

PRESS RELEASE

# Baker-Polito Administration Opens Magazine Beach Shoreline Path and Patio Area to the Public

Following a \$1.5 million improvement project, several amenities at DCR's Magazine Beach are available for the public to utilize, including the new granite seat walls overlooking the Charles River.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

7/30/2020

Department of Conservation & Recreation

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**CAMBRIDGE** — Following a multiphase improvement project through a public-private partnership among the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the City of Cambridge, and the Magazine Beach Partners, Magazine Beach has undergone a dramatic renovation costing approximately \$1.5 million. The state park's project, which took more than two years to complete, included the restoration of the Charles River shoreline, such as the removal of invasive species and the installation of native shrubs, trees, and over 4,000 wetland plugs. Additionally, adjacent to the historic Powder Magazine, an expanded, accessible bluestone terrace, granite seat walls, and new Shurcliff benches were installed.

"DCR's Magazine Beach offers both residents and tourists the opportunity to visit and explore the park's incredible natural, cultural, and recreational resources, including the 1818 Powder Magazine, the oldest structure in the Charles River Basin," **said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Jim Montgomery.** "The Baker-Polito Administration remains committed to not only protecting these types of properties but also ensuring a high level of access remains available for all to benefit from."

"Magazine Beach is a beloved community destination for many Cambridge residents and families," **said Cambridge City Manager Louis A. DePasquale.** "Even though it is owned by the Commonwealth, and run by DCR, the improvements that have been taking place over the last several years at Magazine Beach represent the broad collaboration among many levels of government, elected officials, city departments, community groups, and residents. The City of Cambridge is proud to be a partner in this Magazine Beach effort."

"The pandemic has made us much more aware of the importance of available public open space," **said Cathie Zusy, President of the Magazine Beach Partners.** "We are so grateful for the City and State's investment at

the park and look forward to continuing our partnership for many years to come.”

The improvements made at Magazine Beach serve as great examples of a successful public-private partnership, where all partners aided in the design, funding, and construction of the work. Funding through DCR’s Partnership Matching Funds Program, the Cambridge Community Preservation Act, and fundraising by the Magazine Beach Partners were all utilized to finance the project. Through the partnership over \$3 million has been invested to date in Magazine Beach.

“I greatly appreciate celebrating another important milestone in the successful partnership between DCR, Cambridge, and Magazine Beach Partners to improve Magazine Beach,” **said State Representative Jay Livingstone (D-Boston)**. “I look forward to the community enjoying this new neighborhood amenity for years to come.”

“Magazine Beach serves as a recreational and environmental resource to those who visit and live in the Cambridge community,” **said State Senator Joe Boncore (D-Winthrop)**. “Through measures taken to make this space more accessible, more neighbors in Cambridgeport and beyond will be able to enjoy this area. The sustainability improvements undertaken will ensure that Magazine Beach can be enjoyed for years to come.”

Other recent improvements to the state park include the rehabilitation of the Powder Magazine, the completion of a new spray deck, and the opening of a canoe/kayak launch and outlook. Furthermore, native plant species have been planted and the shoreline path has been widened and regraded.

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