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Arabic:

maggie.owens@boston.gov, اذا احتجتهم، من فضلك التواصل معنا على LCA@boston.gov بحلول 6179613025 أو 05/05/23.

Russian: Услуги устного и письменного перевода предоставляются бесплатно. Если Вам они нужны, просьба связаться с нами по адресу электронной почты maggie.owens@boston.gov, LCA@boston.gov, либо по телефону 617-961-3025. до 05/05/23

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DRAFT

2023-2029 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

COMMENT PERIOD CLOSURES: MAY 21, 2023

BOSTON.GOV/OPEN-SPACE-PLAN

Thank you for taking the time to review the draft plan and provide your comments. Submitted comments will be taken into account before the final plan is issued.

The planning and recommendations in this document represent recent and ongoing work by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. The plan is fully updated every seven years, and analysis and recommendations continue to be advanced between plan updates.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, the link above will bring you to the project page where you can find this document, comment form, contact information, and the previous 2015-2021 plan.

At this time, the draft includes maps at the city scale. A selection of neighborhood-scale maps will be published for download at the time of final publication.

Please submit your comments using the comment form on the [project page](#) or call 617-961-3025.

Sincerely,

Boston Parks and Recreation Department



City of Boston
Parks and Recreation

SECTION 8

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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1. PROTECT, MAINTAIN, MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE CITY OF BOSTON'S OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS THAT THIS INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDES.

- 1.1 Renovate and improve parks according to equitable investment strategies and changing community needs.
- 1.2 Improve park infrastructure that supports expanded park use including restrooms, utilities, signage and information.
- 1.3 Maintain parks at the highest level.
- 1.4 Actively manage natural areas to provide ecologically healthy, welcoming places for the public to explore nature.
- 1.5 Manage the challenges and opportunities unique to historic parks, burying grounds and other sites of significance.
- 1.6 Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources for maintenance, operations and programming.
- 1.7 Provide programming and recreation opportunities that build community for people of all ages, promote wellness and park stewardship.
- 1.8 Permit the use of parks in an efficient, effective and accessible manner that lowers barriers.

2. SUSTAIN AND EXPAND AN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM THAT IS EQUITABLE, PUBLICLY-OWNED, PERMANENTLY PROTECTED, AND AVAILABLE TO ALL.

- 2.1 Improve open space access in an equitable manner.
- 2.2 Acquire new property to expand the park system.
- 2.3 Work within the regulatory framework to balance development and density with the provision of open space during the planning and review process.
- 2.4 Actively engage and build relationships with Boston's diverse population.

3. PROMOTE RESILIENCE BY SUPPORTING THE CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE URBAN NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY.

- 3.1 Proactively care for, enhance and restore the landscape systems and ecological functions within park properties.
- 3.2 Connect resource protection and climate action needs to magnify the impacts of related projects.
- 3.3 Implement and evaluate strategies for park design and maintenance to ensure that parks are resilient in the face of climate change.
- 3.4 Restore the ecological function of natural resource areas.

SECTION 9

SEVEN-YEAR ACTION PLAN

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GOAL 1 PROTECT, MAINTAIN, MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE CITY OF BOSTON'S OPEN SPACE SYSTEM TO MAXIMIZE THE BENEFITS THAT THIS INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDES.

Objective 1.1: Renovate and improve parks according to equitable investment strategies and changing community needs.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Strategically assess facility and programmatic needs across the city to inform capital improvement priorities using data and metrics, community input, and planning.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Annually update the Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Boston's park system.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Sustain annual improvement programs to keep all parks facilities in a state of good repair between capital renovation cycles.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Expand access to shade and cooling features in parks undergoing capital renovations, especially in areas most impacted by extreme heat.	BPRD	Ongoing
e. Meet or exceed ADA and MAAB standards for accessibility in parks; design for inclusive use where possible.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.2: Improve park infrastructure that supports expanded park use including restrooms, utilities, signage and information.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Assess needs through level of service analysis, programming goals, and community input.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Incorporate infrastructure that supports positive recreational programming by leagues, schools, camps and others.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Pilot improvements (like restrooms) and assess operational demands and impacts.	BPRD	2024-2026
d. Promote new features or improved infrastructure so that constituents are aware of expanded programmatic offerings.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.3: Maintain parks at the highest level.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Expand maintenance and operations to better meet the expected level of service in the park system.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Create maintenance plans as part of each capital improvement project in coordination with BPRD maintenance staff.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Invest in parks maintenance and operations to meet the operational goals identified in BPRD planning initiatives.	BPRD	2024-2026
d. Invest in the City's infrastructure of staff, equipment, fleet and facilities in order to support productivity.	BPRD	Ongoing
e. Support workforce development through training and growth opportunities.	BPRD with PowerCorpsBOS	Ongoing

