

**From:** [Carl Zimba](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Changes in the Depth of the Charles River  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4:42:39 PM

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Jennifer,

I previously sent you a [link](#) to a short note on potential treatments for milfoil. Within that note, there are several links to studies that have successfully used milfoil weevil.

I am also sending you the [link](#) to our paper detailing the changes in depth of the Charles River over the past 120 years. It highlights the problems with sedimentation in key areas of the Lower Basin. The bottom line is that the river is getting shallower in places and in some locations it limits use of the watershed. Newton and Watertown Yacht Clubs have lost dock space due to the sedimentation, at the same time as their yearly lease payments have escalated. When the new building for Community Rowing was built, their up-river docks were in 18 inches of water. Today, they are sitting on mud. The state and federal governments used to dredge the river all the way up to the landing in Watertown Square, but stopped in the 1950's. We've been losing water depth ever since. The sedimentation is a long-term problem that needs a solution.

Carl Zimba  
Vice-president  
Charles River Alliance of Boaters  
[www.charlesriverallianceofboaters.org](http://www.charlesriverallianceofboaters.org)

**From:** [Wilhelm, Joe](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charlie River Vegetation Management  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:38:08 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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January 13, 2021

To:

Jennifer Norwood, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street #900 Boston, MA 02114  
[jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us)

From:

Joe Wilhelm, Head Coach, Northeastern Women's Rowing  
Cabot Athletic Center  
360 Huntington Ave,  
Boston, MA, 02115  
[j.wilhelm@northeastern.edu](mailto:j.wilhelm@northeastern.edu)

**Re: The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)**

In my capacity as the Head Coach of the Northeastern University Women's Rowing program, I strongly support and encourage the efforts of the Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") regarding the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan.

As a member of the group of colleges and universities who use the Charles River, I would like to emphasize that there must be action taken as soon as possible to preserve (and improve) the "health" of the river. It is a rare and treasured waterway enjoyed by many, and from my perspective, as a collegiate rowing coach on the Charles for the past 30 years, we must do everything we can to ensure that it remains healthy!

The spread of invasive plants throughout and around the Charles River has compounding financial, ecological, and recreational impacts, and the continued delays to care for the river exacerbate the impacts and stresses felt by the Charles River community.

I recommend that the DCR take immediate action on the growing populations of invasive plants through the development and implementation of a pilot program to take place in the **2021 Summer**. There needs to be a combination of manual and herbicide treatment to effectively target aggressive invasive species choking the Charles, specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil.

I eagerly anticipate the detailed plans for tackling aquatic *and* land-based invasive species within the Charles River Reservation and park systems. I look forward to working with the DCR to help implement these plans, and offer my help collaboratively and creatively to implement management strategies. I am deeply committed to the success of this project, and look forward supporting the effort to turn these recommendations into actions as soon as possible.

Respectfully,  
Joe Wilhelm



**Joe Wilhelm**

Head Coach, Women's Rowing, Northeastern University

[617-908-8535](tel:617-908-8535)

Cabot Athletic Center, 360 Huntington Ave. Boston MA 02115



**From:** [Doldron, Malcolm](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charles River RVMP  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:57:17 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[Memo to the DCR - Charles River.pdf](#)

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Please see attached memo regarding the Charles River Riverbank Management Plan

Respectfully,

**Malcolm C. Doldron**

**Head Coach of Lightweight Rowing**

Boston University

285 Babcock St. Boston MA. 02215

(o) [617-358-3285](tel:617-358-3285)

(c) [617-875-7305](tel:617-875-7305)



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<http://www.goterriers.com/>



**From:** [Lisa Laskin](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charles River Weeds!  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:22:08 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing to express my strong support for any work that DCR can do in 2021, to mitigate invasive weed growth in the Charles River. I am a rower with CRI, and have dealt with summer weed growth for several seasons now. This past summer was the worst I've seen it, and it coincided unfortunately during a moment when so many of us were learning how to row in single sculls - slim, less stable boats that are much more at the mercy of the elements more than the larger four- and eight-person boats. The weeds tangle the oars and the little rudders under the boats, significantly raising the risk of getting off-balance and tipping over. In other words, the weed growth presents a significant safety risk to small-craft boaters.

