

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: Charles River Environmental Watch (CREW) Stewards**

Interested in helping to care for the parks and ecosystems along the Charles? The Charles River Conservancy is recruiting volunteers for the fifth year of our Charles River Environmental Watch (CREW) Stewards Program and is searching for people interested in land stewardship!

As a member of the CREW Stewards program, you can make a meaningful difference on your own schedule, from reporting on pathway and vegetation conditions, to trash and invasive plant removal in your assigned park section. Once you have received the training and supplies needed, go out as often as you are able, and have fun!

### **Available Locations**

We have two open slots for the upcoming season, which you can learn more about right here:

#### **Option 1: Soldiers Field Road between Arsenal Street and Tara Plaza**

Click [HERE](#) for a map of the area or [HERE](#) to get directions in Google Maps

#### **Option 2: Soldiers Field Road between Anderson Bridge and Western Ave Bridge**

[Area Map](#) || [Google Maps Directions](#)

Either of these would be a great and convenient opportunity for someone from the Allston/Brighton area to give back in their neighborhood, so we encourage people from that part of the city to apply!

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible, prospective volunteers must:

- ★ Be at least 18 years old
- ★ Be physically able to monitor and perform minor maintenance of their assigned park area
- ★ Have a strong interest in stewardship of urban parks and ecosystems
- ★ Commit to stewarding their park area for at least one year
- ★ Complete a background check and fill out a waiver

### **Important Dates**

- ❖ **REQUIRED** - Online Stewardship Orientation: **Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am-11:30am**
- ❖ **OPTIONAL** - Charles River Earth Day Cleanup: **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-12pm**
- ❖ **OPTIONAL\*** - Invasive plant training: **Saturday in May TBD**
  - \*Required for stewards interested in invasive plant management

## Responsibilities

- Attend required online training
  - ◆ We **STRONGLY** encourage all stewards to attend the orientation synchronously, but a recording will be made available if extenuating circumstances arise
- Monitor the assigned park area **monthly**, including invasive species, garbage dumping, and any potential hazards
  - ◆ We expect ALL stewards to consistently make this once-a-month commitment and maintain communication with the CRC to alert us if you are unable to fulfill this responsibility
- Document changes in the park areas via photos and written description
- Fill out an online monitoring report after each visit
- Notify CRC staff directly about urgent problems
- Litter and debris clean-up
- Conduct invasive species monitoring/management (requires additional training)
- Act as an ambassador to park users when visiting assigned park area
- If you see a view or anything else you think is worth sharing, take a photo and share with the CRC team! We may share it on our social media with respective photo credits.

## How to join the CREW Stewardship Program

To apply to be a member of the CREW Stewards, please fill out the application found on our website! CRC staff will be in touch with you to arrange an interview that will help us get to know you better and gauge what site and responsibilities would be best suited for you. All prospective CREW Stewardship members also get to attend training sessions and a site orientation. Once this is completed, the CRC will provide members with all the materials needed to care for your assigned sites and maintain email communication to provide any pertinent news and updates.

**Questions? Email us at [volunteer@thecharles.org](mailto:volunteer@thecharles.org).**