



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Conservation and Recreation

State Transportation Building | 10 Park Plaza | Suite 6620 | Boston, MA 02116
www.Mass.gov/DCR | **Tel:** (617) 626-1250

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Kimberley Driscoll
Lieutenant Governor

Rebecca L. Tepper
Secretary

Nicole LaChapelle
Commissioner

June 30, 2026

Mr. Michael D. Hurley
Clerk of the Senate

Mr. Timothy Carroll
Clerk of the House

Dear Mr. Hurley and Mr. Carroll:

On behalf of the Charles River Task Force, as required by Section 205 of Chapter 140 of the Acts of 2024, please find the enclosed report and recommendations of the Task Force. The report is the result of a year-long examination of public engagement, community priorities, and opportunities to strengthen stewardship of the Charles River and its surrounding communities.

The Task Force undertook an extensive engagement effort that included public hearings, focus groups, public surveys, one-on-one conversations, door-to-door outreach, and direct engagement with community organizations and local partners. While these efforts generated valuable perspectives and strengthened relationships, we recognize that this work represents only the beginning. Building trust, fostering lasting partnerships, and creating truly inclusive public engagement practices cannot be accomplished through a single task force or within a single year. Meaningful engagement requires sustained investment, dedicated staff capacity, adequate resources, and an ongoing commitment to listening, learning, and adapting over time.

We appreciate the many residents, community organizations, municipal partners, advocacy groups, and stakeholders who generously shared their time, expertise, and lived experiences throughout this process. Their contributions have been invaluable in shaping this report and its recommendations.

Sincerely,

Nicole LaChapelle

Nicole LaChapelle
DCR Commissioner
Equity
Co-Chair, Charles River Task Force

María Belén Power

María Belén Power,
Undersecretary of Environmental Justice &
Co-Chair, Charles River Task Force

cc: Senator Sal DiDomenico
Senator William Brownsberger
Representative Michael J. Moran
Representative Marjorie Decker
Representative Michael Connolly
Representative Steven Owens
Representative Daniel J. Ryan