

This map shows the locations of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) owned by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (Commission), the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the City of Cambridge. The Commission's CSO outfalls are permitted by both the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to discharge a combination of wastewater and stormwater during wet weather. The Commission inspects critical structures upstream of these outfalls each month.

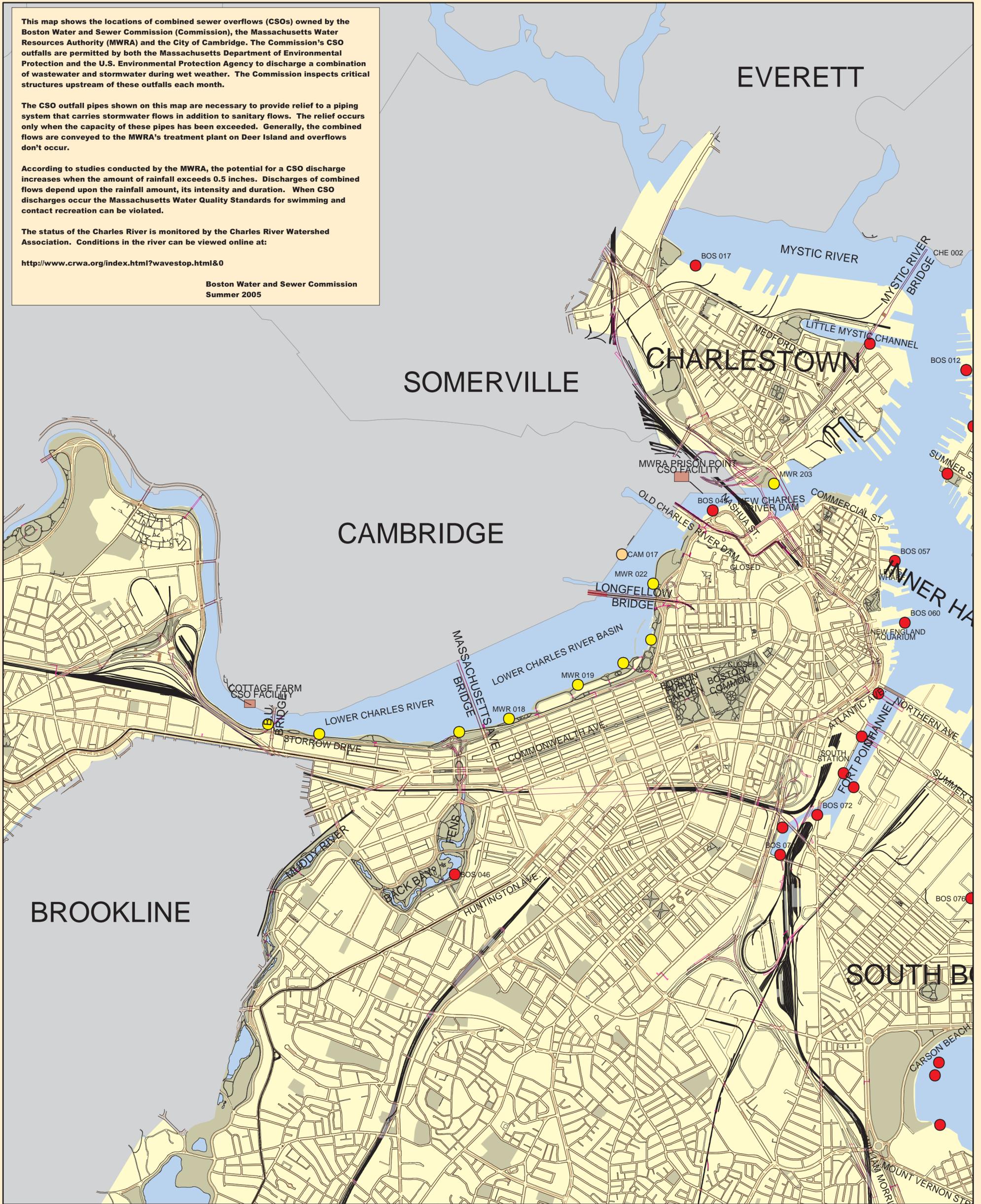
The CSO outfall pipes shown on this map are necessary to provide relief to a piping system that carries stormwater flows in addition to sanitary flows. The relief occurs only when the capacity of these pipes has been exceeded. Generally, the combined flows are conveyed to the MWRA's treatment plant on Deer Island and overflows don't occur.

According to studies conducted by the MWRA, the potential for a CSO discharge increases when the amount of rainfall exceeds 0.5 inches. Discharges of combined flows depend upon the rainfall amount, its intensity and duration. When CSO discharges occur the Massachusetts Water Quality Standards for swimming and contact recreation can be violated.

The status of the Charles River is monitored by the Charles River Watershed Association. Conditions in the river can be viewed online at:

<http://www.crwa.org/index.html?wavestop.html&0>

Boston Water and Sewer Commission
Summer 2005



- BWSC CSO OUTFALL
- MWRA CSO OUTFALL
- CAMBRIDGE CSO OUTFALL

Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) Discharging to the Lower Charles River Basin



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& Sewer Commission**
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