

Myles Standish State Forest Draft Resource Management Plan



Meadow Rider, Ron Hunter



White-tailed Deer, Bob Conway

Public Meeting

July 14, 2011; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Myles Standish State Forest



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Lieutenant Governor

Timothy Murray

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

DCR Mission Statement



American Lady Butterfly on Asters, Bob Conway

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

Tonight's Presentation



First Fish Ever, Paula Cheverie

- Myles Standish RMP Schedule
- Preview of Draft Myles Standish Resource Management Plan
 - Content and Format
 - Management Principle and Goals
 - Major Findings
 - Draft Recommendations
- Public Comments

RMP Schedule



Sweet Pepper-bush, Julie Outericky

September 2010	Initial Public Meeting
November 2010- February 2011	Friends of MSSF RMP Workshops
May 2011	Preview of Draft RMP
July 15, 2011	Release Draft RMP for 60 Day Public Comment Period
Fall 2011	Revise RMP in Response to Public Comments
Winter 2011	Submit Final RMP to DCR Stewardship Council for its Review and Approval

RMP Requirements



Dragonfly, Ted Stevens

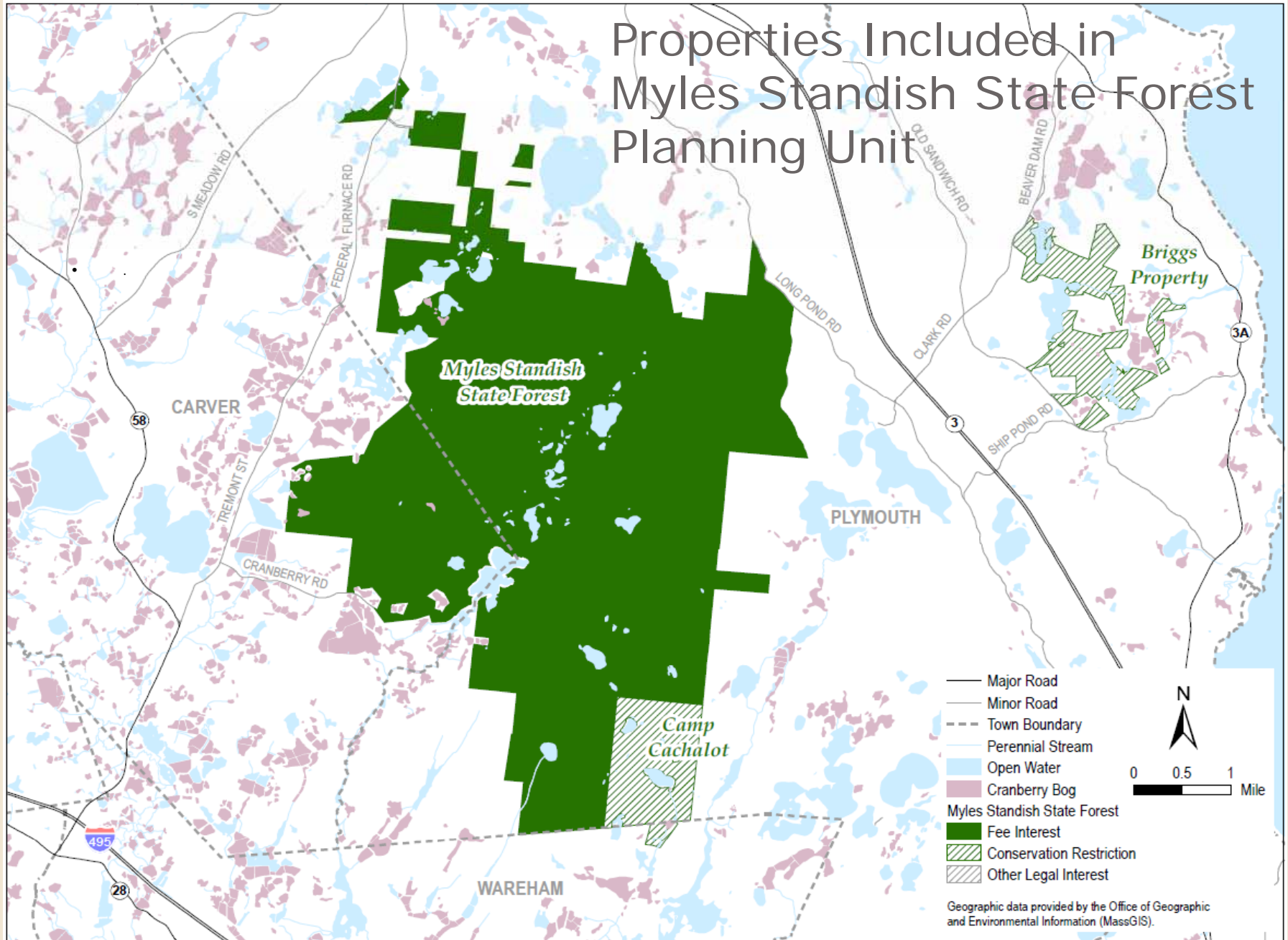
“shall include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of...reservations, parks and forests”

