

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Dennis E. Harrington, Director of Planning and Urban Redevelopment

FY 2013 Annual Report

The Department of Planning & Community Development prepares and implements long-term and short range plans related to the City’s natural and built environment. The Department works with the public and the private sector to ascertain and realize community goals for land use and physical development in housing, transportation, economic development, public services and facilities, historic, natural and cultural resources, open space and recreation.



The Department administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other federal and state grants, serves as the Urban Renewal Agency for the City, and supports the efforts of City boards, committees, and commissions charged with planning-related responsibilities.

I. BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Planning Board

In FY 2013 William Geary was elected Chairman of the Quincy Planning Board. Coleman Barry was elected Vice Chair and James Fay, Clerk. William Adams and Richard Meade served as the fourth and fifth members of the appointed board.

The Board conducted hearings and issued numerous decisions for a variety of special permit, site plan review and subdivision filings. Since 2007, the Planning Board has retained high quality technical review consultants for peer review of applications. In FY 2013 alone, a total of \$148,588 was expended on technical expertise for civil engineering, design, traffic and environmental or site related matters. This funding is provided by the applicant, at no expense to taxpayers, in the form of a dedicated “53G” account, referring to the section of the Mass General Law that governs the use of this special funding. Use of 53G significantly enhanced the Board’s access to expert peer review as follows:

Project Address	Description	53G Expenditure
<i>135 Crescent Street</i>	9-unit multifamily	<i>\$5,000.73</i>
<i>159 Brook Road</i>	<i>New office and warehouse</i>	<i>\$3,487.50</i>
<i>55 Broad Street</i>	Quirk Auto facility improvements	<i>\$1,860</i>
<i>1630 Hancock Street</i>	Good Health site/parking improvements	<i>\$4,779.44</i>
<i>Victory Road/Marina Bay</i>	352-unit mixed-use development	<i>\$109,845.14</i>
<i>84 West Street</i>	9-unit multifamily	<i>\$6,361.20</i>
<i>320 Quincy Ave</i>	Dependable Cleaners w/ Corporate Office	<i>\$2,480</i>
<i>245 Willard Street</i>	6-units multifamily with office	<i>\$2,983.75</i>
<i>150 Bower Road</i>	Manufacturing, office and storage	<i>\$2,594.82</i>
<i>157 Hancock Street</i>	14-unit multifamily	<i>\$2,000 (deposited)</i>

25 Temple Street	16-units above 1 st floor commercial	\$991.08
286-306 Washington St	Bay Cove assisted living facility	\$490
115 Whitwell Street	Quincy Medical Center campus plan	\$7,640.03

A definitive subdivision application for Lots 48, 55, 58 and 78 off Victory Road was approved resulting in safe and sufficient access to the proposed Boardwalk Residences at Marina Bay project and improving circulation for the area of Marina Bay adjacent to the Department of Recreation’s Squantum Point Park. After a detailed peer review process, sub-surface utilities, lighting, sidewalks, on-street parking, cross-walks, intersection geometry and permanent public access easements were substantially improved and/or included in the Subdivision approvals. A prior approval for the Eagle Terrace subdivision was rescinded at a meeting in January 2013.

The Board also deliberated and provided advisory opinions to the City Council on a permitting moratorium for medical marijuana dispensaries and a Planned Unit Development Special Permit for a six-story residential building at Zero Penn Street. The Board monitored Quincy Medical Center/Steward Health Care’s special permit compliance regarding its ‘Campus Management Plan’ and parking demand study.

The Board also heard the first redevelopment project titled “Merchants Row” under the Quincy Center Urban Revitalization District Plan, as amended. *(See Section III URBAN RENEWAL ACTIVITIES: Merchants Row Certificate of Consistency)*

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Committee (AHTFC)

The Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance in Quincy requires that any residential development of 10 or more units must provide 10% of the units as affordable to low-moderate income households on or off-site. A fee in lieu of payment equal to 50% of 10% of the construction cost of all units developed is also an option for developers. Since its inception in 2003, the AHTFC has resulted in 152 units of affordable housing and over \$2.5 million of cash in lieu payments to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

FY 2013 AHTFC Accomplishments:

- Expended \$7,330 of the \$100,000 to the Office of Housing Rehabilitation to be utilized as 2-1 match for low and moderate income household rehabilitation projects.
- Expended \$70,000 on 150 Quincy Street; 3 rental units fully leased up.
- Expended \$250,000 for the 6 Fort Street project for creation of 34 rental units.
- Expended \$75,511 of a \$500,000 budget to help 11 residents purchase a first home under the AT HOME IN QUINCY program.
- Boardwalk at Marina Bay: \$10,000 per unit cash in lieu of unit creation agreement for the proposed mixed-use project that will include up to 352 residential units.

On June 30, 2013, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund had a balance of \$568,119 generated by “fee in lieu of unit” payments plus interest earned in this account.

Historic Commission

The Quincy Historical Commission monitors historic preservation issues throughout the City, and ensures that responsible development coincides with the protection of historic resources in Quincy.

<i>Project Address</i>	<i>Project Activity</i>	<i>Historic Commission Action</i>
<i>1212 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Exterior masonry, window repair, paint and acid wash exterior</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>103 Franklin Street</i>	<i>Installation of new sign for new business</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1630 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Façade improvements, signage and parking gatehouse</i>	<i>Approval for façade improvements and signage granted and COA issued. Parking gatehouse denied.</i>
<i>1400 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Replacement of glass tiles at entrance to main door</i>	<i>Matter continued</i>
<i>6 Coddington Street</i>	<i>Exterior restoration of building including windows, masonry and landscaping</i>	<i>Matter continued</i>
<i>Rt 53 /E. Howard Street</i>	<i>Intersection--- DOT presented matter as traffic mitigation project</i>	<i>Certificate of Non Applicability (CONA) issued</i>
<i>26 Coddington Street</i>	<i>Sample materials provided</i>	<i>Approval granted pending submission of construction documents. COA issued</i>
<i>1546 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Request for awning and exterior lighting</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1627 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Parking booth for property</i>	<i>Matter continued</i>
<i>1421 Hancock Street</i>	<i>New signage sought</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>138 Franklin Street</i>	<i>Signage/logo change</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1462 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Name change for business, new signage needed</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1627 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Parking booth request</i>	<i>Planning Board Special Permit refused permission. Approval denied.</i>
<i>58 Ross Way</i>	<i>New signage for new business</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1191-1225 Hancock Street</i>	<i>New business seeks signage</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>
<i>1445 Hancock Street</i>	<i>Change signage</i>	<i>Approval granted: COA issued</i>

