



**THE METROPOLITAN  
BEACHES COMMISSION**

**INVITES YOU TO ATTEND  
A PUBLIC HEARING ON  
THE STATE OF WOLLASTON BEACH**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 2**

**KENNEDY SENIOR CENTER  
440 EAST SQUANTUM STREET, QUINCY**

**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



# About The Metropolitan Beaches Commission



The **Metropolitan Beaches Commission** was created by the Legislature in 2007, reconvened in 2013 and made permanent in 2015. It is **Co-Chaired by Senator Brendan Crighton and Rep. RoseLee Vincent**, and managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

The MBC's mission is to conduct an annual review of the Commonwealth's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull and report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature, the Administration and the public

# MBC Commissioners

- **Senator Brendan Crighton**  
Co-Chair, Third Essex
- **Representative RoseLee Vincent**  
Co-Chair, Sixteenth Suffolk
- **Mounzer Aylouche**  
Deputy Harbormaster, Swampscott
- **Barbara Bishop**  
Speaker DeLeo's Office
- **Senator Joseph Boncore**  
First Suffolk and Middlesex
- **Paul S. Grogan**  
The Boston Foundation
- **Douglas S. Gutro**  
Quincy Resident
- **Susan Hamilton**  
Department of Conservation and Recreation
- **Carol Haney**  
Revere Resident
- **Representative Daniel Hunt**  
Thirteenth Suffolk
- **Daniel C. Kenary**  
Harpoon Brewery
- **Senator John F. Keenan**  
Norfolk & Plymouth
- **Edward M. Lambert**  
University of Massachusetts Boston
- **Manny Lopes**  
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- **Representative Adrian Madaro**  
First Suffolk
- **Chris Marchi**  
East Boston Community Advocate
- **Jason McCann**  
Hull Resident
- **Representative Joan Meschino**  
Third Plymouth
- **Paul F. Nutting**  
Savin Hill Shores, Dorchester
- **Senator Patrick O'Connor**  
Plymouth and Norfolk
- **Kenny Ryan**  
McDonough Sailing Center, South Boston
- **Robert Tucker**  
Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach
- **Representative Donald Wong**  
Ninth Essex

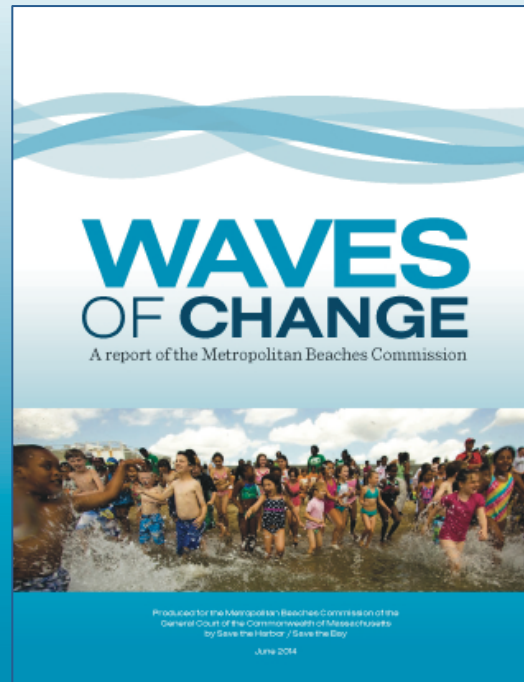
# Key MBC Findings and Recommendations:

- DCR needs additional funds for staff, maintenance equipment, new management systems and information technology, and capital improvements
- Better beaches require better programming; free beach events and programs are critical to enhancing the enjoyment of the beaches for people of all ages
- Better connections to and from the beaches and to the harbor islands are needed—public transportation, ferry services, and for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Water quality improvements and additional testing are still needed on several beaches
- Ongoing involvement by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission is needed to ensure that improved conditions on the beaches are maintained, and more progress is made

# Key Accomplishments

Since 2007, the Commission has conducted 25 public hearings at the State House and in 9 waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket.

It also issued two public reports, in 2008 and 2014, which have served as a blueprint for investment in improved management, maintenance and free events and programs on the Metropolitan Region's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.



# Key Accomplishments

## Capital Investments

- Secured \$20 million in the 2018 **Environmental Bond Bill** for the next phase of capital improvements to the Metropolitan Beaches.
- Secured \$20 million to help communities address the persistent pollution problems that still close some area beaches.

