



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.
DCR Commissioner, Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

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For Immediate Release: September 8, 2011

DCR to Present Draft Resource Management Plan for the Middlesex Fells Reservation

WHAT: The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, September 14** in Medford to present the draft Resource Management Plan for the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The 2,575-acre Middlesex Fells Reservation contains a diverse landscape of ponds, rocky hills and ledges, meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. The Reservation, which covers parts of Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester, offers a wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to visitors from the Boston metropolitan region and beyond.

The draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) represents the culmination of a six-month public process involving extensive public outreach and seven public workshops to create a set of recommendations that improve protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources and enhance the recreational experiences of various users. The plan will provide guidance for short- and long-term management of the Fells, sets priorities for allocating limited staff and financial resources, and identifies stewardship partners and opportunities.

As a part of the agency's work in 2010 to develop a trails plan for the DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation [and after some project delays], park staff is undergoing the process of designating an off-leash area for dogs within the Sheepfold after staking off the proposed area and conducting an archeological review of the site. Once the area is designated, DCR will post signs alerting the public of the designation and inform the public about rules for conduct and use within the off-lease area.

At the public meeting, DCR staff will present an overview of the plan's contents and recommendations. The full draft plan will be available to the public on the DCR website at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>.

DCR will invite written comments on the draft plan for a period of 60 days. Comments may be submitted via email to rmp.comments@state.ma.us or by mail to Fells Trail Comments, 136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA, 01060.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: McGlynn School Auditorium, 3002 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford

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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 Edward M. Lambert 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.

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