



## MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

**MassLand E-News**  
**The Newsletter of the Massachusetts**  
**Land Conservation Community**  
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## **2020 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference Webinars**

Thanks to our generous conference sponsors, this year's live conference was replaced by a series of webinars that are free to attend. Participation has been robust so far. Learn more and register [here](#). Remaining sessions include:

- Friday, 5/8, noon - 1:15 pm: Forest Carbon: A Natural Solution for Climate Change
- Tuesday 5/12, noon - 1:15 pm: Keynote, featuring Jad Daley, CEO of American Forests: How Land Conservation Can Unlock Forest Climate Solutions and EEA Secretary Kathleen Theoharides.
- Tuesday 5/19, noon - 1:15 pm: Land Trusts and the Municipal Vulnerability Program
- Thursday 5/28, noon - 1:15 pm: Broadening Support for Land Conservation Through Economic Messaging.

### **COVID-19 Corner**

MLTC has collected links and documents that land trusts, conservation partners and others might find helpful for operating during the pandemic and placed them in a new COVID-19 Corner on the MassLand website [here](#). If you have links, documents, images of trail signs, etc. that you find particularly helpful, send them to [admin@massland.org](mailto:admin@massland.org), so we can share them as we tackle this situation together.

### **Next MLTC Steering Committee to be held Virtually**

Save the date for the next Steering Committee Meeting, June 19, 10am - 12:30 pm, to be held via Zoom.

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## Success Spotlight

### ***Sudbury Valley Trustees: Wendler Property***



Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) and the Town of Berlin have worked together to protect the Wendler Property, a 30-acre tract of forest in north Berlin. This property is entirely within a Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program Priority Habitat for Rare Species and will provide a key connector between neighboring conservation properties, creating a 1,150 acre block of contiguous wildlife habitat. Neighboring conservation land includes 300+ acres owned by the Town of Berlin and SVT, including the Forty Caves Conservation Area, 157 acres of land in Bolton, including the Fyfeshire Conservation Area, and two Agricultural Preservation Restrictions. SVT pre-acquired the property before conveying it to the Town once funding was assembled. SVT holds a conservation restriction on the property, and is working to develop trails that will connect it to trail systems in Bolton and Berlin. Protection of the Wendler Property was made possible through funds from the Merrimack Conservation Partnership, the Fields Pond Foundation, and the William P. Wharton Trust. Learn more about the property [here](#).

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## COVID-19 Corner

### ***DOR Releases CPA Trust Fund Projections***

*Sourced from Community Preservation Coalition*

The ongoing pandemic has made it extremely difficult to predict what communities will receive from the CPA Trust Fund in November. Revenue for the Trust Fund comes from filing fees collected at the state's Registries of Deeds (home sales, mortgage filings, etc.), but no one knows what the real estate market will look like between now and November. With that in mind, the Department of Revenue (DOR) has issued preliminary guidance on November's distribution to help municipalities finalize their

FY21 budgets. In order to be conservative, the agency's projection is based solely on revenue that was collected before April and is currently sitting in the Trust Fund. Almost all of this revenue came in prior to the Governor's state of emergency order in March. DOR says they will issue an update as it becomes clearer what registry collections are looking like in the coming months. Learn more [here](#).

## **New Law Allows Notary Publics to Witness Signatures via Video Conferencing**

*Sourced from Masslive.com*

On Monday, April 27 Gov. Charlie Baker signed the remote notarization bill into law ([Chapter 71 of the Acts of 2020](#)), which provides a way to get documents notarized remotely. Notaries may perform their jobs through video conferencing until three days after the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted in Massachusetts. The law only applies to parties in Massachusetts, and there are **restrictions to participation**. The notaries public can move forward and serve as witnesses for documents related to wills, caregiver authorization affidavits and other legal matters. For matters involving real estate, notarization has particular rules and must be managed through an attorney. Read details [here](#).

