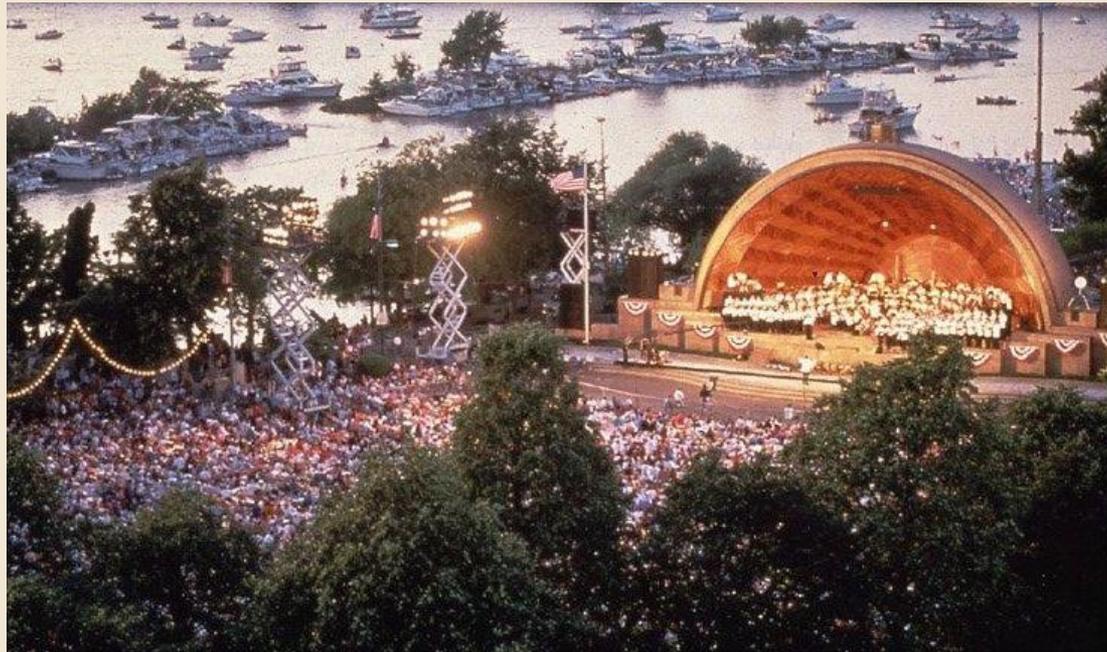


# Charles River Esplanade - New Basin Complex Resource Management Plan



## DCR Public Meeting

September 18, 2014; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Shriners Hospital for Children, Boston



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Deval L. Patrick**

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary

**Maeve Vallely Bartlett**

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

- Resource Management Plan Requirements
- RMP Schedule
- Preview of Charles River Esplanade-New Basin RMP
  - Content and Format
  - Major Recommendations
- Public Comment Process

# RMP Requirements

“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



Sailboat, Nick Terrett

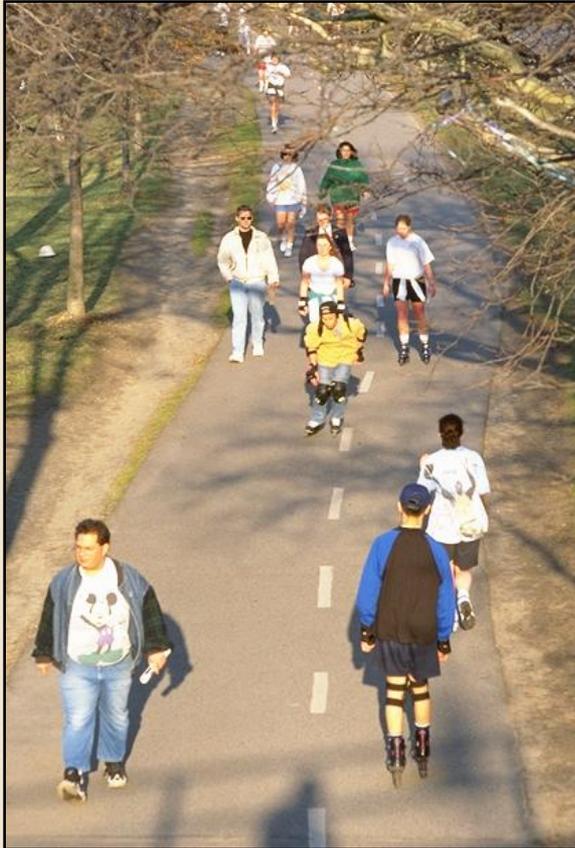
# RMP Schedule



Blue Heron

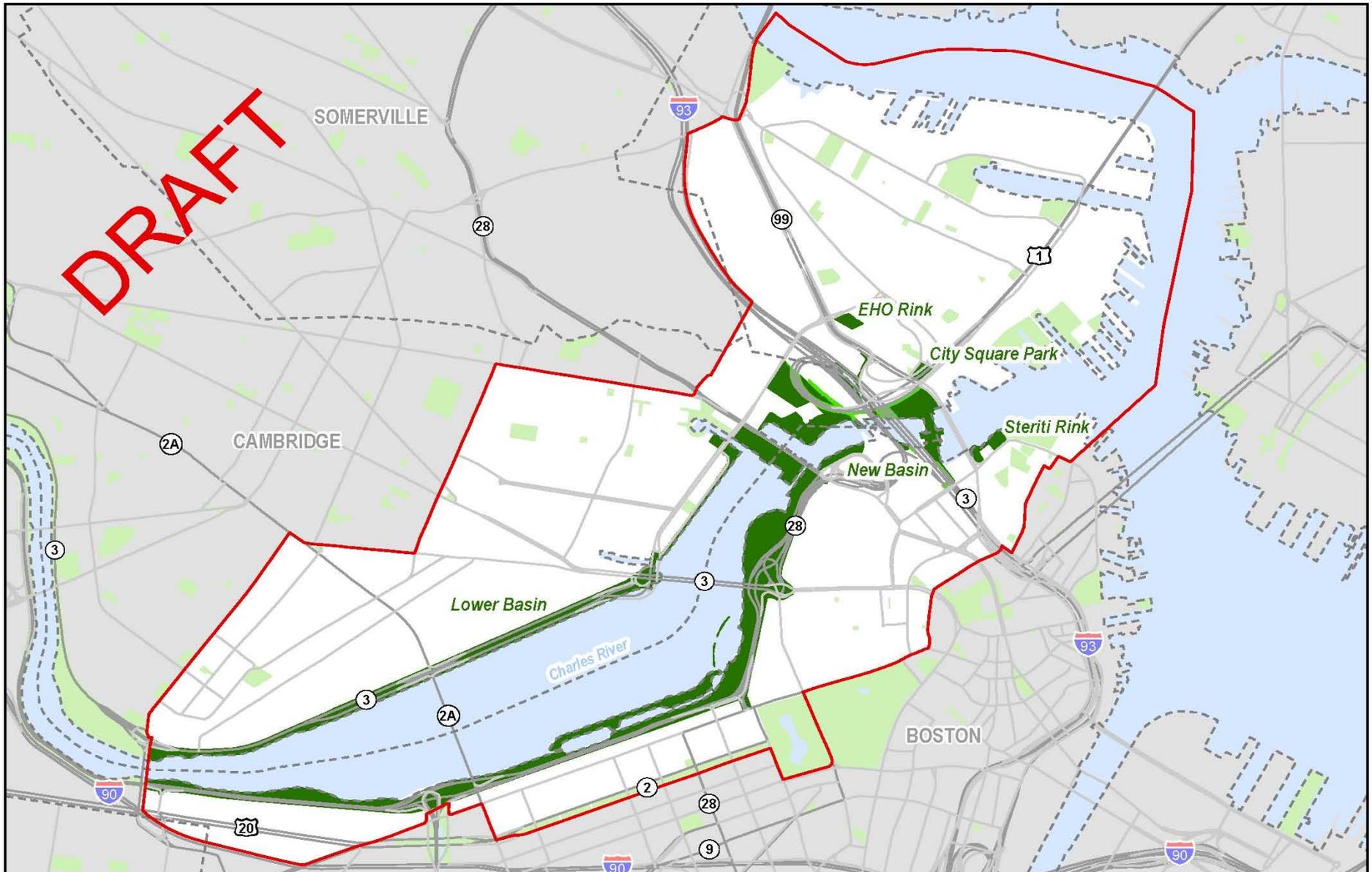
October 10, 2013	Initial Public Meeting
September 18, 2014	Present Draft RMP
October 24, 2014	Public Comment Deadline
November 2014	Revise RMP in Response to Public Comments
December 5, 2014	Present Final RMP to DCR Stewardship Council for Review and Approval

# Operational Complex



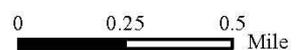
- DCR manages 385 facilities
- These facilities are managed by 32 field operation teams.
- RMPs cover all properties in an operational complex to provide management guidance to each field operation team.
- This RMP covers all facilities located in the Charles River Esplanade-New Basin complex.

