# SAVE THE HARBOR/SAVE THE BAY ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2022





## In 2022, Save the Harbor continued our work for clean water on the Metropolitan Beaches, and:

- Provided free programs to 16,166 kids and families from more than 200 partner organizations run by 40 youth staffers in our leadership development program
- Invested \$258,450 to support 188 free Better Beaches programs and events put on by 62 grantees
- Held 7 community hearings with more than 1000 participants to address beach accessibility for people of color, people with disabilities and non-English speakers



# SHARING THE HARBOR WITH YOU

Since 2020, Save the Harbor has promised to be there when the pandemic subsided and we were able to return to run in-person programs in our public spaces. In 2021 we were Back on the Beach and this year we doubled down on our commitments to Share the Harbor With You.

In 2022 Save the Harbor was bolder, braver and beachier - back on the sand and sea with full-scale free programs, including: harbor cruises, block parties and community events that centered the voices and values of people of color, people with disabilities and non-English speakers.

Check out the impact from summer 2022:

- 16,166 youth and families engaged in our free, diverse, and accessible programs on Boston Harbor, the region's public beaches, and the Boston Harbor Islands.
- 45 free boat trips for community members to experience STEAM programming on Boston Harbor.
- \$258,450 granted to 62 grantees to run 188 free events and programs like Diversity Matters Festival, Bike to the Beach and Boogie, Beach: Abilty, and Vamos a la Playa.
- Meaningful employment for 40 local high school and college staff who connect youth from 200 community
  groups to Boston Harbor, creating a new generation of environmental stewards.
- 5 new pieces of multilingual education and information on the beaches and islands translated into 160 languages highlighting health, safety, and environmental justice disparities.
- **1,000 community members** testified on behalf of equitable access to our region's public beaches and waterfront spaces for people of color, people with disabilities, non-native English speakers, young people, and community members who do not have easy and intentional ways to utilize their beaches.

Everything is different now - the world has changed and Save the Harbor is adjusting to rising fuel costs, changing land and seascapes, new opportunities and new challenges. But we have kept our promise and we intend to continue keeping that promise to Share the Harbor With You. As long as there's clean water, beaches and harbor islands, we will encourage you to experience your spectacular urban natural resources.

Thank you for your friendship and for your love of your community and harbor.

Find a video that captures the spirit of this summer at www.savetheharbor.org/contribute or scan this QR code to watch.

## FREE HARBOR CRUISES



#### **All Access Boston Harbor**

This summer, thousands of young people from 126 community groups joined us aboard the Provincetown II and Freedom to visit both Spectacle and Georges Island for free! Participants explored the National and State Park by engaging in waterfront marine activities led by our youth staff. Our All Access Boston Harbor program would not be possible without Bay State Cruise Company and Massachusetts Bay Lines, who provided ferry services from Boston's Seaport three days a week, and National Parks of Boston and the DCR who provided lifeguards and rangers on-site each day.





6,629 PARTICIPANTS
45 FREE CRUISES
171 GROUPS
54 COMMUNITIES











## FREE HARBOR CRUISES

#### **Share the Harbor**

Demand for our free public cruises was the highest since we began running the program, with more than 12,000 individuals registered for our Marine Mammal Safaris, Sunset Boston Light Cruises, and Spectacle Island trips! We were proud to have Lightkeeper Sally Snowman on board, as well as our Harbor Historian David Coffin.







#### **Catch of the Day**

Youth groups received personalized fishing experiences on our Catch of the Day fishing trips aboard Boston Fun Cruises' Belle. Save the Harbor youth staffers shared knowledge of sustainable fishing practices while spending the day on Boston Harbor.









## **BOSTON HARBOR EXPLORERS**

# Save the Harbor and our site partners were excited to collaborate in person again this summer!

This year, we engaged 9,537 participants in our Boston Harbor Explorers program. Summer staffers ran environmentally-based curriculum at six partner sites: Piers Park Sailing Center, Camp Harbor View, Atlantic Wharf, Courageous Sailing Center, Boston Children's Museum, and Langone Park.













SAVE THE HARBOR HAS BECOME AN INVALUABLE PART OF OUR 'KNOWLEDGE IS POWER' SCIENCE PROGRAM. OUR CAMPERS CAN'T WAIT TO GO FISH, CRAB, AND LEARN ABOUT CLIMATE WITH THEM!

JILL MARTIN, CAMP HARBOR VIEW



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP & DEVELOPMENT



The 40 Boston-area high school and college students on our youth staff returned to our 9 waterfront partner sites for the first time since 2019.

