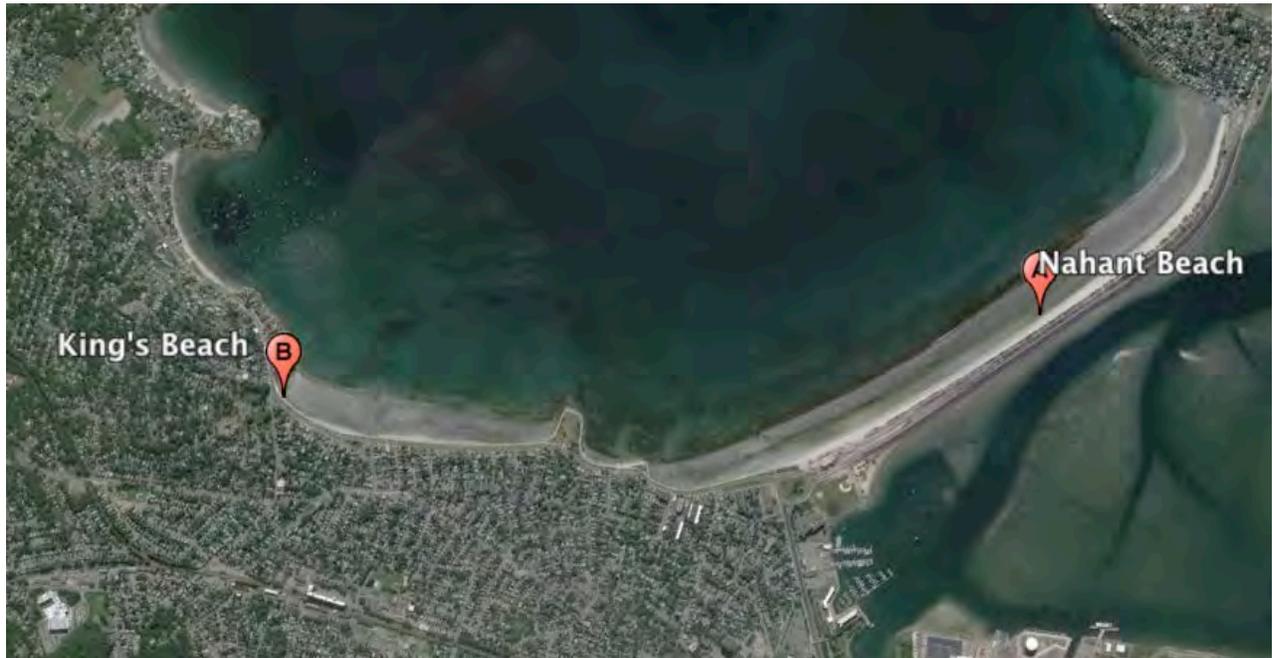


MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: Lynn and Nahant



“Our waterfront and our beaches are remarkable assets with the power to connect our residents and our communities to each other and the sea. The investments we have made on these beaches strengthen our communities and the economy, improve people’s lives and demonstrate that government can work.”

- Senator Tom McGee, Co-Chair Metropolitan Beaches Commission -

SUCCESSSES

- Ward Bath House is clean and accessible
- Trash removal has improved substantially
- Algae has been reduced substantially
- Concerts and Programs at Red Rock are great
- Friends Groups and Save the Harbor’s Better Beaches programs
- “Bike to the Sea” has improved beach access
- The Causeway project will be completed in Spring 2014
- The Lynn Ferry Project is nearly completed and will begin in 2014

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Algae levels improving, but continuing to spread; continued efforts needed to resolve
- Lack of vendors at Ward Bathhouse
- Parking fills up fast on nice beach days
- Pedestrian access and lighting needs improvement; this is a safety issue for Lynn and Nahant residents, with many stating that there was no lighting along sidewalks after dark
- Need more enforcement of leash laws/dog ordinance
- Increasing noise complaints

- Need to strengthen connections between these beaches
- Need more concessions and amenities
- More recycling bins are needed
- Water Quality on King's Beach at Stacy Brook continues to be a problem
- While Red Rock Park was described as working well in 2007, residents commented on the need for more bathroom facilities.
- Deterioration of the seawall and stairs leading to King's beach. Large pieces of stairs are missing, posing a public safety hazard and the decaying of the seawall is getting worse
- Need more parking and better notification when the lots are full

