



Just a few of the special places we need to work to protect and maintain: Nickerson State Park, Sandy Point State Reservation, Bradley Palmer State Park, Blackstone River, Constitution Beach

Parks & Water Lobby Day hosted by Green Budget Coalition

Our Ask: From the below list of three priorities, which line-items will you include in your list of top priority asks to Ways & Means for FY19?

Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)

Watershed Management (Line-item 2800-0101)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$1,100,000
Current FY18 funding level (as of 11/1/17)	\$962,526

The Watershed Management Office, housed within DCR, conducts and helps fund critical research on water resources in Massachusetts. This Office protects the drinking water supply for approximately 2.5 million residents in the Commonwealth. It provides technical assistance to municipalities, working with 336 communities, including ensuring compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. The Office also works to restore DCR's 300 lakes and 51 freshwater swimming beaches, enhancing the ecological integrity and recreational opportunities of these resources. This Office staffs the Water Resources Commission and provides support to the state's Drought Management Task Force.

Budget Cuts:

This line-item has been cut by 55% since Fiscal Year 2009. Over the past few years, this office has lost four staff positions due to budget cuts. By re-allocating funds from other sources, two of the positions have been able to be refilled, but that still leaves two critical positions vacant.

Examples of Needs:

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DCR could fill **two critical coordinator positions** the agency has lost over the past decade of budget cuts:

Invasive Species Management for Lakes & Ponds	Flood Hazard & Drought Management Response
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-See reverse-

State Parks & Recreation (Line-Item: 2810-0100)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$42,500,000
Current FY18 funding level (as of 11/1/17)	\$37,163,712

DCR is responsible for the stewardship, management, and safety of our parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds, totaling 450,000 acres of land across over 250 properties, including nearly 2,000 miles of trail and forests that protected drinking water supplies for millions of people in the Commonwealth. The agency contributes to quality of life, public health, and the economy. DCR's work supports \$16.2 billion in annual recreation spending. State parks are often the most easily accessible place for people of all income levels to access the natural treasures and beauty of Massachusetts.

Impacts of Budget Cuts:

The agency has lost nearly 400 full-time positions (30% of its workforce) in the last seven years. DCR currently has 839 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs), down from 1,279 in 2008. As a result, the camping season was reduced this year, the entire state is served by only one 15-person maintenance crew, and DCR field managers are spread across more properties, leaving many facilities and lands essentially unstaffed or infrequently monitored to guard against and address inappropriate or illegal activities.

Examples of Needs:

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DCR could:

Hire 30 FTEs to staff unstaffed parks	Provide 25 staff for the Park Support Operations crew	Provide an adequate number of engineers to plan and inspect capital improvement projects
Retain long-term seasonal staff to provide consistency, retain knowledge	Have the staff to ensure every property has a Resource Management Plan	Return to longer camping seasons of past years (Apr 17-Nov 1)

Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

Administration (Line-item 2200-0100)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$30,000,000
Current FY18 funding level (as of 11/1/17)	\$24,733,484

MassDEP is tasked with ensuring clean air and water, managing toxics, reducing solid waste, preserving wetlands, permitting clean energy projects, and preparing the Commonwealth for climate change impacts. With anticipated federal cuts, the funding we allocate on the state level is especially crucial.

Impacts of Budget Cuts:

The current level of 660 full-time equivalent staff is one of the lowest staffing levels in the past dozen years. The agency has multi-year backlogs in its water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting; development of water pollution control plans (TMDLs); and issuance of water supply permits.

Examples of Needs:

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DEP could fill **critical positions** including:

15 water quality monitoring and assessment staff	Five compliance and enforcement officers	Three permit writers
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