



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*  
*Boston, MA 02114*

Charles D. Baker  
GOVERNOR

Karyn E. Polito  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1081  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea>

June 25, 2021

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : Quincy  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Boston Harbor  
EEA NUMBER : 16371  
PROJECT PROPONENT : City of Quincy  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : May 10, 2021

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA; M.G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62I) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

I acknowledge the more than one hundred comment letters received from Quincy residents, including Representative Tackey Chan and City Councilors, expressing opposition to the project. Comment letters identify concerns regarding the potential overdevelopment of parkland and impacts to marshland and wildlife associated with increasing foot traffic on Pine Island. I note that many comment letters request that the project be denied or that City be required to submit a discretionary EIR. I note that MEPA is an environmental impact disclosure process; MEPA does not approve or deny a project. Rather, the MEPA process requires public disclosure of a project's environmental impacts as well as the measures that the proponent will undertake to mitigate these impacts. MEPA review occurs before public agencies act to issue permits for a proposed project to ensure that they are fully cognizant of the environmental consequences of their actions.

Based on a review of the ENF and comment letters, I find that there have been sufficient disclosures of impacts associated with this project to allow it to proceed to permitting and that a discretionary EIR is not warranted. I note that the project does not exceed mandatory EIR thresholds for purposes of MEPA review. The mandatory EIR review thresholds are intended to identify projects or aspects thereof that are presumed to have particularly significant environmental impacts, and for which

an EIR is presumed to benefit the project and the environment. Furthermore, the issuance of this Certificate does not signify the conclusion of the public engagement process for this project. The 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Chapter 91 (c.91) review processes include additional opportunities for public review and comment, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has sufficient regulatory authority to address outstanding issues during permitting. I am confident that the review of the ENF has garnered sufficient input from the public so as to make the state agencies with permitting authority for this project fully aware of the important environmental issues involved. Moreover, I expect that the state agencies will take their oversight responsibility very seriously in reviewing the various permit applications for the project.

### Project Description

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project involves the construction of an approximately 376.5 linear-foot (lf) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)/Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB) accessible pile-supported pedestrian boardwalk connecting Merrymount Park to Pine Island. As described in the ENF, the proposed boardwalk would increase access to and views of Blacks Creek, the tidal marshlands, and Pine Island, and provide a location for educational programs. Under existing conditions, Pine Island is only accessible via walking through the salt marsh. The proposed boardwalk would be 4,500 sf, supported by 66, 12-inch diameter piles. The project includes the construction of paved access ramps and interpretive elements at the entrance to the boardwalk from the main area of the park and Pine Island and flow-through decking<sup>1</sup> on a portion of the boardwalk that passes above salt marsh on the main park side.

### Project Site

Merrymount Park is an approximately 80-acre municipal park which includes sports fields, walking trails, and a boating and sailing facility. The parcels that comprise Merrymount Park are bounded by Hancock Street and Fenno Street to the west, residences and the Beechwood Knoll Elementary School to the northwest, Fenno Street to the north, Quincy Shore Drive to the east, and Furnace Brook Parkway to the south. Pine Island, is an 11-acre drumlin located north of the William F. Ryan Boating and Sailing Facility within Marymount Park, and is separated from the main area of the park by tidal flats and salt marsh associated with Blacks Creek and Quincy Bay. Pine Island and its trails are relatively inaccessible with current access for pedestrians primarily provided through salt marsh from Thornton Street. The project site is located within mapped Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area AE with a base flood elevation (BFE) of elevation (el.) 11 ft NAVD88 and BFE el. 13 ft NAVD88 according to FEMA flood insurance rate map (FIRM) number 25021C0069F effective June 9, 2014 (revised in Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) effective March 13, 2017).

The project site does not include any areas mapped by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) as Priority and Estimate Habitat. Wetland resource areas within the limit of work include coastal beach, coastal bank, salt marsh, and land subject to coastal storm flowage (LSCSF). Although not mapped shellfish habitat, the ENF indicates the presence of soft shell clams

---

<sup>1</sup> Flow-through decking is a boardwalk material designed to permit sunlight passage to avoid shading impacts to salt marsh where the boardwalk is unable to be elevated one foot in height for every foot in width, as recommended in MassDEP's *Small Docks and Piers: A Guide to Permitting Small, Pile-Supported Docks and Piers* guidance document.



(*Mya arenaria*) and blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) in the project vicinity. Blacks Creek provides migratory passage to Furnace Brook for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) and migratory, spawning and nursery habitat for rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) and forage, spawning and juvenile development habitat for winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*). There is a tide-gate at the entrance to Black's Creek under Quincy Shore Drive which controls water levels within the estuary. Merrymount Park (MHC#QUI.938) is included in the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)'s the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth.

### Environmental Impacts and Mitigation

Potential environmental impacts associated with the project include permanent impacts to 35 sf of coastal beach, 11 sf of salt marsh, and 600 sf of LSCSF. Temporary construction period impacts to wetland resource areas include 10,310 sf of coastal beach, 2,905 sf of salt marsh and 22,800 sf of LSCSF.

Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts identified in the ENF include: sediment and erosion controls, use of pervious pavement, and use of flow-through decking for portions of the boardwalk, adherence to time-of-year (TOY) restrictions and restoration of disturbed areas after construction.

### Jurisdiction and Permitting

This project is subject to MEPA review and preparation of an ENF pursuant to 301 CMR 11.03(3)(b)(1)(a), 11.03(3)(b)(1)(f), and 11.03(3)(b)(6) because it requires a State Agency Action and involves the alteration of a coastal dune, barrier beach or coastal bank; involves the alteration of one-half or more acres of any other wetlands; and involves the construction of a pile-supported structure of 2,000 or more sf base area that will occupy flowed tidelands or other waterways. The project requires a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Chapter (c.) 91 License from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

The project requires an Order of Conditions from the Quincy Conservation Commission, or, in the case of an appeal, a Superseding Order of Conditions from MassDEP. The project may require the submission of a Project Commencement Notice (PCN) to the U.S Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and/or a Bridge Permit from the U.S. Coast Guard.

The project is not receiving Financial Assistance from the Commonwealth. Therefore, MEPA jurisdiction for any future review would be limited to those aspects of the project that are within the subject matter of any required or potentially required Agency Actions and that may cause Damage to the Environment, as defined in the MEPA regulations.

### Review of the ENF

The ENF provided a description of existing and proposed conditions, preliminary project plans, and identified measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate environmental impacts. While the project is being proposed to provide an alternative means of access to Pine Island in order to deter pedestrian access through the salt marsh (as currently occurs), many comments express opposition to increasing

foot traffic on the island. As noted in comments from the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) and the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF), a recreational management plan should be developed to avoid new trampling impacts to the salt marsh surrounding Pine Island. The ENF did not identify plans to develop trailheads on Pine Island. The City should consult with the MEPA Office on whether additional MEPA review is required if this is proposed within the next five years.

### *Alternatives Analysis*

The ENF evaluated several project alternatives based on their ability to meet project goals while minimizing environmental impacts. The goals of the project include providing ADA accessible pedestrian access for educational purposes, provide views of Blacks Creek and provide emergency access to the island<sup>2</sup>. In all design alternatives, the boardwalk is proposed to be 6 feet above Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) to allow for kayak passage with a seated passenger while accounting for 2 feet of sea level rise over the design life of the boardwalk. The alternatives presented in the ENF include a No-Action Alternative, Boardwalk Location and Orientation Alternatives; and Boardwalk Design Alternatives in addition to the Preferred Alternative as described above. Under the No-Action Alternative, pedestrian access to Pine Island would continue to occur by walking on salt marsh from Thornton Street or by boat, which is not preferred due to the impacts to salt marsh and lack of ADA/MAAB accessibility. As described in the ENF, for these reasons, this alternative was dismissed.

The Boardwalk Location and Orientation Alternative considered locating the boardwalk west of the parking area, across the tidal channel rather than at the northern corner of the parking area across from Blacks Creek. As described in the ENF, this location does not utilize existing disturbed areas (i.e. gravel parking area), would increase temporary and permanent impacts to salt marsh for the installation of the access ramp and abutment (5,000 sf temporary/14 sf permanent), and would be more challenging for ADA accessibility; therefore, it was dismissed. The Proponent also considered locating the boardwalk east of the parking area, connecting the portion of the park adjacent to Furnace Brook Parkway to Pine Island. This alternative would provide access to Pine Island with similar impacts as the Preferred Alternative, but would require a larger pedestrian bridge that would not be easily accessible from the main area of the park; thus, this alternative would not serve to deter the current mode of accessing the park from the north by walking across the salt marsh, which is a core purpose of the project.

Boardwalk Design and Material Alternatives considered varying boardwalk designs and materials for the boardwalk. The location of the boardwalk abutments were evaluated based on maintaining ADA accessibility, minimizing impacts to the existing parking area uses and circulation near the William F. Ryan Boating and Sailing Facility, and avoiding impacts to coastal bank. In a Low Abutment Alternative, the boardwalk abutments would be constructed lower on the slope both on the main area of the park and on Pine Island. This would result in lower construction costs, and would more easily accommodate the placement of solar-powered lighting features on the portions of the boardwalk close to land. However, the ENF indicated that this alternative was dismissed because it would make it more difficult to provide the required separation from salt marsh on the Pine Island side of the boardwalk and would require an additional 455 sf of temporary impacts to Coastal Bank compared to the Preferred Alternative. The alternatives analysis also considered a straight design (as opposed to curved design in the Preferred Alternative) which would involve constructing the

---

<sup>2</sup> As discussed at the remote meeting held on 5/20/21.

pedestrian bridge in a generally north-south orientation. As described in the ENF, this alternative would result in slightly less temporary impacts to coastal beach (approximately 300 sf) but was dismissed because it is less consistent with the Merrymount Park Master Plan<sup>3</sup> and less conforming with the historic aesthetic setting within the park.

The alternatives analysis further considered constructing the boardwalk entirely out of Ipe timber<sup>4</sup>. This alternative would provide uniformity of appearance and ease of construction and maintenance. In order for this alternative to be viable, however, the boardwalk would need to be located at least as high above salt marsh as it is wide in order to prevent shading impacts to salt marsh vegetation per the MassDEP's *Small Docks and Piers: A Guide to Permitting Small, Pile-Supported Docks and Piers* guidance document. According to the ENF, this alternative was dismissed as achieving this separation to salt marsh while maintaining the ADA-required slope of 1:12 is not feasible near the parking area, and because increasing the spacing to the ¾-inch spacing described in the *Small Docks and Piers* guide is incompatible with the maximum spacing allowed per ADA design requirements (½-inch).

The Preferred Alternative involves locating the pedestrian bridge near the northern corner of the parking area and utilizing a curved north-south orientation to connect to Pine Island. By utilizing the northern corner of the parking area, the entrance to the boardwalk can be graded for ADA access from the parking area while minimizing impacts to boater access to the water from the parking area and existing boating and sailing uses within Blacks Creek. This alternative avoids temporary salt marsh impacts because there is less salt marsh in this area verse the orientation across the tidal channel, and the abutment and access ramp will utilize the existing disturbed footprint of the gravel parking area. The proposed curved orientation is preferred as it is consistent with the Merrymount Park Master Plan, historic aesthetics within the Park, and will not result in additional impacts to salt marsh relative to a straight orientation. The preferred alternative for boardwalk materials is to construct the majority of the boardwalk of Ipe timber, excluding the area less than 10 feet above salt marsh near the parking area which will be constructed using flow-through decking.

### *Wetlands and Waterways*

As noted above, the proposed project will result in permanent impacts to 10 lf of Coastal Bank, 35 sf of coastal beach, 11 sf of salt marsh, 600 sf of LSCSF. The project will result in the following temporary impacts associated with construction staging and access: 10,310 sf of coastal beach, 2,905 sf of salt marsh, 22,800 sf of LSCSF. The Quincy Conservation Commission will review the project for its consistency with the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (314 CMR 10.00) and associated performance standards. The project involves the placement of piles within areas of salt marsh as part of the construction of the elevated pedestrian boardwalk, and therefore a 401 WQC will be required from MassDEP. MassDEP will review the project for its consistency with the Water Quality Regulations at 314 CMR 9.00. The proposed pedestrian boardwalk crossing will be undertaken in and over flowed tidelands of the Blacks Creek (Quincy Bay), which requires a c.91 License pursuant to 310 CMR 9.05(1)(a). Comments from MassDEP's Waterways Regulation Program (WRP) indicate that this

---

<sup>3</sup> A master plan for Merrymount Park was published in 1997 which identified issues within the park system including: undercapitalization of views within the park; increased demand for recreational facilities; lack of sufficient path system; and the park's lack of connection to the Wollaston Beach Reservation. Updated plans were procured by the City in 2017 for improvements to the Park.

<sup>4</sup> Ipe timber is an exotic hardwood that is naturally resistant to rot and decay.

project is a water-dependent use project pursuant to 310 CMR 9.12(2)(a)(4). Comments from MassDEP indicate that the project preserves water-related public rights in accordance with 310 CMR 9.35 by providing at least 5-feet of clearance under said structure along the project shoreline to properly allow for public lateral access and the 6-feet of clearance under the structure, I refer the Proponent to comments from MassDEP which identify additional information that should be provided during permitting, regarding the existing Quincy Shore Drive Bridge and the navigational clearance thereunder.

I refer the Proponent to comments from CZM which request that a plan to monitor the potential scour impacts caused by the piles and ramp during and after construction be included in the monitoring plan for this project. Remedial actions to reduce impact on the salt marsh and mudflat (coastal beach) resources during and after installation should also be outlined in the monitoring plan. As recommended by DMF and CZM, the Proponent should develop a recreational management plan to avoid new trampling impacts to the salt marsh surrounding Pine Island once access is increased with the boardwalk. Comments from CZM and DMF indicate that the management plan should include managing access from Thornton Street. Reduction in foot traffic at this unofficial access point would support salt marsh revegetation. Details to avoid spread and transfer of invasive species including the common reed *Phragmites australis* during construction and maintenance of the project should be provided such as decontamination protocols and materials management for disposal as applicable. Comments from CZM also note that a revegetation plan should be developed for revegetation of the coastal banks adjacent to the abutments for the boardwalk and recommend the use of native, salt-tolerant plants with deep roots to help resist erosion and any wave reflection off the abutments. I refer the Proponent to additional guidance provided in CZM's comment letter. Comments from the DMF recommend that in-water silt producing work be avoided from February 15 through June 30 of any year, for the protection of American eel, rainbow smelt and winter flounder.

Comments from CZM recommend exploring the use of monopile supports to reduce the number of piles and cross bracing needed for the pedestrian bridge. The Proponent provided a response to the MEPA Office on June 21, 2021 indicating that a two-pile design (vs monopile supports) is strongly preferred as it provides for better resistance to lateral forces and will tend to be more resilient considering climate change and potential sea level rise. For a monopile design, the piles would need to be larger and deeper (embedded in a competent material, likely down to rock and embedded several feet to develop resistance). Given the depth, monopiles would need to be precast concrete or a similar material. In terms of pile spacing, increasing the spans will require thicker and more expensive and intrusive superstructure. I encourage the City to continue consulting with State Agencies as the project moves to final design in order to minimize impacts to salt marsh and other coastal wetland resources.

### *Historical and Cultural Resources*

As indicated above, the project site is located within Merrymount Park (MHC#QUI.938) which is included in the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Merrymount Park may be historically significant for its association with projects of the Works Progress Administration, with Charles Adams III, and with Frederick Law Olmsted. Comments from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) indicate that in 2016, an emergency vehicle turn-around and trailhead was proposed on Pine Island. The ENF submitted for the project as currently proposed does not include the turn-around and trailhead. Comments from MHC request an updated MHC inventory form for Merrymount Park (QUI.938) in order to offer an opinion of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to comment on what effect the project may have on historic

resources. MHC has also requested that the results of the intensive (locational) survey be provided so the Agency can comment on what effect the project may have on significant archaeological resources.

Comments from the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR) indicate that no record of any underwater archaeological resources was found within the area therefore, BUAR expects that this project is unlikely to impact submerged cultural resources. However, the area may be generally archaeologically sensitive. Should heretofore unknown archaeological resources be encountered during the course of work, the BUAR expects that the Proponent will take steps to limit adverse effects and notify the BUAR and the MHC, as well as other appropriate agencies, immediately in accordance with the Board's *Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources*.

### *Climate Change*

Governor Baker's Executive Order 569: Establishing an Integrated Climate Change Strategy for the Commonwealth (EO 569; the Order) was issued on September 16, 2016. The Order recognizes the serious threat presented by climate change and direct Executive Branch agencies to develop and implement an integrated strategy that leverages state resources to combat climate change and prepare for its impacts. The Order seeks to ensure that Massachusetts will meet GHG emissions reduction limits established under the Global Warming Solution Act of 2008 (GWSA) and will work to prepare state government and cities and towns for the impacts of climate change. I note that the MEPA statute directs all State Agencies to consider reasonably foreseeable climate change impacts, including additional greenhouse gas emissions, and effects, such as predicted sea level rise, when issuing permits, licenses and other administrative approvals and decisions. M.G.L. c. 30, § 61.

### *Adaptation and Resiliency*

As noted above, the Preferred Alternative is proposed to be 6 feet above Mean High High Water (MHHW) to both allow for kayak passage with a seated passenger and account for 2 feet of sea level rise over the design life of the boardwalk. The basis of design utilized the MHHW (el. 4.7 ft NAVD88) with 1.8 feet of SLR which gives a future elevation of 6.5 ft NAVD88, providing a clearance of 6 feet between the deck and MHHW.<sup>5</sup> The boardwalk deck elevation ranges from 8.5 to 21.5 feet NAVD88. The proposed design life of the boardwalk is 50 years, at which time the project is anticipated to need replacement. The sea level rise and precipitation data used for the basis of design was obtained from the 2019 Quincy Hazard Mitigation Plan which used the state-wide climate projections for 2070 from the New England Climate Science Data Center.

As indicated in CZM's comment letter, the majority of the boardwalk is in a Coastal A Zone, seaward of the Limit of Moderate Wave Action on the FIRM. Coastal A Zones have wave heights between 1.5 and 3.0 feet, which can cause structural damage to structures below the base flood elevation. While portions of the boardwalk are located below base flood elevation (ranging between el 12 ft and 13 ft NAVD88), water elevations in Black's Creek are controlled via a tide gate at the bridge at Quincy Shore Drive which is operated by the City and is closed in major storm events.<sup>6</sup> Therefore, wave

---

<sup>5</sup> Information provided by e-mail to the MEPA Office on 6/24/21.

<sup>6</sup> The tide gate is closed prior to any tide surge or storm event that approaches 10.75 MLLW (5.3 ft NAVD88). Information provided by the Proponent to the MEPA Office on 06/24/21.

action was not a major factor in the design of the boardwalk. Regardless, the boardwalk is designed for resistance at full submergence.

### *Construction Period*

As described in DMF and CZM's comment letters, construction equipment and practices associated with the proposed structures over salt marsh should be planned to minimize impacts to salt marsh. Construction equipment should not be stored on the salt marsh and work should be completed during the winter (November-March) when the vegetation is dormant. Temporary protective mats should be placed over work areas and temporarily disturbed areas should be restored to pre-existing conditions.

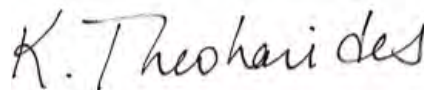
The Proponent should evaluate the success of the replanting effort and guide additional plantings as needed. All construction and demolition activities should be managed in accordance with applicable MassDEP's regulations regarding Air Pollution Control (310 CMR 7.01, 7.09-7.10), and Solid Waste Facilities (310 CMR 16.00 and 310 CMR 19.00, including the waste ban provision at 310 CMR 19.017). The project should include measures to reduce construction period impacts (e.g., noise, dust, odor, solid waste management) and emissions of air pollutants from equipment, including anti-idling measures in accordance with the Air Quality regulations (310 CMR 7.11). I encourage the Proponent to require that its contractors use construction equipment with engines manufactured to Tier 4 federal emission standards, or select project contractors that have installed retrofit emissions control devices or vehicles that use alternative fuels to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM) from diesel-powered equipment. Off-road vehicles are required to use ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel (ULSD). If oil and/or hazardous materials are found during construction, the Proponent should notify MassDEP in accordance with the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.00). All construction activities should be undertaken in compliance with the conditions of all State and local permits.

### Conclusion

The ENF has adequately described and analyzed the project and its alternatives, and assessed its potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures. Based on review of the ENF and comments received on it, and in consultation with State Agencies, I have determined that an EIR is not required.

June 25, 2021

Date



Kathleen A. Theoharides

### Comments received:

06/06/21 Office of Coastal Zone Management  
(CZM)  
06/10/21 Bob Bowers

06/10/21 Carol Themmen Quincy Making Waves  
06/10/21 Jim Evans  
06/10/21 Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC)

06/11/21	Joan Pierce (1)	06/15/21	Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF)
06/11/21	Joan Pierce (2)	06/15/21	Ellen and Steve Thompson
06/11/21	Sarah Alessandro	06/15/21	Fay Strigler
06/11/21	Eugene Brusin	06/15/21	Finnegan Family
06/11/21	Joan Pierce	06/15/21	Janine Mudge
06/12/21	Ida DelVecchio	06/15/21	Jean Marie O'Flaherty
06/12/21	John Risitano	06/15/21	John and Martha Braitsch
06/12/21	Sue Car	06/15/21	Joseph Graham
06/13/21	Gordon Decambra (1)	06/15/21	Kate Hurley
06/13/21	Gordon DeCambra (2)	06/15/21	Katherine A Hogan
06/13/21	Pam Brennan	06/15/21	Kathy Harris
06/13/21	The Johnson Family	06/15/21	Kayla Themmen-Adams
06/14/21	Maggie McKee	06/15/21	Kelly Cobble
06/14/21	Deborah Barrett	06/15/21	Kevin Mahoney
06/14/21	Gina Favata and Jon Gorey	06/15/21	lakubit
06/14/21	Gloria Rizzo	06/15/21	Leslie Waibel (1)
06/14/21	Gordon Decambra	06/15/21	Leslie Waibel (2)
06/14/21	janet carlson	06/15/21	Leslie Waibel (3)
06/14/21	Jeanne King	06/15/21	Lisa Rehfuss
06/14/21	Mary Lally	06/15/21	Marjorie Jordan
06/14/21	Mary Lou Petrelli	06/15/21	Mary Bertrand
06/14/21	Maureen Keeley	06/15/21	Mary Ellen Glennon
06/14/21	Nancy Belmar	06/15/21	Mary Grace Montalto
06/14/21	Patricia DelVal	06/15/21	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Waterways Regulation Program (WRP)
06/14/21	Patricia Mullally	06/15/21	Matthew Struzik
06/14/21	Richard Joyce	06/15/21	Maura C Doherty
06/14/21	Wendy Wilcoxon	06/15/21	Maureen Keeley
06/15/21	Anna Dolmatch	06/15/21	Michael Berry
06/15/21	Anne M Mahoney Councillor at Large (1)	06/15/21	Michael Higgins
06/15/21	Anne M Mahoney Councillor at Large (2)	06/15/21	Michael K Cook
06/15/21	Barbara Jocelyn (1)	06/15/21	Nancy Zona
06/15/21	Barbara Jocelyn (2)	06/15/21	Patricia Neely
06/15/21	Barbara Jocelyn (3)	06/15/21	Peter Brennan
06/15/21	Beatrice DiMattia	06/15/21	Rebecca A Rizoli
06/15/21	Beth P Cook	06/15/21	Representative Tackey Chan
06/15/21	Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR)	06/15/21	Rich Whalen
06/15/21	Carol Themmen (1)	06/15/21	Richard Grasselli
06/15/21	Carol Themmen (2)	06/15/21	richiekoz
06/15/21	City Councillor Chuck Phelan	06/15/21	Ross Edwards
06/15/21	Cotter Family	06/15/21	Sam Hurley
06/15/21	Craig H Paton	06/15/21	Sandra Sumner
06/15/21	David Reich	06/15/21	Stacey Schwartz
06/15/21	David Shiga	06/15/21	Steve Delano
06/15/21	debra blackadar		

06/15/21	Susan G Riegler	06/16/21	John Sullivan
06/15/21	Susan McPherson	06/16/21	Kevin Mahoney
06/15/21	Terry Cyr	06/16/21	Laura Liscum
06/15/21	Virginia Ryan	06/16/21	Linda Illes
06/15/21	Ellen Thompson	06/16/21	Peter Fifield
06/15/21	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Northeast Regional Office (NERO)	06/16/21	Virginia Orourke
		06/18/21	Janet Bargar
		06/18/21	Stuart T Schrier
06/16/21	Faye Anderson	06/24/21	Gillian and Bob Bearchell

KAT/EFF/eff





## MEMORANDUM

TO: Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary, EEA  
ATTN: Erin Flaherty, MEPA Office  
FROM: Lisa Berry Engler, Director, CZM  
DATE: June 4, 2021  
RE: EEA #16371, Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk, Quincy

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) has completed its review of the above-referenced Environmental Notification Form (ENF) noticed in the *Environmental Monitor* dated May 10, 2021 and offers the following comments.