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvements

- Complete and continue improvements to Nahant Causeway
- Capital improvements to Lynn Heritage State Park Boardwalk
- Additional bathroom facilities at Red Rock
- Continued investment in the Lynn waterfront and commuter ferry
- Food concession stand at the Ward Bathhouse. The annex is there for the concession. The middle portion of the bathhouse was renovated but there are two attachments that need to be utilized

Events and Programs

- Increased variety in programs
- Paddleboard and kayak rentals
- Continued DCR in-kind support for the Summer Concerts, Kid's Day Concert, regular beach clean ups and beach programs
- Additional financial support from the Commonwealth

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Continued investment in Lynn's waterfront, providing connections to the beach and Heritage Park
- Water transportation initiatives to connect Lynn to Boston and Harbor Islands
- Year-round parking for surfers, etc.
- Create waterfront bike lanes/paths

Equipment

- A new loader to remove trash and algae: current loader is 25 years old.
- An additional beach sanitizer, to maintain the sand
- A street sweeper to reduce runoff from Lynn Shore Drive onto the beach

MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: Revere



“What tremendous progress we have made in a few short years! This year there were no complaints about water quality at the hearing. No one complained about dirty sand, dirty diapers, cigarette butts or needles on our beaches.”

- MBC Commissioner Carol Haney from Revere -

SUCSESSES

- In 2012, Revere Beach was the cleanest beach in the metro Boston area
- No complaints about water or sand quality at the hearing
- The community’s economy continues to grow
- The Revere Beach Partnership has transformed the beach
- 10 months of free programming on the beach; Passion Plunge and the Cupid Splash.
- Sand Sculpting contest attracts 400,000 visitors
- Plowing the sidewalks in the winter and creating parallel parking has improved traffic and pedestrian safety

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Continued policing and public safety of the beaches
- More recycling bins are needed
- More vendors and a simpler vendor process
- Improved parking and better handicapped access to beach
- Better enforcement of dog ordinance
- Increase enforcement of Quiet Zone
- More permanent or extensive structure to make beach access easier for the elderly
- The piping plover: The plight of the Plover vs. the blight of the Plover
- The beach is a 24/7 full year resource which demands fund maintenance
- Enhanced public safety presence
- Additional staff to help the local beach manager

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Continued dedicated patrols by State Police
- Bring additional retail to the beach
- Continue to expand restaurant options
- Consider creating dog parks
- More attractive plover enclosures
- RFP for development of city owned properties
- Move or remove boulders from south end of beach

Capital Improvements

- Additional bathhouse to be located in the vicinity of the Markey Bridge
- Provide additional recreational outlets for all beachgoers:
- Tot lot/playground, water playground project
- Permanent Volleyball location in the area of the Shirley Avenue Bath House on Revere Beach Boulevard
- A permanent carousel on Revere Beach in the grassy area between Chester and Beach Streets
- Addition of food vendors and game areas

Events and Programs

- Increased support for events and festivals and the Revere Beach Partnership
- Swimming lessons and boat rentals
- More family activities on the beach to bring back the nostalgia Revere had and give a chance for young people to make their own memories at the beach as well.

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Explore temporary closing of Revere Beach Boulevard for events
- Shuttles during events could provide an alternative to cars

MBC 2014

Preliminary Findings: Winthrop Beach



“The people of Winthrop have been very patient, but that patience is coming to an end. We expect DCR to keep its promise, and complete this project in 2014.”

- Speaker Robert DeLeo -

SUCCESSES

- \$25 million appropriated for the Winthrop Beach Rehabilitation Project with Phase 1 now completed, Phase 2 underway, and Phases 3 and 4, which include trucking in sand, drainage systems, lighting, and benches, to be completed by the end of 2014
- Washrooms are clean and open
- Amazing views of the ocean, sunsets, storms, and stars
- Beautiful scenery, views, and sunrises
- Easy access to the beach
- Good water quality on the beach
- Well used by walkers, swimmers, and surfers.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Sand!
- Trash and debris
- Plovers - While some residents see the birds' return as a sign of a healthy beach, plovers reduce the space available for beach goers during nesting season
- People need to clean up after their pets
- Beach needs to be cleaned and raked more regularly
- More frequent trash pick up
- Weeds are taking over beach areas
- Pest control during and after construction.
- Storm protection and drainage

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvements

- COMPLETE THE RESTORATION PROJECT!
- Shaded seating and benches
- Bathhouse improvements, better signage
- Continued shoreline protection
- Improved sidewalk and road
- Lighting with the kind of poles that flower baskets could be attached to
- Foot showers and drinking fountains along the beach
- Infrastructure for kayak and paddleboard launch area

Events and Programs

- Continued DCR in kind support for free beach programs
- Additional financial support from the Commonwealth for Friends Groups and programs
- Paddleboard and kayak rentals

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Continued support for the Winthrop Ferry
- Decorative design on the sea wall
- Signage – historical Winthrop, Walk Winthrop signage

**MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: East Boston**



“At Constitution Beach the concession stand and bath house are open, the sinkhole is gone, the sand is being raked regularly, and attendance is up, all a result of the blueprint we created with the community. Today, we look forward to building on that success.”

