

PART 3

**COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE &
RECREATION MISSION**

The Neighborhoods

Allston-Brighton

Back Bay/Beacon Hill

Central Boston

Charlestown

Dorchester

East Boston

Fenway/Kenmore

Hyde Park

Jamaica Plain

Mattapan

Roslindale

Roxbury

South Boston

South End

West Roxbury



PART 3 • COMMUNITY OPEN SPACE & RECREATION MISSION

THE NEIGHBORHOODS:

Dorchester

THE SETTING

Dorchester is the single largest neighborhood in Boston. Its northernmost boundary includes the relatively new and still expanding South Bay Shopping Center. From there the community extends south, its eastern edge along Dorchester Bay to the mouth of the Neponset River. Dorchester's southernmost extent is to the city limits along the Neponset River while to the west it borders Mattapan and Roxbury.

Across this vast community are many residential neighborhoods and the commercial districts serving them. Some of the most significant include Uphams Corner, Fields Corner, Savin Hill, Jones Hill, Popes Hill, Bowdoin/Geneva, Harbor Point, Codman Square, Cedar Grove, Lower Mills, Adams Village, and Gallivan and Morrissey Boulevards. Dorchester is served by the MBTA's Red Line and many interconnected bus lines while the Southeast Expressway skirts along its eastern edge.

In the past, some planning processes have divided this community into North and South Dorchester, an artificial designation largely unrecognized and unused by residents. Therefore, it also will not be used here.

History

The Town of Dorchester was settled and incorporated in 1630, encompassing present-day Dorchester, South Boston, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. In 1633, Puritans landed at Columbia Point, an area that was later defended from a fort atop Savin Hill. In that first year a burying ground was dedicated in Uphams Corner. Dorchester is also home to one of the city's oldest extant wood frame houses, the Blake House, constructed in 1648.

In the past, some planning processes have divided this community into North and South Dorchester, an artificial designation largely unrecognized and unused by residents. Therefore, it also will not be used here.



Roberts Playground

Although for nearly 200 years Dorchester developed primarily as a farming community, its harborfront and riverfront hosted commerce, particularly at Lower Mills and around Commercial Point.

In the early 1800s, Dorchester estates and summer houses were built as second homes for wealthy Bostonians, especially on the area’s numerous hilltops. South Boston was annexed to the city in 1804. In 1868, Hyde Park was incorporated as a separate town.

In 1870, when Dorchester itself was annexed to Boston, it was still a rural community of 12,000 residents. But in that same year came railroad access and ever-increasing residential and commercial development that began to transform what had been essentially an agricultural area. Upper-class Yankees and Irish built one- and two-family Victorian homes on Savin Hill and Jones Hill. At the junction of five streetcar lines, Uphams Corner became Dorchester’s marketplace.

By 1920, with new streetcar and municipal water lines supporting growth, the population climbed to 150,000. Between 1950 and 1980, however, the neighborhood’s population dropped by 23,000 people as many families joined the suburban exodus and the process of disinvestment in the community had begun. This movement was facilitated by the 1959 opening of the Southeast Expressway and the closing of the Old Colony Railroad commuter line.

Replacing those who left Dorchester were at first black families, then followed more recently by Cape Verdean, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and other immigrant families, as well as those who generally understood the high value yet low prices for many of Dorchester’s older residences.

Dorchester Demographic and Housing Profile

POPULATION	
2000 Census	92,115
1990 Census	85,698
1980 Census	82,912
Population Growth/Decline, 1990-2000	7.49%
Population Growth/Decline, 1980-1990	3.36%

DEMOGRAPHICS/HOUSING

During the triple-decker era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Dorchester attracted working-class families, mainly of Irish and other European descent. Predominantly Catholic, the area was delineated by parishes. Since the post-World War II suburban migration of the mid-twentieth century, the population has stabilized and begun to rise, from 82,912 in 1980 to 85,698 in 1990, a 3.4% increase. The population increase has accelerated further, with a 7.5% increase between 1990 and 2000 to a total of 92,115.

In 1990, 26% of Dorchester’s residents were under the age of 18 versus 19% for the city. In 2000, 27% of Dorchester’s residents were under the age of 18 versus 20% for the city. With 38% of its 1990 households containing at least one person

RACE	1980 Census	1990 Census	2000 Census
White	54,345 66%	42,317 49%	29,253 32%
Black	19,741 24%	27,089 32%	33,435 36%
Hispanic	6,476 9%	9,813 11%	10,568 11%
Asian or Pacific Islander	452 1%	3,601 4%	9,854 11%
Other	1,898 2%	2,878 3%	9,005 10%

under 18, versus 25% for the city, Dorchester will likely remain one of Boston’s primary child-raising neighborhoods with the attendant needs for youth-oriented services that go with such an age group. This may be especially needed as there are more single-parent families in Dorchester (46%) as compared to the city (41%). Household median income and poverty figures are comparable between the city and Dorchester. The percentage of Dorchester’s households that do not own a vehicle is 34%, while for the city it is 38%.

Dorchester has a higher share of owner-occupied units (36%) compared to the city as a whole (31%). Unlike other Boston neighborhoods, such as Allston-Brighton and the Fenway where high college student populations lower the number of family households, families are 82% of Dorchester’s households. This compares with 67% across the city.

In 1990, the racially diverse population of Dorchester included 49% whites, 32% blacks, 11% Hispanics, 4% Asians and Pacific Islanders, and 3% other. In 2000, the racial make-up has changed further: 32% are white, 36% are black, 11% Hispanic, 11% Asian and Pacific Islander, and 10% other.

In Dorchester, 1 - 4 unit frame housing predominates: 85% of Dorchester housing units are in the 1 - 9 unit range versus 68%

AGE

2000 Census		
0-17 years	25,134	27%
18 and over	66,981	73%
1990 Census		
0-4 years	7,206	8%
5-9 years	6,304	7%
10-14 years	5,760	7%
15-17 years	3,386	4%
18-20 years	3,853	4%
21-24 years	6,569	8%
25-29 years	9,189	11%
30-34 years	8,739	10%
35-44 years	12,056	14%
45-54 years	7,353	9%
55-59 years	2,989	3%
60-64 years	3,220	4%
Average Age (1990 Census)	33.2*	

* Average of the average ages for each sub-neighborhood (North and South Dorchester)

HOUSEHOLDS

Households		
1990 Census	29,593	
1980 Census	28,341	
Household Growth/Decline, 1980-1990	3.36%	
Population by Household Type (1990 Census) % Persons		
Family households	82%	
Non-family households	16%	
Group quarters	2%	
Households w/ One or More Persons Under 18 Years (1990 Census)		
All households	29,570	100%
No one under 18	18,408	62%
One or more under 18	11,162	38%

Households with Children by Type (1990 Census)		
Married couple families	51	%
Other family, male head	6	
Other family, female head	42	
Non-family	1	
Families as a % of All Households	66	

Family Type (1990 Census)		
Married couple	54	%
Other family, male head	9	
Other family, female head	37	

Persons in Households (1990 Census)		
Households		%
1 person households	7,484	25
2 person households	7,820	26
3 person households	5,325	18
4 person households	3,988	13
5 or more person hshlds	4,976	17
Average Persons per Household	2.82*	

* Average of the average persons per household for each sub-neighborhood (North and South Dorchester)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC/HOUSING/DENSITY

Population 16 Years and Older, by Employment Status	
(1990 Census)	%
Employed in armed forces	less than 1
Employed civilians	64
Unemployed civilians	6
Not in labor force	30
Median Household Income (1990 Census)	\$30,260*

* Average of the median household income for each sub-neighborhood (North and South Dorchester)

Occupied Units Ownership	
(1990 Census)	% Units
Owner occupied	36
Renter occupied	64

Number of Year Round Units in Structure	
(1990 Census)	% Units
Single units	17
Double units	20
3-9 units	48
10-19 units	4
20-49 units	4
50 or more units	5
All other	1

Single/Multiple Unit Ratio	0.21
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Households by Age and Poverty Status	
(1990 Census)	% Households
Above poverty, under age 65	67
Above poverty, age 65 and over	17
Below poverty, under age 65	13
Below poverty, age 65 and over	3

Household by Number of Vehicles	
(1990 Census)	% Households
No vehicles	34
1 vehicles	43
2 or more vehicles	24

Population Density	
	Persons per Square Mile
1980 Census	13,736.2
1990 Census	14,199.0
Density Change 1980 to 1990	462.8



Martin Playground

for the city. Besides the triple-decker form, there are embellished Victorians, large apartment buildings, and ranch houses. Density increased by 463 persons per square mile in Dorchester for the ten-year period between 1980 and 1990 versus 245 persons per square mile in the city for the same period.

THE OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TODAY

Equity and Investment

The 355 acres of protected open space in Dorchester, largely under the jurisdiction of the City of Boston and the Metropolitan District (MDC), give the area’s residents a ratio of 3.85 acres of protected open space per 1,000 persons compared to a citywide ratio of 7.43 protected acres per 1,000 persons. This lack of quantity is, however, somewhat balanced by the wide range of open space types, including passive and historic landscaped parks, harbor promenades, playgrounds, beaches, community gardens, and, increasingly, the Neponset River area.

The open space system has yet to achieve its full potential in some important areas. They include areas along the Neponset River, the harbor shoreline, and the Old Colony railroad right-of-way adjacent to them, where important restoration and expansion of open space is underway largely through the MDC. When the city, state, and community fully implement the long-range comprehensive plans for these key resources, the amount of open space in Dorchester will substantially increase. Significant increases in Dorchester’s usable open space acreage has recently occurred (see below, “*On the Shores of the Neponset*”) with the opening of Pope John Paul II Park (2001) and the Neponset River Rail Trail/Greenway (2002).

