

DCR's 10th Annual Park Serve Day Set for Saturday, April 30, 2016

Public is Encouraged to Join Thousands of Volunteers at Statewide Park Clean-Up Events

Boston- Tuesday, April 19, 2016- Today, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has announced that the 10th annual Park Serve Day will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, and the agency encourages members of the public to participate in events held at local state parks and beaches. Park Serve Day is a statewide initiative dedicated to a day of volunteer service where the public partners with staff from the DCR to ready the Commonwealth's parks and beaches for summer by assisting in cleaning coastlines, clearing trails, planting flowers, painting picnic tables, mowing, weeding, and picking up litter.

"From planting flowers and trees to painting picnic tables and welcome signs, Park Serve Day is an incredible opportunity for state government to partner with the public in an effort to benefit us all," said Governor Charlie Baker. "By working together, generations of people will truly benefit from this worthwhile event."

Park Serve Day improves natural, cultural, and recreational public spaces throughout Massachusetts through volunteerism at local events. The majority of events will take place between the hours of 8:00AM and 3:00PM, though hours may vary by location, and participants are encouraged to reach out to their local state parks to confirm event times.

"Every year thousands of volunteers pitch in and participate in DCR's annual Park Serve Day, and I'm so proud of their work and commitment at our state parks" said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "With local cleanup events scheduled at Scusset Beach State Reservation to Chicopee Memorial State Park and everywhere in between, there is a local state park near us all."

Work gloves and equipment necessary to complete various projects will be provided by the DCR; however, if participants choose, they can bring their own gloves or hand tools, but the DCR asks those materials to be clearly marked with the owner's name and phone number on them. Power tools will not be allowed.

"Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful and historic parks and open spaces in the country, and it is our collective duty to work together to ensure they remain beautiful for years to come," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. "Park Serve Day is a day where we all can get out, get our hands dirty, and invest in our parks for the upcoming season."

At DCR facilities where Park Serve Day projects are taking place, drinking water will be supplied, though participants should feel free to bring their own water and food, as well. All volunteers are asked to wear sturdy shoes and work clothes, and to bring sunscreen and insect repellent. All events are rain or shine, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Additionally, all parking fees will be waived at locations where Park Serve Day events are taking place.

"With over 450,000 acres of public land that includes parks, beaches, forests, and reservations, the Department of Conservation and Recreation works incredibly hard every single day to provide a first class state parks system for us all to benefit from," said Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Leo Roy. "Park Serve Day allows us all to redouble that effort to ensure our parklands are enjoyed by people of all abilities."

To find a Park Serve Day event near you, check the list below or search the Park Serve Day website located on DCR's [Programs and Events page](#), where volunteers can register for an event.

Park Serve Day 2016 – Participating Parks (events below are being held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, unless otherwise noted):

Boston Region

- Charles River Reservation, Boston, 9am-12pm
- Patten’s Cove, Dorchester Shores Reservation, Dorchester, 9:30am-11:30am
- Neponset River Walk, Quincy, 9am-12pm
- Southwest Corridor, South End, Boston, 10am-2pm

Northern Region

- Breakheart Reservation, Saugus, 9am-1pm
- Cochituate State Park, Natick, 9am-1pm
- Halibut Point State Park, Rockport, 10am-2pm
- Harold Parker State Forest, N. Andover, 10am
- Marshview Park, Lynn, 9am-1pm
- Middlesex Fells Reservation at Flynn Rink/Money Hill, Medford, 9am-1pm
- Lynn/Nahant Beach at Lynn Shores Reservation, Nahant, 9am-11am
- Red Rock Park at Lynn Shores Reservation, Lynn, 9am-11am
- Revere Beach Reservation, Revere, 10am-12pm
- Riverfront State Park, Lawrence, 9am-12pm
- Salisbury Beach State Reservation, Salisbury (2- day event: April 30 and May 1), 10am-2pm
- Victorian Garden and Mack Plaza, Lowell, 9am-11am
- Whitehall State Park, Hopkinton (Saturday, April 23), 9am-12pm

Central Region

- Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park, Uxbridge, 8:30am-1pm
- Otter River State Forest, Baldwinville, 10am-1pm
- Leominster State Forest, Westminster, 9am-1pm
- Nashua River Rail Trail, Pepperell, 9:30am-12pm
- Mt Grace State Forest, Warwick (2- day event: April 23 and 24), 9:30am-4:30pm
- Douglas State Forest, Douglas, 9am-1pm
- Upton State Forest, Upton (Sunday, April 24), 8:30am-12pm

Southeastern Region

- Blue Hills Reservation at Houghton’s Pond, Milton, 9am-3pm

- Blue Hills Reservation, Broderick Stable, Milton, 8am-1pm
- Brookwood Farm, Milton, 9am-12pm
- Georges Island, Leaves from Long Wharf, 9am-2pm
- Gateway Park, Hingham, 10am-2pm
- Massasoit State Park, Taunton, 9am-2pm
- Myles Standish State Forest, South Carver, 9am-1pm
- Nickerson State Park and Cape Cod Rail Trail, Brewster, 9am-1pm
- Scusset Beach State Reservation, Bourne, 9am-12pm
- Waquoit Bay Reserve, Waquoit, 9am-12pm
- Webb Memorial State Park, Weymouth, 9am-2:30pm

Western Region

- Chicopee State Park, Chicopee, 9:30am-2pm
- Great Falls Discovery Center, Montague, 10am-12pm
- Norwottuck Rail Trail, Hadley, 10am-12pm
- Savoy Mountain State Forest, Savoy, 10am-12pm
- Pittsfield State Forest, Pittsfield, 9am-1pm

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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 Leo Roy, 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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