



**For immediate release  
September 9, 2009**

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## **DCR RECEIVES \$4.5 MILLION IN FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS FOR TREE-REPLANTING IN THE WORCESTER AREA**

*Effort will help replace trees lost to Asian longhorned beetle*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today was awarded \$4.487 million in federal stimulus funds for tree replanting efforts in the Worcester area. The money is part of \$89 million allocated by the US Department of Agriculture to 78 forest health protection projects in 20 states and the District of Columbia.

The projects are aimed at addressing problems caused by fire, insects, invasive species, and disease. DCR will use its funds to replace trees that have been taken down in the Worcester area because they have been infested by, or could be host to, the Asian longhorned beetle. The funds will also enable the agency to hire about 20 additional employees to negotiate with nurseries, discuss tree plantings with property owners, and plant the trees.

To date, about 20,000 trees have been taken down in the Worcester area as part of the effort to combat the invasive Asian longhorned beetle.

“Fighting the Asian longhorned beetle has cost Worcester and neighboring communities thousands of trees,” said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. “With these federal funds, we will begin to restore the shade and natural beauty that comes from tree-lined streets and yards.”

“This investment is an essential step toward eradicating this infestation in Massachusetts and preventing it from spreading,” said Massachusetts Senator John Kerry. “The Asian longhorn beetle poses a real threat to the hardwood forests in the Commonwealth and the broader economy of the Northeast. I’m pleased to see stimulus funding used to directly protect our forests and timber industry.”

Congressman James McGovern said, “I’m very pleased that Central Massachusetts will be receiving such a significant amount of federal stimulus funding for this important issue. The ALB infestation in our community has been devastating. The federal government must continue to be a strong partner in the eradication effort. Without a serious, sustained program to get rid of this awful bug, the infestation could threaten the entire Northeastern hardwood forest. This is an excellent use of stimulus funding.”

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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“We are committed to working with the communities to replant Worcester and the other towns affected by this devastating insect pest,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “We understand how important the treescape is to the neighborhoods, the urban landscape, and the quality of life in the communities. We are very happy to have been awarded this federal funding.”

DCR hopes to begin the replanting effort this fall.

DCR received the fourth-largest federal grant in this recent funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Oregon was first, with \$17.4 million, followed by California with \$10.7 million and the state of Washington with \$4.732. DCR’s award was the second-largest single-project grant in the nation after a project in California.

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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).*