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**Open Space Plan 2008-2012**

**Section 9  
Five-Year  
Action Plan**

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**Five-Year Action Plan****SECTION 9:  
FIVE-YEAR ACTION PLAN****INTRODUCTION**

Section 8 presented the plan's goals and objectives. In Section 9, we present selected priority actions of city-wide significance that support the accomplishment of these goals and objectives. The selected priority actions below are denoted by a *checkmark*. Objectives where selected priority actions are not indicated are printed in grey; this subdued font color does not connote lack of importance, but rather ease for the reader in reviewing the action plan items. Other actions are presented throughout the Analysis of Needs, Section 7.

**GOAL: SUSTAIN AND IMPROVE  
THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

The objectives for the above goal are to:

- Continue and improve the cyclical rehabilitation of and re-investment in the historic and modern park and open space system. Reinforce cycles for capital funding reinvestment in the park and open space system.
  - ✓ *Fund and implement the City of Boston Capital Spending Plan for FY08-12 (see below).*
  - ✓ *Fund and implement the capital spending plan approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor for the rehabilitation of critical state park facilities throughout Massachusetts, and especially those located in Boston. Complete the harbor beaches restoration by DCR.*
  - ✓ *Continue the restoration of Franklin Park to support its increasing use.*
- Use both consultants and in-house project managers in the fields of landscape architecture, engineering, urban, environmental, and preservation planning, arboriculture, and horticulture to assure high quality design appropriate to the role of public open spaces as critical, long-lasting amenities in the public realm.
- Maintain facilities and resources at existing or improved levels through the Quality Control Program, interagency

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- coordination, on-going consistently in operating budget levels, and constituent-based work plans.
- ✓ *Continue to fund Parks Department operating budgets at levels needed to sustain the physical infrastructure of the park system.*
  - Update management plans for selected parks where needed due to changing conditions.
    - ✓ *Continue to implement the Franklin Park Management Plan and subsequent traffic recommendations.*
  - Strengthen the implementation of maintenance and operation plans for the Emerald Necklace park system through the continued use of the Parkman Crew dedicated to this system.
  - Improve the training program and other ongoing educational opportunities which commit to the further development of the professional and skilled workforce.
  - Sustain city-owned historic burying grounds, active cemeteries, and urban wilds through the regular maintenance commitment of the Boston Parks Department, the use of in-house program coordinators, Boston Youth Fund maintenance crews, and community volunteer groups.
    - ✓ *Continue successful collaboration between the Boston Natural Areas Network Youth Conservation Corps summer youth program and the Boston Urban Wilds Initiative.*
  - Coordinate and cooperate with others concerning the maintenance of open spaces not owned by the Parks Department such as Emerald Necklace properties under Brookline and DCR jurisdiction, schoolyards, community gardens, and planted medians.
  - Inventory trees city-wide and design a planting and maintenance program to replenish and add to the tree inventory; coordinate with other agencies affecting tree care and longevity.
    - ✓ *Continue to play a leading role in the Boston Urban Forest Coalition, while refining the on-going city public tree inventory.*

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### **GOAL: REALIZE THE POTENTIAL OF A DYNAMIC, INTEGRATED OPEN SPACE SYSTEM WITHIN THE URBAN FRAMEWORK**

The objectives for the above goal are to:

- Continue the process for evaluating potential open space acquisitions as set up by the city's acquisition policy. Continue to staff the acquisition program and the deliberations of the Boston Open Space Acquisition Advisory Committee.
- Continue the yearly capital appropriation in the city budget for the Mayor's Open Space Acquisition Fund.
- Create a strategic planning process to determine the public and private vacant lands available and appropriate for inclusion in the open space system in accordance with the acquisition policy. Develop a community participation process for determining support for including proactively selected candidate parcels into the open space system.
  - ✓ Participate in the Vacant Land/Neighborhood Sustainability process as one vehicle for addressing this objective.
- Work with the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) to plan for facilities to support their programming and the league- and community-based recreation programs and events.
- Work with other city agencies to develop neighborhood linear open space networks to protect existing linear facilities and to nurture and develop proposed facilities. Work with other municipalities and the DCR on inter-municipal/regional facilities.
  - ✓ Advocate for linear open space systems such as the East Coast Greenway, the East Boston Greenway extension, the Chelsea Creek greenway, East Boston Harbor Park along the Inner Harbor, Inner Green Ring (RFK Greenway to South Bay Harbor Trail to Melnea Cass Boulevard to Connecting the Corridors Project, to Charles River Esplanade and back to RFK Greenway), green trails/streets network in Allston-Brighton, extension of the Neponset Greenway into Mattapan and Hyde Park, and elsewhere as identified in the Greenways, Trails, and Bikeways section of this Open Space Plan. Coordinate with all involved parties to achieve these systems.

