DCR's Landscape Designations and Management Guidelines

10-year review



MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

# Forest Future Visioning 2009 - 2010

- Adoption of an Ecosystem Services Model
  - Biological/ecosystem diversity
  - Soil, air, water quality
  - Carbon sequestration
  - Nutrient cycling
  - Culture, history, spiritual values
  - Public recreation
  - Renewable wood products
- Landscape Designations and Management Guidelines



# Landscape Designations and Management Guidelines Adopted by the Stewardship Council - April 6, 2012



Landscape Designations for DCR Parks & Forests: Selection Criteria and Management Guidelines



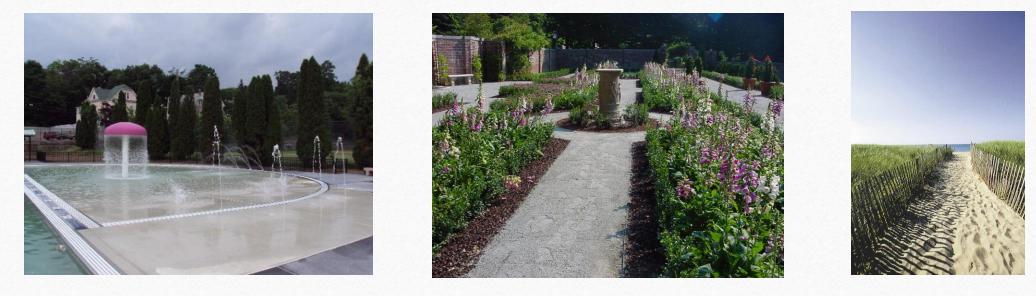
March 2012



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# Parklands: 70,000 to 90,000 acres

• *Goal:* Focus on recreation, reconnecting people to nature while providing recognition of aesthetic and cultural values

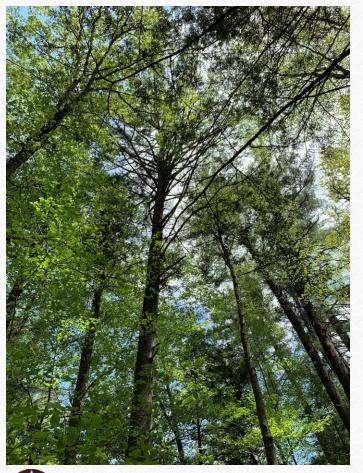


• Ecosystem Services: provision of public recreation opportunities, protection of ecologically and culturally significant special places

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### Reserves: 90,000 to 120,000 acres

- *Goal:* Protect the least fragmented forested areas, representing diverse ecological settings and long-term evolutionary processes that can be monitored to assess and inform forest stewardship
- Ecosystem Services: biodiversity maintenance, nutrient cycling and soil formation, watershed protection, carbon sequestration; wilderness/spiritual values and recreation



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# Woodlands: 100,000 to 150,000 acres

*Goal:* Demonstrate excellent forest management practices for landowners and the general public

*Ecosystem Services:* protecting water supplies, early successional habitat, carbon sequestration through late successional habitat restoration, ecological restoration and sustainable production of timber for local markets





# 2012 Management Guidelines

#### Future Designations, p. 7:

In most cases, land acquired by DCR after the Landscape Designation process concludes will receive the same Designation as the DCR facility that the new acquisition is expanding. For those acquisitions that result in the creation of a new DCR facility, or have different characteristics than surrounding facilities, or create a new resource management or recreational opportunities, an internal assessment and analysis process will ensue and an interim designation made, to be finalized when a Resource Management Plan is completed.

#### Review, p. 14:

DCR will review both the Landscape Designations and the management guidelines every ten years to assess their effectiveness in reaching the agency's goals of providing for the broad range of ecosystem services and make any necessary adjustments as a result in order to increase effectiveness.



### Landscape Designations 2022 Review

- ✓ January 2022 Internal Working Group representing wide cross section of DCR assembled
- February May 2022 Review 2012 Guidelines text for clarity, review how the designations and management guidelines worked in practice, discuss how to be responsive to climate resiliency needs and incorporate new data, review for consistency with the 2020 FAP
- June 2022 Review acquisitions DCR has made in the past ten years to formalize designations; solicit wider internal input
  - ✓ June 3, 2022: Consultation with FRSAC
  - ✓ June 6, 2022: Consultation with DFW
  - ✓ June 17, 2022: Distribute internal survey



### Landscape Designations 2022 Review

- July/August Internal input session on 7/27; Stewardship Council update on 7/28; 2<sup>nd</sup> internal input session; prep for public process
- August 23rd September 14th Public Process to solicit input and feedback
  - ➤ 3 virtual meetings
  - $\geq$  2 in person meetings
  - $\geq$  1 forest walk
- Fall 2022 Release Landscape Designations 2022 review

### Initial Discussion Focus Areas

#### Consistency

- Strategic Readiness Core Principles
- Forest Action Plan Goals
- RMPs/FRMPs
- Language
- Updated Concerns
  - Climate resilience and forestry's role
  - Working with Native Americans
- GIS
  - Reviewing data for boundary corrections
  - Reviewing the Intensive Use Areas
  - Land acquisitions through June 2022

#### Larger Considerations

- Establishing metrics for 2032 review
- Emphasizing habitat protection/support
- Establishing Patch Reserves

### Potential Actions for 2022-2032

- Consolidation or reinvigoration of existing programs Representative Natural Area, Wildlands
- Update trail density surveys
- Develop routine staff training/educational materials
- Work with Interpretive Services to develop/promote public programs around forestry
- FRSAC increase their visibility; meet more frequently; work more on research collaboration with them