

Halibut Point State Park Improvements

Public Comments

October 30 - November 13, 2018

Time	Topic	Name (First Name (Last)		Comment
10/30/2018 15:04	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Paul T	Morrison	<p>When will additional information be posted about the Halibut Point State Park renovations? It would be great if you just added the slides presented at the meeting at the Rockport Library to this web page.</p> <p>Sign me up to your mailing list for any information concerning Halibut Point State Park morrison@mail.dfci.harvard.edu</p> <p>Thanks, Paul Morrison, Rockport, Amateur Astronomer and scientist at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.</p>
10/30/2018 19:44	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Donald	Dolloff	<p>I am a former resident of Rockport, Mass. with a strong interest in the history of the area. I was distressed to learn of the plans to demolish the house at 5 Gott Avenue at Halibut Point State Park and replace it with restrooms and a modern style visitor center. This house is the only remaining building on the state's property which was once part of Babson Farm and the Babson Farm Quarry and is very much a part of the quarry's history.</p> <p>The house was originally on the edge of the quarry and was moved to its present location by teams of oxen. When the Babson Farm Granite Quarry was in operation, the house was occupied by many of the quarry workers. For example, the U.S. Federal Census for the year 1920 lists its 5 residents as Carlo Balestraci, John Frenihini, Peter Biamardi, Alexander Tearlitt, and Benedetto Teabenelli; their occupations are all indicated as "driller."</p> <p>This historic building is an irreplaceable part of the Halibut Point story, and I strongly urge that the plans to remove it be reconsidered. It would be wonderful if it could be preserved as the visitor center, rather than a modern building.</p>
10/31/2018 12:49	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Paul T	Morrison	<p>The information and slides from the meeting have not been posted on the DCR website.</p> <p>We now only have 13 days to submit comments. It would be helpful, in fact necessary, to read the information provided at the meeting before submitting useful comments.</p> <p>Hopefully his information can be provided soon.</p> <p>Thank you, Paul</p>
10/31/2018 14:42	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Ted	Blank	<p>Please post the slides so we can comment!</p>

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10/31/2018 14:54	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	alexandra	d'maris	Please leave Halibut Pt wild. People go there to see wild nature at it's finest. it is a majestic and unbelievably beautiful place. we don't need fancy signs or crazy lights. if you are going to add something make it something useful, like snacks or books or swimming or nice compost toilets. leave all the trees!!!! and everything, the way it is. you cannot improve on nature !!!! and nature is what people go there to see.
10/31/2018 21:09	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Robert	Staron	I am very concerned that the improvements planned for Halibut point will degrade it as a location where amateur astronomers and those who appreciate a light pollution free sky can enjoy the splendors of the heavens. Halibut point is one of the few locations in eastern Mass. where a true "dark sky" is viewable. Once this fine location is gone it will not be ever returned to its present condition. I encourage you to publish all available information, including visuals, that can provide the public with a true picture of the suggested improvements to the park. I am also concerned that the suggested improvements could forever change Halibut Point as a viewable "birding" location.
11/01/2018 9:14	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Dee	Oliverio	I think a sign that is lit up is an awful idea for a naturally beautiful park.
11/01/2018 13:43	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Denise	Donnelly	Please please please don't light up Haibit Point State Park! We who live here value the pristine and unspoiled night sky. I'm sure if more people were aware of the meeting and this plan, you would hear the same request. Thank you for listening.

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11/01/2018 21:59	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Paul T	Morrison	<p>After attending the presentation and going through the powerpoint presentation I have a few concerns.</p> <p>The sweeping vistas in the entrance I think are overdone. Removing native vegetation, trees, bushes, even the weeds that a visitor might think is a nuisance but birds transiting the Point use as a food source. Milkweed and seed producing plants that are native to the area should be encourage. A mowed meadow is sterile.</p> <p>Dark Sky. Halibut Point is unique in eastern Massachusetts because of its location. Cape Ann Granite and Pigeon Hill drumlin blocks all light from Rockport, Gloucester, and Boston. The only light that filters into Halibut is from Maine. The Dark Sky can illuminate the Milky Way, and even the Andromeda Galaxy to the naked eye. Amateur astronomers locally (Gloucester Area Astronomy Club) use the Park at night to set up telescopes in the meadow to the north of the proposed sign. They also use the field near the visitor center. Even small security LED lights would destroy the Dark Sky.</p> <p>Not shown in the proposal are security lights. Will the visitor center be lit? Will the Halibut Point sign be lit? Will the bathroom entrance at the sign be lit at night?</p> <p>The Halibut Point sign is far too big and does not fit in with the rest of Rockport and Cape Ann. It is a slice of Disneyland.</p> <p>These points were brought up as comments a the end of the meeting. The revamping of the visitor center looks great. The parking reconfiguration does fix the very minor problem of traffic being turned away on Washington Street. It really was never a big problem. But the sign design is terrible as is clearing brush and trees to give the visitor sweeping vistas of meadows. That helps destroy the dark skies letting in light as well as contradicting the very intimate nature of the rest of the park.</p> <p>Thanks for reading, Paul Morrison 70 Phillips Ave You can call me anytime for information or clarity. cell: 617-259-0559</p>
11/02/2018 9:43	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Beth	Sullivan	<p>Entryway is monstrous. Flat roof extension and pole hideous. Signage beyond ugly.</p> <p>Keep night lighting very minimal for stargazing.</p> <p>Natural vegetation and growth rather than wide open and sculpted.</p> <p>Parking looks good.</p>

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11/02/2018 15:37	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	John	Russo	<p>As a recent transplant to Cape Ann, I've come to appreciate its wealth of natural beauty and ecological diversity, and have had the opportunity to visit most of the open, public natural (wild!) spaces we're fortunate to have here. Halibut Point is a true jewel.</p> <p>Due to other commitments I was unfortunately not able to attend the recent plan review in Rockport. After reviewing the slides, I applaud the (apparent) goals of the project: improved access and understanding; increased utilization, esthetics and maintainability, etc.</p> <p>I am however concerned that some design decisions may negatively impact the site's value to Cape Ann residents ... both human and non! As your plans and material selections are being finalized, please strongly consider the following:</p> <p>* To encourage the quantity and diversity of native animal populations, replace any native plants removed (for sightline improvement, etc) with a comparable number of specimens elsewhere within the park.</p> <p>* To assure that amateur astronomers (and everyone, really) can continue to experience one of the only places in eastern MA with truly dark skies, please reduce all lighting throughout the Park and eliminate it entirely in those areas used by the public for skywatching and astronomy.</p> <p>Our wild spaces are best when they're as wild as possible! Thanks!</p>
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11/02/2018 15:59	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Gary	Meehan	<p>Dear sir/madam,</p> <p>Halibut Point State Park is as important a natural resource at night as it is during the day. Indeed, it represents one of the very last places in northeastern Massachusetts where one can be inspired by the night sky. I am concerned that some of the proposed design changes will adversely impact ones ability to enjoy views of the stars. The most impactful change is the introduction of exterior LED lighting, especially the planned lighting around the main building at at the entrance into the park, with its large, lit signage.</p> <p>Please consider these changes carefully so as not to take away the night sky, which is just as important an aspect of nature and the outdoors as the views one enjoys during the day.</p> <p>Will you take away such night time vistas as this time lapse I made at the park several years ago:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrXQHrXVnjQ&feature=youtu.be</p>
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11/03/2018 11:53	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Anne	Brooks	<p>Dear DCR Committee Members:</p> <p>I am writing to you in response to the proposed plans to renovate the Halibut State Park premises. I am a concerned member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club. The Halibut State Park is a great place to admire and enjoy the night skies. We, ask you, then, to please preserve its pristine beauty and dignity for generations to come. We are concerned we will be losing our dark skies! The Grand Canyon National Park, which I am a member, is presently battling the barrage of light pollution, as are all of our National Parks, over the country, that destroy our beautiful, night skies. They have initiated an ambitious project called the Grand Canyon National Park Dark Sky Initiative. They are working to replace and adjust the parks 5,000 lights and fixtures. The hope is to reduce the amount of light pollution that obstructs the awesome vision of such star studded skies over one of the greatest chasms on the earth. "The goal is to reduce light pollution so visitors can see an unobstructed view of the vast, twinkling universe above them, just as travelers to the canyon did hundreds of years ago."</p> <p>Why should we, then, at Halibut State Park, an awesome place, in and of itself, be moving backward? We have, right now, such an awe-inspiring, dark sky!! The Grand Canyon National Park is trying to retrieve what they have lost. We must NOT lose, what we have!</p> <p>From Vincent Van Gogh, to the great poet, Longfellow, artists and those who have enjoyed their great works of art have always admired the night skies! Please, keep them this way!</p> <p>"I don't know anything with certainty, but seeing the stars makes me dream." - Vincent Van Gogh</p> <p>Sincerely, Anne Brooks</p>
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11/03/2018 13:17	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Michael	Deneen	<p>The project presentation mentions new "panoramic views" to be created in the park, but threatens the greatest panorama of them all, the existing sweeping views of the Milky Way overhead. I write as a founder of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club to implore the DCR to consider carefully the irreplaceable natural resource that the installation of outdoor LED lights at the park could well destroy.</p> <p>Every summer the club and the park partner to stage a number of star parties -- we set up telescopes and invite the public to view and appreciate the stars and planets overhead in the darkest spot on the north shore of Massachusetts. Residents from all over Cape Ann and the surrounding area come with their children every year to see the stars they can no longer see elsewhere. Fewer than one in five persons now alive will ever see the Milky Way due to encroaching lights blotting out the wonders of the night sky. This would be an unfortunate fate indeed for HPSP, to lose the night sky in exchange for illuminated signage advertising a park that is closed at sunset.</p> <p>Outdoor lighting would not "improve" the park for anyone, not visitors or wildlife. The research on the harms of nighttime lighting is growing at an enormous rate. An important park resource with universal appeal is directly overhead, and I urge everyone involved with these improvements to consider carefully the impact of lighting on the awesome starscapes that have always been a huge part of the park's appeal, and a unique resource for residents and tourists.</p> <p>Michael Deneen</p>
11/3/18 5:23 PM	Cape Cod Rail Trail Wellfleet Extension - deadline November 8, 2018	Kirsten	Grimes	<p>I was absolutely devastated to hear about the proposed changes to help at point State Park. As a lifelong resident of Rockport being able to go to the ocean and be in nature without lights is extremely important to me. I have had a concussion and I can't be in environments with light. I have extreme light sensitivity. This would mean that I couldn't go there anymore. Please I beg you leave it as it is! It's beautiful! You can see the stars now! If you put lights there you're not gonna be able to see the stars it's not Disney World it's a beautiful state park. I beg you to please leave it as it is. Thank you ! No changes...please...</p>

