

# Metropolitan Beaches Commission

REGIONAL MEETING | FEBRUARY 1, 2014



Preliminary Draft for Public Review and Comment

# The Beaches: key facts

- 14 beaches in 9 communities
- 15 miles of public waterfront
- Serve more than 1 million regional residents
- Inexpensive parking  
good transit access
- More than \$5 billion invested in water quality



About 25 swimmers took a run yesterday at Carson Beach in an effort to show that Boston Harbor is cleaner now than it has been in years. Page 21.

### Boston Harbor's waters have started to heal

Cleanup helping to shed 'dirtiest' label

By Scott Allen  
Globe Staff

Rich Nolan used to take cooling bath  
down. Slicing open.  
As he took swamper the Riverside Ja.  
swim at the moment in Boston Harbor,  
he had to cross a 2-mile-long, lower

Dear Island. Every afternoon until late  
last year, the agency would discharge 40  
tons of sludge, the solid matter in sewage,  
on the outgoing tide.

Four years after President Bush  
branded it "the dirtiest harbor in Ameri-

he campaign that four years ago. There  
is the low average debris, such as grass  
buds and tempen applicators, floating on  
the harbor's surface.

And Boston Harbor's nine beaches,  
long closed by sewage contamination,  
were closed for health reasons 99 percent  
of the time when the harbor was in its worst

# Why the Beaches Matter: Quality of Life and Economic Vitality.....

- **The beaches contribute to Quality of Life:**
  - People love their beach
  - The beaches provide places to relax, play and socialize for residents of the Commonwealth's densest communities
- **The beaches contribute to Economic Vitality:**
  - The Boston Foundation\* has found that Boston Harbor and the beaches contribute to the region's attractiveness and its ability to attract and retain the skilled workforce that drives economic development
  - The Knight Foundation and Gallup\*\* cite the physical beauty of the public environment, opportunities for socializing, and openness to all people as top factors that connect people to their communities and contribute to economic growth—the beaches do all three



\* Boston Harbor Indicators Report

\*\* Knight Foundation/Gallup Soul of the Community Report, 2010



# Metropolitan Beaches Commission 2007 and 2014

- The Commission was established by the Massachusetts Legislature to:
  - **Make recommendations to bring our beaches to their fullest potential as significant recreational and economic resources,** ultimately improving the quality of life for residents and visitors, and strengthening our capital city and the region
- Commission asked Save the Harbor/Save the Bay to manage the public process



# Commission Membership

**Senator Thomas McGee**

Co-Chair

**Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein**

Co-Chair

**Representative Carlo Basile**

First Suffolk

**Kip Becker**

Boston University

**Barbara Bishop**

Speaker DeLeo's Office

**Representative Garrett Bradley**

Third Plymouth

**Representative Nick Collins**

Fourth Suffolk

**Mark Cullinan**

Nahant Resident

**Paul Grogan**

The Boston Foundation

**Douglas Gutro**

Quincy City Council

**Carol Haney**

Revere

**Senator Robert Hedlund**

Plymouth & Norfolk

**Representative Bradford Hill**

Fourth Essex

**Senator John Keenan**

Norfolk & Plymouth

**Manny Lopes**

East Boston Neighborhood Health Center

**Chris Marchi**

East Boston Community Advocate

**Joan Meschino**

Hull Resident

**Paul F. Nutting**

Savin Hill Shores

**Daniel O'Connell**

Massachusetts Competitive Partnership

**Samantha Overton**

Department of Conservation and  
Recreation

**Senator Anthony Petruccelli**

First Suffolk and Middlesex

**Robert Tucker**

Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach



# The Commission's process



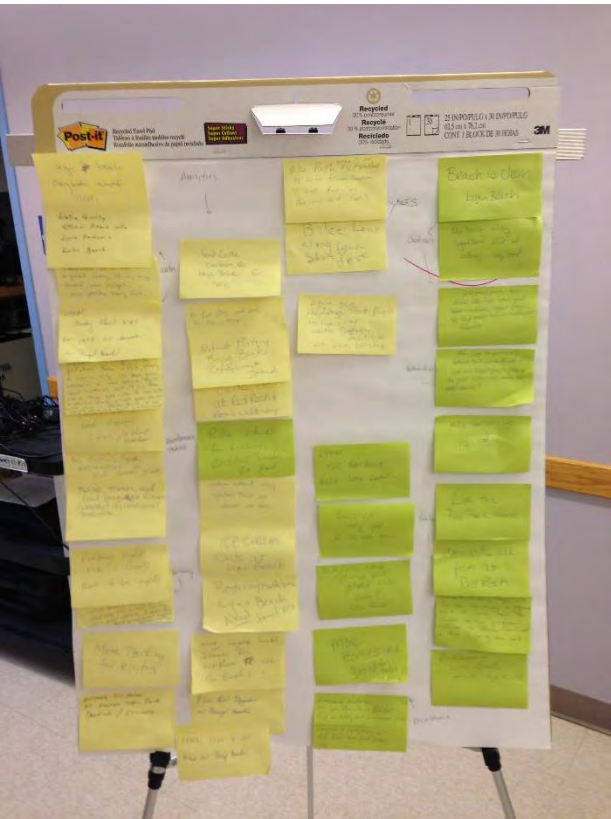
- Commission visited each beach in the summer of 2013
- Public hearings and workshops in each beachfront community
  - Lynn and Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy, Hull,
- 2 Commission Hearings at the State House included testimony from
  - DCR's Leadership
  - Friends Groups and other Partnerships
  - Water Quality and Beach Flagging Experts
  - Water Transportation Providers
  - The Boston Harbor Islands National Park Managers
- Independent review of DCR operations, management and budgeting



# The Public Hearings: great attendance, great dialogue









**Where We Have Been:**  
Conditions on the Beaches in 2007

# Beaches: In 2007 the situation was dire...



*Source:  
Boston Globe*

Trash is a common sight on Revere Beach. A report says 63 new full-time employees are needed to manage area beaches properly.

## Report urges help for 14 beaches



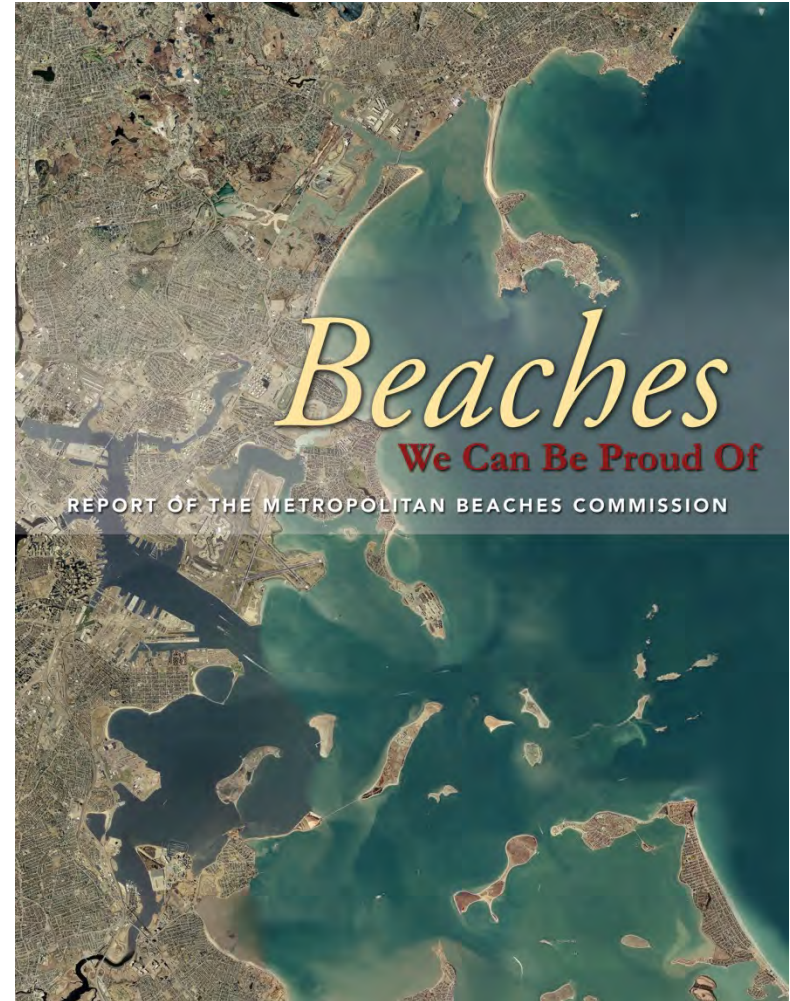
# 2007: Insufficient staff and inadequate maintenance equipment

- DCR Situation in 2007:
  - Insufficient staff to provide basic services
  - Lack of essential equipment to allow staff to perform duties
  - Staff not assigned consistently to individual beaches
  - Poor communications between local officials and DCR
  - Low morale in DCR workforce



# Commission's 2007 Recommendations

- Commission's priority in 2007 was to focus on **the basics**:
  - Asked DCR to set realistic and attainable goals: Beaches We Can Be Proud to Use
  - Clean sand
  - Maintenance of beaches, bath houses and other facilities
  - Schedules and standards for cleaning
- The Commission made recommendations in four areas:
  - Maintenance, staff, equipment
  - Management reforms
  - Water Quality/Flagging
  - Free Beach Events/Programming





# What Happened?

- Patrick Administration under Commissioner Sullivan embraced the Commission Findings and Recommendations—its report became a roadmap and a blueprint
- Within 90 days, changes included.....schedule for maintenance, beach managers, new equipment including sand sifters, packers and additional full-time and seasonal staff
- These additional investments and management reforms resulted in a sea change on these beaches



# What Happened?

- DCR advanced previously scheduled capital improvements and equipment purchases
- Public funding for beach programs has been limited—
  - Save the Harbor launched and funded its Better Beaches Small Grants Program to the fill vacuum.....and has provided grant funding to strengthen Friends Groups and “Jumpstart” free events and programs.





# **Update on the Beaches: Where Are We Now?**

# Where are we now: the GOOD news





- Success in meeting basic standards...attracting more people to the beaches
- The public recognizes major improvements including cleaner water and sand, trash pickup, algae removal, maintenance of bathhouses and water fountains....
- DCR staff gets excellent grades for its work on the beaches
- Save the Harbor and Friends Groups from Nahant to Nantasket have provided “proof of concept” of the value of free beach programs; beach programs bring people together


**Keeping it Clean**  
 South Boston Beaches  
 City Point Beach, Carson Beach, Evans Field, M Street Beach,  
 Marine Park, Pleasure Bay



This schedule represents the DCR's commitment to maintenance for South Boston Beaches and adjacent properties for 2011. Please contact our Community Relations Office at 617-626-4973 if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns.  
[www.massparks.org](http://www.massparks.org)

Sites such as South Boston Beaches encompass beach, parkways, sidewalks, playgrounds, bathrooms and other small greens spaces that are grouped together.

|   | Task                               | Frequency  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
|    | Mowing-Edge Trimming               | Every 7-10 Days  |
|    | Weeding Grassy/Paved Areas         | Every 30 Days  |
|    | Trash Barrel Pick Up               | Every Day  |
|    | Beach Sanitizing                   | Every 4-5 Days   |
|   | Playground - Inspection - Cleaning | Every 7 Days   |
|  | Ball Field Maintenance             | Every 2-3 Days   |
|  | Bathroom Cleaning                  | Every Day  |
|  | Street Sweeping                    | Every 30 Days Day Boulevard<br>Every 7-14 City Point Beach |

Enjoy your visit...It's your nature

# Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program



More than 180 free events and programs

Over the past 6 years, our community partners and beach friends groups in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull have leveraged **\$173,500 in small grants** received from Save the Harbor with **\$603,500 in cash and in-kind donations from local government and small businesses** for a total investment of **\$774,000 in more than 180 free events and programs** that serve the region's residents and visitors alike.



SAVE THE HARBOR

HARPOON HELPS  
CUPID SPLASH!

Save the Harbor | Save the Bay  
SATURDAY, MARCH 23 @ 10:00



SAVE THE BAY

MAKING WAVES SINCE 1966

Show your **LOVE** for the Boston Harbor by taking the plunge at your local **BEACH** and warm up afterwards with a **BEACHSIDE** treat!

Get the full event details!



# Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program

In 2013, Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program raised more than \$30,000 at the **Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash** to support friends groups and free events and programs on the beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

Funds raised supported more than 30 events including sand sculpting competitions, family reading nights, bonfires and beach festivals.

To register or learn more visit [www.cupidsplash.com](http://www.cupidsplash.com)

# 2013 Better Beaches Events

Revere Beach Partnership, National Sand Sculpting Competition \* Friends of Lynn & Nahant Beach, Red Rock Summer Concert Series \* Friends of Heritage Park, World Folk Festival \*Friends of Winthrop Beach, Family activities on the beach \*Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, Educational activities on the beach \*The East Boston YMCA, Summer Food Service Program and Campfire \*Harbor Arts, Inc. The HarborArts Festival \*The BCYF Curley Community Center, Summer Youth Programs \*South Boston Neighborhood House, Family Fun Night on the Beach \*City Point Neighborhood Assoc. Beat the Summer Sizzle at Pleasure Bay \*Friends of Savin Hill Shores, Beach Festival Family Movie Night \*Friends of Wollaston Beach, Kids Fest \*Quincy Beaches and Coastal Commission, Pumpkin Fest \* Friends of the Paragon Carousel, Museum Projects and Reading Program \*Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce, Endless Summer Waterfront Festival.

# Where are we now: The Good News

“The Commonwealth’s investments in the Boston Harbor cleanup and these beaches have already resulted in dramatic improvements in the quality of life for residents in Boston and the region’s coastal communities.”

**MBC Commissioner Paul Grogan, The Boston Foundation**





# Where are we now: the BAD news

- Staffing levels increased after 2007 but have since declined and continue to decline
- Though the beaches benefited from an infusion of resources in 2008, staffing is now at 2006 levels as a result of budget cuts
- Heroic efforts of friends groups to provide programming with little public funding has demonstrated the potential of programming to provide benefits for the communities—but without increased public support, successful programming is likely to be unsustainable over the long term
- Though water quality in the region has improved, some beaches continue to lag behind – and beach flagging continues to be inaccurate and misleading.

# Challenges DCR Faces Agency-wide

- Chronic underfunding of DCR as a whole challenges its ability to meet its commitments to the public and its mission as an agency—including stewardship of the beaches
- Underfunding of the agency is a statewide/agency-wide problem; the Commission is concerned about this “bigger picture” problem
- An additional \$7-10 million in operating funds is needed annually to meet DCR’s commitments to the public agency-wide
- The agency’s older workforce with its many impending retirements compromises operations—through loss of institutional knowledge, related financial burdens; these unusual demographic factors must be budgeted in
- Hiring procedures complicate DCR’s ability to address its needs in a timely and cost effective manner
- IT capabilities are insufficient to support DCR in its work

**Challenges for the Beaches**  
**Moving Forward:**  
**The Commission's Recommendations**



# The Challenge and the Opportunity



“Our waterfront and our beaches are remarkable assets with the power to connect our residents and our communities to each other and the sea. The investments we have made on these beaches strengthen our communities and the economy, improve people’s lives and demonstrate that government can work.”

**Senator Tom McGee, Co-Chair Metropolitan Beaches Commission**

“For us to truly succeed the answer to the question “Whose Beach is this?” must be not so much “My beach.” but “Everyone’s Beach”

**MBC Commissioner Kip Becker, Boston University**

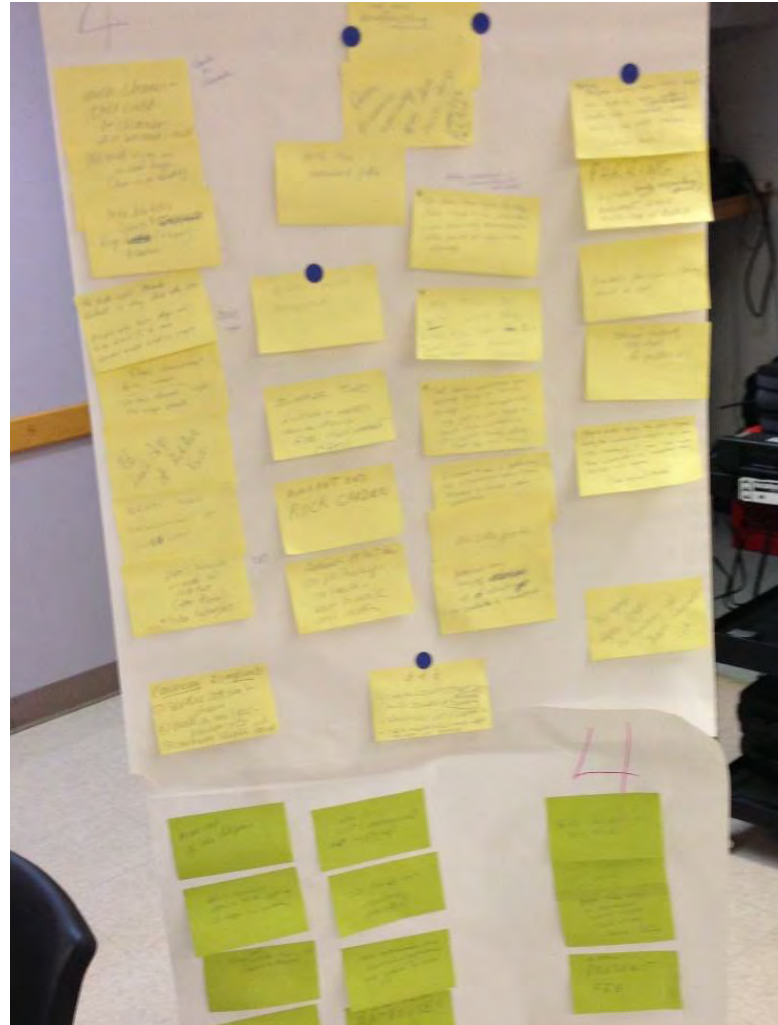
# Overview of Recommendations

- **We have made good progress—the public recognizes this** and is coming to the beaches in greater numbers, benefitting from its investment in clean water
- **Increased use of the beaches means we will need more amenities and DCR will need more resources**
- **Restoring DCR staffing levels is essential;** Beach Managers are the critical to accountability
- **Increased financial support from state government for Friends groups and free events and programs is the key to moving these beaches from “good” towards “great” in a sustainable way**
- **The Commission seeks to find a way to provide oversight on a continuing basis, perhaps through the creation of a Metropolitan Beaches Council**



