

# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

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*June 2023*

# OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

**2023-2029**

**CITY OF BOSTON**

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Thank you as well to the Age Strong Commission, Disability Commission, Environment Department, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the Boston Planning and Development Agency for their assistance and review in the drafting of this plan. We also thank the Massachusetts Office of Geographic Information Services (MassGIS) for much of the data that we used for our own mapping and analysis.

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

June 22, 2023

Dear friend,

The Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) is an important tool for Boston to maintain and improve an open space system that promotes the health and well-being of our people, civic ideals, and environment. It is a wide-ranging document, updated every seven years, that provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of Boston's park system as well as a set of goals and a Seven-Year Action Plan that will guide the City's parks-related work heading towards 2030.

As Boston plans for and anticipates growth over the next decade, we will need to consistently work to address these needs and identify emerging needs in areas of projected growth. This version of the OSRP incorporates work that specifically focuses on expansion of the open space system through land protection and acquisition. It integrates a complementary Parks Department planning project, the Parcel Priority Plan, which identifies the potential open space value of parcels throughout the city to consider for open space protection through acquisition.

Because open space is central to the future health, resilience and livability of Boston, the OSRP complements the existing Climate Ready Boston reports, Urban Forest Plan, and the Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston report. These planning efforts share fundamental objectives to improve quality of life while preparing for climate change. The plan will inform investment, programming, operations, citywide initiatives, and evaluation of ongoing policy work.

With the wholehearted support of my administration and the public, I look forward to continued success in maintaining Boston's leadership role in preserving, improving, and maintaining open space, parks, and recreation. The OSRP will be the foundation of many forthcoming planning efforts to make Boston the greenest, most family-friendly city for all residents in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston