



Public Review of Draft Land Stewardship Zoning Guidelines

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is soliciting public comment regarding Draft Land Stewardship Zoning Guidelines (Guidelines). These Guidelines will be incorporated into Resource Management Plans (RMPs) prepared for all DCR Reservations, Parks and Forests pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 21: Section 2F.

Copies of the Draft Guidelines, as well as further information regarding the RMP Program, can be downloaded from the link provided on the RMP Program home page:
<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/index.htm>

The comment deadline is Friday February 25, 2006.

Please send your comments to:

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or

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Summary of Draft Land Stewardship Zoning Guidelines

In July, 2003 state legislation established the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), consisting of a Division of Urban Parks and Recreation, a Division of State Parks and Recreation, and a Division of Water Supply Protection. In addition, the legislation required the preparation of management plans for state parks, forests and reservations under the management of DCR (Chapter 21, Section 2F). This legislation states that management plans shall include guidelines for operation and land stewardship, provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources, and shall ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management. As part of addressing this legislative requirement, land stewardship zoning guidelines will be incorporated into the development and implementation of DCR Resource Management Plans. The purpose of these revised Guidelines is to provide a general land stewardship zoning framework for the development of Resource Management Plans for all state reservations, parks and forests under the management of the DCR Divisions of Urban Parks and Recreation and State Parks and Recreation. The Guidelines are intended to be flexible and help guide the long-term management of a specific DCR property or facility.

The Guidelines define three types of zones to address the legislative requirement to provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and to ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management. The three zones may be supplemented with significant feature overlays that identify specific designated/recognized resource features (such as Forest Reserves, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or areas subject to historic preservation restrictions).

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