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## **STATE ANNOUNCES DESIGN FUNDING FOR NINE POOLS AND RECONSTRUCTION OF ATTLEBORO POOL**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Secretary, Robert W. Gollidge, Jr., Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner (DCR), Stephen H. Burrington, Senators Scott Brown and James Timilty, Representatives John Lepper and Elizabeth Poirier, Attleboro Mayor Kevin Dumas and other municipal officials today celebrated the announcement of DCR funding for the reconstruction of Attleboro's George Spatcher Swimming Pool.

Funding for the design of Attleboro and 8 other DCR pools came from a \$1.75 million dollar appropriation in the recently passed FY06 supplemental budget. \$120,000 from this account was used to redesign Spatcher Pool. Reconstruction of the new pool is estimated to cost \$1.2 million and is being funded by the DCR through their Capital Budget.

EOEA Secretary Gollidge said "I am very happy to see the Fix-it-First and World Class Parks goals of DCR being combined with the spending priorities of the Legislature, which will be reflected in the redesign and renovations at the new George Spatcher Swimming Pool. In 2002 Attleboro partnered with DCR to create an innovative approach to maintaining state pools and I look forward to the reopening of the pool and continuing that partnership."

DCR operates 38 pools in dozens of communities throughout the Commonwealth. Primarily constructed between the 1950s and 1970s, the pools reflect the science, standards, and preferences of community aquatics at that time. After as much as 55 years of service the pools mechanical systems are inefficient and the pool design often does not reflect the interests of existing communities.

"Many of our pools are in need of new amenities. As DCR Commissioner I look forward to working with the nine communities through a public process and creating facilities that meet the needs of the local residents," stated Burrington.

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With design funds now secure, due to the supplemental budget, DCR is working to develop design and engineering plans for its pools in Attleboro, South Hadley, Brockton, Allston-Brighton, Boston, Ludlow, Southbridge, Waltham and Worcester. Working with these communities and their officials DCR is helping to develop a new generation of aquatic facilities which reflect the specific needs of our modern communities. The new designs may include the best elements of playgrounds, swimming, wading and spray pools, fitness centers and amusement parks.

Representative Lepper, who helped to secure funding for the design phase said, “During the current legislative session, I strongly advocated for a \$175,000,000 appropriation for design work on the nine state pools in most need of repair and reconstruction. Spatcher Pool was one of the nine. I was thrilled to learn that DCR has authorized the additional funds necessary for the actual construction. It is truly gratifying to know that we will once again, in the not to distant future, be able to use a pool that has served the residents of Attleboro for over thirty years.

The new Attleboro Pool, being designed by Bargmann Hendrie Achetype, Inc, will include a “beach” or zero depth entry which improves accessibility for people with disabilities as well as young children spray and water drop features and a slide. The new pool will be constructed within the footprint of the existing pool and will raise the depth from 12 feet to a maximum 5 foot depth resulting in a lower water volume.

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