





Open Space and Recreation

“In great cities, spaces as well as places are designed and built: walking, witnessing, being in public, are as much part of the design and purpose as is being inside to eat, sleep, make shoes or love or music. The word citizen has to do with cities, and the ideal city is organized around citizenship— around participation in public life.”

— Rebecca Solnit¹

Introduction

Abutting the Atlantic Ocean, Revere boasts an array of parks and natural features and is home to Revere Beach, the first public beach in the United States and a National Historic Landmark.

Revere Beach and other regional resources are managed by and are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Revere is located about five miles northeast of downtown Boston and covers ten square miles. Water and wetlands make up just over four miles of that total area and are not suitable for development. Altogether, the City of Revere maintains a variety of parks, playgrounds, fields, and open spaces totaling more than 200 acres.

Open space and parks are critical to the quality of life in a community and provide a wide range of benefits. The environmental benefits provided by open space include water absorption and filtering, flood control, removal of carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the urban environment, habitat, and food for wildlife, and shade that mitigates the urban heat index. By providing opportunities for outdoor activity for all age groups in Revere, open space promotes healthy lifestyles. Outdoor opportunities include both active recreation, such as structured sports, running, biking, and hiking, as well as passive activities, such as bird watching, picnicking, and strolling. Public recreation areas and open space provide a setting for community life and promote a unique and identifiable community character. In addition, public open space can promote Revere’s economy through enhancing the attractiveness of development sites as well as serving as hubs of entrepreneurial activity, through food trucks and other forms of outdoor vending.

As a result, the recommendations in this chapter were developed in conjunction with the recommendations in the other chapters of the plan to improve the overall quality of life of Revere residents and visitors.

¹ Solnit, Rebecca. *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*. p. 176

Open Space and Recreation Plan

In 2018, the City of Revere updated its Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to set forth a seven-year framework (Section 9) for the preservation, maintenance, and improvement of open space and recreation areas in the city. The 2018 OSRP is an update to the 2010 Open Space Plan and provides a comprehensive overview of the city’s cultural and natural history (Sections 3 & 4), a detailed inventory of all open space and recreational resources in Revere (Section 5), and recommendations for protecting and improving these resources (Section 8). This chapter of *Next Stop Revere* provides a summary of the recently completed OSRP and highlights its key recommendations. Master Plan readers should refer to the 2018 OSRP for more detailed information regarding open space and recreation in Revere.



COMMUNITY VISION

The City of Revere is committed to ensuring that current and future residents of the city have ample access to open space and opportunities for recreation despite financial constraints, dense development, and changing demographics. The City will continue to take steps to improve and enhance its existing parks and to add facilities to meet specific needs in a fiscally responsible manner. Improving recreational opportunities to ensure the health of its citizens will be a guiding principle. As an ethnically diverse community, Revere will continue to embrace this diversity and consider the needs of all of its citizens, including improving accessibility for all user types, particularly less well-served by existing facilities.

The City of Revere developed five goals upon which the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan update was based:

- Goal 1: Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.
- Goal 2: Protect and preserve Revere’s natural resources.
- Goal 3: Develop facilities and programs that promote fitness and health.
- Goal 4: Improve stewardship of the parks.
- Goal 5: Develop partnerships and engage in regional collaboration to maximize limited resources and develop regional open spaces.