The Charles River is a haven for me, and many others as you will likely hear. Rowing this past year is what got me through, and I can't wait to get out again. I sincerely hope that we can work together to develop a plan for the protection of our beautiful river. Thank you for your efforts to manage this magnificent local resource.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Laskin  
(Community Rowing Inc.)

**From:** [SD Richman](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charles River weed growth  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:34:36 AM

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I am writing to express my concern with the weed growth in and around the Charles River. As someone who utilizes the area in around the river extensively I am concerned about the explosive growth of the invasive weed species I have seen recently. I am hopeful that a pilot program and long term management can be considered.

Thank you  
Sara Richman  
Newton MA resident  
Cell 303-898-9357

**From:** [A K Johnson](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charles River weeds  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:28:13 PM

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Dear Ms. Norwood,

I am a rower at CRI in Brighton, and I am writing to ask that the DCR run a pilot program in 2021 to mitigate weed growth and develop a long-term strategy to reduce the number of invasive weeds in the Charles River. The weeds are extremely frustrating for rowers, as our oars can easily and unexpectedly become tangled in them, which could cause our boats to flip over.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Kathryn Johnson

**From:** [Ellen Curren](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 11:10:32 AM

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Dear Ms Norwood,

As an avid rower, ocean advocate and new member of the Environmental Policy Committee at CRWA, I am writing to request that you take action to protect the river with a long term plan to reduce the invasive weeds in the Charles River. Being in the river, in a shallow scull, I have seen first hand the rapid weed growth, algae blooms and pollution in the water. Learning about the sewage overflows, run off and lack of green infrastructure on the river banks, I feel desperate to protect one of Boston's finest resources that brings such joy to our community. During the pandemic, I have seen a large uptick on usage and it has highlighted that the river is a sanctuary and respite for everyone.

I hope you will use the Riverbank Management Plan for the Charles

Ellen Curren

she/her/hers

[ellencurren@gmail.com](mailto:ellencurren@gmail.com)

Press on Regardless



**From:** [Chenausky, Karen](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comments Charles River Vegetation Management  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 3:50:05 PM

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January 12, 2021

Jennifer Norwood  
Director of External Affairs and Partnerships  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street #900  
Boston, MA 02114  
[jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us)

**Re: Comments on Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)**

Dear Ms. Norwood:

We, the Board of Directors of Riverside Boat Club in Cambridge, would like to comment on the plans of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to mitigate invasive aquatic vegetation in the Charles River. Our comments are based on the information presented via Zoom on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and are meant to support and supplement the comments of other organizations, such as the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA), the Charles River Alliance of Boaters (CRAB), the Charles River Conservancy (CRC), and Community Rowing, Inc. (CRI).

Riverside's mission includes making rowing, and thus river access, available to Commonwealth residents. In the past few years, milfoil has invaded the Charles and increasingly chokes the navigable area of the water sheet. The problem has become significantly worse in the past year or so, partly because of an unusually warm winter and spring in 2020 and partly because of decreased river traffic in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions on boating. The resulting overgrowth makes it impossible for upstream and downstream traffic to adequately separate from each other. All boats are pushed toward the center of the river, making near and actual collisions much more likely and making river use more dangerous for Commonwealth residents.

We support the request of the above-named organizations that DCR prepare and release a robust invasive vegetation mitigation plan, including both aquatic and land-based species. We

request that this happen with ample time for stakeholders to review, respond to, and help revise the plan. We further request that a final plan be prepared before the end of 2021.

Because of the detriment to navigation, we also request that a pilot aquatic vegetation management plan be implemented in Summer 2021. That plan should involve manual harvesting, species-specific herbicide treatments, and the strategic use of benthic mats where appropriate. When we receive more information from DCR on its Aquatic Invasive Species mitigation plan, we will endorse more specific treatments and locations. Until then, we support the recommendations in the letter from the above-mentioned organizations (CRWA, CRAB, CRC, and CRI) to:

- Act promptly to manage the risks associated with invasive plant species, and
- Provide education and outreach about the problem and DCR's proposed solution to river users.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and for listening to the input of Charles River users. We are eager to restore the river to a more usable state and to work with DCR to implement its plans.

