



RB

Sent via USPS Mail

January 12, 2011

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
Attn: Secretary Sullivan

RECEIVED

JAN 26 2012

MEPA

Re: Proposed Routine Trail Maintenance, Fowl Meadow and Ponkapoag Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Blue Hills Reservation

Dear Secretary Sullivan:

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, hereinafter "DCR," is proposing routine trail maintenance on all Blue Hills Reservation trails in the Fowl Meadow and Ponkapoag Area of Critical Environmental Concern of the Blue Hills Reservation. Specifically, the DCR is proposing the maintenance of existing trails, as designated on the most recent DCR Blue Hills Reservation trail map, within the trail corridor and as provided in the Department's "Trail Guidelines and Maintenance Standards," enclosed herein. All trail maintenance work shall be completed by DCR Staff, volunteers and contractors with hand tools such as shovels and rakes.

In efforts to reduce the impact of storm water flow into Ponkapoag Pond and the Neponset River, as well as to improve trail sustainability, recreational enjoyment and public safety, DCR proposes to complete routine basic trail maintenance as well as to create erosion control/drainage structures on the existing trails. Basic trail maintenance shall include trail corridor vegetation clearance, trail tread maintenance, maintenance/clearing of simple drainage structures (e.g. drainage dips, grade reversals and water bars within the 3' of the existing tread), moderate drainage structures (e.g. ditches, turnpikes and culverts and replacement of stream crossing decking (boardwalk, dock, etc). Basic trail maintenance shall also include trail closing and revegetation efforts. Structure installation/replacement driven trail maintenance shall include the installation and/or replacement of wet area crossings (e.g. bog bridges, causeways and rock steps), creation of minor stream crossings (culverts and small bridges, installation of small water drainage structures (water bars, rock lined ditches, swales and grade reversals), new changes/alterations to the topography for purposes of changing drainage (grade reversals, ditches, swales, and the installation of steep slope structures (rock and check steps).

Due to the trails occurrence within the jurisdiction of both the Wetland Protection Act and the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, detailed trail maintenance projects shall be presented to the applicable Conservation Commission and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game's Natural

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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www.mass.gov/dcr



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lt. Governor

Ian A. Bowles, Secretary, Executive
Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

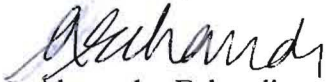
Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Heritage and Endangered Species Program. In addition, due to the historic significance of the area, all projects shall also be reviewed by Ellen Berkland, DCR Archeologist.

Based upon the information presented above, it is our understanding that the proposed activities are consistent with the definition of a "Routine Maintenance" project which is defined under 310 CMR 11.02 (2) as "*any maintenance work or activity carried out on a regular or periodic basis in a manner that has no potential for Damage to the Environment or for which performance standards have been developed that avoid, minimize or mitigate potential environmental impacts to the maximum extent possible,*" and as such, the filing of an ENF will not be required.

At this time, we request that you provide us with confirmation that you are in agreement with this conclusion. We would respectfully request your determination within 30 days, if possible. If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (617)727-4573 ext. 219. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request.