**These funds have been authorized, but have not yet been appropriated or scheduled.**

# Water Quality Report Card

Each year, with the support of EEA, DEP, DPH, DCR, and our Beaches Science Advisory Committee, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay issues a report card on water quality on 15 public beaches in 9 communities. **Here are the results for 2017.**

Beach	6 year average	2017 safety rating	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
M Street	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%
Carson	99%	100%	100%	97%	100%	99%	99%
Nantasket	99%	98%	100%	100%	98%	100%	98%
City Point	99%	94%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Pleasure Bay	98%	100%	98%	100%	100%	96%	94%
Revere	97%	98%	98%	92%	100%	94%	100%
Winthrop	97%	94%	100%	100%	94%	94%	100%
Nahant	96%	100%	97%	98%	100%	91%	89%
Savin Hill	94%	94%	100%	94%	87%	100%	88%
Constitution	94%	95%	96%	89%	96%	97%	89%
Wollaston	91%	92%	93%	86%	94%	88%	93%
Malibu	89%	91%	97%	87%	93%	76%	89%
Short	91%	80%	88%	84%	100%	94%	100%
King's	85%	92%	83%	76%	88%	83%	86%
Tenean	81%	81%	92%	71%	95%	63%	82%
All Beaches	94%	94%	96%	92%	96%	92%	94%



# Key Accomplishments

## FY 2019 Budget

- With the support of the House, the Senate, and the Baker- Polito Administration, the Commission secured \$1.235 million dollars for staff and maintenance of the Metropolitan Region's public beaches
- This includes \$190,000 to support Save the Harbor/ Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program Partnership with the Department of Conservation & Recreation, local government and beaches Friends Groups to support free events and programs on public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.



# Better Beaches Program Partnership With DCR and the Boston Circus Guild



Save the Harbor/Save the Bay launched our Better Beaches Program in 2008 to help local communities and beaches friends groups create and sustain free events and activities on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, as recommended by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission.

- In 2018, with funds from the Harpoon Shamrock Splash and additional support from DCR, our Better Beaches Program Partnership awarded more than \$200,000 in small grants and organizational support to 35 groups which hosted 70 events in 9 beachfront communities and waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket.
- **Save the Harbor will accept proposals for the next round of Better Beaches Program grants later this year. For more information, contact [info@savetheharbor.org](mailto:info@savetheharbor.org)**

# Life's A Beach Festivals



## 2018 Life's A Beach Festival

Featuring aerialists, acrobats, jugglers, performing pirates and Songs and Stories of the Sea, Art on the Shore, beach games and refreshments with a special guest appearance by Larry the Lobster



## Life's A Beach Festival

The Life's a Beach Festival is a series of 10 free, family friendly Better Beaches Program events in the Metropolitan Region's beachfront communities of Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, Quincy and Hull and Boston's waterfront neighborhoods of East Boston, South Boston and Dorchester.

Funding for the 2018 Better Beaches Program comes from the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the proceeds of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's annual plunge and pledge fundraiser, the Harpoon Shamrock Splash. You can find a complete list of our Better Beaches Program funding partners and sponsors on our website at [www.savetheharbor.org](http://www.savetheharbor.org)

### Each festival will feature

- Aerialists, acrobats, hula-hoopers, and jugglers from the Boston Circus Guild
- Art on the Shore, featuring visiting artist Andres Amador, Save the Harbor's Artist-in-Residence, and/or a team from Artists for Humanity
- Songs and Stories of the Sea featuring swashbuckling pirates and a treasure hunt
- Youth Environmental Educational Programs, with a special guest appearance by Larry the 10-pound lobster and his other friends from the sea.
- Beach games with giant beach balls and Frisbees and other activities

Though the program is exciting, the event is fairly low-impact. Save the Harbor/Save the Bay event staff will be on hand to help with logistics and set-up. We have worked closely with each of the performers and the pirates, artists, storytellers and educators, who carry on and carry off their own equipment.

We are confident that this series of events will be a highlight of our 2018 Better Beaches Program Partnership with the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### 2018 Life's a Beach Calendar of Events

Community	Organization	Event Title	Event Date	Location
Lynn and Nahant	Friends of Lynn and Nahant	Kids Fest	Saturday, July 28, 2018	Red Rock Park
Revere	Revere Beach Partnership	Winter Festival	January 2019 TBA	Revere Beach Reservation
Winthrop	Winthrop Chamber of Commerce	Family Fun Day	Saturday, July 14, 2018	Yirrell Beach
East Boston	East Boston YMCA	Summer Festival	Friday, July 20, 2018	Constitution Beach
Dorchester	Port Norfolk Civic Association	Tenean Beach Day	Saturday, August 11, 2018	Tenean Beach
Dorchester	Friends of Sawin Hill Shores	Dorchester Beach Day	Saturday, August 25, 2018	Malibu Beach
South Boston	South Boston Neighborhood House	Youth Beach Bash & Splash	Friday, July 27, 2018	Carson Beach
Quincy	Discover Quincy & Friends of Wollaston Beach	Kids Fest	Saturday, June 30, 2018	Wollaston Beach
Hull	Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce	Endless Summer Festival	Saturday, September 15, 2018	Nantasket Beach/Reservation

For more information about the 2018 Life's a Beach Festival, or for a complete schedule of 2018 Better Beaches Program events, visit our website at [savetheharbor.org](http://savetheharbor.org)

Save the Harbor would like to thank our program and policy partners and event sponsors: the Department of Conservation & Recreation, Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, The Boston Foundation, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, P&G Gillette, National Grid, Comcast, Beacon Capital Partners, New England Picture, Mix 104.1, Boston Centers for Youth & Families, The YMCA of Greater Boston, The Daily Catch Seaport, Baja Taco Truck, and the Blue Sky Collaborative for their support.