Signed,

the Board of Directors of Riverside Boat Club  
(via Karen Chenausky, Trustee)

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**From:** [Liz O'Leary](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** DCR and the Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:02:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Memo to the DCR - Charles River.docx](#)

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Hello Jennifer -

Please accept the attached memo regarding the health of the Charles River.

Thanks very much,

Liz

--

**HarvardRadcliffe Rowing**

Liz O'Leary

Friends of Radcliffe Rowing Head Coach for Women's Heavyweight Crew

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

email: [eholeary@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:eholeary@fas.harvard.edu)

**From:** [Butt, Charles](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** From Harvard's Newell Boathouse-Charles River invasive weed explosion  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:47:42 PM

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January 13, 2021

To:

Jennifer Norwood, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street #900 Boston, MA 02114  
[jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us)

From:

Charley Butt, Head Coach, Men's Rowing, Harvard University  
Harvard Department of Athletics  
65 North Harvard Street. Boston MA 02138  
[csbutt@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:csbutt@fas.harvard.edu)

**Re: The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)**

In my capacity as the Head Coach for the Harvard University Men's Rowing Team, I strongly support and encourage the efforts of the Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") regarding the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan.

As a member of the group of colleges and universities who use the Charles River, I would like to emphasize that there must be action taken as soon as possible to preserve (and improve) the "health" of the river. It is a rare and treasured waterway enjoyed by many, and from my perspective of 30+ years as the Head Coach at Harvard, we must do everything we can to ensure that it remains healthy!

The spread of invasive plants throughout and around the Charles River has compounding financial, ecological, and recreational impacts, and the continued delays to care for the river exacerbate the impacts and stresses felt by the Charles River community. Of particular concern to us is the area downstream from the Watertown Dam to the North Beacon Street Bridge, and further downstream from the Eliot Bridge to and through the Weeks Footbridge to the Boston University Bridge.

I recommend that the DCR take immediate action on the growing populations of invasives through the development and implementation of a pilot program to take place in the **2021 Summer**. There needs to be a combination of manual and herbicide treatment to effectively target aggressive invasive species choking the Charles, specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil.

I eagerly anticipate the detailed plans for tackling aquatic *and* land-based invasive species within the Charles River Reservation and park systems. I look forward to working with the DCR to help implement these plans, and offer my help collaboratively and creatively to implement management strategies. I am deeply committed to the success of this project, and look forward supporting the effort to turn these recommendations into actions as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Charley Butt  
Harvard Men's Rowing

**From:** [Debra Fox](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Invasive Weeds in the Charles  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:33:33 PM

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Dear Ms. Norwood,

I love rowing on the Charles River. It is an amazing resource that needs to be protected. As part of the Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) for the Charles I urge DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river. Thanks for your help with this request. Debra Fox 35 Blake St Cambridge, MA .

**From:** [Tom Keiser](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Invasive weeds in the Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:14:17 PM

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Dear Ms Norwood.

I strongly support the DCR running a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the Charles river.

As an avid rower in the river I have noticed a dramatic and alarming increase in the difficulty navigating the river and am concerned for the wildlife.

Thomas Keiser  
38 Inverness Road  
Wellesley, MA 02481

**From:** [Julian Serrao](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Mitigate Weed Growth on Charles  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:30:25 PM

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Hello Jennifer,

I'm a Cambridge resident and one of the things I love about the area is being able to row on the Charles. I urge you and the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river.

Best,  
Julian Serrao



**From:** [Amy Walker](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Emily Norton](#); [Lisa Kumpf](#); [Heather Miller](#); [Kane Larin](#); [Laura Jasinski](#); [Sasha Vallieres](#); [Carl Zimba](#); [Lynn Osborn](#); [Fred Schoch](#); [doclung@aol.com](mailto:doclung@aol.com)  
**Subject:** RVMP Comment Letter  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 5:00:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [RVMP CommentLetter.pdf](#)

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Ms. Jenny Norwood,

Please find the attached comments from CRWA, CRAB, CRC, CRI, etc. on DCR's RVMP. We look forward to discussing these comments further.

Warm regards,

Amy

--

**Amy Walker**

TerraCorps Member

Charles River Watershed Association

[190 Park Road](#)

[Weston, MA 02493](#)

c 828.545.4404 (since our office is working remotely, this is the best way to reach me)

t 781.788.0057 x231

Pronouns She/Her/Hers

**From:** [Leah Rand](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** RVMP plan comments  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:38:45 AM

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Dear Ms. Norwood,

I am writing to add my comments to the review of the Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) for the Charles River. I would like to urge the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river. The weeds are invasive and pose a risk to recreational activities on the river.

Thank you,

Leah Rand

**From:** [Tony Broh](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Jennifer Hochschild](#)  
**Subject:** RVMP  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:28:07 AM

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Dear Representative Norwood,

Please support the Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan for the Charles River. The weeds that blossom each summer lurk like Booby-traps, waiting to snare skegs and entangle oars of the many rowers on the Charles River. Managing these weeds will improve the environment for recreational activities as well as the long term health of the river.

I urge you to support this legislation for a pilot program to mitigate weed growth and to crate a long-term strategy to reduce these invasive plants.

C. Anthony Broh  
16 Copley Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

--

Broh Consulting Services  
16 Copley Street  
Brookline, MA 02446

Phone: (617) 264-2040  
<http://broh.com>

"Art thou mad? Is not the truth the truth?"  
- *Henry IV, Part I*

**From:** [Cheryl Egan](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Request for DCR to run a pilot program in 2021  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:11:12 AM

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Good morning,

I would like to request that a pilot program be developed in 2021 to (1) mitigate weed growth and (2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the Charles River.

I am a rower who rows out of Community Rowing, Inc. in Brighton and greatly affected by the invasive weeds that continue to takeover the shores of the Charles River. Happy to help in any way I can.

Thank you for your service to the great State of Massachusetts!

Cheryl Egan  
Member of Community Rowing, Inc.

**From:** [Andrew Wigren](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 8:29:23 PM

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Hello Jennifer,

One suggestion. I think the weeds are growing because of fertilizer run off. We should start at the root cause vs. a downstream approach.

Thank you,

Andrew Wigren

**From:** [Jennifer Pieszak](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 10:35:30 AM

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Jennifer,

Good morning.

I am writing to urge the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to mitigate invasive weed growth in the Charles River.

As an avid sculler and member of Community Rowing Inc, I have seen first hand the negative impact of the invasive weeds on the Charles Water river sheet. Last summer, 2020, the "pond" upstream from CRI and between both the Newton and Watertown yacht club was almost completely covered by a continuous mat of invasive weeds during the summer months. As Climate Change has reduced the number of sub-freezing days in the winter and we now have warmer temperatures throughout the year, the opportunity for invasive weeds to expand their foothold is increasing. I can only imagine the negative impact these weeds have on non-invasive vegetation and wildlife.

Since I row a single, I must navigate the Charles mindful of all obstacles. During the season when there are wide mats of weeds, I must move further from shore into areas usually reserved for larger boats and yachts. Since these weeds, when established, grow incredibly fast, and can encroach into territories where they weren't previously days before. It is very easy for oars or skegs to become entangled in the weeds, hampering maneuverability of my single scull. If I had to move away from a faster moving motor boat or yacht, I would be unable. if entangled.

The DCR should support the pilot program to mitigate invasive weeds and I recommend that priority be given to the portion of the Charles River upstream from Community Rowing and between the two yacht clubs as it would benefit both rowers and boaters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Pieszak  
123 Davis Avenue  
Brookline, Ma 02445

**From:** [Swan, Anna K](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Riverbank Vegetation Management plan for the Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:26:36 PM

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Dear Jennifer,

As a rower at CRI, I noticed (and suffered from) the increased weeds in the river, especially this summer. The increase in growth was pretty dramatic, a large part of the "pond" upstream of CRI was covered and un-rowable. I hope that you can include the river itself in the RVMP.