# Key topics: Issues common to several beaches

- Maintenance
- Programming
- Connections to beaches
- Water transportation
- Climate change/coastal erosion
- Water quality/beach flagging
- Policing
- Plovers
- Dogs
- Access to the Boston Harbor Islands





# Beach Maintenance: Holding on to what has been achieved—not sliding back

- Staffing Needs:
  - Restore fulltime and seasonal staff positions
- Algae removal must be ongoing
- Additional Equipment:
  - Packers, loaders and sand rakes
- Beach Mangers are instrumental in increasing accountability.



# Beach Programming: Building on successful volunteer efforts to create sustainable beach programs and events

- Secure public funding to support beach programs, at \$500,000 annually; the value of these programs has been demonstrated by Save the Harbor and friends groups. We need to make them sustainable
- Take the necessary public actions to provide more commercial concessions at beaches—from refreshment stands to kayak rentals; DCR does not currently have the staff or IT capabilities to capture and manage these opportunities



# Beach Connections: Better beaches require better access for the public

- CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ACCESS TO BEACHES AND MITIGATE IMPACTS OF TRAFFIC IN CERTAIN COMMUNITIES
  - Explore use of Trolleys to provide shuttle service in South Boston, Hull and other communities
- Improve PARKWAY connections to the beach for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Create water and kayak trails in East Boston and elsewhere
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian connections along the waterfront between beaches in Dorchester, Lynn and other communities
- Improved ADA Access in Revere, East Boston, South Boston, Hull

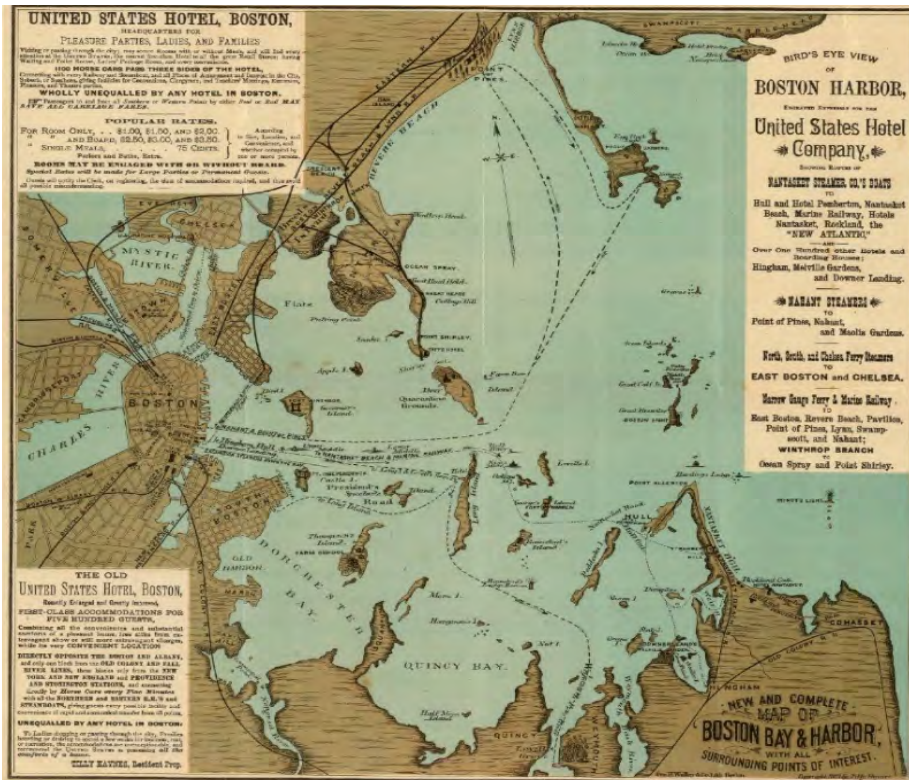


*Christina and John Markey  
memorial pedestrian bridge,  
Revere*



# Water Transportation: Better Connections

We need to create and strengthen connections between the region's beachfront communities and waterfront neighborhoods and Boston Harbor and the Boston Harbor Islands.

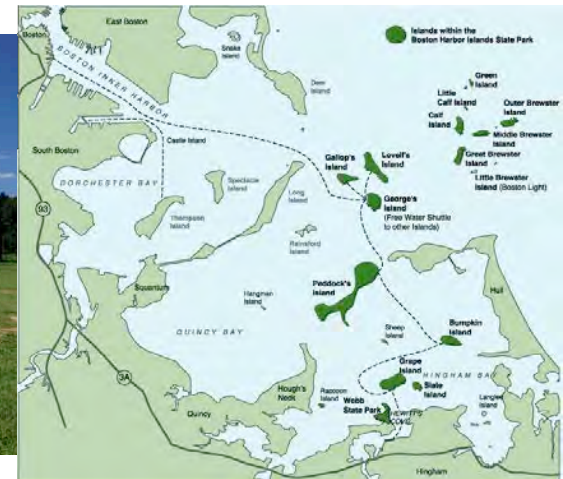


Key opportunities include

- Ferry and Excursion service from Lynn to Boston and the Harbor Islands
- Support for the Winthrop Ferry
- Commuter, excursion and possible freight service from Squantum Point Park to downtown Boston, Logan Airport and the Harbor Islands
- Ferry service from Pt. Allerton to Peddocks Island

# Boston Harbor Islands

In every community from Nahant to Nantasket there is a desire for better connections and affordable access to the Boston Harbor Islands National Park.



- There are significant opportunities to expand water transportation and excursion service from Lynn, Winthrop, Quincy and Hull
- DCR also needs additional staff in the islands, including additional lifeguards
- There are also a number of important capital projects that include
  - Beach restoration and dredging of the marina at Spectacle Island
  - The construction of a ferry terminal and marina at Georges Island
  - Asbestos remediation at Gallops Island, which has been closed to the public for almost ten years.



# Sea Level Rise/Coastal Erosion

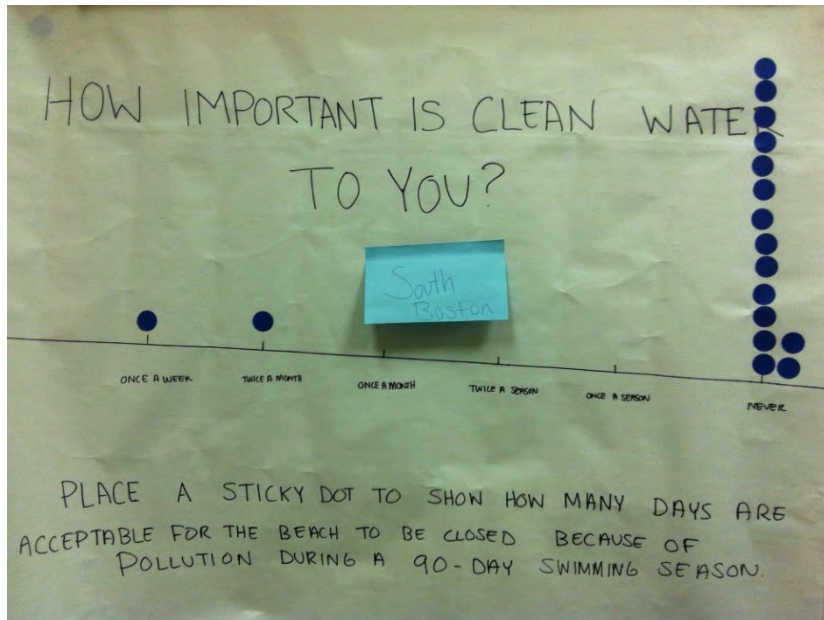
- More frequent and severe storms together with sea level rise will accelerate erosion on some beaches
- Funds, plans and sand will be needed to protect and re-nourish beaches on an ongoing basis
- The Commonwealth should anticipate additional resources will be required for both seawalls and beach renourishment