Under the City of Boston *Getting the Job Done* capital improvement program, nine neighborhood parks and playgrounds in Dorchester received improvements totaling almost \$2.5 million (see table). These included renovated play lots at Byrne Playground, Dorchester Park, Quincy Stanley Play Area, and Roberts Playground; renovated ball fields and courts at Roberts Playground and Dorchester Park; and historic landscape restoration at Savin Hill Park. A new 0.67-acre park, Adams-King Park, was created at the old Mary Hemenway School site. It has a children’s play lot, a street hockey court, and a passive area.

Assessment

“On the Waterfront”

The Southeast Expressway cuts through the eastern edge of Dorchester, creating a physical barrier between most of its residential areas to the west and the waterfront to its east, with the exception of the Savin Hill, Columbia Point, and Port Norfolk neighborhoods. Columbia Point, Port Norfolk, and Savin Hill, while blessed with a diverse open space inventory, are comparatively inaccessible from the rest of Dorchester due to the Expressway, much like the North End is physically isolated from downtown Boston due to the elevated Central Artery. Columbia Point, separating the South Boston shoreline from Dorchester and originally a “calf pasture” used for grazing, has now developed institutional uses such as the University of Massachusetts Boston campus and the John F. Kennedy Library. While splendid facilities in themselves, Columbia Point’s many institutions have poorly integrated open space systems that need better linkages. Additional tree planting on existing avenues and roads would help improve the scenic qualities of this area.

The renovated Harbor Point housing development has attracted a stable residential population despite the area’s relative isolation. With certain recreation facilities on-site, a new MDC waterfront park along its eastern edge, and a new pedestrian/bicycle connection to the South Boston beaches, the Harbor Point housing development now feels less isolated.

Sandwiched between the ramps of Morrissey Boulevard and the Southeast Expressway, Savin Hill is a small but stable residential community with grand Victorians and triple-deckers that have spectacular views of the Harbor and access to Savin Hill Bay. However, Savin Hill is physically disconnected from the rest of the city but for a single road bridging the Southeast Expressway.

The Savin Hill area, while blessed with a diversity of open spaces, could benefit from further enhancement of local facilities. Two such enhancement strategies would be development of the existing beaches in the area and the introduction of a stabilization program for other natural resource areas in the neighborhood,



Roberts Playground

CAPITAL PROJECTS 1993-2000/ DORCHESTER

Adams-King Park	\$ 306,000
Byrne Playground	\$ 150,000
Coppens & Mullen Squares/ Wellesley & Allen Parks	\$ 180,000
Dorchester Park	\$ 872,000
Quincy Stanley Playlot	\$ 288,000
Roberts Playground	\$ 529,000
Savin Hill Park Master Plan	\$ 15,000
Savin Hill Park	\$ 133,000
Total	\$2,473,000



Open space opportunities exist on the Dorchester waterfront.

such as, the urban wild at Patten's Cove. In response, the MDC has undertaken a project to restore Savin Hill Beach while protecting coastal wetland resources (the project is almost completed). In accordance with its recently completed master plan, the Parks Department has undertaken a phased capital improvement program for Savin Hill Park, an historic landscaped park in the heart of the neighborhood.

Port Norfolk will continue to undergo transformations as its former industries are converted to housing and commercial development. This area can anticipate future development of MDC parkland as the Lower Neponset River Master Plan is implemented.

Open space opportunities exist on the Dorchester waterfront. The proximity of McConnell Playground and Malibu Beach to Dorchester Bay provides elements for developing the Bay as a regional aquatic recreation center. Recent park developments on Dorchester Bay at Tenean Beach by the MDC and at Rainbow Park have created two much-needed facilities popular for strolling, sitting, picnics, children's play, swimming, and fishing. The MDC efforts now underway will allow continuous waterfront access to Tenean Beach, potentially increasing the points of entry to the water's edge from the neighborhood.

The Inland Neighborhoods

To the west of the Expressway is the residential area around Uphams Corner (where Dudley Street and Columbia Road meet) and Everett Square (where Massachusetts Avenue and Columbia Road meet), which consists of triple-decker, two-family, and large Victorian-era homes. Many of these homes show signs of recent rehabilitation efforts. Recreational and cultural opportunities are becoming available with improvements to existing open space facilities and many concerts and other performances presented at the historic Strand Theatre. The houses along Dorchester Avenue, a major local thoroughfare, are interspersed with light industrial and commercial uses. The Midlands rail corridor defines the western edge of this neighborhood.

The Uphams Corner residential area is currently underserved in terms of open space facilities. The increasing population, especially that of children, will put even more pressure on existing parks and playgrounds in the coming decade. Part of the problem is a lack of direct access to the shoreline facilities at Columbia Point and at Savin Hill. Columbia Road, a major arterial in this sub-neighborhood, provides access to the MDC's recently rehabilitated South Boston harbor beaches. However, MBTA bus service to these beaches from inland residential areas is still needed to expand access to these highly valued recreational resources.

