



# CHARLES RIVER conservancy



November 2018

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## Dear Friend,

The holiday season has a way of casting a romantic spell over each of us. The reflection of twinkling lights dancing on the Charles River and soft snowfall creates the perfect backdrop for enchanting walks along the riverbank. This season I am reflecting on my own love story that I have been living over the past six months, as I've been falling back in love with the Charles River.

Like so many who moved to the Boston area for school (and never left), I was quickly drawn to the river. It is where I studied, ran, biked, kayaked, and brought friends and family for sunset views of the city skyline. I thought I already loved the Charles River, but this year, having joined the Charles River Conservancy, I have a new-found admiration for the river and its community – you.

Since June, I've met and corresponded with many of you. We've gotten our hands dirty in the parks with over 1,900 volunteers. We've walked the "Throat," highlighting the opportunity to vastly improve the river's edge as part of MassDOT's I-90 improvement project. We've skated at the Lynch Family Skatepark after dark, thanks to newly installed lights. We danced with over 300 friends to celebrate the legacy of the Conservancy's Founder, Renata von Tscharner. Because of supporters like you, the Conservancy not only survived a leadership transition, but thrived.

In 2019, we will continue to bring swimming back to the Charles by advancing design of a seasonal swim facility and with the return of City Splash! We will pilot a temporary, floating treatment wetland to counteract negative effects of cyanobacteria. We will engage over 50 groups of community members to remove debris and invasive species, plant natives and repair park infrastructure in parks such as Hell's Half Acre. We will begin working on a strategic plan in January, harnessing recent momentum and new perspective to develop a targeted and actionable path forward: but we need your help.

Our love story is far from over and today I am asking for your support to help write the Conservancy's next chapter. I invite you to reach out to me directly, to share your love story with the Charles River Parklands and ideas for its future. Join us and fall in love with the Charles River all over again.

Wishing you a joyful and romantic holiday season,

Laura Jasinski  
Executive Director



# LOOKING BACK

## Conservancy Volunteers



During the 2018 season, over **1,900 community members** volunteered **5,292 hours** of labor valued at **\$130,659**. Together they:

- removed over 750 bags of organic material and invasive species
- collected and disposed of over 550 bags of litter
- painted benches in need of a fresh coat
- planted hundreds of daffodils
- and much more...

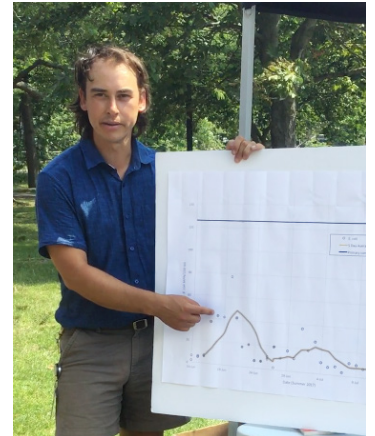
## I-90 Advocacy

MassDOT's 100-acre, \$1 billion project reconstructing the I-90 interchange in Allston provides an opportunity to be more than just a highway project. The Conservancy has partnered with WalkBoston, CRWA, the Esplanade Association, and others to advocate for the inclusion of better parks and pathways in the project's scope.



## Water Quality

For the past two summers, we partnered with Northeastern University on daily sampling at the proposed swim facility site, North Point Park. A PhD student, Max Rome, tested E. coli and cyanobacteria and is now in the process of analyzing these results, which were largely promising for the future of swimming. It confirms that much progress has been made, but there are still challenges to address (see "Floating Wetland").



## Ribbon of Blue, Ribbon of Green Gala



In June, more than 300 guests joined us at Annenberg Hall to celebrate the retirement of Renata von Tscharnier! With the help of many generous sponsors, we raised over \$800,000 for the future of the Charles River Conservancy. The night was one to remember thanks to the creative and musical help from Revels and Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu as MC.





# LOOKING AHEAD

## Floating Wetlands

Two years of water quality work gave us valuable insights into the challenges associated with cyanobacteria. Continuing our partnership with an Northeastern University PhD student, we'll be designing, permitting and piloting a floating treatment wetland. This

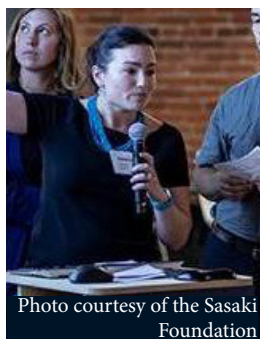


Photo courtesy of the Sasaki Foundation

groundbreaking work will test a complementary solution to major infrastructure projects, as well as provide a valuable tool to educate the public about influences on the river's ecology. This project won the Sasaki Foundation's inaugural Call for Proposals, and we'll be working alongside other winners in their Incubator Space.



