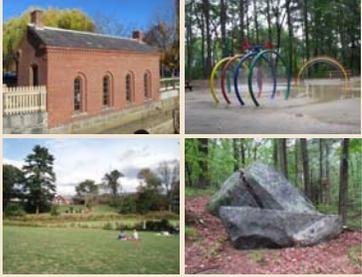


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## Lowell/Great Brook Planning Unit Draft Resource Management Plan



Public Meeting July 21, 2014; 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Alumni Hall, UMass Lowell



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor  
**Deval L. Patrick**

Energy and Environmental Secretary  
**Maeve Vallely Bartlett**

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner  
**John P. Murray**

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## DCR Mission Statement

*To protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well being of all*



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## Tonight's Presentation



- RMP Requirements
- Lowell/Great Brook RMP Schedule
- Preview of Draft RMP
  - Content and Format
  - Management Principle and Goals
  - Existing Conditions
  - Recommended Zoning
  - Management Recommendations
- Public Comment

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## RMPs Shall ...



"include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of... reservations, parks and forests"

"provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources"

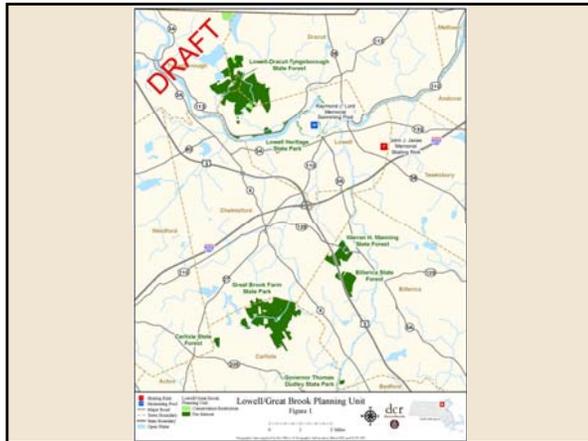
"ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection and sustainable forest management"

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

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## Schedule for the Lowell/Great Brook Planning Unit RMP

Date	Action
July 23, 2012	1 <sup>st</sup> public meeting
July 24 – August 24, 2012	Public comment period
Summer 2012 – Summer 2013	Fieldwork and research
Fall 2013 – Spring 2014	Plan preparation
June – July 2014	Internal review and revision
July 21, 2014	Present draft RMP
July 22 – August 29, 2014	Public comment period
August – September	Revise RMP in response to comments
September 5, 2014	Submit revised RMP to Stewardship Council
October 3, 2014	Stewardship Council vote
October 2014	Final RMP posted to web



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### Agenda



- **Management Principle and Goals**
- **Individual Properties**
  - Existing Conditions
  - Sample Recommendations
- **Land Stewardship Zoning**
- **Questions & Comments**

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### Proposed Management Principle

*Protect the natural and cultural resources of the planning unit and provide enhanced recreational and educational opportunities for visitors through the creative use of state resources and partnerships.*




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### Proposed Management Goals

**Goal 1.** Preserve natural and cultural resources through appropriate stewardship strategies.

**Goal 2.** Offer diverse recreational opportunities and facilities to ensure visitor safety and access.




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### Proposed Management Goals

**Goal 3.** Address underutilized buildings and structures to improve visitor experiences and DCR operational responsibilities.

**Goal 4.** Improve engagement with partners, stakeholders, visitors and volunteers.




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### Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsborough State Forest

#### Existing Conditions




- Hidden gem
- Large glacial erratics with evidence of quarrying activity
- 100 acre Spruce Swamp, a Priority Natural Community
- Many interpretive opportunities
- Hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, snowmobiling and hunting
- Partnerships with GLICA and NEMBA

### Lowell-Dracut-Tyngsborough State Forest



#### Sample Recommendations

- Certify the potential vernal pools
- Assess and stabilize the cultural resources
- Formalize the main parking area on Trotting Park Road
- Improve the trail system signage and update the trail map
- Renew or establish agreements with partners

### Lowell Heritage State Park



#### Existing Conditions

- Riverfront and downtown portions
- Boat ramp, performance pavilion, freshwater swimming
- Many historically significant buildings and structures
- Swimming pool and skating rink
- Critical partnerships with the City of Lowell, National Park Service and UMass Lowell

### Lowell Heritage State Park



#### Sample Recommendations

- Maintain and repair the cultural resources
- Make improvements to the Lord pool
- Assess the condition of the riverwalk and retaining wall
- Renew or establish agreements with all partners

### Great Brook Farm State Park



#### Existing Conditions

- Working dairy farm
- 26 miles of trails
- Extensive water resources
- Rare species
- Rich collection of cultural resources – 10 underutilized/unused buildings
- Four on-site partnerships
- Many interpretive opportunities

### Great Brook Farm State Park



#### Sample Recommendations

- Hydrological study
- Finalize Comprehensive Interpretive Plan
- Invasive species management
- Condition assessments and reuse analyses of buildings
- Joint meeting of all leaseholders
- Streamline signage in parking areas

### Carlisle State Forest



#### Existing Conditions

- 25 acre treasure
- White pine, hemlock and red pine
- Small trail system
- Poor access
- Interesting history

### Carlisle State Forest



#### Sample Recommendations

- Update inventory of eastern white pine
- Monitor HWA
- Develop interpretive materials around the Carlisle Pines
- Install signage
- Assess locations for small unpaved parking area