## **COVID Relief Coalition**

The Massachusetts Attorney General's Office has joined a coalition of law firms, nonprofits, and government agencies-led by Ropes & Gray, Lawyers for Civil Rights, and Lawyers Clearinghouse-to launch the [COVID Relief Coalition](#) to provide vulnerable businesses and mission-driven organizations with pro bono legal support. The coalition offers quick, no-cost assistance and guidance from the local legal community to small businesses that complete an [intake form](#).

## **Incentives for Charitable Donations to Non-Profit Organizations**

Two provisions in the CARES Act are designed to encourage tax deductible contributions to qualified nonprofits. The CARES Act allows taxpayers that do not itemize deductions to take a limited "above-the-line" deduction of up to \$300 on donations to a qualified charitable organization when computing adjusted gross income. For those who itemize, the CARES Act temporarily modifies the charitable contributions limitation. For individuals, the Act modifies the limitation from a maximum of 60% to 100% of adjusted gross income, while C corporations can deduct such contributions up to 25% of taxable income. Note that contributions made to donor advised funds are not eligible for these incentives. Your land trust may wish to consider opportunities to share these less-well known provisions of the CARES Act with current and prospective donors. However, as always you should take care not to provide tax advice, but rather encourage donors to seek input from a qualified professional.

## **Guidance for Monitoring & Stewardship During COVID-19**

Land Trust Alliance has published helpful guidance for monitoring and other stewardship activities on protected lands during COVID-19 [here](#).

## **Guidelines For Boating and Other Waterway Related Activities**

*Sourced from MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*

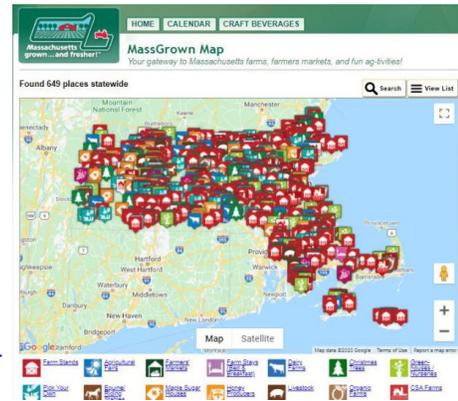
EEA has released guidelines for boating and other waterway activities during the stay-at-home orders. Boat launches managed by the Commonwealth will remain open to vessels registered in the state of Massachusetts, while boat ramps managed by

participants will remain open subject to the discretion of the town. Read the full list of guidelines [here](#).

## Buy Local During COVID-19

*Sourced from Mass.gov*

Buying from local farms and markets is essential for supporting local and sustainable agriculture. Through the ongoing stay-at-home orders, these farms provide fresh crops and produce in a safe, healthy manner through curbside pickups, CSA memberships, and deliveries. There are a wide array of resources for finding local farms, including a [guide](#) on how and where to buy local and [amap](#) to find local farms. Photo Credit: Mass.gov.



## Tips for Virtual Meetings & Collaboration

*Sourced from Narragansett Bay Research Reserve*

Participating in far more virtual meetings than you're used to? Check out NOAA's tips and tricks for effective [facilitation](#) and [participation](#). Additionally, the Consensus Building Institute has produced a great series of blog posts:

[10 Tips for Improving Online Meetings](#)

[Public Participation in the Throes of Coronavirus](#)

[Using Online Tools to Empower Collaboration](#)

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# Policy

## State Issues Net Zero Determination

On April 22, the Mass. Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) released a formal [determination letter](#) establishing a net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions limit for 2050. Net Zero emissions is defined as "A level of statewide greenhouse gas emissions that is equal in quantity to the amount of carbon dioxide or its equivalent that is removed from the atmosphere and stored annually by, or attributable to, the Commonwealth..." The letter sets an emissions goal of at least 85 percent below the 1990 level and notes that 85% emissions reductions and complementary negative emissions by or attributable to the Commonwealth "are technically feasible using existing technologies **including the protection and enhancement of natural sequestration resources in the Commonwealth and regionally.**" [emphasis added] Later this year, the Commonwealth will release a 2050 Roadmap outlining pathways to achieve the emissions limit and also the Clean Energy and Climate Plan which sets state goals and programs to achieve Net Zero.

