

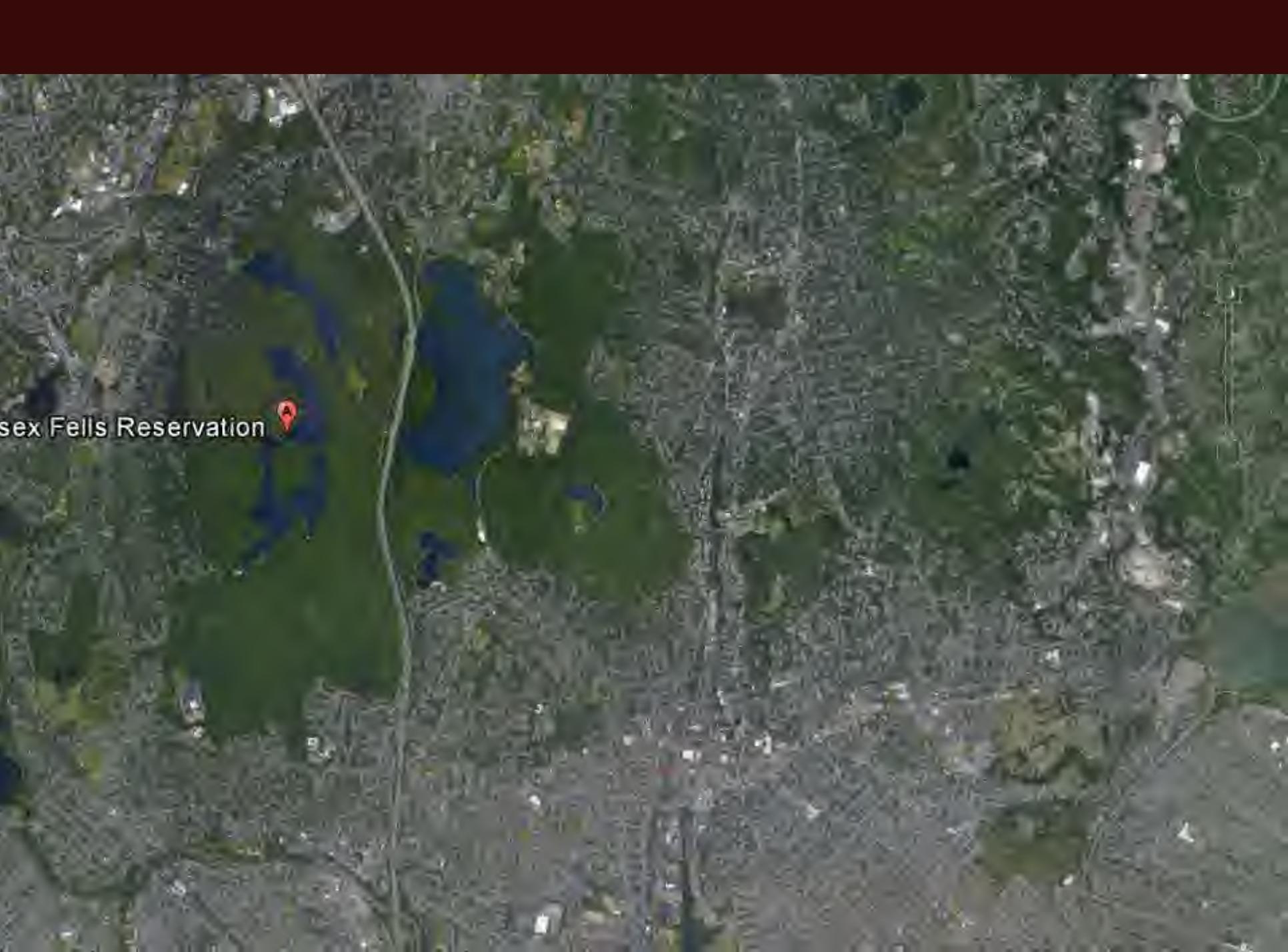
A photograph of a forest path with large trees and green foliage. The path is dirt and leads through a dense forest. The trees are tall and have thick trunks. The foliage is lush and green. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

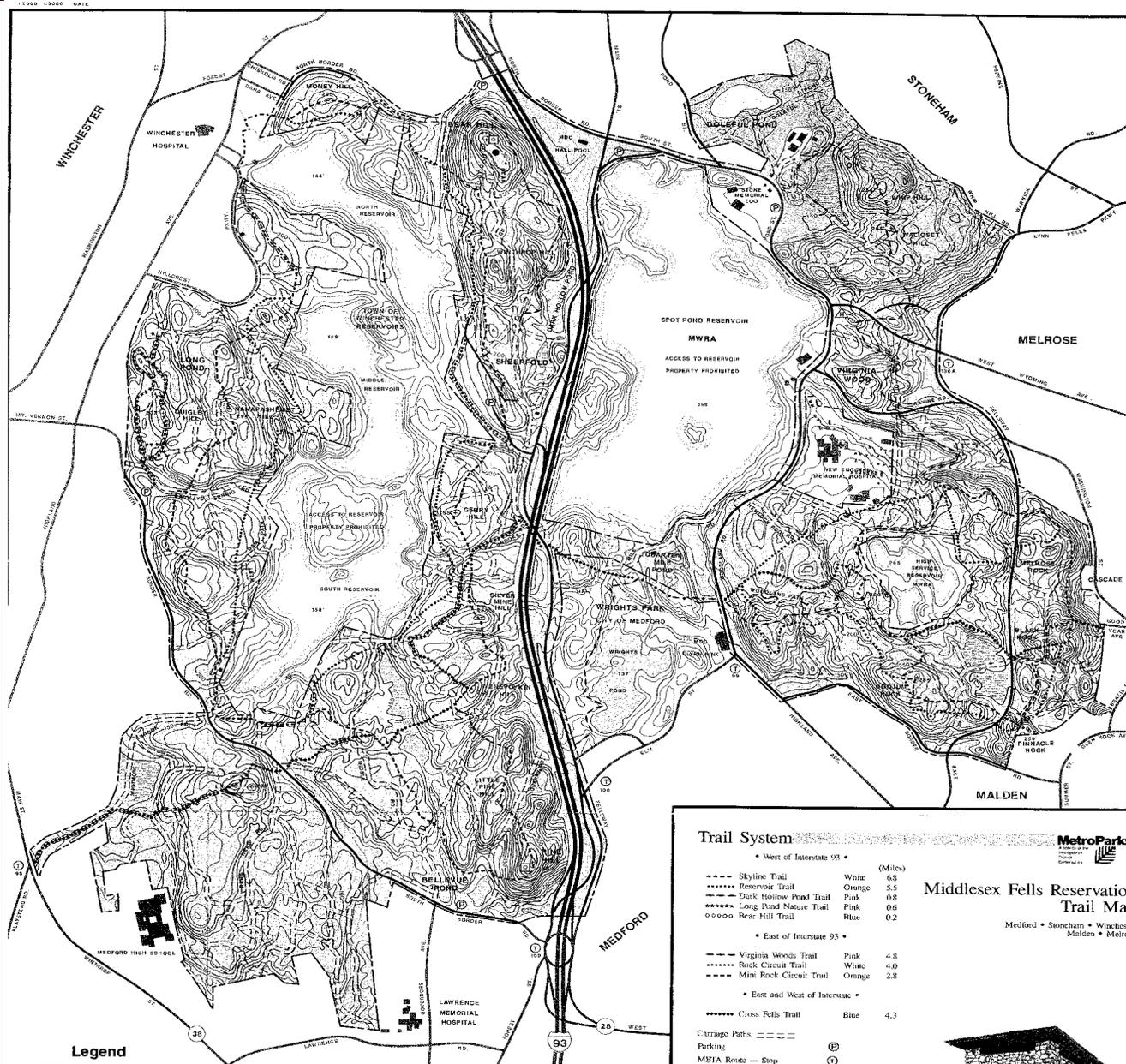
# Managing For Multiple Uses

*Something like five miles northerly from Boston lies a great tract of country, all stony hills and table-lands, almost uninhabited, and of wonderful picturesqueness, and wild rugged beauty.*

- Sylvester Baxter, Boston Herald Supplement, December 6, 1879

sex Fells Reservation





**Legend**

Reservation Headquarters		Contours, 50' index		Wetland	
Reservation Boundary		Pond		Stream	
Reservation Property		Reservoir		Intermittent Stream	
Paved Road					
Building					
Observation Tower					

FEET 0 500 1000 2000 4000

MILES 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1

**Trail System**

- West of Interstate 93 •
  - Skyline Trail White 6.8
  - Reservoir Trail Orange 5.5
  - Dark Hollow Pond Trail Pink 0.8
  - Long Pond Nature Trail Pink 0.6
  - o o o o o Bear Hill Trail Blue 0.2
- East of Interstate 93 •
  - Virginia Woods Trail Pink 4.8
  - Rock Circuit Trail White 4.0
  - Mini Rock Circuit Trail Orange 2.8
- East and West of Interstate •
  - Cross Fells Trail Blue 4.3

- Carriage Paths -----
- Parking
- MBTA Route — Stop

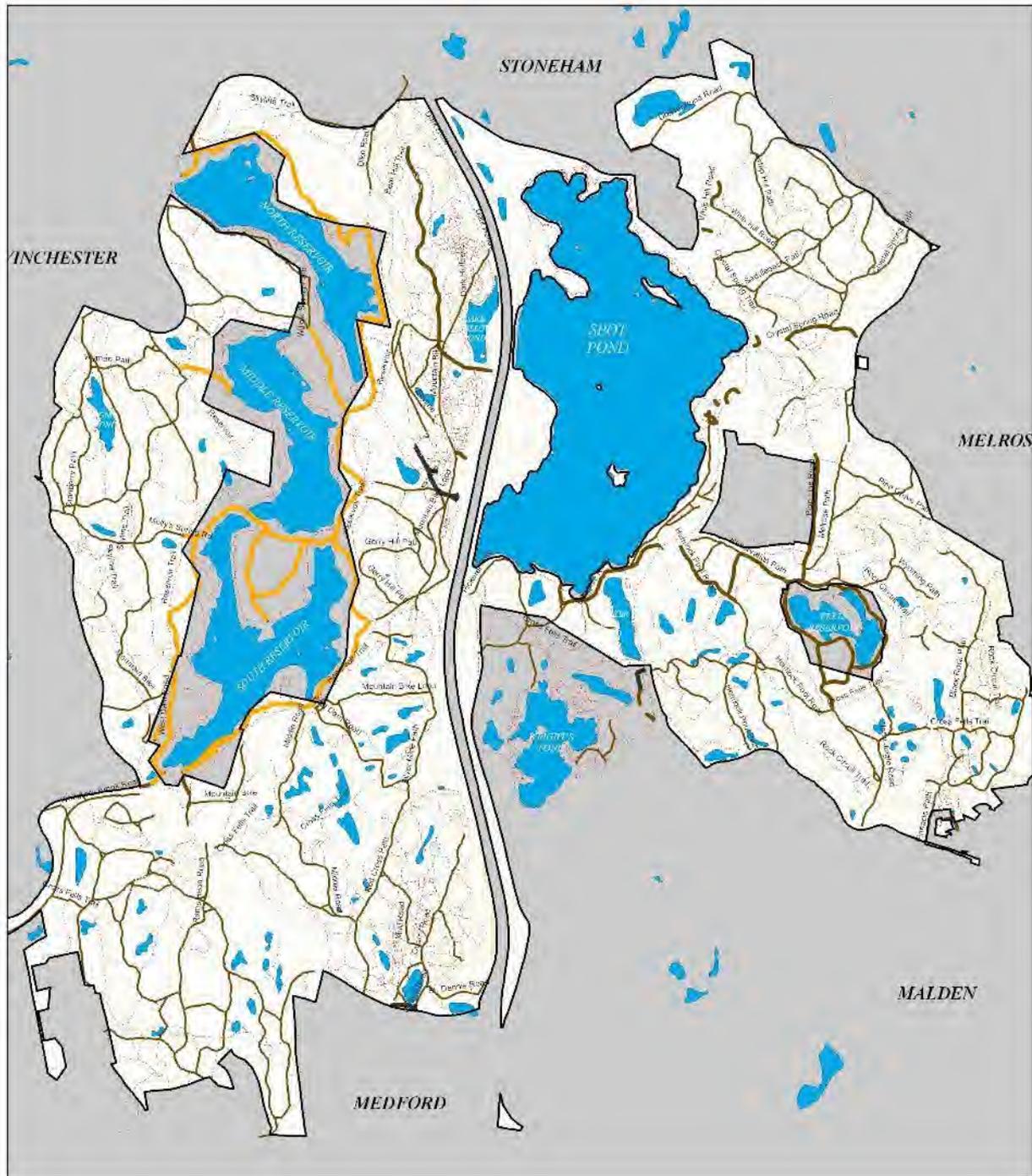
All visitors' property is left under no liability. Please stay on reservation property.