Bicycle Commission

During FY 2013, the Planning Department spearheaded many important bicycle planning efforts. Most notably, the Department worked successfully with the Mayor's office to facilitate the formation of a Bicycle Commission comprised of City Departments—the Mayor's Office, Planning, Park, Recreation, Police, and Public Works—and three citizen representatives with an interest in bicycle planning, safety, and policy. The purpose of the Quincy Bicycle Commission is to advise the Mayor on promoting bicycling as a viable transportation option for all trip purposes and for a wide-range of users while improving the safety of all bicycle users throughout the City of Quincy.

Also during FY 2013, the City of Quincy partnered with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC) transportation planning staff –with funding from the Sustainable Communities Grant program—to analyze the existing and pedestrian cycling environment in the City of Quincy, and to develop recommendations for low-cost, short-term improvements. The resulting recommendations create a network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities based almost entirely upon existing rights-of-way with no changes to curb location. Most importantly, this plan offers strategies for how the City of

Quincy can begin to institutionalize the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations at the local level in all projects. It should be noted that MAPC worked collaboratively with the City on this effort and in addition to the Planning Department, the Mayor's Office, the Department of Public works, the Park Department, the Recreation Department all contributed to the development of this plan.

Quincy Bicycle Planning materials can be viewed and downloaded from the Planning Department page of the City website at <http://www.quincyma.gov/Government/PLANNING/Quincybicycleplanning.cfm>

II. URBAN RENEWAL ACTIVITIES

The City of Quincy continues to move forward with major public and private investment in the downtown through the Quincy Center Urban Revitalization District Plan (URDP).

Progress continues on the three Core Public Improvement Projects with the Town Brook Enhancement Project construction in its last stages, the Adams Green Transportation Improvement Project reaching 100% design status and being advertised by MassDOT, Adams Green Park Projects design underway, and the Burgin Parkway Access Bridge receiving critical state approval allowing full design to proceed.

Two permitting milestones occurred during the 2012/2013 time period. On December 14, 2012, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs issued the MEPA Certificate for the New Quincy Center Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). This was followed by the Quincy Planning Board issuing its first Certificate of Consistency approval of the Merchants Row development proposal on December 28, 2012.

The designated developer continues to meet its commitments by moving forward with the first development program and by providing critical engineering and design support for the Three Core Public Improvement projects.

Both announcements are clear signs that the land use, regulatory, and financial strategies put in place using Chapter 121B Urban Renewal Planning have triggered a strong market response.

URDP Permitting

In December 2012, the New Quincy Center project (EOEA #14780) completed the MEPA environmental review process, and is now fully permitted. Documentation included the preparation of an Expanded Environmental Notification Form, Draft Environmental Impact Report, and Final Environmental Impact Report . Upon issuance (December 12, 2012) of the Certificate for the Final Environmental Impact Report, the Secretary of Environmental Affairs determined that the project adequately and properly complied with MEPA and its implementing regulations.

Town Brook Enhancement Project

On May 18, 2012, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Office of Appeals and Dispute Resolution recommended the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issue the Final Order of Conditions (FOC) for the Town Brook Enhancement Project. The City received the FOC on May 29, 2012 and LM Heavy Civil Construction, LLC was given the go ahead to start construction activities. In addition, Hancock Adams Associates, LLC executed its

purchase of the American Legion Post 95 located at 27 Revere Road and signed title over to the City to complete the necessary right-of-way to construct the project.

The first phase of construction included the excavation of two pits on either side of Hancock Street in order to tunnel under the busy roadway. This technique was chosen to avoid disruption to the busy roadway. The recently acquired American Legion post 95 was abated for hazardous material and demolished.

By December, the tunneling operation and building demolition activities were completed and the next phase of construction began that included the excavation of two areas on either side of Mechanic Street. Both areas were to form two new day lighted sections of Town Brook complete with several environmentally engineered elements aimed at supporting the annual Smelt spawning season.

On March 8, 2013, Town Brook flows were diverted to the new section ahead of the Smelt spawning season. Final site work and the construction of new parks adjacent to the day lighted sections continued through the summer and is expected to be completed in the fall.

Construction of the Town Brook Enhancement Project was made possible by \$5 million Supplemental grant from the State Legislature and a \$5.1 million MassWorks grant.

In less than three years, the City of Quincy completed design, permitting, and construction of the Town Brook Relocation project. The new alignment has vastly improved the ecological balance of the Town Brook. From the vegetated wall and island to new environmentally sensitive low flow channels and substrate, the brook now provides a more appropriate habitat for the thousands of smelt that travel upstream each year to spawn while maintaining Town Brook Flood Control System's functionality and capacity.

With the Town Brook Enhancement Project in place, the proposed redevelopment of Quincy Center can proceed.

Adams Green

Adams Green will not be just a typical park; it will serve as the centerpiece for the revitalized downtown. This new public space will serve as the primary gateway from the Quincy Center MBTA station to the Church of the Presidents, the National Park Service Visitors Center and nearby attractions, the Historic Quincy Town Hall and adjacent cemetery, and the new downtown commercial uses.

In 2010, with a Transit Oriented Development grant from the Commonwealth, the City engaged Halvorson Design Partnership to develop a schematic design for a contiguous public space—identified in the 2005 City of Quincy Downtown Vision Plan—that incorporates Hancock Street between the United First Parish Church and City Hall into the existing park between City Hall and the Quincy Center MBTA Station—preliminary dubbed ADAMS GREEN. A preliminary traffic analysis was also completed as part of the schematic design process

Adams Green is being carried out in two phases: Infrastructure development and Construction and Park Design and Construction. Phase One entails the design and construction of the public works, multimodal transportation infrastructure, and streetscape improvements to support the design and construction of the

Adams Green Park space, and will be fully funded with reprogrammed federal transportation earmark (SAFETEA-LU) in the amount of \$6 million. Design has been completed, and MassDOT will begin construction of Phase I in March 2014.