Objective 1.4: Actively manage natural areas to provide ecologically healthy, welcoming places for the public to explore nature.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Develop a new urban wilds management plan for existing and new properties.	BPRD	2023-2024
b. Continue to implement landscape restoration plans for priority sites.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Invest in basic site improvements which include the installation, repair and replacement of signage, fences, walls, and pathways, and vegetation management.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Apply the restoration and stewardship knowledge of urban wilds properties to other natural areas with the park system to elevate the health and quality of these spaces.	BPRD	Ongoing

GOAL 1 (...CONTINUED) PROTECT, MAINTAIN, MANAGE AND IMPROVE THE CITY OF BOSTON'S OPEN SPACE

Objective 1.5: Manage the challenges and opportunities unique to historic parks, burying grounds and other sites of significance.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Update management, maintenance, and interpretive plans for historic resources to protect their value to residents and visitors.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Rehabilitate each park's historic character and features to sustain historic integrity while supporting contemporary uses, programs and facilities.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Mitigate the impact of structures, buildings, furnishings or features that conflict with the visual character of historic parks or which compromise their protection and preservation.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 1.6: Develop and maintain sustainable funding sources for maintenance, operations and programming.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Seek opportunities to increase the budget of BPRD through the City budget and external funding to better meet constituent expectations for programs and services.	BPRD / COB	Ongoing
b. Create a reasonable and predictable formula for community contributions for open space through the development review process, looking to other communities nationwide that have implemented such programs.	BPRD / BPDA	2023-2024
c. Develop a funding plan for philanthropic gifts, government and foundation grants, and private/public partnerships in order to sustain recreation programs, the Park Arts programs, tree lightings, concerts and other events.	BPRD	2024-2025

Objective 1.7: Provide programming and recreation opportunities that build community for people of all ages, promote wellness and park stewardship.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Expand community outreach around programming and recreational priorities and establish systems for feedback to better align programs with public interests.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Expand partnerships and Friends groups to help support park activation and connect with constituents.	BPRD / BPDA	Ongoing
c. Engage with partners to increase the visibility of the positive impacts of access to open space through programming in the parks and urban wilds.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Promote creativity, arts and culture in the parks as key elements of vibrant urban environments.	BPRD with MOAC	Ongoing

Objective 1.8: Permit the use of parks in an efficient, effective and accessible manner that lowers barriers.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Improve and promote an expanded online permitting system that is efficient, effective and accessible.	BPRD	2024-2025
b. Schedule open field time that allows for casual use of park facilities (i.e. pick-up games).	BPRD / BPDA	2023-2024
c. Engage with permit holders and others to encourage use of facilities during non-peak times to expand capacity.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Develop a signage and information system for dynamic communication about events, facilities, and regulations.	BPRD	2025

GOAL 2 SUSTAIN AND EXPAND AN OPEN SPACE SYSTEM THAT IS EQUITABLE, PUBLICLY-OWNED, PERMANENTLY PROTECTED, AND AVAILABLE TO ALL.