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11/03/2018 14:00	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Richard	Luecke	<p>I am commenting as a member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club. I and other GAAC members are grateful for the many years that HPSP management has allowed us to use the grassy meadow after hours for observational astronomy. We look forward to continuing that relationship.</p> <p>In addition, and in collaboration with park management, GAAC hosts two public "star parties" each summer with 6-10 large telescopes set up for viewing. These events are held near the visitors center and draw dozens of people, including many children, from the area. We will host more of these popular events if asked.</p> <p>LIGHTING IN THE PARK</p> <p>I will confine my comments to only one aspect of your impressive plan: outdoor lighting.</p> <p>Thanks to it position on a peninsula jutting out into the Atlantic, HPSP is perhaps the finest "dark sky" area in the metro area. The Milky Way is prominent, and "deep sky objects" such as the Andromeda Galaxy, the Double Cluster in Perseus, are easily visible to the naked eye. Sky quality in HPSP compares favorably to that of Acadia National Park, where I work as an Astronomy Volunteer each September. That make HPSP a unique natural resource worthy of protection.</p> <p>As you can imagine, the installation of 10-12 light fixtures on the exterior walls of the visitors center is a matter or concern. And we hope that no other lights are planned. Since Park hours officially end at sunset, when plenty of natural light remains, there is no reason for these lights. If you feel otherwise, please talk with us about the types, lumen levels, and kelvin ratings of the fixtures you have ordered. Our club has developed substantial lighting know-how and can advise you on dark sky compatibility, and how the lights you've already installed can be remediated (through elimination, redirection, timers, and filters) to avoid unwanted light pollution.</p> <p>We are eager to help--both with the lighting issue AND developing more astronomy related programming in the Park.</p>
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11/03/2018 14:04	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Paul T	Morrison	<p>I just did a walkthrough and after viewing the DCR slideshow then matching up what is on the ground I have several new really big concerns that I will add to a second comment submission.</p> <p>I count twelve flush downward facing LED lights mounted on the side of the visitor center. These lights are aimed so as to light up the white siding of the center. When all twelve are turned on it will look like the White House in DC</p> <p>The sign and bathroom combo to highlight the entrance to the park with sweeping vistas. Not built yet but assuredly the same lighting plan exists and likely upward facing lights to illuminate the huge sign.</p> <p>Forget Dark Skies and any viewing of the Milky Way with these lights.</p> <p>The entrance vista view is not attained without sacrificing a lot of overgrown trees and understory to the left and right before getting into the Park. Garfield Ave is the road into the meadow. The State Park owns 110 feet of frontage on the left before Garfield. Some of that will be cleared out, possibly all of it to the wall (pretty close to flush with the back of the neighboring house.) Incidental light will pour into the meadow with all of that forest cleared out and replaced with grass.</p> <p>The meadow is labeled as a place for overflow cars can park. Meaning that during heavy use the park could easily park 50 more cars on the meadow. After a few summer rainstorms the meadow might need blue stone driveways to allow this overflow.</p>
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11/03/2018 18:42	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Ann	Byers	<p>I am delighted to see that you are proposing to repair, upgrade, & generally IMPROVE the Visitor Center, exhibits, bathrooms, parking....Very much appreciated!</p> <p>But I have some real concerns about (1): your proposed "New Entry"...which for THIS Park seems very STARK & UNinviting! (How about at least some evergreens & nice native shrubs???)... and...</p> <p>(2)Your plans for the "Meadow": I'm sure your planners have become aware of the GLOBAL push to reduce our overwhelming LIGHT POLLUTION (not only for wildlife & human health) but to preserve "DESIGNATED DARK SKY AREAS"...so we humans can, now & in the future, SEE & appreciate the wonders of the night sky. The National Park Service is making good progress doing this; as a State Park, HPSP ALREADY has an exceptionally GOOD DARK SKY area, (the MEADOW!) & it would make sense to PRESERVE (& possibly enhance) this site. (PLEASE! NO lights/ LEDs on after dark!!!) You could even BRAG about it! (Like Maine, Idaho, Arizona....)</p> <p>Thank you for asking for input; as a member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club, who enjoys our "viewing nights" at HPSP, I DO hope you will be able to preserve this gem!</p>
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11/03/2018 18:56	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	William	Waller	<p>I live about 300 meters south of HPSP, and so I was very happy to attend the Public Meeting on Halibut Point Improvements that occurred on October 29. I was especially impressed by the extensive rehab work on the Visitor's Center. Replacing the roof, removing rot, remediating mold, and refacing the tower's concrete for the long term are huge challenges which you appear to have met with great care.</p> <p>Towards the goal of making HPSP a bright star in the DCR's constellation of parks, I have a few suggestions which follow ...</p> <p>1. Include an exhibit on the geology of HPSP -- the basalt and granite, their minerals and history of formation & evolution. HPSP was also the site closest to an historic earthquake (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1755_Cape_Ann_earthquake) and may still be geologically active.</p> <p>2. Ensure that the night sky is preserved without light pollution, as my fellow GAAC members and neighbors at the meeting have so eloquently articulated. HPSP is truly special in these regards.</p> <p>3. Take a second look at preserving the Silva House, as former house resident Barbara Reed advocated at the meeting. I have been lobbying present and past DCR employees for several years to use it as a Welcome Center, where folks could use "services," purchase snacks and beverages, browse rotating historic and artistic exhibits relating to HPSP, and purchase mementos. There are groups such as the Cape Ann Vernal Pond team, GAAC, and Friends of Halibut Point who could tend the center. Perhaps the building could be listed under your curatorship program, and a suitable arrangement could be made that would enable the center to provide a year-round entry to the park.</p> <p>I would be happy to continue any discussion in these regards.</p> <p>William H. Waller, Ph.D., Science Teacher at Rockport High School, writer of general-interest books on Astronomy, and Editor of "The Galactic Inquirer" (see http://galacticinquirer.net).</p>
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11/04/2018 8:25	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	HazelJane	Beddus	<p>No lighting in Haliibut State Park.</p> <p>Please, this island is home to the town of Rockport and part of the City of Gloucester (some 33,000 people) and it's special for Massachusetts. This island should, at this stage in the world's climate history, be left a natural resource. Well, as natural as possible. I agree that invasive species be eradicated - knot weed, Norway maples etc., etc., and trails be kept safe for children with adventure on their imaginative minds. The walk from the car park to and round the quarry should be kept clear and safe but, the rest of the park just tidy up the trails and let the birds, animals and kids have some nearly raw nature.</p> <p>Clearing the way for 'vistas'? All this does is encourage people to be lazy, stay in their cars and just look.</p> <p>Please, let us have some dark heavens so we can see some stars to wish upon.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
11/04/2018 16:23	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Thomas	Kozachek	<p>As a publicly accessible dark sky preserve, Halibut Point is a unique treasure in our state. I was startled and upset by the fact that the architect and DCR representative seemed to have little to say by way of reassuring the public that they had actually thought much about this issue -- and that there were no plans to illuminate any part of the park at night -- someone mentioned timers! The DCR must maintain Halibut Point as a park unspoiled by the modern craving for incessant illumination! I call on the DCR to confirm publicly that no further steps will be taken to outfit the visitor center or Gaffield Road with any kind of illumination that does not meet with the approval of dark sky experts, including representatives of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club. Even we non-astronomers recognize that every human-generated lumen degrades the biome and makes Halibut Point State Park a poorer place for its natural inhabitants as well as for those who need the dark sky to explore. The DCR has no business polluting the night sky. It cannot be justified. This is not a shopping district.</p>

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11/04/2018 17:27	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Frank	Garrison	<p>mass.gov/Halibut Point State Park</p> <p>As a frequent visitor and neighbor from Lanesville I have visited the Park frequently for a number of reasons including treating myself to the fabulous view of the South coast of New Hampshire and Maine and the vast expanse of ocean between us and Portugal. I have shared the experience of walking on the granite shore and marveled at the crashing waves from a safe distance. I love to bring friends from out of town to see the quarry and share stories of the important role Granite quarrying was to this area. I have accompanied the birders on their monthly walks spotting birds in the bushes and off the shore in various times of the year to see the migrations of land and sea birds. I have joined groups who have watched the solstice sun set and moon rise from the overlook and sang and chanted prayers celebrating the wonders of the Earth.</p> <p>I have joined the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club in various activities including open observing nights where visitors are encouraged to look through the telescopes at far distant stars. We may have had a dozen scopes set up at the visitors center. We once had a small bus load of high school science club students visit us in the field one evening.</p> <p>The great draw for astronomers is the quality of the dark sky. Often times on hastily planned gatherings we will meet in the parking lot. The weather may not be warm and balmy but the enthusiasm of these observers keeps them trying to see the elusive constellation or star cluster that may be found that evening. We have astronomers come from all over the North Shore and a couple of times we have shared the lot with folks from a Harvard University Astronomy Club because they know where to find the dark sky.</p> <p>There are many reasons to cherish the uniqueness of this location and we should celebrate all of them including the quiet activities of the night and respect those who need the dark clear nights to observe the sky.</p>
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11/04/2018 19:00	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Lisa	Capella	<p>I have been a longtime lover of Cape Ann. First vacation there (Gloucester specifically) was in 1982 and quickly was hooked on this gorgeous area. In 2009, my husband and I were fortunate enough to become part-time residents of this wonderful area. We are from the NY metro area and come up every chance we get. Family and friends have become acquainted and also were delighted with this area.</p> <p>I began looking for things to do beyond our original attraction to the area (fishing, beaches, antiques) and found the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club. I was interested in space at a young age and was delighted to find a nice and generous group as they. They set up regularly in Halibut Point Park and it is feared that some of the improvements might destroy the dark night skies. This park attracts alot of people from areas outside of Gloucester for this purpose. It's some of the darkest skies immediately north of Boston. In addition to Astronomy, animals of all types benefit from these dark skies as well. In fact, the new lighting (low blue light Kelvin temperature) along the Boulevard was specifically ordered/installed to accommodate them. Many animals reproduction, migration cycles depend on having night skies close to shore.</p> <p>Darksky.org will give you a rundown on Outdoor lighting basics.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lisa Capella</p>
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11/04/2018 19:02	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Isaac	Chute	<p>Hi Folks,</p> <p>I would urge extreme caution with the addition of any lighting at Halibut Point State. Current the HPSP is one of the few places on the eastern board that you can actually see the Milky Way, our galaxy. It is the nearest dark sky to the Boston metropolitan area, far better than the Haystack or MIT Observatories in Westford MA.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Isaac Chute 30 Bayview Road Marblehead MA 01945 USA</p> <p>781.462.8139 Isaacchute@gmail.com</p>
11/04/2018 19:29	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Eleanor	Harris	<p>I have the greatest privilege to view the night sky with members of the Gloucester Amateur Astronomy Club. It is the most pristine viewing location I have ready access to; finding non light polluted areas in which to view the sky is a challenge at best. Please preserve this lovely area for those of us who treasure it.</p>

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11/05/2018 10:56	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	philip	orbanes	<p>Halibut Park is a standout location to experience nature as it is intended to be experienced -- without the trapping of modern technology.</p> <p>In specific, its dark skies are a rarity in our ares. Anyone who has not seen the splendor of the dark, night sky, and wondered about the heavens, is blessed to visit this park in the evening.</p> <p>I `have been "looking up" since I was a teenager, and I am grateful to be a member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club and to live so near Halibut Point (we reside in Magnolia). Fans of astronomy come from long distances to be part of our club, and enjoy the dark skies of Halibut Point to observe.</p> <p>I hope sound reason will prevail and no artificial lighting will be present during observing sessions.</p> <p>Thank you sincerely.</p>
11/05/2018 11:16	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Roger	Porter	<p>Please keep the sky's dark at Halibut point state park in Rockport Ma. It is one of the few places I can see the Milky way and photograph it. I took a beautiful picture of it at the quarry on one of GAACs(Gloucester area astronomy club) star party's and is one of the few places they can get a good dark sky to view and set up there telescopes and we need more clubs like that in the public teaching people what's up and more importantly the value of dark sky's for the wildlife and human health as well.</p>
11/05/2018 11:56	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Jane	Burke-Miller	<p>I am strongly opposed to the idea of building a new entrance to Halibut Point State Park, especially to building the proposed Welcoming Threshold with a large wall and signage where there currently is a field and foliage. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PARK ENTRANCE FROM ITS CURRENT STATE, WHICH IS NATURAL AND WELCOMING. The proposed new entrance does not fit in with the natural woodlands and greenery that we currently enjoy.</p>

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11/05/2018 12:03	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Mario	Motta	<p>The problems associated with light pollution, such as energy waste, sky glow, and environmental impact are now becoming well known. But less well known is the burgeoning growth of research that demonstrates direct human-health issues related to excess light. Though we certainly need to be mindful of wasting energy, health effects might ultimately be the most important reason to control light pollution. The energy wasted by excessive lighting is produced primarily by burning fossil fuels, leading directly to air pollution that causes higher asthma rates and increased respiratory problems for people with lung disease and other medical issues.</p> <p>In 2012, the AMA adopted as policy, of which I was the principle author, entitled: "Adverse Health Effects of Nighttime Lighting", summarizing an extensive world literature on the subject of night time lighting. In 2016 the AMA adopted a report urging all municipalities to follow the following recommendations to protect human health and minimize adverse environmental effects on animals and insects:</p> <p>The Council on Science and Public Health recommends that the following statements be adopted,</p> <p>1.That our American Medical Association (AMA) support the proper conversion to community-based Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, which reduces energy consumption and decreases the use of fossil fuels. (New HOD Policy)</p> <p>2.That our AMA encourage minimizing and controlling blue-rich environmental lighting by using the lowest emission of blue light possible to reduce glare. (New HOD Policy)</p> <p>3.That our AMA encourage the use of 3000K or lower lighting for outdoor installations such as roadways. All LED lighting should be properly shielded to minimize glare and detrimental human and environmental effects, and consideration should be given to utilize the ability of LED lighting to be dimmed for off-peak time periods. (New HOD Policy)□</p> <p>Mario Motta, MD, trustee of the AMA and Gloucester resident</p>
11/05/2018 13:31	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	MARY	WEISSBLUM	"I AM EXTREMELY DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES I.E. SO CALLED" IMPROVEMENTS "AT HALIBUT STATE PARK, ROCKPORT.,MA. THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER PLACES WHERE ONE CAN OBSERVE THE WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY WITHOUT LIGHT POLLUTION AND HALIBUT POINT IS ONE OF THEM. I WONDER HOW MANY EVENING EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE PARK AND I VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT THE STAR PARTIES ARE BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE THERE.. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS IMPROVEMENT AS OUR ENVIRONMENTS NATURAL RERSOURCES ARE SHRINKING MORE AND MORE., RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED MARY WIESSBLUM
Nov 5, 2018 11:56:24	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Julie	Packard	I am strongly opposed to the idea of building a new entrance to Halibut Point State Park, especially to building the proposed Welcoming Threshold with a large wall and signage where there currently is a field and foliage. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PARK ENTRANCE FROM ITS CURRENT STATE, WHICH IS NATURAL AND WELCOMING. The proposed new entrance does not fit in with the natural woodlands and greenery that we currently enjoy.

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Nov 5, 2018 12:03:43	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Gavin	Lund	<p>The problems associated with light pollution, such as energy waste, sky glow, and environmental impact are now becoming well known. But less well known is the burgeoning growth of research that demonstrates direct human-health issues related to excess light. Though we certainly need to be mindful of wasting energy, health effects might ultimately be the most important reason to control light pollution. The energy wasted by excessive lighting is produced primarily by burning fossil fuels, leading directly to air pollution that causes higher asthma rates and increased respiratory problems for people with lung disease and other medical issues.</p> <p>In 2012, the AMA adopted as policy, of which I was the principle author, entitled: “Adverse Health Effects of Nighttime Lighting”, summarizing an extensive world literature on the subject of night time lighting. In 2016 the AMA adopted a report urging all municipalities to follow the following recommendations to protect human health and minimize adverse environmental effects on animals and insects:</p> <p>The Council on Science and Public Health recommends that the following statements be adopted,</p> <p>1.That our American Medical Association (AMA) support the proper conversion to community-based Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, which reduces energy consumption and decreases the use of fossil fuels. (New HOD Policy)</p> <p>2.That our AMA encourage minimizing and controlling blue-rich environmental lighting by using the lowest emission of blue light possible to reduce glare. (New HOD Policy)</p> <p>3.That our AMA encourage the use of 3000K or lower lighting for outdoor installations such as roadways. All LED lighting should be properly shielded to minimize glare and detrimental human and environmental effects, and consideration should be given to utilize the ability of LED lighting to be dimmed for off-peak time periods. (New HOD Policy)□</p> <p>Mario Motta, MD, trustee of the AMA and Gloucester resident</p>
Nov 5, 2018 13:31:19	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Ken	Cheitlin	<p>"I AM EXTREMELY DISTRESSED TO LEARN OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES I.E. SO CALLED" IMPROVEMENTS "AT HALIBUT STATE PARK, ROCKPORT.,MA. THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER PLACES WHERE ONE CAN OBSERVE THE WONDERS OF THE NIGHT SKY WITHOUT LIGHT POLLUTION AND HALIBUT POINT IS ONE OF THEM. I WONDER HOW MANY EVENING EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE PARK AND I VENTURE TO SUGGEST THAT THE STAR PARTIES ARE BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE THERE.. PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS IMPROVEMENT AS OUR ENVIRONMENTS NATURAL RERSOURCES ARE SHRINKING MORE AND MORE., RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED MARY WIESSBLUM</p>

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Nov 5, 2018 16:20:37	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	lydia	Thompson	<p>I am a founding member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club now living in Charlotte, NC.</p> <p>I highly value my fellow astronmers' opinions concerning the improvements and proposed changes to Halibut State Park. Please keep the new lighting illuminating what's absolute neccessary for safety and asceticly pleasing(proper LED intensity with full cutoff). Please minimize reducing vegetation to what is absolutely needed to promote the park, yet retains the natural beauty of the area and provided a balance habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>One of many features that makes</p> <p>HPSP is its location which promotes the best view of the night sky in the Boston are and beyond. Please make every effort to preserve this invaluable resource for current and future generations when planning for any changes to the park. Thank you.</p> <p>Jim Koerth 15005 Clooney Lane Charlotte, NC. 28262 Kfamtl@verizon.net</p>
11/05/2018 16:20	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Jim	Koerth	<p>I am a founding member of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club now living in Charlotte, NC.</p> <p>I highly value my fellow astronmers' opinions concerning the improvements and proposed changes to Halibut State Park. Please keep the new lighting illuminating what's absolute neccessary for safety and asceticly pleasing(proper LED intensity with full cutoff). Please minimize reducing vegetation to what is absolutely needed to promote the park, yet retains the natural beauty of the area and provided a balance habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>One of many features that makes</p> <p>HPSP is its location which promotes the best view of the night sky in the Boston are and beyond. Please make every effort to preserve this invaluable resource for current and future generations when planning for any changes to the park. Thank you.</p> <p>Jim Koerth 15005 Clooney Lane Charlotte, NC. 28262 Kfamtl@verizon.net</p>

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11/07/2018 9:28	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Dawn	Epstein	<p>As a long time lover of Halibut Point, a photogrspher, landscape designer, and Rockport resident, I want to share some concerns I have with the proposed improvements to Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>(1) While I support the goals of improving the legibility of the park entrance, I find the proposed entrance to be utterly out of keeping with the scale and style of area features, signage, and architecture. Hammering visitors with a "sense of arrival" may be the wrong goal. An option is to provide a sense of discovery, an unwrapping of a hidden gem.</p> <p>(2) I support efforts to eliminate invasives, and perform some careful vista-pruning, but I do not support mowing of the meadow, or any wholesale clearing of understory that presently affords food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other desirable fauna..</p> <p>(3) Grass turf should be minimized, not expanded. Maintaining grass turf requires conctant maintenance and an unacceptably high water demand, as well as fertilizers and pesticides that might run off into the quarry waters, providing nutrients that would encourage algae blooms. Open space can be created using native drought- and salt-tolerant ground covers in keeping with .coastal vegetation.</p> <p>(4) Do everything to minimize light pollution. The night sky in this location is an exceptional asset to the park. Any additionsl lighting must protect the darkness that delivers extraordinary night time views of the Milky Way and Aurora Borealis.</p> <p>(5) Consider the use of permeable pavements in all additional or modified hardscape features.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity tonprovide feedback, and for your consideration of these commentx.</p>
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Halibut Point State Park Improvements
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11/07/2018 9:46	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	jo	millen	<p>i would like a straight answer, yes or no. It seems with new lighting (park closes at dusk), parking (permanent spaces -90 and meadow temporary spaces - 50, totaling 140 spaces), expanded visitor center and deck, expanded square footage on 1st and 2nd floors, all the trappings of a wedding/event venue - is that the plan?</p> <p>answer yes or no?</p> <p>There needs to be a real meeting to discuss the passive use of a beautiful park into a circus venue.</p>
11/07/2018 9:57	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Lynda	DeCourcy	<p>I have several concerns relative to this project.</p> <p>1. Clearing of trees Being a direct abutter, can you tell me exactly what is planned for the corner of Gott and Gaffield regarding the clearing of brush and trees? How far into my property line are you planning to go? I don't believe this was directly addressed at the meeting on October 29.</p> <p>2. Traffic In the past, traffic backup into the parking lot caused vehicles to turn around in my driveway. Is the new design going to address this issue?</p> <p>3. Lighting What is the plan for lighting? Constant illumination would be detrimental to the dark sky which is so unique to Halibut Point, not to mention the affect lighting would have on the Astronomy Club. And possibly having constant illumination into my backyard? Please no! Why would we need lights when the park is closed?</p> <p>4. Signage The size and look of the sign appears to be out of keeping with the natural beauty of the park.</p> <p>I do have other concerns, but they have been addressed by others. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

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11/07/2018 11:22	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Marcia	Siegel	<p>To the Department of Conservation and Recreation:</p> <p>I have looked at the projected plans for the renovation of Halibut Point Park, and I would like to offer the following comments:</p> <p>I am a frequent Halibut Point visitor, walking there about once a week year round. I applaud the preservation and renovations of the existing park headquarters building.</p> <p>I don't, however, approve the plans for the new "arrival" or "threshold" to the park. The building planned to replace the old house being torn down is very out of keeping with the park and the New England landscape which it celebrates. Halibut Point is unique in that it preserves the traces of the quarrying industry around which the park was built. I don't subscribe to the notion that all parks should be manicured and tailored for people who need official hand-holding. Halibut is a wonderful place for discoveries; we should keep it that way. The paths as now laid out could be better marked, but no grand entrance and walkway is needed. The less paving and signage applied here the better.</p> <p>I would strongly urge that no significant tree clearing be undertaken at the park, and that no lighting be added to interfere with the unusual view of the sky.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention. Marcia B. Siegel</p>
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11/07/2018 19:09	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Barbara	Reed	<p>I attended the meeting regarding Haulibut Project Plans. I have comments I would like to have considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Silva House - This house has a history and once demolished it can not be replaced.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. it was moved by oxen from the edge of the quarry, originally a summer homelib. quarry workers lived in it and it was sold to one of the quarry workers when the granite company closedc. it shows stone steps and foundation from the quarry, GRANITE in USE much better than displayed stones which there are too many ofd. The house is a better place for information due to location and no need for a walke. Parts could be used for residence study for bird watchers, astronomers, botanists, etc. for designated periods of time or for revenue if connected with a university or other interest group,d. it is safer to have bathrooms at house as the design at the military building offers an open deck for waiting. The quarry is much too close for that and a danger to childrene. there currently are three open fields in the near vicinity 1. the opposite side of Garfield Ave from the Silva house 2. The field to the left of the entrance to the tower, this field is currently underutilizedf. has a study been done to show the effects of increased foot traffic on the ecosystem of the area?g. Do fields host more ticks and therefore present a health problem.h. people like the narrow walks to quarry starts.2. Ideas<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. On-line site of plants and animals accessible by cell phones, to be viewed or help with identification when walking. Have a birds of Haulibut Point with pictures, plants, animals for walking reference.b. telescope in an out of way location for astronomersc. expose the tracks that carried granite to Folly Cove, maybe a replicationd. make year round accessible bathrooms <p>In conclusion, the greatest draw to the area is it's natural beauty.</p>
11/07/2018 19:49	Halibut Point State Park Improvements -deadline November 13, 2018	Diane	Silva	<p>I was so disappointed to see these photos of the plans for Halibut Point. Tearing down a 150 year old house with history of quarrying and farming to have an empty field with an overbearing sign?</p>

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Nov 7, 2018 09:28:13	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Dawn	Epstein	<p>As a long time lover of Halibut Point, a photogrspher, landscape designer, and Rockport resident, I want to share some concerns I have with the proposed improvements to Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>(1) While I support the goals of improving the legibility of the park entrance, I find the proposed entrance to be utterly out of keeping with the scale and style of area features, signage, and architecture. Hammering visitors with a “sense of arrival” may be the wrong goal. An option is to provide a sense of discovery, an unwrapping of a hidden gem.</p> <p>(2) I support efforts to eliminate invasives, and perform some careful vista-pruning, but I do not support mowing of the meadow, or any wholesale clearing of understory that presently affords food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other desirable fauna..</p> <p>(3) Grass turf should be minimized, not expanded. Maintaining grass turf requires conctant maintenance and an unacceptably high water demand, as well as fertilizers and pesticides that might run off into the quarry waters, providing nutrients that would encourage algae blooms. Open space can be created using native drought- and salt-tolerant ground covers in keeping with .coastal vegetation.</p> <p>(4) Do everything to minimize light pollution. The night sky in this location is an exceptional asset to the park. Any additionsl lighting must protect the darkness that delivers extraordinary night time views of the Milky Way and Aurora Borealis.</p> <p>(5) Consider the use of permeable pavements in all additional or modified hardscape features.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity tonprovide feedback, and for your consideration of these commentx.</p>
Nov 7, 2018 09:46:51	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	jo	millen	<p>i would like a straight answer, yes or no. It seems with new lighting (park closes at dusk), parking (permanent spaces -90 and meadow temporary spaces - 50, totaling 140 spaces), expanded visitor center and deck, expanded square footage on 1st and 2nd floors, all the trappings of a wedding/event venue - is that the plan?</p> <p>answer yes or no?</p> <p>There needs to be a real meeting to discuss the passive use of a beautiful park into a circus venue.</p>

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Nov 7, 2018 09:57:27	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Lynda	DeCourcy	<p>I have several concerns relative to this project.</p> <p>1. Clearing of trees Being a direct abutter, can you tell me exactly what is planned for the corner of Gott and Gaffield regarding the clearing of brush and trees? How far into my property line are you planning to go? I don't believe this was directly addressed at the meeting on October 29.</p> <p>2. Traffic In the past, traffic backup into the parking lot caused vehicles to turn around in my driveway. Is the new design going to address this issue?</p> <p>3. Lighting What is the plan for lighting? Constant illumination would be detrimental to the dark sky which is so unique to Halibut Point, not to mention the affect lighting would have on the Astronomy Club. And possibly having constant illumination into my backyard? Please no! Why would we need lights when the park is closed?</p> <p>4. Signage The size and look of the sign appears to be out of keeping with the natural beauty of the park.</p> <p>I do have other concerns, but they have been addressed by others. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
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Nov 7, 2018 11:22:21	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Marcia	Siegel	<p>To the Department of Conservation and Recreation:</p> <p>I have looked at the projected plans for the renovation of Halibut Point Park, and I would like to offer the following comments:</p> <p>I am a frequent Halibut Point visitor, walking there about once a week year round. I applaud the preservation and renovations of the existing park headquarters building.</p> <p>I don't, however, approve the plans for the new "arrival" or "threshold" to the park. The building planned to replace the old house being torn down is very out of keeping with the park and the New England landscape which it celebrates. Halibut Point is unique in that it preserves the traces of the quarrying industry around which the park was built. I don't subscribe to the notion that all parks should be manicured and tailored for people who need official hand-holding. Halibut is a wonderful place for discoveries; we should keep it that way. The paths as now laid out could be better marked, but no grand entrance and walkway is needed. The less paving and signage applied here the better.</p> <p>I would strongly urge that no significant tree clearing be undertaken at the park, and that no lighting be added to interfere with the unusual view of the sky.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention. Marcia B. Siegel</p>
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Nov 7, 2018 19:09:09	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Barbara	Reed	<p>I attended the meeting regarding Haulibut Project Plans. I have comments I would like to have considered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Silva House - This house has a history and once demolished it can not be replaced.<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. it was moved by oxen from the edge of the quarry, originally a summer homelib. quarry workers lived in it and it was sold to one of the quarry workers when the granite company closedc. it shows stone steps and foundation from the quarry, GRANITE in USE much better than displayed stones which there are too many ofd. The house is a better place for information due to location and no need for a walke. Parts could be used for residence study for bird watchers, astronomers, botanists, etc. for designated periods of time or for revenue if connected with a university or other interest group,d. it is safer to have bathrooms at house as the design at the military building offers an open deck for waiting. The quarry is much too close for that and a danger to childrene. there currently are three open fields in the near vicinity 1. the opposite side of Garfield Ave from the Silva house 2. The field to the left of the entrance to the tower, this field is currently underutilizedf. has a study been done to show the effects of increased foot traffic on the ecosystem of the area?g. Do fields host more ticks and therefore present a health problem.h. people like the narrow walks to quarry starts.2. Ideas<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. On-line site of plants and animals accessible by cell phones, to be viewed or help with identification when walking. Have a birds of Haulibut Point with pictures, plants, animals for walking reference.b. telescope in an out of way location for astronomersc. expose the tracks that carried granite to Folly Cove, maybe a replicationd. make year round accessible bathrooms <p>In conclusion, the greatest draw to the area is it's natural beauty.</p>
Nov 7, 2018 19:49:46	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Diane	Silva	<p>I was so disappointed to see these photos of the plans for Halibut Point. Tearing down a 150 year old house with history of quarrying and farming to have an empty field with an overbearing sign?</p>

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Nov 8, 2018 07:59:17	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Diane	Cartwright	<p>I attended the Public meeting on October 29, 2018. I agree with the concerns voiced by several attendees that we do not want a "flashy" entrance to the park or too frequent signs about where to go or clear cutting of trees that take away the sense of discovery. This state park is a real gem and it would be a shame to overdevelop it.</p> <p>Keep the amount of lighting down to a minimum. There should not be any lights that reflect off of the Visitor Center and all the other lighting in the park should be pointed down. The dark skies at the park make it a fantastic place to go for astronomy. It would be a crime to take that away from this location.</p> <p>I do think the new plan for the parking area has been laid out more efficiently to accommodate more vehicles. The newly renovated Visitor Center is looking very good and the proposed exhibits sound great although I agree with one of the other attendees's comments that the "marine environment" should be an exhibit theme included along with quarries and military history.</p> <p>.</p>
Nov 9, 2018 08:24:01	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Linda	McCarriston	<p>Preserving access to viewing the night sky should be among the primary considerations in renovating the park. Even if this is not a widely advertised feature of access to the natural world at Halibut Point, the long history of the local astronomer's club is so significant a factor of park use that any lighting considered or installed should be designed to preserve the present access to viewing. There is no middle ground on this, and I'm sure there is no need to explain this to you, whose ambition and resolve is to sustain access to the natural world for visitors to this and all parks.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Nov 9, 2018 13:35:42	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Margaret	O'Neill	<p>As a frequent walker in Halibut State Park, I am sad for the future by the changes put forth.</p> <p>Six years ago a friend from a start up Boston company had to check their new night goggle's vision. He was unable to locate a place for testing until he found Halibut Park. It was the only place he could find dark enough. It seems we have a rarity here. Please do not add lights. The park does close at dusk.</p> <p>My grand children enjoy the atmosphere using red flash lights as not to disturb their night vision when coming to the star parties offered by the astronomers.</p> <p>Also please do not put up the garish sign or cut down more trees.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 10:41:17	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Robert	Kroin	<p>Please don't allow more outdoor lights at Halibut Point because the area is supposed to close at sunset and the astronomers at the nearby field will lose one of the few dark sky sites within 50 miles of Boston . Dark skies are rare and precious anywhere we can find them, especially east of the Mississippi.</p>

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Nov 10, 2018 10:50:39	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Jeff	Segel	Please carefully consider the comments of our local astronomers who are concerned with the light pollution from this lighting design. Thank you for your consideration.
Nov 10, 2018 10:58:10	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Evan	Slater	<p>This is a comment for the planned installation of lighted signage to the Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>Cape Ann is known for its dark pristine night sky, any additional lighting will cause harm to this natural beauty. In short light pollution is exactly that: pollution.</p> <p>Please do not move forward with the installation of any further lighting. I drive for more than an hour from my light polluted home to enjoy this nightscape, please protect it.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention, Evan</p>
Nov 10, 2018 11:27:10	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Kevin	Hocker	<p>To whom it may concern, I have reviewed the proposed improvements to Halibut Point State Park and I am opposed to the installation of new lights at the entryway and on buildings. Halibut Point is known for its low light pollution and the ability for visitors to appreciate the night sky. I have attended several events conducted by local astronomy clubs and the views of the night sky at Halibut Point were amazing! Other locations in the Boston area cannot compare to the exceptionally dark skies of Halibut Point.</p> <p>As a young child dark skies peaked my interest in Astronomy and other sciences. This has lead to a lifelong appreciation of and a career in Science. Light pollution not only spoils the beautiful views of the night sky but it also effects wildlife. Everything from vegetation, small amphibians, insects, birds and mammals are effected by light pollution in the form of disrupted mating cycles, interference with seasonal migrations and increased stress. Light pollution has even been linked to cancer in humans. I fear that with the loss of dark skies we are losing our connection to the natural world and harming our own health.</p> <p>The addition of lighting to Halibut Point provides little to no benefit to the public. The park closes at dusk therefore the public will not see or benefit from the lights. Astronomy events are conducted with special permission at night and the lights would interfere with those events. Please eliminate any plans to add night time lighting at Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kevin Hocker North Andover, MA</p>

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Nov 10, 2018 11:48:48	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Ann	Byers	<p>On HPSP Improvements:</p> <p>A short follow-up on my original (11-3-18) comments: It would seem you have gotten many responses urging you to PRESERVE the "Meadow" as a DARK SKY area, great for observing the Heavens!</p> <p>However, your (apparent) plans for the NEW entrance to the Park seem VERY detrimental to this goal! Why, WHY, WHY??? would you want to remove all vegetation from the Park entrance...& install a "bare-naked" STARK, garishly-lit sign? This is TOTALLY out of character for both Rockport & the fine "nature" Park you are trying (?) to improve! Furthermore, removal of the present vegetation (at the periphery of the Meadow) will decisively increase the potential ambient LIGHT intruding on that (hopefully) DARK SKY meadow.</p> <p>Thank you again for ACCEPTING comments.... I hope you will see the way to making HPSP truly "improved" in all the great ways it is now loved!</p>
Nov 10, 2018 12:10:58	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	John	Gintell	Halibut Point is a place of natural beauty and is is lovely at night when stars can be seen. There should be no installation of lights that would damage the feeling of the place and hurt sky gazers' views. And why waste the power consumed to light them when few people would benefit.
Nov 10, 2018 12:15:51	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Sandy	Shaw	I am writing to comment on a lit sign that would obscure the night sky for the Gloucester Astronomy Club observing nights. There are few places where serious observers can count on the right dark conditions and Halibut Point State Park is one of them. This is an important for observation of the universe by scientists, amateurs and children. I am asking that it be preserved in the name of science and observation of our natural world. I want local dark space to be preserved for my young grandchildren too so they might look at planets and stars and comets. Please do not add a lit sign to this space and take away all the wonderful learning that happens in the dark sky at Halibut Point State Park.
Nov 10, 2018 12:55:50	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Kevin	Ackert	This has been a wonderful resource for people to enjoy the night sky for many years and it would be a shame to ruin it for the many astronomers who have done public star parties for many years in exchange for occasional use. The lights are of no benefit.

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Nov 10, 2018 13:03:18	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephani	Colby	<p>Although I am not a member of the astronomy club, I am a local resident who regards preserving the rare element of undiluted dark night sky over Halibut Point as a precious resource. I hope that this will be preserved.</p> <p>Also, I hope that the new sign will be moderate in appearance, and that there will be no attempts to "open up" the spacious walkway to the quarry. The walkway is quite wide enough, and the winding path leading to the quarry is a pleasant one. There is no need to see the quarry from afar and, indeed, that would be likely to reduce the sense of spaciousness in what is already a beautiful but very small park.</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 13:39:32	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Wyatt	Davis	<p>I urge you to follow the lead of the National Parks System and do everything possible to eliminate or minimize the emission of nighttime light - light pollution - from the proposed improvements at Halibut Point. This would include eliminating illuminated park signs. This site is near an area that is used by amateur astronomers for visual observation and is one of the darker areas in the region at night. Any nighttime light will be very detrimental to this kind of outdoor activity, and it has been observed that the park closes at sunset in any event. Thank you for considering these points as you proceed.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 14:58:46	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	William	Drown	<p>As an astronomer with GAAC and NSAAC I Would like to see the skies at Halibit Piont stay as darkas they are know no extra lighting. WE USE THIS SITE FOR OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS TO ALL INTERESTED IN OUR NIGHT SKY . It is one of the few truely dark sky places on the North shore. THANK YOU FOR DARK SKIES. William Drown and family 148 pine st Danvers Ma CELL 978 646 7825</p>
Nov 10, 2018 15:07:02	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Peter	Goodwin	<p>Adding illuminated signs at Halibut State Park makes no sense, as the park is a dawn-to-dusk facility. Furthermore, those who count on the availability of dark skies for astronomical sightings will be impacted by additional light pollution. We need to control, limit, regulate, and -- wherever possible -- reduce nighttime light pollution. Say "No" to the planned illuminated signs.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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Nov 10, 2018 15:24:55	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Laura	Kozachek	<p>At the public meeting it was impressed that there could be a huge negative change in the dark night sky that now occurs at the park--very rare for the area, other than Acadia Nat. Park--if any night lighting is applied to the site. My other concerns regard the negative effects that any reduction in habitat could have. Over the last couple years and very recently, I have noticed management practices including clearing trees and shrubs in favor of planting grass (invasive) and widening paths to road size. Resident and migrating birds rely on this place as a refuge, and that is the real importance and wealth of Halibut Point. The park draws huge numbers of birders all year round and the DCR should consult with ornithology experts to understand which species come and when so that maintenance does not clash with migratory times. Of primary concern to me, the park should retain a passive use atmosphere where birds can thrive as well as other flora and fauna that have reclaimed this once much altered space and for which there should be a formal study.</p> <p>I have noticed that many of the landscape decisions at the park have contributed to erosion around the quarry (clearing trees and shrubs) through runoff. Further, the placement of gravel on the paths degrades wetlands when it runs into the those places, as it does in the absence of vegetation that could prevent much of this runoff. Planners should seek council from authorities in Restoration Ecology to enhance the natural vegetative reclamation processes underway and come up with ways to reduce non-native invasive species.</p> <p>New plans should do the following: treat wetland areas carefully, respect inhabitants of the park, create no light pollution, replace invasive plants with natives, and seek to interpret the use of the land by Native Americans/repair and use existing farmhouse as part of Halibut Point's human story along with quarry/military history.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 15:46:02	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Millicent	Bruce	<p>Please do not add lighted signage or other outdoor lighting to the Halibut State Park. It is an important place for astronomers and the study of the sky. Thank you.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 16:07:25	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Dr John R.	Hobbs	<p>As a member of several astronomy clubs and specifically the Gloucester Club, we need less lights to pollute the night sky. Halibut Point is one of the darkest sites on the North Shore for amateurs to observe the night skies. Astronomy clubs educate the public on the gorgeous things in the universe and to increase the lighting will diminish this effort. A lighted sign at night does nothing for security of the park and does not help visitors to the park since it closes at dusk. I think the light is not needed for anything to help visitors to the park. All it is a lighted sign to show where the park is at night and no help to anyone since they can't come in at night. Amateurs astronomy clubs already have an arrangement with the park for observing and they would like not to add any lights that are not required for safety and security.</p>

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Nov 10, 2018 17:40:20	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Ravi	Subrahmanyam	Please reconsider adding illumination as you do your improvements to the park. The coastal New England region is already among the most light polluted on the planet (all the way from ME to Washington DC), and areas of relative dark skies, valuable to astronomers, are few and far between. Amateur astronomy provides an accessible method of introducing young students to STEM education, and we hope you are able to take this into account in your decision making.
Nov 10, 2018 18:18:28	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Joseph	Dechene	<p>I'm concerned about your plans to add a large illuminated sign as such illumination often spills off the sign and interferes with safety, wastes energy, and lights up the night sky. We are taking away the stars away from our children one light at a time.</p> <p>I work in Massachusetts and pay taxes here.</p>
Nov 10, 2018 19:02:28	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Irene	Skillen	<p>Please do not "light up" our dark skies. Who but astronomers would be in the Park at night? Both local and out-of-town astronomers have found the Park just fine without a gaudy, brightly lit sign in front. Please be a friend to those of us who find the cosmos amazing. Join us !</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Nov 11, 2018 10:03:02	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Martin	Ross	Light pollution is a major problem on Cape Ann starting with the lack of concern and enforcement by town officials. For Halibut Point Park to contribute to this problem is not acceptable. New lighting should be kept to a minimum to avoid deterioration of the night sky for all observers including amateur astronomers as well as minimizing negative impact on wildlife.

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Nov 11, 2018 10:23:45	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Amy	DuBose	<p>Hello, I am an abutter to Halibut Point State Park and I would like to say that I felt completely blindsided by this entire proposal. Why were abutters specifically NOT directly made aware of this meeting? I didn’t even know about it until I happened to stumble on someones post on FaceBook about it, after the fact! Some of these changes have a direct effect on our properties abutting the park. We bought our homes knowing this, but the threat to our privacy is immense and quite frankly scary to me!</p> <p>My family lives in the condo on the maintenance building side of the parking lot. We have a wonderful NATURAL barrier that gives us privacy from the parking lot. With the expansion of the parking lot, I am VERY concerned at the loss of the ‘evergreen canopy’ and the privacy that it provides us. For the most part no one even knows our condo exists because during the spring/summer and part of the fall season we are well hidden by this.</p> <p>I am extremely concerned that our natural barrier is being threatened and it makes me ill to think we might lose it. I love to sit on my patio and enjoy my sense of being in nature created by this natural wooded barrier. I don’t know if your plans are to clear it out or not, but my hopes are that if you do that you please create another one in it’s place OR clean it up and then add back to it to replace our natural barrier in a healthier manner. I am sick to think that I could be sitting on my patio and my view is clear into the parking lot looking at cars or a picnic table of people! I love my chair overlooking the “woods”.....it is my sanctuary and my peace.</p> <p>I understand the need to make improvements to the park, but my hope is that your improvements also protect your neighbors to the park. We live here year round and just as you need “protect, promote, and enhance” the park, I hope you will do the same for us. Thank you.</p>
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Nov 11, 2018 10:39:10	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Christian	collins	<p>it saddens me to think improvements such as this need to be made to make the park seem relevant to out-of-towners. A charm and special feeling that the park exudes is that of pure nature. Cutting down any under brush and trees to make some fancifull view completely undermines the meaning of the park for me. The proposed signage is tacky, overbearing, oversized, Overly lit, unnecessary and frankly just ugly. This is not Disney World. Are there any other signs within 30 miles of that anywhere near here? no there aren't. And there's a good reason for that.</p> <p>Any excess lighting will completely destroy the night sky viewing which is a treasure to behold for all residents. The designers need to get out of their textbooks and onto the real earth where we all live.</p> <p>Completely rearranging the parking lot in the name of making a few extra spaces is futile and thoughtless. Attempting to make a view from the parking lot removes the special quality of having to hike down towards the quarry to see the view itself. This is not the mall, this is a park in the woods at the end of Cape Ann. It does not need to be streamlined and spoonfed to city dwellers who don't have the patience to explore it on their own and want it all gentrified as soon as they drive up. down with excess lighting</p> <p>down with major signage</p> <p>changes down with cutting native plants and over landscaping it just looks tacky everywhere you might as well put up a Starbucks.</p> <p>Not to mention the complete lack of communication with all neighbors and abutters up until the proposal has been made. Classic bureaucratic bullshit. leave the woods alone. put in some real bathrooms and minimal downward facing lights and if you're going to Build a giant wall out of granite you better use local granite that is just laughable.</p> <p>the lack of connection to the way the town looks and the overall audacity is stunning.</p>
Nov 11, 2018 10:47:27	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Andrew	Jaffe	<p>I strongly encourage you to minimize nighttime lighting to reduce light pollution. The proposed improvements at Halibut Point include illuminated park signs. This site is near an area that is used by amateur astronomers for nighttime observing and is one of the darker areas in the region. Any nighttime light will be detrimental to this kind of outdoor activity. I also note the park has closed at sunset greatly reducing or eliminating the need for nighttime parking signs. Avoiding these signs would also save money and energy costs. I thank you for your attention..</p>
Nov 11, 2018 12:46:46	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Jamy	Madeja	<p>Please no lights at Halibut State Park interfering with current, historic and rare night sky viewing uses on site. This use is so exceptional and so beloved by so many, surely DCR can find other ways to address any tire necessities, such as very low to the ground shielded low-lumin items at an entrance or some such. Please do not ruin the night sky.</p> <p>The Educational Foundation for Rockport is about to fund a capital investment in astronomy studies based at the Rockport Public School but for regional use. DCR would be ruining years of investment planning if Halibut were to be taken away as a public regional astronomy resource.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these comment.</p>

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Nov 11, 2018 15:06:20	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Lisa	Hahn	<p>Dear DCR,</p> <p>My family moved full time to ROkport in 1957 when I was one year old. At that time during my childhood it was owned by the Webster family who were friends of ours. I learned to swim in the quarry at Halibut Point when I was about five years old, and as teenagers, my sister and I rode our horses there daily, since we lived just five minutes away. After it became a State Park, I continued to walk the paths there every day that I was in Rockport, sharing it with our various collies and with my mother, who cherished the place. We all took great pride in this special and unique place which was our backyard. We shared the geology with friends, engaged in bird watching with experts, saw seals and whales, and at night, I joined the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club where my family and I gazed at the magnificent Milky Way which was clear as a bell on all clear evenings. The telescopes brought in by the members of GAAC were awesome tools, and we saw far away galaxies that I had only just learned about; saw the rings of Saturn, the craters on the moon, and so much more.</p> <p>Last year, I purchased a house at Halibut Point so that now I live there full time, with the State Park as my actual backyard. I moved there to enjoy the silence, to engage with nature in all its glory, to hear the birds fully, and to be awed by our solar system which I gaze upwards now and see each night. I can now host the GAAC Club members during cold winter nights,.I cherish and want to share this natural world with others who appreciate it. Placing any kind of lights in the park is unnecessary and harmful to what the place is about. All of us who live there want to continue to enjoy it as we always have, without the interference of the noise, pollution, light pollution, and manicured realities that the DCR plan seems to impose. The Park's uniqueness must be protected and cherished. Many of us that spoke up at the meeting want to continue to celebrate its treasures as we always have. Lisa Hahn</p>
Nov 11, 2018 15:44:37	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Harry	Korslund	<p>My wife and I are recently moved (2016) from southern NH where we lived most of our lives. We reside in Pigeon Cove. We've reviewed the proposed plans for Halibut Point State Park as submitted by DCR. Aside from the much need improvements currently underway at the Visitor Center and the expanded parking, we find little else that satisfies us. Specifically, the entrance reminds us of a drive-in restaurant consistent with architecture of the 1950's. A square box with a flat roof, mostly hidden by a granite wall, doesn't inspire a sense of welcome that DCR is striving for.</p> <p>The rendering of the entrance on Gott Ave. appears more like an entrance to a military installation. The only feature missing is guard shack and gate. Understood is the historical use that is now the Visitor Center - it was once a look-out for enemy naval vessels during World War II. Perhaps that is what the landscape architect is attempting to evoke?</p>

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Nov 11, 2018 22:46:37	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	William	Tobin	<p>I request a copy of the exterior LED lighting plan be sent to me. We in Rockport have a new lighting regulation to protect our night sky from light pollution. We realize the DCR and Halibut Point State Park are a state entity. However in keeping with our long standing positive relationship, we feel in in the town’s interest and DCR’s interest in preventing any a. All night sky pollution to maintain the prestige ight sky viewing we all enjoy.</p> <p>Looking forward to receiving the exterior LED lighting plans with specification of the lights used. We know the DCR will continue to be our continued excellen partner in protecting Rockport’s night sky from excessive light pollution.</p> <p>With appreciation,</p> <p>W. E. Tobin Legislative Liasion Green Community Task Force Millbrook Meadow Conservancy Town of Rockport 617 548 1186</p>
Nov 12, 2018 06:49:45	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	James	Synge	<p>Please protect the our ability to see the night sky by not adding lights that are not needed for safety.</p>
Nov 12, 2018 09:40:37	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Elizabeth	Roenker	<p>Please don’t add artificial lighting to Halibut Point. The park is a beautiful preservation of nature and history. It doesn’t need lighting or concretely. Leave it as beautiful and natural as it is.</p>

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Nov 12, 2018 12:06:07	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Angela	Ray	<p>As a direct abutter to the existing Halibut Point State Park parking lot, I am concerned that the proposed changes to the parking lot configuration will negatively affect our existing residential experience. Expanding the parking lot into the area now used for picnicking will bring both noise and visitors in closer proximity to our home. Already, we have visitors walking past the existing maintenance garage to explore and attempt to access our driveway through an existing stone stairway.</p> <p>In addition, the removal of an existing scrim of trees bordering on Gott Avenue and the destruction of an existing home directly across will create an open plain for even more noise to travel across the park and parking lot to our home.</p> <p>I understand the need for additional and clearer access to the park and adjoining parking area given the increasing popularity of this beautiful park and local treasure. As such, I respectfully request that the state modify the parking lot proposal to include additional natural screening to shield our property and that of our immediate neighbors from unwanted noise and intrusion.</p> <p>I also propose replacing the proposed grass areas around the maintenance garage with much larger mature plantings to indicate that this area is not open to the general public. In addition, large mature trees/hedges along the parking area directly bordering the bioswale and parallel to our property would significantly reduce noise in the summer and headlight intrusion year round. These modifications to the existing parking plan would provide immediate and significant mediation of our concerns.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Nov 12, 2018 12:22:38	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Paul	Bryant	<p>Many of the “improvements” that are being proposed are not appropriate for the area. If you truly want to make this park even better than it is I hope you will consider the suggestions of those that know the park and the area best. There is a lot of “nimbism” that takes place, but is also the people that have spent 50 years plus on the property that may have a perspective worth considering. Everyone wants more access for all, but that has to be balanced with what it is that is being protected and offered to the public. So often the “soul” of a place is lost in the desire to have more and more people be able to appreciate the unique site. Things like security lighting seems like a good idea from the designer’s desk, but in reality lights at night would totally ruin what many (the astronomer’s club included) come to the park to enjoy.</p> <p>In short please be flexible in your list of “improvements”. They might seem like logical and beneficial actions, but often these “improvements” have unintended consequences with the result of making our beloved park less enjoyable rather than more.</p> <p>Paul Bryant</p>

