



Resource Management Plan Borderland State Park



Adopted by the DCR Stewardship Council **Month, Year**

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Conservation and Resource Stewardship
Resource Protection Bureau
Office of Regional Planning

Purpose

Resource Management Plans are foundational documents that identify a park, forest, or reservation's defining natural, cultural, and recreational resources and identify potential threats and opportunities to guide DCR's continued stewardship of the property and to inform future decisions about the property in a way that celebrates and preserves its identity.

Charles D. Baker, Governor

Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides, Secretary

Jim Montgomery, Commissioner

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Jim Montgomery, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about the DCR, our facilities, and our programs please visit us www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.



Borderland State Park

South Region

South Coast District

Blue Hills Complex

PARK OVERVIEW

Date Established:	1974
Location:	Easton, Sharon
Landscape Designation (acres)	
Parkland:	1,843
Reserve:	0
Woodland:	0
Park Size (acres)	1,843
Forest:	1,282
Lakes and Ponds:	153
Wetlands:	331
Other:	77
Boundary Length (miles)	12.7
Annual Attendance (2015):	318,485
Regulatory Designations (acres)	
• Area of Critical Environmental Concern – Canoe River	2
• National Register Historic District	1,270
• Priority Habitat (MESA)	1,662

LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS

- Historic Curatorship Ground Leases
 - Smith Farm-Residence - expires 2052
 - Wilbur Farm-Non-Profit - expires 2047

CONCESSIONS

- None

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

- Borderland State Park Advisory Council
- Friends of Borderland State Park
<http://www.friendsofborderland.org/>
- Borderland Disc Golf
<http://www.borderlanddiscgolf.com/>
- New England Mountain Bike Association, Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter
<https://www.nemba.org/chapters/semassnemba>

FEATURES OF INTEREST

- Ames Mansion and grounds
- Carriage paths and walking trails through designed landscape
- Disc Golf course
- Lawrence Newcomb Visitor Center

ACTIVITIES

- Bicycling, mountain
- Disc Golf
- Dog walking, on leash
- Dog walking, off-leash area
- Fishing, fin fish
- Geocaching
- Heritage tourism
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Mansion Tours (\$)
- Nature study/photography
- Orienteering
- Picnicking
- Running/jogging
- Skiing, cross country
- Sledding/tubing
- Tai Chi (\$)
- Tennis

\$ - A fee may be associated with this activity.

Contact Info: (508) 238-6566 • 259 Massapoag Ave., North Easton, MA 02356
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/borderland-state-park>

NATURAL RESOURCES

Elevation (feet above sea level) 187–365

Water Resources:

Watersheds: Neponset, Taunton
Rivers & Streams (miles) 3.1
Lakes & Ponds (acres) 152.9
Wetlands (acres) 331.3
Certified Vernal Pools (#) 0
Potential Vernal Pools (#) 20

Threatened & Endangered Species

State-listed (#): 4
Federally Listed (#): 0

Known Invasive Plants (# species)

Aquatic 1
Terrestrial 4

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Archaeological: 7
Historic Resources: 40
National Register: 1
National Historic Landmark: 0

CLIMATE CHANGE (by 2050)

Average annual temperature (°F): +2.7 to +5.9
Maximum temperature below freezing (days): -19 to -44
Maximum temperature over 90 °F (days): +7 to +29
Total precipitation (inches): +0.3 to +5.4

CLIMATE IMPACTS (acres)

Flood (100–500-year): 330.9–545.8
Hurricane Inundation (Cat 1–4): n/a
Sea-Level Rise (2070): n/a

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Forest District: Southeastern
Harvests 2000–2020 (#): n/a
Harvests 2000–2020 (acres): n/a

RECREATION RESOURCES

- Disc Golf course: 1
- Picnic Area: 1
- Visitor Center: 1

ROADS & TRAILS

Roads (miles):

