Tigers and Bears
- WilmerHale, LLP

Special thanks to individuals who provided in-kind services:

- Colin Cass
- Dave Davis
- Robert F. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
- Shawn Sippel
- Jeffrey Sylvan
- Judy Warren
- Diana Ye

If we have listed your name incorrectly, please let us know. Contact Hilary Burgin at 617-608-1410 or at hnb@thecharles.org, so that we can amend our records.

Thank you very much for your support.

---

Jacqueline Olds and Richard Schwartz
Elon and Neil Olken
Jean and Silvio Onesti
Pell Osborn and Louise Ambler-Osborn
Richard and Linda Osterberg
David and Jane Otte
Alexander Ozonoff
Shippen Page and Anne St. Goar
Nathan Pallo
Laurence Roy Palmeri
Christina Pantaleo
Seth Parker and Marsha Rheubottom
Byron and Kathleen Parrish
James Pazzanese and Kate Grimes
Richard and Beverly Peiser
Jane and Edward Perry
Petersen Family Fund
John Petrowsky and Tom Vise
Arthur Pfieffer
Vincent Piccirilli, Jr. and Anita Meiklejohn
Stephanie and Randy Pierce
Theodore W. Pietsas
William Pinasco
William and Lila Poorvu
Christopher Porter
Susan and Frederick Putnam
Justin Pytle
Rebecca Ramsay
William Rawn
David Read
Recyclebank
Carice Reddien
Tom and Jessica Reece
Jennifer Regan
Kathleen and Marion Reine
Hansel Reynolds
Ann and Harland Rider
Barbara Rimbach
Howard and Margaret Ris
Elizabeth Robertson
Robert Hansel and Lisa Robinson
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
Maxine and Stanley Rosenberg
Jay Rosenberg
Nicholas Ross and Heather Kelly

Susan and Geoffrey Rowley
Kristen Rupert and John Foot
Margery and Jim Sabin
Jenny Sadler
Frederic Salvucci
John Sanger
Rev. H. Paul Santmire
Judith Schaefer
Doris and Simon Scheff
Ann Schlesinger and David Beavers
Rebecca Schrumm
Skye Schulte
Herbert Schulze
John Sears
Amy Segal and Andy Blum
Sam Seidel
Wendy Shattuck and Sam Plimpton
John Shetterly
Joel Shield
Bennett and Roberta Simon
Susan Siris Wexler
Lucricia Slaughter
Gilda Slifka
Dale Smith and Steve Jacobson
Melissa Smith
Lanier Smythe
Diane Sokal and Randolph Meiklejohn
Jo and Maxwell Solet
Rina Spence and Gary Countryman
Carol Spitzer and Robert Williamson
Lee and George Sprague
Lois Stanley
Jean Steig
David Stern
Stevenon Family Charitable Trust
Mark and Carl Stewart
Stone/Teplow Families
Charitable Fund
Meryl Stowbridge
Ruta Strausmanis
John Strauss and Liza Ketchum
Susaan Strauss and Ricardo Ceriani
Harbome Stuart, Jr.
Charles Sullivan and Susan Maycock
Liz Sweeney
Gerry Swinlow

Swiss Society of Boston
Taggart-Turner Giving Trust
Lois and Jason M. Tanzer
Ben and Kate Taylor Foundation
Danielle C. Thomas
J. Andrew Thomas and J. Robin Lepore
Pat Tietjoh and Doug Romich Gift Fund
Arthur Tischler
Gillian Todd and Kingsley Talf
Michael and Nancy Took
Timothy Toomey, Jr.
Liem Tran and Tom Holman
Elizabeth and Stephen Trehu
Grace Tsuei Tkeach
Louis Tucker and Carolyn Woolen-Tucker
Tzedakah Fund
Reed and Peggy Ueda
David Uhrenhold
Henry Vandermark
Peter and Florence Vanderwarker
John Vitagliano
Eric and Jessie von Hippel
Charles Wagner
Lila Walch
Lyle Warner
Jay and Judy Wasserman
Frances Webb
Norman Weeks
Susan Weir
Polly Welch
Josefne Wendel
Janet and Dean Wetherbe
Robert Wetterm
Nannie and Frank Weznak
White Family Fund
Carolyn White
Peter and Susan Smith White
George and Barbara Whitesides
James Wieder
Alexander and Sarah Wiener
Mary Allen Wilkes
Kate and Carroll Williamson
Richard H. Willis Charitable Gift Fund
Face Willison
Thomas Winner and Irene Portis-Winner
Wirth-Myers Family Fund

Anthony Woeltz
John Wolford
Wolfe and Rita Fund
Fred and Nancy Woods
Barbara Worcester
Gerald Wright
Robert and Shari Wright
Elisabeth Wylike and Lance Drane
John and Judith Wyman
Mead and Ann Wyman
Stanley and Evelyn Wyman
Suzanne Wymeneberg
Gary Zanercik
Robert and Judith Zeitlin

**Monthy Donors**

- Peter Burger
- Geraldine Herold
- Robert and Naomi Kline
- Andrew Torchia

**Matching Gifts**
The following employers matched employee contributions to the CRC:

- Eaton Vance Matching Gift Program
- Entertainment Industry Foundation/Warner Bros.
- IBM

**In-Kind Gifts or Services**

- Grendel’s Den
- Home Depot (Wartown)
- Hyatt Regency Hotel
- Karma Yoga Studio (Cambridge)
- Mahoney’s Garden Center
- New England GiveCamp 2013
- Royal Sonesta Hotel
- Tigers and Bears
- WilmerHale, LLP

Special thanks to individuals who provided in-kind services:

- Colin Cass
- Dave Davis
- Robert F. Fitzpatrick, Jr.
- Shawn Sippel
- Jeffrey Sylvan
- Judy Warren
- Diana Ye

If we have listed your name incorrectly, please let us know. Contact Hilary Burgin at 617-608-1410 or at hnb@thecharles.org, so that we can amend our records.

Thank you very much for your support.
The Charles River Conservancy is dedicated to the stewardship, renewal, and enhancement of the urban parklands along the Charles River. The Conservancy promotes the active use and vitality of the parklands, increases recreational and cultural opportunities, and works to ensure the beauty and integrity of this extraordinary public resource.

In Memoriam

In 2013, the Conservancy lost a dedicated friend of the Charles River parklands, James J. Storrow. James was a resident of Stormville, NY, where he retired and became a landscape historian with a special interest in the works of Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted. Until recently, he was working on a book about the sculptor George Edwin Bissell.

James was also a generous and involved philanthropist. He served on the Conservancy’s Board of Advisors since 2008, always bringing good humor and insight to our meetings. We are most grateful for his generosity, board service, and friendship; he will be missed.
Charles River Conservancy: working to make the urban parklands along the Charles more active, attractive, and accessible for all—from Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam.

CHARLES RIVER CONSERVANCY
Annual Report 2013