

*Fiscal
Year
2000*

*Annual
Report*

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management
Land Acquisition and Protection Program

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Jane Swift, Lieutenant Governor

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Bob Durand, Secretary

Department of Environmental Management
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Susan Hamilton, Acting Deputy Commissioner

Division of Forests and Parks
Todd Frederick, Director

Division of Resource Conservation
Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner

Office of Legal Services
Mary Griffin, Chief of Legal Services



a message from the commissioner

Dear Friends:

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) ushered in the new millennium with a successful year in land acquisition and protection. With the help of our partners, DEM protected 16 diverse properties for a total of 3,487.45 acres. One of these properties is part of the first component of a multi-phase, multi-partner acquisition that will result in the protection of 14,000 contiguous acres. We protected miles of critical riparian lands along the Connecticut and Westfield Rivers...preserved scenic landscapes...secured a significant portion of the interstate Metacomet – Monadnock Trail...protected important historic resources...connected extensive areas of forest...protected ecologically diverse habitat...and provided water resource protection. In addition, we developed and laid the foundation for a variety of future projects.

These projects would not have been successful without the efforts of our land protection staff and the many land trusts, nonprofit organizations, municipalities, counties, and federal agencies who participated in these projects. Partnerships such as these are essential to the continued success of our program.

With the passage of the Community Preservation Act, towns and cities across Massachusetts now have a fundamental tool that can be used to augment the protection of open space, historic preservation, and the creation of low-cost housing. The Community Preservation Act is an essential piece of environmental legislation that enables communities to take advantage of an estimated \$25 million of a state-matching fund. This vital legislation is a milestone in conservation efforts and will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Very truly yours,

Peter C. Webber
Commissioner



our mission

**The DEM is a steward
for a significant portion
of the state's biodiversity
and open spaces, and
aims to provide public
recreational and
educational opportunities
that are diverse, affordable,
environmentally sound,
and accessible for all.**

Mission The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is charged with the care and oversight of the natural, cultural, and historic resources of Massachusetts. DEM is one of five departments within the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. As the state's primary land management and natural resource planning agency, the DEM is a steward for a significant portion of the state's biodiversity and open spaces, and aims to provide public recreational and educational opportunities that are diverse, affordable, environmentally sound, and accessible for all. The primary responsibility of the agency is management of the State Forests and Parks system, made up of nearly 300,000 acres of land and over 300 facilities. Since the first state park was established in 1898, DEM has acquired additional lands to enlarge, enhance, and protect these forests and parks. During the past century, the DEM has had its mission expanded and refined by nearly 100 general and specific statutory mandates. Today, DEM is a diverse, multifaceted public agency with responsibilities that include protection of biodiversity, urban recreation, historic and cultural resource protection, forest fire protection, wilderness preservation, waterway maintenance, dam safety, and park management.

Organization The Department is organized into three divisions: Forests and Parks (DFP), Resource Conservation (DRC), and Administrative Services. The DFP, DEM's largest division, is responsible for the resource management of the Department's forests, parks and other land holdings. The DFP is also responsible for the stewardship of more than three million acres of public and private forest lands in the state. The DRC provides a wide range of technical services on natural resource issues. The DRC conducts research and planning for biodiversity, plans for the design, construction, and management of park development projects, develops policy, and provides a variety of grants and public outreach programs. The Division of Administrative Services manages legal, fiscal, human resources and other administrative support functions. Within the Division of Administrative Services, the Office of Legal Services manages the Land Acquisition and Protection Program and handles legal and legislative affairs.

Diverse Resources As the largest landholder in Massachusetts, DEM manages the tenth largest state forest and park system in the nation. DEM's properties range in location from Cape Cod and the Islands to the Berkshires, and include ocean beaches, freshwater lakes and ponds, campgrounds, skating rinks and swimming pools, expansive forests and woodlands, mansions and gardens, open fields and meadows, wetlands, floodplain forests, farms, and ridgetops. These facilities attract more than 13 million visitors every year who enjoy a variety of active and passive recreational pursuits. Taken as a whole, these resources protect habitat and ecosystems in a rapidly urbanizing state, and provide inspiration and enjoyment for many people from all over the world.

the challenge



Addressing the Threats to the Natural Character and Special Places of Massachusetts

Rates of Change Massachusetts is favored with an abundant variety of vivid landscapes and habitats. Forests and marshes, farms and coastline, ridgelines and meadows, rivers and lakes, all intertwine and stretch from the state's lengthy coastline to the Connecticut River Valley to the Berkshire Highlands. Unfortunately, much of this rich legacy is increasingly threatened by accelerating patterns of development in Massachusetts which consume far more land per person than in previous decades and centuries, all intensified by a steadily growing population and a thriving economy. While nearly 30% of land in the state has some kind of protection for various wildlife, agricultural, and/or recreational purposes, approximately a quarter of the state's acreage is already developed and about 16,000 more acres are developed every year ("Losing Ground," Massachusetts Audubon Society). Less than 30 years ago, by contrast, only 15% of the state's land was developed. Development rates in the Berkshires remain relatively low, but the conversion of open land to residential, commercial, and industrial development is increasingly rapid in Cape Cod and the Islands, portions of southeastern Massachusetts, the broad corridor along Route 495, and the southern part of the Connecticut River Valley.