### Project Description

With this ENF, the City of Quincy proposes the construction of a 376.5-foot-long pile-supported pedestrian boardwalk to connect the main area of Merrymount Park near the parking area for the William F. Ryan Boating and Sailing Facility with Pine Island. The project will include paved access ramps and interpretive elements at the entrances to the boardwalk from the main area of the park and Pine Island, flow-through decking on a portion of the boardwalk that passes above salt marsh on the main park side, and an Ipe timber boardwalk with timber piles and solar lighting features. The project includes temporary impacts to Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (22,795 square feet (sf)), Salt Marsh (2,905 sf), Coastal Beach (10,310 sf), and 100-ft Buffer Zone to Coastal Bank (3,200 sf) associated with construction-period access and staging. Permanent impacts to Coastal Bank (10 linear feet (lf)), Coastal Beach (35 sf), and Salt Marsh (11 sf) are associated with the installation of 12" diameter pilings and permanent impacts to Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (600 sf) and Buffer Zone to Coastal Bank (455 sf) are associated with the installation of the abutments for the pedestrian boardwalk. The project will require a Chapter 91 License (MassDEP), a 401 Water Quality Certification (MassDEP), a Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions, and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit.

### Project Comments

#### *Resource Impacts*

The Resource Area Impact Plan should clearly show the boundaries for each of the wetland resource areas. In addition, the plan should identify and quantify where all wetland impacts (both temporary and permanent) are located. The narrative should detail how the project meets the performance standards for Coastal Beach, Coastal Bank, and Salt Marsh and how all temporary wetland impacts, in particular the 2,905 sf of Salt Marsh and 10,310 sf of Coastal Beach, will be restored.

CZM commends the City for the use of flow-through decking to reduce shading impacts. Several alternatives were considered for height and alignment of the boardwalk to reduce possible shading impacts. However, some sections of the structure are below the guidelines outlined by the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (MADMF) for docks and piers. While compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements must be incorporated into the design, the City should follow the 1.5:1 height:width ratio as outlined by MADMF to the maximum extent practicable to minimize shading of the salt marsh. It may be possible to meet both the ADA and MADMF requirements by redesigning the ramps to either incorporate ramp switchbacks or extend the ramp further landward.



The preferred alternative includes approximately 66 12-inch diameter piles spaced 12 feet apart to support the proposed boardwalk. Each set of piles also incorporate two 4-inch by 8-inch cross braces. As scour and erosion impacts to the salt marsh and mudflat from the piles may occur, the City should investigate the use of monopile supports to both reduce the number of piles needed and eliminate the cross bracing, which often acts to collect debris and impede flow. A plan to monitor the potential scour impacts caused by the piles and ramp during and after construction should be included in the monitoring plan for this project. Remedial actions to reduce impact on the salt marsh and mudflat resources during and after installation should also be outlined in the monitoring plan.

A recreational management plan should be developed to avoid new trampling impacts to the salt marsh surrounding Pine Island once access is increased with the boardwalk. The management plan should include access from Thornton Street. Reduction in foot traffic at this unofficial access point would support salt marsh revegetation.

Details to avoid spread and transfer of invasive species including the common reed *Phragmites australis* during construction and maintenance of the project should be provided such as decontamination protocols and materials management for disposal as applicable.

The City should consult with MADMF regarding any possible time of year restrictions for the construction period to avoid impacts to anadromous fish species present in the area.

#### *Coastal Resilience*

The proposed boardwalk is located in several flood zones, mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency on their Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The majority of the boardwalk is in a Coastal A Zone, seaward of the Limit of Moderate Wave Action on the FIRM. Coastal A Zones have wave heights between 1.5 and 3.0 feet, which can cause structural damage to structures below the base flood elevation. This should be considered as part of the structural design of the boardwalk. In addition, a revegetation plan should be developed for revegetation of the coastal banks adjacent to the abutments for the boardwalk. The use of native, salt-tolerant plants with deep roots to help resist erosion and any wave reflection off the abutments should be incorporated into the design. Recommendations for appropriate plantings can be found in our [StormSmart Properties Fact Sheet #3: Planting Vegetation to Reduce Erosion and Storm Damage](#).

#### **Federal Consistency**

The proposed project is subject to CZM federal consistency review. For further information on this process, please contact Robert Boeri, Project Review Coordinator, at [robert.boeri@mass.gov](mailto:robert.boeri@mass.gov) or visit the CZM website at <https://www.mass.gov/federal-consistency-review-program>.

LBE/rlb/rh/ap

cc: Daniel Padien, MassDEP-Waterways Regulation Program  
Pam Merrill, MassDEP-NERO Wetlands Program  
Rachel Freed, MassDEP NERO Wetlands Program  
Kate Frew, MADMF  
John Logan, MADMF  
Rob Conlon, Quincy Conservation Commission  
Chief Paul Keenan, Quincy Harbormaster

**From:** [bob bowers](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Saturday, June 12, 2021 8:20:12 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Ms. Flaherty -

I hope you are well. I wanted to write to express my opposition to the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371. I am a resident of Quincy in the Wollaston neighborhood. I own a home that abuts the marsh and I walk along the beautiful marshes and estuaries of Black's Creek every day. I am often in the White Rock section. Sad to say, especially over the last year as people were more and more outside due to the pandemic, I have seen these areas degraded by carelessness, neglect, and sometimes vandalism. The City of Quincy does a poor job with trail maintenance, trash removal, policing cars randomly parked on the marsh grass along Fenno Street (terrible for the marsh, but never policed) and care for the plants and trees. I cannot imagine anything good coming out of this proposed bridge to Pine Island, given the poorly maintained marsh areas that are already accessible.

Ms. Flaherty, I work for one of the largest conservation non-profits in Massachusetts - it is an honor and a privilege to care for the fragile natural spaces across the Commonwealth and one of the lessons I have learned is that sometimes less is more in preserving the ecology. The Quincy marsh is home to thousands of living creatures - it is more theirs than ours. We need to be thinking about the rise in sea level and the critical nature of marshland in mitigating climate change effects along the coast - not building more structures into that eco-system, but actually strengthening the natural barriers of marsh. Human encroachment on these places has already done enough damage.

Please register my opposition to this plan. Thank you for hearing out my concerns.

Very Truly Yours,

Bob Bowers  
100 Havilend Street  
Quincy, MA  
617-602-6949

**From:** [QUINCY MAKING WAVES](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Bridge  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 4:41:47 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Erin,

Thanks so much for returning my call.

We (QMWC) are in opposition to this bridge being built to Pine Island. We would like to further understand MEPA's role, as well as this project itself.

My phone at times goes directly into voicemail, as it did today, so if on Monday you don't reach me, I will call you right back.

Many thanks,  
Carol Themmen

### **QUINCY MAKING WAVES COALITION**

(formerly Beechwood Knoll Flood Coalition)

EMAIL: [quincymakingwaves@gmail.com](mailto:quincymakingwaves@gmail.com)

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/QuincyMakingWaves](https://www.facebook.com/QuincyMakingWaves)

TWITTER: [twitter.com/QuincyMkgWaves](https://twitter.com/QuincyMkgWaves)

WEBSITE: [quincymakingwaves.wix.com/quincycoalition](https://quincymakingwaves.wix.com/quincycoalition)

Disclaimer: We strive to send you the most accurate information, but it is up to you to investigate further to be absolutely sure that you have the most accurate information.

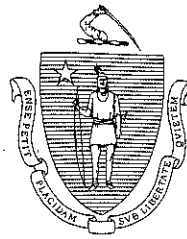
Please respond to this to let us know if you would like to unsubscribe. Thank you.

**From:** [jnte2424@aol.com](mailto:jnte2424@aol.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** blacks creek bridge quincy  
**Date:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 6:26:22 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

i am AGAINST the building of a bridge!!this is quincys only wild area!!! leave it alone!!!! eagles roost there.with human activity will that last??there will be increased litter ie cig butts nips paper etc mountain bikes atv etc!!! the last time i was out there was 15 yrs ago on a neighborhood cleanup there was a bike out there a desktop computer this would have to be brought over the marsh at low tide what will happen with a bridge?? i go out to the sailors cemertery often which is nearby and during the pandemic with icreased activity there i saw much more litter out there including the green bags with dog poop !!! i wont even talk about the enviromental impact of the bridge itself!!! leave pine island ALONE!!!!!! jim evans 88 havilend st quincy



## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

June 9, 2021

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Secretary Kathleen Theoharides  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge St., Ste. 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Attn. Erin Flaherty, MEPA Office

RE: Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project, Quincy, MA.  
Tighe & Bond Project #Q-0019-48 (formerly Q-0047-1-01). MHC#RC.60604. EEA#16371.

Dear Secretary Theoharides:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) prepared for the project referenced above. The ENF indicates that the project requires state and federal agency permits.

Review of the MHC's files indicates that the MHC commented on July 26, 2016 (see enclosed). In 2016, an emergency vehicle turn-around and trailhead was proposed on Pine Island. The ENF and plans for the project as currently proposed does not include the turn-around and trailhead.

As indicated in the MHC's 2016 letter, the MHC requires additional information.

The MHC requires an updated MHC inventory form for Merrymount Park (QUI.938) to offer an opinion of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and to comment on what effect the project may have on historic resources.

The MHC requires the results of the intensive (locational) survey to comment on what effect the project may have on significant archaeological resources.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800), MGL c. 9, ss. 26-27C (950 CMR 70-71), and MEPA (301 CMR 11).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "E. Bell".

Edward L. Bell  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Senior Archaeologist  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure (MHC 7/26/2016)

xc w/enclosure:

Tammy R. Turley, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch  
David Murphy, Quincy Park & Forestry Division  
Bob Damon, Quincy Planning & Community Development  
Quincy Historical Commission  
Emily Tully, Tighe & Bond, Inc.



**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 26, 2016

Christopher Cassani  
Executive Director  
Quincy Park & Forestry Dept.  
1 Merrymount Parkway  
Quincy MA 02170

RE: Merrymount Park / Pine Island Pedestrian Bridge Project, Quincy, MA.  
Tighe & Bond #Q-0047-1-01. MHC#RC.60604.

Dear Mr. Cassani:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), office of the State Historic Preservation Officer, have reviewed the Project Notification Form (PNF) submitted for the proposed project referenced above, received at this office on July 14, 2016.

The PNF indicates that the project is seeking a Parklands Acquisitions & Renovations for Communities Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. The project will require a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and review under MEPA (301 CMR 11).

The project is within Merrymount Park (MHC #QUI.938), which is included in the Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Merrymount Park may be historically significant for its associations with projects of the Works Progress Administration, with Charles Adams III, and with Frederick Law Olmsted.

Additional information is required by the MHC to offer a staff opinion of eligibility and to comment on potential project-related effects to historic and archaeological resources.

The inventory information about the park in the MHC's files dates to 1986, and contains very limited and incomplete information about the property. The MHC requests that an updated MHC Inventory Form A be prepared for Merrymount Park by a professional historic preservation consultant, with information about existing significant historic structures and cultural landscape elements.

Portions of the project impact area on Pine Island are highly archaeologically sensitive. The sensitivity is chiefly based on its favorable environmental setting with an intact elevated landform in an estuary. Significant ancient Native American archaeological sites have been found in similar settings nearby, include within Merrymount Park, which had a Native burial. The MHC requests that an intensive (locational) archaeological survey (950 CMR 70) be conducted for the project. The goal of the survey is to locate and identify any significant archaeological resources that may be affected by the project, and to provide sufficient information to consult to avoid or mitigate project impacts. The MHC should be

consulted in developing an appropriate scope of the survey, to be conducted with a State Archaeologist's permit issued to a qualified archaeological consulting firm.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with o Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (36 CFR 800), MGL c. 9, ss. 26-27C (950 CMR 70-71), and MEPA (301 CMR 11).

Please contact Edward L. Bell, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and Senior Archaeologist, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brona Simon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Executive Director  
State Archaeologist  
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

Robert J. DiSista, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Kathleen Atwood, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Melissa Cryan, EEA/DCS  
John D. Viola, DEP/NERO  
Tracy Adamski, Tighe & Bond





erin.flaherty@mass.gov

## View Comment

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

First Name  
Eugene

Address Line 1  
73 Edison St

## Organization

Comments Submit Date  
6-11-2021

Last Name  
Brusin

Address Line 2  
73 Edison St

**Affiliation Description**  
Individual

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

Phone  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Status  
Opened

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

Email  
gene4deb@verizon.net

Zip Code  
02169

## Comment Title or Subject

**Topic:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project

## Comments

I object to this project, it already has garnered poor reviews from various groups and individuals, the idea of a walkway for people to dump their trash, bottles and face mask further into the area is a baaaad idea with no support. Please fail this attempt to create a larger area for people to dump their trash while looking at nature.

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Opened ▼

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

**From:** [joan pierce](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\); MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** EEA No. 16371 Merrymount Park Quincy, MA - submittal of comments  
**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2021 2:38:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [Comment letter MEPA EEA No 16371 Quincy June 11 2021.docx](#)  
[Acreage calculation of Pine Island, Quincy, MA Google Earth orthophoto., Joan Pierce June 2021.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon, Ms. Flaherty - please find attached my comments which I hereby submit for consideration as part of the MEPA review for the above-referenced project, EEA No. 16371.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

I looked on the web pages for the Environmental Monitor and did not see instructions for submitting comments. I will look on the MEPA website next, so you might be getting a duplicate submittal because I want to be sure my comments get to you by the Tuesday, June 15, 2021 deadline for comments.

Thank you, Joan Pierce,

Joan W. Pierce  
75 Willow Ave.  
Quincy, MA 02170

June 11, 2021

Erin Flaherty  
MEPA Analyst  
MEPA Office

**Re: ENF: EEA No. 16371 – Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project, Quincy, MA**

Dear Ms. Flaherty:

For 35 years, I have lived in Quincy a few blocks from Merrymount Park. There are other aspects of this project that are problematic (ex. cost, for one), but I believe these other aspects are outside the jurisdiction of MEPA Review so I will not raise them here. I am responding to issues raised, or not raised but should have been, in the ENF submitted on this project.

I request the MEPA office reject the ENF and deny a Certificate for this project. I find the ENF to be seriously flawed in its scope, approach, and conclusions, and I find the field work performed to be inadequate to support the conclusions regarding the impact of this project on the Black's Creek estuary.

I requested a complete copy of the ENF report (~90 pages, dated April 2021), from Ms. Emily Tully (Tighe & bond), and she immediately responded to my request. I have read the entire ENF and reviewed the included drawings, maps and plans. I am very familiar with MerryMount Park and surrounding neighborhoods. I have not walked on the salt marsh or Pine Island, itself, but I have viewed both from several nearby vantage points over the years and within the past few days.

**Comments**

1) Cover letter, Pg. 2-1 and similar statements elsewhere in the ENF - *"Proposed boardwalk would increase access to and views of Blacks Creek, tidal marshlands and Pine Island...."*

**Rebuttal:** The entire shoreline of Black's Creek estuary is visible from extensive areas and numerous vantage points already. Instead, construction of this massive structure will completely block the view of the estuary from the shore near the boat facility towards the boulevard, and from many other vantage points. The ENF report omits any "artist's rendering" of the proposed bridge overlain on a current photo graph. The technology to produce such a graphic image is readily available. This is essential information to show what the proposed bridge will look like in relation to the surroundings.

2) Pg 3-1 *“Pine Island is an 11 acre drumlin”*

**Rebuttal:** See enclosed map “Acreage calculation using Google Earth software”. Using readily available technology, I calculated that Pine Island is about 4 acres. Even allowing for my approximate limits of “Pine Island, the upland (tree coverage) is much less than 11 acres. Oddly, no map is provided which shows what is considered to be Pine Island, and how the acreage is calculated. Since the ENF mentions “existing trails” on Pine Island, I surmise that the ENF considers Pine Island to be only the landform with trees, and none of the surrounding salt marsh.

The surrounding salt marsh shows no evidence of any trails made by humans. (More on this later.)

Drumlins are generally sizeable landforms. The ENF provides no supporting documentation for labelling Pine Island as a drumlin. Islands in Boston Harbor which are drumlins are much larger and higher than little Pine Island. Spectacle Island is a drumlin, is 114 acres and its highest elevation at 157 ft above sea level (Boston Harbor Island website).

Blatant inaccuracies in such simple and basic issues as calculation of acreage, reference to non-existent features such as trails, etc., cast deservedly long shadows of doubt on the validity of other statements throughout the ENF.

3) Pg. 3-2 *Coastal Beach.....Figure 4 in Appendix A, shellfish growing is designated as “prohibited” in the entire vicinity of the project and the project does not include any mapped shellfish suitability species per MassGIS; therefore the project area is presumed to not include Land Containing Shellfish.”*

**Rebuttal:** Here the ENF states the project area is presumed to not include “Land Containing Shellfish”. I am unsure what to make of this statement. Reference is made to Fig. 4 in Appendix A which depicts areas in which is it prohibited to grow shellfish. However, I doubt the criteria for prohibiting shellfish harvest or aquaculture is germane to the question of whether an area provides habitat for shellfish.

The ENF states (Pg. 3-3 Benthic Assessment) that four species of shellfish were found. Two of the species of shellfish found were the blue mussel and the softshell crab. Appendix B Photograph 14 shows a human hand holding a blue mussel, with the caption “Representative photo of blue mussels found during benthic survey”. Shellfish live in Black’s Creek estuary. They live in the path of the proposed bridge. That the ENF is dismissive of this resource is unfortunate, misguided and leads the reader to question what other resources the ENF is ignoring or has not looked for carefully enough in the documentation of this wonderful natural resource, Black’s Creek estuary.

4) Pg. 3-3 *Benthic Assessment* Four survey quadrants were used for this assessment. The locations of the 4 plots are shown in Appendix B Photograph No. 12, Pg 6. The ENF states "...these plots maybe considered to be a reliable baseline for existing conditions."

**Rebuttal:** The ENF provides conclusions for a very important, sensitive resource (benthic communities in an estuary) based solely on 4 sampling plots that are located very near to each other and in the same type of bottom area. Why were no sampling plots located farther from shore, near the tidal creek or in the actual path of the proposed 66 pilings? Why only 4 sampling plots for a structure that is almost 400 ft long? Was the decision to locate the benthic sampling plots based on the assumption that the 66 poison-impregnated telephone-pole-size timbers installed permanently in the waters and bottom sediments of Black's Creek estuary would have no adverse effect on sensitive benthic organisms, except in the immediate vicinity of the proposed abutments? Apparently. This is unacceptable.

The following paragraph, from an EPA document (Report on the Environment, <https://www.epa.gov/roe/> - Coastal Benthic Communities), provides a better sense of the ecological importance of benthic communities than is given by the ENF.

*"Benthic communities are largely composed of macroinvertebrates, such as annelids, mollusks, and crustaceans. These organisms inhabit the bottom substrates of estuaries and play a vital role in maintaining sediment and water quality. They also are an important food source for bottom-feeding fish, invertebrates, and birds. Communities of benthic organisms are important indicators of environmental stress because they are particularly sensitive to pollutant exposure (Holland et al., 1987). This sensitivity arises from the close relationship between benthic organisms and sediments—which can accumulate environmental contaminants over time—and the fact that these organisms are relatively immobile, which means they receive prolonged exposure to contaminants in their immediate habitat (Sanders et al., 1980; Nixon et al., 1986)."*

The importance of protecting the vitality of the benthic community in Black's Creek underscores the necessity of adequate sampling to ensure potential impacts of a project proposed for irreplaceable natural areas (i.e., Black's Creek) are fully identified.

Another comment about the pilings....It is incredulous that the City and its consultant make no mention of the nature of the preservative in the pilings. Sixty-six wooden pilings driven 10s of feet into the bottom sediments and water of this wonderful estuary. Sixty-six 12" diameter permanent, pilings saturated with preservatives poisonous to all types of organisms

that depend on this estuary. The ENF says nothing about the impact of these pilings on the organisms and water quality in this estuary.

