BOSTON 1776

Charlestown

GACE (10,000)

Wook's Hill

Dorchester Heights

Boston Harbor

Castle Island

Boxbury

Boston Harbor Islands

FREEDOM 75

BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS
BOSTON 1900
SOUTH BOSTON-DORCHESTER 1880
THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
A WORLD FREEDOM FAIR IN BOSTON
APRIL – OCTOBER 1975
8. Create 400 acres of prime residential land for the land-starved cities of Boston and Quincy, ... stimulate major new development in the Dorchester Bay-Neponset River basin area.

9. Create costly buildings, streets, utilities, and amenities for the Bicentennial which would serve as the nucleus of an entirely new residential community, larger than the Back Bay.
Development of Thompson Island for the Fair would in turn aid the Bay edge and undeveloped sections of Columbia Point (3) in their future development. The primary benefit to Columbia Point would be to make it part of a continuous, integrated pattern of city development, where it is now an isolated peninsula, largely cut off from the mainstream of city life.

Bicentennial development on Thompson Island would benefit the large, former naval airbase at Squantum (4) which is being held by its owner for future development, but which lacks the topographical and other advantages of Thompson Island for use as the principal Fair site.
The problem of finding a suitable new downtown site for the Bicentennial would be solved by filling in the tidal flats along the southern edges of Thompson Island and thus creating a new peninsula at Squantum. Far from being unique, this approach is as old as the city itself.
Opposition to the Fair

- Senator Joe Moakley (as well as many others, formed grass roots opposition to the plans).
- Moakley opposed EXPO ’76, as the fair was called, based on the potential damage that its facilities would cause to the Boston Harbor Islands and the beaches of South Boston.
BEFORE...
THOMPSON ISLAND

FREEDOM 75
BEFORE...
SQUANTUM NAVAL AIR STATION
In addition to the minimum fill scheme explained above (1) a flood-control dam for the Neponset River, with locks and roadway, between what would now be the Thompson peninsula and Columbia Point, would be one of many significant improvements which, though not essential to the Bicentennial, would nevertheless be spurred on by it. The dam would: create a constant-level, all year boat basin at the mouth of the Neponset River, more than twice the size of the Charles River basin (2), thus flooding the offensive tidal flats around Dorchester Bay that inhibit better development of adjoining lands; incorporate Columbia Point and Thompson Island into a primary circulation system, thus greatly furthering their development; and, of course, provide direct highway access to the Bicentennial from the downtown via the roadway on the dam.
TODAY...THOMPSON ISLAND
TODAY...COLUMBIA POINT
TODAY...MARINA BAY
TODAY... Thompson Island
SOURCES (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

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