**DRAFT**



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

Properties Included in the  
Esplanade-NCRBP Complex RMP



Geographic data provided by MassGIS and DCR GIS.



# Vibrant Mixture of Recreational Resources

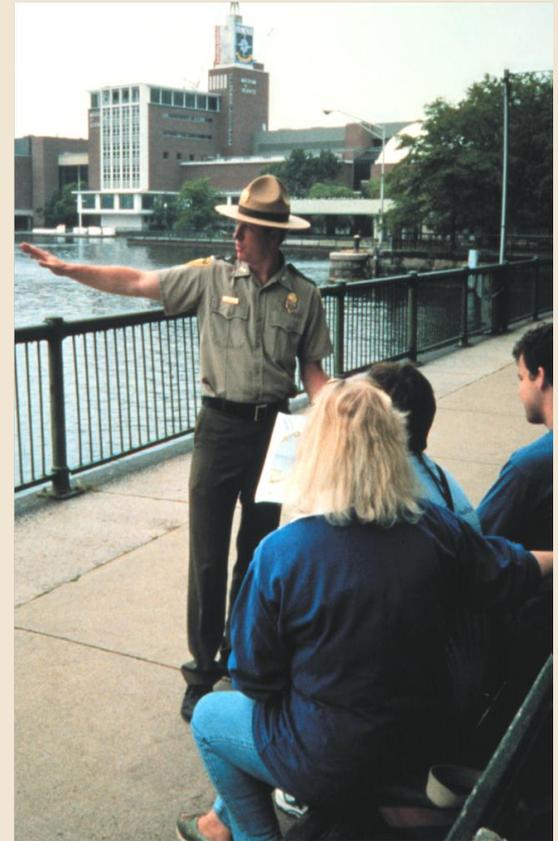


Boston Esplanade

- Quiet walking, picnicking and relaxing along the river banks
- 17.5 - mile bike path for biking, skating, running and walking
- Sailing, rowing, yachting, canoeing, kayaking, boat tours and fishing on the river
- Over 100 special events per year
- Playgrounds, wading pools, ball fields, tennis courts and indoor ice skating rinks

# Format of Charles River Esplanade – New Basin Complex RMP

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Existing Conditions
- Management Resources  
and Practices
- Management  
Recommendations



Park Ranger

# Number of Management Recommendations By Priority and Funding Availability

Priority	Funding Currently Available	Funding May Be Available in Near Future	Funding Unavailable in Near Future	Total
High	9	7	0	16
Medium	6	24	0	30
Low	0	2	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>50</b>

# Eight Major Recommendations



Charles River Swim, John Tlumacki

- Charles River Flood Protection
- Fish Migration
- Memorial Drive Improvements
- Historic Stable and Boat House
- Old Lock Area
- Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary Proposal
- Commissioners Landing
- Hatch Shell Area

# Charles River Flood Protection



New Charles River Dam

- New Charles River Dam maintains river water level 4-5 feet below mean high tide
- Storm tides can exceed levels in the river by 7-8 feet
- FEMA estimates 100 year flood elevations may overtop the dam flooding pumps inside the dam
- Recommend: Design and construct inundation protection for the New Dam pump station

# Fish Migration



Unsuccessful Fish Passage

- Original fish passage not successful
- Water through sluiceways drowns out attractive fresh water flow from the fish ladder
- Open locks to allow migrating fish to pass between harbor and river
- Lock protocol may not work for all migratory fish species
- Recommend: Evaluate migratory fish passage through the dam locks to optimize fish passage

# Memorial Drive Improvements

Phase I - Removed one parking lane and one travel lane to provide additional riverfront parkland

Phase II - Provides a 10-foot paved shared use path adjacent to the roadway for most of this section with a separate 6-foot stabilized aggregate path along the river. Completes landscaping, historic lighting and stormwater system.

