

Chestnut Hill Reservation Improvements

DCR Public Meeting

May 3, 2010, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 pm
355 Chestnut Hill Ave., Boston



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.



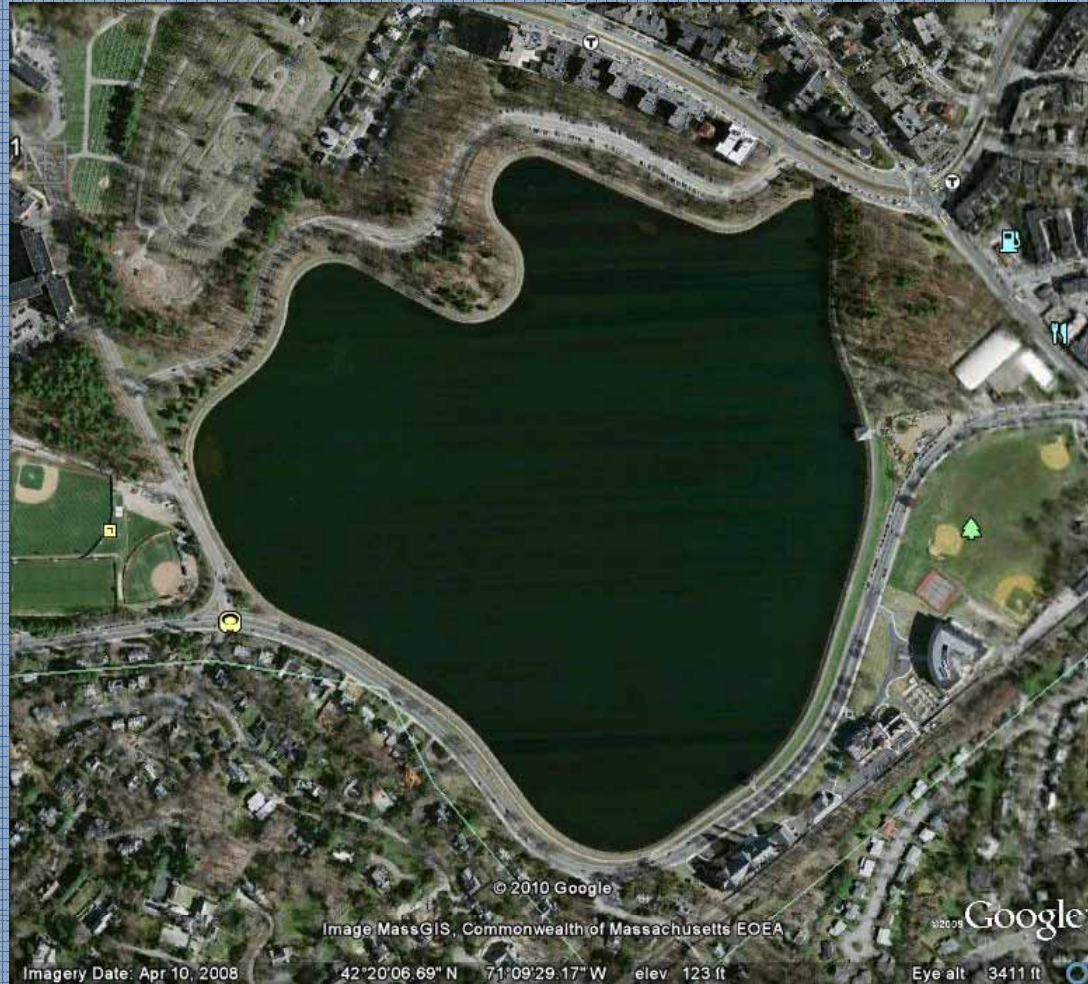
DCR Mission Statement

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

Purpose of Meeting

- Review recent and planned improvements to Chestnut Hill Reservation
- Identify and review priority projects and obtain public input on preferred action plan
- Discuss enhancing DCR communication with the community
- Discuss establishment of Friends Group

Chestnut Hill Reservation



Chestnut Hill Reservation Resource Management Planning (RMP)

- Overview of DCR RMP Process
 - Started in Jan 2005
 - 4 working group meetings
 - 3 public meetings
- Final adoption of CHR RMP by the Stewardship Council on Nov. 30, 2006
- Vegetation Management Plan

History of CHR Improvements

RMP Recommendations Accomplished

HIGH PRIORITY

- Repaired reservoir perimeter path
- Removed 1928-1929 fence
- Hazardous tree management
- Removed the 1977 playground area
- Cleaned out and inspected catch basins
- Installed benches throughout Reservation
- Removed cobble crosswalks along Chestnut Hill Driveway
- Paved pathways along the south side of Chestnut Hill Driveway



