

IV. Building a New New Boston

"Climate injustice, for Indigenous peoples, is less about the specter of a new future and more like the experience of colonial déjà vu."
—Kyle Powys Whyte

How can we understand the Deer Island wastewater treatment plant in relation to other infrastructure and planning projects of the "New Boston"? How do these projects prime current climate resilience efforts? Whose perspectives are or are not included in ongoing and future transformations of Boston Harbor?

V. Memoryscapes in a Wounded Place

"Memoryscapes: constellations of spots on the land that have accrued stories over time, transforming them from seemingly blank or neutral spaces into emotionally infused, politically potent spaces."
—Christina M. DeLucia

How is Deer Island marked as a memorial landscape? Whose remains are variously acknowledged, denied, interpreted, and enacted? How do these hauntings address the visitor? How do they call us to respond?

III. The Law Secures to the People the Right to a Clean Harbor

"The Boston Harbor clean-up is recognized as one of the nation's greatest environmental success stories—a far cry from the Harbor's notoriety in the 1980s as 'the filthiest harbor in America.'"
—National Park Service

What discursive and cultural practices do we mobilize—consciously and unconsciously—when we frame Deer Island primarily as a triumph of environmental law and green engineering? How do these narratives shape our relation to the past and visions for the future?

VI. Digestion or Compost?

"We require each other in unexpected collaborations and combinations, in hot compost piles. We become-with each other or not at all."
—Donna Haraway

What practices of material, social, and political "com-posting" might make more just and sustaining relations among past, present, and future; air, water and land; Native, settler, and arrivant; human and more-than-human beings?

II. Before Islands Were Islands

"A water passageway known as Shirley Cut once separated Deer Island from the mainland. For many years this strait served as the backdoor for ships entering and leaving Boston Harbor."
—National Park Service

What is the temporality of our "view" of Deer Island? How does our relationship with the island change if we look 50, 100, 400, 10,000, or 250 million years into the past, or future?

Media + Resources

Martin Blatt, "King Philip's War and the Cultural Landscape of Boston," *Mass Humanities* (2018), http://bit.ly/blatt_kingphillipswar

Expo 76: Future Vision or Fever Dream? *Hub History* (28 March 2021), <http://bit.ly/hub-expo76>

Kristen Wyman, "Episode #20: Remembering Deer Island," *Indigenous Politics: From Native New England and Beyond* (2 November 2010), http://bit.ly/wyman_deerisland

Andrew T. Savage, *Boston Harbor: The Anatomy of a Court-Run Cleanup*, 22 B.C. Envtl. Aff. L. Rev. 365 (1995), http://bit.ly/savage_harbor

MWRA Boston Harbor Project Timeline, http://bit.ly/mwra_timeline

Image: John Seller, "Boston Harbour in New England," 1689. Map reproduction courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map & Education Center at the Boston Public Library

I. A Varied Past

"Since colonial days, Deer Island has served as a detention center for American Indians, a quarantine station and hospital for immigrants, an asylum for the city's social outcasts and the poor, a reformatory for juvenile delinquents, an orphanage, a prison for petty criminals, and a military post."
—National Park Service

How has Deer Island's "varied past" shaped its present? How is this past unevenly addressed? How does this past remain present, and how might it shape the future?