



For Immediate Release
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STATE ADOPTS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR NATIONAL MONUMENT TO THE FOREFATHERS IN PLYMOUTH

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today that the DCR Stewardship Council has adopted the National Monument to the Forefathers Resource Management Plan (RMP). The RMP was submitted to the Council and unanimously approved at its September 29 meeting.

“I’m pleased that the Stewardship Council has adopted this Resource Management Plan,” said DCR Commissioner Stephen H. Burrington. “With this Plan, DCR is well-positioned to work with the community and the Friends of the National Monument to the Forefathers to provide sound stewardship for the monument.”

The RMP was developed in response to the need to identify pressing management concerns following the transfer of the property’s ownership to DCR from the Pilgrim Society in 2001. The Forefathers RMP is the third RMP to be adopted by the DCR Stewardship Council in response to M.G.L. Chapter 21, Section 2F, which directs DCR to develop Resource Management Plans for all its parks, forests and reservations.

The RMP addresses management needs for the 10.7-acre site in Plymouth, located on a hill a short distance from Pilgrim Memorial State Park and Plymouth Rock. The Monument itself is an 81-foot tall granite structure, originally completed in 1889. It is reputed to be the largest solid granite monument in the world, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The RMP’s management recommendations range from public safety improvements to an improved maintenance plan.

Two high-priority “early action” projects identified in the RMP were implemented last spring. The preservation of the marble bas-relief panels—including cleaning, minor repair work and the replacement of some missing features—was made possible through funding provided by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, the Friends of the National Monument to the Forefathers and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Office of Public Private Partnerships. DCR also made significant progress on public safety improvements to the wooded areas.

The planning process included a public review and comment period in February and March of 2006, and a public meeting, held in Plymouth on March 16. Minor revisions to the draft RMP

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were incorporated before it was submitted to the DCR Stewardship Council for adoption. The RMP has been posted on the DCR Resource Management Planning Program website: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/rmp-forefathers.htm>.

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