Over the past two years, 60 youth staffers created 39 new curriculum units that they shared with more than 16,000 young people in our summer programs. In partnership with MIT Sea Grant, National Parks of Boston and the Stone Living Lab, the staff participated in community scientific data collection related to invasive species, effects of climate change, beach erosion, species abundance, and more. Using the new curriculum, youth staffers engaged with the public at more than 20 beach events in the region's 9 beachfront communities.



A SUMMER SPENT WORKING AT SAVE THE HARBOR IS NOT JUST A JOB, RATHER IT IS SOMETHING I LOVE TO DO EVERY DAY. WE HELP KIDS REALIZE THAT WE CAN COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH EDUCATION ABOUT BOSTON HARBOR AND THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBORHOODS. RUBEN HERNANDEZ, LEAD HARBOR EXPLORER













## **SUMMER STAFF 2022**

























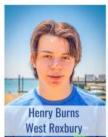






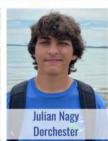






























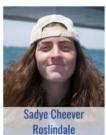




















40
YOUTH STAFF FROM
21
COMMUNITIES

### **BETTER BEACHES PROGRAM**



# The 2022 Better Beaches program helped bring over 180 free events to the region's public beaches.

Since 2008, the Better Beaches Grant Program has driven \$5,981,999 of investments into 1,246 events. This year, Save the Harbor centered community voices by distributing \$25,000 of Better Beaches funds through a participatory budgeting process. Over 200 community members submitted ideas for the free events they wanted to see on the beaches this summer. More than 600 people voted on the winners, which included a Teen Beach Bash and a Beats on the Beach Block Party.













62 GRANTEES 188 EVENTS 13 BEACHES







### **BETTER BEACHES PROGRAM**



In addition to this year's 188 events hosted by Better Beaches grantees, Save the Harbor hosted three signature events: a **Teen Beach Bash** on Carson Beach in South Boston, a **Youth Beach Bash** on Constitution Beach in East Boston, and a **Beats on the Beach Block Party** on Malibu Beach in Dorchester.





THE TEEN BEACH BASH, PUT TOGETHER BY SAVE THE HARBOR'S BETTER BEACHES PROGRAM, ADVANCED THE CAUSE OF SPATIAL JUSTICE, ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS, AND BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN TRADITIONALLY SEPARATED BOSTON COMMUNITIES.

THE TRIKEHUB









SAVE THE HARBOR'S GRANT PROGRAM
HAS DONE SO MUCH GOOD FOR LOCAL
BUSINESSES, INDIVIDUALS, AND SO
MANY OTHERS. BEATS ON THE BEACH
AND THE BLOCK PARTY WOULDN'T BE
THE SAME WITHOUT THEIR HELP.
RILLA FORCE





## **POLICY & ADVOCACY**

In 2022, Save the Harbor continued to advance our ambitious policy agenda addressing environmental justice inequities at the state level, water quality in one of the Commonwealth's most economically and racially diverse communities, and continued improvements to access and inclusion in our region's public spaces.

In June, Save the Harbor and the Metropolitan Beaches Commission (MBC) held a public summit where we shared our findings and recommendations based on the previous year's public hearings on racial justice, access for people with disabilities and language barriers on our public beaches. The outcomes from these hearings will be shared in the upcoming report from the MBC this winter which will provide a blueprint for improvement and change for more equitable, diverse and inclusive public places.

We made significant progress toward improving the water quality on the Commonwealth's most polluted ocean beach in Lynn and Swampscott. Save the Harbor helped guide Lynn and Swampscott's Engineering Steering Committee, which identified a UV disinfection solution to the pollution from Stacey's Brook. Last December's \$4 billion American Rescue Plan Act relief package included \$5.3 million to support this work and directly improve water quality at King's Beach. At the same time, we collaborated with the Department of Conservation and Recreation to design and install multilingual interpretive signage sharing the cause and danger to public health at the site.