Photo by Aaron Bourque

## Return of City Splash

This summer, we're planning for the return of our incredibly popular sanctioned community swim. While we are continuing to pursue building a seasonal facility, a chance to jump into the river is too good to miss. We will work with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation to permit this one-day event. We hope you'll join us -- look for announcements in late spring!



Photo by Aram Boghosian

## Lynch Family Skatepark



Photo by Aaron Bourque

The lights at Lynch Family Skate Park are officially up and running, thanks to the City of Cambridge who donated them, DCR who installed them, and the financial support of generous donors! Park hours have been extended to 9pm and skaters

can now practice their sport into the evening. Make sure to fine-tune your skating skills: skateboarding is coming to the Olympics in 2020!

## Hells Half Acre

In partnership with the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, the CRC plans to conduct invasive plant control in an area of the Charles River Basin called "Hell's Half Acre." These restoration efforts are critical to prevent further invasion of exotic species and also will provide wildlife habitat and public education opportunities.



Photo by Cathie Zusy

## Strategic Planning



The Charles River Conservancy is building on the momentum of new leadership and looking ahead to the future! As we develop our strategic plan, we will want your input! Be on the lookout for a survey this winter. Already have ideas? Email us at [crc@thecharles.org](mailto:crc@thecharles.org).

# STAY CONNECTED

## Join our E-newsletter

The Conservancy sends out an electronic newsletter every month with our latest news and events. Are you on it? Sign up through our website at [www.thecharles.org/crcnews/e-newsletters](http://www.thecharles.org/crcnews/e-newsletters) to stay up-to-date!

## Follow us on Social Media



@CharlesRiverConservancy

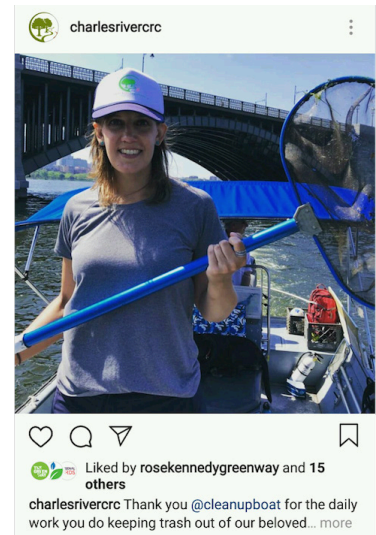
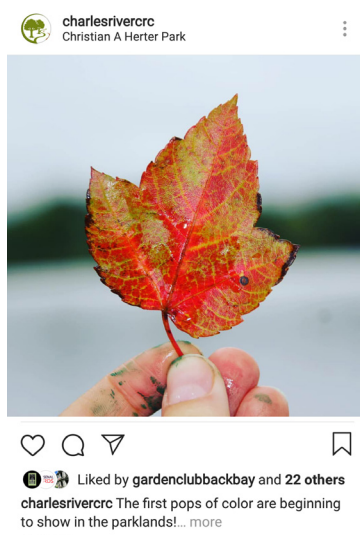
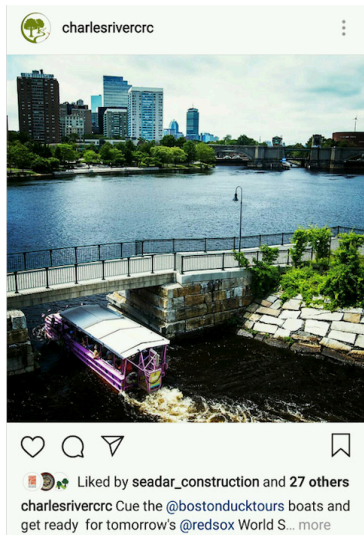


@charlesrivercrc



@CharlesRiverCRC

Join us on Instagram for our best river and parkland beauty shots! Share your Charles River photos with us and use the hashtag #WinterOnTheCharles... we might just repost you!



## Read-up on Press

In 2018, the Conservancy and its projects were featured in several media outlets and publications! Check them out on our website at [www.thecharles.org/crcnews/press](http://www.thecharles.org/crcnews/press).

### Cambridge Chronicle Established 1846

#### Charles River Conservancy announces new executive director

Posted April 27, 2018

The Charles River Conservancy recently announced the appointment of new executive director Laura Jasinski, an urban planner with 10 years of experience in development and activation of urban open space, who will officially take over for founding president Renata von Tscharner on June 1. . . .

### ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

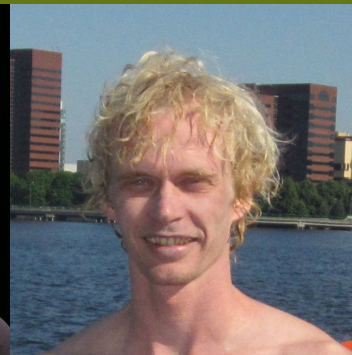
#### Ripple Effect: A string of proposed projects aims to reclaim urban waterways for people.

