

## Residents Pleased With Wollaston Beach Quality

The Metropolitan Beaches Commission recently held a public hearing on the condition of Wollaston Beach, and will use feedback from residents to develop recommendations on the future of the site.

The commission held its public hearing earlier this month at the Kennedy Center in North Quincy. Sen. John Keenan, a member of the commission from Quincy said residents feel better about water quality that they have in the past.

"Compared to past years people seemed to be pretty pleased with the condition of the beach, the maintenance of the beach and water quality, but there was a recognition that more has to be done to improve the water quality because in the ranking of beaches, Wollaston, even though it has over 90 percent water quality rating, it could use improvement", Keenan said.

Residents at the meeting did say they have concerns about traffic and parking along Quincy Shore Drive, as well as concerns about pedestrian safety.

"The other concern that was raised was the speed of traffic on Quincy Shore Drive and parking - in conjunction with the speed, difficulty getting in and out of the parking spaces because of Quincy Shore Drive. And then some of the pedestrian safety issues," Keenan said. "Pedestrians aren't using the crosswalks as they should. They are crossing between cars and coming out into traffic and people are concerned about that was well."

Input from the meeting and others held on beaches throughout Metropolitan Boston - will be used to create a new report outlining improvements that could be made to the beaches under the commission's purview.

"The beaches commission will gather all the information from their various meetings and, like they did a couple of years ago, come up with a report reflecting what they've heard across the metropolitan beaches communities and then some recommendations as to what should be next," Keenan said.

The Senator said there are currently so specific plans by the state to improve Wollaston Beach, but money from recently approved bond bills could be used to improve seawalls there and fix sidewalks damaged by this year's strong winter storms.

"We passed some bonds that will allow for rebuilding of seawalls, construction of new seawalls. Whether that will specifically impact Wollaston Beach, we will see," Keenan said. "To the extent that some of those seawalls need to be addressed, we will look to address them. There are still some areas of sidewalks that need to be repaired as a result of storms over the last winter."

The state is also looking to dredge Quincy Bay, which has not been done for quite a while," Keenan said.

"We're looking at dredging of Quincy Bay near the yacht clubs and elsewhere," he stated. There was money in a bond to do some dredging, and the hope is some of that money will find its way to Quincy Bay."