Unpaved: 0.2
Paved: 0.5

Forest Roads (miles):

Unpaved: n/a
Paved: n/a

Trails

Unpaved (miles): 12.8
Paved (miles): 0.0
Unauthorized Trails (miles): #.#
Trail Density (miles/acre): ###.#
Area of Impact (acres): ####.#

PARKING

Lots (#): 6
Parking Spaces (#): 422
HP: 12
Other: 410

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING &

OTHER VISITOR SERVICES

(#PROGRAMS & #CONTACTS)

Formal Programming (2015):

DCR	221	3,600
Friends of Borderland	36	2,022

INTRODUCTION

Borderland State Park (Borderland) is located approximately 20 miles south of Boston, in the towns of Sharon and Easton. It was created from the Ames estate, a large, private preserve nestled among suburban residential development. In the early 20th century, the Ames family acquired farms in the area and transformed them into a lavish estate complete with a mansion, athletic facilities, gardens, and outbuildings; all connected within an impressive landscape design. The estate is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Borderland was purchased by the Commonwealth in 1971, for the purposes of passive recreation and interpretation. This combination was considered lacking from state parks in southeastern Massachusetts at the time of acquisition, and Borderland filled that void.

Borderland is a well-visited park. On most weekends, from spring through fall, the park's parking lots reach their capacity by late morning. With these cars come hundreds of visitors who hike or cycle the park's trails, play disc golf, ride horses, walk their dogs, geocache, tour the Ames Mansion, or picnic in the shade of a tree. An estimated 318,485 guests visited Borderland in 2015.

PARK IDENTITY AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Ames Mansion is the park's signature feature and the symbol of Borderland. Its exterior, cut from locally-sourced fieldstones, highlights the interconnectedness of the estate's natural and built environments. The park's large, appealing landscape provides visitors the opportunity to enjoy a full day relaxing outdoors in close proximity to metropolitan Boston. The park's recreational activities largely take place on the estate's carriage roads, agricultural fields, and other portions of this important historic landscape.

Borderland is significant for the following reasons:

- It is one of only four intact estates within the Massachusetts state park system.
- The Ames Mansion was designed by Blanche Ames, an artist, botanical illustrator, and suffragette. Her husband Oakes was a noted botanist and administrator of Arnold Arboretum. They incorporated their love of art, nature, and

science into the design of their home and their estate's grounds.

- The estate's agricultural fields, carriage roads, outbuildings, and artificial ponds persist today, providing visitors a glimpse of how the Ameses lived in the first half of the 20th Century.

DEFINING RESOURCES AND VALUES

Resources that define the park are related to the Ames Estate. They include:

- Mansion and estate grounds
- Mixture of wetlands, streams, and uplands, many part of the Ameses' planned landscape, that support two state-listed turtles and a state-listed salamander.
- Nearly 13 miles of official trails for passive recreation.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The social, political, and economic status of the Ames family is framed by the impressive Ames Mansion and provides an opportunity for us to explore how the Ames family lived, worked and recreated, while inspiring academic and social change that affects the citizens of Massachusetts and the nation to this day.

There are three interpretive Sub-themes, they are:

- The unique stories of the Ames family, told through touring the Ames Mansion and the grounds of the estate.
- The diverse ecological communities found at Borderland that provide the visitors an opportunity to explore the local environments.
- The union of the historical and natural aspects of Borderland, a place that Oakes and Blanche created to be a part of the natural world and highlighting the stories of both respectively while emphasizing the stewardship the Ames' embodied.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Borderland provides a variety of visitor experiences, including the following:

- **Lawrence Newcomb Visitor Center.** This facility provides essential services and information to park visitors. It serves as the central point from which visitors may obtain

information before exploring the park. It also serves as the gathering spot for park-related meetings and programming.