Objective 2.1: Improve open space access in an equitable manner.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Address gaps in walksheds, open space quantity, and recreational diversity in underserved areas of the city.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Produce facilities assessments to understand demands on the existing system.	BPRD	2023-2025
c. Establish benchmarks for level of service for specific facilities, and strategic plans for meeting those benchmarks.	BPRD	2023-2025

Objective 2.2: Acquire new property to expand the park system.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Prioritize the addition of publicly owned and permanently protected park land, in accordance with Article 97, to balance the open space impacts of private development citywide.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Utilize the Parcel Prioritization Plan to identify critical acquisitions.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Establish substantial and sustainable funding sources for acquisition through the Capital Budget, Community Preservation Act funding, etc.	BPRD / COB	Ongoing
d. Designate and dedicate surplus government-owned property for use as permanently protected park land such as that which is owned by the State, DCR, BPDA, MOH, etc.	BPRD / COB / DCR	Ongoing
e. Expand the Open Space Acquisition program and cultivate in-house expertise to streamline acquisition processes and make use of available tools to act quickly around acquisition opportunities.	BPRD	2023-2025

Objective 2.3: Work within the regulatory framework to balance development and density with the provision of open space during the planning and review process.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Engage in the development review process to incorporate criteria, expectations and mitigation that is rooted in the OSRP to ensure that open space impacts and opportunities are considered in all planning and development decisions.	BPRD / BPDA	Ongoing
b. Address open space per capita disparities across the city - especially in areas of population growth.	BPRD / BPDA	Ongoing
c. Establish a program for parkland dedication that provides a predictable, consistent model for the provision of public open space as part of the development review process.	BPRD / BPDA	2023-2025
d. Engage with adjacent municipalities and federal and state agencies on the protection of shared natural resources, particularly waterfronts, greenways and large landscapes.	BPRD / DCR	Ongoing

Objective 2.4: Actively engage and build relationships with Boston's diverse population.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Pilot new forums for the public to provide input on programming in parks like surveys, focus groups, or an advisory board.	BPRD	2023-2024
b. Continue to build organizational capacity for public engagement including the provision of technology and equipment for effective work.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Continue to implement and evaluate new approaches to outreach and relationship building.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Coordinate with the City's Commission on Persons with Disabilities to promote inclusive design and programming.	BPRD	Ongoing
e. Support park partner organizations, Friends groups, and volunteers so that they can be effective stewards and advocates for the open space system, expanding BPRD's reach and capacity.	BPRD	2023-2025
f. Expand communications strategies to increase awareness of BPRD's services and programming.	BPRD	2023-2025

GOAL 3 PROMOTE RESILIENCE BY SUPPORTING THE CRITICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE URBAN NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY.

Objective 3.1: Proactively care for, enhance and restore the landscape systems and ecological functions within park properties

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Expand the use of green stormwater infrastructure where maintenance needs can be met. Use the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Design and Implementation Guide, and other resources, to inform projects.	BPRD / Streets / BWSC	2023-2025
b. Implement the strategies and actions outlined in the citywide Urban Forest Plan to protect and expand tree canopy throughout the city, including in parks.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Increase diversity of plantings within park properties to consider plant communities, habitat enhancement, ecological function, and adaptive species	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 3.2: Connect resource protection and climate action needs to magnify the impacts of related projects

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Contribute BPRD's planning, design, construction and engagement expertise to the City's resiliency efforts to advance landscape solutions to address Boston's climate challenges and expand open space resources.	BPRD / BPDA / Environment	Ongoing
b. Expand open space in coastal areas and flood zones that can also serve as protective infrastructure as the climate changes.	BPRD / BPDA / Environment / DCR	Ongoing

Objective 3.3: Implement and evaluate strategies for park design and maintenance to ensure that parks are resilient in the face of climate change.

Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Apply assessment tools to parks to inform design, construction and maintenance decisions- evaluate shade/heat risk/resilience; energy consumption and waste production.	BPRD / Environment	Ongoing
b. Develop performance measures and evaluate park improvements to determine if they are performing as intended.	BPRD	2023-2025
c. Protect and maintain trees to support a healthy urban forest.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Expand the season when drinking fountains and spray features are activated in parks.	BPRD	2023
e. Expand smart energy use in park improvements and improve access to the City's recycling system in public spaces.	BPRD	Ongoing

Objective 3.4: Restore the ecological function of natural resource areas.

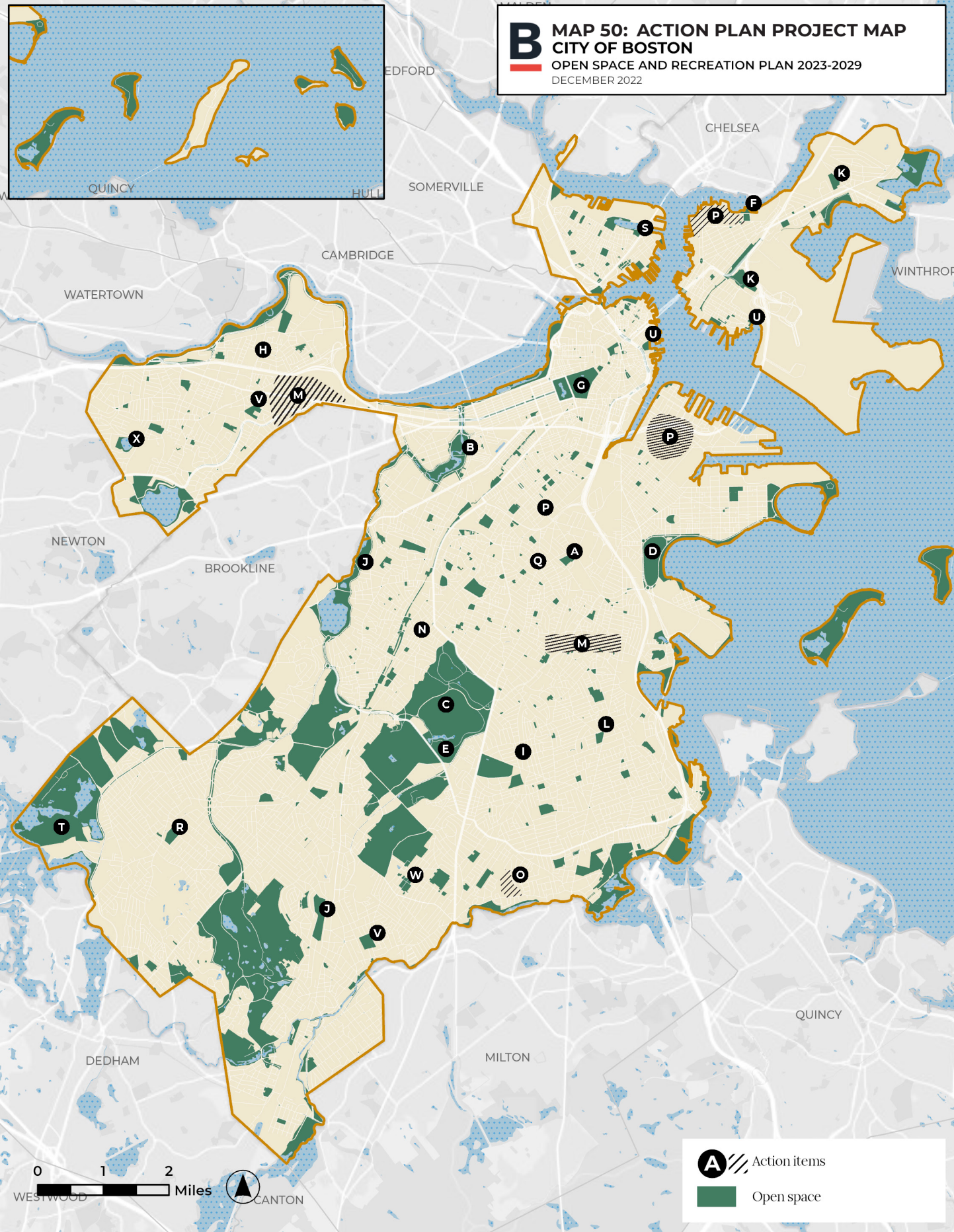
Action	Responsibility/ Funding source	Timeline for completion
a. Prioritize the acquisition of open space that rates high for climate vulnerability in the Parcel Priority Plan.	BPRD	Ongoing
b. Develop priorities for acquisitions and restoration where opportunities arise to add to existing natural resource areas.	BPRD	Ongoing
c. Improve the quality of urban ecosystems by understanding how they function and establishing benchmarks related to climate resilience, habitat and biodiversity and human access.	BPRD	Ongoing
d. Engage with adjacent municipalities on climate change, invasive species, pest control and other issues that cross boundaries.	BPRD	Ongoing
e. Mitigate invasive species in capital improvement projects.	BPRD	Ongoing

