



## Summer Nights- 2024 Overview

DCR Stewardship Council Meeting

December 12, 2024



# Meet the DCR Summer Nights Team

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- Julie Martin, Director of Visitor Engagement and Programming
- Hilary Treat, Manager of Statewide Initiatives and Programs
- Paul Clifford, Statewide Initiative Program Coordinator







# Purpose

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- Provide free, safe youth-based programs for thousands of at-risk teens and young adults in urban areas.
- Demonstrates commitment to urban youth development.
- Builds community.
- Fosters activities that promote healthy lifestyles.
- Promotes shared stewardship of our parks.



# Background

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- Launched in 2015 to provide free, safe, youth-based programming
- DCR coordinates with Local Partners that offer youth-based programming to urban youth
- Partners have expanded from 4 in 2015 to 14 partners in 2020 to 100 in 2024
- Average attendance -5,000 participants before 2021. 2024 attendance was over 22,000
- Programs offered at DCR Locations, partner facilities and city parks
- Partners offer wide range of activities including sports, arts and life skills workshops
- Funding goes towards partner programming, police details, marketing, equipment and DCR staff overtime
- Programming includes the following categories:
  - Recreational, Cultural and educational programming
  - Outdoor Recreational Programming Facilitation (teaching urban youth skills to camp, fish, kayak)
  - Accessible Recreational Programming



# 2024: By the Numbers

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- **100** partners
- **37** communities
- **125** different locations
- **2,250+** youth programs offered
- **8,500+** hours of youth programs
- **22,000+** youth participants



# Communities Served

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- Expanded to **eleven new communities** with partners-Attleboro, Bridgewater, Norwood, Everett, Revere, Pittsfield, Somerville, Salem, Chicopee, Easthampton and Westfield.
- Nine Boston neighborhoods
- Beverly, Brockton, Chelsea, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, Methuen, Milton, New Bedford, Quincy, Springfield, Stoughton, Taunton, and Worcester.



# Summer Nights: Partner Funding

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In 2024, DCR dedicated an estimated \$2.615 million to partner funding. Additional Funding supports police details, staffing, marketing and equipment.

Calendar Year	Number of Program Partners	Program Partner Cost	Total DCR Cost (includes partners, equipment, police details, staff overtime)
2015	4	\$125,000	\$213,000
2016	8	\$200,000	\$291,000
2017	4	\$80,000	\$125,000
2018	9	\$235,000	\$289,000
2019	14	\$208,000	\$263,000
2020	14	\$214,000	\$240,000
2021	55	\$1 million	\$1.06 million
2022	74	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million
2023	84	\$2.6 million	\$2.7million
2024	100	\$2.615 million	\$2.75million



# Partner Breakdown By Community

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- Boston- 40-(\$1,055,600)
- Brockton-6 (\$190,000)
- Cambridge-1 (\$12,000)
- Chelsea- 1 (\$35,000)
- Everett-1 (\$10,000)
- Fitchburg-1(\$20,000)
- Haverhill-1 (\$30,000)
- Holyoke-4 (\$80,000)
- Lawrence -7 (\$165,000)
- Lowell-2 (\$50,000)
- Lynn-5 (\$90,000)
- Methuen-1 (\$20,000)
- New Bedford-6 (\$182,300)
- Quincy-2 (\$50,000)
- Revere-1 (\$20,000)
- Salem-1-(\$20,000)
- Springfield-14 (\$430,000)
- Westfield-1 (\$6,000)
- Worcester-5 (\$150,000)





## Summer Nights

programming engages youth in a wide variety of activities promoting creativity and self expression, fostering inclusion and a sense of belonging, and building confidence and self esteem



"You can see - kids are playing basketball, they're doing face-painting, they're learning financial literacy, dance, theater ... they're outdoors ... learning gardening - there's a whole range of things that they're doing."

-Gov. Maura Healey





# Kick Off Events

Boston & Holyoke

"What's incredible is bringing young people together in safe spaces...providing them with an opportunity to learn from each other, to learn and develop leadership skills and provide great, fun activities."

-Brian Arrigo, DCR Commissioner







Revere Beach Partnership, Revere



Beyond Soccer, Lawrence



SciAntics, Easthampton



Veronica Robles Cultural Center, East Boston



Easterseals, Worcester



Mercedes Baseball Academy, Lawrence





More To The Game, Boston



Parent Villages, Springfield



Cape Verdean Association of Boston



LEAP for Education, Salem





Hoops Collaborative, Boston



Holyoke Rows



My Brother's Keeper 617, Boston



Boys & Girls Club of Holyoke



Dream Out Loud, New Bedford



Black Market Nubian, Roxbury





Dennison Memorial Community Center, New Bedford



SciAntics, Springfield



Boston Asian Youth Essential Service



Neighborhood Guidance, Springfield



TLK Sports, Worcester



# Summer Nights: Notable Highlights

Seven partners brought a combined 150 youth to DCR properties to enjoy fishing led by Mass Wildlife colleagues at Harold Parker and Myles Standish State Forests and Hampton Ponds State Park

Five partners [Easter Seals, Partners for Youth with Disabilities, Holyoke Rows, Boys and Girls of Dorchester and Waypoint Adventures] offered accessible and adaptive programming specifically designed for youth with disabilities. Together over 100 individual youth with disabilities enjoyed Summer Nights activities like swimming, kayaking, theater, and sports



# Summer

# Nights:

## Notable Highlights

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Over 50 individuals went camping overnight (many for their first time) and had the opportunity to experience the outdoors through the Appalachian Mountain Club's Weekend Campouts and Public Lands Initiative held at Harold Parker State Forest in Andover.

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Boston Harbor Now, welcomed 25 Summer Nights partners who brought over 450 youth on day trips to explore, discover, and enjoy this urban oasis.



## 2025 Timeline

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- DCR 937: Master Contract for Urban Youth Programming- Rolling
- Summer Nights Proposals were due: **December 3, 2024**
- 117 Proposals Received. Currently Reviewing with notification anticipated in late December-early January.



# First Day Hike Locations 2025

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Pope John Paul II Park, Dorchester- 10am

Breakheart Reservation, Saugus-10am

Halibut Point State Park, Rockport- 10am

Harold Parker State Forest, Andover-10am

Walden Pond State Reservation-Concord-10am

South Cape Beach State Park, Mashpee-10am

Blue Hills Reservation, Milton-12pm

Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center, Worcester-10am

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge- 10am

Dunn State Park, Gardner-10am

Pearl Hill State Park, Townsend - 10am

Wachusett Reservoir, West Boylston-11am

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls- 1pm

Chester Blandford State Forest, Chester- 10am

