



**For immediate release  
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## **DCR BEGINS REHABILITATION WORK AT PONKAPOAG POND DAM IN CANTON**

*Trails will be detoured around the construction*

Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) crews will begin repairing the Ponkapoag Pond Dam in Canton on Monday, Sept. 22. During the work, the trail across the dam will be closed, and signs will indicate detours for walkers, hikers, and horseback riders.

The Ponkapoag Pond Dam, which is owned by DCR, was built in the 1930s, initially to provide irrigation water for the nearby Ponkapoag Golf Course. While the pond, which covers about 213 acres, no longer serves that purpose, the dam does help protect endangered plant and insect species upstream.

DCR's Office of Dam Safety classifies the dam as a "significant hazard" dam, meaning if it failed, there could be loss of property downstream. The dam is currently listed in "poor" condition due to erosion, seepage, and tree growth on the embankment.

"Because of the unique and sensitive nature of the area within and around Ponkapoag Pond, DCR has worked closely with a number of natural resource agencies and local stakeholders to minimize the impacts of this rehabilitation project," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "The project includes a number of features to protect rare animal life, prevent water pollution, and enhance the local wetlands."

DCR's Ponkapoag property has been designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), and the unique bog is the largest of its kind in eastern Massachusetts. In planning and executing the dam rehabilitation, DCR is working closely with Canton's Conservation Commission, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

The \$1.17 million in repairs, being conducted by CRC Co. Inc. of Quincy, will include adding stone riprap to both the upstream and downstream slopes of the dam to stabilize the embankment and protect against erosion, leveling the top of the dam and improving the path across the dam, installing a new emergency spillway to accommodate heavy water flows, and removing vegetation from the dam.

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"The Ponkapoag Pond Dam has served as a very important protector of wildlife in the area," said State Representative William C. Galvin. "These critical repairs will ensure that the dam can once again function at its best capacity."

The work will be done mostly Monday-Friday during the day, and is expected to be completed by the end of December. Horseback riders in particular should be aware that the work will at times be quite noisy.

For more details on the project and trail detours, visit [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).*