

Presentation for Boston Parks Advocates

January 19, 2010



By Samantha Overton Bussell
Deputy Director of Division of Urban Parks and
Recreation

- Budget Updates
- Maintenance Schedules and Standards
- Communications Between Park Users and Park Agencies
- Working with Partners, Volunteers and Non-profits
- Other Issues: Programs

DCR Mission



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

DCR Plays an important role in the lives of the people that live, visit and work in Massachusetts

*in the parks in our hometowns
on the road we take to work
at the beaches we visit
at the playgrounds we bring our families to
in the water we drink and
And in the places we treasure*

PLAY YOUR ROLE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



DCR Budget: Focus is Sustaining Parks

- DCR's current level of operating funding for FY10 is approximately \$78.3 million, as compared with an operating budget of \$101.9 million in FY2009 – a reduction of nearly 23%.
- DCR's approved capital spending plan for FY10 is approximately \$90 million, as compared with 102.4 in FY 2009.

DCR's Budget Goals:

Maximize DCR Resources to Provide:

- A Positive Visitor Experience
- Quality Programming
- Continued investment in our parks and properties statewide
- Sustain park operations
- Ensure Public Safety

Budget Cuts: Impact on Staffing Levels

- DCR has lost over 171 positions or more than 18% of its full-time workforce over the past year and a half through retirements, attrition, and layoffs.
 - 54 staff opted for voluntary layoff or retirement – loss of nearly 1400 years of service
 - A reduction in Force, consisting of the elimination of 37 positions and layoff of 29 staff

Budget Cuts: Impact on Staffing Levels

- Seasonal Staffing Plans
 - We are currently working on seasonal staffing plans.
 - Priorities will be waterfront and sustaining core park operation and maintenance

- Questions and Answers
Budget

Maintenance Schedules and Standards

- Purpose: Share with public our commitment to planned cycle of maintenance
- Posted at Facilities Statewide
- Accessible on website
- Bathroom Maintenance Record



This schedule represents the DCR's commitment to maintenance for Carson Beach for summer 2009. Please contact our Community Relations Office at 617-626-4973 if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns. www.massparks.org

Sites such as Carson Beach encompass beach, parkways, sidewalks, playgrounds, bathrooms and other small greens spaces that are grouped together.

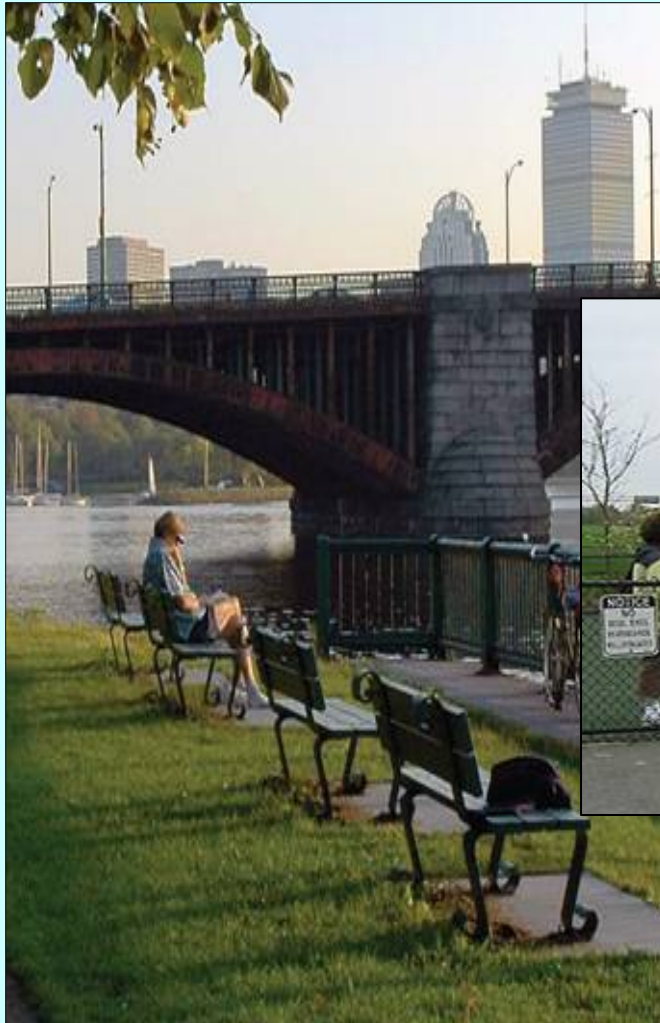
	Task	Frequency
	Mowing-Edge Trimming (in Beach Area)	Every 10-14 Days
	Weeding Grassy/Paved Areas	Every 30 Days
	Trash Barrel Pick Up	Every Day
	Beach Sanitizing	Every 4-5 days
	Bathroom Cleaning	Every Day
	Street Sweeping	Every 7-14 Days