## SMART Emergency Regulations Comment Period

*Sourced from the MLTC Policy Committee, May 4, 2020*

On April 15, the MA Department of Energy Resources released its updated and emergency regulations to the [Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target](#) (SMART). The Department is accepting comments on the proposed update through May 22. MLTC is encouraged by the state's inclusion of [land-use siting guidelines](#) that will prohibit solar energy development where at least 50 percent of the parcel's land area is designated

as Priority Habitat, Core Habitat, or Critical Natural Landscape. We would also like to see the "Greenfield Subtractor," which is the financial disincentive to build on forests and other open space, increased to five times its current level - as was originally proposed by DOER last year - and applied to the entire footprint of the project (not just the solar arrays), to further discourage development on such greenfields.

The Department is hosting one virtual public hearing to receive oral comments on the regulations. This hearing will occur on May 22 from 10 am - 12 pm. To register for the public hearing, please [click here](#). Once registered, attendees will be provided options to join the public hearing online or via a conference number. Written comments will be accepted on the SMART regulation and key guidelines until 5 pm on May 22, 2020. Submit comments electronically to [doer.smart@mass.gov](mailto:doer.smart@mass.gov), and include "SMART Public Comment" in the subject line.

### **Great American Outdoors Act Organizational Sign-on Letter**

Earlier this year the Land and Water Conservation Fund Permanent Funding Act was combined with national park maintenance funding into the Great American Outdoors Act (S. 3422). This bill has a high-level of bi-partisan support, including from the administration. Given the incredible amount of use of our public lands and trails have seen during the pandemic full funding of LWCF is needed now more than ever. Please sign on to an organizational sign-on letter asking Congress to pass this legislation as soon as possible! It's easy to sign on to the letter. Just fill out [this google form](#).

### **New Bill Would Grant Broad Powers for Pesticide Spraying**

*Sourced from MACC on May 1, 2020*

MACC recently learned about an emergency bill proposed by Governor Baker about spraying for EEE: [H.4650, "An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth"](#). MACC opposes the bill, considering it a broad overreach. H. 4650 would exempt the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board from all state laws and allow them to conduct mosquito eradication measures anywhere in the Commonwealth, even if municipalities do not want spraying in their towns. The bill would allow the Mosquito Control Board to do this work based on a determination from DPH that there might be an elevated risk of mosquito borne disease in the next year. The bill has no sunset clause, and would overrule all other statutes (including the Pesticide Control Act, Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, water supply protection laws, Open Meeting Law, Public Records Act, etc.) as well as decisions by municipalities to not join a regional district because they don't want nuisance mosquito spraying. This bill would also overrule private property requests for exclusion from spraying. Inadvertent impacts from spraying are not considered, and there are no requirements for notification to communities or property owners prior to spraying. Comments on the bill can be submitted to [Jay.Newsone@mahouse.gov](mailto:Jay.Newsone@mahouse.gov) and [Brian.Rosman@masenate.gov](mailto:Brian.Rosman@masenate.gov) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020. Put "PUBLIC HEALTH TESTIMONY H4650" in the subject line of the email and include your name, title, organization name, address and telephone number. Read MACC's comments on H.4650 [here](#), and find a sample letter to send to legislators [here](#).