Figure 7: Revere OSRP Community Forum

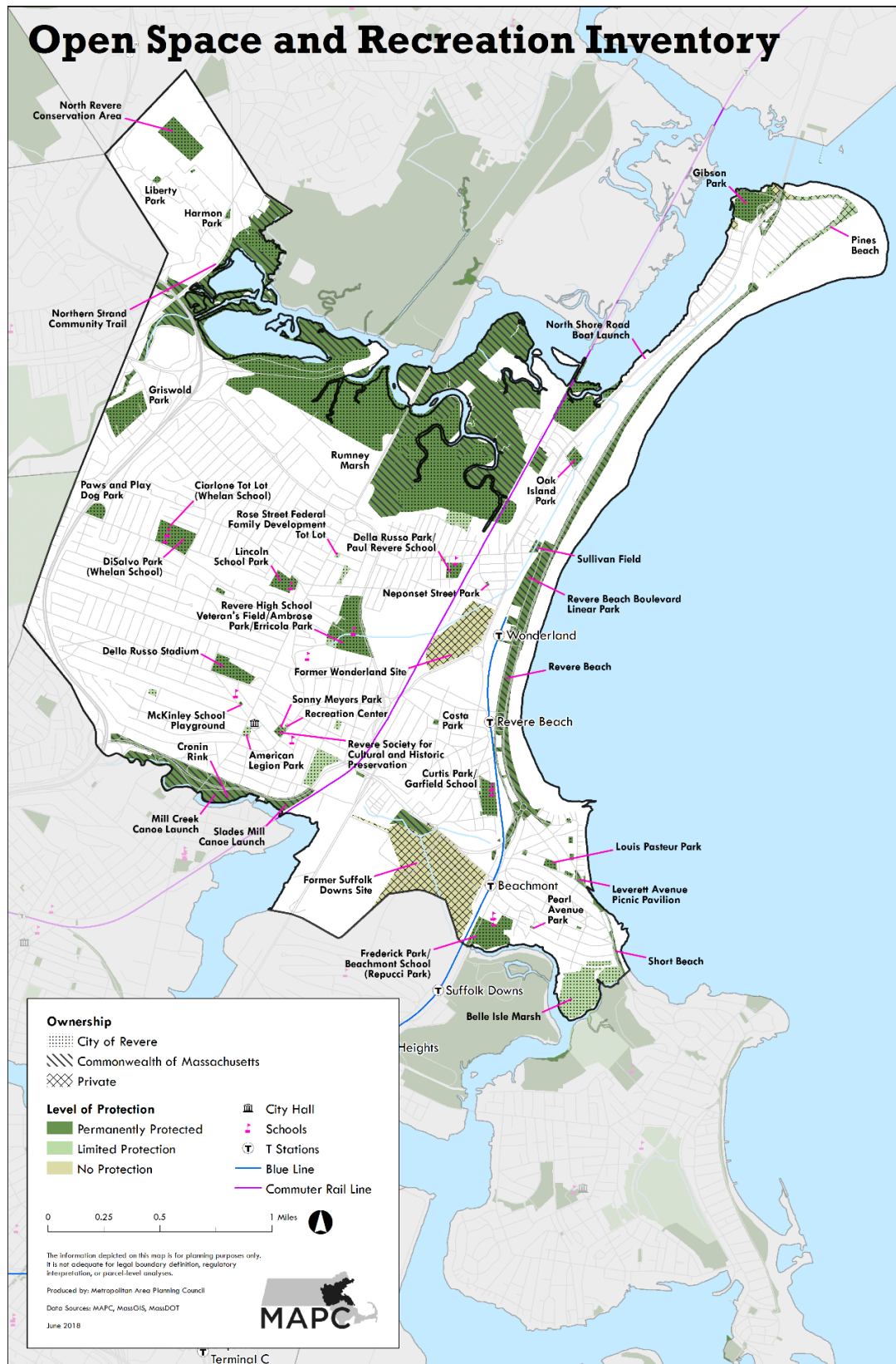


Figure 8: Open Space and Recreation Inventory Map

Open Space Protection

It is important to be aware of the degree of protection of open space. Open space can be protected so that the use of the land cannot be altered, protected in a limited manner, or unprotected. Knowing the level of protection (or lack thereof) can provide guidance on how easily some properties assumed to be open space “in perpetuity” can be developed. The parks and recreational land protected in perpetuity in Revere include Della Russo Park, Curtis Park, Di Savo Park, Erricola Park, Gibson Park, Griswald Park, Harmon Park, Della Russo Stadium, Revere High School Athletic Fields, Hill Park, Pasteur Park, Oak Island Park, Repucci Park, Jacobs Park and Sonny Meyers Park.

The majority of open space in Revere is permanently protected. A site is considered to be permanently protected if it is recorded in a deed or other official document. Such land is to be considered protected in perpetuity if it is deeded to and managed by the local Conservation Commission or Parks & Recreation Department and thereby subject to Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, if it is subject to a conservation restriction or easement in perpetuity, if one of the state’s conservation agencies owns it and it is thereby subject to Article 97, if a nonprofit land trust owns it, or if the municipality received federal or state assistance for the purchase or improvement of the property. Private land is considered protected if it has a deed restriction in perpetuity or a conservation restriction has been placed on it.

Unprotected land is land that is totally unprotected by any legal or functional means. This land is usually privately owned and could be sold without restriction at any time for another use. Only a small percentage of open space in Revere has no protection. Knowing the degree of protection of open space can help in identifying those open space and recreation areas that require additional efforts to ensure their long-term preservation and protection.



Open Space and Recreation Land

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

There are several significant regional open space resources in and around Revere. Revere Beach Reservation is owned by the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is the oldest public beach in America; 2016 marked its 120th anniversary. Today, this beach boasts miles of shoreline that attract throngs of visitors every summer. Along the boulevard is a bandstand for summer concerts, bathhouses, and many shade pavilions.

