

**Fort Point Channel Working Group
Watersheet Activation Listening Sessions
Saturday May 14 and Wednesday May 18, 2022**

Fort Point Channel Working Group



slido



Where are you coming from today?

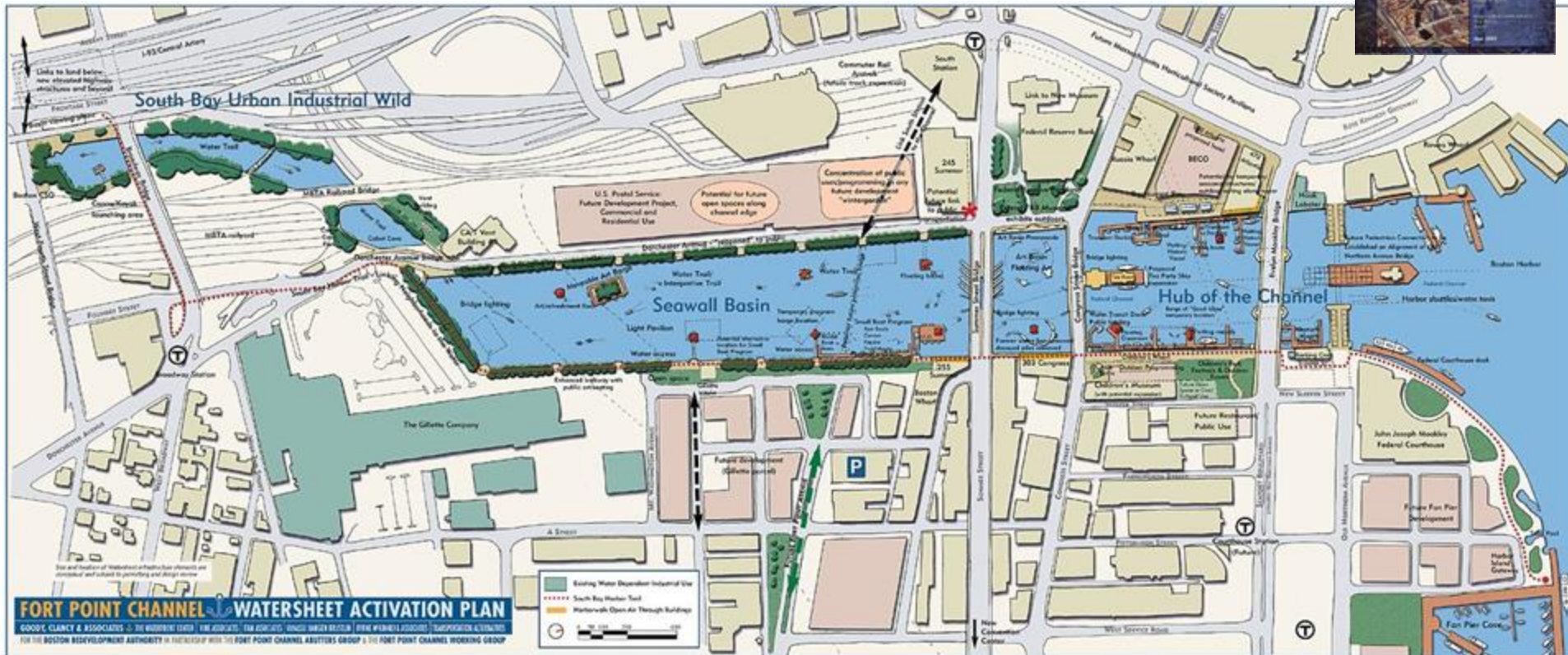
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Watersheet Activation Plan Vision (2002): *A fifty-acre park in the heart of the city*



Watersheet Activation Plan Vision (2002): *A work in progress*

- Hub of the Channel
- Seawall Basin
- South Bay Urban Industrial Wild



Watersheet Activation Plan Vision (2002): *A work in progress*

- Seawall Basin: Potential without equal, but far to go



Why Watersheet Activation ?

Development Projects in Commonwealth Tidelands

PRIMARY: PUBLIC USE, ENJOYMENT, PUBLIC PURPOSE

SECONDARY: PRIVATE USES (INCIDENTAL)

Public Use

SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC ACTIVITY

YEAR-ROUND USE

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY



Why Now ?

PROJECT	BUILDINGS	GSF
ChannelSide	3	1,098,000
232 A Street	2	(40 acres)
Hook Lobster	1	275,000
Boston Children's Museum	Waterfront Master Plan	
15 Necco Street	1	390,500
7 Buildings		1,800,000*

* Excludes 232 A Street



MassDEP Chapter 91 Role

SHOW UP EARLY & OFTEN

LISTEN TO STAKEHOLDERS

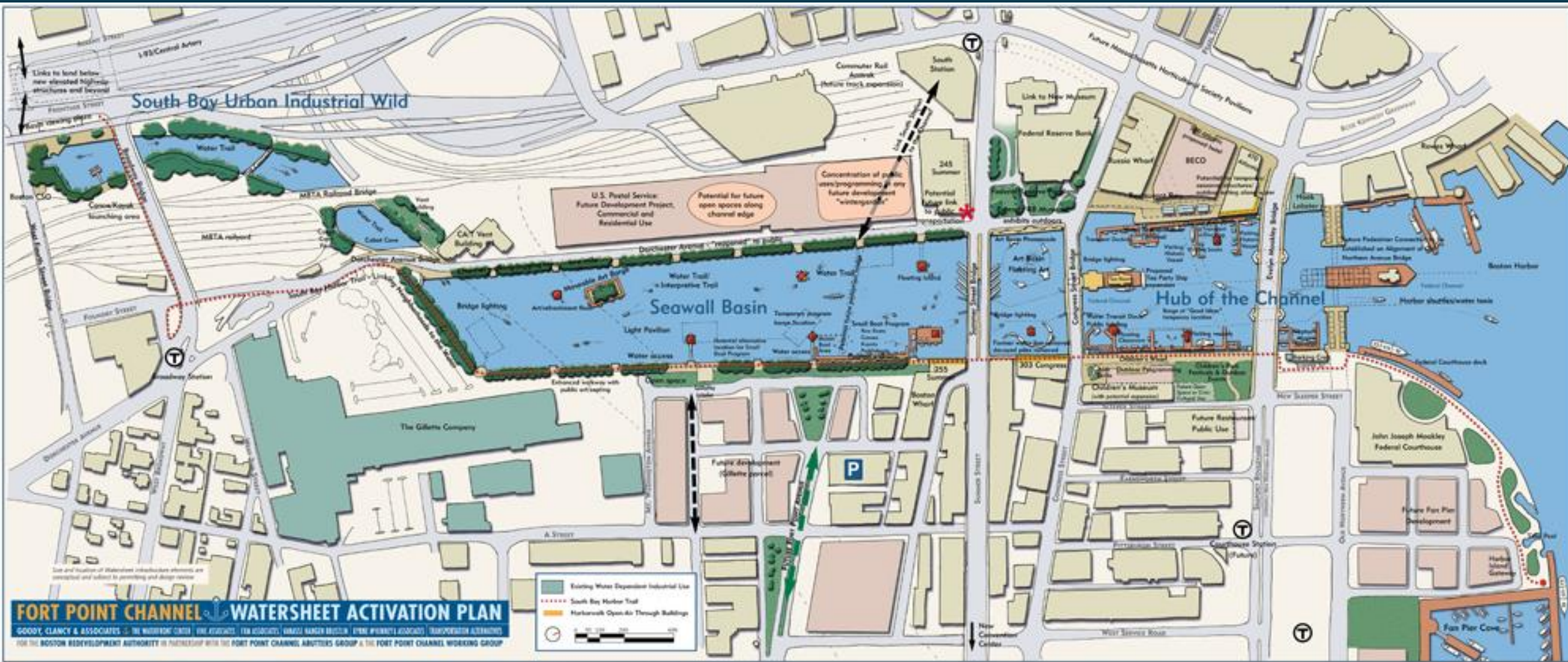
ENCOURAGE COORDINATION

BALANCE PUBLIC & PRIVATE BENEFITS

HOLD PROJECTS TO HIGH STANDARDS



Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan



Active, Connected and Inclusive



**boston planning &
development agency**

Chapter 91 Requires:

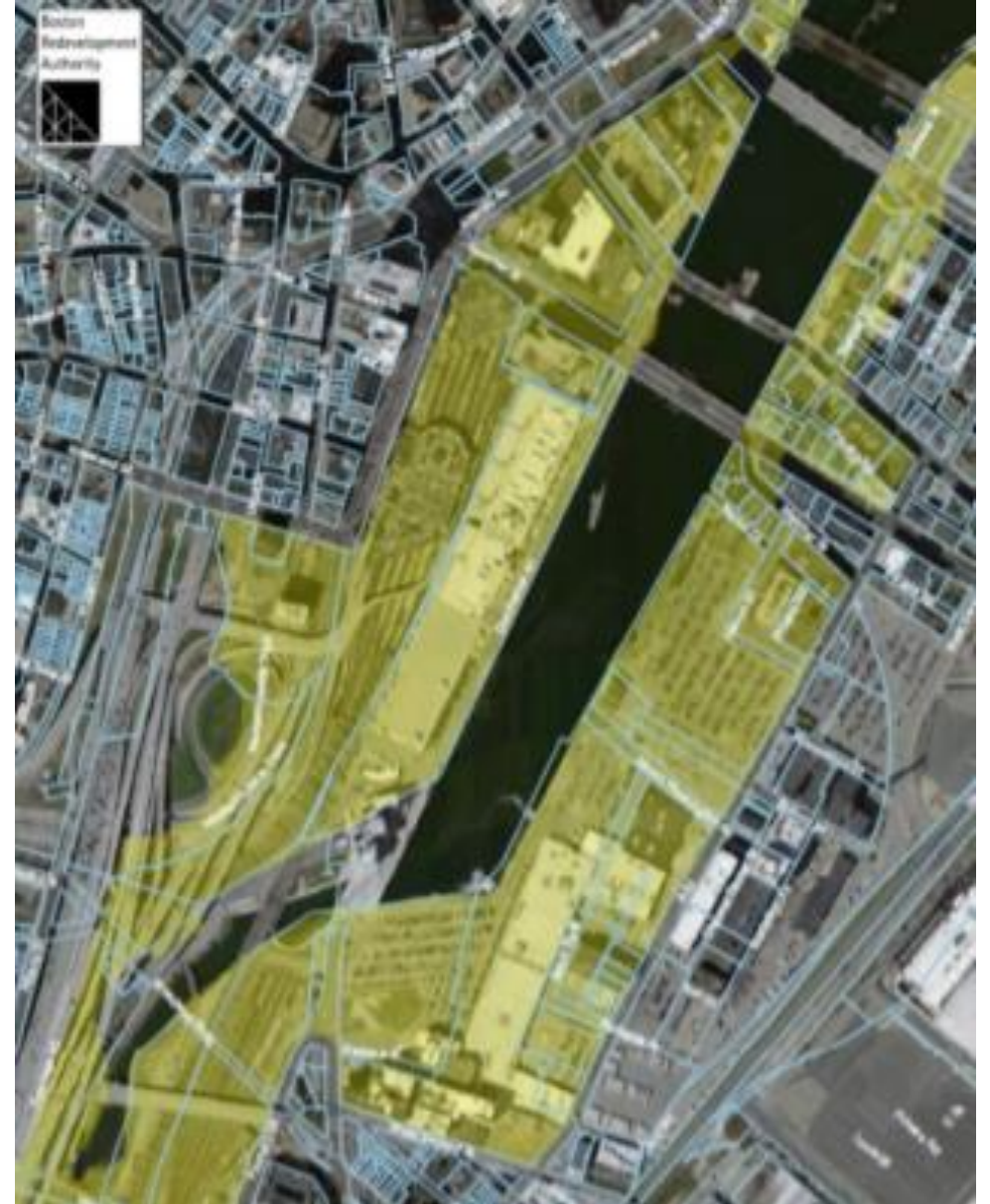
- Free access: To and along the water
- Reserved Water Dependent Use Zone
- 50% Open Space

Nonwater Dependent Projects on Commonwealth Tidelands (yellow):

- Facilities of Public Accommodation
- Open Space
 - Publicly Accessible
 - Pedestrian Orientated
- Promote Water Dependent Uses
 - Examples: Boating, Toy Boating, Fishing, Recreation, Interactive Public Art, Performances, etc.








Extended Term Licenses:

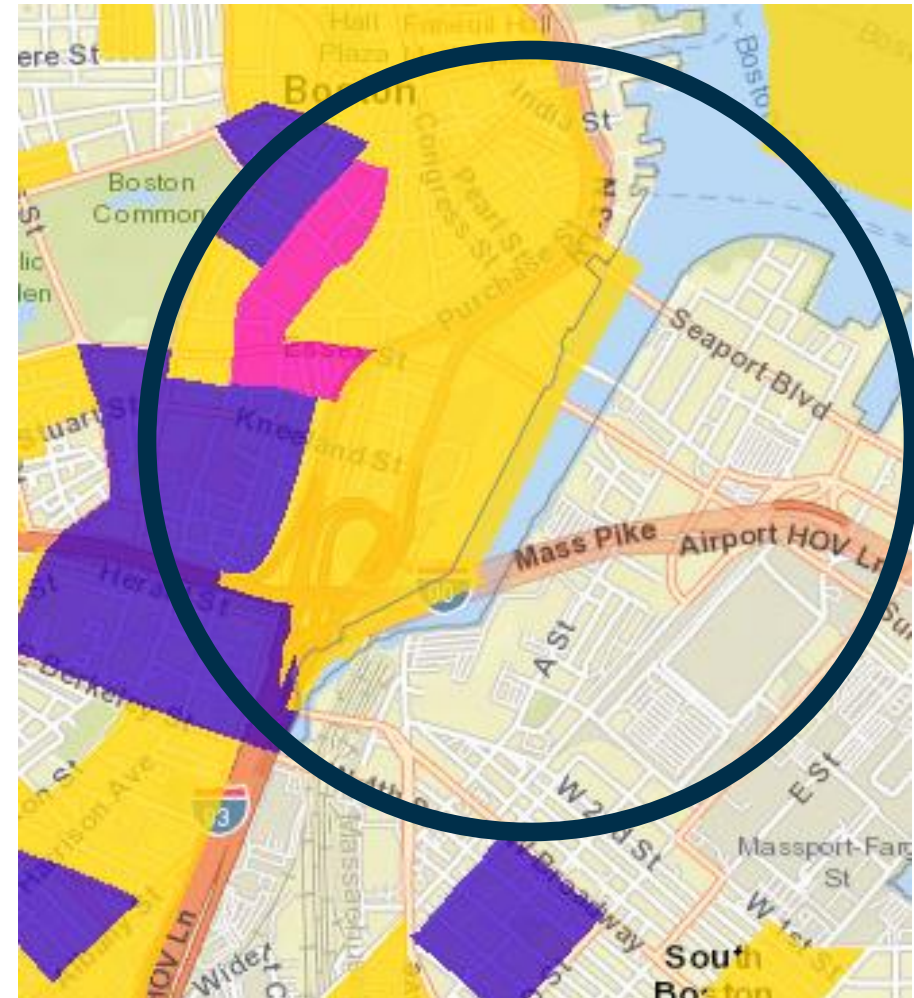
- Benefits for the life of the license
- Benefits commensurate with the long-term use of Commonwealth Tidelands