Beach	Six-year average safety rating (2016-2021)	2021	2020	2019	2018
Pleasure Bay	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
City Point	99%	100%	100%	100%	97%
Nantasket	99%	100%	98%	97%	100%
M Street	98%	94%	94%	100%	100%
Carson	98%	92%	100%	100%	93%
Revere	96%	94%	100%	87%	98%
Winthrop	95%	100%	100%	78%	100%
Constitution	94%	91%	98%	90%	94%
Nahant	94%	77%	96%	93%	100%
Short	90%	89%	94%	88%	100%
Wollaston	89%	82%	85%	87%	93%
Savin Hill	89%	70%	89%	79%	100%
Malibu	88%	73%	91%	83%	91%
King's	78%	68%	70%	79%	75%
Tenean	77%	63%	79%	67%	78%
All Beaches	92%	86%	93%	89%	95%



A multilingual sign warning people about swimming in Stacey's Brook has been placed at King's Beach on the Lynn/Swampscott line thanks to a joint effort by Lynn, Swampscott, DCR, and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

Throughout the year, we continued to work closely with our partners in the community and the City of Boston's Planning and Development Agency, the Commonwealth's Department of Environmental Protection, and the private sector, to make certain that all opportunities for new development along the waterfront include significant, meaningful public benefits for Bostonians of every race and ability. Over 200 participants from every neighborhood in the city joined us for listening sessions in May to share what will make the waterfront more accessible and inclusive.

## BETTER BEACHES SPONSORS & GRANTEES



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay thanks the Baker-Polito Administration, House Speaker Ron Mariano, Senate President Karen Spilka, Co-Chairs Sen. Brendan P. Crighton of Lynn and Rep. Adrian C. Madaro of East Boston and the legislative and community members of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, the Department of Conservation & Recreation, the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, and all our Better Beaches Program funders and event sponsors for their support. We would also like to thank all of the 2022 Shamrock Splash presented by Arctic Chill participants who raised money and took the plunge at East Boston's Constitution Beach.

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#### **2022 Better Beaches Program Grant Recipients**

A Trike Called Funk Aashka Company **BCYF Curley Community Center** Beats on the Beach Bike to the Sea The Black Literacy & Arts Collaborative Project **Boston Circus Guild** Boston Fun Cruises "The Belle" Boston Police B3 Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester Caribbean American Carnival Association of Boston Carolyn Lewenberg Charlestown YMCA Circus Up City of Boston Department of Youth Engagement & Employment Daddy & Me Literacy Program DJ Manipulator, Byrd Montalvo **East Boston YMCA** Fields Corner Crossroads Collaborative The Flavor Continues

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Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach

North Shore Women of Color Association **NSO Cares** Ohana New England Dragon Beat Team Piers Park Sailing Center Plein Air Painting Quincy Asian Night Market Quincy Dept. of Natural Resources Quincycles Revere Beach Partnership Revere Parks and Recreation Soca Fusion Soca Hikes South Boston en Acción South Boston Neighborhood House The Theater Offensive Triangle, Inc. The TrikeHub Veronica Robles Cultural Center Youth Enrichment Services (YES)



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**Artists For Humanity** 

**Asian Community Development Corporation** 

**BCYF Adventure Girls** 

**BCYF Blackstone Community Center** 

**BCYF Charlestown Community Center BCYF Cleveland Community Center** 

**BCYF Condon Community Center BCYF Curley Community Center** 

**BCYF Curtis Hall Community Center** 

BCYF G.I.R.L.S. Initiative

**BCYF Gallivan Community Center BCYF Hennigan Community Center** 

**BCYF Holland Community Center BCYF Hyde Park Community Center** 

**BCYF Jackson Mann Community Center** 

**BCYF Leahy Holloran Community Center BCYF Madison Park Community Center** 

**BCYF Martin Pino Community Center** 

**BCYF Mattahunt Community Center** 

**BCYF Menino Community Center** 

**BCYF Mildred Avenue Community Center** 

BCYF Ohrenberger Community Center BCYF Paris Street Community Center

**BCYF Perkins Community Center** 

**BCYF Quincy Community Center** 

**BCYF Roche Community Center BCYF Roslindale Community Center** 

**BCYF Shelburne Community Center** 

**BCYF Snapshot Program** 

**BCYF Streetworker Program** 

**BCYF SUPERTeens** 

**BCYF Tobin Community Center BCYF Tynan Community Center BCYF Vine Street Community Center** Bethel Math & Science Scholars Program

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Billerica Boys & Girls Club **Bird Street Community Center** Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club

**Boston Area Health Education Center** Boston Ballet Summer Dance Program

**Boston Centers for Youth & Families** 

Boston Children's Chorus Boston Children's Museum

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center

**Boston Debate League Boston Fun Cruises Boston Girl Scouts Boston Harbor Cruises Boston Harbor NOW** 

**Boston Police Department Community Service** 

**Boston Public Health Commission** 

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**Bowdoin Street Community Center** 

