

**Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program
Application Form FY 2021**

Please do not reformat this form – use the fillable pdf form

Please print double-sided

Please fasten application package with a binder clip, no three-ring or plastic binders!

1. **Municipality:** _____

Population: _____

2. **Project Name:** _____

Type of Project:

☐ Acquisition – acreage _____ ☐ New development ☐ Renovation of existing park

Project address: _____

Project acreage: _____

Project registry information: Street address of the Registry of Deeds where the park's deed is located: _____

Book: _____ Page: _____

3. **Contact Person:** _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please note: the contact person is the official representative for this project as authorized under item #15(b) of this application, usually not the chief municipal officer.

4. **Briefly describe the project on TWO attached pages.** Use the PARC Rating System as an outline for the description, as well as the items bulleted below, to ensure the maximum score possible for your project.

a.) Acquisition Projects:

- site location – directly serves Environmental Justice population and/or site's distance to the nearest park
- rare species (include letter from NHESP) (to determine if NHESP must approve site plans)
- historic or archaeological resource (include letter from MHC) (to determine if MHC must approve site plans)

b.) Development or Renovation Projects:

- describe facilities being developed (please note projects that require a significant amount of tree removal will not be looked at favorably)
- describe community needs, including park equity/need in this neighborhood
- new acres dedicated as parkland

c.) All Projects:

- directly serves an Environmental Justice population or area of the community that lacks park resources (show on map) and how the project will increase recreational opportunities for residents in areas of the state that currently do not have sufficient access
- how the needs of people with disabilities have been incorporated into the project's design (projects that have gone above and beyond to incorporate these needs will be reviewed most favorably)
- water-based recreation (include linear footage of bordering water resource)
- how the project's design incorporates climate resiliency, including the number of trees that will be planted at the park
- fiscal or future maintenance cooperation with any other governmental agency (state, federal, county), private nonprofit, local business, etc.
- applicant's current park maintenance budget and staff levels, along with the list of properties this budget and staff covers
- consistency with any nearby State Priority Development or Preservation Areas as shown on the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, 495/ MetroWest Development Compact Plan, Metro North Plan, or CMRPC Plan
- environmental education/interpretive services planned for site
- regional or statewide facility (communities applying in these categories should submit a Usage Report)
 - accessible via public transportation (within a 1/2-mile walk)
 - parking for 100 (or more) vehicles

5. Proposed Funding:

The PARC Grant Program is a **reimbursement** program. Grant recipients are reimbursed after invoices have been paid by the municipality. **The total project cost must be raised or appropriated by the municipality shortly after project approval if it has not already been appropriated.** Costs incurred prior to grant approval and contract execution are ineligible, **including design costs.** Force account labor, volunteer hours, and donations are also ineligible. Refer to PARC regulations (Section 5.07) for eligible cost details. Sample budget can be found in Attachment E.

Total Eligible Project Cost: \$ _____

PARC Request: \$ _____
(52-70% of total project cost based on Equalized Valuation Per Capita, can be found on DCS web page, maximum of \$400,000)

Municipal Share: \$ _____
(Community Development Block Grant via federal or local government sources, Community Preservation Act, etc., please specify in narrative)

Other: \$ _____
(i.e. private donation to community, fund raising, etc. Note that any donations for the project must be put into a municipal account earmarked for the project as EEA can only reimburse on a canceled municipal check.)

(PARC Request + Municipal Share + Other = Total Eligible Project Cost)

Attach a one page description of the proposed project budget including:

The source of all local funding including donations and Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds.

- Description of the details of any donation, if applicable (be sure these funds are gifted to the community and earmarked for the project).

- Description of any other sources of funding including federal, state, municipal, or nonprofit organizations. List these partners and describe their contribution. Not all sources of state and federal funds are compatible with every DCS grant program.
- Budget should be broken into two distinct fiscal years for renovation and development projects – FY 21 costs associated with design, FY 22 costs associated with construction. Please note that PARC grants cannot reimburse municipalities for design costs only.

6. Project Type: Please indicate type of project, refer to the program's regulations for definitions (Sec 5:03) and to the list of required attachments found at the end of this application form to substantiate any "yes" answers. Indicate here whether:

- ☐ Your municipality is an urban population center (city of any size or town with 35,000 or more residents)
- ☐ Your project qualifies as a regional or statewide project (town with 35,000 or less residents whose proposed project has public transportation access and/or over 100 car parking) (submit a Usage Report)
- ☐ Your project qualifies as a "small town" project (town with 35,000 or less residents) – please note that these applications will be competing amongst themselves in a separate pool for \$400,000
- ☐ Your municipality is on Cape Cod or the Islands (eligible for \$400,000 grant award maximum)

7. Community Preservation Act

Has your community passed the Community Preservation Act?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "yes", please note that successful grant applicants that have purchased real property interests for open space or recreational purposes using money from the Community Preservation Fund must have all conservation restrictions required by Section 12 of Chapter 44B approved by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs and recorded prior to receipt of final project reimbursement from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Also, any communities that have acquired land through the Cape Cod Land Bank must show CRs as well (for file records only).

8. Describe outstanding leases, restrictions or other rights or interests held by others in the project site and enclosed copy of the same (for file records only).

9. Is the property permanently dedicated for park, playground, or recreation purposes (MGL Chapter 45, Section 3 or 14)? If not, please submit draft dedication language for DCS review as all PARC Grant Program projects must be dedicated for park, playground, or recreation purposes.

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Are fees currently charged or proposed for this facility? If yes, please attach a copy of the fee system. Charging fees is allowed subject to DCS approval. If applicant is awarded a grant, the site cannot be restricted to municipal residents only. If fees are charged based on residency, fees for nonresidents are subject to Section 5.08(3) of the PARC Grant Program regulations (for file records only).

- ☐ Yes (copy attached) ☐ No

11. Municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan

Describe how your project meets the recommendations in your current Open Space and Recreation Plan. To receive points in this category, you must cite specific goals, objectives, and/or actions from the Action Plan and the associated page number references. If we already have a copy of your plan, there is no need to submit another copy.

| | Goal, objective, or action plan item from current OSRP | Page # |
|---|--|--------|
| 1 | | |
| 2 | | |
| 3 | | |
| 4 | | |
| 5 | | |
| 6 | | |

12. Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Describe how your project advances the Outdoor Recreation Goals and Objectives (Chapter 5) in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. It can be found online at <https://www.mass.gov/files/massachusetts-scorp-2017-for-submission.pdf>.

13. Enhanced Outreach to Environmental Justice Populations

Describe how Environmental Justice populations in your community (or neighboring communities) were able to participate in the project selection and design process. Please include any flyers, mailings, etc. that were distributed to the community and list here where they were distributed.

14. Community Compact

Has your community signed a Community Compact?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If “yes”, please list the Sustainable Development and Land Protection Best Practices included in it.

15. Municipal Vulnerability Program

Is your community an MVP Community?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If “yes”, please describe how this application supports a priority implementation project within your MVP plan or how the plan includes other implementation project(s) relevant to parks and land conservation.

16. Housing Choice Initiative Program

Has your community been designed as a Housing Choice Community? For more information please visit <https://www.mass.gov/housingchoice>.

☐ Yes ☐ No

17. Check the following if applicable to project (for file records only):

☐ Yes ☐ No Prime agricultural lands (see Ex. Order #193)

☐ Yes ☐ No Cultural, historic, archeological site: Contact MA Historical Commission (617) 727-8470

☐ Yes ☐ No Endangered species habitat: Contact MA Natural Heritage Program (508) 389-6300

☐ Yes ☐ No Environmental intrusion, i.e. **overhead power lines (must be buried)**, safety hazards

☐ Yes ☐ No Brownfield – 21E evaluation

☐ Yes ☐ No Located in the State Priority Preservation Area as shown on the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, or the 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, Metro North Plan, or CMRPC Plan

