

**CITY OF REVERE
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN**

2010 - 2017



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This plan was prepared for the City of Revere by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). It was funded under a grant provided by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

City of Revere

Thomas G. Ambrosino	Mayor
Paul Argenzio	Department of Public Works
Andy DeSantis	Chairman, Conservation Commission
Adrienne Sacco-Maguire	Recreation Director
Frank Stringi	Community Development Director
Cindy Tatelman	Commission on Disabilities

MAPC Officers

President:	Jay Ash
Vice President:	Michelle Ciccolo
Secretary:	Marilyn Contreas
Treasurer:	Grace S. Shepard

MAPC

Executive Director:	Marc D. Draisen
Project Manager:	Joan Blaustein
Mapping:	Susan Brunton

November 10, 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section I	Plan Summary	1
Section II	Introduction	3
Section III	Community Setting	7
Section IV	Environmental Inventory and Analysis	29
Section V	Inventory of Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest	39
Section VI	Community Vision	57
Section VII	Analysis of Needs	59
Section VIII	Goals and Objectives	67
Section IX	Seven-Year Action Plan	69
Section X	Implementation	81
Section XI	Public Comments	85
Section XII	References	87
Appendix A	Public Meeting Flyers	
Appendix B	Comments from the March 18, 2010 Public Meeting	
Appendix C	Section 504 Self-Evaluation	
Appendix D	Maps	
	1 Regional Context	
	2 Environmental Justice Populations	
	3 Census Tract	
	4 Zoning	
	5 Soils and Geologic Features	
	6 Unique Features	
	7 Water Resources	
	8 Open Space and Recreation Inventory	
	9 Seven Year Action Plan	

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Title	Page
1	Meetings	4
2	Total Population	12
3	Age Distribution: 2000 and 20006-2008	13
4	Household Characteristics	14
5	Environmental Justice Demographics	15
6	Language Spoken at Home	15
7	Population Density	16
8	Population Projections for Current Trends and <i>MetroFuture</i>	17
9	Population Projections by Age Group: 2010-2030	18
10	Percent of Total Employment by Industry	19
11	2008 Average Employment and Wages by Industry	19
12	Major Employers in Revere	21
13	Housing Units: 2006-2008	21
14	Housing Tenure	22
15	Age of the Housing Stock	22
16	Zoning Districts	25
17	Current Subdivision Activity 2009-2010	26
18	New Residential Dwelling Units 2004-2008	27
19	Buildout Impacts	28
20	Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species	34
21	Chapter 91 Licenses	42
22	Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities	45
23	Accomplishments from the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan	69
24	Seven-Year Action Plan	73

SECTION I – PLAN SUMMARY

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the 2010-2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide the City of Revere with a blueprint for ensuring that current and future residents of the city have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space despite financial constraints, dense development and changing demographics.

COMMUNITY GOALS

The City of Revere has developed six goals on which the open space and recreation plan is 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.

Goal #6: Ensure that the plan takes into account environmental justice and equity.

[This page intentionally left blank]

SECTION II- INTRODUCTION

A. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the 2010-2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan is to provide the City of Revere with a blueprint for ensuring that current and future residents of the city have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space despite financial constraints, dense development and changing demographics. Because of these challenges, the plan is based on a careful analysis of the City's remaining open land as well as redevelopment opportunities and also considers open space and recreation from the perspective of environmental justice and equity. This reflects a new policy direction of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The plan approaches open space and recreation from two equally important perspectives. The first perspective is that of the needs of families for active recreation for their children and themselves. The second perspective is the historical and ecological significance of Revere as home to the first public beach in the United States as well as home to significant coastal resources. The plan is comprehensive in its approach and tries to balance the needs of the community against the fiscal reality of limited funds. The Metropolitan Area Planning Council prepared the plan under the direction of the Community Development Department.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

Since 2002, EOEEA has been implementing an Environmental Justice Policy to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. This policy was instituted recognizing that communities across the Commonwealth, particularly those densely populated urban neighborhoods in and around the state's older industrial areas, are facing many environmental challenges associated with Massachusetts' industrial legacy. Residents in these predominantly low-income and minority communities – nearly 29% of the state population – lack open space and recreational resources and often live side-by-side numerous existing large and small sources of pollution and old abandoned, contaminated sites, which can pose risks to public health and the environment.

Critical to advancing environmental justice (EJ) in the Commonwealth is the equitable distribution of environmental assets such as parks, open space, and recreation. Toward this end, and where applicable, municipalities shall identify and prioritize open space sites in their Open Space and Recreation Plans that are socially, recreationally, and ecologically important to EJ populations within the community.

C. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MAPC prepared this plan under the direction of the Revere Community Development Department. The project was funded by a state grant to the City of Revere from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. MAPC held a series of meetings with various city departments as well as local community organizations. These meetings are listed in Table 1 below.

MAPC worked with the City to develop a scope of work that met the state guidelines and was responsive to the city's needs. During this phase, MAPC and the city decided not to conduct a formal city-wide survey. This decision was based on balancing the cost of developing and distributing a survey against the usual rate of return. The City felt that consultation with the relevant city departments, boards and local organizations as well as input received during public meetings would provide sufficient input into local needs.

Table 1 Meetings	
Person/Organization	Date
Frank Stringi, Community Development Director	Sept. 3, 2009
Cindy Tatelman, Commission on Disabilities	October 5, 2009
Paul Argenzio, Department of Public Works	October 19, 2009
Adrienne Sacco-Maguire, Recreation Director	October 19, 2009
Kitty Bowman, Revere Cares	October 19, 2009
Sylvia Chiang, Revere Cares	October 19, 2009
Frank Stringi, Community Development Director	November 5, 2009
Revere Cares Food and Fitness Task Force	November 5, 2009
Kathleen McCabe, McCabe Enterprises	February 5, 2010
Andy DeSantis, Conservation Commission	February 25, 2010
Frank Stringi, Community Development Director	February 25, 2010

Enhanced Outreach and Public Participation

The state considers a community to be an environmental justice community if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 25% of the households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or 25% or more of the residents are minority; or 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency. This is based on the 2000 Census block data. Revere meets all four of the criteria. Environmental justice is addressed throughout the plan.

The public meeting for input to the plan was held at the Revere Police Station community room on March 18, 2010. The meeting was publicized with a notice in the local newspaper, posted in City Hall and on the city's web page. In consultation with the Mayor and the Community Development Director, an environmental justice outreach strategy was developed. A flyer announcing the meeting was developed and was translated into Spanish, Arabic, French (for the Haitian population) and Khymer for the Cambodian population. The Spanish version of the flyer was distributed at the Immaculate Conception Church at 133 Beach Street which has several Spanish Masses weekly. The flyers were also posted in local businesses. A copy of these flyers can be found in Appendix A.

The plan was presented to the Revere City Council on June 7, 2010. The City Council voted to adopt the 2010-2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

[This page intentionally left blank]

SECTION III- COMMUNITY SETTING

A. REGIONAL CONTEXT

1. Overview of Regional Context – The City of Revere is situated in eastern Massachusetts (Suffolk County) and is bordered by Winthrop, East Boston and Chelsea to the south, Everett and Malden to the west, Saugus and Lynn to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the east. It is located approximately 5 miles from downtown Boston and covers 10 square miles. Of its entire area, 4.1 miles are open water and wetlands and not suitable for development. Of the 5.9 miles of developed land, 70% is used for housing. Revere is located partially within the Saugus River Watershed and partially within the Mystic River Watershed. Figure 1 shows Revere within the context of the Boston Metropolitan area.

For its size Revere is a more complex community than most, due to its proximity to Boston and Logan Airport, its multi-cultural and diverse socio-economic population, its older residential neighborhoods and housing stock and the numerous specialized regionalized facilities within its borders. Revere is home to Revere Beach, the first public beach in the United States, which celebrated its centennial in 1996. Revere is also host to Suffolk Downs Race Track (horses), Wonderland Greyhound Park, and the largest Cinema complex in New England. Three MBTA public transportation stations, including the northern terminus of the Blue Line are also located in Revere. A fourth sits just over the border in East Boston. Additionally, Revere hosts a multitude of MBTA bus routes, transporting residents to and from various points within the city as well as surrounding cities and towns and downtown Boston.

Revere's regional context for recreation and conservation is as varied and problematical as that within the city itself. Each of the seven neighboring communities, and other communities beyond those meets at least some of its own recreational needs by making use of the regional facilities located in Revere.

Because of the existing roadway system, Revere is subject to extensive traffic each day. It serves as the "gateway" to Massachusetts' north shore and as a conduit to downtown Boston, creating disproportionately heavy traffic and congested local streets.

Revere is primarily a blue collar, working class community, comprised of several distinctly unique neighborhoods drawn together by common bonds. Most of Revere is occupied by well maintained single-family dwellings, primarily ranch and cape style homes. Two and three family homes make up the next largest group of available houses. The school department serves almost 6,000 students from preschool through 12th grade in seven locations.

Approximately 1500 businesses, primarily retail and services, are located in Revere. They employ more than 8,000 people.

2. Regional Planning Context

MAPC – Revere is one of 101 municipalities that are served by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council ([MAPC](#)). Created by an act of the Legislature in 1963, MAPC serves as a forum for state and local officials to address issues of regional importance. Council membership consists of community representatives, gubernatorial appointees and city and state agencies that collaborate in the development of comprehensive plans and recommendations in areas of population and employment, transportation, economic development, regional growth and the environment. The Council's professional planners, GIS specialists, demographers and others also provide technical assistance to its member communities.

The Inner Core Committee – Revere is also a member of the Inner Core Committee (ICC), one of eight subregions within the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. The Inner Core Committee is a group of twenty municipalities (Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown and Winthrop) that meet regularly to discuss issues of common interest. The ICC is an excellent forum for discussing regional open space issues and opportunities. Regional open space was discussed at a meeting of the ICC on April 7, 2010.

MetroFuture – *MetroFuture* is the official regional plan for Greater Boston, adopted consistent with the requirements of MGL. The plan includes goals and objectives as well as thirteen detailed implementation strategies for accomplishing these goals. The plan's relevant goals include the protection of 139,000 acres of developable land identified as a high priority by the State Land Conservation Plan. The plan also envisions at least 1,800 acres of new urban parks and community gardens. The implementation strategies can be viewed by visiting the web site at <http://www.metrofuture.org/>.

3. Regional Open Space Resources – There are a number of significant regional open space resources in and around Revere.

Revere Beach Reservation - Revere Beach is owned by DCR and is the oldest public beach in America. It celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1996. Today, this beach boasts miles of shoreline which welcomes throngs of visitors every summer. Along the boulevard there is a bandstand for summer concerts, a bathhouse and many shade shelters. Revere Beach is very accessible by public transportation which makes it a popular spot for people from all around metro Boston.

Belle Isle Marsh – 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. Belle Isle Marsh is included within the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern. 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 farm land. Its protected waters are nurseries to fish and shellfish and are critical habitat to many

saltmarsh plants and wildlife rare to the metropolitan area. In addition to the preservation of the natural areas of the marsh, the DCR manages 28 acres of landscaped park with pathways, benches and an observation tower.

Rumney Marsh – Rumney Marsh, is a 600+ acre reservation located within the rich 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”. An ACEC is a state-designated critical resource area. The objectives of the ACEC program are: to identify and designate critical resource areas, to ensure that actions by state agencies protect and enhance the resources; and to support local and regional actions for the long-term stewardship of ACECs. The state’s definition of an ACEC is “an area containing concentrations of highly significant environmental resources that has been formally designated by the Commonwealth’s Secretary of Environmental Affairs”. ACECs may be nominated by citizens groups, municipal officials, regional or state agencies or by a legislator. The Rumney Marshes ACEC also includes the Belle Isle Marsh although the two marshes are not contiguous.

4. Regional Open Space Initiatives

Chelsea Creek Vision Plan – The Chelsea Creek Action Group, a local nonprofit advocacy organization, prepared a Chelsea Creek Community Vision Plan in 2002. The plan was never adopted by any of the communities but it presented a vision for Chelsea Creek that included a continuous network of public access along the entire water’s edge including twelve parks that would create 7.5 miles of linear access along the creek. The plan also recommended the creation of a 1.5 mile interpretive greenway connector along the former Conrail/CSX freight line in East Boston and Revere that would extend from the East Boston Greenway to the south and to the Mill Creek open space area being developed to the northwest.

Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study – This study was prepared for the Cities of Chelsea and Revere by a team of consultants in 2005. The purpose of the study was to examine the development potential of key areas along Chelsea Creek and Mill Creek. The study looked at three areas in Revere: Slade’s Mill, Railroad Street and the Route 1A corridor. The study acknowledged that a large portion of the study area was within a Designated Port Area (DPA) which involves opportunities and constraints to development.

The Slade’s Mill area is at the head of Chelsea Creek and offers a prime focus for future improvements aimed at enhancing the public’s access to and use of the Chelsea Creek/Mill Creek waterfront. The report suggested that connections from the Slade’s Mill area to the DCR lands and skating rink through to the Parkway Plaza area and to the Forbes and Railroad Street areas could help to establish a real system of waterfront open spaces along Chelsea Creek. The report further recommends that the work of the Chelsea Creek Restoration Project to restore Mill Creek’s endangered salt marsh be continued.

The Chelsea Creek Waterfront Plan – This report was done in 2007 for the Cities of Chelsea and Revere and was a second phase of the waterfront study described above. One of the stated goals of the plan was to suggest public access linkages that do not pose conflicts with water-dependent uses. This plan acknowledges that open space and public access are limited and includes the Cronin Rink and a waterfront walkway at Slades Mill which is a bed and breakfast facility. The other two areas involve DPA issues and were not identified for open space development.

Northern Strand Community Trail – The Northern Strand Community Trail is a proposed multi-use path that will extend through Everett, Malden, Revere, Saugus, and Lynn along the old MBTA Saugus Branch rail bed. The trail concept was developed by Bike to the Sea, Inc. (B2C), a charitable, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that promotes bicycling and bicycle safety in the Malden area. A portion of the path runs through North Revere past the Revere Cinemas, Harmon Park and the Overlook Ridge Stormwater Management Area with beautiful views of Rumney Marsh. The state did a study that concluded that construction of the trail was feasible. Bike to the Sea, Inc. has received a \$39,000 grant from the Recreational Trails Program to construct 1,500 feet of stone dust path along the Northern Strand Community Trail in Malden and Everett between the Medford Street in Malden and Madeline English School in Everett. There is no timetable for construction of the path in Revere.

A. HISTORY OF THE COMMUNITY

Revere's first inhabitants were Native Americans who belonged to the Pawtucket Tribe and were known as the Rumney Marsh Indians. Rumney Marsh (later to be called Revere) was first discovered by white men when Captain John Smith explored the coast of New England in 1614. On September 25, 1634, Rumney Marsh was annexed to Boston but in 1739 Rumney Marsh became part of Chelsea. In 1871 the name Revere was first established. The use of Revere Beach as a pleasure resort began in 1834 when the first small tavern was built in the Point of Pines for the enjoyment of sportsmen.

The completion of the Eastern Railroad in 1838 (later to become the Boston & Maine) and the Boston, Revere Beach and Lynn railroad (the Narrow Gauge) in 1875 signaled the beginning of rapid population growth for the town and the development of the Beach as a summer resort because of the increased accessibility they provided. Revere became known as a summer resort.

