

FY24 PARC, LAND and Conservation Partnership Grants - Now Open!

- LAND and PARC Grant deadline: Thursday, July 13, 2023 at 3:00 pm
- Conservation Partnership Grant deadline: Monday, July 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm
- Two LAND and PARC grant workshops
 - May 4, 2023 at 11:00 am at DFW Headquarters in Westborough
 - May 9, 2023 at 2:00 pm on Teams
- Landscape Partnership Grant deadline is Tuesday, April 18, 2023
- Small Communities Grant deadline is Friday, May 5, 2023

Team Up With Your Municipality: DCS Open Space & Recreation Grant Programs

Massachusetts Land Conservation Conference
March 25, 2023

DCS Grant Programs

Conservation Partnership – Grants for [land trusts](#) to protect conservation land

Land and Water Conservation Fund – Grants for [municipalities](#) or [state agencies](#) to pursue conservation and recreation projects

PARC Grant Program – Grants for [municipalities](#) to protect recreation land and/or develop new or renovate existing parks

LAND Grant Program – Grants for [municipalities](#) to protect conservation land

Drinking Water Supply Protection – Grants for [municipal water supplier/water districts](#) to protect public water supply lands

Landscape Partnership – Grants for large-scale conservation projects submitted by 2+ partners (including [municipalities](#), [state agencies](#)).



Riverside Park, Sunderland Photo by Greenfield Recorder

DCS Grant Priorities

- Landscape protection
- Biodiversity and natural resource protection
- Working lands
- Expansion of recreational opportunities
- Location in Environmental Justice neighborhood
- Climate resiliency

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

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



Hinkley's Pond, Harwich Conservation Trust Photo by hinkleyspondassociation.com

Conservation Partnership Grant Program 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



Tompson Street Church Lot, Gloucester Photo by Essex County Greenbelt Association

Conservation Partnership Grant Program Information

- Maximum grant award is \$175,000
- Reimbursement rate is 50% of total cost



Alves Riverfront Mattapoisett Photo by mattlandtrust.org

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program

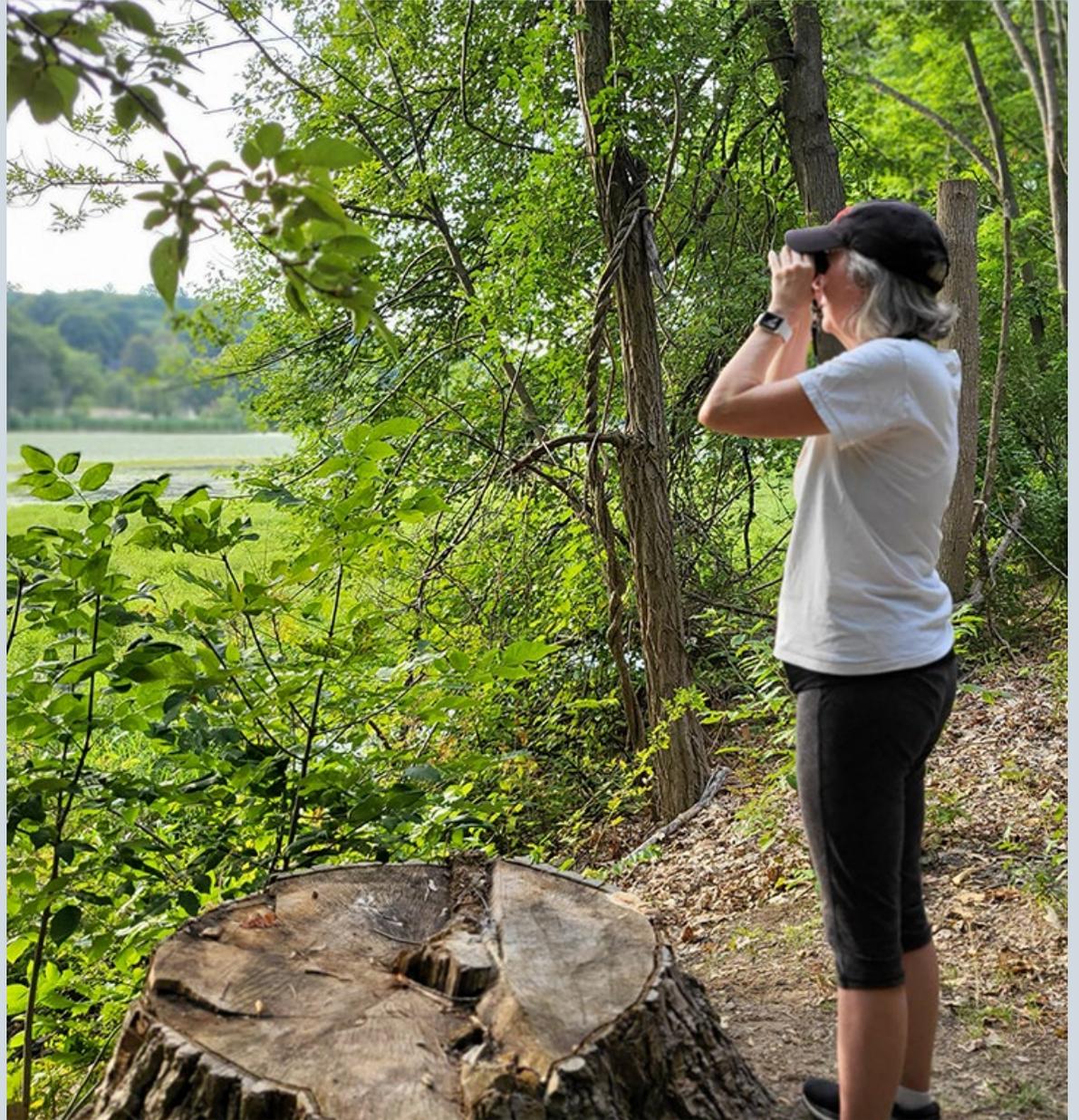
- Federal money from the National Park Service
- DCS administers the program for Massachusetts
- Can fund recreation, conservation, and trail projects



