



Horseneck Beach State Reservation Capital Improvements Campground Redesign

October 2008

Dear Horseneck Beach Visitor,

We hope you are enjoying the recent improvements to the day use area of Horseneck Beach! In 2007 DCR announced that Horseneck Beach State Reservation would undergo a capital improvement program to both improve customer services and protect the Reservation's sensitive coastal environment. This exciting \$8.5M renovation project began to take shape in July, 2007.

Phase I – Day Use Area

The first phase included two new bathhouses, replacement of the central plaza area, parking lot improvements and an increase in the number of toilets at both ends of the beach. The new bathhouses with composting toilets help protect our natural resources by reducing water consumption by at least 50 percent. The first phase also included new boardwalks which eliminate numerous pathways through the sensitive dune ecosystem. The elevated boardwalks allow visitors to cross the dunes without damaging fragile vegetation essential to stabilizing these coastal landscape features. The boardwalks also include integrated shade shelters that allow visitors to pause and appreciate the unique dune environment while passing to or from the beach. Work for Phase I, is expected to be completed by June 2009.

Phase II – Campground Redesign

The second phase of park improvements will include renovation of the campground. DCR is seeking a campground design that meets the needs of today's camping customers while protecting the spectacular and sensitive coastal environment that has been the hallmark of Horseneck Beach camping. Within the new campground design, DCR hopes to revitalize the aging campground, retain the total number of sites available, accommodate hookup camping, facilitate access to the waterfront area for all campers and protect the sensitive coastal ecosystem

At this time, the campground redesign is on hold, and this phase of the project will not impact the 2009 season. When the agency moves forward on redesigning the campground, DCR will post options on its website and will schedule an informational meeting to share ideas and receive public input.

Horseneck Beach Camping 2009 - The season for Horseneck Beach camping in 2009 is May 1 – October 11, 2009. All Horseneck Beach campsites which were open to the public in 2008 will again be available in 2009. DCR has made some minor adjustments to its designation of host and management sites for the 2009 season. DCR has reassigned host and management sites,



previously on the waterfront, to other locations in the campground (sites 12, 18 and 49). Therefore, in 2009, sites 83, 70, and 63 will be reservable.

Thank you for your patience as we work to improve Horseneck Beach. Questions regarding the capital improvement projects detailed above may be emailed to mass.parks@state.ma.us.

We look forward to serving you in 2009 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Sullivan, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
Commissioner