By 1881, a company of prominent Massachusetts men formed a company and purchased 200 acres of land in the Point of Pines. They invested \$500,000 in a complete summer resort, hotels, bandstand, racetrack, amusements, piers and bathhouses. They provided gaslight illumination through beautiful arches above the walks and driveways, using gas jets and special globes. Over 2,000 people were present at opening ceremonies for the Pines Hotel, considered the largest on the Atlantic Coast.

By 1885, the town had increased to 3,637 people, more than tripling in size over 15 years. By 1890 the population grew to 5,668. From the time of Revere's incorporation as a City in 1915 until the 1970s, Revere's growth continued. The most rapid period of growth and residential development

occurred after World War II. By 1960, much of the farmland remained undeveloped. It was in this area of the city that most of the development (primarily residential) took place between 1960 and 1980. The land is now completely built up and fully developed.

The Great Ocean Pier was constructed in 1881 along with the opening of the Pines Hotel. By this time, the beach had become a lively and heavily used resort area, but because of the closeness of the railroad tracks to the water at high tide and the number of beach structures, it was not safe.

The beach was taken over by the Metropolitan Park Commission (later the Metropolitan District Commission and now the Department of Conservation and Recreation) in 1896.

In 1906, Revere's greatest attraction ever, Wonderland Park, opened. It was situated approximately where the Wonderland Dog Track is today, not far from the beach. It was literally a fantasyland with Disney like amusements and events. It lasted only five years, but its impact is still felt today, in name and in the area.

From its inception, Revere Beach was "the people's beach" used mostly by the working class and the many immigrants who chose to settle in the area. This tradition continues today as new immigrants and ethnic groups move to the area.

The beach began to deteriorate in the 1950s and by the early 1970s had become a strip of honky tonk bars and abandoned buildings. The "Great Blizzard of 1978" proved to be the final death knell for the "old" Revere Beach, as many of the remaining businesses, amusements, pavilions and sidewalks and much of the sea wall were all destroyed. The beach was the focus of a major revitalization effort by the MDC and the City in the 1980s and was officially reopened in May 1992. It now boasts high rise housing units, a resanded beach, restored pavilions and a renovated boulevard.

The high water mark in the restoration of Revere Beach occurred with the highly successful Centennial Celebration of the nation's oldest public beach during the summer of 1996. Aggressive and pro-active management of the Beach must continue to build upon the momentum already achieved. A new hotel is scheduled for construction, and the City is about to embark on a large scale marketing effort to develop various sites.

The Beach deteriorated and access to it became increasingly difficult because of heavy traffic. Playgrounds and play fields were built but no large park areas existed where both active and passive recreation could take place. The City found it difficult to begin to make large commitments of its funds to recreation when it had not done so in the past.

It is also important to note that development took place first in the central core section of the city and then along the beach. Development north and west of what became Broadway came much later in the city's history. This is reflected in the concentration of public buildings and the age of the residential housing stock in the middle and eastern portions of the city. As noted earlier, Revere is now completely developed except for a very few pockets of land and the area known as North Revere.

As the result of a professionally conducted study of the City's recreation and conservation needs in 1977, the City embarked upon a decade long effort to develop and upgrade its park and recreation system. During this time, an extensive system of parks was developed and improved using a variety of funding sources. Unfortunately, financial difficulties in the late 1980s, vandalism and normal wear and tear resulted in deterioration of most of these parks.

Since 1992, the City has invested in restoration and rehabilitation of its existing parks and building of new playgrounds. Several parks have been upgraded and three new parks have been built. Current plans call for a continued commitment to this progress.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Past and Present Population

The last plan was prepared in 2001 and used 1990 U.S. Census data because the 2000 data were not yet available. The results of the 2010 Census are unlikely to become available until late in 2010 or early 2011. The information below is based on the most recent American Community Surveys done by the Census Bureau.

Total population – The most recent population estimates show a population of 56,899. This represents an increase from the 2000 population of 47,283 people or approximately a 20% increase from 2000. Much of this increase is due to immigration.

Table 2	
Total Population	
Year	Population
1990	42,786
2000	47,283
2005-2007	55,942
2006-2008	56,899
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau.</i>	

Age Distribution – The median age in 2000 was 39.4 years. Twenty-three percent of the population was under 18 years and 15 percent was 65 years and older.

Table 3 Age Distribution: 2000 and 2006-2008				
Age Group	2000 Number	2000 Percentage	2006-2008 Number	2006-2008 Percentage
Under 5 years	2,741	5.8	4,011	7.0
5 to 9 years	2,759	5.8	3,763	6.6
10 to 14 years	2,897	6.1	3,519	6.2
15 to 19 years	2,643	5.4	2,683	4.7
20 to 24 years	2,736	5.8	2,404	4.2
25 to 34 years	7,818	16.5	7,380	13.0
35 to 44 years	7,612	16.1	10,400	18.3
45 to 54 years	5,871	12.4	7,813	13.7
55 to 59 years	2,364	5.0	2,887	5.1
60 to 64 years	2,072	4.4	3,385	5.9
65 to 74 years	3,948	8.3	4,438	7.8
75 to 84 years	2,911	6.2	2,694	4.7
85 years and over	1,011	2.1	1,522	2.7
Total	47,283	100.0	56,899	100.0
Source: U.S. Census				

Household composition – There were 20,219 households in Revere in 2006-2008. The average household size was 2.8 people. Families made up 62 percent of the households in Revere. Of these, 43% were married couple families and 19 percent were other families. Nonfamily households accounted for 38 percent of all households. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone.

Table 4		
Household Characteristics		
Household Type	Number – 2000	Number 2006-2008
Total households	19,463	20,219
Family households (families)	11,865	12,457
With own children under 18 years	4,956	5,742
Married-couple family	8,137	8,663
With own children under 18 years	3,260	3,748
Male householder, no wife present, family	NA	975
With own children under 18 years	NA	325
Female householder, no husband present, family	2,710	2,819
With own children under 18 years	1,357	1,669
Non-family households	7,598	7,762
Householder living alone	6,359	6,047
Householder 65 years and over	2,422	2,214
Households with individuals under 18 years	5,506	6,321
Households with individuals 65 years and older	5,766	5,760
Average household size	2.41	2.79
Average family size	3.09	3.58
Source: U.S. Census		

Income – According to the 2006-2008 American Community Survey prepared by the U.S. Census Bureau, the median family income was \$60,403. The average family size was 3.58. The median household income was \$49,492 and the per capita income was \$24,261. The survey also found that 9.1% of families had incomes below the poverty level.

Environmental Justice criteria – The state considers a community to be an environmental justice community if it meets one or more of the following criteria: 25% of the households earn 65% or less of the statewide household median income; or 25% or more of the residents are minority; or 25% or more of the residents are foreign-born; or 25% or more of the residents are lacking English language proficiency. This is based on the 2000 Census block data. Revere meets all four of the criteria. The census block groups that meet the environmental justice criteria are shown on Figure 2.

The environmental justice populations are concentrated in the southeastern portion of the city, east of Route 1A. The Shirley Avenue neighborhood has a significant concentration of residents who meet three of the criteria for environmental justice (minority, English proficiency and foreign-born). There is also a cluster of census block groups in central Revere which meet the criteria for income and one block group which meets three of the criteria.

Revere statistics – The city prepared a grant application in 2009 that was based on the 2005-2007 estimates available at that time. The population was estimated at 55,942. The estimates also indicated a rapid shift in the racial and ethnic make-up of the city. All categories of minorities have increase while the white population has decreased. Revere consistently has higher rates of some minority groups when compared to the state average, most notably Hispanics, who comprise 17.1% of the population in Revere, compared to 8.0% statewide. A high percentage of Revere’s minority population are newcomers to the United States; over 25% of Revere’s minority population are foreign born, compared to 14.2% statewide and 19.4% of Revere residents reported speaking English less than “very well”, more than double the statewide rate of 8.7%. The Census Bureau report for 2006-2008 further illustrates these trends. Twenty-nine percent of the residents of Revere were foreign-born. Among people at least five years old, 41 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of these, 40 percent spoke Spanish and 60 percent spoke another language. At least 57 percent reported that they did not speak English very well.

Table 5 Environmental Justice Demographics			
Race	2000 Census % of the Population	2005-2007 Estimates % of the Population	Percent Change
White	84.4	80.2	-4.2
Black/African American	2.9	5.3	+2.9
Asian	4.5	4.9	+.4
Hispanic or Latino	9.4	17.1	+7.7
Source: US Census Bureau			

Table 6 Language Spoken At Home		
Language	Number	Percent
Population 5 years and older	52,888	100
English only	31,256	59.1
Language other than English	21,632	40.9
Speak English less than “very well”	12,239	23.1
Spanish	8,701	16.5
Speak English less than “very well”	4,490	8.5
Other Indo-European languages	7,362	13.9
Speak English less than “very well”	3,980	7.5
Asian and Pacific Islander languages	2,605	4.9
Speak English less than “very well”	1,949	3.7
Other languages	2,964	5.6
Speak English less than “very well”	1,820	3.4
Source: US Census Bureau		

Population Density – There are eight census tracts in Revere. These are shown on Figure 3. Table 7 includes information on the area, population and density of each tract. Population densities vary from a low of 4,484 persons per square mile in North Revere to a high of 14,207 persons per square mile in the Beachmont neighborhood. The density in North Revere is relatively low because this Census tract includes the Seaplane Basin and a portion of Rumney Marsh. Census Tract 400 also has a lower population density because it includes the remainder of Rumney Marsh.

Table 7 Population Density			
Census Tract Number/Neighborhood¹	Tract Area (Square miles)	2000 Population	Persons per square mile
1701 West Revere (southern portion)	0.555	6789	12,232
1702 West Revere (northern portion)	0.377	4433	11,758
1703 North Revere	1.629	7306	4,484
1704 Revere Street/Rumney Marsh	0.926	4879	5,268
1705 Point of Pines/Revere Beach	0.869	6074	6989
1706 Downtown	0.494	4770	9,655
1707 Shirley Avenue	0.715	8315	11,629
1708 Beachmont	0.332	4717	14,207
Source: U.S. Census Bureau			

Projected Population

In May 2008, MAPC released *MetroFuture: Making a Greater Boston Region*, a new plan for growth and development in Metro Boston from now to 2030. In order to support the MetroFuture planning process, MAPC prepared two sets of population and employment projections: a “current trends” projection and a “MetroFuture” projection.

The **current trends** or baseline projection estimates the number of people and jobs likely to exist in each community if current patterns of growth and development continued to 2030. The **MetroFuture projection** estimates the number of people and jobs for each community if the recommendations contained in the MetroFuture plan are followed. Under MetroFuture, more growth is directed to areas that are already developed, such as town centers and urban areas. Table 8 shows the population projections for Revere both the current trends and the MetroFuture scenario. Revere is projected to grow under both scenarios. Under current trends growth from

¹ The neighborhood designation is not an official Census term but is included as a reference to help understand population density.

2010-2030 would be 2,185 people and under the MetroFuture scenario, growth would be 4,608 people.

Table 8 Population Projections for Current Trends and MetroFuture					
2010 Current Trends	2010 MetroFuture	2020 Current Trends	2020 MetroFuture	2030 Current Trends	2030 MetroFuture
48,870 ²	50,068	50,114	52,644	51,055	54,676
Source: MAPC Data Center					

Another important consideration is the growth or decline in certain age groups. Table 9 shows population projections by age groups for the period 2010-2030. It also shows the percentage increase or decrease in these same age groups for 2010-2020, the time period most congruent with the time frame of this plan. The projections show an aging population with the greatest percentage decreases in the 40-49 year old group and corresponding increases in the 65-74 year old group. These numbers should be revisited when the 2010 Census becomes available because they may not reflect the higher rates of immigration in Revere.

Recreational Needs by Age Group

Under the age of five, most recreation is done with parental supervision. This recreation tends to be close to home due to the difficulties of traveling with children. This age group also needs structured preschool programs that focus on teaching basic skills. For older children, adults seek places to take their children for walks. Adults with older children also seek out programs for their children that provide family recreational opportunities.

Adolescents are a difficult age group to serve because they do not like to participate in traditional programs that are structured or involve adult supervision. They prefer programs where they are more actively involved in determining the activities. Programs that work well for adolescents

² It is important to note that other sources more recent than the Metro Future projections show that Revere has already exceeded the 48,870 2010 figure. The 2006 – 2008 American Community Survey estimated population for Revere as 56,899 and the 2008 US Census Population Estimate for Revere is 60,204. Given that the results of the 2010 Census will become available within the next year all population projections used in this plan should be revisited when the final numbers become available.

include rock climbing, adventure programs, skateboarding, hiking, band concerts, cook outs, dances and sports.

The needs of elderly residents are divided between the younger, more active senior citizens and the frail elderly. The frail elderly generally require therapeutic recreational services. More active seniors tend to enjoy walking, golf, tennis and swimming.

The needs of residents with disabilities also vary. Some residents with disabilities can participate in regular recreational programs without any modifications while others may need some assistance. Depending on the degree of disability, there may also be a need for specific programs geared for that population. Physical barriers are a key factor and will need to be evaluated through the American Disabilities Act Section 504 process and eliminated in a systematic fashion. Programmatic changes may also be necessary, including training staff on how to work with disabled residents.

Table 9 Population Projections by Age Group: 2010-2030				
Age Range	2010	2020	2030	% Change 2010- 2020
00-04	3,244	3,353	3,505	3.37
05-09	2,859	2,784	2,923	-2.64
10-14	3,449	3,571	3,623	3.54
15-19	3,135	3,130	3,020	-0.17
20-24	2,896	2,763	2,609	-4.59
25-29	3,319	3,790	3,553	14.18
30-34	3,737	4,243	4,248	13.54
35-39	3,758	3,634	4,243	-3.29
40-44	3,636	3,143	3,435	-13.55
45-49	3,460	2,989	2,725	-13.62
50-54	3,258	3,218	2,778	-1.21
55-59	2,529	2,890	2,529	14.29
60-64	2,446	2,867	2,695	17.20
65-69	2,062	2,763	3,089	33.96
70-74	1,818	2,815	3,331	54.82
75-79	1,570	1,926	2,632	22.65
80-85	1,578	1,477	2,317	-6.41
85+	1,315	1,289	1,421	-1.95
	50,068	52,644	54,676	5.15
Source: MAPC Data Center. Note: These projections reflect the Metro Future scenario. These projections should be revised after the 2010 Census numbers become available.				

Economic data - Up-to-date economic data is difficult to find because the next U.S. census is not until 2010. The following information is from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey for 2006-2008.

Table 10 Percent of Total Employment by Industry	
Industry	Percent of Employment
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	0%
Construction	8%
Manufacturing	7%
Wholesale trade	5%
Retail trade	10%
Transportation, warehousing and utilities	7%
Information	2%
Finance, real estate, insurance	8%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative	10%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, food service	12%
Other services except public administration	7%
Public administration	4%
Source: U.S. Census Bureau	

Major employers are listed in Table 12. The Wonderland Dog Track was a major employer with upwards of 300 employees but this facility was shut down in December 2009 so it has been removed from the list.