The City and DCR are cooperatively developing a new DCR operations center, which will feature public bathrooms; this facility will be in service by early 2020. The City spearheaded efforts to obtain funding for a public plaza to connect to new Wonderland multi-modal transit facility, the surrounding new development, and the Revere Beach Reservation. The centerpiece of this new infrastructure is the iconic Markey pedestrian bridge, which has become a vital pedestrian connection for visitors to the Reservation and a striking visual symbol of the rebirth of Revere Beach.

Revere Beach is free to visit and is very accessible by public transportation, making it a popular destination for residents from all over Greater Boston. The Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Competition, an event that draws hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, celebrated its 16th anniversary in July 2019. The Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, under the jurisdiction of DCR, preserves 152 acres of the 241-acre Belle Isle Marsh, Boston's last remaining salt marsh. A unique place to explore, the reservation exemplifies the type of wetlands that once lined the Massachusetts Bay shore. Centuries of flourishing plant life have made the marsh more fertile than the richest farmland. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat for many saltmarsh plants and wildlife that are rare to the Boston area. In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, DCR also manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches, and an observation tower. A cross-municipal environmental group, the Friends of Belle Isle Marsh, provides advocacy for this asset.

Rumney Marsh is a 600+ acre reservation located in Revere and Saugus and within the Saugus and Pines River estuary. This expansive saltmarsh provides habitat for an array of wildlife, including migratory birds and marine life. The reservation also provides recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, walking, and bird watching. It is designated as an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" (ACEC) and includes Belle Isle Marsh.

STATE-OWNED OPEN SPACE

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a major landowner in Revere, owning and managing more than half of the open space in Revere. DCR owns and manages Revere Beach Reservation, the Cronin Rink, a canoe launch, and other lands along Revere Beach Parkway, a large portion of Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh, and more. All State-owned land is considered protected in perpetuity.

CITY-OWNED OPEN SPACE

The City of Revere maintains a variety of parks and open spaces totaling more than 200 acres, about half of which are protected in perpetuity. There are several active recreation facilities distributed throughout the city, including small tot lots and playgrounds serving the various neighborhoods, as well as larger, citywide facilities such as the newly updated Della Russo Stadium. The City also owns several school-based recreation facilities as each school has some recreation appropriate to the age group that it serves. With limited

exceptions, the Parks and Recreation Department manages all active recreation facilities (school-based or not) in the city.

While the active recreation facilities are many, most acres of open space owned by the City are conservation lands, some of which are used for passive recreation. These include the extensive Rumney Marsh, as well as smaller areas like Oak Island Marsh, an inaccessible wetland, and Jacobs Park, an undeveloped area that residents use for passive recreation. The City also owns and manages other land used for cultural and recreational purposes, including historic properties and the Recreation Center.

The Conservation Commission manages three properties in the city, the Dunn Road Conservation Land, the North Revere Conservation Area, and the North Shore Road Conservation Land, all of which are permanently protected. The largest of these is the North Revere Conservation Area, a property that local residents primarily use for walking dogs.

PRIVATELY-OWNED OPEN SPACE

Private organizations own approximately twenty-five acres of recreational land in the city. Privately owned land includes two small boat launches on private property where the public has been granted access under Chapter 91 licenses. It also includes areas that are for residents and inaccessible to the public, such as the Pines Beach and Overlook Ridge Playground.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) administers the regulatory provisions of the Massachusetts Public Waterfront Act, commonly referred to as "Chapter 91." Massachusetts General Law Chapter 91 issues licenses for projects in waterways and ensures that projects meet public-access requirements. The purpose of these regulations is to:

- Ensure tidelands are utilized for water-dependent uses or otherwise serve a proper public purpose
- Protect public health, safety & general welfare
- Revitalize urban waterfront properties
- Promote public use and enjoyment of the water

Given the significant private development taking place along Revere Beach and the city's waterfront, Chapter 91 licenses are a good tool to ensure and enforce public access to tidal areas and to obtain public open space amenities.

HYM Investment Group, the developers of the new Suffolk Downs redevelopment, will be investing in almost forty acres of parkland and open spaces, thirteen acres of which will be in Revere, designed to complement existing Revere parkland and open-space systems, all of which will be publicly accessible to Revere residents.



Photo by Bill Illott, Creative Commons, Flickr

Management and Resource Priorities

The Parks and Recreation Department, the Department of Public Works (DPW), various other City and state agencies, and citizen groups actively work to protect the open space in Revere to ensure that the environmental benefits and active and passive recreational opportunities available to the city are protected and when possible, enhanced.

The City of Revere has made many updates to its open space and recreation facilities since the last OSRP was completed in 2010. Revere added a dog park, Paws & Play, to its roster, and in 2015, the City completed a \$7.5 million renovation of Harry Della Russo Stadium. The facility replaced a decaying stadium at Hill Park, and a new tot lot was constructed for the Hill School.

The City has also upgraded several neighborhood parks and school-based facilities and is in the process of improving more. Championed by the Revere on the Move Program, a collaboration between the Healthy Community Initiatives Department and the MGH Revere CARES Coalition, the City has adopted a community-led model of park planning and construction. When funding becomes available, and a park has been prioritized for updates, City staff work with the neighborhood resident groups (of which there are nine in the city) to determine what facilities and equipment they want to see at their area parks and schools. Residents also take part in the actual construction of facilities through community-builds, which bring together resident volunteers and City staff to transform play spaces over a weekend. Through this process, Revere on the Move has renovated seven playgrounds.

Through a partnership with Kaboom!, Jet Blue and The Neighborhood Developers, a 2013 community-build constructed a new playground at Costa Park in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood. In 2014, through a grant from the Common Backyard Program, a community-build completely renovated the playground at Louis Pasteur Park in the Beachmont neighborhood. The tot lot at Liberty Park in North Revere was updated in 2015. Oak Island Park was completely renovated in 2016 with a Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA). A

community-build constructed a new playground, and the City added a shade trellis and replaced the street hockey rink with a soccer turf field.

In 2016, a City Bond funded the renovation of Griswald Park, which included the reconstruction of two softball fields, one baseball field, and a tot lot. Harmon Park in North Revere, home to a brand-new full basketball court, was completely reconstructed and expanded in 2018 with support from PARC, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, Revere on the Move, and Community Improvement Trust (CIT) funds. From 2018-2019, a similar combination of PARC, CDBG, and CIT funds supported the renovation of Gibson Park facilities to include new playground equipment and surfacing as well as improved multimodal connectivity to the beach.

In terms of the school-based facilities, the City held a community-build to construct a new tot lot at Frederick's Park at the Beachmont School in 2015 with Child Safety funds. The following year, a community-build in partnership with Kaboom! and Target constructed another tot lot at Curtis Park at the Garfield School. The Lincoln School Park was updated in 2017. A new basketball court was added, and a community-build constructed a new playground. In summer 2019, Kaboom! partnered again with the City and Keurig Dr. Pepper on a community-build to reconstruct the Consiglia Della Russo Park behind the Paul Revere Innovation School.

Revere's first community garden, located at the corner of East Mountain Avenue and School Street, opened in the summer of 2012. There are currently thirty plots assigned to residents, special needs classes at Revere High School, and local nonprofits. The Gibson Park Community Garden, located in the Riverside and Point of Pines neighborhood of Revere, opened in June 2017. It has 17 plots, three of which are handicap accessible. The Revere Beautification Committee (RBC) is a volunteer committee whose mission is to improve the image of the city of Revere through an aggressive cleanup and beautification program and address civic and environmental concerns. The RBC contributes significantly to improvements in Revere's parks and landscaped medians. To maximize and better coordinate their contributions, the City should formalize a citywide maintenance plan for landscape medians, increase volunteer help, and expand partnerships.



Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department manages nearly all City-owned open-space in Revere. The department has a staff of seven and is led by the Recreation Director who oversees full-time, part-time and seasonal temporary staff. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains a full program of summer camps, sports teams, and clinics for youth and adults. The Parks and Recreation Department runs some programs from their offices at 150 Beach Street and also uses all of the City parks.

The Recreation Director is always seeking to expand and diversify the uses and client base of the programming at the Recreation Center. Classes currently include programming for toddlers and preschoolers with their families and after school programs for school-age children. There has been an expressed need for increased sports and health-related programming; however, without a gymnasium, such planning and implementation is very difficult.

During the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan update process, survey respondents identified an indoor recreation facility as the #1 priority of the community. Approximately 70% of survey respondents rated establishing an indoor recreation facility as "very important," while another 20% rated it as "important." A new indoor recreation facility would provide much-needed space for the Park and Recreation Department to expand and coordinate the programming it offers. A new recreation facility is also a priority of the City as it seeks funding to enhance its open space and recreation inventory.