### **EPA Proposes Municipal Stormwater General Permit Modifications for Massachusetts**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing modifications to the 2016

Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit for Massachusetts communities. EPA's New England Regional Office issues Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. MS4 permits are NPDES permits that authorize certain discharges of municipal stormwater to surface waters. Stormwater is the largest contributor of pollutants to impaired rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, and other waters in Massachusetts, making MS4 permits key to reducing the harmful impact of polluted stormwater. The proposed modifications were developed through mediation between EPA and parties who challenged the underlying 2016 permit. EPA will accept public comment on the proposed modifications until June 8, 2020. The Federal Register notice, the proposed modifications, EPA's rationale and instructions on how to formally submit comments are available at <https://regulations.gov> under docket number EPA-R01-OW-2020-0216.

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## News

### **An Earth Day Message**

*Sourced from Wicked Local, April 13, by Andrew Gottlieb*

Andrew Gottlieb, Executive Director of the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, has words for us to think about on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. *"In normal times, an article commemorating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day would celebrate progress and enumerate the work ahead. But these are not normal times, so let's do something different. Let's acknowledge the extraordinary events we are living through and make Earth Day 2020 a turning point. The devastating Coronavirus Pandemic has resulted in a generational shock to societal norms and the economy. As we contemplate recovery let's commit to building a sustainable, fair, healthy, and forward-facing new economy."* Read his full statement [here](#).

### **In It Together With Land Trusts**

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, host Arun Rath from the WGBH radio program "In It Together" interviewed Lisa Vernegaard, Executive Director of Sudbury Valley Trustees, about ways to safely celebrate nature. Lisa does a great job speaking about the valuable work of land trusts and our partners! The relevant segment runs from minutes 1:05 - 12:05 [here](#).

### **Regional Conservation Partnerships Conference Call for Presentations**

*Sourced from Wildlands & Woodlands.*

The Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCP) Network calls for workshop proposals for the 2020 RCP Network Gathering, which this year will be held virtually, on November 19. This year's theme is "Resilient Regions and Communities," and presentations should address the climate crisis and how we can build strategies that help communities create a healthy, resilient future. The deadline for submissions is June 1. Learn more and submit a proposal [here](#).

### **State Awarded Funds for Restoration of Former Cranberry Bogs**

*Sourced from Mass.gov*

The Baker-Polito administration has announced that the Commonwealth has received \$10 million in federal funds to support the ecological restoration of former cranberry

bogs. The Division of Ecological Restoration and 17 partner organizations will use the funds for 20 projects that will protect and restore 900 acres of historic wetlands on retiring cranberry farmland. The work will create habitat for fish and wildlife, help communities adapt to climate change, and permanently protect a total of 1,800 acres of open space. The funds were made available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Learn more about the program [here](#).

### **Ways to Support Climate Issues and Health**

*Sourced from Mass Audubon, April 17*

With the health impacts of COVID-19 exacerbated by air pollution and the United States set to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement in November, it is more important now than ever to reach out and take action to support environmental issues and human health. Mass Audubon has compiled a list of actions you can take from home, including contacting the EPA to oppose recent environmental rollbacks, supporting climate legislation, sharing climate action success stories, and making your electricity more renewable. Read the article [here](#).

### **Study of Charles River Meadowlands Completed**

*Sourced from Wicked Local, April 22*

A two-year study of the Charles River Meadowlands in Bellingham, Franklin, and Medway has been completed. The Charles River Natural Valley Storage Area is comprised of hundreds of acres of wetland acquired in the 1970s and 1980s for flood control, under management of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The area has been gradually walled off from the public by roadways and rapid private development, but each of the towns has conservation land and other municipal holdings that abut the federal lands, effectively creating a large natural sanctuary similar in scale to the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Concord. Under the vision articulated by the Meadowlands Initiative, stewardship for flood control would remain the primary purpose of the area, but limited and strategically placed trails should allow the public to enjoy views and pursue recreational activities that do not conflict with conservation goals. This study was initiated by the Meadowlands Initiative and funded by a grant procured by three area legislators and the town of Franklin. Learn more [here](#).

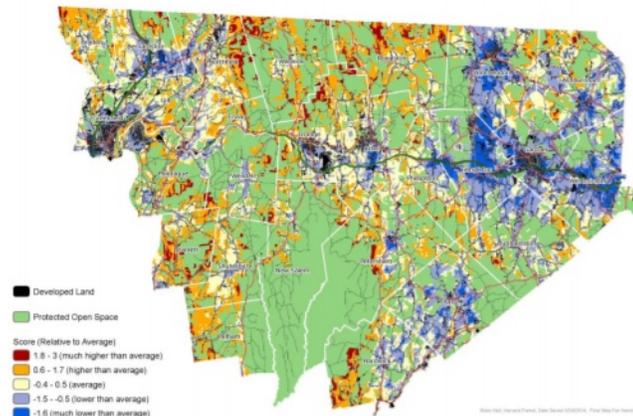
### **Case Study: Climate Data Creates Connections**

*Sourced from Land Trust Alliance*

The Land Trust Alliance and the Open Space Institute have published a case study on the climate tools and mapping work done by the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership (NQRLP). Since 2013, the NQRLP has focused on incorporating climate resilience into conservation planning and creating a digital map to identify climate resilient sites, becoming one of the first regional conservation partnerships to attempt a climate conservation plan on this scale. These climate tools created a shared language and understanding around climate change, allowing the NQRLP and other organizations to analyze conservation projects and identify priorities.

Sarah Wells, the coordinator of the NQRLP, offers the advice: "Don't be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of data. At the end of the day, you don't need 15 maps to tell every angle of the story. If you have one map that you feel good about, that your group can coalesce around and that can help you get some good work done, that's important. That's enough to get started."

Learn more [here](#). Photo Credit: Land Trust Alliance.



## ***From Engagement to Action: Supporting Woodland Owners in Decisions About Their Land***

Sourced from MCA-CISMA Newsletter May 1, 2020

New England Forestry Foundation produced a detailed report of its participation in the MassConn Woods Landowner Outreach Initiative, and in an Executive Summary, shares lessons and recommendations for scaling up investment in proactive outreach and communications to the private owners of New England's woodlands in order to protect the future of our region's forests. Click [here](#) for their 2019 report.

## ***Attract Birds Without Feeders***

Sourced from MassWildlife

In addition to birds, bird feeders can attract squirrels, mice, turkeys, coyotes, and even bears. Using native plants and water feeders is a natural way to feed and create habitat for birds. Learn more about how to attract birds without feeders [here](#).

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# Conferences and Meetings

## ***Cancelled: Adaptive Recreation Fair -- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation***

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) [Universal Access Program](#) has cancelled the annual Adaptive Recreation Fair that was scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2020. DCR appreciates your support and understanding. For guidelines on safely visiting DCR parks and to learn more about DCR's efforts during this time, visit the [Massachusetts State Parks COVID-19 Update webpage](#).

## ***Land Trust Alliance Rally going Virtual in 2020***

October 6 - 8

Given the current economic challenges and the uncertainty of the lifting of pandemic restrictions, Land Trust Alliance has decided to hold Rally virtually on October 6 - 8. They note, "We are committed to providing an exceptional conference of the same high quality our community has come to expect. We remain determined to deliver on the three promises of Rally: education and inspiration, networking, and celebration of the land trust community. We will keep you informed as we move forward." Read more

[here](#).

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## Workshops and Trainings

**Given rapidly evolving responses to the COVID-19 epidemic, please contact event sponsors for latest information on event cancellations.**

### **Trails Workshop: Boardwalks Repair, Replacement & New Construction -- Mass Audubon**

Thursday, June 11, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary, Natick MA  
This workshop will train land managers, conservation professions, and volunteers in the best practices of building and maintaining boardwalks. Topics will include permitting, basic construction, and hands-on techniques for constructing, anchoring, and replacing damaged boardwalks. Please bring a field lunch, water bottle, and appropriate clothing. Cost is \$75. Learn more and register [here](#).