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Nov 12, 2018 16:22:28	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	David	Millen	<p>Thanks for sharing the proposal to make improvements to Halibut State Park. My property abuts the park and my wife and I are frequent hikers in the park. We enjoy the park and consider it one of Cape Ann’s treasures.</p> <p>I am concerned about a number of items in the proposal. I am concerned about the availability of operating funds to support the increase in park visitors. I have personally called the DCR on two occasions when there was garbage overflow in the receptacles in parking lot and on the main hiking trail. Will there be sufficient staff to maintain the park?</p> <p>I am concerned about the change in trees and shrubs in the park. I am concerned about the impact on the wildlife, including deer, small mammals, and birds. I would like to see a more complete description of what will be done. Please provide additional information about water management and protection plans, including the labeled bioswale surrounding the parking lot.</p> <p>I would also like the environmental designers to respond to the many comments that have arisen about the entryway design and the increase in lighting. It is hard to “improve” a property while simultaneously preserving the essential character and historical feeling of a place. I don’t think that the current proposal meets these design objectives. I hope that you revisit the design and consider alternatives.</p> <p>And finally, I would like reassurances that the park will NOT be converted to commercial use. The increase in parking, additional lighting, the second floor “meeting space,” and the focus on a “welcome threshold” suggest potential commercial use. Please provide specific details on what would be allowable and prohibited “opportunities for indoor and outdoor programming space (slide 10).</p>
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Nov 12, 2018 16:30:21	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Ray	<p>My spouse, Angela Ray, and I are the owners and residents of unit 3 of the condominium complex located at 281R Granite Street, Rockport, MA. Our unit and those of other condo unit owners abut Halibut Point State Park (“the Park”) from the East. To date, the State and its employees have been excellent neighbors, and our comments herein are offered in that spirit.</p> <p>While we are pleased to see improvements to the Park, we are very concerned that the contemplated project to expand the Park’s parking lot to a position closer to our property line, and adding eight parking spaces, will generate significant additional noise and light from cars, as well as increase intrusions on our privacy by drivers and pedestrians. For example, we are concerned that the lights of cars parking in the proposed new spaces on the East side of the lot will routinely shine lights directly into our windows and onto our lawns, thus disturbing our quiet enjoyment of premises, and providing drivers and their passengers unwanted visual access to us anytime of the day or evening that the Park is open. Expanding the parking lot closer to us will also increase the likelihood of additional unwanted physical encroachments, i.e., trespassing, by Park visitors, a problem we deal with already, plus generate increased noise from vehicles, drivers, and passengers.</p> <p>We strongly urge the DCR to retain and increase the density and height of the natural foliage barriers now present between our property and the potentially expanded parking lot. Retaining and increasing the natural screen, which is both thick and tall in the summer, would mitigate many of the worst harms we anticipate coming from an expanded parking lot, while taking nothing away from the present size and design of the DCR’s overall plans, which we believe will improve everyone’s experience of the wonderful physical, cultural, and historical resource that is Halibut Point State Park.</p>
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Nov 12, 2018 17:09:19	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Candice	Horgan	<p>I live in Beverly and in recent years have been saddened by the realization that I cannot see the Milky Way anymore with the naked eye. From my residence, most times, I can't even make out most constellations - only the brightest stars can be seen, and only the constellations with the higher number of brightest stars are visible. I can see the naked eye planets and Moon far more easily than any surrounding stars. Connecting a few years ago with the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club, I discovered that there seemed to be one last bastion of naked eye astronomy left on the North Shore and I found it at Halibut Point State Park. The summer that I started bumming around those folks, I discovered that I could view constellations in the southern skies that I'd never been able to view before, even as a child in a less-light-polluted Peabody. I spent that summer meeting up with the astronomy club at Halibut Point on Saturday nights, as well as at several star parties held that year, enjoying exploring Aquarius, Scorpius, and Capricorn, all in parts of the sky obscured by light pollution, all in parts of the sky I'd never been able to see before. I was able to see them that summer for the first time at Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>I hope that the exploration and adoration of our night skies is kept in mind as park improvements and renovations move forward at Halibut Point State Park. All too often, we focus on nature as a daytime thing - parks to walk in, trees to sit beneath, animals to provide sanctuary to - and forget that the night sky, astronomy, is part of our natural world, too. I know, too, that Dr. Mario Motta has written and lobbied extensively on the hazards of light pollution, not just to the obscuring of night skies, but also to human health. There are ample sources out there as well speaking to the effects of light pollution on animal behavior and health. I hope these are all taken into consideration.</p>
Nov 12, 2018 17:56:43	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Robert	Gray	<p>Generally the plan seems sound, but I have two concerns:</p> <p>1) I support the concerns of the Gloucester Area Astronomy Association that the added lights and further lighting may destroy the best stargazing site in the North Shore area and will have a very negative effect on existing night use for amateur astronomy. Newly installed and any future lighting should be OFF after dark to permit continued use for astronomy without light pollution.</p> <p>2) The "welcoming threshold" seems to me exorbitant. Landscaped granite blocks are superfluous and gratuitous. A simple plaque would do fine.</p>
Nov 12, 2018 18:12:14	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Arlene	Gray	<p>I wish to reinforce objections that have been made about the LED lighting on the four sides of the visitors center at Halibut Point State Park. With lights overhead pointed down from a 15 foot elevation, the night sky is obscured. One of the glories of Halibut Point is the ability to view the stars there in a fashion that is not possible elsewhere on Cape Ann. If safety is an issue below knee level low level lighting might well mar the experience of seeing our natural sky but not it would not defeat it.</p> <p>I am disturbed by the emphasis on the stated purpose of "Highlight(ing) the building as an artifact." Emphasis on the building as artifact is not at issue, light pollution is. The town of Rockport has acknowledged the desirability of "dark sky" lighting. I sincerely hope that the State of Massachusetts will accept the need for maintaining such a precious commodity as the dark skies of Halibut Point.</p>

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Nov 12, 2018 19:13:36	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Elana	Brink	<p>The Visitor Center is looking great, but I hope that outside lighting is only for any possible evening functions.</p> <p>Huge sign is not appropriate. One of Cape Ann Granite with "engraving" would be more fitting, and maintenance free as well. Lighting not needed.</p> <p>Please, no more clearing, with possible exception for problematic Invasives. Trees and underbrush are needed for the fantastic wildlife, and as a windbreak. There are enough vistas!</p> <p>The Silva House is historic, having been closer to Quarry and lodging workers. It's lovely and welcoming. Repair it and the barn & use and maintain them.</p> <p>This is a neighborhood & many of us moved here because of HP the way it was, please keep it in character with the area and don't ruin it! Sometimes less is more!</p> <p>As for parking, generally there is plenty, and at what point does the sardine can get full, and cause walking the trails to feel more like navigating the busy city sidewalks!?</p> <p>Tourists from all over the world visit here and they are "good tourists" who value the natural, wild beauty of Halibut Point.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinions. I hope that you will find them informative and useful!</p>
Nov 12, 2018 19:49:26	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Dr. Terri	Risolo	<p>I strongly object to the proposed designs for the brush, tree cutting and the overdevelopment of the Park.</p> <p>The idea of creating this land of quiet and solitude into a speedway of observation is awful. The importance of brush for the migratory birds cannot be underestimated. The protective cover for all sorts of mammals is critical.</p> <p>Please do not set up lights...the night skies are a special beauty.</p> <p>Dr. Theresa Risolo Rockport , MA</p>

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Nov 12, 2018 21:52:31	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Carolyn	Buckley-Cooper	<p>Hi, I looked through the PP slides and read the descriptions. In general most of it seems positive. Of course we've known about the improvements to the Visitors Center for some time and those will be a great improvement. Indoor / outdoor programming space sounds beneficial. Improved - but not large or garish - signage will be good. However, the one thing that sticks out as a sore thumb visually is that "Welcome experience" you are describing. First off, the rendering of that box-like structure with the overhanging roof extension is completely out of character with this locale and looks too sterile in design. It looks like one is entering a check point for a military complex instead of a state park. I hope you will rethink that. It needs to be a little more rustic - which isn't to say it can't have a forward looking feel to the design. It looks like a concrete box and there is nothing welcoming about a concrete box. Secondly, there is the odd description of "Statement Signage" with giant block letters HALIBUT POINT. No. The letters are large and garish and not in keeping with the feel of Halibut Point locale. People come to Halibut Point to see and walk through the forested areas, along the paths. You don't need giant all caps letters to tell them they have arrived. A small and clear sign will accomplish that. I don't mind the granite walls (those will be granite, right?) They will make enough of an arrival statement. Third is the idea of adding LED lights in the park. NO! That's an awful idea. You're going to have lights on at night? In a state park? It's the one area in Rockport with a dark sky and you want to ruin it with LED lights? Please don't do that. Let me end by saying again that most of the changes are good improvements, however I do hope you will revisit the design and purpose of the entry experience. Thank you. Oh, one more thing...I want to continue to walk my dog in the off season without paying for parking. I assume that will stay the same.</p>
Nov 13, 2018 06:38:15	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	eric	hutchins	<p>I would like to request that any new lights installed at Halibut Point State park are operated only on nights when events are scheduled and lights are actually needed. Dark skies are a unique natural resource (and free) at the Park and ever effort should be made to project and preserve this resource.</p> <p>Also, could DCR consider making an entry sign out of a piece of granite. It would have more up front cost, but it would be more historically accurate and it would last in perpetuity. One nice think about the park is that there is so little that can break.</p>
Nov 13, 2018 09:24:38	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Jill	solomon	<p>I am very concerned about the proposed lighting at Halibut State Park which will totally destroy the dark sky and make it impossible for astronomers as well as the general public to be able to see the night sky. It seems such a travesty to destroy this opportunity when there are almost no other places for this observing to happen and since no one really is able to be in the park after sunset, it seems redundant to even have lighting there at night.</p> <p>I hope this will be seriously considered.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 09:55:31	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Amazeen	<p>There are some new lights installed on the Visitor Center, and the planners have proposed a large illuminated sign near the entry to the park. In short, new lights at the park won't help make the park nicer for visitors (the park closes at sunset), but they will obscure the night sky so folks won't be able to enjoy the stars there anymore.</p> <p>We would love the park to work with us to preserve the dark night sky. The headquarters is just through the trees from where I live and it would ruin the beautiful night sky, as well as attract unwanted visitors at night.</p> <p>Thank you, Steve</p>
Nov 13, 2018 10:05:03	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Amazeen	<p>There are some new lights installed on the Visitor Center, and the planners have proposed a large illuminated sign near the entry to the park. In short, new lights at the park won't help make the park nicer for visitors (the park closes at sunset), but they will obscure the night sky so folks won't be able to enjoy the stars there anymore.</p> <p>We would love the park to work with us to preserve the dark night sky. The headquarters is just through the trees from where I live and it would ruin the beautiful night sky, as well as attract unwanted visitors at night.</p> <p>Also, did you know the Silva house used to be up at the quarry? They moved it during the turn of the last century with oxen and logs, and didn't crack a bit of plaster in it! It looks like it has a new roof - is it really so far gone that it needs to be torn down?</p> <p>Thank you! Steve</p>
Nov 13, 2018 10:05:13	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Amazeen	<p>There are some new lights installed on the Visitor Center, and the planners have proposed a large illuminated sign near the entry to the park. In short, new lights at the park won't help make the park nicer for visitors (the park closes at sunset), but they will obscure the night sky so folks won't be able to enjoy the stars there anymore.</p> <p>We would love the park to work with us to preserve the dark night sky. The headquarters is just through the trees from where I live and it would ruin the beautiful night sky, as well as attract unwanted visitors at night.</p> <p>Also, did you know the Silva house used to be up at the quarry? They moved it during the turn of the last century with oxen and logs, and didn't crack a bit of plaster in it! It looks like it has a new roof - is it really so far gone that it needs to be torn down?</p> <p>Thank you! Steve</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 10:05:45	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Amazeen	<p>There are some new lights installed on the Visitor Center, and the planners have proposed a large illuminated sign near the entry to the park. In short, new lights at the park won't help make the park nicer for visitors (the park closes at sunset), but they will obscure the night sky so folks won't be able to enjoy the stars there anymore.</p> <p>We would love the park to work with us to preserve the dark night sky. The headquarters is just through the trees from where I live and it would ruin the beautiful night sky, as well as attract unwanted visitors at night.</p> <p>Also, did you know the Silva house used to be up at the quarry? They moved it during the turn of the last century with oxen and logs, and didn't crack a bit of plaster in it! It looks like it has a new roof - is it really so far gone that it needs to be torn down?</p> <p>Thank you! Steve</p>
Nov 13, 2018 10:05:49	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Stephen	Amazeen	<p>There are some new lights installed on the Visitor Center, and the planners have proposed a large illuminated sign near the entry to the park. In short, new lights at the park won't help make the park nicer for visitors (the park closes at sunset), but they will obscure the night sky so folks won't be able to enjoy the stars there anymore.</p> <p>We would love the park to work with us to preserve the dark night sky. The headquarters is just through the trees from where I live and it would ruin the beautiful night sky, as well as attract unwanted visitors at night.</p> <p>Also, did you know the Silva house used to be up at the quarry? They moved it during the turn of the last century with oxen and logs, and didn't crack a bit of plaster in it! It looks like it has a new roof - is it really so far gone that it needs to be torn down?</p> <p>Thank you! Steve</p>
Nov 13, 2018 10:27:12	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Alan	Blumner	<p>While I applaud the improvements being made, I would urge the department to formally acknowledge the interests of astronomers in preserving the rare unilluminated night sky that the park presently provides.</p> <p>A policy commitment sensitive to this concern is critical.</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 11:20:21	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Margaret	McMahon	<p>I support efforts to eliminate invasives, and perform some careful vista-pruning, but I do not support mowing of the meadow, or any wholesale clearing of understory that presently affords food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other desirable fauna.</p> <p>Grass turf should be minimized, not expanded. Maintaining grass turf requires constant maintenance and an unacceptably high water demand, as well as fertilizers and pesticides that might run off into the quarry waters, providing nutrients that would encourage algae blooms. Open space can be created using native drought- and salt-tolerant ground covers in keeping with coastal vegetation.</p> <p>Consider the use of permeable pavements in all additional or modified hardscape features.</p>
Nov 13, 2018 11:35:13	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Patricia	Brady	<p>Halibut Point is also a neighborhood. My concern with increased lighting is that in addition to disturbing the night sky we all treasure, it will also serve to ATTRACT night visitors to the park. As an abutter, I can tell you that night visitors are loud, often inebriated, and have been known to produce "campfires" on cool nights. Very scary for those who live on Gott Ave. I often see tourists taking pictures of those old red sheds. They are a throw back to another age but that's part of what attracts people to the park, along with its natural beauty. Likewise, the old Silva house has historic value having once housed quarry workers. Surely there are options to destroying it that would benefit the park and its visitors.</p> <p>I welcome the intent of directing cars into the parking lot and stopping the constant turning around in our driveway and front yard. This was accomplished over the summer when the park used a simple sign on weekends. A permanent sign is required but perhaps something less obtrusive than the proposed sign. It looks like a bus stop to me.</p> <p>It is my understanding that park capacity is determined by the number of PEOPLE the park can safely accommodate. The park already reaches capacity on summer weekends and must be closed for two hour stretches. I hope that increasing parking spaces is not meant to increase the number of people and thus congestion in the park.</p> <p>Those of us who love HPSP only wish to see its naturalness and beauty maintained. Increasing human traffic and fiddling with the natural lay of the land may just ruin it for all of us, residents, tourists, and wildlife alike. Thank you for hearing me out.</p>
Nov 13, 2018 12:07:35	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Elizabeth	Carter	<p>NO to any more understory and tree cutting. Pruning opens up the view of how many other people are in the park, destroying cherished seclusion and serenity. It destroys valuable habitat for migrating birds. It opens up wind tunnels that damage remaining trees. It</p> <p>"Disneyfies" the character of a formerly specif landscape.</p> <p>NO to lighting and night activities in the Park.</p> <p>NO to destroying that pretty parking lot fr 21 new spaces. Too much traffic in the neighborhood and park as is.</p> <p>Put a sign in the traffic island at Granite/Gott St and leave the rest of the park alone.</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 12:28:16	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Monica	Lawton	<p>Thank you for the excellent presentation in Rockport on Oct. 29.</p> <p>Overall, I think the proposed changes in parking flow and landscape design are an improvement.</p> <p>However, like many others, I do not like the proposed new welcome/rest room station. It is stark and looks more like a barrier than a welcome station. And the Halibut Point sign has a Hollywood Hills look to it. If the welcome station were modeled more on the granite structures that served the quarries (like the boiler house at Steel Derrick Quarry) then it would be more appropriate to the setting. Best of all would be to preserve and repurpose the existing house on the spot, which housed quarry workers and thus has historical value. A few trees around the building would soften the appearance as well. See more on this below.</p> <p>I also share concerns about the proposed lighting, which will eliminate the dark night sky that is so unique to this area and makes the Park the best place in the region for astronomers to view astronomical phenomena. There is no need for bright lighting of any sort in the overnight hours.</p> <p>Finally, I am concerned about unnecessary elimination of trees. The renderings appear to increase the sweep of the meadow and the expanse of “lawn” around the visitor center. It is important to remember that most people come to Halibut Point in the warm / hot weather --- and will be seeking shade and ocean breezes. Open meadows and lawns can be very hot, and defeat the purpose of visiting. Please keep that in mind, and keep the trees to the greatest extent possible. In that vein, there should also be a larger shaded area near the parking lot, where people can stand while waiting for transportation, or for groups to assemble. A shaded area adjacent to the visitor center would be beneficial, as well, as a gathering spot before heading to the trails, or a rest spot on return.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of these comments.</p>
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Halibut Point State Park Improvements