Another major community priority identified in the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan was the improvement of existing parks and recreational facilities. Two thirds (66%) of survey respondents rated improving existing neighborhood parks/playgrounds as very important, while almost a third (31%) rated it as important. Ongoing maintenance of City-owned open spaces is conducted by the Parks Division of the Department of Public Works. The Parks Division provides operations, programs, and ground maintenance and repair relative to parks and playgrounds, athletic fields, recreation, forestry, and all public building grounds, including street islands and memorials. It is also tasked with the maintenance and management of Revere's urban forest. While the Parks Division works hard to service the open spaces in the city, it is faced with funding and staffing constraints.

Progress Since the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan

In addition to park improvement projects that were already underway during the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan process, the City of Revere has taken significant steps in addressing concerns and recommendations identified in the OSRP Seven-Year Action Plan.

The tot lot at Neponset Street Park was recently updated, and re-mulched and the tot lot at Liberty Park received new fencing through Child Safety Funds.

The Revere Cultural Council (RCC) consists of Revere residents who are invested in the city and are primarily focused on making Revere a better place in which to live. The mayor appoints each of the members of the RCC, and the city council then approves the appointment. The goal of the RCC members is to expose residents to varying art forms that they would otherwise never have the opportunity to see. Grant

funding from the Mass Cultural Council was awarded to the RCC in 2018 to set up 15 little libraries in parks and open spaces across the city. The little libraries will enable readers of all ages and backgrounds to access books in their neighborhood parks.

In 2018, the City conducted an extensive planning and permitting process for the redevelopment of the 53-acre portion of Suffolk Downs in Revere; and a months-long Development Advisory Group process conducted between Revere stakeholders and the developer included extensive discussion of open space, active and passive recreation, and stewardship of natural resources. The developer of this site has committed to ensuring that 25% of the entire 161-acre site, which spans the Revere-East Boston border, will be dedicated to publicly accessible open space for both passive and active recreational uses. The geography of the site also has advanced planning for creating improved connections between Revere Beach and the East Boston Greenway, as well as to and through Belle Isle Marsh.

In 2019, cross-municipal efforts secured funding for the completion of the Northern Strand Rail Trail; and through a community build, the City completed renovations to Gibson Park in the Point of Pines neighborhood. The project was funded through a PARC grant from EOEEA. The funding allowed the City to construct a new accessible playground with safety surfacing, improve cracking walkways, and refurbish the ballfield.

In June of 2019, Costa Park in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood underwent a revitalization project that added murals, repaired and replaced playground equipment, and planted new greenery in the heavily used community space. The project was funded through a partnership with the City of Revere, Republic Services, and The Neighborhood Developers. Additionally, work at Curtis Park to renovate and upgrade facilities, including ball fields, basketball court, lighting, and scoreboard construction is expected to begin in August of 2019.

The Recreation Department is preparing to launch a pilot program in the Fall of 2019 utilizing the James A. Garfield school as a citywide community center to explore resident recreational programming needs and demand in planning for a more permanent community and recreational facility in the future. The Recreation Department is actively working on expanding access, affordability, and variety across its programs to serve more Revere residents of all ages and abilities, including adaptive sailing in partnership with East Boston, therapeutic music programming, and supporting the Special Olympics Young Athlete Program. The Garfield School will serve as a creative and cost-effective interim solution until demand needs from the pilot program can be fully assessed, and a permanent recreational facility solution can be found.



Revere's projected growth will increase demands for schools, public services, open space, and recreational opportunities and activities. Partnerships between the City and Revere Public Schools to create joint or shared use facilities (e.g., New Revere High School and youth community center) should be explored. Additionally, the City should collaborate with the developers of Suffolk Downs to investigate opportunities for additional facilities as well as programs to operate in leased spaces of the Suffolk Downs development. Doing so would not only help address future facility demands but also provide invaluable benefits to the community.

During the *Next Stop Revere* Master Plan process, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) also concurrently produced a Pocket Park Study for the City of Revere. The City of Revere Office of Strategic Planning and Economic Development and the Healthy Community Initiatives Department partnered with MAPC, to identify and map sites suitable for pocket park development in Revere. The Pocket Park Suitability Analysis supports strategic pocket park development that promotes health equity and climate resilience, and on sites that have physical characteristics that make them suitable. It was of particular importance to Revere partners that equitable park access and associated health benefits be emphasized in the analysis.

Results of the analysis identified 259 potential sites for pocket park development relative to the health equity and climate resilience benefits they may deliver, as well as the physical suitability of parcels to be converted into pocket parks. The highest-ranking parcels are predominantly clustered in the southeastern portion of Revere. This area includes most of the Shirley Avenue neighborhood, the Central Park Avenue, and the Hills neighborhoods, as well as sections of the Riverside and Beachmont neighborhoods.