Unmanaged development poses a threat to our remaining fragmented open space. Unplanned development threatens the integrity of the state's unique ecoregions, the long-term viability of rare species, the historic and aesthetic New England character of communities, and the everyday opportunities for those who live, work, and visit here to experience the beauty of the natural world. Given what has disappeared in our lifetimes, what will be left for our children when they are our age?

Land Acquisition One of the methods by which the Department of Environmental Management works to address the complex challenge of growth in this state is the direct acquisition of land and property interests to protect these special values and unique landscapes. A number of other state entities (the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement, the Division of Conservation Services, the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Metropolitan District Commission), plus the state's 351 municipalities, over 100 nonprofit land trusts, individual citizens, and related groups also work to buy and protect land. However, the Department of Environmental Management arguably has the broadest mandate of all these organizations: protecting the state's natural resources and the public's recreational access to them.

Since financial resources are always limited, and all land is not equally valuable in terms of meeting conservation goals, DEM has devised a Land Acquisition Strategy in an effort to prioritize properties. The DEM Land Acquisition Strategy outlines the Department's land protection priorities and guides this complex decision-making process.



land acquisition strategy

1997-2002

The Land Acquisition Strategy is reviewed and updated every five years. The most recent update was conducted in 1997 and carries through 2002. The primary goals identified for this review are to:

- Guide proactive planning for land acquisition and protection efforts;
- Systematically evaluate specific land acquisition proposals;
- Prioritize long-term and annual land acquisition planning; and
- Provide information to others about DEM's land acquisition program.

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The Strategy was based on a survey sent to all statewide and regional non-profit organizations, resource maps, the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and a park user study. Utilizing this information, an internal team of DEM staff developed the 1997 – 2002 Land Acquisition Strategy and priority land acquisition focus areas.

Project Decision-Making In addition to the two land protection specialists currently assigned to the program, the Land Acquisition and Protection Program draws extensively on staff from other programs with a variety of skills. DEM staff initially identify potential land acquisition projects through a web of contacts such as landowners, communities, non-profit groups, and other interested parties. They also actively seek out projects that accomplish the specific acquisition goals outlined above. Once staff have determined that a project has merit on the basis of DEM priority focus areas, the project is presented to DEM's Lands Committee. The Lands Committee is made up of a cross-section of staff from the Office of Legal Services, Division of Resource Conservation, Division of Forests and Parks, and Commissioner's staff. Their role is to review each proposed acquisition in the context of DEM's overall priorities, budget, and competing proposals, and to make recommendations about whether the project should be pursued and how to structure it. Ultimately, the Lands Committee's decisions are translated into recommendations to the Commissioner. In addition to reviewing each project on its merits, the Committee considers a general set of practical issues regarding the type of threat to the property, the project's feasibility, the resource/recreation value for the price, and land management considerations. The Department pursues projects through the most cost-effective and feasible means available, seeking gifts, bargain sales, less than fee acquisitions, and partnerships whenever available and appropriate.

land acquisition priorities



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Resource Protection

Primary Focus Areas

- Greenways
- Representative Natural Communities
- Large Unfragmented Areas
- Coastal Resources & Access

Secondary Focus Areas

- Water Resource Protection
- Scenic Landscapes
- Historic Landscapes & Archaeological Resources

Recreation

- Bikeways
- Freshwater-Based Recreation
- Camping

Management/Enhancement

- Critical Adjacent Lands
- Universal Access

Priority Focus Areas In general, natural resource protection and outdoor recreation are the primary purposes for which DEM acquires land. A strong theme within the current five-year plan favors outdoor recreation opportunities that are close to major population centers. The top priorities for 1997-2002, as listed below, include seven resource protection focus areas, three recreational themes, and the enhancement of existing 300 DEM forests and parks.

DEM attempts to concentrate efforts on projects that fulfill as many focus areas as possible. These priorities guide DEM decisions for outright acquisitions as well as conservation restrictions and trail easements. The secondary focus areas serve as secondary values in planning or evaluating acquisitions. They will rarely be the sole or primary purpose for which an acquisition is made, but are important considerations when combined with other protection, recreation, or management values. (The full Land Acquisition Strategy document contains detailed criteria to be applied when evaluating parcels in each priority focus area.)



the year in review

Fiscal Year 2000 Project Descriptions

The following projects were completed in Fiscal Year 2000 (July 1, 1999 – June 30, 2000). With the help of our partners, 3487.45 acres of land were acquired. DEM acquired most of these properties outright, known as a “fee acquisition.” However, a number of these projects protect less than fee property interests, such as conservation restrictions (which essentially remove the right to develop a property), or trail easements (which establish a recreational corridor for public use). It should be noted that dozens of other potential projects were identified and evaluated along with the group of projects that closed in FY00. Paragraph descriptions are provided below for each one of the acquisitions.

Project	Town	Significance	Size in acres
1 Drozdal River	Hadley	Provides protection for a beach & floodplain forest on the CT River	7.4
2 Drozdal Mt.	Hadley	Protects the viewshed from the Summit House at Skinner State Park	25.4
3 Erickson	Carlisle	Preserves the scenic landscape of Great Brook Farm State Park	8.5
4 Keilson	Chesterfield	Links over 900 acres of state forest	80
5 Greene	Princeton	Secures the southern boundary of Wachusett Mt. State Reservation	49
6 Ciottone	Westminster	Maintains the rural character of West Princeton Road	44
7 Darroch	Westminster	Provides trail head parking for Wachusett Mt. State Reservation	40.5
8 Estabrook	Westminster	Provides access to the Crow Hill climbing area	75
9 Roberts	Goshen	Provides watershed protection for Upper Highland Lake	100
10 Sears	Paxton	Protects a portion of an 18th-19th century mill village complex	30.8
11 Shakespeare	Lenox	Preserves and protects the historic Springlawn Mansion	15
12 Wetmore	Royalston	Protects 1/2 mile of the interstate Metacomet Monadnock Trail	103
13 Hull	Chesterfield	Protects critical frontage on the East Branch of the Westfield River	436
14 Mulcahy	Salisbury	Restores a portion of Salisbury Beach	0.85
15 Bare Mt.	South Hadley	Protects ecologically diverse habitat on the Holyoke Range	58
16 Hawes	Fall River	Establishes the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve*	2414

*DEM contributed one-half the purchase price towards DFW's acquisition of 2414 acres in FY00, and will become joint owner of this property.

Fiscal Year 2000 DEM Land Acquisitions



Sixteen diverse properties
totaling 3487.45 acres
from the Berkshires to
Southeastern Massachusetts.



properties protected

Drozdal river property, Hadley

The Connecticut River Greenway State Park received a significant addition to its holdings with the acquisition of the Drozdal property. The Drozdal property provides critical river frontage that enhances fresh water recreation by providing a day use beach along one of the most heavily used areas of the Connecticut River. The acquisition of this parcel will reduce human pressures on nearby sensitive habitat of the Puritan Tiger Beetle, a globally endangered species. The parcel also presents an opportunity to fill a long time need for camping on this portion of the river. The Valley Land Fund, a non-profit land trust, acquired the 7.43-acre riverfront property for \$30,000, holding it until DEM secured funding for the acquisition. The Valley Land Fund conveyed the property to DEM in the spring of 2000.

7.4 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Full Fee Acquisition / \$30,000
Connecticut River Greenway State Park

Drozdal mountain property, Hadley

In 1836, when Thomas Cole captured on canvas the breathtaking view from atop Mt. Skinner in his landscape portrait "*View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow*" (right), he surely could not have imagined the web of 21st century encroachments on the landscape. Yet in the year 2000, at the base of Mt. Skinner and within full view of the summit, this Drozdal property remained defiantly undeveloped. The mountain parcel was also exceedingly vulnerable as developers searched the Holyoke Range for prime property. Fortunately, DEM successfully secured the 25.4-acre property for \$470,000 and added it to the Holyoke Range State Park. In addition to its scenic importance, the property is located in an "archaeological district," where there are 12 known archaeological sites located relatively close to each other that are highly sensitive. Both Drozdal properties provide outstanding birding opportunities for herons, eagles, ospreys, kingfishers, bank swallows, migrating hawks, turkey vultures, cedar waxwings, and Baltimore orioles.

25.4 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Full Fee Acquisition / \$470,000
Connecticut River Greenway State Park





Thomas Cole, *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow*.
Oil on canvas. Painted in 1836.

©1995 by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. Russell Sage, 1908.



Erickson property, Carlisle

On June 5, 2000, DEM acquired 8.5 acres of land from Tom and Tamara Erickson for the discounted sale price of \$300,000 (DEM contributed \$211,900 and the Carlisle Conservation Foundation contributed \$88,100). This property was originally part of the extensive agricultural holdings owned by Farhnam and Susan Smith. In 1974, DEM bought the Smith land (now Great Brook Farm State Park), but the subject property was excepted from that purchase and the Smiths retained their primary residence there. When the Ericksons bought the former Smith homestead in 1996, the property had been subdivided and two house lots were approved by the Carlisle Planning Board near the boundary of the State Park. If the Ericksons had sold the lots for residential use, new houses would have encroached on the park marring the scenic landscape and disrupting the existing trail network. Instead, the Ericksons generously sold the property at less than half the appraised value. The Carlisle Conservation Foundation diligently raised funds for the project from local individuals and user groups, including the North Bridge Hunt Club and the New England Mountain Bike Association. The property acquired adds 8.5 acres of open fields, hedgerows and stone walls to the 984 acre Great Brook Farm State Park.