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## Webinars & e-Learning

### **2020 Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference Webinars**

Thanks to our generous conference sponsors, this year's live conference was replaced by a series of webinars that are free to attend, with the last four coming up. Learn more and register [here](#).

- Friday, 5/8, noon - 1:15 pm: Forest Carbon: A Natural Solution for Climate Change
- Tuesday 5/12, noon - 1:15 pm: Keynote, featuring EEA Secretary Kathleen Theoharides and Jad Daley, CEO of American Forests: How Land Conservation Can Unlock Forest Climate Solutions
- Tuesday 5/19, noon - 1:15 pm: Land Trusts and the Municipal Vulnerability Program
- Thursday 5/28, noon - 1:15 pm: Broadening Support for Land Conservation Through Economic Messaging.

### **Lyme Disease Awareness Month Lunch & Learn Series**

Every Friday, starting May 8.

Join the Vector-Borne Disease Regional Centers of Excellence for a series of webinars during Lyme Disease Awareness Month. These webinars will cover topics including tick surveillance, how to collect ticks, protecting yourself against tick bites, and current tickborne disease research. Webinars will be held every Friday in May at 1:00 pm. Learn more and register [here](#).

### **Wetlands Protection Act Webinar -- Massachusetts Association of**

## **Conservation Commissions**

Tuesday, May 12, 5:45 pm - 8:30 pm

This introduction to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act will provide an overview of this important legislation. Topics will include interests of the act, jurisdiction, the requirements for permit submission, the process of identifying resource areas, and limited projects. Cost is \$55 for members and \$75 for non-members. Learn more and register [here](#).

## **Neighborhood Naturalist Online -- Mass Audubon**

Wednesdays, starting May 13, 8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join Mass Audubon for this series of natural history programs to stay connected with nature while practicing social distancing. Each program will consist of an online presentation, a week to complete guided outside exploration, and online follow-up for feedback, questions, and discussion. Topics in the series are habitats, communities, ecosystems, and being a natural scientist. Cost for each session is \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Learn more and register [here](#).

## **Birds of Spring -- Wildlands Trust**

Thursday, May 14, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Join Wildlands Trust for this webinar to learn about migrant bird species that return to nest in Massachusetts very spring. Learn about all these species with ornithologist Wayne Petersen. Learn more and register [here](#).

## **Invasive Species Control Using Goats -- Natural Areas Association**

Tuesday, May 19, 12:00 pm

The use of livestock to control undesirable vegetation is growing in popularity. However, less is known about the pros and cons of this technique in comparison to other management methods, such as herbicide, cutting, and burning. In this webinar, Dr. Katherine Marchetto, post-doctoral associate at University of Minnesota, will discuss her research on the effects of goat browsing on the invasive shrub common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and on overall plant diversity and composition. Learn more and register [here](#).



## **Forest Connect: A Restoration Strategy for Future New York Woodlands**

Wednesday, May 20, 12:00pm and 7:00pm

This webinar will discuss management strategies to ensure biodiversity and regenerate hardwood forests. Featured will be the use of slash walls, an innovative approach to controlling deer impacts and competing vegetation in forest regeneration projects. Topics will include costs, construction methods, suitable applications, and best practices for applying this technique. The webinar will be led by Brett Chedzoy, from the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schuyler County, and Peter Smallidge, from the Department of Natural Resources. Learn more and register [here](#).

## **A Walk in the Garden Webinar Series -- Ecological Landscape Alliance**

Each Wednesday through May 27, 12:00 pm

This free series of webinars will offer communal walks through gardens, plant discussions, and gardening inspiration to provide much needed respite as we face limitations on gathering with family and friends and visiting green spaces. Topics in this series include a discussion of spring ephemerals and a visit to the Mountain Top Arboretum. This webinar series is free, but please register [here](#).