Phase II is designed and permitted

Recommend: Fund construction of Memorial Drive Phase II Improvements @ \$6.0 million



Memorial Drive Phase I



Memorial Drive Phase II

# Historic Stable and Boat House



Historic Stables

- Historic Stable and Boat House are vacant and deteriorated
- Stable structural and exterior repairs are under construction @ \$1.6 million
- Architect has been hired to design repairs to the Boat House
- Recommend: Seek a boating program to renovate the buildings under DCR's Historic Curatorship Program

# Old Lock Area



Old Lock Area

- Esplanade entry from Science Park Station and West End neighborhood
- Dominated by non-park uses and highway ramps
- MassDOT has retained an architect to design a new pedestrian overpass
- State Police are preparing plans to modernize the Lower Basin Barracks
- Museum of Science is designing a new Charles River entry exhibit
- Recommend: Work with stakeholders to connect the Boston Esplanade, MOS Charles River exhibit, Science Park Station and Nashua Street Park.



Proposed MOS Charles River Exhibit Gallery

# Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary Proposal

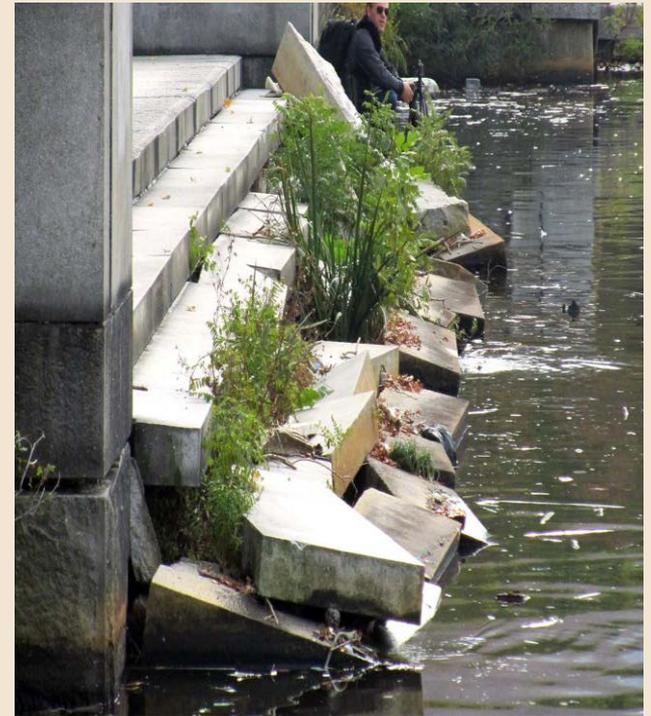


“Moving both sides of Storrows Drive under a single bridge arch increases the width of the Esplanade by 75 feet at a critical choke point.” *Esplanade 2020*

- Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary proposed 1,065 space subsurface parking garage with new park on surface
- Both sides of Storrows Drive may be consolidated under a single bridge arch
- Recommend: Work with MEEI and MassDOT to integrate new parkland with the Boston Esplanade

# Commissioners Landing

- Commissioners Landing is badly deteriorated
- Renovations are designed and permitted
- Recommend: Fund \$3.5 million renovation of Commissioners Landing and the Grand Promenade



Commissioners Landing

# Hatch Shell Area



Esplanade 2020 Vision for the Hatch Shell Area

- The Esplanade Association is raising \$4 million to restore the Hatch Shell Area
- Fiedler footbridge poorly configured for high volumes of foot and bike traffic
- *Esplanade 2020 Vision* proposed at grade entrance to the Music Oval
- Recommend: Work with TEA to implement *Esplanade 2020 Vision* for the Hatch Shell Area



Proposed At-grade Entry

# Public Input



City Square Park

- Questions on RMP Process?
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreational Resources
- Management Resources
- Other

# This Presentation and the Draft RMP Will Be Available Online At:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>



Nashua Street Park



North Point Park

# Public Comments - Due By October 24, 2014

Please send your comments to:

**E-mail:** [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us)  
Please put "Charles River RMP"  
in the subject line

**U.S. Mail:** Office of Public Outreach  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114

**Note:** Public comments submitted to DCR will be posted in their entirety on the DCR website, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.