

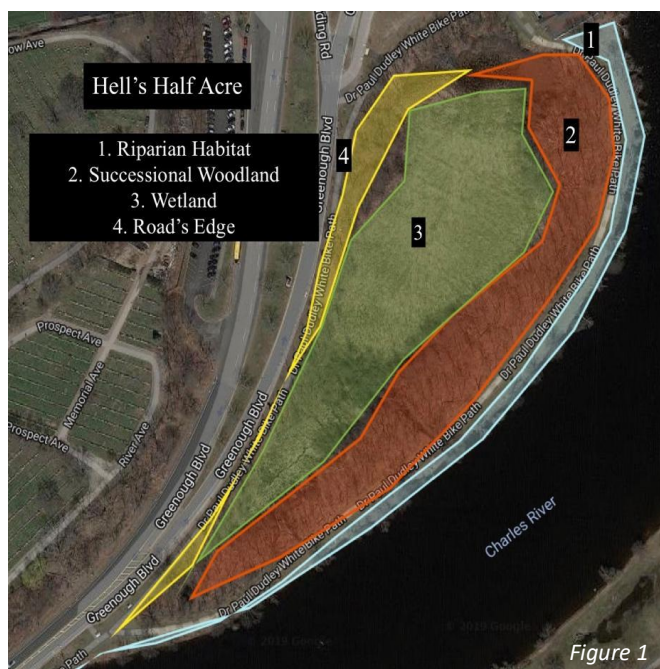
Hell's Half Acre Restoration – Project Proposal

The Charles River Conservancy (CRC) proposes invasive plant control in a section of the Charles River Reservation called Hell's Half Acre (HHA). HHA is seven and a half acres of "urban wild," located in Cambridge along the Charles River just east of the Watertown border. The area provides several ecological and social services to the surrounding community and restoration efforts are vitally important in preventing the continued advance of exotic invasive plants. The project offers an opportunity for ecological enhancement that could bolster wildlife habitat as well as public education.

HHA is a conglomerate of four distinct habitat types and areas. These are 2000 ft. of riverfront, successional upland forest, wetland, and road's edge habitat (Figure 1). HHA's most trafficked amenity is the multi-use walking and jogging path that connects the Charles River parklands south of the Eliot Bridge to Greenough Boulevard pathways. This urban wild is enjoyed by hundreds of Cambridge, Watertown, and Boston residents every day.

The CRC's proposal promotes regeneration of native vegetation and a healthier and more prosperous environment through herbicide and manual removal treatments to control invasive plants. Because invasive plant species and their seeds often persist beyond initial control efforts, the CRC proposes treatments for up to three years. The plan also calls for replanting where native plants fail to regenerate.

The CRC plans to hire a certified contractor to spearhead manual removal, herbicide application, and replanting. Additionally, the CRC will organize, train, and manage community volunteers to help with manual invasive plant removal and native replanting where appropriate, with the belief that involving the community will promote stewardship and provide individuals with valuable hands-on volunteer opportunities in their local urban parks and riverfront.



Japanese knotweed, a tenacious invasive plant, growing along the river's edge.