



Welcome and Personal Introduction

- Good morning, as you may know, my name is Jim Montgomery, and I am the acting Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
- Welcome to the Massachusetts State House, Great Hall.
- The Great Hall is the newest addition to the State House, completed in 1990. Adorned with Italian marble and topped by a glass dome, previously this was outdoor open space. Today, the Great Hall is used for public meetings, as well as official state functions.
- Just below the glass dome hangs the flags of all 351 cities and towns of the Commonwealth, in the chronological order they were founded, beginning with Plymouth in 1620. Here we are exactly 400 years later making preparations at Pilgrim Memorial State Park for the millions of visitors expected for Plymouth's quadricentennial.
- It is an honor to speak to you today from a location of such history and meaning.

Success of 2019

- With the increase in technology, it is incredibly important that DCR continue to assess opportunities to encourage residents and visitors to get outdoors.
- With that in mind, I would like to reflect on the agency's accomplishments in 2019.
- With the hard work of our dedicated staff and continued support of our partners, DCR;
 - Funded \$124 million in capital projects in various state parks across all regions of the state;
 - Planted 6,000 trees under the Greening the Gateway Cities Program in 14 cities;
 - Built 10 miles of new bike accommodations along agency managed roadways;

- Leveraged \$1.3 million in private investment for the rehabilitation, management, and maintenance of 25 historic properties leased through the Historic Curatorship Program;
- Funded \$9 million in maintenance and improvements projects at agency managed pools; and,
- Permanently protected 1,102 acres of land through the Land Acquisition Program.
- It has been a momentous year at DCR, made possible by the hard work of agency staff, our partners, and the investments of the Baker-Polito Administration.

Goals of 2020

- We hope to capitalize on this momentum with specific 2020 goals as we seek to provide Massachusetts with a first-class state parks system.
- DCR continues to work on our Resource Management Plan initiative on many fronts.
- Specifically, the DCR has:
 - Developed a new RMP format;
 - Drafted and revised models of the new format;
 - And posted two new full-time positions which will ultimately benefit the RMP process.
- Each final document will have increased functionality with user-friendly features to best serve our staff.
- In the new year, DCR will continue working to make the RMP process more efficient and inclusive as the agency works toward publishing.
- Additionally, the accomplishments of DCR are made possible in part by collaborative relationships with our friends and partners.
- In 2020, DCR hopes to strengthen the agency's relationships with the legislature, private-partners, the Baker-Polito Administration, and other state agencies.
- Each DCR property is located within a municipality with important stakeholders who care deeply about the outdoor recreation opportunities of their area.

- It is our goal to engage our friends and partners in order to better serve the visitors of our natural, cultural, and historical resources.
- Finally, DCR plans to continue the development of a new asset management modernization program or AMMP.
- The asset management modernization program is tasked with verifying DCR asset data, importing it into a web-based application, and implementing work order processes.
- With this program, DCR can effectively evaluate work orders and completion performance for corrective, preventative, and deferred maintenance projects.
- DCR recognizes the importance encouraging advancements in technology used by the agency, and we are please to soon have staff utilizing this program.

2020 Look Ahead

- In 2020, DCR is excited to deliver great outdoor recreation opportunities across the Commonwealth so people of all abilities can enjoy our state parks.
- As I mentioned earlier, 2020 Pilgrim Memorial State Park will be celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims landing in Massachusetts.
- DCR expects the anniversary to be of high interest, and our dedicated staff have been hard at work in anticipation.
- In a four-year effort, the agency has:
 - Invested \$2 million in landscape rehabilitation;
 - Improved accessibility;
 - Conserved and repaired four park features including Plymouth Rock; and,
 - Rehabilitated the park restroom facilities.
- As the celebration fast approaches, DCR staff finish punch list items to prepare the park for the expected crowds.

- It is sure to be a memorable experience, and I encourage you to explore Pilgrim Memorial State Park during this exciting time.
- As one park prepares for a quadricentennial celebration, another prepares to re-open!
- In 2008, a previous Administration chose to close Windsor State Forest.
- The Baker-Polito Administration has invested \$1.2 million in necessary capital improvements in anticipation of DCR's re-opening of the park later this year.
- It is with great pleasure that we re-open a previously closed park, restoring outdoor recreational opportunities to residents and visitors this summer.

Rink Modernization

- At the end of this month, DCR is celebrating the completion of a significant two-year initiative.
- Since 2017, the Baker-Polito Administration has invested \$14 million in capital improvements for rink renovations at DCR managed rinks in the Commonwealth.
- The funds allowed for various projects that ensured these facilities remain important staples within local communities for years to come.
- Projects on our rinks included:
 - Refrigeration system and rink slab replacements,
 - Entrance improvements,
 - Concession area installations,
 - Accessibility improvements,
 - and in many cases, locker room installations, to name a few.
- With the completion of the modernization projects, DCR rinks are as popular as ever with rink reservations, Universal Access Program participants, and public skate crowds.
- This is a notable accomplishment the agency is thrilled to complete thanks to the continued support of the Baker-Polito Administration.

Thanks

- I want to thank everyone who came to the Massachusetts State House this morning in the cold weather to attend the first Stewardship Council Meeting of the new decade.
- DCR has lots to look forward to this year thanks to our staff, partners, and the Baker-Polito Administration.
- It has been an honor speaking in the Great Hall for all of you today.
- As you continue to ring in the new year, I encourage you to get outdoors in 2020 and explore your local state park.
- Thank you!