Phase II—with Halvorson Design Partnership as the lead landscape architect firm—entails the design and the construction of the actual park space, associated amenities, and interpretative elements. Design drawings are at the 25% level and are under review by Mayor Koch. Because the park design drawings are still “working,” construction drawings have not been developed. The design of Phase two is being funded with by a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Gateway Cities grant and local funds. The construction of the park space will be principally funded through the Commonwealth’s Infrastructure Investment and Incentive Program (I-Cubed).

Burgin Parkway Access Bridge

The third Core Public Improvement Project, the new Burgin Parkway Access Bridge, will add a new access point across the depressed MBTA rail tracks directly to the URD project area. Street-Works is funding the design of the bridge, which received a Bridge Type Selection approval from MassDOT on 1/26/12. On 7/3/2012, the MBTA issued its Clearance Waiver for the new bridge, allowing the design to proceed. The next step will be review by the State’s Department of Public Utilities.

Quincy Center MBTA Station/ Transportation Community System Preservation (TCSP) Funding

Although not identified by the LDA as a Core Public Improvement, the 2006 Quincy Center Vision Plan underscores importance of the Quincy Center MBTA Station as a catalyst for future economic development downtown. In 2011, the City was awarded \$978,300 under the Federal Transportation Community System Preservation program to develop multimodal connections from the future Adams Green Park to the Quincy Center MBTA Station. In 2012, the Quincy Center Parking Garage was closed indefinitely, as the MBTA’s structural engineers team observed the following deteriorating conditions: concrete spalling, cracking and delamination as well as corrosion of reinforcing steel within the concrete members. Not too long after the garage closing, the Federal Highway administration—in partnership with the MBTA approved the use of the TCSP funds to begin the design of a new Quincy Center intermodal station, parking garage, and retail and transit oriented development.

The City of Quincy in partnership with the MBTA issued an Request for Qualifications in 2013 and is currently awaiting Federal approval to execute a contract with the selected design. Scope of services for the design includes but is not necessary limited to the following activities:

- Preliminary engineering
- NEPA/MEPA Environmental documentation/permitting
- Design Development for a rehabilitated station and parking facilities, and provisions for transit oriented development above the station , and railroad right-of-way
- 25% Design Plans, Specifications for new station and parking facility

Development a scope of work for a Design/Build/Finance/Operate/Maintain project delivery

Merchants Row Certificate of Consistency

On December 20, 2012, the Planning Board approved the Merchants Row Certificate of Consistency Application under the Quincy Center Urban Redevelopment District Plan and the New Quincy Center Land Disposition Agreement. The project is located at 1400-1466 Hancock Street and includes the demolishing of existing single story retail spaces on Hancock Street and a separate single story structure on Chestnut Street. The iconic “Granite Trust” building will remain and be fully rehabbed. The new development program consists of two new mixed-use residential structures situated on top of an underground parking facility. The proposed Kilroy Tower is a 15-story residential building containing 246 housing units with first floor retail located at the corner of Chestnut Street and Cottage Avenue. The proposed Granite Trust Lofts is a 6-story residential building containing 60 housing units and first floor retail located on Hancock Street. A new “via” will be created providing limited vehicular and pedestrian access to the site.

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The City of Quincy's Community Development division is responsible for the administration of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) community planning, development, and housing programs. These programs utilize block grant funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and the HEARTH Act/ Continuum of Care (CoC) program to fund local activities which benefit low/moderate-income residents and neighborhoods of Quincy. Projects supported must conform to program regulations and focus on the city's priority needs, as identified in the current Five-year Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans.

A. CDBG

Under the CDBG program, the Community Development division provided for the administration of forty-eight (48) activities under the categories of public services, public facilities and improvements, code enforcement, planning and administration, economic development, and housing rehabilitation. Below is a summary of accomplishments under these categories, with the exception of housing rehabilitation, which is illustrated under the HOME & Housing section of this annual report.

Public Service Programs

Critical public service programs to benefit low and moderate-income persons were delivered marking substantial progress toward high priority community needs. Programs for the elderly, youth, the homeless, immigrants, handicapped, and economically disadvantaged individuals and households were undertaken in neighborhood centers and public facilities. Quincy expended \$299,751.75 to undertake public services programs benefitting 13,964 persons.

Public Facilities and Improvements

Public facilities projects included an expenditure of \$21,650 for rehabilitation of a shelter for victims of domestic violence; upgrades included a hot water heater, interior doors and ventilation.

The city also utilized CDBG funds for the engineering, design, and construction of infrastructure improvements (drainage, resurfacing, sidewalk repairs, etc.) in various low-moderate neighborhoods and was studying infrastructure needs in FY 2013.

7,891 Quincy residents benefitted from public facility and improvement projects during the fiscal year.

Code Enforcement Activities

Utilizing funding of \$59,970 the Code Enforcement Officer inspected 663 residential properties in low and moderate income neighborhoods for code violations; 323 of these cases were closed.

Planning and Administration

Quincy expended \$333,792 for planning and administration costs associated with managing the City's CDBG, HOME, ESG and McKinney grants. The total amount was expended for overall grant oversight, various research activities and the monitoring of sub-recipients.

Economic Development Programs through the Quincy 2000 Collaborative

The Quincy 2000 Collaborative is private, non-profit economic development corporation that unites Quincy's public and private sectors in a common economic development mission.

Since 1992, Quincy 2000 Collaborative has played a vital role in attracting new business to the city and helping existing businesses grow. Services provided include improving the business landscape with sign and façade improvements, fostering neighborhood business district partnerships, and providing technical and financial support for new and emerging businesses through the Quincy 2000 Collaborative Loan Pool.

Quincy 2000 Collaborative expended a total of \$35,000 in CDBG entitlement and revolving loan funds for economic development activities, leaving an unexpended cash balance of \$66,860 on June 30, 2013. During the year, 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) job was created through current and ongoing loans and assistance programs.

