

**SECTION 10**

# PUBLIC COMMENTS



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**Michelle Wu**

June 22, 2023

Dear Commissioner Woods,

Our mutual goal is an open space system that promotes the health and well-being of our people and our environment. The Open Space and Recreation Plan you and your staff have forged is an important tool to achieve that goal, a foundation for the improvements we seek.

Further, we see the Open Space and Recreation Plan as a key part of the new Green New Deal for the City, a part that will help insure that open space, parks, and recreation are not an afterthought, but an equal partner in building new neighborhoods and improving our existing ones. We look forward to the Green New Deal fully integrating the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and finding the linkages to other facets of city administration and development that will achieve the goals of both plans.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan was the result of extensive data gathering and analysis, and contributions from several agencies and the many citizens who shared their input and submitted comments. With the wholehearted support of this administration and the public, I foresee much success for the implementation of this Plan, thereby maintaining Boston's leadership role in open space, parks, and recreation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Wu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston



June 13, 2023

Ryan Woods, Commissioner  
Boston Parks & Recreation Department  
1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd floor  
Boston, MA 02118

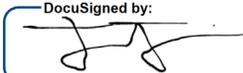
Dear Commissioner Woods,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on your Department's most recent update of the City's Open Space Plan, 2023-2029. The Plan's goals and objectives are well informed and reflect the considerable time and effort made by your team to solicit input from many public and private stakeholders, advocates, and citizens across the city.

Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) especially recognizes your efforts in crafting this plan to further identify where people would like to see open space created or protected, in alignment with the City's goals for parks and open spaces outlined in Imagine Boston 2030. Furthermore, the Parcel Priority Plan, which analyzes the city's open space needs through the lenses of climate needs, access, and environmental justice criteria, serves as a useful foundation for additional comprehensive City planning work that is coming forward.

On behalf of the BPDA, I am pleased to endorse this new Open Space Plan via this letter. I look forward to our continued collaboration in planning a bright future for Boston.

Sincerely,

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Arthur Jemison  
Chief of Planning

cc: Mariama White-Hammond, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space  
Aimee Chambers, Director of Planning



## SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

June 28, 2023

Melissa Cryan  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St. – Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Re: MAPC review of City of Boston draft Open Space and Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Cryan:

The City of Boston recently submitted the draft “Open Space and Recreation Plan” to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for review.

The Division of Conservation Services (DCS) requires that all open space plans be reviewed by the applicable regional planning agency. This review is advisory, and only DCS has the power to approve a municipal open space plan. While your office reviews open space plans for compliance with your guidelines, MAPC reviews these plans for their attention to regional issues generally and, more specifically, for consistency with *MetroCommon 2050*, the regional policy plan for the Boston metropolitan area.

***Consistency with MetroCommon 2050*** – *MetroCommon 2050* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted in 2021 in accordance with the requirements of Massachusetts General Law. The plan includes a series of goals, objectives, and detailed metrics, and policy actions that will be used to measure progress towards accomplishing these goals. We encourage all communities within the MAPC region to become familiar with the plan by visiting [www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan](http://www.mapc.org/get-involved/metrofuture-our-regional-plan).

Boston’s OSRP addresses a number of issues that indicate consistency with *MetroCommon 2050*. The Seven-Year Action Plan includes strategies that support the goals of both the City and *MetroCommon*. These strategies include specific actions that focus on providing the City's diverse communities with equitable access to parks and recreational facilities, acquiring and preserving open space, and ensuring that Boston's open space system is resilient in the face of climate change. The Action Plan map provides a highly detailed overview of proposed projects throughout the city, while the inventory maps showcase Boston's unique open spaces and recreational resources.

***Surrounding Communities*** – The plan emphasizes the significance of Boston’s collaborations with MAPC and the Commonwealth to develop strategies for waterfront and riverfront planning, linear parks, green infrastructure, alternative transportation, social equity, and climate change on a regional level. Open spaces highlighted as resources of regional



## SMART GROWTH AND REGIONAL COLLABORATION

significance include the Emerald Necklace, the Charles River Reservation, the Neponset River Reservation, the Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, the Arnold Arboretum, the Harborwalk, and the Boston Harbor Islands.

Boston's Open Space and Recreation Plan is very thorough and should serve the city well as it continues its efforts to preserve open space and provide for the recreational needs of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Racicot". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray circular stamp.

Mark Racicot  
Land Use Planning Director

cc: Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect, Boston Parks and Recreation Department