☐ Yes ☐ No Environmental Justice population (see EJ data viewer at http://maps.massgis.state.ma.us/map_ol/ej.php)

Acquisition projects only

☐ Yes ☐ No Acquisition involving relocation of residents, tenants, or businesses

Do you have a Purchase and Sales Agreement or Agreed Price? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, amount: \$_____

Is Clear Title available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, is an eminent domain taking anticipated? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, proposed pro tanto award amount: \$_____

Note that if clear title is not available, the community may decide to acquire the property by a friendly taking (eminent domain) process to clear the title. It is best to know if there is a potential title problem as soon as possible since this can complicate the acquisition process.

Appraisal Report #1

Valuation: \$ _____

Appraiser: _____

Valuation Date: _____

Appraisal Report #2 (if needed) (see section 2B for details)

Valuation: \$ _____

Appraiser: _____

Valuation Date: _____

18. Check if the following permits are required (for file records only):
- ☐ Yes ☐ No U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (404 or Rivers and Waterways)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No MA DEP Division of Wetlands & Waterways (617) 292-5518
- ☐ Yes ☐ No U.S. Coast Guard
- ☐ Yes ☐ No U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (Zoos)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No C. 131 s. 40 Wetlands (municipal conservation commission)
- ☐ Yes ☐ No MEPA Review (301 CMR 11.00: MEPA Regulations) (617) 626-1020

IMPORTANT NOTICE

If any of the above permits are required, the permit or application for the permit must be submitted. Should the project be selected for funding, the permit will be required as part of the final application.

19. Attach certification of:

- a. The **Chief Executive Officer's legal authorization to execute contracts**. This is a resolution, motion, or similar action that has been duly adopted or passed as an official act of the community's governing body that authorizes the filing of the applications, including all understandings and assurances contained therein by the signatory, **usually a page from the town/city charter** will satisfy this requirement (this is not a DCS form to be completed); and
- b. Authorization from chief municipal officer identifying individual named on the first page of this application who acts as official of municipality in connection with the application and who will provide such additional information as may be required (See Grant Regulations 5.04:(6)).

Date

Signature of Chief Municipal Officer

Name and Title (Typed)

Duration of Term

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: _____

PLEASE LABEL ALL ATTACHMENTS

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS (applications that are missing these items will not be accepted)

- ☐ **Municipal Open Space and Recreation Plan**, if not already approved and on file at DCS. Plans are approved by DCS for up to seven years of eligibility for DCS grant programs. Community is not eligible to apply without an approved plan, or submission of a draft plan. (If we have it on file, do not send another copy.)
- ☐ **Acquisition Projects – Appraisal report(s)** as required by DCS. See Section 2B for more details.

RECOMMENDED ATTACHMENTS (use as a checklist) (provides details to information requested and assists in project evaluation)

