



For immediate release
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PATRICK ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES
SPRING VACATION PROGRAMMING AT DCR PARKS

Healthy, outdoor recreational opportunities for kids of all ages

The Patrick Administration announced today statewide recreation programming for the whole family during spring vacation week at Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) parks and facilities. From Saturday, April 18, 2009, through Sunday, April 26, 2009, DCR parks throughout the metropolitan Boston area will offer nature education activities at no cost.

“We are very pleased to be able to provide these free programs for parents and their children to get out and enjoy the outdoors while also learning about our role as stewards of the environment.” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

For more information on all DCR events, please visit mass.gov/dcr/events.

DCR’s School Vacation Week Programs

*** Indicates programs especially designed for young children.*

DCR Parks Statewide

- Saturday, April 25 -- times vary by location
 - Park Serve Day – This statewide volunteer day include many projects, such as picking up litter along ocean beaches, clearing debris from hiking trails, and planting flowers at picnic areas. For more information, please visit mass.gov/dcr/ps.

Boston, Charles River Basin

- Saturday, April 25 – 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 - New Charles River Basin Walk – Join a park ranger for this walk through some of DCR’s newest urban parks. Meet at the plaza in front of the Museum of Science, 1 Science Park, Boston. For more information, call DCR Park Ranger Russ Geer at 617-626-1483.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Canton, Blue Hills Reservation

For meeting place information and to register, call 617-698-1802, ext. 213. All programs last 1.5 hours. Appropriate clothing and footgear for spring hiking recommended.

- Tuesday, April 21 – 1 p.m.
 - Great Blue Hill Discovery Hike
- Wednesday, April 22 – 1 p.m.
 - Spring into the Outdoors Hike Safe Program
- Thursday, April 23 – 1 p.m.
 - Signs of Spring Scavenger Hunt

Lynn, Red Rock Park

- Sunday, April 26 – 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Tidepool Exploration ** – Come along for an hour of ocean discovery as we investigate the tidal pools of Red Rock. Meet at: Red Rock Park, Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn. For more info, call DCR Park Ranger Justin Dawkins at 781-286-2439.

Revere, Revere Beach

- Monday, April 20 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Ocean Creatures Beach Search ** – Children will explore life on the beach. Meet at: William G. Reinstein Bandstand, Revere Beach Blvd at Beach Street, Revere. For more information, call DCR Visitor Services Supervisor Matthew Nash at 781-485-2804, ext. 105.
- Tuesday, April 21 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Protecting the Plover ** – Children will learn about the exciting return of these threatened birds to our beaches and why they need our help. Meet at: William G. Reinstein Bandstand, Revere Beach Blvd at Beach Street, Revere. For more information, call DCR Visitor Services Supervisor Matthew Nash at 781-485-2804, ext. 105.

Stoneham, Middlesex Fells Reservation

- April 21 through April 24 – 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Do you have an interest in nature? Then you may be a Junior Ranger! DCR invites young people aged 8-12 with an interest in learning more about natural systems to explore your senses and hone your observation skills. Individuals can choose to come as regularly or infrequently as they like. Recommended for children ages 8 to 12, but younger and older friends and siblings are welcome to help or be helped. Adults are asked to join in the first and last 10 minutes of the

day. DCR staff will help participants with 4 of the 8 activities required to earn their patch. Sessions will include wildlife and habitat information as well as cultural resources. Free materials are supplied, and those wishing to complete the program will receive additional guidance. Join Junior Rangers Botume House at 4 Woodland Road. For more information, call 617-727-1199, ext. 420.

Weymouth, Webb State Park

- Tuesday, April 22 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 - Healthy Stroll – Join the Webb Walking Club and enjoy a healthy stroll of this scenic peninsula. Take in panoramic views of the Boston Harbor Islands and Hingham Bay. This walk is open to people of all ages and fitness types.
- Tuesday, April 22 – 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 - Earth Day Celebration ** – Celebrate Earth Day! There will be a story pertaining to the season as well as some children's activities.

Weymouth, Connell Pool

- April 20 through April 24
 - Free public swimming: Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday (Family Swim), 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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.