Enjoy your visit...It's your nature

Maintenance Schedules and Standards

- Organized by DCR's management region and district
- Each district has a number of sites which are classified as recreational or parkway facilities that require regular maintenance over the spring season each

The Esplanade



Playground at Pope John Paul II Park

Maintenance Schedules

- The maintenance plans provide the intended planned cycle of maintenance for the spring/summer tasks including mowing, weeding grassy and paved areas, trash barrel pick up, litter removal, beach sanitizing, playground inspections, bathroom cleaning, sweeping of parkways and parking lots and catch basin cleaning.
- Sites may encompass ball fields, playgrounds, bathrooms and other small assets within the same geographical area.
- The Maintenance Plans are posted Spring (May 1st) summer (July 1) and fall (after labor day), on our website at www.mass.gov/dcr



Sample Maintenance Plan For Carson Beach

KEY

- AN=As Needed
- A= Annually
- E=Every "X" Days
- * = See comments

SITE	Parkway (Pkwy) or Recreation Facility (Rec)	Community	Mow//Trim	Weed Grassy/Non-Paved Area [MOW]	Weed Paved Area [PAVED WEED]	Trash Barrel Pickup [TRASH]	Litter Removal [LITTR]	Beach Ongoing Maint. [BEACH]	Belfield	Playground [FIELD]	Bathroom [PLAYG]	Sweep [BATHR]	Catch Basin/drain [SWEEP]	[CATCB]	Comments
Carson Beach	Rec	South Boston	E7	E30	E30	E1	E1	E4			E1-C	E3-4	A		
Castle Island	Rec	South Boston	E3-4	E30	E30	E1	E1	E4		E7	E1	E3-4	A		

Maintenance Plan Key

- The maintenance frequency is identified for each task is typically marked as one of the following codes:
- **E= Every "X" number of days.**
- ***Example:***
- **E7** indicates that the task is performed every seven (7) **calendar** days.
- **AN= As Needed**
- ***Example:***
- **E14/ AN** = Task to be performed every 14 days at a minimum or more often as needed.
- **A= Annually**
- ***Example:***
- Catch Basin Cleaning is done annually at most sites
- *** = See Comments**
- ***Example:***
- **E1-C*** Comment explains and or provides more detail about the task or site. For example at Nantasket Beach Reservation the bathrooms are cleaned continuously throughout the day.

- Questions and Answers
Maintenance Schedules

- Communications Between Park Users and Park Agencies

Communications Between DCR and Park Users

- DCR has a communication tracking system that all calls, emails or letters are logged into.
- Each constituent issue gets a unique number to be easily tracked by staff for follow through and eventual “close out” when issue has been resolved.
- Once the call/email/letter is logged into the electronic system that entry is sent out to the Region/District staff who are best able to answer the question or address issue.

Communications Between DCR and Park Users

- When the field staff have corrected an issue the constituent will get a communication (email or phone) back from a Community Relations staff person.

Questions, Concerns or Kudos Regarding a DCR Property?

Email: mass.parks@state.ma.us

Call:

DCR Community Relations 617-626-4573

or

DCR main number 617-626-1250

DCR's Public Meetings

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is committed to sharing information with the public and to engaging them in dialogue on the issues, programs, and projects that relate to our agency's broad conservation and recreation mission. Over the last two years, under the leadership of Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary Ian Bowles, and DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan, DCR has worked to develop processes and strategies that support this objective, including opportunities for the public to gain information, voice concerns, and provide comments and suggestions.

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

To join a list serve for a particular process
please
email or call

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

- Questions and Answers
Communications Between Park
Users and DCR

- Working with Partners, Volunteers and Non-Profits

Partnerships Task Force

- Chaired by DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan and EOEEA Senior Policy Advisor Christian Scorzoni
- To facilitate a comprehensive discussion among visitors, friends groups, non-profits, municipalities, and business communities that focuses upon the Administration's efforts to realign the agency's core mission to protect and enhance the state's important natural assets – particularly its parks, beaches, and forests.



Ongoing DCR Partnerships/Initiatives

DCR engages in a broad range of partnerships with:

- Individual and organizational volunteers
- DCR Friends Groups and Advisory Councils
- Statewide environmental advocacy organizations
- Nonprofit community organizations and educational and health care institutions
- Businesses
- Municipalities
- Federal and state legislators and agencies

DCR Partnership Opportunities

- Pools
- Rinks
- Historic Curatorship Program



DCR Partnership Opportunities

- **If you are interested in being part of the partnership list serve please email or call our Director of Partnerships, Conrad Crawford.**
- **Phone 617-626-4964**
- **Email:
conrad.crawford@state.ma.us**

- Question and Answers
Working with Partners

- Other Issues:
- DCR's Focus on Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

