



**For immediate release  
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## **DCR'S "PARTNERSHIPS MATCHING FUNDS PROGRAM" SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS IN THE PARKS**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is launching the 2008 Partnerships Matching Funds Program with approximately \$1.5 million to help finance capital projects at the agency's parks, beaches, and other facilities.

Starting immediately, DCR is accepting applications from Friends groups and other park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, businesses, and dedicated individuals with an interest in improving the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. During the remainder of fiscal year 2009, which ends June 30, 2009, DCR will allocate the \$1.5 million in matching funds to capital projects proposed and partly funded by those groups and approved by agency officials.

"DCR is extremely pleased to be able to engage our partners in improving and enhancing our state parks with their generous help and contributions to new capital projects," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Last year alone, DCR supported a record number of 38 projects. The shared stewardship of the state's valuable resources helps ensure our parks and beaches and forests will continue to be enjoyed for generations to come."

Since 2004, the Partnerships Matching Funds Program has enabled a combined investment by the Commonwealth and other public and private partners of more than \$8.5 million in the state's parks. Projects approved last year include buying and installing a flagpole for the visitors center in Lawrence Heritage State Park in Lawrence, commissioning murals designed and created by local students for the trail underpasses along the Nashua River Rail Trail in Groton, and hiring a preservation consultant to prepare the National Register nomination for Wachusett Mountain in Princeton and Westminster.

This year, DCR will consider applications that will provide a match of non-state funds for capital projects at the agency's parks. The agency will consider projects that may require more than one year to plan and complete, and DCR will manage the implementation of the projects, in close consultation with the partner(s) making the contributions.

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Applications for the matching funds are due by October 17, 2008, and DCR will decide which projects will receive matching funds by November 14, 2008. DCR will match projects dollar for dollar, and also will consider providing a two-to-one match for small projects to enable partners with a small base of financial support to see their projects come to fruition.

For more information on the program, and to receive an application, call 617-626-4917, or send an e-mail to [ethel.stafford@state.ma.us](mailto:ethel.stafford@state.ma.us). Information and applications also are available at [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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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).*