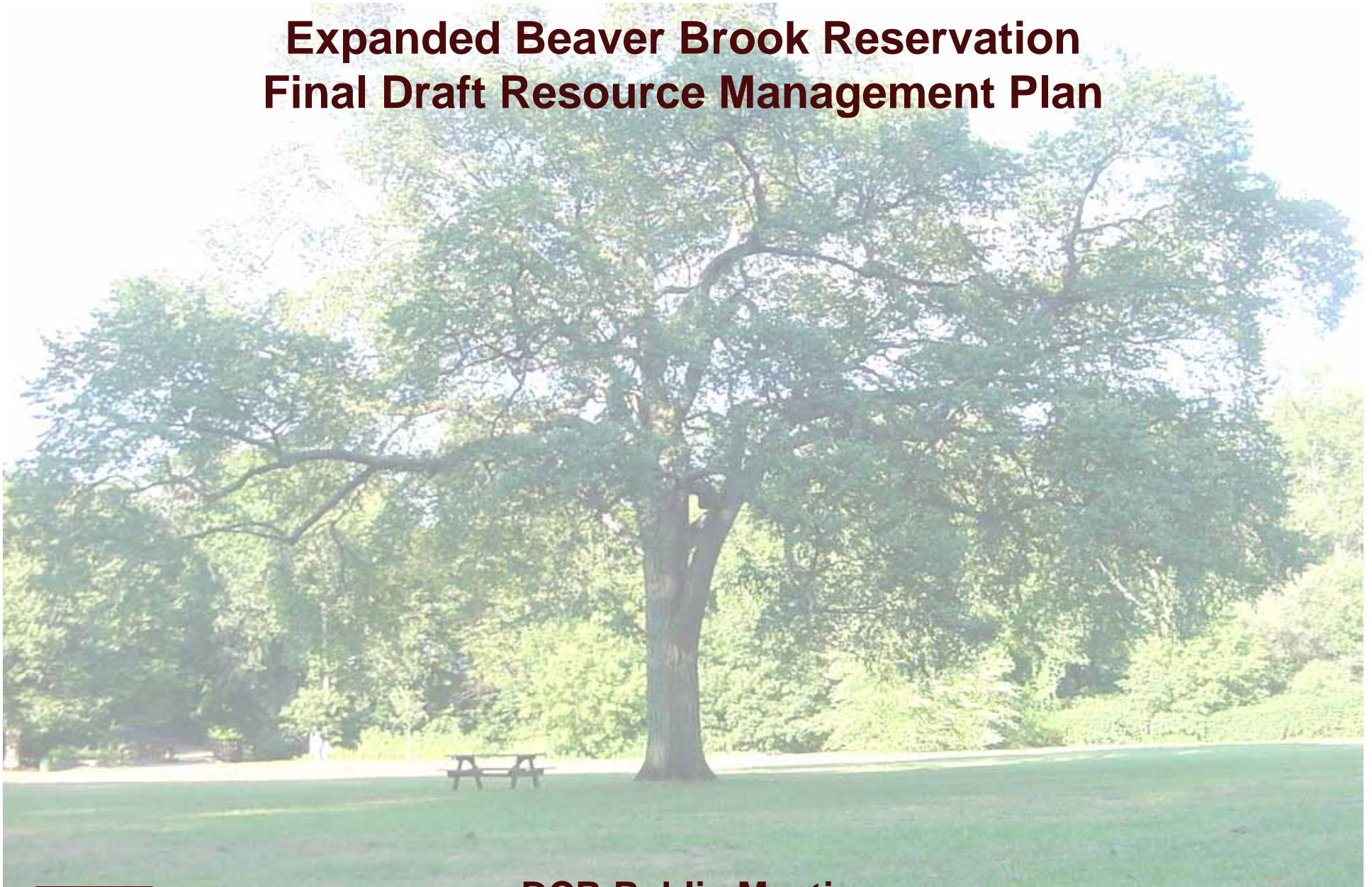


# **Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation Final Draft Resource Management Plan**



**DCR Public Meeting  
November 17, 2009; 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
MA Audubon's Habitat Visitor Center, Belmont**



# Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

**Deval L. Patrick**

Lieutenant Governor

**Timothy Murray**

Energy and Environmental Secretary

**Ian A. Bowles**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

**Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.**



## **DCR Mission Statement**

*To protect, promote and enhance our  
common wealth of natural, cultural and  
recreational resources.*

# Today's Meeting

- Presentation
  - Resource Management Plans – general
  - Resource Management Plan – Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation
  - RMP update
- Public Input
  - Questions and comments
  - Stewardship Action Plan

