



**For immediate release  
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## **HISTORIC, DECORATIVE TRIM FROM LONGFELLOW BRIDGE MISSING FROM STATE LABOR YARD**

*Middlesex County District Attorney's office launches investigation*

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) officials today revealed that approximately 2,347 linear feet of decorative, cast-iron trim, which had been taken off the Longfellow Bridge and stored in a state labor yard during repairs to the bridge, is missing.

Police have secured the Stoneham Labor Yard where the trim had been stored, and the Middlesex County District Attorney's office is investigating the disappearance.

"We at DCR are shocked and outraged by the disappearance of this historic metalwork, a unique feature of the Longfellow Bridge that we planned to restore along with the bridge," DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. said. "We take this extremely seriously. An investigation is underway by the Middlesex County District Attorney's office as a potential criminal matter. I urge anyone with information on this incident to come forward."

Agency officials are also conducting a review of other labor yards to ensure that any other valuable property in the possession of DCR is secure.

Last year, between Sept. 20 and Oct. 9, approximately 3,467 linear feet of the decorative parapet coping was removed from the outside edge of the Longfellow Bridge while repairs to the bridge were underway. State officials planned to refurbish the sections in the future and reattach them to the bridge.

Individual sections were removed from the bridge with a crane, loaded onto 10-wheel dump trucks and flatbed trucks, and transported to the state's Stoneham Labor Yard. Each section is 7 feet long, 2 feet wide, 3.8 inches thick, and weighs 350 pounds.

At the Stoneham Labor Yard, the sections were stacked neatly in piles of 13 or 14 sections each in a fenced-in corner of the yard. DCR staff members observed and documented the removal, transport, and storage operations. As recently as about three weeks ago, all the sections appeared to be on the site.

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Earlier this week, however, a DCR employee notified senior DCR staff members that some coping sections appeared to be missing. On Tuesday, it was determined that approximately 2,347 linear feet of the coping, or two-thirds of the total, was missing. The remaining 1,120 feet of coping remain at the Labor Yard.

The coping is unique, having been molded and cast about 100 years ago specifically to decorate the Longfellow Bridge. If melted down and resold as cast iron, the missing coping sections would be worth an estimated \$10,000. Recreating the sections could cost as much as \$750,000.

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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, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. 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).*