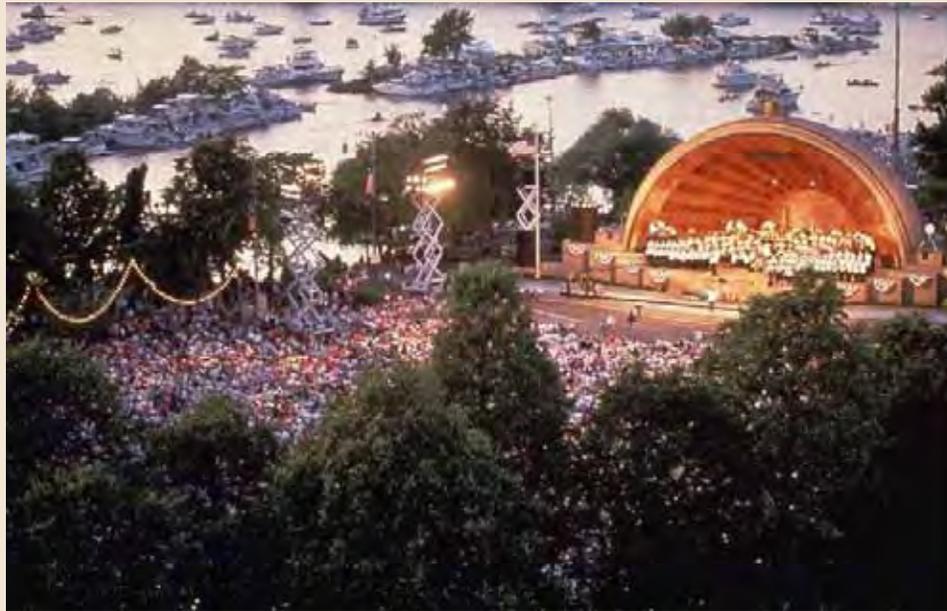


Charles River Esplanade - New Basin Resource Management Plan



DCR Public Meeting

October 10, 2013; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

John P. Murray

DCR Mission Statement



Arthur Fiedler Statue, Maciek Swiderski

To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well being of all.

Tonight's Meeting



Esplanade, Nick Terrett

- Presentation
 - Charles River Basin Master Plan Update
 - Background on DCR Resource Management Plans
 - Charles River Esplanade-New Basin Resource Management Plan Process
- Public Input

Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

Esplanade Playspace

The Friends of Esplanade Playspace funded the effort to provide a creative playspace for 5 to 12 year olds focusing on developing upper body strength.



Eliot Memorial

A Public Private Partnership with The Esplanade Association to restore the historic Charles Eliot Monument and to develop a prototype for future Esplanade landscape and maintenance improvements.



Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

River Dock Replacement

A Public Private Partnership
with The Esplanade Association
and The Solomon Foundation to
replace the deteriorated dock.



River Dock New Dock



River Dock Old Dock



River Dock New Dock

Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

Boat Haven Docks Replacement

A Public Private Partnership with The Esplanade Association, The Solomon Foundation, Community Boating, and Union Boat Club to replace three deteriorated Esplanade docks.



Commissioners Landing West
Old Dock



Commissioners Landing West
New Dock



Governors Landing
Old Dock



Governors Landing
New Dock



Commissioners Landing East
Old Dock

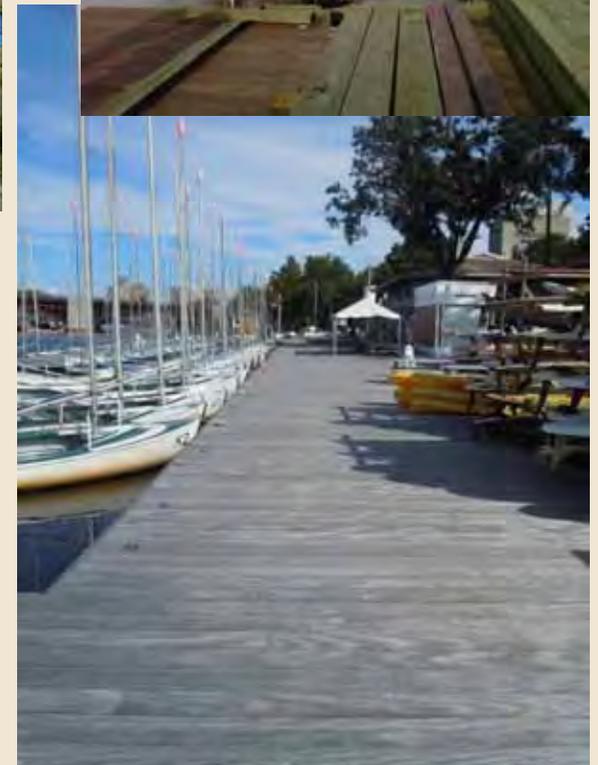


Commissioners Landing East
New Dock

Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

Community Boating Docks Replacement

A Public Private Partnership
with The Esplanade
Association, The Solomon
Foundation, and Community
Boating to replace the
deteriorated docks at
Community Boating, Inc.



Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

Memorial Drive Improvements

Phases 1 and 1A – Remove one parking lane and one travel lane to provide additional riverfront parkland. Install new riverfront ornamental fencing.

Phase 2 – Landscape parkland recovered from parkway narrowing. Restore Charles River shoreline. Phase 2 is designed. Construction is unfunded.



Memorial Drive Phase 1



Memorial Drive Phase 2

Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update

Teddy Ebersol's Red Sox Fields

Restoration of the community playing fields at Lederman Park on the Esplanade. The project was a Public Private Partnership with The Red Sox Foundation, The Esplanade Association, and Hill House.



TERSF prior to construction



Red Sox fan

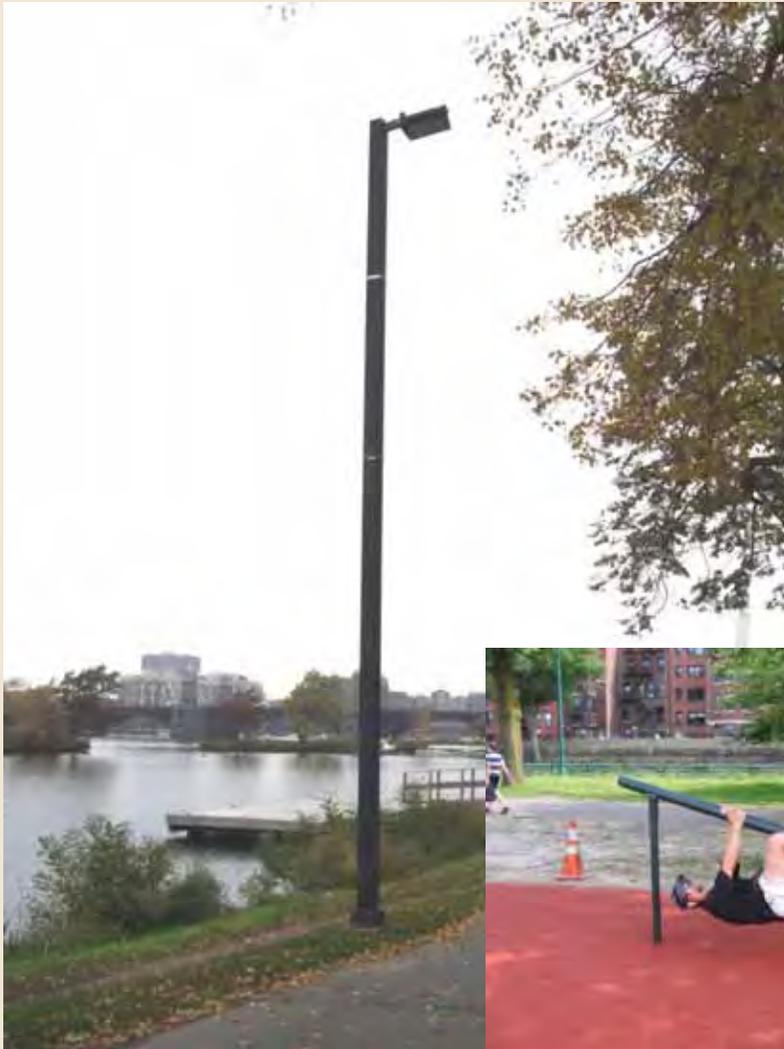


TERSF under construction



TERSF completed

Master Plan for the Charles River Basin Update



Improved pathway lighting along the Esplanade

Upgraded fitness area near Silber Way by Boston University



New Charles River Basin Master Plan Update

The New Charles River Basin

Connecting the Charles River parklands to Boston Harbor, its development was funded through the Central Artery/Tunnel Project as mitigation for construction of the multi-lane crossings of the Charles River.



New Charles River Basin
Before Central Artery Mitigation



New Charles River Basin
Master Plan Concept 1995



New Charles River Basin After Mitigation

New Charles River Basin Master Plan Update

Nashua Street Park

Dedicated in September 2004, Nashua Street Park features include Secretaries Landing, granite sculptures, and extensive plantings.