## Resource Management Plans (RMPs):

- Are working documents that consider the past, present, and future of a property
- Provide a guide to the short and long-term management of properties under the stewardship of the DCR
- Set priorities for capital and operating budgets and resource allocation
- Enhance communication and cooperation with visitors and surrounding communities

# RMP Requirements

Management plans are prepared for “all reservations, parks, and forests under the management of the department”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F

## RMP Requirements

“shall include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of...reservations, parks and forests”

“shall provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources”

“shall ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F

# RMP - Contents

- Property Description
- Existing Conditions
  - Natural, Cultural, and Recreation Resources
  - Interpretive Services and Environmental Education
  - Infrastructure
  - Operational and Capital Requirements
- Defining Characteristics and Goals
- Land Stewardship Zoning
- Management Recommendations

# RMP Project Area – Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation



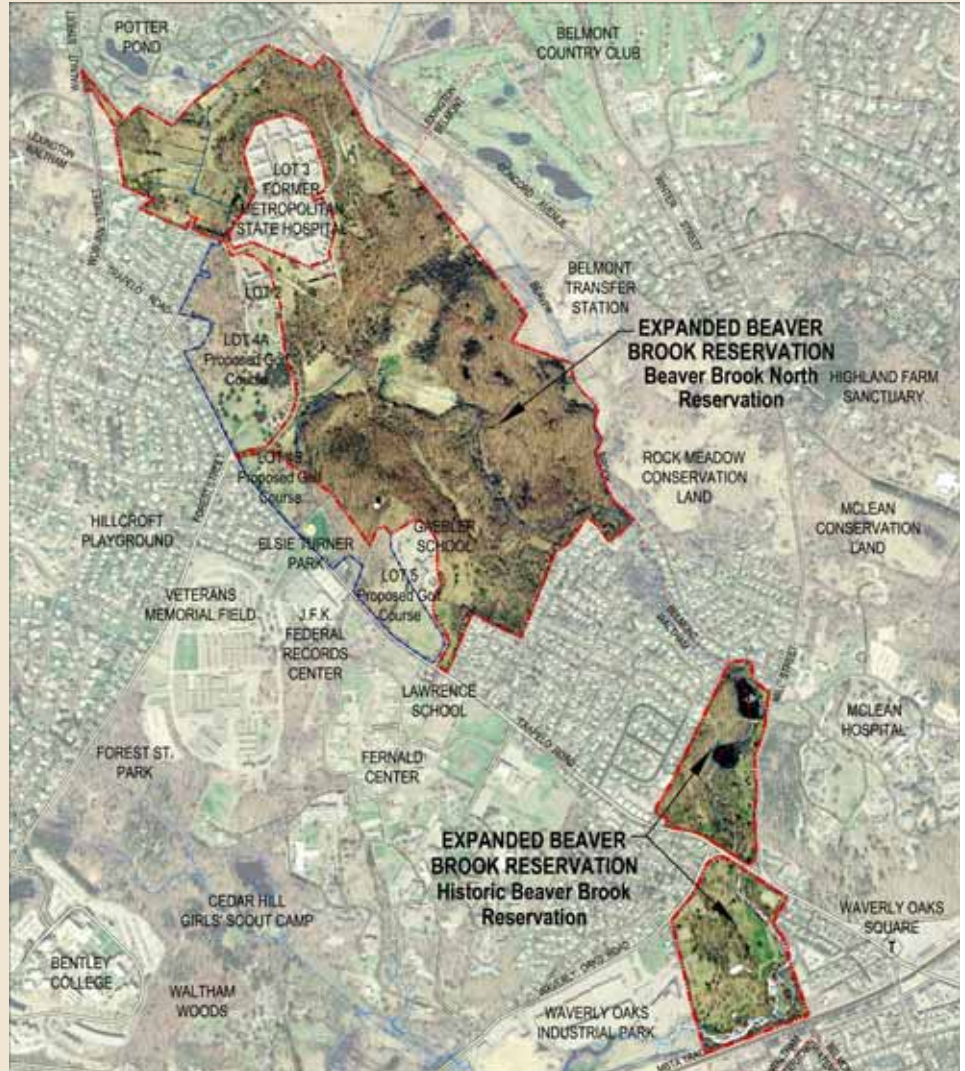
- **Historic Beaver Brook Reservation** (59 acres)



- **Beaver Brook North Reservation** (254 acres)



- **DCR conservation easement on City of Waltham conservation land** (54 acres)