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- Engage where needed in multi-jurisdictional projects to create regional open space systems that benefit Boston's residents. Work with other municipalities and the DCR on inter-municipal/regional facilities.
  - ✓ Work with DCR and NPS on planning and management of the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.
  - ✓ Work with the BRA, Massport, and others to create a full-range open space system for the developing South Boston Seaport area.
- Advocate for the inclusion of open space concerns in land use decision-making in the city, given the strategic importance of open space in economic growth processes. Coordinate the open space aspects of urban development projects with the city, BRA, state, and federal planning, open space, housing, transportation, and public works agencies; complement and improve the existing open space system through input into public benefit packages and mitigation measures.
  - ✓ Work with the BRA and the community to achieve new levels of open space delivery, including new spaces, in such institutional expansions as at Harvard University in Allston, and Boston College in Brighton.
- Support the creation of land trusts and other innovative models such as Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and license agreements to protect open space through partnerships, fundraising, and land banking. Support existing groups like the Boston Natural Areas Network and the Trust for Public Land which are currently engaged in such activities.

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### **GOAL: PROTECT, RESTORE, AND IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASE OF THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

The objectives for the above goal are to:

- Protect city-owned urban wilds and other natural areas from development, encroachment, and uses that degrade their natural character. Advocate for the long-term protection and stewardship of non-city publicly and privately owned urban wilds and other natural areas. Acquire through transfer or purchase urban wilds and natural areas where community support and administrative capabilities warrant protection of highly valued natural resources and ecosystems/habitats.
  - ✓ Investigate the natural resource, flood storage, and habitat values of the Kennebec/Alabama/Colorado Marsh in Mattapan. Determine if ecosystem values, administrative capabilities, and community support warrant transfer and acquisition of city and private parcels.
- Manage and maintain city-owned urban wilds and other natural areas to facilitate public access and promote ecological values. Promote the use of city-owned urban wilds and other natural areas for passive recreation, environmental education, and other uses in keeping with their natural character. Develop administrative, fiscal, and programmatic resources to ensure ongoing, long-term maintenance and management of city-owned urban wilds and other natural areas.
  - ✓ Complete design and implement the Geneva Avenue Cliffs urban wild capital improvement project to increase site usability by the general public.
- Develop and implement an urban tree and forest management and development plan (of which the Emerald Necklace Woodlands Program is a sub-set) which treats the city's trees as a part of the capital infrastructure that ensures a quality environment (air, visual, climate, and wildlife).
  - ✓ Implement the Growing Boston Greener Initiative, working with the Chief Environmental Services Officer and the Boston Urban Forest Coalition. Achieve the 35% canopy coverage goal while distributing the benefits in an environmentally just fashion throughout all the neighborhoods.

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- Work with city, state, and federal agencies to improve the natural resources of our open space system, especially our vulnerable water bodies. Continue to coordinate decision-making of the Parks Commission and the Conservation Commission through the Parks Commissioner's representation on the Conservation Commission.
- Review and analyze proposed plans and developments for environmental impact, with specific attention to open space; for unavoidable impacts, work toward the most effective and feasible means of mitigation; where feasible, work with project proponents to incorporate enhancements to the open space system as part of the project.
- Work with other municipal and regional jurisdictions to improve ecological systems shared by them and Boston, using watershed protection principles and regional projects such as greenways as a basis for cooperation.
  - ✓ Continue pre-implementation actions with BWSC, Town of Brookline, EOEEA, and the USA COE for the construction phase of the Muddy River Restoration Project. Support USA COE management of the construction phase of the project.

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### **GOAL: COORDINATE OPEN SPACE PROVISION FOR MAXIMUM COMMUNITY BENEFIT**

The objectives for the above goal are to:

- Advocate the idea of a single open space system regardless of ownership or physical attributes.
- Continue the integration of cemeteries, urban wilds, streetscapes, community gardens, public housing open spaces, and major public school campuses into mainstream parks operations and programming.
- Continue to maintain all responsibility for city tree planting and maintenance under the Parks Department.
- Encourage public policies and actions that are consistent with the city Open Space Plan such as agency area plans, zoning, conservation legislation, regulatory decision-making, and easements.
- Continue to consult with the Parks Department through its professional staff (horticulture, landscape architecture, engineering, arboriculture, historic preservation, and planning) during the planning, design, and construction process on all projects which will, or have the potential to, come under the care, custody, or control of the Parks Department, or which have major open space impacts (positive or adverse) on the city.
- Participate in multi-agency planning initiatives such as the Central Artery/Third Harbor Tunnel Project, Roxbury Strategic Master Plan, etc. to insure the maximum feasible protection and benefit for open spaces in the city.
  - ✓ Work with the BRA and MTA on developing an open space system as Turnpike air rights are developed along the right-of-way.
  - ✓ Work with the BRA, BTD, MBTA, and others to develop a plan for the Forest Hills area (Jamaica Plain/Roslindale) to improve traffic flows, develop vacant parcels, and provide open space and non-motorized transportation ways for this highly active urban node where Franklin Park, the Arnold Arboretum, the Arborway, and the Southwest Corridor Park meet. Integrate the non-motorized transportation ways with the bike routes suggested by the Roslindale Strategic Master Plan.

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### **GOAL: DEVELOP A NETWORK OF RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A FISCALLY STABLE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

The objectives for the above goal are to:

- Continue to expand the Parks Department Public/Private Partnerships Program to include all groups that have a relationship of partnership or volunteerism associated with parks and open spaces in Boston.
- Maximize corporate, foundation, and government grant support for programs and capital improvements.
- Continue to capitalize city park maintenance equipment to alleviate pressure on annual operating budgets.
- Coordinate state and city maintenance to mitigate the adverse effects of any boom and bust cycle
- Support the existing public and private programs dedicated to the care of specific areas of the park system such as the Adopt-a-Statue program, the Ranger program, and the Neighborhood Tree program; encourage the creation of other public and private open space enhancement programs.
  - ✓ Make ongoing the city budget appropriation for permanent Boston Park Ranger employees so as to insure experienced stewardship of the park system.

## Five-Year Action Plan

### City of Boston Parks & Recreation Department Capital Spending Plan FY06-12

Project Name	Neighborhood	City Capital Funds, Existing & Anticipated Authorization FY06-12
Brighton Square Park	Allston-Brighton	150,000
Cassidy Field House	Allston-Brighton	330,000
Evergreen Cemetery	Allston-Brighton	405,000
Portsmouth Playground	Allston-Brighton	645,000
Rogers Park	Allston-Brighton	25,000
Smith Field	Allston-Brighton	289,000
Boston Common	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	515,000
Boston Common Brewer Fountain	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	78,000
Boston Common, Deer Park	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	510,000
Boston Common, Visitor Information Center	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	1,525,000
Clarendon Street Playground	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	138,600
Phillips Street Park	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	500,000
Public Garden, Comm Ave. Mall	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	835,000
Statler Park	Back Bay/Beacon Hill	320,000
Barry Playground	Charlestown	400,000
Charlestown High School Field	Charlestown	3,416,000
Cook Street Playground	Charlestown	300,000
John Harvard Mall	Charlestown	225,000
Ryan Playground	Charlestown	300,000
Union Rutherford Playground	Charlestown	600,000
Winthrop Square III	Charlestown	251,200
Liberty Tree	Chinatown	130,000
Cutillo Playground	Central Boston	227,850
DeFilippo Playground	Central Boston	345,000
Bryne Playground	Dorchester	350,000
McConnell Playground	Dorchester	201,000
Quincy Stanley Playground	Dorchester	350,000
Ripley Playground	Dorchester	490,000
Roberts Playground	Dorchester	3,500,000
American Legion Field House	East Boston	410,000
American Legion Playground	East Boston	110,000
East Boston Stadium	East Boston	10,410,000
Noyes Playground	East Boston	300,000
Sumner and Lamson Playground	East Boston	435,000
B.B. Fens And Corridor Links Enhancement	Fenway/Kenmore	909,800
Back Bay Fens	Fenway/Kenmore	220,000
Muddy River	Fenway/Kenmore	9,270,638

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Project Name	Neighborhood	City Capital Funds, Existing & Anticipated Authorization FY06-12
Fairview Cemetery Garage Building	Hyde Park	667,000
George Wright Golf Course	Hyde Park	400,000
George Wright Golf Course Clubhouse	Hyde Park	2,400,000
George Wright Golf Course II	Hyde Park	200,000
George Wright Maintenance Building	Hyde Park	668,000
Brewer Burroughs Playground	Jamaica Plain	350,000
Jamaica Pond	Jamaica Plain	1,900,000
Mozart Playground	Jamaica Plain	532,500
Pinebank	Jamaica Plain	750,000
Rossmore-Stedman Park	Jamaica Plain	357,000
South Street Mall	Jamaica Plain	353,000
Harambee Park	Mattapan	460,000
Hunt/Almont Playground	Mattapan	188,123
Fallon Field	Roslindale	100,000
Mt. Hope Cemetery Chapel	Roslindale	374,800
Ceylon Park	Roxbury	2,000,000
Dennis Street Park	Roxbury	270,000
Franklin Park	Roxbury	275,000
Franklin Park Admin Building Interior	Roxbury	1,972,820
Franklin Park Greenhouse Construction	Roxbury	520,000
Franklin Park Maintenance Garage	Roxbury	1,300,000
Franklin Park Maintenance Yard Utilities	Roxbury	2,215,600
Franklin Park Maintenance Yard Utilities Phase II	Roxbury	1,595,000
Franklin Park Ranger B-Barn	Roxbury	375,000
Franklin Park Ranger Facility Study	Roxbury	120,000
Highland Park	Roxbury	250,000
Jeep Jones Park Renovations	Roxbury	125,500
Madison Park High School Field	Roxbury	600,000
Mt. Pleasant Street Park	Roxbury	545,000
William Devine Golf Course	Roxbury	400,000
Winthrop Playground	Roxbury	290,000
Joe Moakley Park Softball Diamond	South Boston	71,800
Lee Playground (M St.)	South Boston	580,000
Blackstone/Franklin Squares Fountains	South End	310,700
Carter Playground	South End	863,000
Chester Square	South End	500,000
Hayes Playground	South End	200,000
Monsignor Reynolds Playground	South End	299,000
Peter's Park	South End	1,073,000
South End Library Park	South End	30,000
St. James Park	South End	335,000
Union Park	South End	225,000
Union Street Playground	South End	179,000
Hynes Playground	West Roxbury	575,000

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Project Name	Neighborhood	City Capital Funds, Existing & Anticipated Authorization FY06-12
Court Renovations II	Various neighborhoods	750,000
Hazardous Remediation	Various neighborhoods	453,250
Rock Climbing Program	Various neighborhoods	107,000
Water Spray Feature	Various neighborhoods	225,000
Ball Field Floodlighting	Citywide	350,000
Ball Field Improvements	Citywide	855,000
Court Renovations	Citywide	760,000
General Parks Improvements	Citywide	700,000
Historic Cemeteries	Citywide	500,000
Irrigation Systems	Citywide	222,000
Park Equipment	Citywide	550,000
Playlots	Citywide	600,000
Storage Shed Installations	Citywide	84,000
Street Tree Planting	Citywide	750,000
Urban Wilds Renovations	Citywide	590,000

Grant-Assisted Projects		
Project Name	Neighborhood	Grant Amount FY06-12
B.B. Fens and Corridor Links Enhancement	Fenway/Kenmore	1,000,000
Brighton Square Park	Allston-Brighton	365,000
Dennis Street Park	Roxbury	319,000
Harambee Park	Mattapan	225,000
Muddy River	Various neighborhoods	75,703,056
Peter's Park	South End	320,000