

Environmental Justice Council

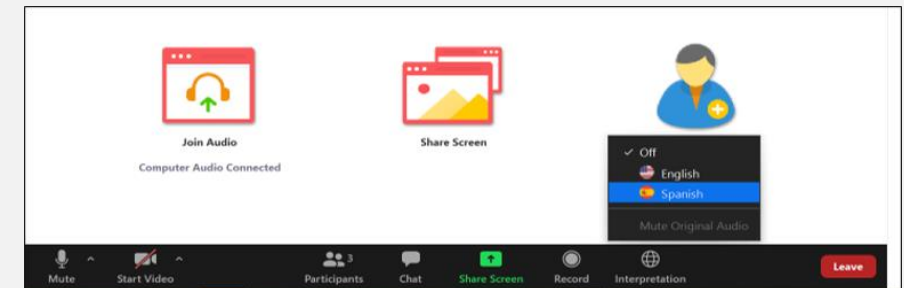
Meeting #16 • Thursday, September 26, 2024 • 6:30 pm



LOGISTICS

- Language Interpretation is being offered in: Español, Kreyòl ayisyen, 普通话, Kriolu, Português, Tiếng Việt, عربي, русский, ខ្មែរ, and American Sign Language (ASL)
 - To participate in English, click the “Interpretation” icon and select English.
 - Para entrar no canal em português, clique no ícone “Interpretation” e selecione “Portuguese”
 - Si alguien desea interpretación en español, haga clic en “Interpretation” y seleccione “Spanish”
 - Pou rantr nan chanèl kreyòl ayisyen an, klike sou ikòn “Interpretation” an epi chwazi “Haitian Creole”
 - Pa partisipa na Kriolu, klika na íkone “Intirpretason” y silisiona “Cape Verdean Kriolu”.
 - 要以普通话参加会议，请单击口语图标并选择 “Chinese”。
 - Để vào kênh bằng tiếng Việt, hãy nhấp vào biểu tượng “Interpretation” và chọn “Vietnamese”.
 - "الترجمة لـ العربية الشاركة بالغة للعربية لضغط على أيقونة"
 - Чтобы принять участие на английском языке, нажмите на ярлык «Устный перевод» и выберите английский.
 - រើសអ្វីចូលរួមជាភាសាខ្មែរ សូមចុច រូបតំណាងការបកស្រាយ រើសជ្រើសរើសភាសាខ្មែរ។

- Please speak slowly.
- All attendees must select a language channel, even if viewing the presentation in English.



- If you would like a translated version of the slides, please go to the EJC website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-council-ejc-meetings>

THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED



Environmental Justice Council

Meeting #16

Thursday, September 26 2024, 6:30 pm

In Person location: Lynn, MA

North shore Community College cafeteria

300 Broad Street, Lynn MA 01901



Logistics and Agenda

Logistics

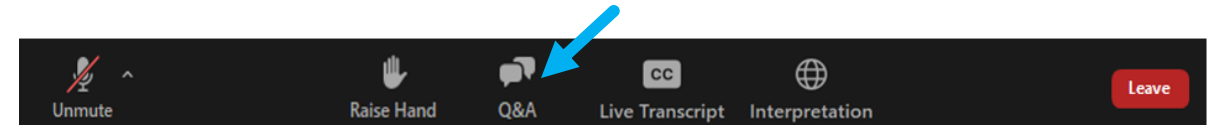
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 - "العربية" اخترتم "السورية للترجمة" "قناة" على لمن غطى العربية قبل الغاء لمشاهدة
 - Чтобы принять участие на английском языке, нажмите на ярлык «Устный перевод» и выберите английский.
 - វិធី ចូល រួម នា ភាសា ខ្មែរ សូម ចុច "រូបតំណាង ការ បកស្រាយ" រឺ យ ជ្រើស រើស ភាសា ខ្មែរ។

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- ➔ For a translated version of the slides, please go to the EJC website at: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-council-ejc-meetings>
- ➔ All lines will be muted during the presentations.
- ➔ The line will be open for oral comments after the presentations.
- ➔ If you have a clarifying question or a logistical or technical issue during the presentations, please type it into the Q&A box.



- ➔ Contact the ERG webinar lead **Kecil John** at meetings@erg.com with any technical issues or questions.



