

MAKING NEWS

RIVER STORIES LIVE!



River Stories III authors discussed their stories and Charles River at “River Stories LIVE!” held Dec. 10th at Google’s Cambridge offices. From left: speakers Megan Marshall, Ferdi Hellweger, Florence Ladd, Nancy Seasholes, Peter Howe, Liza Ketchum, & moderator Tom Ashbrook. “River Stories LIVE!” also featured discussion on the Charles River’s future with commentators William Rawn, Karl Haglund, and Renée Loth. The event is viewable on YouTube. (Photo: Aaron Bourque)

“This new volume of River Stories captures in lovingly rendered words and illustrations the profound connection so many of us have to the Charles River – its history and natural beauty, its many moods and secrets. From descriptions of the eminent architecture that lines the river to the heroic efforts to widen its green banks, these tales will help make real the dream of a vibrant, swimmable, accessible Charles.”

– Renée Loth, editor, *ArchitectureBoston*

Discover *River Stories III* for yourself

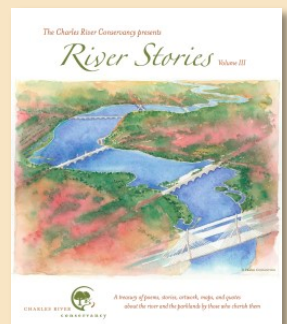
Featuring stories and poetry from authors like Tom Ashbrook, Michael Dukakis, David Ferry, David Gessner, Stephen Greenblatt, & those pictured above, artwork from local artists, and special maps of the Charles’ bridges and boathouses, *River Stories III* is a beautiful tribute to the Charles River parklands, and the emotional connections we build with them. You can purchase your own copy of *River Stories III* at www.TheCharles.org.

“...I don’t know about your first memories of the Charles River—but when you come to Boston, it just leaps out at you. It’s never quite stopped being that vein of nature and life and freedom and openness and that sense of access to everything that’s out of the humdrum of daily life.

There’s joys, and prayers, and sometimes sorrow along this river, but it’s a place that takes us all in, that embraces us. It opens the city up in such a beautiful way. I am so grateful to the Conservancy for celebrating it, and improving it, and reminding us all of its presence & its power, and for making it better for all of us.”

– Tom Ashbrook, “River Stories LIVE!”

CC TV Watch “River Stories Live!” on CCTV!



River Stories III. (Art by Frank Costantino.)

Hedging his funds

Lisa Pierpont – 2015 Winter Issue

“Paul S. Grogan, President and CEO of the Boston Foundation, cares about choosing nonprofits to invest in. So far, he’s on a winning streak... Some of the institutions of which Boston is proudest owe their very existence to the foundation, which provided them with key leadership, seed capital, and grants—often serving as their sole financial resource. The New England Aquarium, Citizen Schools, WGBH-TV, **Charles River Conservancy**, American Repertory Theater, Tufts Medical Center...the list goes on and on. ‘We pick the issues very carefully,’ Grogan says. ‘We research extensively and create strategies based on questions: What are the public-policy issues in this area right now? What do we have to do?’”

BOSTON COMMON
MAGAZINE

VIRTUAL CHARLES RIVER

The Charles River is now on Google Street View

Alex E. Weaver – December 09, 2015

BostInno

“In conjunction with the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), Google Maps has unveiled a special series of 360-degree Trekker images of the Charles River, from vantage points ranging from the public paths in Boston and Cambridge to smack in the middle of the river itself.

The collection will be officially announced Thursday at Google's Cambridge office, an event MC'd by NPR's Tom Ashbrook that will include readings from the CRC's *River Stories III*, ‘a collection of memoirs, poems, reflections and artwork about the Charles River by local writers,’ including Ashbrook himself.