8.5 acres / Region 2: Northeast
Full Fee Acquisition / \$211,900
Great Brook Farm State Park

Mulcahy property, Salisbury

This property is at the center of the lovely 4-mile shoreline of Salisbury Beach State Reservation. As part of a renovation project for property abutting the State Reservation, DEM purchased a permanent beach access easement, the removal rights to a dilapidated structure, and an option to purchase the property. DEM exercised the removal rights to demolish the Old Frolics Building which marred the beach landscape for visitors to this portion of the popular Reservation.

0.85 acres / Region 2: Northeast
Easement and Temporary
Conservation Restriction / \$705,000
Salisbury Beach State Reservation



Keilson property, Chesterfield

Situated on the East Branch of the Westfield River, this generous gift of 80 acres links more than 900 acres of contiguous forest of Gilbert Bliss State Forest and Chesterfield State Forest just below Chesterfield Gorge. This acquisition protects approximately 1,175 feet of road frontage along Ireland Street in Chesterfield and provides much needed access to the state forest land from Ireland Street. This project is part of a larger collaborative with The Nature Conservancy to protect an additional adjacent 400-acre area called Jackson Swamp. The department expresses its sincere gratitude to the Keilsons for donating this significant property.

80 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Full Fee Acquisition / Gift
Chesterfield State Forest



Shakespeare and Company property, Lenox

The Department of Environmental Management acquired this property in order to preserve and protect the historic Springlawn Mansion, which is listed as one of the Great Estates of Lenox. Noted architect Guy Lowell designed the mansion in 1902 as a single family residence. Decorative elements such as exterior carvings, cornices, and pilasters adorn the 20,248 square foot structure. A porte cochere (covered porch) with ornate wooden columns graces the front entrance. The mansion sits on 15 landscaped acres, now protected under a conservation restriction. The restriction also ensures permanent public access to the 15-acre parcel. In addition, Shakespeare and Company granted DEM a public access license for trails to be established over an adjoining 48 acres.

15 acres / Region 5: Berkshires
Historic Preservation / Conservation Restriction
\$500,000



Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

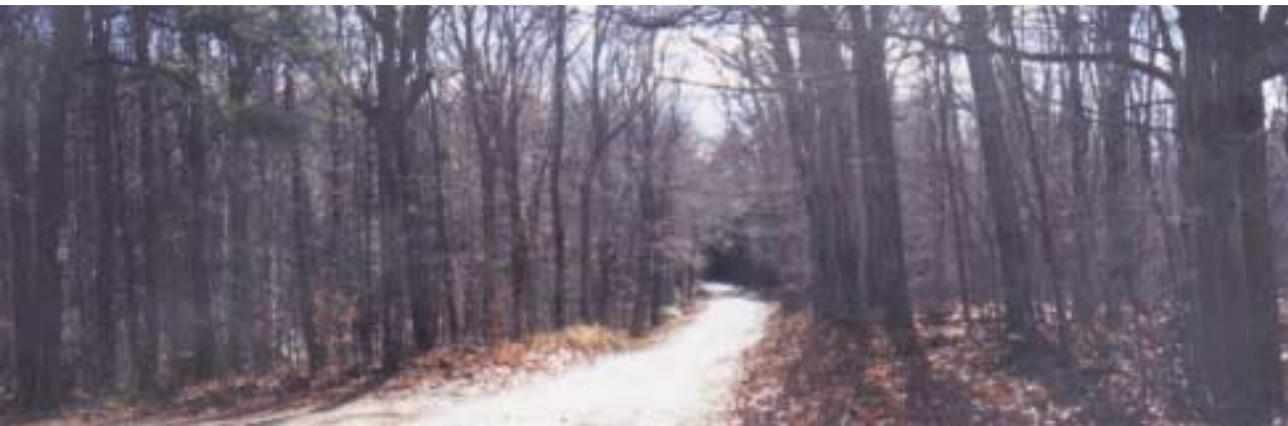
Rising above the surrounding forest to a height of 2006 feet, Mount Wachusett stands as a unique landmark within the central New England landscape. From below, the mountain is starkly visible from many of the highways and byways that crisscross the region. From the summit, a clear day reveals views of Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire, the Berkshires to the west, and the Boston skyline to the east. DEM's 3,000-acre Wachusett Mountain State Reservation surrounds the summit and offers a wealth of natural and recreational resources. The Reservation's natural resources include forests, alpine meadows, ponds, streams, fields, and even a perched bog. Recreational opportunities abound at the reservation including hiking, nature study, mountain biking, hawk watching, picnicking, and skiing.

