

1. INTRODUCTION



Aerial view of Nantasket Beach Reservation looking north.

In 2005, in conjunction with a project for seawall and beach accessway repairs at Nantasket Beach, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) initiated this Nantasket Beach Reservation Master Plan process for the Reservation's landside facilities.

Nantasket Beach has been a popular summer destination for city dwellers since the middle of the 19th century. The beach itself, an incredible natural resource, is one of the busiest beaches near Boston. The water is consistently clean and the Reservation is within a one hour drive of much of the Boston Metropolitan Area.

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The Reservation includes a number of attractive historic structures, three bath houses, a comfort station and convenient parking, yet the overall Reservation has few additional amenities. Much of the land is taken up with surface parking lots. Existing seating and shade areas - as well as parking lots - are barren, with large expanses of concrete and minimal plantings to soften the environment.

The scope of this master plan included coordinating Reservation needs and community planning efforts to develop recommendations for:

- Visitor amenities such as open space, bath houses and recreation areas
- Parking, traffic and pedestrian access
- Accessibility
- Maintenance facilities
- The overall appearance of the Reservation.

Public Process

This master plan was guided by a public process that included both a series of eight Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and public meetings. The CAC provided significant input into the development of the Plan, reviewing and commenting on analysis and recommendations at eight meetings over the course



Visitors enjoying a beautiful day at Nantasket Beach.

of the project. Several of these meetings were open to the public to elicit feedback on the master plan as it was developed. Meetings also were held with the Hull Board of Selectmen and the Town of Hull.