**This ENF needs to be rejected and the MEPA Certificate denied.**

5) *Pg. 4-4 and elsewhere, references to “preventing impacts to salt marsh from the current mode of access via walking across salt marsh..” Table 4-1 pg 4-7, No Action Envir. Impacts – Qualitative: ....“access via walking across salt marsh would continue”*

**Rebuttal: Where are people walking across the salt marsh??? I made a site visit on June 7, 2021 to Thornton Rd specifically to view these trails which are supposedly impacting the salt marsh and made by people walking to Pine Island. I found no trace of any human trail(s) on or across the salt marsh. Additionally, why does the City believe a pedestrian bridge on the opposite side of Pine Island from Thornton Rd is going to stop people who live on or near Thornton Rd from walking on the marsh to get to Pine Island (if they do, but they don't)? The ENF contained no photographs of any human trails on the salt marsh. This oft expressed concern about impacts to the salt marsh from pedestrian traffic appears to be unfounded.**

6) *Pg 4-5 the Preferred higher abutments would minimize impacts to “Coastal Bank”...and allow the boardwalk to be located 10 ft above the salt march near Pine Island...”*

**Rebuttal: The deck of this bridge is designed to be TEN FEET above the salt marsh at Pine Island, and six feet, or more, above the MHW (Mean High Water) elsewhere (Interpretation of Grading Plan & Profile, Sheet C-103, Appendix C). The bridge will be an affront to the beautiful view this area affords the public for free.**

**Such a structure extending hundreds of feet into and across the estuary must certainly pose problems related to storms and flooding. What happens to this bridge in a hurricane? The pilings? The deck and railing timbers? Flying debris, flotsam will end up in the saltmarsh and on the shore where it will rest for years.**

**Why is there no statement in the ENF or on the plans as to the length of this bridge? The length can be estimated by simple arithmetic as plans say there will be 66 pilings (33 pilings on each side of the bridge) spaced 12 feet apart, giving a length of:  $33 \times 12 = 396$  ft. The ENF should provide the definitive answer, not require estimation by the reader.**

7) **Discussion of potential for 66 pilings to impede flow of tidal and storm water in the tidal creek that separates Pine Island from the rest of Merrymount Park - I found no mention of this topic in the ENF. Flowage of fresh and saltwater in and out of an estuary is a defining characteristic of estuaries. The balance of this ebb and flow is of prime importance in maintaining a vital estuarine system. That the City is cavalier about any additional man-made disruption to the movement of water through this area is disappointing.**

8) Pg. 5-4 Sect. 5.6 CZM Federal Consistency Review...Grown Management Policy #1 ...*"the proposed pedestrian boardwalk is consistent with the goals and objectives of the City of Quincy's OSRP (Open Space and Recreational Plan?) ...and will enhance the ability of surrounding Environmental Justice neighborhoods to utilize Merrymount Park.*

**Rebuttal:** I tried unsuccessfully to find an on-line copy of Quincy's OSRP. Perhaps my opinion on this matter would be altered if I had benefit of what the Plan says; however, I find the ENR contains no basis for the statement that this structure, located deep within Merrymount Park, will effect Environmental Justice neighborhoods' ability to utilize Merrymount Park. Whether the bridge is built will affect access only to Pine Island. This bridge will have no effect on anyone's ability to use Merrymount Park. Another erroneous statement by the City in support of this folly.

The Black's Creek estuary and Merrymount Park are gems in the City of Quincy's park system. On this, the City and I agree. However, this proposed bridge will be nothing but a long-term blight on the landscape and a detriment to the health and productivity of the estuary.

I urge the MEPA Office to reject this ENF and deny issuance of a MEPA Certificate for this project, or anything like it.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joan W. Pierce".

Joan W. Pierce

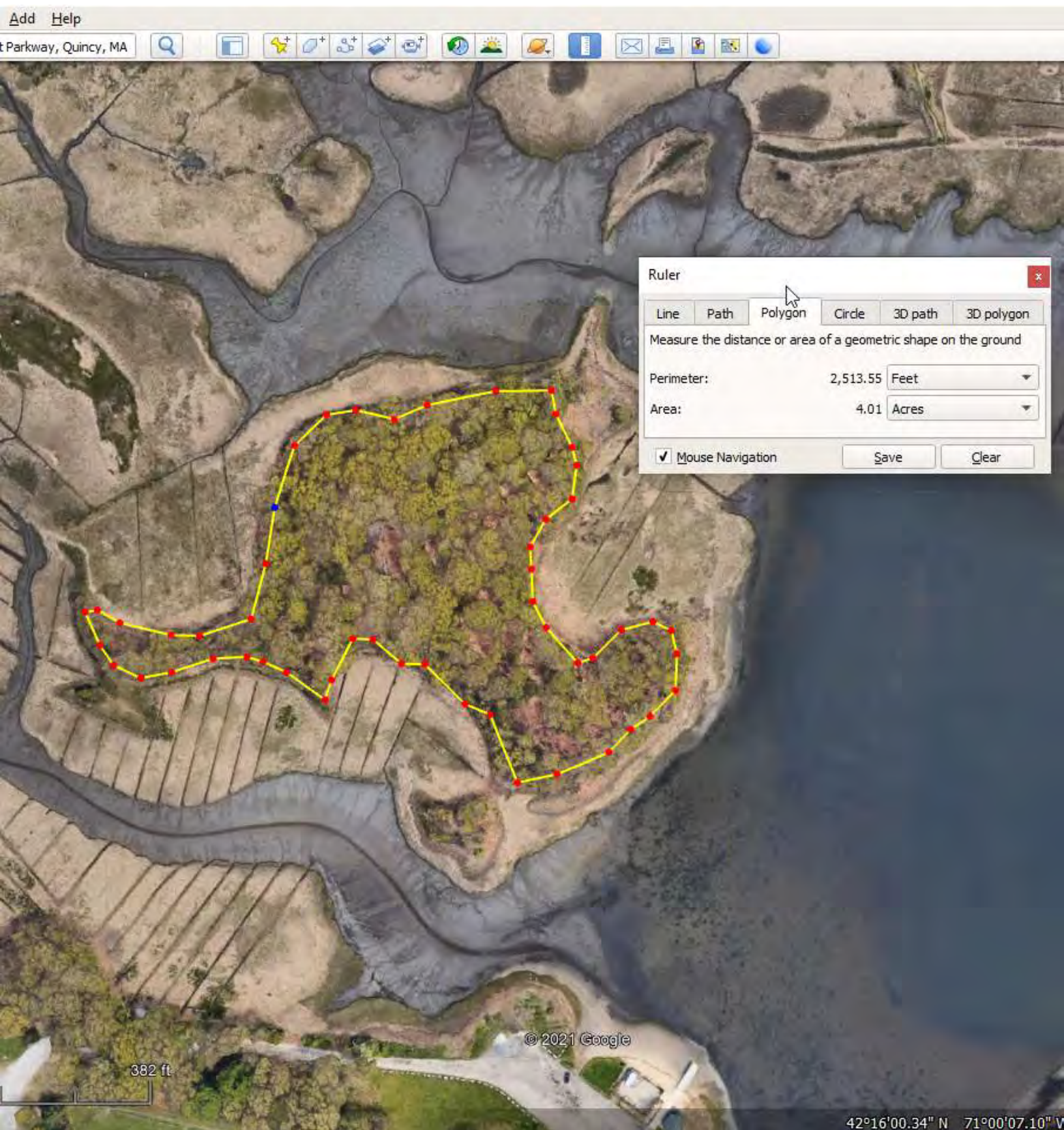
Concerned citizen of Quincy, Taxpayer and voter

e-mail: [JoanPierce75@gmail.com](mailto:JoanPierce75@gmail.com)

Cc: David Murphy, Commissioner, Quincy Park and Forestry Dept.  
Emily Tully, Project Manager, Tighe& Bond  
Chuck Phelan, Ward 5, Quincy City Councilor

Encl: Map of Acreage calculation of Pine Island using Google Earth software, by Joan Pierce  
*e-mailed to Ms. Flaherty, MEPA analyst*









erin.flaherty@mass.gov

## View Comment

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

Comments Submit Date  
6-11-2021

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

First Name  
Sarah

Last Name  
Alessandro

Phone  
--

Email  
ssjalessandro@yahoo.com

Address Line 1  
70 Edwards St

Address Line 2  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Zip Code  
02169

## Organization

**Affiliation Description**  
Individual

Status  
Opened

## Comment Title or Subject

**Topic:** Oppose Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project

## Comments

Quincy Residents have a plethora of areas to explore and enjoy. I strongly oppose the creation of a bridge to Pine Island and the upheaval and degradation of its surrounding environment which are inevitable for the bridge's construction. It is a huge misuse of funds for a ridiculously over engineered project. This area does not need human interference. Please do not approve this boondoggle of city spending. Thank you.

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Opened ▼

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)



**View Comment**

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

Comments Submit Date  
6-12-2021

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

First Name  
Ida

Last Name  
DelVecchio

Phone  
--

Email  
nuttyisland@gmail.com

Address Line 1  
150 Quarry St

Address Line 2  
505

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Zip Code  
02169

Organization  
N/A

**Affiliation Description**  
Individual

Status  
Opened

## Comment Title or Subject

**Topic:** Why a "pedestrian parkway" should not be built from Merrymount Park to Pine Island in Quincy, Ma

## Comments

Pine Island is the most untouched island/marshland habitat in Massachusetts. The proposed "pedestrian" bridge is wide enough and supportive enough for suv's. The whole project stinks of a developer smacking their lips and pocketbooks just waiting to fill in the marsh and build, build, build. This area, in the era of climate change needs to be protected. It's one of Quincy's defenses against flooding. Did I mention the importance of the habitat to biodiversity? Please do the right thing for the climate, environment and all in Quincy. Keep Pine Island pristine!!!!

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Opened ▼

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

**From:** [Risitano, John](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Councillor Phelan](#); [Councillor DiBona](#); [Councillor Palmucci](#); [City Council President Liang](#); [Councillor Cain](#); [Councillor Mahoney](#); [NORAH CONNERS](#); [John Brennon](#)  
**Subject:** MEPA EEA # 16371 PUBLIC COMMENTS - Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk, Quincy, MA  
**Date:** Saturday, June 12, 2021 9:30:17 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Analyst Flaherty and Secretary Theoharides,

Good Morning !! Below are my three comments on the subject ENF. The first two comments were submitted to the Quincy Conservation Commission at their June 2, 2021 meeting where this Item was continued to the July 7, 2021 meeting. I had the opportunity to visit Pine Island, which is accessible at low tide, subsequent to the June 2 meeting and plan to provide all three comments at the July 7 meeting.

1. The boardwalk requires 66 timber piles to be driven into this estuary. It is structurally designed as a vehicular bridge. Although not specified in the ENF, it is likely that the construction contract will specify these piles, the timber pile caps and the railings be pressure treated in order to withstand the marine environment. My concern is the long term leaching of the pressure treatment chemicals from these timber structures will have an adverse impacts on an already fragile wetland ecosystem, with limited and incomplete tidal flushing due to City controlled tide gates allowing a water level of less than elevation of 10.75 MLLW datum, stunted by roadway runoff and storm water discharge. The benthic community (clams, mussels, crustaceans and other mollusks) as well as the spawning flounder and striped bass will be damaged, and possibly diseased with limited life spans. Please require a full environmental impact report for this project due to the adverse impact to the fragile Black's Creek ecosystem.
2. Furthermore, during construction all of these 66 timber piles cannot be installed by typical pile driving methods from a land based pile driving rig due to the approximate 450-foot length of the estuary crossing. A floating pile driving platform such as a barge, must be prohibited in the construction contract, as it will have significant adverse impacts on the benthic community when water drains out of Black's Creek at low tide when the tide gates are opened and the construction barge sinks into the silty mud estuary bottom. In addition, the vibrations from the pile driving equipment will continue to cause the barge to settle further into the muddy bottom destroying the benthic community.
3. As stated above I visited Pine Island and found it to be hilly 11-acre drumlin terrain with steep side slopes and no trails in contrast to that reported in the ENF by the proponent. Therefore this is a pedestrian/vehicular bridge to an untouched and natural portion of the Black's Creek estuary. The bridge is handicapped accessible which means the public trails on the island will also have to be handicapped accessible. This will mean a major regrading of the island, removing trees, flattening the side slopes of the drumlin virtually destroying the vegetation

and the natural wild life habitat. The construction cost for this project will be significant and there is no good reason to destroy this natural environmental setting when there are already so many other existing public accessible scenic viewing locations within Merrymount Park. Please require a full environmental impact report for this project.

If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Please reply. THANK YOU !!**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

***John Risitano, PE***

**85 Dickens Street  
Quincy, MA 02170  
(617) 471-2991**

**From:** [Sue Carr](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk #16371  
**Date:** Saturday, June 12, 2021 12:40:16 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I think this Quincy park should remain the way it is due to the fact that all the new construction is ruining the cities historical sites, high rise buildings, apartments, condo's it doesn't look like the quint Historical City it once was. Almost all open space is built on, even putting in building sideways and multi stories high to make them fit. The parks and wet lands should remain the way they are, just appreciate the beauty as nature made it. There is little left in this city now. I am against any bridge or walkway, leave natures beauty natural. I have lived in this city for over 65 yrs and seen many changes some good and many bad, please leave this beautiful park the way it is natural

Thank you,

Sue Carr

Quincy homeowner & tax payer

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Gordon DeCambra](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** City of Quincy ENF 16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 9:43:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Ms Flaherty

I'm sending this email to express my opposition to the City of Quincy's ENF 16371, Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Proposal.

The City of Quincy plans to construct a 17' wide x 450' long boardwalk from lower Merrymount Park to Pine Island, which is located in the heart of the Black Creek Estuary and can only be detrimental to a very fragile ecosystem which continues to decline for other various reasons.

They'll be 66 pairs of 12" pilings for a total of 132 to be driven into the bed of an estuary to a depth still to be determined.

The method of construction has yet to be determined, will it be constructed from land or a barge using a large derrick, will coffer dams be used?

Will there be any restrictions on the Greenberg Bridge Tide Gates?

What is the timeframe for construction, how long will the construction process take?

At both ends of the bridge there are paved platforms to be constructed of what type of material and how will the construction be done?

All of these questions need to be answered before the permitting process can proceed.

Pine Island itself is a small drumlin which has been known to have nesting owls, coyotes, fox, turkeys viewed there and there's also a nesting pair of osprey near by. Horse shoe crabs in the past were in abundance in and around the estuary, in the last 5-10 years I've only seen one.

There is absolutely no benefit to this fragile estuary by constructing this massive bridge which can handle motor vehicles and allow thousands of trips annually, 24/7, 365 days a year into an already declining ecosystem.

Estuaries shouldn't be altered in any way by any type of development simply because estuaries are the cradles of life!

As we've spoken to people in the neighborhood, all of which are opposed to this project I will speak on their behalf as well as my own that we are totally opposed to the City of Quincy's ENF 16371 proposed boardwalk in Merrymount Park/Blacks Creek Estuary.

Thank you  
Gordon DeCambra  
64 Dickens St.  
Quincy, Ma. 02170

**From:** [Gordon DeCambra](#)  
**To:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** City of Quincy ENF 16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 10:21:11 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Secretary Kathleen Theoharides

Myself along with some residents in the City of Quincy have recently been informed of the City of Quincy's proposal to construct a 17' wide x 450' long bridge from lower Merrymount Park to the small Pine Island Drumlin.

As we learn about the permitting process of this application from Erin Flaherty from the MEPA office, a question has come up amongst us as to why this project doesn't require an EIR ( Environmental Impact Report )?

The very fragile Blacks Creek Estuary's ecosystem that this massive project will impact during construction and beyond is a big concern of many residents.

Most if not all of us are probably unaware of the information included in the state's 301 CMR regulations regarding this part of the permitting process so we're asking MEPA to include this requirement as part of EEA 16371.

The Blacks Creek Estuary has been in a slow decline for other various reasons for a long time and we feel by allowing this project to move forward without a complete Environmental Impact Report can only be more detrimental to a very fragile ecosystem.

Please consider adding this request by many residents to the permitting process.

Thank you

Gordon DeCambra

64 Dickens St.

Quincy, Ma.02170

617-416-6193

**From:** [Pamela Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\); chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk #16371 - Quincy Ma  
**Date:** Sunday, June 13, 2021 2:24:41 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am sending this email to express my opposition to the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk project #16371. I am a resident of Quincy in the Beechwood Knoll section. I own a home that is near the Black's Creek Estuary and with my neighbors have been active in advocacy to maintain this precious salt water marsh and its tributaries. First, I would like to note, if one of my neighbors hadn't read the legal notices at the end of May, I would not have known this project was moving forward. I think the residents deserve better communication regarding a project that could have big environmental consequences for our area. Also, I do not understand why this project does not need an Environmental Impact Report – I would think that a designated salt water marsh would need an EIR completed to have anything built in the Marsh.

This projects scope is massive for a very small area. Pine Island is only around 7 acres and has no walking trails and is mainly used by wildlife and is home to osprey, coyotes, and owls, etc. To build a bridge that is approximately 20 feet wide with 60 plus pilings (that we still don't know the type of wood or how it will be treated or the depth the pilings will go), in a very fragile estuary to a very small island seems so wrong. This island is in the middle of the estuary surrounded by the Marsh – Building a bridge to have many people trample this small wildlife island will only cause damage to this fragile area. The proposed massive bridge will have solar lights lighting it from dusk till dawn – Not great for the wild life. Plus allow foot traffic at all times, again not great for wildlife or the health of this ecosystem. Not to mention all the trash that will be brought into this very fragile area. As it is, if you walk the paths around the edge of Black's Creek you will find trash and green bags of dog poop on the ground. As I have mentioned this area is fragile and needs help to be maintained – This area does not need a bridge to create more environmental issues. This project is not needed – it doesn't benefit anyone. Salt water marshes and estuaries are needed to help the environment combat climate change and should be protected.

I am strongly opposed to this project and would like my comments to be noted.

Thank you,

Pam Brennan  
65 Dickens Street  
Wollaston, MA 02170



**Pamela Brennan | First Vice President | Resource Team**

Boston Financial Investment Management, LP | 101 Arch Street | Boston, MA 02110

(P) 617-488-3513 | (C) 617-877-6638

[pamela.brennan@bfim.com](mailto:pamela.brennan@bfim.com) | [www.bfim.com](http://www.bfim.com)

Please see the following link: <https://www.bfim.com/news/BFIM%20Privacy%20Policy%20-%20Dec%202020.pdf> for important information on privacy.

June 11, 2021

Erin Flaherty MEPA  
100 Cambridge Street # 900  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Flaherty MEPA officer

RE: Comment on # 16371

I, along with my neighborhood Association would like to go on record to oppose giving the City of Quincy permits to build a bridge from Merrimount Park over the marine marshes to Pine Island. The proposal was presented to Quincy Conservation Commission, headed by Quincy Building Inspector, Mr. Jay Duca, and Natural Resources Commissioner, Mr. David Murphy, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2021. (Note: Building Inspector is the head of ConCom)

Historically, Quincy has a long track record of ignoring environmental regulations, and even at this moment is being fined by EPA 115,000 dollars for allowing sewer run into Boston harbor and the failure of correcting storm water and sewer lines, according to the Patriot Ledger, June 11, 2021. In the same statement EPA now once again fined the City 115,000 dollars and demanded the City of Quincy to spend one hundred million (100,000,000) to fix its sewer and storm water system. The City has previously ignored all the EPA demand, and seems to rather pay the fines than fixing the problems. To spend millions on the pedestrian bridge, ADA approved, is costing the City millions, which should be spend in correcting the failure of protecting our marshland and waterways, and fix the above mentioned problems.

Proposal includes pile driving 75 feet into the marshes would be devastating to the marsh and its environs, **second**, it would add one more area for Quincy to take care, which would, according to present maintenance is minimal. . **Third**, if the bridge is built there will be one more area and opportunity for the homeless to take up residence, which Quincy is a hub. **Four**, it would then open the island for drinking parties, just like the Squa Rock and other Quincy Parks, if you permitting this proposal.

Please note: If there was an urgent need for this, one could see it, but Quincy is fortunate to have had the Families of Adams, Faxon and Grossmans to donate and secure our park land for perpetuity. And part of Blue Hills is also partially in Quincy.

**Pine Island is the only natural area left in Quincy. Let us keep it so for the marine life, the flora and the fauna that flourishes there. Let us try our best to protect it, by not permitting Quincy this folly.**

You are the Quincy citizen's only hope to try to protect the Pine Island and its marine life, land and water fowl, many of them listed in the endangered species, such as the horse show grab. Thank you for our service and protection of our environment.

Sincerely,

Helvi Anneli Johnson  
Accredited Environmental Consultant  
By: National Garden Club Federation, Inc.  
36 Garfield Street, Quincy, MA 02169

617-479-1601

.

**From:** [Maggie M](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 1:20:43 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing to express my opposition to a plan to build a bridge from Merrymount Park in Quincy to a small, undeveloped hill of land a short distance away, on the other side of the Blacks Creek estuary.

Surrounded by salt marsh, this hill, called Pine Island, is accessible by foot only at low tide. The City of Quincy wants to build a 4500-square-foot raised boardwalk to the island so that more people can visit and enjoy it.

That sounds nice on the one hand. Who doesn't love a boardwalk? The problem is, Quincy has precious few untouched pieces of land, and many environmentalists say the best thing to do is to leave nature to its own devices. For example, a [2018 paper](#) in the journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B* looked at 400 studies worldwide and found that ecosystems that had been disturbed significantly "rarely recover completely." The authors write, "This result reinforces conservation of intact ecosystems as a key strategy for protecting biodiversity."

Worrisomely, members of the volunteer group Quincy Making Waves walked out to Pine Island at low tide recently and found red ribbons tied around several mature trees there, suggesting they are slated for removal for the project. Plans also call for 36,000 square feet of land to be altered during construction of the boardwalk, which will rest on more than five dozen pilings driven into the wetlands below it.

The fact that Quincy wants to pursue the project is surprising, since the city used environmental concerns over installing new supporting piers to try to prevent [Boston from rebuilding the bridge from Squantum to Long Island](#).

In its fight against the Long Island Bridge, [Quincy also supported Native American tribes in their attempt to require an environmental review of Long Island](#), which [might have been the site of Indigenous burial grounds from a Colonial-era concentration camp](#).

Pine Island itself likely harbors undiscovered Indigenous history. In 1999, [construction of the playground in nearby Caddy Park, which also borders Blacks Creek, uncovered 256 artefacts dating back 3,500 years](#). What

treasures might be paved over at the end of the proposed boardwalk on Pine Island? Or removed by all the additional visitors to the island if the boardwalk is built?

I love walking around Blacks Creek in Quincy. But there are plenty of places to walk already – and I hope we leave Pine Island alone. Let's use the money for this project instead to take care of our existing environmental treasures in the area: the trees and marshes that keep greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere and help prevent flooding. Or we could use it to clean up our messes there. The EPA recently forced the city to spend [\\$100 million](#) to stop pollutants from leaked sewage from flowing into waterways and washing up on Wollaston Beach and Adams Shore. Or we could spend the money on a combination of beautification and cleaning by installing "[green infrastructure](#)" when we do road and sidewalk work. Instead of sending stormwater runoff, which picks up pollutants, trash, and bacteria as it flows over buildings and roads, down storm drains and straight into open water, we could first filter it through strategically planted rain gardens. This would improve the water quality in Blacks Creek and at our beaches, reduce flooding, and beautify our city.

There are many things we could and should do to protect Blacks Creek and ensure its survival for generations to come. Building a bridge to Pine Island is not one of them. I hope the city scraps this plan and invites residents to help shape any similar proposals from the get-go in the future, especially ones like this that are expressly designed for our enjoyment.

Sincerely,  
Maggie McKee  
Quincy (Wollaston) resident

**From:** [Deborah Barrett](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371".  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 3:12:51 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Erin Flaherty-

Please do not give the go ahead for a boardwalk to be built over the estuary to the small Pine Island mound in the middle of Blacks Creek estuary. I have spent many hours enjoying the area and have walked to Pine Island at low tide as part of Quincy's Environmental Treasures program. I have been to the island and am convinced: leave this little space to nature's inhabitants! I have seen egrets, eagles, osprey and coyotes enjoying the unspoiled plot and furthermore I have seen all these at various times from Merrymount and Pageant's shores. People have lots of places to walk and enjoy nature in Quincy; leave this one to nature and the venturesome souls who every so often make their way to the island at low tide.

I have seen the estuary when the tide is super high - it floods the area.

(<http://quincydailyphoto.blogspot.com/search/label/Estuaries>) I have also seen the island on fire when the grasses get really dry in the fall. "Google it" and you will find images to back me up. Let's not spend our tax money on replacing boardwalks every few years or making an easy pathway for people to go and trash or set fire to one tiny nature preserve in our wonderful city.

I appreciate the opportunity to share my view against pedestrian boardwalk project #16371. Leave it be.

Deborah Barrett  
Quincy, MA

**From:** [Gina Favata](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [dmurphy@quincyma.gov](mailto:dmurphy@quincyma.gov); [nliang@quincyma.gov](mailto:nliang@quincyma.gov); [amahoney@quincyma.gov](mailto:amahoney@quincyma.gov); [ndibona@quincyma.gov](mailto:ndibona@quincyma.gov); [cwalker@quincyma.gov](mailto:cwalker@quincyma.gov); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 10:57:52 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty:

We are writing to express my opposition to a plan to build a bridge from Merrymount Park in Quincy to Pine Island—a small, undeveloped hill of land a short distance away, on the other side of the Blacks Creek estuary.

While the idea of a boardwalk sounded nice and harmless at first glance, we now believe—after considerable research—that it would be unwise to go ahead with such a plan.

We own a home a block from the marsh. We love to go on nature walks through the area. Our nine year old daughter is especially fond of the blue heron and the ospreys. We value this little slice of nature in the middle of the city.

We're happy that Quincy is looking into ways to engage residents and visitors with its natural resources. But we don't think a boardwalk to Pine Island is the best use of time and/or resources, and will potentially cause damage to the beauty the city is trying to showcase. There are a multitude of ways Quincy could support its natural environment and make it more accessible to its residents. Quincy could put in boardwalks on already established trails that get flooded. The informational plaques in the marsh are currently all broken and unreadable—they could be fixed. The city could invest in nature walks and programs for residents. But drive five dozen pilings into the wetlands to build a bridge to a small piece of land that is (mostly) untouched by humans? Why? The construction will only disturb more of the environment. Please leave Pine Island alone.

We hope you will reconsider this idea. And in the future ask residents who live next to the marsh and explore it daily what they would like to see in the area.

Thank you,  
Gina Favata & Jon Gorey  
Quincy (Wollaston) resident

**From:** [Czepiga, Page \(EEA\)](#) on behalf of [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Against the bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 6:12:41 PM

---

---

**From:** Johnpalus <Johnpalus@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 14, 2021 5:54 PM  
**To:** MEPA (EEA) <mepa@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Against the bridge

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns about the construction of a bridge at Pine Island in Quincy Ma.

Let Mother Nature be, we have so little left. Please no construction .

Regards,  
Gloria Rizzo  
13 Hillcrest Rd  
Quincy

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



**From:** [Gordon DeCambra](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** City of Quincy ENF 16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 7:09:59 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening Ms Flaherty

One topic that has been of the utmost importance is the fact that the City of Quincy ENF 16371 refers to this project as a pedestrian boardwalk! Nothing could be further from the truth than that statement. This massive bridge, 17' wide x 450' long rising to an elevation of 20' at Pine Island can support motor vehicle traffic, connects two land masses and will be constructed over a navigable body of water and it needs to be classified as a bridge!

By the city declaring this a pedestrian boardwalk it would allow them to bypass a very important permitting process which is a permit from the USCG!

We're asking this agency to declare this as such before this process moves further.

The city of Quincy is being deceitful in its description of this bridge simply to avoid a very important step in the permitting process with the USCG.

Please consider our concerns.

Thank you

Gordon DeCambra

64 Dickens St.

Quincy, Ma. 02170

**From:** [janetcn@verizon.net](mailto:janetcn@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** docket # 16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 2:40:42 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Erin:

I am writing to oppose the pedestrian bridge to Pine Island in Quincy's Black Creek because of the environmental impact.

The bridge will destroy the fragile salt marshes because the plan is to drill 75 feet to place the pilings.

The children and others can row to the island and get their exercise then.

Why is this bridge necessary?

Thank you kindly,  
janet carlson

**From:** [Graham King](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371".  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 3:27:51 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am strongly opposed to building a bridge to Pine Island. The plan is fiscally and environmentally unsound. Unfortunately, our mayor spends money on pet projects without citizen input or justification. I live in Merrymount and there is no need for this invasive, expensive, project. There are sufficient recreational areas and we currently see a lot of wildlife that inhabit the marsh and surrounding waters. I am sure this will be negatively impacted by decreasing natural habitat.

Sincerely,

Jeanne King, M.S., R.N.  
14 Neponset Rd.  
Quincy, MA 02169



erin.flaherty@mass.gov

## View Comment

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

Comments Submit Date  
6-14-2021

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

First Name  
Mary

Last Name  
Lally

Phone  
--

Email  
malally@outlook.com

Address Line 1  
10 Weston Ave Apt 408

Address Line 2  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Zip Code  
02170

## Organization

**Affiliation Description**  
Individual

Status  
Opened

## Comment Title or Subject

**Topic:** Nothing good will come of this

## Comments

Is some developer behind this push to build a two-lane bridge disguised as a pedestrian walkway? The area will end up being flooded as we are not doing anything to stop rising tides. Please leave the environment alone. If building takes place on Pine Island the whole area will be ruined. Stop building things for cars and focus on pedestrians and others trying to reduce carbon footprint. Besides the City of Quincy is spending too much of taxpayers money on projects to please the ego of Mayor Koch.

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Opened ▼

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

**From:** [MARY PETRELLI](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park bridge  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 6:11:03 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I would like to express my opposition to the Merrymount Park Boardwalk Project #16371. This project is very invasive to the environment. I was under the impression that this would be a small wooden walk bridge, not one that would need pilings into the creek and be wide enough for an SUV to drive over.  
Mary Lou Petrelli

**From:** [Maureen Keeley](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 7:52:42 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I just learned today of this plan and if I had to use one word I would say no. I walk all over the state and love boardwalks but this is not the place for one. This is one of the only, untouched areas in Quincy. This estuary is already degraded by the tide gates which leave the tides high or low for days. I truly see no benefit of this and the environmental implications must be huge. History should be considered. Please insist on public hearing that are publicized widely before this goes forward. Can I be placed on a list where I am notified of this project?

Sincerely, Maureen Keeley 4 George Rd. Quincy, MA 02170  
maureenkeeley@msn.com

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Nancy Lee](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount park bridge.  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 10:49:17 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello. My name is Nancy and I've been a resident of Quincy for 22 years. Please PLEASE do not go forward with this boardwalk over Blacks creek. Also PLEASE do not cut any trees down.

I feel this is a bad and unnecessary idea for the city.

Thank you so much for listening

Nancy Belmar

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Patricia DelVal](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Quincy Bridge to Pine Island  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 10:19:52 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

I am writing to speak against the Quincy Mayor's proposal to build a bridge to Pine Island from the Boathouse. I think it will destroy some of the protected lands there in the estuary and it is not needed.

I have walked to Pine Island from Fenno Street, from Quincy Shore Drive, from Furnace Brook Parkway, and from Merrymount Park. Any of these walks are not only possible to all, but they maintain the natural quality of the marsh settings.

We have so few available, protected areas left in the city; we should not build a bridge in this area.

Thank you for hearing my point of view.

Patricia DelVal  
]15 Schooner Lane  
Quincy

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



**From:** [Patti Mullally](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Quincy's Bridge to Pine Island  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 8:13:01 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am an a butter to the Black's Creek salt marsh and have direct views of Piney (as locals call it). My husband and I attended a zoom meeting with the conservation commission recently. The woman who represented the builder of this bridge has obviously never been to visit the actual site. There are no "trails" on the island, other than those made by coyotes. There are no crowds "trampling" the marsh to get out there, only the occasional bird watcher looking to spot owls and the like. In days past, the island was a popular drinking spot for teens. But recently, just bird watchers. This bridge, I fear, is going to take away from the natural beauty of the area and bring back the underaged drinkers. I also feel that the city should be spending more on maintaining what we have, rather than this waste.

Sincerely,

Patricia Mullally

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Richard Joyce](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 8:23:36 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. Flaherty,

Please add my comment below.

The true impact on the eco—systems on Pine Island will be over-whelmed by the influx of intrusive, yet well-meaning, visitors that will be enabled by a large attractive bridge. I am calling for a true environmental impact study for the project.

Richard Joyce  
104 Havilend St  
Quincy MA 02170

**From:** [wendyluca@aol.com](mailto:wendyluca@aol.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [wendyluca@aol.com](mailto:wendyluca@aol.com)  
**Cc:** [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Monday, June 14, 2021 8:28:32 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing to express my opposition to a plan to build a bridge from Merrymount Park in Quincy to a small, undeveloped hill of land a short distance away, on the other side of the Blacks Creek estuary.

Surrounded by salt marsh, this hill, called Pine Island, is accessible by foot only at low tide. The City of Quincy wants to build a 4500-square-foot raised boardwalk to the island so that more people can visit.

Having grown up in this area for over 50 years I am very familiar with this land. In the 80's there were many fires in that area set by individuals. Luckily we have not seen this trend for many years. What we have seen is that with all the construction that has been happening in Quincy it is one of the few places where there is any wildlife. Quincy has only a few untouched pieces of land. By allowing access to this would be detrimental to the ecosystem and the animals. With such minimal areas now for deer, coyotes, rabbits etc. you often see them in the city streets.

There are many trees which are slated to be cut down if this project takes place. Quincy can not afford to loose any more trees. In ward 5 alone within 5 blocks of my house there have been at least 25 trees removed. Most of them were removed due to new street construction or because the energy company deemed them in the way. These are trees over 75 years old. How sad is it to go down Elm street that use to be lined with obviously beautiful huge elms and see trees that are about 7 years old. The pollution and noise have increased ten fold due to this. I listen to the train and all the ball games because there is no longer trees to cut down on the noise. You use to look at the sky line and see trees towering over houses not anymore. Quincy has turned into a city where it once had a town feel. These animals, trees, as well as the health of the marshland will be interrupted with this project.

I hope the city decides to rethink this plan and leave some areas untouched.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Wilcoxon  
Quincy (Wollaston) resident

**From:** [Anna Dolmatch](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:45:58 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am submitting my comments in strong opposition to the creation of boardwalks leading to Pine Island in Black's Creek in Quincy.

The Black's Creek estuary serves many purposes, including natural flood control and an important habitat for migratory and resident wildlife. Modifying any portion of the remaining untouched marshland and surrounding woods will have no benefit to the estuary and will reduce the area's ability to mitigate current flood stages and future impacts of climate change.

There are many trails in and around Black's Creek, accessible from Merrymount Park, Fenno Street, and the Quincy Shores Reservation. These can be accessed on foot, on bicycle, and by car. There is no need to destroy the untouched areas that draw people to Black's Creek in the name of additional access. While the project proposal states that the boardwalks will reduce foot traffic across the marsh, it will greatly increase overall traffic to Pine Island, which will further endanger this fragile ecosystem that already is threatened by runoff and excessive amounts of litter from the access areas.

Black's Creek and the surrounding marshland is a rare natural resource in a dense urban area; it is already surrounded by busy streets and high-use recreation areas. The goal should be to truly conserve those areas that have not yet been impacted by development, not to spend public resources to destroy them. Public access to the benefits of this area are best increased by preservation of this undisturbed land.

I hope that MEPA will see that the long-term benefits of conserving this area vastly outweigh any perceived benefit to creating these boardwalks.

Thank you,  
Anna Dolmatch  
274 Furnace Brook Parkway  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Ann Mahoney](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:01:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [cid63CA67D9-B325-41DB-9097-082FC33BF624.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Flaherty,

I am writing to voice my opposition and to stand with many of my constituents regarding The City of Quincy's proposal to build a bridge from the Ryan Boathouse to Pine Island. Pine Island is a small, undeveloped hill of land a short distance away on the other side of the Blacks Creek Estuary.

While the idea of a "boardwalk" sounds nice, after considerable research it revealed that this is a 16 feet wide x 450 feet long bridge with pressure treated timbers driven 60-75 feet into the estuary every 9 feet. A project of this size can only have an adverse effect on the estuary and will destroy the protected lands in the estuary, it's too expensive and quite honestly, not needed.

The potential increase of human and vehicular traffic to this untouched area is also a concern. Pine Island is home to several animals including coyotes, foxes, turkey, osprey, owls. During the past few years there have also been visits by American Bald Eagles in the winter. These animals will undoubtedly cease to call this area home. Increased human activity will also lead to more litter, damage to the vegetation and an increased chance of fires. The Black's Creek estuary itself is an untouched gem within the city and I would like it to remain that way to do its important job without human interference.

Finally, there is the cost. To date there has been no mention of the cost of this structure or employees to maintain the bridge and island. While we recover from the recent pandemic one must wonder if this is the best use of dwindling public funds. I for one believe that should be the first thing we are reviewing before we are getting approvals at boards for work that has not been vetted by the public.

There are many things we could and should do to protect Blacks Creek and ensure we protect the area for generations to come. Building a bridge is not one of them.

Respectfully,

Anne M Mahoney Councillor at Large  
12 Ferriter Street  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-719-7378

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the designated recipient specified above. If you are not the intended recipient, then you received this message by mistake. Please notify the sender of the mistake by replying to this message and then immediately delete it from your computer. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without written consent of the sender.

Dear Analyst Flaherty and Secretary Theocharides,

I am writing to voice my opposition and to stand with many of my constituents regarding The City of Quincy's proposal to build a bridge from the Ryan Boathouse to Pine Island. Pine Island is a small, undeveloped hill of land a short distance away on the other side of the Blacks Creek Estuary.

While the idea of a "boardwalk" sounds nice, after considerable research it revealed that this is a 16 feet wide x 450 feet long bridge with pressure treated timbers driven 60-75 feet into the estuary every 9 feet. A project of this size can only have an adverse effect on the estuary and will destroy the protected lands in the estuary, it's too expensive and quite honestly, not needed.

The potential increase of human and vehicular traffic to this untouched area is also a concern. Pine Island is home to several animals including coyote, fox, turkey, osprey, owls. During the past few years there have also been visits by American Bald Eagles in the winter. These animals will undoubtedly cease to call this area home. Increased human activity will also lead to more litter, damage to the vegetation and an increased chance of fires. The Black's Creek estuary itself is an untouched gem within the city and I would like it to remain that way to do its important job without human interference.

Finally, there is the cost. To date there has been no mention of the cost of this structure or employees to maintain the bridge and island. While we recover from the recent pandemic one must wonder if this is the best use of dwindling public funds. I for one believe that should be the first thing we are reviewing before we are getting approvals at boards for work that has not been vetted by the public.

There are many things we could and should do to protect Blacks Creek and ensure we protect the area for generations to come. Building a bridge is not one of them.

Thank you,

Anne M Mahoney  
Councillor-at-Large Quincy MA

12 Ferriter Street  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-719-7378

**From:** [Barbara Jocelyn](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEAP@mass.gov](mailto:MEAP@mass.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:09:43 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a taxpaying voter I would like to go on record as being OPPOSED to the boardwalk. This project will cause irreparable and ongoing damage to the environment around Black's Creek.

The money would be much better spent on improving damage which has been done to the bay.

Thank you

Barbara Jocelyn



**From:** [barb555](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:44:08 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Erin

As a taxpaying voter, I believe the Boardwalk Project 16371 will cause irreparable and ongoing damage to the environment around Black's Creek.

Please withdraw this project so the taxpayer money can be better spent.

Thanks for your help.

Barbara Jocelyn

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [barb555](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:02:18 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Erin,

As a taxpaying voter, I want to make it clear that I am Very Much Opposed to Quincy Boardwalk Project 16371.

This is a project that will cause irreparable  
and ongoing damage to one of the few Wild places in Quincy.

This money should be spent on another environmental project such as the damage to the harbor.

Barbara Jocelyn

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

**From:** [Beatrice](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine Island Boardwalk  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:36:49 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a very long time resident of Quincy I strongly object to a bridge being built to Pine Island.

Pine Island is a wonderful mini nature reserve. I see no reason to expend a large amount of money and disrupt It's thriving ecosystem only to have it resemble just another park. It seems to me that Quincy would then lose yet another of its unique little gems in the name of improvement, and that would be very sad.

Beatrice DiMattia  
Shore Ave  
Quincy

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Beth Cook](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 6:34:29 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty -

I am writing to express my opposition to the pedestrian boardwalk to Pine Island, located in Merrymount Park in Quincy. I live in the Wollaston Neighborhood near Pine Island and have walked to Pine Island a few times over the years because it is accessible by walking through the marsh when the tide is low. I oppose the bridge for the following reasons:

\* Pine Island is not big enough to add value to the nature experience we have in the Black's Creek area. It is also important to the area because it is home for a lot of wildlife. Not only will its natural state suffer from overuse, but wildlife will be displaced. Not every inch of the Merrymount Park area should be developed. In fact, Pine Island is an attractive part of Merrymount Park precisely because it is in a natural state and untouched. Any advantage of creating a connection between the small parks in the Blacks Creek area does not outweigh these detrimental affects of overuse.

\* There are many trails in Merrymount Park that run between Coletta Baseball Field and Pageant Field that have been neglected by the city. The trails are regularly used by the homeless, who set up tents and also by teenagers, who drink alcohol. There have been many Friday and Saturday evenings when, while walking my dog, I watched teenagers stream onto Merrymount Park trails with backpacks. During daytime dog walks on those same trails, I have seen at least five areas covered in newly broken glass from bottles of alcohol or that have been used as an encampment for tent dwellers. There is charred wood from open fires in these areas. If the city cannot care for these established trails, then it is unlikely it will care for increased access to Pine Island. I'm afraid Pine Island will become another place for underage drinking and illegal camping in Merrymount Park.

\* I think that the bridge will interfere with people who kayak and canoe in Black's Creek. Admittedly, I don't know the details of the bridge dimensions, but I can't imagine that any bridge built will be high enough to accommodate boaters during high tide.

\* I am concerned that the bridge and increased presence of people on Pine Island will have a negative impact on the marine life in Black's Creek. As it is, people leave a lot of trash on the trails in Merrymount Park and I think that there will be an increase in trash in the marsh and water that will come from people walking over the bridge.

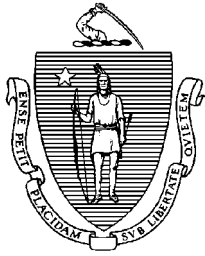
For these reasons, I think that Pine Island and Black's Creek should be left alone. In my view, the city should put its energy and funding into improving and caring for the trails that already exist in Merrymount Park.

Thank you for considering my email.

Very truly yours,

Beth P. Cook  
69 Kemper Street  
Quincy, MA. 02170  
(617) 479-4955





The COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02114-2136

Tel. (617) 626-1014 Fax (617) 626-1240

[www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-underwater-archaeological-resources](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/board-of-underwater-archaeological-resources)

June 15, 2021

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attention: Erin Flaherty, MEPA Unit (via email attachment)  
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project (EEA #16371), Quincy, MA

Dear Secretary Theoharides,

The staff of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources has reviewed the above-referenced proposed project as detailed in the Environmental Monitor of May 10, 2021 and offers the following comments.

The Board has conducted a preliminary review of its files and secondary literature sources to identify known and potential underwater archaeological resources within the proposed project area. No record of any underwater archaeological resources was found within the area. Based on the results of this review and the nature of the proposed project, the Board expects that this project is unlikely to impact submerged cultural resources.

However, archaeological research indicates that certain types of environmental and topographical settings, particularly those that offered diverse resources on a consistent or seasonal basis, are strongly associated with the presence of pre-contact period archaeological deposits. Such settings include the interface of land and water, such as riparian systems consisting of rivers, creeks, and estuaries and bays. For these reasons, the Board notes the area may be generally archaeologically sensitive.

Should heretofore-unknown underwater archaeological resources be encountered during the course of the project, the Board expects that the project's sponsor will take steps to limit adverse effects and notify the Board and the Massachusetts Historical Commission, as well as other appropriate agencies, immediately, in accordance with the Board's *Policy Guidance for the Discovery of Unanticipated Archaeological Resources*.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments as part of the MEPA review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address above or by email at [david.s.robinson@mass.gov](mailto:david.s.robinson@mass.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David S. Robinson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David S. Robinson  
Director

/dsr

Cc: Brana Simon, MHC  
Robert Boeri and Erik Hokenson, MCZM (via email attachment)  
Bettina Washington, WTGH/A (via email attachment)  
David Weeden, MWT (via email attachment)



Common sense and a long-term history of this area is what I can bring to this. I fully understand why Pine Island should not be built upon, with pilings or people. Others that oppose this project too are far from unintelligent. So I beg that you take into serious consideration the countless comments like mine that you receive on this project.

I am unable to dispute this 90-page document written in language that I don't understand, but let me attempt to convey to MEPA why this is such a poor idea.

I take issue with most of the remarks in the cover letter to this report. This is the part of the report that I can understand fully; this leads me to believe that the inside of this report, which I don't understand, may also be less than factual.

*"Pine Island and its trails are inaccessible to most visitors to the park for most of the year."* Pine Island is accessible to any nature explorer during the entire year at low tide. And it is because of this low tide factor, that Pine Island has seen very little foot traffic. This is the true gem in this estuary.

When I was a kid there wasn't much to do, we were explorers of nature; and there was a hell of a lot more nature to explore. The natural habitat and flora when we moved into our home in 1956 (built on wetlands in 1945) was abundant and overtime it has been diminished thanks to projects like this one.

Quincy continued to be developed; State Street South and Marina Bay destroyed more of the wetlands and the natural fauna and flora. Quincy development today is on steroids.



As kids, we lived in these marshes, what a life, our dog Fritz, a buff colored mix came home regularly black from the belly down. All of the marshes here were functioning at that time. There were minnows, horseshoe crabs (a threatened species, here before dinosaurs), all kinds of species that were right across the street in the Princess Eve Marsh (PEM).

We cannot allow the nature of this island to be lost, because there is nothing like it to replace it. What the applicant wants is already here in abundance.

This cover letter states that it will *“effectively open up new parkland and free passive recreational activities to Quincy residents”*. We have plenty of passive recreational areas right here, right now, throughout this estuary and all along Wollaston Beach, directly across the street from this estuary.

Foot traffic to Pine Island consists of an occasional birdwatcher and the few true environmentalists/nature lovers who venture over on low tide. The cover letter states *“while preventing direct damage to the salt marsh from pedestrian activity”* - virtually there is next to no pedestrian activity as attached images will show. These are blatantly false statements.

This is a pristine area, teeming with wildlife, wild flowers, birds of all kinds; one of the very few true spots in nature within the City of Quincy. I find that to be a pretty compelling argument to preserve it. Leave just one spot in this estuary for nature and animals to really thrive. This land deserves a spot on the National Register of Historical Places.

Newscasters found it very entertaining this past week that Boo Boo the bear was springing up all over the South Shore; Cohasset, Scituate, etc. I find this terribly sad and likely the reason that we, one day soon, will find ourselves on an

uninhabitable earth; with climate change no one knows our future?

Yet, we all know the present and the present beckons you to act in a way that states that we have already lost far too many of the wetlands here in Quincy; Marina Bay, State Street South, my neighborhood, etc., etc., etc., etc.

