

FY19 DCS GRANT ROUND ANNOUNCED

- LAND and PARC Grant deadline is Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 3:00 pm
- Two LAND and PARC grant workshops
 - May 16, 2018 at 11:00 am in Amherst at the DAR Offices at 101 University Drive, Suite C4
 - May 17, 2018 at 11:00 am in Boston at the EEA Offices at 100 Cambridge Street, 2nd Floor, Conference Room A
- Conservation Partnership Grant deadline is Monday, July 16, 2018 at 3:00 pm
- Drinking Water Supply Protection and Landscape Partnership Grant Programs deadlines are to be determined

**DIVISION OF
CONSERVATION SERVICES
GRANT PROGRAMS**

**MASSACHUSETTS LAND
CONSERVATION CONFERENCE
MARCH 24, 2018**

DCS GRANT PROGRAMS

PARC Grant Program – municipal grant for the acquisition of recreation land and/or development of new or renovation of existing parks

LAND Grant Program – municipal grant for the acquisition of conservation land

Land and Water Conservation Fund – municipal/state agency grant for both conservation and recreation projects

Conservation Partnership – land trust grant for the acquisition of conservation land

Drinking Water Supply Protection – public water supplier grant for the acquisition of public water supply land

Landscape Partnership – large-scale conservation projects submitted by 2+ partners

GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

- Site visits by DCS staff
- Ranked by DCS staff according to rating system
- Funding awards made in rank order
- If LWCF project, also reviewed by NPS



Mary Jane Lee Park, Salem

Photo courtesy Tom Devine

POST COMPLETION RESPONSIBILITIES

- State Law Article 97
- LWCF projects also have Section 6(f) protection
- Cannot convert to a non-conservation or non-recreational use without observing state and/or federal conversion requirements
- Must replace with another property! Can't return funding.



Hazelwood Park, New Bedford
Photo courtesy Mary Rapoza

POST COMPLETION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Operation and maintenance
- Availability to users – fair fee policy
- Open to all (not residents only)
- Accessible to people with disabilities
- Permanent sign



DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Conservation Partnership Program

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CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- Eligible projects
 - Land acquisition for conservation and recreation
 - Due diligence expenses for gifts
 - Fee simple or CR projects are eligible
- Eligible entities are 501(c)(3) non-profits with environmental, conservation, or recreation purpose



Muskeget Island, Nantucket Land Council

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Convey a CR to municipal or state agency or land trust
- Must retain an interest in the property – applicant cannot be used as a pass through
- Land must have public access and benefit
- Conservation and recreational use only



Shaw Cove Fields and Marshes Conservation Project, Buzzards Bay Coalition

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP SECRETARY'S PRIORITIES

- Smaller land trusts
- Landscape Protection
- Biodiversity and Natural Resource Protection
- Recreational Opportunities



Andover Village Improvement Society, Franciscan Acquisition

Photo courtesy www.avisandover.org

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

- Maximum grant award is \$85,000
- Reimbursement rate is 50% of total cost



Gulls Way Forest, Brewster Conservation Trust
Photo courtesy brewsterconservationtrust.org

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

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LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

- Federal money from the National Park Service
- DCS administers the program for Massachusetts
- Can fund both recreation and conservation projects



Watertown Riverfront Park Braille Trail

Photo courtesy www.wbur.org

LWCF REQUIREMENTS

- Reimbursement rate is 50%
- Projects must also be approved by the NPS
- All other LAND/PARC facts apply to LWCF as well



Back River Trail, Weymouth
Photo courtesy www.weymouth.ma.us

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Outdoor Recreation Grants: PARC Grant Program

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PARC PROJECTS

- Eligible projects:
 - Purchase parkland
 - Develop new public outdoor recreation facilities
 - Renovate existing municipal public parks



Veterans Field, Buckland
Photo courtesy www.recorder.com

PARC PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must have an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Any city regardless of size or town with a population of 35,000 or more is eligible for maximum grant award amount
- Towns smaller than 35,000 may apply under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" category
- Must have an authorized park/recreation commission and conservation commission
- Land must be dedicated to public park purposes and under custody of Park or Recreation Commission or Park Department

