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There at the Beginning

Charles River Conservancy

In 2000, urban planner Renata von Tscherner founded the Charles River Conservancy to make the state-owned Charles River Parklands more attractive, active and accessible to diverse populations. The Boston Foundation made a grant of \$25,000 to support the development of the Conservancy, which offers educational programs for students as young as seven to learn about the parklands and their ecosystem. The Conservancy's volunteer initiative brings some 2,000 people to work along the river every year—and now plans are proceeding to build a 40,000 square foot skatepark in East Cambridge under the Zakim Bridge on the Charles River.



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This series is about the impact TBF's unique role as a grantmaker has had on Greater Boston. Time and again, TBF has been 'there at the beginning,' providing seed capital for innovations in all areas of community life.

Charles River Conservancy
 One Education Street
 Cambridge, MA 02141
 (617) 619-2850
www.charlesriverconservancy.org

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 75 Arlington Street, 10th floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02116 617-338-1700
 TBF News is also on our web site at www.tbf.org

Editor / Barbara Hindley Designer / Katherine Canfield Photographer / Richard Howard