



For immediate release
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DCR HOLDS PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS EXTENSION OF NEPONSET RIVER TRAIL

BOSTON - The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has scheduled a public meeting for May 17, 2010, to discuss plans to extend the Neponset River Trail from Central Avenue in Milton to Mattapan Square in Boston.

The existing 2.5-mile Neponset River Trail now links Pope John Paul II Park in Dorchester and Central Avenue in Milton. The planned one-mile extension to Mattapan Square will open about 7 miles of trail along the Neponset River, connecting Pope John Paul II Park to the Neponset Valley Parkway in Hyde Park.

The public meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2010, from 7:30-9 p.m., in the Foley Senior Residences dining room, 249 River Street in Mattapan. Discussion at the meeting will focus on several proposed routes for the trail, on both the Boston and Milton sides of the Neponset River, as well as possible river crossings.

“This trail already attracts bicycle and pedestrian commuters, as well as Sunday strollers and anyone looking for a peaceful excursion by the river,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “Extending it from Dorchester to Hyde Park makes enormous sense, and we look forward to developing the plans and permits to do it.”

Funded through 2008 Environmental Bond legislation, the one-mile extension is expected to cost about \$2.5 million for design and construction. DCR hopes to complete the design and permitting by December 2010 and start construction in 2011.

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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.

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