RMP Recommendations Accomplished

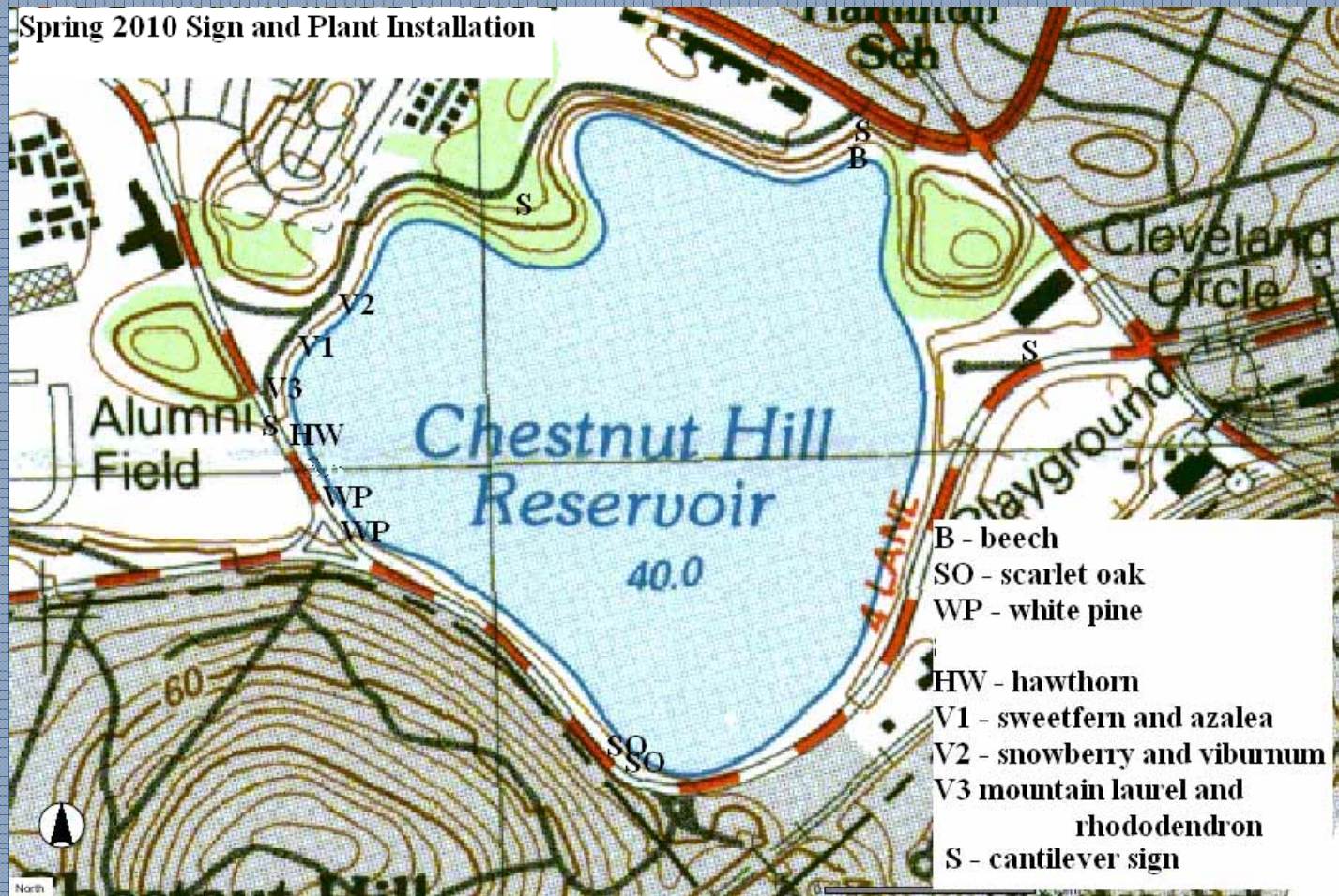
MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Repaved reservoir perimeter path
- Landscape improvements
(ongoing implementation of Vegetation Management Plan)

LOW PRIORITY

- Designed and installed formal pedestrian gateways (ongoing)
- Created new accessible path system
- Installed new general site amenities and landscape enhancements (ongoing implementation of Vegetation Management Plan)
- Created woodland path system

