

Governor Baker Signs Legislation Protecting 1,008 Acres of Land in the Town of Adams

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Adams – Monday, August 8, 2016 – Recognizing the need to further protect 1,008 acres of Greylock Glen land in the Town of Adams, Governor Charlie Baker signed Senate Bill [1631](#) designating the land under Article 97 protection. Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution provides the public with the right to a clean environment and authorizes the state to acquire land for conservation purposes. Under Article 97's permanent protection, the Greylock Glen land will be designated for open space protection, management and conservation, environmental education, environmental research, and public access for recreational purposes.

"I am proud to partner with the Town of Adams, the legislative delegation, and key stakeholders on legislation advancing another important milestone of the future management of the Greylock Glen land," said Governor Charlie Baker. "I look forward to continuing our work with the town as we move forward ensuring the public truly benefits from this significant property."

"Protecting and conserving natural resources within our communities remains an important priority of our Administration, and by placing Greylock Glen under Article 97 protection, future generations will truly benefit from our shared commitment to the preservation of this important land within the Town of Adams," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.

With Governor Baker signing Senate Bill 1631, "*An Act designating certain lands in the town of Adams for conservation and public recreational purposes*," the state and town will be able to further advance a \$50 million planned development of a four-season recreation and environmental education destination. Previously, the Town of Adams, in collaboration with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, Mass MoCA, Massachusetts Audubon, and the Appalachian Mountain Club, developed the project concept.

Additionally, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which acquired the land along with the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in 1985, will construct an extensive trail system for hikers, bikers, horseback riders, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and other users as part of the first phase of the project's implementation.

"It is important that everyone, both the young and the young at heart, are able to access our natural world to foster a true love of its beauty and wonder," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. "By continuing to develop the Greylock Glen land, the public will be able to explore the environment, observe wildlife in its natural habitat, and incorporate physical activity within their daily lives."

"The signing of this bill is another example of the Baker-Polito Administration's dedication to protecting, promoting, and enhancing the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources," said DCR Commissioner Leo Roy. "I would like to thank all of our partners, including town officials, Senator Ben Downing, Representative Gailanne Cariddi, and others, as we continue to protect and conserve Greylock Glen for the public to benefit from for years to come."

In 2014, the Town of Adams signed a master lease with the DCR allowing the community to begin development on a 56 acre parcel of land within Greylock Glen. The signing of the lease was the culmination of years of work between state and local officials.

"I am thrilled to see this massive swath of the Glen given this special protection and look forward to future developments in the region making the most of this precious natural resource," said State Senator Ben Downing (D-Pittsfield).

"I am pleased with this 1,008 acres of state land protection as it is a critical component in the ongoing commitment of the Commonwealth to support the unique regional strengths of the overall Greylock Glen project," said State Representative Gailanne Cariddi (D-North Adams).

The DCR serves as the steward of over 450,000 acres of public land, including state parks, beaches, forests, and reservations. To learn more about the agency, please visit the DCR's [website](#).

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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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