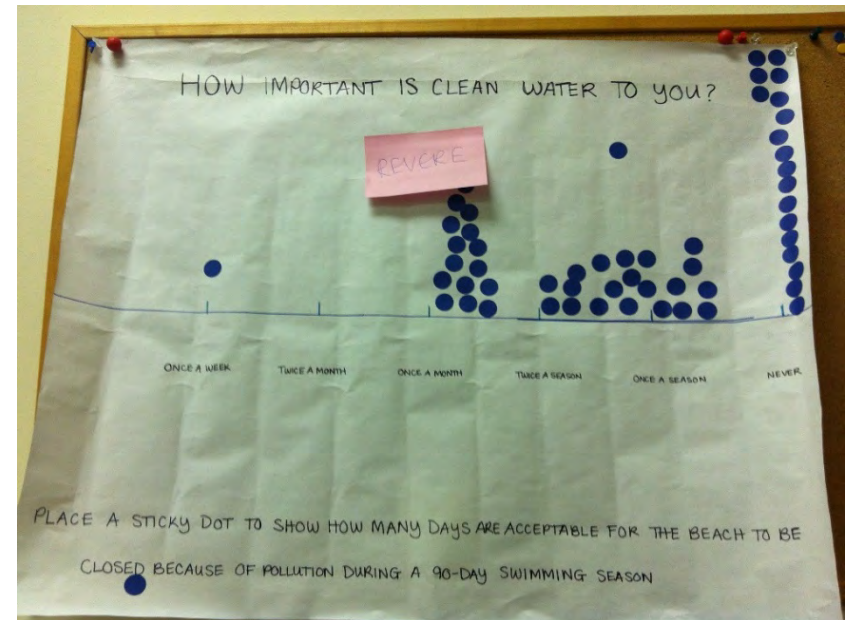


# Water Quality: The Public Wants Clean Beaches

- At the MBC community hearings, we asked the public to rate how often is it acceptable for a beach to be closed due to pollution?
- Overwhelmingly, the public wants and expects clean beaches nearly every day of the season. Over 80% of all participants polled said it was acceptable for a beach to be closed no more than once or twice a season due to pollution.



*South Boston survey results*



*Revere survey results*

# Water quality has improved substantially, but some beaches continue to lag behind

## Boston Harbor Beaches' Overall Beach Safety scores 2011-2012

| Beach          | Community           | 2012 Overall Beach Safety | 2011 Overall Beach Safety | Test Frequency | # of sampling locations |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| City Point     | South Boston        | 100.00%                   | 98.60%                    | Daily          | 1                       |
| Revere         | Revere              | 100.00%                   | 87.50%                    | Weekly         | 4                       |
| Short Beach    | Revere              | 100.00%                   | 83.30%                    | Weekly         | 1                       |
| Winthrop       | Winthrop            | 100.00%                   | 84.60%                    | Weekly         | 1                       |
| M Street       | South Boston        | 98.68%                    | 98.60%                    | Daily          | 1                       |
| Carson         | South Boston        | 98.68%                    | 97.30%                    | Daily          | 2                       |
| Nantasket      | Hull                | 98.33%                    | 100.00%                   | Weekly         | 4                       |
| Pleasure Bay*  | South Boston        | 93.86%                    | 94.50%                    | Daily          | 3; 1                    |
| Wollaston      | Quincy              | 93.20%                    | 88.73%                    | Daily          | 4                       |
| Nahant         | Nahant              | 89.29%                    | 88.50%                    | Weekly         | 4                       |
| Malibu Beach   | Dorchester          | 88.89%                    | 91.70%                    | Weekly         | 1                       |
| Constitution   | East Boston         | 88.60%                    | 93.20%                    | Daily          | 3                       |
| Savin Hill     | Dorchester          | 88.24%                    | 91.70%                    | Weekly         | 1                       |
| King's Beach** | Lynn and Swampscott | 86.40%                    | 73.20%                    | Daily;Weekly   | 3                       |
| Tenean Beach   | Dorchester          | 81.82%                    | 79.50%                    | Daily          | 1                       |

\*Pleasure Bay increased sampling locations from 1 to 3 sites in 2012 for better understanding of water quality.

\*\*King's Beach changed one of its sampling sites in 2012 to more accurately reflect water quality, and the test frequency also increased from weekly to daily in 2012.

# State Police Community Policing: an evolving state/local and community partnership

- Better coordination and cooperation between State Police and local officials on a range of public safety matters including traffic, parking, noise and public drinking.
- Regular meetings between local officials, community leaders and State Police to improve communications
- Continued funding for dedicated patrols, which are critical to public safety in beachfront communities is needed





# Piping Plovers: improved conditions on beaches attract federally protected wildlife

- Federally protected Piping Plovers are nesting on the beach in Revere and Winthrop
- DCR takes necessary actions to comply with federal law and protect nesting areas
- Some people are frustrated as plover activity can cause conflicts with beach use by people; areas are fenced off and DCR must suspend maintenance and trash removal activities near nesting sites
- Better beach maintenance, more attractive protective fencing, signage, and public education will help
- This discussion will continue until the species has recovered

## In Aid of a Bird, Some Inconveniences for People



Mark Wilson/Boston Globe

A warning last summer to stay away from an area of Revere Beach in Massachusetts where piping plovers nested and their chicks grew.


By KATIE ZEZIMA

Published: November 27, 2007

REVERE, Mass. — When two Atlantic piping plovers nested on busy Revere Beach last summer, scientists knew that the tiny birds indicated something big.

 TWITTER

 LINKEDIN

 SIGN IN TO  
E-MAIL OR SAVE  
THIS

*NY Times Article*

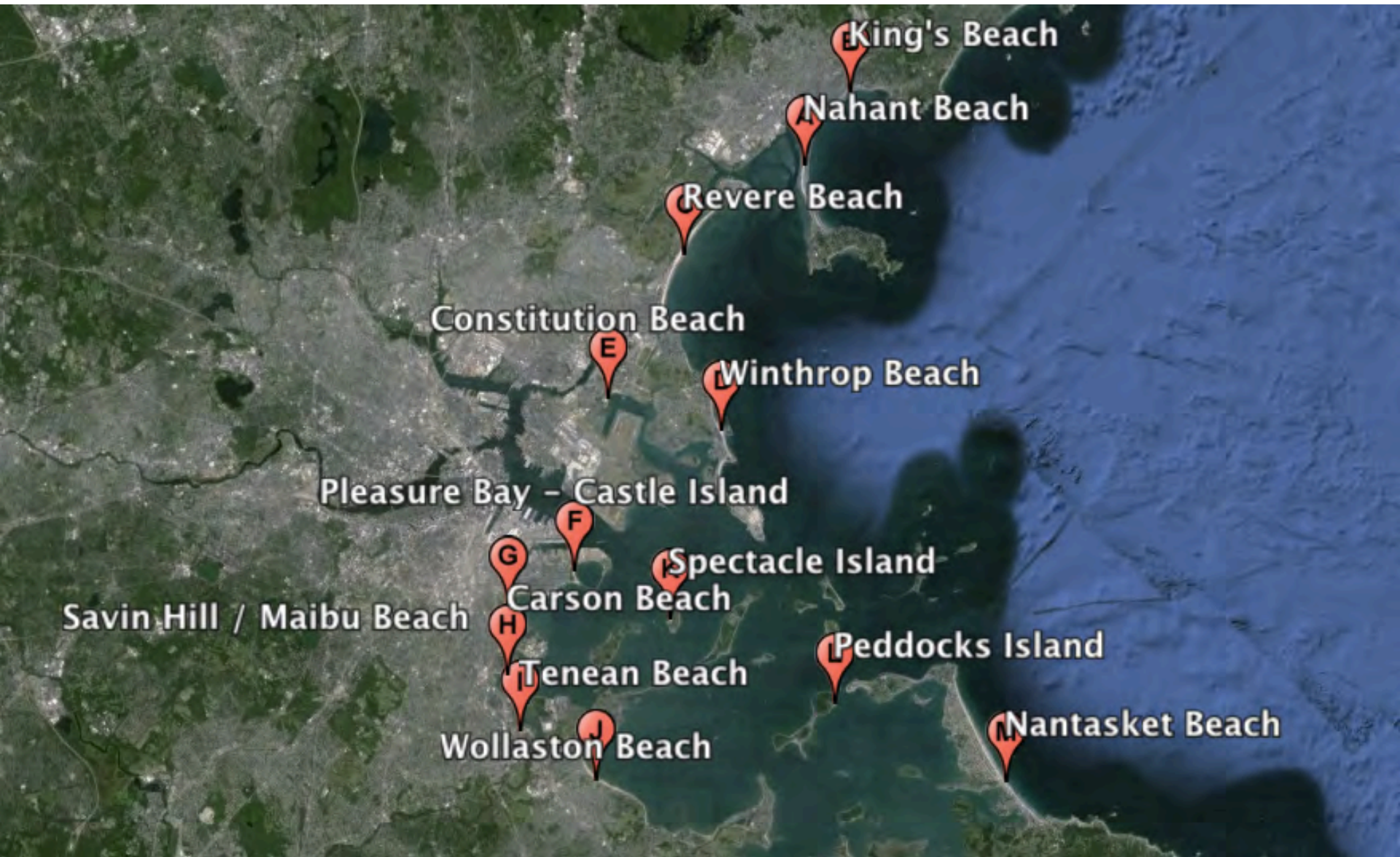
# Dogs: Better enforcement and improved amenities

