

September 19, 2018



End of Summer Update



Thank you to all of our volunteers and supporters,
We filled up every volunteer spot this summer!
If you didn't manage to make it out, there's always time to donate and you can join
us on the water next season!

[Visit our Website](#)



How the Charles River Got Its Name

By Jim Healy

In 1614, English explorer John Smith sailed the coast of New England. He had been hired by a group of London businessmen who were interested in establishing commercial ventures in the New World. One of Smith's tasks was to look for gold. He didn't find gold, but he did return to England with a very detailed map showing the geographic features of the area between present day Sandwich, Massachusetts and Brunswick, Maine. He called this land New England. On his map, Smith also showed the location of numerous Indian villages. Smith labeled his map with the Indian names for the villages and the geographic features.

Prince Charles, the future King Charles I, was offered the opportunity to give the Indian villages English names. The prince replaced the names of the villages with the names of existing English cities and towns. For example, a village in present day Hingham was renamed London. A village in present day Portland, Maine was named Cambridge, and an Indian village near present day Portsmouth, New Hampshire was given the name Boston. Prince Charles also gave English names to geographic features. For example, Cape Ann was named for his mother. And Prince Charles renamed the Massachusetts River after himself, The River Charles.





Clean Up Boat and Museum of Science Partnership

By Jonathan Burke

The Charles River Clean Up Boat is helping the Museum of Science eliminate a significant amount of single use plastic from ending up in our environment.

When the Museum of Science staff began partnering with the Charles River Clean Up Boat over twelve years ago we noticed the massive challenge that single use plastic shopping bags created for the environment, and how much these bags accounted for the trash we were cleaning from the River. That year the Museum of Science banned single use plastic bags from its retail store, replacing them with compostable bags first and now paper bags, as well as low-priced reusable shopping bags.

Fast forward twelve years and through the hard work and good decisions by many companies, cities, and towns, we collect far fewer plastic shopping bags from the River. But we still see lots of other types of single-use plastic, especially drinking straws. So, beginning this summer the Museum of Science has eliminated single use plastic straws from its catering and café. We will have a small number of compostable drinking straws available upon request for frozen drinks or guests who require a straw, but they will no longer be available for regular use.

Many thanks to the Charles River Clean Up Boat for helping us see the impact our good decisions can have on the Charles River and our community.



**Thank you all for helping to preserve the Charles River.
Together we can keep this beautiful environment clean and safe.**



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