



**For immediate release
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**DCR HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING TO PRESENT
DRAFT TRAILS PLAN
FOR THE MIDDLESEX FELLS RESERVATION**

BOSTON – The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a public meeting in Medford on September 20 to discuss the draft trail system plan for the Middlesex Fells Reservation.

The 2,575-acre Middlesex Fells Reservation contains a diverse landscape of ponds, rocky hills and ledges, meadows, woodlands, and wetlands. The Reservation, which covers parts of Malden, Medford, Melrose, Stoneham, and Winchester, offers a wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources to visitors from the Boston metropolitan region and beyond.

The public meeting will be Monday, Sept. 20, 2010, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in the McGlynn School Auditorium, 3002 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford.

“The Middlesex Fells Reservation is an extraordinary urban resource offering any number of recreational opportunities,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. “But it also needs, and deserves, to be protected and managed to ensure its long-term sustainability.”

The draft Trail System Plan represents the culmination of a nine-month public process to create a set of recommendations to improve protection of sensitive natural and cultural resources and enhance the recreational experiences of various users. The plan provides guidance for short- and long-term management of trails, sets priorities for allocating limited staff and financial resources, and identifies stewardship partners and opportunities. The plan will function as a stand-alone trails plan and also will be a component of a future Resource Management Plan for the entire Reservation.

At the public meeting, DCR staff members will present an overview of the plan’s contents and recommendations.

Following the meeting, the full draft plan will be available to the public on the DCR website at www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/greenwaysfells.htm.

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DCR will invite written comments on the draft plan for a period of 60 days. Comments may be submitted via email to Fellstrail.Comments@state.ma.us or by mail to Fells Trail Comments, 136 Damon Road, Northampton, MA, 01060.

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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.