



For immediate release  
April 25, 2009

Contact: Wendy Fox  
617-626-1453

## GOVERNOR PATRICK JOINS MORE THAN 4,000 VOLUNTEERS DURING ANNUAL PARK SERVE DAY

*4,072 volunteers worked in 67 parks across the Commonwealth*

More than 4,000 volunteers, including Governor Deval Patrick, turned out today in state parks from the Berkshires to Cape Cod, cleaning litter from beaches, painting picnic tables, helping clear trails, and improving landscaping during the third annual Park Serve Day.

“Events like these reaffirm our commitment and support for natural and recreational resources,” said Governor Patrick, who spent the morning volunteering at Houghton’s Pond in the Blue Hills Reservation in Canton. “I cannot praise these volunteers enough for giving their time and energy to revitalize parks across the Commonwealth for the spring and summer recreation season.”

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) counted 4,072 volunteers in 67 parks statewide that participated in Park Serve Day. By day’s end, those volunteers had planted 81,800 flowers and trees, including 80,000 plants of beach grass to protect the dunes on Spectacle Island in Boston Harbor, and had collected 51 tons of trash. Among the items found and carried away as trash were lobster traps, lounge chairs, liquor bottles, tires, propane tanks, and a set of false teeth.

Governor Patrick helped plant trees near Houghton's Pond, joining about 140 other volunteers in the Blue Hills where other projects included building picnic tables, mulching gardens, and removing illegally dumped trash.

“This was really an extraordinary day,” said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles, who also volunteered in the Blue Hills. “With the help of Massachusetts residents across the state, we have made an enormous difference in the look and feel of our parks, a difference that can make us all proud.”

“For the third year in a row, Massachusetts residents have answered the call to pick a park, give a day, and make a difference,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., whose department organized the day-long event in collaboration with the Governor’s Office and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. “I have been extremely impressed with the hard work and energy that went into making this day the success it has been. My thanks go out to everyone.”

With nearly 450,000 acres of parkland, Massachusetts boasts one of the largest state park systems in the country. More than 30 million visitors from all over the world enjoy DCR’s parks, forests, and beaches that stretch across the Commonwealth.

###

*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, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. 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).*

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr)



Deval L. Patrick  
Governor

Timothy P. Murray  
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation