

Massachusetts Coalition for Nature

Seeking a dedicated source of annual
public funding to conserve land, water,
and urban greenspace

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Massachusetts is facing the triple-threat of



**Climate
Change**



**Loss of
Biodiversity**




**Lack of Equitable
Access to Nature**

A photograph of a forest stream flowing over large, moss-covered rocks. The water is clear and creates small cascades. The surrounding forest is dense with green foliage and tall trees. The scene is peaceful and natural.

Nature is our best—and most cost-effective—solution

- Clean water
- Clean air
- Climate resilience
- Carbon sequestration
- Wildlife habitat
- Public health



We need reliable, annual funding for land conservation

1. To reach MA net zero goals by 2050
2. Accomplish the goals of the Resilient Lands Initiative
3. Meet MA Biodiversity goals
4. Protect 30% of the state by 2030 and 40% by 2050
5. Create more equitable access to nature

Overview of State Funding for Land Conservation

Examples of Constitutionally-Dedicated Funding

Florida:

- \$22B over 20 years
- 75% approval

Georgia:

- \$200M/year
- 83% approval

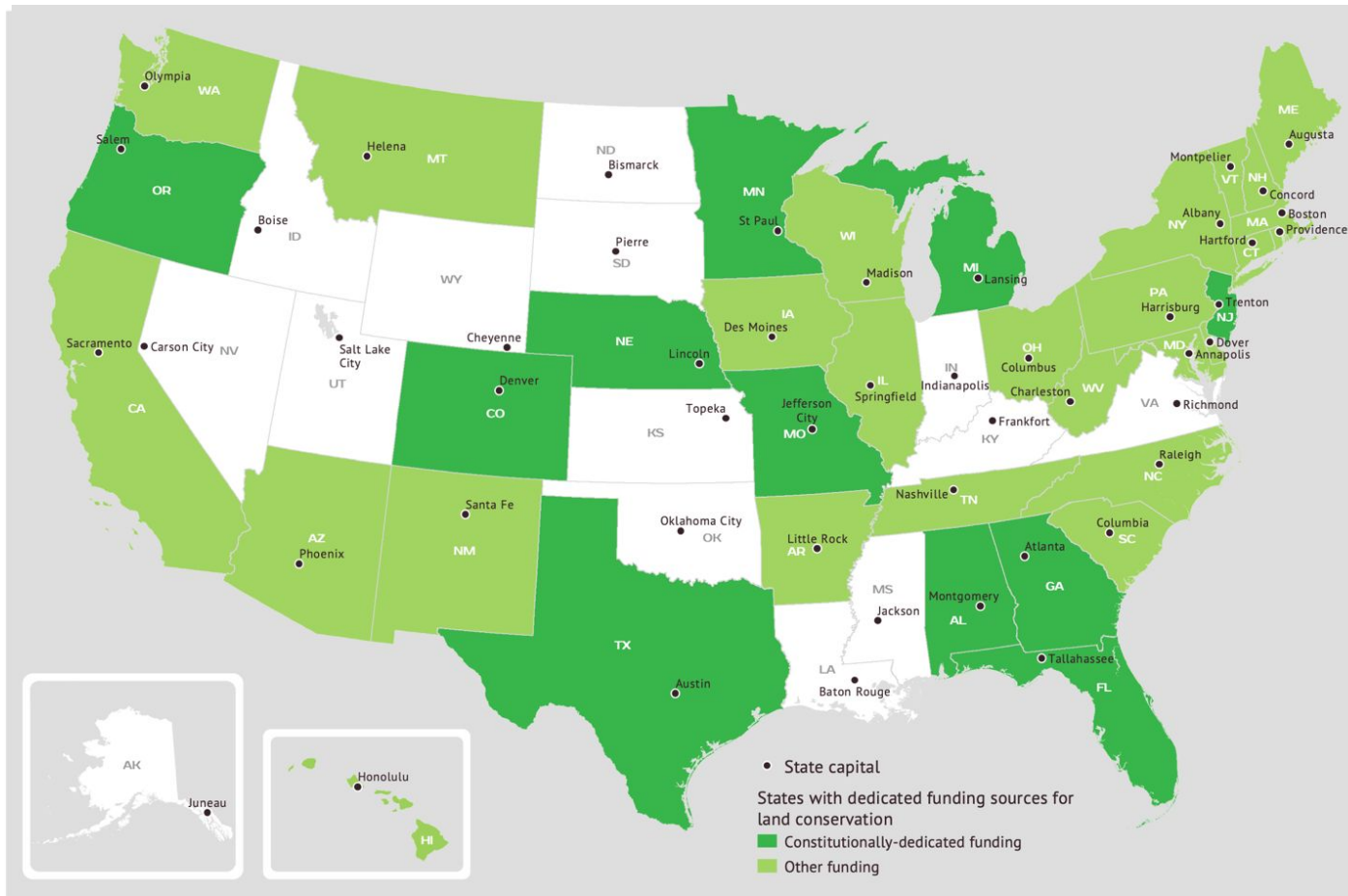
Minnesota:

- \$5.5B over 25 years

New Jersey:

- \$7.5B over 20 years
- 67% approval

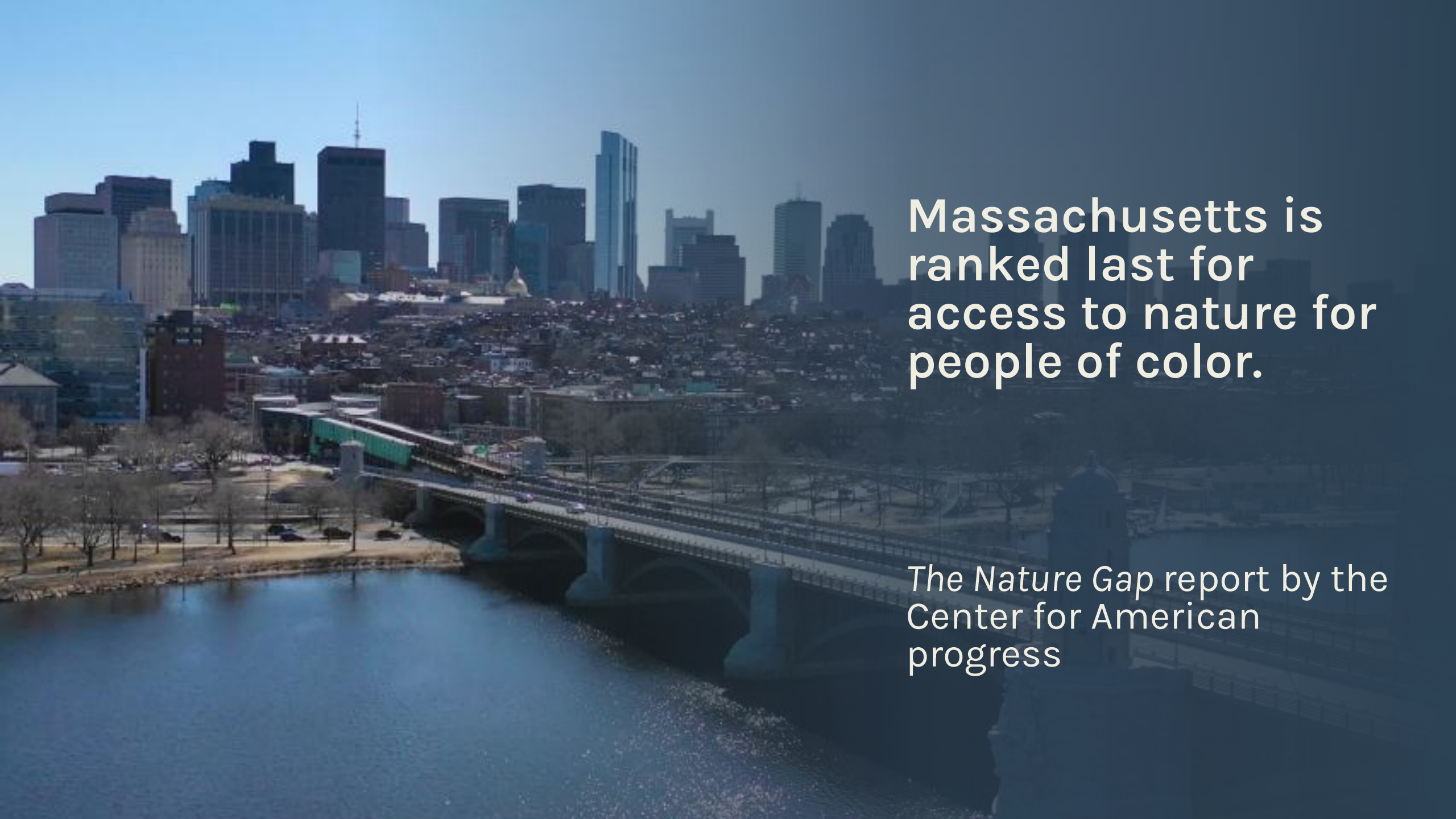
Massachusetts lacks a dedicated fund



States with dedicated funding sources for land conservation

PAST AND PRESENT





Massachusetts is ranked last for access to nature for people of color.

The Nature Gap report by the Center for American progress

Conservation Priorities

- Parks, greenspace, and trails in environmental justice communities
- Clean drinking water, streams, and rivers
- Health of inland, wetland, and coastal ecosystems
- Forests and farms to sequester carbon, preserve biodiversity, and reach state goals for working lands
- Connectivity between open spaces
- Lands of Indigenous cultural significance and access for Indigenous people
- On-going stewardship of these resources



Feasibility Study

- Grant from the Doris Duke Foundation
- Pro bono legal analysis from Ropes and Grey
- Trust for Public Land has produced feasibility studies and partnered on conservation funding campaigns resulting in \$93 billion in conservation funding



Funding Options



Sporting Goods
Sales Tax



Revenue Bonds



Property/ Mortgage
Insurance



Corporate
Excise Tax



Rideshare
taxation



Bottle Bill



Carbon Tax



Short-term
Rentals



Marijuana Tax



Sports Betting

**Dedicate the existing sales tax on
sporting goods to land protection:
approximately \$100M/year**



Conservation Finance Coalition Members



No Loose Braids



as of Oct. 2024

Discussion

- Is there broad agreement that a dedicated fund is essential to meeting our shared goals?
- How does this funding relate to Environmental Bond?
- How do we protect the interests of tribal and environmental justice communities?
- How should the funds be distributed?

