



**For immediate release**  
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**DCR SEEKS PROPOSALS TO REHABILITATE, REUSE,  
AND MAINTAIN THE LAMSON HOUSE**

*Historic Curatorship Program accepting proposals to rehabilitate historic home  
in Bradley Palmer State Park in exchange for a long-term lease*

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is issuing a Request for Proposals for the rehabilitation, reuse, and maintenance of the Lamson House in Bradley Palmer State Park in Topsfield. Through DCR's Historic Curatorship Program, outside parties rehabilitate and maintain a historic property in return for a long-term lease.

The RFP for the Lamson House is the fifth in the most recent round of Historic Curatorship properties, joining RFPs for Bascom Lodge in Mt. Greylock State Reservation in Adams, the Smith Farmhouse and Barn in Borderland State Park in Easton, the Harlow Farmhouse in Ellisville Harbor State Park in Plymouth, and the Coachman's House Complex in Maudslay State Park in Newburyport.

"The Historic Curatorship Program demonstrates an innovative and entrepreneurial approach to preserving the history and culture of our park system," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Once rehabilitated, these properties are maintained and operated by the tenant, with public access to the grounds provided at various times during the year."

Established in 1994, the Historic Curatorship Program matches some of the Commonwealth's significant historic buildings with people who can rehabilitate and maintain the property in exchange for a long-term lease. Since the program's inception, almost \$6 million in private funds has been leveraged toward these restorations.

So far, nine properties have been rehabilitated under the program, from the mountains of Berkshire County to the urban streets of Dorchester, from the banks of the Merrimack River in Lowell to the forests of Foxboro. Current uses for the properties include single-family homes, artist lofts, a nonprofit group, and a for-profit events and overnight facility.

Located within Bradley Palmer State Park, the Lamson House is a two-story wood frame Georgian farmhouse. Built on the site of the original 1680 Lamson homestead, the existing building was constructed in several phases, with a major Colonial Revival alteration added by Bradley Palmer between 1909 and 1940. The house is historically significant both as the

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homeplace of the Colonial- and Federal-era Lamson family, as well as for its associations with Bradley Palmer and his early 20th-century manor estate. It is a unique amalgam of Colonial and Colonial Revival styles.

DCR's Historic Curatorship Program is one of only a handful of such programs in the country and is among the most successful. The program requires that the reuses of these properties be compatible with the surrounding community, while enhancing the visitor's experience of the public park. Curators are chosen based on a number of criteria, including the overall quality of their proposal, their experience in restoration and historic preservation, their financial resources, and the public benefits and environmentally sustainable building practices they will incorporate. They must provide public access to the property at least twice a year.

The Request for Proposals describes the submission requirements and provides detailed information on the property, including an assessment of its current condition and required improvements. Interested parties can submit a proposal for review by DCR. Successful proposals outline a viable reuse concept, public benefit, rehabilitation approach, and implementation schedule, and demonstrate relevant experience and sound financial qualifications.

Responses to the RFP are due on November 25, 2008, by 5 p.m. An open house at the property is tentatively scheduled for October 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Preregistration is required for the open house. Call 617-626-1361 or send an email to [HCP.Requests@state.ma.us](mailto:HCP.Requests@state.ma.us).

For electronic copies of the Request for Proposals, as well as more details on the Historic Curatorship Program, visit DCR's website: [www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/curator/index.htm).

For hard copies of the documents or more information on the program, send an e-mail to [HCP.Requests@state.ma.us](mailto:HCP.Requests@state.ma.us), call 617-626-1361, or write to Historic Curatorship Program, Department of Conservation and Recreation, 7th floor, 251 Causeway St., Boston, MA 02114.

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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).  
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