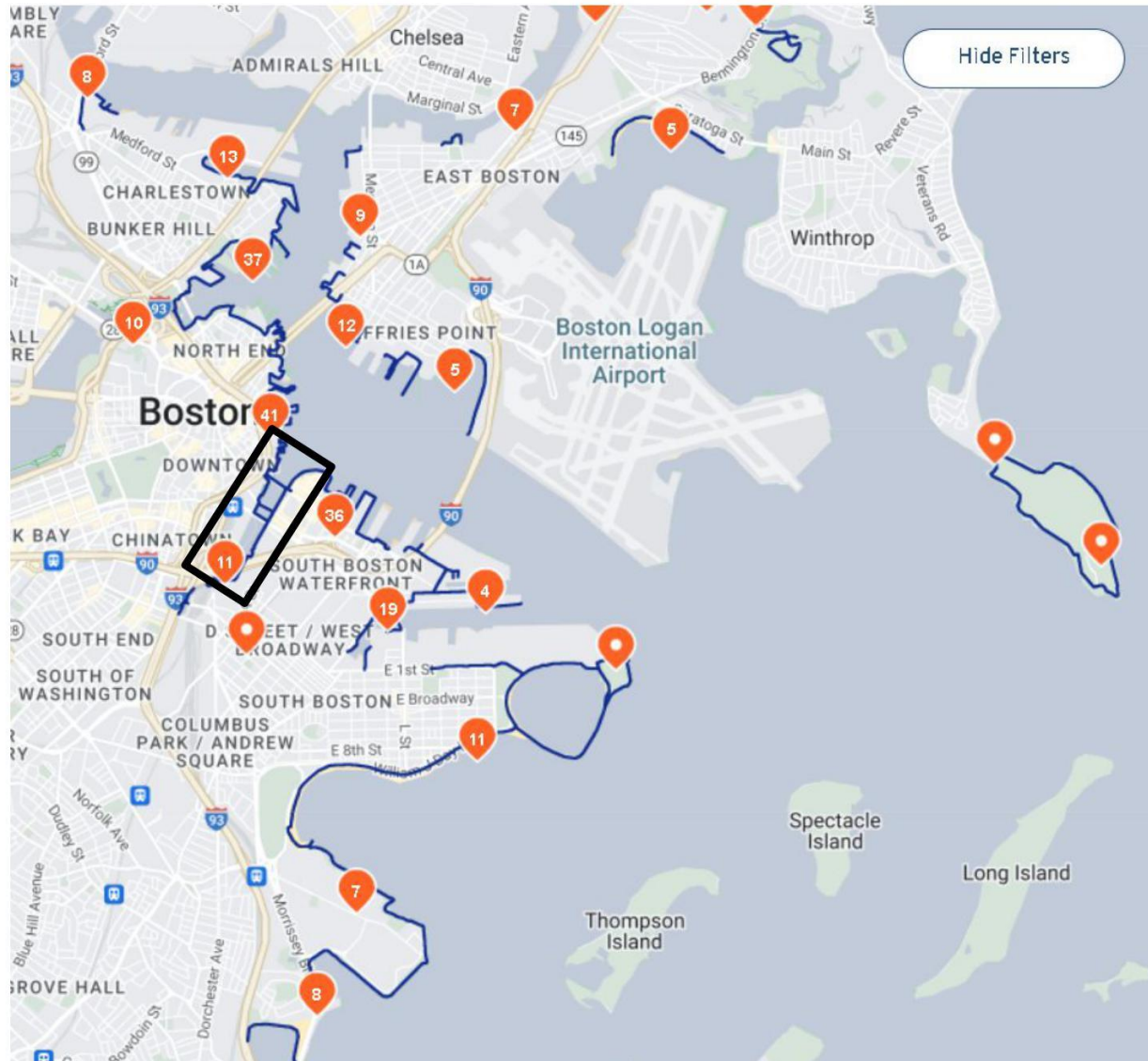
There are 7 communities within 3/4 of a mile of the Channel that meet the State's definition of an Environmental Justice Population neighborhoods.

✓ MA 2020 Environmental Justice Blockgroups

- 
 Minority: the block group minority population is $\geq 40\%$, or the block group minority population is $\geq 25\%$ and the median household income of the municipality the block group is in is $< 150\%$ of the Massachusetts median household income
- 
 Income: at least 25% of households have a median household income 65% or less than the state median household income
- 
 Language isolation: 25% or more of households do not include anyone older than 14 who speaks English very well
- 
 Minority and income
- 
 Minority and English isolation
- 
 Income and English isolation
- 
 Minority, income and English isolation



Harborwalk & The Fort Point Channel



Amenities

- Restroom
- Lobby
- Wifi
- Museum / Exhibit
- Harborwalk Access
- Water Taxi
- Ferry
- Dock Access
- Fish Pier
- Kayak Launch
- Plaza
- Lawn
- Eatery
- BBQ Area
- Rooftop Access
- Mutt Mitt
- Seating
- Drinking Fountain
- Bike Rack
- Playgrounds
- Beach
- Observation Deck

Additional

Requirements

- Watersheet Coverage

Neighborhoods

- Downtown Waterfront
- North End
- Charlestown
- East Boston
- South Boston
- South Boston Waterfront
- Dorchester
- Fort Point Channel



Harborwalk 2.0

COASTAL RESILIENCE

A resilient Harborwalk includes a variety of climate adaptation strategies to protect and serve Boston at a district scale.

ACCESS

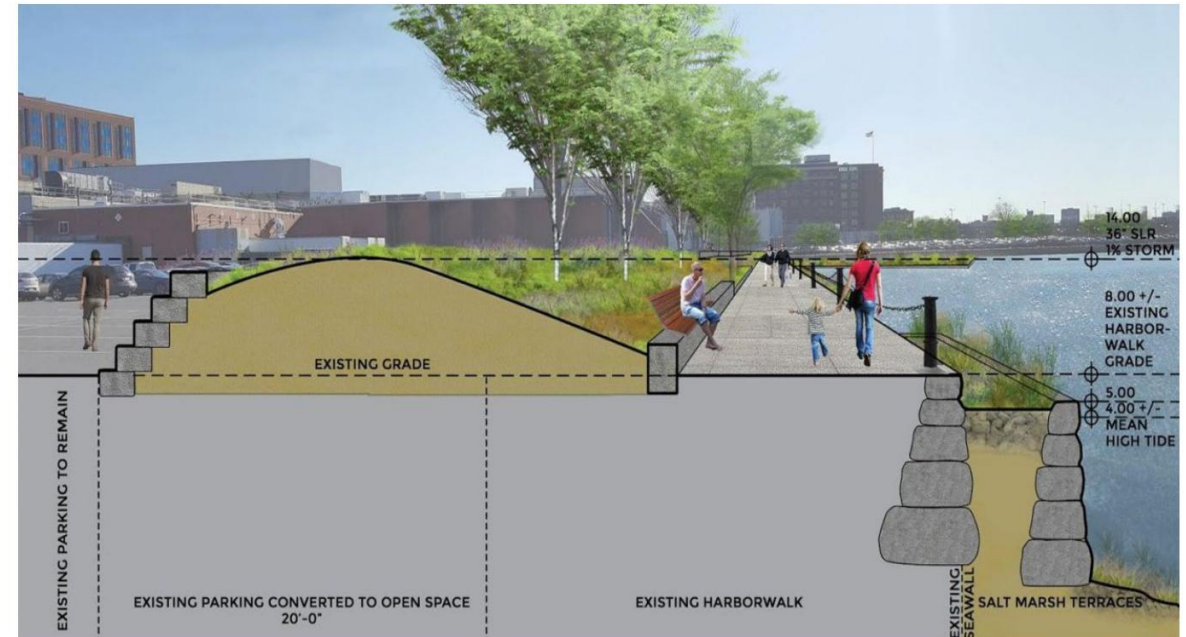
An accessible Harborwalk has both linear and lateral connections, as well as numerous activation strategies to serve all Bostonians.

EQUITY

An equitable Harborwalk is one where all Bostonians feel welcome, complete with a variety of programming and activation strategies and women and BIPOC-owned businesses.



Trustees of Reservations/MVVA



Boston Planning and Development Agency

Elements of the 100 Acres Open Space Concept Plan



Waterfront Amphitheater
Standing at the top of the amphitheater looking north along the Channel



Waterfront Plaza
Walking beside the interactive fountain, looking towards the public art piece and the Channel beyond.

As the waterfront evolves, the needs and interests of residents from all neighborhoods need to be actively considered and implemented.

Respond to resident-identified barriers using resident-identified solutions.

Information collected by TACC from 468 Roxbury and Dorchester residents in focus groups (71), through surveys (184), and at data walks (213) between January 2018 and June 2019.

Resident-Identified Barriers and Resident-Identified Solutions to Accessing Boston's Waterfront

Familiarity

Unaware of programs

- Bring waterfront resources/programs into the neighborhoods
- Advertising/cross-promotion/outreach in neighborhoods/to new networks
- Giveaways that share additional information on free programs/listserves
- Block party toolkit (for residents to advocate for the waterfront)

Don't know the area

- Know before you go information sheets
- Pre-visit videos
- Clearly defined meeting place for travel and check-in
- Group trips with staff
- Maps that show the relationship between the waterfront and neighborhoods
- Provide street address for program locations

Language exclusion

- Multilingual materials including advertising
- Multilingual staff
- Translation/interpretation
- Multilingual signage at program

Unaware of public amenities and rights to the waterfront

- Walking tours of area (self-guided and/or guided)
- Maps showing location of public restrooms/other amenities
- Handouts/conversations/booths to share information about rights to the waterfront (Chapter 91, Facilities of Public Accommodation),
- Promote Harborwalk and amenities search tool (bostonharborwalk.org)

Need for multi-generational programming/activities

- Family programs
- Multiple activities that meet the needs/interests of different age groups at the same program
- Combine on-land and on-the-water activities
- Community events on the waterfront
- Cultural events on the waterfront

Affordability

Utilization of free and reduced cost programs

- Promote EBT Card to Culture/BPL Museum Passes
- Free tickets to museums/activities
- Add participants to waterfront listserves

Food

- Free food
- Reduced cost food (vouchers)
- Share location of grills/picnic areas

Transportation

- Free private shuttle to select programs
- MBTA passes
- Partner (nonprofit/corporate) for private bus service
- BlueBike passes/group ride to waterfront with leader

Retail

- Affordable retail options
- Bring neighborhood businesses to the waterfront

Transportation

Don't know how to get to the waterfront

- Detailed directions from neighborhoods to waterfront
- Contact person for questions/planning

Distance from home/travel time

- Private shuttle for select programs
- Location of programs (locate near transit lines for target audience)

Parking

- Reduced cost parking passes
- Programming on Sundays (parking free)

Unwelcoming

Prior experiences with discrimination/racism

- New experiences
- Conversations about race/ethnicity and the waterfront
- Transparency

Lack of diversity

- Group trips
- Intentional outreach to communities of color

Public spaces feel exclusive

- Information booths/touchpoints
- Resident waterfront ambassadors/guides
- Share an inclusive history of the waterfront and people over time
- Acknowledge how space is demarcated for others

Lack of amenities for longer length of stay

- Add or highlight location of grills in public spaces
- Shade
- Water bottle fill-up
- Public restrooms with changing stations

Personal Reasons

Fear of the water

- Combine on-land and on-the-water activities

Unable to swim

- Publicize swimming lessons
- Share water safety resources

Too busy



Kayaking Days in Fort Point

Respond to:

- Resident-identified barriers using resident-identified solutions
- Needs/interests of multi-generational family/friends groups from Roxbury and Dorchester

Provide:

- Activities for different age groups at the same time
- On-the-water and on-land activities
- Transportation
- Food

Raise awareness of rights to the waterfront and free waterfront programs

Bring waterfront resources into neighborhoods

Create Feedback Loops

- Gathered feedback from kayaking day participants (surveys, focus groups, virtual family night)
- Learned about amenities to support longer lengths of stay at destination parks/activities (e.g. affordable food options, grills, shade, water bottle fill-up, inexpensive/unique shops)
- Ideas shared are included in 100 Acres Open Space Concept Plan
- Support Waterfront Ambassadors (open up ways for more people to be involved in planning, running, evaluating watershed activation programs)

Operationalize Equity

- Fort Point critical area for equity in City of Boston (mix of uses/recreation, culture, and employment; transportation/relative ease of access)
- Shared, standardized procedures for program planning (to ensure barriers are addressed)
- Collect performance-level data (essential to ongoing improvement and sustained focus on equity)
- Consider ambitious strategies that expand beyond watershed activation grants