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Franklin Hill Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Jordan

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Hennigan Club

Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Mattapan Teen Center Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston: Orchard Gardens Club

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Building Our Lives Together As One

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NOAH

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PACE

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PBHA: Chinatown Adventure

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**Joseph R. Savage**, Past Chair (Charlestown, MA) Charlestown Resident

**Kyle B. Warwick**, Past Chair (Hingham, MA) Principal, Redgate



Chris Van Buskirk | June 18, 2022

## Not everyone can access Massachusetts' beautiful beaches; Here's what the state is doing to change that



Nahant Beach on the North Shore. The long, narrow beach opens up at low tide into a wide plane of shallow water and shimmering sand.

The state's Metropolitan Beaches Commission reviewed preliminary findings Saturday on improving access at regional beaches in the Greater Boston area after holding three hearings over the past year on accessibility, linguistic, and equity barriers that advocates say people often encounter when heading to beaches.

The commission is hoping to use testimony gathered at the hearings to generate recommendations for the Legislature, Baker administration, and Department of Conservation and Recreation on improving beach access for people of color, those with disabilities, and residents who speak a language other than English.

"We are holding this summit to share what we heard and learned from the hundreds of people who took part in the hearings and to give them the chance to let us know if we got it right before we release our final findings and recommendations to the Legislature, administration, DCR, and the public," Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Executive Director Chris Mancini said in a statement to MassLive.

Triangle, Inc. CEO Coleman Nee said the state needs to focus on physical infrastructure at beaches, programming for people with disabilities, and funding for accessibility.

"We've seen improvements, definitely, and the commission and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay are really focused on this, but we're not at the stage where we can rest on our laurels, that's for sure," Nee told MassLive. "There's no reason why someone should grow up in a community that borders a beautiful beach and have never spent their life accessing that beach or accessing that water if that's something that they always wanted to do but just felt like they couldn't."

The commission plans to hold a fourth hearing this summer to hear from youth and teens about their experiences with beach access. Commission hearings in May and November 2021 focused on improving access to beaches for people of color and those with disabilities.

The commission and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay looked to mobility mats and beach wheelchairs to help people with physical disabilities access the beach. Grants awarded by DCR and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay also focused on organizations that promote accessibility and access for people of color.

Triangle, Inc. runs received grant funding to run programs for people with disabilities, including Beach: Ability, a day of activities at the beach with sand and floating wheelchairs.

Nee said recommendations to public officials should include a request for more funding for the Universal Access Program, a program run by DCR that helps provide outdoor recreation opportunities at state parks in Massachusetts, including some beaches, "for visitors of all abilities," according to the state.

"We'd love to see significant investments in not just the physical infrastructure of the beaches so Advocates pitched DCR on placing QR codes on beach signs to allow people to access the information in multiple languages. Department of Conservation Commissioner Stephanie Cooper previously said new multi-language signs were a work in progress for "all metropolitan beaches."

"We are also looking at retrofitting other waterfront signage, the beach rules signs and no dogs and we are going to be using QR codes," Cooper said.

A spokesperson for DCR said the administration has added new signage at more than 18 state parks and metro beaches which include QR codes that provide translation into nine different languages including Spanish, Vietnamese, Brazilian Portuguese, Haitian Creole, Chinese, Arabic, Cape Verdean Creole, Mandarin, and Russian

"The Baker-Polito Administration has taken a proactive approach to making swimming locations safer places for children, families, and others to experience," the spokesperson said in a statement to MassLive.

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay issued a water quality flagging report card last month that pointed to accuracy issues with the protocols the state uses to tell beachgoers whether water is safe to swim in.

A Department of Public Health spokesperson previously told MassLive that the state maintains "a near real-time" public website that displays marine water quality testing results.

But advocates contend the data from DPH and DCR used to inform beach water quality flags are a day late, and may not provide swimmers with the most up-to-date information.

"The problem is exacerbated by the fact that the department's beach water quality website is only available in English and hasn't been updated since 2001," a Metropolitan Beaches Commission presentation for Saturday's hearing said. "Though we met with them last week, we are still waiting for a public statement from the secretary of health and human services, [DPH] or their Bureau of Environmental Health on their plans and timeline to make their beach water quality website available in languages other than English."

A spokesperson for DPH said representatives from DPH and DCR met with members of Save the Habor/Save the Bay on June 9 "to receive their input and discuss several topics."

