

# 5 YEARS OF CITY SPLASH



TOGETHER WE CAN BRING SAFE, REGULAR SWIMMING TO THE CHARLES RIVER

## AP Cities aiming to reclaim once-polluted rivers for swimming

Phillip Marcelo (AP) – July 18, 2017

They dove in, splashed around and blissfully floated in the murky river water.

Intrepid swimmers got a once-a-year chance to beat the summer heat with a dip in the once-notorious dirty water of Boston's Charles River on Tuesday.

The annual "City Splash" is one of the few days the state permits public swimming on the city's stretch of the 80-mile river, which gained notoriety in the Standells' 1960s hit "Dirty Water."

The event, now in its fifth year, spotlights the nonprofit Charles River Conservancy's efforts to build a permanent feature on the river that would allow visitors to enjoy the water without coming in contact with any leftover contaminants. They call it a "swim park," which would include floating docks for swimmers to safely jump into the river without touching the hazardous bottom. The water quality would be regularly tested.

Nearly 300 people signed up to take the plunge.



Above: People dive into the Charles River during the "City Splash" event, Tuesday, July 18, 2017, in Boston. (Photo credit: Elise Amendola/ AP)

Associated Press Story also featured in:

SF Gate, Washington Times, Seattle Times, London Times, Wyoming Eagle Tribune, Chicago Daily Herald, U.S. News and World Report



"Bostonians take a dip in 'that dirty water'"



"City Splash"  
Sam Bruce

**The Boston Globe**

"Paris offers a model to bring swimming to Charles River"

Matt Rocheleau – June 26, 2017



Alex Meyer  
2012 Olympic Swimmer, 2017 City Splash Participant



"Swimmers make the plunge in the Charles River"

Jim Smith – July 18, 2017

**The Boston Globe**

"Swimmers cool off in the Charles River"

Kiana Cole – July 18, 2017



Harriet Cross, British Consul, and Valery Freland, French Consul, joined City Splash.

## Excited to swim the Charles River!

"People need swimming, and it's this incredible resource that we have. And freshwater swimming is delightful." –Anita Diamant (Author), from The Boston Globe

"In this area, we've been able to turn it around, and it's really taken businesses, institutions, government, everybody I think has really pulled together and we've made it happen. It's not clean every day, but it's such a **dramatic turn around** from what it was 20 years ago." –Paul Paravano (MIT), from The Boston Globe

"When I first moved here, it was almost like Lake Erie. You could almost set it on fire. **And the fact that there's been a huge investment in the infrastructure to clean it up, I think is very exciting.**" – Sally Graham (Dorchester) from The Boston Globe

## For one day a year, the Charles welcomes swimmers

By Craig LeMoult – July 19, 2017

Local advocates hope the Paris project — and similar swim areas built in Copenhagen's harbor — will serve as a model and inspire more support for their proposal to build a permanent swimming area on the Charles, which now meets federal standards for swimming most of the year.

"There is a tradition in Europe to swim in urban rivers," said Renata von Tscharnner, founder and president of the Charles River Conservancy, the nonprofit behind the plan to create a swim park near North Point Park and the Museum of Science.

"It's very much a part of the culture," said von Tscharnner, who grew up swimming in urban rivers in Switzerland. "They just go out to the rivers with a towel around their neck and go for a swim and go back to work or on their way."

But in the United States, she said, many people — including Boston — are not so laissez-faire and believe urban waterways are not clean enough to swim in.

"We have more of a psychological obstacle to overcome," said von Tscharnner said.



Above: It was a nice Summer day to jump in the Charles. (Photo credit: Craig LeMoult/WGBH News)

## The Conservancy's postcard campaign to Governor Baker

Participants responded to the prompt "I support the Conservancy's efforts to return public swimming to the Charles River because..."



Graphic Designer: Ken Baughman

"I want to live in a world where I can hop on the T, swim in a clean river, and get back to work a healthier, happier person."

"It promotes community and awareness surrounding how we treat our water and land."

"We taxpayers spent so much public money to clean up the river, we deserve to enjoy it!"

"This would make Boston and Cambridge the perfect cities to live in!!"

"Nothing compares to open water swimming in the fresh air with the Boston skyline in the background"