The Spiral in fog



Nashua Street Park



Nashua Street Park pathways and plantings

New Charles River Basin Master Plan Update

North Bank Bridge

A 690-foot structure curving under the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge and over the MBTA railroad tracks, opened in 2012. It connects North Point Park and Paul Revere Park to the Boston Harborwalk.



Photo ©Jonathan Hawkins, 2012

New Charles River Basin Master Plan Update

Paul Revere Park

The park includes a playground and a large grassy oval meadow that serves as an amphitheater and concert stage for performances. Public art and interpretive exhibits also celebrate the waterfront site.



New Charles River Basin Master Plan Update

North Point Park

This 8.5 acre park, opened in 2007, features playgrounds, open spaces, extensive plantings, a waterway within the park, and river access.



RMP Requirements

Management plans are prepared for “all reservations, parks, and forests under the management of the department”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F



Boston Esplanade

RMP Requirements



Sailboat, Nick Terrett

“shall include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of...reservations, parks and forests”

“shall provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources”

“shall ensure consistency between recreation and resource protection”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F

Resource Management Plans (RMPs):

- Are working documents that consider the past, present and future of a property
- Provide a guide to the short and long-term management of properties under the stewardship of the DCR
- Set priorities for capital and operating budgets, and resource allocation
- Enhance communication and cooperation with visitors, partners and surrounding communities

Difference Between Master Plans And Resource Management Plans



Blue Heron

- **Master Plans** provide guidelines for the design of physical facilities to achieve long-term goals for a property.
- **Resource Management Plans** provide guidelines for the stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and management of recreational and operational resources.

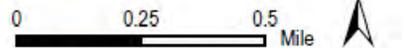
Operational Complex



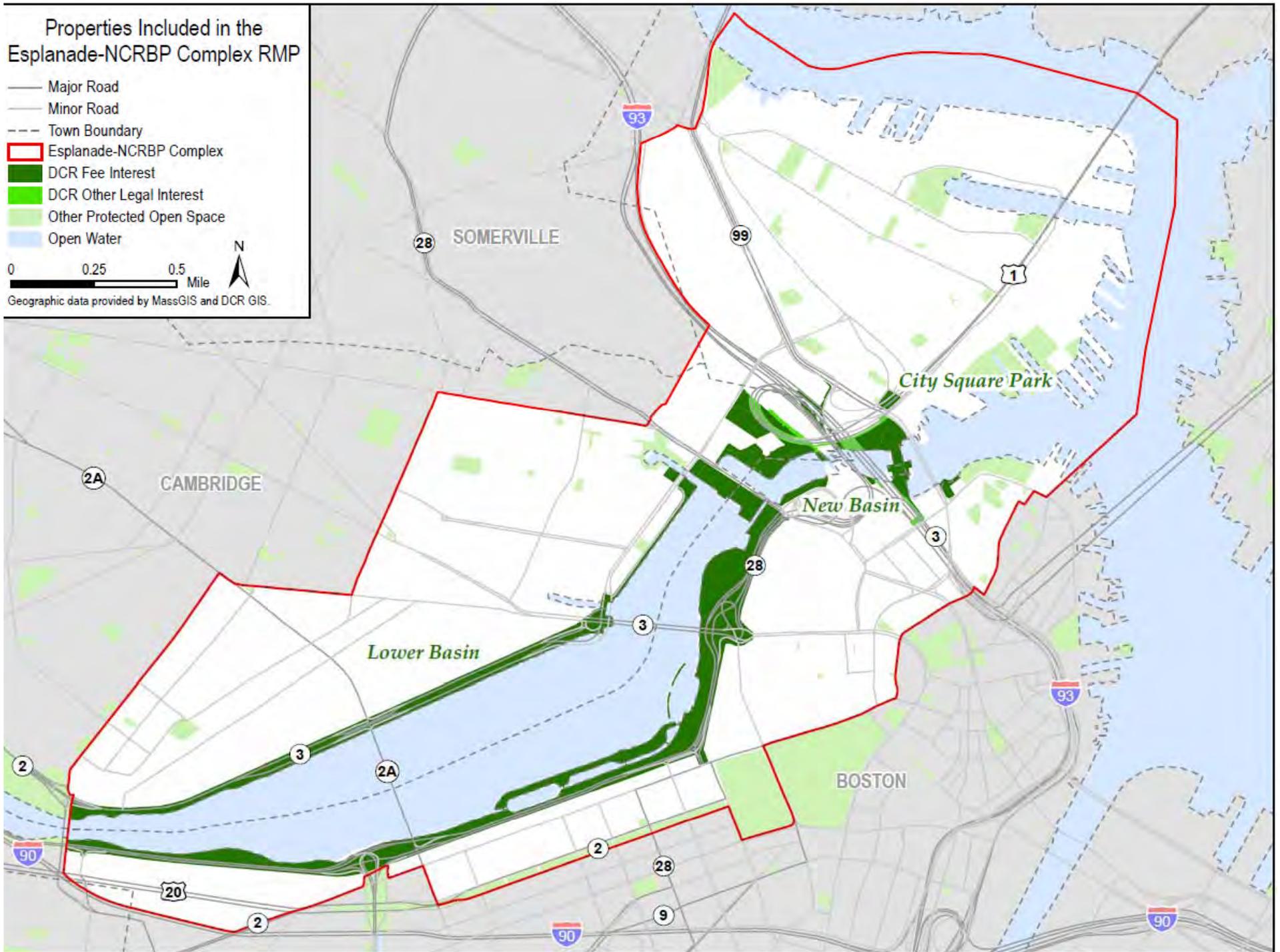
- DCR manages 385 properties
- These facilities are managed by 32 field operation teams.
- RMPs cover all properties in an operational complex to provide management guidance to each field operation team.
- This RMP covers all facilities managed by the Charles River Esplanade – New Basin team.

