



**2019
ANNUAL REPORT**



Charles River Watershed Association



WELCOME LETTER BY EMILY NORTON

Dear Friends,

It has been a whirlwind first full year in this position and I am still learning so much. It has been a pleasure to get to know many of the dedicated long-time members of the CRWA family while also welcoming the many new supporters and volunteers who have joined our ranks.

When I took over as Executive Director, I had a few key goals:

Robust Science-based Advocacy - I wanted CRWA to continue to be a fierce protector of the Charles River from threats large and small. We are advocating for dam removals in Wrentham, Watertown, and Natick; pushing MWRA to eliminate sewage discharges into the Charles; and vigorously opposing MassDOT's plan to put a "temporary" road in the Charles River in Allston during construction of the new I-90 viaduct, while ensuring that climate resilience is a driving consideration of the new I-90 design.

Strengthen Municipal Partnerships - I wanted those working in cities and towns within our watershed to know that we are here to support them as they take steps to implement nature-based solutions that will not only further clean up the Charles River, but will build climate resilience in their communities against the weather ravages of climate change: extreme heat, flooding, drought, and storms. We created the Charles River Climate Compact for our 35 watershed cities and towns, and held two "Climate Resilience 101" trainings for local elected officials. As a result we are partnering on projects that advance climate resilience at a regional level; this challenge is too big for towns to take on alone.

Investing in our Future - To effectively take on the challenges we are facing and have a real impact on the future of the Charles River, CRWA needs a solid financial foundation. I sought to make the case to donors both large and small that CRWA is a great investment for those who love the Charles River and want to see it flourish. We went public with our Campaign for the Charles, which has raised nearly \$7M, and we are closing in on our \$10M goal.

Impact - I sought to bring CRWA's amazing knowledge, resources and experience to a broader audience. We've done this through both social media and traditional media, engagement with every state lawmaker in the watershed, meetings with local watershed elected officials, presentations at regional and national conferences, TV appearances, and even a feature length article in an in-flight magazine.

There is a lot of doom and gloom in the news when it comes to our environment. CRWA has demonstrated for decades that persistence and doggedness, backed by science and data, can make an enormous difference, and when we give nature a chance, she can rejuvenate. Anyone who remembers the Charles River of decades ago, looking at it now, knows how true that is. We face intense challenges today, but we have overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges in the past. We will take these lessons into the next decade and fight for a better life for watershed residents, human and otherwise.

Thank you for your continued support for our vital work. We could not do it without you.



