



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs*  
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SECRETARY

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Re: FY2008 DCS Annual Grant Round

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am pleased to announce that my office, through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), **in anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds**, will conduct the annual Fiscal Year 2008 grant round for the state Self-Help and Urban Self-Help Programs and for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The filing deadline for each program is 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2007.

Self-Help Program (Conservation Projects)

The Self-Help Program provides funds to municipal conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's Self-Help grant round will be for the protection of coastal and estuarine property; sensitive stream, river, lake and pond watersheds; and biological conservation (especially rare species habitats). Projects which fall under lands mapped in the Statewide Land Conservation Plan, and those that augment or connect to existing conservation lands, and thereby help to preserve the integrity and health of the local or regional ecosystems, will receive greater consideration for funding.

Urban Self-Help Program (Park Projects)

The Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and urban towns with the acquisition of parkland, as well as construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks. The priorities for this year's Urban Self-Help grants include new park development especially on land reclaimed by dam removal or brownfield site clean-up, and projects that provide recreational opportunities to urban populations. Projects that serve to stabilize neighborhoods or are part of urban center revitalization efforts will be given special consideration as will those that demonstrate innovative stormwater control systems. Small towns may qualify for these grants where projects are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or up to a maximum grant of \$50,000 for smaller recreational projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF) (Conservation or Park Projects)

This federal grant program funds conservation or park projects submitted from both municipal and state agency project sponsors. The federal program is being announced in anticipation of a congressional appropriation. The federal program is open to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game. Municipal projects may be considered for funding under both the federal LWCF program and the appropriate DCS program – but can only be approved for funding through one of the programs. Municipalities must indicate on their application that they wish to be eligible for either program. State agency applications and any municipal application seeking LWCF funds will be rated and ranked using the Land and Water Conservation Fund Rating Sheet (attached). EOEEA reserves the right to fund a municipal project from the program source it deems most appropriate and most beneficial to the overall needs of the Secretariat.

Please contact DCS at (617) 626-1011, if you wish to learn more about these grant programs and to request an application package. More information and application forms may also be found on the DCS web page at [www.mass.gov/envir/dcs](http://www.mass.gov/envir/dcs). I invite each and every community to take advantage of this opportunity, and thank you for your partnership in land conservation and public outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Bowles  
Secretary