



**For immediate release  
September 4, 2009**

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## **DCR REOPENS SHANNON BEACH PLAYGROUND**

*Testing shows no evidence of Shigella bacteria*

**WHAT:** The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) reopened the Shannon Beach Playground in Winchester this afternoon after the state Department of Public Health (DPH) reported recent tests show no signs of the Shigella bacteria. The playground and beach off Mystic Valley Parkway had been closed on August 21 after several cases of shigellosis, a bacterial infection caused by the Shigella bacteria, had been reported among visitors to the facility. Shannon Beach and the restrooms will remain closed for the season. Portable toilets will be provided for playground users.

Upon learning of the apparent bacterial contamination last month, DCR immediately closed the entire Shannon Beach facility. Since then, the playground equipment and other areas of the facility have been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized and show no signs of the bacteria.

**WHEN:** Friday  
September 4, 2009  
2 p.m.

**WHERE:** Shannon Beach and Playground  
Mystic Valley Parkway  
Winchester

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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