CHARLES RIVER
WATERSHED
ASSOCIATION

CRWA

A N N U A L R E P O R T

20 18

# **Dear Members and Friends,**

As we close out our 2017 fiscal year and look back at our accomplishments, I find myself pleasantly surprised and hopeful. 2017 was a tough year for the environment, but as advocates, volunteers and donors, you came through for the Charles River and for CRWA, and we were able to make meaningful progress fighting for clean water and climate resiliency.

CRWA's own strength and resiliency are especially important to me now. As you may know, I am retiring in 2018, and CRWA's Board of Directors and staff have been working closely with me to plan for CRWA's future. A search for the next director is underway, maintaining CRWA's role as the leading science and advocacy organization protecting the Charles River and its watershed.

I'm so grateful to the inspiring scientists, dedicated volunteers, committed government employees and devoted advocates I have worked with during my 28 years at CRWA. Together we restored the Charles River. And although there is much hard work ahead, I look back on all CRWA has achieved with great pride. I am eager to see all that CRWA accomplishes in the future.

Warm wishes,

Robert Z. Zimmerman, Jr. Executive Director

### **CRWA'S WORK AT A GLANCE**

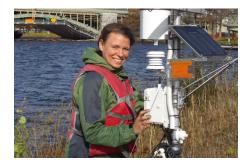


# SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

CRWA is a small, innovative, science-based organization that has been the catalyst for real change to the Charles River thanks in large part to the leadership, dedication, and determination of Executive Director Bob Zimmerman over the last 3 decades. Since its founding in 1965, CRWA has grown from a grassroots watershed group into a powerhouse for environmental protection and restoration built on field science, urban design, advocacy and the law while remaining true to its community roots.

# **THANK YOU BOB, FOR 28 YEARS!**

#### RIGOROUS RIVER SCIENCE



Knowing that strong and effective environmental policies must be premised on an understanding of complex watershed dynamics, Bob established a rigorous field science program. CRWA's river science includes monthly and weekly water quality sampling, biological monitoring and invasive plant management.

#### PREVENTING SEWAGE POLLUTION



Under Bob's leadership, CRWA advocated for strong river protection in development of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's long term control plan to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Charles River. This plan led to a 99% annual reduction in CSOs.

#### TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE



Using Bob's vision for a resilient future, CRWA developed and thoroughly tested a model for using distributed wastewater infrastructure to generate renewable energy, sustain and restore rivers and streams, and improve flood control while creating new green space.

# COLLABORATING FOR A CLEANER CHARLES

#### **GREENING NEIGHBORHOODS**



As part of our Blue Cities Initiative, CRWA collaborated on designing and building green streets in Allston, Cambridge and Watertown. A green street incorporates trees and gardens in place of pavement to improve stormwater infiltration and reduce polluted runoff to the river.

#### **IMPROVING FISH MIGRATION**



CRWA assisted with the removal of Old Mill Dam in the Town of Bellingham, CRWA continues to work with state agencies and community groups to evaluate the feasibility of removing the Watertown Dam, which would improve upstream migration of American shad.

### **ENGAGING COMMUNITIES**



CRWA and Wheelock College collaborated to determine the effects of recent habitat restoration efforts on the Muddy River, evaluating water quality data and benthic macroinvertebrate biodiversity. CRWA also collaborated with Magazine Beach Partners and other community groups to restore habitat at Magazine Beach.

# ADVOCATING FOR THE CHARLES

#### PROMOTING WATER CONSERVATION

CRWA pressed for legislation that would strengthen the state's ability to mandate water conservation measures during a drought, testifying in support of "An Act Relative to Drought Management" to improve the state's drought responsiveness. CRWA also advocated for a rewrite of the state's Drought Management Plan.

#### ADVOCATING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING

Joining other environmental advocates, CRWA advocated for 1% of the state budget to fund the environment with adequate funding for the Departments of Environmental Protection and Conservation and Recreation and statewide funding for invasive aquatic plant control.

