Cheesecake Brook Restoration

Local Advocate Meeting

Volunteers sampling water quality in Cheesecake Brook

September 3, 2020
7:00pm via Zoom

Charles River Watershed Association

Charles River Watershed Association

Charles River Watershed Association

CRWA's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the Charles River and its watershed through science, advocacy, and law.

- Founded in 1965 by concerned residents
- One of the oldest watershed associations in the country
- Work with EPA, state agencies, and 35 watershed municipalities
- Interdisciplinary staff
- Program Areas:
  - River Science
  - Blue Cities Initiative
  - Climate Change Adaptation
  - Law, Advocacy, and Policy





Project Team

Charles River Watershed Association

Emily Norton

Executive Director

(she/her)

Pallavi Mande

Director of Watershed Resilience

(she/her)

Lisa Kumpf

Aquatic Scientist

(she/her)

Meeting Goals

Charles River Watershed Association

- Update local advocacy groups on CRWA's progress on project
- Share big-picture design ideas and get feedback
- Discuss next steps of public presentation

We need the support of local advocates to progress with this project

Volunteers sampling water quality in Cheesecake Brook

Project Background

Charles River Watershed Association

Cheesecake Brook has water quality and quantity issues that need to be addressed

- Poor water quality in terms of E. coli and phosphorus
- Poor habitat quality, measured through benthic macroinvertebrate studies
- Stormwater flooding

Stormwater flooding after thunderstorm on June 28, 2020

Project Background

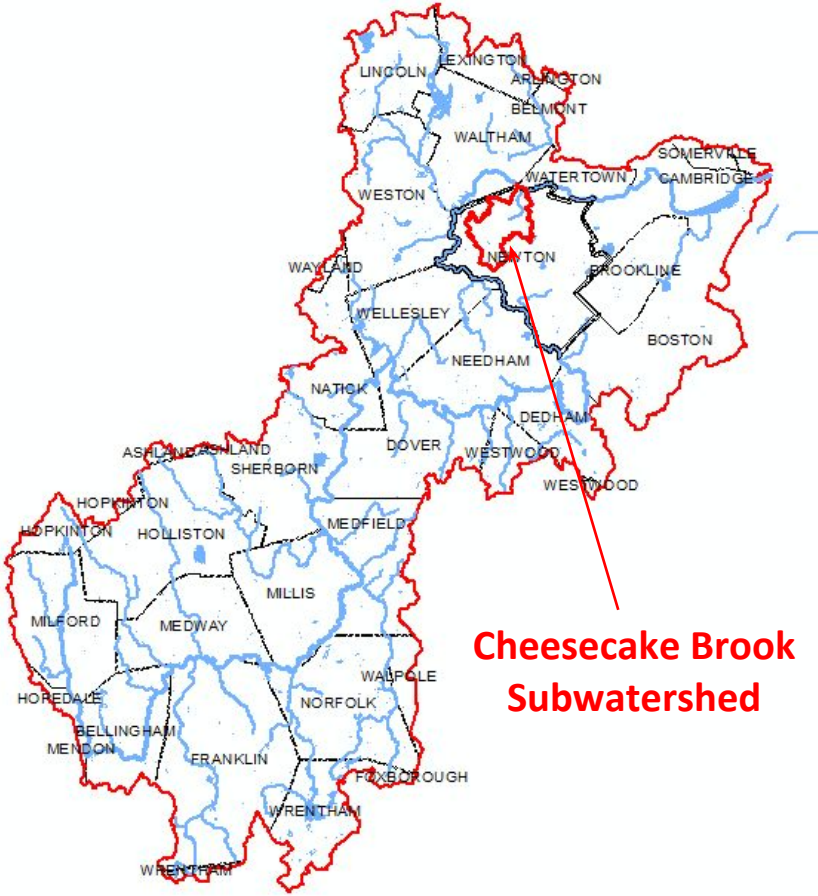
Charles River Watershed Association

Project Goals:

- Restoration vision created through a community based planning process
- Build on previous plans for Cheesecake Brook area
- Develop ideas and recommendations for naturalizing Cheesecake Brook for habitat, water quality, and flood control benefits

Project Objective

Develop a conceptual design for the restoration and naturalization of Cheesecake Brook.



Project Progress

Charles River Watershed Association

Existing Conditions Assessment

- Compiled water quality data
- Reviewed City reports and documents, including 2009 Cheesecake Brook Greenway Master Plan
- Focus on lowermost watershed for in-stream restoration ideas
- Mapped impervious surfaces, land use, stormwater infrastructure, soil types

Historical Photo of Cheesecake Brook

Project Progress

Charles River Watershed Association

Word Cloud from Public Meeting when participants were asked: What is one problem you have experienced with Cheesecake Brook?

Community Engagement

- Held public meeting at Albemarle Field House in February 2020
- Met with City staff in December 2019 and August 2020

Designs Ideas

- Held design charette with CRWA science and planning staff in April 2020
- Hired Horsley-Witten as engineering consultants to assess feasibility of design ideas

Design Ideas

Charles River Watershed Association

Charles River to Crafts Street

- Remove retaining walls and create more naturalized stream channel with u-shaped cross-section
- Ensure healthy riparian buffer with native vegetation
- Use Green Infrastructure practices at outfall along the stream channel
- Add a walkway/bikeway along Albemarle Road to connect with the Blue Heron trail

Example restoration from Fuller Brook, Wellesley

Design Ideas

Charles River Watershed Association

Albemarle North

- Create open semi-forested park with naturalized stream channel running through
- Eliminate west side of Albemarle Road from Crafts Street to Fessenden School entrance
- Add sinuosity (curves) to stream channel
- Use Green Infrastructure along Albemarle Road to manage stormwater runoff from road and fields
- Add walkway/bike paths in opened up park
- Repair and/or install pedestrian bridges

Design Ideas

Charles River Watershed Association

Albemarle South

- Add sinuosity (curves) within buffer between sides of Albemarle Road
- Daylight downstream portion of stormwater system near Fessenden School track and field
- Incorporate Green Infrastructure practices along Albemarle Road
- Incorporate Green Infrastructure practices in redevelopment of Horace Mann School

Example restoration from Fuller Brook, Wellesley

Next Steps

Charles River Watershed Association

- Engage with stakeholders and residents again through public meeting
- Get feedback from residents through online survey
- Understand feasibility of design ideas from engineering feasibility study
- Re-engage with City staff to develop next steps

We need your thoughts and feedback to continue on with this project!

Stay Connected

Charles River Watershed Association

Stay Connected with CRWA!

Email: charles@crwa.org

Newsletter: https://www.crwa.org/river-current.html

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