- **Heritage Tourism.** DCR-offers several themed tours of the first floor of the mansion, and the Friends of Borderland offer a “3-floor” tour of the mansion. Visitors may participate in the tour and learn about the mansion, the Ames Estate, and the history of the Ames family.
- **Trails-based Passive Recreation.** Nearly 13 miles of official trails, designed around historic carriage paths, provide visitors the opportunity to get out on foot, bicycle, or horse and explore the park; walk their dog; or access ponds for fishing.
- **Disc Golf.** The Borderland Disc Golf Course is considered among the best in Massachusetts. It attracts individuals and small groups of players for personal recreation, and a mix of amateur and professional players for tournaments.
- **Cultural Events.** The Friends of Borderland offer a variety of cultural events such as live theater, concerts, book readings, and art shows. This programming expands visitor experiences at Borderland and helps attract non-traditional park users.
- **Special Events/Private Functions.** The mansion and its grounds provide striking a striking background for weddings, commercial photography, and the occasional feature film.

THREATS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following information identifies potential threats to the park’s natural and cultural resources and identifies opportunities to enhance their protection and stewardship. Although not considered a resource under statute (M.G.L. Part I, Title II, Chapter 21, Sections 2F), recreation is also included below because it is an important part of the park-going experience and helps define a park’s values.

Threats and opportunities identified below are used to inform the development of management recommendations. Potential recommendations must meet prioritization criteria to be included in the *Priority Recommendations* table at the end of this RMP.

Natural Resources

Threats.

- The Park’s vegetation is being “Heavily Impacted” by deer browse, based on June 2016, MassWildlife surveys.
- Deer browsing of ornamental plantings threatens historic gardens and formal landscape elements. For example, in 2012, deer heavily browsed \$50,000 worth of arbor vitae plantings in front of the mansion, knocking down fencing to gain access.
- Disc golf maintenance activities are occurring within Priority Habitat without appropriate regulatory review. Similarly, other trail work occasionally takes place in Priority Habitat, without full regulatory review.
- Approximately 18.0% of the park is susceptible to 100-year floods and 29.6% is susceptible to 500-year floods.
- Normal recreation and grounds maintenance activities (e.g., mowing) may harm a state-listed data-sensitive animal is associated with fields and rocky slopes in the Easton and Sharon.
- The area around the Ames Mansion consists of formal gardens that contain a variety of exotic plants, including some invasive plants. Because they are part of the cultural landscape, standard approaches cannot be applied to manage non-native invasive plants that are historically part of these landscapes.
- Louise’s swallowwort, an invasive plant, is present and abundant in the field between Pud’s Pond and Mountain Street, Sharon.

Opportunities.

- The Friends of Borderland is actively engaged in park stewardship. They work daily in the park. The Friends actively engage in activities, such as the construction, placement, and monitoring of bird nest boxes.
- The 2019 acquisition of Rattlesnake Hill by the Town of Sharon creates opportunities for joint conservation projects and increased protection of state-listed turtles that use Borderland.

Cultural Resources

Threats.

- Due to its size and age, the Ames Mansion requires ongoing monitoring, maintenance, and

repair, often exceeding available staffing and funding. Staffing is most limited during the winter, when seasonal employees are not available to perform daily inspections.

- The mansion's interior is finished in asbestos reinforced plaster, creating a unique management challenge requiring specially trained staff.
- The Park's historic dams, dikes, and spillways are active water control structures. Inspections identified deficiencies and offered over 100 suggestions for maintenance and improved safety. Failure to address deficiencies could result in the loss of ponds and the Ames original vision for the landscape.
- The Park's historic landscape will be lost if regular mowing of agricultural fields is not maintained. A permit agreement for an agricultural concession to mow 35 acres of hayfields twice yearly expired in 2012. Mowing continues despite the lack of an agreement.

Opportunities.

