



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

Rebecca Tepper, Secretary
Grant Announcement

BID ENV 25 DCS 07
Dated: March 26, 2024

Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Program

COMMBUYS BID Number: BD-24-1042-ENV-ENV01-100438

I. GRANT OPPORTUNITY SUMMARY:

A. PROPOSALS SOUGHT FOR: Financial assistance to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, municipalities, and other qualified conservation organizations for the acquisition of retired or soon to be retired cranberry bogs and associated uplands for the purpose of subsequent ecological restoration to natural functioning wetland habitat and provision of broader ecosystem services.

B. OVERVIEW AND GOALS: The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) protects, conserves, and restores the natural resources of the Commonwealth. To fulfill this mission, Rebecca Tepper, Secretary of EEA, makes available funding for the Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant Program. This program provides funding to assist qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, municipalities, and other qualified conservation organizations in acquiring interests in land containing retired or soon to be retired cranberry bogs and associated uplands for the purpose of subsequent ecological restoration to natural wetland habitat and provision of broader ecosystem services.

The Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Program is a component of the Healey-Driscoll Administration's goal of conserving natural resources and open space and addressing climate change. This BID is part of the Administration's efforts to permanently preserve the Commonwealth's rich natural heritage for generations to come. The Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant Program also supports state government efforts to adapt to climate change and build a more resilient Commonwealth, by including resiliency criteria in its rating system. It is a reimbursement program.

C. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

- 1) Land or a Conservation Restriction (CR) purchase by an eligible Applicant
- 2) Due diligence costs for donations of land or CRs to an eligible Applicant

See further detail on eligible projects in Section 2B.

D. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS: This BID is open to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations that have been formed for one of the purposes described in Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the General Laws, municipalities, and other conservation organizations. If applicable, an organization must have 501(c)(3) status at the time an application is submitted. See further detail on eligible applicants in Section 2A.

E. APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 5:00 pm. See further detail on deadlines and grant program calendar in Section 4.

F. FUNDING AVAILABILITY: The maximum grant award for the purchase of land or a CR is \$2,000,000. The maximum award for due diligence costs related to a gift of land or CR is \$20,000. The maximum reimbursement amount is 90% of the total eligible project cost up to the applicable grant award maximum. Exceptions may be

made at the Secretary's discretion. There is no guarantee that monies will be awarded. See further detail on funding availability in Section 2E.

G. NON-STATE FUNDING REQUIREMENT: This is a reimbursement program. Additionally, applicants selected to receive funding must demonstrate the use of funds from non-state sources comprising at least 10% of total project costs. Approved expenditures must not be made until after the selected applicant has an executed contract with the Commonwealth. See further detail on budget requirements in Section 2F.

H. TOTAL ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACT(S): Contracts issued pursuant to this BID must expend all eligible project costs on or before June 30, 2026, to be eligible for reimbursement. See further detail on anticipated duration of contract(s) in Section 2H.

I. REGULATIONS, STATUTES, OR AUTHORIZATION GOVERNING THIS GRANT PROGRAM: Subject to 815 CMR 2.00 and Chapter 102, Section 2A of the Acts of 2021, this grant program provides funding to assist qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, municipalities, and other qualified conservation organizations in acquiring property interests for conservation purposes.

Successful applicants may receive funds provided to Massachusetts under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2022 ("ARPA"). As such, these awardees may be considered sub-recipients of ARPA funds and will need to comply with all governing federal laws and regulations. These include, but are not limited to: 2 CFR Part 200 UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS (Uniform Guidance); 2 CFR Part 25 UNIVERSAL IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT; various reporting requirements; and various federal non-discrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. Grant contracts will include language reaffirming these requirements and providing the Commonwealth with remedies if a grant recipient fails to comply with these requirements. All grant awardees will be notified of the source of funds for their grant award.

J. CONTACT INFORMATION:

Darya Mattes
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
darya.mattes@mass.gov

2. PERFORMANCE AND CONTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

A. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

This BID is open to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations, municipalities, and other organizations qualified to hold conservation land. Multiple contracts may be awarded to the same applicant under this BID. Applicants may choose to package several adjacent landholdings into one application. Unrelated, separate landholdings must be submitted as individual applications.

B. ELIGIBLE PROJECT(S)/SCOPE(S) OF WORK:

EEA seeks to further the conservation of retired or soon to be retired cranberry bogs and associated uplands so that the natural habitat values and climate resilience benefits of intact wetlands habitats are realized. Eligible projects include:

1.) Purchase of land or a CR

An eligible Applicant may request grant funding for reimbursement of acquisition and due diligence costs associated with the purchase of land (fee simple) or a perpetual CR as defined in G.L. c. 184, § 31 that

provides for conservation and restoration of the land in question, and appropriate passive uses of the property. Conversion of a term-limited CR to a permanent CR is eligible for funding. Eligibility for funding is limited to costs associated with the purchase of land or interests in land for perpetual conservation.

2.) *Due diligence costs for gifts of land or a CR to an eligible Applicant*

An eligible Applicant may request grant funding for reimbursement of eligible due diligence costs associated with a land or CR gift that provides for appropriate conservation and restoration of retired or soon to be retired cranberry bogs.

Land that is already permanently protected through Article 97 (e.g., was purchased with EEA grant funding or municipal funding for open space protection), is already held in fee by a land trust, or is protected under a CR, Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR), or Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) is not eligible for funding.

Lands enrolled in Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B are not classified as permanently protected land and are eligible to receive funding. Unprotected state or municipal land is also eligible.

Land designated as development area priorities as described in the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, or the I-495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, or other regional plans will not be eligible for funding. See [Executive Order No. 525](#).

C. APPRAISAL REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must include the appropriate type of valuation or appraisal with the application (applications lacking the appropriate type of appraisal will be rejected). Valuations must be dated no earlier than one year prior to the application submission deadline.

A. *Parcels with an estimated total project cost equal to or greater than \$350,000:*

One full narrative appraisal by a real estate appraiser certified or licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112.

B. *Parcels with an estimated total project cost less than \$350,000:*

One narrative appraisal by a real estate appraiser licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 OR one contracted market analysis by an appropriate party licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112 OR one contracted opinion of value, completed by an appropriate party licensed pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112.

NOTE: The Applicant or one of the Applicant's project partners must be the client for the appraisal, market analysis, or opinion of value. The owner of the property cannot be the client and cannot donate money to cover the cost.

Applications for projects that involve a land or Conservation Restriction donation to the Applicant **DO NOT require an appraisal**, market analysis, or opinion of value.

D. EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Each application will be scored using the criteria below. See Attachment B for complete project selection criteria.

1. Organizational Characteristics (16%)

Applicants with Articles of Incorporation or other foundational documents that reflect land conservation and habitat protection as a mission, with demonstrated capacity to successfully complete a purchase or gift of conservation land, and with experience successfully stewarding fee or CR interests.

2. Land Protection (12%)

Projects that protect larger areas, promote landscape connectivity by abutting existing protected open space, and/or advance local or regional conservation goals, including greenways.

3. Biodiversity and Natural Resource Protection (16%)

Projects within or adjacent to designated Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program BioMap Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape, that are ranked highly for climate change resiliency based on its TNC map score, and the resource value of which would be more significantly impacted by potential development.

4. Restoration Potential (25%)

Projects that provide excellent ecological restoration potential, due to proximity to other sensitive resource areas, hydrology, connection to other wetlands and/or natural systems, remnant wetland soils, and other factors will be scored highly.

5. Recreational Opportunities (7%)

Project that will provide appropriate passive public recreational opportunities, including to people with disabilities; will serve an under-served area for outdoor recreation based on the amount of protected open space per capita; and will advance goals, objectives, or action plan items stated in the community’s *current* Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) and/or Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).

6. Overall Project Quality and Importance (24%)

Overall quality and importance of the proposed project considering the combination of criteria described above, as well as whether the project is within an Environmental Justice population.