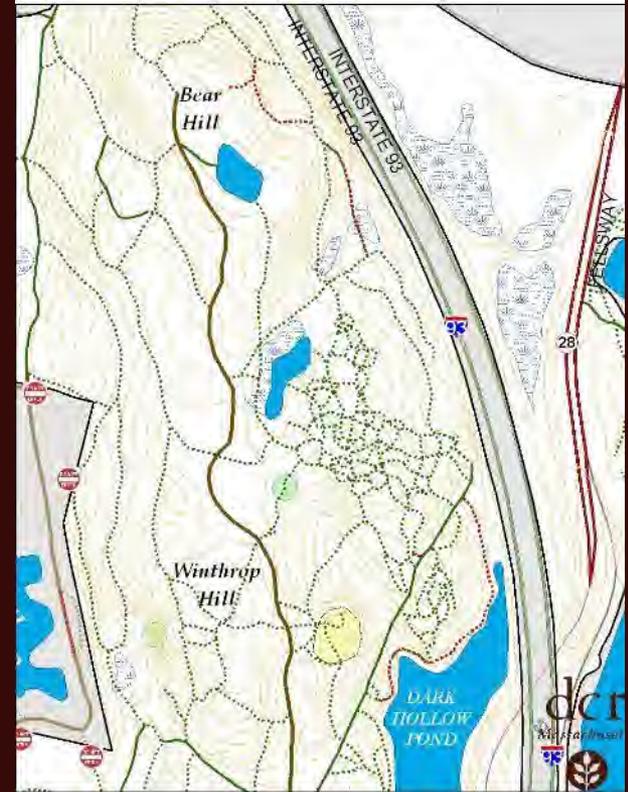
This map is distributed by the Friends of the Middlesex Fells, a non-profit organization, and the Geographic Association for New England. Please note: Printing for this map was done with recycled materials through a private donation.

Metro Parks: 323-1212  
 Reservation Headquarters: 662-5248  
 July 2003

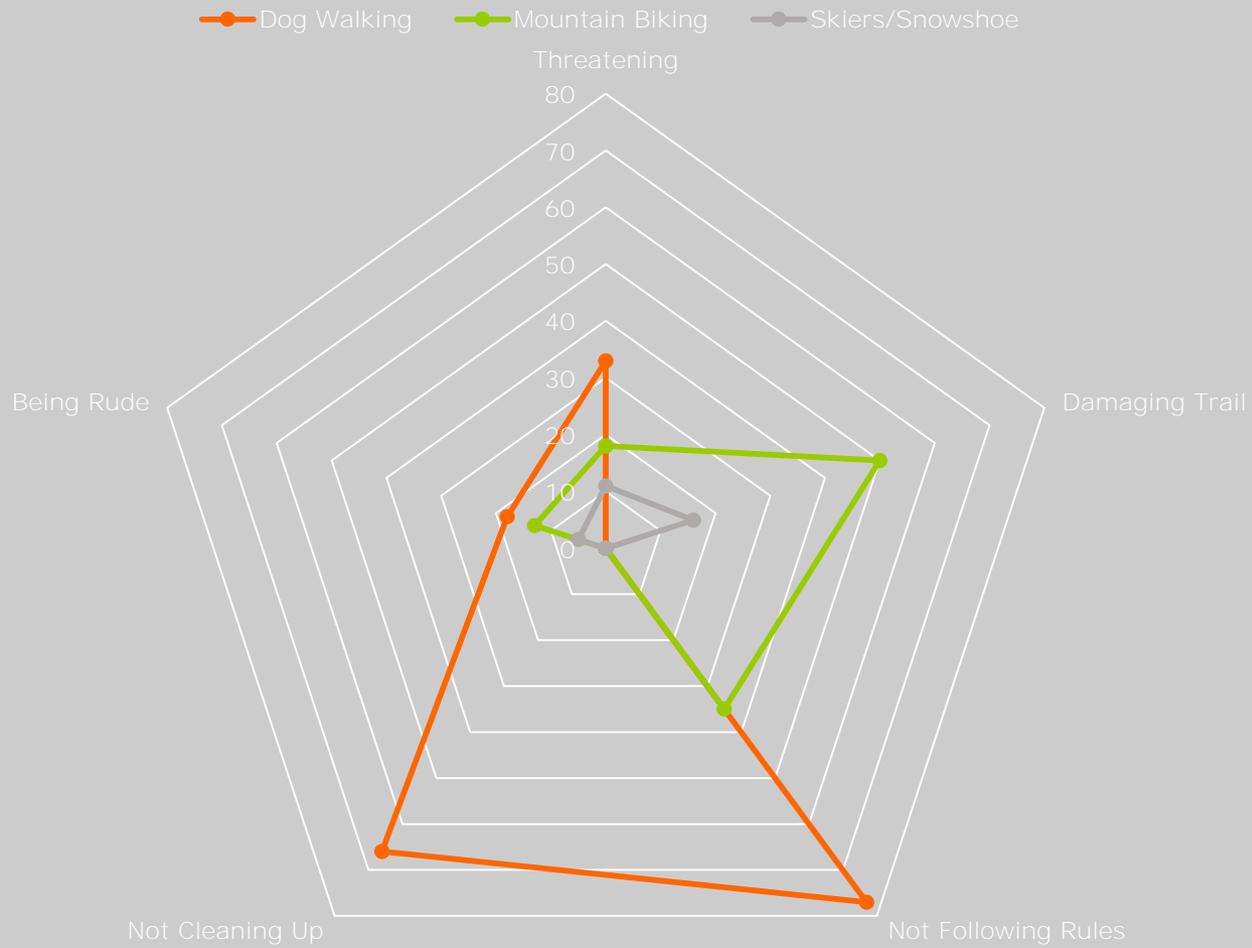
**MetroParks**  
 A Division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Middlesex Fells Reservation Trail Map**  
 Medford • Stoneham • Winchester  
 Malden • Melrose







# Perceptions of Conflict at the Middlesex Fells



# TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN

## DCR

### Middlesex Fells Reservation



## Beware of Biking Proposal At Fells

NOV 10 2011 BY SANDY 3408 | COMMENTS OFF

### Beware of Biking Proposal At Fells

Melrose Free Press

Posted Nov 08, 2011 @ 08:59 PM

To the editor: Twenty-year-old restrictions against mountain biking at the Middlesex Fells, put into place because of alarm over serious mountain biking-related trail damage, would

### POSTS

Beware of Biking Proposal At Fells

Friends of the Fells looks at DCR

October 11 RMP Update

Friends of the Fells opinion piece published in Melrose Free Press.

### Soil compression

The *weight* of the bike, the *weight* of a rider, and the *power* exerted by the moving bike are concentrated on a small tread print of just over 5 square inches. Hikers' footprint impacts are spread more evenly across trails, but bike treads create V-shaped grooves which act as water channels and increase erosion dramatically.



