

# The Rhode Island Great Outdoor Pursuit



100 Years  
Rhode Island State Parks  
1909 - 2009

# Background



- Children Spending More Time Indoors
  - TV
  - Video
  - Internet
- Lower Activity Levels
  - ↑Weight and weight related illness
- Disconnected from outdoors

# Background

- No Child Left Inside Act
  - Introduced by Senator Reed
  - Focus: Environmental education/stewardship
- Healthy Weight in 2008
  - Governor Carcieri initiative
  - Focus: activity and nutrition



# RI Great Outdoors Pursuit

- **DEM and Governor's Office Initiative**
- **Modeled on Connecticut's program**



# Goals



- **Reconnect children and their families with the great outdoors**
- **Encourage physical activity**
- **Build next generation of environmental stewards**
- **Showcase state parks and forests**



# RI GREAT OUTDOOR PURSUIT 2008

- Ten-week contest
- Teams register/participate
- Events
  - 5 “guided” (staffed by DEM/Partners)
  - 2 “self-guided” visit on their own
- Activities
- Earn points
- Eligible for prizes





# 2008 Guided Events

- Lincoln Woods State Park, Lincoln
- Blackstone River State Park Bike Path and Visitor's Center, Lincoln
- Colt State Park, Bristol
- Pulaski Memorial Recreation Area, Gloucester
- Fort Adams State Park, Newport





# 2008 Self-Guided Events

- Arcadia Management Area, Exeter
- John H. Chaffee Nature Preserve, North Kingstown
- East Bay Bike Path, East Providence, Barrington, Warren and Bristol
- Buck Hill Management Area, Burrillville
- Black Point, Narragansett







## 2008 Results

- 241 teams registered
- 1005 people
- 41 teams participated in all 7 events
- Great feedback from participants



# 2008 Sponsors

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FOODS  
MARKET**



**UnitedHealthcare®**  
Healing health care. Together.™

**eastern  
mountain  
sports**  
EASTERN MOUNTAIN SPORTS

**93.3 Coast fm**



HEALTHY WEIGHT  
IN 2008



John H. Chafee

**BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY**

National Heritage Corridor Commission

Appalachian Mountain Club—RI Chapter  
URI Tick Encounter Resource Center  
Rhode Island Department of Health  
Blackstone River Bikeway Patrol  
American Diabetes Association  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of RI  
Michael's Wholesale Bait  
Rhode Island Rock Gym



# Lincoln Woods State Park

Kick Off

Sunday June 22, 2008

- Rock Wall Climbing
- Fishing
- Self Guided Tree Identification
- Dancing
- Guided Nature walks
- Guided Geology Walks





# Lincoln Woods State Park



Kick Off  
Sunday June 22, 2008



# Blackstone Bike Path



- Bicycling
- Walking
- Kayaking
- Kelly House Tours
- Self Guided Tree Identification and
- Fun and Giveaways

# Colt State Park



## Governor's Bay Day

- Tree identification
- Guided walk
- Pier fishing
- Games with Ranger Rosa

# Pulaski Park



- Obstacle Course
- Tree identification
- Guided tour
- Special Guest  
“Smokey Bear”



# Fort Adams State Park



Finale

Sunday, August 24,  
2008

- Dancing with Big Nazo Puppets
- YMCA Obstacle Course
- Rock Wall Climbing
- Finale Competitions





# 2009 Great Outdoors Pursuit

- More teams
- More activities
- Partners needed
  - Activity
  - Environmental
  - Health –related
- Include 100 year celebration
- Dates
  - May 31 (Lincoln Woods)
  - June 28
  - July 26 (Bay Day)
  - August 1&2
  - August 23



# 2009 RI Great Park Pursuit

- How do I register?
- How can my organization help?
- Need more info?
  - Web: [www.riparks.com](http://www.riparks.com)
  - Phone: 401-222-2632

