



Charles River Watershed Association

Robert A. DeLeo, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
Room 237
State House
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: FY 2008 Department of Conservation and Recreation
Stormwater Management Budget Amendment 357**

Dear Chairman DeLeo,

The governor's proposed budget of \$950,000 for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) stormwater management is woefully inadequate given the decrepit condition of the state's stormwater infrastructure. Just to achieve compliance with Clean Water Act regulations, DCR needs to sweep 524 lane miles of urban parkway systems, inspect and clean over 5,000 catch basins, monitor thousands of outfalls to rivers and harbors, train staff, run a public education program, and develop and implement new techniques to control pollution discharges to impaired waters. By way of comparison, the city of Newton's stormwater program costs an estimated \$765,000 while Reading's is \$540,000.

In addition to these significant operational expenses, DCR has major capital improvements that need to be addressed. Collapsed drains, clogged catch basins, and thousands of feet of compromised curbing wash parkland away into our streams. Continued neglect of this antiquated, failing infrastructure means more flooding and more in-stream pollution as the attached pictures illustrate.

Over the past two years, DCR's stormwater program has seen improvements, bringing it closer to complying with the law. The recent naming of a stormwater manager at DCR has led to a comprehensive overhaul of the program; implementing several stormwater pilot projects; updating data management systems; and completing digital mapping. But serious problems clearly remain.

We hope you will support House Budget Amendment 357, line item 2800-0401 increasing DCR's funding to \$3,000,000 for stormwater management.

Respectfully,

Robert Zimmerman
Executive Director
Charles River Watershed Association



Figure 1: DCR Riverway outfall draining overland to Muddy River, 3/28/07



Figure 2: Riverway, just downstream of the Short Street Bridge 3/28/07



Figure 3: Riverway curb compromised across from Wheelock College, 3/28/07



Figure 4: Riverway, just upstream of Brookline Avenue Bridge, 3/28/07