



Resource Management Plan Raynham State Forest



Adopted by the DCR Stewardship Council December 2023

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation
Division of Conservation and Resource Stewardship
Office of Cultural Resources

Maura T. Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Rebecca L. Tepper, Secretary
Brian Arrigo, Commissioner

Purpose

Resource Management Plans (RMPs) 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.

RMPs are prepared for "all reservations, parks, and forests under the management of the department." (M.G.L. Chapter 21: Section 2F) These plans "shall include guidelines for the operation and land stewardship of the aforementioned reservations, parks and forests, shall provide for the protection and stewardship of natural and cultural resources and shall ensure consistency between recreation, resource protection, and sustainable forest management." DCR finalizes RMPs following a public process and adoption by the DCR Stewardship Council. The contents of this RMP represent the best available information at the time of adoption by the Stewardship Council.

Mission and Core Principles

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, parkways, and over 100 National Register listed properties. The agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all.

DCR strives to be an exemplary leader in conservation and recreation. DCR's staff is passionate, dedicated, and continuously employs best practices, expertise, and a sense of place in carrying out the mission. The following core principles ground the agency in its work. For the benefit and well-being of all—people and the environment—DCR pledges to:

- Provide access to a diversity of outdoor recreational experiences and unique landscapes that is equitable, inclusive, and welcoming.
- Conserve lands, water, and forests by integrating science, research, and technical expertise into the management of our natural resources.
- Advance climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts by implementing sustainable practices and advancing resiliency across our infrastructure, assets, and resources.
- Support healthy communities by providing places for people to connect with nature and each other.
- Inspire generations of stewards by recognizing and honoring our legacy through partnerships, public engagement, and education.

Stewardship

DCR honors Native people for their care, throughout many generations, of the land that DCR now stewards on behalf of the people of the Commonwealth. DCR embraces this legacy of stewardship, fostering a sense of shared responsibility by all people for protection of the waters, lands and living things for the enjoyment and appreciation of all.

To learn more about the DCR, its facilities, and programs please visit us www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.



Raynham State Forest

South Region

South Coast District

Fall River Heritage Complex

PARK OVERVIEW

Date Established	1917
Location	Raynham
Landscape Designation (acres)	
Parkland	14.9
Reserve	0.0
Woodland	0.0
Undesignated	0.0
Park Size (acres)	14.9
Boundary Length (miles)	0.6
Annual Attendance (2015)	3,000
Regulatory Designations (acres)	
None Identified	N/A
Environmental Justice (acres)	0.0

LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS

None Identified N/A

CONCESSIONS

- None

PARTNERS & FRIENDS

- None

FEATURES OF INTEREST

- Protected public open space
- Trail

ACTIVITIES

- Dog walking, on-leash
- Hiking/walking
- Running/jogging

Contact Info:

c/o Massasoit State Park
 1361 Middleboro Ave, East Taunton, MA 02718
<https://www.mass.gov/locations/massasoit-state-park>

NATURAL RESOURCES	
Elevation (feet)	88.1–94.4
Water Resources	
Watersheds	Taunton
Rivers and Streams (miles)	0.0
Open Water (acres)	0.0
Wetlands (acres)	0.0
Certified Vernal Pools (#)	0
Potential Vernal Pools (#)	0
Threatened & Endangered Species	
State-Listed (# Regulatory)	0
State-Listed (# Non-Regulatory)	0
Federally Listed (#)	0
Forest Cover (acres)	14.6
Known Invasive Plants (# species)	
Aquatic	0
Terrestrial	0
CLIMATE CHANGE (By 2070)	
Increase in annual days over 90° F	>30
Change in annual maximum daily rainfall (inches)	>10
Massachusetts Coastal Flood Risk Model area of inundation (acres)	N/A
NATURAL HAZARDS (ACRES)	
Flood (1.0%–0.2%-chance)	0.0–0.0
Hurricane Inundation (Cat. 1–4)	N/A
FOREST MANAGEMENT	
(OBJECTIVE AND ACRES MANAGED, SINCE 2012)	
N/A	0.0