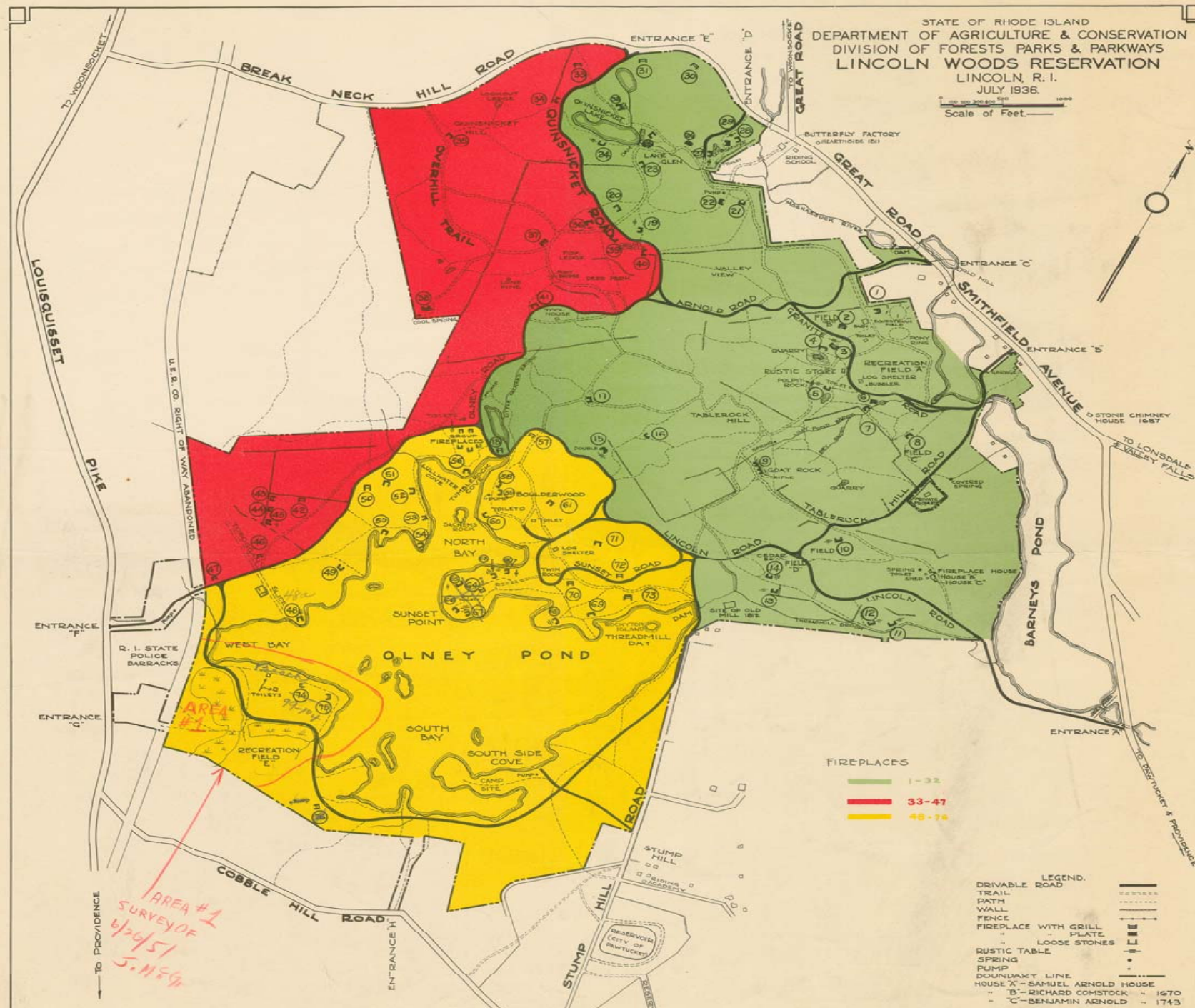
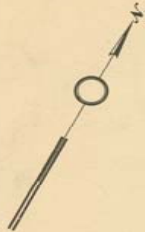
# RI Parks: 100 Year Anniversary 1909-2009

- 1904 – Metropolitan Parks Commission Created
- 1909 - MPA authorized purchase of 1<sup>st</sup> state park – Lincoln Woods



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSERVATION  
 DIVISION OF FORESTS PARKS & PARKWAYS  
 LINCOLN WOODS RESERVATION  
 LINCOLN, R. I.  
 JULY 1936.

Scale of Feet. ———  
 0 1000 2000



FIREPLACES  
 1-32  
 33-47  
 48-74

LEGEND.  
 DRIVABLE ROAD ———  
 TRAIL ———  
 PATH ———  
 WALL ———  
 FENCE ———  
 FIREPLACE WITH GRILL ———  
 " " PLATE ———  
 " " LOOSE STONES ———  
 RUSTIC TABLE ———  
 SPRING ———  
 PUMP ———  
 BOUNDARY LINE ———  
 HOUSE 'A' - SAMUEL ARNOLD HOUSE - 1670  
 " 'B' - RICHARD COMSTOCK " 1670  
 " 'C' - BENJAMIN ARNOLD " 1743

AREA #1  
 SURVEY OF  
 4/29/51  
 J.M.S.G.

