

THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION & STORMWATER MANAGEMENT



A Charles River Watershed Association Fact Sheet

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), whose duty it is to protect our state's natural resources, is contributing to the pollution of our waterways and the flooding and erosion of our parks because of an abysmal failure to properly manage their stormwater.

DCR spokeswoman Corbie Kump: "We need more resources to fulfill the goals of the plan."

Environmental groups lobby for parks funding, MetroWest Daily News, 4/12/05

most basic "house-keeping" practices on DCR land.

Why does DCR need funding for stormwater management in particular?

Stormwater management really matters. Think of Storrow Drive, every time it rains, as cars drive through huge puddles and throw sheets of polluted water up onto the park, which eventually drains to the Charles River; or the Jamaica way, where collapsed curbs funnel torrents of water into the Emerald Necklace, eroding the park and filling the Muddy River with sand and silt. Imagine the parking lot for your favorite state park, its dirty stormwater flowing right into the pond where you will swim this summer.

Because stormwater runoff causes so much pollution, it is regulated by the EPA. Like many cities and towns across the state, DCR is required to manage its stormwater so that

it doesn't cause our state's waterways to violate water quality standards. Unfortunately, DCR is not up to the task. The agency hasn't met even the most basic requirements of EPA's stormwater permitting program. Street sweeping is done rarely, if at all; catch basins are allowed to fill up completely with sediment, causing streets to flood and parklands and river banks to erode; DCR hasn't even completed a map of its storm drains, which is essential to understanding the problem and is the most basic of the stormwater management tasks required by EPA.



This catch basin, on the ramp leading to Storrow Drive, Westbound, is so clogged that you can barely tell there is a stormdrain beneath the debris.

Why focus on the Department of Conservation and Recreation?

DCR controls a significant amount of land in the state. Their 675,000 acres are 150 times the size of the city of Cambridge. We cannot allow this amount of land holdings to be unaccountable for stormwater discharges. DCR's mission is "to protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well being of all." How ironic then that the underfunding of the agency has led to DCR's stormwater runoff actually degrading the environment it seeks to protect.

Put an end to DCR's pollution of our state waterways: Support Amendment #1216 to properly fund DCR's stormwater management program.

TEXT OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION STORMWATER AMENDMENT

Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont moves that the bill be amended in section 2, by inserting the following item:
2800-XXXX For a program to provide stormwater management for all properties and roadways under the care, custody and control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation; provided, that the department shall develop and implement a stormwater management program in compliance with federal and state stormwater management requirements; provided further, that the department shall inventory all existing stormwater infrastructure, assess its current stormwater practices, analyze long term capital and operational needs, and develop a stormwater management plan to comply with federal and state regulatory requirements; provided further, that in order to protect public safety and to protect water resources for water supply, recreational and ecosystem uses, the department will immediately implement interim stormwater management practices including but not limited to street sweeping, inspection and cleaning of catch basins, and emergency repairs to roadway drainage.....\$750,000

Protect Massachusetts' rivers and parks!

-Stormwater runoff is the most significant source of pollution to the Charles River, and poses a serious threat to all other water bodies in the Commonwealth.

-Because of the abysmal state of their stormwater management program, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), which owns land adjacent to many of the state's waterways, is contributing to the pollution, erosion and flooding of our parks and waterways -- the same natural resources it is tasked with protecting!

- DCR is in violation of the Clean Water Act because of the inadequacies of their stormwater management.

-DCR manages over 675,000 acres of land in Massachusetts (compare this to the city of Cambridge, which is about 4500 acres) - an enormous amount of land to not be in compliance with EPA regulations.

-EPA has warned DCR that environmental groups have the right to bring citizen's suit against the agency for its violations, in order to protect our environment. The cost of this suit will come out of taxpayers' pockets.

-DCR needs dedicated funding in the FY06 budget to address this issue adequately.

-Amendment #1216 will provide the agency with enough funding to inventory their stormwater management system, complete the most basic management practices and develop a comprehensive stormwater plan, for the next fiscal year.

Put an end to DCR's pollution of our waterways and parks: support Amendment #1216!

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After years and years of neglect, the debris in this DCR stormdrain has entirely filled the catch basin, rendering the drain completely useless.