Table 11 2008 Average Employment and Wages by Industry			
Industry	# of Establishments	Average Monthly Employment	Average Weekly Wage
Total, all industries	756	9,251	\$629
Goods-Producing Domain	120	990	\$763
Natural Resources and Mining	5	34	\$896
11- Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting	4	24	\$794
Construction	95	379	\$815
23-Construction	95	379	\$815
Manufacturing	20	577	\$721

Table 11
2008 Average Employment and Wages by Industry

Industry	# of Establishments	Average Monthly Employment	Average Weekly Wage
31-33 Manufacturing	20	577	\$721
DUR – Durable Goods Manufacturing	9	58	\$857
Service-Providing Domain	636	8,261	\$613
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	169	2,241	\$574
42- Wholesale Trade	22	158	\$866
44-45 Retail Trade	106	1,607	\$440
48-49 Transportation and warehousing	41	476	\$926
Information	10	200	\$423
51-Information	10	200	\$423
Financial Activities	53	396	\$685
52- Finance and Insurance	32	199	\$748
53- Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	21	197	\$621
Professional and Business Services	94	825	\$718
54- Professional and Technical Services	48	126	\$835
56- Administrative and Waste Services	45	681	\$698
Education and Health Services	70	2,081	\$756
62- Health Care and Social Assistance	60	1,139	\$620
Leisure and Hospitality	97	1,557	\$325
71- Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6	176	\$310
72- Accommodation and Food Services	91	1,381	\$327
Other Services	134	410	\$403
81 – Other Services, Ex. Public Admin.	134	410	\$403
Public Administration	9	553	\$1,060
92- Public Administration	9	553	\$1,060
Source: U.S. Census Bureau			

Table 12 Major Employers in Revere	
Name	Employees
New England Confectionery Company (NECCO)	800
Target	233
Stop & Shop (Marketplace)	232
Stop & Shop (Suffolk Downs)	204
Lighthouse Nursing Home	183
Stop & Shop (Squire Road)	170
Annemark Nursing Home	160
Shaws Supermarket	135
Johnnies Foodmaster	115
<i>Source: City of Revere Office of Community Development.</i>	

Housing Characteristics

The Census Bureau estimates that in 2006-2008 there were 20,219 occupied housing units in Revere. Of these, 51.4% were owner-occupied and 48.6% were renter-occupied.

Table 13 Housing Units: 2006-2008		
Units in Structure	Number	Percent
1 unit detached	6,343	28.9
1 unit attached	1,217	5.5
2 units	6,135	28.0
3 or 4 units	2,976	13.6
5 to 9 units	1,095	5.0
10 to 19 units	654	3.0
20 or more units	3,409	15.5
Mobile home	116	0.5
Total housing units	21,945	100.0
<i>Source: U.S. Census</i>		

Table 14 Housing Tenure		
	2000	2006-2008
Owner-Occupied	9,722	10,395
Renter-Occupied	9,741	9,824
Vacant Units	718	1,726
Total Occupied Units	19,463	20,219
Total Housing Units	20,181	21,945
Source: U.S. Census Bureau		

The Census Bureau estimates that in 2006-2008 there were 21,945 total housing units and 20,219 occupied housing units.

Table 15 Age of the Housing Stock		
Year built	Number	Percent
Total housing units	21,945	
Built 2005 or later	327	1.5%
Built 2000 to 2004	723	3.3%
Built 1990 to 1999	1,082	4.9%
Built 1980 to 1989	3,152	14.4%
Built 1970 to 1979	2,092	9.5%
Built 1960 to 1969	2,427	11.1%
Built 1950 to 1959	2,236	10.2%
Built 1940 to 1949	1,971	4.9%
Built 1939 or earlier	8,835	40.3%
Source: US Census Bureau		

D. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Patterns and Trends

Revere can be divided into three broad development areas. The area from Broadway east to the Boston and Maine Railroad, is the middle section of the city. This area can best be described as a mixed use area characterized by older residential neighborhoods along Revere Street and Beach Street and scattered neighborhood commercial uses. It is heavily influenced by the regional highway network and is home to many governmental and institutional uses including City Hall. This is the original core settlement area of the city.

The second distinct area is Revere Beach and the surrounding area. It is geographically defined as the area east of the B&M Railroad and running from the Saugus River in the north to the Belle Island Inlet in the south. While the area contains distinct neighborhoods such as Point of Pines, Pines River, Oak Island, Shirley Avenue and Beachmont, its land use character is dominated by the unique three miles of uninterrupted crescent shaped beach, the first public beach in America. The beach has undergone significant development, reconstruction and renovation during the past 20 years and provides a strong edge to a large portion of the city.

The third general area is the portion of the city west of Broadway. It is primarily residential, except for the Squire Road commercial corridor and Broadway itself and is the most suburban portion of the city. While residential development dates from the 1880s, most of the development in this area took place between 1960 and 1980. One portion of this area is North Revere. Large portions of North Revere remained undeveloped for a long time due to the presence of ledge but as land became scarce and prices rose, even this area has seen significant residential development.

Infrastructure

Transportation – Revere is situated adjacent to Boston and has excellent rail, air and highway access. The major highways are U.S. Route 1 and State Route 1A. The city is served by the MBTA with three stops on the Blue Line at Wonderland, Revere Beach and Beachmont. There is parking at the Wonderland station as well as at Beachmont. The MBTA also provides bus service to Wellington Station via Everett Square and Haymarket Station in Boston. The MBTA also provides THE RIDE, a paratransit service for the elderly and disabled.

Revere has a total of approximately one hundred and seventeen (117) miles of public and private roadways. Revere's roadway system is classified within three categories (1) local streets; (2) collector streets; and (3) arterial streets.

Local streets provide direct access to residential properties and are designed to service the traffic needs within a particular neighborhood. Local streets comprise a majority of Revere's roadway network and are often subject to greater levels of through traffic than originally designed for. The city's collector streets serve primarily to drain traffic off of local streets and lead such traffic to arterial roadways.

Revere's arterial roadways such as Route 60 (Squire Road and American Legion Highway), Route 1A (North Shore Road) and Route 16 (Revere Beach Parkway) service the largest volumes of traffic in the city. The most important function of Revere's arterial roadways is to move large volumes of automobiles and trucks through Revere.

Water supply – This description of the water supply system was taken from the City's Capital Improvements Plan.

"Every home, apartment building and commercial establishment in the City of Revere receives water from the City of Revere municipal water distribution system. The MWRA assumed control of the sewer collection and water distribution systems of the MDC in 1985 and now supplies the city with water from Quabbin Reservoir. The MWRA chlorinates the water and supplies some of the best quality drinking water in the nation with extensive treatment. Six metered and regulated connections exist between the MWRA system and the city distribution system.

Revere gets its water from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The Revere Water and Sewer Department bills for residents for water four times a year. The department also tests thirteen sites every week year round for water quality and tests for lead at twelve sites. The city also tests the water at Revere Beach on a regular basis.

Sewer – This description of the sewer system was taken from the 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan.

"The City's sanitary sewer collection system consists of about 80 miles of separated sanitary sewer with the majority of the system constructed of vitrified clay pipe with brick manholes. Pipe sizes range from 6 "to 30" in diameter with some larger oval shaped trunk sewers. About 75% of these pipes are 8" diameter lateral sewers. Stormwater enters a separate drainage system, which was designed to keep stormwater and sanitary sewage apart.

The City of Revere is one of 43 communities in the Greater Boston Metropolitan Area included in the sanitary sewage collection system service area of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). The majority of the sewage from the municipal system flows through a 36" X 48" brick arched sewer to the MWRA twin 36" siphon near Slades Mill. The brick arched sewer high-end portion is referred to as the Harris Street Tunnel and the entire line is the main interceptor sewer in the City. The low-lying area along Revere Beach Parkway from Vinal Street westerly across Broadway to Olive Street discharges through a separate 8" connection at the siphon. A 10" connection at the MWRA system on Washington Avenue near the Chelsea line serves a portion of the southwest corner of the City. Trunk sewers extend from the brick sewer to various sections of the City. Sanitary sewage pumping stations on Salem Street, Linehurst Road, Marshall Street, Sherman Street, Goldie Street, Bruno Street, Griswald Street, Marshview Terrace, Milano Avenue, Atwood Street, Lynnway and at the Garfield School service areas that could not be connected by

gravity sewers. Some streets still have homes with septic disposal systems. Revere Beach Parkway from Olive Street to Borden Street, and parts of Spring and Jordan Streets are among the areas without municipal sewage collection.

During the past few years, the City has invested in excess of \$1.5 million to upgrade its sewer system, including cleaning, televising and lining numerous pipes throughout the City.”

Solid waste – Solid waste from Revere is sent to the RESCO facility in Saugus, MA. According to the Department of Environmental Protection website, in 2008 Revere disposed of 22,173 tons of solid waste and had a recycling rate of 12%.

Long-Term Development Patterns - The City’s long-term development is largely a function of the economy, the zoning bylaw and the amount of remaining, buildable land.

Zoning – The City of Revere is divided into seventeen zoning districts with one overlay districts (floodplain district). Residential densities range from 6,000 to 25,000 square foot lots. These districts are shown on Figure 4.

Table 16 Zoning Districts		
Abbreviation	District Name/Description	Minimum Lot Size
RA	Residence 1: Single family dwellings	6,000 sf
RA1	Residence A1: Two-family dwellings	8,000 sf
RB	Residence B: Single-family and two-family dwellings	8,000 sf
RB1	Single-family and two-family dwellings	8,000 sf
RC	Residence C: Apartment dwellings; 50 foot height limit	10,000 sf
RC1	Apartment dwellings; 120 foot height limit	25,000 sf
RC2	Apartment dwellings; 200 foot height limit	25,000 sf
RC3	Apartment dwellings; 3 story and 6 dwelling unit limit	10,000 sf
PDD1	Planned development district 1	130,000 sf
PDD2	Planned development district 2 apartments, 200 foot height limit	3 acres
NB	Neighborhood business district: convenience business	10,000 sf
GB	General business district; general business and professional offices	10,000 sf
CB	Central business district; community commercial	4,000 sf

Table 16 Zoning Districts		
Abbreviation	District Name/Description	Minimum Lot Size
	center	
HB	Highway business district; highway commercial and regional business	15,000 sf
TED	Technology Enterprise District: research and development, biotechnology, office park and hospitality	25,000
LI	Limited industrial district: less intensive industrial use	15,000 sf
IP	Industrial park district; master-planned industrial development	130,000 sf
FP	Floodplain overlay district	NA
Source: Ordinance.com		

Subdivisions and Development Activity – The City is densely developed with few opportunities for new subdivisions as indicated in the table below. There is still some development of single-family homes but the majority of new dwelling units in the city have been in larger, multi-family structures.

Table 17 Current Subdivision Activity: 2009-2010			
Name	Lots	Status	Comments
Morris Street Subdivision	12	Under construction	6 lots developed as of 2010.
Muzzey Street Subdivision	29	Denied by Pl. Bd.	Denial upheld by Land Court decision in 2009.
Source: City of Revere			

Table 18 New Residential Dwelling Units: 2004-2008						
Year	# of Permits	# of 1-Family Structures/# of Dwelling Units	# of 2-Family Structures/# of Dwelling Units	# of 3-4 Family Structures/# of Dwelling Units	# of Multifamily Structures/# of Dwelling Units	Total New Dwelling Units
2004	49	17/17	32/64	NA	NA	81
2005	39	7/7	25/50	3/10	4/273	340
2006	23	9/9	12/24	NA	2/266	299
2007	41	9/9	27/54	1/3	4/221	287
2008	20	8/8	8/16	2/6	2/127	157
Source: City of Revere						

Buildout – In 2000, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, under contract to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) prepared a buildout analysis for every community in the Boston region. A buildout analysis is a tool to help communities understand the potential impacts of future growth that might occur given the amount of developable land remaining and how that land is zoned.

The table below summarizes the results of that buildout analysis. The analysis starts with available land in each zoning district and makes projections of additional housing units as well as commercial/industrial space according to each district's minimum lot size and other regulations. The projections only account for as of right development and do not include development by special or comprehensive permit that may increase the amount of development. These buildout projections were combined with 2000 Census and other data to create a profile of each community at buildout according to its current zoning.

Table 19 Buildout Impacts	
Additional residents	5,276
Additional school children	379
Additional residential units	2,748
Additional developable land area (acres)	258
Additional commercial/industrial buildable floor area (sq. ft.)	11,237,014
Additional water demand at buildout (gallons per day)	674,010
Residential	395,698
Commercial and industrial	278,312
Additional solid waste (tons/year)	5,763
Non-recyclable	1,925
Recyclable	3,838
Additional roadway at buildout (miles)	3
<i>Source: MAPC. Data is from 2000.</i>	

SECTION IV- ENVIRONMENTAL INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. GEOLOGY, SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Revere contains a variety of topographical conditions, ranging from flat lowland plains to areas of steep slope. There are bedrock outcrops in the northern section of Revere which are the eroded remains of the fault line created millions of years ago by geological activity in the earth's crust. The majority of Revere, however, might best be characterized as flat with protruding hilly islands. The hills are drumlins of various sizes that were formed by glacial action more than 10,000 years past, when Revere and the rest of the Boston Basin, having laid buried beneath glacial ice, experienced the recession of the ice in response to a warming of the climate. Geologists believe that the receding glacier gathered till and clay into sticky masses as it ground across soft bedrock. As the masses accumulated more till, the drumlins were formed into their characteristic smooth oval shape pointing in the direction of the movement of the ice. Revere's topography offers the opportunity for a variety of landscapes, and vistas of its own natural features, the ocean and the Boston skyline. Soils and geologic features are shown on Figure 5.

Generally, soils in Revere fall into three major classifications: Tidal Marsh, Urban Land and Bedrock. The bedrock in North Revere is a high grade of flint hard granite that is quarried and used in road construction. This bedrock is part of a ridge that circles Boston and includes the Blue Hills to the south of Boston.

Urban land, which includes developed land, open developed and open underdeveloped land comprises approximately 72% of Revere's designated area. Because such a high percentage of the city is urban land, stormwater runoff and flooding is a problem. In general, soils are not a deterrent to development of recreational areas because the majority of the land has already been disturbed and there are few remaining parcels for the creation of new recreational facilities. There are very few areas of original soil and no prime agricultural lands.

The area designated as marsh makes up nearly 20% of Revere. This area is delicate in the sense that any alterations made to the marsh (such as extensive filling) would result in ripple effects that would be felt in the adjacent built-up sections of the city. One such effect would be flooding caused by a rising of the ground water table. Another effect would be changes to the existing surface drainage pattern that could cause erosion in areas not now affected by tidal action.

B. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The landscape character of the city is dominated by Revere Beach, a unique three mile stretch of uninterrupted crescent shaped beach under the control of the Division of Conservation and Recreation. The beach has always been the dominant image of Revere and a focal point of recreational activities and opportunities.

The area known as North Revere until recently was largely rural in nature but has seen recent development including a hotel and the residential development of the former Rowe's Quarry in Malden and Revere.

In 1988, a portion of Revere was designated as the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Salt marshes, mud flats and shallow subtidal channels provide one of the most biologically significant estuaries on the North Shore.

The remainder of Revere is typical of an urban core city, with a combination of many hills and flat spaces. Most of Revere is fully developed.

C. WATER RESOURCES

Revere is located primarily within the Saugus River Watershed (part of the North Coast watershed) and partially within the Mystic River Watershed. Watershed boundaries are shown on Figure 6: Water Resources.

Revere contains a wealth of water and water-related resources. Revere's eastern border is the Atlantic Ocean and its waterfront is home to a mixture of residential, commercial and recreational uses. It includes Revere Beach, America's first public beach, and Short Beach. Water resources are shown on Figure 6.

