

Marina Bay and It's History

Tucked away in Dorchester Bay on Boston Harbor, Marina Bay is an oasis in the otherwise bustling City of Quincy. Picturesque, isolated and laid-back, Marina Bay features Nantucket-style boardwalks, some great waterfront restaurants with seasonal outdoor seating, lounges, clubs, and a few places to shop (ice cream and candy included!) Amazing views of the Boston skyline will impress you as you take a leisurely walk along the boardwalks as well as a seasonal “boat show” as the boardwalk wraps around some high-end boat slips.

But, this was not always so...Marina Bay began more as a “plane show” than a “boat show”. In 1910, Harvard University’s Aeronautical Society hosted a grand exhibition of flying, the Harvard Aero Meet, which is said to have “done more than any other early effort to support aviation and to introduce the general public to the possibilities of the pleasures of passenger (air) travel.” From 1927-1940, Dennison Airport operated out of the “Marina” as a civilian airfield. Among its civilian users was Amelia Earhart. On September 3, 1927, she is said to have flown the first official flight out of the airport. Along with the civilian airfields, the Naval Air Station Squantum, which was originally the site of the First World War seaplane hanger, was located at the marina. Known as NRAS Squantum, it is considered to have been the first air base in the Naval Reserve Program. It was commissioned in 1923 and over the next many years until it closed in 1953 underwent many improvement and upgrades. This base was mainly used during World War Two as a maritime patrol station and training base for American and British naval aviators. Up until the 1990s, the air stations main hanger still remained but now the old air field is home to Boston Scientific and Squantum Point Park.

The Marina Bay we know now was approved upon in 1985 by Quincy’s municipal leaders. They turned the Marina into a mixed-use development, tore down the old flea market and begin permitting the building of what is now a truly charming neighborhood filled with wonderful people, beautiful views, excellent dining and a waterfront community to be proud of.

