



# Volunteer in the Parks Release Form

I, **(Insert Your Name)**, \_\_\_\_\_ a member of or participant in the activities sponsored by **Neponset River Watershed Association and Neponset River Cleanup Co-Sponsors and Participants**, understand the work that I have volunteered to do and I hereby state that I am qualified and physically capable of accomplishing the work and activities for which I have volunteered, and that I will perform them as directed by a properly authorized supervisor. I also agree to comply with all DCR rules and regulations.

I hereby release the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), their employees, and agents from all claims, loss, damage, expenses and/or injuries, whether to person or to property, which may result from my actions while participating in volunteer activities or projects approved or sponsored by the Department. I further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the DCR, their employees, and agents from liability for any damage or injuries resulting from my actions while participating in volunteer activities or projects approved or sponsored by the Department, that are found to be outside the scope of approved activities or projects.

I acknowledge that, by participating in such volunteer activities and projects, I have not received an appointment to state service, and I will not receive a salary or payment from the Commonwealth. As such, I understand that I am not entitled to Workers Compensation and that I cannot make any claims against the Department for any injury, loss, or damage to person (including bodily injury or death) or property suffered while involved in volunteer work or projects for the DCR and, further, that I will provide my own health insurance.

I recognize that MGL c. 21, §17G provides that, pursuant to the provisions, requirements, and limitations of MGL c. 258 and the guidelines adopted by DCR, I shall not be liable for injury or loss of property or personal injury or death caused by my negligent or wrongful act or omission while acting within the scope of my volunteer activities. However, I acknowledge that I will not be indemnified under MGL c. 258, §9 for intentional torts or for the violation of a person's civil rights. I also acknowledge that in any litigation, the final determination of whether a person is considered an uncompensated employee is made the Attorney General's Office.

This Release Form is valid from September 25, 2020 to September 26, 2020.

**Please mark X in/on each box. NOTE: Volunteers must read, complete and return these documents to be eligible for volunteer activity. Typing your Name Below Indicates Electronic Signature.**

I DO NOT have any of the following symptoms as of the date below: Fever, chills, cough, sore throat.

I HAVE READ the COVID-19 Advisory for Volunteering in the Massachusetts State Parks System (attached)

Name of Participant	Date
Home Street Address	Cell Phone (for emergency use only)
Home City, State, Zip	Email (for emergency use only)

For Persons Under 18, a Parent or Legal Guardian Must Check Box on the Left and Print their Own Name below:



## COVID-19 Advisory for Volunteering within the Massachusetts State Parks System\*

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) works with partners throughout the Commonwealth to protect and enhance the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources. By working together, we are able to foster a sense of shared stewardship of the state parks system. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the agency has developed guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

It is critically important that all groups coordinating land stewardship activities adhere to the below guidance for the safety of all participants, agency staff, and visitors of state parks. Recently, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs [issued guidance](#) for Phase 3 of the Baker-Polito Administration's reopening plan, which includes land stewardship activities, such as clean-up events and community service projects. DCR has expanded on these standards to aid organizations as they coordinate these activities.

### Pre-event Registration:

- All participants must submit the DCR Volunteer Waiver form to the agency. The form must be downloaded and submitted with an electronic signature via email at least 24 hours before the start of the event.
- Organized land stewardship activities should be planned in advance with proper registration of participants in order to manage capacity. Onsite registration cannot be offered.
- Coordinators of land stewardship activities must ensure the event is consistent with social distancing and group size guidelines. Groups are limited to 12 or fewer individuals, including participants, staff, and instructors. There may be more than one group of 12 people at one time, provided that adequate social distance and group separation of at least 20 feet can be maintained.
- Arrangements with on-site DCR staff for the removal of trash bags and other collected debris must be made prior to the start of any land stewardship activities.

### During Event:

- All participants of land stewardship activities should provide or be provided their own face mask or facial covering in order to participate in the program. DCR is not responsible to provide face coverings.
- All equipment, tools, and materials should be disinfected before and after use in accordance with CDC guidelines. Furthermore, participants should not share equipment, tools, or other materials.
- The duration of land stewardship projects should not exceed two hours on any given day.
- Alcohol-based sanitizer must be on-site and available for participants to use.
- Participants must adhere to social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between individuals.
- Food and drinks should be brought from participants' homes and not shared with individuals outside of one's household.

Furthermore, the agency reserves the right to end any land stewardship activities on DCR property early if participants and organizers are not adhering to the above guidelines or for any other reason.

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\* Attachment to Volunteer in the Parks Release Form