I don't have to tell you, that the wetlands do the heavy lifting when it comes to filtering water, capturing CO2 and giving so many creatures a starting place in life. This estuary is a fragile ecosystem; it's unconscionable to me in the year 2021, anyone is considering disrupting that? These estuaries are vital to our existence. They shield us here in Quincy from storms; they hold water, they are a buffer.

Yet, here we are realizing the dreams of two men from 100 years ago, Adams and Olmstead? Back when Wollaston Beach (QSD) was mostly wetlands and the road from the north end of the beach stopped at about the yacht clubs (mid way) in an area that was once Massachusetts Field Native Planting Grounds, long before Josiah Quincy hit town. Josiah owned all of that land from Hancock Street to the water, which wasn't a beach.

Wollaston Beach is not a natural resource. That beach is man made, and in the construction of Wollaston Boulevard aka Quincy Shore Drive, they filled in that marshland, they removed two barrier islands (Rye and Half Moon Island) on the bay. They didn't understand they were making changes that could never be undone.

That piece of topography between Fenno Street and Rice Road that used to be Rye Island sits higher on Quincy Shore Drive, thanks to that, those homeowners along the beach are not in FEMA's flood maps, yet those behind them reside in the flood

zone. Homeowners residing in the flood zone need functioning, healthy marshes.

Native American's gathered on the highlands when they came here in the warmer months to fish and hunt. Moswetuset Hummock, Caddy Park (256 Artifacts from 3500 years ago), Furnace Brook, Pine Island and White Rock - these highlands were elevated far enough to make them natural gathering spots.

This estuary holds historical significance; who is to say that Pine Island isn't teeming with artifacts? Anecdotally, a neighbor on Meadowbrook Road spoke in frustration that her neighbor was removing artifacts from Pine Island back when she first bought her home, I believe in the 70's.

The watering hole in Quincy back in that day wasn't Wollaston Beach, but along Merrymount Park; that was the "beach of the day". An old postcard (attached) depicts people along 'those banks' swimming. Pageant Field, in Merrymount was named for just that; pageantry - the big town celebrations.

Those residents found themselves surrounded by a vastness of beautiful wetlands, the bay encroaching a bit further inland. No built up roadway – no tide gates; tides with free reign into the marshland.

One hundred years ago footbridges, if indeed there were footbridges I am sure were just that, "footbridges". I would say back then, connecting all those high spots might have seemed like a reasonable idea. There were far less people and much more land. It might have made perfect sense then, but does it today?

I recall zero footbridges in the 65 years that I have been here. There would be a plank here and one over there at those places that you were sure to get your feet wet and possibly even lose a shoe hopping the ditches dug by the WPA in the

1930s.

Developers, who built upon this mass of wetland, had no idea of the importance of marshes or the forever damage to the ecosystem they were doing.

The Native Americans believed that the land was not theirs to own, change or destroy, but once we took it from them because we felt they weren't utilizing it properly, we have done nothing but that, to the point that this tiny piece of property is all we have left here that resides untouched.

Black's Creek is a fragile estuary. Pine Island is a place of unadulterated nature. I am no expert but in a recent visit, the first one since I was a kid myself; I saw flowers I no longer see anywhere else.

This is a very small place, and that is a very large bridge; what are we thinking, SUV's traveling over to this tiny pristine island, it's a disgrace to even consider destroying this natural beauty. And that is exactly what access will do here.

This estuary claims other spots much like "Piney" – and honestly, if time allows please do a site visit and experience this entire estuary; it's all connected; we do not need to stand on every square inch of it. All of these 'islands' look out over the exact same vista. And at this moment in time we have this incredible gift to experience something slightly different at each of these locations.

Please do not allow them to mow through this gift of nature and make this a cookie cutter estuary—you will kill it. Caddy Park, the 'island' with the greatest access does not measure up to any of the other less traveled spots. If we need a spot that is ADA compliant – Caddy Park fits the bill, as those are simple changes that provide existing parking and will not change anything that hasn't already been

destroyed.

The line included in the cover letter that really bothers me is ‘effectively open up new parkland and free passive recreational activities to Quincy residents, including residents of surrounding Environmental Justice neighborhoods.’ We have 27 miles of coastline in this city; there isn’t a single resident that does not have ample access to free recreational activities.

A scenario where Environmental Justice makes sense is in our five-year fight to keep the Fore River Compressor Station from being built in Weymouth. The compressor station is seated directly across the water from one of our “Environmental Justice neighborhoods” in Quincy, close by 3100 school children. That facility was built regardless. For me the claim of meeting the needs of the environmental justice neighborhoods by providing this huge bridge to this small island is trite and borders on insulting.

My neighborhood was placed into the FEMA Flood Maps in 2014; as we scrambled to unravel the workings of this federal agency, we took to the streets to alert as many neighbors as possible of their new flood designation and their need to get flood insurance before the maps were signed in, saving them thousands of dollars.

My neighborhood has never flooded; we formed the “Quincy Making Waves Coalition”. This became a five-year crash course in FEMA, which in turn caused us to examine our waterways in Quincy. How they interact; how the marshes absorb water saving us from flooding during storms. How the storm water outfalls take water to the bay. We understand these connections and understand the fragility and importance of our estuary.

This knowledge has made us acutely aware – and we’ve become environmental

activists in the process.

The PEM marsh is across the street from my home, on a high tide that was lapping into residents' yards, not understanding the issue, they in turn threatened the city with a lawsuit. The city's solution was to close the flap valve under Fenno Street stopping the flow from Black's Creek into our beautiful marsh. At one time most of us didn't realize our dying marsh was due to that flap valve being closed and it was closed for YEARS. Our marsh was literally dying right before our eyes.

We walked the neighborhood explaining the role of a functioning marsh and estuary to combat storms and the effects of global warming. Until very recently the highest recorded water level tables in Boston was during the blizzard of 78, and thanks to PEM functioning at that time we remained completely dry during that storm.

Once we gained that knowledge we could no longer sit still as the marsh turned into a meadow. We walked the streets, educated our neighbors, won over those who threatened the suit, gathered over 100 signatures, met with the Mayor and that flap was removed. Our hope was that our marsh would revive itself in time.

It hasn't happened. That is because of the antiquated Greenberg tide gate in Blacks Creek, our marsh never reaches the salt water levels needed to function properly. There are issues between the City of Quincy and the EPA on this tide gate – and our marsh (PEM) pays the price for these unresolved issues year after year, after year. These are the projects we need in Quincy.

I have been before the Conservation Commission on the use of chemicals in fixing problems – again unintelligent citizen – doesn't have the wherewithal to combat

the 'experts' on glyphosate and now we are reading in the papers that our water systems all over Massachusetts are under threat from mosquito spraying. Sometimes you just have to use common sense.

We have learned it's a fine balance. And if we allow things to go awry we may never get them back.

Please, I ask that you consider that the project before you may introduce known and unknown threats to this estuary, with no true benefit to anyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carol Themmen

70 Dickens Street

Quincy, MA 02170

PS. Attached: Enclosures

Please see video from June 5, 2021 a trip to Pine Island and Caddy Park at

<https://youtu.be/OXPfczx6hus>

Attached are pictures from this video – it's 20 minutes long – because that's asking a lot. Please note that the applicant listed species found on Pine Island and a casual snapshot of a ditch with ribbed blue mussels reveals a False Angel Wing – not listed in the report. I do not believe the applicant has done due diligence in uncovering the wildlife found in the Black's Creek estuary.

Also, please note that there is a beaten path while still on solid ground prior to entering the marsh, but once in the marsh there is zero sign of man trampling this marsh.

POSTCARD OF MERRYMOUNT PARK 40s



PINE ISLAND





























CADDY PARK

















## Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

Before I begin, let me say this, as a layman Tighe and Bond's 90-page report was daunting to wade through. I was kept awake at night to think, I would have to understand this intimidating document to be able to defend this important little island in Quincy.

I would like it noted that I believe many residents in this type of process, feel it's unfair play; the inability to refute legalese, hands are thrown up and they refuse to become involved, but what they are really refusing is to appear unintelligent in the process.

I am a citizen, who is more intimate with Pine Island than I would say anyone that is about to make a decision on her, and I feel at a loss to hit the right notes that would cause you to see this from my point of view. I am deeply opposed to this project.

Common sense and a long-term history of this area is what I can bring to this. I fully understand why Pine Island should not be built upon, with pilings or people. Others that oppose this project too are far from unintelligent. So I beg that you take into serious consideration the countless comments like mine that you receive on this project.

I am unable to dispute this 90-page document written in language that I don't understand, but let me attempt to convey to MEPA why this is such a poor idea.

I take issue with most of the remarks in the cover letter to this report. This is the part of the report that I can understand fully; this leads me to believe that the inside of this report, which I don't understand may also be less than factual.

*"Pine Island and its trails are inaccessible to most visitors to the park for most of the year."* Pine Island is accessible to any nature explorer during the entire year at low tide. And it is because of this low tide factor, that Pine Island has seen very little foot traffic. This is the true gem in this estuary.

When I was a kid there wasn't much to do, we were explorers of nature; and there was a hell of a lot more nature to explore. The natural habitat and flora when we moved into our home in 1956 (built on wetlands in 1945) was abundant and has overtime it has been diminished thanks to projects like this one.

Quincy continued to be developed; State Street South and Marina Bay destroyed more of the wetlands and the natural fauna and flora. Quincy development today is on steroids.

As kids, we lived in these marshes, what a life, our dog Fritz, a buff colored mix came home regularly black from the belly down. All of the marshes here were functioning at that time. There were minnows, horseshoe crabs (a

threatened species, here before dinosaurs) all kinds of species that were right across the street in the Princess Eve Marsh (PEM).

We cannot allow the nature of this island to be lost, because there is nothing like it to replace it. What the applicant wants is already here in abundance.

This cover letter states that it will *“effectively open up new parkland and free passive recreational activities to Quincy residents”*. We have plenty of passive recreational areas right here, right now, throughout this estuary and all along Wollaston Beach, directly across the street from this estuary.

Foot traffic to Pine Island consists of an occasional birdwatcher and the few true environmentalists/nature lovers who venture over on low tide. The cover letter states *“while preventing direct damage to the salt marsh from pedestrian activity”* - virtually there is next to no pedestrian activity as attached images will show. These are blatantly false statements.

This is a pristine area, teeming with wildlife, wild flowers, birds of all kinds; one of the very few true spots in nature within the City of Quincy. I find that to be a pretty compelling argument to preserve it. Leave just one spot in this estuary for nature and animals to really thrive. This land deserves a spot on the National Register of Historical Places.

Newscasters found it very entertaining this past week that Boo Boo the bear was springing up all over the South Shore; Cohasset, Scituate, etc. I find this terribly sad and likely the reason that we, one day soon, will find ourselves on an uninhabitable earth; with climate change no one knows our future?

Yet, we all know the present and the present beckons you to act in a way that states that we have already lost far too many of the wetlands here in Quincy; Marina Bay, State Street South, my neighborhood, etc., etc., etc., etc.

I don't have to tell you, that the wetlands do the heavy lifting when it comes to filtering water, capturing CO2 and giving so many creatures a starting place in life. This estuary is a fragile ecosystem; it's unconscionable to me in the year 2021, anyone is considering disrupting that? These estuaries are vital to our existence. They shield us here in Quincy from storms; they hold water, they are a buffer.

Yet, here we are realizing the dreams of two men from 100 years ago, Adams and Olmstead? Back when Wollaston Beach (QSD) was mostly wetlands and the road from the north end of the beach stopped at about the yacht clubs (mid way) in an area that was once Massachusetts Field Native Planting Grounds, long before Josiah Quincy hit town. Josiah owned all of that land from Hancock Street to the water, which wasn't a beach.

Wollaston Beach is not a natural resource. That beach is man made, and in the construction of Wollaston Boulevard aka Quincy Shore Drive, they filled in that marshland, they removed two barrier islands (Rye and Half Moon Island) on the bay. They didn't understand they were making changes that could never be undone.

That piece of topography between Fenno Street and Rice Road that used to be Rye Island sits higher on Quincy Shore Drive, thanks to that, those homeowners along the beach are not in FEMA's flood maps, yet those behind



them reside in the flood zone. Homeowners residing in the flood zone need functioning, healthy marshes.

Native American's gathered on the highlands when they came here in the warmer months to fish and hunt. Moswetuset Hummock, Caddy Park (256 Artifacts from 3500 years ago), Furnace Brook, Pine Island and White Rock - these highlands were elevated far enough to make them natural gathering spots.

This estuary holds historical significance; who is to say that Pine Island isn't teeming with artifacts? Anecdotally, a neighbor on Meadowbrook Road spoke in frustration that her neighbor was removing artifacts from Pine Island back when she first bought her home, I believe in the 70's.

The watering hole in Quincy back in that day wasn't Wollaston Beach, but along Merrymount Park; that was the "beach of the day". An old postcard (attached) depicts people along 'those banks' swimming. Pageant Field, in Merrymount was named for just that; pageantry - the big town celebrations.

Those residents found themselves surrounded by a vastness of beautiful wetlands, the bay encroaching a bit further inland. No built up roadway – no tide gates; tides with free reign into the marshland.

One hundred years ago footbridges, if indeed there were footbridges I am sure were just that, "footbridges". I would say back then, connecting all those high spots might have seemed like a reasonable idea. There were far less

people and much more land. It might have made perfect sense then, but does it today?

I recall zero footbridges in the 65 years that I have been here. There would be a plank here and one over there at those places that you were sure to get your feet wet and possibly even lose a shoe hopping the ditches dug by the WPA in the 1930s.

Developers, who built upon this mass of wetland, had no idea of the importance of marshes or the forever damage to the ecosystem they were doing.

The Native Americans believed that the land was not theirs to own, change or destroy, but once we took it from them because we felt they weren't utilizing it properly, we have done nothing but that, to the point that this tiny piece of property is all we have left here that resides untouched.

Black's Creek is a fragile estuary. Pine Island is a place of unadulterated nature. I am no expert but in a recent visit, the first one since I was a kid myself; I saw flowers I no longer see anywhere else.

This is a very small place, and that is a very large bridge; what are we thinking, SUV's traveling over to this tiny pristine island, it's a disgrace to even consider destroying this natural beauty. And that is exactly what access will do here.

This estuary claims other spots much like "Piney" – and honestly, if time allows please do a site visit and experience this entire estuary; it's all connected; we do not need to stand on every square inch it. All of these

‘islands’ look out over the exact same vista. And at this moment in time we have this incredible gift to experience something slightly different at each of these locations.

Please do not allow them to mow through this gift of nature and make this a cookie cutter estuary—you will kill it. Caddy Park, the ‘island’ with the greatest access does not measure up to any of the other less traveled spots. If we need a spot that is ADA compliant – Caddy Park fits the bill, as those are simple changes that provides existing parking and will not change anything that hasn’t already been destroyed.

The line included in the cover letter that really bothers me is ‘effectively open up new parkland and free passive recreational activities to Quincy residents, including residents of surrounding Environmental Justice neighborhoods.” We have 27 miles of coastline in this city; there isn’t a single resident that does not have ample access to free recreational activities.

A scenario where Environmental Justice makes sense is in our five-year fight to keep the Fore River Compressor Station from being built in Weymouth. The compressor station is seated directly across the water from one of our “Environmental Justice neighborhoods” in Quincy, close by 3100 school children. That facility was built regardless. For me the claim of meeting the needs of the environmental justice neighborhoods by providing this huge bridge to this small island is trite and borders on insulting.

My neighborhood was placed into the FEMA Flood Maps in 2014; as we scrambled to unravel the workings of this federal agency, we took to the

streets to alert as many neighbors as possible of their new flood designation and their need to get flood insurance before the maps were signed in, saving them thousands of dollars.

My neighborhood has never flooded; we formed the “Quincy Making Waves Coalition”. This became a five-year crash course in FEMA, which in turn caused us to examine our waterways in Quincy. How they interact; how the marshes absorb water saving us from flooding during storms. How the storm water outfalls take water to the bay. We understand these connections and understand the fragility and importance of our estuary.

This knowledge has made us acutely aware – and we’ve become environmental activists in the process.

The PEM marsh is across the street from my home, on a high tide that was lapping into residents’ yards, not understanding the issue, they in turn threatened the city with a lawsuit. The city’s solution was to close the flap valve under Fenno Street stopping the flow from Black’s Creek into our beautiful marsh. At one time most of us didn’t realize our dying marsh was due to that flap valve being closed and it was closed for YEARS. Our marsh was literally dying right before our eyes.

We walked the neighborhood explaining the role of a functioning marsh and estuary to combat storms and the effects of global warming. Until very recently the highest recorded water level tables in Boston was during the

blizzard of 78, and thanks to PEM functioning at that time we remained completely dry during that storm.

Once we gained that knowledge we could no longer sit still as the marsh turned into a meadow. We walked the streets, educated our neighbors, won over those who threatened the suit, gathered over 100 signatures, met with the Mayor and that flap was removed. Our hope was that our marsh would revive itself in time.

It hasn't happened. That is because of the antiquated Greenberg tide gate in Blacks Creek, our marsh never reaches the salt water levels needed to function properly. There are issues between the City of Quincy and the EPA on this tide gate – and our marsh (PEM) pays the price for these unresolved issues year after year, after year. These are the projects we need in Quincy.

I have been before the Conservation Commission on the use of chemicals in fixing problems – again unintelligent citizen – doesn't have the wherewithal to combat the 'experts' on glyphosate and now we are reading in the papers that our water systems all over Massachusetts are under threat from mosquito spraying. Sometimes you just have to use common sense.

We have learned it's a fine balance. And if we allow things to go awry we may never get them back.

Please, I ask that you to consider that the project before you may introduce known and unknown threats to this estuary, with no true benefit to anyone.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Carol Themmen  
70 Dickens Street  
Quincy, MA 02170

PS. Attached: Enclosures

Please see video from June 5, 2021 a trip to Pine Island and Caddy Park at <https://youtu.be/OXPfczx6hus>

Attached are pictures from this video – its 20 minutes long – that’s asking a lot. Please note that the applicant listed species found on Pine Island and a casual snapshot of a ditch with ribbed blue mussels reveals a False Angel Wing – not listed in the report. I do not believe the applicant has done due diligence in uncovering the wildlife found in the Black’s Creek estuary.

Also, please note that there is a beaten path while still on solid ground prior to entering the marsh, but once in the marsh there is zero sign of man trampling this marsh.

**From:** [CHARLES J. PHELAN](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comments EEA/Project # 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:10:47 AM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Erin Flaherty ENV

The propose of this letter is to be recorded in opposition to EEA/ Project # 16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Walkway. Boardwalk requires more than 66 timber piles to be driven into ecologically sensitive estuary. Also concerned with not knowing what material is being used for the 66 timber piles with pressure treated chemicals from these timber structures will have an adverse impact on an already sensitive wetland and ecosystem. Several species fish and crustaceans use the area for breeding and the walkway will have a detrimental impact on the Black Creek ecosystem.

This estuary is already degraded by the tide gates which leave the tides too low for days. There are no environmental benefits to this board walk only detrimental harm to the salt march.

With questions not answer in the ENF. Requesting that a full environmental impact report for this project due to the adverse impact on the Black's Creek Estuary.

Chuck Phelan  
Ward 5 City Councillor  
617-376-1355

The content of this email is confidential and intended for the designated recipient specified above. If you are not the intended recipient, then you received this message by mistake. Please notify the sender of the mistake by replying to this message and then immediately delete it from your computer. It is strictly forbidden to share any part of this message with any third party, without written consent of the sender.

**From:** [post island](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [David Murphy](#); [Nina X. Liang](#); [Ann Mahoney](#); [Noel Dibona](#); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](#); [cwalker@quincyma.gov](#); [Maggie McKee](#); [Fay Strigler](#); [Peter Ffield](#); [mike cotter](#); [David McCarthy](#); [Julianne Sullivan](#); [quincymakingwaves@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project # 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:25:25 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

6/15/21

Dear Environmental Stewards:

We are joining a number of Quincy environmental advocates writing in opposition to Project #16371. As knowledgeable and concerned residents maintain, while proposed with good intent, this is an intrusive and unnecessary project that will likely do damage to Native history / legacy and to the fragile ecosystem.

Two alternative suggestions:

#1- Channel the funds into a fitting and long overdue **Native history and heritage kiosk** near the Black's Creek pier and or within the Adams Hancock Common.

#2- Fund and provide a long overdue solution to eradicate the invasive **phragmites** which is threatening so many marshes/wetlands in Quincy and which is a major fire danger to every bordering neighborhood.

Thank you for your responsiveness to these concerns and to our alternative suggestions.

Sincerely,

Mike Cotter, RN

Cynthia Roche-Cotter, Family Nurse Practitioner

5 Post Island Rd.

Quincy, MA 02169

[postisland@gmail.com](mailto:postisland@gmail.com)

774-297-0323



**From:** [Craig](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov); [amahoney@Quincyma.gov](mailto:amahoney@Quincyma.gov); [ndibona@Quincyma.gov](mailto:ndibona@Quincyma.gov); [nliang@Quincyma.gov](mailto:nliang@Quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:26:09 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As I live at the edge of the Black's Creek / Merrymount Park Conservation Area and am an occasional visitor to Pine Island, I wouldn't have a problem with a small, low environmental impact, pedestrian bridge to Pine Is. giving easier access to bird watchers, photographers, and other nature lovers.

However, the bridge currently proposed by the City of Quincy is oversized to an extremely high degree, far too expensive, and too much of a negative impact on the marsh environment. Construction of a bridge of the proposed size and type would be harmful to the marsh environment in both the short and long terms. A smaller, narrower and lower, pedestrian only, suspension bridge which would not require pilings in the creek or marsh would be much more suitable for this area.

Sincerely,

Craig H. Paton

96 Thornton St.

Quincy MA 02170

**From:** [David Reich](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:15:15 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

As a resident of Wollaston who routinely spends time in Grossman Park and Caddy Park, I oppose the proposed boardwalk. Public funds that would be used to build it would better be used to fight climate change or to adapt to it. There's plenty of room to enjoy the woods and wildlife under the current arrangement--no need to endanger the island and its ecosystem.

Best wishes,

David Reich  
26 Phillips Street  
Quincy, MA 02170

**From:** [David Shiga](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [dmurphy@quincyma.gov](mailto:dmurphy@quincyma.gov); [nliang@quincyma.gov](mailto:nliang@quincyma.gov); [amahoney@quincyma.gov](mailto:amahoney@quincyma.gov); [ndibona@quincyma.gov](mailto:ndibona@quincyma.gov); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:05:03 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am very concerned about the proposed bridge to Pine Island. I live within walking distance of the area in question. It is a beautiful area rich in wildlife.

The proposed bridge would threaten the environment. The construction process is sure to disturb this delicate area, as would the increased foot traffic once construction is complete.