Revere beach and the adjacent amusement park historically served as important recreation points for Boston Metropolitan area residents. In the 1920s as many as 100,000 visitors would flock to the beach on a sunny summer day. However, after 1929 the recreational area deteriorated. By 1970 the number of average summer daily users had dwindled to 11,240, and is now a small fraction of that.

The beach itself suffers from continual erosion. Accretion, or sand build-up, occurs in the southerly section from Revere Street to Beachmont. In 1988 the Army Corps of Engineers completed a beach nourishment program there. In order to halt the increasing decline of the beach and adjacent area, approximately 800,000 cubic yards of screened sand was deposited along the three mile shoreline. This increased the recreational capacity of the beach as well as stemming critical erosion of the beach and structural integrity of the seawalls and pavilions.

Flowing into the ocean are the Saugus and Pines Rivers. The Pines River forms Revere's northern boundary, flowing from a 53 acre area known as the Seaplane Basin. It continues through nearly 500 acres known as the Saugus/Pines River Marsh, which provides shelter and food for finfish and shellfish.

Water forms Revere's southern boundary as well. Sales Creek flows into the Belle Isle Inlet and Belle Isle Marsh; Mill Creek flows into the Chelsea River, once known as Chelsea Creek, which was the scene of this nation's first naval encounter.

Embankments for the B&M rail line and Broadway (Route 107) cut early paths through the marsh. In addition to their impacts on drainage, they prohibit boat passage along the Pines except at low tide. A gravel embankment for the now-defunct Route I-95 was the latest incursion into the Marsh. Wetland mitigation for the Central Artery project has restored acres of the Marsh through removal of a large portion of the I-95 embankment. In addition, 800,000 cubic yards of the embankment was used to re-sand Revere Beach.

The Seaplane basin was used for sea planes but has not been used for many years. The Basin now represents a recreation development opportunity which should be explored.

Revere residents and commercial establishments have been encroaching on the southern borders of the Marsh and filling continues. The area west of Broadway is especially vulnerable. Only a small portion of the Belle Isle Marsh is contained within Revere's borders. The majority of its 250 acres lies within East Boston and Winthrop. It is one of the last remaining salt marshes in the Boston Harbor region. Parts of it are owned by Massport (including the segment in Revere), the Division of Conservation and Recreation Services, the Winthrop Conservation Commission and private holders. The DCR built a park on its 20-acre parcel on land once filled to make a drive in theater. Massport plans to sell its land to the DCR or other public body while retaining easements for navigational aids.

Particularly for the residents of Beachmont, the Belle Isle inlet is a major natural resource since access can be gained directly from the inlet to the Boston Harbor. The Mill and Sales Creeks are both tidal and the Sales is particularly a visual and odor problem at low tide. Revere also has an industrial waterfront along the Chelsea River where oil barges off-load at the petroleum companies. The historic Slades Spice Mill on Mill Creek was one of Revere's earliest water-oriented industries, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

Another of Revere's water resources, the Pines River at the Point of Pines, is endangered by over-development for recreational use. Two marinas exist at present on the Pines and another two are located on the northern tip of the Point of Pines along the Saugus River. Boating and marina interests would like to expand marina operations in the Pines River. However, community opposition is high because of the increased dangers of flooding caused by filling and increased traffic and parking problems. New or expanded marina activities should not be undertaken without a complete study of the environmental and ecological impact on the River, the Marsh and the neighboring community.

The Seaplane Basin is perhaps Revere's most significant water resource, but is one that has not realized its full potential. The Basin is secluded and visually cut off from the traffic on Broadway and Squire Road by the I-95 embankment. Even at low tide there is enough water to support boating activities and at high tide it is a water body of true beauty. The embankment forms a walkway for almost a mile along its southern edge, stopping at the mouth of the Pines River. Another path along part of its northern edge provides an additional walkway.

The potential certainly exists here for development of a park that would include open, landscaped and picnic areas as well as more active uses for boating, walking, bicycling and fishing.

Overview of Surface Waters – Mill Creek is an urban creek which has been polluted by stormwater runoff from the highway and illegal dumping. In the fall of 2006 there was a large fish kill due to a chlorine spill in the creek.

Flood Hazard Areas – Flood hazard areas are described in detail on Page 35.

Wetlands – The Revere Conservation Commission website has maps of 26 wetland areas within Revere. Wetlands can be found in the Belle Isle Marsh area, Sales Creek, the Chelsea River, Linden Square, Mill Creek, North Revere (both inland and coastal wetlands), Oak Island, Revere Beach, Green Creek, Washington Avenue, Snake River, Route 1A, Wonderland, Kellys' Meadow and Lower Revere Street, Point of Pines, Brown Circle and Northgate.

Vernal Pools – Vernal pools are small, shallow ponds that do not support fish and that have annual or semi-annual periods of dryness. Vernal pools are very important to a variety of wildlife species. Some amphibians breed exclusively in vernal pools while others spend their entire life cycles in such pools. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program has a program by which vernal pools can be certified. Certified vernal pools are protected if they fall under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act regulations. They are also protected under other state programs. There are currently no certified vernal pools in Revere.

Aquifer recharge areas – There is only one small aquifer recharge area west of Route 1 on the Everett/Malden/Revere border. This area is shown on Figure 6: Water Resources. The city does not rely on groundwater for its water supply.

D. VEGETATION

Vegetation in the city, as in most surrounding cities and towns, has been extensively altered by humans. Except for the areas of tidal marsh, Revere was covered with forests of native trees. By 1639 great farms and the trees were cleared away by the early colonists for firewood and to open the land for planting.

The progression of land development in Revere was then from farmland to residential, commercial, entertainment and other intensive uses. As a consequence, the natural vegetation was eliminated. Less than 200 acres, or only about four per cent (4%) of Revere's land is considered forest land. More than 850 acres (approximately 21% of the total) is wetlands and not available for development. Almost seventy per cent (70%) or about 2800 acres is developed for residential, industrial and commercial use. The largest single land use in Revere is high density residential (eight dwelling units per acre). It represents nearly 40% of the city's 4,054 total acres.

As a fully developed urban community there is very little that could be considered natural vegetative areas. The vegetation that remains, including street trees, parks and salt marsh

vegetation, is very important to Revere's residents. This urban "green infrastructure" provides a number of benefits. Shade from trees can mitigate higher temperatures associated with urban areas and vegetation helps to absorb stormwater which reduces run-off and flooding. It also helps to "soften" the built environment and has been shown to contribute to residents' mental health. There is a 17 acre parcel of conservation land in North Revere which is primarily forested.

Shade trees are important to the city and are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public works Forest and Parks Division. The city faces budgetary constraints in its efforts to enhance and maintain the urban tree canopy. The Shirley Avenue Neighborhood Study recommended adding new trees and replacing missing trees on Shirley Avenue, Beach Street, Centennial Avenue and North Shore Road.

E. FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

Many shellfish flats in Revere are productive and, in some cases, may provide an abundant resource for the commercial harvest of soft-shelled clams. These areas are classified by the Division of Marine Fisheries as Conditionally Restricted because they have the potential to be moderately contaminated with fecal bacteria and are only available to licensed commercial harvesters who must obtain both a city and a state permit. Most shellfishing areas in Revere are classified as Prohibited and are closed to all shellfishing. No shellfish beds (clam flats) in Revere are open for recreational harvesting at any time. It is illegal to dig for surf clams on the beaches in Revere as well. Commercial shellfishermen are required to take their catch to the state-operated, purification plant in Newburyport to undergo a three day purification process. The number of registered harvesters in Revere fluctuates and averages 15-25.

The area of Revere that is classified as a designated shellfish growing area is area N26 .1, The Lower Pines River and Center Bar. In Revere, the growing area begins at the mouth of the Pines River by Gibson Park and extends south and west to the Route 107 bridge. This is the only area in Revere that is open to the harvest of shellfish (soft-shelled clams) and it is only open to licensed, commercial shellfishermen.

Sport fish, including winter flounder, mackerel, striped bass, smelt and codfish can all be found in the ocean and river waters of Revere. Fishermen can be seen year round lining the bridge on Broadway as it passes over the Pines along the banks of Point of Pines, and on the Seaplane Basin. Alteration of the marsh would have significant effects on the food chain and life cycle of these fish. The winter flounder, for example, spawns in the marsh and it has been determined that most sea creatures spend some of their life in an estuarine environment or depend on species that do.

Birds are the predominant form of wildlife in Revere and gulls comprise the largest segment of the bird population. They feed on marine life and the abundant clams, and scavenge for waste. The absence of the wealth of other birds which can usually be found in marsh environments is probably due to the lack of insects, which are controlled by pesticide spraying. Ditches have also been dug adjacent to the marsh since the 1930s to keep the mosquito population down.

The Saugus River Watershed Association has prepared a brochure about the Rumney Marsh ACEC. That brochure states that Revere is home to a large number of migratory and native birds including snowy egrets, great blue herons, terns, glossy ibis, buffleheads, black ducks, snowy owls, sandpipers and plovers.

Revere has the typical collection of urban mammals such as squirrels, rabbits and raccoons as well as red fox, muskrats and meadow voles.

There are no areas designated as wildlife corridors and none that could function as such since Revere's open spaces and parks are all small and not connected by open land. For marine life, the ocean and the beach functions as a wildlife corridor.

Rare and Endangered Species – The following table lists all of the rare, threatened and endangered species that appear in the Natural Heritage Programs' database for Revere.

Table 20 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species			
Common name	Taxonomic group	State rank	Most recent observation
Twelve-spotted Tiger Beetle	Beetle	Special concern	1915
Piping Plover	Bird	Threatened	2007
Purple Giant Hyssop	Vascular plant	Endangered	1917
Hairy Agrimony	Vascular plant	Threatened	1913
Purple Milkweed	Vascular plant	Endangered	1896
Linear-leaved Milkweed	Vascular plant	Threatened	1918
Hairy Wild Rye	Vascular plant	Endangered	1909
Andrews' Bottle Gentian	Vascular plant	Endangered	1882
Swamp Lousewort	Vascular plant	Endangered	Historic
Sea-beach Knotweed	Vascular plant	Special concern	1800s
Long-styled Sanicle	Vascular plant	Threatened	1910
American Sea-blite	Vascular plant	Special concern	1897
<i>Source: Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program web site.</i>			

"Endangered" (E) species are native species which are in danger of extinction throughout all or part of their range, or which are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts, as documented by biological research and inventory.

"Threatened" (T) species are native species which are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, or which are declining or rare as determined by biological research and inventory.

“Special concern” (SC) species are native species which have been documented by biological research or inventory to have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked, or which occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become threatened within Massachusetts.

There is only one area in Revere that is listed by the NHESP and that is at the mouth of the Pines River. This area is a Priority Habitat of Rare Species and also an Estimated Habitat of a Rare Species.

F. SCENIC RESOURCES, UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS AND HISTORICAL AREAS

Revere has quite a few areas that are unique and of importance to the city. These are shown on Figure 7.

By far the most scenic natural resource in Revere is the 3.1 mile crescent shaped Revere Beach. Another majestic scenic view is provided by Rumney Marsh. Other locations in Revere provide views of Boston Harbor, Nahant and Logan Airport.

In 1988, a portion of Revere was designated as the Rumney Marshes Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Salt marshes, mud flats and shallow subtidal channels provide one of the most biologically significant estuaries on the North Shore.

Revere is home to several historical sites, including the home of Horatio Alger, who was born in Revere in 1832 and was the author of 119 books, Ye Olde Rumney Marsh Burial Grounds, Slade’s Mill and the Tuttle House, which was built in 1690.

The Revere Society for Cultural and Historic Preservation was founded in 1994 to provide and preserve facilities and locations which develop, exhibit and preserve the city’s history. The Society renovated the 100 year old former Immaculate Conception rectory to house a cultural and historic center. This architecturally significant building was saved from the wrecking ball and has been restored to the Colonial Revival period. This elegant building has also been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. There is no admission for members and a \$3.00 donation is suggested for non-members.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Hazardous Waste Sites – As with any community with substantial commercial and industrial development, Revere has a number of hazardous waste disposal sites. The majority of these sites are considered non-priority by DEP and are being cleaned up by the private sector under Chapter 21E of the Massachusetts General Laws. There are currently 363 sites listed in the states’ database. A very large number of these are oil spills associated with the oil tank farms located along Lee Burbank Highway. Others are associated with gas stations, apartment buildings and other commercial properties.

There have been some spills or releases associated with schools which are also the location of parks in Revere. These include an oil spill at the Beachmont School in 2002, an oil spill at the Whelan School in 2006 and a hazardous materials spill at the Paul Revere School in 2009.

A database of these sites can be accessed at: <http://db.state.ma.us/dep/cleanup/sites/search.asp>. The states' website also includes a map of the location of these sites.

Landfills – In 1995 the City completed the capping of a solid waste landfill in North Revere. Under the direction of the Department of Environmental Protection, the 17 acre site was successfully converted to open space. Constant monitoring is planned for this site.

Erosion – Erosion in the city is primarily due to construction activity or erosion along the beaches due to wave action.

Chronic Flooding – In 2004 Revere began to work with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council on a natural hazards mitigation plan. During the planning process, city staff identified eight flood hazard areas.

Roughans Point – Although the Army Corps of Engineers completed a flood protection project to prevent coastal flooding in this area, a 100 year storm could still result in flooding of streets and low lying properties. The Broadsound Avenue pump station is designed to handle flooding on Broadsound Avenue.

Lower Revere Street and Kelley's Meadows – These areas are adjacent to the Eastern County Ditch and vulnerable to flooding caused by heavy rainfall and coinciding high tides.

Mills Avenue – During high lunar tides, this residential neighborhood floods approximately three feet. This flooding generally recedes as soon as the tide goes out. A sea wall would offer protection for this neighborhood. Due to repeated flooding, the roadway is starting to erode.

Rice Avenue – There is a short sea wall on Rice Avenue but it stops at Harrington Avenue. Flooding in this area would be mitigated by completing the gap in the sea wall at Harrington Avenue.

Garfield School – The area in the vicinity of the Garfield School floods. There are ditches maintained by the MBTA along the tracks. These ditches need to be cleaned out to restore their storage capacity. Because there was an oil spill here 30 years ago, nothing can be done in this area until the soil is removed.

Town Line Brook – Town Line Brook near the Malden line floods. There is a set of self-regulating tide gates on Route 1A.

DPW Yard – There is flooding that occurs at the DPW yard.

Sedimentation – Sedimentation is primarily caused by road runoff and construction related earth disturbances. These can be minimized by adherence to environmental regulations.

Development impacts – There is very little developable land remaining in Revere so development impacts are limited to redevelopment projects where the original development has already resulted in land disturbance. Redevelopment of older industrial sites is done under existing environmental regulations which means that the newer development has to adhere to higher standards than that which it is replacing.

Ground and surface water pollution (point and non-point) – Mill Creek is an urban creek which has been polluted by stormwater runoff from the highway and illegal dumping. In the fall of 2006 there was a large fish kill due to a chlorine spill in the creek. The Pines River is polluted to the extent that shell-fish beds are only open for commercial fishing and the catch must be taken to a purification plant for cleaning before consumption.

Forestry issues – The only significant forested area is a 17 acre parcel of conservation land in North Revere.