“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

Properties Included in Myles Standish State Forest Planning Unit



Format of Myles Standish RMP



Barrett Pond Yurts, Paul Cavanaugh

- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Existing Conditions
- Land Stewardship Zoning
- Management Recommendations
- Appendices

Management Principle

“Through the creative use of limited state management resources and partnerships, achieve a sustainable balance between providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities, and the conservation of important natural and cultural resources.”



Barrett Pond Camp, Epsilon



Northern Red-bellied Cooter, VDGIF

Goal: Maintain and Enhance Habitats for Rare Species, Native Plants and Wildlife



Pine Barrens, Bob Conway

Natural Resource Findings:

- 3,365 Acres of Native White Pine and Hardwood Forests
- 6,641 Acres of Globally Rare Pine Barrens
- 1,143 Acres of Conifer Plantations
- Scots Pine Plantations Are Dying
- 41 State-listed Rare Species
- Statewide Decline of Grassland and Dry Open Woodland Bird Species

Draft Natural Resource Recommendations

- Implement fire management program
- Continue the current ban on motorized off-highway vehicles
- Remove non-native tree plantations
- Maintain a variety of grasslands and early successional forests



Controlled Burn, DCR



OHV Damage, Tom Delisle

Goal: Enhance the Quality of Water Resources



Autumn on Widgeon Pond, Connie Johnson

Water Resource Findings:

- 58 Kettle Hole Ponds
- Coastal Plain Pondshores Support 20 Rare Plant and Animal Species
- 10 Certified Vernal Pools
- 93 Potential Vernal Pools
- Plymouth Carver Sole Source Aquifer

Draft Water Resource Recommendations

- Repair shore line erosion at existing recreational areas
- Post invasive species warning signs at fisherman landings



Fearing Pond Shore Erosion , DCR



Coastal Plain Pond Shore, Epsilon

Goal: Preserve the Distinct Scenic and Cultural Qualities of the Forest



Wampanoag Village, Plimoth Plantation

Cultural Resource Findings:

- High frequency of prehistoric sites in the Plymouth/Carver region
- 5 prehistoric sites recorded in forest were first occupied 9,500 years ago
- Fearing Pond log bathhouse is the only CCC bathhouse left in the DCR system

Draft Cultural Resource Recommendations

- Stabilize the Fearing Pond CCC Log Bathhouse
- Find a park use for the Perry House



Fearing Pond CCC Log Bathhouse, DCR



Perry House, DCR

Goal: Provide Diverse Opportunities for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation



Bikers, DCR

Existing Recreational Resources:

- 429 camp sites around four ponds
- 15 miles of paved bike trails
- 28 miles of equestrian trails
- 79 miles of hiking trails and unpaved forest roads
- 138 private cottages at six ponds

UMass 2009 Visitor Survey:

