



April 26, 2010

Dear Interested Citizen or Stakeholder,

On April 8, 2010, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held the second in a series of public meetings regarding plans for improvements at the Houghton's Pond recreation area in the Blue Hills Reservation.

At this meeting, we were pleased to provide an update on the plans for Phase I of the project, involving replacement of one of the three existing ball fields with a new, larger field suitable for Little League and youth league baseball, as well as adult softball. Details regarding the plans for the field, as well as improvements in athlete and spectator amenities and vehicular circulation and parking, can be viewed in the presentation DCR made at the meeting, which is posted at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/parklandspast.htm>. The presentation also includes information on the anticipated timetable for the project and for field opening and closure periods.

Finally, DCR also presented possible future improvements to the recreation area, which will be based on recommendations contained in the Houghton's Pond Recreation Master Plan, expected to be presented to the public in late spring. Among the anticipated future improvements, subject to funding availability, are additional parking along Blue Hill River Road, revised location/alignment and turf improvements for the two existing softball fields, and new bathroom facilities for the fields. Another planned improvement is a new Houghton's Pond bathhouse, which is now under design and expected to be completed in 2012.

A question-and-answer period following the presentation focused on a few key issues: the amount of multi-sport field space that the project will provide; the phased implementation of master plan improvements, particularly turf renovation and irrigation of the remainder of the playing field area and two other ball fields; and permitting. DCR will address these issues at our next public meeting, which will focus on the Master Plan. We will be sending you advance notice of that meeting, which we anticipate will be held this summer.

We appreciate your continued interest as we move forward on this project and encourage you to both view our recent presentation and contact us with questions, concerns, or suggestions by emailing [DCR.Updates@state.ma.us](mailto:DCR.Updates@state.ma.us), noting "Houghton's Pond Recreation Area" in the subject line or by calling 617-626-4974.

Sincerely,

Samantha Overton Bussell  
Acting Director of Urban Parks

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