#### FIGHTING ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN POLLUTION PERMITS

CRWA opposed the governor's bill to transfer the water pollution permitting program from U.S. EPA to the state because this transfer would provide no environmental benefit and cost MA taxpayers millions of dollars each year. CRWA advocated for a "fix it first" approach to water quality protection in MA.

#### **WORKING TO KEEP WATER LOCAL**

CRWA fought for improvements to the state's Interbasin Transfer Act regulations, which regulate drinking water and wastewater transfers across watershed boundaries.

#### ARGUED TO REDUCE STORMWATER POLLUTION

CRWA with Conservation Law Foundation sued U.S. EPA under the Clean Water Act for its failure to require property owners with an acre or more of impervious surface on their properties to reduce their stormwater pollution discharging to the Charles River. Polluted stormwater runoff carrying bacteria, pathogens and nutrients is the major impediment to restoring the health of the Charles. EPA, while acknowledging this problem, maintained that is does not have a mandatory

duty to regulate these properties. Unfortunately, the judge agreed with EPA and dismissed our suit.

#### **RESISTING ATTACKS ON THE CLEAN WATER ACT**

When U.S. EPA issued the MA Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) General Permit, CRWA and Conservation Law Foundation appealed the permit because it fails to adequately protect rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. The MS4 permit, issued under the federal Clean Water Act, is intended to reduce polluted stormwater runoff discharging to rivers and streams.

#### CHAMPIONING PUBLIC GREEN SPACE

CRWA, working with other environmentalists, convinced Education First (EF) to increase public green space, public benefits in tidelands, and to improve management of polluted stormwater runoff at its proposed third building on the Charles River. EF agreed to contribute \$500,000 for maintenance in North Point Park in Cambridge and to enhance public programming on the site.

#### OPPOSING A NEW POWER PLANT

CRWA intervened before the state Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) arguing that an Exelon power plant proposed for Medway be required to offset new water withdrawals to protect local water resources. The final decision by the EFSB required some mitigation, but did not go far enough to protect the stressed upper watershed from the facility's increased water withdrawal impacts.

#### **ENVISIONING A BETTER 1-90 INTERCHANGE**

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation plans to rebuild the Mass Pike (I-90) Allston Interchange and to replace the aging viaduct. As members of the I-90 Allston Interchange Task Force, CRWA advocated that increased flood control, reduced pollution, and improved public access to the Charles River must be central to this project.



# BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Massachusetts is experiencing climate change: sea level rise, more intense storms, longer dry periods, and rising temperatures. Flooding overwhelms existing water infrastructure and drought further stresses an already degraded river. In response, CRWA is working to design and build resilient landscapes to mitigate flooding impacts, reduce stormwater pollution, and be resilient to drought conditions. This is our Climate Initiative.

#### **IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM**



CRWA scientists identify and study stormwater pollution and flooding issues, for example this section of Edenfield Avenue in Watertown—the site of one of CRWA's green streets now under construction.

#### **DESIGNING POSSIBILITIES**



CRWA works with communities and neighborhood residents to create green infrastructure designs, such as this design for Chestnut Street in Cambridge, which will filter rain water and reduce flooding.

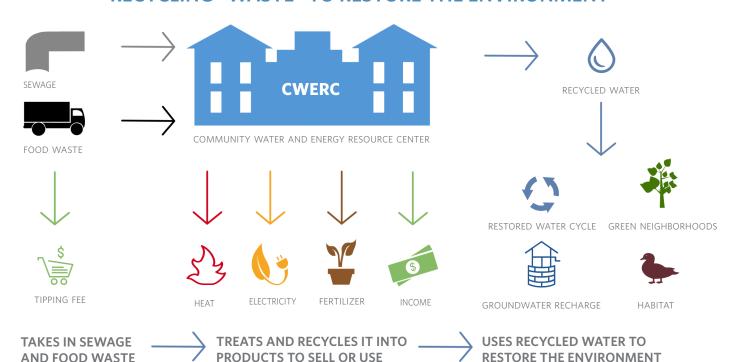
#### GREENING THE NEIGHBORHOOD



CRWA collaborates with partners of all types on building Blue Cities projects, from designing and constructing rain gardens at local schools to working with towns to install green infrastructure in public spaces.

