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Goals - Objectives - Actions

GOAL 1: Maintain and Upgrade Parks in a Way that Balances Cost Effectiveness with High Quality Design and Best Management Practices.

Objective 1.1: Implement park capital improvements and open space acquisitions.

ACTION: Continue to implement improvements at Merrymount Park, including connecting open spaces, adding and renovating recreational and other site amenities, and enhancing plantings, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Install new pickleball courts at Merrymount Park (off Fenno St.) and Faxon Park, to meet the growing interest in this sport, and the City-wide demand for dedicated facilities, and maintain and repair courts as needed in future.

ACTION: Expand Veterans' Memorial Stadium, home stadium to the New England Free Jacks professional rugby team since 2021, to accommodate increased use and visitors to sporting and other events.

ACTION: Create Quincy Navy Park at Squantum, a new passive waterfront park dedicated to the men and women of Quincy's Sea Services, with key elements including a U.S. Navy Lone Sailor Statue, the Ship's Bell from the USS Quincy, dedications to key contributors from Quincy, interpretive and educational elements, seating, lighting and formal landscape beds, as well as coordinating work with Marina Bay Boardwalk improvements, and working with US Navy regarding Lone Sailor Memorial Network designation, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Complete work on the Merrymount Parkway Slope at Merrymount Park, including earthwork and decreasing grades, constructing a retaining wall, restabilizing eroding areas, and replanting with native trees and shrubs, in conjunction with Merrymount Parkway roadwork, including additional parking lanes, bike lanes and lighting, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Acquire parcel at 570 South Street (0.53 acres) for open space purposes, remove and abate existing structures and car wash, design and reconfigure parking area for safety and efficiency in the short term, and design and construct park expansion for adjacent Cleverly Court Park, including soccer fields, access points, and parking lot.

ACTION: Complete new Beachcomber Park in recently acquired 1.38-acre lot off Quincy Shore Drive, including removing historic debris and dumped materials, regrading, stormwater improvements, extensive native plantings and a pollinator garden, perimeter improvements, addition of a walking path and decorative elements, seating, and installation of granite monuments paying tribute to the site's history, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Complete Furnace Brook Clubhouse Project and associated improvements, including new clubhouse building, bar and grill, deck, pro shop, locker rooms, golf simulator and lounge, and repairs to existing maintenance building, and improvements to the adjacent Forbes Hill neighborhood, including drainage improvements and plantings, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Renovate Forbes Hill Park, including new shade structure, replacement basketball and tennis courts, new playground equipment, drainage improvements, and plantings, and repairs to Forbes Hill Tower including roof replacement and repointing, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Complete expansion and renovation of Pine Hills Cemetery, including 7 acres of new land with >13k new interment spaces (burial spaces & cremation niches), new office building, road repaving, and significant improvements to existing areas (new barrels, water connections, plantings), with new elements including a meditation garden, water-feature and other monuments and memorials, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

ACTION: Complete renovations and improvements to the historic Mount Wollaston Cemetery, including renovations at the Sea Street entrance with new tree plantings, safety improvements, and perimeter wall renovations, and renovations in the Veterans Section with regrading, resetting markers, adding flagpoles, refurbishing cannons, and installing new monument, and installing ornamental fencing along Merrymount Road, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

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ACTION: Complete Furnace Brook Flood Control and Ecological Restoration Project, including regrading and reconfiguring the brook and adjacent floodplain to increase flood storage capacity and restore a more natural topography and meandering stream, repairing a culvert and headwalls, installing new stormwater infrastructure, repairing deteriorated sections of vertical granite stream bank walls, installing a significant number of native plantings, invasive species management, and installing additional and replacement plantings along roadways as needed in future.

ACTION: Complete restoration of degraded open space at Heron Road (Arthur Boyson Park), including native, salt-tolerant plantings, a path connecting the park entrance to the beach access point, and site amenities, and install additional and replacement plantings as needed in future.

Objective 1.2: Incorporate low impact development (LID) site planning and design strategies when upgrading and building parks.

ACTION: Incorporate sustainability standards for site design, materials, plantings and plant care, and waste management in parks.

ACTION: Employ Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) in accordance with the City Stormwater Management Ordinance when upgrading or altering the drainage systems in parks.

Objective 1.3: Use "Complete Streets" design when planting along roadways.

ACTION: Develop and maintain a current list of preferred trees and shrubs for roadway projects. Ensure list includes species that are native to the area whenever feasible,

ACTION: Identify roadway corridors and adopt a planting program that will lead to a uniformity along the entire corridor, while maintaining a diversity of plant species.