Emily Norton
Executive Director

COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH A WATERSHED APPROACH

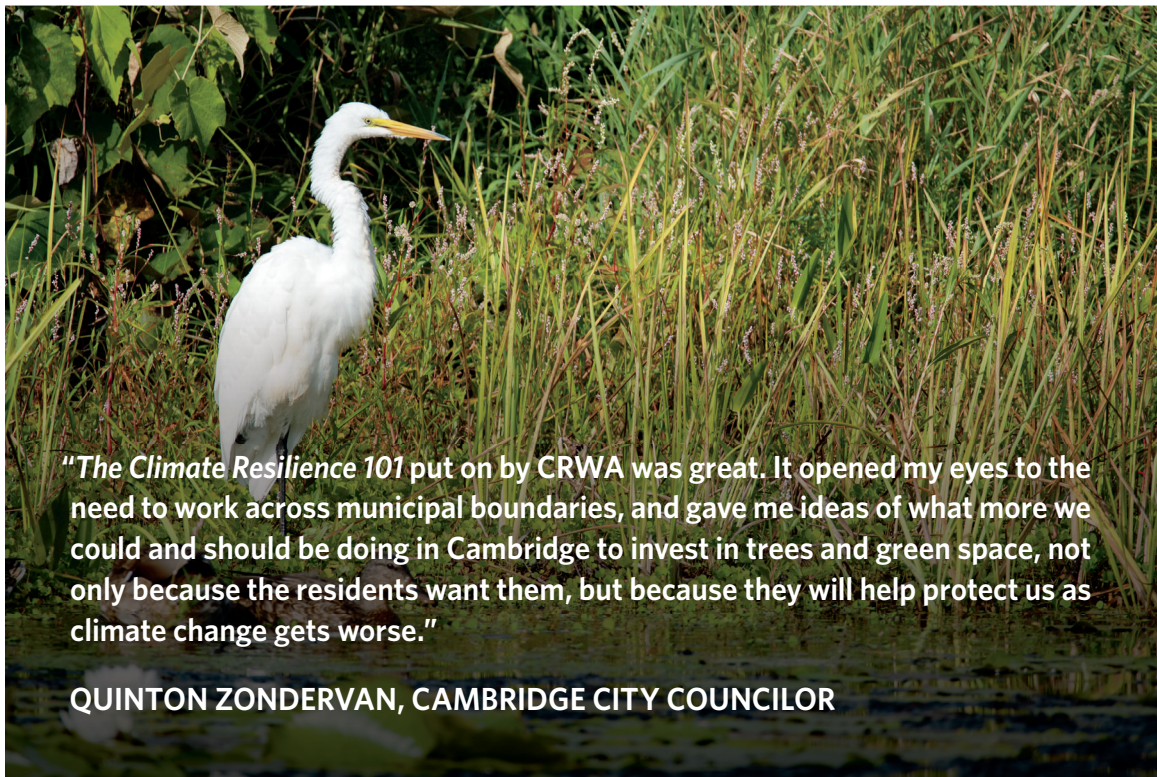


With every passing day, and every record-breaking storm or historic flood, it becomes clearer that climate change is the challenge of our time. According to the National Climate Assessment, the Northeast will face more heat, more frequent flooding, more intense precipitation during heavy storms, and greater ocean warming than the rest of the United States. We are already experiencing these impacts, and without action, they will intensify exponentially.

Cities and towns are on the front lines of climate adaptation and resilience. Local governments know to invest in police to protect communities from crime, in firefighters to protect communities from fire, and in local health departments and school nurses to protect public health. But the reality is that mayors, city councilors, and select board members are not yet giving nature-based solutions the attention they deserve as protection from flooding, heat, and pollution.

This is where CRWA comes in. In 2019, we launched the *Charles River Climate Compact* to facilitate collaboration between municipalities. CRWA also launched *Climate Resilience 101* trainings for local elected and appointed officials so they can better understand these growing threats, and provide them tools to proactively address them. Climate resilience zoning; stormwater utilities; local wetlands bylaws; and tree canopy protection; are all tools in the climate resilience toolkit.

We are also helping local officials understand that while they govern within municipal boundaries, water does not respect those boundaries, and decisions made upstream will impact downstream communities. For example, more impermeable surface means more flooding—yet it is virtually unheard of for a local select board to consider flooding impacts in another community when they are making development decisions.



"The Climate Resilience 101 put on by CRWA was great. It opened my eyes to the need to work across municipal boundaries, and gave me ideas of what more we could and should be doing in Cambridge to invest in trees and green space, not only because the residents want them, but because they will help protect us as climate change gets worse."

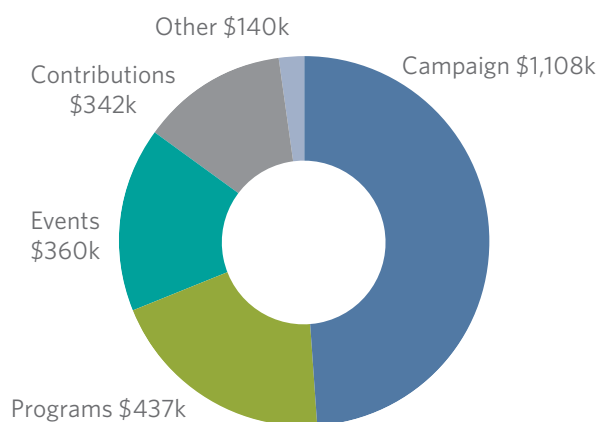
QUINTON ZONDERVAN, CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCILOR

FINANCIAL OUTLINE

FY 2019 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

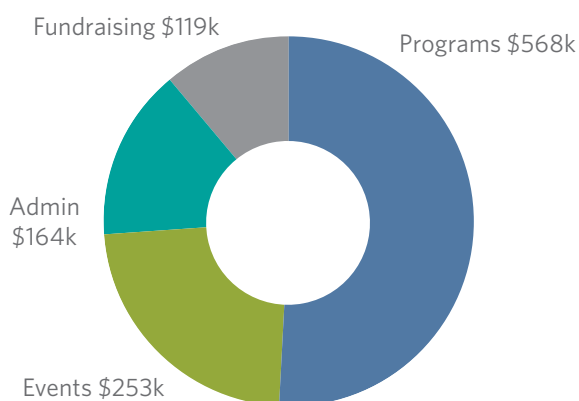
October 2018 to September 2019

Revenue & Support



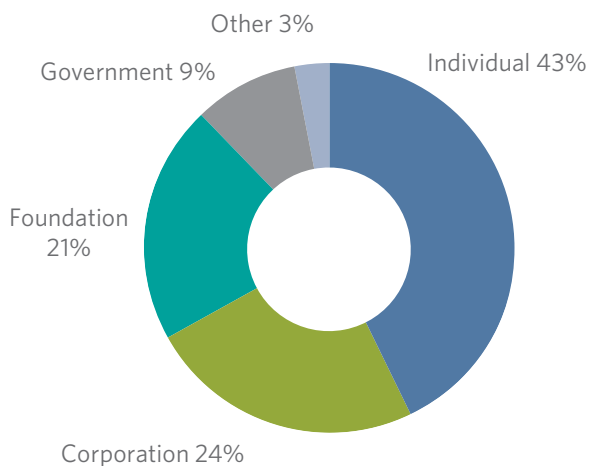
Total: \$2,387,000

Expenses

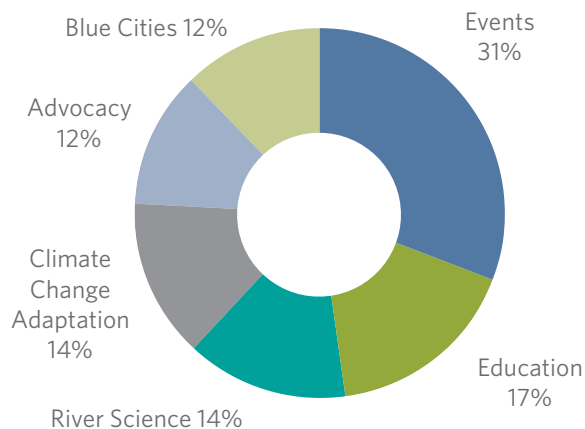


Total: \$1,104,000

Funding Sources



Program Expenses



**Not based on FY2019 audited financial statements, reported on a cash basis. Audited financial statements are available on CRWA's website.*

FY19 BY THE NUMBERS

120

BMI VOLUNTEER
(BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATES)

HOURS



528

VMM VOLUNTEER
(VOLUNTEER MONTHLY MONITOR)