CRWA is building resilience by designing and promoting Community Water and Energy Resource Centers (CWERCs)—distributed waste-to-energy plants that are designed to be environmentally and financially sustainable—providing both climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.

### RECYCLING "WASTE" TO RESTORE THE ENVIRONMENT



# CRWA BY THE NUMBERS

# TRACKING RIVER HEALTH

#### **86 CITIZEN SCIENTISTS**

MONITORED THE RIVER MONTHLY

#### **494 RIVER SAMPLES**

ANALYZED FOR BACTERIA

#### **6 MONTHS**

PERFECT ATTENDANCE BY MONTHLY MONITORS

#### 2,377 RIVER INSECTS AND BUGS

CLASSIFIED TO DETERMINE RIVER HEALTH



# RESTORING THE RIVER

#### **375 VOLUNTEERS**

RESTORED HABITAT AT MAGAZINE BEACH

#### 31 TONS OF TRASH

COLLECTED AT CRWA'S CHARLES RIVER CLEANUP

#### **59 MILES OF RIVER HABITAT**

RECONNECTED AFTER REMOVAL OF MILL DAM

## 3,219 BASKETS OF INVASIVES

REMOVED FROM THE CHARLES BY VOLUNTEERS



### **ALERTING BOATERS**

#### 11 PARTNER BOATHOUSES

FLEW CRWA FLAGS TO REPORT DAILY WATER QUALITY

#### 26 DAYS

WHEN RED FLAGS CAUTIONED BOATERS



#### 140 WATER SAMPLES

COLLECTED TO VALIDATE WATER QUALITY FORECASTS

#### 89% ACCURACY

OF DAILY WATER QUALITY FORECASTS

### **AMPLIFYING YOUR VOICE**

#### **40 COMMENT LETTERS**

TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND REGULATIONS

### **HUNDREDS OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

ATTENDED ON BEHALF OF THE RIVER AND ITS CITIZENS

#### **104 HOURS**

LOBBYING FOR GOOD ENVIRONMENTAL BILLS AND AGAINST BAD ONES



# **ENERGIZING RIVER LOVERS**

### **700 RESIDENTS**

Reduced water usage with New Smartphone app

#### 860 STUDENTS

ENGAGED IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

#### **26 HOMEOWNERS**

REDUCED POLLUTION WITH RAIN GARDENS AND RAIN BARRELS

#### 900 PADDLERS

COMPETED IN THE 35TH RUN OF THE CHARLES RACE

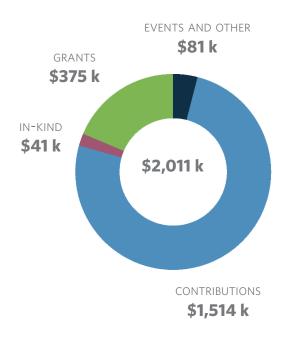


# FY 2017 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

October 2016 to September 2017

# **REVENUE AND SUPPORT**

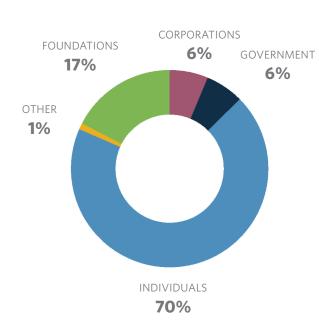
# **EXPENSES**

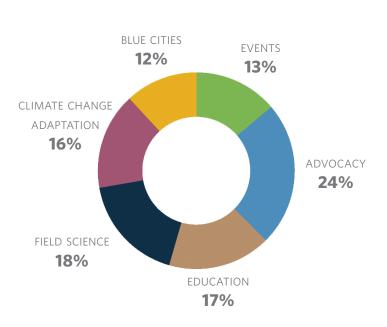




# **FUNDING SOURCES**

### **PROGRAM EXPENSES**





# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CRWA

CRWA is grateful for the generosity of individuals, foundations and businesses that support our efforts to protect and preserve the Charles River and its watershed. Below is a summary of contributions and grant support from October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017. Due to space constraints, only gifts of \$100 or more are listed.

