

CRC NEWS 2016



AN ACTIVE, ATTRACTIVE AND ACCESSIBLE CHARLES RIVER

SWIM THE CHARLES!

One step closer to swimming in the Charles River?

By Steve Annear, Globe Staff, Sept. 9, 2016

“A leap from the dock at a permanent swimming facility built along the Charles River could still be years away. But that summertime fantasy is one small step closer to becoming reality, river advocates say. The nonprofit Charles River Conservancy announced Friday that it had surpassed its fund-raising goal of \$25,000, and can now forge ahead with research on the feasibility of creating a lasting swimming spot. The group, which spearheaded efforts to build the Lynch Family Skate Park, envisions installing a floating dock near North Point Park in Cambridge... The money raised by 287 donors, through an online campaign on Indiegogo, will fund the technical aspects of the project, including conducting bathymetric (depth) testing, water quality testing, and turbidity (cloudiness) testing, officials said.”

The Boston Globe



Feasibility Study Rendering by Stantec for the Conservancy.



CRC's Jennifer Gilbert joined Jim Braude on Greater Boston to talk about swimming in the Charles River.



WGBH NEWS: Aired August 1, 2016

“These days, the Charles River has become a completely different type of natural resource. From beer brewing competitions to organized swim days, the river might finally be close to dropping its dirty reputation.

“With hopes to put a permanent floating dock for swimming near North Point Park, Swimmable Charles Committee Chair Jennifer Gilbert and Desalitech CEO Nadav Efraty joined Jim Braude to take a closer look at the new face of the Charles River. Gilbert hopes that the river will soon be swimmable for the whole summer.”

Boston's once-toxic river flows to your beer mug

By Shachar Peled, CNN, Wed October 19, 2016

“Thanks to the ongoing efforts of the Watershed Association and local authorities, the US Environmental Protection Agency gave the river a B+ in 2015, up dramatically from its D in 1995... ‘It's still got its issues, but you can boat on it safely, occasionally swim in it safely, and we're working hard to get it the rest of the way,’ [CRWA President Bob] Zimmerman said.

“‘There used to be swimming in the Charles River until the 1950s. So, many people have fond memories of swimming in the river,’ [CRC President] von Tscharner said.”



Renata von Tscharner
Charles River Conservancy founder and president





WICKED LOCAL ALLSTON-BRIGHTON

Posted Aug 25, 2016 at 10:48 AM

Sunday Parkland Games begins eighth season

“Renata von Tscharnher, president of the Charles River Conservancy, was recently presented with a \$5,000 check by Ray and Michelle Ciccolo of the Ciccolo Family Foundation to support the eighth season of the CRC’s Sunday Parkland Games.

“The CRC, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, provides free games and activities in the parklands on the banks of the Charles River. From Aug. 7 to Sept. 25, the games will be held Sundays from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at Herter Park in Allston.”

(Above Left) “Renata von Tscharnher, president of the Conservancy, accepts a \$5,000 check from Ray and Michelle Ciccolo, of the Ciccolo Family Foundation, in support of the 2016 Sunday Parkland Games. The foundation also supports the renovation of the theater in Herter Park where the Conservancy holds regular cleanup and landscaping events.”



GUESTS ON THE CONSERVANCY’S PARKLANDS TV SHOW

OVER 100 SHOWS ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE



Jay Livingstone, *State Representative*
February 25, 2016

Livingstone’s district stretches from the Back Bay and Beacon Hill to the West End along the Charles River’s Boston banks and from Magazine Beach to the Museum of Science in Cambridge. Joining Renata on-air, Livingstone spoke about the planned South Bank Bridge, adjacent to the former Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, the Historic Parkways Initiative along Memorial Drive, and his dips in the Charles during the City Splash swim events.



Jan Devereux, *Cambridge City Councilor*
March 24, 2016

The first-time City Councilor joined Renata on air to discuss issues that are of particular interest to her: livability, climate change and traffic. A longtime Cambridge resident, Devereux is passionate about broadening civic engagement, preserving neighborhood character and socio-economic diversity, improving transportation infrastructure and pedestrian and bike safety, and protecting Cambridge’s natural resources and open space.



Jeffrey Simon, *Senior Principal for Stantec*
June 12, 2016

Simon oversaw Stantec’s volunteer team of 15 planners, landscape designers, and other professionals who completed the Swimmable Charles Feasibility Study. Their work included analyzing different potential locations, which led to selecting a space within North Point Park. The Stantec team also created renderings of a preliminary conceptual design and listed next steps for the project.



Vans Skating Legend Tony Alva enjoyed the Lynch Family Skatepark at its opening on November 14, 2015.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY BRINGS SMITHSONIAN TO THE SKATEPARK FOR INNOSKATE!

Legendary Skaters Rodney Mullen and Christian Hosoi Join MIT Experts

CAMBRIDGE, MA—October 29, 2016—Innoskate 2016 kicked-off Friday, October 28 with a special evening event at MIT’s Edgerton Center to explore the intersections of art, technology, creativity, and innovation. Today at the Lynch Family Skatepark, the festival continued with discussion and activities exploring the history and technological evolution of the skateboard (how skaters and innovators work together to push the boundaries of skating) and an exploration of cognitive science and how the brain learns and remembers how to perform skate tricks.

A special session explored the creation of the Lynch Family Skatepark, highlighting how the park remediated a toxic brownfield and filters runoff water before it enters the Charles, helping to preserve the environmental stability of the Charles River while also providing a community center for self-expression. Conservancy President Renata von Tscharnier and the son of Vans’ founder, Steve Van Doren, spoke at the panel exploring the creation of the Lynch Family Skatepark and how collaborative problem solving can be a success through shared vision.

