

Horseneck Planning Unit Draft Resource Management Plan



Public Meeting

December 5, 2011; 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Fall River Heritage State Park



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Deval L. Patrick

Lieutenant Governor

Timothy Murray

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Edward M. Lambert, Jr

DCR Mission Statement



Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park

*To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth
of natural, cultural and recreational resources*

Resource Management Plan (RMP) Requirements



*Stone paddock
Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park*

“shall include *guidelines* for the operation and land stewardship of...reservations, parks and forests”

“shall provide for the *protection and stewardship* of natural and cultural resources”

Shall *ensure consistency* between recreation, resource protection and sustainable forest management”

M.G.L. Chapter 21; Section 2F

Tonight's Presentation

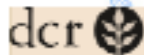


- Preview of Draft RMP
- Public Comment

RMP Timeline



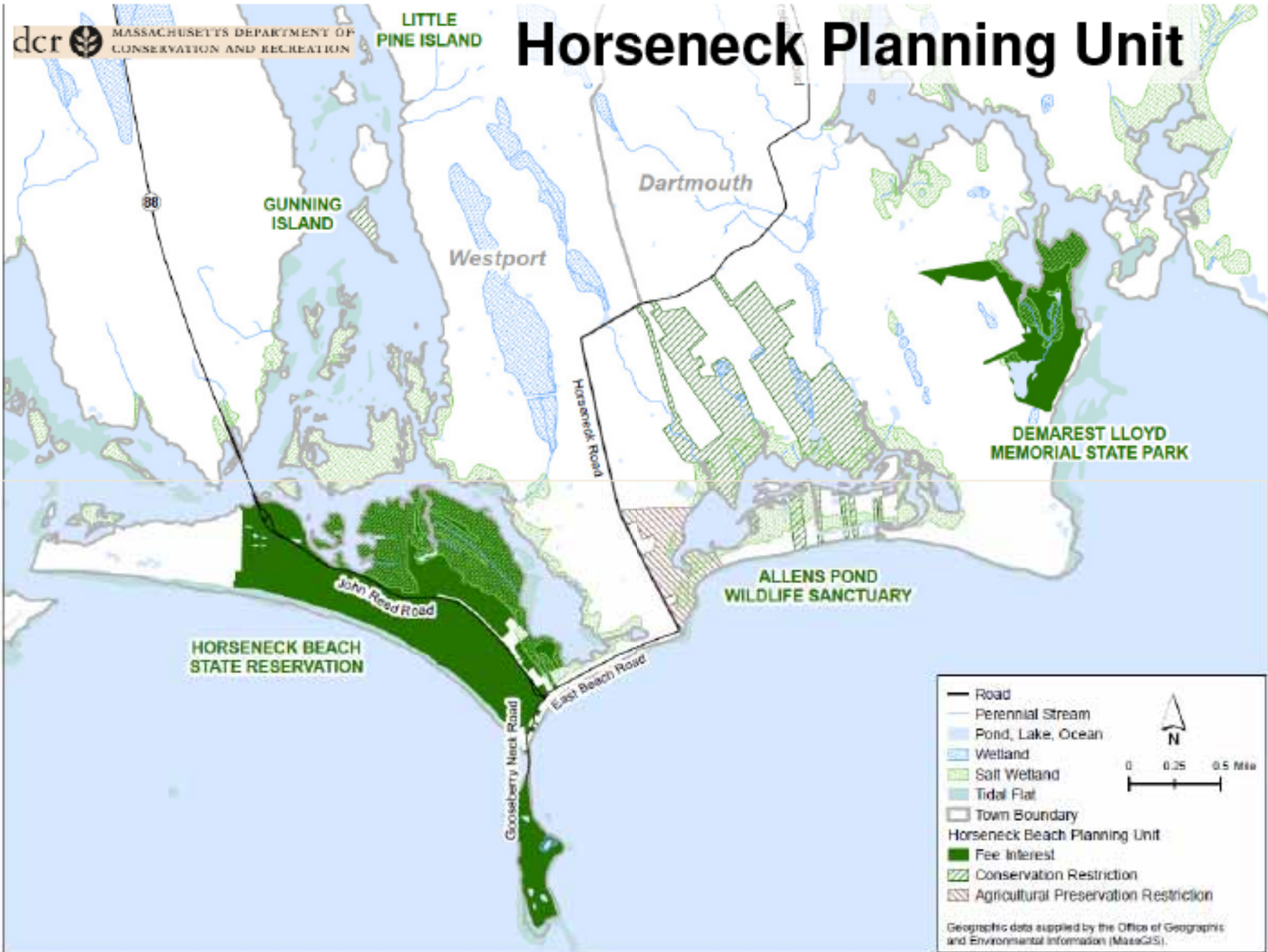
November 12, 2009	Initial public meeting
Nov./Dec. 2011	Public input period
Dec. 2009-Oct. 2011	Report preparation, internal review & revisions
December 5, 2011	Preview of Draft RMP and release for 30-day public comment period
January, 2012	Close of comment period (January 6 th) Revise RMP in response to public comments
February, 2012	Submit final RMP to DCR Stewardship Council for its review and approval



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

LITTLE PINE ISLAND

Horseneck Planning Unit



	Road
	Perennial Stream
	Pond, Lake, Ocean
	Wetland
	Salt Wetland
	Tidal Flat
	Town Boundary
	Horseneck Beach Planning Unit
	Fee Interest
	Conservation Restriction
	Agricultural Preservation Restriction

Geographic data supplied by the Office of Geographic and Environmental Information (MassGIS).