- Better enforcement of existing regulations
- More personal responsibility
- Dog Parks and off season opportunities



# **The Commission's Recommendations for Individual Beaches**





King's Beach

Nahant Beach

Revere Beach

Constitution Beach

Winthrop Beach

Pleasure Bay - Castle Island

Spectacle Island

Carson Beach

Savin Hill / Maibu Beach

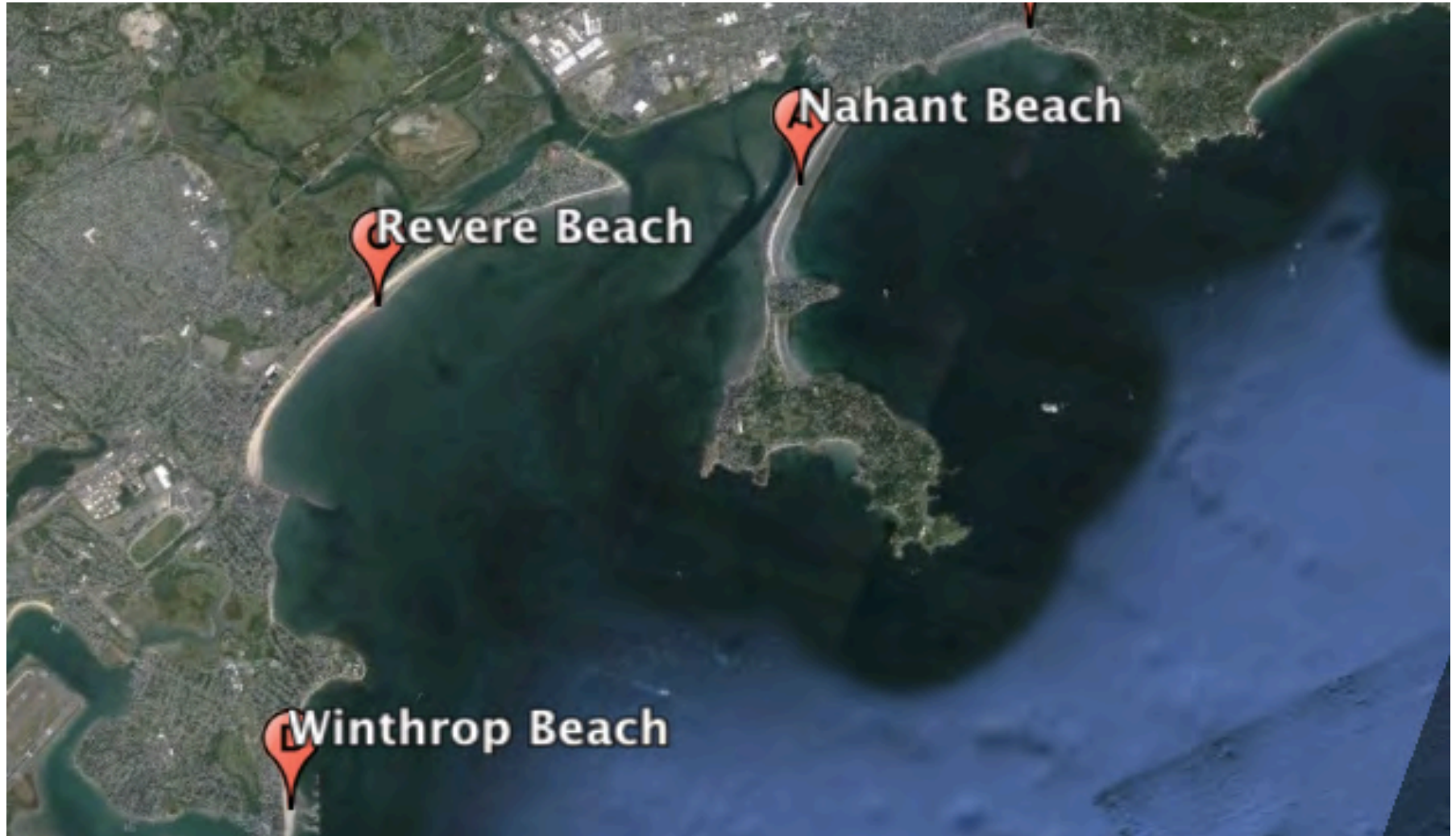
Peddocks Island

Tenean Beach

Wollaston Beach

Nantasket Beach

# Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop...



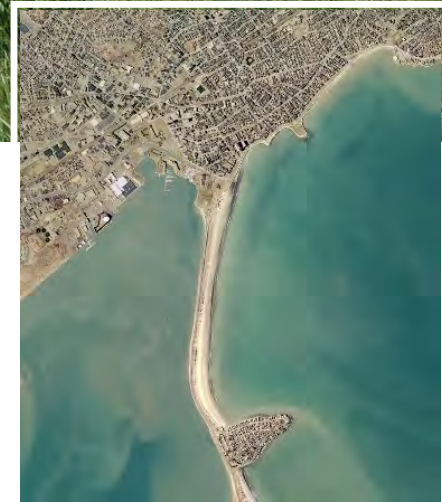


# Lynn and Nahant



“Our waterfront and our beaches are remarkable assets with the power to connect our residents and our communities to each other and the sea.”

- **Senator Tom McGee, Co-Chair Metropolitan Beaches Commission** -





# Lynn and Nahant: Successes and Challenges

## SUCCESSSES

- Ward Bath House is clean and accessible
- Trash removal has improved substantially
- Algae has been reduced substantially
- Concerts and Programs at Red Rock are great
- Friends Groups and Save the Harbor's Better Beaches programs
- "Bike to the Sea" has improved beach access
- The Causeway project will be completed in Spring 2014
- The Lynn Ferry Project is nearly completed and will begin in 2014

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Algae levels improving, but continuing to spread; continued efforts needed to resolve
- Lack of vendors at Ward Bathhouse
- Parking fills up fast on nice beach days
- Pedestrian access and lighting needs improvement; this is a safety issue for Lynn and Nahant residents, with many stating that there was no lighting along sidewalks after dark
- Need more enforcement of leash laws/dog ordinance
- Increasing noise complaints
- Need to strengthen connections between these beaches
- Need more concessions and amenities
- More recycling bins are needed
- Water Quality on King's Beach at Stacy Brook continues to be a problem
- While Red Rock Park was described as working well in 2007, residents commented on the need for more bathroom facilities.
- Deterioration of the seawall and stairs leading to King's beach. Large pieces of stairs are missing, posing a public safety hazard and the decaying of the seawall is getting worse
- Need more parking and better notification when the lots are full

# Lynn and Nahant: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- Complete and continue improvements to Nahant Causeway
- Capital improvements to Lynn Heritage State Park Boardwalk
- Additional bathroom facilities at Red Rock
- Continued investment in the Lynn waterfront and commuter ferry
- Food concession stand at the Ward Bathhouse. The annex is there for the concession. The middle portion of the bathhouse was renovated but there are two attachments that need to be utilized



## Events and Programs

- Increased variety in programs
- Paddleboard and kayak rentals
- Continued DCR in-kind support for the Summer Concerts, Kid's Day Concert, regular beach clean ups and beach programs
- Additional financial support from the Commonwealth

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- Continued investment in Lynn's waterfront, providing connections to the beach and Heritage Park
- Water transportation initiatives to connect Lynn to Boston and Harbor Islands
- Year-round parking for surfers, etc.
- Create waterfront bike lanes/paths

## Equipment

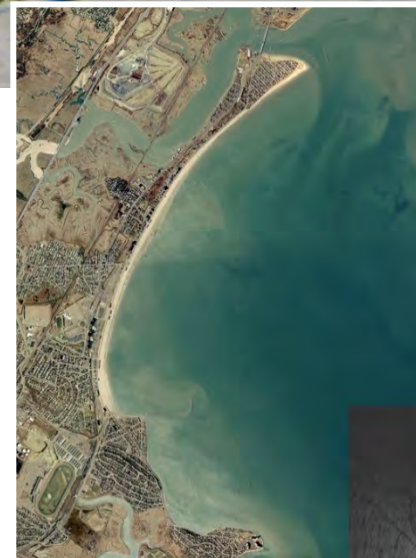
- A new loader to remove trash and algae: current loader is 25 years old.
- An additional beach sanitizer, to maintain the sand
- A street sweeper to reduce runoff from Lynn Shore Drive onto the beach

# Revere



“What tremendous progress we have made in a few short years! This year there were no complaints about water quality at the hearing. No one complained about dirty sand, dirty diapers, cigarette butts or needles on our beaches.”