On June 25, 2019, the Revere Cares Coalition held its regular meeting, focusing on the Revere Pocket Parks Project. Participants were given an overview of the project and explored five sites that ranked highest in overall suitability in the pocket park analysis. During the meeting, participants enthusiastically exchanged ideas on pocket park opportunities and identified what they valued about each site. The sites discussed are listed below.

- 69 Shirley Avenue
- Avalon Street (at the intersections of Avalon and Blake Streets)
- 931 Winthrop Avenue
- Fitzhenry Square
- 39 Arcadia Street

The sites ranked highest in this analysis should be examined further by the City of Revere and its partners, and expanded ground-level assessments that look at additional features (i.e., proximity to potential users, availability of site, size of site, potential uses or other features) should be conducted to confirm suitability for pocket park development. The results of the study are intended to inform strategic implementation that aligns goals for climate resilience, health equity, and open space expansion with stakeholder coordination, funding, and other resources necessary for pocket park conversion. Master Plan readers should refer to the Revere Pocket Park Site Suitability Analysis report for detailed information regarding findings, recommendations, action items, and potential funding sources.

Community Input

This section provides a summary of feedback received from members of the public. During the public process of the 2018 Open Space and Recreation Plan, residents identified several ways to improve and enhance Revere’s existing open space and recreational facilities. Ideas ranged from building a new indoor recreation facility to expanding recreational programming in parks and open spaces. Others suggested that there is a need to support better stewardship, accessibility, and upgrading of Revere’s parks.

Many of these same priorities were expressed during the May 8, 2019, *Next Stop Revere* forum on Transportation, Energy & Climate, and Public Health & Open Space. Forum participants provided input on programming and park features using stickers with symbols to represent their favorite park features (like outdoor exercise equipment) and recreational activities (like skateboarding). Participants were shown images of various park features and activities and then asked to place the ones that appeal to them the most on a map of Revere’s existing parks and recreational facilities.

The following image shows feedback from the forum, where participants were asked, “What type of amenities, programming, and activities would you like to see in Revere parks and open spaces?”

