



MASSACHUSETTS LAND TRUST COALITION

MassLand E-News
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Land Conservation Community
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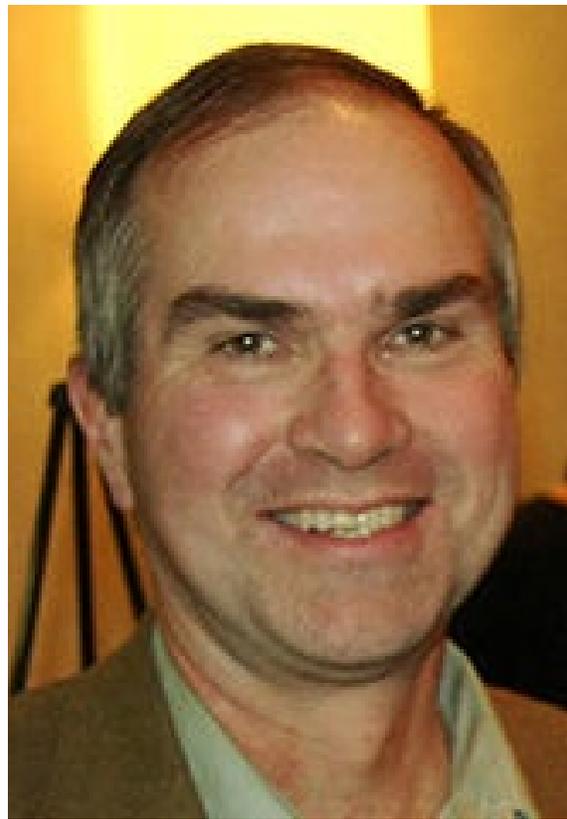


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With immense appreciation for his many years of energetic, inspired, outspoken and committed contributions, the MLTC Board takes the opportunity of his retirement from the MLTC Board of Trustees to publicly thank Mark Robinson for all he has done for us -- and for the cause of land conservation in general -- over very many years. His contribution and guidance to our coalition of Massachusetts land trusts may be best summarized by paraphrasing his quote to the LTA about the organization he continues to capably lead, The Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts:



We do not direct the activities of local land trusts. We await their direction. We respond to their needs.... We were founded on the principle that small land trusts can learn from one another..... Creating and nurturing service centers is hard work. ... The minute local land trusts perceive the service center as more of a threat than a blessing, the federation will collapse.

We aspire to follow his admonition, confident that he will speak up when he deems it useful. Thank you, Mark.

Land Trust Records: Getting Your House in Order

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition and the Land Trust Alliance are collaborating to offer direct assistance to small and all-volunteer land trusts to help strengthen their systems for creating, organizing, and backing up the records needed to defend protected lands in perpetuity. Six Massachusetts land trusts successfully completed the program last year. Information on eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#). Whether or not you're interested in direct assistance, all are welcome to a free educational webinar covering the benefits of strong record-keeping and how to find and use model policies and templates to better organize your records. The session will be held via Zoom on Wednesday July 29, from 4 - 5 pm. Register [here](#).

Take Action on Climate Change

With less than 4 weeks left in this legislative session, now is the time to call on state legislators to commit to achieving a net-zero economy by 2050, set strong interim emission targets to reach that goal, codify environmental justice language into state law, and ensure that the power of nature to help reach emissions reductions is fully leveraged. H3983 - An Act to Create a 2050 Roadmap to a Clean and Thriving Commonwealth -- is a no-nonsense approach to reducing emissions and setting interim targets that has broad support from environmental organizations. MLTC supports efforts to amend this bill with language codifying the importance of natural climate solutions and environmental justice.

Please take a moment to encourage your State Representative to make climate change

a priority for the end of the session. You can find your Representative [here](#), and below is a sample script you can use for an email or phone call:

Dear Representative [_____],

Thank you for the work you are doing to help communities throughout the Commonwealth respond to the impacts of COVID-19. As we look toward the end of the session, we are hopeful that the legislature will also act to address the climate crisis.

Please ask House Ways and Means to pass H3983 - An Act to create a 2050 roadmap to a clean and thriving Commonwealth. This is a no-nonsense approach to reducing emissions and setting interim targets.

We also urge you to ask that House Ways and Means to amend the bill to add: 1) language incorporating the power of nature to help us reach our emissions reductions goals, as championed by Representatives Peake and Jones; and 2) strong environmental justice language (specifically as detailed in H4264 - An Act Relative to Environmental Justice and Toxics Reduction in the Commonwealth).

We cannot wait another two years to address the looming threat that is climate change. Thank you.

[Your Name and Address]

It's Membership Time!

MLTC just sent out membership letters for the fiscal year that begins July 1. We are a lean operation and rely heavily on member dues to fund the capacity-building, networking and advocacy work we do for the land conservation community. Please consider joining us! Membership information can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our programs and services, please don't hesitate to contact MLTC's Executive Director Robb Johnson, at robb@massland.org.

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Member Spotlight

Perkins Woodlands Protected



Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust and the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF) have protected 88.3 acres of forest in Royalston. This woodlot will be managed in keeping with NEFF's [Exemplary Forestry](#) standards to ensure it is sustainably managed in perpetuity. While ensuring the long-term health of the forest, exemplary management of Perkins Woodlands will focus on three core goals: enhancing the role it plays in mitigating climate change, improving wildlife habitat, and growing more and better-quality wood for local timber products to decrease the dependence on fossil fuels and imported forest products. Perkins Woodlands is bisected by Stockwell Brook, and is surrounded by conservation lands that include Mount Grace's Guiney Memorial Forest, Otter River State Forest, and Birch Hill Dam. Perkins Woodland's location nestled among these other conserved lands helps defragment the landscape and create habitat connections that benefit wildlife across the region. The protection of this property was made possible through a generous donation by Richard Perkins as part of NEFF's [Pooled Timber Income Fund](#) (PTIF) initiative. Mr. Perkins donated the property itself to NEFF, the land's timber to the PTIF, and a conservation restriction on the property to Mount Grace. Read more [here](#).

Mass Audubon Acquires CR in Northampton



Through a conservation partnership with the City of Northampton, Mass Audubon has acquired a conservation restriction on a 105 acre property. This former golf course was purchased by the city of Northampton and expands a large section of forested land known as the Rocky Hill Greenway. While Mass Audubon normally focuses on the protection of intact forests or wetlands, this property offers a major opportunity to advance conservation by restoring heavily altered habitat. A primary focus of this work will be restoring a natural stream flowing across the course by dismantling the stormwater management system. Additional restoration work will focus on planting to reestablish a native forest. This is the fourth parcel protected by this partnership between the City of Northampton and Mass Audubon. Read more [here](#).

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COVID-19 Corner

Provisions for Meeting Remotely and Voting By Proxy

Back in early April, the Governor signed Ch. 53 of the Acts of 2020, encompassing emergency provisions in response to COVID-19 that give non-profits some leeway in governance practices. (The relevant sections are Sec. 15 and 16). It gives broad authority to hold meetings, including annual meetings, electronically; eases notice requirements; and allows business normally conducted at an annual meeting of the members to be undertaken solely by the Board if organizations so choose. These provisions will remain in effect until 60 days after the state of emergency is lifted. For a great example of how Greenbelt conducted their annual meeting remotely, and recorded votes conducted by mail-in proxy, see this [video](#).

UMass Plant Diagnostic Laboratory has Reopened

Sourced from MA Department of Agricultural Resources

The UMass Plant Diagnostic Laboratory is a state-wide resource for the identification of plant diseases, insect pests, and invasive plants. Specimens for identification can be mailed into the lab, but walk-in samples cannot be accepted. Read more [here](#).