- A rehabilitation plan for the Ames Mansion landscape includes specific recommendations for entrance foundation plantings, the tall evergreen hedge, rock garden, and path to swimming pool. Plantings and ongoing landscape maintenance are detailed in this rehabilitation plan. Guidance is offered on removing some invasive plants while controlling the spread of historically important species. Many of the plan's recommendations have been implemented; an opportunity remains to implement the rest.
- Calculating the mansion's visitation carrying capacity would ensure that current levels of visitation are consistent with long-term protection of the mansion and its contents.
- The Friends of Borderland is actively engaged in the preservation of the Ames Mansion and its associated resources, and helping DCR interpret these resources. They work in the park daily, performing landscape and garden maintenance in season, remove downed trees from trails, and remove tree branches from the edges of fields associated with Smith Farm.
- Continue to work with historic curators to help them meet the terms of their ground leases, thereby preserving public resources and creating

opportunities for the public experience these restored buildings.

- Inspections of the Park's dams have resulted in recommendations to correct over 100 identified deficiencies. Although many recommendations require capital funding to implement, others may be implemented by existing park staff with no additional expenses.
- The striking aesthetics of the mansion, shooting lodge, and estate grounds have made Borderland an increasingly popular location for shooting major films. Past productions have donated to the park, money that was used to help fund park improvements. Opportunities exist to further promote the park as a filming location.

Recreation

Threats.

- Recreationists, including hikers, dog walkers, and disc golfers have created desire paths and bare spots at many locations on the lawns surrounding the mansion.
- The Friends of Borderland, Friends of Borderland Disc Golf, Inc., and New England Mountain Bike Association, all of which are active in the park, are operating without formal agreements.
- Due to its strong visual character, photographers are attracted to Borderland, often conducting commercial activities without the required DCR permit.
- During peak use, such as summer weekends, park rangers' time is entirely consumed with emergency response and directing visitors to available parking.

Opportunities.

- The 2019 acquisition of Rattlesnake Hill by the Town of Sharon creates opportunities for an expanded trails system that includes DCR and municipal lands.
- Work with commercial dog walkers to ensure that they possess a Commercial Dog Walking Permit and that they are conducting their commercial activity in accordance with the terms of their permit.
- Work with dog owners to ensure that dogs are off-leash only in designated off-leash areas.

- Work with the numerous commercial photographers that conduct business on Borderland to ensure that they possess, and conduct their commercial activity in accordance with the terms of a Commercial Photography Permit.

Climate Impacts

Borderland is an interior park; sea level rise and hurricane-created storm surge are not direct threats to the park's infrastructure or resources. However, the park's multiple streams, wetlands, and impounded ponds are subject to flooding.

Approximately 30% of the park is susceptible to flooding. Leach, Upper Leach, and Pud's ponds and adjacent uplands are predicted to be impacted by a 100-year flood. Poquanticut Brook, associated uplands, and areas of red maple swamp between Leach Pond and Rockland Street are also predicted to be impacted. Affected infrastructure includes approximately 0.50 miles of the "Pond Walk" between Leach and Upper Leach Ponds, and a bird blind along this trail. Many of the ponds, wetlands, and streams north of Upper Leach Pond are predicted to be impacted by 500-year floods. Approximately 1.44 miles of trails, including 0.08 miles of the Bay Circuit Trail, are included in the impacted area.

The park's impoundments are water-regulation structures and historic resources. This includes seven historic dams and three historic dikes. It is unknown if these structures can accommodate the up to 5.4 inches of additional precipitation associated with climate change.

There is insufficient information on the impacts to Borderland's natural and cultural resources to projected temperature and precipitation changes to identify likely impacts.

Applied Land Stewardship Zoning

DCR assesses the appropriate uses and stewardship of its properties at two spatial scales: the landscape level and the property level.

Landscape Designation

In 2012, DCR engaged in a comprehensive system-wide assessment of its parks, designating every piece as Reserve, Woodland, or Parkland. (See *Landscape Designations for DCR Parks & Forests: Selection Criteria and Management Guidelines* (DCR 2010) for details.) Multiple Landscape Designations may apply to parks with diverse resources and levels of development. All of Borderland was designated Parkland. Identification of Land Stewardship Zones within Borderland was performed in the context of the Parkland Landscape Designation.