Lower Mills has experienced a general housing revitalization effort for some years now, in part spurred by the conversion to apartments and condominiums of the Baker Chocolate Mill complex. Condominium conversion has also taken place around Ashmont, as well as renewed commercial activity. Changes in the Neponset area will focus on the MDC's opening of the Neponset River Trail, a pedestrian and bicycle facility, as well as the new Pope John Paul II Park at the former Neponset Drive-In and Hallet Street Landfill sites.

In areas to the west, community revitalization efforts are ongoing. Fields Corner has already experienced substantial revitalization projects, stimulated by city investment. Fields Corner is also a new Main Streets District. In Codman Square, the Codman Square Community Development Corporation and the city continue to support development and investment at this important commercial node. Today Dorchester's commercial nodes have undergone changes attributable to the disappearance of the streetcar lines, shifts in population, and the advent of Main Streets Districts in several of Dorchester's retail areas. Generally, the sections of the community nearer the waterfront have experienced more revitalization activity than the western portions of the neighborhood. Dorchester Avenue, which is a primary commercial artery of the neighborhood, is in need of extensive tree planting and general "greening" measures. Overall, many streets in Dorchester are distinguished by their mature shade trees, but there are gaps in the presence or health of street trees. This makes the street trees' overall positive impact on Dorchester's streetscapes "patchy" in its effect.

Dorchester's neighborhood parks are multi-purpose facilities, and tend to be well distributed throughout the community, providing ball fields, ball courts, and playground areas. There are also some notable areas for passive recreation in the neighborhood parks such as the wooded portion of Dorchester Park with its Olmsted design.

Dorchester's neighborhood parks are generally in good condition, and in some cases residents are apprehensive that park popularity will attract overuse. Still, certain sub-neighborhoods such as those around Codman Square, Meetinghouse Hill, and the Bowdoin Street area lack sufficient neighborhood park space. Coordination with schools and improvements to schoolyards as noted in Community Priorities below can help mitigate this situation throughout Dorchester. Improvements to parks on a regular cycle of capital rehabilitation continues to be needed; examples include Corbett Park, Garvey Playground, Hemenway Playground, and Ryan Play Area.



Jojo White in Codman Square Park

Cedar Grove Cemetery and South Dorchester Burying Ground are important for contributing green vistas to their surrounds. Cedar Grove also helps buffer the Neponset River and ecologically sensitive areas along its banks from human development.

An initiative is being discussed that would promote linkages to Dorchester's abundance of public and cultural assets. A neighborhood-wide trail, as suggested in the BRA's Boston 400 draft report, or a series of sub-neighborhood trails, could link the wealth of open space, historical, cultural, and environmental features, while benefiting residential and commercial areas in Dorchester. This type of initiative would be ripe for a public-private partnership approach to development and management, perhaps on a similar basis to the Freedom Trail. It could provide a series of destinations for tourists to visit, which could further the neighborhood's economic development agenda. The Dorchester Historical Society has expressed interest in this concept, as have several neighborhood activists. In the meantime, the Browne Fund has made a \$15,000 design grant to the Dorchester Historical Society for Allen Park, the original Dorchester Town Commons. This would certainly be a destination along such a trail.

Growing Community Spirit

Community gardens have been bright spots bringing neighbors together and representing their future hopes for community revitalization.

The community gardens in Dorchester, as in other neighborhoods, have largely been built and nurtured on former vacant lots. Dorchester Gardenlands Preserve and Development Corporation has been a leading community garden organization in this neighborhood. Other organizations and entities, such as the Boston Natural Areas Network, have also built and supported the 23 diverse community gardens throughout Dorchester. These gardens serve a role in ameliorating the dense cityscape that resulted from the rapid development of Dorchester in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many are on former house lots and serve as the only openings in the dense urban fabric in certain sections of this neighborhood. Community gardens have also been bright spots bringing neighbors together and representing their future hopes for community revitalization.

On the Shores of the Neponset

The ecosystem of the Neponset River shoreline has notable and vulnerable natural resource qualities. Sustained efforts of the MDC and the community - especially the Neponset River Greenway Coordinating Council - have been important in keeping out damaging uses. Future efforts must balance protection with public access and recreational opportunities, which will in turn reinforce the constituency for resource protection.

In the mid-1990s, the state Executive Office of Environmental Affairs helped this cause by designating the Neponset River Estuary as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). This official designation gives this area a higher level of state environmental review for development within its boundaries. It

also recognizes the high quality of the natural resources in the Neponset River Estuary, despite its proximity to a major metropolitan center.

With the opening of Pope John Paul II Park, the MDC has taken a great leap forward toward realization of the Lower Neponset River Reservation Master Plan. Another milestone in the implementation of the Master Plan is the opening of the Neponset River Greenway on an abandoned rail corridor. This pedestrian/bicycle path helps link the regional Pope John Paul II Park to other Dorchester communities beyond the immediate Neponset sub-neighborhood.