Massachusetts Entering Phase 3 of Reopening

Sourced from the National Law Review, July 3

On July 6th, Massachusetts moved into Phase 3 of its reopening plan. As part of reopening, Governor Baker has rescinded suspension on state permitting deadlines. This new executive order resets the deadlines for constructive approvals, hearings, and decisions for state permits. As of July 3, the MA Department of Environmental Protection had not released new policy updates regarding environmental enforcement. Read more [here](#).

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Policy

Help Get the Great American Outdoors Act Over the Finish Line!

Fresh off the heels of passage in the U.S. Senate, the Great American Outdoors Act is now on track to come to the floor of the House of Representatives during the week of July 20. We need a clean bill with no amendments to have a clear path to passage through the House and across the President's desk. This bill will provide long-sought full and permanent funding of \$900 million a year through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, plus funding for a backlog of critical national park maintenance projects.

If you are constituent of Congressman Keating please ask him to co-sponsor HR 7092 by contacting Paniz Rezaeerood in Rep. Cunningham's office (Paniz.Rezaeerood@mail.house.gov) to sign on. All other members of the Massachusetts delegation have already signed on! Please thank them and ask them to make sure we get a CLEAN bill, with NO AMENDMENTS. If you're a constituent of Congressman McGovern, send him special thanks for his leadership on this bill! Find contact information for your US Representative [here](#).

Proposed Rollbacks of Critical Bird Protections

The Trump administration has proposed rolling back protections in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). These changes would end federal protections of birds and nests from incidental take, undoing century of bird protections in place since this federal law was passed in 1918. Please let your Congressional representatives know that you support legislation to restore MBTA protections and enhance wildlife conservation. Read more [here](#).

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News

Groundwork Lawrence wins EPA Environmental Justice Grant

Sourced from the EPA, June 30

The EPA has selected 12 organizations from across the country to receive grants to help address environmental justice issues. Each organization will receive \$30,000. In Massachusetts, Groundwork Lawrence and its subsidiary Groundwork Southcoast received funding for work in New Bedford. The grant will support Groundwork

Southcoast's "Building Community Environmental Resiliency" project, which focuses on working with disadvantaged youths to address food access, wildlife habitat, urban park space and restoring degraded areas, emergency and resiliency training, and community engagement. Read more [here](#).

The Protective Value of Nature

Sourced from National Wildlife Foundation

Natural infrastructure can play a crucial role in reducing the damage communities face from climate change and weather-related hazards. A report from the National Wildlife Federation summarizes two decades of research evaluating the roles and benefits of natural infrastructure. The report examines how features like wetlands, dunes, floodplains, and forests have reduced risk from recent floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. Model-based assessments and empirical evidence are used to examine the many other benefits natural infrastructure provides to society, such as clean water, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. Read more [here](#).

2020 MA Forest Plan

Sourced from MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation has released the 2020 MA Forest Action Plan. This plan is designed to be a comprehensive resource on the condition and trends of, as well as threats to, the forests of Massachusetts. The DCR creates an updated Forest Action Plan every ten years to remain eligible for funding from the U.S. Forest Service. The 2020 Action Plan highlights successes from the 2010 Action Plan as well as the four greatest challenges and threats that MA forests face: climate change, forest conversion, invasive pests & plants, and local wood production & consumption. Read the Forest Action Plan [here](#).

Old-growth Characteristics and Carbon Storage

Sourced from UMASS Extension

Old-growth forest was once the dominant habitat across New England, but is now one of the rarest habitat types. While true old-growth forests cannot be recreated, conservation efforts can create old-growth characteristics in Massachusetts forests. Restoring these characteristics can provide a range of benefits including wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational opportunities, and forest products that support local economies. Old-growth forests also sequester significant amounts of carbon and serve as a natural solution for climate change. UMass Extension has resources on how to [restore old-growth characteristics](#), [guides on restoring forest structure](#), and information on [forest carbon sequestration](#).

Why Conserve Land?

Sourced from Concord Monitor, by Virginia Long, June 25

The passion of landowners, volunteers, and the public to conserve land is the driving force behind the work done by land trusts. Understanding what motivates people to protect land is crucial for generating greater interest in, and support for, the work done by land trusts. This article, part of a series on land conservation, highlights the Moose Mountains Regional Greenways and examines insights into what motivates conservation-minded people. Read more [here](#).

