



**For immediate release
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Patrick Administration Awards Recreational Trail Grants Across The Commonwealth

Trails Projects funded with more than \$600,000 in federal funds

The Patrick Administration announced today that 22 trails projects across the Commonwealth will receive grant funding under the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Recreational Trails Grants Program. The DCR program, which is part of the national Recreational Trails Program funded through the Federal Highway Administration, is awarding total of \$465,000 in grants to local communities and nonprofit organizations to fund the trails projects.

"The Recreational Trails Program is an excellent example of a community, state, and federal partnership that supports a wide variety of local initiatives and the people who implement them," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "Recreational trails help connect communities, provide recreational opportunities, and offer an alternative to driving."

Recreational Trails Grants are awarded for the construction and stewardship of hiking trails, bikeways, snowmobile trails and other kinds of trails throughout the state. This can include improvements to long-distance trails and rail trail development, ATV trail maintenance and creation or maintenance of municipal trails. Each recipient matches its grant with at least an additional 20 percent in cash or in-kind services.

Grant awards range from \$2,000 to \$50,000, depending on the scope of the project. Since 1993, DCR has awarded more than \$4 million in Recreational Trails Grants in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board. The federal funds are distributed to individual states to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreational trail uses.

This year's grants include \$39,000 to Bike to the Sea Inc. in Malden to construct 1,500 feet of stone dust path along the Northern Strand Community Trail in Everett and Malden; \$6,209 to the Goshen Open Space Committee to improve the Tilton Town Farm Trail; \$9,600 to the Berkshire Snow Seekers Club in Pittsfield to restore badly eroded sections of snowmobile trails in October Mountain and Pittsfield State Forests; and \$4,318 to Brewster's Natural

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Resources Department to restore an eroded trail to Cape Cod Bay and replace a small footbridge.

DCR will also apply \$160,000 of these federal funds to the maintenance and promotion of the Commonwealth's rail trail system. These projects include funding a partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club in the Blue Hills region and work on the Mahican- Mohawk Trail in Florida, Mass.

For more information on the Recreational Trails Program or the statewide greenway plan, contact Amanda Lewis, DCR's Recreational Trails Program Coordinator, at 413-586-8706, ext. 19, or at amanda.lewis@state.ma.us.

A list of this year's projects is attached.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.



DCR's Recreational Trails Grants

Acton

New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA)

NEMBA's Massachusetts Trail Care Series

- This project will train crew leaders and members of the broader trails community in the science of trail design, construction and maintenance.

Amount \$16,080

Ashfield

Franklin Land Trust

Ashfield Trails Enhancement Project

- This project will enhance two of Ashfield's trail links by constructing a boardwalk over a swampy area and the establishment of educational signage.

Amount \$3,531

Brewster

Town of Brewster - Natural Resources Department

Wing's Island Trail Restoration Project

- This project will restore an eroded trail to Cape Cod Bay, which is used by approximately 150 visitors per day. It will also include replacing a small footbridge and some interpretive signs for a coastal field restoration project.

Amount \$4,318

Conway

SAM - Conway Snowmobile Club

Community Trails Maintenance and Grooming Initiative

- The Conway Snowmobile Club proposes to coordinate with state agencies to improve these trails, making it possible for all winter recreationalists to better use these trails. The club will use volunteer labor and a track driven groomer with a planer drag to maintain and groom trails used by a variety of winter recreationists.

Amount \$39,259



Dalton

Western Mass ATV Association

Pittsfield State Forest Off Road Vehicle (ORV) Trail Resurfacing Project

This project will improve ORV trail surface conditions primarily in Pittsfield State Forest (or alternative in Berkshire County) dependant on new DCR ORV trail criteria.

Amount \$40,000

Egremont

Appalachian Trail Club

Appalachian Trail Restoration on Jug End Project

- This project will result in drainage and soil retention work on the Appalachian Trail on Jug End. The project will include rock staircases, retaining walls, waterbars, and other needed trail repair.

Amount \$14,240

Goshen

Goshen Open Space Committee

Tilton Town Farm Trail Project

- This project is the first step in improving the existing but under-utilized Tilton Town Farm Trail so that it can be used year-round as an educational and recreational resource for both Goshen residents and trail users of the adjacent DAR State Forest.