Building a bridge is also unnecessary. There are plenty of parks and walking paths in the area already that people including myself make use of.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

David

**From:** [DEBRA BLACKADAR](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** No bridge Merrymount  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:35:05 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please leave it in it's natural state. The city already ruins Black's Creek with there opening and closing the water gate when no rain is even in the forecast. How about fix the bridge off of Furnace Brook to Pagent Field that goes over the creek. I kayak under it and there is re-bar hanging down. Why not focus on the water quality of all our supposed beaches. That no one want to swim in. Thank you.  
debra blackadar  
dbdrum@aol.com



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114  
p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509  
[www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)



CHARLES D. BAKER  
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO  
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES  
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON  
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN  
Director

June 15, 2021

Kathleen Theoharides, Secretary  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Attn: MEPA Office, Erin Flaherty  
100 Cambridge Street, suite 900  
Boston, Ma 02114

RE: EEA# 16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk

Dear Secretary Theoharides:

The Division of Marine Fisheries (MA DMF) has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form submitted by the City of Quincy for the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk project. The project involves the construction of a 376-foot long by 12-foot wide pile-supported pedestrian boardwalk over Blacks Creek that connects Merrymount Park with Pine Island. The proposed structure will be supported by (66) 12" timber piles.

Intertidal areas of Blacks Creek are within the designated shellfish growing area GBH2.0, which is prohibited for shellfish harvest. Although not mapped shellfish habitat, the applicant found soft shell clams (*Mya arenaria*) and blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) in the project vicinity. Blacks Creek provides migratory passage to Furnace Brook for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) and migratory, spawning and nursery habitat for rainbow smelt (*Osmerus mordax*) and forage, spawning and juvenile development habitat for winter flounder (*Pseudopleuronectes americanus*). There is a tide-gate at the entrance to Black's Creek under Quincy Shore Drive. Improvements to the tide-gate would aid in recovery of the saltmarsh in Blacks Creek and would improve habitat for fisheries resources.

The proposed boardwalk would be placed over Salt Marsh (310 CMR 10.32) mapped by MA Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP). Salt marshes are significant to the protection of marine fisheries because they support the base of coastal food webs and provide spawning, nursery, and forage habitat. The project will temporarily impact 2,905 sf and permanently impact 11 sf of salt marsh.

MA DMF offers the following comments for your consideration:

- We recommend no in-water silt producing work from **February 15 through June 30** of any year, for the protection of American eel, rainbow smelt and winter flounder.
- The applicant is using flow-through decking to reduce shading impacts; based on MA DMF's applied research of shading impacts to salt marsh in New England, we recommend that all

proposed structures over salt marsh be set at a minimum 1.5:1 H:W<sup>1,2</sup>. The height for this ratio should be measured from the marsh surface to the base of the horizontal support stringer.

- The project should include a monitoring plan to ensure that any impacts to salt marsh be restored.
- The project should also include a management plan to ensure that increased pedestrian access to Pine Island avoids impacting the marsh, including developing rules or signage that pedestrians avoid trampling impacts and disposing of rubbish.
- Construction equipment and practices associated with the proposed structures over salt marsh should be planned to minimize impacts to salt marsh. Construction equipment should not be stored on the salt marsh and work should be completed during the winter (November-March) when the vegetation is dormant. Temporary protective mats should be placed over work areas and temporarily disturbed areas should be restored to pre-existing conditions.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have questions about this review, please email Kate Frew at [Kate.Frew@mass.gov](mailto:Kate.Frew@mass.gov).

Sincerely,



Daniel J. McKiernan  
Director

DM/kf/sd

cc.

B. Boeri, CZM

E. Reiner, EPA

K. Shaw, NMFS

E. Tully, Tighe & Bond, Inc.

N. Conners, Quincy Conservation Commission

References:

<sup>1</sup>Logan JM, Davis A, Markos C, Ford KH (2018) Effects of docks on salt marsh vegetation: an evaluation of ecological impacts and the efficacy of current design standards. *Estuaries Coasts*. 2018;41: 661–675.

<sup>2</sup>Logan JM, Voss S, Davis A, Ford KH (2018) An experimental evaluation of dock shading impacts on salt marsh vegetation in a New England estuary. *Estuaries Coasts*. 2018;41: 13–24.

**From:** [STEPHEN THOMPSON](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Ian Cain](#); [Nina Liang](#); [Noel DiBona](#); [Anne Mahoney](#)  
**Subject:** Boardwalk from Merrymount Park to Pine Island, Quincy MA  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:34:38 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

We are opposed to the City of Quincy's plan to build a bridge from Merrymount Park in Quincy to Pine Island.

The City of Quincy plans on constructing a boardwalk to the island so that more people can visit and enjoy it.

What is wrong with leaving this ecological jewel alone and intact. We don't have many undeveloped open spaces in Quincy, why destroy this one. My understanding that in order to do this they will have to take down mature trees. What and Why....they are the best protectors of our clean air.

Who is going to oversee this new area. Keep it free from becoming a camp for transients and vandals.

We cannot see how opening these wetlands to the public will do so without negative impacts to such an environmentally sensitive area.

Sincerely,

Ellen and Steve Thompson

10 Albany St.

Quincy, MA 02170

[stephenthompson10@comcast.net](mailto:stephenthompson10@comcast.net)



erin.flaherty@mass.gov

## View Comment

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

Comments Submit Date  
6-15-2021

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

First Name  
Ellen

Last Name  
Thompson

Phone  
--

Email  
stephenthompson10@comcast.net

Address Line 1  
10 Albany St

Address Line 2  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Zip Code  
02170

## Organization

**Affiliation Description**  
--

Status  
Opened

**Topic:** Against Proposal to build pedestrian bridge from Merrymount Park to Pine Island Quincy MA



**B**
*I*
U

 Segoe UI ▼
 10 pt ▼
 A ▼
  ▼
 X<sub>2</sub> X<sup>2</sup>
 t<sub>t</sub> T<sub>T</sub>
 Paragraph ▼
  ▼
 




















We are opposed to the City of Quincy's plan to build a bridge from Merrymount Park in Quincy to Pine Island. The City of Quincy plans on constructing a boardwalk to the island so that more people can visit and enjoy it. What is wrong with leaving this ecological jewel alone and intact. We don't have many undeveloped open spaces in Quincy, why destroy this one. My understanding that in order to do this they will have to take down mature trees. What and Why....they are the best protectors of our clean air. Who is going to oversee this new area. Keep it free from becoming a camp for transients and vandals. We cannot see how opening these wetlands to the public will do so without negative impacts to such an environmentally sensitive area.

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Accepted

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)



**From:** [Fay Strigler](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [dmurphy@quincyma.gov](mailto:dmurphy@quincyma.gov); [nliang@Quincyma.gov](mailto:nliang@Quincyma.gov); [Ann Mahoney](#); [ndibona@Quincyma.gov](mailto:ndibona@Quincyma.gov); [chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov); [Chris Walker](#); [QUINCY MAKING WAVES](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:41:12 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Miss Flaherty,

I am writing to join the opposition to the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk #16371. First of all, we have so much to do to maintain the 27 miles of coastline and deteriorated wetlands we already have. Not only are our wetlands beautiful, but they also serve as buffers against the increasingly fierce storms we can expect with climate change and also lessen the effects of climate change by trapping 30-50x the carbon of our trees. It's wonderful that the city of Quincy restored the wetlands at Broad Meadows, but there is more work to do. A lot of it has been built on (the State Street complex and Marina Bay) and a lot is not working properly. For example, during the famous 2018 flood in Quincy, some of the wetlands served more as a bathtub than a buffer for the storms because the tide gates either were broken or lost power.

Will more people coming out to Pine Island over the wetlands lead to taking better care of Quincy's green space? I don't think so. During Cleaner, Greener, I participated with several other volunteers to clean up the wetlands at the corner of Fenno Street and Quincy Shore Drive all the way down to the Sailors' Home Cemetery. A few people waded into the wetlands and found tires and lots of other trash. There were lots of tiny plastic pieces, cigarette butts and bottle caps all over the shoreline. Although I have heard some areas of Quincy waterways are cleaner than they used to be, my experience at Cleaner, Greener over the years tells me we still have a lot of work to do to educate people about our natural treasures and to clean up even more. We were at Cleaner, Greener for only 3 hours and most of us weren't wearing boots for wading.

Another reason to scrap this bridge idea is the red ribbons on some of the trees on Pine Island. Those trees are slated for cutting, when Quincy is already losing so many trees to poor pruning and other poor maintenance. Just looking at Pine Island from far away, you see a healthy canopy. Compare that to the sparse trees in Germantown and North Quincy, the scraggly trees down by Quarry Street and those along the highway exits. We need archaeologists to help us learn the indigenous history of Pine Island and Blacks Creek but we don't need a theme park accessible by SUVs. Quincy already has several beautiful parks to visit and take pride in. What would better serve Quincy is community meetings to figure out how to preserve what is untouched and restore what's been damaged.

Thank you for allowing public comment on this important issue.

Fay Strigler  
94 Elm Avenue  
Quincy, MA 02170  
[fayswims@gmail.com](mailto:fayswims@gmail.com)

**From:** [finnegan280@gmail.com](mailto:finnegan280@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bridge through Piney area  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:08:35 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Our family is opposed to such a bridge. Cant we let some things alone! Not to mention, Quincy is being over developed and the taxpayers are strapped with the continuing tax increases. Enough development. Let it be!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Janine Mudge](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [mepa@mass.gov](mailto:mepa@mass.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:14:37 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Merrymount Park Pedestrian walkway. I grew up in the Merrymount area of Quincy and work in Quincy now. After a review of the project's documents, the reason and need for the bridge remains muddy. Is a walkway really needed or desired? The documents are lacking consistent specifications on the length, width and components of the bridge. This project is not yet well defined enough to be approved. Most importantly, these wetlands need our protection, not development. This area provides protection from flooding and is a home to important wildlife.

Please leave this area alone and halt this Merrymount Pedestrian Walkway project.

Thank you.

Janine Mudge  
617-921-4540

**From:** [Jean O'Flaherty](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Blacks Creek Quincy  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:47:42 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed Blacks Creek boardwalk. The marsh surrounding the creek is a treasure. It is a thriving ecosystem which will be greatly altered, not for the better, if the city pursues building this boardwalk.

Pine Island is already accessible for those willing to venture out at low tide. All outdoor, natural resources do not need to be, and should not be, accessible to everyone. Sometimes having to work a little bit to enjoy nature makes it even more beautiful and rewarding.

This project would be, in my opinion, a huge mistake. Quincy is already allowing an enormous amount of building to happen within the city. They are reducing open spaces. We need this ecosystem to remain untouched and undisturbed. It is our duty to be custodians of this earth and to protect when we can. Recreation space is not a reason to disturb this area.

I would appreciate if you would take my comments and my position into account when voting on this matter.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Jean Marie O'Flaherty

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [John Braitsch](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:24:12 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty:

We have just become aware of a plan to build a pedestrian boardwalk in Black's Creek in Quincy. As long-time residents (40+ years) we strongly oppose this plan. The environmental impact would be very concerning; there is just no need for this to be built on wetlands and in a park area that is already accessible and enjoyed by many now.

As you know, Quincy has recently been directed to spend \$100 million on sewage outflow problems. That and many other environmental impact projects deserve our attention and money, not a boardwalk vanity project.

Please consider our very strong vote against this idea. Thank you.

John and Martha Braitsch

**From:** [Jos. Graham](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 4:55:07 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Ms. Flaherty,

My family and I are 100% against the City of Quincy's plan to build Pedestrian Boardwalk from Merrymount Park.

Not only is it not necessary, I do not trust the City to build it to proper scale, nor is the City in a position to properly fund or maintain such a project.

I am also concerned about the sensitive ecosystem and unique species located within Black's Creek.

Please take this letter for what it is, a plea to prevent environmental degradation to a sensitive ecosystem.

Joseph Graham  
90 Wendell Avenue  
Quincy, MA 02170

**From:** [Kate Zwald Hurley](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16271  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:25:16 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello!

I am a concerned Quincy resident voicing my opposition to the bridge and any more development of the park. Please let this fragile area remain a natural spot.

Thank you,  
Kate Hurley  
51 Elm Avenue

**From:** [Kathy Hogan](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine Island proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:27:55 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

**Re:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16374

There should be no bridge to Pine Island. Keep the estuary as is, preserve the ecosystem and the wildlife. Don't interfere with its historical significance, either. Thank you.

Katherine A. Hogan  
Co-Chair, South Shore Science Festival



**From:** [Kathy Harris](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:48:30 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I have been a resident of Quincy for some 25 years. The Quincy Mayor and others do not seem to take the environment into consideration enough unless it suits their desires such as not building the bridge to Ling Island.

I do not feel a boardwalk to Pine Island over Blacks Creek takes animals and their environment into consideration and I think too many people will litter and not respect the Marsh. Marshes are in need of protecting in Quincy as the environment seems to take a back seat to development. Quincy has become the king of condos much to the dismay of residents. Please help us protect the marsh over this foolish (my opinion) boardwalk idea

Kathy Harris, RN  
207 Safford St.  
Quincy Ma 02170



Kayla Themmen-Adams  
70 Dickens Street  
Quincy, MA 02170























































**From:** [Kelly Cobble](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:51:04 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We oppose the bridge and any more development of the park!!! Please preserve it don't let them destroy it or pollute it anymore!!

I am a neighbor of the marsh and other families oppose the Black's creek bridge project. We would like the area to remain a natural spot. There is access to this tiny peninsula by walking and boat. We do not need a bridge for vehicle or walking access. The fragile area will be destroyed by increased use. There is too much development in this area, too many parks cluttered with statues and fountains and walls. Please leave nature and the Native American spirit alone and let it be. There are acres of parkland on the other side of this marsh that the City has allowed to be destroyed by teenagers partying on every week. They have fires, break bottles and trample the vegetation!!! Please have them clean up that area and return it to a useable, walkable, accessible spot that people can enjoy. Currently, that beautiful spot is destroyed, ugly and unsafe for many because of the dangerous people that hang out there day and night. Please we love nature that's why we live we're we live. We don't pave our driveways, we don't cut down our trees unless they are dangerous. We love nature, we care for our natural resources and do not want them trampled and destroyed!!! There are so many other projects the City could clean up and care for. Please don't create another way because it's somebody's whim.

Mallally  
Driscoll/ Doherty  
Chan  
Cobble  
Peterson  
Ginty  
Marineli  
Coterone  
Murphy  
Decie  
Bell

Thank you,

Kelly Cobble  
617-483-5102



## View Comment

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

First Name  
Kevin

Address Line 1  
12 Ferriter Street

## Organization

Comments Submit Date  
6-15-2021

Last Name  
Mahoney

Address Line 2  
--

### Affiliation Description

Individual

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

Phone  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Status  
Opened

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

Email  
kmahoney1108@gmail.com

Zip Code  
02169

**Topic:** Opposition to Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk ENF (EEA 16371)



**B**
*I*
U

 Segoe UI ▼
 10 pt ▼
 A ▼

 X<sub>2</sub> X<sup>2</sup>
 t<sub>t</sub> T<sub>T</sub>
 Paragraph ▼










Dear Analyst Flaherty and Secretary Theoharides, I am writing to voice my opposition to Quincy's proposal to build a bridge from the Ryan Boathouse to Pine Island. I think it will destroy some of the protected lands there in the estuary; it is too expensive and, quite honestly, unnecessary. I am concerned about damage to the estuary. The scope of this structure is too big. Sixteen feet wide x 450 feet long with pressure-treated timbers driven 60-75 feet into the estuary every 9 feet can only harm the estuary. I am also concerned with increased human and vehicular traffic to this untouched area. Pine Island is home to many animals, including coyotes, fox, turkey, osprey, owls. During the past few years, there have also been visits by American Bald Eagles in the winter. All of these animals will undoubtedly cease to call this area home when their habitat is altered. Increased human activity will also lead to more litter, damage to the vegetation, and increased fires. The Black's Creek estuary itself is an untouched gem within the city, and I would like it to remain that way to do its essential job without human interference. Finally, there is the cost. To date, there is no mention of the cost of this structure or employees to maintain the bridge and island. While we recover from the recent pandemic, one has to wonder if this is the best use of dwindling public dollars. We are a city, and we have few untouched areas left in Quincy. We should not build a bridge in this area. Thank you, Kevin Mahoney 12 Ferriter St. Quincy

## Attachments

## Update Status

## Status

Opened

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

**From:** [lakubit@verizon.net](mailto:lakubit@verizon.net)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine island bridge Quincy  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:08:29 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We need to give nature it's space. The island doesn't need foot traffic. Leave it be!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Leslie Waibel](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bridge to Pine Island in Blacks Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:19:09 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Erin Flaherty,

I think it's a big mistake to build a bridge to Pine Island in Blacks Creek because it could open up easy access for homeless people and young people that would hang out there too party or camp out there Please leave it alone so our wildlife can enjoy their life there. The money it would cost could be better used to clean up our harbor and beaches.

Thank You,  
Leslie Waibel

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Czepiga, Page \(EEA\)](#) on behalf of [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fw: Bridge to Pine Island in Blacks Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:30:03 PM

---

---

**From:** Leslie Waibel <lesliewaibel@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:23 PM  
**To:** MEPA (EEA) <mepa@mass.gov>  
**Subject:** Bridge to Pine Island in Blacks Creek

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear MEPA,

I'm forwarding the email I sent to Erin Flaherty to you. Please don't spend the money on a bridge that will end up upsetting our wildlife. Thanks

Dear Erin Flaherty,

I think it's a big mistake to build a bridge to Pine Island in Blacks Creek because it could open up easy access for homeless people and young people that would hang out there too party or camp out there Please leave it alone so our wildlife can enjoy their life there. The money it would cost could be better used to clean up our harbor and beaches.

Thank You,  
Leslie Waibel

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Leslie Waibel](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Bridge to Pine Island at Blacks Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:11:58 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Erin,

I'm writing to let you know that I think it's a mistake to build a bridge to Pine Island. It could end up to be a place for the homeless to hang out and sleep there. Also people could use it for a place to party. Please let our wildlife that are living there be in peace without human interference.

Thank You,  
Leslie Waibel

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lisa Rehfuss](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Black's Creek  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:09:27 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I understand there's a plan to build a bridge at Black's Creek.

Will there be a public hearing?

I'm wondering about the estuary and tides.

Appreciate your help.

**Lisa Rehfuss**  
**P.O. Box 256**  
**North Quincy, MA 02171**

**From:** [Marjorie Jordan](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount park pedestrian boardwalk project#16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:54:57 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

All Concerned, I am a Quincy resident and I am opposed to this project. This is a beautiful location that should be left natural. Why do we have to Disney-fy every wild location? This project is completely unnecessary and will ruin a location that birds and wildlife love. Why would you destroy such a great bird habitat? Destroying a Marsh is not in the planets best interest. Please stop this project that Quincy residents were never informed of or allowed to comment on.-Marjorie Jordan



**From:** [Mary Bertrand](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Marymount park pedestrian boardwalk project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:08:47 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Just: why?

This is unnecessary, let nature be, we're encroaching on it enough. Please divert these funds to a new Long Island bridge.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Glennon, Mary E](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA@ma.gov](mailto:MEPA@ma.gov)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:49:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Erin. I live nearby in the Beechwood Knoll neighborhood and I vote "no". Let's not disturb the current ecosystem. There is so little undeveloped space in Quincy as it is.

Thank you.

**CHUBB**

**Mary Ellen Glennon**  
**SVP/Branch Manager, Northeast Region**

Chubb Global Casualty, 1 Financial Center, Boston/MA 02111, USA  
T 617-261-6217 | M 617-646-9478

[maryellen.glennon@chubb.com](mailto:maryellen.glennon@chubb.com) | [www.chubb.com](http://www.chubb.com)

Please visit the Chubb Northeast Region Microsite to find local contacts & learn more about Chubb's capabilities and appetite: [www.chubb.com/northeast](http://www.chubb.com/northeast)



Stay Chubb informed on COVID-19

---

This email (including any attachments) is intended for the designated recipient(s) only, and may be confidential, non-public, proprietary, and/or protected by the attorney-client or other privilege. Unauthorized reading, distribution, copying or other use of this communication is prohibited and may be unlawful. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient(s) should not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or protection. If you are not the intended recipient or if you believe that you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete all copies from your computer system without reading, saving, printing, forwarding or using it in any manner. Although it has been checked for viruses and other malicious software ("malware"), we do not warrant, represent or guarantee in any way that this communication is free of malware or potentially damaging defects. All liability for any actual or alleged loss, damage, or injury arising out of or resulting in any way from the receipt, opening or use of this email is expressly disclaimed.

**From:** [Mary Grace Montalto](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:15:38 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi, I am against this boardwalk.

Thank you,  
Mary Grace Montalto  
151 Parke Ave, Quincy, MA 02171



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

Northeast Regional Office • 205B Lowell Street, Wilmington MA 01887 • 978-694-3200

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

June 15, 2021

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary  
Executive Office of  
Energy & Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston MA, 02114

Attn: MEPA Unit

RE: Quincy  
Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk  
Project  
EEA # 16371

Dear Secretary Theoharides:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Northeast Regional Office (MassDEP-NERO) has reviewed the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) for the proposed Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project in Quincy. MassDEP provides the following comments.

### **Wetlands**

The *Resource Area Impact Plan* (Sheet P-201) should be revised to clearly show the boundaries for each of the wetland resource areas (wetland flags where applicable). In addition, a notation on the plan(s) should identify and quantify where all wetland impacts (both temporary and permanent) are located. The narrative should explain how the project meets the performance standards for Coastal Beach, Coastal Bank and Salt Marsh and how all temporary wetland impacts, in particular the 2,905 square feet of Salt Marsh and 10,310 square feet of Coastal Beach, will be restored. The proponent should consider narrowing the limit of work area to reduce the amount of temporary wetland alteration.

The MassDEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. Please contact [Rachel.Freed@mass.gov](mailto:Rachel.Freed@mass.gov) at (978) 694-3258 for further information on wetlands issues. If you have any general questions regarding these comments, please contact me at [John.D.Viola@mass.gov](mailto:John.D.Viola@mass.gov) or at (978) 694-3304.

Sincerely,

This final document copy is being provided to you electronically by the Department of Environmental Protection. A signed copy of this document is on file at the DEP office listed on the letterhead.

John D. Viola  
Deputy Regional Director

cc: Brona Simon, Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Eric Worrall, Rachel Freed, Jill Provencal, Pam Merrill, MassDEP-NERO





## Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

### Memorandum

**To:** Erin Flaherty, MEPA Office

**From:** Susan You, MassDEP/Boston

**Cc:** Daniel Padien, MassDEP/Boston

**Re:** **Comments from the Chapter 91 Waterways Regulation Program - EEA #16371 ENF, Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project, Quincy, Norfolk County**

**Date:** June 15, 2021

---

The Department of Environmental Protection Waterways Regulation Program (the “WRP”) has reviewed the above referenced ENF (EEA #16371) submitted by the Tighe & Bond, Inc. on behalf of the City of Quincy (“the Proponent”) for the installation of a pile-supported pedestrian boardwalk crossing at the Merrymount Park in the City of Quincy. The proposed boardwalk crossing will connect Merrymount Park with Pine Island. Said construction includes driving of piles, installation of flow-through decking and timber boardwalk, installation of lighting features located in and over flowed Tidelands of the Blacks Creek (Quincy Bay) at 1 Merrymount Parkway, Quincy, Norfolk County (the “project site”).

**Water Dependency:**

The WRP has determined that this project is a water-dependent use project pursuant to 310 CMR 9.12(2)(a)4.

