



**For immediate release  
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## **JULY 4th CELEBRATION A HUGE SUCCESS AT DCR'S HATCH SHELL**

Hundreds of thousands of spectators enjoyed the July 4 celebration yesterday at the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Hatch Shell, lining the banks on both sides of the Charles River, bobbing at anchor in their private boats, and watching from the Longfellow and Massachusetts Avenue bridges that were closed to vehicles.

"Once again, Boston 4 Celebrations put on a dazzling show," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., referring to the organization that stages the Boston Pops concerts on July 3 and 4 and the July 4 fireworks display. "I thank everyone at Boston 4 and at DCR who worked hard to make this world-renowned event another huge success."

About 70 DCR employees were involved in the weeks-long preparations and set-up for the event. Then, starting shortly after 11 p.m. as the crowds dispersed after the last fireworks, and working through the night and early morning, DCR crews, aided by about 140 inmates from the state Department of Correction (DOC), collected more than 26 tons of trash.

This year, as part of a major new recycling effort in DCR parks and facilities across the Commonwealth, more than 100 recycling bins were placed around the grassy Oval in front of the Hatch Shell and at other locations along DCR's Charles River Esplanade. As a result, crews also collected three additional tons of cardboard and plastic bottles that will be recycled.

Not everyone watched the spectacle from solid ground. DCR officials who monitor boat traffic along the Charles River and through the locks at the Charles River Dam counted more than 1,400 mostly private, spectator-filled, boats on the river at 10 p.m.

The Fourth of July event marked the tenth year of collaboration between DCR and DOC as inmate crews have helped DCR maintain and clean its parks, beaches, and other facilities such as the Esplanade.

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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](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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