

WARNING!

Walking on the ice on the Charles River is prohibited. No matter how enticing it looks, venturing onto the frozen river is very dangerous. State Police will enforce this prohibition.

The Charles River is constantly flowing, and flowing water does not freeze as well as the stationary water in ponds and lakes. In this region of New England, temperatures are not cold enough for long enough for the Charles River ice to support humans, or even pets.

In addition, the level of the Charles River changes constantly (by as much as two feet) due largely to the changing amounts of water flowing into the river from other rivers and streams and the release of Charles River water into the ocean through the New Charles River Dam. The result is that ice on the Charles could have a large air pocket below it, thereby weakening the ice and increasing the chance that someone walking on it would fall through. Also, an increase in the river level can lift the ice, causing it to crack and break, again increasing the chance that a walker could fall through.

Please use common sense and stay off the Charles River ice.

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