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JAMAICA PLAIN

## More than 1,150 fish released in Jamaica Pond for spring fishing season

Posted by Matt Rocheleau April 18, 2012 03:40 PM

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(Eric Haynes / Massachusetts Governor's Office)

Gov. Deval Patrick was among a group of area leaders who met with local children and residents to release more than 1,150 trout and salmon into Jamaica Pond, the largest body of freshwater in Boston.

By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

More than 1,150 trout and salmon raised in state hatcheries were released into Jamaica Pond Wednesday morning as part of an annual effort to stock more than half a million fish in waterways across the state for the spring fishing season.



(Eric Haynes / Massachusetts Governor's Office)

Gov. Patrick helps stock Jamaica Pond.

Local leaders, including Governor Deval Patrick, joined school children and teachers in stocking the pond with 900 rainbow trout, 100 brook trout, 100 brown trout and about 10 eight-pound brood stock salmon, state officials said. Fifty tiger trout – a cross between a female brown trout and a male brook trout – were also added.

This spring, the stocking program at MassWildlife, a division of the state's fish and game department, plans to stock some 500 rivers, ponds and streams across the state with about 529,000 trout that have been raised at state hatcheries in Sandwich, Belchertown, Sunderland and Montague, according to the governor's office. Trout stocking began in mid-March.

Members of the West Roxbury YMCA, Friends of the Children-Boston and Boy Scouts from Troop 1837 Athol/Orange Elks took part in the stocking event in Jamaica Plain Wednesday, officials said. Also on hand were: Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.; Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Edward Lambert Jr.; State Rep. Elizabeth Malia; Boston District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley; and Boston Energy and Chief of Environmental Services James Hunt.

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“This event is a great way to educate our young people about fishing, wildlife and the importance of protecting our natural resources,” Gov. Patrick said in a statement. “When we teach children about their connection to nature, we foster a greater appreciation and respect for the natural world.”

Jamaica Pond is the largest body of freshwater in Boston, state officials said. The naturally-formed, city-owned pond reaches depths of 60 feet and is home to fish such as largemouth bass, yellow perch and chain pickerel, as well as snapping turtles, crayfish, eels and freshwater clams.

“Our annual trout stocking at Jamaica Pond is a spring tradition,” Secretary Sullivan said in a statement. “With the warmer weather, there has never been a better time to get outside, whether it’s to cast a reel, ride a bike or hike a trail and enjoy the natural beauty of Massachusetts.”

MassWildlife publishes weekly reports at the same website each Friday detailing where fish were stocked in various ponds, lakes, and rivers around the state, officials said.

For a list of all trout stocked waters in Massachusetts, [click here](#).

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(Boston City Councilor Matt O'Malley / Twitter)

Boston District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley helps stock Jamaica Pond on Wednesday morning. He represents several city neighborhoods including Jamaica Plain, where he lives.

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