



**For immediate release  
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**PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING  
TO DISCUSS MITIGATION MEASURES  
AT QUINCY QUARRIES**

*Discussion will focus on options for wetlands restoration*

BOSTON - In keeping with the Patrick-Murray Administration's commitment to environmental stewardship, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on November 22 to discuss several options for replicating wetlands in DCR's Blue Hills Reservation. The proposed replication project will help DCR meet permit obligations related to the filling of the Granite Railway Quarry in Quincy.

Among the options are restoring a former wetlands area near Houghton's Pond, creating a pond that would improve irrigation issues on Ponkapoag Golf Course, and creating a wetland area by an existing stream near Brookwood Farm.

**The meeting will be Monday, November 22, at 7 p.m. in the Ponkapoag Golf Course meeting room, 2167 Washington St., Canton.**

In 1825, the Quincy Quarries became the source for the granite used to build the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. To transport the stone from the quarries to the monument site, the Granite Railway was established in 1826. The granite industry flourished at the site for more than 150 years, with the last quarry closing in 1963.

Over the next 20 years, the quarries filled with rainwater and groundwater and became a popular, but dangerous, place for cliff jumping. Many people were injured, and several even killed, while diving into the quarries.

In 1985, the former Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) bought 22 acres in the area, including the quarries. In 2000, under orders from the state Department of Environmental Protection, the quarries were filled with dirt from the Central Artery project, putting a halt to the swimming.

Under the various permits issued for that work, the state agreed to replicate 83,400 square feet of open water and restore existing wetlands through treatment and monitoring of invasive plant species. To date, approximately 46,700 square feet of wetlands have been created, and DCR is

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charged with creating approximately 36,700 square feet of additional wetland resource areas. Neither adequate space nor conditions to conduct the replication exist at the Granite Rail Quarry site; therefore, the replication will occur off-site.

“Filling in these quarries 10 years ago was the first step in protecting public safety while keeping the quarries open for other activities, like rock climbing and hiking,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “Now, we need to talk about future steps to improve the nature and biodiversity of the area.”

Funding for the project will come from \$825,000 in tipping fees, which the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) paid to be allowed to dump the fill into the quarries. The money went to the Blue Hills Trust Fund to be used for permit compliance activities and recreation improvements.

“I commend the Patrick Administration for taking these positive steps toward restoring and creating wetlands, and protecting our environment,” said Senator Brian A. Joyce.

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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).*