Bike *acceleration*, greater *soil compression* caused by tire prints, plus the *combined weight of the biker and bike*, creates dramatically *greater resource impacts* than a person walking on the same trail.



### Destruction of natural conditions

To avoid rocks in the pathway bike riders seek *traction* on the sides of trails, creating gullies while destroying vegetation on ever-wider edges of the trails. **Hikers are comfortable navigating on and through rocky environments unlike bike riders.** This is the main reason why hiking trails become dramatically wider once bike usage has been introduced.



# FellsBiker.com

Middlesex Fells Reservation  
Stoneham Medford Winchester Melrose Malden, Massachusetts

- Home
- Maps
- Information
- Politics
- Advocacy
- Riding & Hiking
- FellsBiker Proposal
- Trails
- Photo Album
- Fells History
- Postcards
- Local Stuff
- Archives

Welcome to FellsBiker.com. This is an unofficial web site for the many people that enjoy mountain biking, hiking, running, dog-walking, and more in the Middlesex Fells Reservation. The Woods are approximately 2,575 acres in size, located just a few miles North of Boston. The Woods take up space in five towns: Stoneham, Medford, Winchester, Melrose and just a little bit of Malden.

### 2015 Fells Event Calendar

No Events Posted



FellsBiker.c...  
Liked

### DCR Accuses "Friends" of the Fells of Misleading the Public

August 22nd, 2012 + 0 Comments

It's decades overdue, but the DCR is finally, publicly pointing out that the "Friends" of the Fells is lying to the public. Bikers have been saying this for years, as the "Friends" of the Fells has posted countless articles, letters, and even entire websites strongly pushing false and misleading information about the impact of mountain bike use on trails. The purpose of these lies, in my opinion, has been to convince their greater membership, and the public in general, to side with them in their battle against mountain bike trail access. People who might otherwise think that mountain bike access in the Fells is fine, may change their mind when they are told the DCR is "turning the Fells into a bike park", which is a complete lie.

Read the whole article on wickedlocal.com, we also saved a local archive of the article:  
DCR disputes claims about Fells management (Archive)

### "Friends" of the Fells Angry About Trail Re-Route

August 22nd, 2012 + 0 Comments

The "Friends" of the Fells are angry at the DCR over a recent orange trail (Reservoir Trail) reroute near Bear Hill in the Fells. Their main complaint appears to be that the trail was rerouted to make bikers happy, as the end of the trail consists of giant stone steps. They don't mention that they built those steps themselves only a few years ago, specifically to inconvenience bikers. Also, the orange trail is now a multi-use trail, open to bikes. Removing or bypassing stone stairs whose primary purpose was to antagonize bikers, is something that should be done. All that said, the real reason the trail was rerouted, was that the stoney section of a trail overlapped a very muddy area, where the trail itself turned into a stream during wet periods.

Read the full article, minus my own commentary, on wickedlocal.com:  
DCR on spot over stone steps, rerouting of Middlesex Fells trail

### DCR End Mountain Biking Mud Ban Early



## ← Welcome

[About](#)

[News](#)

[Old Welcome Pages](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Discussion Group](#)

[Etiquette](#)

[Photos](#)

## [Join us on Facebook!](#)

If the gates at Sheepfold or any of the public parking areas are closed, call DCR Community Relations: **617-626-4973**.

To report a crime, dial **911**.

To report suspicious activity, call the Massachusetts State Police Medford Barracks: **781-396-0100**.

## [Massachusetts Park Watch](#)

Park Watch volunteers

## The Middlesex Fells Dog Owner Group Welcomes You

The [DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation](#) comprises 2,575 acres and over 100 miles of trails in Malden, Medford, Stoneham, Melrose, Winchester, MA. *Note: The lands surrounding the North, Middle, and South Reservoirs west of Rte. 93 are the property of the Town of Winchester.*

Dogs are allowed off-leash according to posted rules in the designated off-leash area at Sheepfold.

In all other DCR areas dogs are required to be on a leash no more than seven feet long (350 CMR 2.01).

On June 17, 2013 the Winchester Board of Selectmen voted to allow public access in a designated area around the North Reservoir for walking and hiking activities as well as for dogs on leashes for a trial period continuing through November 2013, at which time the policy will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen. In all other areas, the Winchester reservoir lands are posted "No Trespassing".

The Fells Dog Owner Group advocates for a revision of the policy regarding off-leash dogs on the trails of the Middlesex Fells. The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) has found that dogs can outnumber hikers at any given time in the Fells and that 85% of the dogs at the Fells are off-leash. Annually there are fewer than five dog-related incidents at the Fells, including less than one bite or fight. While we are actively working to reduce the number of incidents, under the status quo, the majority of off-leash recreationalists poses no threat.



## Latest News

[DCR's new Parks Rules and Regulations: Public Testimony Update Dec 05, 2013](#): FellsDOG co-founder, David Monahan, shares his public comments on the proposed new regulation in which he asks the DCR to allow families to continue to ...

Posted Dec 6, 2013, 8:03 AM by michele biscoe

[Don't Let Them Do It!](#) In 2012 people who visit the Middlesex Fells with dogs participated in a process that lasted almost the whole year to obtain accommodations to enjoy the trails of the Middlesex; ...

Posted Nov 11, 2013, 5:11 AM by michele biscoe

# Arrests raise concern on gay profiling

Advocates confer with Patrick aides



By **Maria Cramer** | GLOBE STAFF NOVEMBER 11, 2011

On a cool August evening, a man was walking on a paved path through the Medford section of Torbert Macdonald Park when he locked eyes with a stranger. The man, a computer technician who is gay, believed that the look suggested that the stranger wanted sex, according to gay-rights advocates.

But the stranger was an undercover state trooper, who arrested the technician - not for a sex crime, but for trespassing - after he wandered 50 feet off the path, according to a police report.