Properties Included in the Esplanade-NCRBP Complex RMP

- Major Road
- Minor Road
- - - Town Boundary
- Esplanade-NCRBP Complex
- DCR Fee Interest
- DCR Other Legal Interest
- Other Protected Open Space
- Open Water



Geographic data provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS.



Historical Background

- 1630 Boston established on Shawmut Peninsula
- 1855-90 Back Bay mud flats filled
- 1894 Cambridge and Metropolitan Park Commissions acquire parkland along the Charles River Basin



Cambridge Embankment at Low Tide 1902

- 1910 Charles River Dam completed
- 1936 Esplanade is dedicated
- 1951 Storrow Drive completed
- 1978 New Charles River Dam completed
- 1999 Paul Revere Park reconstructed



Boston Embankment, 1910

Natural Resource Features



Black-crowned Night Herons

- In 1910, the Charles River dam converted a tidal river into a freshwater urban lake
- 85% open parkland providing minimal wildlife habitat
- 375 years of water-quality and aquatic habitat impairment
- Sediment contain high levels of lead and PCBs
- Since mid-1990s, the bacterial quality of the river has improved

Cultural Resource Features



Broad Canal, 1904



Boston Esplanade, 1935

- 5 prehistoric sites
- 11 historic buildings
- Numerous historic structures and landscapes
- National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark
- Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Recreational Activities



River Tour Boat

- Walking and running
- Concerts and events
- Relaxing and exercising
- Biking and in-line skating
- Sunbathing and picnicking
- Concerts & special events
- Playgrounds & spray deck
- Boating, sailing & rowing
- Sight seeing boats
- Volleyball, baseball & tennis
- Ice skating

Management Challenges



Cambridge Esplanade



River Clean-up Boat, Wendy Maeda

- Vegetation management
- Impact of special events
- Use of vacant historic buildings
- Public safety
- Trail user conflicts
- Limited staff resources
- Stakeholder coordination

RMP Contents



Park Ranger

- Existing Conditions
 - Natural Resources
 - Cultural Resources
 - Recreational Resources
 - Interpretive Services
 - Operational and Facility Management
- Land Stewardship Zoning
- Management Recommendations

Time Frame*

October 10, 2013

First Public Meeting on RMP process

November 12, 2013

End of 30-day Public Comment Period

June 2014

Second Public Meeting on Draft RMP

August 2014

End of 30-day Public Comment Period

October 2014

Final Draft Plan submitted to DCR
Stewardship Council for review and
adoption

December 2014

Post Final RMP on DCR website

* Dates subject to change

Additional Information

For more information please visit the DCR web site:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

If you have comments or suggestions:

- Email: dcr.updates@state.ma.us (please note "Charles River Basin RMP" in email subject line)
- Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
- Call: 617-626-4974

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR by email or letter will be posted on the DCR website in their entirety.

Public Input



City Square Park

- Questions on RMP Process?
- Management Goals
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreational Resources
- Interpretive Programs
- Facility Management