- Visitors liked peace and quiet, clean ponds with great swimming, cleanliness and being in nature
- Visitors disliked unclean campground bathrooms and noisy campers

Draft Recreation Recommendations

- Repair the road over the East Head Reservoir dam
- Re-open the Fearing Pond day use area
- Increase frequency of comfort station cleaning on peak weekends
- Repair the paved bike trails
- Expand College Pond day use area beach
- Require Title 5 compliance for all buildings in the Forest



East Head Reservoir Dam Road, DCR



College Pond Day Use Area Beach © Kindra Clineff

Goal: Expand Interpretive Programs



Fishing Clinic, Captain Jack Renfrew

Interpretive Findings:

- 2 seasonal interpreters available mid-June through August
- 15 interpretive programs including:
 - Cranberry Bog Tour
 - Nature Exploration
 - Swamp Tromp
 - Bike Hike
 - Family Campfire
 - Fishing Clinic
 - Fire Tower Climb
- No Interior Program Space

Draft Interpretive Services Recommendations

- Provide interpretive panels with a forest overview and trail map holders at trailhead parking areas
- Conduct a visitors center feasibility study



Story at CCC Amphitheater, Judy Perry



Bird Watchers, Ron Hunter

Goal: Work with Partners to Achieve Management Goals

Partnership Findings:

- DCR operating budget decreased by 30.6% from fiscal year 2009 to 2011
- Friends of MSSF sponsor:
 - Pine Barrens Community Initiative
 - Native plant greenhouse and garden
 - Trail enhancement projects
 - Annual fishing derby
 - Annual photo contest
- Division of Fish and Game operates Pheasant and Quail Wildlife Areas



Frost Pocket, Epsilon

Draft Partnership Recommendations

- Work with partners to identify and control invasive plant species in sensitive natural communities
- Work with partners to establish a native plant garden and pine barrens interpretive programs