HOURS

96

EDUCATIONAL
VISITS



20

PRESS
HITS

923

UNRESTRICTED
CONTRIBUTIONS
GIVEN IN FY19



875

INDIVIDUAL
DONORS IN FY19

110

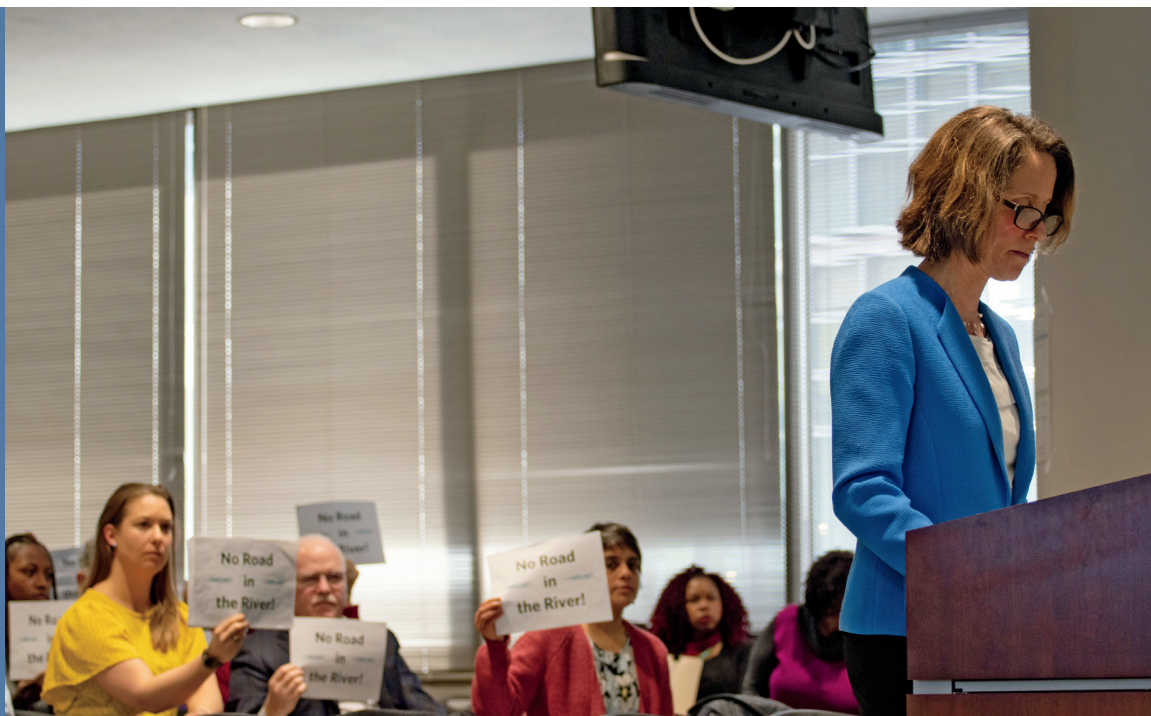
CORPORATE
DONORS IN FY19



153

CORPORATE
DONATIONS IN FY19

CRWA IN 2019



CRWA is raising its voice to say no to putting a road into the Charles River. MassDOT is gearing up to replace the Allston viaduct, which carries the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) from the Allston Interchange to the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge. This billion-dollar project involves realigning the MassPike in Allston. When Secretary Pollack selected the preferred design for the final project in January 2019, CRWA initially applauded the decision as one that would accomplish the project's ambitious transportation goals while simultaneously providing for improved stormwater management, enhanced climate change resilience, and river and riverbank restoration.

A few months after Secretary Pollack's announcement, MassDOT revealed publicly for the first time that during construction of the project, **Soldiers Field Road and the Paul Dudley White path would be "temporarily" relocated into the Charles River on fill and pilings, while I-90 would sit on additional fill and sheet pilings along the banks of the river.** Construction of the project is estimated to last 8-10 years. Disruption of the river's ecology and hydrology,

especially for that duration, would have permanent environmental impacts on the Charles. CRWA is pushing MassDOT to disclose and evaluate these environmental impacts, and fully vet alternative approaches to both construction phasing and final project design that would not harm the river. Stay informed at crwa.org/voice-of-the-river.

CRWA created a **Building Blue Framework guidance document** to assist developers, designers, and project reviewers in best practices for site design and land management that prioritize protecting the Charles River and its floodplain corridors. The Framework describes preferred design and construction practices related to landscaping, stormwater management, and control of erosion and sedimentation. These practices reinforce the use of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies in order to encourage sustainable development and appropriate climate adaptation measures within the Charles River watershed. Highlighting CRWA's green



infrastructure implementation projects within the watershed, examples of subwatershed plans and green infrastructure demonstration projects can be found in the guidance document.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, CRWA has developed a **Nature Based Solutions Mapping Tool**. This tool is designed to help town planners and conservation professionals identify priority conservation and restoration opportunities that have high habitat value, protect threatened water resources, and help mitigate expected flooding impacts of climate change.

Water chestnut removal continues to be a huge success in the Lakes District. Thanks to support from Charles River Canoe and Kayak, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Citizens Alliance for Noxious weed Eradication (CANoE), and our dedicated volunteers. When left unaddressed, the invasive water chestnut plant (*trapa natans*) outcompetes any native plant growth, degrading biodiversity and water quality. Its decay depletes oxygen levels in the water, further diminishing aquatic life and can lead to fish kills. Visual observations indicate that the 2019 post-season water chestnut coverage is the lowest we've seen in the program's history, thanks to the 300 volunteers who spent 900 hours hand-pulling approximately 8.7 tons of invasive plants.



In 2019, we launched our new volunteer program: **River Ambassadors**. This program focuses on creating environmental stewards who can help us raise awareness about local environmental issues. With 35 communities in the watershed and a small, hard-working staff of only 10 people, River Ambassadors broaden our reach by representing CRWA at festivals, fairs, summer concerts, and more. They speak to local residents about our mission, projects, and how people can help keep the Charles clean. For added fun, they often bring our hands-on demonstration, Watershed in a Box, to help children and families visualize the impacts many of our daily activities have on water quality and river health. Get involved at crwa.org/river-ambassadors.