### **Appraisal Update: What Land Trusts Need to Know -- Land Trust Alliance**

*Thursday, May 28, 2:00 pm*

Appraisals are essential for ensuring landowners benefit from federal income and state tax incentives, and for encouraging landowners to donate their lands as conservation easements. Poorly supported appraisals damage the integrity of the conservation easement system and damage the mission of land trusts. This webinar will discuss the standards and best practices for appraisals of conservation easements and will work through real-world case studies to help participants stay up-to-date on recent case law and trends. Cost is \$65 for members, and \$100 for non-members. Learn more and register [here](#).

### **Open Space Planning and Protection Techniques -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions**

*Tuesday, June 16, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm*

This at-home training will help attendees learn the best practices in open space use and conservation. Topics will include establishing goals and objectives, conducting inventories of local natural resources, selecting parcels, working with landowners, and establishing conservation restrictions. Cost is \$55 for members and \$75 for nonmembers. Learn more and register [here](#).

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## Grants

### **Agricultural Conservation Easement Program -- Natural Resources Conservation Service**

*Deadline: May 15*

This program provides financial and technical assistance to landowners interested in preserving agricultural land or wetlands through a conservation easement. Cropland, rangeland, pastureland, and nonindustrial private forests are eligible for agricultural easements. Farmed or converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored are eligible for wetland easements. Learn more [here](#).

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program -- Natural Resources Conservation Service**

*Deadline: May 18*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program's (RCPP) Alternative Funding Arrangements. Eligible projects include those that use innovative approaches to leverage federal investment in conservation, deploy a pay-for-performance conservation approach, and seek large-scale infrastructure investment that generate conservation benefits. Grants will range from \$250,000 to \$10 million. Learn more and apply [here](#).

### **Massachusetts Urban Agriculture Program -- MA Department of**

## **Agricultural Resources**

*Deadline: May 28*

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) seeks proposals for projects that will advance commercial urban food production in the Commonwealth. MDAR's Urban Agriculture Program will award grants statewide to promote strategies that will address food insecurity, expand and create new economic opportunities, and increase access to fresh, local produce in urban neighborhoods. Learn more [here](#).

## **Watershed Grants -- EPA**

*Deadline: May 29*

The 2020 Southern New England Program (SNEP) Watershed Grants target integrated approaches to water quality and ecosystem restoration. SNEP recognizes that clean water, healthy habitats, resilient ecosystems, and prosperous communities are closely interconnected, and that strong partnerships offer the most effective means of meeting Southeast New England's environmental challenges. 2020 SNEP Watershed Grants will provide up to \$2 million in grants to encourage strategic investments by state, local, tribal, and regional partners. The source of the funding is federal, and grantees will provide additional non-federal matching funds totaling 25% of the overall project cost. Cash and in-kind contributions may be counted toward the match. The geographic region eligible extends from Westerly, R.I. to Pleasant Bay on Cape Cod, encompassing the major estuaries of Narragansett Bay and Buzzards Bay, and their watershed lands as far north as Worcester. Learn more [here](#).

## **In-Lieu Fee Program -- MA Department of Fish and Game**

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) anticipates the release of the 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the [Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program](#) (ILFP) in June. This program funds aquatic resource restoration, enhancement, or preservation projects throughout the Commonwealth. Certain Army Corps of Engineers permittees pay a fee to DFG in lieu of providing on-site mitigation for project impacts. DFG uses these fees to award grants for larger-scale environmental restoration and land preservation projects. Eligible applicants include Massachusetts cities, towns, academic institutions, certified 501(c)(3) nonprofits, and other public entities. Prior to release of the RFP, DFG will host informational webinars on [May 18](#) (Connecticut River and Worcester/Quabbin Reservoir areas and [May 20](#) for coastal areas. Please use the hyperlinks to RSVP if you would like to attend or if you would like to receive communications about the RFP. For more information, contact DFG's Aquatic Mitigation Specialist, Elisabeth Cianciola at [elisabeth.cianciola@mass.gov](mailto:elisabeth.cianciola@mass.gov). Learn more [here](#).