The following Land Stewardship Zoning is recommended to guide management and any future development. (See property and zoning map at the end of this RMP.)

Zone 1

Zone 1 areas have highly sensitive ecological and/or cultural resources that require additional management approaches and practices to protect and preserve these special features and their values (DCR 2012). The following areas of Borderland have been designated Zone 1.

- No sections of Borderland have been designated Zone 1.

Zone 2

Zone 2 areas provide for a balance between resource stewardship and recreational opportunities that can be appropriately sustained. They include stable yet important cultural and natural resources. These areas provide a buffer for sensitive resources, recharge areas for surface and groundwaters, and large areas where existing public recreation activities can be managed at sustainable levels (DCR 2012). The following areas of Borderland have been designated Zone 2.

- All areas not specifically designated as Zone 3.

Zone 3

Zone 3 areas include altered landscapes in active use and areas suitable for future administrative, maintenance, and recreation areas (DCR 2012). The following areas of Borderland are currently developed, appropriate for potential future development, or intensively used for recreation. They have been designated Zone 3.

- The park entrance area, including the main parking lot, seasonal pass parking lot, Currivan corn crib, and visitor center area.
- The Ames Mansion and associated grounds, gardens, pool, and tennis court. This includes the lawn between the visitor center and Ames Mansion. (See Significant Feature Overlay, below.)
- The Ames shooting lodge and Leach Pond Dam area.
- Borderland State Park dams #1–3, Pud’s Pond Dam, and Upper Leach Pond Dam.
- Smith and Wilbur farms.
- Bay Road parking lot.
- William Dean Cemetery.

Significant Feature Overlay

A Significant Feature Overlay was developed for the Ames Mansion’s landscape. This overlay corresponds to the area identified in the *Ames Mansion Landscape Rehabilitation Plan*. Management and maintenance activities within the overlay must be consistent with this plan.

DCR Stewardship Map Tool

This RMP should be viewed in conjunction with DCR’s Stewardship Map, a GIS-based tool that allows users to view a property’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources. The Stewardship Map tool is dynamic and information continues to be updated after adoption of an RMP. Guidance for using the tool, as well as Best Management Practices for resource stewardship are located on the Stewardship Map

site:

<https://eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1537eadad42b4bc3b06f100c3407257b>

Consistency Review

Resource Management Plans “shall ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management” (M.G.L. Part 1, Title II, Chapter 21, Section 2F). For planning purposes, an activity is considered consistent with resource protection if it has no significant, long-term, adverse impact on resources. To this end, a series of Indicators of Consistency were developed to evaluate the impacts of recreation and forest management on natural and cultural resources.

Many activities with the potential to negatively affect resources are already subject to agency and/or regulatory review (e.g., forest management activities, projects within Priority Habitat). For these activities, compliance with state regulations, regulatory authority guidance, DCR policies and processes, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) is considered an indicator of consistency between park use and resource protection. New indicators were generated for activities not subject to agency or regulatory review, and are based on available data, information readily identifiable via aerial imagery or site visits, or the property manager’s knowledge of park conditions and use. (See *Indicators of Consistency*, at the end of this RMP.)

Indicators are applied during the RMP planning process in order to ensure a standardized assessment of consistency across all properties in the DCR system. Inconsistencies identified via the application of indicators are used to inform the development of management recommendations.

The status of indicators (Yes, No, and N/A) were accurate at the time this RMP was prepared, and were used for planning purposes. ***However, they represent a snapshot in time and may not reflect future conditions.*** In addition, the status of indicators will change as recommendations get implemented.

