



January 9, 2019

Dear Friends,

In 2017 the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) undertook a planning process that engaged stakeholders and park users in imagining a future use of the Lee Pool site and the potential to rehabilitate the existing facility to meet current visitor needs. The conclusion of that process was that the facility could not be adapted to serve current DCR operational or visitor needs and that its preservation was not a priority for the community. DCR is now planning to demolish the Lee Pool Complex in winter 2019.

The demolition of the obsolete Lee Pool Complex is the result of an extensive public planning process. Over that 10-month long process, dozens of stakeholders and hundreds of individuals provided input on the use and design of a potential Esplanade Riverfront Pavilion, a multi-use, indoor/outdoor facility for recreational, cultural, and community programming. There was strong consensus that the existing 1950 Lee Pool Complex did not serve that purpose and could not be rehabilitated to do so.

The Lee Pool Complex was built in 1950 and included a diving pool and a large lap pool, which was used for public swimming until the early 1990s. Extensive repairs were made to the pool, but the structure continued to fail and was eventually closed. Over the past 25 years, the site has been used for storage of materials and equipment by DCR and our non-profit partners. Some of those functions will be shifting to the new DCR North Point maintenance facility once that is completed, but there will still be a need to accommodate certain maintenance operations on the Esplanade.

DCR is executing a contract with S&R Corporation of Sterling, Massachusetts to undertake the \$2.5M demolition project. Work will include removal of hazardous materials and demolition of the bathhouse, concession building, basement, pools, pool decking, and bleachers. The site will be graded, loamed, and seeded. A new drop-off loop will include accessible parking and limited public parking. The existing riverfront trail will remain in place, but the parking lot will be closed to the public for the duration of the work. Work will begin in early January 2019 and will be completed by the end of April 2019. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DCR's Office of Community Relations at [mass.parks@mass.gov](mailto:mass.parks@mass.gov) or 617-626-4973.

DCR appreciates your interest in the Lee Pool site, and your patience during the demolition project, which helps pave the way for future development of the site for more suitable recreational experiences.

Sincerely,

Leo P. Roy  
Commissioner

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS - EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Department of Conservation and Recreation  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston MA 02114-2119  
617-626-1250 617-626-1351 Fax  
[www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-conservation-recreation](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/departments-of-conservation-recreation)



Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lt. Governor

Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary, Executive  
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Leo Roy, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation