



Metropolitan Beaches Commission Testimony

October 31, 2023

These beaches belong to
all of our residents.



Hiring and Budget

- Record 1% of the state budget to support the work of the agencies under EEA
- Focus on diversity and equity
- Last summer we hired **766** lifeguards exceeding our goal of 700



Capital Infrastructure

- Invested \$32 million into capital improvements for DCR's metropolitan beaches over the last five years
 - Accessibility improvements
 - Climate resiliency
 - Stormwater improvements
 - Maintenance



Signage

DCR has installed:

- Water safety signage and shorebird protection panels available in multiple languages via QR code.

We are working on:

- Signage welcoming beach visitors in multiple languages;
- Additional signage based on the needs of the communities surrounding our metro beaches.



Accessibility

- In 2023 DCR invested \$300,000 in new beach wheelchairs and beach mats
 - Across Massachusetts we'll have 4,700 feet of beach mats at 26 beaches and 40 new wheelchairs
- DCR in partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay conducted accessibility audits



Events

- NamaStay Sober Beach Yoga
- Family game nights on the boardwalk
- Abilities Dance Boston events
- Stonewall Sports Beach Parties
- Diversity Matters Fest



**Over 100 special events at our
Metro Boston beaches**





Transportation to
Metro Boston Beaches
Via Public Transit



Water Quality Testing

- DCR conducts regular water quality testing at our all of waterfronts Memorial Day through Labor Day per DPH regulations
- Work with testing contractor to ensure website and app are updated as soon as we receive a result showing high bacteria, and as soon as the waterbody is cleared for swimming.



Flags

- When a test result shows a high level of bacteria, we post “No Swimming” signs and a red pennant flag with the universal “no swimming” symbol
- As soon as a test shows acceptable ranges, we change the red flag to a blue flag and remove the signs





dcr
Massachusetts