To Protect, or Not To Protect

Sourced from Mass Audubon

With limited funds and time, how to determine which lands to protect is an important

question for all land trusts. This article by Mass Audubon discusses some of the factors it considers when choosing which properties to protect. When prioritizing land, Mass Audubon focuses on three main conservation goals: identifying critical habitat for plants and animals, places for people to connect with nature, and land that will reduce the impacts of climate change. However, these goals must also account for practical matters including the availability of financial resources to secure a property, and partner organizations that can help achieve the desired conservation outcomes. Read more [here](#).

Drought Declared Across Parts of Massachusetts

Sourced from NBC Boston

A Level-2 Significant Drought has been declared in the Connecticut River Valley, Western, Central, and Northeast regions of the state. The Level 2 declaration means that conditions are significantly dry and should be monitored and that Federal and state agencies may implement water conservation efforts. Read more [here](#).

Pollinator Guide to the Northeast

Sourced from Xerces Society

The Xerces Society has published a guide of recommended plantings that maximize pollinator habitat and food resources. The pollinators of the Northeast, which include twenty bumble bee species and thousands of other bees, butterflies, beetles, and moths, are crucial for maintaining healthy native plant communities and play an important role in crop production. However, these species face serious population declines from habitat loss, pollution, and pesticides. This planting guide features native plants that are well-suited for supporting pollinator populations, and is organized by plant type and bloom period. Read more [here](#).



Photo Credit: Xerces Society.

Picture This Photo Contest

Sourced from Mass Audubon

Mass Audubon is seeking photos that highlight people outdoors and the natural beauty of Massachusetts for their annual photo contest. Submit photos in one of these categories: people in nature, birds, mammals, other animals, landscapes, and plants and fungi. Photos must have been taken in Massachusetts. The submission deadline is September 30. To submit photos or see previous winners, visit [here](#).

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Conferences and Meetings

Rally 2020 -- Land Trust Alliance

October 6-8

Rally 2020, the National Land Conservation Conference, will be held virtually this year, and registration is now open. Learn more [here](#).

MACC Fall Conference Seeking Proposals

October 17-24

This year the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions conference will be held as a virtual weeklong conference from October 17 - 24, 2020. Proposals for workshop presentations are due Monday, July 13. Learn 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.

Climate Change Science Teacher Professional Development -- Mass Audubon

Monday, July 13 -- Friday, July 17

This series of professional development classes is designed to help teachers and educators investigate climate science and community-based solutions and develop lessons for students in grades 6 -- 12. Classes will focus on topics including ecological restoration, climate resilience, mitigation, global trends, and identifying local solutions. The program will consist of online sessions with Mass Audubon staff and self-scheduled independent field work. Cost is \$150 for members and \$180 for non-members. Read more [here](#).

Advanced Landscape Design Workshop -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Wednesday, August 5, 8:30am -- 5:00pm

This workshop will help landscape architects and designers focus on incorporating ecological principles into designs that increase the potential benefits of landscapes. Topics will include site assessments, implementing designs, and creating thoughtful plant selections to create dynamic landscapes that promote diversity and durability. The training will be led by Patrick Cullina, award-winning horticulturist, landscape designer, and photographer with 25 years of experience in the landscape field. Cost is \$165. Register [here](#).

