



Dear Friend,

The Charles River isn't just a beautiful waterway. It's a lifeline for our community—a place where families gather, friends connect, and nature thrives. As we look ahead to 2025, we are poised to build upon our exciting work that supporters like YOU have made possible. With your contribution, **together we can do even more to restore and transform the river and parks.**

Next year marks a significant moment for the Charles River Conservancy: **our 25th anniversary!** This milestone reaffirms our commitment to the mission of the organization and provides a launching pad **for you to make an even greater difference.** With an exciting capacity-building grant from an anonymous funder, we have a unique opportunity: **every new or increased donation will be matched.** This is your chance to amplify your impact!

We're excited to share some of the transformative initiatives that we have in store for the ecosystem and community of the Charles River in 2025. Together we will:

- **Connect** organizations, people, and communities to each other and the river through immersive educational experiences and a community-led Artist-in Residence Program at the Lynch Family Skatepark to build art initiatives that resonate authentically with the park community.
- **Create** bold, impactful solutions that elevate and strengthen the river and its parks by expanding our floating wetland project, launching brand-new tree canopy strategies, assessing and planning for better tree health along the river, and intensifying our advocacy for the Allston Multimodal Project, promoting innovative solutions that prioritize parkland and reduce roadway.
- **Celebrate** the river and its parks and the intersection of people and nature to inspire involvement with our iconic volunteer stewardship programs and our 8th annual City Splash to showcase our commitment to cleaner urban waters, inviting everyone to reconnect with the river.

We express our heartfelt gratitude for everyone who's supported us between 2000 and today. With your help, we ensure that our beloved Charles River and parks are vibrant spaces that will support community and environmental resilience for the next 25 years and beyond.

**Please give today—together we can make this vision a reality.**  
See you at the river!

  
Laura Jasinski  
Executive Director

  
Lonsdale G. Koester  
Board Chair



**Ways To Give:**

-  Give a gift of stock
-  Ask about employer-match
-  Give in celebration of someone
-  Learn about legacy giving
-  Make it monthly



CHARLES RIVER

conservancy

43 Thorndike Street, S3-3  
Cambridge, MA 02141



**See why next year is a BIG one for us!**



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*Photo:*  
Aaron John Bourque



Mike Mejia

# The Charles River Community



Kevin Bennett et al. MIT Sea Grant

CitySprouts

## Charles River Floating Wetland

### Cultivating Urban Biodiversity and Community Connections

The CRC is continuing to expand the tools needed to advance climate resiliency with our Charles River Floating Wetland project! Through **new research programs** (see what we captured on our new solar-powered fish camera in partnership with MIT Sea Grant) and **experiential engagements with youth** (like kayak tours and build-your-own-wetland kits), we continue to learn about and share what this technology can do for our river ecosystem and community. Stay tuned for expansion news and opportunities to contribute to the design process in 2025... more floating wetlands to come!

## Lynch Family Skatepark

### Advancing Public Art and Creative Spaces

We are committed to supporting the riverfront Lynch Family Skatepark as an inclusive environment where creativity, athleticism, and community converge. We're **launching our first Artist-in-Residence Program**, designed to galvanize emerging graffiti and street artists while implementing legal free walls. This program will be supported by a newly formed **Skatepark Advisory Group of skaters, artists, and art administrators** to ensure the art program meets the needs of the community.



Caljay Photography



Armesia Luk



## Swimmable Charles Initiative

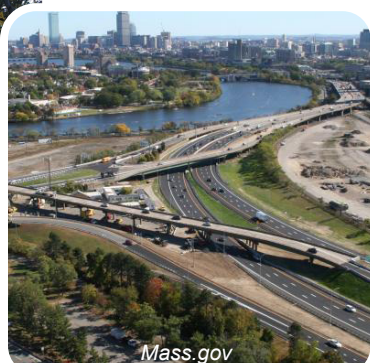
### Reimagining Urban Waterways for Tomorrow

Each summer we celebrate a highly visible milestone in our movement for cleaner public waters and accessible urban swimming with our **free City Splash river swim**. This annual event showcases the community's enthusiasm for reconnecting with our river—this year, **every swim spot was claimed in minutes!** City Splash excels as a fun and immersive way to foster **awareness of environmental policies and equitable access to natural resources**. As we approach our 8th annual swim, this growing momentum reflects broader global trends in urban water cleanups as cities (like Paris!) address climate change.

