



## Historic Curatorship Program

Department of Conservation and Recreation

October 2011

Since 1994, DCR's Historic Curatorship Program has preserved 17 of its unused historic properties and leveraged over \$12 million in outside investment

Within the Commonwealth's 450,000 acres of State and Urban Parks are a number of unused, historically significant buildings. Over time, these properties have fallen prey to the elements and vandalism. The **Historic Curatorship Program** was established in to preserve these properties through a unique public-private partnership.

Through the program, DCR partners with a Curator who agrees to rehabilitate, manage and maintain a historic property in return for a long-term lease. As a result, DCR secures the long-term preservation of threatened historic sites and Curators exchange their hard work and unique skills for the opportunity to live or work in a one-of-a-kind location.



**Glendledge Cottage, Halibut Point State Park, Rockport, Before and After**



**Garden tour, Litchfield House, Great Brook Farm State Park**

Curators are selected through an open and competitive process and proposed reuses must be compatible with the historic and natural character of the park or forest. Proposals are evaluated according to the experience of the applicant, the quality of the reuse plan, proof of sufficient resources to undertake the project, and level of public benefit beyond providing biannual public access. Average lease terms range from 20 to 30 years.



**Bradley Palmer Mansion (Willowdale Estate), Bradley Palmer State Park, Topsfield**



**Gatekeeper's House, Lowell Heritage State Park  
Before and After**

**PROBLEM:** Dozens and dozens of unused state-owned historic properties site under-used and under-maintained

**SOLUTION:** 1994 - State creates program that allows outside parties to rehabilitate, manage and maintain these invaluable resources in return for a long term lease

**OPPORTUNITY:** Curators contribute their investment, skills, and hard work and live or work in a one of a kind property in a one of a kind location.

**RESULT:** Eyesores and liabilities transformed into valuable assets that compliment or enhance the visitor experience at little cost to the citizens of the Commonwealth

**PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS**

60 properties eligible under legislation

17 Properties Under Agreement:

8: residential

2: non-profit

3: municipality in partnership with non-profit

4: for profit

Represents over \$10 million of outside investment



**Diners enjoying a meal at Bascom Lodge, Mt. Greylock  
State Reservation**

For more information on the program, please contact:

Kevin Allen  
Historic Curatorship Program Manager  
Office of Cultural Resources  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 700  
Boston, MA 02114-2119  
HCP.Requests@state.ma.us  
617-626-1361

OR VISIT

[mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator](http://mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator)