



December 24, 2008

Dear Community Member:

I want to share with you some information about an upcoming maintenance project that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will undertake in spring 2009. The goal will be to improve safety along Storrow Drive and Soldiers Field Road, and heighten the visitors' experience within the Charles River Reservation.

The project will involve repairing and replacing guardrails, replacing damaged steel picket fence sections, and improving drainage along sections of both parkways. It will include making limited improvements to bike and walking paths, repainting sections of Boston Pattern Fencing, and replacing the equipment and surface at the fitness area located across from the Sherborn Street Pedestrian Bridge.

You can find information on the specific locations of all the project improvements on the DCR website, www.mass.gov/dcr.

While this is a routine maintenance project, the upgrades to the fitness area provide an opportunity for DCR to hear from the community. If you use the equipment, please feel free to send your comments or suggestions to us at DCR.Updates@state.ma.us. We want to be sure that the refurbishment reflects your interests and enhances your experience at this DCR facility.

DCR is currently soliciting bids for this project, estimated to cost \$4 million. The goal is to begin construction in mid-March 2009 and complete the work by the end of June 2009. DCR has consulted with staff from the Boston Landmarks Commission and filed a Project Notification Form with Massachusetts Historic Commission. Also, DCR will file a Notice of Intent on the project with the Boston Conservation Commission, which will hold a public hearing on the matter. If necessary, once the contractor is on board, DCR will hold a public meeting on any traffic or noise impacts and our plans to address them.

DCR is committed to keeping you apprised of project developments through ongoing Listserve communications, by which we will also provide advance notice of the public meetings. In the meantime, if you have questions or comments on the project, please write to DCR.Updates@state.ma.us or call 617-626-4974.

Sincerely,

Rick Sullivan
Commissioner

