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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

East Boston and Dorchester Welcome Alaskan Sled Dogs February 1st

Two free community events in one day hosted by Boston Natural Areas Network

BOSTON, MA, January 14, 2009 – If you have never seen an Alaskan dog sled team up close, learned how to harness or seen the dogs in action, take advantage of the Mush the Greenways events in both East Boston and Dorchester on Sunday, February 1st. This free event is a favorite with families seeking unusual winter fun.

This year's event, hosted for the 8th year by Boston Natural Areas Network, brings back Northern Exposure Outfitters of Brookfield, MA who has more than 10 years' experience racing and caring for sled dogs. Participants will learn mushing fundamentals – including how to harness the dogs and basic commands – as well as a chance to meet and pet the dogs before the mushers run the teams.

Due to the popularity of this event, reservations for brief sled rides are no longer being accepted, but all participants will be able to interact with the dogs, learn about them, and see them run as a team. Although not guaranteed, in the event of a good snowfall prior to February 1st, walk-ups may be added to the list for a ride.

Mush the Greenways hits both East Boston and Dorchester in one day. From 10:00 a.m. until 12 noon, the dogs will be at Belle Isle Marsh Reservation, Bennington Street in East Boston. From 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., the team will be at Pope John Paul II Park, Gallivan Boulevard in Dorchester. Hot chocolate will be provided. Personal dogs are strictly prohibited. The event will take place with or without snow. For directions and maps to each of the parks, visit www.bostonnatural.org/evtMushing.htm.

“Alaskan Dog Sledding is our most popular event, drawing hundreds of people to two neighborhood parks on Boston’s greenways,” said Valerie Burns, BNAN President. “This event is great fun with a chance to experience first hand the exciting sport of sled dog racing and an opportunity to enjoy the city out of doors in the middle of winter.”

Northern Exposure Outfitters is a family-owned business that offers instruction on how to be a handler/musher as well as special programs, parties, and excursions for individuals, scout troops or schools. Learn more about Northern Exposure Outfitters by calling 508-867-4396 or visiting www.ne-outfitters.com.

Boston Natural Areas Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing together local residents, partner organizations, public officials and foundations to preserve, expand and enhance urban open space, including community gardens, greenways and urban wilds. For further information about the organization, becoming a member or the calendar of events, visit www.bostonnatural.org, or call 617-542-7696.

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