A Plan that Benefits All Of Boston

40,200 people

(in 5,140 buildings) exposed to flooding in Seaport and South Boston by 2070 if no action is taken

5 neighborhoods

(Seaport, South Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester and South End) are currently affected by flood pathways from Fort Point Channel

355 feet

Protection along the Fort Point Channel offered by the Museum

2013 1% annual flood Risk
2030 1% annual flood Risk
2070 1% annual flood Risk
Boston Children's Museum
Children's Wharf Protection
Potential Flood Protection Line

Source: Climate Ready Boston — CBS South Boston

Ensuring synergistic robust and resilient linkage along Fort Point Channel that maximizes collective benefits for all concerned



**BOSTON
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM**

A waterfront landscape that is a
Welcoming + Inclusive
front yard every day...



Maximizing durable
nature based/green
infrastructure solutions
that can adapt to
increased risk over time

Integrating
climate/resiliency
infrastructure with public
spaces that mitigate
climate effects AND
maximize community
connection and
recreation at the water's
edge and on watersheet

Climate change

is the most critical issue facing our world, our families, and our young people today. For younger children (ages 6-10) climate change is a familiar term, but less clear is how they might take an active role in both understanding this issue and making positive change. The Museum will explore and test resources that can positively impact children's ability to understand climate change and empower them to take action.



The lower water steps provide a platform for discovery and performance at the water's edge.

Engaging the next generations of climate activists and waterfront stewards



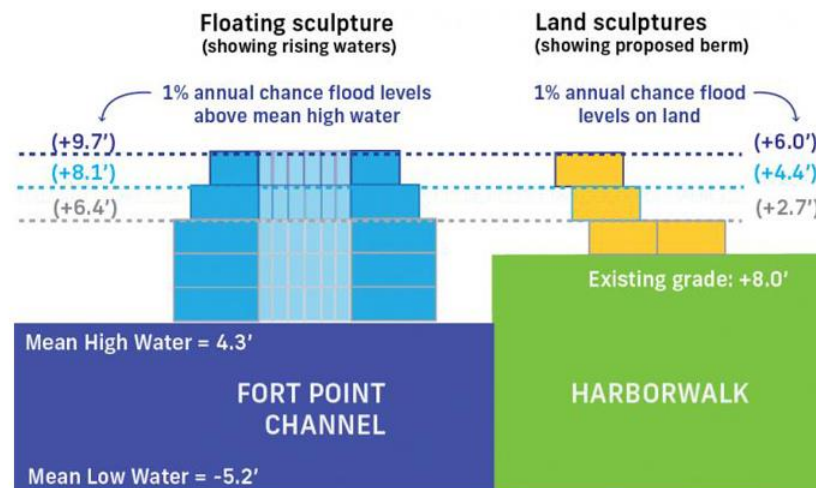
“presence at the water’s edge”

**Assemblage Art Space at the Envoy
The Gallery at Atlantic Wharf
5 Necco opening soon**





Floating Art: Raising Social Consciousness





Challenges:

Accessibility
Sustainability
Use of
Fringe Space





Friends of Fort Point Channel is a place-based non-profit organization committed to making the Fort Point Channel an exciting and welcoming destination for all of Boston's residents, workforce and visitors.

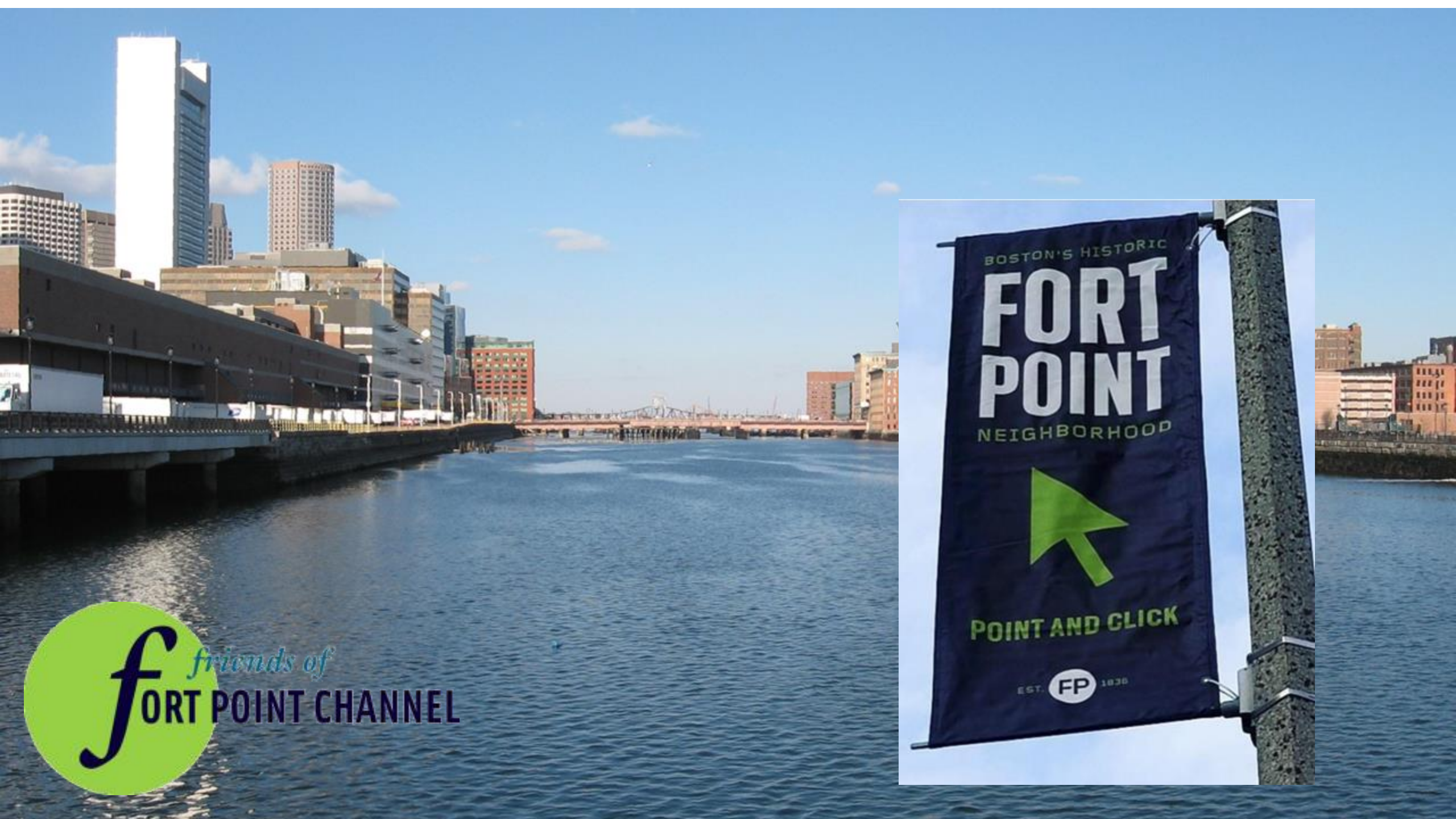
The Friend's was established in 2004 as a result of the City of Boston BPDA's award winning 2002 Fort Point Channel Watersheet Activation Plan.





Created in partnership with Channel landowners, non-profits, cultural leaders, and residents as a dynamic vision of recreation, cultural activity and diverse year-round programming around the waterway and its' community source





Making the Fort Point Channel's Watersheet a “Water Commons” in the Heart of the City



SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

Chris Mancini

Executive Director, Save the Harbor/Save the Bay
Co-Chair, Fort Point Channel Working Group

Equity, Inclusion and Diversity.



We believe that it will take **inclusive planning and governance, significant capital investments and diverse programing** to make the Fort Point Channel welcoming to people from every neighborhood in the city, including people of color, those who do not primarily speak English in their homes, and people with disabilities.

- Planning and governance should involve people from every neighborhood
- Events and programs should feature artists and creatives from every neighborhood as well.

Four Seasons of Free Programs



We encourage investment in **permanent structures that support four seasons of free programs** that include:

- Active and passive uses like walking, biking, recreational fishing and boating
- Kayak, dory and paddleboat rentals
- Art and Performance on the Channel
- Movie nights from the sea and shore
- Free STEAM programs for kids and families
- A signature citywide art and music festival

Four Seasons of Programs

Fire & Ice Festivals on the Fort Point Channel



Providence Rhode Island



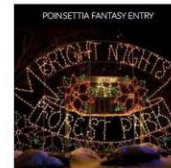
Dartmouth Nova Scotia



Chicago Illinois



Bright Nights, Springfield Massachusetts



Bright Nights, Springfield Massachusetts

Art on the Channel can
turn STEM into STEAM.



We support both small and large
free events and programs that
feature innovative partnerships
between creatives and
environmental educators, putting
both our natural and human
resources to work for the city.

[illegible]

SAVE THE HARBOR

SAVE THE BAY

Creating “Touch the Water Moments”



We need to be certain that water quality in the Fort Point Channel will support the activating uses we hope to see and ensure that programming and planned uses are appropriate as well.

In 2022, Save the Harbor will release a baseline water quality report card, and develop ways to inform the public about water quality in the Channel.



Working together, we can make the Fort Point Channel a new “Water Commons” that brings us together to work, play, learn and celebrate.

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Which of the following would you like to see on the Fort Point Channel.

(Choose as many as you want!)

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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What else would you like to see on the Fort Point Channel?

ⓘ Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

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