Watertown Riverfront Park Braille Trail Photo by www.wbur.org

LWCF Grant Program Requirements

- Reimbursement rate is up to 50%
- Maximum grant award \$1 million, minimum \$50,000
- Projects must also be approved by the NPS



Arlington Reservoir Photo by arlingtonreservoir.org

PARC Grant Program

- Eligible projects:
 - Purchase parkland
 - Develop new public outdoor recreation facilities
 - Renovate existing municipal public parks



Grenville Park, Ware Photo by East Quabbin Land Trust

PARC Grant 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



Mt. Tom North Trailhead Park, Easthampton Photo by City of Easthampton

PARC Grant Program Information

- 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 \$500,000



LAND Grant Program

- Purchase land or CR for natural resource protection & passive outdoor recreation.
- Maximum grant award is \$500,000
- State assistance ranges from 52 to 70% of total project cost

LAND Grant Program Requirements

Applicant must have an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan

Must have votes to authorize conservation or agricultural commission to apply, hold land, and secure project cost.

Public access must be provided for passive recreational use.

Land is permanently protected under Article 97

CPA funding is an eligible source of funding, a CR will need to be recorded as condition of reimbursement.



DWSP Grant Program Information

- Purchase of land or CR for drinking water supply protection, conservation and recreation
- Maximum grant award is \$350,000
- Reimbursement rate is 60% of total project cost.

DWSP Grant Program Requirements

Property must be located in a Drinking Water Supply Protection zone, or an area designated for anticipated future water supply use

DEP public hearing and approval required (award indicates preliminary approval)

Vote by Board of Water Commissioners (or Board of Selectmen authorized as such) to authorize purchase for water quality protection, and to secure project cost.

Public access for site appropriate passive recreation where acceptable.

Land is permanently protected under Article 97

CPA funding is an eligible source of funding, a CR will need to be recorded as condition of reimbursement.

Landscape Partnership Grant Program Requirements

- Maximum award: \$1,250,000
- 50% reimbursement rate
- Eligible for funding:
 - Fee acquisition
 - CR/APR/WPR
 - Park/playground for small communities
 - Due diligence for gifts contributed as part of eligible projects



Leyden Working Farms and Forest Photo by Franklin Land Trust

Landscape Partnership Grant Program

Eligible projects:

- Contiguous landscapes, or parcels connected through protected land, that meet minimum acreage threshold (100-500 acres min.)

AND

- 2+ applicants from the following:
 - Municipality
 - Land trust
 - State/federal land agency

- Multi-year projects are acceptable

Counties	Minimum Acreage
Berkshire, Franklin, Worcester	500 acres
Hampden	300 acres
Bristol, Hampshire, Plymouth	250 acres
Essex	200 acres
Barnstable, Dukes, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Suffolk	100 acres

Conservation Assistance for Small Communities Grant Program

- For towns with <7,000 residents
- Will reimburse: \$5,000/appraisal, \$15,000 for OSRP or \$6,000 for other plans
- 80% reimbursement rate
- Non-competitive, rolling – closes on May 5!
- Reimbursement contingent upon grant application (not award)



Sibley Farm, Spencer
Mass Audubon, Common Ground Land Trust, and the Greater
Worcester Land Trust

