



**For immediate release
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DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW BASEBALL FIELD AT HOUGHTON'S POND IN MILTON

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting in Milton on Monday, Oct. 5, to discuss plans for a new baseball field at Houghton's Pond in DCR's Blue Hills Reservation.

The informational meeting will be Monday, Oct. 5, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Blue Hills Trailside Museum, 1904 Canton Ave., Milton.

There are now two softball fields, one baseball field, and a tennis court at Houghton's Pond. This project involves replacing the existing baseball field with a new, larger field suitable for both Little League players and adults. The tennis court, which is rarely used and is in disrepair, will be demolished.

"This new ballfield will be a great improvement for hundreds, if not thousands, of young ballplayers for years to come," said state Senator Brian A. Joyce. "I've been working to improve this recreation area for our boys and girls since my days as a Milton Park Commissioner, and I am pleased to join Governor Patrick and DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan in moving this project forward."

"This new ballfield will be a welcome addition to the playing fields in DCR's Blue Hills Reservation," said DCR Commissioner Sullivan. "Drainage will be improved at the fields, as will traffic patterns and seating for both spectators and ballplayers. We thank Sen. Joyce very much for his help and support with this project."

The \$1 million to fund this project is included in DCR's current capital budget. The project is currently under design, and construction is expected to begin next spring.

In the new field, basepaths will be adjustable, from 60 feet to 70 feet, depending on the teams playing, and the distance between home plate and the pitcher's mound will be adjustable from 46 feet to 50 feet. The infield will be grass, and a new backstop, players' benches, and spectator seating will be added.

The field is expected to be ready for the spring 2011 season.



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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.