

Metropolitan Beaches Commission  
Public Hearing on Lynn and Nahant  
November 7, 2015



**THE METROPOLITAN  
BEACHES COMMISSION**

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

**SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 7**

LYNN HOUSING AUTHORITY  
COMMUNITY ROOM

10:00 AM - 12:00 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.

**Co-Chaired by Senator Tom McGee and Rep. RoseLee Vincent**, and managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the Commission'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 issue an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the House and the Senate.

# MBC Commissioners

- Senator Thomas McGee  
Co-Chair, Third Essex
- Representative RoseLee Vincent  
Co-Chair, Sixteenth Suffolk
- Kip Becker  
Boston University
- Barbara Bishop  
Speaker DeLeo's Office
- Representative Garrett J. Bradley  
Third Plymouth
- Jeffrey Chelgren  
Town Administrator, Nahant
- Representative Nicholas P. Collins  
Fourth Suffolk
- Representative Brendan P. Crighton  
Eleventh Essex
- Senator Linda Dorcena Forry  
First Suffolk
- Paul S. Grogan  
The Boston Foundation
- Douglas S. Gutro  
Quincy City Council
- Carol Haney  
Revere
- Senator Robert L. Hedlund  
Plymouth and Norfolk
- Representative Daniel Hunt  
Thirteenth Suffolk
- Senator John F. Keenan  
Norfolk and Plymouth
- Manny Lopes  
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
- Representative Adrian Madaro  
First Suffolk
- Chris Marchi  
East Boston
- Joan Meschino  
Hull
- Paul Nutting  
Friends of Savin Hill Shores
- Samantha Overton  
Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Senator Anthony W. Petrucci  
First Suffolk and Middlesex
- Kathi-Anne Reinstein  
Boston Beer Company
- 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 are still needed on several beaches, and an improved system of beach flagging
- 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 2007

Completed 11 hearings at the State House and in 9 waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket, and issued our first report **Beaches We Can Be Proud Of.**



Secured \$3.5 million in additional funds for fulltime and seasonal staff and maintenance equipment for the Metropolitan Beaches, including sand sifters and packers and \$50,000 for algae removal in Lynn and Nahant.

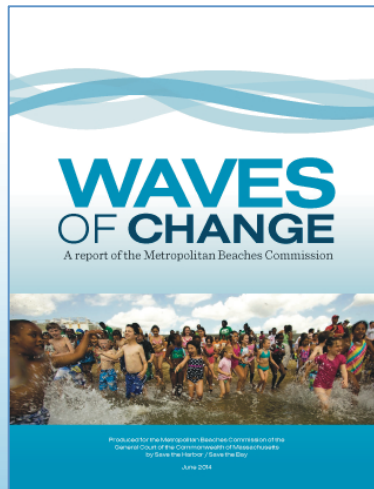
# Key Accomplishments

## 2008 – 2014

- Completed more than \$20 million in capital projects including Quincy Shore Drive and seawall, Nahant Causeway and the restoration of the Ward Bathhouse.
- Began the Winthrop Beach Renourishment Project.
- Leveraged \$205,000 in small grants from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program with \$815,722 in cash and in-kind contributions from local government and small businesses for a total investment of \$1,020,722 in 214 free events and programs for the region's residents and visitors alike.

# Key Accomplishments 2014

- Completed 11 hearings at the State House and in 9 waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket, and issued our second report **Waves of Change**



- Raised DCR's retained revenue cap and an additional \$900,000 for additional fulltime and seasonal staff, the first increase to DCR's budget since 2008.
- Invested more than \$200,000 from the Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash and DCR in free Better Beaches Program events and programs from Nahant to Nantasket.

# Key Accomplishments 2014

## Capital Investments

- Secured \$20 million in the **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 closed some beaches more than 25% of the season in 2015.

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



# Key Accomplishments 2015

- Expanded membership and established the Metropolitan Beaches Commission as a permanent Commission, reporting annually to the House and Senate.
- Raised DCR's retained revenue cap and established a new \$1.19 million line item for the Metropolitan Beaches for staff and maintenance and to support another season of free Better Beaches Program events and programs on public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.