[This page intentionally left blank]

SECTION V- OPEN SPACE, CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS

The first step in being able to make decisions about future needs for open space and recreation is to have an accurate accounting of existing lands. Table 22 is an inventory of all conservation, open space and recreation lands, both publicly and privately owned. Information on ownership, management responsibility, level of protection and a brief description of the property are part of this inventory. The areas shown in Table 22 are depicted on Figure 8.

What is Open Space?

Open space has many different definitions and can mean different things to different people. What is considered open space in a suburban or rural community can be very different from what is considered open space in an urban community. The Open Space and Recreation Planners Workbook defines open space as “conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks and amenities such as small parks, green buffers along roadways or any open area that is owned by an agency or organization dedicated to conservation”. A broader definition of open space can and should include undeveloped land with conservation or recreation potential. Another very important way of looking at and defining open space relates to its status as protected or unprotected. The definition of open space used in this plan is the broader definition.

Open space and parks are critical to the quality of life in a community and provide a wide range of benefits. Access to parks can contribute to public health, enhanced property values, and improved environmental quality including air quality, water quality and the mitigation of urban heat island effects. Public health benefits include reducing the incidence of childhood obesity by providing safe places for kids to be active. They can also serve as important meeting places for neighbors to get to know one another.

How the Inventory and Map was Developed – In 1993 Mass GIS began the process of mapping and inventorying all protected open space and outdoor recreation sites in the state. Volunteers in each community were asked to draw parcels onto a base map and provide attribute information on these sites. Because this was a volunteer effort the resulting data were variable in their accuracy and completeness.

As a first step, MAPC reviewed the mapped data from Mass GIS as well as the attribute data. In order to improve the accuracy of the mapped parcels and to update the map with parcels added since 1993, MAPC obtained a full tax assessment parcel database from the City of Revere and built the map up from that database. The tax parcels that were relevant to the open space and recreation inventory were overlaid on an orthophotograph so that parcel boundaries could be adjusted to reflect the actual area devoted to a particular park and not just the acreage of a particular parcel. Information on zoning was obtained from the parcel database as well.

The information in Table 22 was taken from a variety of sources: conversations with city staff, the Mass GIS database, the tax assessment parcel database and field observations. City staff reviewed the information for accuracy but no additional research into the legal record of ownership or review of deeds was undertaken.

Levels of Protection

For planning purposes, it is important to be aware of the degree of protection for each parcel. Knowing the level of protection (or lack thereof) will point out how easily some properties we assume to be open space can be developed. This knowledge will help in identifying those open space and recreation areas that need additional effort for their preservation and protection.

In order for the inventory to be included as an update to the Mass GIS database, the following designations regarding level of protection will be used.

Protected in Perpetuity – Mass GIS considers a parcel to be protected “In Perpetuity” if it is recorded in a deed or other official document. Land is considered protected in perpetuity if it is owned by the conservation commission, if it is subject to a conservation restriction in perpetuity, if it is owned by one of the state’s conservation agencies (thereby covered by Article 97); if it is owned by a non-profit land trust 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. The Division of Conservation Services “Open Space and Recreation Planner’s Workbook” also includes in this category land that is owned by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Temporary Protection – The Mass GIS definition is land that is legally protected for less than perpetuity (i.e. short term conservation restriction) or temporarily protected through an existing functional use. These lands could be developed for other uses when their temporary protection expires or when their functional use is no longer necessary. In general, this includes all land owned by other municipal departments or commissions including school properties and lands managed by the City for non-recreational purposes.

Limited – The Mass GIS definition of limited protection includes land that is protected by legal mechanisms other than those listed above or protected through functional or traditional uses. These lands might be protected by a requirement of a majority municipal vote for any change in status. This designation also includes lands that are likely to remain open space for other reasons (e.g. cemeteries and municipal golf course).

None – This category includes 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.

Overview of Open Space

City Owned Land – The City of Revere maintains a variety of parks and open spaces. The total acreage for active recreation (parks, playgrounds and tot lots) is 20.22. Slightly more than half of that acreage is protected in perpetuity. This includes a number of small tot lots and playgrounds serving the various neighborhoods as well as larger, city-wide facilities such as Hill Park and Della Russo Stadium.

The City owns an additional 33.64 acres of recreation space associated with the schools. All but 3.14 acres of school based recreation is protected in perpetuity. Each school has some recreation appropriate to the age group that it serves.

The City also owns 27.91 acres of land used primarily for passive recreation. Of this total, 17.57 acres are protected in perpetuity and 10.34 acres have limited protection status. These parcels range from marsh areas such as the Oak Island Marsh to Jacobs Park which is undeveloped but available to residents for passive recreation.

The Conservation Commission owns 21.46 acres in three separate locations. All of this land is considered protected in perpetuity. The largest of these is the North Revere Conservation Area. The property has been the subject of legal action in the past due to an illegal sale but has been restored to the care and control of the Conservation Commission. There is very little wetlands on the site. The property is not developed and there are no signs indicating that it is city land. It is used primarily by local residents for walking dogs. The abutters would like to see the property remain undeveloped but the Commission feels that increasing the usage of the site might cut down on illegal dumping. The Dunn Road property used to be completely wet and is an unbuildable parcel. The North Shore Road property experiences some flooding but is not otherwise a wetland.

There is another 5.69 acres of city-owned land including historic properties and the recreation center. Very little of that land is protected in perpetuity.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts – The state is a major land owner in Revere. The Department of Conservation and Recreation owns 476.22 acres of land. DCR owns and manages Revere Beach Reservation, the Cronin Rink, a canoe launch and other lands along Revere Beach Parkway and a large portion of Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh. The total acreage of 476 acres includes land owned by the City of Revere in Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh. The city's land in these two areas has been included in this state total because the land is in the process of being transferred to DCR. All of the state land is considered protected in perpetuity. Sullivan Field is a small park with a baseball field located on Revere Street and adjacent to the Revere Beach Reservation. It can be accessed by a small wooden foot bridge crossing the Eastern County Ditch. Cronin Rink is owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and managed by a private business, Facility Management Corporation. This rink underwent a \$10 million reconstruction of the rink and associated site renovations to improve waterfront access to the northern banks of Mill Creek and to create new linkages to neighboring recreational facilities. As part of the renovations, a new walkway was developed along the entire southern edge of the parcel. The walkway begins at Broadway and runs easterly along the water's edge to the Revere Beach parkway sidewalk that links the Cronin Rink site to the Slade's Mill site. Benches have been installed as well as a new canoe launch at the western end of the parcel near Broadway. The rink has public skating sessions daily except for Saturdays and offers skating lessons. It is used by the Everett/Revere Youth Hockey Association.

Private Recreation – Private organizations own 29.58 acres of recreational land. This includes two small boat launches on private property where the public has been granted access under Chapter 91 licenses. None of this land is protected in perpetuity. The two private baseball facilities are integral to the base of recreational facilities because of the numbers of youth that they serve.

Chapters 61, 61A and 61B - There are no lands enrolled in these tax assessment programs in Revere because the city is densely built-out and has no active farms, forested areas or golf courses.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions – There are no agricultural preservation restrictions in Revere because there are no active farms.

Conservation Restrictions – There are no conservation restrictions in place on any lands in Revere.

Chapter 91 Licenses – Chapter 91 is the legislation known as the Public Waterfront Act. The purpose of these regulations is:

- To ensure tidelands are utilized for water-dependent uses or otherwise serve a proper public purpose
- To protect public health, safety & general welfare
- To revitalize urban waterfront properties
- To promote public use and enjoyment of the water

The following activities require a Chapter 91 license:

- Construction, maintenance, reconstruction of unauthorized fill or structures
- Existing or proposed use
- Existing or proposed structure or fill
- Change in Use or Structural Alteration
- Permit for dredge, beach nourishment and lowering of Great Pond water level

Chapter 91 licenses are a good way to ensure public access to tidal areas and to obtain public open space amenities. Table 21 lists the Chapter 91 licenses in Revere that involve public access.

Table 21 Chapter 91 Licenses			
Licensee	License #	Location	Public Access and Amenities
Robert Brooker	#9638	Slades Mill, Mill River	10 foot wide paved multi-use pathway, canoe launch with one parking space, interpretive signage, 600 square feet of museum space.
DCR	#12338	Short Beach	Reconstruct, repair and maintain three existing pedestrian ramps and an existing boat ramp; repair and maintain the existing sea wall, construct and

Table 21 Chapter 91 Licenses			
Licensee	License #	Location	Public Access and Amenities
			maintain a wooden boardwalk/bridge deck across a saltmarsh.
DCR	#11401	Cronin Rink	Reconstruct and maintain an ice skating facility with associated parking, construct and maintain a perimeter walking path with seating facilities and a canoe launch with an information kiosk.
North Shore Boat Works	#2053	Pines River	Grant of public access from sunrise to sunset to a walkway and timber boardwalk with fencing, planters, benches. Access not to interfere with boat hauling or launching.
Arthur and Sarah Nigro	#605	Pines River/Behind Dunkin Donuts	Construct and maintain a boat launching ramp; use of the boat launch and parking for a limited number of cars shall be provided at no charge to the public.
Nigro Family Trust	#9224	Pines River/ Mt. Vernon Restaurant	Public use of restrooms at no cost to public. Construct and maintain 8 foot wide gravel pathway; ten foot wide publicly accessible deck; benches and a picnic area; bicycle racks to accommodate no fewer than two bicycles; lighting, benches, trash receptacles and landscaping. Re-surface public boat ramp; interpretive signage about the Pines River; two spaces for parking boat trailers; public passage on foot from dawn to dusk.
Source: Department of Environmental Protection			

Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest – There is an additional 14.21 acres of land that has been classified as lands of conservation and recreation interest where future parks or open space preservation is a possibility.

[This page intentionally left blank]

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
City-Owned Active Recreation											
Liberty Park	Breedens Lane	City	Parks Dept.	0.48	Federal grant	RA1	Perpetuity	Yes	Sitting area with benches; two sets of playground equipment, four swings; one bouncy; one seesaw; no parking.	Used for rec.	Good
Harmon Park	Salem Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.45	CDBG	RA1	Limited	Yes	Two basketball hoops; 6 swings. Located adjacent to the future Northern Strand trail. No parking.	Used for rec.	Fair; drainage problems
Gibson Park	Point of Pines	City	Parks Dept.	5.77	LWCF/CDBG	RA1	Perpetuity	Yes	Softball field; large parking lot; benches; tennis courts; two basketball courts; playground with wooden play structures; one bouncy; one picnic table. Adjacent to the Pines River but no water access or facilities.	Used for rec.	Fair; some fencing needs repair. Benches are tilted and in disrepair.
DeStoop Park (Oak Island)	Dashwood St.	City	Parks Dept.	2.48	CDBG/UPARR	RB	Limited	Yes	Nine benches; two picnic tables; no parking; two bouncys'; two swings; hockey rink; two basketball hoops; softball field.	Used for rec.	Poor; paths are uneven; benches are missing boards.
Della Russo Stadium	Park Avenue	City	Parks Dept.	4.41	City	RB	Limited	Yes	Football stadium with locker rooms; track.	Used for rec.	Poor; entire facility needs rehabilitation.

³ A “Yes” in this column indicates that the property is legally accessible to the public. Physical access may be limited by topography or other environmental constraints or lack of parking or signage.

⁴ This column does not include an assessment of accessibility issues. These are covered in Table 25.

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Hill Park	Park Avenue	City	Parks Dept.	3.19	LWCF CDBG	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Softball fields with lighting; basketball courts; tennis courts.		Good; some benches need repair.
Sonny Meyers Park	120 Beach Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.31	CDBG	RB	Limited	Yes	Tot lot; two picnic tables; 8 benches.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Louis Pasteur Park	Leverett Ave.	City	Parks Dept.	0.69	CDBG	RB	Limited	Yes	Playground equipment; picnic table; two basketball hoops; nice trees.	Used for rec.	Good.
Rose Street Federal Family Development Tot Lot	Between Rose and Folsom.	Revere Housing Auth.	Parks Dept.	0.23	Housing Authority funds	RB	Limited	Yes	There is a small tot lot in the center of the Rose Street Federal Family Development. There is one play structure and several benches surrounding the tot lot.	Used for rec.	Good.
Costa Park	Shirley Avenue	City	Parks Dept.	0.24	CDBG	GB	Limited	Yes	Picnic tables, benches, swings, playground equipment.	Used for rec.	Fair.
Neponset Street Park	Neponset St.	City	Parks Dept.	0.2	CDBG	RB	Limited	Yes	Tot lot	Used for rec.	Good; gate needs repair.
Pearl Avenue Park (Orchard Street)	Pearl and Orchard Sts.	City	Parks Dept.	0.37	Federal grant	GB	Limited	Yes	Tot lot	Used for rec.	
Police Station Basketball Court	400 Revere Beach Parkway	City	Police Dept.	0.5	City	RB	Limited	Yes	This park consists of two basketball courts located adjacent to the Police Station on Revere Beach Parkway. There is designated parking.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
State Veteran's Housing	Rose St.	Housing Auth.	Housing Auth.	0.31	Housing Authority	RB	Limited	Yes	This facility consists of four basketball hoops in the center of the housing	Used for rec.	Good.

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Development basketball court									development.		
Leverett Avenue (Edward Leach Park)	Leverett Avenue	City	Parks Dept.	0.59	FEMA, City	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Property was bought out for floodplain protection. Landscaped area.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Total City Owned Active Recreation: 20.22 acres											
City Owned Passive Recreation											
Destasio Park/Oxford Street Park	Oxford Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.54	City	RB	Limited	Yes	Grassy strip between two roads in a residential neighborhood. Path within the park.	Passive rec.	Fair; path is broken up and overgrown.
Jacobs Park	Hastings Street	City	City	5.97	Gift	I	Perpetuity based on deed restriction.	Yes	Parcel of land was given to the City as a gift. There are no facilities. Area is open space.	Potential primarily for passive recreation.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Beachmont Community Park	Douglas Cummings Square	City	City	0.14	City	RB	Limited	Yes	This is a grassy triangle of land with granite curbing. The property was the site of a city library at one time.	Passive rec.	Excellent.
Oak Island Marsh	Off of Route 1A and Jackson Street	City	City	17.57	Unknown	GB	Perpetuity	Yes	This is an area of marshland.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Pines River	Off of Route 1A	City	City	3.69	Unknown	RB	Limited	Yes	This is a grassy area adjacent to the river.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Total City-Owned Passive Recreation: 29.91 acres											

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
School Based Recreation											
Frederick Park /Beachmont School (Repucci Park)	Everard Ave.	City	School Dept.	13.54	LWCF/City UPARR EOE A	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Tot lot; benches; 4 basketball hoops; 1 hockey court; soccer, one baseball field and one softball field behind the school.	Used for rec.	Good.
Erricola Park	Tapley Avenue	City	Parks Dept.	2.92	LWCF/CDBG	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	One softball field.	Used for rec.	Good; benches need repair.
Revere High School Fields	101 School Street	City	Parks Dept.	6.06	UPARR EOE A	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Artificial turf football field. One baseball field.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Ambrose Park	Ambrose Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.56	LWCF	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Tot lot.	Used for rec.	Good.
Curtis Park/Garfield School	176 Garfield Ave.	City	Parks Dept.	2.79	CDBG	RB	Limited	Yes	Bleachers; bicycle parking; One baseball field and one basketball court.	Used for rec.	Good.
McKinley School Playground	64 Yeamans Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.35	City	RB	Limited	Yes	Two basketball hoops.	Used for rec.	Fair.
Ciarlone Tot Lot (Whelan School)	Newhall Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.62	LWCF CDBG	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Tot lot.	Used for rec.	Good.
DiSalvo Park (Whelan School)	107 Newhall Street	City	Parks Dept.	3.05	DCS LWCF	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Playground. Two softball fields.	Used for rec.	Good
Lincoln School Park	Malden Street	City	Parks Dept.	1.99	Unknown	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Playground.	Used for rec.	Good.
Consiglia Della	Friend St.	City	Parks	1.76	DCS/LWCF	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Playground. One softball	Used for rec.	Good.