State Police arrested 31 men at the park this past summer, most of them for trespassing, reviving fears in the gay community that the police were once again targeting gay men. The sexual orientation of most of the men is unknown, but their arrests prompted gay-rights advocates to meet recently with high-ranking public

**EPA'S PROPOSAL WON'T RESTORE THE HOUSATONIC REST OF RIVER**



**BUT IT WILL DESTROY IT**

# Managing for Multiple Uses Approach

- ✓ Facilitated Public Input and Mediation
- ✓ Literature, Research and Science-Based Information and Analysis
- ✓ Meeting Demands Half Way
- ✓ Considering Ways to Separate Conflicting Uses
- ✓ Documenting and Communicating Decisions
- ✓ **Using the 3 E's to Modify Behavior**  
(Engineering, Education and Enforcement)
- ✓ Monitoring, with Carrots and Sticks

# Facilitated Public Input and Mediation

- Natural Resource Workshops
- Trail Planning Workshop
- Mediated Stakeholder Meeting
- Public Presentations
- Update e-Newsletters
- Public Comment Line



## **A focus on Interests (not positions)**

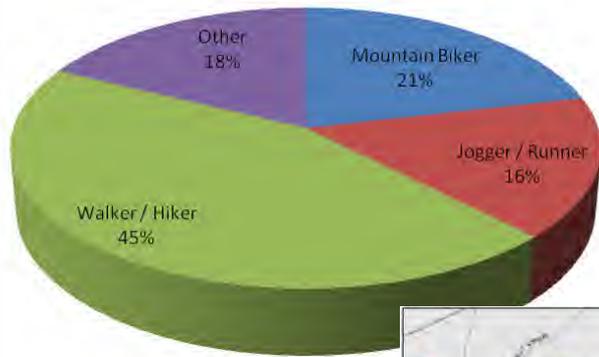
### **Ideally Shared Interests:**

### **Possibly Compatible Interests:**

### **Potentially Incompatible Interests:**

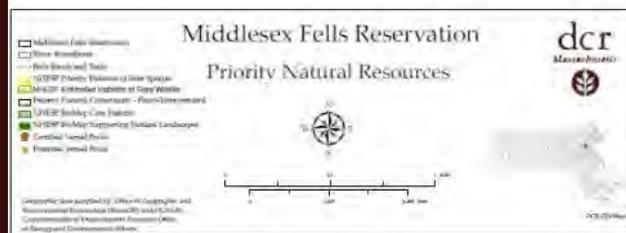
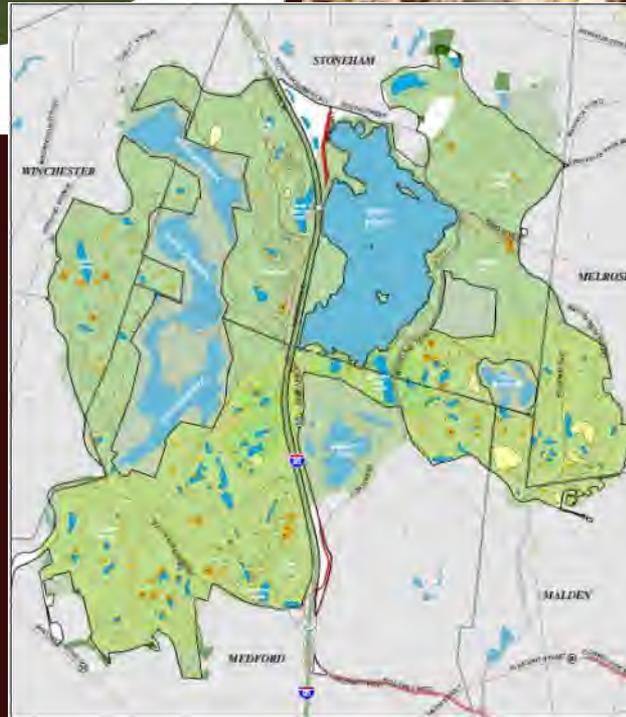
- ✓ Interest in having room within the reservation (its purpose, goals, trails) for dogs to be able to recreate off-leash with their owners.
- ✓ Interest in being able to be in the Fells without being approached by a dog.
- ✓ Interest in having all uses allowed on all trails.
- ✓ Interest in more, and more challenging, opportunities for mountain bike recreation in the Fells.
- ✓ Interest in visiting the Fells without encountering a mountain bike.
- ✓ Interest in having hiking only trails and experiences.

# Middlesex Fells Trailhead Counts Fall 2009 through Spring 2011



## DOG PARKS: BENEFITS AND LIABILITIES

ENVS 699 - MES Capstone Setback  
Laurel Allen  
May 29, 2007



Type of Incident	Total
<b>Fells Incident Data</b>	
Death	4
Fight/Disorder	11
Fire	6
Hazardous Material	1
Illegal Dumping	16
Injury	6
Lost Person	8
Others	8
Property Damage	3
Theft - Personal Property	22
Vandalism	8
Vehicle Accident	9
Violation of DCR Regs	33
Waterfront - pool, beach	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>

nv-fp-nha-301.env.govt.state.ma.us/home\$ (P) - Trail Resources - Impacts -


# Meeting Demands Half Way

- ✓ Establish an Off-Leash Area, but require and enforce dogs on leash everywhere else
- ✓ Allow mountain bikes on some additional single track trails, but continue to prohibit them from certain hiking-only trails

The matrix below evaluates some of the pros and cons of each option.

Goals	Options:						
		Enforce Current Leash Regulations	Designated and Controlled Off-Leash Area	Designated "Courtesy Hours"	Designated Off-Leash Trail(s)	Certified Dog Program	Status Quo
	Provide opportunity for owners to recreate and exercise with their dogs	Allows for dogs on <b>all</b> trails, but provides <b>no provisions</b> for off-leash recreation and <b>less opportunity</b> for dog exercise	Provides a <b>single additional opportunity</b> for dogs to exercise and socialize off-leash	<b>Provides both</b> on- and off-leash recreation and exercise options	<b>Provides both</b> on- and limited off-leash recreation and exercise options	<b>Provides both</b> on- and off-leash recreation and exercise options for a subset of well-trained dogs	<b>Provides opportunities</b> throughout park
	Provide opportunity for dog to recreate and social off-leash	<b>Provides no opportunity</b>	<b>Provides opportunity</b> at a single location	<b>Provides opportunity</b> throughout park at certain times	<b>Provides opportunity</b> at a single location / set of trails	<b>Provides opportunity</b> for well-trained dogs following specific behaviors	<b>Provides unofficial opportunity</b> throughout park
	Reduce situations in which dogs impact other users' experiences (including approaching other users and dog waste)	Would <b>reduce</b> unwanted approaches and potential impacts.	<b>May limit potential</b> for unwanted approaches and impacts to <b>designated area</b> and possibly surrounding area	<b>Does not address</b> this issue during courtesy hours, but <b>may reduce</b> unwanted approaches and impacts at other times	<b>May limit potential</b> for unwanted approaches and impacts to <b>designated area</b> and possibly surrounding area	Would <b>reduce</b> unwanted approaches and impacts.	<b>Does not address</b>
	Reduce disturbance of wildlife and impacts to water resources by dogs	Would <b>likely reduce</b> wildlife disturbance, off-trail impacts and water resource impacts.	<b>Limits additional disturbance</b> and off-trail impacts to designated area and possibly surrounding area	<b>Does not significantly reduce</b> disturbance or potential for impacts	<b>Limits additional disturbance</b> and off-trail impacts to designated area and possibly surrounding area	Would <b>likely reduce</b> wildlife disturbance, off-trail impacts and water resource impacts.	<b>Does not address</b>
	Enhance compliance with acceptable behaviors and regulations	Would <b>achieve</b> this through enforcement.	<b>May allow</b> for easier enforcement and self-compliance elsewhere	<b>May allow</b> for better self-compliance, during non-courtesy hours, but <b>may be confusing</b> , difficult to understand or enforce	<b>May allow</b> for easier enforcement and self-compliance elsewhere, but <b>may create some confusion</b>	<b>May create</b> confusion among the public and may be a confusing to enforce	<b>Does not address</b>
Management implications	<b>Requires more</b> enforcement resources, but rule is <b>simple</b> , understandable and enforceable	<b>Requires more</b> enforcement, management and monitoring, but rules are still understandable and enforceable	<b>Requires more</b> enforcement, management and monitoring. <b>May add some confusion</b>	<b>Requires more</b> enforcement, management and monitoring. <b>May add some confusion</b>	<b>Requires more</b> enforcement, management and monitoring. <b>May add confusion</b> .	<b>Requires no additional resources</b>	