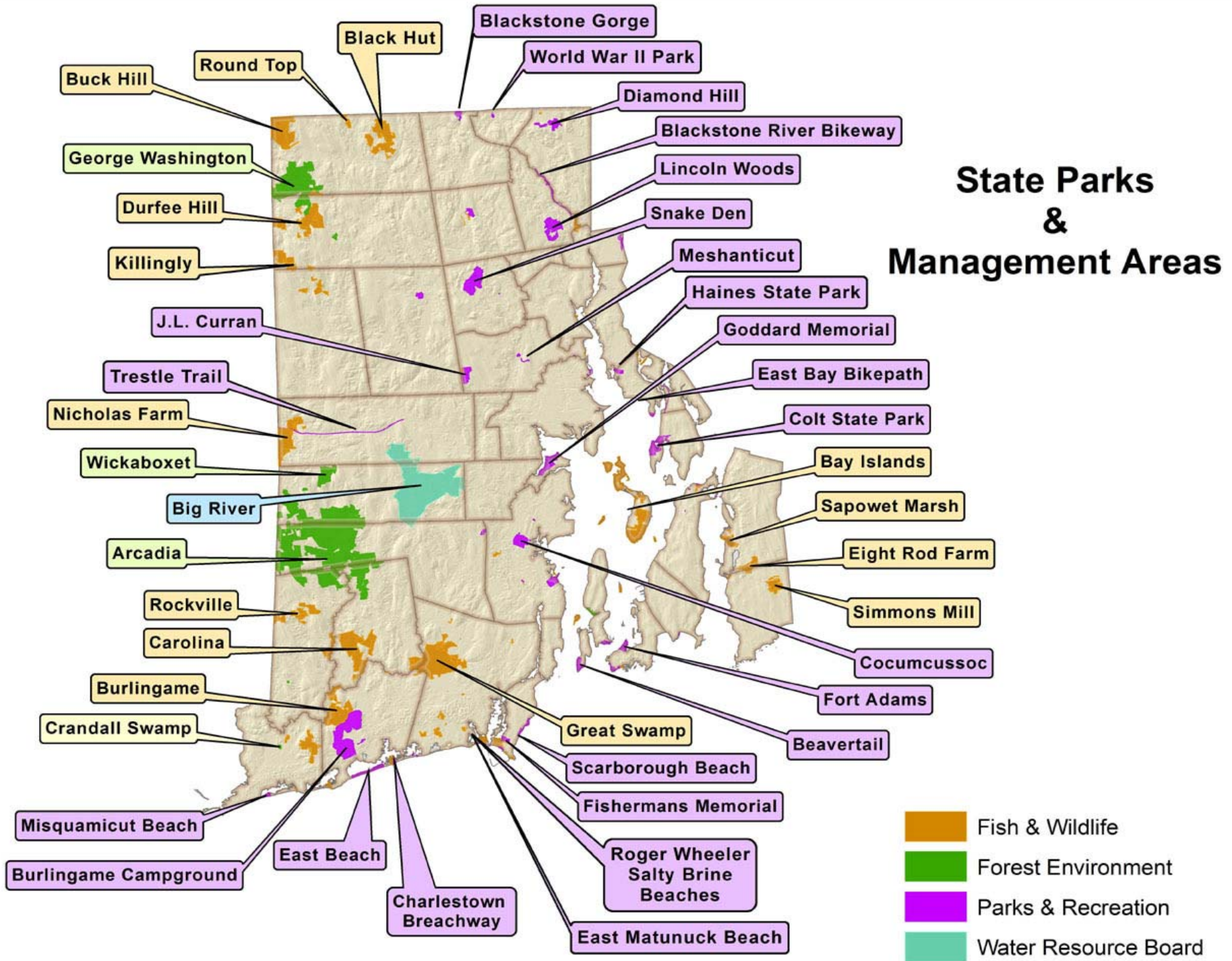
# Last 100 Years

- Significant Investments

- Early 1900's – First purchases (Lincoln, Haines, Goddard, Burlingame)
- 1960's – major gains – acquired WWII, Colt, Fort Adams, Snake Den, Brenton Point, etc. (many due to Green Acres)
- 1980's – East Bay Bike Path, expansion of Scarborough (Lido's, Olivo's and Black Point)
- 1990's – major upgrades at Misquamicut, Roger Wheeler, major bike path expansions

# Today

- Interconnected greenspaces and greenways
- 123 Sites, including:
  - 23 management areas
  - 7 saltwater beaches
  - 4 campgrounds – 1293 campsites
  - 32.5 Miles of Bike Paths
  - 10 Parks
  - 47 boat ramps
  - 33 piers
  - Etc...
- > 60,000 acres
- Attract more than 6 million visitors each year



# Benefits of State Parks

- Vital to Rhode Islanders Quality of Life
  - Environmentally
  - Economically
  - Health



# Next 100 Years

- Strengthen and expand system
  - Inter-connectedness (bikeways, blueways, greenspaces)
  - Coordinated state and local planning
  - Partnerships
  - Green facilities
- Protect the natural resources the system is based on