



**Metropolitan Beaches Commission**  
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The **Metropolitan Beaches Commission** was created by the Legislature, in 2007, reconvened in 2014 and made permanent in 2015.

**Co-Chaired by Senator Tom McGee and Rep. RoseLee Vincent**, and managed by Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, the Commission's mission is to conduct an annual review of the Commonwealth's public beaches in Lynn, Nahant, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester and Hull and issue an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the House and the Senate.

### **Key MBC Findings and Recommendations:**

- DCR needs additional funds for staff, maintenance equipment, new management systems and information technology, and capital improvements
- Better beaches require better programming; free beach events and programs are critical to enhancing the enjoyment of the beaches for people of all ages
- Better connections to and from the beaches and to the harbor islands are needed—public transportation, ferry services, and for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Water quality improvements are still needed on several beaches, and an improved system of beach flagging
- Ongoing involvement by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission is needed to ensure that improved conditions on the beaches are maintained, and more progress is made

## Key MBC Accomplishments 2007 (FY2008)

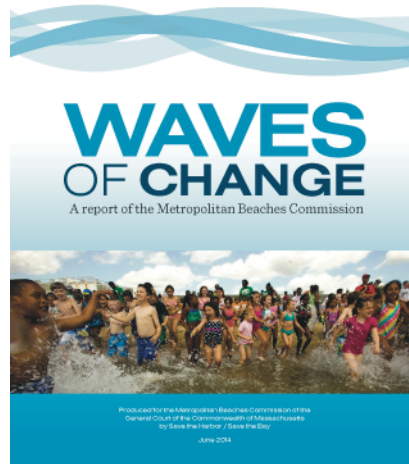


- Completed 11 hearings at the State House and in 9 waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket, and issued our first report **Beaches We Can Be Proud Of**.
- Secured \$3.5 million in additional funds for fulltime and seasonal staff and maintenance equipment for the Metropolitan Beaches, including sand sifters and packers and \$50,000 for algae removal in Lynn and Nahant.

## Key MBC Accomplishments 2008 - 2015

- Completed more than \$20 million in capital projects including Quincy Shore Drive and Seawall, Nahant Causeway, the Winthrop Beach Renourishment Project, and the restoration of the Ward Bathhouse.
- Leveraged \$205,000 in small grants from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program with \$815,722 in cash and in-kind contributions from local government and small businesses for a total investment of \$1,020,722 in 214 free events and programs for the region's residents and visitors alike.

## Key Accomplishments 2014 (FY2015)



- Completed 11 hearings in Boston and in 9 waterfront neighborhoods from Nahant to Nantasket, and issued our second report **Waves of Change**.
- Secured \$20 million in the Environmental Bond Bill for the next phase of capital improvements to the Metropolitan Beaches and another \$20 million to help communities address the persistent pollution problems that closed some beaches more than 25% of the season in 2015. These funds have been authorized, but have not yet been appropriated or scheduled.
- Raised DCR's retained revenue cap, and secured \$190,000 for free beach programs and an additional \$900,000 for additional fulltime and seasonal staff, the first increase to DCR's budget since 2008.

## Key MBC Accomplishments 2015 (FY2016)

- Raised DCR's retained revenue cap and established a new line item for the Metropolitan Beaches which includes \$1 million for staff and maintenance and \$190,000 for another season of free events and programs on public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket.
- Expanded membership and established the Metropolitan Beaches Commission as a permanent Commission, reporting annually to the House and Senate.

# 2016 (FY2017) MBC Advocacy Agenda



- Develop site specific plans for water quality improvements in Lynn and Dorchester
- Prioritize and schedule DCR capital improvements
- Raise retained revenue cap
- Increase investment in fulltime and seasonal staff and beach programs

## 2015- 2016 Metropolitan Beaches Commission Schedule



- **November 7, 2015 - Lynn and Nahant**
- April 15, 2016 - Quincy and Hull
- May 1, 2016 - Dorchester and South Boston
- May 15, 2016 - Revere, Winthrop and East Boston
- June 1, 2015 - Release report

**Key Legislative Language:  
Chapter 3, Section 70 of the General Laws**

**SECTION 4.** Chapter 3 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 70, as appearing in the 2014 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:

Section 70. (a) There shall be a permanent commission on the future of the metropolitan beaches to consist of: 5 members of the senate, 1 of whom shall serve as co-chair and 1 of whom shall be the minority leader or a designee; 7 members of the house of representatives, 1 of whom shall serve as co-chair and 1 of whom shall be the minority leader or a designee; 1 member who shall be appointed by the governor or the secretary of energy and environmental affairs or a designee; and 1 member who shall be appointed by the commissioner of conservation and recreation or a designee.

The commission shall also include: (i) the following members from these metropolitan beach communities: a representative from the city of Lynn who shall be appointed by the mayor; a representative from town of Nahant who shall be appointed by the town manager; a representative from the city of Revere who shall be appointed by the mayor; a representative from the town of Winthrop who shall be appointed by the town manager; a representative from the city of Quincy who shall be appointed by the mayor; and a representative of the town of Hull who shall be appointed by the town manager; and 3 representatives from the city of Boston who shall be appointed by the mayor, 1 of whom shall be from the East Boston section of the city of Boston, 1 of whom shall be from the Dorchester section of the city of Boston and 1 of whom shall be from the South Boston section of the city of Boston; and (ii) 4 members who shall be appointed by the commission co-chairs to represent philanthropic, non-profit, business and academic communities in the greater Boston area.