E. FUNDING AVAILABILITY, BUDGETING GUIDELINES & ALLOWABLE EXPENDITURES:

Reimbursement rate:	90% of the total eligible project cost
Maximum award amount:	\$2,000,000 for purchase of conservation land or CR \$20,000 for due diligence costs for a gift of land or CR

Applicants must submit the appropriate type of appraisal, the estimated total eligible project cost, and the specific grant request as part of the application package.

The Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant Program is a **reimbursement** program. Expenses incurred prior to the execution of a contract with the Commonwealth are not eligible for reimbursement. All approved project costs must be expended by the applicant on or before June 30, 2026, to be eligible for reimbursement. Project costs are subject to approval by EEA. Only eligible acquisition and due diligence costs approved by EEA and expended by the Applicant directly will be eligible for reimbursement. Applicants must provide documentation of Applicant’s payment when filing for reimbursement for each approved project cost. For acquisitions, reimbursement will be calculated using the lesser of the final purchase price OR the appraised value.

Eligible expense categories:

- Title search
- Acquisition (appraised value or negotiated price, whichever is less)
- Baseline Documentation Report
- Chapter 21E assessment
- Survey
- Legal fees associated with the acquisition
- Recording fees

Ineligible expense categories:

Please note that this is not a complete list.

- Application preparation or submission costs in response to BID
- Staff salaries
- Trail construction
- Signage
- Stewardship or monitoring endowments
- Equipment or goods

All contracts shall be subject to available funding, whether through the appropriation and authorization of sufficient funds or the receipt of sufficient revenues. If available funding ceases for any reason, a contract shall be deemed under suspension and contract performance must halt. A contractor will not be entitled to compensation for any performance provided during the period of contract suspension. EEA may lift the suspension if available funding is received. In the absence of foreseeable available funding, EEA may terminate the contract.

F. BUDGET REQUIREMENT:

Applicants must have sufficient funding to acquire the land interests in question, and seek reimbursement upon closing, potentially as each property interest is acquired. The grant award will not exceed \$2,000,000 for the purchase of land or CR and \$20,000 for due diligence costs incurred with the gift of land or CR. Eligible funding sources include, but are not limited to, grants from private or qualified foundations and cash contributions from local partners or individuals. Funds from other state sources may not be used to meet the match requirements of this grant program. The final reimbursement amount will be determined by the total amount spent, as documented through canceled Applicant checks or other proof of payment.

G. PROJECT TERMS:

Awarded projects will be required to abide by the Standard Commonwealth of Massachusetts Terms and Conditions. All final contracts are subject to successful negotiation of a Final Scope of Services. EEA does not guarantee that any contracts may result from this BID, or that any particular funding amount will be awarded. Awarded contracts will be reviewed during their course and, upon request by the Contractor, may be extended or otherwise amended at the sole discretion of EEA. Any extension granted will not necessarily change the monetary value of the contract.

H. ANTICIPATED DURATION OF CONTRACTS:

All contracts will end on June 30, 2026. To be eligible for reimbursement, land purchase and other reimbursable expenditures must be incurred on or before this date. Extension of the contract is at the sole discretion of EEA and is unlikely to occur.

I. DELIVERABLES AND OWNERSHIP:

Property interests acquired with grant funds must be permanently conserved for natural resource protection purposes in a manner that allows for restoration of natural wetland function. This could be accomplished by bringing the property interest under Art. 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, or the recording of a conservation restriction pursuant to Sections 31-33 of Chapter 184 of the MA General Laws.

J. REPORTING:

No interim reports are required.

K. INVOICING:

The Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant Program is a reimbursement program. Award recipients must submit the following documentation when filing for reimbursement:

- ☐ Copies of recorded documents (deed and/or CR)
- ☐ Copy of title certification (not title insurance)
- ☐ Copy of recent survey (recorded)
- ☐ Copies of cancelled checks from the Applicant (both sides), wire transfer statements, bank statements, or attested statement of Treasurer indicating the amount of payment, date paid, associated check or transaction numbers, and authority of payment.
- ☐ CR language that ensures appropriate public access (copy)
- ☐ GIS Data Entry Form (provided once contract has been executed)

3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION

A. APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:

Applicants are required to use the attached application form.

