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'Living With Water': Facing Climate Change, Cities Trade Sea Walls for Parks.

City planners now say they are increasingly turning to methods aligned with the Dutch concept of "living with water." Instead of resisting water, cities are channeling it to where they want it to go.

To protect itself from a devastating flood, Boston was considering building a massive sea wall, cutting north to south through nearly 4 miles of Boston Harbor, taking $11 billion and at least 30 years to build. But a new plan unveiled in October represents a 180-degree turn: Instead of fighting to keep the water out, the city is letting it come in.

Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, a Democrat, announced the city would be scrapping the idea of a sea wall in favor of, among other things, a system of waterfront parks and elevation of some flood-prone areas. The city will add 67 new acres of green space along the water and restore 122 tidal acres.

The idea is to give people access to the shoreline when the weather is nice, but when the parks get flooded—well, it's not that big of a deal.

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Route Fifty

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