



Nature for Massachusetts

Nature for Massachusetts is a large and diverse coalition of environmental, conservation, and community organizations that seek to create a dedicated, annual revenue stream to conserve land, water, and urban greenspace in Massachusetts.

The Problem

Massachusetts is facing the triple-threat of impacts from climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and inequitable distribution of the benefits of nature. Massachusetts lacks a significant statewide funding mechanism for land conservation, and existing state-level programs are either underfunded or oversubscribed. As a result, Massachusetts lacks sustainable and reliable resources to meet the Commonwealth's goals of (1) protecting, managing, and restoring nature in order to reach net zero by 2050 and (2) protecting 30% of the state by 2030 and 40% by 2050. This conservation finance initiative would accomplish the following goals:

- Create and restore parks, greenspace, and trails in environmental justice communities
- Conserve and restore land to protect clean drinking water and the quality of streams and rivers
- Conserve land for climate resilience and restore the function and health of inland, wetland, and coastal ecosystems to advance biodiversity, climate adaptation, and resiliency
- Conserve forests and farms to sequester carbon, preserve biodiversity, and achieve the Commonwealth's natural & working lands goals
- Conserve important land parcels to provide connectivity between open spaces
- Conserve and restore lands of Indigenous cultural significance and restore access for Indigenous people
- Provide on-going stewardship and management of these resources.

Feasibility Study

In 2023, with funding from the Doris Duke Foundation and pro bono legal assistance from Ropes & Gray, the Trust for Public Land's Conservation Finance experts analyzed funding mechanisms for land conservation in other states to better understand what options might be feasible in Massachusetts. With the expectation that a fund could raise as much as \$100 million per year for statewide natural resource protection, the feasibility study evaluated ten options. Based on the analysis, the Coalition has determined that using the existing sales tax on sporting goods provides the most promising source of conservation funding. Importantly, this source does not impact residents with an increase in taxes and would have only a modest impact on state finances via the redirection of a general fund source.



Coalition Members

as of February 2025

American Farmland Trust	Mass Parks for All
Appalachian Mountain Club	Massachusetts River Alliance
Arborway Coalition	Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition
Authentic Caribbean Foundation	Mystic River Watershed Association
Backcountry Hunters & Anglers	Native Land Conservancy
Boston Harbor Now	Neponset River Watershed Association
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance	No Loose Braids
Charles River Conservancy	Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA/Mass)
Charles River Watershed Association	OARS
Conservation Law Foundation	Regional Environmental Council (REC)
Environmental League of Massachusetts	Speak for the Trees Boston
Garrison-Trotter Neighborhood Association	Surfrider Foundation
Greater Boston Trout Unlimited	The Food Project
Greater Mattapan Neighborhood Council	The Nature Conservancy
Groundwork Lawrence	The Olmsted Way
Land / Water Associates	The Trustees
MA Association of Conservation Commissions	Tree Eastie
Mass Audubon	Trust for Public Land
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition	

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