Commercial Loan Pool

Using CDBG funds as a potential funding source, along with the non-federal Business Loan Pool, the Quincy 2000 Collaborative offered commercial loans to businesses that created or retained jobs for low to moderate-income people. The Collaborative assisted 7 individuals with business plans and applications for funding through the Commercial Loan Pool or other funding sources. In March 2013, Mayor Koch announced a commitment from 10 local banks for a total of \$1 million dollars in capital for the Commercial Loan Program. The loans will be offered at the prime lending rate and range from \$25,000 to \$250,000.

Technical Assistance for Job Creation

The Technical Assistance for Job Creation program involves assistance with a business plan or a Commercial Loan application. The business owners agreed to create or retain at least 51% of full time equivalent jobs for low/mod- income people and provide a yearly schedule of job creation goals. Technical Assistance was provided to 7 businesses resulting in one application approved, but not as submitted for financing during the fiscal year.

Technical Assistance for Microenterprises

The Technical Assistance to Microenterprise program reaches out to low and moderate-income people who had a small business or a great desire to start one. With a program delivery cost of \$7,000 of CDBG revolving loan funds, several workshops were offered during the year. This is further supplemented by tailored one-on-one assistance sessions, which discuss everything from funding to developing business plans for starting micro enterprises. A total of 14 new low and moderate-income persons participated in these classes or made an appointment for additional one-on-one assistance.

Community Development Week 2013

A weeklong celebration was held across the country from April 1-7 providing the opportunity for communities to showcase CDBG-funded projects and programs, and to educate residents, local businesses, and community groups about the work of PCDD.

Three media events were held:

“The Historic Washington Street Corridor: Celebrating a Commercial District on the Move”

This was a press conference highlighting the public and private investment that has been made along this important corridor over the years. The city, through HUD CPD, has made substantial investment along this street, utilizing CDBG and HOME funds, for economic development, housing rehab, and affordable housing creation projects. As part of this event, Dean Rizzo, President of the Quincy Chamber of Commerce, was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for promoting Quincy’s economic vitality and making the city an exceptional place to live, work, invest, and visit.

Celebrating the Creation of Five New Accessible Affordable Housing Units

With Quincy as the lead community of the HOME Consortium, the Town of Milton celebrated the opening of 5 new affordable units of housing. This new building provides 5 housing units for disabled individuals. Speakers at the event included U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano; Bob Shumeyko (Director HUD Boston CPD Office), Mayor Koch; Elin Howe, Commissioner, Mass. Department of Developmental Services; Arthur Jemison, Deputy Undersecretary, Mass Dept. of Housing & Community Development; Town of Milton Planning Director; Town of Milton Board of Selectmen; and Jim Cassetta, Work, Inc (project developer)

Veterans Housing Groundbreaking

Utilizing federal HOME funding, the City is supporting the development of new affordable housing units targeting veterans and their families. Plans include the demolition of the existing vacant VFW Post and the construction of two new affordable rental units for Veterans and their families. Speakers included Cedric Kam (Deputy Director HUD Boston CPD Office); Mayor Koch; Council President Michael McFarland; Ward Councillor Margaret Laforest; Dennis Harrington, Quincy Planning Director; and representatives of Neighborhood Housing Services.

To conclude the Veterans Housing Groundbreaking, one individual and one agency were honored for their dedication and commitment to community development: Cynthia Antonopoulos, Director of the Houghs Neck Community Center; and the South Shore Hunger Network.

Other Community Development Week events included neighborhood center programs in North Quincy, Germantown, and Houghs Neck.

National Community Development Association (NCDA)

The City of Quincy is a member community of NCDA. The mission of NCDA is to assist local governments to achieve high-quality, locally responsive programs for making communities better places to live and work, particularly for low and moderate income people.

Sean Glennon, Community Development Director in the City of Quincy's Department of Planning and Community Development, was elected Chair of the New England region of NCDA at its bi-annual regional conference held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire in November 2012.

NCDA Regional Conferences

Community Development Director, Sean Glennon, served as emcee of NCDA's New England Regional Spring Conference, held in Worcester, MA on April 30, 2013.

Speakers at the conference included Aaron Gornstein, Undersecretary, Mass. Dept. of Housing & Community Development; Robert Shumeyko, Director, Office of Community Planning & Development, U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development; Hon. Setti Warren, Mayor of Newton, MA, and Chair of the United States Conference of Mayors' Housing & Community Development Committee; and Congressman Jim McGovern, representing the 2nd Congressional District of Massachusetts.

After his remarks, Glennon presented McGovern with a plaque in recognition of the Congressman's support and advocacy of block grant programs.

B. HOME & HOUSING

Quincy HOME Consortium

In 1992 the City of Quincy and the Town of Weymouth joined forces and formed the Quincy HOME Consortium under HUD's HOME Program. In that time the consortium has received a total of more than \$13 million in yearly entitlement grants to address affordable housing needs in Quincy and Weymouth through grant and loan assistance for residents wishing to purchase a home through the First Time Homebuyers Program, for non-profit and for-profit affordable housing developers for the acquisition/creation of affordable housing units, and low-moderate income homeowners in need of housing rehabilitation. In 2010, the Consortium expanded to include the towns of Holbrook, Milton and Braintree.

Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing

The 2011-2015 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI) was developed to meet HUD's regulations governing the preparation of the Consolidated Plan and to address the expansion of the Quincy Home Consortium in 2010. The AI was developed with the help and participation of fair housing advocates, municipal staff from each of the Consortium communities, local educators and brokers, representatives from housing authorities, Human Rights and Fair Housing Committees and non-profit housing and human service agencies.

A survey was issued to Tenants and Homeowners as well as industry representatives to gain a better understanding of current impediments to fair housing choice. Over 150 responses informed a detailed list of action items to address the identified obstacles. Impediments included a range of issues such as municipal capacity for fair housing compliance oversight; restrictive zoning; architectural accessibility; private sector policy and practice; limited capacity for education and outreach; and, housing cost burden. Action item highlights included more collaboration, standing committees, municipal integration of Architectural Access across city departments and housing authorities; more fair housing education to municipal staff and residents; and, develop a Quincy HOME Consortium Fair Housing Plan, among others.

Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO)

Quincy Community Action Program, Inc. (QCAP) is joined by NHS as two designated CHDO's in Quincy working to develop affordable housing for low/moderate income households as follows:

- NHS expended \$24,831.96 in HOME funding for a single family residence at 51 Empire Street. The project provides a disabled veteran and his family housing.
- NHS expended \$5,000 of a \$200,000 allocation for a three unit home for women over 55 years.
- NHS expended \$5,000 to bring three (3) units of family housing up to minimum housing quality standards;
- \$3,992 of HOME funds were expended for 150 Quincy Street for rehab for a 3-unit SRO
- NHS and QCAP maintained CHDO status by executing agreements with the City.

Non-Profit Rental Housing Development

Quincy supported the Asian Community Development Corporation's 34-unit family housing project at 6 Fort Street with an expenditure of \$55,073 in HOME funds. \$100,000 in CDBG and \$250,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust have also been committed to the project.

First Time Homebuyers Program

The City of Quincy through the Quincy HOME Consortium has created a comprehensive First Time Homebuyer Program (FTHB) that uses HOME Program funds to assist low-moderate income households with down payment assistance and closing costs. In order to take advantage of state funds the City's program also follows the same guideline that governs the Massachusetts Housing Partnership's Soft-second program. Both the Consortium and State program requires that the household wishing to purchase a home take a Citizen's Housing and Planning Association (CHAPA) certified Housing Counselling Program that will assist them in every aspect of the home-buying process.

Quincy's FTHB helped seventeen (17) qualified applicants access the Massachusetts Housing Partnership Soft-Second Program with reduced mortgage rates and favorable terms. The program provided \$5,076,784 in first mortgage financing and \$39,190 in Soft-second mortgages. QCAP held seven (7) educational seminars for first time homebuyers.

Fair Housing Programs and Initiatives

In addition to the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing the City implemented various activities to overcome the effects of impediments to fair housing, including:

- QCAP implemented a Fair Housing Counseling Program partially funded with city monies. During the program year, QCAP assisted 217 persons, of which 133 were extremely low-income persons. Of all persons assisted, 124 were female head of household, 138 were White; 42 were Black/African American; 24 were Asian; and the remaining beneficiaries were multi-racial. Of all beneficiaries, 9 were Hispanic.
- The City's First Time Homebuyer and Housing Rehabilitation brochures were updated in English and Chinese language to target Quincy's largest minority group and were distributed at neighborhood centers and libraries. Ads were run in the Quincy Sun, Patriot Ledger and Weymouth News.

Housing Rehabilitation Program

The City, through its Office of Housing Rehabilitation and NHS continued to implement handicapped accessibility, lead paint, flood elevation and retrofitting, and regular homeowner and tenant occupied housing rehabilitation.

FY 2013 Accomplishments:

- Marketed the rehabilitation program to owner-occupied units and rental property owners, including Asian-American residents, through direct mailings, advertising in Chinese newspapers, and special events.
- Assisted twelve (12) housing units occupied by low to moderate income households with a total expenditure of \$132,698.
- Received \$87,439.33 in program income from housing rehabilitation loan payments, \$30,507.34 of which came from monthly payments, and \$56,931.99 from loan payoffs.

Energy Efficiency for Housing Rehabilitation

The Quincy HOME Consortium adopted the ENERGY STAR standard for substantial rehabilitation and/or new construction of affordable housing in all member communities. All CDBG or HOME funded project contracts are required to contain the following language, "All new and gut rehab residential buildings up to three stories shall be designed to meet the standard for Energy Star Qualified New Homes (less than or equal to 80 HERS). All procedures used for this rating shall comply with National Home Energy Rating System (HERS) guidelines."

Winter Gardens

The 24-unit Winter Gardens building welcomed its first tenants in late 2012. Winter Gardens has been designed to gain the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star rating as well as the new Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) certification from the US Green Building Council, which awards points for incorporating renewable energy systems such as the solar installation described. The LEED-ND certification goes beyond an individual building and takes into account factors that include sustainable design like walkable streets, access to public transit, employment opportunities and other neighborhood amenities.

NHS's building also meets the state's optional energy code which increases a building's energy performance by approximately 20%. The so-called "Stretch" Appendix to the Massachusetts Energy Code was adopted by the Quincy City Council and became effective July 1, 2011. Projects subject to the Stretch Energy Code include new residential construction, certain additions and renovations and commercial buildings over 5,000 square feet with certain exceptions. Since 2011, over twenty projects in Quincy, meeting this higher energy standard, are either complete or under construction totaling over 100,000 square feet and significant energy savings.

C. OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

PCD successfully administered three (3) Federal grant programs under ARRA totaling approximately \$3.2 million dollars. The programs include: Community Development Block Grant-Recovery (CDBG-R), Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP), and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). ARRA funds were targeted to stimulate the economy by saving or creating jobs.

CDBG-R

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated the City of Quincy—an entitlement community--\$554,366 of ARRA funds to undertake eligible CDBG activities. The City committed the CDBG-R funds to three neighborhood public improvement projects to benefit low/moderate-income individuals: 1) Palmer Street Rotary; 2) Winter Street Water Main Replacement; 3) Construction of a new parking lot at the Kennedy Senior Center. All projects were completed.

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program (HPRP)

Quincy received \$848,274 for the implementation of the HPRP from HUD and the funding was allocated to Father Bills & Mainspring (FBM) and QCAP as subgrantees under the program.

FBM provided flexible funding for rent and housing related services for homeless individuals who are utilizing shelter services. Funding was also used to prevent "at risk" individuals from becoming homeless. QCAP's focused on providing comprehensive homeless prevention and rapid re-housing services. The agencies together served 80 households through June 2012.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

The EEBCG award of \$881,200 was substantially spent by spring 2013 with expenditures in FY 2013 of \$80,495 utilized to complete activities including solar street light installation, traffic synchronization and monitoring of the City's 2011 Energy Use Reduction Plan. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs totaling 10.12 were directly created/retained as a result of this funding.