Sincerely

Anna Swan

**From:** [genevieve coyle](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Riverbank Vegetation Management  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:49:44 PM

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I urge the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river. This is so important to maintaining a high quality of water in the Charles. The Charles is an economic asset to the state as it attracts boaters and various festivals to say nothing of the citizens who enjoy walking around the river.

Genevieve Coyle  
230 Lakeview ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138



**From:** [Grace Hollowell](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 2:24:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Memo to the DCR - Charles River.pdf](#)

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Dear Jennifer,

Please see the attached memo with my support for the Charles Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan.

Thank you,

Grace Hollowell

--

**GRACE HOLLOWELL**

Women's Rowing Head Coach

Boston College • 201 Alumni Stadium, South End Zone • Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

O: 617-552-8641 • C: 734-476-0654 • F: 617-552-8646 • [holloweg@bc.edu](mailto:holloweg@bc.edu)

[Prospective Student Athlete Questionnaire](#)



**From:** [Pojednic, John](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Cc:** [eholeary@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:eholeary@fas.harvard.edu); [kane@communityrowing.org](mailto:kane@communityrowing.org); [ted@communityrowing.org](mailto:ted@communityrowing.org)  
**Subject:** The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:56:46 PM

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To:  
Jennifer Norwood, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street #900 Boston, MA 02114

From:  
John Pojednic, Head Men's Rowing Coach  
Northeastern University  
219 Cabot Center  
Boston, MA 02115-5000

**Re: The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)**

In my capacity as the Head Coach for the Northeastern University Men's Rowing Team, I strongly support and encourage the efforts of the Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") regarding the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan.

As a member of the group of colleges and universities who use the Charles River, I would like to emphasize that there must be action taken as soon as possible to preserve (and improve) the "health" of the river. It is a rare and treasured waterway enjoyed by many, and from my perspective of 20+ years as the Head Coach at Northeastern, we must do everything we can to ensure that it remains healthy.

The spread of invasive plants throughout and around the Charles River has compounding financial, ecological, and recreational impacts, and the continued delays to care for the river exacerbate the impacts and stresses felt by the Charles River community. Of particular concern to us is the area downstream from the Watertown Dam to the North Beacon Street Bridge, and further downstream from the Eliot Bridge to and through the Weeks Footbridge to the Boston University Bridge.

I recommend that the DCR take immediate action on the growing populations of invasive species through the development and implementation of a pilot program to take place in the **2021 Summer**. There needs to be a combination of manual and herbicide treatment to effectively target aggressive invasive species choking the Charles, specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil.

I eagerly anticipate the detailed plans for tackling aquatic *and* land-based invasive species within the

Charles River Reservation and park systems. I look forward to working with the DCR to help implement these plans, and offer my help collaboratively and creatively to implement management strategies. I am deeply committed to the success of this project, and look forward supporting the effort to turn these recommendations into actions as soon as possible.

Respectfully,  
John Pojednic

John Pojednic  
Head Coach of Men's Rowing  
Northeastern University  
Boston, MA – USA

***“The challenge of coaching may well lie in the notion that every word you say counts, every silence matters, every action you display influences, every gesture impacts, every instruction mediates. In short, everything probably matters. That’s your privilege and your burden.” - Daniel Abrahams***

**From:** [Charlotte Pierce](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Weed control in Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 9:47:53 PM

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As a recreational rower and kayaker on the Charles River, I would like to urge the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Charlotte Pierce  
781-258-9608  
Arlington, MA  
Member, Community Rowing  
Producer, Ready, Row! USA podcast

**From:** [MARGA BILLER](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Weed mitigation  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:11:14 PM

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Dear Jennifer,

I urge you and the DCR to approve CRI to run a pilot program in 2021 to mitigate weed growth and develop long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river.

Thank you for considering this request.

Marga Biller

**From:** [Katharina Helmick](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Weeds :-(  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 5:10:04 PM

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Jennifer

We urge the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river.

My husband and I are members of CRI and appreciate the work that the DCR in general does.

It may be a good idea to include the good work other organizations are already doing and strengthen them as part of the program.

All the best and thank you,  
Katharina.

