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CRWA partners awarded \$600,000 in climate resilience grants from Baker Administration

BOSTON, MA [September 16, 2020] — Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) is excited to announce we are partners on two of the municipal climate resilience grants announced yesterday by the Baker Administration: \$419,000 for Green Stormwater Infrastructure in Milford Town Park, and \$264,000 to develop a watershed flood model for the Charles River watershed.

In Milford, CRWA is partnering with the town to design and construct green stormwater infrastructure within Milford Town Park. This project will install two rain gardens and one underground infiltration system. These nature based solutions will reduce pollution in the Charles River and help recharge the Town's water supply aquifers, building resilience to both flooding and drought. The Town Park is located adjacent to the Stacy Middle School and the project will engage town residents and the middle school community via active outdoor learning. CRWA has been partnering with the Milford Department of Public Works, Parks, and other departments since 2018 on subwatershed planning, partially supported by a 604(b) planning grant from MassDEP. This project will commence later this month and be completed by June 30, 2021.

The Charles River watershed flood modeling project involves 15 watershed communities, with the Town of Natick serving as the lead applicant. The watershed model will show where and when precipitation driven flooding is expected to occur under future climate scenarios and will serve as an important planning tool for communities throughout the watershed. While extensive modeling has been done along the coast and in the Lower Charles river, inland communities have been left out of these efforts but still face significant threats from intense rain events. The project is also an opportunity to bring consistency across watershed communities with respect to planning and governing for expected climate impacts. The project is part of a regional planning group CRWA created in 2019 called the Charles River Climate Compact. The Compact facilitates discussion and cooperation among watershed communities, as climate change impacts such as flooding and heat island do not stop at municipal borders. This project will also commence shortly and be completed by June 30, 2020.

These climate resilience grants are provided by the Baker Administration's [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) program](#) which supports climate change resiliency planning and implementation. The program provides communities with funding and technical support to identify climate hazards, develop strategies to improve resilience, and implement priority actions to adapt to climate change. According to Mass EEA, [82%](#) of Massachusetts cities and towns are now enrolled in the MVP program.

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Charles River Watershed Association uses science, advocacy, urban design and education to promote resilient communities and a healthy river ecosystem. CRWA was formed in 1965 in response to public concern about the declining condition of the Charles River. Since its earliest days of advocacy, CRWA has figured prominently in major clean-up and watershed protection efforts that have dramatically improved the health of the Charles.