# 2015 Better Beaches Program

- 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.
- Historically, the funds to support our Better Beaches Program came solely from our annual Cupid Splash cold water plunge and pledge fundraiser, which raised \$40,000 from 500 participants and sponsors to support 30 free events in 2014.
- In 2015, working with the legislative members of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay secured an initial appropriation of \$190,000 from DCR to supplement the funds we raised at the Cupid Splash, enabling us to support and dramatically expand the reach and impact of our Better Beaches Program

# 2015 Better Beaches Program



- In 2015, with funds from the Cupid Splash and additional support from DCR, Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program 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.
- These included the concert series at Red Rock in Lynn and Sunday Jazz concerts at the Ward Bath House hosted by the Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach and the World Music Festival hosted by the Friends of Lynn Heritage Park.
- 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)

# 2015 Better Beaches Program

## 2015 Better Beaches Program



### Better Beaches Community Partners

**Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beach** - Red Rock Summer Concert Series  
**Friends of Heritage State Park** - World Music Festival  
**Revere Beach Partnership** - International Sand Sculpting Festival  
**Friends of Belle Isle Marsh** - Around Belle Isle: Come Play and Learn  
**Friends of Winthrop Beach** - Youth and Family Programs  
**Harbor Arts, Inc.** - HarborArts Festival  
**East Boston YMCA** - Campfires, Dancing, Summer Food Service  
**Neighborhood of Affordable Housing** - Kayak Week at Constitution Beach  
**BCYF Curley Community Center** - Beach Jam  
**Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment** - End of Summer Beach Party  
**Mass Kiting** - International Kiteboarding Film Festival  
**South Boston Neighborhood House** - Family Fun Nights  
**Quidditch Club Boston** - Quidditch on the Beach  
**YES** - Kid's Stand-Up Paddleboard Instruction  
**L Street Ice Swimmers** - Cold Water Swim  
**City Point Neighborhood Association** - Summer Sizzle  
**Greater Boston YMCA** - Free Swimming Safety & Aquatics  
**America SCORES** - Free Beach Soccer Clinics  
**Boating in Boston** - Free Kayak Program  
**Norah Dooley as Mary Read the Pirate** - Storytelling on the Beach & Shore  
**Friends of Savin Hill Shores** - Dorchester Beach Festival  
**Port Norfolk Civic Association Dorchester** - Family Fun Day  
**MassBike - Bowdoin Bike School** - Slow Roll To The Beach  
**Quincy Asian Resources, Inc.** - Beach Party  
**Friends of Wollaston Beach** - Kid's Fest  
**Hull Lifesaving Museum** - Harbor Illumination  
**Hull Nantasket Chamber of Commerce** - Endless Summer Waterfront Festival  
**Friends of Paragon Carousel** - Friday Morning Storytime  
**Alice Vogler - Islands Art Initiative** - Islands Arts Initiative  
**Rhythym Room Events** - SoundWaves Blues Concert at Spectacle  
**The Fishing Academy** - Youth Fishing in the Harbor Islands  
**Community Boating** - Youth Sailing Program  
**Courageous Sailing Center** - Youth Sailing Program  
**Piers Park Sailing Center** - Youth Sailing Program  
**Joseph Prezioso - Documentary Photography** - Images From Nahant to Nantasket  
**Artist Andres Amador** - Art In The Sand



Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash - March



Revere International Sand Sculpting Festival - July



Paragon Carousel Programs and Storytelling - July - August



Kids Fest - September



# 2015 Better Beaches Program



## Better Beaches Programs



## Better Beaches Programs





# 2015 Better Beaches Program



## Thank you to our Better Beaches Partners



Boating is FUN Children's Program - July - August



America SCORES Soccer Clinics - July - August



End of Summer Beach Party - September



Beach Jam - July

In 2015 Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program awarded \$204,258 in small grants and additional organizational support to 35 groups in 9 beachfront communities and waterfront neighborhoods to support more than 70 free events on the region's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull.