PARC SECRETARY'S PRIORITIES

- Parks that go above and beyond to provide access for people with disabilities
- New parks that increase community's park equity
- Parks that are designed with climate resiliency in mind
- Projects that have planned for future stewardship



First and Railroad Street Park, Fitchburg
Photo courtesy Amy LeBlanc

PARC PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Public should participate in project selection and design
- State assistance ranges from 52 to 70% of total project cost
- Project must have municipal vote that authorizes application, raises/borrows/appropriates *total* project cost (not just local share), and dedicates land to recreation purposes
- Maximum grant award is \$400,000



Lee Athletic Field
Photo courtesy Kathy Hall

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Conservation Land Acquisition Grants: LAND Grant Program

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LAND PROJECTS

- Eligible Projects:
 - Purchase land for conservation and passive recreation in fee simple or a Conservation Restriction (CR)



Wendemuth Meadow, North Brookfield
Photo courtesy Cynthia Henshaw

LAND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Conservation or Agriculture Commission control, NOT general town land
- Permanently protected
- Public access - passive recreational use only
- Baseline & Management Plan
- CPA properties must have required Conservation Restrictions in place



Mt. Jefferson Conservation Area, Hubbardston

LAND SECRETARY'S PRIORITIES

- Larger parcels of land that can spark a larger-scale protection effort
- Core habitat and resilient landscapes
- Sites that provide recreational opportunities, including hunting
- Projects that have planned for future stewardship



Frohloff Farm, Ware

LAND PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Municipal conservation commissions are the eligible applicant entities, but many municipalities partner with local land trust or regional planning authorities
- Maximum grant award is \$400,000
- The reimbursement rate is 52 to 70% of total project cost
- An appraisal and OSRP are required to apply
- Mass Historic Commission and Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program must submit comment letters

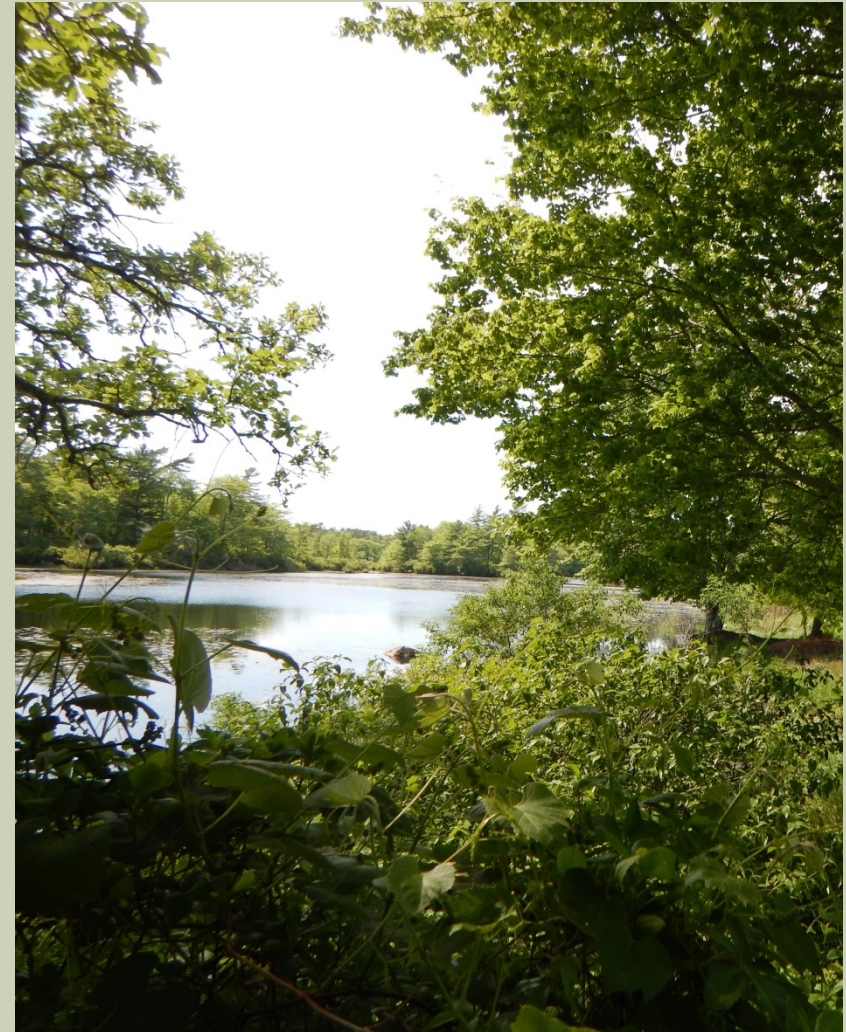
DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES & DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Drinking Water Supply Protection Program

