

Charles River Conservancy Parklands Advocacy Volunteer

Advocacy is core to the mission of The Charles River Conservancy (CRC) so that we can build a continuing and growing groundswell of support to make the urban parklands more active, attractive and accessible to all, to employ cadres of volunteers in stewardship activities, to bring about landscape improvements, and to offer programs that improve health through increased physical activity.

Description:

CRC's advocacy efforts include outreach to the many stakeholders and decision makers who affect the use and condition of the parklands, as well as policy development, influencing legislation, information gathering and preparing position papers, coalition building and partnership development, public relations and community relations to bring the message of CRC to many audiences.

CRC's advocacy work uses the full range of media including e-mail, social media, e-newsletters, and blogs, in addition to encouraging direct person-to-person communication with individuals and organizations whom we wish to inform and influence.

CRC's advocacy efforts in 2011 are focused on: introducing underpasses as part of the Charles River Bridges renovation efforts, securing benefits for the parklands from new Education First (EF) development in North Point Park, bringing back swimming to the River at one or more locations, supporting passage of the revised Bottle Bill, and other occasional initiatives that impact the parklands.

This job requires excellent research and writing skills, ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals and organizations, good interpersonal skills; experience social media is also important (Facebook and twitter).

The Parklands Advocacy Associate reports to the President of CRC and staffs the Conservancy's Advocacy Committee whose members are Directors and Advisory Board members. She/he participates actively in promoting and supporting other CRC team members in all of our advocacy efforts.

Qualifications:

- Demonstrated interest in public policy and the advocacy mission of CRC
- Familiarity with the Charles River Parklands and with Boston and Cambridge community resources is highly desirable
- Ability to work independently within a multidisciplinary team
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; interpersonal skills
- Proficiency and creative approaches to using social media and other internet-based communication tools
- Press experience would be a plus
- Proficiency in MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Filemaker, and iPhoto
- Bachelors degree or equivalent preferred but not required

The ideal volunteer candidate would be able to make a weekly commitment of 3-10 hours.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should send a cover letter (300 word maximum) and a resume to crc@thecharles.org (please put "PAA" and your initials in the subject line). Please specify desired work schedule (including hours per week) in the cover letter. For more information on CRC's advocacy work, please visit our website at <http://thecharles.org/UnderpassAdvocacy.html>