

DAYLIGHTING & RESTORING STREAMS

Bringing tributaries back to light & back to life

BURIED STREAMS BENEATH OUR FEET

Since European colonization began 400 years ago, the Charles River and its tributaries have been buried, dammed, fragmented, and otherwise controlled.

Many of the Charles River's 30+ tributaries have long suffered the effects of this approach to water management—tributaries that are culverted, straightened, and armored face impaired water quality, impeded fish passage, increased flooding, invasive species growth, loss of critical wildlife habitats, and more.

WHAT WE ARE DOING ABOUT IT

We're bringing altered streams back to life with **daylighting and riverbank restoration** to improve water quality, reconnect habitats, create natural climate resilience, and new recreation opportunities.

MEET THE STREAMS:



A WATERY WORLD Before we created the built environment we know today, our watershed was filled with water! Tributaries meandered gently through marshes, wetlands, and forests. Many of these waterways were sent underground or into culverts to make room for development, as this map of Back Bay shows.



MUDDY RIVER

Flowing through Olmsted's iconic Emerald Necklace, the Muddy River is one of the most polluted tributaries, earning a D- grade in 2020. We are developing a 50-100-yr vision plan for a fully restored river.



CHEESECAKE BROOK

A channelized stream that frequently floods in Newton, our vision for Cheesecake Brook includes stream bank restoration to improve flood resilience, water quality, habitat, and biodiversity.



CANTERBURY BROOK

A tributary to Stony Brook, we're reimagining Canterbury Brook as a restored tributary + public space for education + recreation in the heart of an Environmental Justice community in Mattapan.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Do you want to see more restored streams in your community? Show your love for your local stream—learn more about our restoration program and support our vital work.

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