

Historic Granite Landings, Charles River Esplanade, Boston



Built in the 1930s, Commissioners, Dartmouth Street and Gloucester Street Granite Landings are architectural anchors of this National Register-listed riverside park. Boston landscape architect Arthur Shurcliff, best known for his work at Colonial Williamsburg, designed the Granite Landings as part of the 1930s widening of the Charles River Esplanade. The Granite Landings serve as overlooks, formal landings for small boats, and popular gathering spots for park visitors.

After decades of neglect, the Granite Landings are collapsing into the river. Environmental conditions, especially freeze and thaw cycles, mortar loss, inappropriate repairs, organic growth and extensive use, have all contributed to the damage. A 1999 Metropolitan District Commission assessment report identified urgent repairs needed within one to two years. Since that study was issued, nothing has been done to stabilize or repair the structures and additional damage has occurred. There is strong and widespread support for preserving the Granite Landings from preservation and conservation groups across the Commonwealth.



2003 Ten Most Endangered
Historic Resources