

PIERS PARK III DESIGN: COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

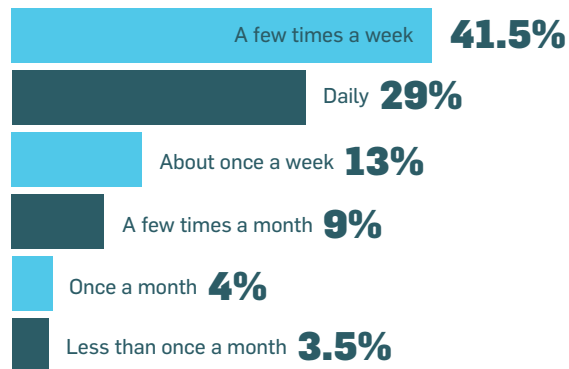


See what BOSTONIANS are saying

An online survey gathering public input on the Piers Park III design has achieved over 1000 responses. With feedback in both English and Spanish, the survey seeks to understand how often respondents visit parks, what activities they enjoy doing outdoors, how they currently interact with the Boston waterfront, and what features they would like to see at the future Piers Park III. Below, find a sampling of some of the insights gathered thus far:

How often do you visit public parks in your neighborhood?

OPEN, OUTDOOR SPACE IS IMPORTANT TO BOSTON RESIDENTS: More than two-thirds of respondents (70.5%) said they visited parks daily or a few times a week.



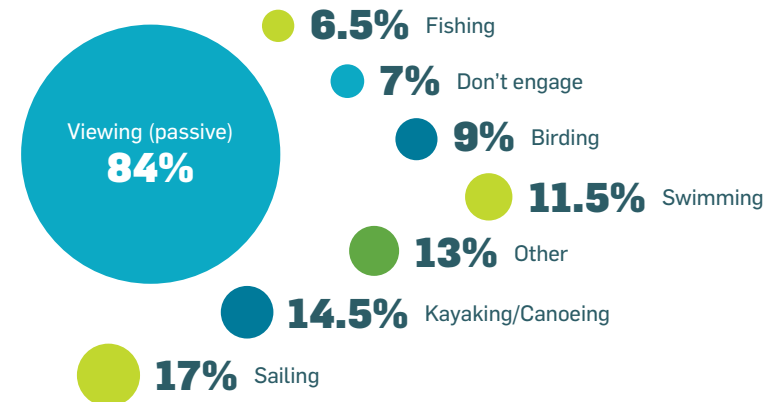
What types of programming would attract you to Piers Park III?

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY: Cultural events and nature play topped the list of programming, with frequent "other" write-in responses including music, concerts, and boating.



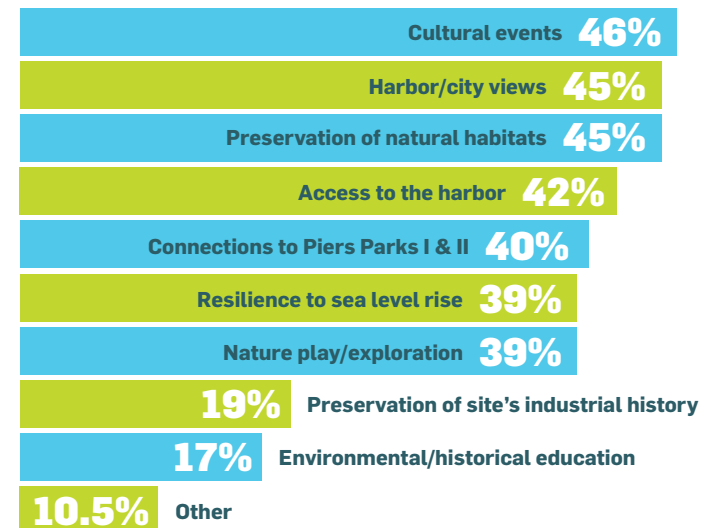
How do you typically engage with Boston Harbor?