Management Recommendations

Fourteen priority management recommendations were developed for Borderland State Park. Recommendations are considered a high priority if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

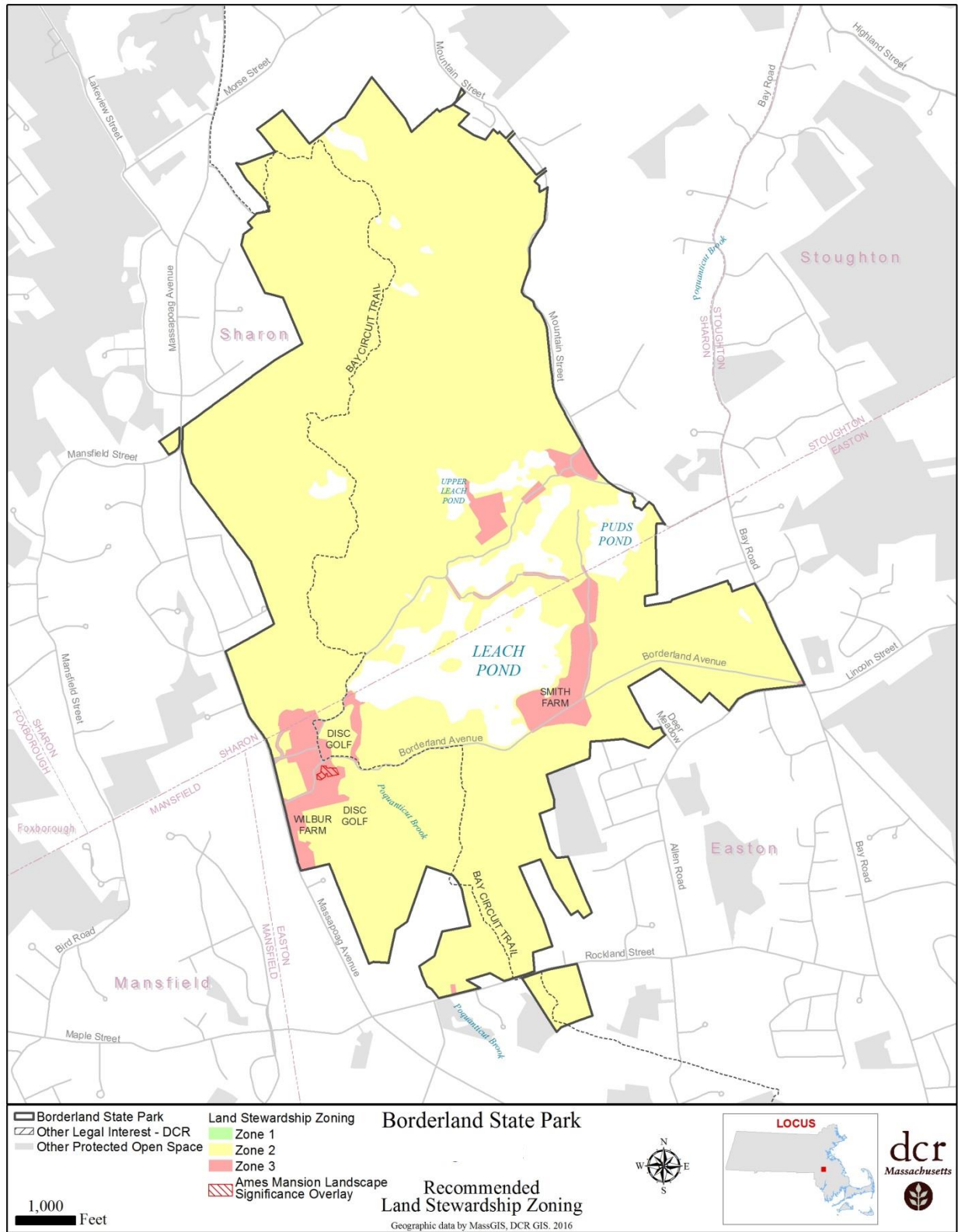
- Natural resource stewardship and restoration activities consistent with park identity and intended to improve ecological function and connectivity.