PROJECT MAP KEY

Map ID	Objective			Map Location
A	1.1	d	Expand access to shade and cooling features in parks undergoing capital renovations, especially in areas most impacted by extreme heat.	Clifford Playground
B	1.1	e	Meet or exceed ADA and MAAB standards for accessibility in parks; design for inclusive use where possible.	Back Bay Fens
C	1.2	c	Pilot improvements (like restrooms) and assess operational demands and impacts.	Franklin Park
D	1.3	d	Invest in the City's infrastructure of staff, equipment, fleet and facilities in order to support productivity.	Moakley Park
E	1.3	e	Support workforce development through training and growth opportunities.	Franklin Park
F	1.4	c	Invest in basic site improvements which include the installation, repair and replacement of signage, fences, walls, and pathways, and vegetation management.	Condor Urban Wild
G	1.5	b	Rehabilitate each park's historic character and features to sustain historic integrity while supporting contemporary uses, programs and facilities.	Boston Common
H	1.6	b	Create a reasonable and predictable formula for community contributions for open space through the development review process, looking to other communities nationwide that have implemented such programs.	Selected key areas
I	1.7	c	Expand partnerships and Friends groups to help support park activation and connect with constituents.	Norwell Street
J	1.7	d	Engage with partners to increase the visibility of the positive impacts of access to open space through programming in the parks and urban wilds.	Olmsted Park and Sherrin Woods
K	1.8	b	Schedule open field time that allows for casual use of park facilities (i.e. pick-up games).	Noyes Playground and East Boston Memorial Park
L	1.8	d	Develop a signage and information system for dynamic communication about events, facilities, and regulations.	Doherty-Gibson Playground
M	2.1	a	Address gaps in walksheds, open space quantity, and recreational diversity in underserved areas of the city.	Selected key areas
N	2.2	a	Prioritize the addition of publicly owned and permanently protected park land, in accordance with Article 97, to balance the open space impacts of private development citywide.	Egleston Peace Garden
O	2.2	d	Designate and dedicate surplus government-owned property for use as permanently protected park land such as that which is owned by the State, DCR, BPDA, MOH, etc.	Selected key areas
P	2.3	b	Address open space per capita disparities across the city - especially in areas of population growth.	Selected key areas
Q	2.4	c	Continue to implement and evaluate new approaches to outreach and relationship building.	Dudley Town Common
R	3.1	a	Expand the use of green stormwater infrastructure where maintenance needs can be met. Use the Green Stormwater Infrastructure Design and Implementation Guide, and other resources, to inform projects.	Billings Field
S	3.1	b	Implement the strategies and actions outlined in the citywide Urban Forest Plan to protect and expand tree canopy throughout the city, including in parks.	Barry Playground
T	3.1	c	Increase diversity of plantings within park properties to consider plant communities, habitat enhancement, ecological function, and adaptive species.	Millennium Park
U	3.2	a	Contribute BPRD's planning, design, construction and engagement expertise to the City's resiliency efforts to advance landscape solutions to address Boston's climate challenges and expand open space resources.	Christopher Columbus Park and Porzio Park
V	3.3	a	Apply assessment tools to parks to inform design, construction and maintenance decisions-evaluate shade/heat risk/resilience; energy consumption and waste production.	Ross Playground and Ringer Playground
W	3.4	b	Develop priorities for acquisitions and restoration where opportunities arise to add to existing natural resource areas.	Mattahunt Woods Urban Wild
X	3.4	e	Mitigate invasive species in capital improvement projects.	Chandler Pond

Note: The Action Plan Map portrays representative projects and areas of the city that could be affected by Action Plan items. Therefore, not all areas that could be affected by an action are shown on this map.

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