### Warren H. Manning State Forest



#### Existing Conditions

- Actively utilized recreation area managed by Town of Billerica
- 3.4 miles of trails
  - 2 miles of 19thc woods roads
- Approx. 40% is Priority Habitat
- Vegetation that may be associated with Manning
- Lacks accessible parking
- West of Route 3 inaccessible

### Warren H. Manning State Forest



#### Sample Recommendations

- Establish accessible parking
- Renew the Special Use Permit
- Bi-annual meetings with the town
- Certify vernal pools
- Develop interpretive materials
- Evaluate options for western parcel

### Billerica State Forest



#### Existing Conditions

- Gilson Hill – 2<sup>nd</sup> highest point in town
- 2.8 miles of trails
  - 1.4 miles of 19thc woods roads
- Invasive species
- Lack of parking and signage
- West of Route 3 inaccessible

### Billerica State Forest



#### Sample Recommendations

- Vegetation Management Plan
- Assess feasible locations for small unpaved parking area
- Signage
- Develop interpretive materials
- Evaluate options for western parcel

### Governor Thomas Dudley State Park



#### Existing Conditions

- Abuts other protected open space
- Bio Map 2 – all Core Habitat
- Two rare species
- Remnants of historic allee
- Small trail system
- Managed by the Billerica Conservation Commission

### Governor Thomas Dudley State Park



#### Sample Recommendations

- Increase awareness
- Improve communication with partners
- Develop interpretive programs

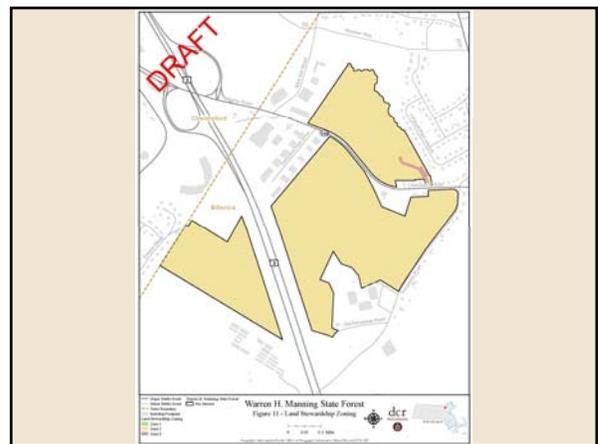
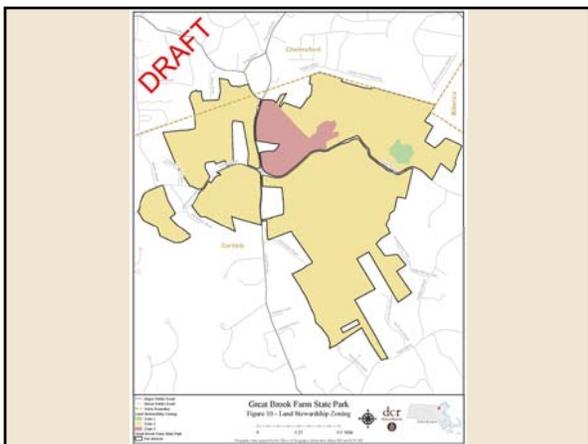
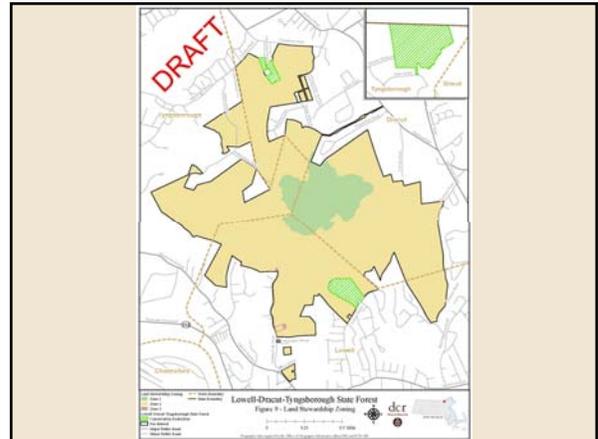
### Number of Recommendations, by Priority and Resource Availability

Priority	Resource Availability			Total
	1	2	3	
High	41	24	4	69
Medium	14	30	7	51
Low	7	12	11	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>22</b>	

### Land Stewardship Zoning



- Defines three types of zones to ensure resource protection
  - Zone 1: highly sensitive resources requiring special management approaches
  - Zone 2: resources that support recreational and management activities appropriate to the site
  - Zone 3: intensive use areas such as recreational sites or maintenance areas
- Provides guidance for current and future management



**This presentation and the draft RMP  
will be available on-line at:**

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/public-outreach/public-meetings/>

**Public comments due August 29, 2014**

**Please send your comments to:**

**E-mail:** [dcr.updates@state.ma.us](mailto:dcr.updates@state.ma.us)  
*Please put "Lowell/Great Brook RMP" in the subject line*

**U.S. Mail:** Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Office of Public Outreach  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114  
Attn: Lowell/Great Brook RMP

**Note: Public comments submitted to DCR will be posted  
in their entirety on the DCR website.**

## Questions and Comments

- RMP Process
- Management Principle and Goals
- Resources
- Recommendations
- Other?