## Park Stewardship

### Caring for the River Ecosystem

Our stewardship efforts make a significant impact addressing immediate park needs while informing long-term strategies for the Charles River ecosystem. **Large-scale community volunteer events** are the backbone of this crucial work—each season nearly 2000 passionate individuals **paint close to 100 benches and remove over 1000 bags of litter and 500 bags of invasive plant material** from the parks. Complementing this work is our Charles River Environmental Watch (CREW) program that **empowers independent volunteers with additional training**. In 2025, we'll apply our successful volunteer-driven approach, which has effectively addressed issues like invasives and biodiversity, to building strategies for supporting tree canopy efforts.



Mass.gov

## Advocacy

### Championing Accessibility and Sustainability

We stand at the **river advocacy forefront for the Allston Multimodal Project**, a once-in-a-century opportunity to reshape our urban landscape. The CRC's intensified involvement in the project's task force and working groups focuses on critical design discussions for the Charles River and Throat area. As the project progresses, we're committed to promote innovative solutions that **prioritize parkland preservation, river resilience, and roadway reduction**. Minimizing impervious surfaces improves water quality by reducing stormwater runoff into the river and mitigating flooding in the watershed, creating a more resilient urban landscape.



# The River Bank

## The Annual Fund of the Charles River Conservancy

The Charles River Conservancy appreciates your contributions to The River Bank, the annual fund that supports our daily work and special projects and programs. All donors will be recognized by the CRC on our website and Annual Report and receive special invitations to CRC events. A gift at any level is meaningful to us if it is meaningful to you.

Examples of how your gift contributes to the vitality of the Charles River and its parks include:

### **\$100-\$499**

Inspiring the next generation of river stewards through educational classroom tools like *floating wetland activity kits*

### **\$500-\$999**

Improving the river's health with activities that keep trash out of the river, like *park stewardship by our CRC volunteers*

### **\$1,000-\$2,499**

Creating unique outdoor experiences, like *our annual City Splash river swim*

### **\$2,500-\$4,999**

Supporting biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, such as *management of harmful invasive plant species*

### **\$5,000-\$9,999**

Envisioning an accessible riverfront through our advocacy on projects like *the Allston Multimodal Project*

### **\$10,000-\$24,999**

Supporting arts and culture in our public parks with *partnership-building and community engagement*

### **\$25,000+**

Enhancing the river's resilience, including *planning and design for an expanded floating wetland installation*

## Big news for 2025!

With an exciting capacity-building grant from an anonymous funder, we have a unique opportunity: **every new or increased donation will be matched.**

This is your chance to amplify your impact—just in time for our 25th anniversary!

## Make a Contribution

The Charles River Conservancy depends on the generosity and support of individuals, foundations, and businesses to achieve its mission. To make a contribution to The River Bank, please make checks payable to Charles River Conservancy or visit us online at **[thecharles.org/theriverbank](https://thecharles.org/theriverbank)**. For more information please contact **Laura Jasinski, Executive Director** at **(617) 300-8175** or **[ljjasinski@thecharles.org](mailto:ljjasinski@thecharles.org)**.

# Support the Arts: Enrich Our Riverfront Community! Park Artist-in-Residence Program

The CRC has launched an inaugural graffiti **Artist-in-Residence Program at Lynch Family Skatepark** to support the engaged community and reinforce the park's value as a vibrant, safe, and inclusive place for skaters, artists, and creatives alike. We believe that parks can be transformative spaces shaped not just by greenery, but also by concrete, ramps, and public art.

**Parks are places defined by community.**

This initiative has been designed from a multi-year community engagement and feedback process to understand the unique and dynamic interplay of art and recreation in this space.

**“My whole community is here** and it's so perfect and I'm so happy here. And like, literally, yeah, coming here after work, skating with my friends, I'm like, there's nothing really more than I need in my life.”

– *Skatepark community member*

**Your generous donations directly support emerging artists and spatial justice efforts!**

**Learn more at**  
[thecharles.org/our-work/  
lynch-family-skatepark](http://thecharles.org/our-work/lynch-family-skatepark)