New England Plant Community -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Saturdays, September 27 and October 4, 10:00am -- 4:00pm

Nasami Farm, Whately, MA

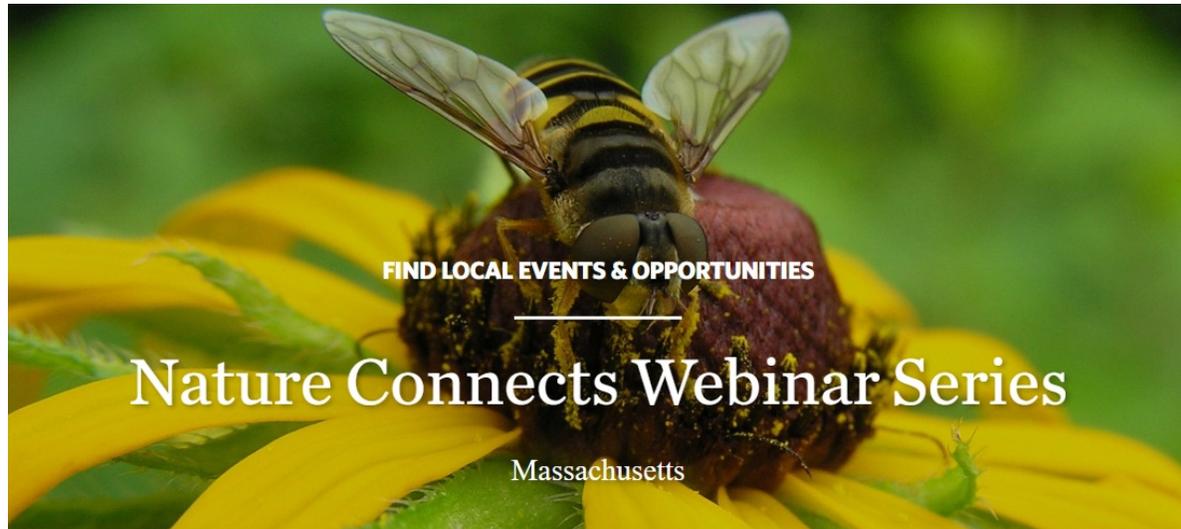
For a relatively small region, New England boasts an astonishing variety of plant communities, ranging from freshwater and tidal wetlands to coastal dunes, grasslands, forests, and montane. Study the dominant canopy, structure, range, and characteristic species of each community and then apply this knowledge in the field. In this training learn how soil, topography, moisture, geological conditions, glaciation, and historical use affect the vegetation of each community. Cost is \$216 for members and \$264 for nonmembers. Register [here](#).

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Webinars & e-Learning

Nature Connects Webinar Series -- The Nature Conservancy

Every Thursday in July and August, 12:00pm -- 1:00pm



Join The Nature Conservancy for a weekly series of lunchtime gatherings as part of the Nature Connects Webinar Series. Each week a leading scientist or environmental expert will lead a discussion on topics like climate change, protecting land and water, and providing food and water sustainably. You can also watch recordings of previous webinars. Please register in advance [here](#).

Environmental Education from Home -- Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust

Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust has created a series of STEM-based after-school environmental education programs for elementary through high school students. Created in partnership with Mass Audubon Drumlin School, these programs cover a range of topics including nature scavenger hunts, science based lesson plans, and climate change education. Register [here](#).

Soil: The Solution Beneath Our Feet -- Ecological Landscape Alliance

Thursday, July 16, 10:30am -- 1:30pm

Join the Ecological Landscape Alliance to learn about soil composition and how soil health plays a role in sustainability and addressing climate change. This class will address how soil regeneration can capture carbon, reduce flooding, mitigate droughts, and grow healthy plants. Register [here](#).

Trying Times: Conservation Easements and Federal Tax Law 2020 -- The University of Utah

Friday, July 17, 11:00 -- 2:10pm

This three-hour program will address the latest case law and IRS guidance impacting conservation easements. Experts will offer practical advice to land trust staff and board members, government employees, attorneys, appraisers, and landowners. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear the IRS's perspective and ask questions of a diverse group of panelists who collectively have almost 200 years of experience with conservation easements and tax incentives. Extra time will be devoted to Q&A. Register [here](#).

The Black Farmer Fund: Creating Pathways to Land Access & Food Sovereignty for Black Communities

Tuesday, July 21, 2:30pm - 4:00pm

The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust is sponsoring this webinar hosted by Stephanie Morningstar, NEFOC Land Trust Coordinator, with guests Karen Washington from Rise and Root Farm and Dennis Derryck from the Cordin Hill Food Project. More information and registration is [here](#).