- ☐ **Project Description** (application item #4) and **Budget Details** (application item #5), including a breakdown of how much is needed for design costs in FY 21 and construction costs in FY 22. Please note that funds not used in FY 21 do not roll over into FY 22. A sample budget can be found in Attachment E.
- ☐ **Development & Renovation Projects – Site Development Plans and Cost Estimates.** Services of a professional design firm are recommended for renovation and development projects. Costs incurred prior to the signing of a state standard contract are NOT eligible for reimbursement. Site Development Plans and Cost Estimates should show the number of trees that will be planted at the site. Projects that propose removing significant numbers of trees will not be looked at favorably.
- ☐ **Boundary Plan of Site** (Survey or Plot Plan with adequate metes and boundary descriptions). The boundary plan submitted with the project application becomes the permanent protected boundary for the site and must be legally sufficient to identify the land to be protected. A registered survey plan with deed references or assessor's map with block and lot number are acceptable.
- ☐ **USGS Locus Map** showing outline of project site, proximate Priority Development and Preservation Areas as shown on the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, 495/MetroWest Development Compact Plan, Metro North Plan, or CMRPC Plan, any adjacent or nearby public or quasi-public parkland, and EJ populations in project site area. Please include the park boundaries on the map (do not just use a point). See Attachment F for a sample.
- ☐ **Evidence of public meeting on proposed project to EJ population(s)** (copy of actual posted announcement). Post notices with tenants associations, in local grocery stores, or with Community Development Corporations in languages that are appropriate for the population. Please look at EEA's Environmental Justice Policy online at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/environmental-justice-policy> to ensure proper outreach procedures in EJ populations.
- ☐ **Usage Report** only if your project is Regional or Statewide (Attachment C).
- ☐ Certified copies of the following **municipal votes** (or draft warrant article or city council order, as necessary). Refer to the Sample Municipal Vote, which is included in the application package, for guidance. PARC Grant Program grant manager MUST review municipal vote prior to Town Meeting or City Council Meeting.
 - ☐ Copy of municipal vote accepting the Park Commission (M.G.L. c.45 s.2) **AND** its current appointments.
 - ☐ Municipal vote authorizing application; raising, borrowing or appropriating the total project cost (application item #5); and dedicating land to park, playground, or recreation purposes (application item #9).
- ☐ Copy of property **deed** confirming municipal ownership and dedication to park, playground, or recreation purposes.
- ☐ Current **park maintenance budget** and **staff levels**, along with the list of properties this budget and staff covers.
- ☐ **Other State Agency Review** – if it is not possible to include their response in the application package to DCS, attach a copy of your cover letter requesting their input.

- ☐ All applicants must request comments from the Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) on the presence or absence of rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) on or near the proposed land acquisition or park project. To request comments, please send a letter or email to Lynn Harper, Habitat Protection Specialist, Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, DFW, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581, or to Lynn.Harper@mass.gov. The letter or email should include a brief description of the acquisition or project, and a map of the acquisition or project location. There is no charge for this comment letter.
- ☐ Massachusetts Historical Commission: Send the MHC a PNF (<http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/pnf.pdf>) with a photocopy of the USGS locus map with the property boundaries clearly indicated, smaller-scale property maps if available, and a cover letter to include information about any known historic or archaeological sites. Send this certified mail, return receipt requested, so that you know when it was received. MHC will review and comment to DCS (and copy the applicant) within 30 days of receipt. There is no need to telephone or email the MHC. See these webpages for any questions: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/pnfguide.pdf> and <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcrevcom/revcomidx.htm>.

ATTACH SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS IF APPLICABLE TO THE PROJECT

- ☐ Copies of current leases, restrictions, or other rights or interests held by others in the property.
- ☐ Fee schedule.
- ☐ Any necessary permits or applications for permits.

If grant is awarded to the community, the following will be required of CPA communities:

Evidence of recorded Conservation Restriction(s) as required in Section 12 of Chapter 44B if applicant is a Community Preservation Act community.

Section 12 of the Chapter 44B Real property interest; deed restriction; management

(a) A real property interest that is acquired with monies from the Community Preservation Fund shall be bound by a permanent restriction, recorded as a separate instrument, that meets the requirements of sections 31 to 33, inclusive, of chapter 184 limiting the use of the interest to the purpose for which it was acquired. The permanent restriction shall run with the land and shall be enforceable by the city or town or the commonwealth. The permanent restriction may also run to the benefit of a nonprofit organization, charitable corporation or foundation selected by the city or town with the right to enforce the restriction. The legislative body may appropriate monies from the Community Preservation Fund to pay a non-profit organization created pursuant to chapter 180 to hold, monitor and enforce the deed restriction on the property.

(b) Real property interests acquired under this chapter shall be owned and managed by the city or town, but the legislative body may delegate management of such property to the conservation commission, the historical commission, the board of park commissioners or the housing authority, or, in the case of interests to acquire sites for future wellhead development by a water district, a water supply district or a fire district. The legislative body may also delegate management of such property to a nonprofit organization created under chapter 180 or chapter 203.