

Sea levels in the Boston area are projected to increase by 8” in 2030, 21” in 2050, and 36” in 2070, that’s about 3 feet of water, that’s up to my torso. Now imagine walking through all that water along with all the sludge collected from water run-off from the buildings, streets, and sidewalks. With those conditions, it would be really hard to enjoy a nice day at the park.

Here is Pier’s Park, a beloved park in the East Boston area that kisses the waterfront. Locals of East Boston, as well families from neighboring communities such as Chelsea, Revere, Milton, and Winthrop come to this area often to enjoy the park’s amenities such as the Pier’s Park Sailing Center, the water park, and the playground. Young adults also frequent the area to explore the nearby ICA museum, Downeast Brewery, and ferry. The Boston Harbor is also the playground for many sailors.

With the demographic of people in mind, spanning across ages, I wanted to redesign this site to accommodate the current locals, while also keeping in mind flood mitigation strategies, specifically green infrastructure, to protect them from any future flooding and disaster.

To protect them against high tides, I’ve implemented a terraced rock wall, complemented with a pebbled beach and tidal pool to encourage marine life to come to shore. The tidal pool is the perfect spot for children from the sailing center, which is now a floating house along the main boardwalk, to come explore starfish, oysters, and more.

With a salt marsh to the left, intended to filter and absorb excess stormwater coming from the nearby sewer, residents can feel comfortable kayaking and fishing in these waters. Visitors can also view the shore while walking along this windy boardwalk that includes a short flood barrier that doubles as seating. You can also walk along this bioswale, which redirects and filters flood waters to this garden.

Residential houses are also protected from flooding, elevated by the raised land to the left and right. The left units, which include affordable housing units, are designated for multi-family use. Each unit comes with an outdoor space to promote well-being. Nearby is a grocery store and community center with things like language classes and daycare. On the right are studio units intended for young adults, who can shop in this commercial building with local restaurants and businesses. And right below that is a semi-private residential deck with floating homes for any sailors who may be interested in owning one.

In the winter, people can ski down the slopes and visit the new piers park. They can ice skate at the rink which doubles as an amphitheater, for community gatherings and entertainment, as well as a water basin to drain out the storm waters. In the warmer months, they can enjoy farmer's markets on the smaller boardwalk from local fishers and farmers. They can also read up on the ecosystem and the history of the Boston harbor on these infographic elements. If visitors want to learn even more they can visit the sailing center underwater room which holds classes on the marina.

About over half a thousand housing units