Horseneck Beach State Reservation



Established: 1956

816 acres

Staffed year-round

Recreation: swimming, fishing,
walking/jogging, motor boating,
camping, nature study

Visitors:

Day-Use – SE MA, NE RI, Metro
Boston, Worcester

Camping – MA (77%), RI (8.5%)

Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park



Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park

Established: 1953

220 acres

Staffed seasonally

Recreation: swimming, picnicking,
fishing, kayaking, nature study

Visitors: SE MA; chiefly Westport to
Acushnet

RMP Content and Format



- Executive Summary
- Introduction
- Existing Conditions
- Management Resources and Practices
- Recommendations
 - Land Stewardship Zoning
 - Management Recommendations
- Appendices

Management Principle

Achieve a sustainable balance between the conservation of important coastal resources in a dynamic ecosystem, with the provision of recreational opportunities for all



*Slocums River
Demarest Lloyd Memorial State Park*

Goal 1: Protect and enhance the functions of the dynamic barrier beach geology and ecosystem to make them more resilient in the face of climate change



Existing Conditions/Findings

Horseneck Beach (HBCH)

- East-West barrier beach
- 4.2 miles of coastline

Demarest Lloyd (DEML)

- Barrier spit
- 0.8 miles of coastline

Projected sea-level rise of 1.5 ft.
over the next century

Goal 1: Protect and enhance the functions of the dynamic barrier beach geology and ecosystem to make them more resilient in the face of climate change



Draft Recommendations

- Continue proactive dune protection measures and sand fence repair
- Continue partnership efforts with the MBBA for winter sand fence installation
- Combine 2009 OOC with Barrier Beach Management Plan.
- Finish updating 1996 Barrier Beach Management Plan (DEML)
- Close beach access from northernmost dune crossing (DEML)

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance sustainable recreational opportunities through thoughtful use of limited operational resources and by facility design and improvements appropriate to a barrier beach ecosystem



Existing Conditions/Findings

HBCH Recreation Areas

- Central Plaza/Main Beach
 - Includes 2 miles of trails
- Campground (100 sites)
- Gooseberry Neck
 - Includes 1.1 miles of trails
- Westport River Boat Ramp

DEML Recreation Areas

- Main Beach
- Picnic Areas (4)
 - Includes 1 mile of trails

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance sustainable recreational opportunities through thoughtful use of limited operational resources and by facility design and improvements appropriate to a barrier beach ecosystem



Draft Recommendations

- Obtain visitorship data
- Return to previous method of communicating park status and traffic conditions (i.e., MassDOT signs along Route I-195)
- Finalize and implement 2009 Stormwater Improvement Project
- Evaluate potential to restrict public access to northern spit of beach (DEML)
- Install universally accessible picnic tables (DEML)

Goal 3: Increase our understanding of significant natural and cultural resources and to protect and enhance these resources through the appropriate stewardship strategies



Existing Conditions/Findings

HBCH

- 11 MESA species/78% Priority Habitat
- 6 Natural communities (one S1)
- Archaeological sites – none documented
- Historic resources – life saving station, observation towers

DEML

- 21 MESA species/91% Priority Habitat
- 5 Natural communities (two S1)
- Archaeological sites – none documented
- Historic resources – stone walls, paddock

Goal 3: Increase our understanding of significant natural and cultural resources and to protect and enhance these resources through the appropriate stewardship strategies



Draft Recommendations

- Offer annual *Rare Species Management* and *Beach Operations* training to staff
- Request yearly funding for rare shorebird and endangered species protection
- Precede ground disturbance activities with archaeological surveys
- Maintain symbolic shorebird fencing through the fall migration season (August-October)
- Secure observation towers on Gooseberry Neck

Goal 4: Promote public awareness and understanding of natural and cultural resources, to increase support of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's stewardship strategies



Lifesaving station - 2011



Life saving station - ca. 1890

Existing Conditions/Findings

- No DCR interpretive programming 2002–2006, 2009, and 2010
- Full-time seasonal interpreter in 2011
 - 88 programs/2,975 participants
 - 800 visitor services
- Westport Fishermen's Association provides programming at lifesaving station
- Lloyd Center for the Environment – ad hoc interpretation

Goal 4: Promote public awareness and understanding of natural and cultural resources, to increase support of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's stewardship strategies



Life saving station - 2011



Life saving station - ca. 1890

Draft Recommendations

- Post animal regulations/increase enforcement
- Establish volunteer shorebird monitoring program (e.g., WBNERR)
- Install appropriate warning signs along access road and other paved areas.
- Develop seasonal interpretive center
- Update interpretive panels along the Slocum River Trail

This Presentation and the Draft RMP
Will Be Available Online at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/rmppast.htm>

Public Comments

(December 6, 2011 – January 6, 2012)

Please send your comments to:

E-mail: DCR.Updates@state.ma.us

Please put “Horseneck RMP” in the subject line

U.S. Mail: Horseneck RMP Comments
P.O. Box 66
194 Cranberry Road
South Carver, MA 02366

Note: Public comments submitted to DCR will be posted in their entirety on the DCR website and no content, including personal information, will be redacted.



Thoughts and Comments