



**For immediate release
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CHICKATAWBUT ROAD IN THE BLUE HILLS RESERVATION WILL CLOSE FOR THREE WEEKS

Chickatawbut Road will be utilized as a staging area for the reservoir project

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will close Chickatawbut Road, which crosses the Blue Hills Reservation in Quincy and Milton, for three weeks next month to allow the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to utilize Chickatawbut Road in order to continue their construction work for the completion of their work project.

The road will be closed from Monday, November 3, through Friday, November 21, between Willard Street (Route 37) in Quincy and Rte 28 in Milton.

The MWRA is constructing two 10-million-gallon water storage tanks that will be buried in the east end of the old Blue Hills Reservoir. Through the transmission lines, the tanks will provide an emergency supply of safe drinking water and water for fire protection for the communities of Quincy, Milton, Roxbury, West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Roslindale, Mattapan, and Hyde Park. According to MWRA Executive Director Frederick Laskey, those communities comprise “one of the only remaining areas in the MWRA system that has no significant distribution storage to ensure a safe and reliable public water supply.”

The old Blue Hills Reservoir was built in the 1950s and was removed from active service in 1981 due to contamination from birds and animals. When the current project is completed in 2010, a meadow will be planted on top of the buried tanks. Improvements to the site will include a new dam with grassed slopes and hiking trails. In addition, the remaining half of the reservoir will be restored, and wetlands will be created and enhanced to support wildlife habitat.

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