These free events and programs have brought new and diverse audiences to our region's public beaches. They have also generated new enthusiasm and support for the region's beaches and the work we do alongside the 35 organizations that we supported in 2015.

The Better Beaches Program was so successful in 2015 that the Legislature and the administration appropriated another \$190,000 in funds for FY2016, which we hope to make an annual appropriation. In 2016, with your help and the support of the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, the Legislature and the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Save the Harbor's Better Beaches Program will continue to host or sponsor more free events and activities on our region's public beaches - stay tuned!

### Better Beaches Funding Partners

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
The Boston Foundation  
JetBlue  
Distrigas/GDF SUEZ  
Harpoon Brewery  
Harpoon Helps  
Nicholson Foundation  
P & G Gillette  
Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable  
Richard Salstonstall Charitable Foundation  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts  
Comcast Massachusetts  
National Grid  
Russo Marine  
Food Should Taste Good  
Mix 104.1 /CIS Radio  
Sullivan's Castle Island

A special thank you to the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, the BCYF Curley Community Center, the YMCA of Greater Boston and the more than 500 donors and participants in the Harpoon Helps Cupid Splash for their support.

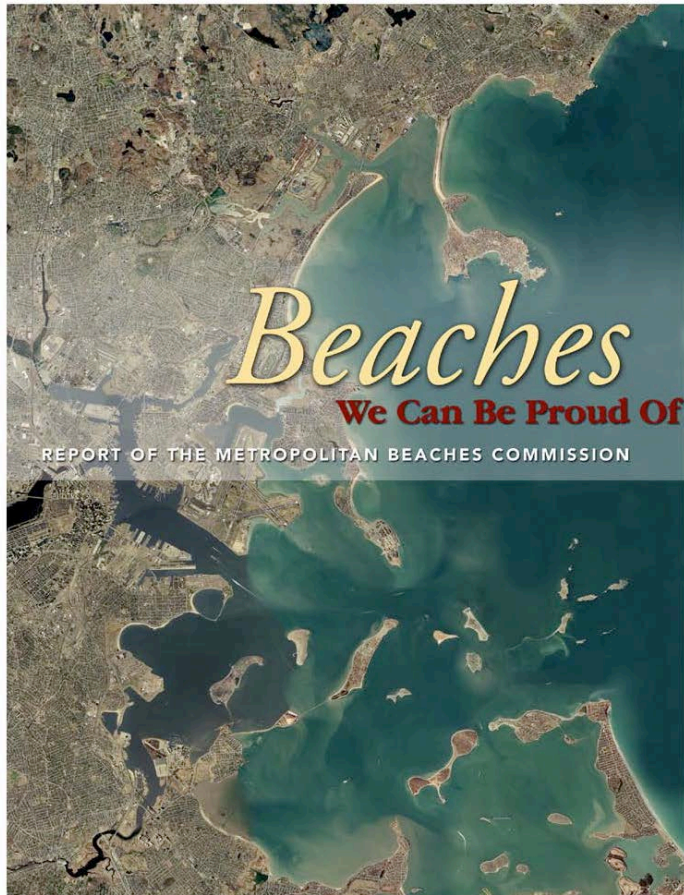


The Fishing Academy, Safe Summer Kickoff - June



Better Beaches Awards - June

# Key Findings From 2007 Lynn & Nahant



## LYNN AND NAHANT PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



### King's Beach and Nahant Beach

*"The beaches are a necessity, not a luxury, for residents, and additional resources are needed in order to maintain them."*

— Senator and Commissioner Thomas McGeo

*"The Lynn and Nahant beaches are an absolute jewel, but the biggest problem is that they are very unpolished at the moment."*

— Mike Manning, Nahant Selectman

*"It's important to remember that when so much money is spent on the beach that there is a commitment that needs to be made to maintain those improvements, otherwise they will fall apart and waste the taxpayers' money."*

