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Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry

DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry Programs

- Forest Fire Control(18 FTE's)
- State Lands Forestry (10)
- Private Lands Forestry (12)
- Forest Markets and Utilization (1)
- Forest Health (35)
- Urban and Community Forestry (23)
- Forest Legacy (1)
- Land and Forest
 Stewardship (1)

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Natural Disturbances

- Hurricanes, tornados, thunderstorms
- Snow storms
- ice storms
- pathogens (insects and disease)
- fires
- wildlife
- Climate Change







Forest Health Tree Crew



2018 Aerial Survey



Map Created by N Keleher DCR Forest Health 7/18/2018



Forest Fire Control







Urban and Community Forestry









Forest Cutting Practices Act oversight on all forested lands





Walden Pond Visitor Center



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Forest Futures Visioning Process: 2009-2010



- Advisory Group of Stakeholders, Technical Steering Committee
- 5 public forums Approx. 450 written comments
- Key Recommendations:
 - Ecosystems Services Approach
 - Clarifying Types of Activities on DCR Properties
 - Three Landscape Designations with Acreage Allocations
 - Director of Forest Stewardship
 - Affirmed the value and importance of an active forest management program on DCR lands MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

What are Ecosystem Services?

- Benefits provided to humans and the environment by ecosystem resources and processes
 - Soil
 - Air and Water Quality
 - Carbon Sequestration
 - Biological and Ecosystem Diversity
 - Nutrient Cycling
 - Culture and History
 - Spiritual Values
 - Public Recreation
 - Renewable Wood Products

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Landscape Designation: Fall/Spring 2010-11

- Selection Criteria
 - Ecological characteristics
 - Forest characteristics
 - Infrastructure characteristics
 - Locational and use characteristics
- Management Guidelines for each designation - what is allowed or not allowed on each type of property
- Landscape Designations
 - Reserves
 - Parklands
 - Woodlands





Landscape Designations

- *Reserves 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.
- *Parklands Goal:* Focus on recreation, reconnecting people to nature while providing recognition of aesthetic and cultural values.
- Woodlands Goal: Effectively managing woodlands while balancing recreation activities and protecting natural and cultural resources. Practice and demonstrate excellent forest management for the general public.





Reserves

•Partnered with The Nature Conservancy to create the Reserves Model

•Mainly utilized data from the newly released BioMap II

•Reserves Model consists of two components

•Forest Continuity

- •Open Space (3 miles around property)
- •Forest Cores (within the property)
- •Forest Cores (3 miles around property)
- •Forest Blocks (within the property)
- •Forest Blocks (3 miles around property)

Biological Systems

- •Species Habitat
- •Wetland Core Habitat
- •Aquatic Core Habitat
- •Priority Natural Communities

•Properties were categorized into Low, Medium and High for each ELU

Combined Reserve Model

Woodlands



Identified 12 important criteria from the TSC recommendations that were integral to Woodlands
Established combinations of the following GIS data to quantify the criteria:

> •Distance From Roads, Distance To Sawmills, Early Successional, Ecological Restoration, Fire Risk Areas, Forest Diversity, Forest Land (2005), Harvester Woodsheds, Late Successional, Past Areas Of Defoliation, Past Management, Prime Forest Soils, Prone To Disturbance, Sawmill Woodsheds, Vegetation Suitability, and Water Supply Protection Zones

•Ranked the data Limited, Important, and Optimal



•Used 3 GIS layers to model areas suitable as Parklands

 Trails Density was created using DCRs trails data and then ranked Low, Medium and High

 Intensive Use Areas were created for all DCR properties

> •e.g. Visitor Centers, Camping Areas, **Ball Fields, Swimming Areas**

 Housing Density was established using Census data within 2.5 miles of each DCR property

The Designation Process



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



March 2012



Forest Reserve Scientific Advisory Committee (FRSAC)

- Goals of FRSAC
 - Advise DCR on long term monitoring and research activities in Reserves
 - Provide advice on DCR planning initiatives and policies as they relate to ecological systems within reserves
 - Aid in the establishment of research projects and programs. Help DCR explore funding opportunities for reserve monitoring and research















Questions?