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Russo Park/Paul Revere School			Dept.						field.		
Total School Based Recreation: 33.64 acres											
Conservation Commission Lands											
North Revere Conservation Area	North Revere	Cons. Comm.	Cons. Comm.	21.28	Urban Self-Help	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	No signs. Area contains trails from previous use (riding stable). Area has no facilities.	The area is under-utilized and primarily is used by dog walkers.	Not applicable; no facilities.
North Shore Road Conservation Land	North Shore Road	Cons. Comm.	Cons. Comm.	0.11	Tax title	GB	Perpetuity	Yes	Vacant land; no facilities.	No.	Not applicable; no facilities
Dunn Road Conservation Land	Dunn Road	Cons. Comm.	Cons. Comm.	0.07	Tax title	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Vacant land; no facilities.	No.	Not applicable; no facilities
Total Conservation Commission Lands: 21.46 acres											
Other City Land											
Rumney Marsh Burial Ground	Butler Street at Elm and Bixby	City	Parks	0.62	City	RB	Limited	Yes	This is an historic burial ground.	Historic pres.	Good.
Griswold Conservation Area	Behind St. Mary's	City	City	3.67	City	RB	Limited	Yes	No facilities. Will be the site of a constructed wetlands for stormwater management.	Potential for passive recreation.	Not applicable; no facilities.
American Legion Park	Broadway	City	City	0.65	City	RB	Limited	Yes	Small public plaza.	Passive rec.	Good.
Revere	108 Beach	City	Revere	0.5	Grants and	RB	Limited	Yes	This property is a	None.	Excellent.

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Society for Cultural and Historic Preservation	Street		Society for Cultural and Historic Preservation		donations, CDBG funds				museum which is open to the public on Saturday afternoons only.		
Pines Road Boat Launch	Pines Road	City	City	0.05	City	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Small boat launch	Used for rec.	Fair.
Recreation Center	150 Beach Street	City	Parks Dept.	0.2	City.	RB	None	Yes	This building houses the offices of the Recreation Department and is used for programs. Center has two full indoor basketball courts	Used for rec.	Good.
Total Other City Land: 5.69 acres											
State Owned Land and Facilities											
Sea Plane Basin	Cutler Highway	State	State	114.7	Unknown	I	Limited	Yes	This is an area of marshland and open water.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Rumney Marsh – City	Cutler Highway	City	City	116.2	Unknown	I/GB/R A	Limited	Yes	This is an area of marshland.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Rumney Marsh – State	Cutler Highway	State	State	140.6	Unknown	I/GB/R A	Limited	Yes	This is an area of marshland.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; no facilities.
Belle Isle Marsh – State	Winthrop Ave.	DCR	DCR	17.84	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Marshland – limited access.	Passive only.	Excellent.
Belle Isle Marsh – City	Winthrop Ave.	City	City	8.39	Unknown	RB	Limited	Yes	Marshland – limited access.	Passive only.	Excellent.
Leverett Ave (Broad Sound Ave). Picnic Pavilion	Broad Sound at Leverett Ave.	DCR	DCR	0.59	FEMA	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	There is a small picnic pavilion.	Used for rec.	Good.
Revere Beach Reservation	Revere Beach Blvd.	DCR	DCR							Revere Beach Reservation	

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Revere Beach		DCR	DCR	28	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Public beach	Used for rec.	Good.
Revere Beach Boulevard		DCR	DCR	NA	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Recreational parkway.	Scenic driving.	Good.
Revere Beach Blvd.Linear Park		DCR	DCR	8.4	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Passive recreation.	Passive rec.	Good.
Centennial Park		DCR	DCR	0.23	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Small sitting area.	Passive rec.	Excellent.
Sullivan Field		DCR	DCR	1	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Softball field.	Used for rec.	Poor.
Revere Beach Parkway	Revere Beach Parkway	DCR	DCR	32.94	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	Parkway.	None	Good.
Cronin Rink	Revere Beach Parkway	DCR	Private co.	5.54	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes – fee	Skating rink.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Mill Creek Canoe Launch	Revere Beach Parkway	DCR	DCR	0	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	There is a canoe launch at the end of the parking lot for the Cronin Rink.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Short Beach	Winthrop Parkway	DCR	DCR	0.94	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	This is a beach managed by DCR.	Used for rec.	Fair.
Rocky Beach	Broadsound Avenue	DCR	DCR	0.82	State	RB	Perpetuity	Yes	This is a beach managed by DCR.	Used for rec.	Fair.
Total State Owned Lands: 476.22											
Privately Owned Recreation											
Pines Beach	Point of Pines	Point of Pines Assoc.	Point of Pines Assoc.	15.6	NA	RB	None	No	This is a private beach.	Private recreational facility.	Good.
Overlook Ridge Stormwater Area	Off of Salem Street	Overlook Ridge (Private)	Overlook Ridge (Private)	6.87	Private	HB	Protected under dev. Agreement with the City.	Yes	Stone benches; stone dust path overlooking the Seaplane Basin and Rumney Marsh; one pond; adjacent to the future Northern Strand Trail. A seven-acre public park with a pond and trails has been	Is used for passive recreation.	Excellent.

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
									created across Salem Street, also in Revere. Trail.		
Overlook Ridge Playground		Overlook Ridge	Overlook Ridge	0.4	Private		None	No	State of the art accessible playground with two story play structure. This private playground serves residents of Overlook Ridge.	Used for rec.	Excellent.
Slades Mill Canoe Launch	Revere Beach Parkway	Private	Private	0.36	Private	RB	Limited		Boat ramp was created as part of a Chapter 91 license.	Used for rec.	Poor.
St. Mary's Little League Field	St. Mary's Way	Private	Private	3.3	Private	RB	None	No	Two ball fields; lighting, bleachers and a concession stand. A portion of the ballfield is on city-owned land.	Used for active recreation.	Fair.
North Shore Road Boat Launch	555 North Shore Road – access behind Dunkin Donuts	Private	Private		Private				Boat ramp was created as part of a Chapter 91 license. Access is from the drive-through of a Dunkin Donuts. Launch is used primarily by clam diggers.	Used for rec.	Good.
McMackin Field	Little League field on Winthrop Ave.	Revere Little League	Revere Little League	3.03	Private	GB	None.	Members only	This Little League Field is a private facility.	Used for recreation.	Good.
Total Privately Owned Recreation: 29.58 acres											
Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest											
Beachmont	657	City	City	0.1	CDBG	RC	None.	In the	The city owns the former	Future park	No applicable;

Table 22
Inventory of Conservation and Recreation Facilities

Name of Park	Location	Owner	Mgt.	Acres	Funds Used	Zoning	Degree of Protection	Public Access ³	Current Use/Description	Recreation Potential	Condition ⁴
Boys & Girls Club Lot	Winthrop Ave.							future.	Boys and Girls Club which will be demolished using CDBG funds and turned into a park.	has not been designed yet.	no facilities.
Eco-Park	Off of Ocean Avenue.	City	City	2.29	Unknown	CB	None	No.	This potential park will be developed as part of the stormwater management plan for the future Waterfront Square Development.	Potential for passive recreation such as boardwalks and walking paths.	Not applicable; future park.
Northern Strand Community Trail	Northwest Revere	MBTA	MBTA	9.84	Unknown				This abandoned railroad right-of-way is part of a planned multi-use path known as Bike to the Sea.	High potential for biking, walking, roller-blading, etc.	Not applicable; future path.
Walnut and Kimball	Walnut and Kimball	City	City	0.14	City	RB	None	Yes	Part of a dead-end street; used for parking.	Passive rec.	Not applicable; vacant.
Active space – Revere Beach MBTA	Revere Beach Blvd.	DCR	DCR	0.15	State		Perpetuity	Yes	Passive recreation; part of DCR linear park.	Proposed for active recreation.	Not applicable; future park.
Active space-Wonderland MBTA	Revere Beach Blvd.	DCR	DCR	1.13	State		Perpetuity	Yes	Passive recreation; part of DCR linear park.	Proposed for active recreation.	Not applicable; future park.
Active space – Revere Street	Revere Beach Blvd.	DCR	DCR	0.56	State		Perpetuity	Yes	Passive recreation; part of DCR linear park.	Proposed for active recreation.	Not applicable; future park.
Total Lands of Conservation and Recreation Interest: 14.21 acres											

[This page intentionally left blank]

Revere Recreation Department – Revere has a recreation department with a staff of four; a director, an administrative assistant and two summer supervisors. The department maintains a full program of summer camps, sports teams and clinics, sea kayaking for youth and adults, special events such as a 4th of July celebration, sand sculpting, cookouts and movies. The Recreation Department runs some programs from their offices at 150 Beach Street and uses all of the city parks as well.

Environmental Justice and the Distribution of Parks and Open Spaces

Figure 2 shows the census block groups which meet one or more of the criteria for being designated as an environmental justice neighborhood. This information is super-imposed on the map of parks and open space so that the reader can easily see which neighborhoods lack open spaces and parks. The census block groups that meet three of the criteria for environmental justice are shown in the darker shades of blue. The areas that meet three of the criteria are the Shirley Avenue neighborhood and the Revere Street neighborhood. While the Shirley Avenue neighborhood is in close proximity to Revere Beach it has only one neighborhood park, Costa Park, which needs improvement. Curtis Park also serves this neighborhood. This area was the subject of a planning study which did identify some possible areas for new parks. The Revere Street neighborhood has the Rose Street Park and is close to Ambrose Park, Consiglia Della Russo Park and Erricola Field. For the most part, facilities are fairly well distributed and all sections of the city could benefit from additional investments in parks.

Handicapped Accessibility

Accessibility Requirements - The Open Space and Recreation Planner's Workbook states that all municipal property and programs must be accessible to people with disabilities. Furthermore, all municipal park and conservation areas and programs must be evaluated as part of the process of preparing an open space and recreation plan. This section gives an overview of accessibility issues in Revere. The complete facilities inventory and transition plan is contained in Appendix C.

Commission on Disabilities – On October 5, 2009 MAPC met with Cindy Tatelman, the Director of the Commission on Disabilities in Revere.

Needs – The Commission on Disabilities has a data base of approximately 5,000 people. The Commission sends out an annual needs assessment survey. When returned surveys indicate that there is a child or adolescent in the household, the Director calls the family to inform them about accessible parks but there seems to be little interest. The Commission on Disabilities in general gets no feedback about accessibility issues in the parks. The majority of the population with special needs live in Wards 2 and 6 which also have the highest immigrant populations. The focus for accessibility improvements to the parks should be in Ward 2.

Social stigma and park safety– The Director of the Commission felt that the social stigma of having a disabled child was a greater barrier to use of the parks than physical barriers. Most parents of kids with disabilities are not comfortable bringing their kids to the parks because they feel unwelcomed

there. Kids make fun of the disabled kids which creates an unwelcoming atmosphere and further making it difficult for disabled kids to socialize with others. There isn't much use of playgrounds by disabled kids even at the schools. The parks in Revere are seen by many as being unsafe and there are issues with gangs at Costa Park. Sonny Myers Park is one exception to this perception. The park is well-used because it is a church and a school. Parents seem to go there more than anywhere else because it's a very open and visible location. Even with total physical accessibility, there would probably be little increase in the use of the parks because of these issues.

Physical facilities – It can be difficult to determine what standards apply because the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Architectural Access Board (AAB) and DCR all have different standards. Most of the playgrounds and tot lots utilize a wood chip surface. Wood chips are considered acceptable by the ADA and AAB but they are not ideal for a number of reasons and must be maintained. Proper maintenance in the form of leveling and smoothing is required to maintain the proper ground height at access transfer platforms. People with small children also noted that toddlers and young children are prone to putting the wood chips in their mouths and that sharp objects and other foreign material can become trapped under the chips and thereby, posing a safety hazard. Most of the wood chip surfaces are completely surrounded by raised or sunken railroad ties which are a barrier to pushing a wheelchair onto the surface. It is unfortunately not possible to overlay rubber mats over wood chips because the resulting surface is bumpy.

In cases where disabled children are using the playgrounds, the smaller kids are being carried onto the playgrounds and supervised. Another consideration is access to the playgrounds by disabled parents.

Desired Improvements – The Director identified a number of desired improvements.

Accessibility improvements at Revere Beach – Revere Beach is one of the safest beaches in the area and does not have any undertow. Therefore, it is an excellent beach for the disabled to use. The Director has put together a grant proposal for a sand wheelchair. DCR does not have any sand wheelchairs at the beach. The Director would like to see DCR create an accessible path to the beach using rubber mats.

Improvements to Costa Park – There is a concentration of disabled children in the vicinity of Nahant/Walnut/Summer and Thornton Streets but many parents will not take them to Costa Park. Costa Park would benefit from accessibility improvements as well as improvements to increase the neighborhood's sense of security.

Accessibility improvements to Shirley Avenue and Revere Beach Boulevard – The Shirley Avenue Study addressed some of the issues related to improving the streetscape leading to the beach. In conjunction with any streetscape improvements, DCR should increase accessibility on Revere Beach Boulevard.

SECTION VI – COMMUNITY VISION

A. Description of Process

The community vision and associated goals and objectives were developed after reviewing previous plans and studies, meetings with city staff and after consideration of comments received at the public meeting. Although turnout at the public meeting was low, useful information was provided by the residents who attended. The results of other more recent planning efforts such as the Shirley Avenue study and work done by Revere Cares provided additional guidance.

B. Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals

The City of Revere is committed to ensuring that current and future residents of the city have ample opportunities for recreation and access to open space 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 consider the needs of all of its citizens.

The City of Revere has developed six goals on which the open space and recreation plan is 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.

Goal #6: Ensure that the plan takes into account environmental justice and equity.

[This page intentionally left blank]

SECTION VII – ANALYSIS OF NEEDS

A. OVERVIEW OF NEEDS ANALYSIS

The identification of community needs and subsequently, potential action items for the Seven-Year Action Plan, was accomplished in three ways:

- Review of planning studies
- Meetings with city staff and community organizations
- The March 18, 2010 public meeting

A list of all the meetings conducted during the course of this planning project can be found on page 4.

B. REVIEW OF PLANNING STUDIES

Review of planning studies: There are several planning studies and reports that have been done recently that were reviewed to help identify community needs and to develop the Seven-Year Action Plan. These include the following:

- The City of Revere Open Space and Recreation Recovery Action Plan, 2001.
- The Shirley Avenue Neighborhood Gateway Initiative.
- The Revere Beach Reservation Master Plan Update.
- The Chelsea Creek Vision Plan.
- The Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study.
- The Chelsea Creek Waterfront Plan.

The three Chelsea Creek studies are described in Section 3 Community Setting in the section on regional open space initiatives.