With such a profusion of beauty and outdoor recreational opportunities attracting people from all around, it's no surprise that the land surrounding the reservation is experiencing strong growth pressure. The popular downhill ski area at the reservation serves as a major attraction beckoning skiers from afar. But as part of the resort's agreement with the state, a clever tool was created that allows DEM to contend with the development pressure encircling the reservation. DEM launched a serious land protection initiative in fiscal year 2000 utilizing this special trust.

The Land Acquisition Fund was established in 1984. The Fund receives 1% of the gross revenues from the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area for the acquisition of "lands deemed available and desirable for conservation and recreational purposes by the Department."

Prior to 1999, the Trust had funded just two acquisitions since its inception sixteen years ago. The trust account grew over the years to the point where the DEM Land Acquisition office was encouraged by the Wachusett Mountain Advisory Committee and the DEM board to buy land in the area. After consultation with regional and park staff to identify the most threatened parcels, DEM land acquisition staff began to pursue several key properties for addition to the Forest and Park system. Through the Land Acquisition Trust, DEM acquired each of the following four properties in FY2000 — Ciottone; Darroch; Estabrook, and Greene (descriptions on the facing and following pages).

The greater Wachusett Mountain State Reservation area benefited from these significant land acquisitions in fiscal year 2000. Through the Land Acquisition Trust, DEM purchased four properties totaling 208 acres and protected a diversity of natural and scenic resources. By tapping a quiet trust account with an unassuming name, DEM was able to secure these valuable properties in an otherwise tight fiscal year.



Ciottone property, Westminster

DEM purchased this 44 acre parcel of land in Westminster for addition to the Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. One of the primary objectives of this acquisition was to maintain the rural, undeveloped character of West Princeton Road. West Princeton Road frames the western boundary of the reservation and is known as the “quiet side” of the facility. The gravel road is sparsely populated. No power lines or phone lines mar the roadside. Instead, oak trees create a canopy over the roadway like the swords of an honor guard at a red carpet reception. Protecting the 823 feet of frontage will help preserve the road’s rural feel. In addition, the seller has pledged to donate a conservation restriction (CR) on a portion of the property he maintained. The CR will preclude the construction of homes on a field that is immediately adjacent to West Princeton Road. Preventing development along the road will also aid the establishment of a greenway corridor between Wachusett Mountain and Fitchburg water supply lands and Metropolitan District Commission watershed lands to the west. This potential greenway could stretch from Leominster State Forest southwest to Rutland State Forest and encompass nearly 20,000 acres under several state agency jurisdictions.

44 acres/Region 3: Central
Full Fee Acquisition/\$160,000
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

Greene property, Princeton

Acquisition of this highly developable property in Princeton will help secure the southern boundary of Wachusett Mountain State Reservation. The 49 acre parcel affords commanding views of the southern face of Wachusett Mountain (below). This acquisition expands the area of protected land between the reservation and the Wachusett Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary owned by the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the Minns Wildlife Sanctuary managed by the Massachusetts Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. In addition to a wooded portion of the property, other landscape features include a Christmas tree plantation on several acres and an earthen dam that impounds a small pond. DEM plans to remove the Christmas trees and restore the open fields in hopes of attracting grassland bird species such as bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, and woodcocks. This work will also maintain the scenic views to the north.

49 acres/Region 3: Central
Full Fee Acquisition/\$375,000
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation



Greene property (foreground) with Wachusett Mountain looming ©David McGowan / DEM



Darroch property, Westminster

This 40.5 acre forested parcel in Westminster offers 2,300 feet of frontage on the westerly side of West Princeton Road and abuts the Ciottone property to the north. The principal objectives of this acquisition were similar to the first — to maintain the rural, undeveloped character of West Princeton Road and eventually establish a greenway corridor to the large block of land already protected to the west. This parcel has the unique distinction of lying at the extreme northeast corner of the Chicopee River watershed and is hydrologically connected to the Quabbin Reservoir twenty miles to the southwest. In addition, a former timber landing just off West Princeton Road will provide trailhead parking for the West Side Trail and West Road, popular hiking destinations at Wachusett Mountain State Reservation.

40.5 acres / Region 3: Central
Full Fee Acquisition / \$72,000
Wachusett Mountain State Reservation

Estabrook property, Westminster

By providing access to the top of the Crow Hills and protecting a prominent ridgeline, this 75 acre wooded parcel is a welcome addition to Leominster State Forest. The Crow Hills provide one of the most popular rock climbing areas in central Massachusetts. In order to properly manage the site, emergency vehicles must be able to access the climbing area from the top of the ledges. This acquisition provides the needed access via an old logging road from East Street in Westminster. The DEM regional office has also identified the protection of the entirety of the Crow Hills as an acquisition priority for Leominster State Forest. This acquisition greatly furthers that goal.