“Innoskate is the perfect way to celebrate the Lynch Family Skatepark’s first anniversary. Starting from a toxic wasteland this much-used athletic facility now also has become not just a community gathering spot but a place where creativity and innovation flourish,” said von Tscharnier. “This skatepark is much more than a slab of concrete, it is a place where self-directed determination and relentless practice result in fun and entrepreneurship.”

The Smithsonian’s Innoskate program, which celebrates invention, innovation and creativity in skate culture, hosted Innoskate 2016, a unique and successful collaboration between the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation and skateboarding community representatives in Cambridge at the Lynch Family Skatepark. The Boardr and KNOW Projects, joined with the Lemelson-MIT Program to create an entertaining and educational festival at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Lynch Family Skatepark.

THE CHARLES RIVER CONSERVANCY & PRESIDENT VON TSCHARNIER RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING AWARDS DURING 2016:

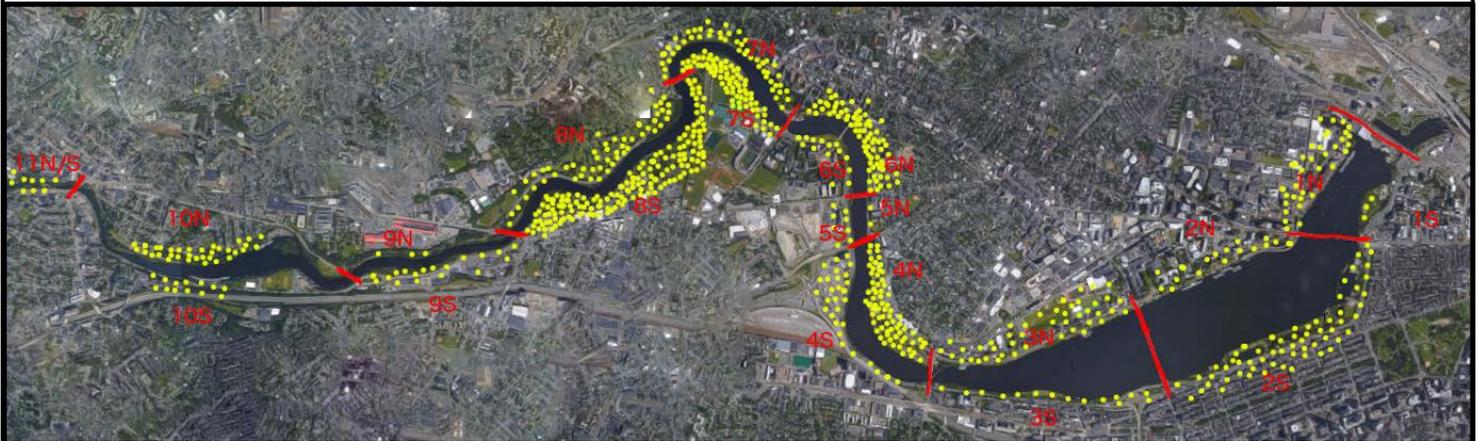


The Friends of the Charlestown Navy Yard presented the Charles River Conservancy the 2016 Commandant Award on March 10, 2016 for the stewardship that led to the development of the Lynch Family Skatepark.

The Landscape Design Council of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts awarded Renata von Tscharnier in recognition of outstanding civic accomplishment on June 1, 2016

On Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, Community Boating, Inc. honored the Charles River Conservancy with their Lifetime Helmsman Award at their 26th Anniversary Raise the Sails Gala and Fundraiser.

Volunteer with the Charles River Conservancy



Each yellow dot on the above map represents a Conservancy Volunteer event. The program, which began in 2002, has hosted **810 events**. **Over 27,000 volunteers** worked a total of **87,945 hours** providing a total donated labor value of **\$1,824,858!** The Conservancy Volunteer Program engages volunteers to benefit the urban Charles River Parklands from the Boston Harbor to the Watertown Dam. A few of the organizations who regularly support and volunteer with CRC include: the Bilezikian Foundation, Novartis, Sanofi Genzyme, Symantec, MIT, Ernst & Young, Boston Consulting Group, RBC, and WinterWyman.



Painting park benches, picnic tables, and railings.



Removing invasive plant species from the river banks.



Pruning along the river banks to keep paths clear.



Removing invasive species of plants from the river banks.



Trash and debris removal from our parklands.

1,939
2016
Volunteers



Worked **51 events** along the River

Totalling **5,293** volunteer hours this year.

Removing **475** bags of liter + over **1,220** bags of organic material.



For a 2nd year, the Conservancy partnered with Youth Enrichment Services (YES) to offer an exciting new program called "Skateboarding for Good." Through this program, youth volunteered in the parklands along the Charles River and in return received a skateboard, safety equipment, and skateboarding lessons for their hard work. Skateboarding for Good encourages youth to be active, teaches new skills and environmental awareness, brings students to their urban parklands, and rewards hard work and dedication to the community.



The Herter Park Publick Theatre in Allston has received much help from volunteers in 2016. Working with the Friends of Herter Park, the Solomon Foundation, and the Ciccolo Family Foundation, the Conservancy and volunteers helped to transform this once neglected space. Over the course of six events, community volunteers landscaped around the theatre, helped to rebuild and paint the seating area, and cleaned and painted the stage.