THIS MEETING IS BEING RECORDED

Agenda

	<u>Approximate Time</u>
▪ Overview of Meeting, Logistics and Agenda	6:30 PM
▪ Roll Call and Approval of Prior EJC Meeting Minutes	6:35 PM
▪ Questions and Comments from the Public	6:40 PM
▪ Response to Comments (when appropriate)	6:50 PM
▪ Fish and Game Department's Biodiversity Goals	7:00 PM
▪ Priorities in Lynn	7:25 PM
▪ Questions and Comments from the Public	7:50 PM
▪ Response to Comments (when appropriate)	(if time allows)
▪ Next Steps and Adjourn	8:00 PM



Approval of May 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes & Roll Call: EJ Council Members

- Kalila Barnett
- Madeline Fraser Cook
- Melissa Harding-Ferretti
- Cheryll Holley
- Caroline Hon
- Namrita Kapur
- Lydia Lowe
- Marcos Luna
- Peter Maathey
- María Belén Power
- Sofia Owen
- Jen Salinetti
- Patricia Spence
- Ari Zorn
- Miles Gresham

Public Comments and Questions

*Please limit each comment to two minutes to
allow time for others to speak*

Fish and Game Department

Biodiversity Goals



Department of Fish & Game Strategic Plan and Biodiversity Goals for Massachusetts

EEA Environmental Justice Council | September 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Presented by DFG Commissioner Tom O'Shea





**CONSERVE FISH &
WILDLIFE**



**PROTECT LANDS &
WATERS**



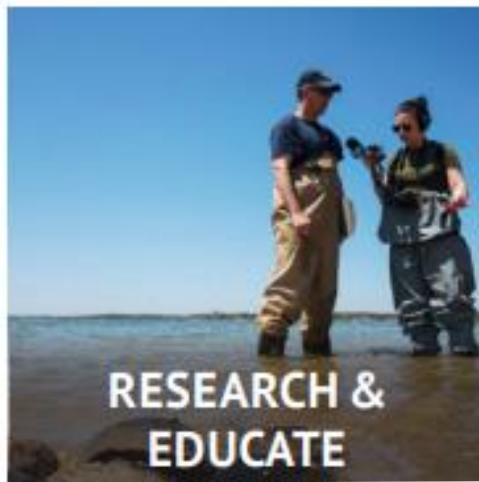
**RESTORE
ECOSYSTEMS**



**SUSTAIN
FISHERIES**



**PROTECT
ENDANGERED
SPECIES**



**RESEARCH &
EDUCATE**



**PROVIDE PUBLIC
ACCESS**



**PROMOTE
OUTDOOR
RECREATION**



ABOUT THE DEPT. OF FISH & GAME

Our mission is to conserve the Commonwealth's abundant marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife, plants, and natural communities, as well as the habitats that support them, for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AT DFG

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, tribal affiliation, religion, disability, or income during the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.

2025–2030 | FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

CONNECTIONS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR NATURE

CONNECTIONS

The Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game recently released a five-year strategic plan **Connections: Working Together for Nature** to focus our efforts on solutions at the intersection of biodiversity, climate, and environmental justice.

- Create a **unifying vision** for the Department
- **Align our work closely** with priorities of Healey-Driscoll Admin & EEA
- **Drive funding and resources**, collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and outcomes

EXPLORE THE PLAN >

[mass.gov/DFG-strategic plan](https://mass.gov/DFG-strategic-plan)

STRATEGIC PLAN THEMES



BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE

Sustain **abundance and variety of species and habitats**, harness the power of nature to **build climate resilience** and **store and sequester carbon**.



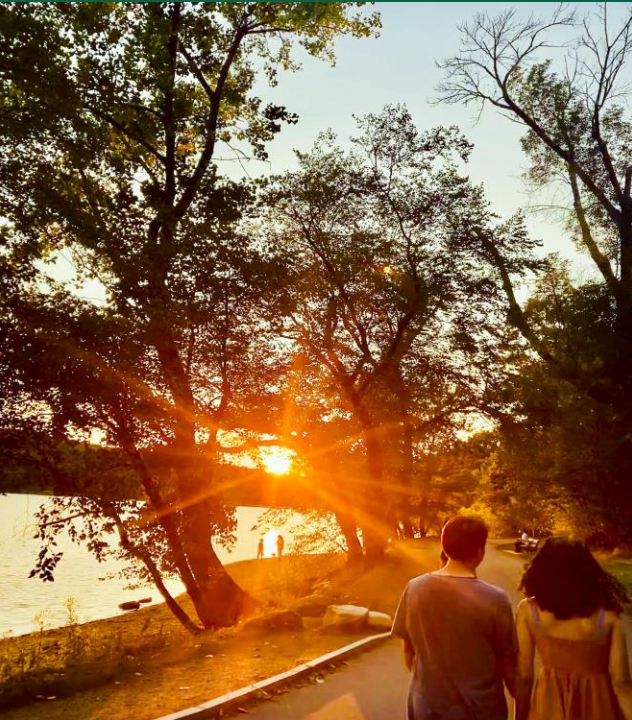
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Meaningfully **connect** with Environmental Justice and Indigenous communities and **provide equitable access** to nature and its benefits.



