

Cultural Uses of Natural Resources "A State Perspective"

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State Trusteeship of Natural Resources

- **State trusteeship for “natural resources”**
 - W/in boundary of state or belonging to, managed by, controlled by, or appertaining to such state
 - Includes supporting ecosystems
- **Examples subject to state Trusteeship**
 - State forest lands
 - State-owned minerals
 - State parks
 - State rare, threatened, endangered species
 - State wildlife refuges
 - State fish hatcheries

Programs to Preserve State Historic & Cultural Resources

Numerous State programs to preserve cultural & historic resources of Massachusetts.

- **State Urban Heritage Park Program**
 - **23 Historic State Parks**



- **Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park**
 - **Role of canals in transporting raw materials & manufactured goods between emerging industrial centers.**
 - **Walk along restored sections of Blackstone River Canal & Towpath.**

MHC

Massachusetts Historical Commission

- **State Historic Preservation Program**
 - Encourage preserving historical & archeological assets of local communities
 - MA Historical Commission (MHC) state agency created per federal government to protect historic sites
- **MHC**
 - **Established by State legislature in 1963**
 - **To identify, evaluate, & protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth**
 - **Staff of MHC**
 - **Includes historians, architects, archaeologists, geographers, & preservation planners**

MHC

Preservation Planning

- **Community Preservation Planning**
 - ID buildings, structures, objects, areas, burial grounds, landscape features, & sites
 - W/ historical, architectural, archaeological importance to community, state, nation

- **Statewide Inventory Developed**
 - To formulate context to evaluate significance of historic & prehistoric properties

 - **MA Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS)**
 - Enables preservationists to make informed decisions
 - Inventory by Resource Type
 - Area, Building, Burial Ground, Object, Structure
 - Use Type & Significance

Cultural Resources Information System (MACRIS)

Plymouth, MA: Resources: Burial Grounds

■ Old Indian Burying Ground: 1818

- Significance: Archaeology, Historic; Community Planning; Ethnic Heritage; Religion

■ Burial Hill Cemetery: 1681

- Significance: Community Planning; Religion
- Site of fort, meeting house, place of worship.

- Most common engraving “skull w/ wings or crossbones”. In 1600, 1700, & 1800's, believed graves w/ skulls/cherubs (angels) w/ wings would enable dead to fly to heaven after death.



Cultural Resources Information System (MACRIS)

Plymouth, MA: Resources

- **Historic Name:** Plymouth Rock
 - **Year Constructed:** 1620



Cultural Resources Information System (MACRIS)

Plymouth, MA: Resources

Sacrifice Rock

- Common Name: Manitto Asseinah - God's Rock
- Significance: Archaeology, Historic; Ethnic Heritage; Philosophy; Religion
- Centuries before arrival of English settlers, generations of native people en route between Plymouth & points south & west placed offerings on Sacrifice Rock.

Like the Manitto Asseinah or Spirit Rocks of the West, the rocks have received homage of branches. Travelers passed them reverently as the abodes of the Great Spirit, as they went on in silence.



State Parks

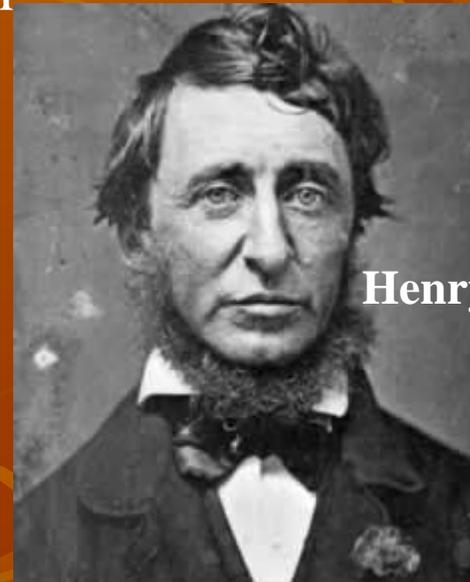
- **State Park properties include cultural resources**
 - Include potentially significant buildings, structures, landscapes, archaeological sites, & collections.
- **State Cultural Resources Division has broad responsibilities**
 - Establish policies for managing State Parks' historic properties
 - Set priorities for acquiring new historic sites;
 - Develop processes & training by which historic resources shall be managed.

State Parks

■ Walden Pond State Reservation

- 400 acres; includes 102-foot deep glacial kettle-hole pond.
- Undeveloped woods totaling 2680 acres, called "Walden Woods" surround the reservation

" I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived"



