

Public Workshop #6 – 12/2/10, Essex Aggie, Danvers, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Approximately 30 people in attendance

As a part of the Fall 2010 Public Workshop series regarding DCR's new Landscape Designations for DCR State and Urban parks, participants divided into breakout groups to have conversations and provide feedback on the draft selection criteria and draft management guidelines that have been proposed. What follows are the notes taken on flip charts by each group, recording the discussions held. In some instances, a little additional context not originally recorded on the flip chart is provided to help explain the note – this information appears in italics.

Notes from Group #1

Hunting & Recreation Activities (Biking etc.)

Would plans for hunting change based on designation?

Trails

How will people know what is a designated trail?

Are there trails that are posted as "Open" unless they are posted as "Closed"?

Trails in Reserves

Existing trails in Reserves - still be open for use?

Some trails are actually not "designated" but used anyway. This can be very important in Reserves areas. Any change in enforcement envisioned?

General Zoning

Can one facility have more than 1 zone/designation? Yes.

Uses keep changing. Example, increased development in future may make hunting inappropriate. Example, Reserves should have areas around it managed too.

Reserves Target

How do small / patch reserves fit into this process? They occur in nature and should be included.

The report/guidelines only touch upon this.

Reserves should include new acquisitions in the future to meet acreage targets. Think more long – term and outside of boundaries.

Will this process make some active use areas turn over to other zones. Some choices will have to be made. How will this be done?

There should be seasonal planning. To not have artificial uses enforced.

Example: hunting is limited to a season and may not necessarily conflict with active recreation. Management in time as well as space is a good idea.

Allow different groups to enjoy the resources at the same time, to the fullest.

ORV in Reserves

Concern about the Reserves "Fine Filter" resulting in significant loss of ORV trail system.

Silviculture & Veg. Management

Concern about losing diversity in Parklands as forests become “Old” forests and are not managed.

Balancing Zones vs. Getting “Boxed-in ” by them

How exactly is habitat preservation and restoration going to be carried out in reserves. Should not be boxed in by landscape designations.

Ability to manage invasive species should not be restricted by overall landscape designation.

With prescribed burns, how will coordination w/ fire departments occur. There are regulations around prescribed burns addressing this.

Collaboration with other agencies, local groups important to allow effective management.

Concern that the science advisory committee should be opened up to a more diverse group than just scientists.

Reserves already designated but contradicts uses at Myles Standish – Reserve but mainly recreational.

Notes from Group #2

OHV

- More OHV activity in Northeast Mass for family
- OHV has economic impact: gas, registration, food. etc.
- OHV groups save tax \$ with volunteering activities
- OHV use impacts lands; more areas open, less impact
(OHVs –Dirt Bikes, ATV, 4 WD & Snowmobile)

Suggestion: utilize “seasons” for each activity

Reserve criteria needs adjusting for E. Massachusetts

Of the 60% Reserve/ Parkland. Need more Parkland

Protecting ecological values most important for the future

Distance via highway (10 miles) should be criteria for Parklands. (Not just population #s)

Concern about Home Fuelwood Program impacting trails

Hunting restrictions by deed need re-considering (especially at Willowdale SF)

Keep Home Fuelwood separate from Commercial Forestry when considering management (*so it is not affected by reductions in commercial forestry*)

Habitat restoration ok on all lands

More consideration of ecological values

Notes from Group #3

Location of Home Fuel areas near home (*Home Fuelwood program sites should be dispersed across the state so they are accessible to local residents, especially given bans on firewood transportation*)

Impact of designation & future changes & how they would affect

Will whole area be designated – or will a patchwork system be allowed?

Concern about increasing % of one designation changing

Will Home Fuel program be allowed in Parklands?

Will there be a mix of designations within a region?

Will Woodlands allow only commercial cutters?

Home Fuel as a separate category?

Concern about semantics in trail designations for recreational uses

Home Fuel is to commercial logging as Mountain biking is to ATV

Concern about enforcement

Why doesn't the State empower the rangers?

Enforcement needed for ATV Use

We should have Park Watch

Concern that Home Fuel cutters would require certification

Suspending Home Fuel Wood program - Affects citizens' pockets

Define why prescribed burning is allowed in parklands

No Index card questions or comments received at this meeting