Regional Engagement Efforts: "Opportunity Quincy"

The City of Quincy Department of Planning & Community Development strives to provide leadership in region-wide community engagement through a bi-partisan, cross-sector, multi-level initiative, now referred to as "Opportunity Quincy." Target audience includes: youth, individuals and families, seniors, public service professionals, corporate community partners, and local government officials. Efforts may include: one-on-one meetings, focus groups, community service fairs, capacity-building workshops, and

social media outreach. This re-branded and re-strategized initiative has drawn significant higher engagement with the Department from the public and target audience as defined above. It has also served as a national model for community collaboration efforts through Opportunity Nation and has been featured multiple times on their website and blog, OpportunityNation.org. Opportunity Nation also sent the Department's staff member, Melissa Horr Pond, to Washington DC on June 12, 2013 to share the initiative with members of the Massachusetts Delegation. On April 1, 2013, the Quincy City Council presented a commendation to Melissa Horr Pond in recognition of launching and championing the "Opportunity Quincy" initiative.

PCD Sponsored Events in 2012-2013 included:

- Opportunity Quincy (Launch Event): Collaborating for a stronger economy, education, and healthy community. This workshop, held on *December 5, 2012*, brought together more than 75 local leaders for the Department's annual December workshop which in the past few years had drawn a regular crowd of about 15 participants. This workshop was held in partnership with a national campaign, Opportunity Nation who shared their "Opportunity Index" including 16 data points for the county in comparison to the state and country scores; "Shared Plan for restoring the Nation's Economic Ladder of Opportunity; and technical assistance for launching a community collaboration. The workshop also included a panel discussion with Peter Tsaffaras, President of Quincy College; Alicia LeClaire, Director of Strategic Initiatives of South Shore Workforce Investment Board; and An Duong, Multicultural Community Health & Outreach Manager of Quincy Medical Center/Steward Health Care.
- "Darkness to Light" Child Abuse Awareness Training Workshop: Held in partnership with the South Shore YMCA on *April 5th, 2013*, this workshop trained 10 professionals who work with children on the standards that reduce the risks of child abuse in child care.
- Volunteerism & Community Engagement Focus Group: Held on *April 9th, 2013* with leadership from Quincy Public Schools' two Service to School and Community Coordinators. This focus group brought together nonprofit program managers and executive directors to discuss the current landscape of youth volunteerism within their organizations, challenges for students in completing hours of service for their requirement, and pathways for success in completing hours. Participants also included two high school students, a parent, and two store managers from the local Home Depots.
- Community Service Fairs: Held on *May 5th and May 11th 2013* at Quincy High School and North Quincy High School respectively, the fairs drew 15 organizations and upwards of 400 students together to identify service opportunity matches. These service fairs assisted students in identifying a plan for meeting their new requirement for volunteer hours.
- Youth Economic & Academic Inclusion Focus Group: Held on *May 16th, 2013* with leadership from the South Shore Workforce Investment Board. This focus group brought together service professionals interested in assisting students with pathways to successful careers and a community plan for achieving this goal. The take-away of the discussion was to encourage additional mentoring for our community's youth. Participants included professionals from United Way of Mass Bay & Merrimack Valley, local nonprofit program managers, and a local parent.

- Access to Healthy Food & Physical Activity Focus Group: Held on *May 22nd, 2013* with leadership from South Shore Hunger Network. This focus group brought together managers from local food banks, local Project Bread initiatives, and staff from Opportunity Nation to discuss challenges to access to healthy food for our region's youth. The take-away from this discussion was that education about nutrition is a key priority and opportunity to assist individuals in overcoming costly health issues.

Press Releases include:

- "Opportunity Quincy" highlighted as local partner of Opportunity Nation on Capitol Hill <http://www.opportunitynation.org/blog/entry/opportunity-nations-first-hill-day1-advocacy-poverty-graduation-nonprofit>
- "Opportunity Quincy" Receives City Council Commendation <http://www.opportunitynation.org/blog/entry/opportunity-quincy-mass.-receives-city-council-commendation>
- Quincy not Settling for their County's B+ on the "Opportunity Index" <http://www.opportunitynation.org/blog/entry/quincy-not-settling-for-their-countys-b-on-the-opportunity-index>

D. HOMELESS PROGRAMS

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The city received an ESG grant of \$163,941 for the fiscal year. Sub-grants of \$90,000 and \$61,700 were awarded to Fr. Bills & MainSpring and Quincy Community Action Programs, respectively, for the administration of emergency shelter and homeless prevention programs. The city retained the balance of the grant, as allowed, for program administration.

The emergency shelter expenses were dedicated to operate a 24-hour, full service program for homeless men and women, including counseling, housing search; nursing services; outreach programs; on-site substance abuse counseling; veteran's services; outreach to head-injured clients; and voice mail for housing and job search.

Homelessness prevention funds were used to provide rental assistance and case management services to households at-risk of homelessness. Each household that applied for assistance was eligible for up to \$4,000 in homelessness prevention assistance.

Continuum of Care/Board on Homelessness

The Quincy Continuum of Care process was established in 1996 to apply for Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funding through the "Continuum of Care" competitive application grant program. Since 1996, the Continuum through the PCD has successfully secured \$30,065,637 of McKinney funds for programs that serve the homeless population in the Quincy/Weymouth area.

The Quincy-Weymouth Continuum of Care represents local government, businesses, faith organizations, formerly homeless persons, and service providers who work together to coordinate all efforts taking

place within the continuum to address the issues of homelessness. In this structure, the City of Quincy is the lead entity, supported by the Town of Weymouth and the local Homelessness Board that is made up of local businesses, service providers, faith organizations, and formerly homeless persons.

The Continuum was awarded \$3,524,798 under the 2012 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program administered by HUD and was awarded an additional \$42,324 in 2013 in planning funds. These new grant funds will assist agencies located throughout Quincy and Weymouth in providing housing and services for the homeless.

Ending Chronic Homelessness

The City of Quincy continued to work towards implementing the following key recommendations of Quincy's 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness:

1. Develop a "zero-tolerance" policy toward inappropriate discharges into homelessness by state agencies and systems of care.
2. Implement a "Housing First" model that favors permanent housing with supportive services over emergency shelter beds.
3. Increase the supply of such permanent housing by 10-12 units per year over the course of 10 years.
4. Help homeless individuals achieve self-sufficiency through job/vocational training and job placement services.

South Shore Network Leadership Council

Established in February 2009, the purpose of this council is to improve regional planning that will streamline services, find permanent housing for homeless people, and ultimately reduce the need for emergency shelters on the South Shore, from Quincy to Plymouth. Leadership Council members are representatives from business, municipal, academic, state government, consumer, and housing sectors.