# Blue Heron Society (\$25,000 and up)

Anonymous (2)
Eaglemere Foundation
E & L Campbell Family Foundation
The Harold Whitworth Pierce
Charitable Trust
Edward Ladd
Linda and Andy McLane
Richard Saltonstall Charitable
Foundation
The Scherman Foundation, Inc.
Robert and Lee Sproull

# **American Shad Society** (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Bilezikian Family Foundation, Inc.
Boston Duck Tours
Cedar Tree Foundation
Alexi and Steven Conine
Education First
Mrs. Christina T. Hobbs
Brad and Sharon Malt
Margot C. Pyle
Ropes & Gray, LLP
Tom Sieniewicz and Martha Eddison
Sieniewicz

# Alewife Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous (3)
Boating in Boston & DC
David Bryant and Ellen Fels Berkman
Foundation for MetroWest
Bruce Green
Head Of The Charles Regatta
Horsley Witten Group
Houghton Chemical Corporation
Roger and Dawn Kafker
KIND Healthy Snacks
Beedee Ladd
Bob and Amy Rands

Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Dr. Marilyn and Mr. H. Jay Sarles
Eileen Shapiro and Reuben Eaves
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Thornhill
Molly Upton
Paul and Jennifer Walsh
Whole Foods Market

# **Headwaters Society** (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anonymous (2) Ralph and Ellen Abele Beacon Hill Garden Club Dr. Hamid Benbrahim and Dr. Greta Meszoely Eugene and Meredith Clapp Clif Bar Family Foundation Laurie and Christopher Doyle Eversource Diane and Steve Hall Mr. and Mrs. Arnold W. Hunnewell Intel Volunteer Grant Program Katherine C. and David E. Moore Family Foundation Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis Massachusetts Service Alliance Deborah and Timothy Moore National Fish and Wildlife Foundation New England Biolabs Oristaglio Family Foundation Patagonia Boston Pfizer Global Research & Development Tom Powers and Pat King The Silver Tie Fund Mr. and Mrs. Holyoke L. Whitney The Village Bank

# River Champions (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Anonymous (6) Mary T. and S. James Adelstein Bard, Rao + Athanas Consulting Engineers

Sue and Henry Bass Mr. Greg and Anne Benning **Boston University** Mr. and Mrs. Rodrigo Botero Stephen Burrington and Abigail Swaine The Cadmus Group CDM Smith Charles River Canoe & Kayak John DeVillars Dewey Square Group, LLC Dick's Sporting Goods Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. Dworsky Edward H. and Virginia K. Gunst Foundation Eric and Carly Ekman Edward and Linda Englander Jack and Brenda Geishecker Dwight and Helaine Golann Google Mary B. Griffin H. Kirsch Family Foundation Fund of The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties Robert C. and Michele C. Hanss Mrs. Francis W. Hatch Hicks Family Charitable Foundation Susan Jarvi Holly and Bruce Johnstone Jonathan Katz and Norah Wylie L.L. Bean Lawrence & Lillian Solomon Foundation **Linnean Solutions** Anne Lovett and Steve Woodsum Martin Fund Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ken and Peggy McIntosh Ruth M. McKay The Midvale Foundation Jane and Robert Morse Peter Munkenbeck and Renata von

Tscharner

Association, Inc.