Projects with Land Trust Involvement

Program	Grantee	Partner	Project
LWCF	Town of Berlin	Sudbury Valley Trustees	Webjo Co Property
	Town of Holden	Greater Worcester LT/ White Oak Land Conservation Society	Holbrook Lot 5
	Town of Middleborough	Ja Mar Farm	Wildlands Trust
	Dept of Fish & Game	North County LT	Mount Watatic II
PARC	Town of Boylston	Greater Worcester LT	Camp Harrington
	City of Easthampton	Kestrel Land Trust	Mt. Tom Trailhead
	Town of Sunderland	Franklin Land Trust	Riverside Park
	Town of Stoughton	Wildlands Trust	Glen Echo Park
	City of Lowell	Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust	Concord River Greenway
	Town of Falmouth	The 300 Committee	Teaticket Park
	Town of Provincetown	The Trustees of Reservations	Dunes Edge Campground

Projects with Land Trust Involvement

Program	Grantee	Partner	Project
LAND	Dennis	Dennis Conservation Trust	Tobey West Property
	Groton	Groton Conservation Trust	Dennis Land Acquisition
	Monson	Opacum Land Trust	Booker Project
	Ipswich	Essex County Greenbelt	Kamon CR
DWSP	Fitchburg DPW	North County Land Trust	Kerlinger CR
	Fitchburg DPW	The Trustees of Reservations	Jewell Hill
	Haverhill	Essex County Greenbelt	Meserve Woods
	Southampton Water Commission	Kestrel Land Trust	Upper Pomeroy Meadow

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Program

- § Grant round to open soon! Closes May 2023
- § Open to MVP communities
- § Up to \$3M per project, \$5 million for regional projects (Average grant size last round was ~\$450,000)
- § Projects completed by 6/30/2024 or 6/30/2025
- § Reimburse 75% of total project cost (90% for communities meeting definition of “Massachusetts economically disadvantaged rural communities.”)

Pine Island Pond Watershed Lands Project



Mattapoisett FY19

Town of Mattapoisett and Mattapoisett Land Trust

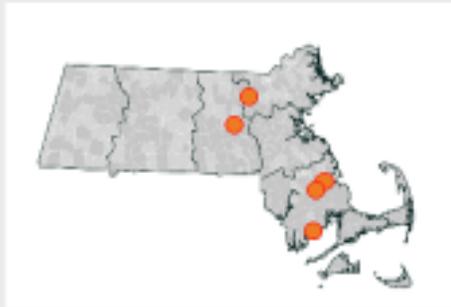
AWARD \$960,000

MATCH \$460,000

- DESCRIPTION**
- Conservation of 120 acres of climate-vulnerable land in its natural, undeveloped state
 - Acquisition of the land by MLT, concurrent conveyance of a Conservation Restriction (CR) from MLT to the Town of Mattapoisett (Conservation Commission) and BBC as co-holders.
 - Community Preservation Committee, general Town budget, and significant private fundraising



Berlin, Stow, Middleboro, Mattapoisett, Plympton



Berlin - Horseshoe Pond Acquisition Project

Funded: \$874,268

Area to be Protected: 100 acres of woodlands to Mt. Pisgah conservation area

Stow – Stow Acres North

Funded: \$113,500

Area to be Protected: ~111 acres of the Stow Acres North Course

Middleboro Picone Farm Preservation for Climate Resiliency, Flood Storage, Water Quality & Food Security

Funded: \$1,364,325

Acres to be Protected: 96 acres of the total 189-acre farm

Mattapoisett - Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Resilience Project

Funded: \$4,500,000

Acres to be Protected: 240+ acres spanning the towns of Mattapoisett, Acushnet, and Rochester and protecting the aquifer

Plympton - Preserving Turkey Swamp: A Keystone Goal

Funded: \$502,500

Acres to be Protected: almost 300 acres of Turkey Swamp

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For questions on LAND, Small Communities, Drinking Water Supply Protection, and Landscape Partnership Grant Programs.

Melissa Cryan (857) 274-7173

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For questions on Conservation Partnership, PARC, Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Programs, as well as Open Space and Recreation Plans.

www.mass.gov/grant-programs-offered-by-the-division-of-conservation-services

How Land Trusts Can Support Municipalities with State Conservation Funding

Vanessa Johnson-Hall

Director, Land Conservation Division



Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust

Meserve CR, Haverhill: EEA Drinking Water Supply Grant

Partner	Funding Source	Amount
City of Haverhill	EEA Drinking Water Supply Program Grant	\$250,000
Greenbelt	Private Fundraising	\$250,000
Total Purchase Price		\$500,000



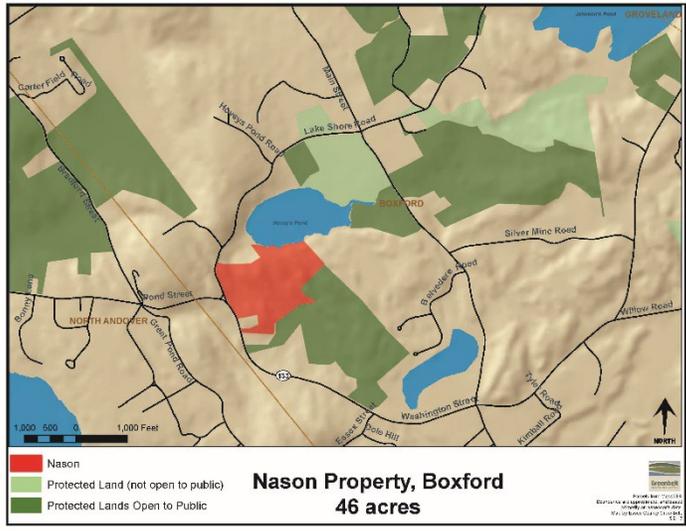
Crystal Lake reservoir, Haverhill

Meserve CR, Haverhill: EEA Drinking Water Supply Grant

Partner	Funding Source	Amount	Partner Role
City of Haverhill	EEA Drinking Water Supply Program Grant	\$250,000	Coordination w/DEP, help w/ City approvals
Greenbelt	Private Fundraising	\$250,000 <i>plus transaction costs</i>	Site control, Project facilitation, Due diligence, Grant-writing, P&S deposits, CR drafting & approvals, Baseline report, CR Stewardship
Total Purchase Price		\$500,000	



Nason, Boxford: Land & Water Conservation Fund & Chapter 61



Town Priority

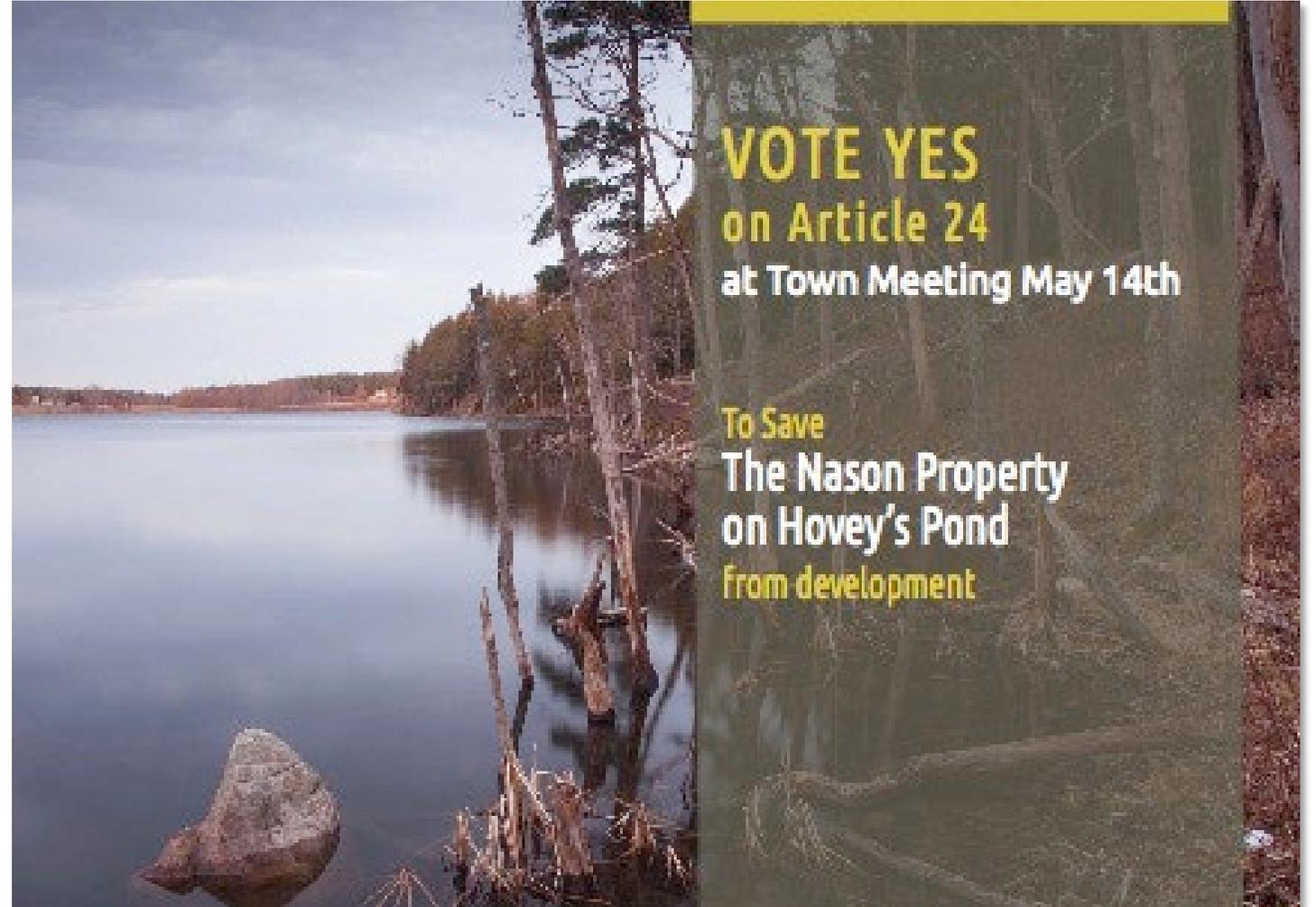
- Missing link in 500-acre corridor of protected land
- Over 1,000 feet of shoreline on a Great Pond
- Largest undeveloped lakeshore property in Boxford
- Critical trail link, access, & parking
- High conservation priority for water quality & wildlife habitat.



Nason, Boxford: Land & Water Conservation Fund & Chapter 61

Greenbelt Role

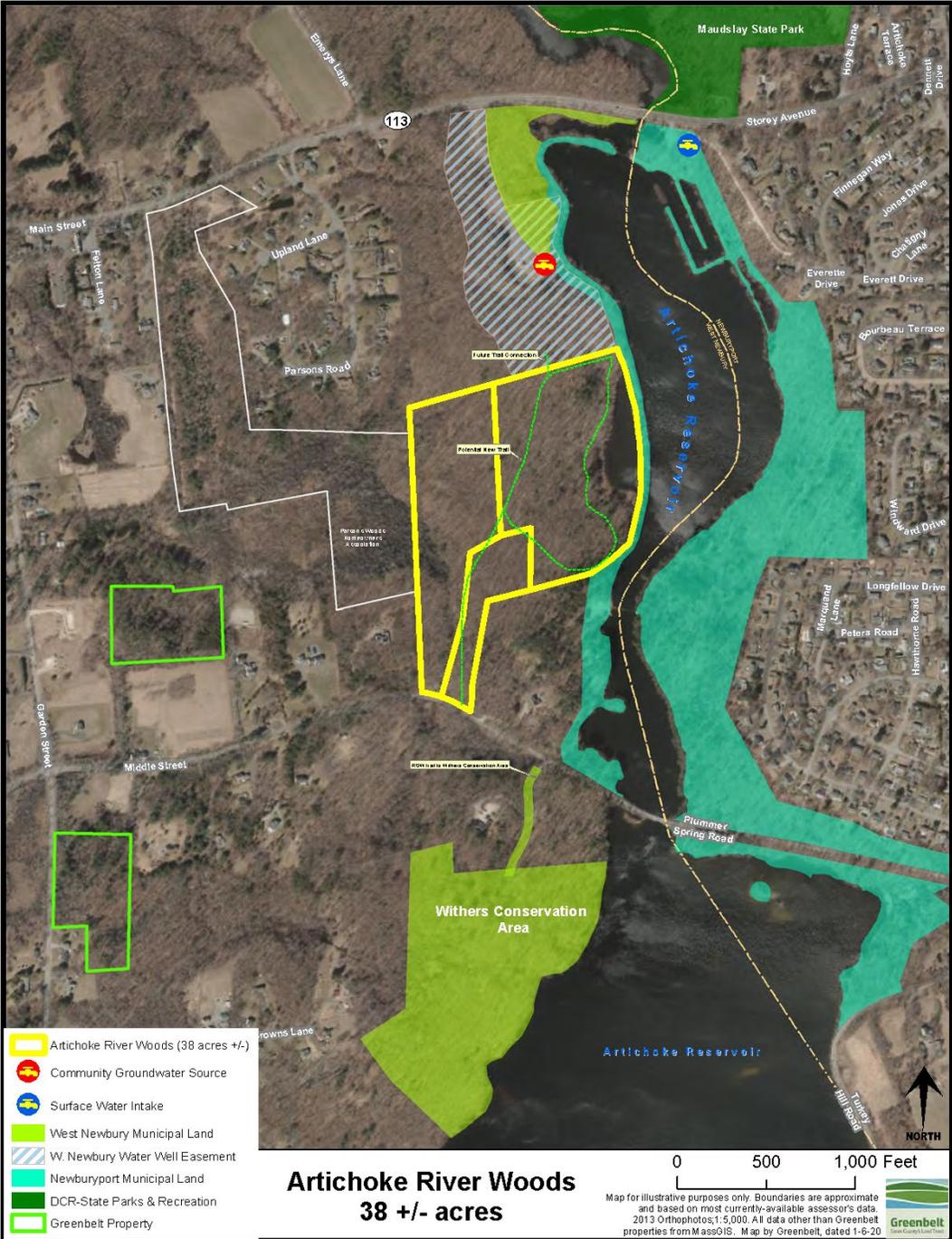
- Helped Town navigate Chapter 61 deadlines
- Greenbelt attorney drafted critical Ch. 61 contracts
- Town Meeting campaign
- Greenbelt purchased & held land for 9 months:
 - Enabled Town to meet Chapter 61 deadline
 - Enabled Town to remain eligible for \$250,000 Land & Water Conservation Fund

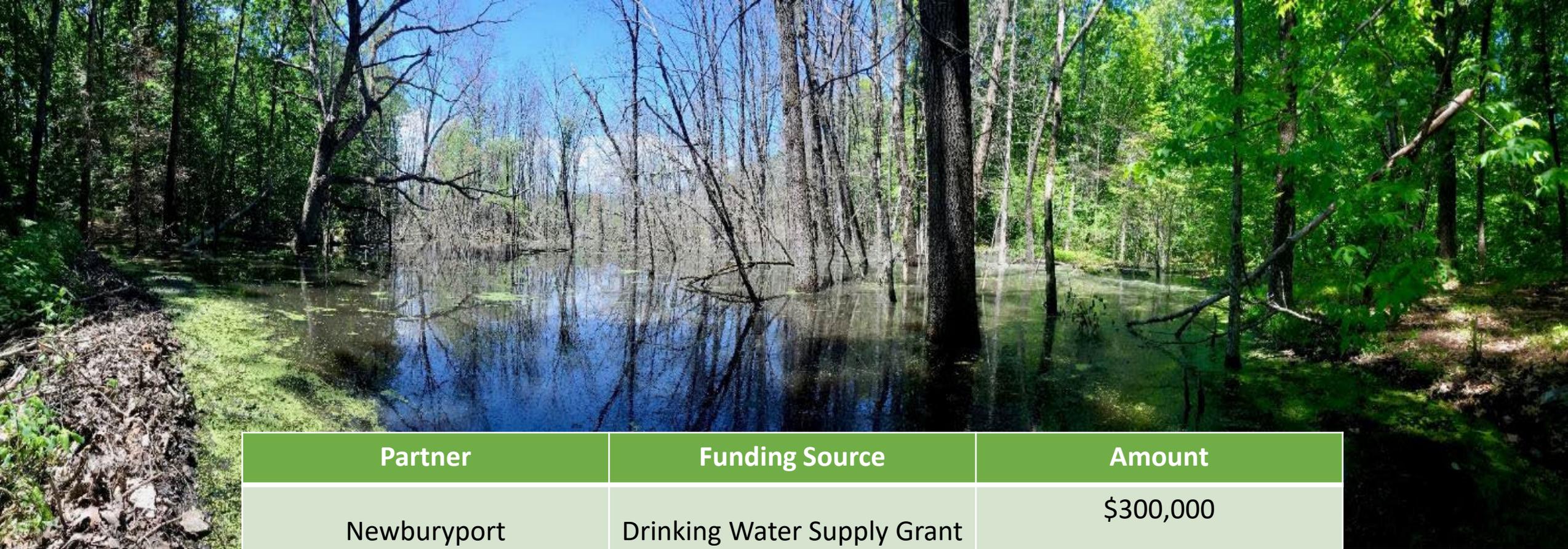


Artichoke River Woods, West Newbury: Drinking Water Supply Grant Partnership

Multiple Conservation Goals = More Funding Partners

- *Drinking Water* – EEA DWSP, Newburyport, West Newbury
- *Flood Protection* – DCR, EEA
- *Natural Resilience* – DCR, EEA
- *Trails / Connectivity* – DCR, EEA





Partner	Funding Source	Amount
Newburyport	Drinking Water Supply Grant	\$300,000
Newburyport	CPA	\$225,000
West Newbury	CPA	\$175,000
DCR		\$175,000
Greenbelt	Private Fundraising, Conservation Partnership	\$110,000
	TOTAL	\$985,000

Partner	Funding Source	Amount	Partner Role
Newburyport	EEA Drinking Water Supply Grant	\$300,000	Facilitated DEP approvals
Newburyport	CPA	\$225,000	Facilitated CPA approval
West Newbury	CPA	\$175,000	
DCR		\$175,000	CR drafting lead
Greenbelt	Private Fundraising, EEA Conservation Partnership	\$110,000	Project Management, Site Control, Due Diligence, Mapping, Grant narrative, Lead for W.Newbury CPA application; Town Meeting Vote campaign
	TOTAL	\$985,000	



