



**For immediate release
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DCR SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR DISC GOLF COURSE IN NANTUCKET STATE FOREST

BOSTON – The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Nantucket Disc Golf, a non-profit corporation, have entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to allow Nantucket Disc Golf to create a disc golf course on a portion of DCR's Nantucket State Forest in Nantucket.

Disc golf involves throwing a plastic disc (similar to a Frisbee) into baskets on a set course. DCR and Nantucket Disc Golf have been planning and evaluating this 18-basket project on land off Old South Road in Nantucket for more than two years. The course is expected to open in fall 2011.

“The disc golf course is an ideal recreation fit for this site,” said DCR Commissioner Ed Lambert. “Because of the committed partnership with the local community group, we are able to offer a quiet, ecologically compatible, public recreation opportunity on a little-known piece of public open space.”

Nantucket State Forest is both ecologically and historically significant, and this project has been reviewed by a number of state agencies. Several plants on the property support rare wildlife, and DCR and Nantucket Disc Golf worked with the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program within the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to ensure that neither the activity nor course maintenance would adversely affect any of the protected species. The agency also worked with the Massachusetts Historical Commission to ensure that the proposed project would not harm historic or archaeological sites associated with Native American life on the island.

The new disc golf course was also the subject of considerable community review. Public informational meetings were held in 2008 and 2009, and the project was reviewed by the Nantucket Historic District Commission in 2010. Numerous officials and residents have expressed strong support for the course because it offers a low-cost, active recreation opportunity for island residents and visitors of all ages.

“I welcome opportunities like Nantucket Disc Golf that encourage healthy outdoor exercise and social connections with friends and neighbors,” said Michael Kopko, a member of the Nantucket Board of Selectman.

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Nantucket Disc Golf expects to begin rough mowing and removal of some fallen or dead trees along the designated course this spring.

“We’ll be putting in a lot of volunteer effort this spring and summer,” said Todd Rainwater, president of Nantucket Disc Golf. “We look forward to welcoming island residents and visitors to their new recreation opportunity in the fall.”

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.