New England Water Environment

"My wife and I walk and bike along the river. It is a gem"

### **River Champions continued**

The Paul and Edith Babson Foundation David and Shirley Parish Dr. and Mrs. Douglas D. Payne Perls Foundation Rack Attack USA, LLC Harland and Ann Riker Daniel Robert Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Ryan Roberta Schnoor Tetra Tech, Inc. Grant Thomas-Lepore Andrew Torchia and Amy Wu The Triple T Foundation Ms. Anne Van Nostrand Venkat Venkatraman and Carolyn Lattin Willis G. Wang and Terri Yahia Peter and Dvann Wirth Woodard & Curran Sara L. Wragge Ms. Summer B. Zeh and Mr. James B. Wexler

## **River Stewards** (\$500 - \$999)

Anonymous (3) Josh Ain Mark S. and Carolyn Ain American Rivers, Inc. David H. Bass and Susan A. Hall Arthur Buckland Mr. and Mrs. Lalor Burdick Laurie Burt Levin H. Campbell, Jr. Laurel Carpenter and Greg Shenstone Mr. and Mrs. Damon Carter, Jr. Carolyn and John Clark Classic Communications Jeffrey Coderre Steven Cohen Anne and Jim Davis Amy Domini and Mike Thornton ExxonMobil Foundation Maureen and Chris Febiger Douglas and Judy Fitzsimmons Robert Flanagan Jane T.N. Fogg Richard S. and Mariele Forte James and Melissa Gerrity Margaret and Peter Goldman Kim and Carol Goslant Becca Gould and Bob Lagoyda Belle Linda Halpern and Mitchell A. Rosenberg

Nancy Hammett Frederick Hewett and Cheryl Mazaik Frank and Emily Hunnewell Income Research & Management JetBlue Airways Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation Ann and Thouis Jones Christopher and Susan Klem Kohl's Marianna Koval and Stephen Burgay Virginia M. Lawrence Martin and Deborah Hale Foundation Mr. and Mrs. Thomas K. McClintock Merck Foundation Louisa P. and Robert Miller Sara Molyneaux and Don Law Philip Moser Peter and Beatrice Nessen Noble and Greenough School Philip S. Harper Foundation Katherine C. and Edward Raymond Jonathan Reiss Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Rheault, Jr. Deborah and John Saltzman Robert W. Schlauch Mr. John Shields Jon Skillman and Luanne Selk Claire and Meir Stampfer Lucy B. Stroock Elizabeth D. Sweet Florence C. Tao and Lorenzo Montesi Union Boat Club Ann Fowler Wallace and Brad Wallace Edward E. Watts, III Joan Winstein

## **River Advocates** (\$250 - \$499)

Gerard Wolf

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Sally Mapp Walker and Francis C. Lynch

Walking Stick Family Fund

Leah Williams

# **River Associates** (\$100 - \$249)

Anonymous (22)

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Abernathy

Dr. Robert H. Ackerman

Leonard Albano and Kathleen Baskin

Alchemy Foundation Ann Marie Allara

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Allis

Robert and Jane Alter

David and Sally Ames

James Anderson

Dr. and Mrs. William S. Appleton

Diane Arenella Mary Armstrong

Rebecca Warner and Steven Asher

Steven Atlas and Lestra Litchfield

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Heidi Barron

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence C. Bauer

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Dr. James C. Beck

Nancy and Reinier Beeuwkes

Dr. Barry M. Berger

Edward Cardoza

Blair Carlson and Elizabeth A.

Dannewitz

Christine Carpenter and David Hatch

Walter and Bonnie Carter

Phil and Robbie Catchings Andrew T. Caulfield and Suzana

Assahina

Dana Cetlin and Amanda Darwin

Charlesgate Yacht Club, Inc.

Charles River Valley Garden Club

Lael and Charles Chester

Gary Chung

Mr. and Mrs. William Cleary, Jr.

Ralph Clover

Jon Come and Sandy Gould

Community Boating, Inc.

Concept 2, Inc.

Douglas Cornelius

Leslie Creedy

The Honorable Cynthia Creem and Mr.