— Robert Tucker, President, Friends of Lynn and Nahant Beaches

### PUBLIC HEARING HIGHLIGHTS

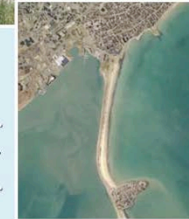
The Commission hosted a public hearing in Lynn, for residents of both Lynn and Nahant, on August 2, 2006. Over 40 people attended, and the Commission heard from elected officials, community leaders, public safety officials, small business owners, and residents

### WHAT'S WORKING WELL

- Great swimmable beach
- Good landscaping at Red Rock
- Great resource for migrating birds... dune habitat
- Summer concerts series is excellent... friends group
- Excellent police patrols

### WHAT'S NOT WORKING

- Ward Bathhouse in very poor condition—bathrooms don't work; water fountain is broken
- Causeway in very poor condition, raising safety concerns
- Poor maintenance; need more frequent trash pickup
- Need better enforcement of littering and dog rules
- Sand is infrequently cleaned
- Smell of algae can be unbearable



### BEACH INFORMATION

#### NAHANT BEACH

Miles: 2 miles

Bathhouse: yes (Ward Bathhouse is in poor condition, Halfway House was demolished in 2000 and is scheduled to reopen in July 2007)

Bathrooms: yes (some bathroom toilets work)

Water: no (fountains don't work)

Snack Bar/Food: yes (variety of eat-in and take-out)

Shade: no

Parking: yes

Public Transportation: yes (#429 bus)

#### KING'S BEACH

Miles: 0.8 miles

Bathhouse: no

Bathrooms: no

Water: no

Snack Bar/Food: yes (vendor at Lynn/Swampscott line)

Shade: no

Parking: yes

Public Transportation: yes (#429 bus)

# Key Findings – 2007

## Lynn & Nahant

- **WHAT'S WORKING WELL**

- Great swimmable beach at Nahant
- Good landscaping at Red Rock
- Great resource for migrating birds...dune habitat
- Summer concert series in Lynn is excellent...friends group
- Excellent police patrols

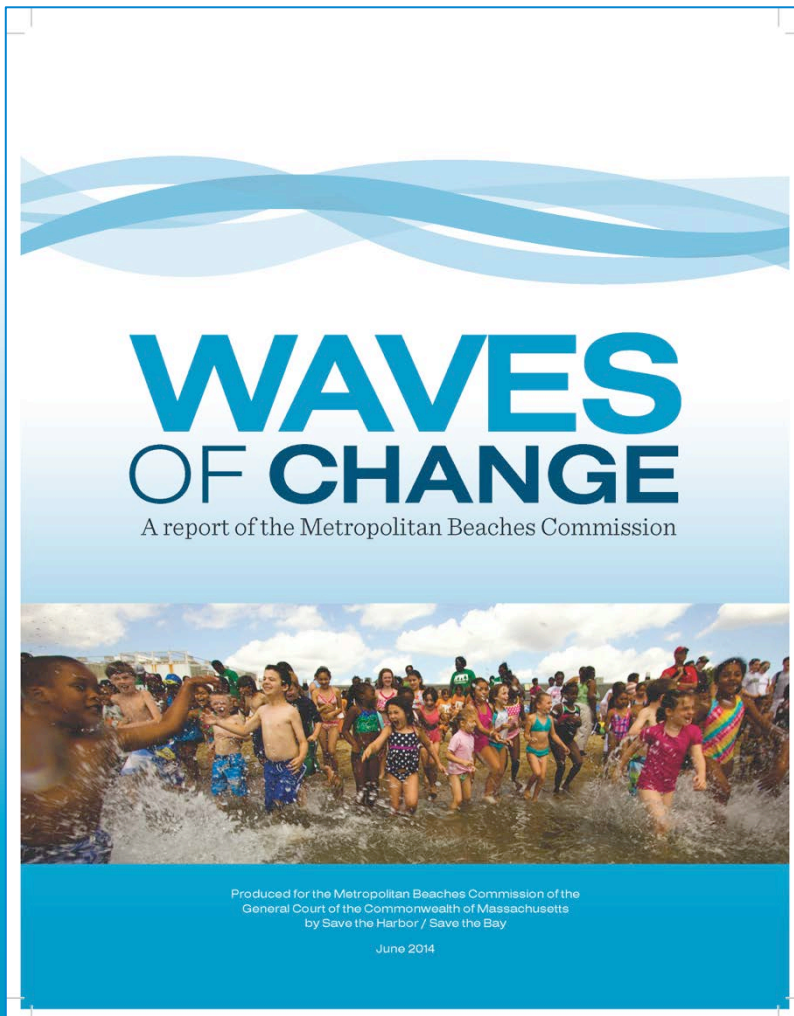
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# Key Findings From 2014

