

Programs and Activities

Qualities most worth preserving

Active spaces: Charles River; TERSF; Hatch Shell; open air pathways; multi-purpose facility

Aesthetics: Majesty of the river; flowers in spring

Amenities: Benches; kiosks; gondolas

Community involvement: Different community organizations utilize space; bulb planting; volunteer beautification

Event programming: 4th of July; charity events; Hatch Shell concerts; movies; Charles River Swim; children's programs (at TERSF and playgrounds)

Landscape: Leisure areas in groves of trees; shade

Sports and recreation: sailing; jogging; biking; soccer programs; dancing; model boating; baseball; kayaking; yoga; roller blading; exercise station

Fiedler statue

Weaknesses and threats

Access: Too few access points; confusing access to Longfellow bridge and Charles/MGH T stop; pedestrian bridges in poor shape

Amenities: Lack of drinking fountains beyond center of park; lack of bike racks/stands; inadequate concessions

Art and design: Lack of art or compelling sculpture; upper park lacks compelling features

Community involvement: Complacency towards the condition of the park; lack of opportunities for public input on park developments and happenings; poor funding

Event programming: Should be more large-scale events (ala 4th of July celebration); difficult to organize new events thanks to red tape; too many events damage the park's landscape; events are noisy for local residents; lack of four-season events; no swimming

Facilities and structures: Decaying CBI Docks; café is weak; too few restrooms; lack of kayak landings; boating opportunities restricted to CBI no bathrooms during winter; many buildings are closed to the public; asbestos and lead chipping from decaying bridges;

Landscape: Canada Geese disturb the turf, pathways, and docks; many unhealthy trees; too many desire-line pathways

Management: DCR is under resourced; poor oversight and management

Pathways: Conflict between bikers and pedestrians; dangerous to share paths; paths are too narrow in places; park needs more designated biking, walking areas

Signage: Lack of signage; need better direction to park and special events

Spatial usage: Inadequate use of TERSF; too many restrictions on use of fields

Polluted river

Too many lanes and vehicles on Storrow Drive

Opportunities

Amenities: Bring wi-fi to the café; make concessions available throughout the seasons

Facilities and structures: Fix the docks at CBI; more playgrounds; improve opportunities for boat access; make use of unused buildings (i.e. Dartmouth St Pavilion and Lee Pool); more restrooms; better restrooms; open a beer garden in the park

Pathways: Renew the paths; create separate bike paths

Make it a better destination

Need nighttime activities in the park

Improve park signage

Bring in four season activities

Better park management

Sculpture and art, beyond the standard monuments, should be integrated into the park