The application, appraisal, and any other materials associated with the submission must be received by **Thursday, June 13, 2024**, at 5:00 pm. Any application received after the deadline will be rejected. It is the Applicant's responsibility to verify receipt of the application.

Applications must be submitted electronically, emailed to darya.mattes@mass.gov.

Darya Mattes

RE: BID ENV 25 DCS 07

A complete application package includes a completed Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Application Form (Attachment A). Failure to provide any of the materials requested in the application package may result in the disqualification of the Proposal.

Submission of Questions: Written questions must be entered by pressing the "Bid Q&A" tab for the Bid in COMMBUYS no later than April 19, 2024, at 5:00 PM. The issuing department reserves the right not to respond to questions submitted after this date. It is the Bidder's responsibility to verify receipt of questions.

At its discretion, EEA may publish answers to submitted questions via COMMBUYS. If posted, EEA intends to post Questions and Answers on or before April 30, 2024.

Public records: Please note that all responses and information submitted in response to this BID are subject to the Massachusetts Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, s. 10, and to M.G.L. c. 4, s. 7, ss. 26. Any statements in submitted responses that are inconsistent with these statutes, including marking of information as confidential, shall be disregarded. Please do not submit any information that the Applicant may not wish to disclose publicly, such as home addresses or personal telephone numbers, social security numbers, or other similar information.

B. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED IF SELECTED TO RECEIVE FUNDING:

If selected, the following forms will be required to execute a contract. Applicants are encouraged to review these forms prior to submission of a BID.

- [Commonwealth Terms and Conditions](#)
- [Commonwealth W-9 Request](#) for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

- [Contractor Authorized Signature Verification Form](#)
- [Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment](#)

If selected, the Applicant will be required to submit the following additional forms:

- Copies of recorded documents (deed and/or CR)
- Copy of title certification (not title insurance)
- Copy of recent survey (recorded)
- Copies of cancelled checks from the Applicant (both sides), wire transfer statements, bank statements, or attested statement of Treasurer indicating the amount of payment, date paid, associated check or transaction numbers, and authority of payment.
- CR language that ensures appropriate public access (copy)
- GIS Data Entry Form (provided once contract has been executed)

C. EVALUATION PROCESS:

A grant application review team composed of state staff will evaluate all applications and draft recommendations. subject to review and final approval by the Secretary of EEA.

A site visit is required for all project applications. EEA staff will contact you to schedule a visit to the property. Recreational opportunities identified in the application will be verified by EEA staff during the site visit.

4. DEADLINES AND PROCUREMENT CALENDAR

A. RELEASE OF BID: March 26, 2024

B. INFORMATION SESSION: No information session will be held for this BID.

C. APPLICATION DUE DATE: Thursday, June 13, 2024, 5:00 pm

D. ESTIMATED AWARD DATE: Awards are estimated to be announced on or about 30 days after the application deadline, with contract negotiations to begin immediately thereafter. Please note this is an estimated timeframe, subject to change based on availability of funds and other factors.

E. ESTIMATED CONTRACT START DATE: Notwithstanding any verbal representations by the parties, or an earlier start date listed in the Standard Contract Form, and only after an award is issued and a final scope of services has been negotiated, the effective start date of a contract shall be the latest of the following dates: the date the Standard Contract Form has been executed by an authorized signatory of the contractor and the procuring department; the date of secretariat or other approval(s) required by law or regulation; or a later date specified in the Standard Contract Form. The estimated start date for contracts resulting from this BID is August 1, 2024, subject to change as noted above.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

A. TYPE OF PROCUREMENT: Grant

B. USE OF THIS PROCUREMENT BY SINGLE OR MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS: This BID is single department procurement. All contracts awarded under this BID will be utilized solely by EEA.

C. REQUEST FOR SINGLE OR MULTIPLE CONTRACTORS: This BID may result in multiple contracts.

D. BID DISTRIBUTION METHOD: This BID has been distributed electronically using the Commbuys system. It is the responsibility of every Applicant to check Commbuys for any addenda or modifications to a BID to which they intend to respond. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and its subdivisions accept no liability and will provide no accommodations to Applicants who fail to check for amended BIDs and submit inadequate or incorrect responses. Potential Applicants are advised to check the “last change” field on the summary page of BIDs for which they intend to submit a response to ensure they have the most recent BID files.

E. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Application Form
- B. FY 25 Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant – Response Review Rating System

Attachment A

APPLICATION FORM

**FY 25 CRANBERRY BOG ACQUISITION FOR RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**

SUBMIT: Applicants are required to submit an electronic copy by email to darya.mattes@mass.gov by the application deadline (June 13, 2024). Any application received after the deadline will be rejected. It is the Applicant's responsibility to verify receipt of the application.

Darya Mattes
RE: BID ENV 25 DCS 07

darya.mattes@mass.gov

DEADLINE: Thursday, June 13, 2024, 5:00 pm

A. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Project Title: _____

Project Location (street address, including municipality): _____

Type of grant request: Acquisition Due diligence for gift

Requested grant amount: \$ _____

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name: _____ Title: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

C. ORGANIZATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS

1a.) How many acres of land does your organization protect in fee ownership? _____ Under CR? _____

1b.) For how many acres of CR land have Baseline Documentation Reports been prepared? _____

2.) Does your organization have a strategic plan, guidelines, or policies to guide land acquisition? Please describe.

3.) Do your Articles of Incorporation specifically list permanent land conservation or habitat protection or recreation as one of your organization's goals? If yes, highlight the relevant passage in the Articles.

Yes No

4.) How do you finance stewardship, monitoring, and enforcement?

Annual Operating Budget	Yes	No
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Segregated Stewardship & CR Monitoring Fund	Yes	No
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Segregated CR Enforcement Fund	Yes	No
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Other (explain): _____

What is your annual stewardship/monitoring budget? \$_____	Endowed?	Yes	No
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5.) Does your organization have full-time stewardship or land management staff?	Yes	No
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6.) How many full-time equivalent staff are employed by your organization? _____ FTE staff

7.) If no stewardship/land management staff, how do you maintain your properties?

Volunteers Contract work

8.) How do you intend to maintain the property proposed for protection in this application?

9.) Does your proposed project have board approval?	Yes	No
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If no, when do you expect to receive it? _____

10.) Does your organization have documents or policies in place that address the disposition of land and/or CRs in the event that the organization can no longer steward and administer them? If yes, please attach them.

Yes No

D. PARCEL INFORMATION

Please complete a copy of this section (i.e., PARCEL INFORMATION) for each parcel that is part of this grant application.

1.) Total **Project Acreage**: _____

Total number of parcels (print off and fill out a copy of this page for each parcel): _____

2.) This **Parcel Information** form is being completed for:

A parcel or interest in a parcel to be **purchased**

Fee

CR

A parcel or interest in a parcel that will be **donated**

Fee

CR

3.) Parcel Information:

Owner(s): _____

Municipality: _____ Acres: _____

Street: _____

Assessors Sheet #: _____ Lot # _____

Are there building(s) on the parcel? Yes No

If yes, how will they be utilized (buildings should be removed unless they contribute to the conservation/recreation function of the property)?: _____

4.) Are there any of the following encumbrances on the parcel?

Mortgage

Easement

Lien(s)

Other (describe): _____

5.) **Appraisal** – Check the required type of appraisal that is being submitted with this application.

Full narrative appraisal

Market analysis

Opinion of value

Appraiser or preparer: _____

Property interest valuation: \$ _____

Date of appraisal, market analysis, or opinion of value: _____

(NOTE: Appraisal, market analysis, or opinion of value can be dated **no earlier than one year prior** to the application submission deadline)

All projects that receive funding through the Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant Program must convey a perpetual Conservation Restriction, within the meaning of sections 31 and 32 of MGL Chapter 184, to the municipality in which the project is located, a federal or state agency, or a not-for-profit corporation, or combination of these entities. In the case of a grant award for the acquisition of a CR or due diligence costs associated with a CR gift, the CR must be co-held by the Applicant and an entity eligible to hold a CR.

6.) To what public agency/agencies or organization do you intend to convey a CR or, for projects in which only the CR will be acquired, propose to co-hold the CR with?

