



**For immediate release
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DCR SWIMMING POOLS OPEN THIS SATURDAY

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will open its deep-water swimming pools on Saturday, June 27, and lifeguards will be on duty seven days a week.

“This should be a great weekend at our beaches and pools,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “The weather is finally cooperating, and I urge everyone to get out and enjoy the water, keeping safety paramount in your thoughts.”

A number of the most popular ocean beaches, as well as spray pools and wading pools, have been open since Memorial Day with lifeguards on weekends only. Starting Saturday, the remaining beaches will be open and lifeguards will be on duty daily at all lifeguarded areas. DCR has hired more than 700 lifeguards for its swimming facilities this summer.

Most DCR pools will be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. weekends.

Admission to all state pools and beaches is free, although parking fees ranging from \$5 to \$7 do apply at a number of beaches. For a full list of Massachusetts state beaches and pools, visit mass.gov/dcr and click on “activities” then “swimming.”

DCR welcomes visitors to the state’s beaches and pools and encourages everyone to take these simple steps to keep themselves and their families safe:

1. Swim within designated swimming areas only.
2. Be sure children are monitored by a parent or guardian at all times. Young children should be no more than an arm’s reach away from a parent or other adult.
3. Learn how to swim. Parents as well as children should learn how to swim.
4. Read and obey all rules and educational signs.
5. Beware of getting too tired, too cold, too far from safety, too much sun, or too much strenuous activity when swimming.
6. Pay attention to local weather conditions and forecasts. Stop swimming at the first sign of bad weather.
7. Enter the water feet first.

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8. Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving, or boating. Alcohol impairs judgment, balance, and coordination and diminishes your swimming skills. Alcohol is prohibited in all DCR properties.
9. Know how to prevent, recognize, and respond to emergencies.
10. Practice sun safety as well as water safety: Always wear sunscreen, seek shelter when possible, and drink lots of fluids.

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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, dams, and parkways. 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.