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## PEOPLE NOTES

### Epstein joins Charles River Conservancy

Michael Epstein, a Cantabrigian and recently retired vice president of Beth Israel, has taken the cleaning of the Charles River into his own hands.

He diligently picks up a few littered bottles for his recycling bin at home toward the conclusion of his Parkland jogs. In addition to his efforts throughout the week, he joined the board of the Charles River Conservancy, a nonprofit group that provides stewardship for the Parklands. He also published an essay about his time spent on the Parklands in the conservancy's booklet, "River Stories."

The Charles River and its Parklands have been a part of Epstein's life since he was a student in the 1970s. It was when he began running along the banks and spending more time in the area a few years later that he started conscientiously caring about the health of the river.

"It is inconceivable that the city would be the same place without the river," said Epstein on the difference the river makes to the Cambridge experience for both visitors and residents alike. "While it is not the center, it is the focus of the city."

He enjoys the noticeable changes made in the Parklands and the river since the 1970s. He is most excited to see the continued beautification along the river, including the benches for a place to rest in quiet moments, the CRC-funded bridge illumination, and the landscaping of the shoreline. "All of these changes are helping the parklands become more attractive," he said.

His essay can be read in "River Stories," a joint project of the CRC and Charles River Publishing, known for its specialty publications that have won awards for environmentally friendly printing. The "Boston Globe" provided sponsorship to help defray costs to distribute the publication to teachers for use in the classroom.

"River Stories" is available as a free e-book online at [www.TheCharles.org](http://www.TheCharles.org). Readers who prefer to be mailed a copy can send a donation and their name and address to the Charles River Conservancy at 4 Brattle St., Cambridge, MA 02138.



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