

# Open Space & Recreation Plan

CITY OF BOSTON



2015–2021



**BOSTON  
PARKS &  
RECREATION**  
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor





# Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021

CITY OF BOSTON

Martin J. Walsh  
**Mayor**

Austin Blackmon  
**Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space**



## **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Christopher Cook, Commissioner  
Anne L. Connolly, Associate Commissioner  
Maria Fitzpatrick, Associate Commissioner  
Raymond Foley, Former Associate Commissioner  
Sanjay Saini, Associate Commissioner  
Charles Titus, Associate Commissioner  
Carrie Marsh, Executive Secretary

## **Prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department**

Design & Construction Unit  
Robert Rottenbacher, Director and Chief Engineer  
Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect

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## Project Team

### **Parks and Recreation Department, City of Boston**

Christopher Cook, Commissioner

Robert Rottenbacher, Director of Design & Construction/Chief Engineer

Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect

Aldo Ghirin, Senior Planner/Project Manager, Open Space Plan

Margaret Dyson, Director for Historic Parks

Carrie Marsh, Executive Secretary, Parks and Recreation Commission

Marchelle Jacques-Yarde, Community Relations Specialist

Paul Sutton, Project Manager, Urban Wilds Initiative

Kelly Thomas, Project Manager, Historic Burying Grounds Initiative

Gregory Mosman, Arborist

Editorial Assistance: Jon Seamans, Writer/Editor

Assistance with GIS-based mapping, graphic design, and document production: CDM Smith Inc.

## Other project assistance provided by:

### **Management & Information Services Department, City of Boston**

William Toussaint, GIS Specialist

### **Boston Redevelopment Authority**

Geographic Information Systems Department:

Carolyn Bennett, Manager

Jeffrey Curtis, Cartographer

Policy Development & Research Department:

Mark Melnik, former Deputy Director

Kelly Dowd, Research Manager

Nicoya Borella, Research Assistant

Waterfront Planning Department

Chris Busch, Senior Waterfront Planner III

### **Environment Department, City of Boston**

Conservation Commission

Stephanie Krueel, former Executive Secretary

The following agencies contributed to the review of all or portions of this document:

### **Boston Redevelopment Authority**

John (Tad) Read, Acting Director of Planning  
Lara Merida, Deputy Director for Community Planning  
Chris Busch, Senior Waterfront Planner III  
Jill Ochs Zick, Landscape Architect  
Marie Mercurio, Senior Planner I  
Carlos J. Montanez, former Senior Urban Planner II  
Lauren Shurtleff, Senior Planner I  
Theodore Schwartzberg, Senior Planner I  
Matthew Martin, Urban Designer II  
Alexa Pinard, Urban Designer II  
David Grissino, Senior Architect/Urban Designer  
Hugues J. Monestime, Senior Planner III

### **Environment Department, City of Boston**

Conservation Commission  
Charles Button, Chair  
Charlotte Moffat, Executive Secretary

### **Transportation Department, City of Boston**

Charlotte Fleetwood, Senior Transportation Planner

### **Public Health Commission, City of Boston**

Huy Nguyen, Interim Executive Director and Medical Director  
Aliza R. Wasserman, Policy Analyst

### **Department of Neighborhood Development, City of Boston**

Jay Lee, Assistant Director of Design, Construction and Open Space

### **Metropolitan Area Planning Council**

Marc Racicot, Land Use Planning Director  
Jennifer Raitt, Assistant Director of Land Use Planning & Chief Housing Planner  
Joan Blaustein, former Senior Regional Planner

### **Department of Conservation and Recreation, Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

Joseph Orfant, Former Chief, Bureau of Planning & Resource Protection

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Note: Data provided in the open space property inventories and the maps contained in this plan were developed for general planning purposes only, and as such are the best available data. However, readers are cautioned that use of such data may not be appropriate or sufficient for legal, design, or other site-specific purposes. For such purposes, only research in the Registry of Deeds or other appropriate offices, property surveys, and field-checked research can be considered appropriately reliable.

