



Registration Opens for 26th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup

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BOSTON, MA – The 26th Annual Earth Day Charles River Cleanup will take place on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26, 2025, and registration is now open! This much-loved event brings together over 3,500 volunteers each year to rejuvenate the parks, forests, playgrounds, and paths surrounding the Charles River and its tributaries, ensuring the areas remain clean, safe, and beautiful for everyone to enjoy.

"The Charles River Earth Day Cleanup invites the community to help improve the health of the Charles River and park ecosystem by amplifying individual commitment into a shared mission," says Charles River Conservancy Executive Director Laura Jasinski. "The Conservancy is thrilled to unite volunteers once again for the 26th year."

"As the final bank before the Charles River Dam that receives upriver trash from many miles and tributaries, the Esplanade depends each year on the Charles River Cleanup to remove that waste before it slips to the Harbor," says Jen Mergel, Executive Director of the Esplanade



Association (EA). "The EA team is so grateful to partner for decades with our sister non-profits, our friends at DCR, and so many amazing volunteers across generations and geographies to ensure the health of the Charles (Quinobequin) for decades to come. Please join us!"

The Cleanup is part of the national American Rivers' National River Cleanup® initiative, which has collectively removed more than 32.5 million pounds of trash from waterways across the United States. Since its inception in 1999, the Charles River Cleanup has mobilized thousands of volunteers annually to remove litter and invasive plants and assist with park maintenance along the Charles River's 80-mile stretch and within the 1,100 acres of Emerald Necklace parkland surrounding the Muddy River, a vital tributary of the Charles.

"The Muddy River, the central waterway of the Emerald Necklace parks and a major tributary to the Charles, has had an eventful year," says Karen Mauney-Brodek, President of the Emerald Necklace Conservancy. "From the removal of the last fenced-off work areas of the Muddy River Restoration Project, to our ongoing community visioning process for its health and future in partnership with the Charles River Watershed Association, and to ecological threats that remind us just how important these waterways are: now more than ever, it is crucial that we come together this spring and do our part to care for our shared urban ecosystems!"

"We are so grateful to the thousands of volunteers who turn out to remove trash from the banks and parks and roadways near the Charles," said Emily Norton, Executive Director of Charles River Watershed Association. "We look forward to the day when this cleanup isn't necessary, but until then, this amazing turnout demonstrates how much people care about a clean, healthy Charles River."

Cleanup volunteers make a lasting difference by improving local environmental health and fostering a sense of stewardship for their rivers and communities. The event empowers participants to give back to their communities, strengthen their connection with nature, and cultivate lifelong habits of environmental care. "Every year I hear from volunteers that this is one of their favorite activities to do with us—folks love picking up litter and removing invasive plants from the river's banks as part of a larger, watershed-wide effort," says Sonja Wadman, Executive Director of the Waltham Land Trust. "You can see how fun and rewarding it is by the huge smiles on their faces."

To get involved, learn more and register for the Charles River Earth Day Cleanup [here](#).

The Charles River Cleanup is coordinated by the Charles River Conservancy, the Charles River Watershed Association, the Emerald Necklace Conservancy, the Esplanade Association, and the



Waltham Land Trust, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Senator Will Brownsberger.