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DCR TO HOST GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR NEW SWIMMING POOL IN WALTHAM

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on April 6 to celebrate the start of work on the new Connors Memorial Swimming Pool in Waltham.

“We are delighted to be breaking ground on what will be a beautiful, new, family-friendly facility,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “The Connors pool has been closed for more than seven years. This will be a welcome recreational addition to the Waltham-area community.”

The groundbreaking ceremony will be Monday, April 6, at 2 p.m. at the pool site, 330 River St., Waltham.

DCR has contracted with Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield to demolish the existing bathhouse and part of the existing pool, and design work is expected to begin soon on a new bathhouse and new pool. The shell of the old pool will be used as a form for the new one.

Demolition work at the site is beginning now, and construction is expected to start in spring 2010. The new pool and bathhouse are expected to open in 2011.

This project symbolizes the Patrick Administration’s ongoing commitment to revitalizing state parks and recreational facilities across the state. It is one of many projects funded by a five-year, \$1.7 billion environmental bond bill signed by Governor Patrick in August 2008.

The Connors Memorial Pool complex was built in 1954 and closed in 2001 due to the unsafe, deteriorating condition of the bathhouse. Under the Patrick administration, DCR has begun the process of creating a new pool and bathhouse facility that is safe, accessible, and low maintenance, and that will directly benefit the health and recreation interests of area residents.

The new pool will have a gradual beach entry, a separate lap area, a contained area for small children, and an open swim area for adults and older children.

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State Senator Susan Fargo praised neighbors and city officials for working with DCR.

“The new Connors Pool will be a wonderful place for all to enjoy,” Senator Fargo said. “We have all worked so hard to get the funding and the commitments needed to bring the pool back to life.”

The new bathhouse will include shower and toilet facilities, family changing spaces, offices for a pool manager and lifeguards, a first aid room, storage for lifeguard equipment, and a janitors closet. The bathhouse will also feature a central atrium with vending machines, drinking fountains, phones, and shaded benches.

“Connors Memorial Pool is a tremendous recreational resource for families in Waltham,” said State Representative Peter Koutoujian. “I am pleased that Governor Patrick and Commissioner Sullivan are moving forward with this project and Connors Pool will be available to families in this community once again.”

“I am happy we are able to make an investment in this important community facility,” said State Representative Thomas Stanley. “The rebirth of the DCR pool will provide valuable recreational opportunities for Waltham’s families and children for many years to come.”

Funding for the \$6 million project is included in DCR’s five-year capital spending plan.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.