Gov. Deval Patrick's administration awarded \$8 million to eight regional pilot networks around the state as part of its ambitious plans to restructure support systems that serve homeless people. The South Shore Network received \$837,913. Its plans involve pilot initiatives in the Brockton, Plymouth and Quincy areas to test new models to keep families in housing and to end homelessness faster by rapidly re-housing those families in need of shelter. Homeless single adults who are living on the streets or entering shelters will be immediately assessed for housing and support services. The Network will document and address the inappropriate discharge of people to shelters from state systems of care. The United Way of Greater Plymouth County will convene the South Shore Network and will make grants to address family homelessness to Brockton Area Multi-Services, Inc. (BAMSI) for Brockton, Quincy Community Action Programs, Inc. for Quincy and South Shore Community Action Council, Inc. for Plymouth. Father Bills & MainSpring will receive funds to address homelessness among single adults across the region.

IV. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & OTHER PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Quincy Economic Target Area

The City of Quincy is proud to be the lead community in the formation of the Quincy Economic Target Area (ETA), which includes 12 communities: Braintree, Canton, Dedham, Hingham, Hull, Needham, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Stoughton, Westwood, and Weymouth. The program offers substantial financial incentives to businesses expanding or locating in designated ETAs, including investment tax credits, building and municipal tax incentives, substantial property tax savings and more.

For example, Quincy has negotiated Tax Increment Financing (TIF) agreements with Fall River Marine Terminal for the Quincy Shipyard which helped attract Blue Fin Technologies and New England Aquarium. The City also extended a TIF agreement with Boston Scientific Corporation, an international leader in the manufacture of medical devices. TIF agreements are approved after financial investments are made to the business and a certain number of jobs are created in the local community.

BioTech Platinum Rating

In an effort to diversify the economic base of the City, Quincy sought and received a Platinum Rating from Mass Bio in 2010. Mass Bio is an industry trade group that promotes the expansion of biotechnology and life science companies in the Commonwealth. Quincy's designation derives chiefly from having local regulations and land parcels that can readily accommodate a biotechnology manufacturing facility.

Supporting the Mass Bio effort, Quincy College has developed a two year program for bio certified jobs. The City is also using the MBTA Red Line public transportation system of Metro Boston, to engage and develop a relationship with Biotech leaders Cambridge and Boston to expand the hi tech/bio tech corridor of eastern Massachusetts. This relationship promises to enhance Quincy's position and strengthen the overall life science/bio tech economy in the Commonwealth.

Regional Planning Initiatives

The City of Quincy is one 101 cities and towns of Metro-Boston that are part of the regional planning agency Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). The Planning Director is currently serving on MAPC's Executive Committee with Planning staff serving on several other committees.

The Inner Core Committee consists of twenty-four cities and towns within the Metropolitan Boston area. Inner Core communities are the most urban and populous areas within the MAPC region and experience unique and common challenges.

The City of Quincy has been an active participant in the MetroBoston Sustainable Communities Consortium. In 2010, the MAPC was awarded a \$4,000,000 HUD Sustainable Communities grant. Funding is being utilized to implement the vision contained within the MetroFuture Plan wherein 5,000 individuals came together to envision a more vibrant and diverse metropolitan Boston region.

MAPC-Sustainable Communities Consortium supported the "Community Plan-it" public outreach pilot program in North Quincy and Wollaston. The program utilized new web-based software to engage the

general public on topics such as housing, transportation, businesses opportunities, and public space. Data was collected from over 100 residents and will help planners prioritize future initiatives in those areas.

Both the Massachusetts Chapter and National American Planning Association recognized the importance of testing new public outreach methods using web-based platforms and invited the City and MAPC to participate in their annual conferences.

Brownfield Redevelopment

On June 5, 2013, the Planning Department was awarded a \$358,500 Brownfield Redevelopment Grant from the Massachusetts Redevelopment Finance Agency to undertake building demolition and site assessment activities at 175 Intervale Street. The Intervale property was used as a metal scrapping yard starting in the 1940s. More recently, it had been the site of metal scrapping, tire removal/recycling, and manhole cover recoating. The site has been inactive since 1986, when a fire involving a 55-gallon drum containing unspecified materials whose contents were released and dispersed during the initial attempt to control the fire.

The condition of the property is currently uninhabitable and will require extensive work to remove hazardous materials before it can be auctioned off by the City who took ownership of the site through the Tax Title process. The City will start the environmental site assessment program in July 2013. Demolition of the derelict building and assessment activities are expected to be completed by the end of the year, with supplemental assessment activities completed by spring of 2014. At that point, the City will target specific Brownfield Clean-up grants offered by the U.S. EPA, Massachusetts DEP, and MassDevelopment Financing Agency.

Historic Quincy Walking Tour

The City of Quincy, in partnership with WalkBoston, hosted a free walking tour of Historic Downtown Quincy in October 2013, beginning at Adams Academy, 8 Adams Street. Jim Edwards, Architect, President of Holmes & Edwards Architecture, and President of the Quincy Historical Society; and Ed Fitzgerald, PhD, Executive Director of the Quincy Historical Society, will lead the two-hour stroll through the historic downtown, sharing colorful stories of the city's local lore and historical interest.

Mayor Koch greeted walkers in front of the Old Town Hall (1305 Hancock Street) to update them on current restoration efforts along with some Quincy City history.

Other sites on the fourteen-stop tour included the Thomas Crane Public Library, the Masonic Temple, Sully's Tavern, as well as the Hancock Cemetery, where Tom Galvin, Chairman of the Cemetery Board of Managers, elaborated on the burial ground's rich history, which dates from the earliest years of European settlement (1630s).

Re-Envisioning Wollaston

In June 2013, the Final Re-Envisioning Wollaston Report - A Station Area Plan for Wollaston Center was released and is available on the [City of Quincy's website](#) or [MAPC's website](#). This report represents a culmination of a recent collaboration with the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#) (MAPC) to analyze opportunities for transit oriented development around the Wollaston Red Line Station. This

analysis primarily focused on the commercial corridors of Beale Street, Hancock Street, and Newport Avenue around the MBTA station. Wollaston has a high potential for revitalization, and the city—building from prior planning efforts in the neighborhood—worked with MAPC (along with neighborhood residents and businesses) over the last year to identify a vision for the station area, develop land use and zoning recommendations, complete a market analysis, and put forth some transportation improvement recommendations.