- State Senator Anthony Petrucci, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -

The improvements at Constitution Beach are just a beginning. East Boston is ready to embrace our historic and enchanting urban waterfront and to produce new visions of use, investment and access. At meetings here, people speak of boardwalks, harbor walks, kayaking, row boats and paddle boats. They imagine swimming holes, sculling clubs, micro-beaches, water transportation, floating restaurants and more. Such investment would unlock the true family recreational and tourism potential of our Harbor City.”

- Chris Marchi, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner from East Boston -

SUCSESSES

- The beaches offer not only a place to spend a day at the beach; they are portals to the environment, a historical treasure and a potential opportunity to improve the quality of life for the community and the entire region
- Bathrooms are clean and water fountains working
- The sinkhole has been repaired
- DCR Beach Manager and staff are responsive
- New bathhouse, clean sand and vast improvements to daily maintenance
- Family friendly location with great concessions
- The greenway connects 20,000-25,000 people to the beach each year
- New infrastructure and amenities
- Plays a major role as important interface between people and the water
- The recreational and public health opportunities here in Boston are perhaps the most fantastic of any harbor city in America

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Improve handicapped and stroller access to the beach and water
- Expand water-based activities at the beach.
- Room to improve cleanliness of beach and sand
- Resolve conflicts between ball players and abutters
- Kids partying on the beach – especially at night
- Not enough activities for the elderly and young people
- Not enough supervised positive activities for teens
- Public drinking
- Speeding
- Commuters using spaces for parking
- The lack of boat rentals
- Limited handicap or stroller access
- Poison Ivy
- Trash
- Dog Waste / No place for dogs
- Not enough lights / Too much light
- Unsupervised bonfires and uncontrolled cookouts are dangerous.

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

East Boston is surrounded by nearly 15 miles of salt water, and though nearly all streets lead to Boston Harbor, residents have very little access. We need to expand/promote the community's vision to water access as more than just 'what happens at the beach', but also as 'how we relate to the environment around us.'

Capital Improvements

- Mats or walkway and beach wheelchairs to improve handicapped and stroller access
- Tennis court area needs to be completed
- A floating dock for swimming
- Improved wheelchair and stroller access to the beach and the water
- Create an environment that allows for grilling in a safe and secure manner without the negative impacts that are currently associated with that practice
- Fire pit installation at Constitution Beach
- Proper signage outlining best practices, guidelines, regulations, etc.
- Create a program, similar to the City's partnership with Hubway, whereby residents could rent boats and further enjoy the beach
- A small boat/kayak/paddleboard storage facility at the beach

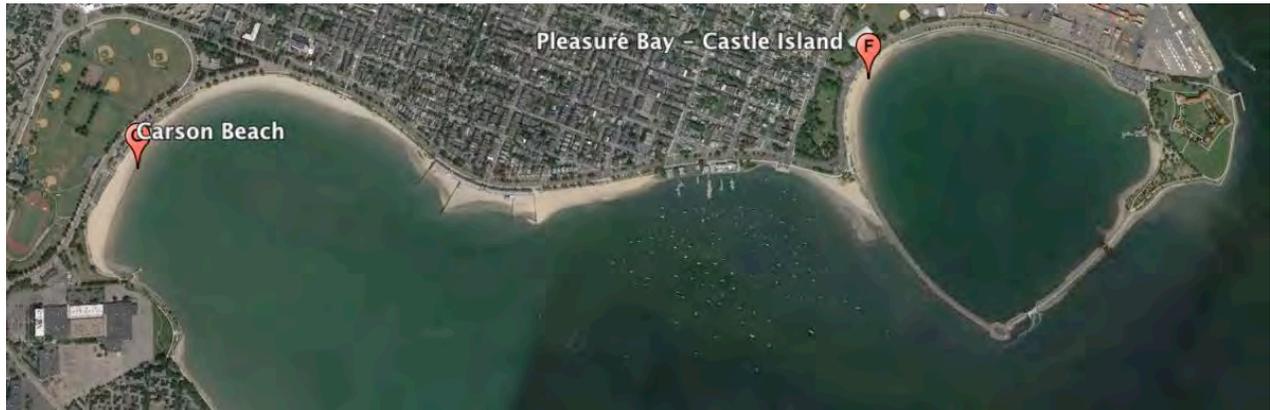
Events and Programs

- More planned activities for the elderly, the young and especially teens.
- More activities to encourage healthy exercise
- More beach/waterfront activities such as kayaking, boating and paddle boarding
- Swimming lessons
- Beach Bonfires

