



Green Budget FY20

Department of Conservation and Recreation: State Parks & Recreation

Request

- Increase DCR's State Parks and Recreation line item (2810-0100) budget by \$6 million to \$47M (from \$40.25 million in FY19.) Governor's proposed FY20 budget is \$42,236,288.

Overview

- DCR is responsible for the stewardship, management, and safety of our parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds including:
 - 450,000 acres of land across over 250 properties and nearly 2,000 miles of trails
 - Forests that protect drinking water supplies for millions of people in the Commonwealth
- DCR contributes to our quality of life, public health, and our economy
- DCR's parks supports \$16.2 billion in annual recreation spending
- State parks serve people of all income levels, offering access to the natural treasures and beauty of Massachusetts

Examples of Need

- The agency has lost nearly 400 full-time positions (30% of its workforce) in the last eight years
- DCR currently has approximately 840 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs), down from 1,279 in 2008
- The entire state is served by only one 15-person park operations support crew. DCR field managers are now spread across more properties, leaving many facilities and lands essentially unstaffed or infrequently monitored which impacts public safety and enforcement of environmental laws
- Prioritizing visitor centers being staffed, as last year's critical increase was slated to go towards
- The impacts of climate change are worsening. DCR properties need to be prepared for flooding, new pests, etc

With the additional funds DCR could:

- Hire additional staff to serve unstaffed parks (for every \$1M, DCR can restore 15-20 FTE)
- Increase the Park Support Operations crew to 25, up from the current 15
- Engage an adequate number of engineers to plan and inspect capital improvement projects
- Convert some of the most effective long-term seasonal staff to FTEs to provide consistency and retain knowledge
- Increase planning staff to ensure every property has a Resource Management Plan