Public Comments

October 30 - November 13, 2018

Nov 13, 2018 12:56:42	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Margaret	Anderson	<p>I am concerned about the DCR's plans to install nighttime lighting at Halibut Point. Darkness, so important to nocturnal animals, stargazers, moon viewers, and people who sleep at night, is an increasingly scarce resource, which we should preserve wherever possible. Not only would park lighting be detrimental in the ways I've mentioned, but it would encourage trespassers when the park is closed.</p> <p>If it is truly necessary to expand the parking area, please do not do so in the large meadow where the astronomers hold their educational viewing sessions. That open space is an important part of the park's charm, providing a contrast to the woods and brushy areas, a place where kids can run and roll and jump in total safety.</p> <p>I have heard that the DCR plans to create a large sign for the park, which seems totally unnecessary. The present sign at the parking lot is easily readable. If another sign is deemed necessary, why not carve the name in a piece of quarried granite? It would be perfectly appropriate for this quarried property, and it would not need touching up or replacement for at least a hundred years.</p> <p>Halibut Point Park is a small gem, a place for viewing the quarry's granite walls, birds of every kind, the beautiful waters of Ipswich Bay in every season and in all weathers; for strolling, picnicking, walking with dogs, even getting married (I've witnessed several weddings there). Changes to the landscape should be minimal and aimed toward replacing some of the many invasive plants (privet, barberry, and numerous others) with more of the native blueberries, bayberries, sweet fern, and such. We don't need an enlarged park, just a thoughtfully curated one.</p>
Nov 13, 2018 14:21:52	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Julia	McMahon	<p>Dear DCR,</p> <p>Thank you for hosting the public meeting in Rockport last week to present preliminary plans for renovations at Halibut Point State Park and providing the opportunity to comment. In my comments, I would like to echo many comments that were made at the public meeting particularly about maintaining the existing natural, not-overly manicured character of the park and preserving Rockport's dark skies.</p> <p>I am sure many commenters will speak more knowledgeably than I about the impacts on the dark skies. I will only add that it is not only important to employ appropriate light cut-off fixtures and least impactful lighting elements, but also to apply "best practices" of only lighting when necessary.</p> <p>I would encourage you to revisit the proposed entrance plan. I understand the desire to provide a more formal entrance to the park. However, it saddens me to see the old farmhouse demolished. And I believe replacing the old iconic farmhouse which sets a place-appropriate pastoral tone to the entrance with a modern, institutional, harsh-lined bathroom structure would be a serious mistake. Please consider keeping bathroom infrastructure on the parking lot side of the street and/or associated with the visitors center rather than putting them in your first line of sight as you approach the beautiful landscape of the park. Also, I laud the idea of bringing home Rockport granite to create an entrance wall. But please keep the design in keeping with existing granite walls in the area and please scale down the size and design of the sign to be more in-keeping with promoting of the natural and historic character of the park.</p> <p>Finally, please make preserving the natural character and habitat of the park of highest priority in all renovation plans. The natural character and habitat,</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 15:42:39	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Tom	Mikus	The Rockport Rights of Way Committee asks you to include the Atlantic Path on your maps and signage. This is the active historic footpath along the coast between Halibut Point and Pigeon Cove Harbor. Not everyone arrives or departs the park by vehicle!
Nov 13, 2018 15:56:04	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Tom	Mikus	As a member of the Rockport Green Community Task Force and the Gloucester Area Astronomy Club, I ask that you design any exterior lighting to minimize energy use, light pollution, and wildlife disruption. (1) Eliminate all lighting unless it is absolutely required. (2) Then use only fixtures that are certified dark-sky and wildlife friendly.

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Nov 13, 2018 16:32:42	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Kelly	Beatty	<p>This comment concerns the ongoing renovations of Halibut Point State Park.</p> <p>Park managers at every level across the U.S. have come to realize that their sites preserve environments in both daylight AND nighttime. Since Rockport is part of the Atlantic Flyway, a major migratory route for birds (https://www.audubon.org/atlantic-flyway), it's extremely important that DCR create a plan that minimizes (and even eliminates) outdoor lighting at night.</p> <p>Also, this inherently dark parcel of land has been utilized by the region's amateur astronomers for many years both to stargaze themselves and to introduce many people, through public stargazing events, to the beauty of the night sky.</p> <p>Therefore, the lighting plan for HPSP should adopt the following guidelines, which have been recommended by the International Dark-Sky Association (darksite.org) and the American Medical Association (https://www.ama-assn.org/):</p> <p>— any outdoor lighting should use illumination sources with the lowest Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) possible. Current "best practice" is 3000K or lower. However, given the site's sensitive environmental location, fixtures with 2200K are recommended.</p> <p>— since the park's facilities are not open after dark, any lighting at the Visitor's Center should be minimized so that only entrances to the building are illuminated. These fixtures should utilize the lowest lumen output that is reasonable to ensure building security. There is no need to illuminate parking lots overnight nor to "floodlight" the Visitor Center building simply so it will show up at night.</p> <p>— in particular, installing lighting fixtures high on the building is not recommended because they create excessive glare. Instead, use low-lumen fixtures mounted directly above doorways and other potential entry points.</p> <p>— again, since HPSP is not intended for nighttime use, the newly designed "welcome threshold" sign should not be illuminated, either internally or externally.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
Nov 13, 2018 18:01:50	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Alexandra	Meyers	<p>Please leave the park a lone. It's a gem. It's fine.</p> <p>I live down the street.</p> <p>I would add swimming and snacks. Hi f you can't do that please do nothing. Thanks.</p>

Halibut Point State Park Improvements
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Nov 13, 2018 18:16:23	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Elizabeth	Fowler	<p>LOVERS OF HALIBUT POINT STATE PARK:</p> <p>Today is the last day for public comment on the DCR plans to change Halibut Point's entrance and the park grounds. I just realized that most of you probably don't have access to Rockport Stuff where we've been discussing these changes.</p> <p>It would be sad to lose the natural beauty that makes this park so special.</p> <p>(1) While I support the goals of improving the legibility of the park entrance, I find the proposed entrance to be utterly out of keeping with the scale and style of area features, signage, and architecture. Hammering visitors with a “sense of arrival” may be the wrong goal. An option is to provide a sense of discovery, an unwrapping of a hidden gem.</p> <p>(2) I support efforts to eliminate invasives, and perform some careful vista-pruning, but I do not support mowing of the meadow, or any wholesale clearing of understory that presently affords food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other desirable fauna.</p> <p>(3) Grass turf should be minimized, not expanded. Maintaining grass turf requires constant maintenance and an unacceptably high water demand, as well as fertilizers and pesticides that might run off into the quarry waters, providing nutrients that would encourage algae blooms. Open space can be created using native drought- and salt-tolerant ground covers in keeping with coastal vegetation.</p> <p>(4) Do everything to minimize light pollution. The night sky in this location is an exceptional asset to the park. Any additional lighting must protect the darkness that delivers extraordinary night time views of the Milky Way and Aurora Borealis.</p> <p>(5) Consider the use of permeable pavements in all a</p>
Nov 13, 2018 20:02:27	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Kristen	Whelan	<p>(1) While I support the goals of improving the legibility of the park entrance, I find the proposed entrance to be utterly out of keeping with the scale and style of area features, signage, and architecture. Hammering visitors with a “sense of arrival” may be the wrong goal. An option is to provide a sense of discovery, an unwrapping of a hidden gem.</p> <p>(2) I support efforts to eliminate invasives, and perform some careful vista-pruning, but I do not support mowing of the meadow, or any wholesale clearing of understory that presently affords food and habitat for a variety of birds, butterflies, and other desirable fauna.</p> <p>(3) Grass turf should be minimized, not expanded. Maintaining grass turf requires constant maintenance and an unacceptably high water demand, as well as fertilizers and pesticides that might run off into the quarry waters, providing nutrients that would encourage algae blooms. Open space can be created using other plants.</p> <p>(4) Do everything to minimize light pollution. The night sky in this location is an exceptional asset to the park.</p>

Halibut Point State Park Improvements

Public Comments

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Nov 13, 2018 20:06:36	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Neil	Miller	<p>I have been a regular visitor at Halibut Point since the 1960's, when it was just a Trustee's property. It has been an important place for me throughout my life, and I would like to see any development be kept to a minimum. I do appreciate the efforts to improve and restore the visitor center.</p> <p>Much of the charm of the existing entrance is its lack of development. The proposed entrance structure, which would replace an antique if not historic home, looks like a fast food establishment. The over-large sign letters are totally inappropriate.</p> <p>When the parking lot was enlarged to the size it is today, it at least was shielded by the row of trees next to the street. Your presentation images consider the views from the parking lot, and from the entrance walkways. They ignore the views back towards the parking lot, which would be a depressing reminder of the encroachment of car-oriented "improvements". The last thing I want to see after spending a relaxing day at Halibut point is the view of a parking lot, which would be unavoidable for much of the walk back in the proposed plan.</p> <p>Please leave the foliage screen in front of the parking lot. Please make the park entrance significantly more subtle. Lose the giant signage. Please don't tear down the existing home on Gott Ave.</p> <p>thanks, Neil Miller</p>
Nov 13, 2018 22:50:53	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Amy	Longo	<p>I walk in Halibut Point State Park nearly every day. I live within walking distance. I am concerned that proposed changes will cause light pollution. I am also worried about too much clearing tree/shrubs/bushes. In my opinion the park is perfect just the way it is. I'm afraid it will lose it's charm with the proposed changes.</p>

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Nov 13, 2018 23:50:39	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Scott	Mortimer	<p>Thank you for the presentation and plans for the Halibut Point State Park project. I have enjoyed using the park for many years during the day for hiking, bird watching, and snorkeling and for astronomy in the evening.</p> <p>The renovations of the visitors' center and museum with historical exhibits and public meeting space seem like a wonderful addition. I'm impressed by the landscape architecture vision and improvements of walking paths around the visitors' center. I am concerned that there is too much removal of vegetation and pushing back of wooded borders.</p> <p>I don't think an open "New England Meadow" aesthetic fits the secluded and wooded character of Cape Ann. I would address any confusion at the entrance of park with improved signage, trail design and maybe a new stone kiosk or small building. Some new parking spots are OK but we should not cut down any of the wooded area between the parking lot and the main road, or at the edges of the lower meadows, or area north of the visitors center - the peninsula that juts into the quarry pond. All these areas are important wildlife habitat.</p> <p>I suggest that the Victorian-era house and barn in the lower field be preserved and that we find a way to utilize it - maybe a partnership with community groups like GAAC could be used? It doesn't make sense to add a museum to the park to focus on history while tearing down an intact period house. Let's make this part of a new entrance design and add a complementary stone structure - without the large, textual sign. A smaller wooden sign like the ones used at other state parks is a better fit for Halibut.</p> <p>I urge that no artificial lighting be added to the park - it will have a negative effect on astronomy viewing from the park, including the outreach programming that GAAC does several times a year for school groups and the local community.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
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Halibut Point State Park Improvements