**- MBC Commissioner Carol Haney from Revere**





# Revere: Successes and Challenges

## SUCSESSES

- In 2012, Revere Beach was the cleanest beach in the metro Boston area
- No complaints about water or sand quality at the hearing
- The community's economy continues to grow
- The Revere Beach Partnership has transformed the beach
- 10 months of free programming on the beach; Passion Plunge and the Cupid Splash.
- Sand Sculpting contest attracts 400,000 visitors
- Plowing the sidewalks in the winter and creating parallel parking has improved traffic and pedestrian safety

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Continued policing and public safety of the beaches
- More recycling bins are needed
- More vendors and a simpler vendor process
- Improved parking and better handicapped access to beach
- Better enforcement of dog ordinance
- Increase enforcement of Quiet Zone
- More permanent or extensive structure to make beach access easier for the elderly
- The piping plover: The plight of the Plover vs. the blight of the Plover
- The beach is a 24/7 full year resource which demands fund maintenance
- Enhanced public safety presence
- Additional staff to help the local beach manager

# Revere: Needs and Opportunities

- Continued dedicated patrols by State Police
- Bring additional retail to the beach
- Continue to expand restaurant options
- Consider creating dog parks
- More attractive plover enclosures
- RFP for development of city owned properties
- Move or remove boulders from south end of beach



## Capital Improvements

- Additional bathhouse to be located in the vicinity of the Markey Bridge
- Provide additional recreational outlets for all beachgoers:
  - Tot lot/playground, water playground project
- Permanent Volleyball location in the area of the Shirley Avenue Bath House on Revere Beach Boulevard
- A permanent carousel on Revere Beach in the grassy area between Chester and Beach Streets
- Addition of food vendors and game areas

## Events and Programs

- Increased support for events and festivals and the Revere Beach Partnership
- Swimming lessons and boat rentals
- More family activities on the beach to bring back the nostalgia Revere had and give a chance for young people to make their own memories at the beach as well.

## Connections and Other Initiatives

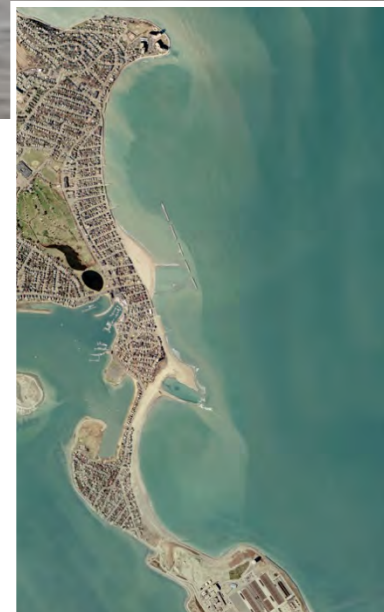
- Explore temporary closing of Revere Beach Boulevard for events
- Shuttles during events could provide an alternative to cars

# Winthrop



“The people of Winthrop have been very patient, but that patience is coming to an end. We expect DCR to keep its promise, and complete this project in 2014.”

- **Speaker Robert DeLeo**





# Winthrop: Successes and Challenges

## **SUCCESSSES**

- \$25 million appropriated for the Winthrop Beach Rehabilitation Project with Phase 1 now completed, Phase 2 underway, and Phases 3 and 4, which include trucking in sand, drainage systems, lighting, and benches, to be completed by the end of 2014
- Washrooms are clean and open
- Amazing views of the ocean, sunsets, storms, and stars
- Beautiful scenery, views, and sunrises
- Easy access to the beach
- Good water quality on the beach
- Well used by walkers, swimmers, and surfers.

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

- Sand!
- Trash and debris
- Plovers - While some residents see the birds' return as a sign of a healthy beach, plovers reduce the space available for beach goers during nesting season
- People need to clean up after their pets
- Beach needs to be cleaned and raked more regularly
- More frequent trash pick up
- Weeds are taking over beach areas
- Pest control during and after construction.
- Storm protection and drainage

# Winthrop: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- COMPLETE THE RESTORATION PROJECT!
- Shaded seating and benches
- Bathhouse improvements, better signage
- Continued shoreline protection
- Improved sidewalk and road
- Lighting with the kind of poles that flower baskets could be attached to
- Foot showers and drinking fountains along the beach
- Infrastructure for kayak and paddleboard launch area

## Events and Programs

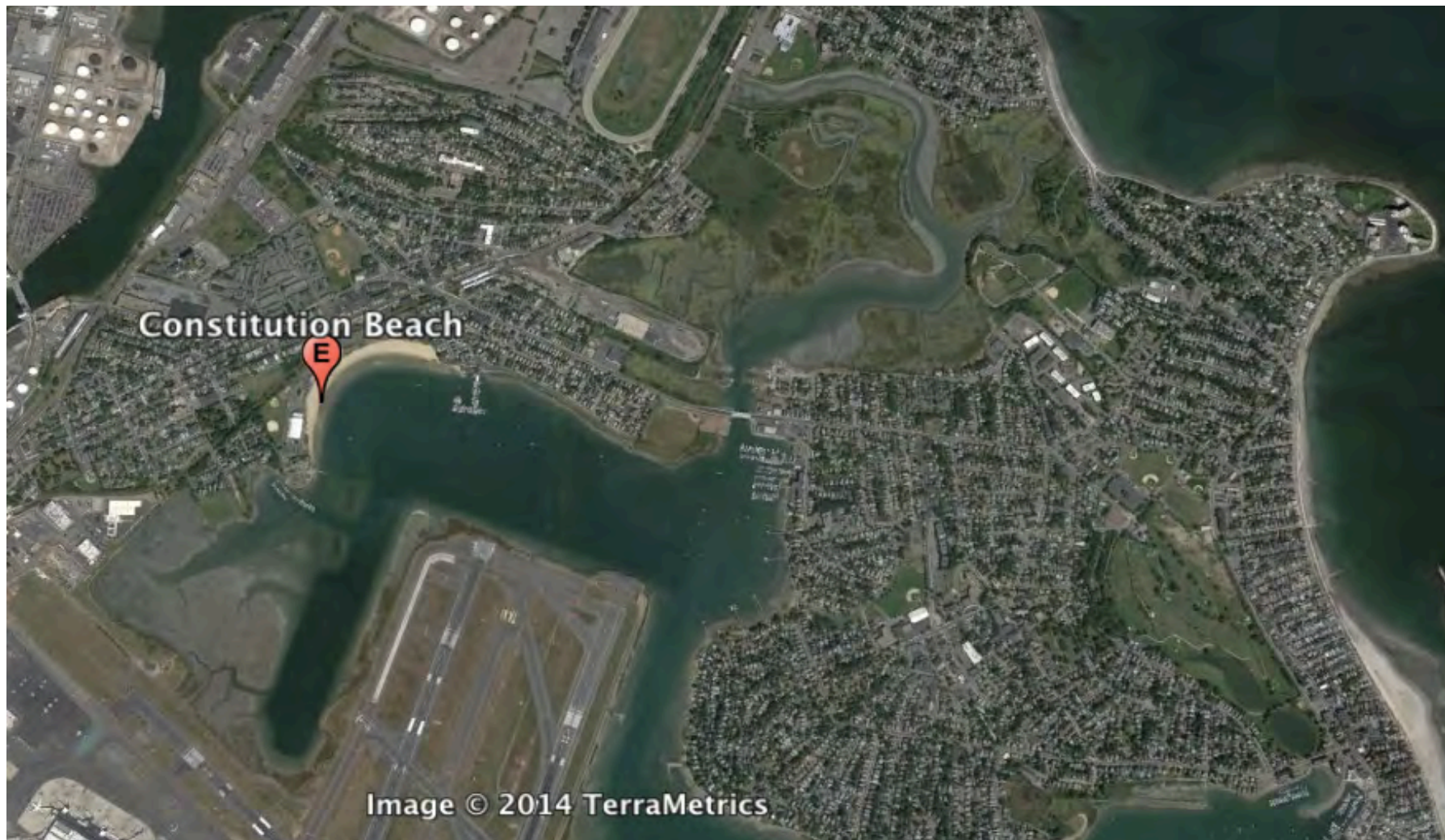
- Continued DCR in kind support for free beach programs
- Additional financial support from the Commonwealth for Friends Groups and programs
- Paddleboard and kayak rentals

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- Continued support for the Winthrop Ferry
- Decorative design on the sea wall
- Signage – historical Winthrop, Walk Winthrop signage



# East Boston



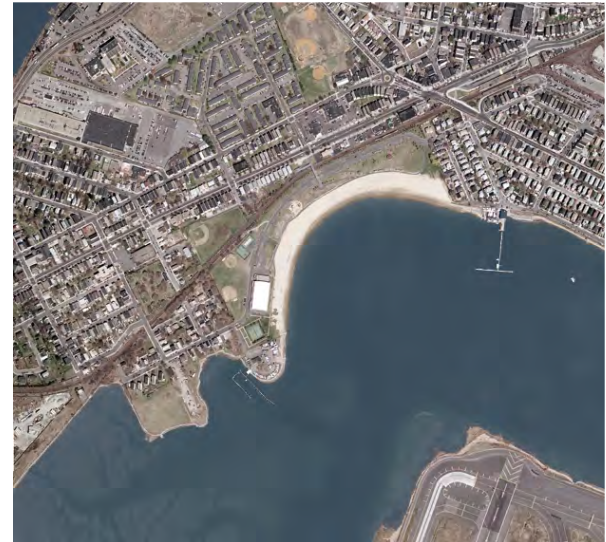


# East Boston



“At Constitution Beach the concession stand and bath house are open, the sinkhole is gone, the sand is being raked regularly, and attendance is up, all a result of the blueprint we created with the community. Today, we look forward to building on that success.”