Dorchester Park

The MDC should continue to implement the Master Plan that it completed in the mid-1990s for the Lower Neponset River Reservation, and connect this Reservation to the Dorchester Shores Reservation. To increase the benefits of this linear recreation system, further planning efforts are needed to extend it beyond Dorchester. The Neponset River open space system should continue westward to Mattapan, Milton, Hyde Park, and beyond. To be able to go from Lower Mills or Port Norfolk to the Fowl Meadow, Stony Brook, Mother Brook, Charles River, and Blue Hills Reservations should be the energizing vision for implementing the Master Plan for the Lower Neponset River Reservation and for planning its eastward extension.

THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Since the City of Boston has rehabilitated most parks in the recent past, many neighborhood park issues relate to management and maintenance. Playground equipment safety and turf care are ongoing concerns, along with general park care and security. There is interest in extending Park Partners programs, especially to provide more family activities.

Beyond the care of existing facilities, there is great interest in expanding public open space resources and addressing environmental concerns. Besides the focus on the waterfront, there are opportunities to strengthen the green space system in the southern area of Dorchester with improved connections. Street tree planting and care is important. Quality open space is needed in housing complexes. Demonstrated desire for additional community gardens will warrant attention. Given the vacant land opportunities and the several areas underserved by open space in Dorchester, balanced long-term community redevelopment will need new open spaces to accompany new housing and commercial developments.

The quality of life in Dorchester can be further improved by opening further access to the shoreline. Designating paths and

Linkage between the Neponset River Reservation and the MDC's other reservations should be the energizing vision for the neighborhood as well as a legacy for Charles Eliot, who planned much of this system in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Savin Hill Beach

transportation routes to facilities like Joe Moakley Park, Carson Beach, Savin Hill Bay, and Pope John Paul II Park will provide additional recreational opportunities for a greater number of neighborhood residents. Linkage between the Neponset River Reservation and the MDC's other reservations should be the energizing vision for the neighborhood as well as a legacy for Charles Eliot, who planned much of this system in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Opportunities

“On the Waterfront”

- Continue to address water quality improvements along the waterfront. Support the BWSC sewer separation projects, the MWRA CSO Control Project, and the DEP Chapter 91 and Boston Conservation Commission reviews of waterfront projects.
- Increase and improve community access to Dorchester Bay. Support the MDC's construction of a boardwalk along the Southeast Expressway embankment linking Tenean Beach to Savin Hill via Victory Road Park. Encourage the MDC to provide continuous waterfront access and expanded parkland in their negotiations with Boston Gas. Develop commercial activities such as restaurants, boat rental, and shops to complement recreational activities at Tenean Beach. Support plans for a new MBTA station providing access to the waterfront in conjunction with the Old Colony project.
- Prepare a plan for recreation, open space, greening, and other environmental improvements in Port Norfolk that recognizes the historic character of the area. Support the timely implementation of the capital developments proposed for the Port Norfolk area in the MDC master plan for the Lower Neponset River Reservation. Explore with the MDC the development of recreational piers, such as at Shaffer Paper.
- Plan for new aquatic recreation opportunities at Savin Hill Bay by programming the improved Malibu and Savin Hill Beaches. Screen the traffic impacts of Morrissey Boulevard with landscaping.
- Continue the Harborwalk between the Kennedy Library and Carson Beach through Calf Pasture.
- Develop a linkage plan for the open spaces in the Columbia Point sub-neighborhood. Increase community use of institutional ball fields and open spaces at slack times. Increase scenic quality through a plan-driven tree and landscape planting program for this sub-neighborhood's roadways.

- Support the MDC work to increase continuous access to Tenean Beach as a means to increase neighborhood access to this waterfront recreation area. Support the work of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission to decrease stormwater-driven pollution of Pine Neck Creek.
- Explore revenue production for open space from concessions such as boat rentals at suitable locations near shoreline recreational areas.

The Inland Neighborhoods

- Continue to support extending the greening of Columbia Road. Examine the possibility of designated bicycle lanes and a designated bike route with signs to improve access to Joe Moakley Park and the harbor beaches from Dorchester's residential areas and from Franklin Park.
- Expand access to Carson Beach through direct MBTA bus service to the McCormack Bathhouse from the inland residential communities.
- Increase the inventory of public green space in the Meeting-house Hill/Mt. Bowdoin area. Investigate the vacant parcels surrounded by Richfield, Bellevue, and Hamilton Streets for their potential development as open space.
- Develop pedestrian-scale open spaces to complement the neighborhood-level commercialization of Uphams Corner and Everett Square. Support the efforts of the Department of Neighborhood Development Main Streets program in Uphams Corner.
- Examine the Midlands rail tracks right-of-way for open space opportunities, especially for the preservation of existing urban wilds.
- Explore establishing additional play lots and other active recreation areas for youth in certain underserved sub-neighborhoods such as Uphams Corner, Jones Hill, Everett Square/Columbia Road, Fields Corner, Ashmont, Neponset, and Codman Square. Coordinate with the School Department and the Department of Neighborhood Development in targeting schoolyards in such areas for Schoolyard Initiative improvements.
- Continue to fund capital rehabilitation of city park facilities as needed in the capital renewal cycle, such as at Corbett Park, Garvey Playground, Hemenway Playground, and Ryan Play Area.
- Support the BRA Design Guidelines to improve the streetscape along Dorchester Avenue with a public/private partnership for tree planting and maintenance.



Bill Russell greets Mayor Menino at the new basketball courts in Roberts Playground.

- Develop a street tree planting plan for Dorchester’s residential areas using a strategic approach that builds on other capital improvement or economic development efforts as well as existing well “treed” streets.
- Continue and expand the Park Partners and ParkARTS programs to help stabilize maintenance and security as well as to enhance park programming for special events and sports, youth, and community activities.

On the Shores of the Neponset

- Increase public access and open space facilities all along the Neponset River while protecting and stabilizing the ecosystem. Support the MDC’s completion of a recreational trail system with boardwalks, observation areas, and docks along the Neponset and on the abandoned rail corridor. Encourage planning for a path system to link Dorchester Park and Cedar Grove Cemetery to the river. Encourage the MHD to restore a zone of suitable plant materials between the Southeast Expressway and the shoreline. Work with the MDC to enable Dorchester residents to fully utilize the new Pope John Paul II Park to help meet the open space needs of the community.
- Focus on public access and the development of passive and water-oriented recreational facilities in the Lower Mills area. Support efforts of the state Department of Environmental Management to develop the Lower Mills Heritage State Park.
- Coordinate with the MDC, MEPA, BRA, Park Commission, Conservation Commission, and other agencies to review development projects in the Neponset River Estuary ACEC and near the Neponset River Reservation properties and associated resources.
- Link Pope John Paul II Park to future and existing MDC parklands in Port Norfolk and the Dorchester Shores Reservation.

Plan for the extension of the Neponset River Reservation westward to Mattapan, Milton, Hyde Park, and southward to the Fowl Meadow and other MDC reservations.

Growing Community Spirit

- Continue to provide ancillary support to the large number of community gardens through the City small grant program to support small-scale improvement projects at each site.

Community Priorities

“On the Waterfront”

- Provide Savin Hill Park with minor capital improvements and community supported above-standard maintenance.
- Coordinate city/MDC jurisdiction on shoreline issues, such as Yacht Club expansion and potential beach pollution.

The Inland Neighborhoods

- Explore the feasibility of establishing new parkland in the neighborhood through the Parks Department’s Open Space Acquisition Program.
- Develop Columbia Road as a tree-lined thoroughfare to link the inland neighborhood areas to Joe Moakley Park.
- Initiate an open space planning process for the Newmarket Square area through discussions between concerned business groups and the city. Build upon the work that has been done by the Parks Department to rehabilitate Clifford Playground.
- Rehabilitate the children’s play lot equipment at Corbett Park. Transfer adjacent vacant Department of Neighborhood Development parcels for future park expansion.
- Provide more community policing at parks to discourage illegitimate activities like public drinking and drug use.
- Coordinate the Boston Youth Fund program with existing Park Partner groups to optimize maintenance of open space resources in the neighborhood.
- Explore access to a football field for the Murphy Community School.
- Support development of quality open space in publicly-assisted housing sites.
- Provide more street hockey courts in parks.
- Continue and expand Park Partner opportunities at parks for which community members need support.

On the Shores of the Neponset

- Support the MDC’s planning efforts for recreational access all along the Neponset from the Fowl Meadow Reservation to the mouth of the river.

FACILITIES

DORCHESTER

Parks, Playgrounds & Athletic Fields

Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other	
Adams/King Playground	0.67	●	Parks								1	1																1	
Allen Park	1.29	●	Parks																										
Byrne Playground	1.16	●	Parks						1.5	1		1																	1
Centerville Park	0.22	●	Parks																										
Claymont Terrace	0.59		Private					1	1.0																				
Columbia Road Totlot	0.30		COB/DND										1																
Corbett Park	0.94	●	Parks							0.5																			1
Cronin/Wainwright Park	2.25	●	Parks			1			1.0		1	1																	
Deer Street Park	0.20	●	Parks									1																	1
Doherty/Gibson Playground	5.72	●	Parks	1	1		1	2.0			1																		
Dorchester Park	27.26	●	Parks	1		1	1	1.0	1		1																		1
Downer Avenue Playground	0.78	●	Parks						1.0			1																	1
Garvey Playground	5.33	●	Parks	1			1		1.0		1	1																	
Hemenway Playground	4.39	●	Parks			2	1	1	1.0			1																	1
Lucy Stone Schoolyard	0.78		COB/BPS																										
Martin/Hilltop Playground	4.32	●	Parks						0.5			1																	1
McConnell Park	6.19	●	Parks			2		1				1															1	1	
McMorrow Playground	5.22	●	MDC	1	1	1			1.0			1																	
Meany Park	0.22	●	MDC										1																
Mt. Bowdoin Green	0.54	●	Parks																										1
Nellie Miranda Memorial Park	0.08	●	Parks									1																	
Norton St. Playground	0.06	●	Parks																										
Quincy/Stanley Play Area	0.38	●	Parks						1.0			1																	1
Ripley Playground	0.86	●	Parks						1.0	2		1																	Open Shelter
Roberts Playground	10.17	●	Parks	1	2		1	1	2.0	1		2	1																1
Ronan Park	11.65	●	Parks	1			1	1	3.0	1		1														1	1		Scenic Overlook
Ryan Play Area	0.64	●	Parks						0.5			1	1																
Savin Hill Park	8.20	●	Parks								2	1	1														1		Scenic Overlook
Toohig Playground	2.12	●	MDC	1	1				1.0			1																	
UMass Boston Athletic Fields	25.50		COM																										
Walsh Playground	6.97	●	Parks			2			1.0	1	1	1																	1
Wellesley Park	0.66	●	Parks																										1
YMCA Community Park	1.03		Private										1																

