

# CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION INVASIVE PLANT REMOVALS



## A GROWING THREAT

As a highly developed region, the Charles River Watershed is vulnerable to advanced invasive plant infestations. The destruction of native habitat makes us more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, making it essential to address this growing threat.

## MONITOR & ACT

Invasive plant species threaten our watershed's ecosystems by degrading water quality, reducing biodiversity, and minimizing flood storage capacity. CRWA has developed projects to monitor environmental changes brought on by invasive plant growth--and ultimately--address the underlying issues threatening the Charles River.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Our work is only possible with the help of our volunteers. Invasive Plant Removals require an "all hands on deck" approach, and we need your help to implement our restoration strategies!



# CHARLES RIVER INVASIVES EXPLAINED

## Water Chestnut & Bittersweet



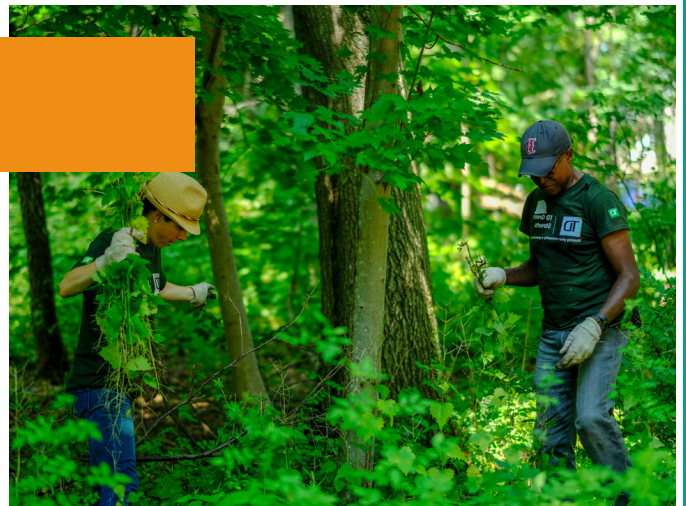
### WATER CHESTNUT

The Charles River Lakes District, located in Newton and Waltham, is under threat from a non-native plant: the water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). In response, CRWA works with community members and volunteers to eradicate the plant and help restore the ecosystems disrupted by water chestnut growth. Since 2008, CRWA has tackled the issue by partnering with Charles River Canoe and Kayak,

the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), as well as Citizens Alliance for Noxious Weed Eradication (CANoE); a community group dedicated to removing the invasive weeds. Thanks to a combination of strategies, including hand- and DCR-funded mechanical-pulling, the invasive plant species has been greatly reduced in the area. In the summer of 2022, 200 volunteers spent 675 hours hand-pulling invasive plants through our Water Chestnut Removal program, removing a total of 3.75 tons of water chestnut!

### BITTERSWEET

Our forests and woods are under attack from the deciduous woody bittersweet vine (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). This invasive plant can grow up to 60 feet long, with a base diameter as wide as 6 inches. Its fast growing vines cover, shade, and outcompete other vegetation in the area—it has the potential to uproot full-grown trees when left unchecked. Trees are critical for water quality: their roots trap stormwater runoff from nearby streets, naturally remove pollution from the runoff, and return clean water to the ground and nearby lakes and ponds. Removing these vines protects the trees, which in turn protects the Charles River.



At a time when we need biodiversity and trees the most, it is critical that we come together to clear out bittersweet vines and restore conserved land.

# TEAM BUILDING VOLUNTEER & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

## Water Chestnut & Bittersweet Removals

### INVASIVE CHAMPION

\$3,000+

- One three-hour invasive removal event and Educational Training for all
- Snacks provided after the removal event
- Company name and logo listed on all promotional materials including CRWA website
- Invasive Removal sponsor announcement on two social media posts
- Company-wide Lunch & Learn with CRWA Staff

### INVASIVE ADVOCATE

\$2,500

- One three-hour invasive removal event and Educational Training for all
- Snacks provided after the removal event
- Company name and logo listed on all promotional materials including CRWA website
- Invasive Removal sponsor announcement on one social media post on CRWA social media channel of choice

### INVASIVE FRIEND

\$1,500

- One three-hour event for up to 10 - 15 participants and Educational Training for all
- Company name and logo listed on all promotional materials including CRWA website

[Submit an Inquiry Today!](#)

### QUESTIONS?

Contact Emily Reiling, Development Manager at [ereiling@crwa.org](mailto:ereiling@crwa.org)