**- State Senator Anthony Petrucci,  
Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner**



# East Boston



“The improvements at Constitution Beach are just a beginning. East Boston is ready to embrace our historic and enchanting urban waterfront and to produce new visions of use, investment and access. At meetings here, people speak of boardwalks, harbor walks, kayaking, row boats and paddle boats. They imagine swimming holes, sculling clubs, micro-beaches, water transportation, floating restaurants and more. Such investment would unlock the true family recreational and tourism potential of our Harbor City”

**- Chris Marchi, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner from East Boston**

# East Boston: Successes and Challenges

## SUCCESSSES

- The beaches offer not only a place to spend a day at the beach; they are portals to the environment, a historical treasure and a potential opportunity to improve the quality of life for the community and the entire region
- Bathrooms are clean and water fountains working
- The sinkhole has been repaired
- DCR Beach Manager and staff are responsive
- New bathhouse, clean sand and vast improvements to daily maintenance
- Family friendly location with great concessions
- The greenway connects 20,000-25,000 people to the beach each year
- New infrastructure and amenities
- Plays a major role as important interface between people and the water
- The recreational and public health opportunities here in Boston are perhaps the most fantastic of any harbor city in America

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Improve handicapped and stroller access to the beach and water
- Expand water-based activities at the beach.
- Room to improve cleanliness of beach and sand
- Resolve conflicts between ball players and abutters
- Kids partying on the beach – especially at night
- Not enough activities for the elderly and young people
- Not enough supervised positive activities for teens
- Public drinking
- Speeding
- Commuters using spaces for parking
- The lack of boat rentals
- Limited handicap or stroller access
- Poison Ivy
- Trash
- Dog Waste / No place for dogs
- Not enough lights / Too much light
- Unsupervised bonfires and uncontrolled cookouts are dangerous.



# East Boston: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- Mats or walkway and beach wheelchairs to improve handicapped and stroller access
- Tennis court area needs to be completed
- A floating dock for swimming
- Improved wheelchair and stroller access to the beach and the water
- Create an environment that allows for grilling in a safe and secure manner without the negative impacts that are currently associated with that practice
- Fire pit installation at Constitution Beach
- Proper signage outlining best practices, guidelines, regulations, etc.
- Create a program, similar to the City's partnership with Hubway, whereby residents could rent boats and further enjoy the beach
- A small boat/kayak/paddleboard storage facility at the beach

## Events and Programs

- More planned activities for the elderly, the young and especially teens.
- More activities to encourage healthy exercise
- More beach/waterfront activities such as kayaking, boating and paddle boarding
- Swimming lessons
- Beach Bonfires

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- A "Low Tide Trail" linking Constitution Beach with "other than beach" access points
- Create a program, similar to the City's partnership with Hubway, whereby residents could rent boats and further enjoy the beach

"East Boston is surrounded by nearly 15 miles of salt water, and though nearly all streets lead to Boston Harbor, residents have very little access. We need to expand/promote the community's vision to water access as more than just 'what happens at the beach', but also as 'how we relate to the environment around us'"

# South Boston and Dorchester



# South Boston



“Clean water and better management at DCR have transformed South Boston’s beaches into a destination for people from across the region. With that transformation comes new challenges to the neighborhood, which we have a responsibility to address together.”

**- State Representative Nick Collins,  
MBC Commissioner**





# South Boston: Successes and Challenges

## **SUCCESSSES**

- Water quality has improved dramatically
- Beautiful scenery, views and sunrises
- Sand is clean and trash is picked up regularly
- People from all over come to the beach and to Castle Island
- Water fountains and bathrooms work
- Boardwalk and sidewalk improvements
- Partnerships with the state, city and Save the Harbor have helped create the beaches we have today.
- Events are great – but parking is limited and towing is a real problem
- BCYF Curley Community Center is a great asset
- The Harry McDonough Sailing Center is a real asset for the community

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

- Need to find the proper balance of retail/food vendors and over-commercialization
- Need separate area for dogs and enforcement of rules
- Need to better monitor public drinking and groups playing sports
- Events are great – but parking is limited and towing is a real problem
- Increase night patrols
- Additional Equipment
- Better lighting
- Strategy to address homeless people on the beach.
- Traffic and parking, especially during peak times and road races
- Difficult to get from one end of beach to the other by public transportation
- Dogs, dog waste and dog parks!
- Castle Island needs continued investment and improvement
- Better communications and coordination between State Police, DCR and the South Boston community

# South Boston: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- The restoration of the Castle, the replenishment of stone blocks, fencing and trees
- A “signature” bath house at Pleasure Bay
- Reinvestment in the Harry McDonough sailing Center
- Updated visitor amenities, such as parking, trash receptacles, bathrooms, drinking fountains, solar lighting and signs
- Vehicular access and control kiosk at Castle Island
- Reuse of the “Pickle Jar”

## Events and Programs

- The South Boston community welcomes all Bostonians and the region’s residents to enjoy these beaches, which are now among the cleanest urban beaches in America. However, events like road races, swims, concerts and beach festivals need to be well coordinated and scheduled to manage impacts like traffic and parking in the neighborhood.

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- A Beach Shuttle from JFK to Castle Island
- Increased vending opportunities for local small businesses and residents
- Explore dog-friendly activities/areas at the beaches with appropriate oversight during the spring and summer months
- Fort Independence should be open every day like other Forts around the country
- There needs to be a long-term agreement between the Harry McDonough Sailing Center, the City of Boston, and the Commonwealth to invest in the sailing program to continue to serve the children of South Boston and the Commonwealth
- Improved lighting for pedestrians and drivers along Day Boulevard between M Street and K Street (essentially the stretch along the Curley Recreation Center/L Street Bathhouse)
- The addition of pedestrian crossing signals in front of the K Street and M Street entrances to the Bathhouse where many people cross to access the beach and the community center
- An end to the policy of towing motor vehicles during road races.
- There is an interest in turning the traffic signals at the intersections of L Street/Day Boulevard and L Street/Columbia Road into true traffic signals as opposed to the flashing yellow and red signals. There should also be some coordination so that the traffic signals are timed appropriately
- An increase in resident parking at night between Kelly’s Landing and the entrance gate to Castle Island

# Dorchester



“Dorchester’s beaches are important assets and resources for all our residents. We need to take a hard look at how our public resources are distributed and to establish public-private partnerships that will sustain and build on the progress that has been made.”