The City of Revere Open Space and Recreation Recovery Action Plan – The accomplishments of the previous action plan are discussed in more detail in Section IX – The Seven Year Action Plan. There are a few community needs that were identified in that plan that are still relevant today. These include:

- Development of walking/jogging/running/roller blading trails
- Development of after-school programs

The Revere Beach Reservation Master Plan Update: This report was prepared by consultants for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is dated October 2008. The report contains a wide variety of recommendations. Revere Beach Reservation is defined as the three miles of oceanfront beach, Revere Beach Boulevard and an approximately ten-acre linear

landscaped park between Revere Beach Boulevard and Ocean Avenue. The most relevant recommendations from this plan include the development of three active public spaces. Between the active public spaces there would be grading and landscaping of the linear park and the spaces would be connected by walkways. There would also be streetscape and traffic improvements.

The Master Plan describes these three spaces as follows:

“The active public space proposed near the Wonderland MBTA Station and the Revere Beach Police Station will serve as both the geographic and activity center of the proposed park. New amenities proposed at this location include a multi-use amphitheater, a carousel, outdoor café with seating and restrooms inside the Revere Beach Police Station....The third active public space, located near Revere Street, proposes a new children’s play area, a new restroom facility, and improvements to Sullivan Field.

Shirley Avenue Neighborhood Gateway Initiative

In 2009 the City completed the Shirley Avenue Neighborhood Gateway Initiative study. This study was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. The report looked at three major areas of need; economic development, housing and, physical infrastructure including open space. That study recommended new and improved parks as follows:

- New park at Kimball and Walnut Avenues
- Improvements to historic Beach Street-North Shore Road Park
- Improvements to Costa Park
- Park amenities at the Centennial-Walnut-Franklin Triangle
- Park amenities at Fitzhenry Square
- Additional plantings at Dehon Plaza
- New amenities on DCR land at the Revere Beach Reservation
- New park as possible use for land acquired by the City.

C. SUMMARY OF RESOURCE PROTECTION NEEDS

Marshland Protection – Revere is home to Rumney Marsh (a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern) and Belle Isle Marsh. Although not owned by the Conservation Commission, the Commission is involved in the transfer of city-owned wetlands in Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh to the Department of Conservation and Recreation as part of the land swap that has been agreed upon to enable development on the waterfront. One of the Commission’s primary areas of enforcement is dumping and encroachments on the marshes. Improving public access to Rumney Marsh and the Belle Isle Marsh ACEC was identified in the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Recovery Action Plan.

Improved storm-water management - The 2010-2014 Capital Improvements Plan for the city has programmed funding to create a constructed wetland for storm-water management on property behind St. Mary's baseball fields. The total cost for the project is approximately \$285,000.

Conversion of the Seaplane Basin into a park – The 2001 plan described the Seaplane Basin as follows:

“The Seaplane Basin is arguably Revere’s most significant water resource, but one which has not realized its full potential. Owned by the MDC, the Basin is secluded and visually cut off from the traffic on Broadway and Squire Road by the now abandoned I-95 connector road embankment. Even at low tide there is enough water to support boating activities and at high tide it is a water body of true beauty. The embankment forms a walkway for almost a mile along its southern edge, stopping at the mouth of the Pines River. Another path runs along part of the embankment’s northern edge. The potential certainly exists here for development of a park which would include open, landscaped and picnic areas as well as more active uses for boating, walking, bicycling and fishing”.

The future Northern Strand Trail also passes along the edge of the Seaplane Basin and could provide safer access.

D. SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY’S NEEDS

Expanded recreational programming - 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 morning programming for toddlers and preschoolers with their families and after school programs for school age children. There is a need for increased sports and/or health related programming, but without a gymnasium, it makes planning and implementation almost impossible. There is an extensive summer program which takes place outside at the parks, partially because the building has no air conditioning.

Improvements to the Recreation Center – The recreation center is in need of renovations and expansion. The existing recreation center has an ADA issue in that there are no designated handicap parking spaces. The front door does have a ramp making the building accessible. No signs indicate that these are handicap accessible doors. There is a handicap accessible bathroom but it is in the back of the building, making it difficult for the handicapped to get to. The room is of adequate size and there are the necessary handholds. The showers are not accessible.

Improvements to Della Russo Stadium - Della Russo Stadium is the #1 priority. It was built in the 1930s. The field house and bathrooms are not accessible and cannot be rehabbed to meet ADA standards. The wall around the facility is crumbling and the bleachers are rotted which has resulted in people falling through. The City would like to put in an artificial turf multi-purpose field. The track is asphalt and athletes are not allowed to run on asphalt anymore. It would cost

approximately \$2 million just for the artificial turf and a new track. Currently, the fields have no downtime to recover.

Use of the stadium for practice is restricted to 12 games a year and the City can't hold home games there because of requirements of the MIAA (Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association). They can't run any other programs such as clinics, movie nights, etc. at the stadium because they need to preserve the grass. The bathrooms are substandard and the locker room is too small for the entire team to be there all at the same time.

There was an effort to raise private funds for the stadium but that was not successful due to a lack of corporate sponsors.

Municipal boat pier - Revere is almost surrounded by water but lacks city owned water based recreational facilities such as boat ramps. Much more open space along the Pines River and Chelsea Creek and access needs to be established for activities such as canoeing and kayaking. There are several public and private launches but access is not particularly good and they are mostly for small boats.

Improved beach access for seniors and persons with disabilities – Revere Beach is a key recreational resource in Revere and in the region. The Commission on Disabilities believes that there needs to be access improvements such as ramps or boardwalks across the sand into the water and sand wheelchairs.

Additional tennis courts – The City needs at least two additional tennis courts to serve the growing demand for tennis and to be able to host tennis tournaments.

Additional basketball courts – The need for additional basketball courts was identified during the public meeting.

More multi-purpose fields with artificial turf – Single purpose fields are not as versatile since they cannot easily be changed to accommodate changes in the popularity of certain sports. Due to the shortage of fields, grass fields cannot be given time to rest and recover. Artificial turf fields, while initially more costly, do not need recovery time.

Lighting at Frederick Park – The City had been pursuing the installation of lighting but the cost was prohibitive due to the need for pilings because of peat.

Community Gardens – This is one of the needs identified by the Food and Fitness Task Force of the Revere Cares Coalition. The Coalition is currently working on developing a small inter-generational garden in front of the Garfield School. The Coalition and the Food and Fitness Task Force has identified obesity and nutrition as a critical issue in Revere and the provision of community gardens is one of the identified solutions.

E. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting was held at the Revere Police Headquarters on March 18, 2010. Fourteen people attended the meeting. A summary of the comments can be found in Appendix B. The major needs identified were:

- Two tennis courts
- Improvements to the stadium and track
- Additional basketball courts
- A municipal pier for larger boats

F. MANAGEMENT NEEDS

Improved maintenance of Sullivan Park - Sullivan Park is owned by DCR and has a softball field. The park can be accessed by a small wooden foot bridge at the end of Sears Street which crosses the Eastern County Ditch. It can also be accessed from Revere Beach Boulevard through a driveway that leads to an unpaved privately-owned parking lot.

DCR completed a Revere Beach Reservation 2008 Master Plan Update. This plan includes a recommendation that Sullivan Field be expanded to accommodate a full size Little League Field. The Master Plan describes the potential improvements on Page 4.3. "Sullivan Field is separated from the proposed seaside park by Revere Street, yet is an integral part of the proposed parkland improvements. With the incorporation of new open space along the field's southern side, concurrent with the Phase II realignment of Revere Street, recommended improvements to Sullivan Field include field rehabilitation, and the addition of a new hard packed sand infield and perimeter fence. Access to the site and parking are also issues, both of which will require coordination with the adjacent development to the north."

Expanded hours for the Recreation Center - The facility is not open on the weekends and union contracts are a potential obstacle to expanded hours.

Waterfront Square at Revere Beach - Waterfront Square at Revere Beach is a joint development project between the City of Revere and Eurovest Development. The project is designed as a transit oriented development centered around the Wonderland MBTA Station. The site area consists of 8.8 acres that the City acquired through land swaps with the MBTA. The project will include 1.3 million square feet of development as follows:

- 902 residential condominiums
- 70,000-100,000 sf of hotel space,
- 145,350 sf of build-to-suit commercial lab/office space
- 31,000 sf of retail space
- A new parking garage
- Improvements to the T station

- A new public transit plaza and footbridge to the beach
- 4 acre eco-park
- On-site bike parking and connection to “Bike to the Sea”
- Streetscape improvements along Ocean Avenue that would complement the improvements envisioned in the updated Revere Beach Reservation Master Plan.

The 4 acre eco-park is a concept that is not yet directly part of the development proposal. It would consist of enhancements to the area known as the Central County Ditch, a drainage channel that runs from Revere Street west. The project would require cleaning of the ditch, installation of paths (possibly boardwalks) and interpretive signage as well as neighborhood sensitive connections to the path from the dead end streets.

G. NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION STANDARDS

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed the most widely used standards for park and recreation land. The often cited standard was that a local park system should, at a minimum, be composed of a “core” system of parklands with a total of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed, “close-to-home” open space per 1,000 population. The local park system should include mini-parks, neighborhood parks and larger community parks. Based on this standard, Revere should have between 355 and 586 acres of developed open space for parks and recreation areas. Revere’s total dedicated acreage for public active and passive parks and school facilities is 93.74 acres, which is well below the national standard. While DCR owns a considerable amount of land, only a portion of it is available for active recreation. Much of the DCR acreage including Rumney Marsh, Belle Isle Marsh and the Seaplane Basin, while environmentally important, has limited opportunities for active recreation. Some of the private recreational facilities add to the total count of recreational facilities but only for those residents involved in a baseball league.

Land acquisition and park development is hindered by budgetary constraints and by the fact that the City is densely developed with very little vacant land. The City is therefore not in a position to meet these national standards. The new approach to standards is described on the NRPA website FAQ as follows:

Does NRPA have standards/guidelines that they publish for communities regarding the number and types of facilities that are built?

Communities are encouraged to calculate the number and types of facilities by using the Level of Service park planning process because it allows the communities to tailor the standards to their needs. "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines" by James D. Mertes and James R. Hall walks users through a process that uses a series of equations and matrices to identify park facility guidelines. Please call 1-800-626-6772 or Email Store@nrpa.org to order.

The City has not gone through this process because it is taking the approach of making incremental additions to the parks and open space inventory as funding or land donations allow. It has also prioritized the rehabilitation of key recreational facilities.

H. SCORP RELATIONSHIP

The SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) is the state's equivalent of a municipal open space plan. SCORP plans are developed by individual states to be eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants. The current plan is called "Massachusetts Outdoors 2006". It was prepared by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Six major issues were identified in the SCORP 2000 and three were added for the 2006 update.

Revere is within the Metropolitan Boston Region. The 2000 SCORP made specific recommendations for each region in the state. The 2006 SCORP does not include specific recommendations by region but does include information on demand, resource use, satisfaction levels, funding preferences and facilities needs.

In terms of demand, walking is the most reported recreation activity in the Metropolitan Boston region, as in the state, followed closely by sightseeing. The demand for swimming was 48.3% followed by golfing, picnicking, playground activity and sunbathing. Significant numbers of respondents to the survey also reported that they fished and biked (both road biking and mountain biking). When residents of the Metropolitan Boston region were surveyed about facilities needs, walking, road biking and swimming ranked highest for new facilities, followed by playgrounds.

[This page intentionally left blank]

SECTION VIII- GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

These goals and objectives were developed after reviewing previous plans and studies, meetings with city staff and comments received at the public meeting held on March 18, 2010.

Goal #1: Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.

- Objective 1.1: Develop facilities for all age groups.
- Objective 1.2: Eliminate handicap barriers at recreational facilities.
- Objective 1.3: Expand recreational programming to cover all ages and abilities.
- Objective 1.4: Maintain, enhance, and maximize the utility and quality of existing recreation areas.
- Objective 1.5: Create new recreational facilities that meet specific needs as opportunities and funding become available.

Goal #2: Protect and preserve Revere's natural resources.

- Objective 2.1: Work with DCR to preserve and protect Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh.
- Objective 2.2: Continue to implement stormwater management measures to improve the quality of runoff to the marshes and the Pines River.
- Objective 2.3: Continue enforcement of the city's wetlands protection ordinance.

Goal #3: Develop facilities and programs that promote fitness and health.

This goal has emerged since the completion of the 2001 plan and is one that is being pursued by many communities in the state. The Food and Fitness Task Force of the Revere Cares Coalition has identified several goals and objectives related to increasing the availability of healthy foods and promoting active living.

- Objective 3.1: Create a system of multi-use paths in the City to promote walking, biking, jogging and other forms of non-motorized recreation.
- Objective 3.2: Develop community gardens.
- Objective 3.3: Expand the farmers market.

Goal #4: Improve stewardship of the parks.

- Objective 4.1: Educate residents about recreational resources available in the city.
- Objective 4.2: Create opportunities for residents to become involved in park planning and maintenance.

Goal #5: Develop partnerships and engage in regional collaboration to maximize limited resources and develop regional open spaces.

- Objective 5:1: Work in partnership with developers to ensure that new development and redevelopment includes open space protection and the provision of recreational space.
- Objective 5:2: Continue to participate in MAPC's Inner Core Committee to ensure coordination on regional open space initiatives.
- Objective 5:3: Develop partnerships with the local business community to strengthen support and funding for public parks.
- Objective 5:4: Continue to work with DCR to improve and expand their facilities.

Goal #6: Ensure that the plan takes into account environmental justice and equity.

This is a new goal that was not included in the 2001 Plan. Since 2002, EOEEA has been implementing an Environmental Justice Policy to help ensure that all Massachusetts residents experience equal protection and meaningful involvement with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits. The Division of Conservation Services included requirements for addressing environmental justice in its plan requirements. Revere has been active in these issues, most recently in the Shirley Avenue planning process. The City's commitment to diversity is reflected in this goal.

- Objective 6:1: Continue multi-lingual public participation outreach efforts.
- Objective 6:2: Ensure that new recreational facilities and open space areas are equally accessible to residents in environmental justice neighborhoods.

SECTION IX –SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Seven Year Action Plan is the most important section in any open space and recreation plan. The following recommendations are meant to bridge the gap between the existing open space and recreation resources identified in Section 5, the goals and objectives (Section 8) and the needs and desires of the residents of Revere (Section 7). The designation of a target year is meant as a guide only. It is more important to be flexible and take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Many items will need to occur over several years. In each case, a primary responsible party or parties is identified. Figure 9 is a map illustrating the action plan recommendations.

The Seven-Year Action Plan was developed by first reviewing the action plan from the 2001 Plan. All completed actions were removed from the list unless they are on-going. The remaining action items were reviewed by various city departments to determine if they were still desirable and new ones were added. Additional action items were added based on citizen input from the public meeting.

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE 2001 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

The Five Year Action Plan from the 2001 plan focused primarily on process recommendations for how to develop a priority list of areas and facilities requiring attention. There were recommendations for existing facilities and after school programs. There were only four specific high priority items listed. These are show in Table 23 in *italics*. There were also a number of specific recommendations throughout the plan that were not included in the Five Year Action Plan. These are also included in Table 23 in regular text.