Connections and Other Initiatives

- A "Low Tide Trail" linking Constitution Beach with "other than beach" access points
- Create a program, similar to the City's partnership with Hubway, whereby residents could rent boats and further enjoy the beach

**MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: South Boston**



“Clean water and better management at DCR have transformed South Boston’s beaches into a destination for people from across the region. With that transformation comes new challenges to the neighborhood, which we have a responsibility to address together.”

- State Representative Nick Collins, MBC Commissioner -

SUCSESSES

- Water quality has improved dramatically
- Beautiful scenery, views and sunrises
- Sand is clean and trash is picked up regularly
- People from all over come to the beach and to Castle Island
- Water fountains and bathrooms work
- Boardwalk and sidewalk improvements
- Partnerships with the state, city and Save the Harbor have helped create the beaches we have today.
- Events are great – but parking is limited and towing is a real problem
- BCYF Curley Community Center is a great asset
- The Harry McDonough Sailing Center is a real asset for the community

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Need to find the proper balance of retail/food vendors and over-commercialization
- Need separate area for dogs and enforcement of rules
- Need to better monitor public drinking and groups playing sports
- Events are great – but parking is limited and towing is a real problem
- Increase night patrols
- Additional Equipment
- Better lighting
- Strategy to address homeless people on the beach.
- Traffic and parking, especially during peak times and road races
- Difficult to get from one end of beach to the other by public transportation
- Dogs, dog waste and dog parks!

- Castle Island needs continued investment and improvement
- Better communications and coordination between State Police, DCR and the South Boston community

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvements

- The restoration of the Castle, the replenishment of stone blocks, fencing and trees
- A “signature” bath house at Pleasure Bay
- Reinvestment in the Harry McDonough sailing Center
- Updated visitor amenities, such as parking, trash receptacles, bathrooms, drinking fountains, solar lighting and signs
- Vehicular access and control kiosk at Castle Island
- Reuse of the “Pickle Jar”

Events and Programs

The South Boston community welcomes all Bostonians and the region’s residents to enjoy these beaches, which are now among the cleanest urban beaches in America. However, events like road races, swims, concerts and beach festivals need to be well coordinated and scheduled to manage impacts like traffic and parking in the neighborhood.

Connections and Other Initiatives

- A Beach Shuttle from JFK to Castle Island
- Increased vending opportunities for local small businesses and residents
- Explore dog-friendly activities/areas at the beaches with appropriate oversight during the spring and summer months
- Fort Independence should be open every day like other Forts around the country
- There needs to be a long-term agreement between the Harry McDonough Sailing Center, the City of Boston, and the Commonwealth to invest in the sailing program to continue to serve the children of South Boston and the Commonwealth
- Improved lighting for pedestrians and drivers along Day Boulevard between M Street and K Street (essentially the stretch along the Curley Recreation Center/L Street Bathhouse)
- The addition of pedestrian crossing signals in front of the K Street and M Street entrances to the Bathhouse where many people cross to access the beach and the community center
- An end to the policy of towing motor vehicles during road races.
- There is an interest in turning the traffic signals at the intersections of L Street/Day Boulevard and L Street/Columbia Road into true traffic signals as opposed to the flashing yellow and red signals. There should also be some coordination so that the traffic signals are timed appropriately
- An increase in resident parking at night between Kelly’s Landing and the entrance gate to Castle Island

MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: Dorchester



“Dorchester’s beaches are important assets and resources for all our residents. We need to take a hard look at how our public resources are distributed and to establish public-private partnerships that will sustain and build on the progress that has been made,”
- State Senator Linda Darcena Forry -

SUCCESSES

- Maintenance at Savin Hill and Malibu Beach has greatly improved
- Paths and parking lots are well maintained at Savin Hill and Malibu
- Dorchester’s beaches are great neighborhood meeting spots
- Jimson Weed has been removed
- The Dorchester Beach Festival is terrific
- The showers work at Savin Hill
- The tennis courts at Tenean Beach are getting a lot of use

