

DCR: WINTER ICE STORM RECOVERY

Dear Campers:

We are delighted to be starting the 2009 camping season. Thank you for choosing to spend your leisure time at a DCR campground. These last few months proved to be challenging for DCR: 30 facilities statewide were adversely affected by the December 12, 2008 ice storm, which snapped thousands of trees throughout campgrounds and day-use areas. Since the storm, DCR has been working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to identify funds for the storm cleanup and, once the snow melted, to begin clearing areas. Already, DCR staff and tree crews have cleared much damage left by this unprecedented storm; however, crews are still working to complete remaining areas, and ice storm damage will be noticeable in some places.

In the interest of public safety and to encourage the next generation of forest, our crews have been trimming and removing the most hazardous trees. Campers should not be alarmed if they see this tree work and campsite restoration continuing throughout the camping season. DCR will do its best to minimize the impact of this work on visitors. Campers should obey any signs that indicate trail closures and, as always, notify staff of any hazardous conditions.

Trees in DCR Campgrounds

Events such as ice storms offer an opportunity to remind our visitors about forest management. Please help maintain healthy trees in our campgrounds:

- Report hazardous conditions to park staff.
- Limit the number of vehicles on a site. Park extra vehicles in designated parking areas. These steps lessen soil compaction and tree root damage from vehicle traffic.
- Do not put nails in trees or otherwise damage tree bark. Breaks in protective tree bark put trees at risk of insect or disease damage.
- Burn all firewood at your campsite; do not bring firewood home. This will help minimize the possibility of infestation by boring insects, such as the Asian longhorned beetle, that kill trees.

We apologize for any inconvenience that Mother Nature caused to the campground, and we thank you for your patience as our staff continues to restore the affected areas. Please stop by the contact station to speak with park staff if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rick Sullivan, Commissioner
Department of Conservation and Recreation