

How to Use These Guidelines

The historic parkway system of Massachusetts is the oldest of its kind in the country and a unique resource whose care and planning require careful research, evaluation and design. In addition to their historic value, parkways provide recreational opportunities and multiple modes of travel by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. The Historic Parkway Preservation Treatment Guidelines recognize the parkway's value as historic resource, scenic and recreational treasure and transportation corridor and provides a framework for incorporating those values into parkway planning, improvements and maintenance. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to the Department of Conservation and Recreation decision-makers, project managers and consultants on a project planning process and course of action for treatment.

The project planning process and application of the guidelines should be undertaken for any project that alters the way a DCR parkway functions, introduces new elements to the parkway, impacts users or results in impacts to a significant historic parkway feature. This may include projects that are not only funded and managed by DCR, but also parkway projects that are privately funded or funded by another agency like the Massachusetts Highway Department.

The guidelines are organized into the following chapters:

Chapter One: Introduction describes the background for this manual, its guiding principles and a typology for the parkways.

Chapter Two: Parkway Planning and Project Management describes the management and design process needed to treat a parkway, centered on the Design Control Report.

Chapter Three: Guidelines summarizes the parameters by feature-type that parkway project managers should work within when altering a parkway.

Chapter Four: Maintenance summarizes routine maintenance issues and outlines the distinction between maintenance and other projects that may require review.

Bibliography includes references and resource information that will support on-going efforts to protect and enhance the Commonwealth's historic parkways.

The Appendices include a brief history of the parkways, threats and issues, summaries of the Historic Parkway Initiative (HPI) and the National Register process, an inventory of urban parkways, HPI Sample Project Scope of Work and public participation summary.

The Guidelines are intended to be dynamic and allow for periodic updates when relevant regulations and procedures change or new technical data are developed. Appendices may also be added over time.

This manual is intended to be used in conjunction with several other key references that are applicable to parkways:

- MassHighway, Project Development and Design Guide (2006)
http://www.vhb.com/mhd_GuideBook.asp
- Project Management Manual, Department of Conservation and Recreation (2006)
- Flexibility in Highway Design, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1997
- The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes, Washington, D.C., 1996

Implementation of the Historic Parkway Preservation Treatment Guidelines coupled with the agency's broader based effort to promote public participation and transparent decision-making ushers in a new era of stewardship and public awareness of the historic parkways across the Commonwealth.