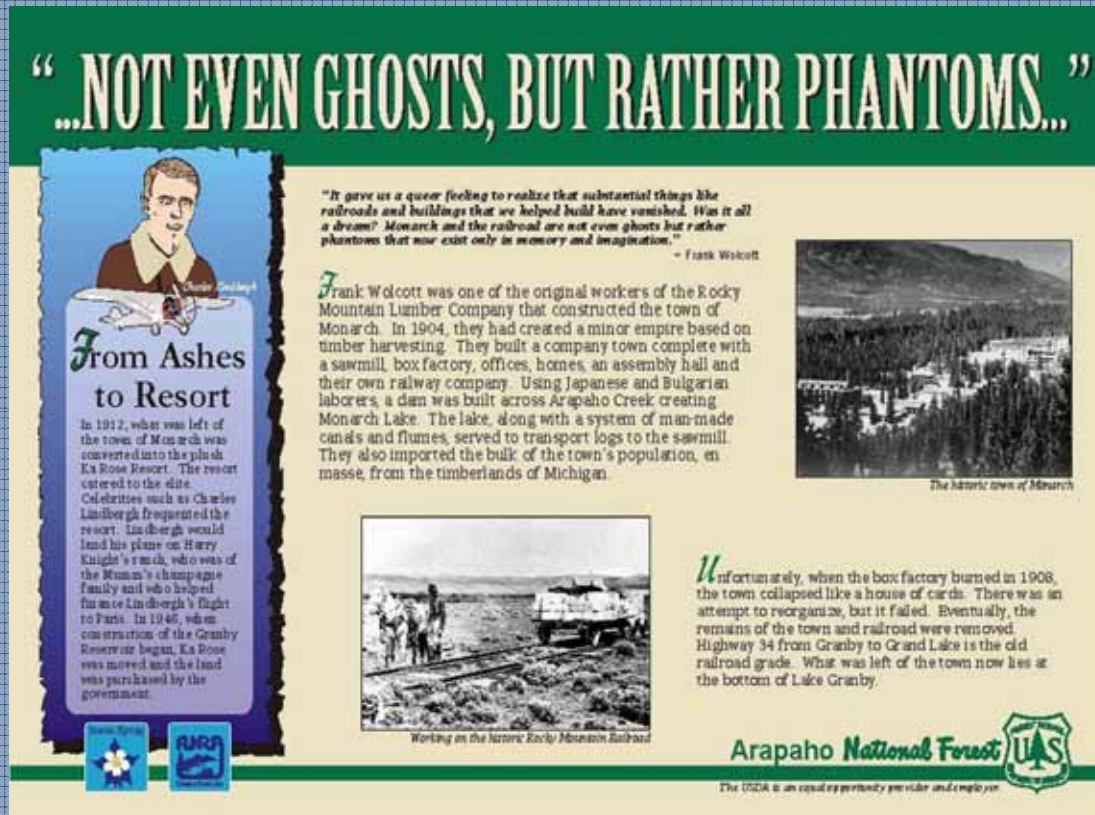
Planting and Sign Improvements - 2010



Available Funding for Remaining RMP Priorities

- Community Benefits Fund
As part of the sale of the Waterworks Property \$900,000 was set aside in a Community Benefits Funds for improvements to Chestnut Hill Reservation
- Remain Amount - \$118,000
These funds do not expire

Interpretive Signs



Location – throughout Reservation

Plan of work – Work with partners to develop

Cost – about \$20,000

Entrance and Parking Improvements



Location – in front of
Reilly Rink/Pool
on Beacon St.

Plan of Work – Use DCR
contracts

Cost – about \$60,000

Stone Wall Repairs



Location – along Chestnut Hill Ave.

Plan of Work – could be split in 2 sections, freestanding section higher priority

Cost – about \$100-200k

Remaining RMP Priority Projects

The following priority projects are not being considered for the expenditure for the Community Benefits funds due to a variety of constraints

- Acquire and Stabilize Gatehouse #1
- Repair stone retaining walls along CH Driveway
- Chestnut Hill Drive rehabilitation
- Develop reuse strategy for Gatehouse #1
- Replace street lights on St. Thomas More Road

DISCUSSION and Q&A

- Stone wall repairs along Chestnut Street sidewalk
- Overlook plantings
- Interpretive signage
- Entrance and Parking Improvements
- Other

Next Steps

- Timeframe for DCR decision and announcement - June
- Posting on website

Walk and Talk with DCR

Discuss upcoming improvements, ongoing maintenance, and future ideas for the park.

Scheduled dates:

- **Thursday April 22, 5 pm**
- **Tuesday June 22, 7 pm**
- **Wednesday August 18, 6 pm**
- **Tuesday October 12, 5 pm**

Meet in the large parking lot by the Reilly Rink/Pool on Beacon Street in front of Gatehouse #1.



DCR Friends Groups: What Do They Do?

- Volunteer for stewardship activities and programs
- Promote park programs and features to their members and community
- Organize educational and cultural activities
- Advocate alongside DCR for resources and support
- Collaborate with DCR to support the Partnerships Matching Funds Program
- Build a sense of stewardship within younger generations
- Support scientific activities
- Work with DCR to help the Conservation Trust and Urban Parks Trust grow

Forming a Friends Group

STEP ONE

Identify others interested in working to get the organization off the ground

- A. A leader to take charge and keep the group on track
- B. “Footsoldiers” to do the necessary grunt work



Forming a Friends Group

STEP TWO

- A. Craft a Mission Statement
- B. Determine organizational form and structure



Forming a Friends Group

STEP THREE

Establish early, achievable priorities

- Prepare necessary organizational paperwork
- Recruit members
- Develop programs and projects
- Identify resource requirements and prepare strategy to meet needs

Additional Information

For more information:

- Web: www.mass.gov/dcr

If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions:

- Email: dcr.updates@state.ma.us
- Phone: 617-626-4974