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DRINKING WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION PROJECTS

- Eligible projects
 - Land acquisition for drinking water supply protection, conservation and recreation
 - Fee simple or CR projects are eligible
 - Due diligence expenses for gifts
- Eligible entities are municipalities, public water systems, or were established by a state legislative act to provide drinking water infrastructure and services to the public (e.g., fire and water districts)



Mattapoisett River Aquifer Protection project

DWSP REQUIREMENTS

- DEP Source Water Assessment Report (SWAP)
- Property must be located in a Drinking Water Supply Protection zone
- Appraisal(s)
- Board of Water Commissioners controls (or Board of Selectmen authorized as such)
- Public access required (as appropriate for site)
- Permanently protected open space under Article 97



Mattapoissett River Aquifer Protection project

DWSP SECRETARY'S PRIORITIES

- Protection of water supply area
- Natural resource management
- Landscape conservation (project size)
- Proven stewardship capacity



Muir Meadows, Worcester DPW

DWSP INFORMATION

- Maximum grant award is \$350,000
- Reimbursement rate is 50%
- Grant can be used for:
 1. Protecting existing wells/intakes
 2. Protecting planned future wells/intakes

- What types of projects are ineligible?
 1. Zone I designated after 1990
 2. Land that is already protected
 3. Land that is already owned by the municipality for any reason
 4. Land with inappropriate soils (recharge)

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Landscape Partnership Grant Program

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LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

- 500+ acres
 - Contiguous, or
 - Connected through conservation land, or
 - Tied to a significant connectivity improvement project (eg, wildlife crossing)
- 2+ applicants from the
 - Municipality
 - Land trust
 - State/federal land agency
 - MassDOT
- Multi-year contracts ok



Sibley Farm, Spencer
Mass Audubon, Common Ground Land Trust, and the
Greater Worcester Land Trust

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible for funding:
 - Fee acquisition
 - CR/APR/WPR
 - Park/playground
 - Due diligence
- Maximum award:
\$1,250,000
- 50% reimbursement rate



Leyden Working Farms and Forest, Franklin Land Trust

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE:

- Acquisition
- Title research & certification
- Recording fees
- Survey/plan of land
- Baseline Documentation Report
- Forest Management Plan
- Park/playground (towns with population $\leq 6,000$)

INELIGIBLE:

- Staff salaries
- Application preparation
- Chapter 21E costs
- Demolition/debris removal
- Appraisals included in application
- Stewardship endowments
- Equipment/goods
- Other as determined by EEA

AND A BIT MORE ON MATCH...

- 50% reimbursement is for total project cost; individual parcel reimbursement can vary from 0-100%.

ELIGIBLE MATCH:

- Municipal funds
- Federal funds
- Other state agency funds
- Non-profit funds
- Private donations
- Gifts of land/bargain sales
- Natural resources damage settlement funds
- Wildlife passage construction costs
- 21E assessment/compliance fees
- Other grants

DIVISION OF CONSERVATION SERVICES

Conservation Assistance for Small Communities

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CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

- For towns with 6,000 or fewer residents
- Appraisal: \$3,000
- Open Space & Recreation Plan: \$8,000
- Other plans: \$5,000
- 80% reimbursement rate
- Non-competitive, rolling funding
- Separate application due March 30, 2018
- Reimbursement NOT contingent upon getting a grant award

EEA GRANT PROGRAMS WEBSITE

www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants

- LAND Program
- PARC Program
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Conservation Partnership Program
- Drinking Water Supply Protection Program
- Landscape Partnership Program
- Conservation Assistance for Small Communities