



Planning & Resource
Protection

Project:

Development of a Resource
Management Plan

Status:

Adopted March 1, 2013
by DCR Stewardship Council

Planning Team:

Office of Regional Planning
Division of State Parks

Conservation-Recreation Partners:

Friends of Harold Parker S. F.
Boxford Trails Association/BOLT
Friends of North Andover Trails
N. E. Mountain Bike Association
Bay Circuit Alliance/AMC
Essex County Greenbelt Assoc.
Mass Wildlife



Blanding's Turtle

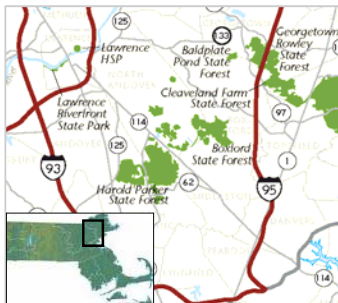
Selected Key Findings:

Harold Parker State Forest

- 2 natural and 9 man-made ponds
- 56 certified vernal pools
- 56 miles of trails and forest roads
- 89 family and 2 group campsites
- 2 closed day use areas
- 7 Native American sites
- Jenkins Mill and Soapstone Quarry historic sites
- Numerous Civilian Conservation Corps constructed dams, ponds, roads, trails and buildings

Boxford State Forest

- 100 acres of climax forest
- 49 certified vernal pools
- 11 miles of trails and forest roads
- Colonial settlement sites
- Remains of a missile radar site



Harold Parker and Boxford State Forests

Resource Management Plan



Camping at Frye Pond

Located less than an hour's drive north of Boston, Harold Parker State Forest offers 3,295 acres of rolling hills, low lying swampy areas, rocky outcrops and 11 ponds. Recreational activities are plentiful offering opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating, horseback riding, cross country skiing and hunting.

Boxford State Forest is a 1,045-acre reserve offering hiking, mountain biking and hunting. The State Forest and abutting conservation land form 2,200 acres of back country offering visitors a natural forest experience. Public benefits derived from state forest land are amplified due to the focused efforts of numerous public and nonprofit conservation and recreation partners working in the surrounding towns.

The forests contain significant vernal pool clusters that are essential to the life cycles of certain frog, salamander, fairy shrimp, snail and isopod species. Three state-listed rare species depend on the use of these vernal pools. Cultural resources associated with Native American occupation, early colonial settlement and Civilian Conservation Corps achievements can also be found in the Forests.

The management plan identifies 77 management recommendations intended to provide guidance for achieving balance between the protection of important natural and cultural resources while providing a variety of sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities.



Wednesday Hike to Balance Rock



Wicked Ride of the East