AN AREA OF OPPORTUNITY: Though many write-ins requested swimming, kayaking, and sailing when asked about programming in the future park, the overwhelming majority (91%) of respondents currently interact with the harbor in only a passive manner, or don't engage with it at all.



What are your top 3 most important design aspects for Piers Park III?

RESIDENTS VALUE THE POSSIBILITIES THAT THE SITE PROVIDES: The unique location of the future waterfront park offers many opportunities to enjoy the space, which respondents recognize—with a nearly 7-way tie in top responses.



To weigh in, visit: onewaterfront.thetrustees.org/feedback

Open Ended Responses

Over half of the survey questions were open-ended. The following are a sampling of just some of the replies we received.

Piers Park III will be a year-round destination. Describe your ideal spring, summer, fall, and/or winter activities that might be specific to a particular time of year.

*"**Summer swimming** would be amazing! Or even **kayaking classes**. A harvest festival type of event would be really cool in Fall."*

*"Ample lighting during evening hours for workout classes - it is pretty dark (even with the light) near the workout space in Piers Park in the fall/winter when the sun sets earlier. **A sledding hill** for winter would be amazing."*

*"Have **a small festival to celebrate each season** so we can showcase the history of our city with local products specific to each season."*

*"Summer: **access to the water to cool off**. Lots of trees to have a picnic in the shade with harbor breezes. Fall: changing leaves, areas to explore Winter: playing in the snow. Perhaps even **introduce snowshoeing for kids** if the space is large enough Spring: blossoms and **seeing nesting animals and birds**"*

What makes East Boston unique within the greater Boston area? How might these qualities inform the design for Piers Park III?

*"It's a tight knit community. The people are diverse and wonderful. I continue to learn so much from them. **I love the parks, community gardens, and The Watershed in our working shipyard.**"*

*"**East Boston has a rich, multicultural history and has always been family oriented and neighborly.** Growing up here was like growing up in a small town in the middle of a big city. The waterfront, and city parks have inspired a lot of my poetry since I was young."*

*"Proximity to the harbor is what makes it unique. **I think many of us would like to be able to interact with the water more**, but right now the only option is sailing, which is great, but fairly expensive and not an everyday thing for most of us. I'd love to have a tidal pool area for wading, an area for swimming, maybe an area for kayaking and space in which to store or rent kayaks."*

What new or growing needs do you think your community will have in the short and mid-term that this park can help address?

*"Families need free entertainment for their families. **It is beautiful to see weddings and birthdays celebrated at Piers Park.** My school had its graduation ceremony there. It can be the place where we build love and understanding for one another."*

*"**Welcoming places on the waterfront**"*

*"As a healthcare worker, I have done research on access to care and outcomes for folks who may not have the best healthcare habits. **Having a place that adults could use for outdoor activities/exercise** that could encourage increased activity would be beneficial to the community."*

As the Piers Park III design and construction process moves forward, what are you most looking forward to? What are you most concerned about?

*"I look forward to the **further revitalization of the waterfront**. I am concerned about the noise and traffic."*

*"I most looking forward to **more green space where families can gather**. I'm afraid that you're going to make this another gentrification project that ignores the rich cultural diversity, people, families, and small businesses that have been here."*

*"I am most looking forward to more greenspace and **a waterfront that's resilient to climate change**. I also look forward to public programming and adult education programs. I am concerned that the park will further the gentrification and housing inequality in East Boston."*

NEXT STEPS: The Boston Waterfront Initiative team will continue community outreach throughout 2021. Working with world renowned landscape architect Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc., feedback gathered thus far will be integrated into the next design of Piers Park III, in an ongoing, iterative community driven process.



An aerial photograph of the East Boston Docks area. The image shows a large body of water with several industrial buildings and docks. A prominent white building is visible on the right side of the image. The text is overlaid on the image.

EAST BOSTON DOCKS

FROM MARGINAL STREET TO SOUTH BOSTON DOCKS, FORT POINT CHANNEL

The Piers Park III site in this ca. 1955-1964 photo is to the left of the white building with the Boston skyline beyond.

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