



Between 1866 and 2003, more than 30 major government agencies and divisions were created that evolved to form today's Department of Conservation and Recreation. DCR's permanent records at the Massachusetts Archives holds archival records created by nearly all these predecessor agencies.

- Metropolitan Park Commission, Preliminary Board (1892-1893)
- Metropolitan Park Commission (1893-1919)
- Charles River Basin Commission (1903-1910)
- Cambridge Bridge Commission, City of Boston [Longfellow Bridge] (1898-1910)
- Boston Water Board (1875-1895); with associated other agencies between 1846 and 1875
- Metropolitan Water Board (1895-1901)
- Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (1901-1919)
- Metropolitan District Commission (1919-2003)
- Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission [Quabbin Reservoir] (1926-1947)
- MDC, Division of Watershed Management (1985-2003)
- Office of State Forester (1904-1919)
- State Forest Commission (1914-1919)
- Department of Conservation (1919-1953)
- Department of Natural Resources (1953-1975)
- Water Resources Commission, Division/Office of Water Resources (1956-2003)
- Department of Environmental Management (1975-2003)
- Gypsy Moth Commission (1890-1891)
- Gypsy Moth Committee (1891-1904), reporting to the State Board of Agriculture
- Office of the Superintendent for Suppressing the Gypsy and Brown Tail Moths (1905-1909)
- Greylock Reservation Commission (1898-1966)
- Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission (1899-1967)
- Mount Tom State Reservation Commission (1903-1990)
- Deer Hill State Reservation Commission (1907-1975)
- Mount Sugar Loaf State Reservation Commission (1907-1975)
- Mount Everett Reservation Commission (1908-1975)
- Purgatory Chasm State Reservation Commission (1919-1975)
- Walden Pond State Reservation Commission (1922-1975)
- Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission (1916-1924); regarding Plymouth Rock
- Division of Waterways, Engineering (1983-2003); function dates to 1866, with 8 predecessor agencies between 1866 and 1983
- Mount Greylock War Memorial Commission (1930-1933)
- Various other Special Commissions

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