Wetlands Protection Act Webinar -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Wednesday, July 22, 5:45pm -- 8:30pm

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 nonmembers. Register [here](#).

Plan Review and Site Visit Procedures -- Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

Tuesday, July 28, 6:00pm -- 8:30pm

Attend this online training to learn the major topics necessary for conducting effective site visits. Topics covered include understanding maps, reviewing engineering plans, essential equipment, and what to look for on a site visit. Cost is \$55 for members and \$70 for nonmembers. Register [here](#).

Land Trust Records: Getting Your House in Order

Wednesday July 29, 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

MLTC and the Land Trust Alliance are offering this free educational webinar covering the benefits of strong record-keeping and how to find and use model policies and templates to better organize your land records in order to help you defend protected lands in perpetuity. Information will also be provided on direct assistance available to small land trusts to help strengthen their systems for creating, organizing, and backing up records. More information on the program can be found [here](#). Register for the free webinar [here](#).

Cooperative Land Tenure with Leah Penniman

Tuesday, August 18, 2:30pm - 4:00pm

The Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust is sponsoring this webinar featuring Leah Penniman, Co-Director and Farm Manager of the Soul Fire Farm Institute and author of *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land*. More information and registration is [here](#).

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Grants

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. Read more [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. Read more [here](#).

Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program MA Department of Fish and Game

Deadline: July 31

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG) In-Lieu Fee Program (ILFP) is seeking pre-proposals for new projects. This program funds aquatic resource restoration, enhancement, or preservation projects in certain areas of the Commonwealth. Eligible applicants include Massachusetts cities, towns, academic institutions, nonprofits and other public entities. The ILFP allows certain U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permittees to pay a fee to DFG's ILFP as mitigation for project impacts to federally regulated aquatic resources. DFG then pools these fees to implement larger-scale mitigation projects. To view the Request for Proposals and download required forms, see the [COMMBUYS website](#). Read more [here](#).

Senior Corps RSVP Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity

Deadline: September 1

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is releasing the Fiscal Year 2021 Senior Corps RSVP Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). For decades, Senior Corps RSVP has engaged older Americans in volunteer service that meets national and community needs and delivers lasting, meaningful results. With this NOFO, CNCS intends to fund successful applicants that increase the impact of volunteers age 55 and older who provide volunteer service in response to local community needs. Read more [here](#).

Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program -- Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Deadline: September 15

The goal of the Food Security Infrastructure Grant Program is to ensure that individuals and families throughout the Commonwealth have access to food, with a special focus on food that is produced locally. The program also seeks to ensure that farmers, fisherman and other local food producers are better connected to a strong, resilient food system to help mitigate future food supply and distribution disruption. Read more [here](#).

Partnership Matching Funds Program -- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

The MA Department of Conservation and Recreation is accepting applications for the

2021 Partnership Matching Funds Program. This program funds improvements to state parks that are proposed and supported by park partners, with up to \$1 million in matching funds available from DCR. Projects include design and construction of playgrounds, removal of invasive species, trail enhancements, and landscape improvements. Eligible applicants include state park friends and advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, municipal governments, and institutions. Proposed projects must benefit DCR property. Read more [here](#).

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Jobs

[Executive Director](#) -- Harvard Conservation Trust

[Executive Director](#) -- East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (OR)

[Executive Director](#) -- Rhode Island Coastal Resources management Council (RI)

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

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

[Forest & Park Supervisor II](#) -- MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

[Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent](#) -- Town of Norwood

[Conservation Property Agent](#) -- Connecticut Department of Agriculture Farmland Preservation Program (CT)

[Farm Conservation Planner](#) -- American Farmland Trust

[Conservation Crew](#) -- Town of Concord

[Commonwealth Corps Environmental Educator](#) -- Westport River Watershed Alliance

[AmeriCorps Positions](#) -- Statewide

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