ACTION: Identify appropriate roadway areas (intersections, traffic islands, corridors) for placement and construction of landscape enhancements.

Objective 1.4: Encourage and support interested groups in adopting and assisting with park maintenance. Work with local garden clubs and other community groups to augment municipal plantings and cleanups.

ACTION: Continue Adopt-an-Island program.

ACTION: Provide public recognition for participant groups and individuals.

ACTION: Utilize Quincy open space analysis prepared in 2018.

ACTION: Continue Cleaner Greener annual clean-up day.

ACTION: Increase publicity and availability of scheduling and promotional materials for Park and Recreation Divisions events and programs.

Objective 1.5: Continue comprehensive maintenance inspection program of all parks and playgrounds

ACTION: Perform regular reviews of open space and recreation assets.

ACTION: Conduct regular safety inspections of play structures and equipment.

GOAL 2: Encourage Safe Public Access to Waterfront Areas and Water-Based Recreational Activities.

Objective 2.1: Support projects that improve the 27 miles of coastline that surround the city.

ACTION: Continue to participate in the sustainable development of the Neponset RiverWalk, as well as community efforts to restore the Neponset River watershed.

ACTION: Cooperate with state and regional agencies on bicycle paths, greenway planning, watershed planning, and climate change planning.

ACTION: Participate in seawall assessment and redesign efforts to enhance resilience to climate change and accessibility.

ACTION: Increase support for salt marsh restoration and appropriate access to waterways.

ACTION: Support ongoing beach stewardship activities of the Beach Commission and/or Park and Recreation Board.

ACTION: Continue design development and implementation of the Squantum Point Park Master Plan, including waterfront gathering spaces, outdoor amenities and seating, walking paths, and scenic views.

ACTION: Continue to collaborate with Norfolk County Mosquito Control on integrated pest management including salt marsh management.

Objective 2.2: Improve the quality of water and overall condition of city beaches and ponds.

ACTION: Continue participation in MWRA Local Pipeline Assistance Program.

ACTION: Continue implementation of water conservation program through a DEP grant for leak protection.

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ACTION: Continue participation in flagship beach program.

ACTION: Continue to perform regular inspections and cleanings of brooks and streams.

ACTION: Improve and maintain stormwater management systems city-wide.

ACTION: Complete Sailors' Home Pond Dredging and Restoration Project, including pond dredging, stormwater improvements, invasive species management, native plantings, and interpretive signage, with the goals of improving water quality and ecological health and maintaining the pond's recreational and educational value.

Objective 2.3: Expand the recreational and educational activities at the beaches.

ACTION: Support interpretive sign creation and installation.

ACTION: Support Beach Commission and/or Park and Recreation Board public events and activities.

ACTION: Update and continue publication of the Quincy Beach Guide.

ACTION: Diversify recreational uses at the beaches to include different user groups, while promoting responsible recreation along the coast.

ACTION: Provide and promote accessible portages and water access (e.g., kayak launch, boat ramp, landings, small beaches, marinas)

ACTION: Update waterfront resource map and make available to the public.

ACTION: Promote use of Wollaston Beach as a significant public recreational amenity and natural resource, and continue the ongoing successful efforts to improve water quality and beach conditions.

GOAL 3: Expand Recreational Opportunities to Reflect Quincy's Cultural Diversity, Community Interests and the Needs of Underserved Populations.

Objective 3.1: Diversify recreational facilities and uses.

ACTION: Maintain recently-installed cricket field, and continue to add new amenities including permanent tables and chairs for mahjong and other table top games, and similar amenities.

ACTION: Identify open space areas suitable for tai chi, yoga and meditation.

ACTION: Support additional after-school recreation programs and opportunities for youth.

ACTION: Support the School Department, garden clubs, and/or community groups in establishing community gardens as feasible.

ACTION: Add new bocce courts, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball courts, and renovated gaga pit to Merrymount Park to expand the quantity and type of recreational amenities, and accommodate increased visitor use and interests.

ACTION: Continue to operate the Furnace Brook Golf Club including managing daily golf operations and course maintenance, market the club to potential new users, and expand recreational offerings and club functions, such as for tournaments and school teams.

Objective 3.2: Create passive recreation locations where residents can walk, sit, and relax.

ACTION: Incorporate seating and tables in shady areas, and plant trees strategically to create shade in desirable areas, particularly in densely-developed areas to mitigate the urban heat island effect and throughout the city to mitigate extreme heat due to climate change, and establish design guidelines to help meet this objective.

