

# Restoration of Boston Bay (USA)

Boston Bay restoration project is one of the largest in scale in the States involving 43 cities, 2 million people, 5500 enterprises, 11-year construction, and 3.8 billion dollars of cost. The United States Massachusetts water resource bureau, established in 1997, not only adjusted the 43 cities' interests but led a project hiring a number of expert staff, and gained a great number of citizens' cooperation to secure the financial sources required for the project (public involvement).

Boston Bay restoration project has substantially improved the water environment in the bay. It has given the local people the sense of confidence and pride, and is said to have contributed to activating the local economy.

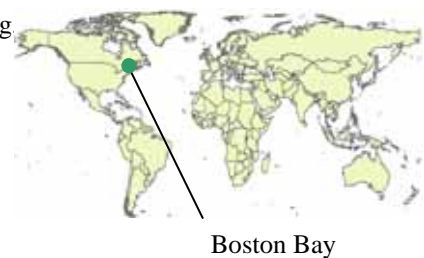
## ◆ Key to Restoration

- Bay area waterfront restoration and local society activation
- Bay purification by sewage system improvement
- Shift of waterfront-downtown separating elevated highway to underground highway

## ◆ Overview of the Bay

In 1980 when the project started, Boston Bay was deemed the filthiest bay in the country. The water was inappropriate for swimming or fishing and was rather dangerous even for pleasure boats as well.

The effort to purify Boston Bay started in 1982, when a Quincy City's council member filed a suit against the waterworks department involved in Boston Bay wastewater, on charges of violating Federal Water Pollution Control Act.



Boston Bay

## ◆ Project Efforts for Restoration

[Bay area waterfront restoration and local society activation]

Success in Boston Bay restoration, which was once deemed the filthiest in the country, provided the local people with the sense of confidence and mental attachment to the city. It has contributed to restoration of the bay and to waterfront, and also to activating the local economy.

[Bay purification by sewage system improvement]

The major drive in waterfront restoration was the thorough sewage system project nationwide (3.8 billion dollars). It was started with the order at Federal court to improve Boston Bay water quality. The citizens also agreed to a substantially increased water bill payment for purifying Boston Bay.

[Shift of waterfront-downtown separating elevated highway to underground highway]

The elevated highways that had separated the downtown and the waterfront were changed to underground highways. It helped promoting development of the waterfront area and the urban area in unity. The citizens participated in land utilization of the after-development open space which was above the underground highway.



“Designed city: Boston” Kanda and Kobayashi, 1991.

Source: National Land Technology Policy Research Institute document “Toward human-nature symbiotic basin for urban restoration” Katsuhide Yoshikawa, p.39

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