



# 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. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs [issued guidance](#) for 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 completed online or 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. Currently, groups are limited to 25 or fewer individuals, including participants, staff, and instructors. There may be more than one group of 25 people at one time, provided that 6 ft. social distance between participants and group separation of at least 14 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:

- Participants must adhere to social distancing guidelines of at least six feet between individuals.
- Face covering are **required indoors at all times** and **required outdoors when unable to socially-distance to six feet**. DCR is not responsible to provide face coverings/masks.
- Alcohol-based sanitizer must be on-site and available for participants to use. DCR is not responsible to provide hand sanitizer.
- 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.
- DCR recommends the duration of stewardship projects not exceed two hours on any given day without prior permission. (Contact Director of Stewardship Programs & Agency Initiatives - [lisa.barstow@mass.gov](mailto:lisa.barstow@mass.gov))
- Food and drinks should be brought from participants' homes and not shared with individuals outside of one's household.

DCR reserves the right to cancel any land stewardship program in progress if participants and organizers are not adhering to the above guidelines or for any other reason.