CULTURAL RESOURCES (#)	
Archaeological	0
Historic (total #)	0
National Register Listed	0
National Historic Landmark	0
RECREATION RESOURCES	
Trail Segment	1
ROADS & TRAILS	
Roads (miles)	
Unpaved	0.0
Paved	0.0
Forest Roads (miles)	
Unpaved	0.0
Paved	0.0
Trails	
Unpaved (miles)	0.1
Paved (miles)	0.0
Unauthorized Trails (miles)	0.0
Trail Density (miles/acre)	0.007
Area of Impact (acres)	8.4
PARKING	
Lots (#)	1
Parking Spaces (#)	7
Accessible (HP)	0
Other	0
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMMING	
(#PROGRAMS/#CONTACTS)	
Formal Programming (2020)	
DCR	0/0

INTRODUCTION

Raynham State Forest (Raynham or the Forest) is located in Bristol County, in the Town of Raynham. It is approximately 30 miles south of Boston and 22 miles northeast of Providence, Rhode Island. The Forest is within the Bristol Lowlands/Narragansett Lowlands Ecoregion. The nearest DCR property is Massasoit State Park, approximately 2.2 miles to the south. The Forest is situated within a larger land area bordered by Routes 24, 44, and 495. Residential development surrounds the Forest on all sides.

The Forest is on land shaped by generations of Native peoples and non-Native inhabitants. Past and present Native residents embody fluid, relational connections to the places and spaces now known as Raynham State Forest. Groups and individuals, including Native people known as the Pokanoket Wampanoag, are recorded in available documentation (Native Land Digital 2023) as having relationships to this place over seasons and generations. Following Native peoples' dispossession, the Town of Raynham was established from part of Taunton and incorporated in 1731 (Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) 1981). The Forest was established as a "reforestation lot" in 1917. Under Chapter 478 of the Acts of 1908, the State Forester was authorized to purchase land and manage it for forest growth, water protection, and examples of scientific forestry with a 10-year option for reacquisition by the previous landowner (Massachusetts General Court (MGC) 1908). Reforestation lots that were not reacquired by the previous landowner, such as Raynham, were incorporated into the state forest system. In 1931, the Massachusetts General Court designated all remaining Commonwealth-owned lands from this program as state forests (MGC 1931).

Raynham is a patch of permanently protected, forested, open space in an otherwise residential neighborhood. It provides limited hiking, dog walking, and nature study opportunities. The forest is primarily of local importance, with most visitors believed to originate locally. It has minimal recreation development and no visitor amenities.

PARK IDENTITY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Raynham State Forest's small size and gentle topography make for a short, easy walk through a forested landscape. This suburban state forest protects common natural resources and offers opportunities to engage in passive recreation. Raynham's significance lies not only in its value as an individual property, but also in its role as part of the larger state forest system. Collectively these forests provide significant social, environmental, and economic benefit, such as plant and wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, and settings for outdoor recreation. Future uses and development of Raynham should be consistent with its identity as Parkland that provides locally significant open space with limited passive recreation.

Raynham is significant for the following reasons:

- The forest provides opportunities for trail-based passive recreation.
- It permanently protects forested open space within a predominantly residential landscape.

DEFINING RESOURCES AND VALUES

Resources that define the Forest are related to its forested uplands. They include:

- Approximately 0.1 miles of official trails for passive recreation, with the potential for approximately 0.4 miles of additional trails.

- Upland forests with habitat for common plants and wildlife, within a matrix of residential development.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Managing our state forests for diversity and resilience leads to a healthier environment for us to live in and enjoy. There are six interpretive Sub-themes, they are:

