



**For immediate release
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**PATRICK-MURRAY ADMINISTRATION TO HOST
PUBLIC MEETING ON PLANS FOR NEW YEAR-ROUND
MELNEA CASS CENTER**

BOSTON - The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting on March 30, 2010, to discuss plans for converting the former Melnea A. Cass Rink in Roxbury to a year-round, multi-use recreation center.

Governor Deval Patrick last month pledged \$1 million in state capita. funds to the project, which expanded DCR's original \$400,000 proposal to convert the former ice rink on Washington Street into a three-season facility, open spring through fall. The Governor's initiative would make the former ice rink into a year-round facility, able to host activities such as inline skating, tennis, and soccer.

"We deeply appreciate Governor Patrick's help and support in making this new facility a reality," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "The new Melnea A. Cass Center will be a wonderful addition to this city neighborhood. Before moving forward, however, we want to hear more thoughts from the community on how they would like us to proceed."

The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 30, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Shelburne Community Center, 2730 Washington St., Roxbury

Among the potential capital improvements are resurfacing the rink area for inline skating as well as for tennis, soccer, and other activities; replacing the fiberglass boards and exterior fencing; adding a new gate to the Shelburne Community Center next door; constructing a new roof and heating and ventilation systems; and improving the lighting in and around the facility.

The Melnea A. Cass Rink was built in 1968, and operated as an ice skating rink for about 20 years. The facility closed in the 1980s. In 2006, DCR renovated and reopened the swimming pool and bathhouse.

DCR expects to award contracts for the rehabilitation work this spring, and complete the project in November 2010.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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For more information on the project, or to register your concerns or suggestions, send an email to dcr.updates@state.ma.us with “Cass Facility” in the subject line.

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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.