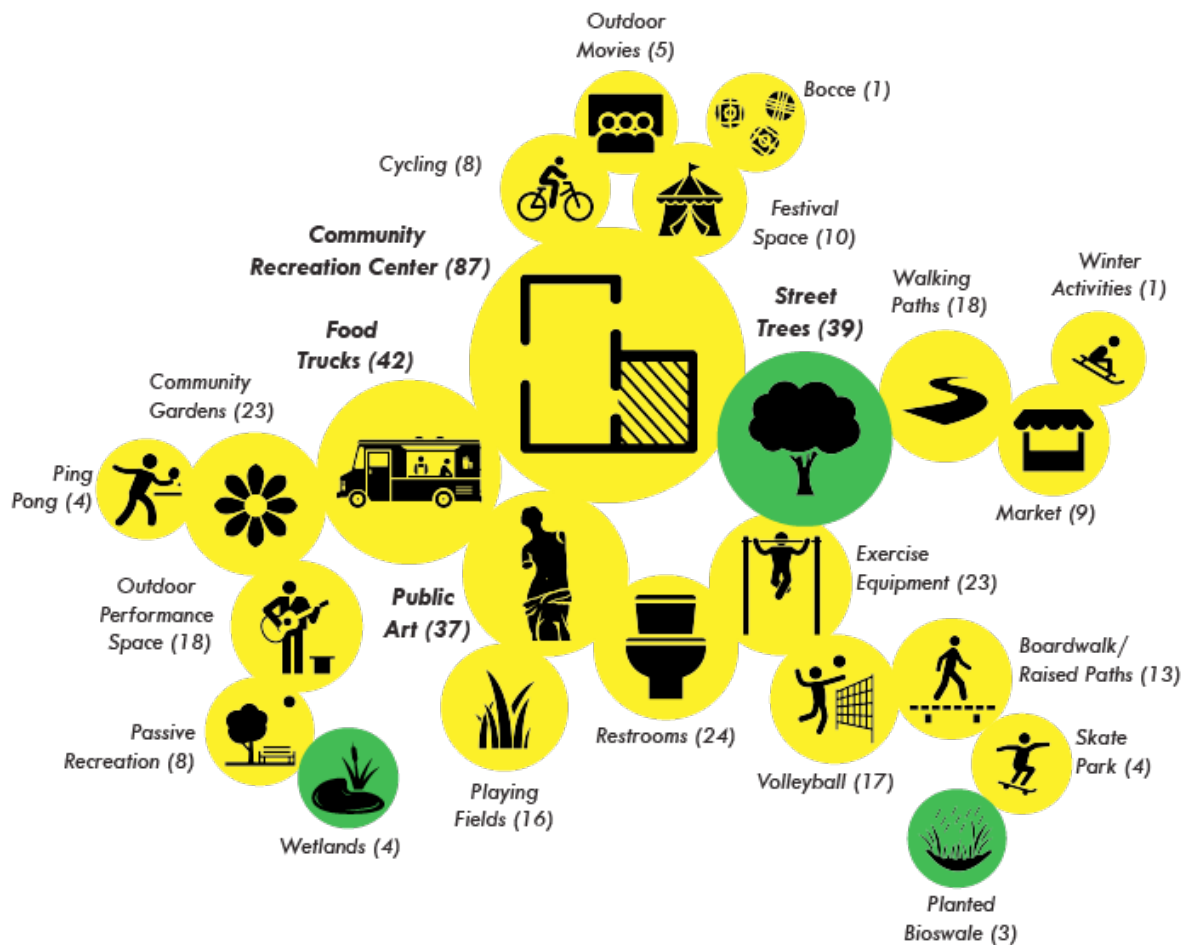


Figure 9: OSRP Forum Feedback
 (#) Indicates the number of times each sticker was selected among participants.



Key Themes

Community feedback through public forums and the online survey show that Revere's natural environment, open spaces, and recreational resources add tremendous value to the quality of life in the city. Furthermore, public health research has found that there is strong evidence to link physical activity and physical health to the presence and proximity of parks to an individual's residence. Parks and recreational spaces present opportunities for physical activity and community connections. In studies, good access to large, attractive recreation spaces has been associated with greater levels of exercise.² Access to parks, open space, and greenery are associated with protection against poor mental health outcomes and greater socializing and social support.³ Providing recreational opportunities for all residents, developing facilities and programs that promote fitness and health, and protection of natural resources were identified by residents as top goals for open space and recreation.

Feedback also shows that an indoor recreation facility and expanding recreational programming are major priorities of the community. There is a strong desire to increase open, green space that would provide multiple public benefits, including recreational and community gathering space, improve air quality, reduce urban heat islands, and manage and improve stormwater.

In 2018, the City released an update to its Open Space and Recreation Plan, which delves deeper into topics around open space and recreation in Revere. Given its recent publication, this Master Plan carries over many of the recommendations of the 2018 plan to be implemented by the departments, commissions, and advocacy groups mentioned in this section. It also includes a few new recommended strategies based upon community input during the *Next Stop Revere* planning process and incorporates goals and recommendations from the 2019 Revere Pocket Park Site Suitability Analysis.

2 Lee, A. C. K., & Maheswaran, R. (2011). The health benefits of urban green spaces: a review of the evidence. *Journal of Public Health*, 33(2), 212-222.

3 Cities, Green Space, and Mental Well-Being: <http://oxfordre.com/environmentalscience/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199389414.001.0001/acrefore-9780199389414-e-93>

Recommendations

Goal 1

Implement the Master Plan consistent with the current Open Space and Recreation Plan

Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations

Strategy 1.1: The City recently completed its Open Space and Recreation Plan for 2018-2025. Many of the needs, goals, and objectives in that plan overlap with this Master Plan, and they should be reinforced and expanded, particularly in reference to this Open Space and Recreation section and in the Public Facilities and Services, Historic and Cultural Resources, Energy and Climate, Public Health and Transportation sections of this Master Plan.

Goal 2

Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities

Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations

Strategy 2.1: Continue efforts to upgrade park and recreation facilities for all users and to meet applicable ADA standards as improvements are made.

Planning

Strategy 2.2: To provide better access in underserved and densely populated neighborhoods, use findings from the 2019 Pocket Park Suitability Analysis to identify opportunities to create new parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities where they can best provide climate resilience, social and health benefits.

Strategy 2.3: Support the development of a fully ADA-accessible open/recreational space, in addition to the accessible space planned for the Suffolk Downs development.

Strategy 2.4: Explore ways to add shared space for walkers, motorists, and cyclists at locations such as the Central Avenue Parking Lot.

Goal 3

Develop facilities and programs that promote fitness and health

Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations

Strategy 3.1: Create a multi-lingual website or a feature within the City website, which was recently revamped to emphasize user-friendliness and accessibility that will aggregate local and cultural events like sports, concerts, and festivals from disparate sites into a central repository. This invaluable resource would allow members of the community to access and disperse information from a central location and reach broader segments of Revere's diverse community.

