

Open Space & Recreation Plan

CITY OF BOSTON



2015–2021



BOSTON
PARKS &
RECREATION
Martin J. Walsh, Mayor



Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021

CITY OF BOSTON

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The many residents who use the parks and open spaces of Boston, attended the numerous community meetings over the past two years, and submitted input, comments, and suggestions to us through surveys and by correspondence, in large part wrote this plan. They made their recommendations known and shared their invaluable insights and knowledge.

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Note: Data provided in the open space property inventories and the maps contained in this plan were developed for general planning purposes only, and as such are the best available data. However, readers are cautioned that use of such data may not be appropriate or sufficient for legal, design, or other site-specific purposes. For such purposes, only research in the Registry of Deeds or other appropriate offices, property surveys, and field-checked research can be considered appropriately reliable.

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Letter from Mayor Martin J. Walsh

Dear Friend,

It is my pleasure to present the City of Boston's Open Space & Recreation Plan 2015–2021. This document would not have been possible without the contributions of thousands of Bostonians through public meetings, responses to the Open Space Plan survey questionnaire, and participation in the Open Space Plan Summit. As with our parks system, this plan's development was supported by our outstanding park partner organizations and fellow public agencies. I especially want to thank the hardworking members of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department for their leadership on this effort.

Thanks to iconic figures like Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Eliot, Boston's history is one of foresight in parks, recreation, and open space. From the balanced beauty and functionality of the Emerald Necklace to Joseph Lee's preeminent role in the playground movement, our city's leaders knew that dynamic growth would need dynamic public spaces. They supported development with parks and play areas that would provide resilience, health benefits, and better livability to Boston.

Boston's growth today requires that same foresight, leadership, strong action, and the support of our people. The public input in creating this document has made clear that a healthy open space system is essential as the city grows. A rational plan is needed to guide our work as we manage the current assets of the open space system and create new places to enrich and support our city's growth. This Open Space and Recreation Plan provides that guidance and will be a major contribution to the development of our new citywide plan, Imagine Boston 2030.

Advances sought by this plan will also reinforce city efforts in other realms as well: housing, economic and neighborhood development, health, infrastructure, climate mitigation and adaptation, arts and culture, and environmental well-being. This plan will help achieve our vision of increasing our outstanding quality of life, a hallmark of our great city.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston