



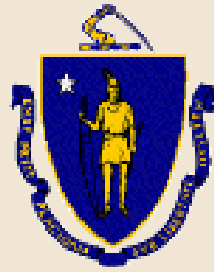
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF
CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Blackstone Complex Resource Management Plan



DCR Public Meeting

**Wednesday, March 28, 2018 - 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone Street, Bellingham, MA**



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Governor

Charles D. Baker

Lieutenant Governor

Karyn E. Polito

Energy and Environmental Secretary

Matthew A. Beaton

Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner

Leo P. Roy



DCR's Mission

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

Tonight's Meeting



Recreationists - River Bend Farm



Cellar Hole - Upton State Forest

- Presentation
 - Introduction to Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
 - Overview of the Blackstone Complex
 - RMP contents
- Public Input

RMP Requirements

Management plans are prepared for “all reservations, parks, and forests under the management of the department”

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



River Bend Farm – Blackstone River and Canal HSP

RMPs Shall ...



Blackstone Canal Dam Water Control Dam and Head Gates



Blackstone River – viewed from Blackstone River Greenway

“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

Resource Management Plans:

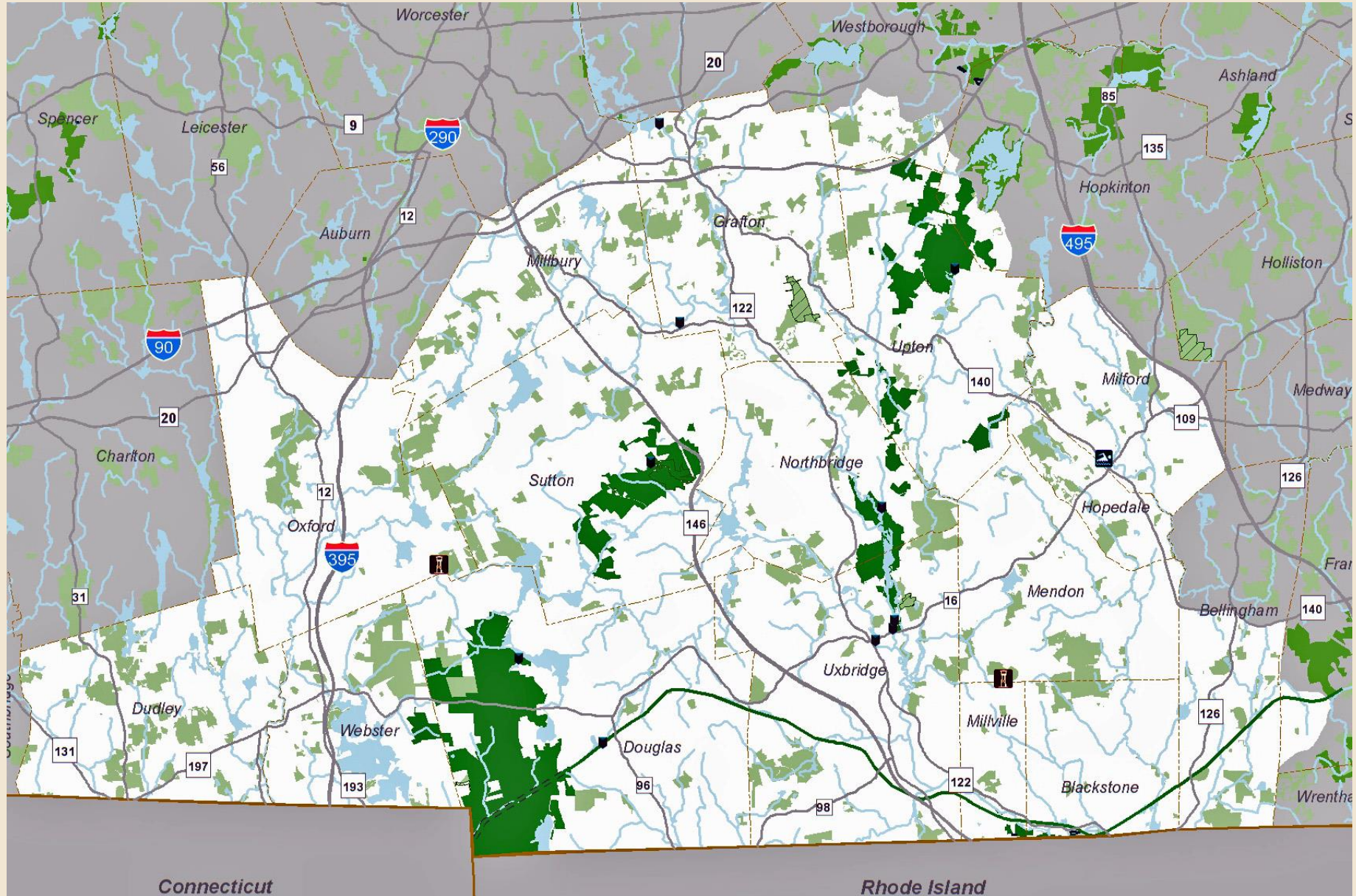
- Consider the past, present, and future of a property
- Help guide management
- Help set priorities for capital and operating budgets, and resource allocation
- Enhance communication and cooperation with visitors, partners, and surrounding communities

Management Complex

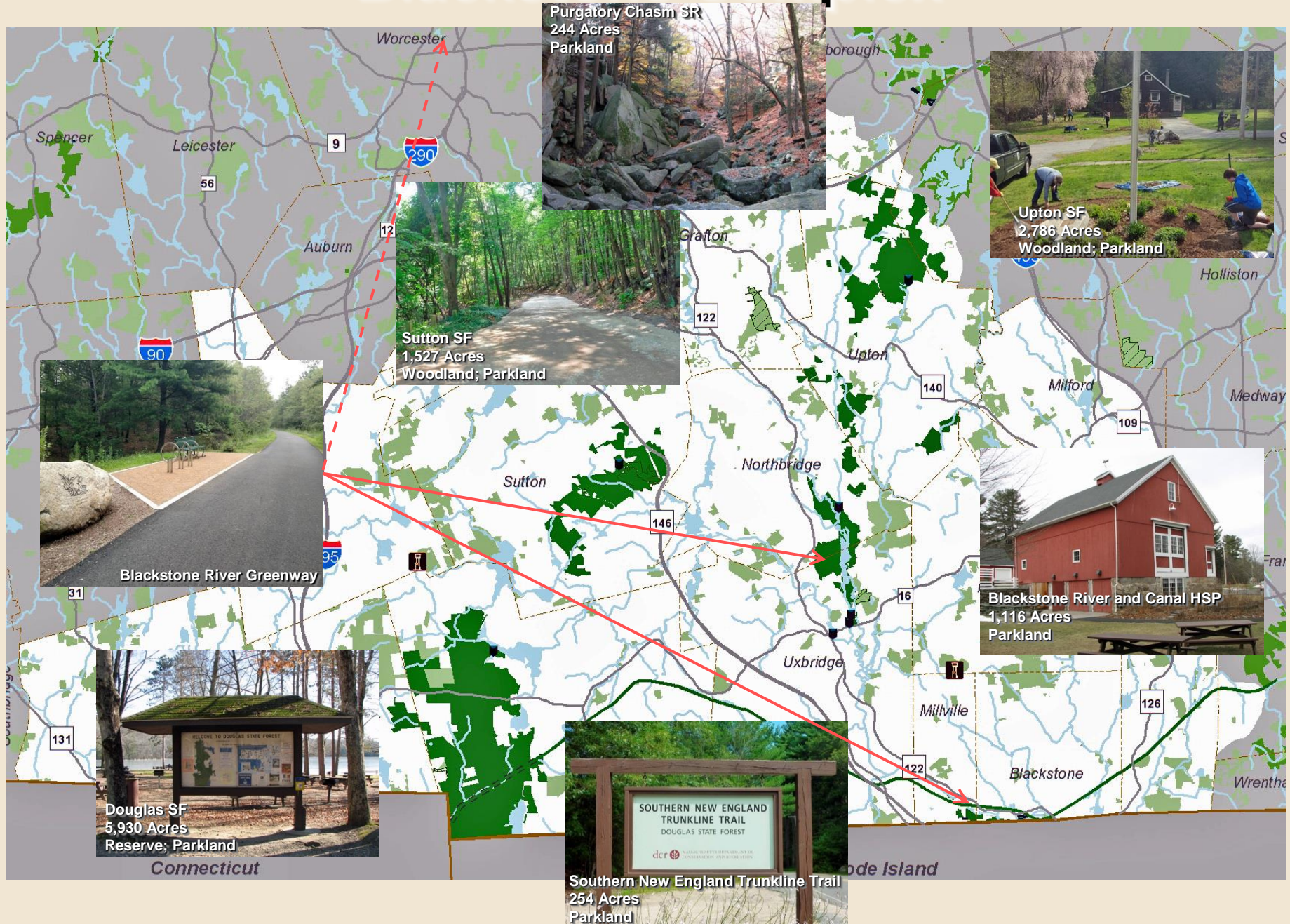


- DCR manages over 400 properties (more than 450,000 acres)
- Properties are grouped into 32 complexes, each managed by a Field Operations Team
- An RMP covers all properties in a complex