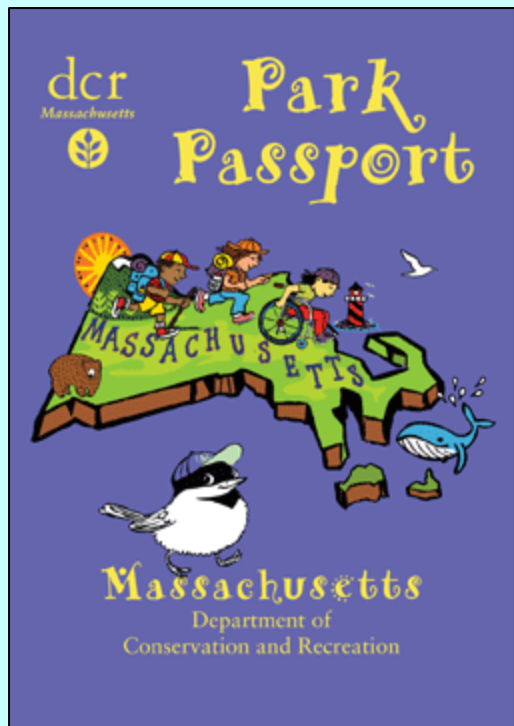
Healthy Lifestyles

- Parks Passport Program-Phase 2
Focus on Recreational Activities
- First Day Hikes
- DCR Parks Pass Programs
- Healthy Staff Initiative
- Healthy Heart Trails



Healthy Lifestyles

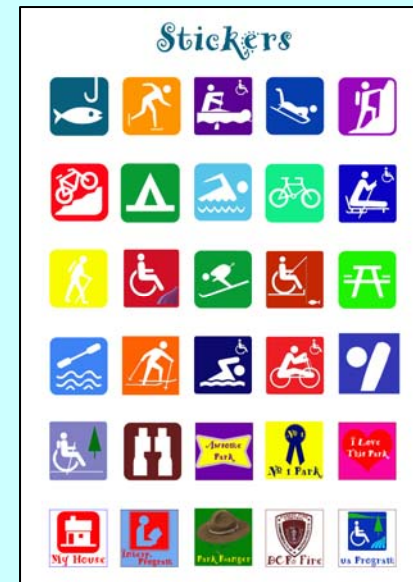
Park Passport Program
Where Shall We Go Today and
What Shall We Do Today?



Healthy Lifestyles

Park Passport Program-2009 Enhancements

- Create statewide map
- Release Recreational Activity based stickers
- Provide School Passport
- Recycling Bag Reward



Healthy Lifestyles

First Day Events

- Facilitated family hikes in 16 locations with 1427 participants
- Held First Day Skates at 2 Urban Rinks
- Promotes DCR trails as part of a healthy lifestyle
- Allows participants to connect with the outdoors and enjoy fellowship with other visitors



Healthy Lifestyles

Pass Programs

- 233 Participating Libraries (includes all Boston Branches)
- 51 Participating Recreational Departments



Healthy Lifestyles

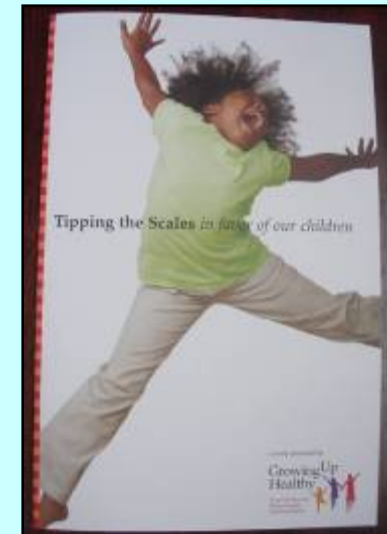
Healthy Heart Trails

- 70 trails statewide
- 8 in Boston and 33 greater Boston
- Designated trails and pathways used for hiking or walking that are 1.5 miles or less, easy to moderate in activity level and intended for routine use
- Symbol to mark designated trails



Healthy Lifestyle Healthy Heart Trails

- Redesign DCR Trail Maps to show Healthy Heart Trails
- Partner with public health, health care companies and communities to advertise Healthy Heart Trails
- Web page with downloadable tracking chart
- Launched on June 2009 at Castle Island



Teamwork Recycling Program

- Launched March 2009 – 125.02 tons recycled in Urban Parks
- Recycling Baskets at major parks, beaches, pools, rinks and special events
- Environmental Programming Message
- Special Event Trailers



MASSACHUSETTS Teamwork



PARK SERVE DAY

Park Serve Day- April 25, 2009

Pick a Park-Dedicate a Day-Make a Difference

- 67 parks participated
- 4,072 Volunteers
- 15,634 Volunteer Hours
- 51.2 Tons of Trash Collected
- 81, 785 Flowers Planted
- 20 Trees Planted
- 18 Shrubs Planted



- **Save the Date :**
Saturday, April 24, 2010

MASSACHUSETTS



PARK SERVE DAY

Pick a Park-Dedicate a Day-Make a Difference