

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City Splash 2024: The Immersive Charles River Experience of the Year

Boston's annual Charles River swim event returns on Saturday, July 13, 2024 at DCR's Fiedler Dock on the Esplanade.

Boston, MA—June 1, 2024—The Charles River Conservancy (CRC), in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is proud to announce City Splash 2024 on Saturday, July 13, 2024, 12pm-4pm. The state-sanctioned swim is held in a demarcated deep-water area off the Fiedler Dock on the DCR Esplanade in Boston. Now in its 7th year, City Splash remains a much-anticipated summer event that offers the unique opportunity for the public to cool off in the waters of the Charles and embrace the vision of a swimmable urban river.

Event: City Splash 2024

Date: July 13, 2024 (rain date: July 20, 2024)

Time: 12pm-4pm

Location: DCR's Fiedler Dock on the Charles River Esplanade, Boston, MA

Info: <https://thecharles.org/city-splash/>

Hosted by the Charles River Conservancy, this annual event invites all to experience the joy of swimming in the Charles River, one of the cleanest urban rivers in the United States.

“City Splash is not just a celebration of the Charles River. It’s a testament to our collective commitment to river health and resilience,” says **CRC Executive Director Laura Jasinski**.

“Urban river swimming is an exciting and increasingly relevant vision that resonates with many people today. As we will soon see swimmers in the Seine River (for the first time in a century!) at the Paris 2024 Olympics, it’s clear that clean and accessible urban rivers are a priority worldwide.”

“Equitable waterfront access goes beyond simply opening up spaces—it is creating an environment where everyone feels welcome and safe while having fun,” says **Mayor Michelle Wu**. “City Splash is a shining example of how we can come together as a community to promote swim safety while enjoying and protecting our city’s natural resources.”

City Splash registration opens to the general public on Thursday, June 6, 2024. Adults and youth (ages 12-17 who will have passed the required swim test in time for the event) can sign up for one of the eight 25-minute swim slots of the day. Registration is free but required for all swimmers. Participants are encouraged to register early, as swim slots are capped to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all attendees.

Due to important safety considerations, swimming in the Charles River is only allowed if a permit is obtained from DCR. A Special Use Permit is obtained for City Splash. The CRC supports the vision for a swimmable river, but does not encourage swimming in the Charles River outside of permitted events.

DCR continues to improve the vital connection between people and the environment by partnering with groups like the CRC to promote accessible river and parkland activities.

Additionally, DCR increases opportunities for water safety through swimming lessons at DCR pool facilities, as well as partnerships with the YMCA and the American Red Cross.

“One of our priorities at DCR is ensuring that all of our residents and families can cool down at our beautiful waterfronts during the warm summer months—especially those in our urban communities, who feel the impacts of climate change more acutely,” says **Commissioner Brian Arrigo**. “We’re thrilled to continue this partnership with CRC that provides children and families with the unique opportunity to safely swim in the Charles River, while we work together toward a future with a more swimmable river.”

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a goal to make the Charles River both fishable and swimmable with its [Clean Charles River Initiative](#) in 1995. With the dedication of government bodies, environmental groups, and nonprofit organizations, local municipalities and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) have made significant progress targeting sources of pollution and poor water quality in the Charles River. The reality of a fishable and swimmable Charles River is closer than ever since the EPA’s landmark commitment to cleanup.

“Through the diligent and dedicated efforts of environmental agencies and advocates, we have witnessed remarkable improvements in the ecological health and resilience of the Charles River,” says **Jasinski**. “Together we are making great strides toward meaningful progress, and City Splash plays a crucial role in this long-standing effort. We continue to foster optimism for a future where swimming in the Charles is a recurring, safe, and cherished activity.”

About the Charles River Conservancy

The Charles River Conservancy (CRC), founded in 2000, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the stewardship, renewal, and enhancement of the urban parks along the last ten miles of the Charles River Lower Basin, from Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam. With a mission to invite and engage all in the Charles River and its parks’ use and stewardship, the CRC looks for ways to increase opportunities for urban swims as part of its Charles River Swimming Initiative.

For more information about the CRC, please visit thecharles.org or email crc@thecharles.org. Follow the CRC on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok at [@CharlesRiverConservancy](#).

About the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is steward of one of the largest state parks systems in the country. Its 450,000 acres is made up of forests, parks, greenways, historic sites and landscapes, seashores, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and watersheds. DCR protects, promotes, and enhances the state’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

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