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Contact information:  Kerry Mackin, Executive Director, 978-412-8200, ext 11
                   Trish Aldrich, Development Director, 978-412-8200, ext 12
                   www.ipswichriver.org

Ipswich River Watershed Association Chosen for
2007 Catalogue for Philanthropy

The Ipswich River Watershed Association (IRWA) has been selected for listing in the 2007 prestigious Massachusetts Catalogue for Philanthropy. This year 390 charities applied for new listings, and 54 were selected, as examples of excellence in all fields of Massachusetts philanthropy—the environment, culture (arts and education), human services and international. According to George McCully, President of the Catalogue, “Ipswich River Watershed Association was chosen because they are a great example of private initiatives for public good, focusing on quality of life in Massachusetts, and because they are both excellent and cost-effective. We urge donors, especially in the Ipswich River area, to consider adding Ipswich River Watershed Association to their giving list this year.”

“This has truly been an extraordinary year for IRWA. We moved into Riverbend, our new headquarters on the Ipswich River, Executive Director Kerry Mackin was recognized as a River Hero, a national award, and now we’re in the Catalogue for Philanthropy as exemplifying the best in Massachusetts philanthropy” says Bob Pulver, President of the IRWA Board. “We couldn’t be more grateful, and this couldn’t come at a better time as we build the community of people who care about and take action to safeguard the Ipswich River.”

The purpose of the Catalogue, now in its 11th year, is “to strengthen the culture of philanthropy in Massachusetts through donor education.” “The Catalogue is designed as a showcase for Massachusetts philanthropy,” McCully said, “and a one-stop shop for a family's charitable giving. A single check, electronic transaction over the web, or stock transfer, can be allocated to as many charities as the donor pleases, and because the Catalogue is paid-for by its philanthropic sponsors, 100% of every donation goes to the designated charities or fields of philanthropy.” This year it is mailed to 120,000 homes statewide, and is available to everyone on the web, at www.cfp-ma.org.

Ipswich River Watershed Association is devoted to ensuring, clean sustainable water for all the people who live near, get water from, fish or enjoy paddling the Ipswich River. Founded in 1977 by diverse users of the river, IRWA is celebrating its 30th anniversary and though small in size (1 full-time and 4 part-time staff), it is a leader in its field, even nationally. Its mission is to serve as the voice of the River – to protect and restore the River and its ecosystems through education, outreach, monitoring and advocacy.

Once again this year, the day after Thanksgiving has been declared “Giving Massachusetts Day.” In his proclamation, Governor Deval Patrick urges all citizens and families to respond generously to the annual year-end appeals they receive from charities. Since 1997, charitable giving here has more than doubled, from about $2 billion to $4.4 billion—a record high for us—in 2005, the latest numbers available.