Harvey A. Creem

Richard Cryan

Susan Davies and Richard Talkov

Dennie Davis

Victoria Denninger

Diana Denning

Richard and Kathy Diamond

Luise and Alan Dittrich

Steven M. Finn

T. Corwin and Cynthia Dunn Fleming

Margot Flouton and Robert Barnes

Sam and Margaret Fogel Trudi and Robert L. Fondren

David Forsyth

James Frantzreb

Margaretta Lyon Fulton

Garden Club of Back Bay

John C. Goodman and Virginia Jordan

Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance

Company

Robert Green

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Henry R. and Gale R. Guild

Susan Gulesian

Gita Haddad

James Hammitt

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John and Linda Hampton

Elizabeth P. and Steven B. Handler

John Happ

John Hawes and Emily Barclay

Catherine Henn

Fred Hennie

Mr. Larry and Mrs. Jane Herlacher

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Herrmann, Jr.

Philip and Barbara Hillman

"It is a delight to watch the fish jumping, the many boats of all kinds, the birds and people enjoying the scene, walking, running, cycling and picnicking—CRWA has changed the lives of many, many people and communities.

# - Louise M. Botero, member

John and Suzanne Besser Robert and Carolyn Blanks Don and Marcia Blenko Suzanne and Rudy Blier

Kenneth S. and Robin Boger

Patricia A. Bonnet Julian S. Booth

Boston Marriott Newton Hotel

Doris and Michael Boudens

Seth Briggs Dr. David Brown

Budget Dumpster, LLC

Mrs. Lawrence T. Cabot

Ms. Caroline Dixwell Cabot

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Michael T. Huguenin and Sharon L.

Chown

Terry and Gale Hunt Debra Iles and Erik Sobel

Virginia Inglis Mort Isaacson

Tilia Klebenov Jacobs

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Joseph M. Hamilburg Foundation Elizabeth and Michael Kamio

Michael Kan

Mr. and Mrs. Francis T. Keally

Martha Keating

Leo Keightley and Martha Creedon

Mr. T. Ross Kelly

Sam Kendall and Cathie Zusy

Franklin King and Margaret Pantridge

Bill and Liz Paula King

Elena Kingsland

Harry and Chris Kirsch Judy and John Knutson

Fulton and Margaret Kornack Ernesta and Mark Kraczkiewicz

Steve Kropper Lisa Kunze Douglas Larrick

Michael and Monica Lehner

Betsy P. and William R. Leitch Kate Lemons and Van Morrill

Scott Livingston

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Katherine Watkins

Wegmans

Peter F. and Anne Weller

William Wells and Colleen Gillard

Jay Werb and Ellen Katz Bancroft and Mercy Wheeler

White Corporation Mary Allen Wilkes

Ms. Elizabeth A. Wilkinson

Glen R. Williamson Scott and Anne Wilson

Lenore and Howard Winkler

Arnee R. and Walter A. Winshall

Joan Gordon Wislocki Sara G. Withington John Wofford

Mary F. Wolfson

Cynthia and Robert Wong Nancy and Fred Woods

Mead and Ann Wyman Dr. Charlotte S. Yeh and

Dr. Frederick M. Gale

Margaret F. Young Richard E. Zahn

### **Governmental Support**

Boston Planning & Development Agency

Boston Water and Sewer Commission City of Cambridge

Dedham-Westwood Water District

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Town of Franklin

US Environmental Protection Agency Town of Watertown

#### Gifts in honor of

Holly and Bruce Johnstone In honor of Beedee K. Ladd

Roger B Kafker

In honor of Linda and Andy McLane

Frederick and Jane Sillman In honor of Robert W. Schlauch

Joan Winstein In honor Keith J. Winstein

### Gifts in memory of

Katherine C. and David E. Moore Family Foundation In memory of Kate C. Moore

Nancy Mulvey

In memory of Theda J. Leonard



The rejuvenated Charles River is home to a resurgent fish and wildlife population including bald eagles, river herring, American shad, and Great Blue herons. CRWA continues to work to improve this unique urban oasis.



Millions of people paddle the Charles River and play or exercise along its banks every year. CRWA fights to ensure that the "People's River" and its parklands are protected and accessible for all.



CRWA volunteers participate in stewardship programs protecting the environment and the Charles River. CRWA is building resilient, green communities able to adapt to a change climate where the next generation—and everyone—will thrive.