**Chapter 91 Jurisdiction:**

The proposed pedestrian boardwalk crossing will be undertaken in and over flowed tidelands of the Blacks Creek (Quincy Bay), which is subject to jurisdiction pursuant to M.G.L Chapter 91 pursuant to 310 CMR 9.04(1) and requires a Chapter 91 License pursuant to 310 CMR 9.05(1)(a).

**Chapter 91 Comments:**

After review the ENF, the Department notes that the project preserves water-related public rights in accordance with 310 CMR 9.35 by providing at least 5-feet of clearance under said structure along the project shoreline to properly allow for public lateral access and the 6-feet of clearance under said structure, through the channel, may be considered appropriate for vessel navigation in this waterway. In order for the Department to determine if the proposed 6-feet of clearance is sufficient for the type of vessels that can navigate the waterway, the Proponent must information in their future Chapter 91 License Application regarding the existing Quincy Shore Drive Bridge or Culvert, (confluence of Black Creeks and Quincy Bay) and the navigational clearance thereunder.

The Department awaits the filing of a Chapter 91 Waterways License Application which meets the minimum filing standards as set forth in 310 CMR 9.11(3) and includes the Secretary's Certificate concluding the MEPA review process and a copy of Notice of Intent filed with the Quincy Conservation Commission.

If you have any questions regarding the WRP's comments, please feel free to contact Susan You at (617) 556-1198 or at [susan.you@mass.gov](mailto:susan.you@mass.gov) .

**From:** [Matt Struzik](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:29:51 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello I would like to voice my concern over this project. As a resident of Quincy I do not approve this project and believe that piney island should be left in it's natural state. Having recently been out there with my two young children it was quite an adventure crossing the marsh at low tide which they thoroughly enjoyed. Sometimes when things are harder to get to it makes the experience more memorable. Please take this example into consideration and do not allow this project to move forward.

Thank you sincerely, Matthew Struzik

**From:** [Maura Doherty](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371/ Please oppose the bridge to nowhere!  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:43:57 PM

---

**CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

Pine Island is one of the very last secluded and undeveloped places in the city of Quincy. There are not many of such places left here, or in the Commonwealth. I know Pine Island well, because I learned to sail at Black's Creek as a child, nearly 50 years ago. Seeing Pine Island during your lessons was always a welcome sight, because tacking back in a little turnabout meant that you were heading towards the Island (and to the dock at the sail program that continues today). Seeing Pine Island meant you were heading towards safety :-).

I understand the City plans - without public input, citizen suggestion or an open hearing - to build a bridge from the Island to the estuary's boat ramp used by the same sailing program, now called the William F. Ryan Boathouse & Sailing Facility, which is part of the Department of Recreation in the City.

In a nutshell: Please. No. More. Development.

We do not need more foot traffic through Pine Island; I envision parents bringing children to the sail program, tramping across the bridge with Dunkin Donuts coffee in hand, threatening bird life along the way and leaving a trail of styrofoam cups in their wake. When visiting the Island at low tide (the only time when it is accessible), remnants of people's trash, unfortunately, can now be found. Too many people leave, inadvertently at best, carelessly at worst, their "stuff" everywhere. I fear that a bridge to this undeveloped, unpoliced and unlit area would become an on-ramp for teen drinking and dirt bike-riding traffic. Although I live in another Quincy neighborhood, a short walk from Black's Creek, the more immediate neighbors there don't need that headache.

Let's protect this precious bit of nature while we still have it. Please deny the City any access to permitting, bulldozing, and otherwise opening up this untouched land to this unwanted development. Once we get a bridge and this project is completed - there is no returning Pine Island to its undeveloped state. No citizen-taxpayers asked for this. No citizen-taxpayers want it. Instead, if it is at all possible, please direct the City to concentrate its efforts - and taxpayer funding - to projects we really DO want:

- Storm water box drains for trees, which help to filter out debris, harmful pollutants and trash before the storm water flows into our waters;
- Rigorous and visible enforcement of preventing dogs (and their waste) and dirt bike/motor traffic on public beaches;
- Improved conservation, beautification and cleanup of current - that is, already

developed - public spaces throughout the City, especially our neglected parks and beaches, many of which are too small to get the City's attention when compared to the Black's Creek - Wollaston Beach corridor that snakes along Furnace Brook Parkway and Quincy Shore Drive. (This 5 mile-long beach, by the way, is a state-owned property and not a municipal one);

- Paying down the \$100 million EPA project (and fine!) for ignoring leaking sewage for years and allowing the waste to wash up on our beaches, forcing shut downs for extremely high bacteria counts during the summer months;

- Hosting in the neighborhoods throughout the City hearings to listen to what citizens-taxpayers truly want and and solicit their assistance to execute on mutually-agreed upon proposals, together.

I have more than enough places to walk around our beloved neighborhoods in this City and hope that, with your help, the City will leave Pine Island alone, the way Nature intended. We don't need this bridge ... ever.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.  
Best regards,

Maura C. Doherty  
190 Rock Island Road  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Maureen Keeley](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:20:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I sent this in time but to wrong email at mass.gov. Please consider

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Maureen Keeley <maureenkeeley@msn.com>  
**Date:** June 14, 2021 at 7:52:36 PM EDT  
**To:** Erin.Flaherty@mass.gov  
**Cc:** MEPA@mass.gov  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371

Hi,

I just learned today of this plan and if I had to use one word I would say no. I walk all over the state and love boardwalks but this is not the place for one. This is one of the only, untouched areas in Quincy. This estuary is already degraded by the tide gates which leave the tides high or low for days. I truly see no benefit of this and the environmental implications must be huge. History should be considered. Please insist on public hearing that are publicized widely before this goes forward. Can I be placed on a list where I am notified of this project?

Sincerely, Maureen Keeley 4 George Rd. Quincy, MA

02170

maureenkeeley@msn.com

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Mike Berry](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park, Quincy  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:25:15 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The island at Merrymount Park should remain as is. Not every place on earth needs to be easy to get to. I have been to this Park many times over my 58 years in Quincy. I even use the boat area for my take out dining during this pandemic. With permits in hand we have run scout program at the park. The biggest problem with the area is people and their dogs. No one keeps their dogs on leash, they are allowed to run free and even begging for food as we try to enjoy the view of Black Creek and eat out take out meals. The City and Park Department have heard all the complaints about this park being over run with leash free dogs, but nothing gets done to improve our being able to better enjoy the park. With the City's response to the dog issue, I don't feel that a bridge to an island that is nesting and home to area birds is a very good idea. Please leave this small island as is and do not approve this bridge. I have not even addressed the other issues that can be caused by adding a bridge like litter, noise pollution and it becoming a night time party area. You only need to visit other remote areas in Quincy to see what easy access will do to environmental treasures. Please keep this area for the wild life, if people wish to visit let them visit with binoculars.

Thank You  
Michael Berry  
221 Manet Ave  
Quincy, MA. 02169

**From:** [Michael Higgins](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:18:08 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Leave this estuary alone.

I have enjoyed this undisturbed spit of nature for all of my 70 years.

It serves as a natural environmental cleansing agent and hosts many species of wild life.

Leave it alone.

A concerned Quincy resident has written to a local paper with the following open letter.

This letter also appears in the NextDoor.Com local social media exchange.

I could not have written a better response, so I am reposting her response herein.

Pine Island Boardwalk: A bridge too far

I have lived in Quincy for more than a decade, but I could not have told you where Pine Island was until a few days ago, when I heard about a city plan to build a bridge there. In case you're not familiar with it either, it's one of the pieces of land that rings Blacks Creek, the estuary south of Wollaston Beach, where Quincy Shore Drive meets Furnace Brook Parkway.

Pine Island is a small, undeveloped hill of land that sits across the creek from the boat ramp by Pageant Field on one side and Caddy Park on another. Surrounded by salt marsh, Pine Island is accessible by foot only at low tide, and the city wants to build a 4500-square-foot raised boardwalk to the island from the boat ramp so that more people can visit and enjoy it.

That sounds nice on the one hand. Who doesn't love a boardwalk? The problem is, Quincy has precious few untouched pieces of land, and many environmentalists say the best thing to do is to leave nature to its own devices. For example, a 2018 paper in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B looked at 400 studies worldwide and found that ecosystems that had been disturbed significantly "rarely recover completely." The authors write, "This result reinforces conservation of intact ecosystems as a key strategy for protecting biodiversity."

Worrisomely, members of the volunteer group Quincy Making Waves walked out to Pine Island at low tide recently and found red ribbons tied around several mature trees there, suggesting they are slated for removal for the project. Plans also call for 36,000 square feet of land to be altered during construction of the boardwalk, which will rest on more than five dozen pilings driven into the wetlands below it.

The fact that Quincy wants to pursue the project is surprising, since the city used environmental concerns over installing new supporting piers to try to prevent Boston from rebuilding the bridge from Squantum to Long Island.

In its fight against the Long Island Bridge, Quincy also supported Native American tribes in their attempt to require an environmental review of Long Island, which might have been the site of Indigenous burial grounds from a Colonial-era concentration camp.

Pine Island itself likely harbors undiscovered Indigenous history. In 1999, construction of the playground in nearby Caddy Park uncovered 256 artefacts dating back 3,500 years. What treasures might be paved over at the end of the proposed boardwalk on Pine Island? Or removed by all the additional visitors to the island if the boardwalk is built?

I love walking around Blacks Creek in Quincy. But there are plenty of places to walk already – and I hope we leave Pine Island alone. Let's use the money for this project instead to take care of our existing environmental treasures in the area: the trees and marshes that keep greenhouse gases out of the atmosphere and help prevent flooding. Or we could use it to clean up our messes in the area. The EPA recently forced the city to spend \$100 million to stop pollutants from leaked sewage from flowing into waterways and washing up on Wollaston Beach and Adams Shore. Or we could spend the money on a combination of beautification and cleaning by installing “green infrastructure” when we do road and sidewalk work. Instead of sending stormwater runoff, which picks up pollutants, trash, and bacteria as it flows over buildings and roads, down storm drains and straight into open water, we could first filter it through strategically planted rain gardens. This would improve the water quality in Blacks Creek and at our beaches, reduce flooding, and beautify our city.

There are many things we could and should do to protect Blacks Creek and ensure its survival for generations to come. Building a bridge to Pine Island is not one of them. I hope the city scraps this plan and invites residents to help shape any similar proposals from the get-go in the future, especially ones like this that are expressly designed for our enjoyment.

---

This letter has received an outpouring of community regret that this foolish bridge proposal.

Leave Pine Island ALONE.



Deb B. • Wollaston

Written & sent! Thanks Erin.

1 day ago   Like   Reply   Share



3



Maureen K. • Oakland-Cedar-Willow

This is a disgrace. If anything that estuary should be brought back and stop messing with the tide gate (unless flooding is imminent). Why? When did this idea start? No public hearing or notice?

1 day ago   Like   Reply   Share



8



Maggie M. • North Quincy/Wollaston

I don't know much about the background to this project -- but Quincy Making Waves happened to find out about it and has been letting people know (you can follow their Facebook page or go to their website). And there was a Conservation Commission meeting about it on June 2. I haven't watched the video of the meeting yet, but it's here for anyone who wants to watch:

<https://youtu.be/VgmZfQ9HShM>

1 day ago   Like   Reply   Share



2



See 1 more reply



Gloria R. • Squantum

Deb Barrett

1 day ago   Like   Reply   Share



1



Richard D. • Beechwood

anything Mass Audubon could do? I walk, kayak, photograph Blacks creek frequently and the last thing I would like is more pollution and development, TY for posting <https://www.massaudubon.org/learn/nature-wildlife/birds/ospreys/about> (edited)

23h Like Reply Share



2



Maggie M. • North Quincy/Wollaston

That's a good question - I'm not sure! I'll pass it along to the Quincy Making Waves folks!

23 hr ago Like Reply Share



1



See 1 more reply



Francis Y. • North Quincy/Wollaston

Well we know that marsh are natural filters that separate the salt water from the fresh water . You destroy the marsh and you create greater problems in the environment. <https://www.epa.gov/report-environment/wetlands#importance> You could say reducing wetlands causes a increase flooding. Activate the FEMA flood insurance. Because the marsh acts like a sponge to absorb the flood waters. If you want to take away the sponge then the water has no place to go except into our basement. (edited)

22h Like Reply Share



5



Gail McGough • Quincy

Including the aquatic and land species that make it their home.

23 hr ago Like Reply Share



6



Maureen K. • Oakland-Cedar-Willow

I wrote.

23 hr ago Like Reply Share



1



Maggie M. • North Quincy/Wollaston

Thank you!!

22 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



1



KR kr • South Quincy

Quincy seems to be making drastic decisions towards destruction in so many ways at the cost of the home owner (tax payers) without any regard for environmental concerns. I've a feeling that this project, while "they" say it's not set in stone.... it actually is set in stone (evidenced by the ribbon around the trees) and slated to move ahead. I will reach out using the email address provided, however, as tax paying residents our ward councilors should also hear from us and echo our concerns again this prosperous idea.

22 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



6



Maggie M. • North Quincy/Wollaston

If enough of us oppose it, maybe they'll stop the project! We can only try. And thanks for reaching out to your councilors. I put the email addresses above, but here they are again: And maybe also cc: your comments to David Murphy, director of Quincy's Dept of Natural Resources; all three at-large city councilors (Nina Liang, Anne Mahoney, Noel DiBona); Ward 5 Councilor Chuck Phelan (whose ward this project is in); and the mayor's chief of staff, Chris Walker. You can copy and paste their emails from here:

[dmurphy@quincyma.gov](mailto:dmurphy@quincyma.gov), [nliang@quincyma.gov](mailto:nliang@quincyma.gov),  
[amahoney@quincyma.gov](mailto:amahoney@quincyma.gov), [ndibona@quincyma.gov](mailto:ndibona@quincyma.gov),  
[chuckphelan@quincyma.gov](mailto:chuckphelan@quincyma.gov), [cwalker@quincyma.gov](mailto:cwalker@quincyma.gov) Finally, you might want to cc/bcc/forward what you wrote to [quincymakingwaves@gmail.com](mailto:quincymakingwaves@gmail.com).

21 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



4





Francis Y. • North Quincy/Wollaston

The city engineer will not allow us to raise the level of our land to get it out of the flood plane. But it looks like they will allow the city to take away the wetlands and flood our basements with flood waters. Maybe you should tell FEMA about this wonderful plan. Has anyone checked with the flood insurance company? I actually think it is the city engineer's job to stop this kind of nonsense. His office is in the small building behind the police station on sea street. They are just making work for the city workers to keep them busy and justify their jobs. It is empire building. They replaced the parking lot in front of that island last week. I did not see that it needed to be replaced. I wish I had that kind of money to throw away. Where is the fiscal oversight? Where is the accountability.? Good luck with writing to these people. I have never gotten a response with any real substance before. How do you know that you have gone too far unless you push the boundaries. (edited)

20h

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



7



Samantha S. • W. Quincy

Don't we have enough green walking paths? Leave it's little isolated self alone

9 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



7



Jim Warshauer • Quincy Point

We have many and they are empty and pleasant almost all of the time.

6 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



2



[See 1 more reply](#)



Marjorie Jordan • Quincy

Sent

8 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



1



Ellen T. • West Wollaston

My e-mail has been sent. Thanks for the alert.

8 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



1



[Rich G.](#) • West Wollaston

Sent. Thanks Maggie.

7 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



1



[Jeanne King](#) • Merrymount

E mail sent. Thanks to you and Anne Mahoney on her podcast City Limits for bringing this to our attention! Jeanne

7 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



5



[Marilyn B.](#) • Squantum

Don't mess with the marsh

7 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



6



[Dexter Jones](#) • Watson Park

Agree. Well written and so many valued points mentioned should be take seriously. We have to protect. Save it from human trash and destruction. All mean well, but a couple of years from now the damage will be seen, forgotten and unable to be corrected.

6 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)

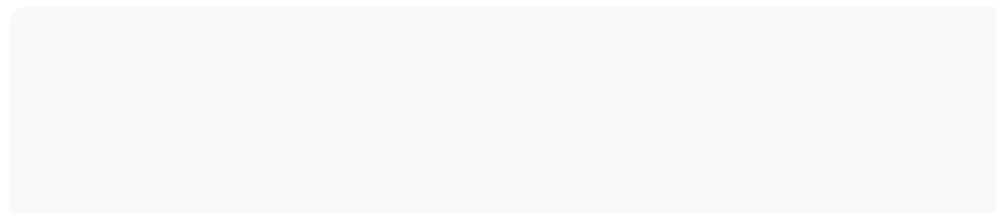


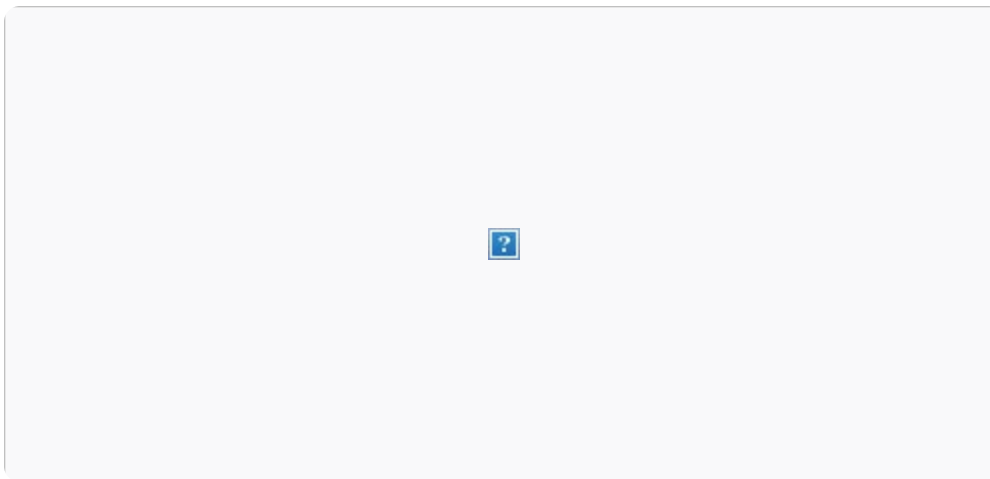
2



[Stacey Schwartz](#) • Quincy Point - East

Done! Thank you for sharing about this. Here's a snapshot of email sent. Is there an official petition in circulation?





5 hr ago Like Reply Share



Maggie M. • North Quincy/Wollaston

Thank you! I don't know of a petition -- but that's a good idea. Would you mind passing the suggestion on to [quincymakingwaves@gmail.com](mailto:quincymakingwaves@gmail.com)? Maybe you could help... [See more](#)

4 hr ago Like Reply Share



Patty Neely • Houghs Neck

Thank you for posting this. I had no idea. There is no need to put a bridge up there I agree. AND I think its unnecessary spending. I could think of better things to spend the... [See more](#)

4 hr ago Like Reply Share



Patty Neely • Houghs Neck  
email send!

4 hr ago Like Reply Share



 [See 1 more reply](#)



Craig P. • Beechwood

I wouldn't have a problem with a small, low impact, pedestrian bridge to Pine Is. giving easier access to bird watchers, photographers, and other nature lovers. However, the bridge... [See more](#)

4 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



4



[Bob C.](#) • North Quincy/Wollaston

i used to go through sailors home cemetery and Caddy park a couple of times a week when I was a little younger. I always thought that little bit of wildness was a calming respite... [See more](#)

3 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



6



[Linda F.](#) • Beechwood

Enough is enough! Can we not develop everything in Quincy. This is a natural area that should be left alone. Not to mention, my taxes continue to escalate with all this spending!... [See more](#)

1 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



3



[Jim E.](#) • Beechwood

Sent

1 hr ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)



1



[Scott F.](#) • Squantum

Follow the money

47 min ago

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)

[Share](#)





**From:** [attymkcook](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:32:26 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am opposed to the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371.

Thank you for your attention to my opposition.

Sincerely

Michael K. Cook  
69 Kemper Street  
Quincy MA 02170

617-479-4955

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



**From:** [Nancy Zona](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:53:23 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I'm strongly opposed to this Project.

I have been a life long resident of Quincy. I see no reason, why Pine Island should be disturbed. Leave it to the wildlife, the Owls, Hawks, & other birds who make it their home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Zona

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [patt101868@aol.com](mailto:patt101868@aol.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\); MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine Island Bridge  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:28:00 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

I am reaching out to you as I just learned the city of Quincy would like to put a bridge up in Black's Creek to Pine Island.

I have lived in Quincy my entire life and have seen the city go through numerous changes through the years, but recently in the last couple of years there has been so much land lost, woods etc. to an overabundance of construction that I don't see it necessary to build this bridge and disturb what's left for nature to enjoy. Its bad enough that we see Coyotes everywhere because these animals have no place to go when the land and woods are taken over by condominiums. I see lots of birds that feed and around that area that it would be a shame to disturb that land. I hope you take these animals natural habitat into consideration before approving a bridge.

Thank you for your time.

Patricia Neely

**From:** [P.Brennan](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:21:30 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Flaherty,

I am sending this email to express my opposition to the proposed City of Quincy's Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371. I am a resident of Quincy and live in the Beechwood Knoll section near the Black Creek Estuary.

In you reading the ENF completed by Tighe & Bond, they reference a plan developed by Charles Francis Adams and Frederick Law Olmsted to connect all of the Quincy Marsh Island. This Adams Olmsted plan was developed over 100 years ago before neighborhoods were developed, before roadways were in place and well before the concerns with climate change. This current proposal is to build a bridge (not a boardwalk) over to a tiny wildlife island, Pine Island, surrounded by a salt water marsh. If you go to the area and walk around the boat house across from Pine Island or just walk around the Blacks Creek Marsh you can see how wrong this proposal is for this area. In a time when we all know the value of Salt Water Marshes, to build a structure that will be at least 17 to 20 feet wide and need over 60 plus wood pilings to an island that is about 5 to 7 acres tops with no trails seems absurd and so wrong. This island should be left alone to the wildlife, the ospreys, bald eagles, owls, coyotes and foxes.

I could comment on many aspects of this project but I leave that to others as I know this project has many residents concerned. However, I would like to comment on the cost of this project. The residents of Quincy don't even know what the full cost of this project could be. I would think this money could be better spent in replacing the Greenberg Bridge Tide gate and cleaning up and maintaining the health of this fragile Blacks Creek Estuary .

Please register my comments and opposition to this project.

Thank you,

Peter Brennan

65 Dickens Street

Wollaston, Ma 02170

**From:** [Becky Rizoli](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 8:28:35 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed footbridge to Pine Island in Quincy. I urge you and those responsible for the decision to rethink the bridge, as it will alter the natural environment just at a time when we need to be conserving our nature and letting it be. We should not be cutting down more trees or filling in the marshes. The future of our planet depends on it.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca A. Rizoli

Sent from my iPad



REPRESENTATIVE  
TACKEY CHAN  
SECOND NORFOLK DISTRICT

STATE HOUSE, ROOM 42  
TEL. (617) 722-2014  
FAX. (617) 722-2215  
Tackey.Chan@MAhouse.gov

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
House of Representatives  
State House, Boston 02133-1054

CHAIRMAN  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON  
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND  
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

June 15, 2021

Erin Flaherty  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
1 Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project – EEA/Project #16371

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing to express my opposition to the City of Quincy's proposal to build a pedestrian boardwalk from Merrymount Park to Pine Island. I have heard opposition from constituents and I am also an abutter. I have lived at 66 Meadowbrook Road since 1978, and I have an unobstructed view of the Estuary. The Black's Creek Estuary is an environmentally sensitive conservation property that serves as flood control for water coming down from Furnace Brook in Quincy and Cunningham Brook in Milton. There are tide gates owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and managed by the City of Quincy that are crucial to mitigating the impacts of flooding for one-quarter of the City.

The proposal has not made it clear what materials would be used for the boardwalk. This is critical since the location is subject to high winds and extremely high tides due to the fact that when the tide gates are closed during severe storm events the water levels rise significantly. Should the boardwalk collapse for any reason, it could negatively impact the tide gates operations and introduce new contamination into the marsh. Pine Island has been subject to fires in the past. The addition of a potentially wooden structure adds the possibility of the fire spreading beyond the immediate area.

I remain unclear the purpose of this project. There is limited road access through Merrymount Park to the proposed boardwalk so it is not very convenient for public access. As an observer of multiple fires on Pine Island, there is no public safety benefit since the closest hydrant is on the corner of Thornton Street and Meadowbrook Road. Firefighters have to lay hose from the hydrant, through a resident's yard to Langley Circle and carry that hose across the marsh to the island either by foot and/or boat.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. If you have questions or other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tackey Chan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tackey Chan  
State Representative – Second Norfolk District



**From:** [Rich Whalen](#)  
**To:** [CHARLES J. PHELAN](#)  
**Cc:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [MEPA \(EEA\)](#); [dmurphy@quincyma.gov](mailto:dmurphy@quincyma.gov); [cwalker@quincyma.gov](mailto:cwalker@quincyma.gov)  
**Subject:** Pine Island bridge  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:37:00 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Chuck,

I hope all is well with you. I just read about the proposed Pine Island boardwalk issue and wanted to express my opposition to it. Quincy is losing enough green space with all of the over development going on in the city and to ruin such a place as Pine Island, to me, is irresponsible both fiscally and environmentally. I do hope that you do not support this project.

Thank you,  
Rich Whalen  
72 Oakland Ave.  
Quincy, MA 02170  
617-750-2388

**From:** [Rich](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371".  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:09:26 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Erin Flaherty,

The project in question is a terrible infringement on one of the last places in Quincy so far unspoiled by devilment.

The bridge or boardwalk to be built would add pollution in the forms of liter, trash, beer cans, soda bottles, cigarette butt's and needles to a natural place with Mother Nature in control Pine Island. Not to mention the late night traffic such an out of the way place would be like after dark for teens.

Has anyone thought of the amount of nefarious deeds that could take place in such a out of the way place?

Safety issues would be huge.

Have the Quincy Police had there say on the matter?

To me it seems hypocritical for the City of Quincy to use environmental concerns as a defence against a new bridge from Squantum to Long Island and have no considerations for Blacks Creek in this Project.

Please consider me thoughts and stop project #16371 Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk .

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Richard Grasselli

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S10.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [richiekoz@aol.com](mailto:richiekoz@aol.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Quincy boardwalk/pedestrian bridge blackcreek  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:55:35 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please preserve the island.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for Android](#)

**From:** [Ross Edwards](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371 Pine Island  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:41:00 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Quincy Conservation Commission and MEPA:

I can only add to the already large number of comments opposed to this project. My name is Ross Edwards, 65 Narragansett Road, Quincy (Merrymount neighborhood), a short walk to the Black Creek salt marsh. I have been working to protect open space in Quincy since 2002 as a member of the Quincy Environmental Network and the Quincy Climate Action Network, and as a volunteer steward for The Nature Conservancy in Southeast Massachusetts, monitoring properties in Norwell, Plymouth, Middleborough, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard. Here is why I oppose this project.

1. The pristine open space of Pine Island should be left as such to best protect both flora and fauna; public access should not be encouraged.
2. The size of the proposed bridge (375-450 feet long, 12-16 feet wide, up to 60 piles driven 30-75 feet deep) is much too big; it will be an eyesore, the proposed night lighting is damaging to the diurnal cycle of animal life, and the damage to the immediate area from the piles and the (temporary) construction activity is simply way beyond what is needed for pedestrian access.
3. Such a wide and weight-bearing bridge will invite access by all-terrain vehicles and even small automobiles, which will have a very negative effect on the soil and vegetation of the island.
4. The cost of this project is simply immoral
5. As others have mentioned regarding Caddy Park, there may be priceless archeological artifacts that will either be damaged or removed by increased occupation by the public.
6. Caddy Park and the extensive area leading to and surrounding the Sailor's Cemetery provide ample public access to all features of wetland and upland habitat offered by Pine Island. Why damage a relatively pristine site when it does not afford any additional natural or recreational resources to what already exists in the immediate vicinity?

In summary, I wholeheartedly oppose this project for every reason imaginable.

Sincerely,

Ross Edwards, Ph.D.  
65 Narragansett Road  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-479-1154 (home)  
617-653-8658 (mobile)  
[ross.b.edwards76@gmail.com](mailto:ross.b.edwards76@gmail.com)

**From:** [Sam Hurley](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian boardwalk project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:39:31 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

I am a Quincy resident and a new voter, and I am exercising my voice. I oppose this project. Keep this a natural area.

Thank you,  
Sam Hurley  
51 Elm Ave



**From:** [sandra sumner](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Quincy Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:13:30 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition to the above referenced project in Quincy, MA. Pine Island is a small island in the midst of Blacks Creek and currently not accessible to the general public. It is a natural habitat to numerous birds (eagles, osprey, herons, etc.) some of which are endangered, as well as other wildlife. Building a bridge that would allow free range for the public either by foot or vehicle would be a disaster to the birds, wildlife, and surrounding marshlands. It is my sincere hope that this project will not be allowed to go forward. We should be focusing on preserving what few natural habitats we have left in the City of Quincy, not endangering them. Thank you for considering my comments when making a final decision on this project.

Sandra Sumner

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Stacey Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [MEPA \(EEA\): Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project 16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 1:20:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

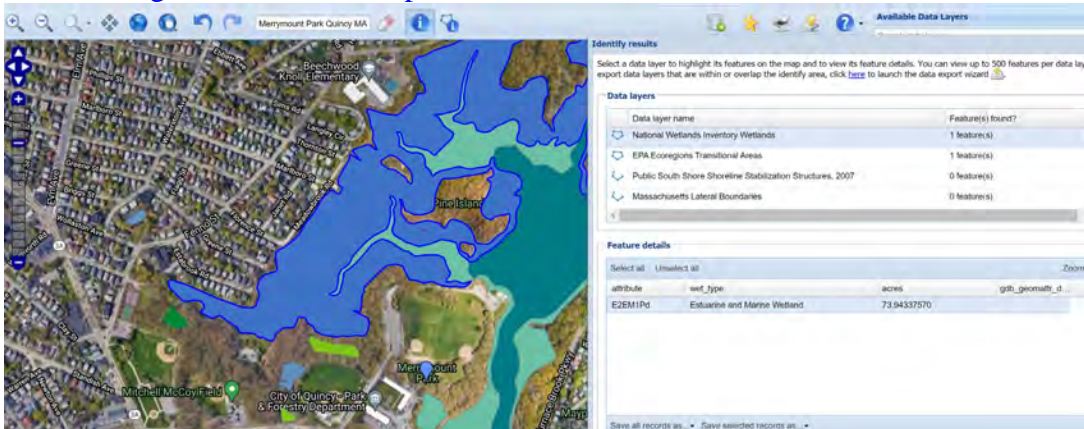
---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Erin Flaherty and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office:

I am writing as a Quincy resident to oppose the pedestrian boardwalk project #16371 because this development would negatively impact and compromise the wetland estuary ecosystem's vegetation and wildlife through both construction and the increased exposure of the island to foot traffic leading to pollution and disturbed wildlife habitat.

The area surrounding Pine Island is classified as a wetland estuary as shown in the [Coastal Zone Management MORIS Map viewer](#):



This development would compromise the nucleus of the surrounding ecosystem.

Thank you for taking this statement of disapproval of this planned project into consideration.

Respectfully,

Stacey Schwartz  
100 Cove Way 609  
Quincy, MA 02169  
617-755-7546

**From:** [delano.stephen@gmail.com](mailto:delano.stephen@gmail.com)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount park pedestrian boardwalk project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:40:42 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Erin,

You went to Amherst, MA for four years of your life and studied environmental science. On top of that, you earned a Masters 2 years ago in public policy. I am far less educated than you, but can easily see the fact that project #16371 is destructive.

If you and your colleagues approve this project, I'll will personally walk to Pine island and prevent anyone trying to cut down trees (which are already marked) in protest of the project.

Is the goal to develop, manipulate, and trample every possible acre of Quincy? Because it seems like that is the goal with this project.

Please oppose this project. Do so knowing that you are preserving and protecting land in the way it should be.

I would be honored to speak with you about other great project ideas that enhance areas of neglect, abuse and not living up to their potential. Commission David Murphy has admitted to my one of the Crown Jewels of his Quincy Park system is in shambles. Let's focus on that! I walk my dog through this park everyday picking up trash that ends up on our coastline, in our waters and in our parks.

Thank you for making the right choice,  
Steve Delano

--

----- Steve Delano 617-680-9402 [Delano.Stephen@gmail.com](mailto:Delano.Stephen@gmail.com)

**From:** [Susan Riegler](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#); [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371".  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 3:11:58 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Flaherty,

I hope that this email finds you well!

I write concerning the proposed construction at Merrymount Park. How and why has Quincy silently turned into one giant development project wherever one looks?

As a long-time resident of Wollaston, Massachusetts, I appreciate the stewardship of our open spaces here in Quincy. That is one of the very special features that attracts visitors to become residents of this fine historic locale, along with our fantastic landscaping around town. As Abigail Adams carefully tended the land in our area to generate a legacy for the generations of residents who followed her family, I believe that we too must thoughtfully consider the impact of our actions.

Pageant Field and Black's creek are very well-maintained multi-use areas that are fairly accessible. As a former government professional in the City of Boston, I am aware of and deeply understand the delicate balance of needs, policies, and strategies. Accessible pathways of course must be a priority for us! In this case, however, it is puzzling to me why a bridge to Pine Island would in any way add to the natural beauty of the bay area. In fact, it would impinge on the precious openness we all purport to value. Specifically, thanks to options like the beach landing and the community boating program, folks may travel near the island and all around the river area without disturbing the wonderful wildlife (ibis, eagles, hawks). Or as is the case in other area parks such as Squantum Point or Squaw Rock, one can traverse these landscapes at low tide wearing boots like the strong New Englanders we all are. Such sustainable action also leaves natural and historical native american grounds intact. One hopes that that historical angle has been fully vetted before plans commence, in any case. Who will monitor any construction that occurs? Who will monitor the land in future to ensure land is not inadvertently disturbed by unsuspecting visitors? Such monitoring represents a possible high cost going forward.

Perhaps in the effort to continuously improve our community, too much of a good thing appears to have occurred in this case. Why not leave well enough alone? Why not instead of building bridges, build a few walkways where most necessary. Then, instead use the funds as others like Ms. Maggie McKee of Wollaston suggested; to improve existing facilities and programs. Why not create webinars to train residents and particularly the younger residents to steward the land as other communities like Taunton and Bridgewater have done? Why not plant more native species around Black's Creek and along Quincy Shore Drive? Such measures could entice a greater number of bird watchers and visitors to the area, who currently often delight in dining in our city after they visit the endangered bird nesting area, or other parks that do not sport boardwalks.

Put down the hammers and nails, and pick up shovels and seeds. Let's highlight Quincy as a

community that carefully considers its nature and stewards it, rather than constantly building on it!

Respectfully,  
Susan G. Riegler  
116 Rawson Road  
Wollaston, MA 02170

*Dr. Susan G. Riegler 617 620 2025*

**From:** [Susan McPherson](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:15:02 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms Flaherty,

I am a Quincy resident and just learned of the proposed pedestrian boardwalk at Black's Creek. Frankly, I am surprised to hear of the project when the city has just spent well over a million dollars to preserve some open space nearby. By disrupting the flow of water and the animal population with disruptive construction and increased human use, we may undermine the efforts to "let nature do its thing" to prevent / reduce flooding and protect the wildlife and fish that populate the area now.

Please consider rejecting this proposal and instead direct those funds to projects that will help to restore the wetlands and contiguous grounds to enable better flood control and reduce the pollution that currently flows into the creek.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Susan McPherson  
94 South Bayfield Rd  
Quincy, MA 02171  
781-718-6695  
[sjmflm94@gmail.com](mailto:sjmflm94@gmail.com)



**From:** [Theresa](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine Island Project  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 5:13:29 PM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello,

As a long time Quincy resident, I am opposed to this project. The environmental impact is concerning, especially since there are many other places in Quincy that should be addressed prior to even considering this.

Terry Cyr  
617-513-2556

Sent from my iPhone



**View Comment**

EEA #/MEPA ID\*  
16371

Comments Submit Date  
6-13-2021

Certificate Action Date  
6-15-2021

**Reviewer**  
Erin Flaherty (617) 874-0589

First Name  
Virginia

Last Name  
Ryan

Phone  
--

Email  
vmryan10@gmail.com

Address Line 1  
89 Alrick Rd

Address Line 2  
--

State  
MASSACHUSETTS

Zip Code  
02169

## Organization

**Affiliation Description**  
Individual

Status  
Opened

**Topic:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project

  **B** *I* U  Segoe UI ▼ 10 pt ▼ A  ▼  $X_2$   $X^2$   $t_t$   $T_T$  Paragraph ▼  ▼       

Quincy is a coastal city and with climate change a reality there should be an extensive analysis completed on any project that may affect marshes or wetlands. Too quickly cities make allowances for projects they deem "improvements to the area" and find it not to be the case when the improvement has actually affected the area adversely. We should not be decreasing any wetlands or marshes for any improvements.

## Attachments

## Update Status

### Status

Opened

SUBMIT

## Share Comment

SHARE WITH A REGISTERED USER

[BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS](#)

**From:** [Faye cyungblud](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merry mount Boardwalk project  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 11:14:32 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am a resident of Quincy opposed to this project which would disrupt the ecosystem plants and animals. Called pedestrian yet designed for cars/trucks. Not needed and detrimental to wildlife. Money better spent expanding and maintaining marshland.

Faye Anderson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [JOHN SULLIVAN](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:09:13 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371.  
John Sullivan  
73 Norton Rd.  
Quincy, MA 02169

**From:** [Kevin Mahoney](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project # 16371  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 9:34:39 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Analyst Flaherty,

I sent this yesterday through the Public Comments portal but I never got an email receipt for it. I also checked "Shared Comments" under my username and it does not appear. I am hoping it was received. I just want to make sure you got my comment regarding my opposition to this project.

Thanks, Kevin Mahoney

Dear Analyst Flaherty and Secretary Theoharides,

I am writing to voice my opposition to The City of Quincy's proposal to build a bridge from the Ryan Boathouse to Pine Island. I think it will destroy some of the protected lands there in the estuary, it's too expensive and quite honestly, not needed.

I am concerned about damage to the estuary. The scope of this structure is too big. 16 feet wide x 450 feet long with pressure treated timbers driven 60-75 feet into the estuary every 9 feet, can only have an adverse effect on the estuary.

I am also concerned with increased human and vehicular traffic to this untouched area. Pine Island is home to a number of animals including coyote, fox, turkey, osprey, owls. During the past few years there have also been visits by American Bald Eagles in the winter. All of these animals will undoubtedly cease to call this area home. Increased human activity will also lead to more litter, damage to the vegetation and an increased chance of fires. The Black's Creek estuary itself is an untouched gem within the city and I would like it to remain that way to do its important job without human interference.

Finally there is the cost. To date there has been no mention of the cost of this structure or employees to maintain the bridge and island. While we recover from the recent pandemic one has to wonder if this is the best use of dwindling public funds.

We are a city and we have few untouched areas left in Quincy. We should not build a bridge in this area.

Thank you,  
Kevin Mahoney  
12 Ferriter St.  
Quincy



**From:** [Liscum, Laura](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 8:49:14 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please leave Pine Island untouched. We need to preserve the few untouched pieces of land that we have.

Laura Liscum  
256 Pine St, Quincy MA

**From:** [Linda Illes](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 6:39:50 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am opposed to the proposed boardwalk. I have walked out to Pine Island at low tide with a community guide. The unspoiled island is a treasure that should remain exactly as it is. There are fewer and fewer unspoiled areas because man feels the need to build, and alter and invade areas with unnecessary infrastructure. Let nature be as nature was designed to be, natural and unspoiled. It should be the buffer zone nature created. I enjoy exploring these kind of areas when Quincy offers guided tours. Please do not build this boardwalk. It will never be the same if you make it easily accessible to people. It will no longer be the unspoiled place it is.

Linda Illes  
173 Green St  
Weymouth, MA 02191

My name is Peter Fifield. I live in a “former” cottage on Terne Road, Adams Shore. Before realtors started selling properties in the area, it was known as Shell Cove. The beach was called Shell Beach. Since the cottage was in a saltmarsh, daily tides came up to the cottage. Spring tides (spring tides happened twice a month with the new moon and full moon) would come up over the stairs at the cottage.

I believe in 1960 the city and state built a seawall with a tide gate. This cut off the flow of saltwater to the saltmarsh. By 1980, phragmites had replaced all but a small bit of the saltmarsh.

I have a unique knowledge of the sea around us (thanks to Rachel Carson). I am on the steering committee of the Boston Harbor Ecological Network.<sup>1</sup> I have also led numerous, what I call low tide walks, mostly for the Environmental Treasures Program of the park department.

As a result of one my investigations of our 27 miles of coastline for the Environmental Treasures Program, in December 2013, I discovered some clumps of mud covering red sand in various manners at Gull Point in Germantown. Some looked like they were designed by humans.

Consequently, I contacted Ellen Berkland, the now retired head of Massachusetts state archaeologists, to view the red sand under the mud. On Friday, December 7, I met with Ellen, the Massachusetts underwater archaeologist, Vic Mastone, and his interns at Gull Point. I was completely disappointed when they shrugged their shoulders and said something like, “No idea what’s going on here...”.

Unimpressed by the Gull Point visit, one of them casually asked if there was anything else in Quincy that I could show them. Having done walks to Pine Island for the Environmental Treasures Program, I brought them to Pine Island.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Boston Harbor Ecosystem Network (formerly Boston Harbor Habitat Coalition) is comprised of individuals and organizations with interest in protecting, restoring, and educating the public about estuarine resources within the Metro Boston region the MassBays National Estuary Program.

We wandered around a bit. When we reached the fairly large circle of past fires and plenty of beer cans and broken bottles, I assume we were the favorite drinking spot in that area. One of the archaeologists stated that Pine Island was something like the least disturbed island in Massachusetts. They all agreed. Even after I asked them a number of questions, they insisted that it was the least disturbed island in Massachusetts.

In the past week, I have tried to contact both them to see if they would comment about the city's plans for Pine Island, but I have not been successful.

To me, this brings up an interesting question. Likely, they are not aware of the island's unique ecological history. Does the City of Quincy have a good reason to and build a 200 foot long, 12-foot-wide boardwalk supported by pilings to Pine Island?

I would like to point out why I am against the Black's Creek boardwalk.

Let's look at the past. Some of us are aware that Ms. Berkland was involved with the 1999 archaeological discoveries on Gull Island, which is now called Caddy Park. Consequently, we know that indigenous people utilized the estuary<sup>2</sup> for thousands of years. The indigenous people utilized the natural resources and only used them better their lives. They did not alter the ecological balance of the estuary.

What happened when the western European settlers migrated to America and eventually settled in Quincy, and the neighborhood of Black's Creek estuary?

First, they built a dam that separated Black's Creek from the Furnace Brook. The tides could, normally, enter into Black's Creek and go west over the dam on the incoming tide. When the tide turned, the water would normally, go east from Furnace Brook to Black's Creek, through the estuary to Quincy Bay, and the ocean. At some time, the dam was abandoned or taken down. Today remnants of

---

<sup>2</sup> An **estuary** is a partially enclosed coastal body of brackish water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it, and with a free connection to the open sea.

the granite used for the dam can be seen on the east side of the bridge that is part of the Southern Artery.

As the Boston population increased, the state and/or cities built a bridge over the Neponset River to join Dorchester to Quincy. Eventually, Hancock Street became too small for the increased traffic and a road (Wollaston Boulevard) was created along the coast of Quincy Bay. This destroyed salt marshes and created homes. A bridge was needed over Black's Creek.

All bridges restrict the flow of water. After a few years, the original bridge could not survive the power of tides and storms coming in and out of the estuary and had to be replaced. Now, it is not a bridge—it's two culverts linking Wollaston Beach to Merrymount. A few years ago, the system failed. Now, when storms threaten, the city closes the culverts in hopes of containing damages caused by floods.

The indigenous people didn't build anything to control this estuary. Now, we still trying to control these estuaries as we have threats of global warming and rising oceans.

Pine Island should remain as it is. Have plaques at Merrymount Park and Caddy Park praising the culture of indigenous people. The plaques should also praise the City of Quincy's restraint in not adding another man-made project to what remains of mother nature's Furnace Brook/Black's Creek estuary.

I should go on but regarding the recent EPA, City of Quincy agreement:

**Before the city of Quincy charges ahead with an expensive plan like the Marymount Park pedestrian boardwalk, I suggest they take care of our sewage and stormwater problems!**

**From:** [Virginia Oourke](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park, Quincy Pedestrian Walkway Project #16371  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 16, 2021 7:14:35 AM

---

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We don't want nature's ecosystem ruined. NO TO THE BRIDGE.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [janutee](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Walkway  
**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021 9:47:58 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi!

As a life-long resident of Quincy and a person who cares deeply about its environment I want to express my strong opposition to this ill-conceived project.

Building a bridge to this island is 100% unnecessary. Our city has many miles of nature trails and paths to enjoy. This island is a pristine sanctuary and constructing a bridge to it will be very disruptive to its flora and fauna.

The city opposed construction of a bridge to Long Island for environmental reasons. This bridge should be opposed for exactly the same rationale.

Thank you,  
Janet Bargar  
205 Manet Ave  
Quincy MA

Sent from my Galaxy

**From:** [Stuart T. Schrier](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pine Island  
**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021 11:46:17 AM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

The City of Quincy plan to build a boardwalk is ill considered. This is unspoiled land and should be left alone.

Stuart T. Schrier  
Schrier & Associates, P. C.  
1005 Dorchester Avenue  
Boston, MA 02125  
(617) 436-1200 (Phone)  
(617) 436-5649 (FAX)  
(617) 460-1603 (Cell)

**From:** [Robert Bearchell](#)  
**To:** [Flaherty, Erin \(EEA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [MEPA \(EEA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Merrymount Park Pedestrian Boardwalk Project #16371  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 15, 2021 9:18:02 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to oppose building a pedestrian bridge to Pine Island. The construction of the bridge will damage the habitat in the waters of Black's Creek and on Pine Island. Please leave Pine Island undisturbed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gillian and Bob Bearchell  
Wollaston, MA