‘It is the hope of the Charles River Conservancy that the ability to experience the Charles River online will also lead to more active and engaged stewardship of the river and its surrounding parklands,’ said Renata von Tscharner, Founder and President of the Charles River Conservancy. ‘The Charles has come a long way from its dirty past because people in this area have committed to being advocates for the river. We even have people swimming in it now, and we think having it live online can help grow that local love and appreciation for the Charles in the digital era.’”

Google Maps unveils 10-mile digital tour of Boston's Charles River

Laura Newberry – December 10, 2015

MASS LIVE

“Google Maps unveiled Thursday a never-before-seen virtual tour of the city's iconic Charles River. The Charles River Conservancy, an environmental nonprofit, spent two weeks in October documenting the 10-mile stretch between the Charles River Dam by the Museum of Science to the Watertown Dam.

The organization embarked on the venture in hopes it would lead to ‘more active and engaged stewardship of the river and its surrounding parklands,’ said Renata von Tscharner, founder and president of the Conservancy.

The panoramic portraits are made up of stitched-together snaps from the Google ‘Trekker’ camera, a 40-pound piece of machinery that was loaned to the Conservancy. The contraption is normally carried atop Google Street View cars, but for this project the Conservancy used alternate modes of transportation that included a golf cart and a boat.”

First look at Google's Trekker images of the Charles River

Jessica Geller – December 09, 2015

**The Boston Globe
Business**

“The Charles River is now virtual.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google Maps and the Charles River Conservancy, a nonprofit, worked together in October to produce imagery for Google's Street View project. And Beta Boston is giving readers a preview of the interactive images that will go live Thursday on Google Maps.

‘It makes people realize what a precious environment we have,’ said Renata von Tscharner, president and founder of the Charles River Conservancy. She hopes the Google images, that will show a 10-mile stretch of the river from the Charles River Dam by the Museum of Science to the Watertown Dam, will encourage people to take care of the parklands area.

The photos will be officially unveiled at the Charles River Conservancy's ‘River Stories III’ event Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Google headquarters in Kendall Square.”

CRC employee Evan Bradley films the Charles River while carrying Google's Trekker camera. (Photo: Suzanne Kreiter/Boston Globe)





THE SKATEPARK IS OPEN!

THE LYNCH FAMILY SKATEPARK OPENED NOVEMBER 14TH TO FUN, FANFARE, AND SKATING!

Lynch Family Skatepark opens in Cambridge

Alexandra Koktsidis – November 14, 2015

The Boston Globe

“Two thousand people, old and young, gathered in the cold, blustery wind on Saturday equipped with skateboards, BMX bikes, and roller blades for the opening of a skatepark that took more than a decade to build.

Tucked below the quiet hum of two highway ramps near the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, the bowls, ramps, hard ledges, and railings of the Lynch Family Skatepark occupy what was once a wasteland left by the Big Dig.

‘It was an amazing turnout. The place was alive with young people eager to use that skatepark,’ said Renata von Tscharnier, founder and president of the Charles River Conservancy, the nonprofit organization that led the park’s construction. ‘It was such a happy yet harmonious gathering, and I think it will stay that way.’”



Above: Pro skater and Newton native Andy MacDonald at the Lynch Family Skatepark. (Photo: Christopher Baldwin)

Banner: The skatepark opens! From left: artist Nancy Schön, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, CRC President Renata von Tscharnier, the Lynch Foundation’s Peter Lynch & family, DCR Deputy Commissioner Matthew Sisk, MA State Senator Sal DiDomenico, and MA State Representative Tim Toomey. (Photo: Christopher Baldwin)

Designer tests the air over new skatepark

Robin Lubbock – November 14, 2015

“...we caught up with the lead designer of the park, former pro skater Kanten Russell. He was there as construction workers were finishing up their work, and he took a few runs on his skateboard to test some of the ramps and jumps he designed.”