Public Comments

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Nov 14, 2018 00:17:57	Halibut Point State Park Improvements –deadline November 13, 2018	Bob	Paradis Jr	<p>Leave it alone ! - I have lived here all 63 yrs .We Used to swim in the quarry & camp there when privately owned. No problems there nor for neighbors. State grabbed it somewhat against that owners will . It sat as is for long time . People rented the buildings to live . But as usual the State let it fall into dangerous disrepair . Later some folks made a deal for = fix it up and can live there for a while . They did. Of course State let it fall to disrepair again . Some trails were made. Budget gets tough and closes at times . State builds parking lot . As a plumber / backhoe Bs we put in the Copper water tap toward the parking lot . A State engineer insisted on using cheap cpvc underground the rest of the way . I refused . He took over and I don't recall what happened from there with that . I don't think he went below frost either . Tried to tell him .State started publicizing the park. Visitors arrived . Over the past 25 yrs as a RKPT firefighter I have participated in many Rescues out there. Night and day . It's dangerousness can't be avoided . A few have died out there unfortunately . I am against further expansion . Neighbors are against expansion for obvious safety , privacy , etc reasons. Removing more trees to make more parking is foolish . Re read above for why's . Though not widely publicized it has gained wide negative feed back from those who live here and around the area. More lighting ruins astronomers use , ruins the current ambience , effects neighbors rights to peace and costs even more tax payer money . Money better spent buying some glasses or a dentist for children in need . LEAVE IT ALONE . Finish repairing the WW II tower / buildings. HOWEVER Further expanding costs , increasing commotion and criminal activity is wrong . Please listen to people who know and live here . I can't believe the State would promote or allow taking down natural trees , adding lights , in a Park & buffer zone . Wouldn't be surprised though.</p> <p>Bob Paradis Jr RKPT</p>
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November 6, 2018

Department of Conservation & Recreation

Office of Public Outreach

251 Causeway Street, Suite 600

Boston, MA 02114

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: **RENOVATION PLANS FOR HALIBUT POINT STATE PARK, ROCKPORT**

Regrettably, we were unable to be at the well-attended meeting at the town library on October 29th. Thank you for asking for public input.

To the point: we do not wish to have the Balestraci/SILVA HOUSE demolished! Razing lovely historical buildings is getting to be the norm these days. The Pigeon Cove section of Rockport has a vibrant history with many facets. Is there any way the house could be preserved? Could it be a pre-welcome center with a couple indoor restrooms & benches/chairs/tables especially for those who are mobility-challenged? Perhaps a video overview (preview of attractions) of the State Park could run continually during the hours of operation so that guests could vicariously experience all the splendors of the acreage even if they can't traverse the terrain to the Tower, Mini-Museum, & spectacular quarry. Some parking could still be instituted on the Silva House property. Even if the interior of the charming building with some antique architectural flourishes is in sub-par condition, couldn't the exterior (shell) still be usable? Perhaps for small groupings of visitors with various purposes?

We are enclosing 3 photos of the recently being-renovated building & tower in 1942 as it looked in skeletal form. We believe it was taken by Sulo Erkkila, one of the carpenters on the crucially important project during WW II. Mr. Erkkila's daughter, Nancy Bollinger of California, gave the pictures to us for possible use in our "Souvenirs of Pigeon Cove" historical photo book which came out early in 2015.

Thank you for considering to keep the SILVA HOUSE intact on the Halibut Point State Park Property!

Sincerely,

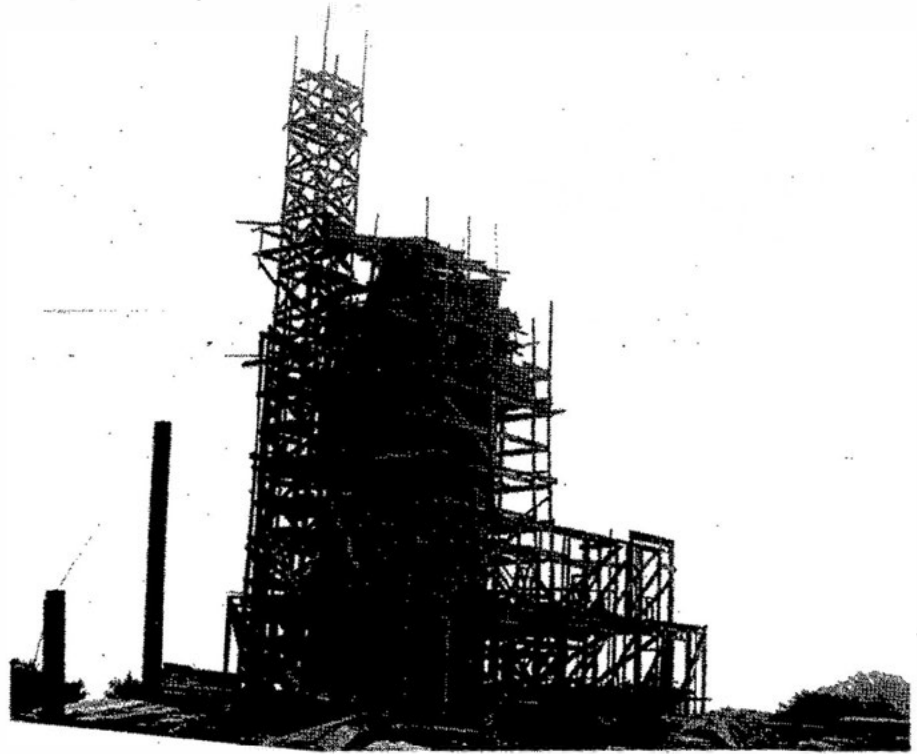
Betty & John Erkkila

[REDACTED]

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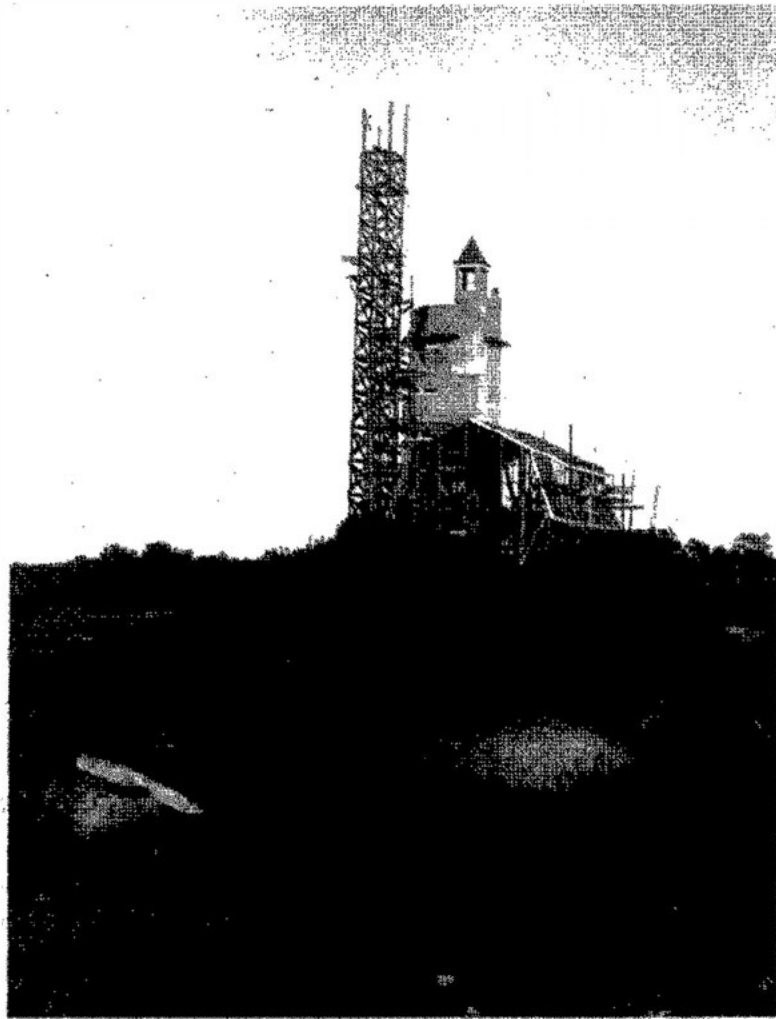
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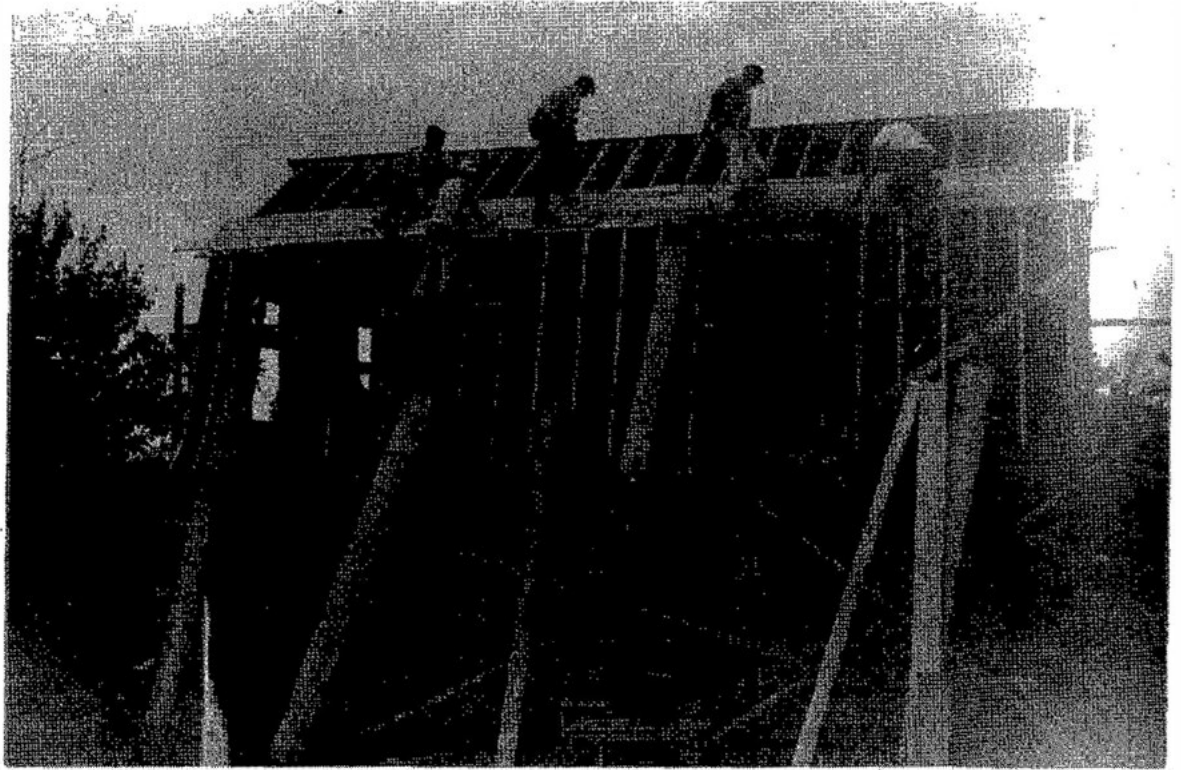
Under construction-
Halibut Point State Park
1942

photo: Sulo Erkkila



Under construction -
Halibut Point State Park
1942

photo: Sulo Erkkila



Under construction -
Halibut Point State Park
1942

photo: Sulo Erkkila

In regard to the Halibut Point State Park Improvement project, I would make some suggestions.

I don't think we need to actively attract more visitors to the park. The last 2 summers it was regularly closed early on most nice days due to overcrowding. This included foot traffic, not just vehicles.

I would also recommend that the cutting back of brush and healthy trees be curtailed. As an avid bird watcher, I have noted a marked decrease in woodland birds since the Park started brush clearing and path widening a few years ago. I live about 2 blocks away from the park, so I know that these birds are still in the area. The proposed underbrush and "invasive" clearing will also leave the remaining trees and bushes vulnerable to the wind and salt water spray, likely resulting in their death.

One of the great pleasures I have enjoyed in the 40+ years of visiting the park is walking though the wooded paths and the coming upon the quarry and ocean views at the end. The contrast between the dark woods and the vast open quarry makes the vista all the more dramatic. And because it is unexpected it has the added element of a beautiful surprise.

Clearing more land is a big mistake in my opinion. A better option might be to have clearer signage at the trail heads, so that people know where they are going.

Lose any proposed night lighting in the park. This is the last place on Cape Ann where you can see the stars without too much light pollution. Please do not wreck it.

Not all critical—nice rehab on the visitor center which was falling down.



Ira Levine