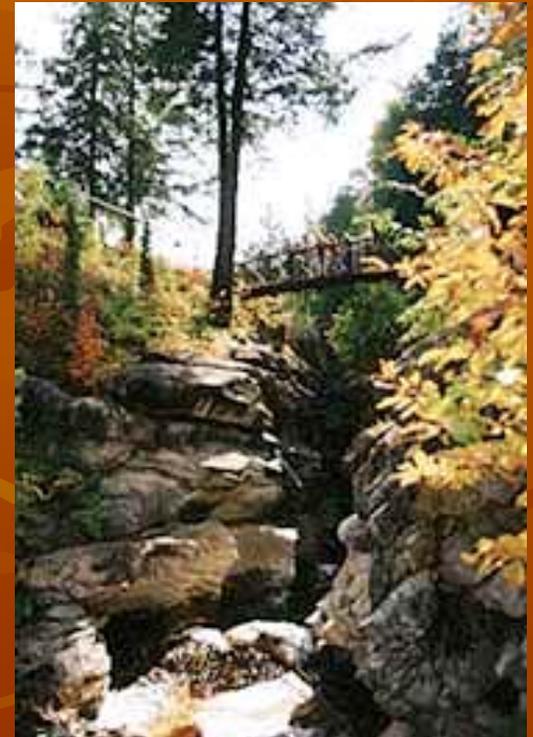
Henry David Thoreau

State Parks

- **Natural Bridge State Park**

Naturally formed white marble arch

- According to geologists,
550 million year old bedrock marble,
carved into an arch by the force of glacial
melt water over 13,000 years ago
- Noted Romantic writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne, visited here in
1838 and recorded his experience



American National Heritage Rivers (NPS)

- **Natural Resources Inventory & Assessment**
 - ID resources w/ high significance in natural & cultural values

- **MA:**

- **Connecticut River**
- **Blackstone River**

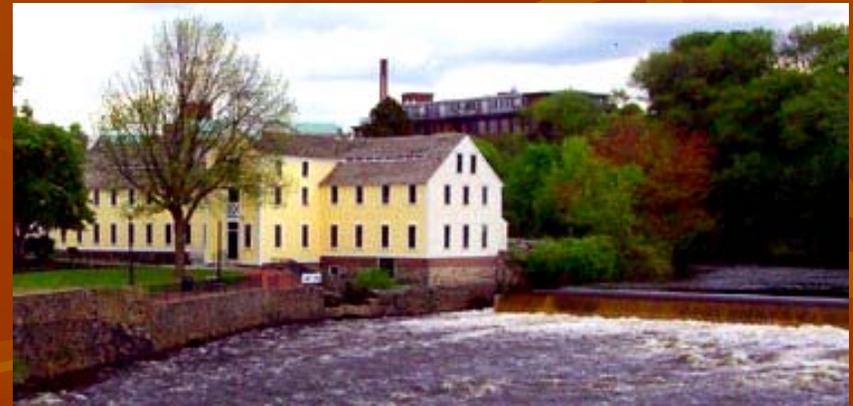
Runs from Worcester, MA to RI.

Powered the Slater Mill in RI;

America's 1st successful textile mill.

Began nation's transformation

from Farm to Factory.

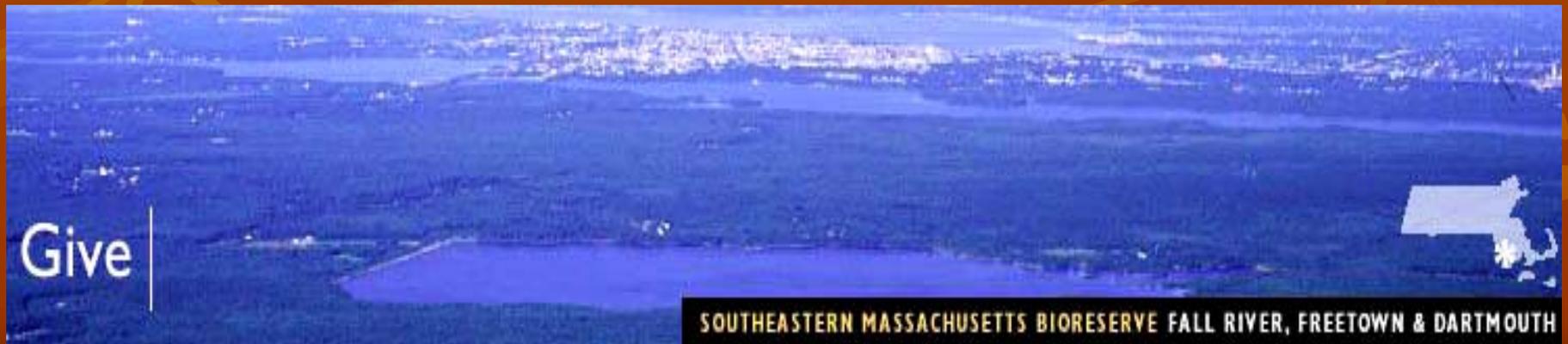


MA

Southeastern BioReserve

Protect, restore, & enhance 13,600 acres of unbroken forest

- Biological diversity, ecological integrity of a large-scale ecosystem w/ diverse natural communities representative of the region
- Protect Sites of historical, archaeological, cultural imptce:
 - Current & traditional Wampanoag sites & uses
Protect & enhance scenic vistas
Maintain working landscapes (forestry, agriculture)



MA Underwater Archaeology Program

- Prehistoric & historic submerged cultural resources
- In streams, rivers, lakes & coastal areas
- Broad category of "inundation" sites, not just watercraft and fish wiers
- Include range of habitation sites, resource extraction sites, sacred places, and tradition uses.

Questions ?