Truly yours,

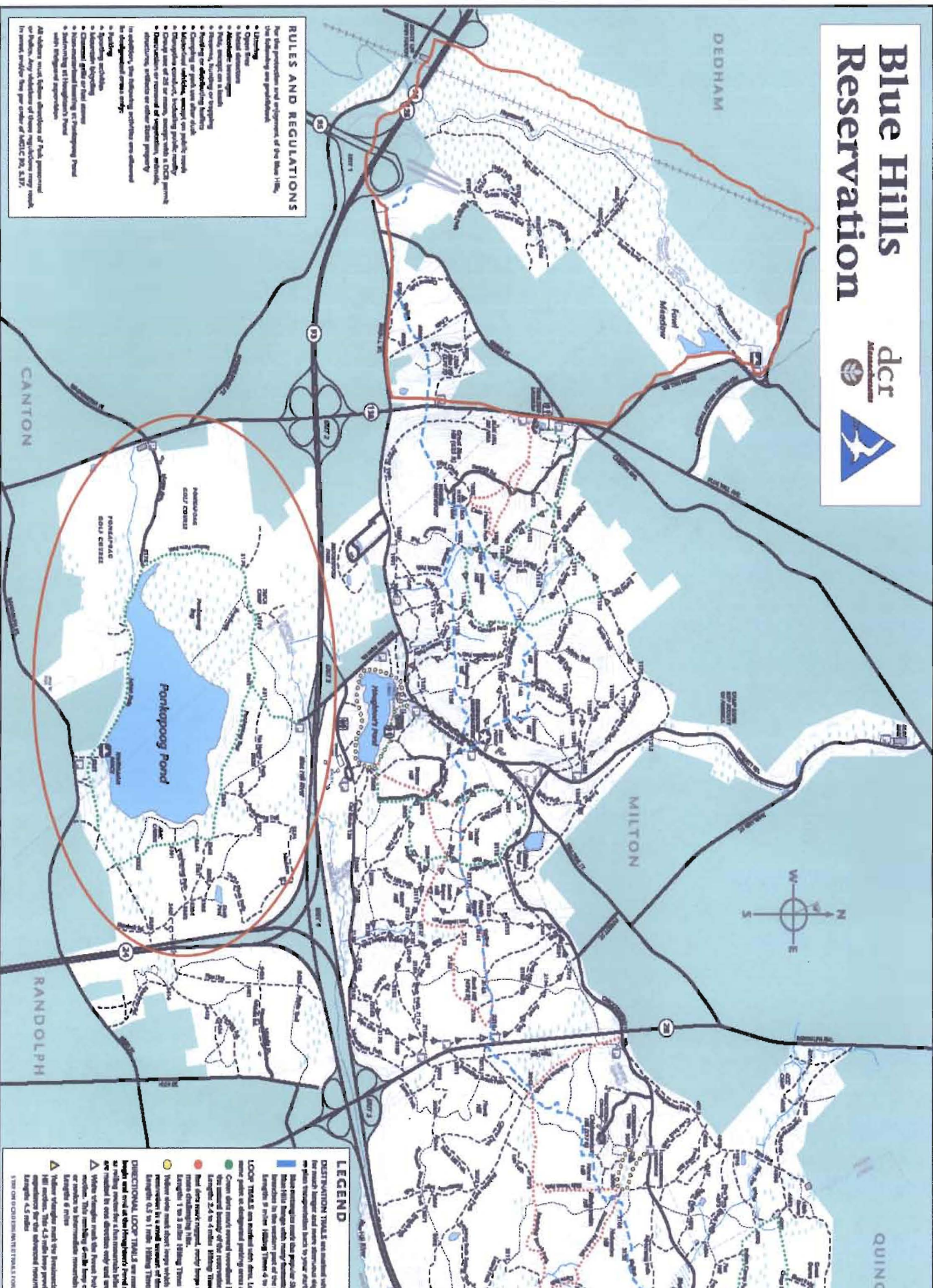


Alexandra Echandi
Natural Resources Specialist, South Region

Encl. DCR "Trail Guidelines and Maintenance Standards"
DCR, Blue Hills Reservation Trail Map

Cc. Rick Bourré, Assistant Director, MEPA
w/o enclosure Robert Mackenzie, Blue Hills District Manager, DCR
w/o enclosure Samantha Overton, Deputy Director Urban Parks, DCR
w/o enclosure Andy Bachman, Regional Planner, DCR

Blue Hills Reservation



RULES AND REGULATIONS

- For the protection and enjoyment of the Blue Hills, the following are guidelines:
- Smoking
 - Open fires
 - Alcohol consumption
 - Hunting, trapping or trapping
 - Hunting or collecting birds
 - Hunting or collecting plants
 - Motorized vehicles, except on public roads
 - Motorcycles, mopeds, snowmobiles, ATVs, etc.
 - Change use of all or some, except with a DCR permit
 - Destruction or removal of vegetation, animals, structures, vehicles or other state property
 - In addition, the following activities are allowed in designated areas only:
 - Hunting
 - Sporting activities
 - Motorized bicycling
 - Chain saw use or fuel storage
 - Non-motorized hunting or trapping
 - Stacking of all (except) items
 - Stacking of items
- All visitors must observe directions of Park personnel or Police. Any violation of these regulations may result in fines, penalties and/or arrest.

LEGEND

- DISTINATION TRAILS are marked with blue dashed lines and arrows showing the direction of travel.
- This trail begins with many branches or junctions in the western part of the reservation.
- This trail begins with many branches or junctions in the eastern part of the reservation.
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