## Lynn & Nahant



### MBC 2014 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## LYNN AND NAHANT

King's Beach and Nahant Beach have both improved since 2007

The new Ward Bath House is well maintained and the reconstruction of the Nahant Causeway is nearly complete. Algae removal and trash pick-up have improved and the free concerts at Red Rock are a great success, while the Lynn Ferry, which began service in May 2014, has improved access from Lynn and the North Shore to Boston and The Boston Harbor Islands.

*Despite these improvements, water quality at King's Beach and the nuisance algae *Pilayella* continue to be a challenge.*

*"With the completion of the Causeway, Nahant Beach will be a year round destination for the region's residents and visitors to enjoy a great day at a great beach."*

METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSIONER MARK CULLINAN, NAHANT

*"The success of the concerts at Red Rock provide proof of the value of free events and programs to the people of Lynn and surrounding communities."*

METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSIONER ROBERT TUCKER, LYNN

#### NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- There is a need for vendors at Ward Bath House and elsewhere
- Pedestrian access and street lighting needs improvement
- Dogs, dog waste and noise are a concern
- Not enough recycling bins
- Need more bathrooms at Red Rock
- The seawall and stairs leading to King's beach need repair
- Parking can be a problem, especially on good beach days.

#### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Address the ongoing pollution problems at King's Beach
- Complete and continue improvements to the Nahant Causeway
- Make improvements to Lynn Heritage State Park Boardwalk
- Provide additional bathroom facilities at Red Rock
- Add a food concession stand at the Ward Bathhouse

#### EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

- Increase the variety of free beach programs
- Provide paddleboard and kayak rentals and concessions on the beach
- Continue DCR in-kind support and provide additional DCR financial support for free programs

#### CONNECTIONS AND OTHER INITIATIVES

- Continue investment in Lynn's waterfront
- Support water transportation to connect Lynn to Boston and Harbor Islands
- Provide year-round parking for surfers and add new programs to extend the season
- Create waterfront bike lanes/paths to the beaches and Lynn Heritage Park

#### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

- A new loader to remove trash and algae: The 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

# Key Findings – 2014

## Lynn & Nahant

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## Lynn & Nahant

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# 2015 Preliminary Water Quality Analysis

Beach	5-Year Avg.	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
City Point	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
M Street	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	99%
Nantasket	99%	100%	98%	100%	98%	100%
Carson	98%	97%	100%	99%	99%	97%
Pleasure Bay	97%	100%	100%	96%	94%	95%
Revere	95%	92%	100%	94%	100%	88%
Winthrop	95%	100%	94%	94%	100%	85%
Constitution	93%	89%	96%	97%	89%	93%
Nahant	93%	98%	100%	91%	89%	89%
Short Beach	92%	84%	100%	94%	100%	83%
Savin Hill	92%	94%	87%	100%	88%	92%
Wollaston	90%	86%	94%	88%	93%	89%
Malibu	88%	87%	93%	76%	89%	92%
King's Beach	78%	75%	88%	83%	86%	73%
Tenean	78%	71%	95%	63%	82%	80%
<b>All Beaches</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>90%</b>



# Lynn & Nahant



# The Sticky Solution



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



# Next Steps

You can find copies of the Commission's reports, notes from this hearing and other useful documents at

[www.savetheharbor.org/MBC](http://www.savetheharbor.org/MBC)

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

See you on the beach in 2016!