RELEVANCE, VISIBILITY, CAPACITY

Build our capacity, visibility, and impact through investment, strategic partnership, outreach, and education and **connect more deeply with the people we serve**.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GOALS:

Strengthen Capacity to Advance Environmental Justice

Advance Equity Through Improved Communication, Engagement, & Access to Information

Improve Access to Nature & its Benefits

Engage with Tribes in Spirit of Reciprocity & Respect



Executive Order No. 618

A WHOLE-OF GOVERNMENT APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

In September 2023, Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey signed **Executive Order No. 618**, which directs the Department of Fish & Game to develop biodiversity conservation goals for 2030, 2040, and 2050.

**BUILD ON & COMPLIMENT EXISTING
STATE PLANS & EFFORTS**

BIODIVERSITY IS A CLIMATE SOLUTION:
Preserving biodiversity is a climate resilience strategy—Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer's Recommendations for a whole-of-government approach to climate crisis name **bold biodiversity conservation goals** as a **key strategy for adaptation**.

Developing Goals: Process



DEVELOPING DRAFT GOALS & STRATEGIES

FALL 2023 – WINTER 2024

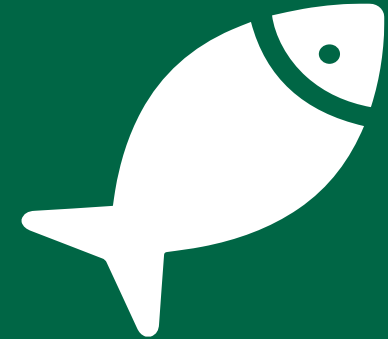
Assessment & research by MA DFG Working Group and government agencies, to develop draft goals, strategies, metrics.



ENGAGEMENT & PUBLIC INPUT

SPRING - SUMMER 2024

Engagement with conservation partners, commercial interests, academics, environmental justice communities, and Indigenous tribes. Public listening sessions & written comment period to gather feedback.



FINAL GOALS & STRATEGIES

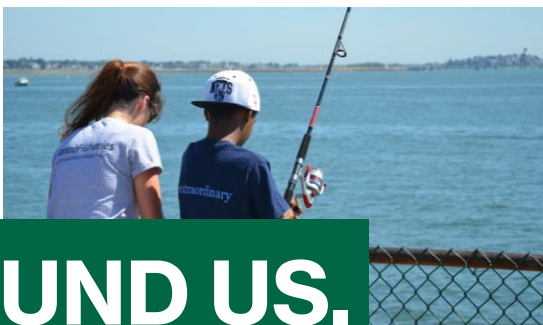
FALL 2024 – SPRING 2025

Incorporating feedback to develop final recommendations & report to Healey-Driscoll Administration. Announcement will kick-off state-wide Biodiversity Campaign.



BIODIVERSITY - life on Earth

BIODIVERSITY is the extraordinary abundance and variety of living things: including plants, animals, other organisms, and their genetic diversity. Biodiversity is all the species, habitats, and complex interactions that have inherent value and are intertwined with history and culture, sustain our health and economy, and enrich our lives.



BIODIVERSITY IS ALL AROUND US.



BIODIVERSITY SUSTAINS US



HUMAN HEALTH

Healthy ecosystems create healthy **communities**—nature provides us with essential clean water, clean air, food, medicine, materials, and physical + mental well-being.



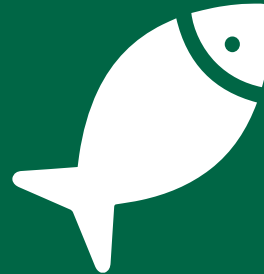
OUTDOOR RECREATION & TOURISM

Biodiversity plays a vital role in Massachusetts' **economy + quality of life**—special places make our state an attractive place to visit and live.



CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Nature is a **climate solution**—restoring forests, rivers, estuaries + wetlands is a cost-effective, impactful way to prepare cities + towns for climate hazards.



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

Protecting biodiversity will sustain Massachusetts' **nation-leading seafood industry** + commercial fisheries for future generations.



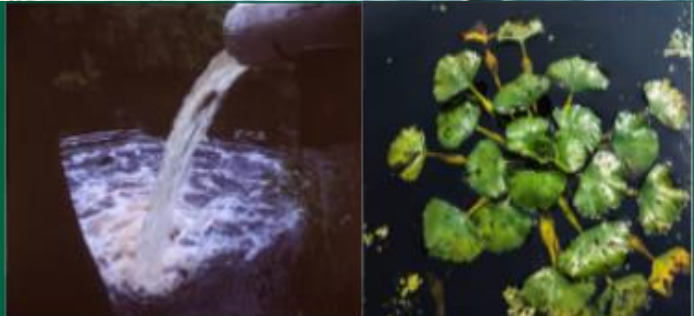
CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Restoring biodiversity hotspots—wetlands, salt marshes, eelgrass—will help MA **harness the power of nature to reach net-zero**.



FOOD SECURITY

Biodiversity sustains our **local food systems + economy**—ensuring viability of agriculture, hunting + fishing, wild harvest in a time of climate uncertainty.



THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY



POLLUTION OF LANDS & WATERS

Ecosystems are significantly **degraded** — legacy + present day pollution threatens ecosystems and human health.



HABITAT LOSS

We are losing critical **natural spaces** —conversion of habitat and changes in hydrology threaten essential remaining habitats.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Stark disparities exist in access to nature and its many benefits, guiding investments and action to address this is key.

INVASIVE SPECIES

Fast growing, non native terrestrial and aquatic plants, invasive species outcompete native species and **overtake the ecosystem**.

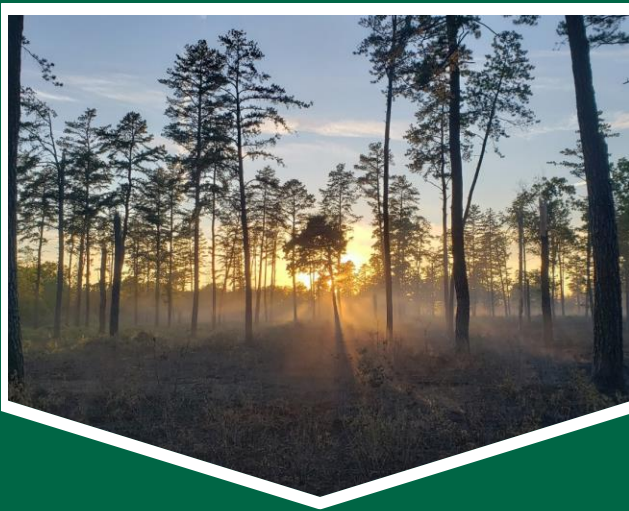
HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

Poorly placed infrastructure—defunct dams, undersized culverts, excessive pavement—**fragments habitats**, blocking wildlife migration + harming our state's ability to withstand climate impacts.

CLIMATE CRISIS

Climate change is amplifying threats— Without action, we will see loss of essential species + habitats that sustain us, threatening our public health, safety, food security, and economy.

VISION 2050 FOR BIODIVERSITY



PROTECT

KEY HABITATS,
LANDSCAPES,
SEASCAPES



RESTORE

HABITATS,
SPECIES,
CONNECTIVITY



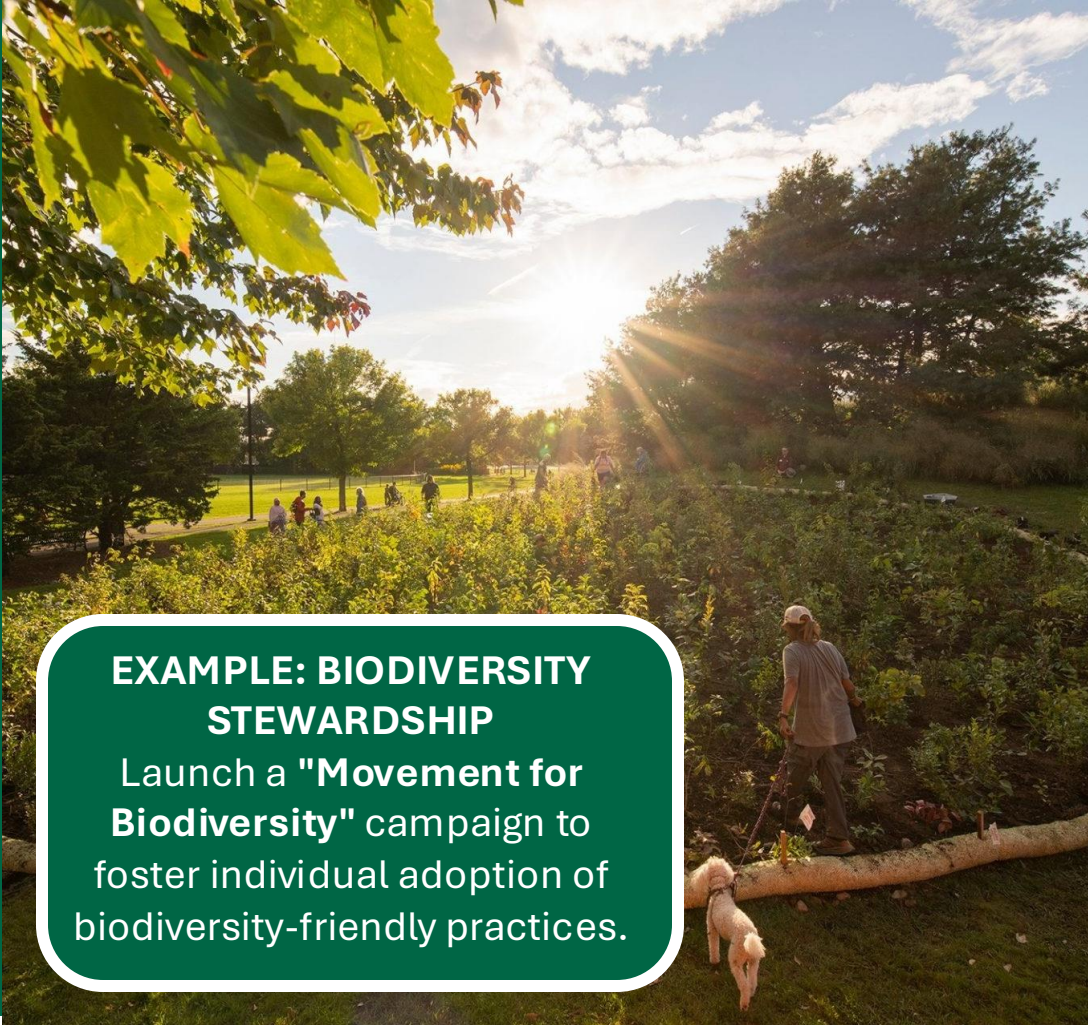
SUSTAIN

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES,
FOOD SECURITY,
ECONOMY



CONNECT

ALL PEOPLE
WITH NATURE



EXAMPLE: BIODIVERSITY STEWARDSHIP

Launch a "**Movement for Biodiversity**" campaign to foster individual adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices.



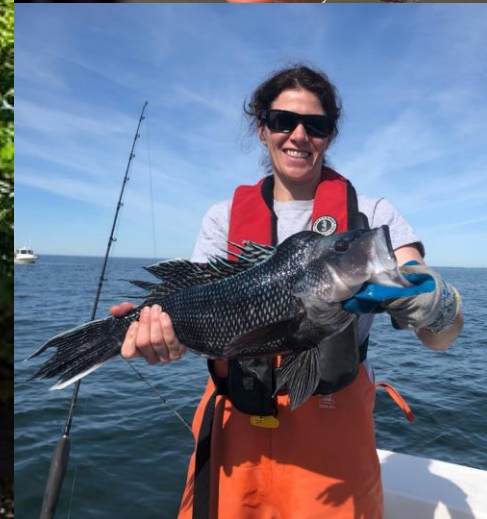
NATURE IN NEIGHBORHOODS

- Ensure every person has access to a **biodiverse greenspace** (pocket forest, urban garden, food forest, pollinator pathway) in walking distance of their home
- Supporting municipal and community led initiatives
- Biodiversity Toolkit for municipalities (e.g. native planting, land use, Dark Skies initiatives)



EXAMPLE: FARMS + BIODIVERSITY

Increase funding for tools to protect farmland and incorporate **biodiversity friendly** farming practices.



