

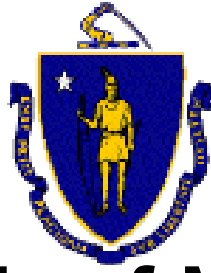


DCR's South Boston Summer Safety Meeting

Public Meeting
Thursday May 26th, 2022

dcr
Massachusetts





Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary

Bethany A. Card

Department of Conservation and Recreation Acting Commissioner

Stephanie C. Cooper

Meeting Logistics

- Two ways to ask questions during the meeting
 - Use chat feature
 - Raise your hand using the Zoom function, and you will be given permissions to unmute and speak.
- Public comment period deadline: Tuesday, June 7th, 2022.
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
- *Please note that this public meeting is being recorded; the recording will be a public record.*

DCR MISSION

*To protect, promote and enhance our
commonwealth of natural, cultural
and recreational resources for the well-being
of all.*

dcr
Massachusetts





Capital Improvement Program & Schedule

NEAR TERM IMPROVEMENTS (by June 30th)

- Evans Field maintenance repairs including fence and gate replacement, new pathway, field aeration/topdressing/overseeding - \$120K
- Chain link fence installation/repairs in and around Sugar Bowl - \$30K
- Sidewalk replacement from Babe Ruth Drive to Old Colony Ave at Preble Circle - \$400K

LONG TERM IMPROVEMENTS (FY23+)

- Design, permitting and repair of sinkholes along causeway to Sugar Bowl (TBD)
- Design, permitting and construction of new comfort station at Castle Island - \$2M+
- Design, permitting and rehabilitation of the Signal Corp Building - \$1.2M
- Repair/replacement of the Castle Island sea wall historic railings- - \$500K
- Construction of new Castle Island Playground - \$600K
- Design and permitting of Pickle Barrel building rehabilitation



Operations and Staffing

- Regular sanitation and maintenance services at all the DCR South Boston recreational facilities including litter collection and trash pickup, street sweeping, and beach raking.
- Castle Complex staffing:
 - 10 additional seasonal positions for the 2022 season
 - South Boston parks and beaches are staffed 7-days a week in the summer
- \$250,000 in new mowing and maintenance equipment
- DCR's street sweeping schedule:
 - <https://www.mass.gov/guides/dcr-street-sweeping>
- Castle Island gates are open daily 7am-9pm

Pleasure Bay Designated Swimming Area Background



- The MA Department of Public Health reported 54 drowning fatalities in the Commonwealth in 2021. Nearly 65 percent took place in a natural body of water.
- One of those fatalities was the tragic drowning on July 1, 2021 at Pleasure Bay.
- To enhance water safety across the Commonwealth, the Baker-Polito Administration, EEA and DCR have taken a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach that includes free swimming lessons, increasing lifeguard pay, and deploying new safety infrastructure.
- DCR has reorganized the former Aquatics unit into a new *Bureau of Pool and Waterfront Safety*. The Bureau's mission is to ensure that DCR's pool, waterfront, learn to swim and lifeguard programs not only meet industry standards, but strive to be a national model.

DCR Designated Swimming Areas



- DCR has undertaken an effort to properly define and establish Designated Swim Areas statewide in accordance with DCR's Regulations (302 CMR 12.02). DCR is responsible for this determination, which is made based upon size/shape, bottom conditions, water quality and accessibility.
- Designated Swimming Areas may include coastal and inland beaches within a body of water and/or the portion of shoreline which is managed by DCR for the purposes of providing access to the water for "recreation, swimming or similar aquatic activities."
- Inland (and some coastal) Designated Swimming Areas are marked swimming areas identified with ropes and buoys.
- Lifeguards: Designated Swimming Areas can be guarded or unguarded.
- Designated Swimming Areas have signs posted at all times during the season that communicate water quality and when lifeguards are not on duty.
- Swimming is not allowed unless a site is a Designated Swimming Area.

Proposed Pleasure Bay Designated Swimming Area Management Plan

- Create (2) Designated Swimming Areas within Pleasure Bay:
 - Area 1: Pleasure Bay Beach from Head Island Causeway to Evans Field (marked with buoys). Seasonal lifeguard service will be provided at this location via 2 lifeguard stations (chairs).
 - Area 2: Castle Island Children's Beach between the McDonough Sailing Center and the Signal Corp. Building (marked with ropes and buoys). DCR will provide seasonal lifeguard service at this Designated Swimming Area if the Department can hire additional lifeguards to staff (1) lifeguard station at this location.
- **Swimming will be prohibited in Pleasure Bay except within Designated Swimming Areas. Open water swimming will be prohibited.**
- Create a launch area for non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks) and watersport activities (kite and wind surfing) adjacent to the Head Island Causeway parking area. Non-motorized boats and watersport activities will not be permitted inside marked Designated Swimming Areas.
- Harry McDonough Sailing Center (HMSC): sailboats, non-motorized boats and up to two rescue/response vessels will be permitted to launch from the docks. These vessels will be prohibited from entering the Designated Swimming Areas. DCR will permit the HMSC to rope and buoy a designated swimming area accessible from their docks, limited to use by HMSC members/students.





- The new Designated Swimming Areas at Pleasure Bay would open for swimming on Saturday, June 18, 2022 and continue until Labor Day if staffing permits.
- Non-motorized boating and watersports will be permitted year-round.

Proposed Pleasure Bay Designated Swimming Area Management Plan

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Public Process, Outreach and Communications

DCR hosts public meeting to communicate the proposed changes to the Pleasure Bay Designated Swimming Area.

Following the public meeting, DCR will discuss public feedback with the elected delegation and City.

Once the operational plan is finalized, DCR will issue a press release communicating the changes.

Signage, ropes and buoys, would be installed by June 18th.

Lifeguards and Ranger Staff will educate visitors on the new plan throughout the 2022 season.



Questions & Answers

Additional Information

- Recording and tonight's slide deck will be available at:
 - www.mass.gov/dcr/past-public-meetings
- If you have comments on this project:
 - *Submit online:* www.mass.gov/dcr/public-comment
 - *Deadline: Tuesday June 7th, 2022*
Please note: the contents of comments submitted to DCR, including your name, town and zip code, will be posted on DCR's website. Additional contact information provided, notably email address, will only be used for outreach on future updates to the subject project or property.
- If you wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-related listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations via email at mass.parks@mass.gov