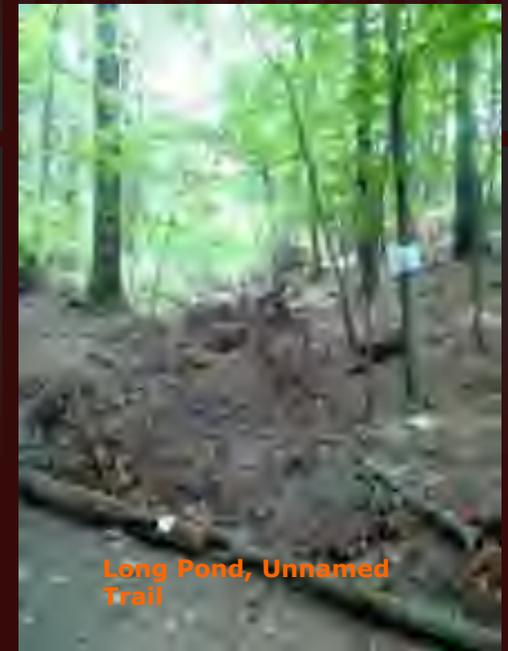
# Considering Ways to Separate Conflicting Uses

- ✓ Attempt to reduce overlaps between conflicting users and areas
- ✓ Recommended closing certain trails that contributed to conflict

- With the support of volunteers and partners, closed and/or rerouted targeted redundant, fall-line and poor-condition trails



Winthrop Hill, Res  
Trail



Long Pond, Unnamed  
Trail

# Documenting and Communicating Decisions



## Middlesex Fells

*DCR update on the Fells  
Resource Management Plan*

**October 11, 2011**

### **Draft RMP for the Middlesex Fells Reservation**

Last month, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) released a draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the DCR Middlesex Fells Reservation. The DCR is inviting written comments on the draft plan until November 14, 2011. We encourage all who care about the Fells to *read and review* this draft and provide comments. The draft RMP, Executive Summary, maps and appendices are all available at <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/rmp/rmp-midfells.htm>.

### **Questions and Clarifications**

*Why does the RMP recommend closing 22 miles of trails at the Fells?*

*Does the RMP recommend expanding recreation or development at the DCR Middlesex Fells?*

*Does the RMP recommend allowing dogs off-leash on trails in the Fells?*

*Does the RMP recommend any provisions for increased enforcement, fines or management presence in the Middlesex Fells?*

*Does the RMP include any provisions for wheelchair accessible trails or fishing areas?*

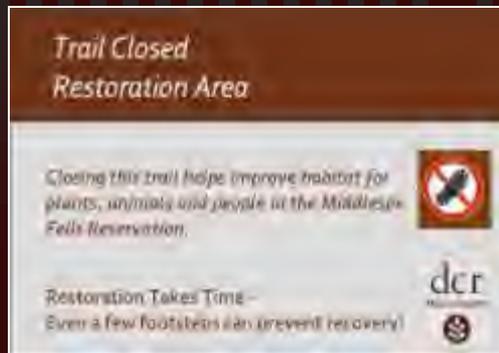
*Does the RMP recommend that most trails in the Fells will be open to mountain bike use and only two short trails will be pedestrian only?*

*Why does the RMP still restrict mountain bike access compared to hiker access. What is the DCR basing this decision on?*

# Use the 3 E's to Modify Behavior (Engineering, Education and Enforcement)



- ✓ Improved trail signage and marking following DCR guidelines



- ✓ Enhanced enforcement with patrols, warnings and fines



## Middlesex Fells Rules & Regulations

You have received this card because you have violated one or more of the park regulations.

The following regulations were established for the sake of public safety, protection of natural and cultural resources, and to ensure an enjoyable experience for all visitors.

- ✓ Park is closed from dusk to dawn.
- ✓ Dogs must be on leash (except inside the designated off-leash area of the Sheepfold field). Dogs at the Sheepfold must be under voice control of handler.
- ✓ There is a limit of 3 dogs per handler.
- ✓ Dog waste must be picked up and **disposed of. Don't leave bags along trail.**
- ✓ Bikes are not permitted on single-track trails except where expressly allowed.
- ✓ No biking during the month of March.
- ✓ No person shall engage in any business without written permit from the DCR.
- ✓ Injuring or otherwise disturbing animals or birds or their habitat is prohibited.
- ✓ Dumping and littering are prohibited.
- ✓ No off-trail use without a DCR permit.
- ✓ No trespassing on posted Winchester Reservoir property.
- ✓ Breach of peace, profanity, disorderly or offensive conduct, and possession of alcohol are forbidden.
- ✓ Visitors must obey all posted signs

