



Historic Curatorship Program

Department of Conservation and Recreation

December 2018



Since 1994, DCR's Historic Curatorship Program has preserved 24 of its unused historic properties and leveraged over \$22 million in outside investment

Within the Commonwealth's over 450,000 acres of State Parks are a number of unused, historically significant buildings. Over time, these properties have fallen prey to the elements and vandalism. The **Historic Curatorship Program** was established in to preserve these properties through a unique public-private partnership.



**Gatekeeper's House, Lowell Heritage State Park
Before + After**



**House tour, Barton House,
F. Gilbert Hills State Park, Foxboro**

Through the program, DCR partners with a Curator who agrees to rehabilitate, manage and maintain a historic property in return for a long-term lease. As a result, DCR secures the long-term preservation of threatened historic sites and Curators exchange their hard work and unique skills for the opportunity to live or work in a one-of-a-kind location.

Curators are selected through an open and competitive process and proposed reuses must be compatible with the historic and natural character of the park or forest. Proposals are evaluated according to the experience of the applicant, the quality of the reuse plan, proof of sufficient resources to undertake the project, and level of public benefit beyond providing biannual public access. Average lease terms range from 20 to 30 years.



**Bradley Palmer Mansion (Willowdale Estate),
Bradley Palmer State Park, Topsfield**



Bell House, Maudslay State Park, Newburyport, Before and After

PROBLEM: Dozens and dozens of unused state-owned historic properties sit under-used and under-maintained

SOLUTION: 1994 - State creates program that allows outside parties to rehabilitate, manage and maintain these invaluable resources in return for a long term lease

OPPORTUNITY: Curators contribute their investment, skills, and hard work and live or work in a one of a kind property in a one of a kind location.

RESULT: Eyesores and liabilities transformed into valuable assets that compliment or enhance the visitor experience at little cost to the citizens of the Commonwealth

PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

62 - Properties eligible under legislation

24 - Properties under Agreement:

12: residential

4: non-profit

3: municipality in partnership
w/non-profit

5: for-profit

OUTSIDE INVESTMENT

\$18,705,897: Actual invested to date

\$23,644,816: Leveraged over lease terms

\$7 of outside investment for every
\$1 invested by DCR



**Diners enjoying a meal at Bascom Lodge,
Mt. Greylock State Reservation**

For more information on the program,
contact: HCP.Requests@state.ma.us

or VISIT: tinyurl.com/ma-curators



**Volunteers help raise a timber frame addition to
the Wilbur House, Borderland State Park, Easton**