

# Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

## Land Conservation and Park Grant Opportunities



### Massachusetts LAND Program

The **LAND Program** (Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity) was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions in acquiring land for conservation and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farmland. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public is required.

This grant reimburses from 52%-70% of total eligible project costs including the purchase of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as title exams and closing costs. The maximum grant award is \$500,000. Grants are typically announced in March with a mid-July deadline.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/local-acquisitions-for-natural-diversity-land-grant-program> or contact Vanessa Farny at [vanessa.farny@mass.gov](mailto:vanessa.farny@mass.gov) or 8d57-330-1978.



### Massachusetts PARC Program

The **PARC Program** (Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size that has an authorized park/recreation commission and an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan, is eligible to participate in the program. Communities that do not meet the population criteria listed above may still qualify under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" project provisions of the program.

Only projects that are to be developed for suitable outdoor recreation purposes, whether active or passive in nature, shall be considered for funding. Grants are available for projects dedicated to outdoor recreation, such as community gardens, tot lots, playfields, and game courts. Access by the general public is required.

PARC grants are for reimbursement of eligible project costs approved by EEA. Grant funding ranges from 52-70% of the approved total project cost, with a maximum grant award of \$500,000. Grants are typically announced in March with a mid-July deadline.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit [www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-parkland-acquisitions-and-renovations-for-communities-parc-grant-program) or contact Melissa Cryan at [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) or 857-274-7173.



## Drinking Water Supply Protection Program

The **Drinking Water Supply Protection Program** assists municipalities as well as water and fire districts purchase and protect public drinking water supplies. Projects may protect existing water supplies, groundwater recharge or planned future well or reservoir. Fifty percent (50%) or more of the property must be located in a DEP-approved drinking water supply zone or area. Property may be purchased in fee, or protected under a conservation restriction.

The property must be open to the general public for appropriate recreational uses consistent with 310 CMR 22.00, and be placed under the care and control of the Board of Water Commissioners if acquired by a municipality. Land acquired with grant funding is protected for water supply protection purposes under Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants reimburse 60% of the EEA approved total project cost, with a maximum grant award of \$350,000. Grants typically announced in late November with a March deadline in FY23.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program> or contact Vanessa Farny at [vanessa.farny@mass.gov](mailto:vanessa.farny@mass.gov) or 857-330-1978.



## Conservation Partnership Program

The goal of the **Conservation Partnership Program**, as authorized by Chapter 286 of the Acts of 2014, is to assist not-for-profit corporations in acquiring interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation. In order to qualify for these grants, a non-profit corporation must be formed for one of the purposes described in Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the General Laws and be considered an exempt organization within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. section 501(c)(3).

The Act requires that the not-for-profit convey a perpetual conservation restriction on all parcels for which grant money is used to either the city or town in which the project is located, a state agency, or another land trust and that all projects provide appropriate public access, as determined by the Secretary.

Conservation Partnership Grants are for reimbursement of eligible project costs approved by EEA. Grant funding cannot exceed 50% of the approved total project cost. The maximum grant award is \$175,000. Grants are typically announced in March with a mid-July deadline.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit [www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-conservation-partnership-grant](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-conservation-partnership-grant) or contact Melissa Cryan at [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) or 857-274-7173.



## Landscape Partnership Program

The Landscape Partnership Program provides funding for the purchase of property interests in large, unique, un-fragmented conservation and working landscapes by two or more entities acting in cooperation. Participating entities must represent at least two of the following categories – non-profit, state government, federal government, or municipal government.

Projects must protect a minimum acreage of between 150-500 acres of land, based on county. Land may be purchased in fee, protected under a conservation restriction, an agricultural preservation restriction, a watershed preservation restriction, or a combination. Projects may also include a request for assistance from small municipalities (<7,000 residents) for the development of parks or playgrounds. The grant reimburses up to 50% of eligible project costs with a maximum award of \$1,250,000. Grants typically announced in early December with an April or May deadline.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-landscape-partnership-grant> or contact Vanessa Farny at [vanessa.farny@mass.gov](mailto:vanessa.farny@mass.gov) or 857-330-1978.



## Gateway City Parks Program

The purpose of the Gateway City Parks Program (GCPP) is to improve park quality and advance park equity in urban communities by making targeted investments to provide park and recreational opportunities. The GCPP provides a flexible menu of funding options for all phases of park development. Funding can be used for activities and costs such as brownfield assessment and clean-up, park planning and recreational needs assessments – including the development of Open Space and Recreation Plans – activities not previously eligible for state parks funding. Approximately \$5 million in funding from the Environmental Bond Bill is allocated annually to park projects in Gateway Cities for acquisition, environmental clean-up, planning and assessment, design, construction, and other park expenditures.

The Gateway Cities that are eligible for funding under this Program are: Attleboro, Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Peabody, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield, and Worcester.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit [www.mass.gov/service-details/gateway-city-parks-program](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/gateway-city-parks-program) or contact Kurt Gaertner at [Kurt.Gaertner@mass.gov](mailto:Kurt.Gaertner@mass.gov).



## Land and Water Conservation Fund Program

The Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (P.L.88-578) provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, or renovation of park, recreation, or conservation areas. Municipalities, federally recognized tribes, and state agencies are eligible to apply. Nearly 4,000 acres have been acquired and hundreds of parks renovated using the \$130 million that Massachusetts has received from the stateside portion of the federal program since 1965. DCS administers the state side Land & Water Conservation Fund program in Massachusetts. Access by the general public is required.

Grant funding cannot exceed 50% of the approved total project cost. The maximum grant award is \$1,000,000. Grants typically announced in late October with a January deadline.

**CONTACT:** For more information visit [www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-to-the-massachusetts-land-and-water-conservation-fund-grant-program) or contact Melissa Cryan at [melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov) or 857-274-7173.