



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION I

JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02203-0001

Superfund Records Center

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OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

September 23, 1996

Janice A. Davidian, City Clerk  
Clerk of the City Council  
133 William Street  
New Bedford, MA 02740-6182

Re: Riverside Park Harbor Restoration Proposal

Dear Ms. Davidian,

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 1996, to Administrator Carol Browner concerning the City's proposal for a shoreline park along Bellevue Avenue in New Bedford. Administrator Browner referred your letter to our regional office for response, as this project is located within EPA-New England's purview.

We at EPA-New England share your enthusiasm for redevelopment of the proposed area in a way that creates shoreline open space, offers the chance for wetland restoration, and which helps to connect people with their natural marine heritage. We also understand that the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council supports the idea as well, but with the caveat that coordination issues involving EPA's Superfund cleanup need to be resolved. For example, the PCB-contaminated sediments in the vicinity of the proposed park are slated for dredging as part of EPA's second phase of cleanup. We will continue to work closely with the trustees in order to enable them to move forward with the concept as soon as possible.

Two other points should be made in regard to this issue. The first is that, as the City Council is aware, two confined disposal facilities or CDFs (one existing and one planned) would neighbor the proposed park to the south. These facilities offer the potential for future annexing to the City's proposed park once the CDFs have been closed and covered with a final cap. There will certainly be much construction activity around these CDFs for many years to come, and certain restrictions would apply to the types of plantings on top of the final caps (no deep-rooted plants, for example), but such annexing could eventually offer the City's residents an esplanade almost one mile in length.

The second point is that the combined sewer overflows or CSOs in the area are also a source of water quality degradation. Since the envisioned shoreline park would inevitably bring people to the water's edge, careful planning will be needed to ensure that these CSO discharges will not pose undue risks to human health. On this note, EPA-New England will be working with City officials in an attempt to determine if any CSO elimination (as opposed to CSO relocation) could be accomplished as part of the construction of EPA's phase two CDFs.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter. We look forward to continuing our work together towards a better and cleaner New Bedford harbor environment. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Al Frezza, Office of Government Relations at (617) 565-3162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. DeVillars', with a stylized, cursive script.

John P. DeVillars  
Regional Administrator



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**  
133 WILLIAM STREET 02740-6182  
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**JANICE A. DAVIDIAN**  
CITY CLERK  
CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
**CLAIRE P. LEMOS**  
ASSISTANT CITY CLERK  
**JANICE H. COSTA**  
ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK

August 26, 1996

Secretary  
Department of Commerce  
Constitution Avenue and 14th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Carol Browner, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

David B. Struhs, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs  
One Winter Street  
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commerce Secretary, EPA Administrator Browner and Commissioner Struhs:

At the August 15, 1996, meeting of the New Bedford City Council, voting on a recommendation by its Committee on Recreation, Tourism and Historical Objects, the Council voted to send a letter to the Department of Commerce, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection endorsing the proposal as submitted by Councillors Rogers and Koczera (copy enclosed) which has already been endorsed for use of Federal Funds, the money set aside for this area, part of which would be for the Park. The City Council further voted to send a letter to the Harbor Trustee Council recommending that the area contained in this proposal be considered for funding for the park concept.

New Bedford needs more parks for its residents, especially in this neighborhood, and the City Council hopes that you will do whatever you can to accomplish these ends.

Very truly yours,

Janice A. Davidian, City Clerk  
Clerk of the City Council

JAD/smt  
Enclosure (1)

RESTORATION IDEA

**PROJECT TITLE:** RIVERSIDE PARK BELLEVILLE AVENUE RECREATIONAL MARINE PARK  
**SUBMITTED BY:** Paul Koczera  
**SITE LOCATION:** Upper Acushnet River Estuary, New Bedford (Hot Spot/Area I).

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Site borders a small saltwater cove in the North End of New Bedford, adjacent to the Hot Spot Area. Upland area is presently industrial (Pierce Mill); a playground area at Riverside Park; shoreline consists of remnant wetlands (primarily phragmites); the cove itself consists of shallow water and tidal mudflats.

**RESOURCE INJURY:** High-level PCB contamination of marine sediments with resulting impacts on water column, air, biota, use of natural resources, property values, and neighborhood aesthetics.

**PROPOSED ACTION:** To create a coastal park along the cove shoreline between Coffin Avenue and Sawyer Street, with picnic benches, walking and biking paths, possibly a pier or boatramp for recreational use, and marsh restoration or other enhancement of coastal habitat.

**RESOURCE BENEFITS:**

- Habitat enhancement with resulting beneficial effects on populations of fish, birds, and other living resources.
- Restoration of use of coastal resources for residents of the North End and other area residents.
- Improvement of neighborhood aesthetics and amenities.

**IMPLEMENTATION:** Long term, more information needed. EPA cleanup plans and schedule are uncertain for the cove. Pierce Mill demolition is anticipated for this year. City's plans for location are unknown.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT:** Through planning and development as well as use of the park

**COMMENTS (Technical Advisors):**

- Would restore lost recreational use, fish, wildlife and plant resources.
- Unclear of the extent of impact from EPA cleanup.
- Good showcase project.
- Should be designed to enhance coastal habitat while providing for public access.
- Need a site plan and cost estimate.
- Great idea and very appropriate use of restoration funding.

**ESTIMATED COSTS:** Unspecified.

**ESTIMATED MATCH:** Unspecified - possibly from EPA or from Massachusetts Open Space Bond or other block grants.