



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were four phases in the planning process for the Basin:

1. **Inventory and analysis**
2. **The creation of shared goals and objectives**
3. **The development of alternatives and a preferred Plan**
4. **Implementation and early action planning**

A citizen's advisory committee (CAC) was formed during the second phase of work to advise the MDC on goals and objectives for Charles River Basin. To assure the broadest possible participation, membership in the CAC was open to all interested parties. Seven broad public workshops were conducted in 1997 and 1998, each of which attracted well over 100 participants.

Participants were asked to choose among five subcommittees: access and circulation; history and interpretation; landscape and ecology; parkland use and design; and water use. These subcommittees met several times in addition to the public workshops to develop a shared set of goals. These goals formed the basis for the design and policy recommendations in the Plan. The goals statements produced by each group are reproduced in their entirety here.

THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

1. Preserve the essential character-defining features of the historic landscape while adapting the Basin for contemporary uses.
2. Subordinate man-made structures to the landscape and design them to complement the pastoral river setting.
3. Balance form and picturesque "natural" design expressions.
4. Interpret the forces that shaped the Charles River Basin in order to educate the next generation of Basin advocates.

THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

1. Diversify plant communities and maintenance regimes in the Basin for a healthier and more attractive landscape.
2. Enhance wildlife habitats while managing invasive species of plants and animals.
3. Establish a sustainable and maintainable landscape.
4. Interpret the natural resource systems of the Basin and the region.

THE PARKWAYS AND PATHS

1. Provide safe and continuous bicycle, skating, and pedestrian access along the entire length of the Basin. Separate foot and bike paths where doing so will not create excessive pavement near the shoreline.
2. Provide a comfortable, safe, and secure experience for visitors by reducing congestion and minimizing conflicts on the paths and waterways.
3. Establish easier and safer pedestrian access across the parkways and bridges.
4. Reduce the impact of cars on pedestrian paths and park lands while reinforcing the identity of the parkways as landscaped pleasure drives.
5. Strengthen the parkways and boulevard trees as the connecting threads of the Basin.

THE PARKS

1. Assure that all uses are public in nature or provide direct and substantial public benefits.
2. Support a variety of uses that relate to and directly benefit from the river setting.
3. Improve public access to the banks and water for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
4. Balance and distribute active and passive uses along the banks in a way that minimizes conflicts and protects the Basin resources.

Public Participation



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5. Support use of the Basin during the winter months and evening hours wherever possible.
6. Provide a wide range of regional events and programs while mitigating impacts on the Basin and surrounding neighborhoods.
7. Provide multi-use public facilities and spaces that are flexible, well-designed, and easily maintained.
8. Provide a comfortable, safe and secure experience for visitors.

THE RIVER

1. Achieve swimmable and fishable water quality.
2. Maximize public access to the water while ensuring a safe and quality experience for all.
3. Improve and maintain the channel from Watertown to Beacon Hill as a premier resource for boating.
4. Improve community outreach and raise awareness of existing and future public-access opportunities.
5. Establish regular opportunities for water users to coordinate their activities and voice their aspirations and concerns.