## **Nonpoint Source Pollution Competitive Grants -- MA Department of Environmental Protection**

*Deadline: June 4*

Each year the MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) provides funds for projects that address the prevention, control, and abatement of nonpoint source pollution. Eligible projects include the protection of high-quality waters, the implementation of projects in impaired waters, projects addressing agricultural nonpoint source pollution and sources, and the implementation of regional projects. Priority will be given to projects that will meet program requirements and be completed by June 30, 2023. Learn more and apply [here](#).

## **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grants -- MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

*Deadline: June 11*

EEA is now accepting applications for [MVP Action Grants](#). Action Grants provide funding to municipalities to implement priority adaptation actions identified through the MVP planning process. Projects that propose nature-based solutions or strategies that rely on green infrastructure or conservation and enhancement of natural systems and that have robust community engagement plans are preferred. Applicants can request up to \$2 million in funding (regional proposals may request up to \$5 million), and a 25 percent match of the total project cost is required. [The Action Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS](#). Deadline is 2:00 p.m. on June 11, 2020. Proposed projects must be completed by June 30, 2021 or June 30, 2022. A recording of a webinar held about this opportunity is available [here](#).

## **Coastal Resilience Grants -- MA Office of Coastal Zone Management**

*Deadline: June 11*

Up to \$3 million is available to coastal communities and eligible non-profit organizations to reduce risks associated with coastal storms and sea level rise impacts. Eligible coastal resilience initiatives include planning and public outreach, redesigning and retrofitting vulnerable municipally-owned facilities and infrastructure, and non-structural shoreline restoration approaches (such as beach, berm, and dune building; fringing salt marsh restoration; and coastal bank stabilization using bioengineering techniques). See the Request for Responses on the [COMMBUYS website](#) for eligibility requirements, project categories, and evaluation criteria.

## **LAND and PARC Grant Programs -- Division of Conservation Services**

*Deadline: July 15*

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY 2021 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) and Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Programs. The LAND grant program is for municipal conservation commissions looking to protect conservation land. The PARC grant program is for municipalities looking to acquire parkland, renovate existing parks, or develop a new park. A grant webinar is currently scheduled for May 12 at 2:30 pm. For additional information and to apply, click [here](#).

## **Conservation Partnership Grant Program -- Division of Conservation Services**

*Deadline: July 20*

The Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs' Division of Conservation Services is seeking applications to the FY 2021 Conservation Partnership Grant Program. Conservation Partnership grants are for 501(c)(3) organizations looking for assistance in acquiring land in fee or a conservation restriction, as well as assistance with due diligence costs associated with gifts. For additional information and to apply, click [here](#).

## **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grants -- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

*Deadline: August 7*

EEA is now accepting applications for municipalities for a new round of [MVP Planning](#)

[Grants](#), which provide funding to develop action-oriented climate resiliency plans. The program helps communities understand how their community may be impacted by climate change; identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths; and develop, prioritize, and implement key actions. Communities with completed MVP plans become eligible to apply for MVP Action Grant funding in future years. [The Planning Grant RFR is now available on COMMBUYS](#). Deadline is until 4:00 p.m. on August 7, 2020. Early application is encouraged. A recording of a webinar held about this opportunity is available [here](#).

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## Jobs

[Executive Director](#) -- Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy

[Environmental Analyst III/TMDL Scientist](#) -- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

[Ecological Restoration Operations Specialist](#) -- MA Division of Ecological Restoration

[Senior Wetlands Analyst](#) -- MA Department of Environmental Protection

[Farmland Acquisition Specialist](#) -- Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

[Policy Fellow](#) -- Environment America

[Land Stewardship TerraCorps Member](#) -- Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Community Engagement TerraCorps Member](#) -- Sudbury Valley Trustees

[Land Stewardship TerraCorps Member](#) -- Wareham Land Trust & Mass Audubon

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