

Revere

Revere Beach and Short Beach

BEACH OVERVIEW

Revere Beach, America's first public beach, is a popular regional destination attracting throngs of beach-goers each summer. The beach faces Massachusetts Bay and is flanked by Revere Beach Boulevard, a busy road with numerous eateries as well as a number of new condominium developments. The beach has three miles of shoreline that is ideal for walkers and runners, and has ample shade shelters as well as a bandstand and a bathhouse. Revere Beach is easily accessible by public transportation which makes it a popular spot for people from all around metro Boston (DCR website). Each summer the annual Sand Castle Festival, hosted by the Revere Beach Partnership (established in 2001), draws thousands of beach-goers from across the region.

DCR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Completed Projects

- 1992: \$12.5 million spent on Revere Beach sand renourishment and restoration, included sand, seawall repairs, and restoration of shade shelters and bandstand.

Projects Currently Underway

- \$8.8 million for Revere Beach Boulevard rehabilitation. Work includes restoration of the historic 20' wide promenade from Revere Street north to Carey Circle, reconstruction of roadway storm drainage, installation of historic lighting, and conversion of the existing beach-side perpendicular parking to parallel parking.

THE PUBLIC HEARING

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission hosted a public hearing in Revere on June 28, 2006. Over forty people attended, and the Commission heard from elected officials, community leaders, public safety officials, small business owners, and residents about both what they love about the beach and the challenges facing the beach.

Testimony from elected officials, community leaders, and public safety officials

Many elected officials stressed the successes that Revere Beach has seen over the past five years, especially as a result of the Revere Beach Partnership's work. Commissioner and State Representative Kathi-Anne Reinstein said "We held a charette years ago and formed the Revere Beach Partnership, since then we've met a lot of our initial goals...we take major ownership of our beach and think it's great." Revere Mayor Thomas Ambrosino said that Revere Beach should be able to serve as a model throughout the Commission's inquiry, as the city has used productive partnerships with DCR and the Revere Police to make significant improvements in maintenance and public safety.

A number of other local officials spoke, commenting about traffic and gridlock on the boulevard being an issue, poor sand quality, trash on the beach, the prevalence of gangs on the beach, and the need to preserve Revere Beach as a beautiful national landmark. The potential for additional revenue to be raised from paid parking in lots and along the Boulevard was also repeated. Public safety officials said that many officers already work overtime, and though they'd like to send more officers to the beach to create more visibility for the police force, they can't. Local non-profit leaders praised the youth kayaking and fishing programs, the sandcastle event, the concerts, the winter "passion plunge", and other efforts to bring families down to

the beach. Challenges included crime and drugs, trash along the beach, the unsanitary and inadequate public restrooms, poor lighting, broken water fountains, the need for the pavilions to be cleaned and repainted, and the need for more police. Small business owners expressed different opinions on issues affecting the business community including noise at night, the need for a curfew, the fact that local businesses make a lot of their revenue at night, and the need for area-based permits for beach vendors. The Revere Harbormaster said that the two biggest problems were the poor water quality resulting from discharge from the Lynn treatment plant, and the sand from Revere Beach that drifts into the Point of Pines River and has to be continually dredged.

Public comments

Residents offered many positive comments as well as suggestions for improvements.

Several residents lauded local beautification along the beach, including “hanging baskets” and “beautification of flowers.” A number of people praised the “easy access” to the beach and the fact that “anyone can get here by train, bus, or car,” as well as the well-designed “parking restrictions.” More positive comments centered on programming, events, and activities than any other area, including appreciation for “partnerships and celebrations,” “children’s programs,” “cultural events,” “movie nights,” and a number of comments about the annual Sand Castle Festival.

The majority of the challenges discussed fell into the categories of maintenance or public safety. Maintenance concerns included the need for “more trash barrels,” numerous comments about sand including “dredge sand,” “clean sand,” “get rid of miserable sand,” as well as concern about “cigarette butts, dirty diapers, and needles.” Public safety concerns included requests for “more police presence on the beach,” presence of “gangs,” the feeling that the beach is “unsafe,” as well as complaints of “loud noise/disrespectful behavior,” and that “people stay too late.” Some residents were concerned about “speed control” and “enforcement signage” among other traffic related issues. The gazebo was also a particular point of concern, as it is contaminated with dog, human and seagull waste, and is needed for children’s programs in the summer.

BEACH INFORMATION

Revere Beach

Miles: 3

Bathhouse: no

Bathrooms: yes

Water: no (water fountains are inoperable)

Snack Bar/Food: yes (variety of take-out and eat-in)

Shade: yes

Parking: yes (street parking and parking lots)

Public Transportation: Revere Beach and Wonderland T stops

Short Beach

Miles: 100 yards

Bathhouse: no

Bathrooms: no

Water: no

Snack Bar/Food: no

Shade: no

Parking: no

Public Transportation: Beachmont T stop