Strategy 3.2: Support local arts and cultural resources by increasing awareness of cultural events in Revere and support funding streams for arts and cultural resources such as the Revere Cultural Council.

**Planning**

Strategy 3.3: Use data gathered from the Recreation Department's Garfield pilot program to help define the needs of a future indoor recreational facility.

Strategy 3.4: Consider the development of a sustainable multi-use, multi-generational community center, including a swimming pool, to provide a variety of cultural and recreational activities throughout the year.

Goal 4**Maintain, enhance, and maximize the quality of existing parks, playgrounds, trails, and recreation areas****Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations**

Strategy 4.1: Support ongoing efforts to improve parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities identified in the 2018 OSRP Seven Year Action Plan to provide Revere residents with the active recreation facilities, urban gathering spaces, and natural open spaces and trails they seek.

Strategy 4.2: Continue to develop safe walking paths that connect existing open spaces and parks and incorporate such paths into newly planned open spaces. New paths should be handicapped-accessible and multi-use, serving walkers, runners, bicyclists, and wheelchairs, following examples of such improvements at Gibson Park, Harmon Park, and Harry Della Russo Stadium

Strategy 4.3: Investigate the possibility of staggered Parks and Recreation employee work shifts to ensure weekend and seasonal coverage of recreational events, rather than all full-time employees working Monday through Friday. Community feedback suggested that special events are a popular role of Revere's parks and open spaces. Yet, special events are also a strain on Parks and Recreation staff and require weekend diligence and significant clean-up.

Strategy 4.4: Consider hiring a volunteer coordinator to recruit volunteers, maximize volunteer potential, formalize park Friends Groups, and develop corporate sponsorships.

Strategy 4.5: Explore partnerships with local businesses to help improve park maintenance and create revenue-generating opportunities in parks. For example, contracting or offering incentives to businesses to establish sponsorships and sustainable revenue streams to help defray maintenance costs.

Planning

Strategy 4.6: Consider additional staffing and funding to properly protect and maintain all open spaces and natural resources throughout the City.

Strategy 4.7: Continue to pursue funding for park projects through Capital Improvement Plan, Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND), and other grant opportunities.

Strategy 4.8: Explore the feasibility of acquiring additional open space at opportunity sites or proximate to existing open space.

Land Use and Regulatory

Strategy 4.9: Reconsider adopting the Community Preservation Act (CPA) to augment financial resources for not only open space and recreation but also affordable housing and historic preservation.

Goal 5

Coordinate with DCR and other state and regional entities that operate and maintain open spaces. Maintaining these critical partnerships provide a relational vehicle for open space and recreational opportunities to be realized

Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations

Strategy 5.1: Proactively work with DCR to ensure that the condition of Revere's state-owned public facilities continues to improve, addressing issues related to park and recreation facilities, including necessary maintenance and upgrades. (For example, sections of the seawall along Winthrop Avenue are failing and in need of repair.)

Planning

Strategy 5.2: Improve the working relationship between the City, private, and community-based organizations and DCR to streamline the recreation permitting process. Doing so will reduce scheduling barriers and provide residents with more opportunities to enjoy programmed events on DCR owned land.

Strategy 5.3: Explore possibilities for new funding for the DCR reservation to support maintenance and programming in the shared interest of Revere and state entities.

Goal 6

Promote pocket park development on city-owned land in neighborhoods with limited park access, and where they can best provide climate resilience, social, and health benefits

Programming, Partnerships and Internal City Operations

Strategy 6.1: Publish the Revere Pocket Parks Report on the City of Revere website and other platforms.

Planning

Strategy 6.2: Identify the City of Revere department(s) that will coordinate Pocket Park implementation activities in coordination with civic, neighborhood, and business groups. Secure funding for the City staff time toward this.

Strategy 6.3: Identify five-ten priority sites found suitable for pocket park development in the Revere Pocket Parks Report.



Goal 7

Encourage ongoing public education and direct sponsorship of pocket park development among civic, neighborhood, and business groups

Planning

Strategy 7.1: Via the designated City of Revere department(s), develop a program that supports civic, neighborhood, and business groups in developing pocket parks. The City of Boston "Grassroots and Open Space Development" program may serve as a model from which to build the City of Revere program. This program should be coupled with or include 1) clear pathways to articulating community need and interest for priority sites to the City of Revere; 2) educational and capacity-building workshops on the benefits of pocket parks and the City of Revere program; and 3) technical assistance and funding resources to realize pocket parts on priority sites where community interest has been articulated.