



**For immediate release
November 7, 2008**

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BLUE HILLS SKI AREA IMPROVING SNOWMAKING, EXPANDING SNOW SPORTS SCHOOL THIS SEASON

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Blue Hills Ski Area is continuing its commitment to improve snowmaking capability, snow sports instruction opportunities, accessibility, and affordability during the upcoming season.

Ski Blue Hills Management LLC, which operates the ski area in Canton, just a few miles south of Boston, under a contract with DCR, is making final upgrades to the ski lifts, regrading the beginner ski area, and improving snowmaking to increase snow coverage. The management team is installing additional snow-making pipe and upgrading water lines, electrical capacity, and pump output. The improvements are expected to improve Blue Hill's snowmaking capacity by 40 percent.

If purchased by November 30, season passes for skiing and snowboarding at the Blue Hills range from \$140 for seniors and young children to \$299 for all others. As of Dec. 1, season passes will be \$170 for seniors and young children and \$349 for others.

At the snow sports school, old programs have been enhanced and new programs are being added, "in effort to bring the 'big mountain' educational experience close to home," said Corie Stone, general manager of the ski area.

"DCR appreciates and applauds the efforts of Ski Blue Hills Management to keep these winter sports affordable for everyone looking to enjoy themselves or spend quality family time together on the slopes," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "We are extremely fortunate to have this ski and snowboard area within minutes of downtown Boston."

The Blue Hills management team is also improving recreational group programming, to make skiing and snowboarding more affordable, and the rental department is offering "on-site and off-site" seasonal rental packages, which let skiers and boarders rent equipment for use at the Blue Hills Ski Area or at other ski areas as well. A new shuttle program will facilitate access to the lodge from all parking lots.

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“We made huge strides last year in showing our commitment to this facility,” said John Vas, operations manager at the ski area. “For the first time in years, multiple slopes were covered with snow from early December to late March. We are trying to bring a real family atmosphere back to the Blue Hills. During these economic hard times, we are trying to keep this sport affordable for everyone looking for some quality time together without paying outrageous gas prices and high lift ticket prices for a couple of hours on the slopes.”

“After one year at this facility, many customers have talked to me about the ‘old’ Blue Hills, and the memories they had from their childhood,” said Stone. “I want to create that same fun, family environment at today’s Blue Hills.”

The Blue Hills Ski Area is at 4001 Washington Street (Route 138) in Canton, about a mile north of the intersection with Route 128. Daily ski and snowboard passes cost \$18-\$36, depending on the day and time. The ski area is expected to open for the season in mid-December.

For more information, visit www.ski-bluehills.com or call 781-828-5070.

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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. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.