# Contents

<b>Section 1 — Executive Summary</b> .....	1
<b>Section 2 — Introduction</b> .....	3
Section 2.1: Statement of Purpose .....	3
Section 2.2: Planning Process & Public Participation .....	4
Section 2.3: Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation for Environmental Justice Communities.....	6
<b>Section 3 — Community Setting</b> .....	7
Section 3.1: Regional Context .....	7
Section 3.2: History.....	11
Section 3.3: Population Characteristics.....	16
Section 3.4: Growth and Development Patterns .....	24
<b>Section 4 — Environmental Inventory &amp; Analysis</b> .....	33
Section 4.1: Geology, Soils and Topography .....	33
Section 4.2: Landscape Character.....	38
Section 4.3: Water Resources .....	40
Section 4.4: Vegetation .....	46
Section 4.5: Fish and Wildlife .....	50
Section 4.6: Scenic Resources and Unique Areas .....	52
Section 4.7: Environmental Challenges .....	54
<b>Section 5 — Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest</b> .....	65
<b>Section 6 —Community Vision</b> .....	111
Section 6.1:Description of the Process.....	111
Section 6.2: Statement of Open Space and Recreation Community Vision and Goals....	130
<b>Section 7.1 — Analysis of Needs: Resource Protection</b> .....	131
Section 7.1.1: Greenways and Bikeways .....	131
Section 7.1.2: Harbor Open Space .....	139
Section 7.1.3: Urban Wilds and Natural Areas.....	146

<b>Section 7.2 — Analysis of Needs: Community Open Space &amp; Recreation</b> .....	153
Section 7.2: Community Open Space and Recreation.....	153
Section 7.2.1: Allston-Brighton .....	157
Section 7.2.2: Back Bay/Beacon Hill.....	170
Section 7.2.3: Central Boston.....	183
Section 7.2.4: Charlestown .....	197
Section 7.2.5: Dorchester .....	210
Section 7.2.6: East Boston .....	223
Section 7.2.7: Fenway/Longwood.....	237
Section 7.2.8: Hyde Park .....	251
Section 7.2.9: Jamaica Plain.....	264
Section 7.2.10: Mattapan.....	277
Section 7.2.11: Mission Hill .....	290
Section 7.2.12: Roslindale .....	303
Section 7.2.13: Roxbury .....	316
Section 7.2.14: South Boston.....	329
Section 7.2.15: South End .....	342
Section 7.2.16: West Roxbury .....	355
<b>Section 7.3 — Analysis of Needs: Open Space Systems Management</b> .....	369
Section 7.3.1: Cemeteries.....	369
Section 7.3.2: Community Gardens.....	375
Section 7.3.3: The Emerald Necklace .....	382
Section 7.3.4: Public Shade Trees .....	389
<b>Section 8 — Goals &amp; Objectives</b> .....	393
<b>Section 9 — Seven-Year Action Plan</b> .....	395
<b>Section 10 — Public Comments</b> .....	401
<b>Section 11 — References</b> .....	405
<b>Appendices</b> .....	411
Appendix A: Adjacent Land Uses and Shared Open Space Resources .....	411
Appendix B: Open Space Plans of Neighboring Communities .....	415
Appendix C: Regional Watershed Planning Efforts.....	417
Appendix D: Regional and Municipal Planning Initiatives.....	420
Appendix E: Metadata for the Maps in Sections 7.2.1 to 7.2.16.....	427



## Letter from Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Dear Friend,

It is my pleasure to present the City of Boston's Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021. This document would not have been possible without the contributions of thousands of Bostonians through public meetings, responses to the Open Space Plan survey questionnaire, and participation in the Open Space Plan Summit. As with our parks system, this plan's development was supported by our outstanding park partner organizations and fellow public agencies. I especially want to thank the hardworking members of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for their leadership on this effort.

Thanks to iconic figures like Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, Boston's history is one of foresight in parks, recreation, and open space. From the balanced beauty and functionality of the Emerald Necklace to Joseph Lee's preeminent role in the playground movement, our city's leaders knew that dynamic growth would need dynamic public spaces. They supported development with parks and play areas that would provide resilience, health benefits, and better livability to Boston.

Boston's growth today requires that same foresight, leadership, strong action, and the support of our people. The public input in creating this document has made clear that a healthy open space system is essential as the city grows. A rational plan is needed to guide our work as we manage the current assets of the open space system and create new places to enrich and support our city's growth. This Open Space and Recreation Plan provides that guidance and will be a major contribution to the development of our new citywide plan, Imagine Boston 2030.

Advances sought by this plan will also reinforce city efforts in other realms as well: housing, economic and neighborhood development, health, infrastructure, climate mitigation and adaptation, arts and culture, and environmental well-being. This plan will help achieve our vision of increasing our outstanding quality of life, a hallmark of our great city.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh  
Mayor of Boston