



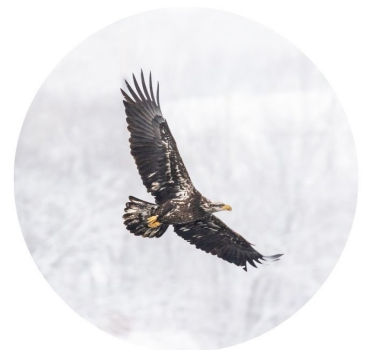
2020 was a challenging year—but the Mystic River Watershed Association made some serious inroads in improving and restoring the Mystic for everyone. This is only possible thanks to our volunteers, supporters, and state and municipal partners. Together we can ensure that the Mystic is mighty for everyone within our watershed lands. Here's a highlight of just some of the positive stories—see more via our interactive storymap at: <https://bit.ly/2MDrPAat>.

It's time to celebrate two huge Mystic Greenways wins. First—the Clippership Connector is designed and coming our way! This half-mile waterfront path will connect more than 10 miles of contiguous greenways along the Mystic and provide a safe route from Riverbend Park to Torbert Macdonald Park.

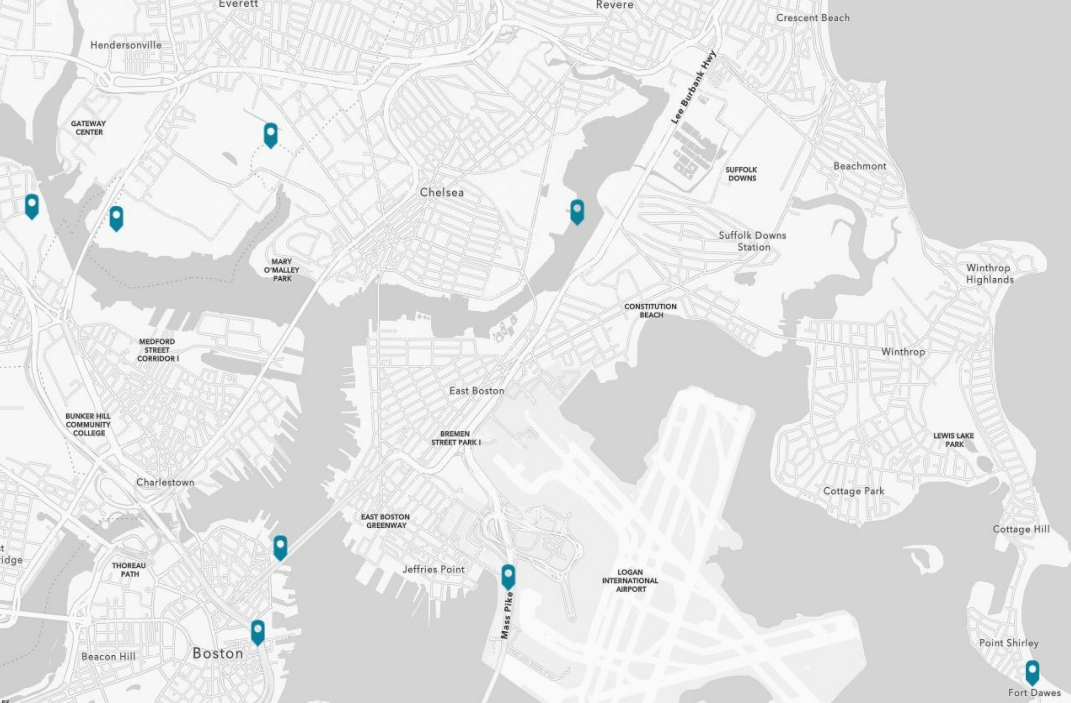
Second—we were honored to work with local leaders, residents, and Friends of the Malden River to move forward with a community-led design of a waterfront park. We are one step closer to realizing the Malden River Vision of 3 miles of contiguous paths!



Chris McIntosh



We saw some amazing wildlife this year on the Mystic, including a harbor seal in the Lower Mystic Lakes. Photo credits: Rick Olick, Jason Lewis, Brendan Curtis, and Ram Subramanian.



In 2020, MyRWA worked with municipalities and private facilities to identify what storm-hardening investments are needed to protect our transportation, energy, water, and food systems from extreme coastal storms. Our next step? Working together to secure funding.

Despite being “virtual”, more than 1,250 students and their teachers participated in high-quality environmental education last year. Youth care deeply about our waterways and the ecosystems within them.



For the 6th year in a row, the Mystic River and the Lakes received an "A" grade from the US EPA. The grade is based on data collected by our water quality volunteers who continued to collect samples during the pandemic using COVID-19 protocols.

Volunteers buoyed us through 2020. Community members sought ways to safely give back resulting in cleaner parks and healthier ecosystems throughout the watershed. Look at the numbers: 80 volunteers monitored river herring at Horn Pond, while 5,500 community scientists counted online; dozens of baseline water quality monitors sampled for most of the year; 15 volunteers removed invasive water chestnuts from canoes; 10 more regularly cleared bittersweet from Torbert Macdonald Park; and over 150 people participated in our three Trash-Free Mystic challenges!



See more encouraging stories from the watershed via our interactive storymap at: <https://bit.ly/2MDrPat> or visit www.MysticRiver.org