



WHAT'S NEW IN MA STATE PARK CAMPING JANUARY 2009

2009 Construction and Closures at MA State Park Campgrounds

Horseneck Beach State Reservation in Westport Point, MA

In 2007 DCR announced that Horseneck Beach State Reservation would undergo a capital improvement program to both improve customer services and protect the Reservation's sensitive coastal environment. This exciting \$8.5M renovation project began to take shape in July, 2007. Be sure to check out the two new bathhouses that include composting toilets, outdoor rinsing stations and beautiful boardwalks connecting to the beach. Also, the campground is sporting a new contact station!

The renovation project also includes a new campground design. With the new design, DCR hopes to revitalize the aging campground, retain the total number of sites available, accommodate hookup camping, facilitate access to the waterfront area for all campers and protect the sensitive coastal ecosystem.

At this time, **the campground redesign is on hold, and this phase of the project will not impact the 2009 season.** When the agency moves forward on redesigning the campground, DCR will post options on its website and will schedule an informational meeting to share ideas and receive public input. The season for Horseneck Beach camping in 2009 is May 1 – October 11, 2009. All Horseneck Beach campsites which were open to the public in 2008 will again be available in 2009. DCR has made some minor adjustments to its designation of host and management sites for the 2009 season. DCR has reassigned host and management sites, previously on the waterfront, to other locations in the campground (sites 12, 18 and 49). Therefore, in 2009, sites 83, 70, and 63 will be reservable.

Massasoit State Park in East Taunton, MA

Campers should note that the campground at [Massasoit State Park](#) will be closed for the 2009 season, as the electric system servicing the campground is in need of repair. Although Massasoit's campground is closed in 2009, other state park camping opportunities are available in the southeast region of the state. Both [Myles Standish State Forest](#) and [Scusset Beach State Reservation](#) are accepting reservations for the 2009 season.

Peddocks Island on the Boston Harbor Islands in Boston, MA

Campers should note that Peddocks Island will be closed for the 2009 season, as DCR works to improve the site. Although Peddocks Island is closed in 2009, camping opportunities are available on Grape, Bumpkin, and Lovells Island. If you enjoy island camping, an additional opportunity is available at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (WBNERR) in Falmouth on Cape Cod.



In 2009 Customers See Improvements in MA State Campgrounds

Yurts at Wells State Park in Sturbridge as well as Willard Brook State Forest in Townsend!

We are pleased to announce Wells State Park in Sturbridge will offer yurt camping in 2009. Yurt camping is a fun way to enjoy the outdoors with a few comforts of home. Yurts are canvas sided, cabin-like structures that can accommodate 4 to 6 people. Yurts offer bunk beds, chairs and tables. Linens and eating utensils are not provided. Access to electricity and water is also provided. Please note that pets are not permitted in cabins or yurts across the MA State Park campground system, nor are they allowed on Boston Harbor Islands. Customers may also enjoy yurt camping at Nickerson State Park in Brewster, Shawme-Crowell State Forest in Sandwich, Otter River State Forest in Baldwinville, and October Mountain State Forest in Lee. Also, stay tuned for a late summer opening at Willard Brook State Forest, where we are currently developing the site for a group yurt that will sleep 20 people!

Parkway Finished and Hike-In Camping Only at Mt. Greylock State Reservation

The 2009 season will bring some exciting changes at Mt. Greylock State Reservation in Massachusetts. The two year reconstruction project on the Mt. Greylock parkway was completed in October 2008. The parkway provides vehicle access to the 3,491 foot summit of Mt. Greylock from the towns of North Adams and Lanesborough, and will reopen in mid-May, 2009. Another important change at Mt. Greylock is that DCR plans to continue to offer the unique car-free camping experience at the Mt. Greylock Campground that so many enjoyed during the last two years.

During parkway reconstruction, access to the campground was limited to a strenuous 2.5 mile uphill hike. Despite the challenge, many campers chose the secluded campground over other car-accessible campgrounds in the area. Recognizing the limited opportunities for car-free camping within DCR's thirty-one campground system, the agency has decided to continue to offer a car-free experience at the Mt. Greylock Campground. However, a new parking area off the Mt. Greylock parkway will offer campers a 1.5 mile, relatively-easy hike to the campground.

The campground change is in response to a growing number of customer requests for a camping experience that is different from typical car camping. We frequently hear from campers that they would like a camping experience that is not as challenging as backpacking on the Appalachian Trail, but more challenging than a hike from their car's trunk to the picnic table. We believe the Mt. Greylock Campground, which offers great access to spectacular views, and a rare alpine environment, is the perfect opportunity to offer such a unique experience.

Under the plan, campers have two options of accessing the campground. They may choose to park off the Mt. Greylock parkway and hike approximately 1.5 miles along the Campground Trail to the campground, or choose a more strenuous uphill hike of 2.5 miles from the Hopper Road Trail Head. For more information regarding the Mt. Greylock Campground, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/parks/mtGreylock/>. To make a reservation for the Mt. Greylock campground, visit www.reserveamerica.com or call 877-422-6762.

We look forward to serving you in 2009!

MA Department of Conservation and Recreation