





# THE METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSION

Invites you to a public hearing on the state of the region's public beaches

WHEN: Saturday May 18th 10am-12pm

WHERE: UMass Boston Campus Center, 3rd Floor Ballroom C

### 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.

#### The Process

Since last summer, more than 500 people from Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Quincy and Hull have participated in a public hearing in their community or completed our online survey.



### **Emerging Themes 2019**

- The impact of climate change is already evident on the region's public beaches and will require increased public investment in infrastructure and maintenance to preserve enjoyment of these precious resources
- Improved transit access and updated parking policies are sorely needed at several beaches, and could generate new revenue for beach improvements and operations
- Water quality is very good on most beaches but significant improvements are still needed, most notably at King's and Tenean beaches
- Maintenance is good at most beaches, but some beaches need additional attention to routine repairs, trash pickup and other similar considerations
- DCR's Better Beaches Program partnership with Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and its community partners to provide <u>free</u> family and youth programming on the beaches has been a big success

### Lynn and Nahant



### **Lynn and Nahant**

#### What's working well.

- DCR does a good job at trash removal, clearing sidewalks of sand and snow, plowing Lynn Shore Drive, cutting grass, and cleaning the bathhouses
- The new playground at Ward Bathhouse and new benches at Red Rock Park
- Water quality at Nahant is good
- Free events and programs like the concerts at Red Rock Park are terrific

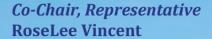
#### What needs improvement

- Parking and traffic management
- Water quality at King's Beach particularly at Stacey's Brook
- Improved signage on water quality at King's Beach that is visible from Lynn Shore Drive
- Predictable funding for Pilayella algae removal plan
- More trash barrels and recycling containers
- Dune protection at Long Beach and Nahant

#### What's missing

- Additional capital investments at King's Beach, Red Rock Park, and Heritage Park
- Interim ferry service from Lynn to Boston
- More alternative transportation options, including a shuttle from Lynn to Nahant Beach, better bicycle routes to the beach and more bike racks
- Concessions and vendors
- More free all-season events and programs, including a festival at Nahant Beach

### Revere



Senator Joseph Boncore

**Commissioner** Carol Haney

## THE METROPOLITAN BEACHES COMMISSION



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

#### **TUESDAY APRIL 30, JACK SATTER HOUSE 6 - 8 PM**

This hearing is open to the public. All who visit and enjoy the beaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.

To RSVP or for more information email MBC@savetheharbor.org or contact Andrea Patton at 617-451-2860 x1006

### Revere

#### What's working well.

DCR's staff is dedicated and overall Revere Beach is clean and well maintained Water quality is good

Public transportation makes the beach accessible

Free events and programs make Revere Beach a destination and economic driver Improved plover management

#### What needs improvement

Traffic and parking management

The historic light fixtures and facilities need maintenance and fresh paint Graffiti is a problem in some locations

"Seagull Proof" barrels and more frequent trash pickup by DCR and area businesses Marine mammal disposal and surf clam management plan

#### What's missing

A bus or shuttle that runs the length of the beach on Revere Beach Blvd.

A phone number for maintenance requests at the bathrooms and rinsing stations.

More events, entertainment facilities and family amusements such as arcade games.

A revenue generating space modeled on the Lawn on D in Boston.

More park-like spaces and amenities including trees, grass, shade structures, picnic tables, a playground, and cooling stations

More food options, including food trucks and carts, as well as retail including rentals, vendors, and shops for beach needs like towels and swim suits

### Winthrop



### Winthrop

### What's Working Well

- Winthrop Shore Drive Improvements are terrific
- DCR's trash pick-up, snow removal and storm response
- Benches, showers, and picnic area at Winthrop Beach
- Free Beach Events and Activities

#### **What Needs Improvement**

- Better access to restrooms
- Revisit dog regulations and enforcement
- Plover management during nesting season is less intrusive but still can be frustrating

### What's Missing?

- More activity at Crest Park
- A pier, a stage, and boat/kayak launch
- More vendors for "beach gear" and food
- Watering stations and a storage area for accessibility items

### **East Boston**



### **East Boston**

#### What's working well.

- Beach maintenance and public safety has improved significantly
- New playground, tennis courts and lights are great
- Free beach events and kayak program is terrific

#### What needs improvement

- Parking and traffic management
- More frequent trash and graffiti removal
- Better maintenance of landscaping
- Increased DCR staff presence, beach patrols and traffic enforcement to enhance public safety

#### What's missing

- Better ADA access
- More adult friendly programming, coordinated with the new senior center
- More benches, shade structures, trees, water fountains and filling stations, solar charging stations for phones, electric vehicle charging stations, expanding the men's room, a boathouse to house the kayaks, more handball courts, a kayak launch pier near the tennis courts, a floating swim platform.
- Extend the Greenway, connecting to Winthrop and Revere and existing walking paths
- Longer hours, extended season and more and healthier food options at the concession stand

### South Boston



### **South Boston**

### What's Working Well

- Terrific water quality
- Improved trash and litter management
- Amenities at Pleasure Bay including restrooms
- Free kid's events and activities at DCR's McCormack Bathhouse and BCYF's Curley Community Center

### **What Needs Improvement**

- Parking management at Castle Island
- High tides, extreme storms cause beach erosion and threaten infrastructure
- Dogs and dog waste
- Better event/race management
- Some concern about crowds, noise, and public drinking

### What's Missing?

- Beach Shuttle from MBTA to Castle Island
- A new use for the "Pickle Jar"
- more "natural" landscaping and recycling bins

### Dorchester



### **Dorchester**

#### What's Working Well

- Good water quality at Savin Hill and Malibu Beach
- Improved maintenance and th enew playground at Tenean Beach
- Free Beach Festivals at Savin Hill/Malibu and Tenean
- Plenty of available parking at all Dorchester Beaches

#### **What Needs Improvement**

- Poor water quality at Tenean Beach
- Maintenance of the boardwalk and parking lot at Savin Hill/Malibu
- Covered trash barrels and increased trash pick-up at all Dorchester Beaches
- Increased staff presence on the Dorchester Beaches
- Better management of the de facto dog park at Victory Road Park
- Volleyball courts at Savin Hill

#### What's Missing?

- Stronger connections to the Neponset Greenway, Rainbow Park and beyond
- More small scale events and programming including swimming lessons, kayak rentals, sailing programs, and improvements to volleyball courts at Savin Hill
- More amenities, especially food concessions, food trucks, or regular farmer's markets.

### Quincy



### Quincy

### What's working well.

- DCR staff and lifeguards go "above and beyond "to steward the beach
- Good response to winter storms
- Water quality has improved, though public perception lags
- Free events and programs are extremely popular
- Walking paths and pedestrian access are excellent

#### What needs improvement

- Traffic and parking management
- Some concerns remain over safety at night and noise from traffic and loud music.
- Dogs and dog waste are still a problem.
- More "seagull proof" trash barrels and more frequent trash pickup
- Better maintenance of recent capital improvements, including the seawall

#### What's missing

- "Adult-oriented" events like movie nights, and dance lessons
- Recycling containers, including solar compactors
- Umbrella and chair rentals, kayak rentals, and food trucks and carts along the beach
- More shady spots, and seasonal plantings
- More bike racks, bike sharing, and a dedicated bike lane on Quincy Shore Drive.
- A central place to communicate everything happening at Wollaston Beach

### Hull



### Hull

#### What's Working Well

- Water quality at Nantasket Beach is terrific
- The Mary Jeanette Murray bathhouse is clean and well maintained.
- The free Hull O Summer Trolley from Pemberton Pier
- Free events and programs help make Nantasket a destination beach
- Lifeguards and State Police patrols make the beach a safe place

#### **What Needs Improvement**

- Traffic and parking management
- Access for the disabled, including parking, ramps, mobility mats and wheelchairs
- Sidewalks and parking lots need paved.
- More shade and green space along the beach
- Indoor showers, additional landscaping at the Murray bathhouse
- Coastal erosion and beach renourishment

#### **What's Missing**

- Expanded all-season opportunities, as well as more outdoor venues such as beer gardens or patios at the restaurants
- More activities that can take place at both low and high tide, and all year round
- Funding to expand the free Hull O Summer Trolley Service

### And now it is time to hear from you!

Just two questions...

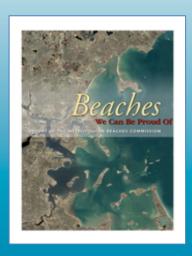
Did we get it right?

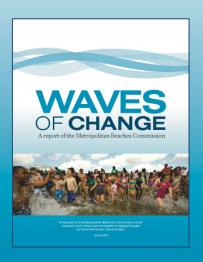
Did we miss anything that's important to you?

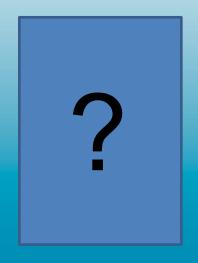
### What's Next?

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will hold a public hearing at 10:00 am in room 222 at the State House, to hear from DCR Commissioner Leo Roy on the State of our region's public beaches, and take expert testimony on best practices for beach parking management and marine mammal rescue or burial.

In late June the Commission will release a final report with its findings and recommendations to the Legislature, the Department of Conservation & Recreation and the public.







# Thank you for your participation and your support for your beach!

You can find copies of the Commission's reports, notes from this and other hearings and other useful documents at <a href="https://www.savetheharbor.org/MBC">www.savetheharbor.org/MBC</a>

For more information or to submit written comments, email <a href="mbc@savetheharbor.org">mbc@savetheharbor.org</a>

Share the online survey with folks who could not attend <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/BeachesSurveyEspanol">tinyurl.com/BeachesSurveyEspanol</a> <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/BeachesSurveyChinese">tinyurl.com/BeachesSurveyChinese</a>

Sometimes, Life Really is a Beach!