



**City of New Bedford**  
**Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor**

## **City Opens New Park at Custom House Square**

**New Bedford, Massachusetts** - New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell, park designer Chris Reed of Stoss Landscape Urbanism, local elected officials, and members of the Downtown New Bedford community officially opened the new urban park at Custom House Square on Thursday, September 12, 2013. The event took place on [AHA!](#) night and attendees enjoyed live music, entertainment by living statues and mimes, and games for kids with New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches.

Custom House Square was redesigned as a modern urban park by nationally-recognized landscape designer Stoss Landscape Urbanism. City crews from the Department of Public Infrastructure and Department of Public Facilities completed its construction in early September.

Since its opening, residents, City workers, and visitors have flocked to Custom House Square to enjoy its green rolling landscape and a number of events that have already occurred in this new urban park. For instance, Custom House Square has been home of the Friday Lunchtime Jazz Series. The concerts, presented by the Office of the Mayor, feature acclaimed local saxophonist Marcus Monteiro with a different accompanying musician each week. The next and final concert of the Series will be held on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 12:30pm to 2pm.

“The opening of a new park downtown triggered a lot of community discussion about what kinds of new activities might happen in the space,” said Mayor Mitchell. “A lunchtime jazz series is just one demonstration of the possibilities. I expect it will inspire other artistic and cultural uses for the park in the future that we haven’t even imagined yet.”

The Mayor added, “The goal is to take advantage of an opportunity to fill this unique place with energy and vitality. Whether you come for the music, or just happen to stroll by on the way to a meeting or lunch, your day will be a little bit brighter and more enjoyable. That is what high-quality public spaces do, and that is how the new park is helping make our downtown a more attractive place to live, work, and invest.”

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