



**For immediate release
Sept. 10, 2008**

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DCR UNVEILS NEW LIFEGUARD STATION AT SALISBURY BEACH STATE RESERVATION

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) today celebrated two recently completed projects at Salisbury Beach State Reservation in Salisbury.

The new \$1.5 million Beach Services/Lifeguard Command Center replaces a much older facility that was razed. The new building features medical and first aid facilities as well as a radio room and office and meeting, training, and changing rooms for lifeguards. The new building has an environmentally friendly design: It sits on pilings 3 feet above the dune to allow the dunes to migrate underneath and let high tides run underneath.

The second project is a new shade shelter on the boardwalk leading from the parking lot to the beach. Funded with \$100,000 through DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds Program, it is a partnership between DCR and the Melanoma Foundation. The 1,000-square-foot wooden shelter is also elevated 3 feet above the dune, and offers outstanding views of the beach. It is fully handicap accessible via a ramp from the parking lot.

Members of the family of the late Paul Sullivan, a popular radio talk show host for many years on WBZ-AM radio who passed away last year from brain cancer, were actively involved in supporting this project.

"The new lifeguard command center and shade shelter provides a balanced approach to enjoying the ocean and sun for thousands of visitors to Salisbury Beach," said Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen). "I'd like to thank DCR for their commitment and attention to preserving one of the best beaches in our state."

"The unveiling of this new life guard station demonstrates DCR's continued commitment to the preservation and enhancement of Salisbury Beach," added State Representative Michael A. Costello, who attended today's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "These modern facilities will help our lifeguards ensure the safety of the thousands of people who visit the beach each year. I am also pleased that the state was able to partner in the construction of the Paul Sullivan Shade Structure. Paul was a close friend, and this project is a fitting and lasting tribute to his memory."

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Salisbury Beach State Reservation is the busiest day use and camping facility in the Massachusetts State Park system, attracting more than 1 million visitors each year. The reservation stretches from the New Hampshire border south to the Merrimack River, and includes 3.8 miles of ocean beach and 1 mile of river beach as well as 484 camping sites.

“We at DCR are delighted to have been able to make these lovely, state-of-the-art improvements to Salisbury Beach State Reservation,” said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan, Jr. “I’m happy to be joined by both area legislators as well as Salisbury Town Manager Neil Harrington, Deb Girard from the Melanoma Foundation, and relatives of Paul Sullivan. These projects would not have been possible without their help.”

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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 Richard K. Sullivan 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.