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email Address: _____

E. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 1.) Using the list below as a guide, please describe your project (three page maximum):
 - a. The property interest(s) to be acquired or donated.
 - b. The natural characteristics and ecological value of the property
 - c. The proposed project's ability to protect a retired or soon to be retired cranberry bog and associated uplands suitable for the restoration of natural wetland habitat and provision of broader ecosystem services.
 - d. Any passive recreational opportunities that will be available, and how public access will be facilitated. If applicable, identify how recreational opportunities that provide access to people with disabilities will be incorporated.
 - e. Whether the project advances objectives in the community's *current* Open Space and Recreation Plan (note: it is not sufficient to attach Goals and Objectives from the OSRP, some analysis is needed)
 - f. The impact of potential development on the property's conservation and recreational value
 - g. If the project is located within a State Priority Preservation Area as shown on the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan or other regional plan. See [Executive Order No. 525](#).
 - h. Whether your organization works with Native American tribes and whether they will be involved in the project
 - i. The project's location in or near an area with Environmental Justice populations and if so, how the community has been involved in this project.
- 2.) Attach a proposed budget that includes the following (two page maximum):
 - a. An itemized list of estimated project costs
 - b. Estimated total project cost
 - c. Grant request amount
 - d. Description of the methods/sources of project financing
 - e. Timeline reflecting start and end date of steps needed to successfully complete your proposed project on or before June 30, 2026.

F. LAND PROTECTION

- 1.) How many acres would this project protect? _____ acres
- 2.) Does the proposed project abut other protected open space? *
 - Abuts >25.0 acres of protected open space
 - Abuts 11.0-24.9 acres of protected open space
 - Abuts 1.0-10.9 acres of protected open space
 - Does not abut open space

*Chapter 6I, 6IA, and 6IB lands are not considered protected open space

G. BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

1.) Does the proposed project lie within or abut NHESP BioMap Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape?

Lies within BioMap core habitat or critical natural landscape

Abuts BioMap core habitat or critical natural landscape

None of the above

Percentage within NHESP designated Core Habitat

> 75.0%

51%-74%

26%-50%

1%-25%

Percentage within NHESP designated Critical Natural Landscape

> 75%

51%-74%

26%-50%

1%-25%

2.) What is the project location's average climate resiliency score as defined by The Nature Conservancy's [Resilient Mapping Tool](#)? List the numeric score below.

_____ SD

3.) How many acres of wetland are on the property? _____ acres

How many acres of upland are on the property? _____ acres

How many potential house lots are on the property? _____

H. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

1.) What public recreational opportunities will the project provide (explain in the project description)?

Recreational opportunities will be verified by DCS staff during the site visit.

Trail-based activities (e.g., walking, Nordic skiing, biking, horseback riding)

Water-based activities (e.g., canoeing, fishing, swimming, skating)

Group activities (e.g., nature education, picnicking, outdoor fitness class)

2.) Will the proposed project advance priorities, goals, or objectives in the current local Open Space and Recreation Plan?

Yes

No

3.) Will the proposed project advance priorities, goals, or objectives in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan?

Yes

No

4.) Will the proposed project advance a local or regional greenway plan or the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, Metro North Plan, or CMRPC Plan?

Yes

No

I. CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

This application was prepared by:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the information and data contained in this application for the FY23 Cranberry Bog Acquisition for Restoration Grant, including attachments, are true and correct.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

J. ATTACHMENT CHECKLIST

Please include the following with your application:

- ☐ **Attachment 1:** Project narrative
- ☐ **Attachment 2:** Budget proposal, grant request, funding sources/methods, and project timeline
- ☐ **Attachment 3:** USGS topographic map with parcel(s) clearly identified, as well as additional applicable maps necessary to reflect:
 - Surrounding other protected open space (identify)
 - NHESP BioMap designations
 - TNC Resiliency Score
 - Applicable local or regional recreation and/or preservation priorities including local/regional greenway plans or regional preservation areas shown on the State Priority Development or Preservation Areas as shown on the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, or the 495/Metrowest Development Compact Plan (if applicable)
- ☐ **Attachment 4:** Letter of commitment from each municipality, state agency, or land trust (or combination thereof) proposed to hold CR on purchased or gifted fee property, or to co-hold gifted CR
- ☐ **Attachment 5:** Documentation of parcel enrollment in the Chapter 61 or 61A, Forest Stewardship program.
- ☐ **Attachment 6:** Appraisal, market analysis, or opinion of value
- ☐ **Attachment 7:** Articles of Incorporation, IRS 501(c)(3) letter, and a copy of 2021 Massachusetts Annual Report as filed to the Secretary of State's office (as applicable).