The commission shall conduct an annual review of the state of the metropolitan beaches which shall include a comprehensive study examining the existing maintenance, operational and infrastructure needs for those beaches including, but not limited to, any security and capital-intensive repairs necessary to ensure future recreational use of those beaches. The commission shall also examine best management practices and funding alternatives for each beach including, but not limited to, public-private partnerships, nonprofit entities and other financial means that shall ensure access, quality recreational activities, programming and improved water quality and beautification efforts at those beaches. The commission shall also analyze and make recommendations on alternatives and methods to improve access from metropolitan beaches to the Boston Harbor islands.

(b) For the purposes of this section, “metropolitan beaches” shall include, but not

be limited to: (i) Nahant beach in the town of Nahant; (ii) Red Rock park, King's beach and Lynn beach in the city of Lynn; (iii) Revere beach and Short beach in the city of Revere; (iv) Winthrop beach in the town of Winthrop; (v) Constitution beach, Carson beach, City Point beach, M Street beach, Pleasure Bay, Malibu beach, Savin Hill beach, and Tenean beach in the city of Boston; (vi) Wollaston beach and Squantum Point park in the city of Quincy, and (vii) Nantasket beach in the town of Hull.

(c) The commission shall hold annual hearings within close proximity to Boston Harbor beaches to solicit testimony from interested stakeholders including, but not limited to: (i) the executive office of energy and environmental affairs; (ii) the department of conservation and recreation; (iii) the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; (iv) the Massachusetts Port Authority; (v) the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority; (vi) the Boston Harbor Association, Inc.; (vii) the Boston Harbor Island Alliance, Inc.; (viii) Save The Harbor, Save The Bay, Inc.; (ix) local municipalities; (x) non-profit organizations; (xi) friends' groups; and (xii) business and community leaders.

(d) The commission shall file an annual report containing its recommendations with the clerks of the Senate and House of Representatives and the senate and house chairs of the joint committee on the environment, natural resources and agriculture.

## **Key Sections: FY2016 Budget**

### **Chapter 46**

AN ACT MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMONWEALTH, FOR INTEREST, SINKING FUND AND SERIAL BOND REQUIREMENTS AND FOR CERTAIN PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS

### **2800-0500**

For the existing maintenance, operational and infrastructure needs of the metropolitan beaches as set forth in section 70 of chapter 3 of the General Laws; provided, that not less than \$700,000 shall be expended for the Metropolitan Beaches in the cities of Lynn, Nahant, Quincy and Revere, the towns of Hull and Winthrop, the East Boston, South Boston and Dorchester sections of the city of Boston to be fully maintained and seasonally staffed as recommended by the commission on the future of metropolitan beaches in coordination with the department of conservation and recreation; and provided further, that not less than \$190,000 shall be expended for matching grants to public and nonpublic entities to support free public events and programs on the metropolitan beaches as part of

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Grants Program as recommended by the commission on the future of metropolitan beaches  
\$1,190,000

**2800-0501**

For the operation of the beaches, pools and spray pools under the control of the department of conservation and recreation; provided, that the seasonal hires of the department's parks, beaches, pools and spray pools shall be paid from this item; provided further, that all beaches, pools and spray pools shall remain open and staffed from Memorial Day through Labor Day; provided further, that the beaches, pools and spray pools shall be fully maintained; provided further, that seasonal employees who are hired before the second Sunday preceding Memorial Day, whose employment continues beyond the Saturday following Labor Day and who received health insurance benefits in fiscal year 2015 shall continue to receive such benefits in fiscal year 2016 during the period of that employee's seasonal employment; provided further, that notwithstanding section 1 of chapter 31 of the General Laws, seasonal positions funded by this item shall be positions requiring the services of an incumbent, on either a full-time or less than full-time basis, beginning not earlier than April 1 and ending not later than November 30 or beginning not earlier than September 1 and ending not later than April 30; and provided further, that notwithstanding said section 1 of said chapter 31, seasonal positions funded by this item shall not be filled by an incumbent for more than 8 months within a 12 month period  
\$14,772,699

**2810-0100**

For the operation of the division of state parks and recreation; provided, that funds appropriated in this item shall be used: (i) to operate all of the division's parks, parkways, boulevards, roadways, bridges and related appurtenances under the care, custody and control of the division, flood control activities of the division, reservations, campgrounds, beaches and pools; (ii) to oversee skating rinks; and (iii) to protect and manage the division's lands and natural resources, including the forest and parks conservation services and the bureau of forestry development; provided further, that the same properties shall be open in fiscal year 2016 as were open in fiscal year 2015; provided further, that no funds from this item shall be made available for payment to true seasonal employees; provided further, that the division may issue grants to public and nonpublic entities from this item; provided further... that not less than \$50,000 shall be expended for the cleanup of Pilayella algae in the city of Lynn; provided further, that not less than \$30,000 shall be expended for the maintenance of Red Rock Park in the city of Lynn;  
\$46,361,985

**2810-2042**

For the department of conservation and recreation, which may expend not more than \$16,000,000 from revenues collected by the department... provided, that the

department shall retain and deposit 80 per cent of the aforementioned fees; provided further, that if the department of conservation and recreation projects that total revenues from the fees identified in this item will exceed \$20,000,000, the department shall notify the secretary of administration and finance and the house and senate committees on ways and means; provided further, that funds in this item shall be expended for: (a) the operation and expenses of the department; (b) expenses, upkeep and improvements to the parks and recreation system; (c) the operation and maintenance of the department's telecommunications system; ... provided further, that the department may issue grants to public and nonpublic entities from this item; provided further; that expenditures made in advance of the receipts shall not exceed 75 per cent of the amount of revenues projected by the first quarterly statement required by section 1B; and provided further, that the comptroller shall notify the house and senate committees on ways and means at the time subsequent quarterly statements are published of the variance between actual and projected receipts in each quarter and the implications of that variance for expenditures made

\$16,000,000