Brooks and Katharina Helmick  
37 Scotch Pine Road  
Weston, MA 02493  
(m) 781-424-2223

**From:** [Anne Warner](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Weeds in the Charles River  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:10:14 PM

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Dear Jennifer - I understand that you are working on a potential plan to mitigate weed growth in the Charles River. I am a two time Olympian, and five time national team member in the sport of rowing. I am also a life-long Massachusetts resident that has rowed on the Charles since I was 18 -- I am now 66.

I currently row off a small dock just upstream from the Harry Parker Boathouse in Newton. The weeds were so bad last year that I was almost unable to get in and out from the dock, and literally had to brace my oars on the weeds to force my way in. Also, we were unable to use the first 50-100 feet (varying) of the river between the North Beacon bridge and the turn just before Watertown because the weeds and scum were so deep that they caught the oars mid stroke. I would love to see this problem mitigated, and am happy to volunteer my time in making it happen!

Best regards,

Anne Warner

--

Anne Taubes Warner  
[warnerannet@gmail.com](mailto:warnerannet@gmail.com)

**From:** [Patti Sims](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Weeds  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 6:20:30 AM

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Hello,

This message is to urg the DCR to run a pilot program in 2021 to 1) mitigate weed growth and 2) develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in our beautiful river. .

**Thank you,**

Patti Sims

--

Patricia Orlando Sims  
774 253 3540



**From:** [Anthony Edward Kilbridge](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** plan to control invasives on the Charles  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 13, 2021 11:59:05 AM

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January 13, 2021

To:  
Jennifer Norwood, Director of External Affairs and Partnerships  
Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street #900 Boston, MA 02114  
[jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.norwood@state.ma.us)

From:  
Tony Kilbridge  
Director of Rowing  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
35 Vassar St.  
Cambridge, MA 02420  
[coachk@mit.edu](mailto:coachk@mit.edu)

**Re: The importance of and urgency for the implementation of the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP)**

In my capacity as the Director of Rowing for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, I strongly support and encourage the efforts of the Department of Conservation and Recreation ("DCR") regarding the Charles River Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan.

As a member of the group of colleges and universities who use the Charles River, I would like to emphasize that there must be action taken as soon as possible to preserve (and improve) the health of the river. It is a rare and treasured waterway enjoyed by many, and from my perspective of 15 years as the head coach at MIT, we must do everything we can to ensure that it remains healthy!

The spread of invasive plants throughout and around the Charles River has compounding financial, ecological, and recreational impacts, and the continued delays to care for the river exacerbate the impacts and stresses felt by the Charles River community. Of particular concern to us is the area downstream from the Watertown Dam to the North Beacon Street Bridge, and further downstream from the Eliot Bridge to and through the Weeks Footbridge to the Boston University Bridge.

I recommend that the DCR take immediate action on the growing populations of invasives through the development and implementation of a pilot program to take place in the **2021 Summer**. There needs to be a combination of manual and herbicide treatment to effectively target aggressive

invasive species choking the Charles, specifically Eurasian Watermilfoil.

I eagerly anticipate the detailed plans for tackling aquatic *and* land-based invasive species within the Charles River Reservation and park systems. I look forward to working with the DCR to help implement these plans, and offer my help collaboratively and creatively to implement management strategies. I am deeply committed to the success of this project, and look forward supporting the effort to turn these recommendations into actions as soon as possible.

Respectfully,  
Tony Kilbridge

Tony Kilbridge  
Director of Rowing  
H. W. McCurdy (1922) Men's Varsity Heavyweight Coach  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
(617) 253-1826

**From:** [Kellie Gutman](#)  
**To:** [Norwood, Jennifer \(DCR\)](#)  
**Subject:** weed reduction  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 12, 2021 4:18:10 PM

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Dear Ms Norwood -

I am a new member of Cambridge Boat Club and was only able to row a few times this summer due to Covid-19. However, when I did row in late August I was astounded at the thick growth of weeds in the Charles. I would urge you in your Riverbank Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP) to run a pilot program in 2021 to do the following:

- 1) Mitigate weed growth in the Charles River
- 2) Develop a long-term strategy to reduce invasive weeds in the river.

Thank you very much,  
Kellie Gutman  
75 Gardner Street  
West Roxbury, MA 02132  
617-331-8171