75 acres / Region 3: Central
Full Fee Acquisition / \$93,000
Leominster State Forest



properties protected

Sears property, Paxton

This 30.8-acre parcel was purchased as an addition to Moore State Park. This parcel contains a potentially intact archeological site that is believed to be the location of the Triphammer Mill, the lower portion of the 18th – 19th century Mill Village complex. This acquisition permanently connects the upper and lower portions of the historic Mill Village. In addition to the significant historic resources found on the property, acquisition of this parcel protects part of the watershed of Thompson Pond in Spencer and further protects Turkey Hill Brook. This acquisition was a cooperative effort that also included the Greater Worcester Land Trust and the Paxton Land Trust, who contributed \$10,000 and \$8,000, respectively, to the cost of the property.

**30.8 acres / Region 3: Central
Full Fee Acquisition / \$22,000
Moore State Park**

Roberts property, Ashfield/Goshen

This 100 acre wooded parcel was purchased as an addition to D.A.R. State Forest. A fine example of a northern hardwood forest graces the property, including a stand of mature red oak. The property is located in the upper watershed area of D.A.R. State Forest and within close proximity to Upper Highland Lake. The acquisition of this parcel helps secure the northern buffer of the State Forest, provides watershed protection to Upper Highland Lake, a popular swimming area, and will allow for the expansion of the existing trail system. In addition to the several vernal pools located on the parcel, the property provides habitat for deer, coyote, beaver, weasel, mink, ruffed grouse, wild turkey, interior migratory bird species and hawks.

**100 acres / Region 5: Berkshires
Full Fee Acquisition / \$50,000
D.A.R. State Forest**



Hull property, Chesterfield

The 436-acre Hull property is comprised of two parcels (Sturken and Kingsley lots) located along the East Branch of the Westfield River in Chesterfield. DEM's acquisition of conservation restrictions on these parcels was part of a larger effort involving state and municipal agencies, non-profit organizations, and Mr. Hull to protect over 7000 acres of working forestland throughout western Massachusetts. Protection of these particular parcels have long been a priority for DEM as part of ongoing efforts to link existing holdings together to create a protected greenway corridor along the East Branch of the Westfield River.

The Sturken and Kingsley lots have extensive frontage along the river, provide significant wildlife habitat, and are located along a federally designated Wild and Scenic segment of the Westfield River. The 235-acre Sturken Lot, with approximately 7650 feet of river frontage, is located adjacent to a portion of the Gilbert A. Bliss State Forest, and includes a cold water perennial stream which runs along the southerly boundary of the property, and flows into the Westfield River. In addition, there are several intermittent streams that cross the property. The 201-acre Kingsley Lot has about 6830 feet of river frontage and includes a small island. This parcel is adjacent to a portion of the Chester Wildlife Management Area and is a short distance south of the Trustees of Reservation's well-known Chesterfield Gorge property.

These properties are primarily wooded and are home to a variety of wildlife including bear, moose, bobcat, fisher, mink, otter, native trout, and a variety of song-

birds and raptors. Both parcels are characterized by topography that slopes down toward the river, with steep slopes along the river's edge. There are existing woods roads throughout both properties which will provide excellent trail opportunities. Both the Sturken and Kingsley lots lie within areas designated by the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program as providing potential wetland habitat for rare wildlife. Acquisition of the conservation restrictions on these properties will help to conserve this important riparian corridor and provide public access to the river and its unique natural and scenic features.



**436 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Conservation Restriction / \$155,000
Chesterfield State Forest**



Wetmore property, Royalston

Conservation of the Wetmore property was a cooperative effort by DEM and a private conservation buyer to protect and provide public access to 103 acres of forest along Route 32 in Royalston. DEM purchased a conservation restriction over the 103-acre parcel which permanently protects the land from development, secures an important segment of the Tully Trail corridor, allows for sound forest management, and provides public access for passive recreation such as hiking. The private buyer purchased the 103 acres subject to this restriction, plus an additional 5-acre lot which they can use for 1 house in the future. This partnership achieved the mutual goals of land conservation and trail corridor protection, allowed for cost sharing of the acquisition, and kept the property on the local tax rolls.

The property also includes approximately 1/2 mile of the Tully Trail and the interstate Metacomet Monadnock trail, which overlap in this part of Royalston. This acquisition is part of a larger multi-agency effort to create the Tully Trail, a 20-mile loop trail which connects lands owned by federal, state, and non-profit organizations and links outstanding natural features including the summit of Tully Mountain, Tully Lake, Jacob's Ridge, Doans Falls, and several hundred acres of wild forest. When complete, the Tully Trail will reward the hiker with mountaintop vistas, cascading waterfalls, wildlife encounters, and secluded swimming holes. The protection of the Wetmore property secures a critical gap in the Tully Trail and brings the regional trail project one step closer to completion.