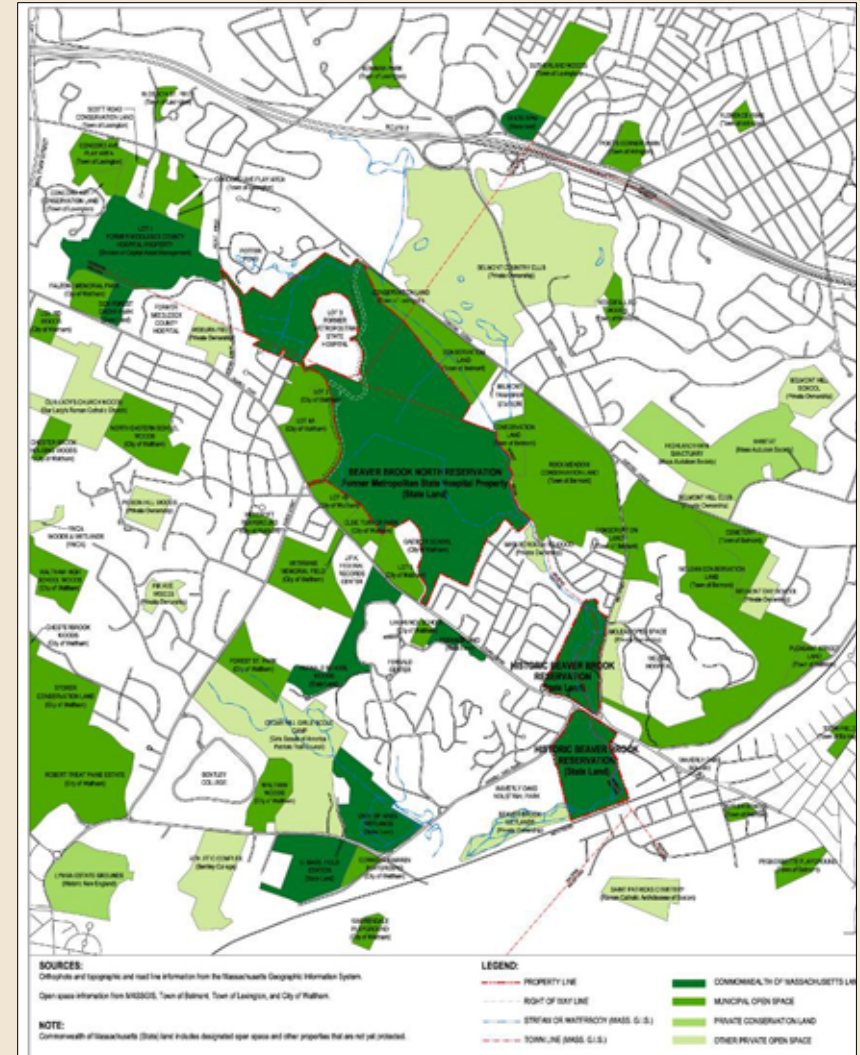
## Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP Time Frame

- Spring 2006 – Pressley Associates hired to prepare draft RMP
- March 7 & May 23, 2006 – Public Meetings to solicit input
- June 2009 – Final draft RMP
- September 10, 2009 – DCR Stewardship Council requests RMP Update and Stewardship Action Plan
- October 26, 2009 – Environmental Monitor notification
- November 17, 2009 – Final Public Meeting
- December 2009\* – RMP Update and Action Plan submitted to DCR Stewardship Council

\* Date subject to change

# Characteristics Adjacent Open Space

- **Western Greenway** connects existing conservation, park, and institutional open spaces that provide wildlife corridors and extended hiking trails. Provisions for long-term public access through the Greenway corridor are critical to its future.
- **North and south sections of the reservation are not contiguous** although they are ecologically connected along Beaver Brook.
- **Adjacent conservation lands and open spaces:** conservation lands of Belmont and Lexington, Mass Audubon Habitat - Highland Farm, Waltham open space.
- **Recent protection of Lot 1 adds to open space continuity.**



## Characteristics Historic Beaver Brook Reservation



- First reservation in the Metropolitan Park System (1893).
- 2 parcels bisected by Trapelo Road. North parcel has two ponds and nature trails - great habitat value. South parcel has play areas, spray pool, picnic areas and paved trails - great recreational and habitat value.



- Buildings: Copeland House, Stearns Barn, picnic pavilion, restroom facility
- Structures: dams, wooden bridges, cascade overlook, stone walls, play structures
- Features: specimen trees, play areas, tennis courts and fields



## Characteristics Beaver Brook North Reservation



- Metropolitan State Hospital property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (1994).
- Former hospital buildings and dump site on DCR land razed and cleaned up by DCAM.
- Wetlands and forest habitat supports a diversity of plant and animal communities.
- Existing structures: water tower, stone walls, wooden bridge.
- Landscape Features: historic cemetery, trails and carriage roads, Mackerel Hill vista.