FOOD SECURITY

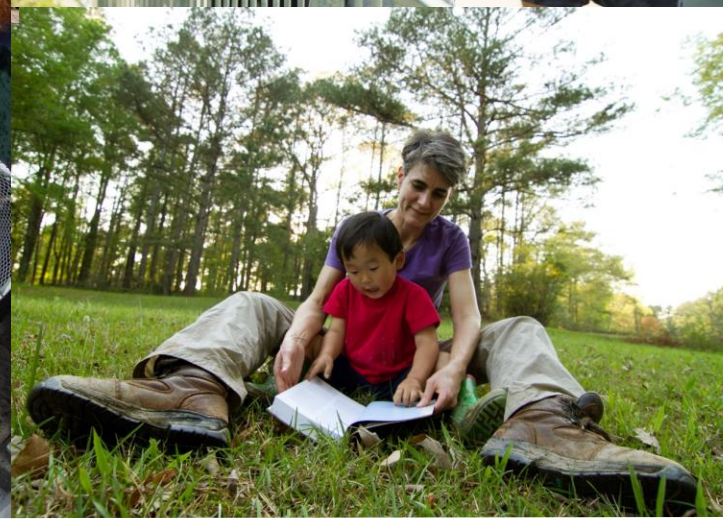
SUSTAINABLE HARVEST

- Support farms in applying biodiversity-friendly practices for healthy soils, pollinator edges, agroforestry, intercropping
- Ensure **No Net Loss of Farmland**
- Bolster food security by growing "**Hunters Share the Harvest**" + "**Share the Catch**"
- Management plans for marine fish & invertebrates that reflect climate change



EXAMPLE: BIODIVERSITY JOBS

Develop pathways for future workforce for climate + biodiversity, including habitat management + outdoor education.



NATURE IN THE CLASSROOM

Support inherent appreciation for + belonging in nature from a young age:

- Launch the **Nature in our Schools Initiative** to educate all students on the nature of Massachusetts and biodiversity principles in the classroom, after-school, or summer programming.
- Programs and opportunities for people throughout their lives.



GET INVOLVED!

Bring us your vision for nature in 2050! We invite all EEA EJ Council members to share feedback on this initiative and ideas for further engaging EJ communities & Indigenous peoples.

Conrad Crawford, DFG EJ Liaison, conrad.r.crawford@mass.gov

STAY IN TOUCH:

Want to learn more and sign up for updates on this initiative? Visit our website using the link or QR code:

mass.gov/biodiversity





QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- How do we make biodiversity accessible to all?
- How can we better engage EJ communities in this initiative?
- How do we inspire the public to take action for biodiversity?