- Beyond the original intents of timber harvesting and fire control, DCR's forest management objectives have changed over time to include forest resiliency, water quality, diverse wildlife habitats, carbon sequestration, and public safety.
- Economic concerns played a significant role in the reforestation of Massachusetts. The establishment of the state forest system returned tens of thousands of acres of "economically barren lands" to forestland and protected them from future development.
- State forests were partly created to lessen the Commonwealth's dependency on out of state lumber and to support industry in Massachusetts. Early forest management strategies were driven by productivity and economics. As the science evolved, increased consideration was given to the environmental impacts of a site-specific forest management project. In some cases, other objectives, such as improving wildlife habitat or to enhance forest health might be the primary reason for a particular project.
- Though foresters recognized that forest management could enhance recreational activities, when they created the state forests, recreation was a secondary motivation. State forests were viewed as opportunities to provide a "wilder" recreational experience in contrast to "planned," more landscaped parks. Prior to 1933, only three forests offered recreational facilities. Over time the focus on recreation grew to the point where it is the most visible function of the Agency.
- Massachusetts' state forest system was founded on the principles of scientific forest management. These practices contrasted with the un-managed destructive cutting practices common throughout the country at the time. Management focused on the long-term cultivation of forests to achieve a sustainable harvest. Foresters worked to maximize production and provide a sustained yield over time, aiming for long-term stewardship over short term profits. Management of state forests also served as a model for private landowners.
- Unique to Massachusetts, the reforestation lot program let landowners sell their land to the state for reforestation. Within 10 years of the sale, they could repurchase the land at the cost of the initial purchase price plus the cost of improvements and maintenance. Unclaimed lots ended up as part of the State Forest system resulting in a system with parcels of varying sizes all over the state.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Due to its size, and relatively homogeneous vegetation, Raynham State Forest provides limited visitor experiences, including the following:

- **Virtual Experience.** Potential visitors will find little information about Raynham State Forest on DCR's web site. The "Find a Park" tool (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-park>) identifies the Forest's location and lists Hiking/Walking as activities that visitors may enjoy here. There is no additional information to help potential visitors plan a trip.

- **Entering the Park.** Visitors arrive at roadside parking along Locust Street, near the Forest’s Main Identification Sign. The trailhead is clearly visible from this location and serves as the main entrance to the forest. (See cover photo.)
- **Trail-based Passive Recreation.** Visitors follow the one official trail into the forest. This trail provides visitors the opportunity to explore the park on foot, walk their dog, or study nature.

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 recreation is not considered a resource under statute (M.G.L. Part I, Title II, Chapter 21, Sections 2F), it is included below because recreation is an important part of the park-going experience, helps define a park’s values, and is a key part of assessing the consistency of activities taking place in the Commonwealth’s forests, parks, and reservations.

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 (Table 2, page 17).

Natural Resources

Threats

- As red pine plantations died off, monocultures of white pine replaced them and will remain monocultures if not actively managed.
- Potential encroachments were identified along the northern boundary. The forest’s residential setting lends itself to encroachments.
- There is no information on the presence or distribution of invasive plants at this Forest.

Opportunities

- Monitoring the site to ensure invasive species are not present, especially along boundaries with residential properties, would allow native species to continue to thrive.
- Updating property boundary markers to reduce encroachments by property abutters.
- The forest has previously been used as a “Nature Study Area” by the Raynham school system; the potential exists to re-establish this relationship.

Cultural Resources

Threats

- Trail maintenance activities may potentially affect below ground cultural resources.

Opportunities

- Assessing the property for cultural resources would allow for a better understanding of the history of the property and enhanced resource protection.

Recreation

Threats

- Due to the size and character of the forest, there is limited potential for increased recreation.
- Not all trails are accurately mapped or considered official, and without an official property map or trail signs visitors may be unaware of which trails are considered official.
- The official trail connects directly from the road to a private residence, which may lead visitors to enter restricted property.
- The Forest has an identification sign but lacks a Welcome Wayside. Visitors to the Forest are provided no information on its resources or recreation opportunities.
- There is limited official information available on Raynham State Forest. DCR's webpage does not include information on the Forest, making it difficult for potential visitors to become aware of the property and its recreational opportunities.

Opportunities

- Establishing accessible parking and trail(s) could provide a more inclusive experience.
- Because there are no known sensitive ecological or cultural resources, there is an opportunity to make the unofficial loop trail part of the official trails network.
- Installing a kiosk with trail map and rules and regulations will help keep visitors informed.
- Increasing trail maintenance and encouraging abutters to respect park boundaries will improve the visitor experience.
- Adding information on Raynham State Forest to DCR's web page would allow potential visitors to become aware of the Forest, its resources, and associated recreation opportunities.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change impacts nearly every aspect of DCR's properties, from ecosystem health, to infrastructure, to recreation. The Department is actively working to mitigate and adapt to current and future impacts through such actions as forest management, decarbonizing DCR's buildings and vehicles, protecting wetlands, and using nature-based solutions to minimize stormwater impacts. Information on these, and other, efforts is incorporated into RMPs as available and appropriate.

DCR manages its forests to provide a range of ecosystem services such as recreation, clean water, wood commodities, and wildlife habitat (DCR 2020). For ecosystems under its management, DCR carefully considers both their vulnerability to climate change and their ability to mitigate the effects of climate change by storing carbon in ecosystems and harvested wood products. Several approaches are used to monitor DCR forests and to design forest management strategies to adapt to climate change and provide ecosystem services. (See Swanston et al. (2016) for information on adaptation strategies and approaches associated with DCR's forest management.) Established in 1957, DCR's Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) system uses a network of more than 2,000 permanent plots on which repeated measurements are taken on an ongoing basis. The CFI measures the status, size, and health of over 100,000 trees; other vegetation; down woody material; and the forest floor. (See DCR 2014 for additional information on the CFI system.) This information helps DCR understand at a strategic scale the current character, condition, and trends of forest ecosystems under its care. DCR also uses operational inventory to help plan specific

treatments and evaluate their outcomes. Using these different scales of information, remotely sensed data, and local and regional external expertise, DCR plans projects that help its stands, forests, and other lands adapt to climate change and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. For additional information on the relationship between DCR's forest management practices and climate change, please see pages 77–85 in Massachusetts Forest Action Plan 2020 (DCR 2020) and Managing Our Forests...For Carbon Benefits (DCR 2023).

The Department is actively assessing the vulnerability of its properties and facilities to the anticipated impacts of climate change. A Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) will be used by DCR to enhance park operations and maintenance, inform resilient investment, and provide a framework for hazard mitigation and climate adaptation for natural resources, cultural resources, buildings, facilities, and other infrastructure. Property-specific climate change information from the CCVA is included in the Climate Change (by 2070) section of the dashboard at the beginning of this RMP.

Climate Exposure

During the preparation of Resource Management Plans some resources may be identified as having particularly high exposure to the anticipated impacts of climate change. When this occurs, these resources are described in the RMP.

No resources with particularly high exposures to climate change are known from this Forest.

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 lands managed by its Division of State Parks and Recreation, designating them as Reserve, Woodland, or Parkland. (See Landscape Designations for DCR Parks & Forests: Selection Criteria and Management Guidelines (DCR 2012) for details.) Multiple Landscape Designations may apply to individual properties with diverse resources and levels of development. All of Raynham State Forest was designated Parkland. Identification of Land Stewardship Zones within Raynham State Forest 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 Figure 1. Land Stewardship Zoning Map, page 13.)

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 Dighton Rock have been designated Zone 1.

- No areas of Raynham State Forest 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

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

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 Raynham State Forest have been designated Zone 2.

- All portions of the Forest, excepting a small portion designated 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 Raynham State Forest are currently developed, appropriate for potential future development, or intensively used for recreation. The following areas of Raynham State Forest have been designated Zone 3.

- An approximately 80-foot by 40-foot area located at the current trail head, for *potential* future improvements to the park gateway. Full regulatory review, including public input, will occur if specific development is proposed at this location.

Significant Feature Overlay

Significant Feature Overlays provide precise management guidance in order to maintain or preserve recognized resources features regardless of the zone in which they occur. The following Significant Feature Overlays were developed for Raynham State Forest.

- There are no Significant Feature Overlays associated with this forest.

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://dcrsgis-mass-eoeea.hub.arcgis.com/>.

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 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, assessments by DCR subject matter experts, or the property manager's knowledge of park conditions and use. (See Table 1, page 14.)

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, Unknown, 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

Four priority management recommendations were developed for Raynham State Forest. They are presented in the Table 2, page 17. All recommendations are of equal importance.

Priority management recommendations derive from Threats, Opportunities, and Consistency Assessment information presented in this RMP. For a recommendation to be considered a priority and listed in the table, it must meet one or more of the criteria listed below. Maintenance and management needs not meeting one or more of these criteria are not included in the table but are identified in the Threats and Opportunities sections.

The following types of recommendations are considered priority:

- 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 Consistency Assessment checklist.

Progress toward implementing priority recommendations is tracked through the use of DCR's Capital Asset Management Information System (CAMIS). The property manager should enter each recommendation listed in Table 2 (page 17) into CAMIS as a separate work order, noting "**RMP" in the description field. Non-traditional work orders (e.g., volunteer trail work, posting of DPH Fish Consumption Advisory posters, certification of vernal pools) should be closed out by the property manager, once the recommendation has been implemented.

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

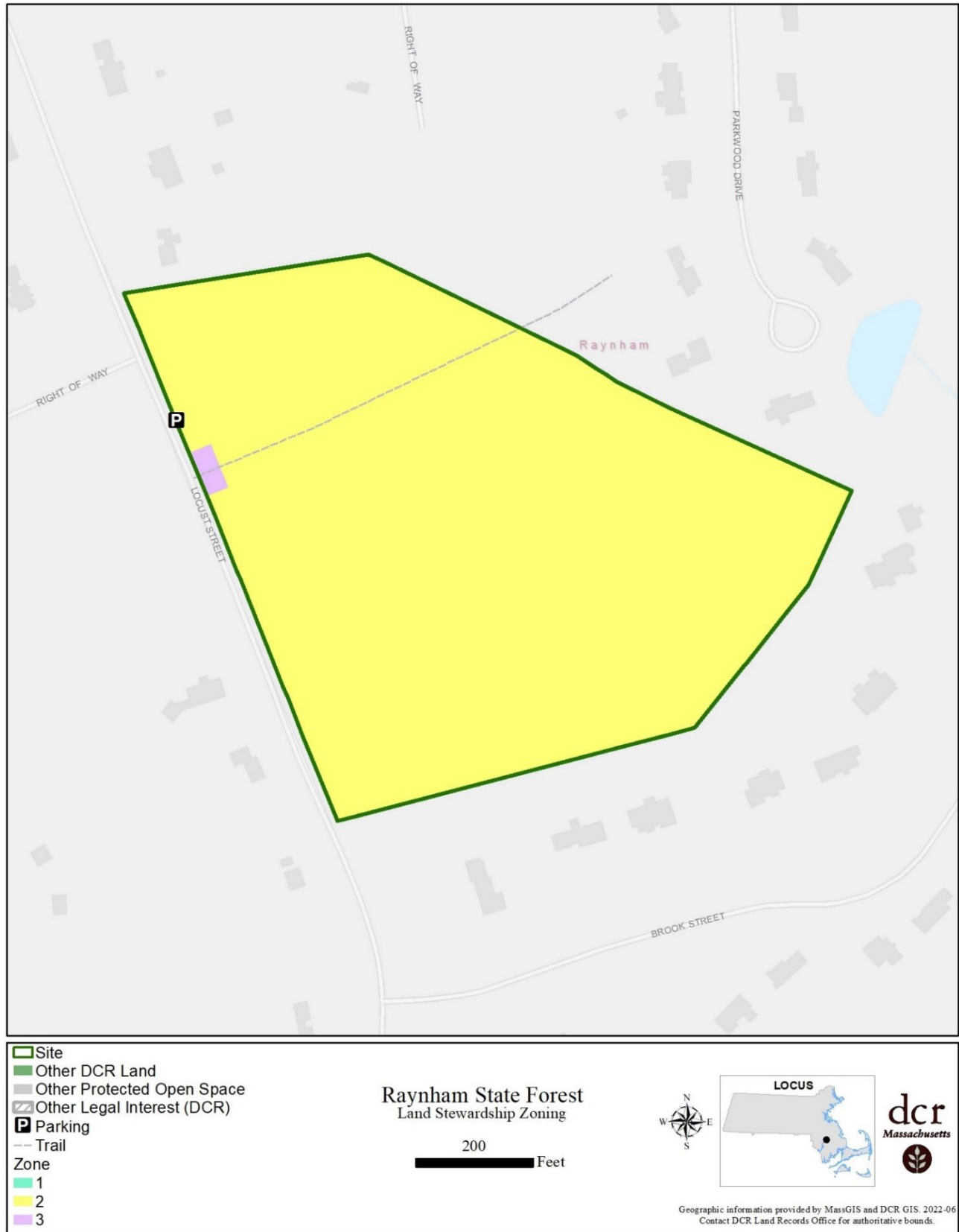


Figure 1. Land Stewardship Zoning Map.

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

Table 1. Consistency Assessment. This assessment represents a snapshot in time and may not reflect future conditions.

Category	Metric	Status
Landscape Designation	1. All development and uses of the park since 2012, or currently planned for the park, are consistent with its Landscape Designation(s).	Yes
Natural Resources	1. All projects (normal maintenance activities, special projects, volunteer 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.	N/A
Natural Resources	2. All projects conducted within areas subject to state and/or federal wetlands or waterways regulations were reviewed and approved through DCR's internal review process; reviewed and approved through the appropriate, local, state, and/or federal review process; and were carried out in accordance with the terms of a valid permit.	Yes
Natural Resources	3. 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.	Yes
Natural Resources	4. Aquatic areas adjacent to beaches, boat ramps and launches, roads, and hiking trails are free of eroded sediments.	N/A
Natural Resources	5. The extent of exposed soil in campground and/or picnic sites is stable or decreasing.	N/A
Natural Resources	6. The extent of native vegetation in campground and/or picnic sites is stable or increasing. (As assessed by property manager.)	N/A
Natural Resources	7. Area of trail impacts in Reserves is less than 50% of total area. (See Naughton (2021) for information on primary area of trail impacts.)	N/A
Natural Resources	8. Congregations of breeding, migratory, or wintering wildlife are protected from disturbance by temporary (e.g., seasonal) restrictions on recreational access.	N/A
Natural Resources	9. Geocaches, letterboxes, orienteering control locations, and other discovery destinations are located outside sensitive natural resource areas and their locations have been reviewed and approved by park personnel. (As assessed by property manager.)	No
Natural Resources	10. Zone I wellhead protection areas are free of vehicle parking, chemical storage, or concentrated recreation.	N/A

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

Category	Metric	Status
Natural Resources	11. All boat ramps and launches have cleaning stations and/or educational signs and materials on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive organisms. (As assessed by property manager.)	N/A
Natural Resources	12. For each barrier beach there is a current, approved Barrier Beach Management Plan and all beach-related activities are conducted in accordance with this plan.	N/A
Cultural Resources	1. All maintenance activities and projects with the potential to cause sub-surface disturbance are being reviewed by the DCR archaeologist for potential impacts to archaeological resources.	Yes
Cultural Resources	2. All maintenance activities and projects affecting historic properties (buildings, structures, and landscapes over 50-years-old) are being reviewed by the Office of Cultural Resources to avoid adverse impacts.	N/A
Cultural Resources	3. Historic buildings, structures, and landscapes are being used, maintained, and repaired in a manner that preserves their cultural integrity and conveys their historic significance to park visitors.	N/A
Cultural Resources	4. Recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and boating are not eroding cultural properties such as archaeological sites or historic landscapes through creation of desire lines, rutting in the landscape, damage to historic built features, or excessive scouring (erosion) of coastal and shoreline areas.	Yes
Cultural Resources	5. Geocaches, letterboxes, and other discovery destinations are located away from sensitive cultural resources, and their locations have been reviewed and approved by park personnel.	N/A
Cultural Resources	6. Historic buildings, structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, and concentrations of historic resources are located outside of areas predicted to be subject to flooding, storm surge, or sea-level rise.	N/A
Recreation	1. Types of recreation, levels of recreational use, and types and extent of recreation infrastructure are consistent with the park's identity statement.	Yes

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

Category	Metric	Status
Recreation	2. Trail density is consistent with the park's Landscape Designation(s). (See Trails Guidelines and Best Practices Manual (DCR 2019a) for density thresholds.)	Yes
Recreation	3. All authorized trail construction was performed in accordance with an approved Trail Proposal Form.	Yes
Recreation	4. Over 90% of the park's official trails network is classified as being in Fair or better condition.	Yes
Recreation	5. Recurring use by OHVs is restricted to authorized trails. (As assessed by property manager.)	N/A
Recreation	6. There is a high level of compliance with dog leash regulations and policies. (As assessed by property manager.)	Yes
Recreation	7. Athletic fields are free of recreation-caused impacts (e.g., bare spots) to turf. (As assessed by property manager.)	N/A
Recreation	8. Water-based recreation is consistent with "Uses Attained" designation as identified by MassDEP in its most current integrated list of waters (e.g., MassDEP 2023); DPH fish consumption advisories; and/or water quality testing at waterfront areas.	N/A
Recreation	9. Recreation facilities are located outside of areas subject to flooding, storm surge, or sea-level rise.	Yes
Sustainable Forest Management	1. Forestry activities are consistent with Landscape Designation and associated forestry guidelines.	Yes
Sustainable Forest Management	2. Forestry activities are consistent with current Forest Resource Management Plan.	N/A
Sustainable Forest Management	3. Tree cutting is performed in accordance with an approved cutting plan, if required under the Massachusetts Forest Cutting Practices Act (M.G.L. Ch. 132, Sections 40–46).	N/A

