



June 29, 2010

RE: Neponset River Trail – DCR Site Walks and Extension of Public Comment Period

Dear Interested Citizen or Stakeholder,

On May 17, 2010, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) held a public meeting at the Foley Senior Residences at Mattapan to discuss, and solicit public input on, alternatives for linking the Lower Neponset River Trail to the Neponset Esplanade, from Central Avenue in Milton to Blue Hill Avenue in Boston, through a multi-use pathway.

We were pleased to have more than 100 residents of Milton and Mattapan join us for the public meeting and to hear their thoughts on five alternative pathway routes, as well as on criteria to be used for evaluating them. Since the public meeting, DCR has received numerous written and phoned comments, which, along with those expressed at the meeting, we are currently reviewing.

We encourage all interested parties to view the public meeting presentation and related information at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/news/publicmeetings/greenwaysgeneralpast.htm> and to attend two site walks that DCR will be conducting on Thursday, July 22, and Monday, July 26, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. These site walks, the first which will tour areas north of the Neponset River and the second which will tour areas south of the Neponset River, will provide local residents and stakeholders with the opportunity to participate in on-the-ground discussions on the alternatives and to ask questions and express their perspectives to DCR staff and consultants. Unless severe weather occurs, in which case a postponement will be announced at www.mass.gov/dcr, DCR will be holding these walks rain or shine. For specific information on each of the walks and locations for meeting up, please see the attached notice.

To enable public input up through and after the site walks, DCR is announcing an extension of the project comment period to Friday, August 14. We ask that you share your comments with us by emailing DCR.Updates@state.ma.us or calling 617-626-4974.

In early fall, DCR will be holding a second public meeting, at which we will be presenting our recommended alternative after comment and analysis. We hope you will be able to join us for this public meeting, for which we will be providing you advance notice.

We appreciate your interest and look forward to ongoing public dialogue as we move forward on the goal of continuing the development of the Neponset Greenway corridor and a multi-use pathway system through the Neponset River Reservation, as envisioned by the 2006 Upper Neponset River Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Joe Orfant
Chief, Bureau of Planning and Resource Protection

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