Malls, Squares & Plazas

Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other	
Codman Square	0.34		COB																										1
Coppens Square	0.30	●	Parks														1												1
Doucette Square	0.13	●	Parks																										Flagpole
Florida Street Reservation	0.56	●	Parks																										
Gallivan/Hallet Circle	0.48	●	MDC																										
Kennedy Library Harborwalk	3.32		Federal																										1
Mullen Square	0.24	●	Parks																										1
Nonquit Common	0.36		COB/DND																										1
Peabody Square	0.05	●	Parks																										
Richardson Square	1.06	●	MDC																										

Legend

P	Protected	TN	Tennis Court	FN	Fountain	VB	Volleyball Area
BB	Baseball Field	SH	Street Hockey	HB	Handball	AR	Artwork/Monuments
SB	Softball Field	PL	Children's Play Lot	HS	Horseshoes	CG	Community Garden
LL	Little League Field	WS	Water Spray Feature	LC	Lacrosse	NT	Nature Trail
FB	Football Field	CS	Concessions	PA	Passive Area		
SC	Soccer Field	CR	Cricket Field	PK	Parking Area		
BK	Basketball Court	FH	Field House	RG	Rugby Field		

Parkways, Reservations & Beaches

Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other
Boston Gas Company Easement	4.82		MDC (Priv)																									Path
Conley & Tenean Streets Park	0.51	•	MDC																									Undeveloped
Malibu Beach	26.46	•	MDC										1									1				1		Beach, Path
Neponset River Reservation (includes Pope John Paul II Park & Neponset River Rail Trail)	163.60	•	MDC					4														1	2					Ped/Bike Paths Picnic Shelters
Old Harbor Easement	1.86	•	MDC																									Path
Old Harbor Park	11.50	•	MDC																			1						Promenade, Ped/Bike Path, Shelters, Picnic Tables
Savin Hill Beach	2.99	•	MDC																									Beach, Parking at McConnell Park
Savin Hill Cove	1.77	•	MDC																									Shoreline
Savin Hill Marsh	9.56	•	MDC																									
Tenean Beach	8.69	•	MDC						1.0	2		1											1					Beach, Shelters
UMass Harborwalk	13.07		COM																									Path
Ventura Playground	1.31	•	MDC	1					1.0																			
Victory Road Park	6.15	•	MDC																									Shoreline, Path