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Need better connections to and between the beaches in Dorchester and South Boston
- Need better connections to the beaches, Harborwalk, and the Neponset Trail from neighborhoods that are not contiguous to these amenities such as Bowdoin/Geneva, Fields Corner, Clam Point, Popes Hill, Codman Sq/Ashmont, and Lower Mills.
- Sea grass is invasive in swimming areas, making swimming difficult
- Smell at low tide
- Lack of a bathroom at Tenean
- The issue of sand in the parking lot at Tenean. The hydrology of the parking lot may need to be reevaluated because storms have impacted it
- Access to the beaches is a major issue. Transportation needs to be reexamined
- Trash collection is still a problem
- Not enough public transportation to other city beaches
- No strategy for dealing with homeless people on the beach

- Not enough concessions on Dorchester's beaches
- Repair wood boardwalk
- Replace dead/ damaged trees
- Unearth sand buried ramps and stairs to beach
- Remove phragmites along boardwalk
- Clear walking paths and sidewalks for year-round use
- Graffiti on shade shelters and other locations

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvements

- Tenean Beach needs rethinking and reconfiguration
- Remove some of the permanent parking lot to gain more beach/dune
- Reshape beach with a back dune to reduce flooding of parking lot
- Relocate tot lot area near courts
- Provide bathrooms at Tenean
- Construct new bathhouse at Savin Hill
- Additional Harbor Walk and Trail signage
- Dredging
- Strengthen beach-related bike and pedestrian connections

Events and Programs

- More marketing of the recreational opportunities at the beach

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Strengthen connections to and between these beaches, the Neponset Greenway and the South Boston Beaches
- Strengthen connections and improve the shoreline at UMASS Boston and Columbia Point
- Better access for Columbia Rd/ Upham's corner area to Dorchester and South Boston beaches
- A seasonal shuttle from Franklin Park down Columbia
- A potential transportation partnership with UMass Boston
- Food Trucks!
- Boat and Kayak rentals
- Make these beaches more user-friendly and accessible to encourage health living

**MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: Quincy**



**“Our beaches are an important natural resource that provide residents and visitors with the opportunity to relax, walk, and spend time with their families.”
- State Senator John Keenan, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -**

**“As we come out of the economic downturn it is imperative that we work as a community to plan for the future, increasing water transportation options, expanding programs and activities on Wollaston Beach, and investing in the development of Squantum Point Park and our downtown.”
- Quincy City Councilor Douglas Gutro, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -**

SUCSESSES

- Improvements to the beach area (i.e. sidewalks, streets, seawall) are terrific
- Beach sand much cleaner
- Bathhouses are clean
- Traffic much calmer
- Friends of Wollaston Beach and Save the Harbor/Save the Bay have done an excellent job of bringing more activities for families and kids to the area
- Programming at the Squantum Yacht Club, Wollaston Yacht Club with the Friends of Wollaston Beach have made Wollaston a true community beach
- It is a great place to walk
- A great place to be with friends and neighbors
- A truly diverse place

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- With heavy use comes challenges
- Used until very late at night, which can disturb neighbors
- Dogs and dog waste are still a problem
- *Pilayella littoralis*, a brown nuisance algae, may be a problem on this beach
- Dredging and sand replenishment may both be required in time

- Water quality and beach flagging accuracy continue to be a challenge
- Biking is increasingly popular but can be difficult and dangerous
- Speeding continues to be a problem
- Grass and weeds are taking over parts of the beach
- Though water quality has improved, there is still work to do and the area still has a negative stigma of poor water quality
- More trash and recycling receptacles

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvement

- Support for continued improvements to water quality
- Transform Squantum Point Park into a ferry hub and island gateway
- A playground on Wollaston Beach
- A dog park on Wollaston Beach

