

Section 10

Public Comments

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CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

MARTIN J. WALSH
MAYOR

Commissioner Christopher Cook
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook:

Our mutual goal is to provide an open space system that promotes the health and well-being of the people of Boston and our environment. The Open Space and Recreation Plan is an important tool to build the foundation for that system.

We see the Open Space and Recreation Plan as a key part of the new General Plan for the City that will help ensure that open space, parks and recreation are not an afterthought, but an equal partner in building strong, healthy, and innovative neighborhoods. We look forward to integrating the Open Space and Recreation Plan into the General Plan and achieving the goals of both.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is the result of extensive data gathering and analysis with contributions from numerous agencies and the many residents who participated in meetings and submitted comments. With the wholehearted support of this Administration and the public, I look forward to the successful implementation of this plan and to maintaining Boston's leadership role in open space, parks and recreation.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

Boston Redevelopment Authority

Boston's Planning & Economic
Development Office

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October 15, 2015

Christopher Cook
Commissioner
Boston Parks & Recreation Department
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook,

The Boston Redevelopment Authority staff has had the opportunity to review and comment on your Department's most recent draft update of the City's Open Space Plan for 2015-2021. The Plan's goals and objectives are well informed and reflect the considerable time and effort made by you and your staff to solicit input from the many public and private stakeholders, advocates, and citizens within the City.

We especially appreciate your efforts in crafting this plan, as we intend that it will serve, with many other City Departmental plans, as the foundation of our thinking for the *Imagine Boston 2030* general plan, the first city-wide comprehensive plan for Boston in 50 years. Beginning in Fall 2015, the primary principals of *Imagine Boston 2030* are to preserve wisely, enhance equitably, and grow intelligently so that we can ensure that our neighborhoods and the city as a whole remain thriving, healthy, and innovative as we approach our 400th birthday and beyond. We believe that your plan is aligned in its approach to thinking specifically about the City's parks and open spaces.

The Boston Redevelopment Authority would like to offer our support for this new Open Space Plan and look forward to our continued collaboration in planning a bright future for Boston.

Sincerely,



John "Tad" Read
Acting Director of Planning

cc: Brian Golden, Director, Boston Redevelopment Authority
Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy & Open Space



SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

October 22, 2015

Chris Cook
 Commissioner
 Boston Parks and Recreation Department
 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor
 Boston, MA 02118

Dear Commissioner Cook:

Thank you for submitting the draft “City of Boston Open Space and Recreation Plan 2015-2021” to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans must be submitted to the regional planning agency for review. This review is advisory and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While DCS reviews open space plans for compliance with their guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and more specifically for consistency with *MetroFuture*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

The plan contains all of the elements that MAPC looks for in order to determine consistency with *MetroFuture*. The Boston plan has a very comprehensive treatment of regional open space issues, and you are to be congratulated for incorporating this perspective. Additionally, it includes an extensive analysis of environmental justice and equity with regard to access to open space and recreation resources across the City, an issue that is a priority for both DCS and MAPC.

MAPC enjoyed working with the City of Boston on the staff workshop to develop the Seven Year Action Plan. Boston’s Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and it should serve the city well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

Marc D. Draisen
 Executive Director

Cc: Chris Cook, Commissioner, Boston Parks and Recreation Department
 John Barros, MAPC Representative, City of Boston
 Melissa Cryan, Division of Conservation Resources
 Timothy Sullivan, Chief of Staff, Intergovernmental Relations