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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MURRAY KICKS OFF DCR'S SUMMER RECREATIONAL SEASON

WORCESTER – Monday, May 14, 2012 – Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray today joined Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Edward Lambert at Quinsigamond State Park to launch DCR's Summer Recreational Season.

"Our Administration supports more than 450,000 acres of parkland and open spaces for recreational activities in Massachusetts," said Lieutenant Governor Murray. "Today's launch of DCR's summer season opens the doors for residents, families, and tourists to explore the state's parks and recreational facilities in their own backyard and communities across the Commonwealth."

The kickoff is the start of many events DCR will hold to highlight the wealth of recreational opportunities available to Massachusetts residents and visitors during the upcoming summer season. A complete list of DCR activities throughout the state can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/rec-act.htm>.

"From hiking and biking, to swimming and boating, DCR has something to offer everyone this summer season," said DCR Commissioner Lambert. "I encourage everyone to get out and visit our parks."

DCR's Quinsigamond State Park consists of two sites located on Lake Quinsigamond – Regatta Point and Lake Park. The park includes a 25-acre regatta area which offers facilities for swimming, sailing, picnicking and fishing. The 2,000 meter rowing course established on Lake Quinsigamond is internationally recognized as one of the best courses in the world.

In 2010, DCR completed \$850,000 in improvements to the parking lot area at the park, including redesign and resurfacing, creation of a new entrance and new entrance gates, reinforcement of the grass area in lower portion of the park, upgrading of the boat launch access and ramp, improvement of pedestrian access to boat house and the installation of new fencing.

Through the Patrick-Murray Administration's Energy and Environmental Bond Bill, Massachusetts has invested \$425 million to enhance and improve state parks, beaches and recreational facilities across the state. Each summer, hundreds of thousands of visitors come to DCR facilities to swim, hike, camp, fish and bike. DCR park staff implements programs at various parks throughout the summer, focusing on education, health and physical activity.

DCR also operates 61 beach facilities as well as 45 pools/spray decks throughout the summer season. Spray decks and wading pools open over Memorial Day Weekend, and pools open in late June.

"I am proud of the commitment the Commonwealth has made to ensure that our natural resources are not only preserved but also open and accessible for the enjoyment of all Massachusetts residents," said Senator Marc Pacheco. "Our parks, forests, beaches and other areas are vital resources that that I hope will continue to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation to future generations."

"The DCR provides inexpensive ways for residents throughout the Commonwealth to enjoy priceless venues of nature," said Representative John Mahoney. "I commend Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray and DCR Commissioner Edward Lambert, Jr. for keeping the state focused on funding and promoting access to waterfronts, campgrounds and parks. The return on investment for our families, our communities and our entire state is tremendous."

The Massachusetts DCR oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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