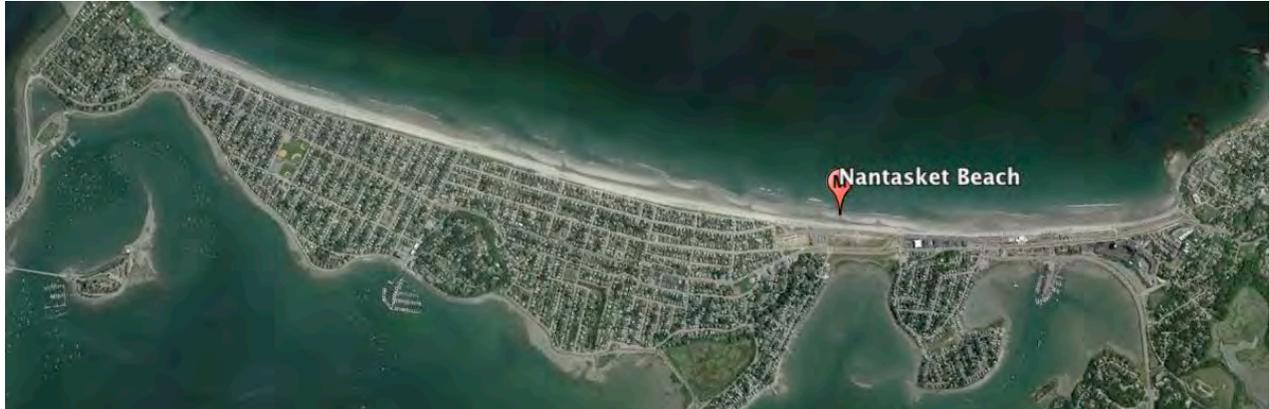
Events and Programs

- Continued DCR support for the Friends of Wollaston Beach's free programs
- An international food and music festival
- A bicycle race from Wollaston – Squantum Point Park

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Extend walking trails around the Wollaston Beach area and the rest of Quincy
- Creation of more paths and bike lanes along Quincy Shore Drive
- Dredging is needed for boaters to maintain access to the yacht clubs
- Squantum Point Pier ferry service to the harbor islands, airport and downtown Boston

**MBC 2014
Preliminary Findings: Hull**



“The work of the 2007 commission opened up the conversation and put into place significant plans for sustainable improvements and development of the area. Nevertheless, there are always ways to improve this valuable resource to ensure that Nantasket Beach remains a welcoming environment for generations to come.”

- State Rep. Garret Bradley, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -

“We were excited to hear from the residents of Hull about what they believed was working and what we could improve upon. What we heard at our public hearing will serve as a blueprint for a long-term sustainable program that will bring economic vitality to Nantasket Beach and the region.”

- State Senator Robert Hedlund, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner -

“By leveraging our existing resources and finding ways to expand access to our beach we can support the next generation of beach goers to Hull.”

-- Joan Meschino, Metropolitan Beaches Commissioner from Hull

SUCCESSSES

- Beaches are clean and well maintained
- Trash removal is much improved
- A significant improvement in police presence on the beach
- Nantasket beach and the Bath House are now a year round resource for the community
- Public support for DCR has improved substantially
- A dramatic change in the number of activities on the beach: It has broadened and diversified, providing more summer jobs and a year round destination for people
- Funding the EMS presence on Saturdays and Sundays by DCR has helped
- Beach grass planting program has been successful

CURRENT CHALLENGES

- The seawall needs repair
- Sea level rise, coastal erosion and coastal storms are an ongoing public safety concern
- Enforcement of parking rules
- Enforcement of dog laws
- Increase hours for Mary Jeanette Murray Bath House (implemented after the meeting)
- Beach re-nourishment is needed
- Provide alternative activities at high tide, when the beach “disappears”
- Public transportation to the beach is difficult
- Public transportation along the beach is also difficult
- Parking is still a challenge during peak season

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Capital Improvements

- Complete the Nantasket Beach Master Plan
- Adaptive response planning for sea-level rise at the Bathhouse and elsewhere
- Beach nourishment and seawall repairs

Events and Programs

- The “Endless Summer” has successfully extended the season and created needed economic activity
- The Carousel continues to attract and entertain after 85 years
- There is still a need for more community-based activities for both locals and tourists

Connections and Other Initiatives

- Create landside green space with shade for beachgoers to use as a retreat from high tide and for people on boardwalk
- Staff Nantasket Beach Reservation for, and promote access and to, different types of year-round use
- Take advantage of the location of parking for commercial opportunities
- Redesign the Nantasket Beach business district
- Create plans for small food service vendors
- Find ways to use the ocean parking lots as recreational space
- Complete the Nantasket Beach Master Plan to revitalize of the area. This rehabilitation will make significant and needed repairs to existing comfort stations: The Mary Jeanette Murray Bathhouse, seawall repairs and sand re-nourishment
- Develop more and better public transportation options to get to the beach
- Resume weekend ferry service to encourage visitors from Boston
- Introduce ferry service from Hull to Peddocks Island
- Introduce a trolley to connect visitors to Pemberton Pier and a ferry to Peddocks Island and the Boston Harbor Islands