



CHARLES RIVER CONSERVANCY

Spring 2019 News

Aaron Bourque



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Spring 2019

Dear Friend,

It's finally here, the moment we've been waiting for while bundled in down jackets and wool scarves for the past four months – spring! I've always said, you will never find a happier city than ours on the first day that temperatures break sixty degrees. People jump on their bikes or lace up their sneakers and head outside with sunglasses and smiles.

However, as temperatures increase, the number of commitments on our calendars often follow. This special season is easily lost in deadlines and graduations. I hope that this spring, you take a moment to linger along the Charles, to literally stop and smell the roses (or daffodils), to take an extra deep breath and appreciate the incredible resource in the heart of our city. You might see things in a different light or even discover something new.

At the Charles River Conservancy, we couldn't be happier to be your hosts, helping to keep the Charles River parks clean, welcoming, and vibrant. We never stopped preparing for warm weather and that first smell of spring. We have been working with volunteers months in advance to plant the daffodil bulbs that you see blooming, advocating for key connections and improvements along the river, working to improve the river's ecology with an innovative floating wetland pilot, and planning the return of City Splash. We've been hard at work so that you can enjoy beauty and fun along the river.

Once you've stepped back and taken that extra breath, fully refreshed by spring, I ask you to support the Charles River Conservancy's programs, advocacy, and stewardship. Your contribution allows us to do more so that you - and everyone along the banks of the Charles River - can fully enjoy many more moments of spring.

Wishing you a refreshing spring,

Laura Jasinski  
Executive Director

A Note From Board Chair, Debra Iles



*The Charles River Conservancy is thriving! As Board Chair, I'm proud of our work on all levels - from big picture strategic planning to our work on the ground keeping the parks clean, green, and welcoming. I hope you'll join me in supporting these efforts!*





# ALONG THE CHARLES THIS SPRING

## City Splash is Back!

After a brief hiatus in 2018, our highly anticipated one-day sanctioned community swim, City Splash, is back and better than ever! For the first time, we are partnering with the Charles River Swimming Club (CRSC) to bring you a full day of river swimming on **June 15th, 2019** (rain date June 22nd). The day will begin with the CRSC's 11th annual One-Mile Swim Race in the morning, followed by City Splash swimming in the afternoon. Stay tuned for fun new elements and activities, such as an inaugural Celebrity Cannonball Contest. Finish the day with the perfect post-swim meal: pizza! Join us across the river at Za Cambridge in Kendall Square for our Afterparty. City Splash registration and Afterparty tickets will open in May. Interested in sponsoring this full day of fun? Email CRC Executive Director Laura at [ljasinski@thecharles.org](mailto:ljasinski@thecharles.org). *We are grateful for our partnership with MassDCR, whose Special Use Permits make these swimming events possible.*



Aram Boghosian

## I-90 Advocacy

With a coalition of environmental and mobility organizations, we continue to advocate for better parks and paths to be included in MassDOT's 100-acre, one-billion dollar I-90 Allston Interchange Multi-modal Project, especially in the already crowded "throat" section of the Paul Dudley White Multi-use Path. In response to tireless advocacy efforts, MassDOT commissioned an Independent Review of design options for the throat, resulting in the development and selection by MassDOT of the "Highway At-Grade Hybrid." Visit our website [www.thecharles.org](http://www.thecharles.org) to learn more about our ongoing efforts on this important project.



Courtesy of WalkBoston

## Conservancy Volunteers

The Conservancy Volunteers are already out in the parks, performing vital park maintenance work in preparation for another busy summer along the Charles. To date, the Conservancy Volunteers have donated more than 100,000 hours of service to our public parks, picking up trash, removing invasive plants, painting park benches, and more. To learn more about volunteering or to schedule an event for your company or group, email Sasha at [svallieres@thecharles.org](mailto:svallieres@thecharles.org).



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Rendering of floating wetland design by Sasaki (left). North-eastern PhD student Max Rome testing water at North Point Park (below).



## Floating Wetland

We are continuing our partnership with Max Rome, the Northeastern PhD student who has been working on water quality research in North Point Park, the proposed location of the future swim park. Reducing pollution into the river by improving infrastructure and addressing non-point sources remains vital, but alternative interventions can also make an impact. We are piloting a floating wetland in North Point Park to explore a complementary approach that seeks to enhance the ecology of the Charles River by increasing its ability to adapt to changing conditions. At a larger scale, this method could make the river more resilient to the pressures of urban development and climate change. We are also working with a communications and interpretative materials professional to develop community engagement and educational programming. With financial support from the Sasaki Foundation and an anonymous donor, the installation is slated for June.

## STAY CONNECTED



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## Compete in our Photo Competition!

Help highlight the importance of the Charles by submitting photos that showcase the Charles River parks, from the Watertown Dam to the Boston Harbor, and what they mean to you! Five winners will receive features on our social media and a cash prize!

## #CharlesRiverPhotography PHOTO COMPETITION

**1** Follow us, [@charlesrivercrc](https://www.instagram.com/charlesrivercrc), on Instagram and post your photo with [#CharlesRiverPhotography](https://www.instagram.com/charlesriverphotography)

**AND / OR**

**2** Visit [woobox.com/9aujsq](http://woobox.com/9aujsq) and submit your photo with answers to all applicable questions



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