Amount \$6,209

SAM - Goshen Highlanders Snowmobile Club

Trail Stabilization and Preventive Maintenance Project

- This project will involve trail stabilization and erosion control along with annual trail maintenance including brush cutting and removal of fallen trees and hazards in the trail way.

Amount \$19,670

Hamilton

Essex County Trail Association (ECTA)

Trail Maintenance in Bradley Palmer State Park Project

- This project will implement the trail management plan developed jointly by park staff and the ECTA.

Amount \$30,000

Hardwick

East Quabbin Land Trust

Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) Bridge and Trail Improvements in Hardwick and New Braintree

- The East Quabbin Land Trust is working to open a 2-mile section of the MCRT within the next few years. This project will advance the stabilization of a historic lateral truss bridge crossing the Ware River, install decking and railings on a trestle bridge and I-beam bridge, and improve trail conditions by facilitating tie removal and trail improvements.

Amount \$50,000

Harvard

SAM - Harvard Snowmobile Club

Trail Improvement and Groomer Purchase

- This project proposes to improve a 22-mile trail system by the purchase of a groomer.

Amount \$7,000

Lee

The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR)

Lower Goose Pond Trail Project

- TTOR, in partnership with the Lee Land Trust, will design and construct a new trail providing access to Lower Goose Pond in Lee adjacent to wilderness land owned by the National Park Service.

Amount \$29,372

Malden

Bike to the Sea, Inc

Northern Strand Community Trail Project

- This project involves the construction of 1,500 feet of stone dust path along the Northern Strand Community Trail in Everett and Malden between the Madeline English School in Everett and Medford Street in Malden.

Amount \$39,000

Northampton

MARTAB

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Education and Training Program

- These projects support recreational trails education and training programs sponsored by the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Council and its members / partners.

Amount \$22,530

Oakham

Wachusett Greenways

Mass Central Rail Trail - Oakham (Route 122 to Coldbrook Station)

- Wachusett Greenways proposes to construct .83 miles of the Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) in Oakham. The trail section in Oakham will run from the Route 122 crossing west to Coldbrook Station.

Amount \$50,000

Pittsfield

SAM - Berkshire Snow Seekers Club

Berkshire County Snowmobile Trail Restoration Project

- This project will restore badly eroded sections of snowmobile trails in October Mountain State Forest, Pittsfield State Forest and Balance Rock State Park.

Amount \$9,600

Plainville

King Philip Trail Riders

Trail Enhancement and Maintenance Tools

- This project will allow KPTR to purchase trail maintenance tools and supplies including chainsaws, shovels and wheelbarrows for the purpose of improving and repairing multi-use trails throughout Wrentham, Foxboro, and Franklin State Forests, better known as F. Gilbert Hill State Forest Region.

Amount \$6,432

Reading

Town of Reading Conservation Commission

Bare Meadow Trail Enhancement

- This project will improve trail conditions within the Bare Meadow section of the Ipswich River Greenway Trail and provide a critical link to open space and recreational lands for hikers. Improvements will include 180 feet of boardwalk, 240 feet of earthen trail, a trail kiosk and a trail entrance sign.

Amount \$16,539

Rutland

SAM - Coldbrook Snowmobile Club

Otter River Trail Reclamation Project

- This project will purchase a flail/boom mower, reclaim several trails in Otter River State Park and install several gates. These trails have not been maintained for at least a decade.

Amount \$9,500

Sturbridge

Town of Sturbridge

Grand Trunk Trail- Westville Section Surface

- This project will complete 1.5 miles of the Grand Trunk Trail in Sturbridge from the current trailhead on Wallace Road to a point 1500 feet past the Ed Calcutt Bridge.

Amount \$35,600

Upton

Town of Upton, Land Stewardship Committee

Stefans Farm Parcel; Trail Construction Phase II Project

- This project will initiate phase II of trail construction on the former Stefans Farm Conservation Parcel in Upton. The project will include the purchase of a brush cutter for continued maintenance on an existing loop trail; construction of additional trails; purchase of signage materials; purchase of a kiosk with map box and seating; creation of a trailhead area; printing of maps; and purchase of gravel to complete the trailhead parking.

Amount \$2,233

Westfield

Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield, Inc.

Boys and Girls Club ATV Facility

- This project will develop an ATV training facility on 40 acres of land donated by the City of Westfield, for youth and families.

Amount \$14,000