



**For immediate release
July 10, 2009**

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DCR DEVELOPING A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BLUE HILLS RESERVATION

First public meeting scheduled this month to gather input

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has begun developing a Resource Management Plan for the Blue Hills Reservation south of Boston. The plan will guide future preservation and stewardship efforts in the Reservation, and will ensure consistency between recreational uses and protection of natural resources.

As a first step in the process, DCR is holding a public meeting on Wednesday, July 29, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the Trailside Museum, 1904 Canton Avenue in Milton, in DCR's Blue Hills Reservation.

“The Blue Hills Reservation is an extraordinary urban park, offering innumerable recreational opportunities within easy reach of Boston residents,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “Our goal at DCR is to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Blue Hills, and develop plans for management of the Reservation in the years to come. We welcome public input as we move forward with the Resource Management Plan.”

Under the Patrick Administration, DCR will begin developing Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for all agency properties. DCR has evaluated individual parks and prioritized them based on their natural and cultural resources, management issues, and uses of the facilities.

The Blue Hills Reservation RMP is a high priority because of the complexity of the resources at the Reservation and the myriad ways it is used by visitors. The Reservation covers about 7,000 acres in Milton and Canton and includes 125 miles of hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking trails. It also includes Mass Audubon's Trailside Museum, the Blue Hills Ski Area, the Blue Hills Observatory and Science Center, Ponkapoag Golf Course, Houghton's Pond swimming and fishing areas, and the William Shea Rink for ice skating.

Participants at the July 29 public meeting will be invited to talk about various aspects of the Reservation, including how they use it, what aspects of it are important to them, and what they feel should be protected and how.

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For more information on the Blue Hills Reservation, visit www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/metroboston/blue.htm.

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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. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.