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

Table 2. Priority Recommendations for Raynham State Forest. All recommendations are of equal importance. When multiple agency parties are responsible for implementing a recommendation, the lead party, or parties, are identified parenthetically in the Implementation column. Property managers should enter these recommendations as work orders in CAMIS to ensure their tracking and implementation.

Category	Recommendation	Implementation
Natural Resources	Resolve potential encroachments in accordance with draft Agency-wide guidance and Best Management Practices (DCR 2019b).	Management Forestry (Lead), Contractor, Office of the General Counsel, Park Operations
Recreation	Develop a loop trail system to incorporate official trail segments and suitable informal trail segments; submit a Trail Proposal and Evaluation Form for this trail and construct, if approved. Following construction, obtain GPS coordinates for the trail and update the DCR trails data set.	GIS Program, Park Operations (Lead), Trails and Greenways Section, Volunteers
Recreation	Establish a DCR web page for Raynham State Forest.	Interpretive Services
Recreation	Develop a Welcome Wayside panel and install on kiosk near existing Main Identification Sign.	Interpretive Services (Co-Lead), Park Operations (Co-Lead)

REFERENCES

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 2012. Landscape designations for DCR parks & forests: Selection criteria and management guidelines. March 2012.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/200210>

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 2014. Manual for continuous forest inventory field procedures. Bureau of Forestry, Division of State Parks and Recreation, February 2014.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/624791>

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 2019*a*. Trails guidelines and best practices manual. Updated July 2019.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/dcr-trails-guidelines-and-best-practices-manual/download> (PDF)

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 2019*b*. Agency-wide Guidance and Best Management Practices: Encroachment. Version 1.7 DRAFT 071019.

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). 2020. Massachusetts State Forest Action Plan 2020. Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs, Department of Conservation and Recreation, Massachusetts Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/840801>

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). 2023. Final Massachusetts integrated list of waters for the Clean Water Act 2022 reporting cycle. CN. 568.1. May 2023. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Resources, Division of Watershed Management, Watershed Planning Program. Worcester, MA.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/final-massachusetts-integrated-list-of-waters-for-the-clean-water-act-2022-reporting-cycle/download> (PDF)

Massachusetts General Court (MGC). 1908. Chapter 478 of the Acts of 1908. An Act to provide for the purchase of forest land and for reforestation.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/75465>

Massachusetts General Court (MGC). 1931. Chapter 126 of the Acts of 1931. An Act relative to state forests and lands acquired by the Commonwealth for reforestation and experiment in forest management.

<https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/63759>

Massachusetts Historical Commission. 1981. MHC Reconnaissance Survey town report: Raynham. Report Date: 1981.

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/townreports/SE-Mass/ray.pdf> (PDF)

Native Land Digital. 2023. Native Land Digital.

<https://native-land.ca/>

Naughton, M. 2021. Wildlife and recreation: Understanding and managing the effects of trail use on wildlife. Prepared for Vermont Fish and Wildlife and Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation. November 2021.

Resource Management Plan: Raynham State Forest

Swanston, C. W., M. K. Janowiak, L. A. Brandt, P. R. Butler, S. D. Handler, P. D. Shannon, A. Derby Lewis, K. Hall, R. T. Fahey, L. Scott, A. Kerber, J. W. Miesbauer, L. Darling, L. Parker, and M. St. Pierre. 2016. Forest adaptation resources: Climate change tools and approaches for land managers, 2nd ed. Gen. Tech. Rep. NRS-GTR-87-2. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeast Research Station. Newtown Square, PA.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nrs/pubs/gtr/gtr_nrs87-2.pdf (PDF)