Cemeteries & Burying Grounds

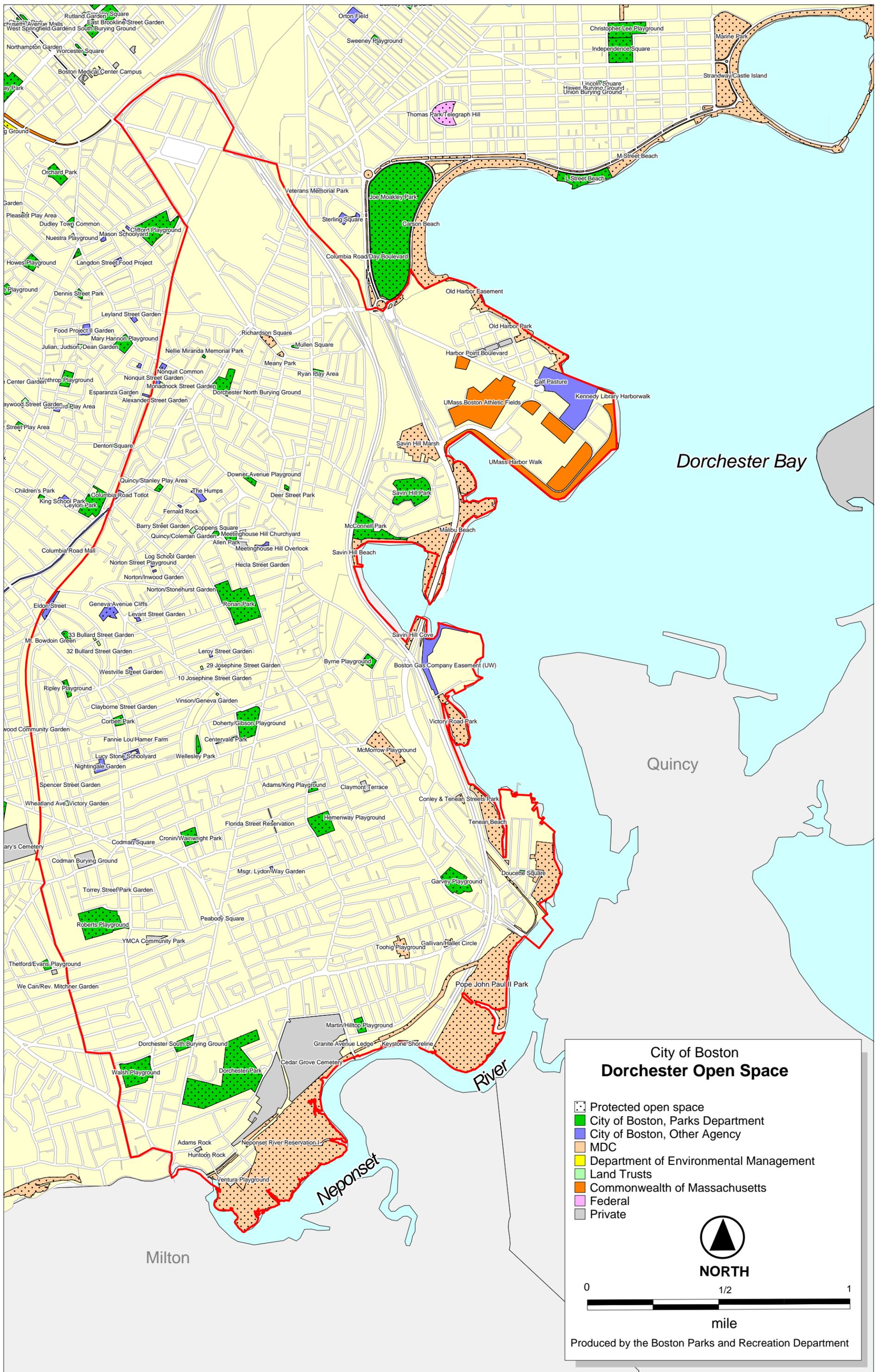
Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other
Dorchester North Burying Ground	3.27	•	Parks																									
Cedar Grove Cemetery	54.15		Private																									
Codman Burying Ground	2.62		Private																									
Dorchester South Burying Ground	2.19	•	Parks																									

Community Gardens

Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other
10 Josephine St. Garden	0.08	•	BUG																								1	
29 Josephine St. Garden	0.07	•	BUG																									1
32 Bullard St. Garden	0.10	•	BNAN																									1
33 Bullard Street Garden	0.10	•	BNAN																									1
Barry Street Garden	0.09	•	BUG																									1
Clayborne St. Garden	0.08	•	DGP																									1
Fannie Lou Hamer Farm	0.42	•	DGP																									1
Hecla Street Garden	0.09		COB																									1
Levant Street Garden	0.30		COB/DND																									1
Log School Garden	0.10		COB																									1
Monadnock Street Garden	0.22	•	BNAN																									1
Msgr. Lydon Way Garden	0.19		COB																									1
Nightingale Garden	0.90		COB																									1
Nonquit Street Garden	0.24		COB+Priv																									1
Norton/Inwood Garden	0.07		COB																									1
Norton/Stonehurst Garden	0.08		COB																									1
Quincy/Coleman Garden	0.30	•	DGP																									1
Spencer St. Garden	0.10	•	BNAN																									1
Torrey St. Park Garden	0.07	•	BUG																									1
Vinson/Geneva Garden	0.05	•	DGP																									1
Westville St. Garden	0.25		BRA																									1
Wheatland Ave. Victory Garden	0.17	•	BNAN																									1

Urban Wilds & Natural Areas

Site Name	Acreage	P	Ownership	BB	SB	LL	FB	SC	BK	TN	SH	PL	WS	CS	CR	FH	FN	HB	HS	LC	PA	PK	RG	VB	AR	CG	NT	Other
Adams Rock	0.22		Private																									
Calf Pasture	18.24		BWSC																									1
Eldon Street Urban Wild	1.25		COB/PMD																									
Fernald Rock	0.01		COB																									
Geneva Avenue Cliffs	1.83	•	COB/BCC																									
Granite Avenue Ledge	0.38		Private																									
Huntoon Rock	0.17		Private																									
Keystone Shoreline	0.52		Private																									
Meetinghouse Hill Overlook	0.35		COB/BPS																									
The Humps	0.93		Private																									



**City of Boston
Dorchester Open Space**

- Protected open space
- City of Boston, Parks Department
- City of Boston, Other Agency
- MDC
- Department of Environmental Management
- Land Trusts
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- Federal
- Private



NORTH



mile

Produced by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department