By Joann Gonchar, FAIA, August 1, 2018

. . . Launched only two years ago, an effort to create a river swim park in Boston or Cambridge, Massachusetts, is a relative newcomer among proposals for floating urban baths. But the group behind the plan—the Charles River Conservancy . . . —has already completed a feasibility study with the local office of Stantec . . .



# WHY I SUPPORT



“The CRC has been a great partner to the City of Cambridge in their advocacy for open space along the Charles River. As our city grows and changes, endeavors such as the Swim Park Project will provide urban residents a much-needed place for outdoor recreation and socialization.”

—DENNIS CARLONE,  
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

“For over a decade I have had the privilege of serving on the CRC’s Board of Directors and getting a first-hand look at the hard work that goes into its successful programs and parkland advocacy. With Laura’s new leadership providing exciting momentum, I look forward to continuing my support and seeing what the future of the CRC holds.”

—GINA FOOTE,  
CAMBRIDGE RESIDENT  
AND CRC BOARD MEMBER

“Without the awesome Conservancy Volunteer Program, the Friends of Herter Park could not have mobilized the hordes of people needed to restore the Amphitheater in Herter Park. Hundreds of hours of labor over several seasons went into painting the stage, replacing the benches, raking the leaves and trimming back the vegetation. They even got my daughters to join in.”

—HERB NOLAN,  
FRIENDS OF HERTER  
PARK & THE SOLOMON  
FOUNDATION

“The Charles River is a gem of beauty set against our urban skyline, and I am grateful for the CRC’s partnership and innovative programming to ensure access for all. Experiencing the exhilaration of urban river swimming at the Conservancy’s City Splash event has made me an even stronger advocate for the Conservancy and the parklands—a democratic common ground that brings our diverse community together.”

—MICHELLE WU,  
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

“In a city with limited access to swimming facilities, I am excited that the Charles River Conservancy’s proposed Swim Park will not only provide a new place to swim, but specifically a place to engage with the Charles River—a natural resource with untapped potential.”

—FRANS LAWAETZ,  
CHARLES RIVER  
SWIMMING CLUB

“Cambridge Trust proudly supports the Charles River Conservancy. Their work to activate, beautify, and protect the Charles River Parklands is one of the reasons that Cambridge is a great place to live and do business.”

—ROMA MAYUR,  
CAMBRIDGE TRUST



CHARLES RIVER

conservancy

Photo by Aaron Bourque



# SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE CONSERVANCY

The Conservancy works with approximately 2,000 volunteers annually to perform vital park maintenance work and ensure permanent improvements in the parklands. To reserve a volunteer day for your company or group, please email Lucy Salwen at [lsalwen@thecharles.org](mailto:lsalwen@thecharles.org). Our schedule fills up quickly so reserve your spot now!

### Event Sponsorship Rates

Sponsoring an event contributes to supplies, plants, and program management, and supports our free programs with youth and the community. We ask our corporate and for-profit volunteer groups to support our Conservancy Volunteers program with a tax-deductible donation to the Charles River Conservancy. This fee is based on the size of your group.

**\$1,500** Events with up to **25** volunteers

**\$2,000** Events with **25-50** volunteers

**\$2,500** Events with **50-100** volunteers

**\$3,000** Events with **100-150** volunteers

\*Contact Lucy Salwen, [lsalwen@thecharles.org](mailto:lsalwen@thecharles.org), for **non-profit** volunteer event rates.

## GIVE A GIFT OF STOCK

Make a big impact with a gift of stock to the Conservancy in three easy steps:

- 1) Contact us prior to transferring shares so we can anticipate your gift and acknowledge it promptly. You may notify us by phone, mail, or email.
- 2) Provide us with the name of the security and the number of shares to be donated.
- 3) Give your broker the following information to facilitate the transfer of shares:
  - Charles River Gift Account at RBC Dain Rauscher
  - DTC Number: 0235,
  - Account Number: 300-91759
  - Tax ID Number: 04-3503656
  - CRC's broker at RBC Dain Rauscher: Patrick Kilcoyne (781.263.1003, [Patrick.kilcoyne@rbcdain.com](mailto:Patrick.kilcoyne@rbcdain.com))

## MAKE A DONATION

By supporting the Charles River Conservancy you are making an investment in the parklands. Your gift will help to ensure the stewardship, renewal, and active use of this extraordinary urban riverfront park. The Charles River Conservancy is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Make a gift today using our secure website [www.thecharles.org](http://www.thecharles.org) or return the enclosed remittance envelope with your donation.

You can also make a gift through your **donor advised fund**.



Photo by Aram Boghosian

## Sponsor City Splash

Interested in sponsoring one of the most anticipated events of the year? Contact our Executive Director, Laura Jasinski, at [ljaskinski@thecharles.org](mailto:ljaskinski@thecharles.org).

*"... a watery celebration of how far the cleanup of the river has come."* -David Filipov, Boston Globe