



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues
The Honorable Aaron M. Michlewitz
Massachusetts State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Rodrigues, Chairman Michlewitz and Conference Committee members,

I write to you today to seek your support for the Senate FY24 final budget figure of \$104.9 million for the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Parks and Recreation Operations account (2810-0100).

I also respectfully request that you place all DCR earmarks, except the annual statewide earmark of \$3.0 million for snow and ice removal, in the Special Projects account (2810-0122). This would be in keeping with the FY22 and FY23 final budgets. Making the operations account earmark-free would allow OCR to focus its time, attention and operational dollars on the myriad statewide needs the agency funds from this account.

We thank you for your support for our state parks, which the pandemic proved beyond all doubt to be essential to our physical and mental health. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick M. Herron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick Herron
Executive Director
Mystic River Watershed Association