# Media Advisory
## **For Immediate Release**

**Who:** Event co-sponsors are the Coalition to Stop Private Jet Expansion At Hanscom or Anywhere,(SPJE), Sierra Club MA Chapter, and The Walden Woods Project

**What:** A free guided walk through the Walden Woods for nature lovers. Walkers will gather at The Walden Woods Project for a brief introduction about the organization, Walden Pond, and the threat posed to it by the proposed private jet expansion at Hanscom. We will then walk to Walden Pond, via The WWP campus, on Pine Hill trails. We will walk around Walden, stopping at various significant sites to discuss the natural history of Walden Woods, Henry David Thoreau's legacy, as well as the proposed private jet expansion at nearby Massport-owned Hanscom Field airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base), which now endangers the area. In total, the walk will be about 3 miles (with around 300 ft-400 ft elevation gain & loss).

Registration needed for attendance:
https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00000O9CtsIAF&mapLinkHref=https://maps.google.com/maps&daddr=A%20Walden%20Walk%20to%20Stop%20Private%20Jet%20Expansion%20at%20Hanscom%20or%20Anywhere@42.434355,-71.32684

**When:** Saturday October 26, 10 am to 1 pm.

**Start Meeting Location:** The Walden Woods Project, 44 Baker Farm Rd. Lincoln, MA 01773-3004

**Why:** On May 1st the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated Minute Man National Historical Park, Walden Pond and Nearby Landmarks as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places due to the threat of the proposed private jet expansion at Massport-owned Hanscom Field (not Hanscom Air Force Base). In so doing, the National Trust elevated the proposed expansion to a national issue. On August 25th, CBS Sunday Morning ran a story called "Walden Pond: An Endangered Treasure" with renowned historian Douglas Brinkley.

Minute Man National Historical Park, Walden Pond, and Nearby Landmarks are located in the Towns of Concord, Lexington, Lincoln and Bedford. The historic towns include the birthplace of the American Revolution, the cradle of the American Environmental Movement, and the home of the American Literary Renaissance.

At the intersection of the four towns lies Hanscom Field Airport (not the Air Force Base) operated by the Massachusetts Port Authority. Plans for a massive private jet hangar

expansion at Hanscom's North Airfield would double the private jet infrastructure and dramatically increase flights, noise and greenhouse gas emissions. The jets would use the runway that directly overflies Minute Man Park, Walden, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, and the historic homes. Hanscom is the only airport in the country that abuts both a national historic park and a national wildlife refuge.

**Event Keywords:** Hanscom Field Expansion, nature walk, Walden Woods, Sierra Club, SPJE, private jet expansion

**Contact:**

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Contacts will be on site.

Note to Reporters: You'll need a special request to film at Walden. To obtain approval contact Ilyse Wolberg (DCR) at Ilyse.Wolberg@mass.gov or Ryan Hutton (DCR) at Ryan.Hutton@mass.gov

*Additional information is available upon request*

## Peaceful Nature Walk Reveals Threat to Walden Pond from Proposed Private Jet Expansion at Massport-owned Hanscom Airport

*Participants walked through the woods and beaches immortalized by Thoreau's writings, while learning about the imminent risks to environment and history.*

**Concord and Lincoln, MA** — The Coalition to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere (SPJE), The Walden Woods Project, and Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter hosted a nature walk through Walden Woods surrounding Walden Pond on Saturday October 26. Walkers gathered at The Walden Woods Project for a brief introduction about the organization, Walden Pond, and the importance of the campaign to stop the proposed expansion of nearby Massport-owned Hanscom Field airport (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Then, participants walked to Walden Pond, via The Walden Woods Project campus, on Pine Hill trails. They walked around Walden, stopping at significant sites to discuss the natural history of Walden Woods, Henry David Thoreau's legacy, as well as the proposed private jet expansion, which now endangers the area.

The co-sponsoring organizations aimed to demonstrate that private jet expansion at Hanscom Field is indefensible on every level - locally, statewide, nationally, historically, environmentally, and morally. By walking these grounds together, they showed how an approximately 6,000 additional private jet flights would shatter the peace of Walden

Pond, Minute Man National Historical Park, and nearby landmarks: places that the National Trust for Historic Preservation has designated on May 1st of this year as among America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places due to this expansion project. National Trust's designation on May 1st has elevated the proposed expansion to a national issue.

Hanscom is already the second busiest airport in New England after Logan. An independent study by Industrial Economics Inc. found that the proposed development would add more than 6,000 additional new private jet flights to the airport, an increase that would be felt by Logan as well. As visitors from around the world come to visit the Park, Walden, Orchard House, Lexington Green, and the other historic sites to experience the preserved landscapes and to hear the stories associated with these American icons -- the interpreters, the reenactors, and the "echoes" are all too frequently drowned out by the deafening noise of jet overflights. The site stewards agree: state and federal elected representatives should be instituting mitigation of the impacts that presently exist -- as opposed to irresponsibly and indefensibly increasing the negative impacts by allowing the expansion to go forward.

According to Lilly Worthley, the Digital Organizing Director at Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere, "The impacts of the proposed expansion would reach far beyond this area, undermining our state's climate targets and the progress that towns and cities in our Commonwealth are making to reach them. We're building a statewide coalition of citizens and organizations powerful enough to stop this egregious expansion."

Worthley continued, "We're bringing people together at Walden Pond - the birthplace of American environmental consciousness - to witness firsthand what's at stake. This sacred landscape, where Thoreau's vision of environmental stewardship was born, now faces an unprecedented threat from luxury private jet expansion. Standing here, where America's environmental movement began, we can see clearly how this proposed development would desecrate both our natural heritage and our climate future."

When asked about the importance of this event, Celeste Venolia, the Forest Protection Coordinator for the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter, said "Sierra Club Massachusetts members are passionate about getting outside collectively and connecting people to environmental and social advocacy. We are thrilled to be partnering on a walk to spread the word that the proposed expansion at Hanscom Field would benefit the obscenely wealthy in exchange for huge costs to our climate."

The proposed Hanscom Field expansion would clear-cut about 20 acres of mature woods, and add approximately 150,000 tons of carbon emissions annually - all to benefit a privileged few. If the expansion proceeds, private jet emissions from Hanscom

alone would cancel nearly 70% of all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts. From the perspective of the host organizations, this event illustrates the choice between preserving what we hold dear or catering to luxury private jet travel. To clarify, the proposed private jet hangar expansion is planned at Massport-owned Hanscom Field, which is separate and distinct from the non-flying Hanscom Air Force Base.

Worthley added, “At a time when we face unprecedented climate challenges, we cannot allow the birthplace of American environmentalism to be sacrificed for private jet infrastructure. The good news is that there's much we can do to stop this expansion plan, both as individuals and as a powerful coalition. The choice is clear: we must protect these national treasures and our climate for future generations rather than expand what is already New England's busiest private jet port.”

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**EVENT CO-SPONSORS**

**Coalition to Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom or Anywhere** (SPJE)**.** SPJE is a growing coalition of nearly 100 state and local organizations from Boston to the Berkshires that have joined together to stop the proposed private jet hangar expansion at Massport-owned Hanscom Field (not Hanscom Air Force Base). Over 13,800 people have signed SPJE’s petition to the Governor condemning the plans and urging her to stop it. If the proposed 522,000 sf expansion goes forward, private jet emissions from Hanscom alone would cancel nearly 70% of the climate gains from all solar PV ever installed in Massachusetts – thus undermining the achievements of towns and cities across the state that have been working arduously to reduce their carbon emissions.

According to a recent independent analysis, the proposed development would add approximately 6,000 private jet flights a year and about 150,000 tons of polluting greenhouse gas emissions annually over current levels. This is in direct opposition to climate goals that the Commonwealth of MA and our nation have set forth.

Private jets are the most polluting form of travel per passenger mile for their carbon footprint. Massport’s and Runway Realty Ventures LLC’s plans would double the private jet hangar capacity at the airport, much of it for luxury trips to resort destinations for the privileged few. It is the ultimate environmental injustice for a small number of the ultra-wealthy to pollute our climate in such an unconstrained way. Private jet expansion is a luxury future generations and our climate cannot afford.

**The Walden Woods Project** preserves the land, literature and legacy of Henry David Thoreau to foster an ethic of environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The Project achieves this mission through the integration of conservation, education, research and advocacy.

**Sierra Club Massachusetts** is the state chapter for the Sierra Club. Founded by legendary conservationist John Muir in 1892, the Sierra Club is now the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization - with more than 2.7 million members and supporters. Our successes range from protecting millions of acres of wilderness to helping pass the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. More recently, we've made history by leading the charge to move away from the dirty fossil fuels that cause climate disruption and toward a clean energy economy.

We push for a just transition to an equitable clean energy economy. We advocate for efficient, clean transportation for all, work to reduce toxic pollution and to move toward zero waste. We fight back against threats to our communities' health and environment and we believe in helping people explore and enjoy the natural world.