Department of Conservation  
and Recreation

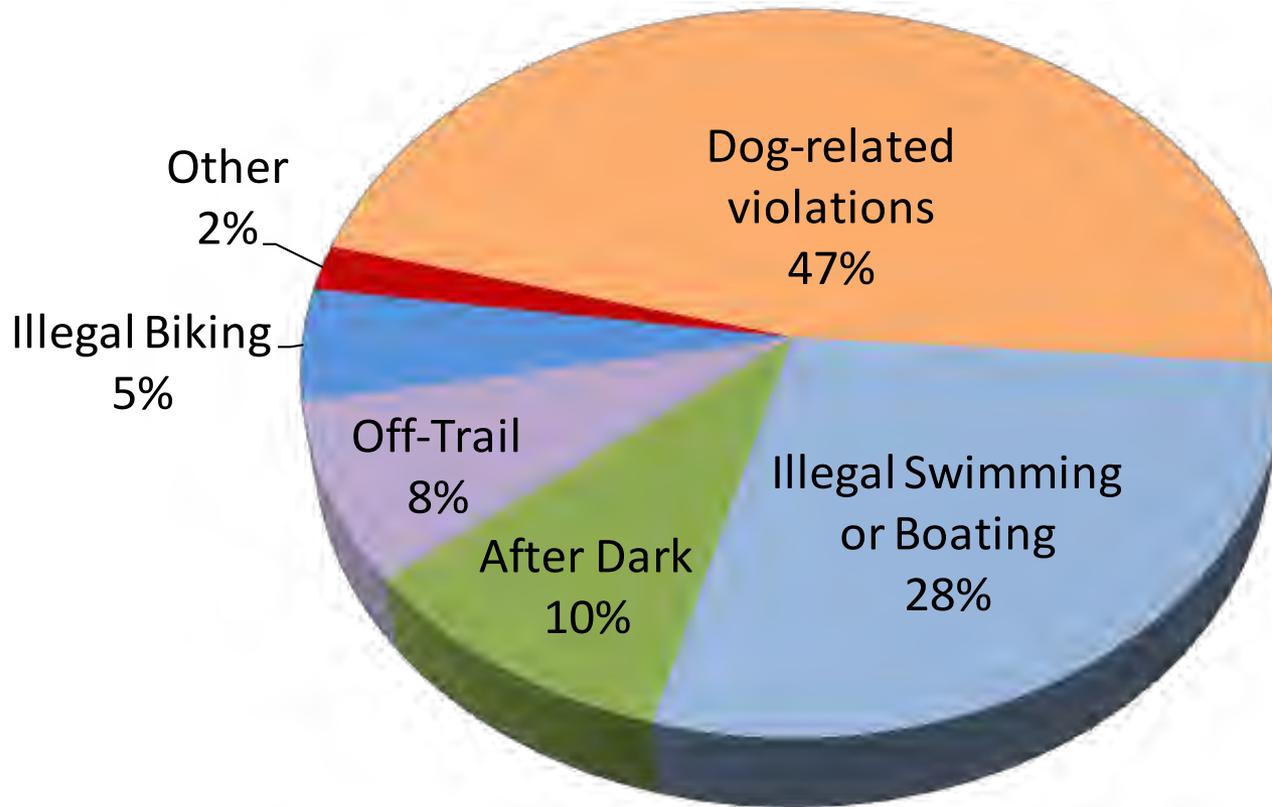


[www.massparks.org](http://www.massparks.org)

# Monitoring, with Carrots and Sticks

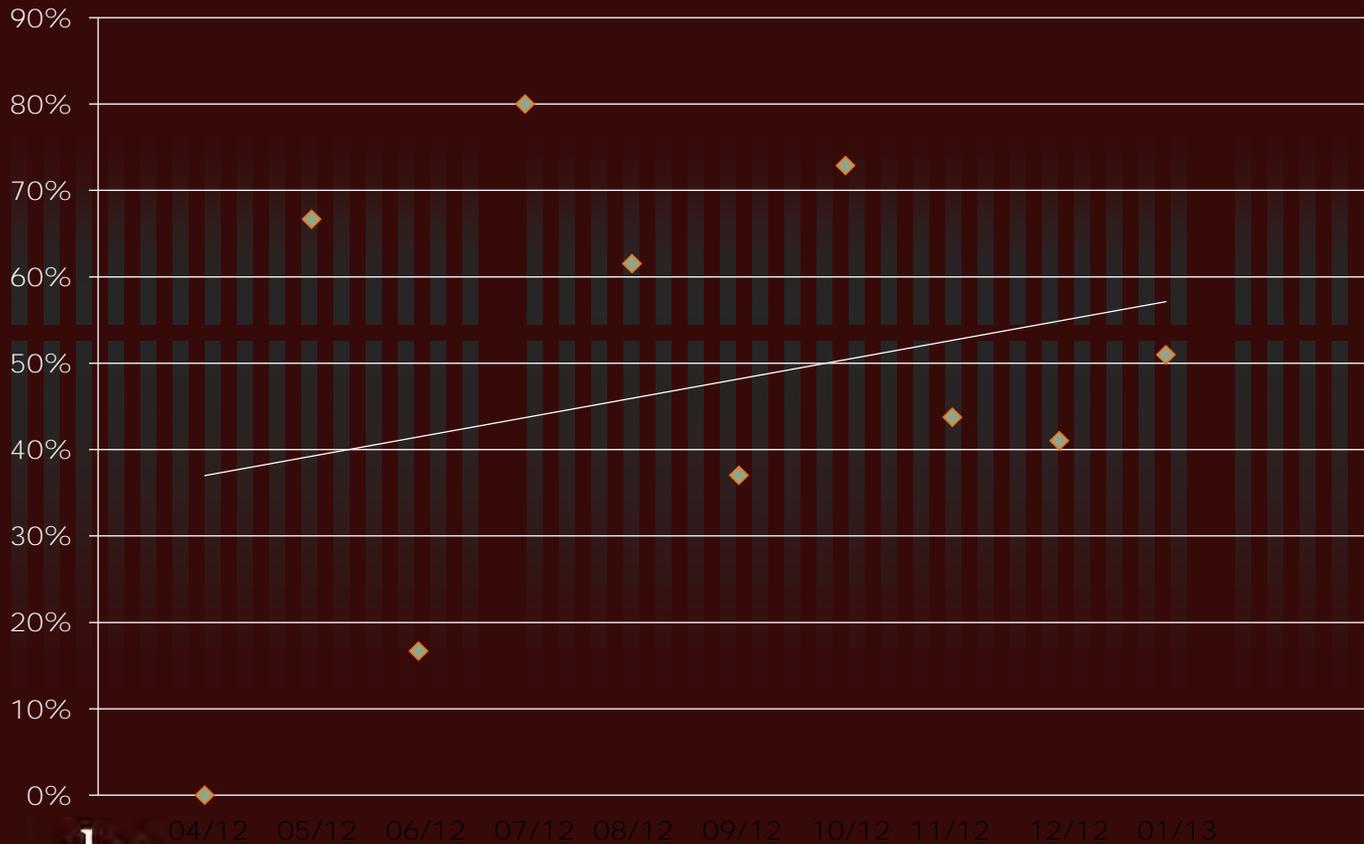
- ✓ Developed / Borrowed Monitoring Protocols
- ✓ Tracked Enforcement Efforts
- ✓ Monitored Rules Compliance
- ✓ Monitored Trail Conditions

# Violations Encountered by Rangers in 2012: Relative Occurrence



# Compliance with Leash Regulation

Percentage of Dog Handler Compliance: Apr. '12 – Jan. '13



Total observations:  
279

Average percent  
compliance: 47%

Baseline compliance  
before RMP : 15%



**Trail closures and re-routes  
successfully addressed some of the  
worst trail locations**





# Lessons Learned

- ✓ Poor Trail Conditions, Exacerbate Conflict
- ✓ Confusing Rules, Signage and Marking, Exacerbates Conflict
- ✓ Make Decisions, and Communicate Clear Expectations
- ✓ Track and Punish Non-Compliance
- ✓ Enforcement Capacity can be Critical

# Current Multiple Use Challenges

- ✓ Off Leash Dog Opportunities



The Official Website of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

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### Dogs in MassParks



#### We invite Dog Owners to be Park Users and Park Partners

Dogs and their owners are welcome in DCR's parks, and we encourage all dog owners and their dogs to be respectful of other park users and neighbors. Join us in the stewardship of our parks by being a responsible dog owner and park partner.

DCR welcomes dogs on-leash at most DCR parks, forests, and reservations. However, there are a number of locations where dogs are not allowed, mostly for public safety, public health, or habitat concerns or deed restriction purposes.

DCR's new regulations on parks and recreation became effective October 24, 2014; regulations governing dog use on DCR properties may be found at [302 CMR 12.13](#) and [302 CMR 12.17 \(5\)](#). The new regulations include provisions encouraging the designation of appropriate "off-leash" areas and call for a permit process for commercial dog walkers.

This summer DCR will be holding community conversations regarding a new "MassParksPaws" program that will encourage dog owners to be park partners. A process for designating new "off-leash areas" and the development of a Commercial Dog Walking Permit are among the topics that will be discussed. If you would like to receive updates on this program or notice of the community conversations once they are scheduled, please email [MassParksPaws@state.ma.us](mailto:MassParksPaws@state.ma.us).

#### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are the rules for dog owners recreating with their dogs?**

**A.** To ensure an enjoyable parks experience for all visitors, DCR requests that all dog owners observe the following rules:

#### Related Links

[Places to Go](#)

[Programs & Events](#)

[Recreational Activities](#)

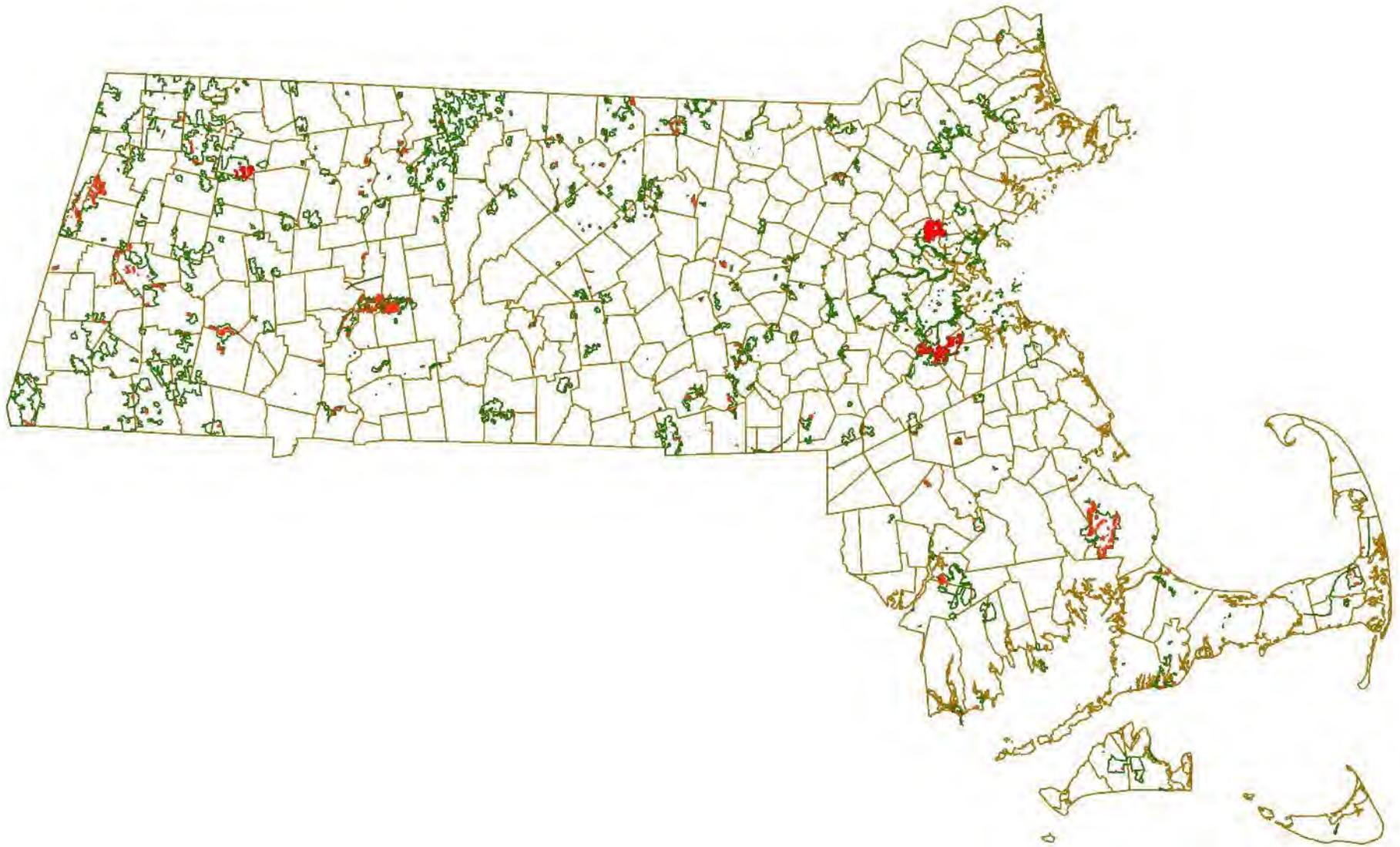
[Passes & Fees](#)

[DCR Universal Access  
Programs & Events](#)



# Current Multiple Use Challenges

- ✓ Off Leash Dog Opportunities
- ✓ Illegal Trail Creation



# Current Multiple Use Challenges

- ✓ Off Leash Dog Opportunities
- ✓ Illegal Trail Creation
- ✓ Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities



# Current Multiple Use Challenges

- ✓ Off Leash Dog Opportunities
- ✓ Illegal Trail Creation
- ✓ Off-Highway Vehicle Opportunities
- ✓ My Destination Experience, In My Backyard