- Cultural resource management activities consistent with park identity and intended to prevent the loss of integrity of significant cultural resources.
- Improvements consistent with park identity that are needed to support intended park activities.
- Actions required for regulatory compliance or compliance with legal agreements.
- Activities that prevent or ameliorate threats to the health and safety of park visitors and employees.
- Activities that address inconsistencies among recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management, as identified through use of the *Indicators of Consistency* checklist.

Typically, recommendations derive from the Consistency Review and from *Threats* and *Opportunities* identified earlier in this document.

Additional maintenance and management needs observed during the preparation of this RMP, but not meeting one or more of the above criteria, are not included in this plan.

All recommendations are of equal priority. They are presented in the table *Priority Recommendations for Borderland State Park*, included at the end of this RMP.



STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL DRAFT

Indicators of Consistency			
<i>This assessment represents a snapshot in time and may not reflect future conditions.</i>			
	Yes	No	N/A
Landscape Designation			
G.1. All development and uses of the park since 2012, or currently planned for the park, are consistent with its Landscape Designation(s).	X		
Natural Resources			
N1. All projects conducted within Priority Habitat were reviewed and approved through DCR's internal review process and by NHESP for potential impacts to rare species and their habitats.		X	
N2. All projects conducted within areas subject to protection under the Wetlands Protection Acts were reviewed and approved through DCR's internal review process and by the local Conservation Commission and carried out in accordance with the terms of a valid Order of Conditions.	X		
N3. All trail construction was performed in accordance with an approved Trail Proposal Form.		X	
N4. Sensitive resource areas, such as steep slopes, riverbanks, streambanks, pond and lakeshores, wetlands, and dunes are free of desire paths and other user-created trails.		X	
N5. Aquatic areas adjacent to beaches, boat ramps and launches, roads, and hiking trails are free of eroded sediments.	X		
N6. Recurring use by OHVs is restricted to authorized trails.*			X
N7. The extent of exposed soil in campground and/or picnic sites is stable or decreasing.*	X		
N8. The extent of native vegetation in campground and/or picnic sites is stable or increasing.*	X		
N9. There is a high level of compliance with dog leash regulations and policies.*	X		
N10. Congregations of breeding, migratory, or wintering wildlife are protected from disturbance by temporary (e.g., seasonal) restrictions on recreational access.		X	
N11. Geocaches, letterboxes, orienteering control locations, and other discovery destinations are located outside sensitive resource areas and their locations have been reviewed and approved by park personnel.*	X		
N12. Zone I wellhead protection areas are free of vehicle parking, chemical storage, or concentrated recreation.			X
N13. All boat ramps and launches have cleaning stations and/or educational signs and materials on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive organisms.*			X
N14. There is a current, approved Barrier Beach Management Plan and all beach-related activities are conducted in accordance with this plan.			X
Cultural Resources			
C1. All activities and projects with the potential to cause sub-surface disturbance have been reviewed by the DCR archaeologist for potential impacts to archaeological resources.	X		
C2. Historic buildings, structures, and landscapes are being used, maintained, and repaired in a manner that preserves their cultural integrity and conveys their significance to park visitors.		X	
C3. Historic landscapes are free of user-created trails and other recreation-created impacts to vegetation (e.g., bare spots on lawns).		X	
C4. Geocaches, letterboxes, and other discovery destinations are located away from sensitive cultural resources, and their locations have been reviewed and approved by park personnel.			X
C5. Historic buildings, structures, and landscapes; archaeological resources; and concentrations of historic materials are located outside of areas predicted to be subject to flooding, storm surge, or sea-level rise.			X
C6. Cultural Resources are currently unimpacted by waves, boat wakes, or associated erosion.			X

Indicators of Consistency continue on Next Page.

