

# FY21 DCS Grant Round Announced

- LAND and PARC Grant deadline is Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 3:00 pm
- Two LAND and PARC grant workshops
  - April 29, 2020 at 11:00 am in West Springfield at the DAR Office at 64 Century Way
  - May 12, 2020 at 2:30 pm in Boston at the EEA Offices at 100 Cambridge Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Conference Room A
- Conservation Partnership Grant deadline is Monday, July 20, 2020 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 28, 2020

# 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



Hoyt-Sullivan Park, Somerville  
Photo courtesy KMD Design

- 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

# Post Completion Responsibilities



Hazelwood Park, New Bedford  
Photo courtesy Mary Rapoza

- 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.

# 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, including climate change resiliency
- Recreational opportunities



Andover Village Improvement Society, Franciscan Acquisition

Photo courtesy [www.avisandover.org](http://www.avisandover.org)

# Conservation Partnership Information

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



SHEEP POND WOODLANDS - photo by C. Simmons

Gulls Way Forest, Brewster Conservation Trust  
Photo courtesy [brewsterconservationtrust.org](http://brewsterconservationtrust.org)

# Conservation Partnership Ideal Project

- \* An all volunteer land trust is proposing an acquisition of 15 acres of riverfront land in an EJ neighborhood on the Cape, which is a sole source aquifer.
- \* 80% of the land is mapped BioMap2 core habitat and is quite resilient according to TNC mapping.
- \* Three rare species call this property home.
- \* Trails abound on the site, along with opportunities for hunting and fishing, and provide the only trail system in the community.
- \* The community just updated its OSRP, which called out this habitat type as a priority for protection.

# 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, conservation, and trail projects



Watertown Riverfront Park Braille Trail  
Photo courtesy [www.wbur.org](http://www.wbur.org)

# LWCF Requirements

- Reimbursement rate is up to 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](http://www.weymouth.ma.us)

# LWCF Ideal Project

- \* Acquisition of land mapped as highly resilient with a pond that will serve to expand a statewide trail network that is in an Environmental Justice neighborhood and will have a tot lot and car top boat launch constructed at the trailhead
- \* Trail will be built for the visually impaired along with Braille-based educational signage and maintained in partnership by the applicant municipality and the local land trust
- \* Hunting and fishing will be allowed on site

# 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](http://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



Tennis Courts, Shelburne  
Photo courtesy Emily Crehan

# PARC Program Information



Lee Athletic Field  
Photo courtesy Kathy Hall

- 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

# PARC Ideal Project

- \* Project will build a new park in an Environmental Justice neighborhood that goes above and beyond in its consideration of accessibility for people with disabilities with its design incorporating climate resiliency that was developed through multiple public input sessions
- \* Park includes waterfront access with signage on the importance of water quality and will host summer camps
- \* Municipality proposing the project has not received a PARC grant in the past five grant rounds and demonstrated its ability to maintain park through its partnership with a local Friends of Said Park group

# 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 convey required Conservation Restrictions



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/agriculture commissions are the eligible applicant entities, but many municipalities partner with local land trusts 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

# LAND Ideal Project

- A conservation project in a census tract with high population density and little available open space to create access to the multiple outdoor passive recreational activities.
- Proposed project will protect high valued habitat and farmland resources, while providing connectivity to other protected open space or will serve as a catalyst for future conservation efforts.
- Municipality proposing the project has not received a LAND grant in the past five grant rounds and demonstrated its ability to provide stewardship of its conservation lands.

# Division of Conservation Services & Department of Environmental Protection

## Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program

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# Drinking Water Supply Protection Projects



Mattapoissett River Aquifer Protection project

- 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)

# DWSP Requirements

- DEP Source Water Assessment Report (SWAP)
- Property must be 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



Mattapoisett 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)

# DWSP Ideal Project

- Project proposing to property over groundwater in 50% Zone II or significant portion of the unprotected land in the immediate watershed, and serve Environmental Justice populations
- Project in proximity to other protected open space or potential for the proposed project to serve as a catalyst for the conservation of adjacent acres, or will have significant adverse impact on drinking water supply source when developed
- Project that proposes public access to outdoor public recreational opportunities

# Division of Conservation Services

## Landscape Partnership Grant Program

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# Landscape Partnership Projects

- Must be, at minimum, 500+ acres in size, which can be:
  - Contiguous, or
  - Connected through conservation land, or
  - Tied to a significant connectivity project (eg, wildlife crossing)
- 2+ applicants from the following list:
  - Municipality
  - Land trust
  - State/federal land agency
- Multi-year projects are acceptable



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  $\leq 6,000$ )
- Forest carbon inventory

## **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

# An Ideal Project

- Project proposed by partners that include multiple municipalities, public water supply agency, local or regional land trusts and state agencies
- Project size far exceeding the minimum 500 acres, protecting high valued ecological resources and working lands from fragmentation, while providing connectivity to other protected open space and outdoor passive recreational opportunities
- Project furthers the state's effort toward climate change adaptation and resilience, including nature-based solutions for climate change impacts

# 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: \$10,000
- Other plans: \$5,000
- 80% reimbursement rate
- Non-competitive, rolling funding
- Separate application due May 8, 2020
- Reimbursement NOT contingent upon getting a grant award

# EEA Grant Programs Website

<https://www.mass.gov/grant-programs-offered-by-the-division-of-conservation-services>

- 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