**- State Senator Linda Dorcena Forry**



# Dorchester: Successes and Challenges

## SUCCESSSES

- Maintenance at Savin Hill and Malibu Beach has greatly improved
- Paths and parking lots are well maintained at Savin Hill and Malibu
- Dorchester's beaches are great neighborhood meeting spots
- Jimson Weed has been removed
- The Dorchester Beach Festival is terrific
- The showers work at Savin Hill
- The tennis courts at Tenean Beach are getting a lot of use

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Need better connections to and between the beaches in Dorchester and South Boston
- Need better connections to the beaches, Harborwalk, and the Neponset Trail from neighborhoods that are not contiguous to these amenities such as Bowdoin/Geneva, Fields Corner, Clam Point, Popes Hill, Codman Sq/Ashmont, and Lower Mills.
- Sea grass is invasive in swimming areas, making swimming difficult
- Smell at low tide
- Lack of a bathroom at Tenean
- The issue of sand in the parking lot at Tenean. The hydrology of the parking lot may need to be reevaluated because storms have impacted it
- Access to the beaches is a major issue. Transportation needs to be reexamined
- Trash collection is still a problem
- Not enough public transportation to other city beaches
- No strategy for dealing with homeless people on the beach
- Not enough concessions on Dorchester's beaches
- Repair wood boardwalk
- Replace dead/ damaged trees
- Unearth sand buried ramps and stairs to beach
- Remove phragmites along boardwalk
- Clear walking paths and sidewalks for year-round use
- Graffiti on shade shelters and other locations

# Dorchester: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- Tenean Beach needs rethinking and reconfiguration
- Remove some of the permanent parking lot to gain more beach/dune
- Reshape beach with a back dune to reduce flooding of parking lot
- Relocate tot lot area near courts
- Provide bathrooms at Tenean
- Construct new bathhouse at Savin Hill
- Additional Harbor Walk and Trail signage
- Dredging
- Strengthen beach-related bike and pedestrian connections

## Events and Programs

- More marketing of the recreational opportunities at the beach

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- Strengthen connections to and between these beaches, the Neponset Greenway and the South Boston Beaches
- Strengthen connections and improve the shoreline at UMASS Boston and Columbia Point
- Better access for Columbia Rd/ Upham's corner area to Dorchester and South Boston beaches
- A seasonal shuttle from Franklin Park down Columbia
- A potential transportation partnership with UMass Boston
- Food Trucks!
- Boat and Kayak rentals
- Make these beaches more user-friendly and accessible to encourage health living

# Wollaston, Peddocks, Nantasket





# Quincy/Wollaston



“Our beaches are an important natural resource that provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to relax, walk, and spend time with their families.”

**-State Senator John Keenan, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner**

“As we come out of the economic downturn it is imperative that we work as a community to plan for the future, increasing water transportation options, expanding programs and activities on Wollaston Beach, and investing in the development of Squantum Point Park and our downtown.”

**-Quincy City Councilor Douglas Gutro, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner**

# Quincy/Wollaston: Successes and Challenges

## **SUCCESSSES**

- Improvements to the beach area (i.e. sidewalks, streets, seawall) are terrific
- Beach sand much cleaner
- Bathhouses are clean
- Traffic much calmer
- Friends of Wollaston Beach and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay have done an excellent job of bringing more activities for families and kids to the area
- Programming at the Squantum Yacht Club, Wollaston Yacht Club with the Friends of Wollaston Beach have made Wollaston a true community beach
- It is a great place to walk
- A great place to be with friends and neighbors
- A truly diverse place

## **CURRENT CHALLENGES**

- With heavy use comes challenges
- Used until very late at night, which can disturb neighbors
- Dogs and dog waste are still a problem
- *Pilayella littoralis*, a brown nuisance algae, may be a problem on this beach
- Dredging and sand replenishment may both be required in time
- Water quality and beach flagging accuracy continue to be a challenge
- Biking is increasingly popular but can be difficult and dangerous
- Speeding continues to be a problem
- Grass and weeds are taking over parts of the beach
- Though water quality has improved, there is still work to do and the area still has a negative stigma of poor water quality
- More trash and recycling receptacles

# Quincy/Wollaston: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvement

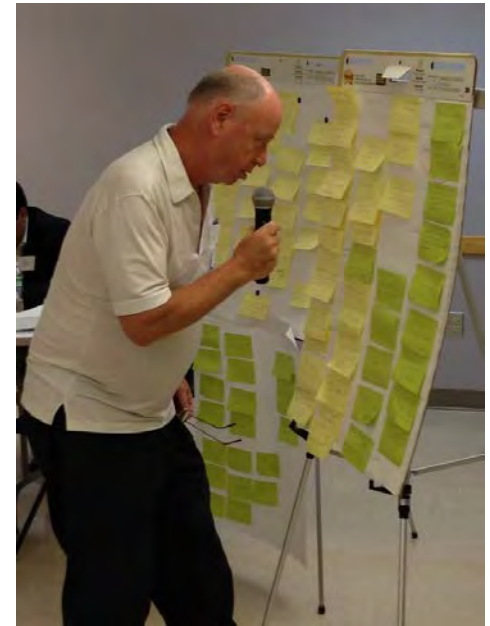
- Support for continued improvements to water quality
- Transform Squantum Point Park into a ferry hub and island gateway
- A playground on Wollaston Beach
- A dog park on Wollaston Beach

## Events and Programs

- Continued DCR support for the Friends of Wollaston Beach's free programs
- An international food and music festival
- A bicycle race from Wollaston – Squantum Point Park

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- Extend walking trails around the Wollaston Beach area and the rest of Quincy
- Creation of more paths and bike lanes along Quincy Shore Drive
- Dredging is needed for boaters to maintain access to the yacht clubs
- Squantum Point Pier ferry service to the harbor islands, airport and downtown Boston





# Hull/Nantasket



“We were excited to hear from the residents of Hull about what they believed was working and what we could improve upon. What we heard at our public hearing will serve as a blueprint for a long-term sustainable program that will bring economic vitality to Nantasket Beach and the region.”

**- State Senator Robert Hedlund, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -**

“The work of the 2007 commission opened up the conversation and put into place significant plans for sustainable improvements and development of the area. Nevertheless, there are always ways to improve this valuable resource to ensure that Nantasket Beach remains a welcoming environment for generations to come.”

**- State Rep. Garret Bradley, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -**

# Hull/Nantasket: Successes and Challenges

## SUCCESSSES

- Beaches are clean and well maintained
- Trash removal is much improved
- A significant improvement in police presence on the beach
- Nantasket beach and the Bath House are now a year round resource for the community
- Public support for DCR has improved substantially
- A dramatic change in the number of activities on the beach: It has broadened and diversified, providing more summer jobs and a year round destination for people
- Funding the EMS presence on Saturdays and Sundays by DCR has helped
- Beach grass planting program has been successful

## CURRENT CHALLENGES

- The seawall needs repair
- Sea level rise, coastal erosion and coastal storms are an ongoing public safety concern
- Enforcement of parking rules
- Enforcement of dog laws
- Increase hours for Mary Jeanette Murray Bath House (implemented after the meeting)
- Beach re-nourishment is needed
- Provide alternative activities at high tide, when the beach “disappears”
- Public transportation to the beach is difficult
- Public transportation along the beach is also difficult
- Parking is still a challenge during peak season

# Hull/Nantasket: Needs and Opportunities

## Capital Improvements

- Complete the Nantasket Beach Master Plan
- Adaptive response planning for sea-level rise at the Bathhouse and elsewhere
- Beach nourishment and seawall repairs

## Events and Programs

- The “Endless Summer” has successfully extended the season and created needed economic activity
- The Carousel continues to attract and entertain after 85 years
- There is still a need for more community-based activities for both locals and tourists

## Connections and Other Initiatives

- Create landside green space with shade for beachgoers to use as a retreat from high tide and for people on boardwalk
- Staff Nantasket Beach Reservation for, and promote access and to, different types of year-round use
- Take advantage of the location of parking for commercial opportunities
- Redesign the Nantasket Beach business district
- Create plans for small food service vendors
- Find ways to use the ocean parking lots as recreational space
- Complete the Nantasket Beach Master Plan to revitalize of the area. This rehabilitation will make significant and needed repairs to existing comfort stations: The Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse, seawall repairs and sand re-nourishment
- Develop more and better public transportation options to get to the beach
- Resume weekend ferry service to encourage visitors from Boston
- Introduce ferry service from Hull to Peddocks Island
- Introduce a trolley to connect visitors to Pemberton Pier and a ferry to Peddocks Island and the Boston Harbor Islands

“By leveraging our existing resources and finding ways to expand access to our beach we can support the next generation of beach goers to Hull.”

**-- Joan Meschino,  
Metropolitan  
Beaches  
Commissioner  
from Hull**



# Did We Get it Right?



# The Commission's Next Steps

**The Commission welcomes your comments.**

- Review today's presentation at [www.savetheharbor.org/MBC2013](http://www.savetheharbor.org/MBC2013)
- Take our online survey at <http://tinyurl.com/2014beachsurvey>
  - Send us an email with your comments to [info@savetheharbor.org](mailto:info@savetheharbor.org)

**The Commission will accept comments until March 1, 2014,  
and will issue our final report in the Spring.**

# Thanks, and see *you* at the beach!

## HARPOON HELPS CUPID SPLASH!

to benefit Save the Harbor / Save the Bay

SATURDAY, MARCH 29 @ NOON  
CENTERSTAGE AT THE BCYF CURLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
AND AT M STREET BEACH IN SOUTH BOSTON

Join us for a fun day on the beach, and for a chance to win amazing prizes!

Show your **LOVE** for the Boston Harbor by taking the plunge on one of the cleanest urban **BEACHES** in America, and warm up afterwards with a refreshing **HARPOON** beer!

Love Beer. Love Beaches. Harpoon.



Register today at [www.cupidsplash.com](http://www.cupidsplash.com) for a chance to win a round trip ticket on JetBlue Airways!

The funds we raise will go to support free beach events and programs on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.