



Government Agencies that Pre-Date the 2003 Establishment of the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

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). DCR's permanent records at the Massachusetts State Archives hold 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
 - Boston Water Commissioners (1846-1850)
 - 1st Cochituate Water Board (1850)
 - 2nd Cochituate Water Board (1851-1876)
 - Water Commissioners of the City of Charlestown Water Works (1862-1865)
 - Mystic Water Board (1865-1876)
- Metropolitan Water Board (1895-1901)
- Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board (1901-1919)
- Metropolitan District Commission (1919-2003)
 - Parks Engineering Division (1919-1970s); by other names (1970s-2003)
 - Water Division (1919-1985); for the metropolitan water supply system
 - Sewerage Division (1919-1985); for the metropolitan sewerage works system
 - Construction Division (1947-1970s); capital engineering successor to the MDWSC
 - Division of Zoological Gardens (1960-1991); for Middlesex Fells (Stone) Zoo, and Franklin Park Zoo
- Metropolitan District Water Supply Commission [Quabbin Reservoir Project] (1926-1947)

- MDC, Division of Watershed Management (1985-2003); for Quabbin Reservoir, Ware River, Wachusett, & Sudbury Reservoirs & their watersheds of the metropolitan water supply system (distribution of the water through the aqueducts and pipelines and distribution reservoirs assigned to new agency in 1985, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority)
- Office of State Forester (1904-1919)
- State Forest Commission (1914-1919)
- Department of Conservation (1919-1953)
 - Division of Forestry (1919-1933, 1939-1953)
 - Division of Forestry and Parks (1933-1939)
 - Division of Parks and Recreation (1939-1953)
- Department of Natural Resources (1953-1975)
 - Division of Forests and Parks (1953-1975)
- Mass. 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); managed through the Berkshire County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Wachusett Mountain State Reservation Commission (1899-1967); managed through the Worcester County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Mount Tom State Reservation Commission (1903-1990); managed through the Hampden/Hampshire Counties Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Deer Hill State Reservation Commission (1907-1975); managed through the Hampshire County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Mount Sugar Loaf State Reservation Commission (1907-1975); managed through the Franklin County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Mount Everett Reservation Commission (1908-1975); managed through the Berkshire County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)

- Purgatory Chasm State Reservation Commission (1919-1975); managed through the Worcester County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Walden Pond State Reservation Commission (1922-1975); managed through the Middlesex County Commissioners (owned by the Commonwealth)
- Pilgrim Tercentenary Commission (1916-1924); regarding Plymouth Rock
- Division of Waterways (DEM), Engineering (1983-2003); function dates to 1866, with predecessor agencies between 1866 and 1983
 - Board of Harbor Commissioners (1866-1879)
 - Board of Land Commissioners (1877-1879)
 - Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners (1879-1916)
 - Directors of the Port of Boston (1911-1916)
 - Commission on Waterways and Public Lands (1916-1919)
 - Department of Public Works, Division of Waterways and Public Lands (1919-1927)
 - Department of Public Works, Division of Waterways (1927-1975)
 - Public Beaches (1958-1968)
 - Dam Safety Program (1970-1974)
 - Department of Public Works, Division of Public Beaches (1953-1958)
 - Department of Environmental Quality Engineering, Division of Waterways (1975-1983)
 - Dam Safety Program (1975-1983)
 - Licensing function of Waterways remains with DEQE (later DEP) after 1983
- Mount Greylock War Memorial Commission (1930-1933)
- Various other short-term Special Commissions and Joint Boards for various study purposes

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 Conservation and Resource Stewardship
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