Designer Kanten Russell tests out the Lynch Family Skatepark before its grand opening on November 14th. (Photo: Robin Lubbock/WBUR)

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BOSTON'S NPR® NEWS STATION

Here's how a Tortoise and a Hare inspired the Lynch Family Skatepark

Olga Khvan – November 12, 2015

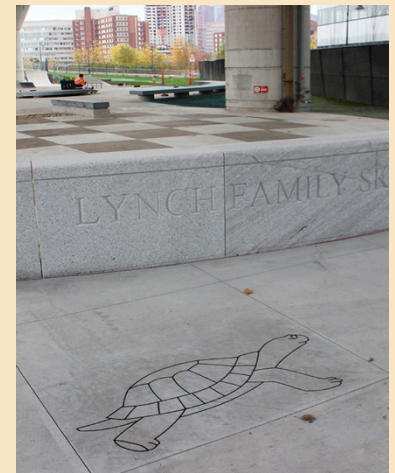
"The much-anticipated Lynch Family Skatepark, a \$5 million undertaking by the Charles River Conservancy, is finally about to open.

The initial idea for the park came two decades ago from—of all people—Nancy Schön, sculptor of the famous "Make Way for Ducklings" statues in the Boston Public Garden. The artist was inspired to take action after learning that local skateboarders, who had been jumping over her "Tortoise and Hare" statues in Copley Square, had no dedicated space to practice.

"I went down to Copley Square ready to scream and yell at them, which I started to do, and I started talking to them, and I discovered that they were just wonderful kids and they were terrific athletes," Schön told WBUR last year. "So I thought, 'I think I really would like to turn this around.'"

Years later, the skateboarders finally have somewhere to go."

Boston
magazine



An etching at the skatepark entrance pays homage to Nancy Schön's "Tortoise and Hare" sculpture in Copley Square.

Renowned sculptor helps make Boston skatepark a reality

Beth Germano – November 13, 2015

CBS Boston
.com

"It made it clear to her that skateboarders needed a place to call their own. 'They are such good athletes, these kids,' said Schön. 'This is my dream come true.'

Schön found a partner in the Charles River Conservancy to make the park a not so easy reality given the price tag, location, and the site was contaminated. 'You've got several bureaucratic agencies doing their best to move things along but there's always that hiccup,' said SJ Port with the Conservancy. 'It costs a lot of money to clean up a brownfield.'"

Skaters rejoice at opening of Lynch Family Skatepark

Matt Conti – November 14, 2015

"Boston and Cambridge finally have a public skatepark. After 15 years of planning and construction, the Lynch Family Skatepark opened on Saturday, November 14th with a ceremonial ribbon-cutting.



The project was spearheaded by the non-profit Charles River Conservancy, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) along with major funding support from the Lynch Foundation, the Vans Company and hundreds more."

Skatepark opens in North Point Park

Natalie Handy – November 18,

WICKED LOCAL CAMBRIDGE
WITH NEWS FROM THE CAMBRIDGE CHRONICLE & TRIB

"The park, which has been in the works for the past 15 years, was created through the Charles River Conservancy and will be operated by the state, but was built with investments from the Lynch Foundation and Vans, among others.

Until now, there has never been a designated area to skateboard around Boston, frustrating skaters, parents and members of law enforcement."



Volunteers from Youth Enrichment Services (YES) received skateboards at the Lynch Family Skatepark grand opening. The volunteers earned the skateboards by working with the Conservancy Volunteers Program. (Photo: Matt Conti/North End Waterfront)

Best of the New: Lynch Family Skatepark

Boston Globe Contributors – January 06, 2016

Globe Magazine
THE BOSTON GLOBE

"The idea for a dedicated local skatepark first occurred to Nancy Schon when she found that kids were getting in trouble for skateboarding around her Copley Square sculpture *Tortoise and Hare*. That was more than a decade ago. In November, her partners (including the Charles River Conservancy, the Lynch Foundation, and the shoe company Vans) finally completed their slow-but-steady race to build the Lynch Family Skatepark in East Cambridge. Tucked beneath highway ramps off the Zakim Bridge, the sprawling facility has been crowded with skaters of all skill levels since it opened. Mostly, though: 'Duuude!'"