The following forms will be required if selected for funding.

- ☐ [Commonwealth Terms and Conditions](#)
- ☐ [Commonwealth W-9 Request](#) for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification
- ☐ [Contractor Authorized Signature Verification Form](#)
- ☐ [Authorization for Electronic Funds Payment](#)

Attachment B
FY 24 CRANBERRY BOG ACQUISITION FOR RESTORATION GRANT - RESPONSE RATING SYSTEM
100 TOTAL POINTS

I. Organizational Characteristics (16 points maximum)

- 1.) Applicant currently protects land in fee ownership and/or under CRs and has policies or procedures that guide the land acquisition process:
Yes = 2 pt
No = 0 pts
- 2.) Applicant has proven capacity to properly steward fee or CR protected lands:
Yes = 4 pts
No = 0 pts
- 3.) Articles of incorporation specifically state permanent land protection, land conservation, recreation as one of its missions.
Yes = 6 pts
No = 0 pts
- 4.) Organization has documents or policies that address the disposition of land and/or CRs in the event the organization can no longer steward and administer them.
Yes = 4 pts
No = 0 pts

II. Land Protection (12 points maximum)

- 1.) Total acreage protected (via purchase and/or donation):
 > 20 acres = 9 pts
 14-19 acres = 7 pts
 8-13 acres = 5 pts
 2-7 acres = 3 pts
 <2 acres = 1 pt
- 2.) Proposed project abuts or links other protected open space:
 Abuts >25 acres of protected open space = 3 pts
 Abuts 11-24 acres of protected open space = 2 pts
 Abuts 1-10 acres of protected open space = 1 pts

III. Biodiversity and Natural Resource Protection (16 points maximum)

- 1.) Project is within designated NHESP BioMap Core Habitat or Critical Natural Landscape, or abuts designated lands:
 >75% is designated = 6 pts
 51%-75% is designated = 5 pts
 26%-50% is designated = 4 pts
 1%-25% is designated = 2 pts
 Project abuts designated lands = 1 pt

2.) How does the property rank for climate change resiliency according to TNC's mapping score?

Most resilient = 4 pts

More resilient = 3 pts

Slightly more resilient = 2 pts

Average or median = 1

3.) How significantly will the subject parcel's resource value be impacted by its development (rating determined based on how this application compares to others received)?

High impact = 6 pts

Medium impact = 3 pts

Low impact = 1 pt

IV. Ecological Restoration Potential (25 points maximum)

1) How does the project site provide excellent ecological restoration potential, due to proximity to other sensitive resource areas, hydrology, connection to other wetlands and/or natural systems, remnant wetland soils, and other factors?

High potential = 20-25 pts

Medium potential = 11-20 pts

Low potential = 0-10 pts

V. Recreational Opportunities (7 points maximum)

1.) Project provides public recreational opportunities (especially those that go above and beyond to provide access for people with disabilities):

Yes (1pt each)

Group activities

☐

(e.g., nature study, fitness classes, picnicking)

Trail-based activities

☐

(i.e., hiking, biking, walking)

Water-based activities

☐

(e.g., swimming, kayaking, fishing)

2.) Project meets priorities, goals, or objectives identified in an Open Space & Recreation Plan

Yes = 2 pts

No = 0

3.) Project meets priorities, goals, or objectives identified in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Yes = 2 pts

No = 0

VI. Overall Project Quality and Importance (24 points)

1.) What is the overall quality and importance of the proposed project?

High = 14-24 pts

Medium = 7-13 pts

Low = 0-6 pts