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## ACCESSIBILITY

# It's all beachy in Eastie

## Mobility equipment helps people with disabilities enjoy a day out

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More than 250 people with disabilities enjoyed some fun in the sun at Constitution Beach Saturday, but the event also served as an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of public beach accessibility.

Hosted by Triangle Inc., the Beach: Ability Festival in East Boston was made possible through a \$7,500 grant from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Universal Access Program.

Floating wheelchairs, sand wheelchairs and mobility mats allowed some attendees to enjoy the



JIM MICHAUD PHOTOS / BOSTON HERALD

**SWIMMINGLY:** Ralph Tuto of Winthrop takes his son David for a stroll in a specially made wheelchair for the water Saturday at Constitution Beach in East Boston.

beach or ocean for the first time, highlighting the im-

portance of making Massachusetts public beaches



**FUN IN MOTION:** Some of the guests go for kayak ride as 150 to 200 people with disabilities enjoyed the day at the beach.

accessible.

"It is an awesome and very moving event," said Bruce Berman, spokesperson for Save the Harbor/Save the Bay.

More than \$250,000 was awarded this year to 62 organizations and artists for free events and programs on public beaches in East Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Hull, Lynn, Nahant,

Quincy, Revere and Winthrop through Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program partnership with DCR.

In addition to the grant awarded to Triangle, Inc., Save the Harbor/Save the Bay also used \$7,500 to fund free mobility mats and beach wheelchairs to ensure the beach was accessible for everyone.

"The metropolitan

beaches are extraordinary assets that belong to all the people of our region," said Chris Mancini, executive director of Save the Harbor/Save the Bay. "We're proud to fund free community events led by organizations that celebrate and represent our communities' cultural and racial diversity, and what we have in common: We love our beaches."