Recreation			
R1. Types of recreation, levels of recreational use, and types and extent of recreation infrastructure are consistent with the park's identity statement.			
R2. Trail density is consistent with the park's Landscape Designation. See <i>Trails Guidelines and Best Practices Manual</i> (DCR 2019) for density thresholds.	X		
R3. Over 90% of the park's official trails network is classified as being in Fair or better condition.	X		
R4. Area of trail impacts in Reserves is less than 50% of total park area.			
R5. Athletic fields are free of recreation-caused impacts (e.g., bare spots) to turf.			X
R6. Water-based recreation is consistent with: "Uses Attained" designation as identified by Mass DEP in its most current list of integrated waters (e.g., DEP 2017); fish consumption advisories; and/or water quality testing at waterfront areas.	X		
R7. Recreation facilities are located outside of areas subject to flooding, storm surge, or sea-level rise.			X
Sustainable Forest Management			
F1. Forestry activities are consistent with Landscape Designation and associated forestry guidelines.	X		
F 2. Forestry activities are consistent with District Forest Resource Management Plan.			X
F 3. All tree harvesting is performed in accordance with an approved cutting plan.			X

* As assessed by property manager.

Priority recommendations for Borderland State Park.

Category	Recommendation	Implementation^a
Natural Resources	Work with MassWildlife to conduct a study of the white-tailed deer population and to ascertain its impacts on Borderland's natural and cultural resources; discuss deer management options.	Park Operations Partner
Natural Resources	Modify mowing and other maintenance activities increase protection of state-listed data-sensitive animal associated with fields and rocky slopes in Easton and Sharon.	Ecology Program Park Operations
Natural Resources	Control Louise's swallowwort in area between Pud's Pond and Mountain Street, in accordance with guidance provided in DCR's <i>Invasive Plant Management Plan: South Region</i> .	Contractor Ecology Program Park Operations
Natural Resources	Conduct a Climate Vulnerability Assessment to identify those resources most susceptible to climate change.	Contractor Office of Climate Resiliency
Cultural Resources	Develop and implement guidance on management activities for all dams and dikes in the Park, in order to preserve the ponds as historic landscape features.	Office of Dam Safety Office of Cultural Resources Park Operations
Cultural Resources	Continue to remediate asbestos bearing plaster as funding permits.	Contractor Office of Cultural Resources
Cultural Resources	Develop a Visitation Plan for Ames Mansion that identifies sustainable levels of use.	Office of Cultural Resources Park Operations Partner Visitor Services
Cultural Resources	Eliminate desire paths across the Ames Mansion's lawn through area closures, reseeding, and rerouting paths, as necessary.	Office of Cultural Resources Park Operations
Cultural Resources	Pursue the creation of a full-time caretaker position for the Ames Mansion in order to provide ongoing building maintenance, upkeep of the historic landscaping, oversight of mansion activities, and security.	Park Operations
Cultural Resources	Establish a new agricultural concession to provide for the continued mowing of agricultural fields in order to preserve the Smith Farm cultural landscape.	Office of the General Counsel Park Operations
Recreation Resources	Require all new trail projects, including disc golf paths, to undergo review and approval using the DCR Trail Proposal and Evaluation Form, and all trail maintenance activities to be reviewed for compliance under MESA and the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.	Ecology Program Office of Recreation Facilities Planning Park Operations Partner
Operations	Work with commercial pet walkers to obtain the required permit for their commercial activity.	Office of the General Counsel Park Operations

Category	Recommendation	Implementation ^a
Operations	Work with commercial photographers to obtain the required permit for their commercial activity.	Office of the General Counsel Park Operations
Operations	Establish formal agreements with the park's three major partners: Friends of Borderland; Friends of Borderland Disc Golf; and the New England Mountain Bike Association.	Office of External Affairs and Partnerships Office of the General Counsel Park Operations

a. The lead party responsible for implementation is identified in bold.