

September 30, 2021

Getting Our Beaches Ready For Fall



Volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield ready to start their Day of Service at M Street Beach.



Save the Harbor's Development Director Patricia Salic (left) and Vertex Pharmaceutical's Senior Principle Data Scientist Lilly XU, PhD removed weeds and invasive plants from Carson Beach.



Volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield join Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and DCR to get South Boston's beaches ready for fall.

Last week 70 volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Vertex Pharmaceuticals teamed up with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation to clean up South Boston's Carson Beach and M Street Beach. After a busy beach season, volunteers cleared ramps and stairways and removed trash and invasive weeds from the McCormack Bathhouse to M Street Beach.

"Thanks to Save the Harbor and their community partners at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts and Vertex Pharmaceuticals for helping to get our beaches ready for fall and for making them more accessible to people with disabilities," said State Rep. and Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner David Biele.

DCR Commissioner Jim Montgomery shared that sentiment. "We'd like to thank Save the Harbor and their corporate and community partners for volunteering to help DCR staff with two end of summer beach clean-ups last week. Save the Harbor's year-round commitment to caring for the environment makes them valued collaborators in every season."

50 volunteers from Vertex Pharmaceuticals gathered at Carson Beach to clean up trash, clear paths,

remove invasive plants, and trim bushes. As a result of their hard work, this beach is now ready for fall.

"Every year Vertex employees look forward to volunteering with Save the Harbor during our global Day of Service. We appreciate the partnership and opportunity to contribute to the local community," said Katharine Jensen, head of Corporate Responsibility and Executive Director of the Vertex Foundation.

20 Volunteers from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts spent their 11th annual Service Day cleaning up M Street Beach, collecting 16 bags of trash and debris. They also cleared sand from ramps and stairways to make them more accessible to people with disabilities.

"Blue Cross is proud to support Save the Harbor and their efforts to make M Street Beach accessible for everyone," said Jeff Bellows, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts vice president of corporate citizenship and public affairs. "We've been partnering with Save the Harbor for over a decade through our annual Service Day and our always excited to give our colleagues the opportunity to come together to protect Boston Harbor and give back to the South Boston community."

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini was at both cleanups. "South Boston's beaches are important recreational

assets for our community and all the region's residents," said Mancini.

"Thanks to the great team at DCR and to Vertex and BCBSMA for their partnership and dedication to caring for and sharing these spectacular resources, and thanks to Rep. Biele and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission for helping us secure funds for mobility mats and beach wheelchairs."

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is a non-profit, public interest harbor advocacy organization made up of thousands of citizens as well as civic, corporate, cultural, and community leaders and scientists. Their mission is to restore and protect Boston Harbor, Massachusetts Bay and the marine environment and share them with the public for all to enjoy.

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To find out more about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, visit their website at savetheharbor.org and follow @savetheharbor on social media.