At that meeting, the spokesperson said DPH shared plans to update the Beach Water Quality website "to be more accessible and invited Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to share recommendations for improving the website."

"Currently, the Beach Water Quality website is updated twice daily and includes simple text that is available for translation in over 100 languages by commonly used translation technology," the spokesperson said in a statement, echoing a similar statement provided to MassLive earlier this month.

In an email sent last week, Metropolitan Beaches Commission Co-Chair Sen. Brendan Crighton invited DPH Legislative Affairs Director Robert Oliver to testify at Saturday's hearing to provide updates on improving "posting and flagging accuracy on the region's public beaches," according to emails obtained by MassLive.

In an email dated June 14, Oliver "respectfully" declined to attend.

"We thank you for the offer to participate, but we are going to have to respectfully decline," an email to Crighton and commission co-chair Rep. Adrian Madaro said. "Look forward to the opportunity to catch up with staff after the meeting if there is anything necessary to follow up on."

The DPH spokesperson said "DPH is not a member of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission and has not traditionally attended the summit."



Transcript Staff | September 8, 2022

#### Over 5,000 People Take Part in Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Activities So Far This Year



So far this year more than 5,000 people from 30 communities joined Save the Harbor/Save the Bay on free Marine Mammal Safaris in April, and free trips to Spectacle and Georges Island three days a week this summer as part of their expanded Share the Harbor and All Access Boston Harbor programs.

Though the summer is nearly over, the free fun on Boston Harbor will continue well into the fall.

In September and October, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay will host three free day trips to Spectacle Island from 10am – 2:30PM on Sunday September 18th, Sunday September 25th, and Sunday October 2nd. They will also host three free Sunset Cruises towards Boston Light from 5:30pm – 7:30pm on Tuesday September 27, Wednesday September 28th, and Saturday October 15th.

"Our free island adventures and harbor cruises give kids and families who might not otherwise have the opportunity to experience these beautiful natural resources firsthand," said Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Executive Director Chris Mancini. "All of us are proud to share our spectacular harbor, beaches and islands with everyone."

Mancini expects these trips to fill up fast, and urges people to make their reservation today at https://tinyurl.com/sharetheharborcruise2022.

"These free trips to the Boston Harbor Islands are my favorite part of our programs," said Kristen Barry, Deputy Executive Director at Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. "No matter what community they come from or what group they are a part of, people always come back to shore with new experiences and a fresh perspective." These free Share the Harbor cruises are made possible with leadership support and partnership from Cronin Development, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts Office of Environmental Protection, Bay State Cruise Company, and Mass Bay Lines.

According to Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Director of Development Patricia Salic, "The work Save the Harbor/ Save the Bay does would not be possible without the support of our 2022 Youth Program Champions, including the Liberty Mutual Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA, The Coca-Cola Company, Eastern Salt Company, Inc., National Grid, Comcast Foundation, Constellation Generation, John Hancock Financial Services and JetBlue.

"We are also grateful to our Youth Program Sponsors the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, Alexandria, The Boston Foundation, Boston Consulting Group, Boston Properties – Atlantic Wharf, Camp Harbor View Foundation, Cell Signaling, Technology, Gity, of Boston Cell Signaling Technology, City of Boston Department of Youth, Engagement & Employment, Comcast Foundation, Cronin Group, LLC, Exelon Generation, Goody Clancy, Hood Business Park, HYM Investment Group, Income Research and Management Charitable Fund, Leader Pavilion/Live Nation, Massachusetts Resources Authority, Massport, National Development, National Grid Foundation Vertex.

You can find a full list of Save the Harbor's 2022 Youth Program Funders at http://blog.savetheharbor.org/2022/07/thanks-to-our-2022-youth-program.html

To find out more about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the work they do to restore, protect and share Boston Harbor, the Harbor Islands and the region's public beaches, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org, their blog "Sea, Sand & Sky" at http://blog.savetheharbor.org or follow savetheharbor on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

## The Boston Blobe

July 31, 2022



#### GAINING ACCESS TO THE BEACH

hyllis Foley prepared to kayak out into the water at Constitution Beach with her daughter Gabriella on Saturday. The pair attended an event hosted by Triangle Inc. and funded through a grant from Save the Harbor, Save the Bay that allowed for the community of physically challenged people to enjoy the beach with easy access to sand and floating wheelchairs and kayaks. At right, Ralph Tufo pushed his son David in a floating wheelchair at the event.