Partners involved include DEM, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the National Park Service, Mt. Grace Land Conservation Trust, the Trustees of Reservations, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other members of the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership.

103 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Conservation Restriction / \$39,000
Royalston State Forest

Bare Mountain property, South Hadley

This 58-acre property represents some of the most ecologically diverse habitat on the Holyoke Range. Researchers from the University of Massachusetts have determined that a series of vernal pools found on the property provide signature habitat for at least 3 state-listed amphibians and at least one known state listed reptile. The property also contains a diverse plant community including hop-hornbeam stands, white oak swamp as well as a diverse ground cover. The property is situated within an area designated as a "Distinctive Landscape" by DEM's Scenic Landscape Inventory. The protection of this property was made possible by the Valley Land Fund, Kestral Trust, and the Friends of the Holyoke Range. These non-profit organizations arranged to acquire the property when DEM did not have available funds to do so.

58 acres / Region 4: CT River Valley
Full Fee Acquisition / \$40,000
Mt. Holyoke Range State Park

View of Mt. Holyoke Range (looking West), Holyoke Range State Park, South Hadley, MA ©Terry Blunt / DEM



Hawes property, Fall River, Freetown and Dartmouth

In June 2000, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts acquired 2,414 acres of open space located in the northeast section of the City of Fall River. These parcels were acquired as the first phase of a multi-phase acquisition project that will create the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve. The creation of the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve is a major public-private partnership that will result in the protection of approximately 14,000 acres of contiguous open space that will preserve the functions of a valuable ecosystem threatened by development. This project is a partnership with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), DEM, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement (DFWELE), the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW), the City of Fall River, and the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR). The newly acquired parcels will add to existing Commonwealth holdings managed by DEM (Freetown-Fall River State Forest) and DFW (Acushnet Wildlife Management Area). DFW and DEM will co-manage the newly acquired property.

Over the next two fiscal years, DFW, DEM, and TTOR will acquire from the Hawes family the balance of their 3800 acres of open space located primarily in Fall River, with smaller portions in Freetown and Dartmouth, for a total purchase price of \$14,100,000. Of this amount, the Commonwealth will contribute a total of \$9,650,000 towards the acquisition, with

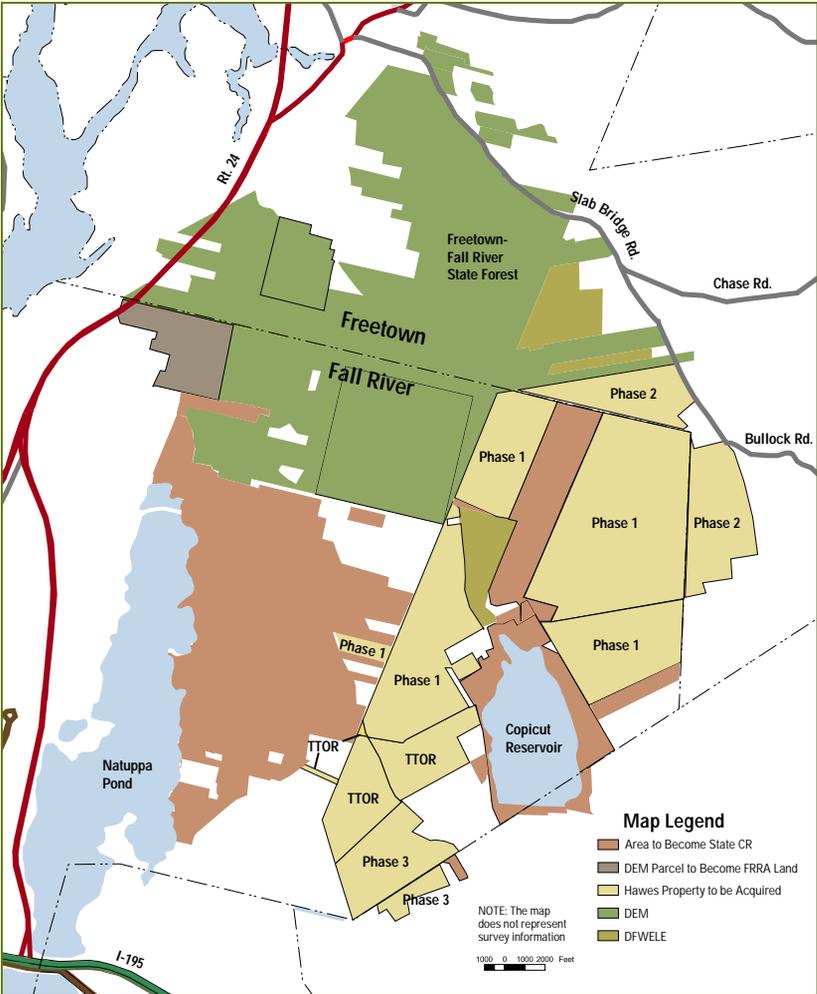
the balance of funds to be paid by the Fall River Redevelopment Authority (\$2,450,000) and TTOR (\$2,000,000). TTOR will directly acquire approximately 450 acres of the Hawes land and will then convey to DEM and DFW a conservation restriction at no additional cost to the Commonwealth on that portion. In addition, the City of Fall River will convey, also at no additional cost to the Commonwealth, a conservation restriction on approximately 4,300 acres of municipal watershed lands to ensure it is permanently protected as open space. In exchange for the City's participation in this land protection project, DEM will transfer to the Fall River Redevelopment Authority (FRRA) a 300-acre parcel of land abutting Route 24 and an existing industrial park, for development as a business park.