ACTION: Provide passive recreational opportunities in close proximity to densely populated areas (e.g., Quincy Center, Wollaston Center), and consider additional green space requirements for new construction.

Goal 4: Identify Additional Funding Sources for Open and Recreational Spaces.

Objective 4.1: Continue to utilize Community Preservation Act (CPA) and Hotel-Motel tax funds for open space and recreational purposes.

ACTION: Continue paying the debt service on past open space and recreation-related bonds.

ACTION: Continue management and maintenance of improvements made as part of \$30 million Park Improvement Bond authorized by Mayor Koch in 2016 to improve active and passive recreational facilities throughout the City.

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ACTION: Continue management and maintenance of improvements made as part of \$5.3 million Playground Renovation program to restore and improve 30 playgrounds throughout the city

ACTION: Implement management strategies at the recently-acquired 0 Harriet Avenue parcel for open space protection, ecological health improvement, passive recreational use, and to have the ability to extend the Neponset RiverWalk.

Objective 4.2: Acquire federal, state, and private grant funding.

ACTION: Continue to pursue state, federal, and private funding opportunities. Take advantage of grant programs focused on increasing resiliency in sensitive open spaces such as flood-prone parks, coastal beaches, or the streetscape and urban forest.

ACTION: Explore opportunities for sponsorships and maintenance assistance programs with local businesses and community organizations.

Objective 4.3: Secure dedicated revenue streams.

ACTION: Analyze and enhance prominent open space and parkland holdings that could be rented out for special events (e.g., golf course, marinas, ice rink).

ACTION: Investigate partnering with private entities to develop new recreational opportunities for existing parks. (e.g., zip line, obstacle course, water park, fitness trail).

ACTION: Explore establishment of an enterprise fund for the Furnace Brook Golf Course, establish fund if feasible, and manage revenues and expenses.

Goal 5: Manage Open Spaces and Natural Resources to Support Quincy's Sustainability and Resilience to Climate Change.

Objective 5.1: Use open spaces as a venue to promote community sustainability and resilience.

ACTION: Incorporate nature-based stormwater management concepts into the park system, including elements to engage the public (e.g., interpretive signage, plantings, seating areas).

ACTION: Enhance open spaces with educational signage about the connections between natural resources, sustainability and climate change.

ACTION: Promote community engagement through outreach and/or partnerships with local environmental groups, neighborhood associations, and other community organizations.

ACTION: Continue to manage and maintain new Beachcomber Park in recently acquired 1.38-acre lot off Quincy Shore Drive, with the goals of protecting and restoring this open space, improving resiliency to coastal flooding and climate change, allowing for potential additional flood storage and mitigation in the future, and educating the public with interpretive signage.

ACTION: Continue to manage and maintain Furnace Brook Flood Control and Ecological Restoration Project site, with the goals of restoring the floodplain, increasing capacity for stormwater and floodwaters, increasing resilience to flooding and climate change, improving wildlife habitat, restoring native plant communities, and educating the public with interpretive signage.

ACTION: Add wayfinding and interpretive signage at the newly-acquired 0 Harriet Ave. open space parcel.

ACTION: Continue design development and implementation of the Squantum Point Park Master Plan, including a visitor center, indoor and outdoor interpretive elements, stormwater management, and incorporating sustainable and climate-resilient design and construction.

Objective 5.2: Manage open spaces and natural resources in conjunction with other planning priorities and long-term goals.

ACTION: Incorporate Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP), Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan 5 Year Update (HMP), Harbor Management Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan, and other relevant plan recommendations when creating new open spaces, enhancing existing open spaces, or managing natural resources.

ACTION: Acquire and preserve open space whenever feasible, to help mitigate climate change, and increase climate resiliency.

ACTION: Explore best management practices and nature-based solutions for improving climate adaptation and resilience, particularly along the coastline, and use inundation and flooding analyses to inform management decisions.

ACTION: Include heritage landscape and materials conservation in long-term planning and management of historically significant open spaces, ethnographic landscapes, monuments, memorials, landmarks, public art, or similar.

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ACTION: Complete permitting and construction for the Merrymount Parkway Reconstruction Project, including replacing the Merrymount Parkway bridge over Black's Creek, raising the roadway profile, roadway and pedestrian/bicycle improvements, intersection and traffic signal improvements, sidewalk improvements, and landscaping improvements.

ACTION: Incorporate current and future flooding and inundation modeling completed by the City into parks, open space and recreation planning efforts, and evaluate opportunities to use open space for mitigation and adaptation in the future.