# Characteristics

## City of Waltham Land

(DCR conservation easement)



- Bisected by the new Metropolitan Parkway North.
- Wetlands and vegetation has great habitat value.
- Open meadows and grasslands provide scenic views.



- Building: former MSH administration building.
- Structures: stone walls, monitoring wells, and sewer & water system infrastructure.



## **Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP Recommendations: Guiding Principles for Stewardship**

- Preserve and enhance the extensive wetlands and natural communities.
- Preserve the cultural resources, including cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, and historic buildings and structures.
- Manage the new Beaver Brook North Reservation as an ecological preserve open to the public.

# Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP Recommendations: Early-Action Accomplishments

*(slide 1 of 2)*

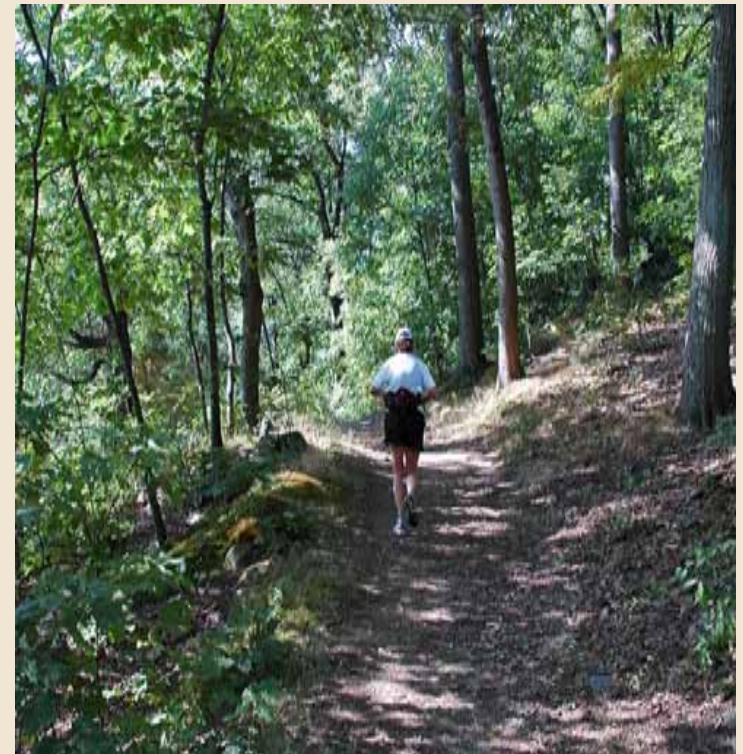
- Protection of 47.5 acre Lot 1 in Lexington, legislation signed by Governor Patrick in July 2008 (Mass Audubon support).
- Stabilization of MetFern Cemetery and development of preservation and maintenance plan.
- Completion of new Metropolitan Parkway with multi-use path (DCAM support).



# Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP Recommendations: Early-Action Accomplishments

*(slide 2 of 2)*

- Building demolition, initiate meadow habitat, and dump site remediation (DCAM support).
- Installation of new Reservation signs (AvalonBay support).
- Removal of former tennis courts and establishment of new public basketball court (AvalonBay support).
- Establishment of trail connections and trail maintenance (Friends of the Western Greenway, NEMBA, Mass Audubon).



## Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP Recommendations: Fostering Partnerships

Discussion of action items that can be accomplished through partnerships with DCR

**Trails:** Assess and maintain or restore existing trails, establish new connections, delineate trails for shared use and accessibility.

**Resource Stewardship:** Sustain existing habitat and control invasives, monitor impacts of uses and protect cultural resources.

**Environmental Education:** Provide interpretive opportunities to build awareness, enhance visitor experience, and improve stewardship.

Handouts will be available at: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

## **Expanded Beaver Brook Reservation RMP**

### **DCR's Next Steps**

- Development of a Stewardship Action Plan
  - 2 Year Plan
  - Long Range Plan
- Submission to the Stewardship Council for Adoption
- Action Plan Implementation

## Additional Information

For more information:

- <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions:

- E-mail: [rmp.comments@state.ma.us](mailto:rmp.comments@state.ma.us)  
*Please include 'Beaver Brook' in the email subject line.*
- Phone: 617-960-7298
- If you would like to receive RMP progress and action plan updates, please email [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us) or call (617) 626-4974. *Please include 'Beaver Brook' in the email subject line.*