Table 23 Accomplishments from the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan	
Action Item	Status
<i>Redesign and rehabilitation of Hill Park</i>	Completed
<i>Upgrading of Della Russo Park</i>	Completed
<i>Development of walking/jogging/running/roller blading trails</i>	Not accomplished
<i>Development of after-school programs</i>	Some programs have been established
Conversion of the Seaplane Basin into a park	Not accomplished
Replace tot lot and refurbish courts at Fredericks Park	Completed
Replace tot-lot equipment at Ericola Park (Ambrose)	Completed
Reconstruct infield and outfield at Curtis Park	Completed
Replace tot-lot equipment at Harmon Park	Completed
Explore possibility of creating a passive park at Pearl Avenue	Completed
Preserve open space and conservation land	

<p style="text-align: center;">Table 23 Accomplishments from the 2001 Open Space and Recreation Plan</p>	
Action Item	Status
within Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh; improve access.	Ongoing

B. THE 2010-2017 SEVEN YEAR ACTION PLAN

Organization of the Action Plan – Table 24 is a complete listing of all the action plan items in the format required by the Division of Conservation Services. If the project has not been described elsewhere in the plan additional information is included in this section. The action items are grouped under the goal which they most directly contribute to. In many cases, an action item will contribute to more than one goal but will be listed only once.

Note on funding sources: The entries in the column “funding sources” are intended to give the reader some ideas on possible funding sources. Each grant program has its own eligibility requirements and it is generally difficult to determine if an action is fundable until the project is more clearly defined. The table also cannot take into account new grant programs or funding sources that might become available over the seven years of the plan.

- PARC stands for the Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities Program formerly known as the Urban Self-Help Program.
- LWCF stands for Land and Water Conservation Fund
- GC stands for the Gateway Cities Initiative.
- CDBG stands for Community Development Block Grants.
- LAND stands for Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity, (formerly known as the Self-Help Program).
- TE stands for the Transportation Enhancements Program.
- RTGP stands for the Recreational Trails Grant Program.

Description of Action Plan Items Not Previously Described

Develop a rest stop on the Northern Strand Community Trail – A short section of the Northern Strand Community Trail (see description on page 10) goes through North Revere and passes by Harmon Park and the Overlook Ridge Stormwater Management Area. These two areas are very close to each other and at least one of them should be developed to serve as a rest stop on the trail. Harmon Park is owned by the city and is in need of renovation while the Overlook Ridge Stormwater Management Area is privately owned but offers scenic views of Rumney Marsh. One approach might be to focus Harmon Park on facilities to serve trail users and create a scenic overlook at Overlook Ridge.

Harmon Park Renovation – Harmon Park is currently a small neighborhood park whose facilities are limited to basketball and swings. The park is the only city park on the route of the future Northern

Strand Trail and could be redeveloped to serve as a rest stop for trail users as they pass through Revere. Appropriate facilities could include benches, a water fountain, signs that highlight Revere's history, restrooms, trash barrels and bike racks.

Overlook Ridge/Northern Strand Connection Work with the owners of Overlook Ridge to connect the park at the stormwater management area to the future Northern Strand Community Trail and to develop amenities for trail users.

Convert the CSX Right-of-way into a multi-use path – An abandoned Conrail/CSX freight rail line that traverses the eastern shore of the Chelsea Creek extending through Revere and East Boston presents a significant recreational and waterfront access opportunity. The City of Chelsea has expressed an interest in developing a multi-use path on their portion of the right-of-way. This could be developed as a regional trail.

Mill Creek Pedestrian Bridge – A bridge pier exists on the south side of Mill Creek across from Slade's Mill. This pier supported the former Crescent Avenue Bridge over the Mill Creek and is located on Chelsea Housing Authority property. The former bridge spanned approximately from the existing pier on the south side of the creek to property just east of Slade's Mill on the north side of the creek. A pedestrian bridge could be developed in this area connecting Chelsea to Revere. This would allow Revere residents to access the pathway system that has been developed adjacent to Mill Creek behind the Pathway Plaza shopping center.

Renovate and expand tennis facilities – The summer tennis program in Revere has seen significant growth and the high school team is growing as well. In order to host sanctioned high school matches, the city needs four contiguous courts. Gibson Park has been identified as a location where two additional courts could be located and the two existing courts need to be resurfaced.

[This page intentionally left blank]

**Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan**

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Goal #1: Provide recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities.									
Renovate Della Russo Stadium with new bleachers, a field house, track, multi-purpose artificial turf field and fencing.	Parks & Rec.	LWCF, PARC, CDBG, GC							
Develop a small pocket park at the former Boys and Girls Club in Beachmont.	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG							
Work with DCR to develop wheelchair access to Revere Beach including the provision of sand wheelchairs.	Commission on Disabilities, Comm. Dev.	State							
Develop a municipal boat pier.	Harbor Master.	State and city.							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Provide handicapped parking spaces adjacent to the Recreation Center.	Parks & Rec., DPW.	City.							
Renovate the showers at the Recreation Center to meet ADA accessibility standards.	Parks & Rec.	CDBG							
Work to remove legal barriers to keeping the recreation center open on the weekends.	Parks & Rec. City Solicitor.	Staff time.							
Resurface existing tennis courts and build two new ones at Gibson Park.	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG, U.S. Tennis Assoc.							
Renovate Consiglia Della Russo Park.	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG, GC							
Renovate and upgrade facilities at Fredericks Park.	Parks & Rec.	PARC, GC							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Resurface existing tennis courts at Hill Park.	Parks & Rec.	City							
Renovate Oak Island Park	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG, LWCF							
Renovate Curtis Park	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG, LWCF							
Renovate Gibson Park	Parks & Rec.	PARC, CDBG, LWCF							
Identify additional opportunities for the creation of new ballfields.	Parks & Rec.	City							
Goal #2: Protect and preserve Revere's natural resources.									
Work with DCR to develop a park at the Seaplane Basin.	DCR, Comm. Dev.	State							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Complete the constructed wetland at Griswold Conservation Area.	Comm. Dev.	City							
Complete the Rumney Marsh and Belle Isle Marsh land swaps with DCR.	Comm. Dev. City Solicitor	Staff time							
Continue enforcement of the wetlands protection ordinance.	Cons. Comm.	Staff time							
Complete salt marsh restoration at the Oak Island Marsh.	ACOE, EOA, NOAA	Private mitigation funds.							
<i>Goal #3: Develop facilities and programs that promote fitness and health.</i>									
Continue to work with the MBTA and the Bike to the Sea Committee to develop the Northern Strand Community Trail.	Comm. Dev.	TE, RTGP							
Develop one or more community gardens.	Parks & Rec.	LAND, CDBG							

**Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan**

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
<i>Goal #4: Improve stewardship of the parks.</i>									
Work with residents who about the North Revere Conservation Area to reduce dumping and to develop improvements that will serve the neighborhood and improve maintenance.	Cons. Comm.	City, state grants depending on the nature of the improvements.							
Continue the Senior Citizen Park Maintenance Corps program.	DPW	CDBG							
<i>Goal #5: Develop partnerships and engage in regional collaboration to maximize limited resources and develop regional open spaces.</i>									
Renovate Harmon Park to serve as a rest stop for users of the future Northern Strand Community Trail.	Parks & Rec.	LWCF, PARC, GC, TE							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Work with the owners of Overlook Ridge to connect the park at the stormwater management area to the future Northern Strand Community Trail and to develop amenities for trail users.	Comm. Dev.	Transportation Enhancements, City							
Work with DCR to develop the three proposed active recreation areas identified in the Revere Beach Master Plan.	Comm. Dev.	DCR							
Work with the City of Chelsea to build a pedestrian bridge at the site of the former Crescent Ave. Bridge at Slade's Mill.	Comm. Dev.	TE, PARC, GC							
Work with Chelsea and Boston to develop the CSX right-of-way along Chelsea Creek.	Comm. Dev.	RTGP, TE, PARC							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Work with the developers of Wonderland and Suffolk Downs to ensure that any future redevelopment includes recreational space.	Comm. Dev.	Staff time							
Work with the developers of the Waterfront Sq. TOD to ensure the construction of the Eco Park and other open space amenities.	Comm. Dev.	Staff time.							
Conduct regular inspections of Chapter 91 licensed properties to ensure that amenities have been constructed and are being maintained.	Cons. Comm.	Staff time							
Goal #6: Ensure that the plan takes into account environmental justice and equity.									
Work with neighborhood groups in the Shirley Avenue neighborhood to plan for improvements at Costa Park.	Comm. Dev. Parks & Rec.	Staff time							

Table 24
Seven-Year Action Plan

Action	Responsibility	Funding	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7
Distribute the open space and recreation plan to community organizations.	Comm. Dev.	Staff time							

SECTION X – IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this section is to make decision-makers and City residents aware of the many different ways to preserve and/or acquire open space and recreation land. Some of the methods and programs have already been utilized by the City with great success. Other methods have not been employed but could be in the future.

A. STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

[Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity](#) - The LAND Program (formerly the Self-Help Program) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs.

[Massachusetts Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities \(PARC\) Program](#)

The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission is eligible to participate in the program. Communities that do not meet the population criteria listed above may still qualify under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" project provisions of the program.

Only projects that are to be developed for suitable outdoor recreation purposes, whether active or passive in nature, shall be considered for funding. Grants are available for the acquisition of land and the construction, or renovation of park and outdoor recreation facilities, such as swimming pools, zoos, athletic play fields, playgrounds and game courts. Access by the general public is required.

[Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund](#)— This is a federal program administered by the State Division of Conservation Services for the acquisition and development or renovation of park, recreation and conservation land. The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L. 88-578) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development and renovation of park, recreation or conservation areas. Municipalities, special districts and state agencies are eligible to apply. Nearly 4000 acres have been acquired and hundreds of parks renovated using the \$95.6 million that Massachusetts has received from the state side portion of the federal program since 1965. DCS administers the state side Land & Water Conservation Fund program in Massachusetts. Access by the general public is required.

[Recreational Trails Grant Program](#) - The Recreational Trails Program provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on a **reimbursement** basis for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. It is part of the national Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds are disbursed to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Massachusetts, funds are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

[Community Preservation Act](#)- The idea of a real estate transfer tax was signed into law on September 14, 2000 as the [Community Preservation Act](#) (CPA). The CPA is a tool for communities to preserve open space, historic sites, and affordable housing. The Community Preservation Act is statewide enabling legislation that allows cities and towns to exercise control over local planning decisions by providing a new funding source which can be used to address three core community concerns:

- Acquisition and preservation of open space
- Creation and support of affordable housing
- Acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and landscapes

A minimum of 10% of the annual revenues of the fund must be used for each three core community concerns. The remaining 70% can be allocated for any combination of the allowed uses. This gives each community the opportunity to determine its priorities, plan for its future, and have the funds to make those plans happen.

The City of Revere has chosen not to adopt the Community Preservation Act at this time because of the tax burden it would impose on residents.

Gateway Cities Program

The purpose of the Gateway City Parks Program (GCPP) is to improve park quality and advance park equity in urban communities by making targeted investments to create park and recreational opportunities. The program recognizes that public parks are essential to the health and economic well-being of urban areas, but that certain communities do not have the staff or funding to site, plan and build parks on their own. Thus, the GCPP provides a flexible menu of funding options for all phases of park development. Funding can be used for activities and costs such as brownfield assessment and clean-up, park planning and recreational needs assessments – including the development of Open Space and Recreation Plans – activities not previously eligible for state parks funding. Approximately \$4 million in funding from the Environmental Bond Bill is allocated annually to park projects in Gateway Cities for acquisition, environmental clean-up, planning and assessment, design, construction, and other park related expenditures.

Created in recognition of the fact that public parks are essential to the health and economic wellbeing of urban areas, but that cities often lack the resources to plan and develop them, the

Gateway City Parks program is a hallmark of Governor Patrick's unprecedented commitment of state support for urban parks, habitat protection, and preservation of working landscapes, Through this program the Patrick administration is partnering with cities to restore or create clean, safe places for children and families to enjoy and appreciate in places where residents often have few other options. Good neighborhood parks can also trigger further urban redevelopment, which is truly needed to support our gateway communities.

EEA gives priority to parks projects of different types and scales that are not eligible for another funding source. In addition, the program targets projects that address critical park infrastructure needs; have strong support from city leaders; engage local businesses, neighbors and others in park financing, programming and stewardship; support broader urban revitalization efforts; or are accessible to environmental justice neighborhoods. The program is open to communities with a population greater than 35,000 and with median annual household incomes, per capita incomes and educational attainment levels below the state average.

Gateway City Parks Program Communities: Twenty-two communities applied to EEA, were found to meet a set of demographic criteria, and are eligible for Gateway City Parks funding:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| ▪ Brockton | ▪ Lynn |
| ▪ Chelsea | ▪ Malden |
| ▪ Chicopee | ▪ Methuen |
| ▪ Everett | ▪ New Bedford |
| ▪ Fall River | ▪ Pittsfield |
| ▪ Fitchburg | ▪ Revere |
| ▪ Haverhill | ▪ Salem |
| ▪ Holyoke | ▪ Springfield |
| ▪ Lawrence | ▪ Taunton |
| ▪ Leominster | ▪ Westfield |
| ▪ Lowell | ▪ Worcester |

Projects funded through the Gateway City Parks Program as of March 2010:

- Boston - \$5.2 million for extension of a Department of Conservation and Recreation greenway corridor along the Neponset River.
- Chicopee - \$75,000 to complete master planning and produce design and construction documents for the rehabilitation of Szot Park Stadium to reduce energy and water consumption and make the facility handicapped accessible.
- Everett - \$30,000 to produce an Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Fall River - \$105,000 to produce design and construction documents for the rehabilitation of and enhancements to Bicentennial and Griffin Parks.
- Fitchburg - \$500,000 to acquire a parcel of land for a public park, engage the public in park planning, and produce design and construction documents.
- Haverhill - \$400,000 to acquire land for a trail network along the Merrimack River.
- Leominster - \$155,000 to produce design and construction documents for the Monoosnoc Brook Riverwalk.
- Lowell - \$250,000 to produce design and construction documents for Phase III of the Concord River Greenway and to conduct visioning and produce a preliminary design for the renovation of South Common.
- Malden - \$193,000 for design and construction documents for the rehabilitation of South Broadway Park.
- Methuen - \$30,000 to produce an Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Pittsfield - \$120,000 to complete master planning and produce design and construction documents for the rehabilitation of First Street Common.
- Revere - \$30,000 to produce an Open Space and Recreation Plan.
- Springfield - \$30,000 for design and construction documents for Emerson Wight Park.
- Worcester - \$2 million to construct improvements to Vernon Hill Park.

SECTION XI – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Letters of review

Planning Board

City Council

Regional Planning Agency

Conservation Commission

SECTION XII – REFERENCES

Shirley Avenue Neighborhood Gateway Initiative, City of Revere, August 2009. Prepared by Goody Clancy | Andrea Shapiro Consulting | Community Reinvestment Associates | FXM Associates.

City of Revere Open Space and Recreation Recovery Action Plan, 2001.

Chelsea Creek Waterfront Study, Cities of Chelsea and Revere, Massachusetts, November 2005. Prepared by Byrne McKinney & Associates, Inc., FXM Associates; Crosby | Schlessinger | Smallridge; Community Reinvestment Associates.

Chelsea Creek Waterfront Plan, June 2007, Prepared by Vine Associates, Inc. in association with Community Reinvestment Associates, Crosby | Schlessinger | Smallridge and FXM Associates.

Revere Beach Reservation Master Plan Update, October 2008. Prepared for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation by PB World, Engineers; Pressley Associates, Landscape Architects and Nitsch Engineering.

Waterfront Square at Revere Beach: Wonderland TOD Infrastructure: Transit Plaza Information, September 2009.

Waterfront Square at Revere Beach: Wonderland TOD Area and Station Improvements. September 2009.