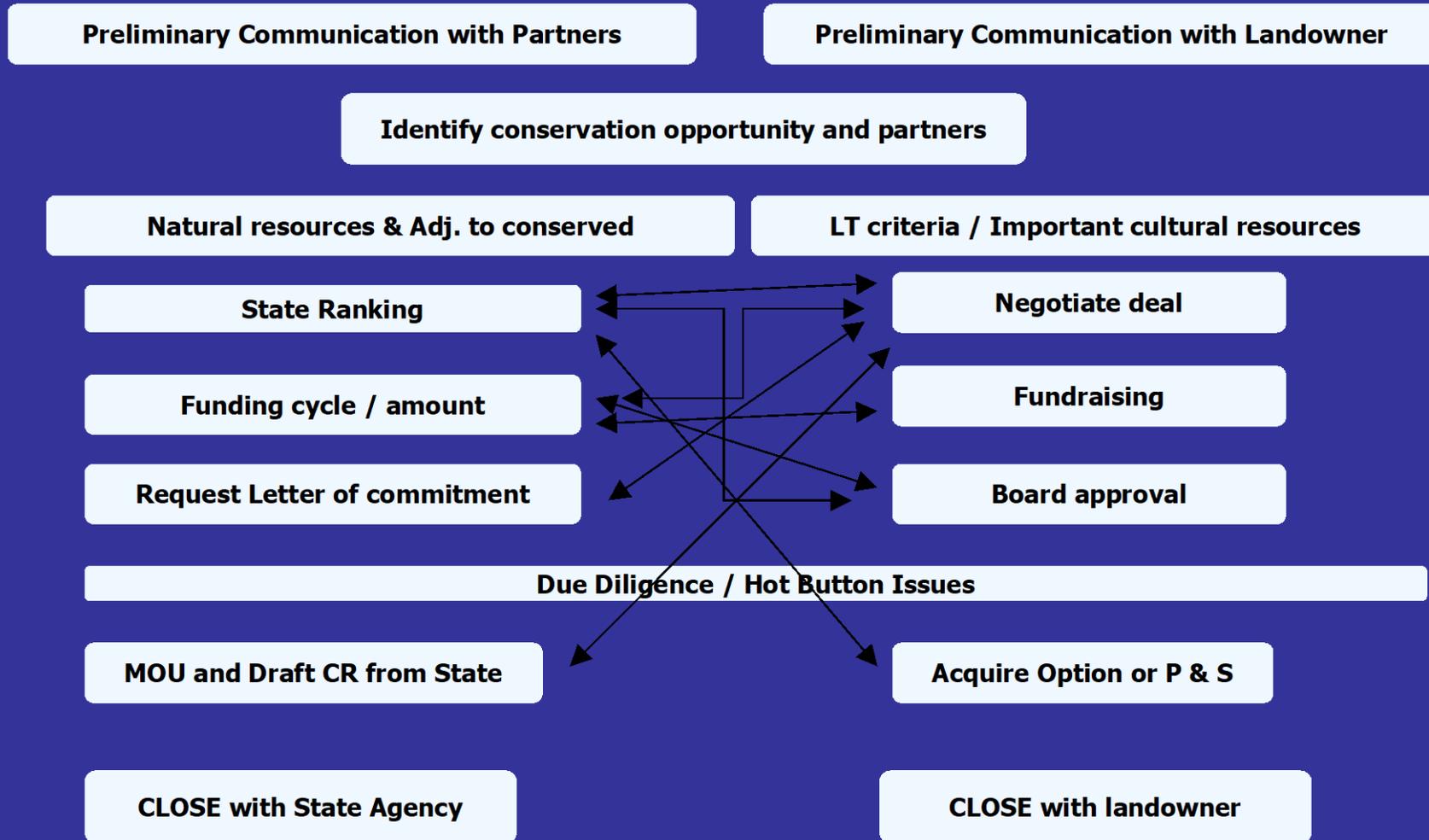


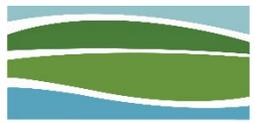
Partner	Ownership Interest
Newburyport	CR Co-holder
West Newbury	CR Co-holder
DCR	CR Co-holder
Greenbelt	Landowner



Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust

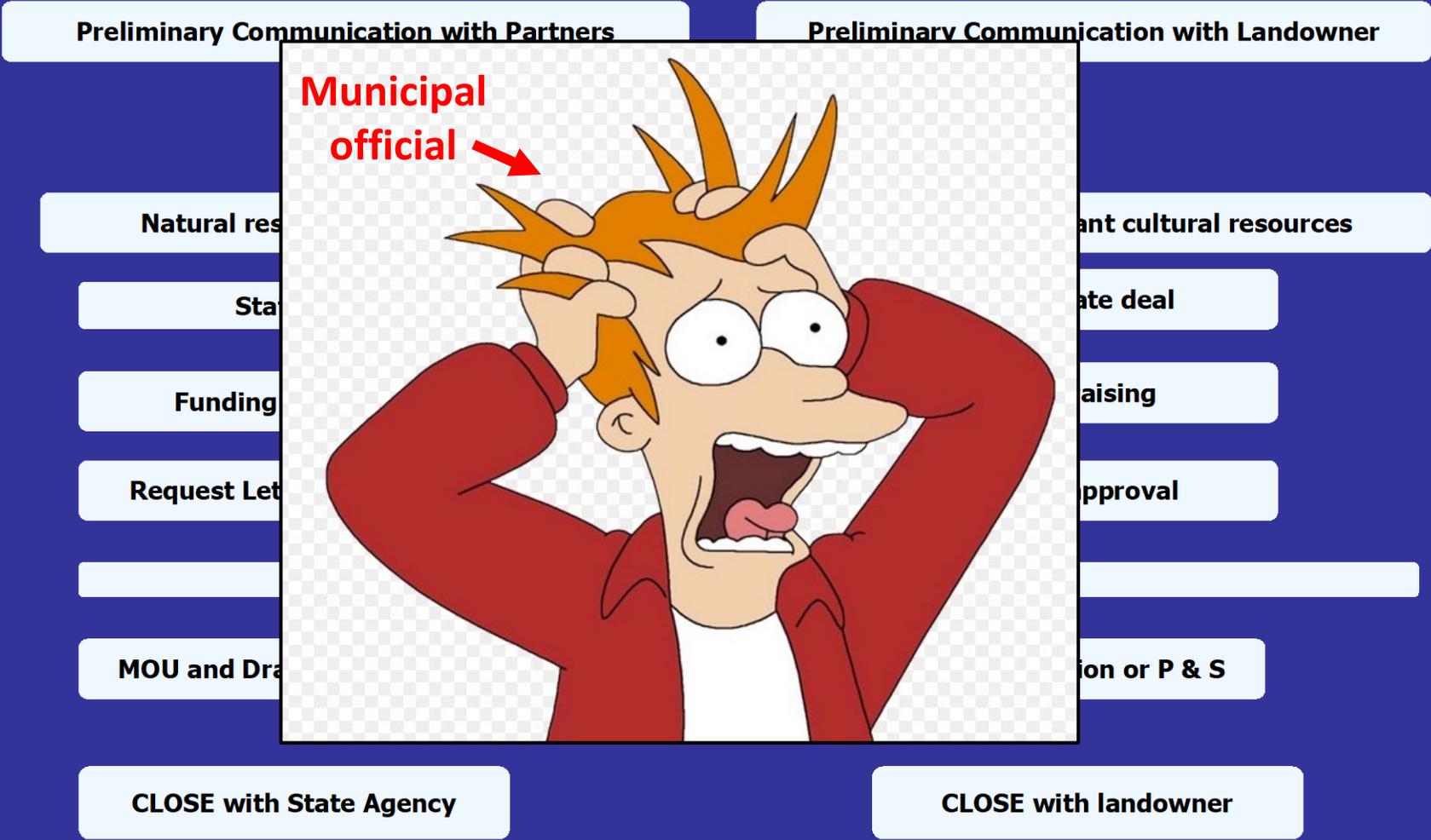
The life cycle of a typical land protection project includes the following stages and milestones:





Greenbelt
Essex County's Land Trust

The life cycle of a typical land protection project includes the following stages and milestones:



Services Land Trusts Can Offer Municipalities

- **Primary liaison** with landowner
- **Negotiate** sale price, draft & hold contracts, make deposits
- **Due Diligence:** title exam, survey, appraisal, environmental
- **Facilitate** municipal & state **approvals**
- **Grant-writing**
- **Pre-acquisition** to keep municipalities eligible for state grants
- Hold CPA-required **CR**
- **Baseline Report**



Keys to Successful Municipal Partnerships

- **A strong municipal partner** at the staff or committee level
- **Understand the municipal approval process** (who needs to know first?)
- **Build trust**
 - Be available
 - Be a pleasant squeaky wheel
 - Follow through
- **Communicate**, communicate, communicate
 - Clearly explain process (provide timeline / steps to finish)
 - Status updates
 - Keep partners on schedule