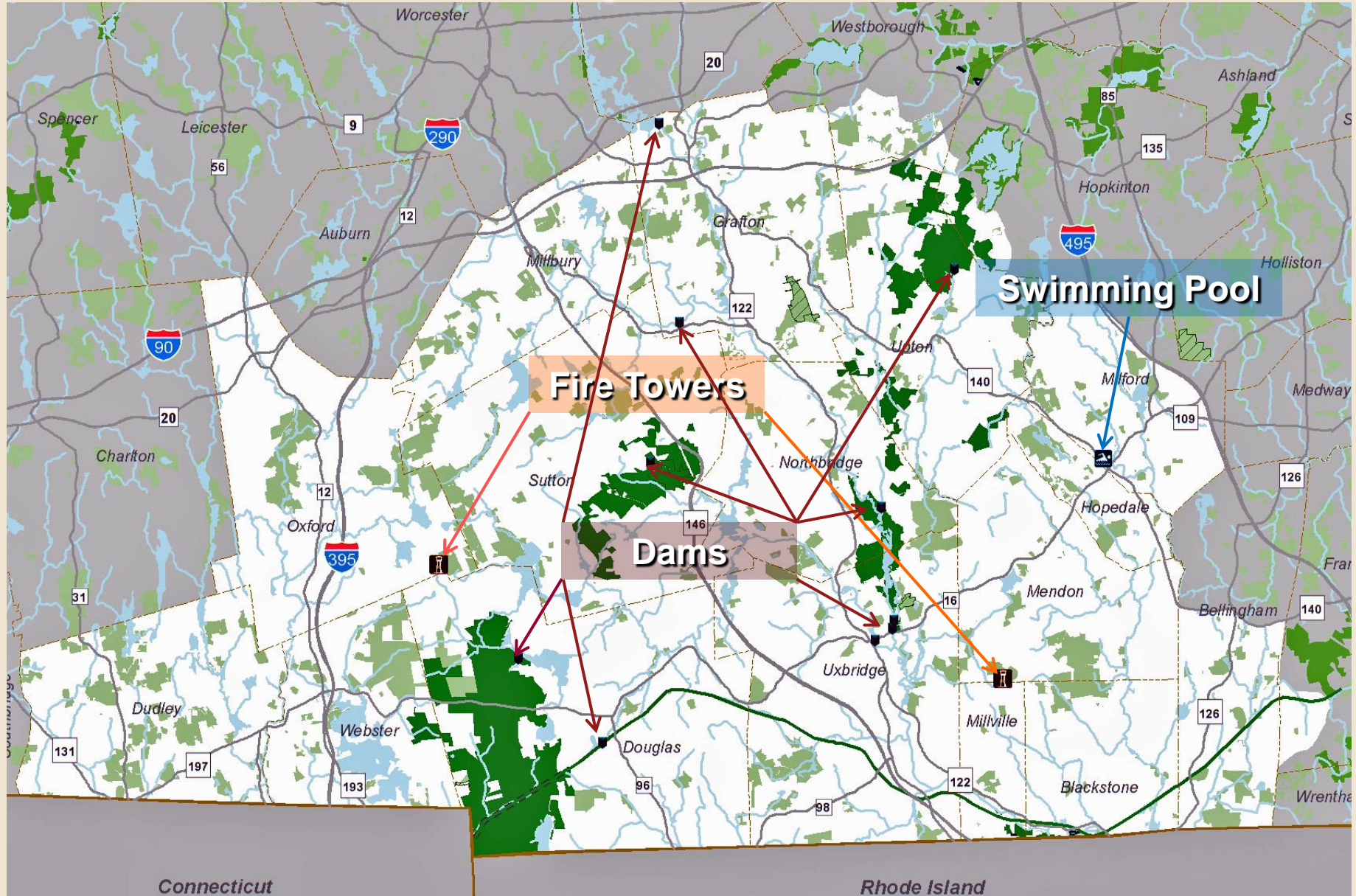
Blackstone Complex



Blackstone Complex



Other DCR Properties & Resources



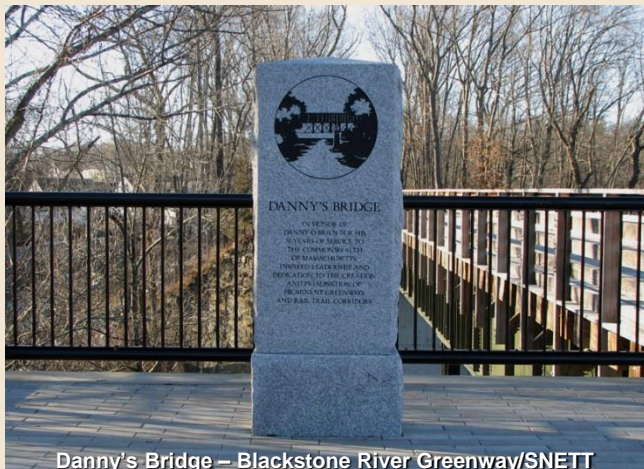
RMP Contents

Each chapter covers one main property and includes the following information:

- Park Identity
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation Resources
- Infrastructure
- Visitor Services
- Management Resources
- Management Practices
- Recommendations
 - Land Stewardship Zoning
 - Management Recommendations



Interpretive display – Blackstone River and Canal HSP



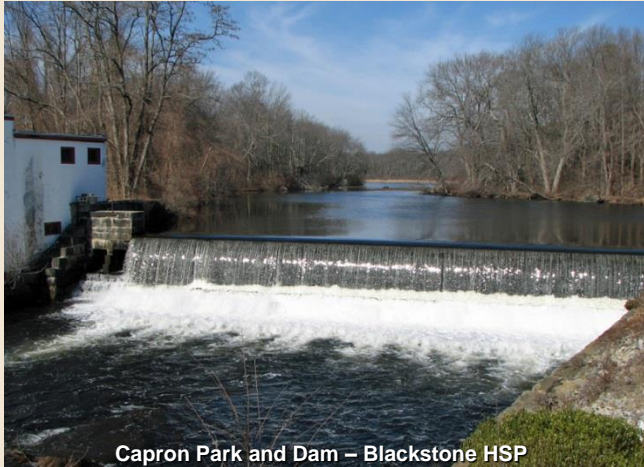
Danny's Bridge – Blackstone River Greenway/SNETT

Recommendations Must

“Ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection and sustainable forest management”

Address one or more of the following:

- Natural resource stewardship and restoration activities consistent with park identity and intended to improve ecological function and connectivity.
- Cultural resource management activities consistent with park identity and intended to prevent the loss of integrity of significant cultural resources.
- Improvements consistent with park identity that are needed to support intended park activities.
- Actions required for regulatory compliance or compliance with legal agreements.
- Activities that prevent or ameliorate threats to the health and safety of park visitors and employees.



Tentative Schedule

Date	Action
March 28, 2018	1 st Public meeting
March 29 – April 27	Public input period
April – June	Plan preparation and internal review
Summer 2018	Revision of internal draft RMP
"	2 nd Public meeting & release of draft RMP
"	30-day public comment period
"	Revision of draft RMP
Summer/Fall 2018	RMP submitted to Stewardship Council
"	Stewardship Council vote
"	Final draft of RMP posted to web

Public Comment



CCC Building – Douglas State Forest



Blackstone Gorge

- RMP format or process
- Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation Resources
- Visitor Services
- Operations & Facility Management
- Information to contribute
- Other



Public Comment

General Guidelines

- Please wait to be recognized by the moderator
- Please state:
 - Name
 - Affiliation (if any), and
 - Name of property on which you are commenting
- To assist us, please make comments in the context of what resources or issues DCR should address during the Resource Management Planning process.



Additional Information

For more information:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/materials-from-past-meetings>

If you have comments or suggestions:

Submit Online: <https://www.mass.gov/forms/dcr-public-comments>

Write: Department of Conservation and Recreation
Office of Public Outreach
251 Causeway Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

Deadline: Friday, April 27, 2018

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

If you have questions or concerns, or wish to subscribe to a DCR general information or project-specific listserv: contact DCR's Office of Community Relations at 617-626-4973 or mass.parks@state.ma.us.

Thank You for Participating



Southern New England Trunkline Trail