Friends of MSSF Fishing Derby, Melissa Guimont

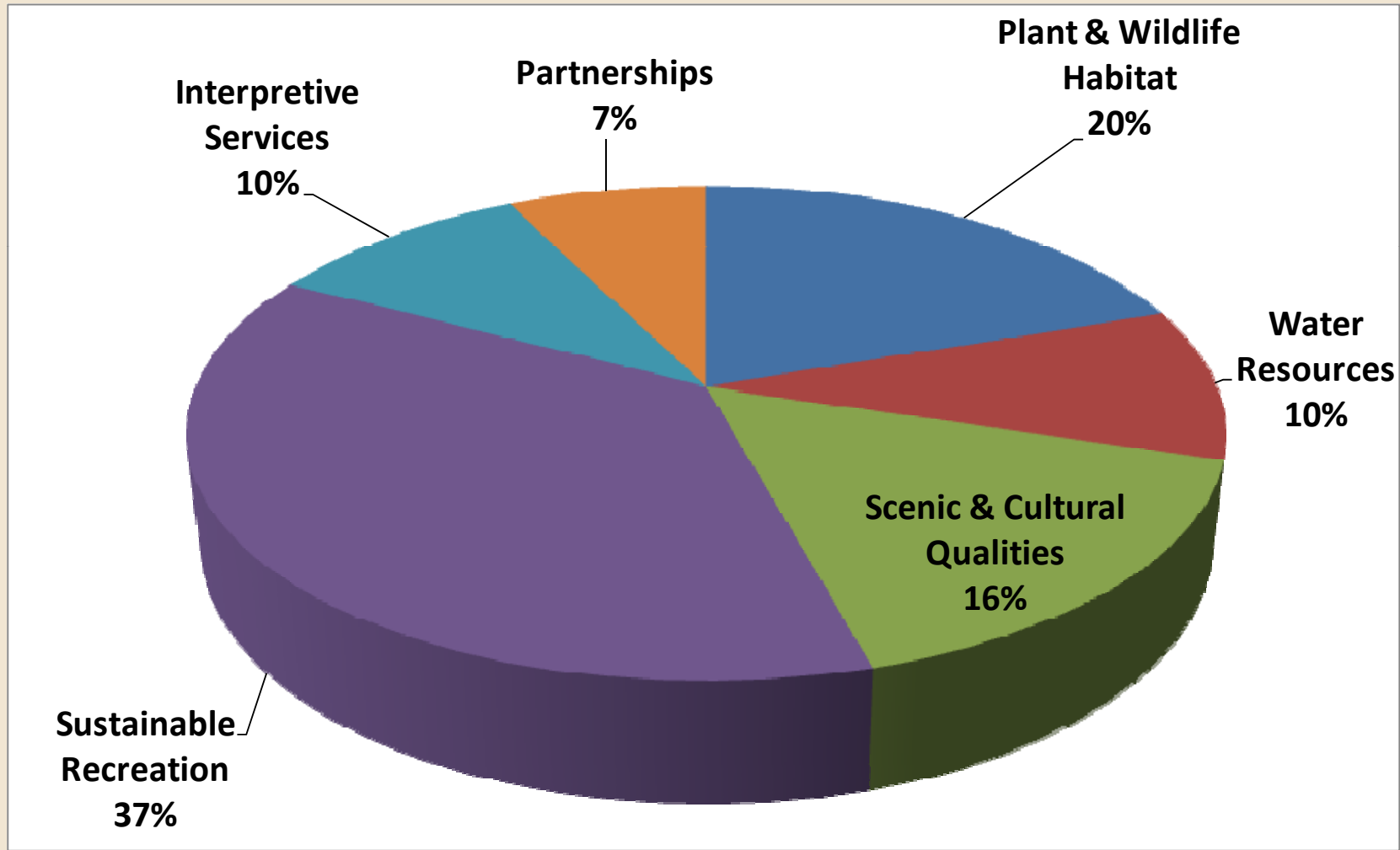


Monarch Butterflies, Bob Conway

Number of Management Recommendations By Priority and Funding Availability

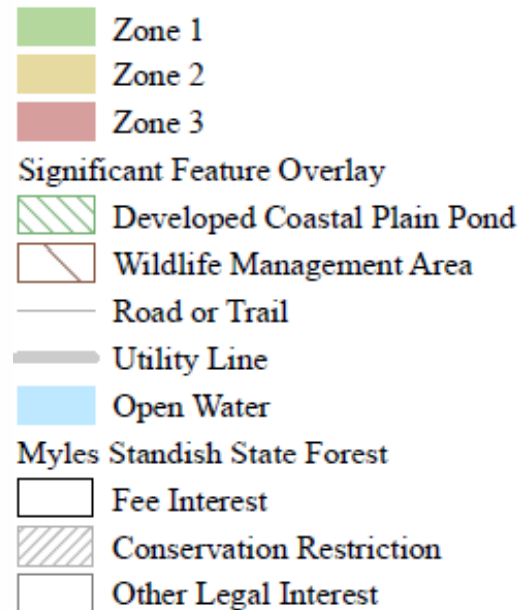
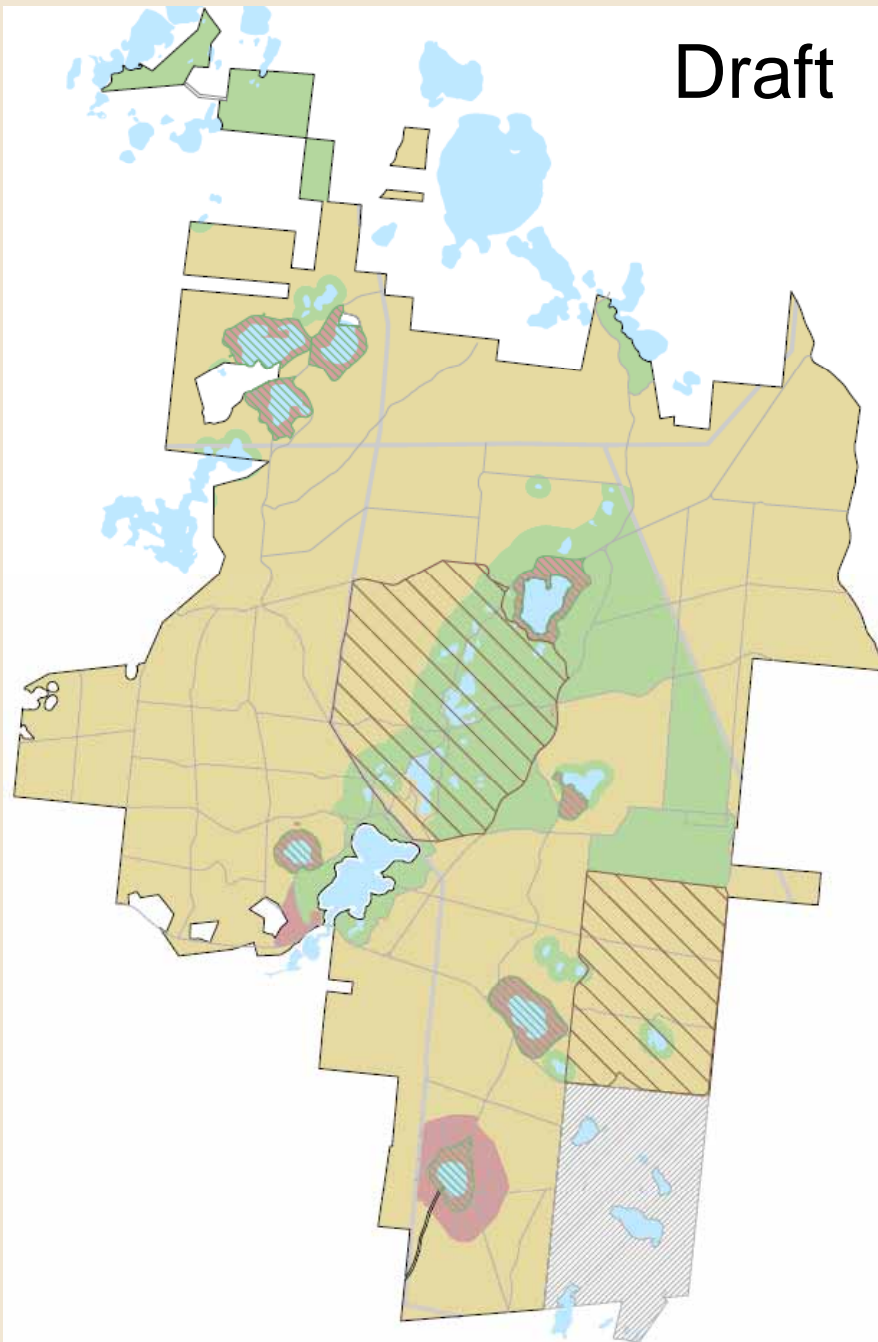
Priority	Funding Currently Available	Funding May Be Available in Near Future	Funding Unavailable in Near Future	Total
High	12	11	0	23
Medium	16	19	6	41
Low	5	5	7	17
Total	29	34	13	81

Draft Management Recommendations By Goal



Draft Land Stewardship Zoning

- Zone 1 Sensitive Resources
- Zone 2 Conservation Areas
- Zone 3 Intensive Use Areas
- Developed Ponds Overlay
- Wildlife Management Areas



This Presentation and the Draft RMP Will Be Available Online At:

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



Morning Calm, Connie Johnson



Winter Woods, Ron Hunter

Public Comments

Please send your comments to:

E-mail: dcr.updates@state.ma.us
Please put "MSSF RMP" in the subject line

U.S. Mail: Office of Public Outreach
Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02114

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR will be posted in their entirety on the DCR website, and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.

Questions and Comments



Sunset, Widgeon Pond, Sally Davol