Boston City Council recently approved a local Wetlands Ordinance. The Ordinance will boost protection of natural resources and climate resilience in the City of Boston. Boston City Councilor and Champion of the Charles, Michelle Wu, and her fellow Councilor Matt O'Malley were strong leaders on this issue and we thank them for their efforts. Local wetland ordinances or bylaws are great tools local communities can use to enhance and customize the protections of statewide environmental laws. Regulations implementing the ordinance will be developed over the coming year, and CRWA will continue working with the City and our partners to ensure that those regulations provide strong protections for rivers, streams, and wetlands within the City.

And much more! Stay updated on our projects and advocacy by subscribing to our monthly newsletter at crwa.org/river-current.

CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION DONORS

Your support helps CRWA continue its powerful combination of sound science, advocacy, and law to address today's threats. We couldn't accomplish our critical work without you. A big thank you from all of us at Charles River Watershed Association!

BLUE HERON SOCIETY

\$25,000 and up

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Gerstner Family Foundation
Elizabeth L. Johnson
Milford Power, LLC
Richard Saltonstall
Charitable Foundation
Robert and Lee Sproull

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Hamilton Company
Charitable Foundation
Highland Street Foundation
Roger and Dawn Kafker
McLane Harper Family
Charitable Foundation Inc.
Paddle Boston Charles River
Canoe & Kayak
Bob and Amy Rands

ALEWIFE SOCIETY

\$5,000-\$9,999

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Boston Duck Tours
Chris Baldwin and Sally
Reyering
CHT Foundation
Steven and Alexi Conine
Conservation Law Foundation
E & L Campbell
Family Foundation
Eaglemere Foundation
Eversource
Richard Gonci
Becca Gould and Bob Lagoyda
Harvard University, Public
Affairs and Communications
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Head Of The Charles Regatta
Barbara and Amos Hostetter
Patricia King and Tom Powers
Ms. Beedee Ladd
Morgan Palmer Foundation
Next Generation Fund of the
Roy A. Hunt Foundation

Eileen Shapiro and
Reuben Eaves
Molly Upton
Gwill York and Paul Maeder

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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Avis Budget Car Rental, LLC
Ben & Jerry's
BSA Foundation
CDM Smith
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Consumers for Sensible Energy
Laurie and Christopher Doyle
Roger Frymire
Google Gift Matching Program
Health Resources in Action
Houghton Chemical
Corporation
Intel Volunteer Grant Program
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Moore Family Foundation
M&T Charitable Foundation
Massachusetts Service Alliance
Sara Molyneaux and Don Law
Museum of Science
New England Biolabs
Oristaglio Family Foundation
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David and Shirley Parish
Patagonia Boston
Pfizer, Inc.
Jay and Marilyn Sarles
The Silver Tie Fund
Grant Thomas-Lepore
The Village Bank
Wellesley Bank
Charitable Foundation

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Amgen
Sue and Henry Bass
Beacon Hill Garden Club
Bergmeyer Associates
Beta Group, Inc.
Boston Beer Company

Boston Marriott Newton
Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Botero
BR+A Consulting Engineers
C.J. Brucato
Built Environment Coalition
Cambridge Boat Club
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Meredith and Eugene Clapp
COVEN for Good
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Dianne desRoches
John P. DeVillars and
Gunnel Clarke
Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Dworsky
Eastern Bank
Charitable Foundation
Edward H. and
Virginia K. Gunst Foundation
Edward and Linda Englander
ESP Solutions
ESS Group
Peter Fernandez
Jane T.N. Fogg
Trudi and Robert Fondren
Global Atlantic
Financial Group
Dwight and Helaine Golann
Diane and Steve Hall
Frederick Hewett
and Cheryl Mazaik
Hicks Family
Charitable Foundation
HNTB
Alice Hoffman
Horizon Beverage
Company, Inc.
Horsley Witten Group
John B. Howe and
Teresa Masterson-Howe
Henry Jao
Jiffy on Demand, LTD.
Holly and Bruce Johnstone
Jonathan Katz and
Norah Wylie
Dashiell Lagoyda
Virginia M. Lawrence
Linnean Solutions
Brad and Sharon Malt
Tim and Amy Martin
Ruth M. McKay
Nauset Construction

Corporation
Nitsch Engineering
Ms. Anne Van Nostrand
OptiRTC, Inc.
Hannah Blaisdell
Dr. and Mrs. Douglas D. Payne
Perls Foundation
Rack Attack USA, LLC
Ann M. Riker
Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Ryan
Salesforce.com Foundation
Roberta Schnoor
Simpson Gumpertz &
Heger Inc.
Mrs. Lee Sprague
TDC Development Group LLC
Tetra Tech, Inc.
The Triple T Foundation
Andrew Thomas
and Robin Lepore
TripAdvisor
Charitable Foundation
Venkat Venkatraman and
Carolyn Lattin
Vistaprint Corporate Solutions
Kristen and Mark Wallace
Paul and Jennifer Walsh
Weston & Sampson
Engineers Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Holyoke L.
Whitney
Peter and Dyann Wirth
Wodecroft Foundation
Gerard Wolf
Woodard & Curran
Ms. Summer B. Zeh and
Mr. James B. Wexler

RIVER STEWARD

\$500-\$999

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Alastair and Leslie Adam
Mary T. and S. James Adelstein
Mark S. and Carolyn Ain
Leonard Albano
and Kathleen Baskin
American Tower Foundation
Athenahealth, Inc.
David H. Bass and
Susan A. Hall
Janet K. Baum

“Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.”

JANE GOODALL

Benefit Cosmetics
Robert A. Margo and
Lee P. Breckenridge
BSC Companies, Inc.
Budget Dumpster, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Lalor Burdick
Lee Campbell
Laurel Carpenter and
Greg Shenstone
Carolyn and John Clark
Steven Cohen and Mary Akerson
Johanna Cortez
Cygna Therapeutics
Dedham Savings
Chris Doyle and David Brams
Kate Enroth
Janet and Mark Fagan
Andrew Falender
Fast Enterprises
Douglas and Judy Fitzsimmons
Frederic Gardner and
Sherley Gardner-Smith
GENSLER
James and Melissa Gerrity
Kim and Carol Goslant
Susan Hall
Brian Harris
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Inter-Fluve
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Kittery Trading Post
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Mr. and Mrs. David S. Lee
Persis and David Levy
Martin and Deborah
Hale Foundation
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Technology Government and
Community Relations
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K.
McClintock
Louisa P. and Robert Miller
Deborah and Timothy Moore
Amey Moot and
William K. Stewart
Eva Moseley
Philip and Didi Moser
National Grid
Matching Gift Program
Northeastern University
Huskiers and Outing Club
Roberta O'Connor and
Nigel Pickering

Patrick Engineering
Philip S. Harper Foundation
Katherine C. Raymond
Carolyn Reeves
Richard K Lubin Family
Foundation
Margaret E. Richardson
Daniel Robert
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Deborah and John Saltzman
Sasaki Foundation
Bryan Natale and
Carolina Save Natale
Erik Sebesta
Jon Skillman and Luanne Selk
Claire and Meir Stampfer
Subaru of New England
Florence C. Tao and
Lorenzo Montesi
The Lebowitz Aberly Family
Foundation
Union Boat Club
Margaret Van Deusen and
James Doyle
Walking Stick Family Fund
Ann and Brad Wallace
Willis G. Wang and Terri Yahia
Edward E. Watts, III
Debra Weisenstein
Leah Williams
Sally G. Withington
Sara L. Wragge

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\$250-\$499

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Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes
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John and Suzanne Besser
Jeffrey Bilezikian
Don and Marcia Blenko
Boston Roundtable, LLC
Scott Brown
Bradley Campbell
Lance Campbell
Kim Carr
Frederick and Susan Casselman
Charles River Bank
Phillip Chernin
William and Anna Clark

Jeffrey Coderre
Tim and Wilkie Cook
Shawn Cote
Bruce Douglas
Frank Dunau and Amy Davis
Edenred Commuter Benefit
Solutions, LLC
Mrs. Caroline Edwards
Terrence and Kristin Finn
Jocelyn Forbush
Renel Fredriksen
Walter and Anne Gamble
Julie Giller
Karen Glover
Lee and Henry Harrison
John Heraty
Charles Kane Jr. and
Anne Eldridge
John and Wilma Kassakian
Kevin Kee
Cristina Kennedy
Elizabeth C. Kent
Liza Ketchum and
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Deborah and Arthur Krieg
Trudy Lanman
Caitlin Lefchak
William R. Leitch
Stephen Leonard
John Lisker
Lower Falls Wine Company
Robert Margo
Karen Mauney-Brodek
Ellie and Alex McLane
Peter Munkenbeck and
Renata von Tscherner
Neighborhood House
Charter School
Edward A. Nowosielski
NRG Energy, Inc.
Ettly Padmodipoetro
Mark Partin
Nathan D. Phillips
Jennifer Polshak
David Queeley
Riverside Boat Club
of Cambridge
Glenn Rosen and Ann
Dannenberg Rosen
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Ellen Sarkisian and
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Stephen and Peg Senturia
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Nancy E. Spence

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Gerald Swislow
Nicholas Tawa, Jr.
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The Cheesecake Factory
Corporate Support Center
The Kensington
The Whitney Hotel
Tighe & Bond
Denise Trapani
Donna VanderClock
Sally Mapp Walker and
Francis C. Lynch
Wegmans
Mercy Wheeler
Charles Willauer
John Wofford
Nancy and Fred Woods

RIVER ASSOCIATE

\$100-\$249

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Geoff Adams
Alchemy Foundation
Jane and Robert Alter
American Society
of Civil Engineers
John Andel
James Anderson
Robert and Linda Asher
Steven Atlas and
Lestra Litchfield
Nadya Avanesova
Alaa Ayach
Richard Babayan and
Sonya Nersessian
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Elizabeth Freeman
Harvey and Jayne Beker
Jerry and Gay Bird
Robert and Carolyn Blanks
Suzanne and Rudy Blier
Peggy S. Blitz
Dr. Kerry Bloomingdale
Kenneth S. and Robin Boger
Janelle Bonn
Roger R. Bradford and
Martha Stanton

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 Ray Brown
 Lynn Browne
 David Bryant and
 Ellen Fels Berkman
 Elizabeth Cabot
 Ms. Caroline Dixwell Cabot
 Kathryn Cade and
 Frederick Miller
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 Garden Club
 Patricia Cantor and
 Jeffrey Petrucelly
 Edward Cardoza
 Blair Carlson and
 Elizabeth A. Dannewitz
 Christine Carpenter and
 David Hatch
 Walter and Bonnie Carter
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 Amanda Darwin
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 Charles River
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 Charlesgate Yacht Club, Inc.
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 Dr. Robert and Jean Cook
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 Diane Kemsley
 Costco
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 and Mr. Harvey A. Creem
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 Cynthia Dunn Fleming
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 Martha Creedon
 Sam Kendall and Cathie Zusy
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 Bill and Liz Paula King
 Morgan King
 Brian Kinney
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 Dominic Marino
 Tani Marinovich and
 Charles Kouyoumjian
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 Peter and Beatrice Nessen
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 Ralph Helmick
 Katherine Nimkin
 Jeffrey North
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 Oleg Simanovsky and
 Martha Maguire
 Jeryl and Stephen Oristaglio
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 David and Stephanie Osser
 John and Elizabeth Palester
 Cosmo and Jane Papa
 Alan Pasnik
 Jennifer Payette and
 Jeffrey Peterson
 Sarah and Pete Pedersen
 Adrienne Pereira
 Mark Peters
 Verona M. Peters
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 Charlotte Pierce
 Mrs. May H. Polly Pierce

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 Kendall and Betsy Pritchard
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 Pamela Goodman
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 Gina Arons
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 Hospital
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 Caitlin Sprague
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 David M. Berson
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 Betty Tong
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 Anne E. Hadley
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 Vita Coco
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 Peter F. and Anne Weller
 Weston Garden Club
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 Mead and Ann Wyman
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 and Dr. Frederick M. Gale
 Michael Yeomans
 Linda Zawadzki
 Charlie Zhang
 Robert and Kathy Zimmerman

BASIC MEMBERSHIP

\$50 - \$99

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CAMPAIGN FOR THE CHARLES RIVER



Today, we are pursuing a vision that is transformational, practical, and essential. The Campaign for the Charles River went public on September 19, 2019. This **\$10 million campaign** will provide CRWA with the financial resources we need in order to:

- ◆ Restore a clean, swimmable river for people and wildlife.
- ◆ Restore natural river flow for ecological, recreational, and human uses.
- ◆ Protect human and ecological systems from climate change impacts by replicating nature.
- ◆ Protect public trust parklands, watershed lands, and access to the river.
- ◆ Shape the successful transformation of the Charles into a practical model for communities worldwide.

During the initial quiet phase of the campaign CRWA raised **\$6.3 million**.

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To learn more, visit crwa.org or contact us at (781) 788-0007 or charles@crwa.org

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