Objective 5.3: Manage Quincy's valuable natural and cultural resources using current science and best management practices.

ACTION: Utilize recently-completed street tree inventory, Urban Forest Management Plan, forestry best management practices, and professional standards, to manage and track work on the city's urban forest, keep inventory updated, and expand inventory to include significant or notable trees in parks and open spaces.

ACTION: Create and implement an Urban Forest Master Plan, leveraging existing inventory and management plan for plan development.

ACTION: Continue tree planting program in spring and fall, and plant a diversity of tree species, prioritizing native and climate-resilient species.

ACTION: Complete installation of City's first Miyawaki forest, including education and outreach components.

ACTION: Continue aquatic management program at City's two ponds (Butlers and Sailors' Home), including water quality monitoring, algae and vegetation management, stormwater management, wildlife monitoring, and public education and outreach, as well as completing Sailors' Home Pond Dredging and Restoration Project.

ACTION: Coordinate activities of the newly-formed Invasive Species Management Committee, assess invasive species, prioritize management efforts, and combine invasive species control and removal with native species promotion and replanting, as well as working on a City-wide Invasive Species Management Plan, including Phragmites australis and other significant invasives.

ACTION: Implement ecological restoration projects and long-term operation, maintenance and management plans for sensitive or significant natural resources, such as salt marshes, other coastal areas, wetlands and waterways, floodplain, and wooded areas.

ACTION: Conduct environmental research to inform natural resource and land management, and explore the feasibility of incorporating citizen science.

ACTION: Reduce microplastic soil and water contamination in open spaces (rocks, trees, signs, monuments, infrastructure) through removal of coating vandalism, refined by materials and procedural testing.

Goal 6: Make Open and Recreational Spaces Accessible to People with Disabilities and Older People.

Objective 6.1: Make access to facilities ADA compliant.

ACTION: Create additional ADA compliant parking and van access.

ACTION: Grade pathways and insert curb cuts where necessary and appropriate for mobility devices.

ACTION: Tie into and improve sidewalks and crosswalks connecting open spaces to public transportation and parking areas.

ACTION: Expand gateways to be compliant with dimension requirements where feasible, particularly at sports facilities and beaches.

ACTION: Continue to keep ADA inventory updated, and use inventory to prioritize accessibility improvements and upgrades.

Objective 6.2: Provide amenities that promote accessibility and use by people of all ages.

ACTION: Modify existing seating structures to accommodate mobility devices, and add new seating structures and ramps if necessary.

ACTION: Increase areas of shade, particularly in seating areas, along paths and by play areas.

ACTION: Prioritize playground accessibility improvements according to centrality, degree of traffic, and proximity to other parks.

ACTION: Expand inventory of recreational and play equipment to serve the varied types of disabilities.

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ACTION: Evaluate potential additional locations for perimeter paths for multi-modal use by all ages (walkers, runners, bikers, skaters, families with strollers, persons with mobility devices, etc.), similar to the successful paths at Merrymount Park and Kincaide Park.

GOAL 7: Treat Open Spaces as Experiential Classrooms to Promote Environmental Stewardship.

Objective 7.1: Provide educational tours, interpretive signage and outreach in parks in the system, with an emphasis on history and environmental issues.

ACTION: Support community-based organizations and initiatives, such as the Environmental Treasures program, as well as city, state (e.g. Department of Conservation & Recreation), and federal (e.g., National Park Service) efforts.

ACTION: Include content on issues such as invasive species, climate change, tree loss, and habitat degradation.

Objective 7.2: Encourage educational programs for community groups and schools.

ACTION: Work with School Department to develop environmental programs and incorporate current environmental science as part of the educational curriculum.

ACTION: Introduce green educational and volunteer opportunities to community youth groups and scout programs.

Objective 7.3: Assist in efforts to prevent dumping, vandalism, arson and other damaging activities, particularly in sensitive resource areas, including supporting neighborhood watch groups.

ACTION: Support security efforts with appropriate visibility and lighting efforts in high-risk areas.

ACTION: Encourage neighborhood reporting of damage to open spaces or street trees during post-storm clean-up efforts.

Objective 7.4: Promote park and recreation activities through the City website, social media and public access television with new programming updates and public service announcements.

ACTION: Publish the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) on the City website.

ACTION: Create outreach materials and videos for the City website, social media, and public access television.

ACTION: Continue to keep up-to-date schedules for programs on the City website and social media.

ACTION: Participate in web-based or mobile app management for sports league players, coaches, and parents.