Following the recommendations outlined in the Re-Envisioning report, the city and MAPC partnered in Fall 2013 to analyze the existing parking capacity and occupancy within Wollaston Center and the residential neighborhoods and to make recommendations to maximize the efficiency of parking within the Wollaston Business District and adjacent residential neighborhoods. The focus of this Re-Envisioning update will be to share and discuss the findings of this parking inventory and turnover analysis.

Hancock Cemetery Restoration

On June 17, 2013, the City of Quincy received a \$33,000 grant allocation from the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) program to begin grave marker preservation and conservation activities in the historic Hancock Cemetery. Grave markers identified in the 2011 Cemetery Conservation Master Plan—completed by Halvorson Design Partnership—as “Priority 1” and “Priority 2” in terms of vulnerability will be preserved using this funding and a 50% matching allocation from the Quincy Community Preservation Committee (CPC). On June 18, 2012, the Quincy City Council approved the commitment of \$80,000 of CPC funds to be utilized for preservation activities in the Hancock Cemetery.

Two primary objectives of the grave marker preservation activities are 1) forestalling the toppling of gravestones with the potential for breakage, loss, or safety hazard; and 2) preserving the unique information recorded on the stones --names, dates, verses, imagery, etc. Restoration work is intended to commence in spring 2014.

In support of the slated preservation work, Planning Department staff created an online interactive map of the Hancock Cemetery. Created with X/Y coordinate data contained in the 2011 Restoration Plan, this map allows users to identify the cemetery's 933 grave markers in both Google Maps and Google Earth formats. Grave markers are denoted with small blue points in which users can click to open up a small window showing a picture of the gravestone, the stone's material type, and any text visible on the marker. The links to the maps are located on the City's Planning Department page at <http://www.quincyma.gov/Government/PLANNING/HancockCemetery.cfm>

PCD and QPS Collaboration Results in National Green Ribbon School Award

In April 2013 U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named Quincy High a National Green Ribbon School. The award application process was spear-headed by PCD staffers. The designation honors schools on the forefront of creating an environment that fosters and applies sustainable practices which reduce environmental impact and costs while improving the health and wellness of students, staff, and citizens. The building's award-winning design boasts an innovative STEM wing which facilitates a collaborative and comprehensive interdisciplinary environmental education. Quincy High School was

certified by the Massachusetts *Collaborative for High Performing Schools* in 2009. Additionally, the school's Culinary Arts Program allows students to develop real-world skills by running the wildly popular President's Café, where recipes highlight freshly grown herbs and vegetables which are harvested from the on-site, student run, solar powered greenhouse.

Solar LED Lights Installed

A solar LED lighting project was successfully installed at the Adams Shore Library. The pilot project was funded with a \$35,000 grant from the Department of Energy through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. Both the Trustees of the Thomas Crane Public Library and Planning Director hope to identify other public spaces and buildings in Quincy that could benefit from solar LED lighting.

The advantages of solar LED powered lighting include less costly installation, annual energy savings and zero greenhouse gas emissions. The lights are designed for a shortest day, longest night exposure to sun and can operate effectively for up to eight days under cloudy skies. In addition, LED lights last approximately three times longer than a traditional fixture which translates into reduced maintenance and bulb replacement costs.

Shoreline Bubble Parade

As part of the Center for Green Schools/U.S. Green Building Council's Green Apple Day of Service, PCD collaborated with Quincy High conduct a "bubble parade" aimed at demonstrating the effects of sea level rise on the City's shoreline. The "bubbles" marked the advancing sea with a spectacular display. The group gathered across from Wollaston Beach to demonstrate the difference between the current shoreline and what it might look like in the future.

Quincy Citizens' Green Guide

PCD completed an on-line Green Guide for citizens of Quincy in 2012. The guide contains a wide array of information about living more sustainably, from making simple adjustments at home to taking advantage of local rebates and tax credits on appliances. By adopting more energy efficient practices we can slow the rate of global warming, thereby reducing the amount that the sea level will rise in the future. Quincy residents learned about the effects sea level rise will have and heard about the science behind climate change at PCD's workshop in May 2012. The event featured a presentation by Dr. Ellen Douglas, a professor at UMass Boston, and Chris Watson, a UMass Boston research scientist. They discussed maps that they created that show Quincy under various sea level rise conditions and explained the evidence for climate change. The maps and presentation slides are available in the Sea Level Rise section of the Green Guide. The Green Guide builds on the meeting by providing practical tips and easy-to-understand background information. The Department intends to continue raising awareness about global warming by holding additional workshops with nearby towns.

Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RCCAS) Advisory Council

The Planning Department was represented on MAPC's Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (RCCAS) Advisory Council for the duration of its existence, from 2013 to 2014. The Council's purpose was to advise MAPC as it created a guide for municipalities within its jurisdiction for developing their own climate change adaptation plans. The Planning Department attended each of the three meetings of the council in 2013 and offered insight from the perspective of a small coastal city. The department's

participation will influence the content of the strategy report so that it is more responsive to the particular needs and limitations of Quincy and similar municipalities. The City hopes to build on the work done with the Council to form its own climate change adaptation plan in the near future.

Open and Recreational Space Plan

The Planning Department took the lead in updating the City's Open and Recreational Space Plan for 2012-2018. The report was prepared by the Open Space Committee (OSC), appointed by Mayor Koch and comprised of members of the Recreation and Planning Departments as well as Quincy Conservation Commission. After more than a year of effort, it was approved by the State in September 2012.

The plan outlines goals for the open and recreational space in the City over the next seven years, with particular attention paid to meeting the needs of environmental justice populations of North Quincy, Quincy point, West Quincy, and Germantown. The Planning Department conducted an exhaustive survey of more than 70 parks and public spaces that documented its condition and compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The updated survey and comments received from a public meeting held by the Parks and Recreation Board in 2011, will guide the City's future open space and recreation activities.

The Open Space and Recreation Plan is available for public viewing here

http://www.quincyma.gov/CityOfQuincy_Content/documents/Open_Space_Plan_and_ADA_Surveys_Large_version.pdf.