

## Swim Park Charrettes Summary

*This is a summary from the combined notes and materials gathered at two Swim Park Charrettes hosted by the Charles River Conservancy on March 25, 2017 and May 17, 2017. Please note that this is an overview and is not a comprehensive list of ideas generated at the charrettes.*

### **Safety:**

1. Study Ecological Impacts/ Human Health/ Toxicology
2. Study impact of currents, dams, and locks
3. Test sediment
  - a. Concern over not knowing what's in the sediment & turbulence effect
  - b. Protection through high tech filtration/ natural filtration
4. Educational component- water quality
  - a. Partnership with Museum of Science
5. Research natural filtration methods
  - a. Sand filtration
6. Security at the park
  - a. Fences
  - b. Single access point
  - c. Crowd control
7. Water quality
  - a. Open communication with public- daily updates on web
  - b. Real-time buoy
  - c. Visual indicator
8. Lifeguards
  - a. Swim test
9. Passing boats
  - a. Waves, oil, turbulence, etc.

### **Accessibility:**

1. Programming for people with disabilities
  - a. Benefits of being outdoors/swimming
  - b. Physical therapy
  - c. Mental health activities
2. Increase connectivity to North Point Park
  - a. Biking
    - i. Bike path essentially ends at Craigie Bridge
    - ii. Bike parking
  - b. Walkers
    - i. Way-finding signs
    - ii. Bridge from Science Park
  - c. Water taxis

- i. To/from Esplanade
- 3. Recreational boating access
  - a. Docks for small boats to pull up to
- 4. Wheelchair accessible + ADA compliant toilets and showers
- 5. Increase public awareness of North Point Park
- 6. Lift in pool
- 7. Buses from community centers
- 8. Handrails
- 9. Sloped, gradual access to water

### **Fun:**

- 1. Incorporating public art
  - a. Music/ Murals/ Sculptures
- 2. Hosting other events at the Swim Park/ NPP
  - a. Rentals (weddings, birthdays)
  - b. Community events (movie nights)
- 3. Seasonality
  - a. Year-round (cold-water swimming or other activities i.e. ice-skating)
  - b. 3 seasons
  - c. Summer only
- 4. Family Friendly
- 5. Amenities
  - a. Food, shade structures, changing area, phone charging, showers, lockers, bathrooms, drinking fountain, lounge area, etc.
  - b. More elaborate: climbing wall, zip line, lazy river, slides, obstacle courses, fountains, sauna, steam baths, etc.
- 6. Kids educational component
  - a. Natural ecology of the river/ history
- 7. Swim lessons
  - a. Free?
- 8. Events
  - a. Triathlons, races, swim meets, midnight swim
- 9. Swim routes
  - a. Circular swimming/ long swim route

### **Equity**

- 1. Pricing models
  - a. Free for everyone
  - b. Set price for all
  - c. Need-based discounts
  - d. Different levels of membership
- 2. Advertising on the T
- 3. Work with summer camps/ school programs
- 4. Allow diverse community groups to host events.
- 5. Continue hearing from diverse stakeholders

- a. Community meetings or “mini-charrettes” (without using the term ‘charrette’)
- 6. Equity between residents and visitors

### **Beauty/ Design**

- 1. Zones
  - a. Laps, wading/kids, dogs, play (different user groups)
  - b. Boardwalk between zones
- 2. Design type (natural materials vs. modern)
- 3. Solar power
- 4. Minimize impact to community through smart design
- 5. Utilize more of the park
  - a. Around island/ through canal area

### **General/ Other**

- 1. Impact on parklands
  - a. Trash, graffiti
- 2. Impact of more people in the parklands
  - a. There is probably more foot traffic from SKP; how many people will the swim park bring into NPP
  - b. Managing demand for the Swim Park each day
    - i. E.g., allow people to stay all day or limit to a certain number of hours
- 3. Long-term maintenance/management plan
- 4. Tie into Boston/ Cambridge history
- 5. Decide who its for- residents or tourists