

# Advocating for Innovative OPEN SPACE



**Nick Black**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
OF THE BOSTON  
WATERFRONT INITIATIVE

## What's your first order of business?

Share the Trustees' waterfront vision and organizational expertise with the Boston and Greater Boston communities, and work with local leaders, elected officials, partner organizations, and private industry to begin taking the many numerous steps that have to happen in order to bring this open space vision to reality. Community outreach and working with partners are the first critical elements.

## Can you give us a sneak peek into your plans?

This is going to be an extremely challenging, many-year task. But we've made a ton of progress recently, and things are starting to line up that will demonstrate our commitment to seeing this project through for everyone involved. We are currently in the process of selecting and securing at least one site (or possibly more), and then the hard work of design, permitting, and raising funds to pay for it all begins. If we're really successful, it'll be very exciting for folks to begin to see physical progress on the waterfront, in the next year or two, as the brand new park(s) begins to take shape.

## What does the future hold?

Our goal is to bring about innovative design that is responsive to not only the needs of the whole Boston community but also one that has an eye toward safeguarding the city against the effects of climate change. It's our responsibility to do whatever we can to lend our expertise in order to find ways to create valuable space that enhances the city as a whole—what we do will be done for and with all the people of Boston. We have the incredible opportunity to bring about something that will leave a lasting impact on the city for generations to come.

## What gives you the biggest thrill in your work?

I'm a problem solver by nature. I love challenges that are messy—tough problems that require creative thinking motivate me. Working with an organization that has, and is supported by, so many innovative thinkers is a great opportunity to test those skills.



**M**et Nick Black, The Trustees' Managing Director of the Boston Waterfront Initiative, who took on this new position with the organization less than two months ago. Nick is responsible for managing the implementation of the Trustees plans for establishing new, world-class public open space amid the rapidly rising office towers along the City's waterfront, and for developing the partnerships with private, nonprofit, and governmental entities that are required to facilitate such park-building efforts.

## Tell us about your professional roots.

*I have been involved in politics, nonprofit advocacy, and community organizing for more than a decade. I worked on Elizabeth Warren's campaign for U.S. Senate, then served as Special Assistant to Senator Warren, and ultimately joined Hilary Clinton's presidential campaign as MA State Director for the general election portion of the race.*

## What brought you to The Trustees?

*My wife and I moved to Massachusetts six years ago—she's a Marshfield native, so the South Shore was a natural fit for us. We started frequenting World's End and became Trustees members. Then, just as discussions around this position started up, I saw the front-page article in the Globe about the Trustees plans and that sealed it!*