Priorities in Lynn



Investments in Lynn

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

September 2024



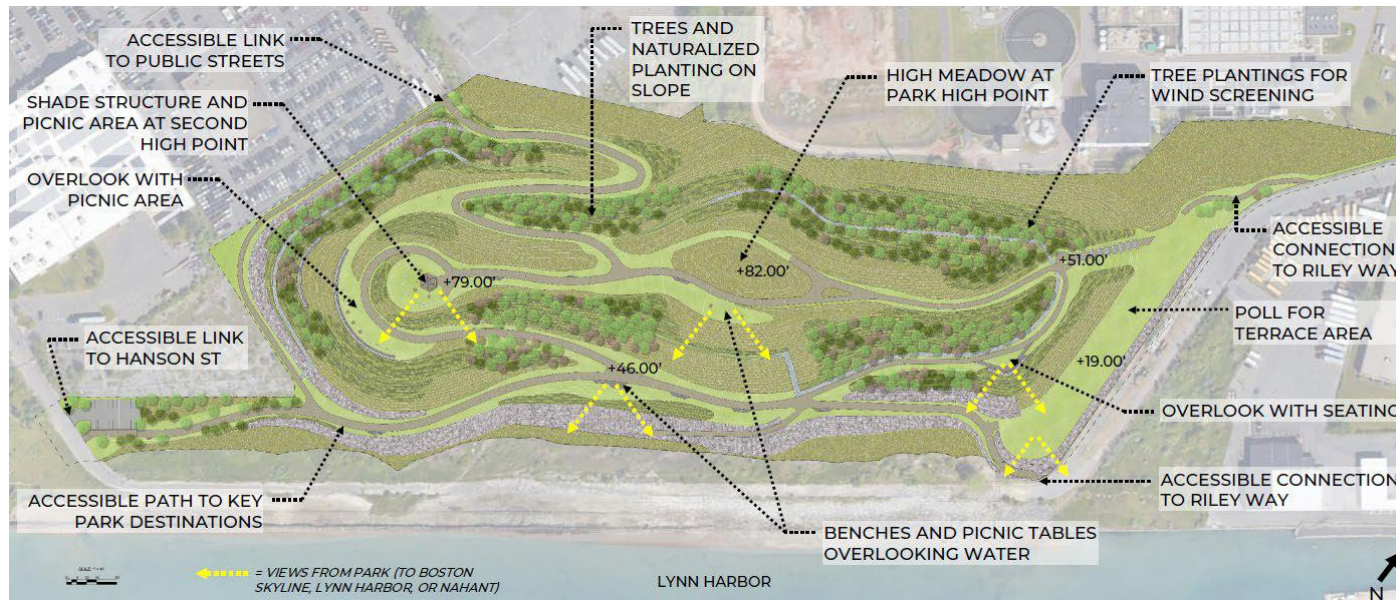
Lynn Harbor Park



EEA is assisting the City of Lynn with the design of a large-scale public park on Lynn Harbor.

Priority of the Lynn Waterfront Open Space Master Plan, funded by EEA.

EEA awarded \$8M grant to support construction. City of Lynn funding \$3.6M.



The Lynn Harbor Park Master Plan

King's Beach



Priority to address historic pollution and improve water quality so that the public can fully enjoy the beach

Supporting local efforts led by Lynn and Swampscott, and the King's Beach Steering Committee

EEA, DEP and EPA providing expertise to inform evaluation of possible solutions



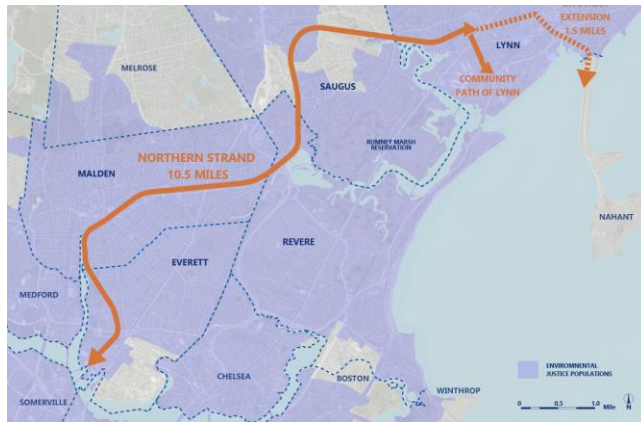
(Liz Smith)



Northern Strand Trail



EEA provided \$15.5m in funding through the Gateway City Parks Program for the design, permitting, and construction of 10.5 miles of the Northern Strand between Western Avenue in Lynn and the Mystic River, which opened in the fall of 2022.



Environmental Justice Population Areas along the Northern Strand



MassTrails provided funding for the public engagement, design & permitting of the section which will connect the trail to the waterfront in Nahant and provide safer and improved transportation access for bicycles and pedestrians.



Lynn Heritage State Park



DCR is investing in Lynn Heritage State Park. Key features of the project include new paths, connection to the Harbor Walk, new plantings, a splash pad, benches, an improved parking lot and drainage, and a renovated boardwalk and fishing pier.

DCR Willis Fishing Pier

DCR invested \$1.169 million in renovations to the Willis Fish Pier, completed in late fall 2021.

Project included replacement of pile caps, timber substructure decking and handrails, the installation of new timber handrails, new benches and bait cutting stations.





Recent EEA Grants

- **Parkland Acquisitions and Communities (PARC) FY24:** \$350,000 for Lynn Commons to bring the park's fountain back online and to renovate the plaza.
- **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) FY24:** \$190,000 for design and permitting of a climate resilient recreational park, the continuation of a watershed-scale flood resilience study, to reduce flooding at the G.E.A.A. field.
- **Greening the Gateway Cities (GGCP) FY25:** \$123,981 to prepare 80 new tree pits and assistance to plant 110 new public trees. In addition, the City will provide tree stewardship and assist with community engagement to promote GGCP.

Public Comments and Questions

*Please limit each comment to two minutes to
allow time for others to speak*



WHAT'S
NEXT?

Next Steps & Adjourn

Information on the EJC and its meetings can be found at

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/environmental-justice-council-ejc>