



For immediate release
April 22, 2009

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DCR SELECTS CURATOR FOR HISTORIC HOUSE IN MAUDSLAY STATE PARK

Coachman's House Complex to become a health and wellness retreat

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has named a curator for the historic Coachman's House Complex at Maudslay State Park in Newburyport. Under DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, curators agree to rehabilitate and reuse historic properties in exchange for a long-term lease on the property.

The new curators at Maudslay, Wilson Associates of Andover, plan to rehabilitate the Coachman's House, stables, and three outbuildings as a health and wellness retreat, focusing on mental and physical health and wellness in a small-scale natural setting. The proposed destination center will feature overnight accommodations and customized meals, treatments, and educational opportunities.

"The Wilson Group brings a good deal of experience in historic rehabilitation and real estate," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Their planned reuse of the property is compatible with DCR's emphasis on health, wellness, and experiencing the outdoors. We look forward to working with them on this project."

Public benefits proposed by the Wilson Group include educational programs and events open to the public, and periodic public access to services at the retreat.

This new curator joins four others selected this year. Last fall, DCR solicited proposals for the reuse and lease of these buildings, and the curators were selected through an open and competitive process.

Curatorships have been awarded this year for the Harlow Farmhouse at Ellisville Harbor State Park in Plymouth, the Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield, the Smith Farmhouse at Borderland State Park in Easton, and Bascom Lodge in Mt. Greylock State Reservation.

Established in 1994, the Historic Curatorship Program matches some of the Commonwealth's significant historic buildings with people interested in rehabilitating and maintaining those

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buildings in exchange for a long-term lease. Since the program's inception, more than \$5 million in private funds has been leveraged toward these restorations.

Nine properties have been rehabilitated under the program since it began, from the mountains of Berkshire County to the urban streets of Dorchester. Current uses for the properties include single-family homes, artist lofts, a nonprofit youth center, and a for-profit events facility.

DCR's Historic Curatorship Program is one of only a handful in the country and is among the most successful. The program requires that reuses of the properties be compatible with the surrounding community and enhance the visitor's experience of the park.

For more information on the Historic Curatorship Program, visit mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm, send an email to HCP.Requests@state.ma.us, call 617-626-1361, or write to Historic Curatorship Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 7th floor, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

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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.

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