EOEA, DEM, DFW, the City of Fall River and TTOR are currently working to develop management plans for the Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve to preserve the area for passive public recreation, water supply protection, wildlife and forestry management.

3800 acres / Region 1: Southeast
\$9,650,000
Freetown-Fall River State Forest



Southeastern Massachusetts Bioreserve





the forest legacy program

Development of the nation's forests poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our country's valuable forest lands. Prompted by concerns that land development continues to seriously fragment forest land ownership in urbanized states like Massachusetts, the United States Congress created a "Forest Legacy Program" in the 1990 Farm Bill. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a federal program implemented in partnership with states that supports efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned forests, primarily through conservation restrictions. Most FLP conservation restrictions limit development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values. The FLP authorizes federal purchases of these conservation restrictions by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

To be eligible to participate in the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, through the DEM's Bureau of Forestry, prepared a statewide Forest Legacy Program Needs Assessment in 1993. The Bureau worked to document the need for a state Forest Legacy Program, identified and delineated the boundaries of forest areas meeting eligibility requirements for designation as Forest Legacy Areas, then recommended those areas to the Forest Service for inclusion in the FLP. Five Forest Legacy Areas were delineated; the Connecticut River Valley, Estabrook Woods, Nashua River Greenway, North Quabbin Corridor, and the Stockbridge-Yokun Ridge Reserve. Additionally, the Taconic Range has been recently submitted as another Forest Legacy Area which, when approved by the U.S. Forest Service, will bring the total eligible acreage to 194,636 statewide.

Through the hard work and valuable technical assistance provided to landowners by the Bureau of Forestry and other DEM staff, nine properties have been protected through the Forest Legacy Program. The most recent project, protection of the 67-acre Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club property, was completed in fiscal year 2000. The following properties, totaling 1,235 acres, have all been protected through the Forest Legacy Program.

Property	Town	Acres	Forest Legacy Area	Year
Anciporch	Northampton & Hatfield	106	CT River Valley	1995
Holich	Hatfield	113	CT River Valley	1995
Audubon/Piretti	Lenox	77	Stockbridge (Yokun Ridge Reserve)	1995
Pippin Tree	Concord	73	Estabrook Woods	1996
Hutchinson	Athol and Petersham	490	North Quabbin Corridor	1996
Boudreau	South Hadley	56	CT River Valley	1997
Kripalu	Lenox	225	Stockbridge (Yokun Ridge Reserve)	1997
Johnson	South Hadley	47	CT River Valley	1998
Stockbridge Sportsmen's Club	West Stockbridge	67	Stockbridge - Yokun Ridge Reserve	1999

If you have any questions about the Forest Legacy Program, please call Warren Archey, Department of Environmental Management Chief Forester, at 413-442-8928.



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Acknowledgements

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The Department of Environmental Management would like to express its appreciation to The Metropolitan Museum of Art for generously allowing us to reproduce *View from Mount Holyoke, Northampton, Massachusetts, after a Thunderstorm — The Oxbow*, by Thomas Cole, as seen on page 9.

DEM would like to acknowledge Geordie Vining, DEM's Coastal Access Coordinator, for his significant contribution to the DEM Land Acquisition and Protection Program. During his 6-year tenure at DEM, Geordie successfully managed many acquisition projects that ensured public coastal access and permanently protected the unique natural resources found on the Massachusetts coastline. Geordie recently accepted the position of Senior Project Manager for the City of Newburyport. Thank you and good luck, Geordie!

This report was primarily produced by the Department of Environmental Management Land Acquisition Staff: Christine Berry, Terry Blunt, Jennifer Howard, David McGowan and Geordie Vining.



For general information regarding the DEM Land Acquisition and Protection Program, please call **617-626-1314** or log onto our web site at www.state.ma.us/dem/landacq.