# 2018 Better Beaches Program Partnership

## Discover Quincy and the Friends of Wollaston Beach

### Life's A Beach in Quincy!



2018 Better Beaches Program Partnership  
Life's A Beach Festival  
Discover Quincy and the Friends of Wollaston Beach



# Key Findings From 2007 Quincy



## QUINCY PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY

### Wollaston Beach

*"Getting people to come back to the beach is about two things—it has to be clean, and the water has to be safe."*

— Karen, Quincy resident

*"Now that we're bringing the beach up to its full potential with all the construction, we all want to make sure it's a safe clean beach."*

— Representative Bruce Ayers

*"The Friends of Wollaston Beach was set up this summer, and 40 or so people came out and are interested in issues like beach cleanup, water quality, police patrols, jurisdictional complications, and more beach activities."*

— Quincy City Council President and Commissioner Douglas Gutro

*"15 years ago, there was a Beaches Commission which has led to the improvements you see going on today... but now it's time to go back and look at it again... Today, people are concerned about maintenance and water quality."*

— Senator Michael Morrissey

*"I think the beauty of Wollaston Beach is unsurpassed. I have lived here for 42 years and never get sick of its beauty. If you walk down to the water's edge and turn around you won't even believe where you are, it's magnificent."*

— Quincy resident

#### PUBLIC HEARING HIGHLIGHTS:

The Commission hosted a public hearing in Quincy on September 14, 2006. Over 40 people attended and the Commission heard from elected officials, community leaders, public safety officials, and residents.

#### WHAT'S WORKING WELL:

- Beautiful views of city skyline and harbor islands
- Beach is an active public space—draws a diverse group for many uses
- Easy accessibility for pedestrians and bikers
- Capital improvements—new seawall and Brett Bathhouse
- Natural beauty—trees, bird life, sunnissas, dune grass

#### WHAT'S NOT WORKING:

- Water is not clean consistently, better flagging is needed
- Landscaping and maintenance is poor—sidewalk weeds, trash on beach
- Need more programming and events—historical signage, fireworks, movies
- Need more police presence for safety and rules enforcement
- Speeding traffic on Quincy Shore Drive is hazardous



#### BEACH INFORMATION

**Miles:** 1.5 miles

**Bathhouse:** Brett Bathhouse (open July—September)

**Restrooms:** yes (seasonal, at bathhouse)

**Water:** yes (at bathhouse), new fountains to be installed as part of DCR work this spring

**Snack Bar/Food:** yes (take-out and eat-in restaurants)

**Shade:** scheduled to be completed by DCR this spring

**Parking:** yes

**Public Transportation:** yes (#211 bus)



# Key Findings – 2007

## Quincy


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# Key Findings From 2014 Quincy



**WAVES  
OF CHANGE**

A report of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission

Produced for the Metropolitan Beaches Commission of the  
General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
by Save the Harbor / Save the Bay

June 2014



## QUINCY

Wollaston Beach has improved substantially since 2007.

Improvements to the sidewalks, streets, and seawall have made it a great place to walk or run. Water quality has improved, though more work is needed and flagging accuracy continues to be a challenge on this beach. Traffic is calmer, maintenance has improved, trash is picked up regularly and the sand and bathhouses are clean and well maintained. The 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 beach, which attracts a very diverse population.

*With increased use comes new challenges including traffic and noise until late at night, which can disturb neighbors.*

*"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, QUINCY

*"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 DOUG GUTRO, METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSIONER, QUINCY

### NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- 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
- Biking is increasingly popular but can be difficult and dangerous
- Grass and weeds are taking over parts of the beach
- More trash and recycling receptacles are needed

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

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

### EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- An international food and music festival
- A bicycle race from Wollaston to Squantum Point Park
- Continue DCR in-kind support and provide additional DCR financial support for free programs

### CONNECTIONS AND OTHER INITIATIVES

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

# Key Findings – 2014

## Quincy

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# Key Findings – 2014

## Quincy

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# And now it is time to hear from you!



**Please write your name on your stickies!**

# Next Steps

You can find copies of the Commission's reports, notes from this and other hearings and other useful documents at [www.savetheharbor.org/MBC](http://www.savetheharbor.org/MBC)

For more information or to submit written comments, email [mbc@savetheharbor.org](mailto:mbc@savetheharbor.org)

Sometimes, Life Really is a Beach!