



# Cambridge Chronicle

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## Community Notes



Cambridge native Thomas O'Neill III; Paul and Carol Fremont Smith; CRC President Renata von Tschamer; and Make Way for Ducklings sculptor Nancy Schon visit the future site of the Charles River Skatepark in East Cambridge. The site is currently accessible only by Boston Duck Tours, which plunge into the Charles River just adjacent to the site.

### Make way for duck to visit skatepark site

Charles River Conservancy teamed up with Boston Duck Tours and former Lieutenant Gov. Tom O'Neill III recently to visit the future site of one of the largest and most innovative public skateboard parks in the nation. The Charles River Skatepark is currently being planned on a 1-acre site under the ramps of the Zakim/Bunker Hill Bridge and will be surrounded by 40 acres of new state parklands that are part of Big

Dig mitigation requirements.

"It is an area that has been underused for as long as I can remember," said O'Neill. "Growing up in Cambridge, we used to swim in the Charles during the summer months, but then it became too polluted and we had to stop. I am thrilled to see new parks with new recreational uses emerging on the banks of the river, and with the Lenny Zakim/Bunker Hill Bridge as a backdrop, it's like the last two

lines of a wonderful sonnet. It just blows you away."

More than \$680,000 of a \$2 million goal has already been reached. Financial support has come in all sizes and from all types of donors. The Boston Redevelopment Authority has contributed \$100,000 to the skatepark fund. The BRA views this project as an opportunity to redevelop an urban wasteland into a new resource for the youth of the city.

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