

LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Information Session
January 28, 2025



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GRANT PROGRAM MANAGER

DIV. CONSERVATION
SERVICES, EEA



Agenda

Grant Program Goals & Focus

Grant Awards

Eligibility

Grant Requirements

Application Materials & Appraisals

Timeline for Awards & Reimbursement Process

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Landscape Partnership Program Goals



To protect contiguous, large-scale landscapes necessary to sustain the integrity and resiliency of ecosystems and viability of local farms and forest economies



To enable projects that stretch beyond the scope of other state grant programs, standard spheres of operation, and involve cooperation of multiple actors



To support Executive Order 569, which calls for state government to adapt to climate change and build a more resilient Commonwealth

Seeking projects that:

- Address conservation of contiguous land and working landscapes (farms & forests)
- Protect important natural resources
- Reflect municipal involvement
- Support meaningful partnerships
- Provide public access for passive recreation
- Will promote good stewardship
- Promote climate change mitigation and resiliency





Grant Awards

- Up to 50% reimbursement
- Maximum award: \$1,250,000
- Funding available in FY25, FY26, FY27
- Project contracts can be 1 or 2 years.
- May not request reimbursement for more than 50% of costs in first of a 2-year project.



Eligible Applicants

PROJECTS MUST INCLUDE PARTNERS FROM 2 OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

MUNICIPALITIES

- Conservation or agricultural commissions
- Municipal water departments

501C3 NONPROFITS

- Land Trusts
- Environmental or conservation organizations.

STATE / FEDERAL LAND AGENCIES

- MA Dept. of Fish & Game (DFG)
- MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
- MA Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)
- NPS; USDA

Federal agencies may not receive reimbursement.

Eligible Projects

PURCHASE OF:

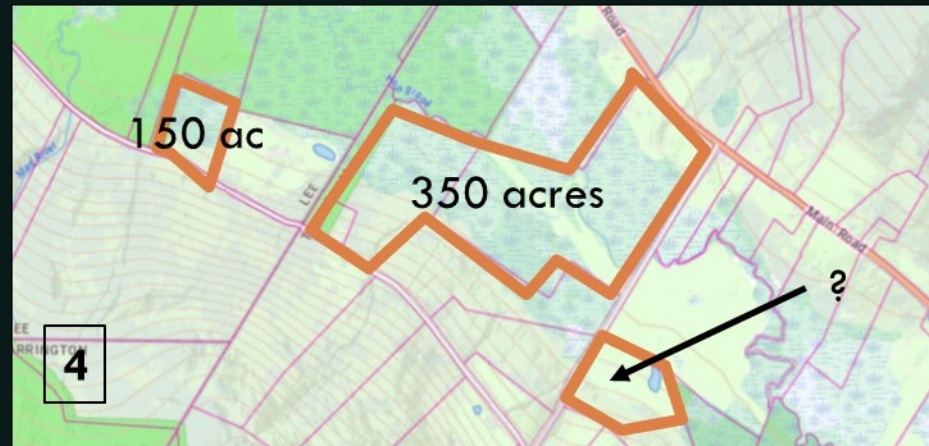
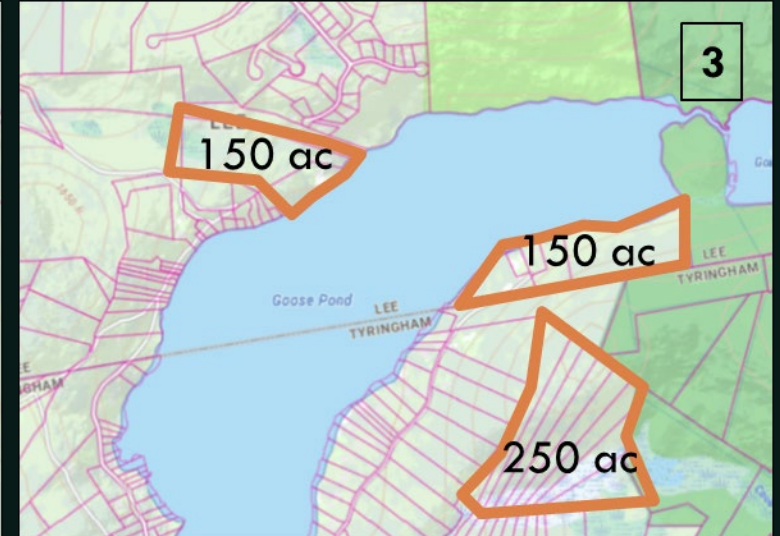
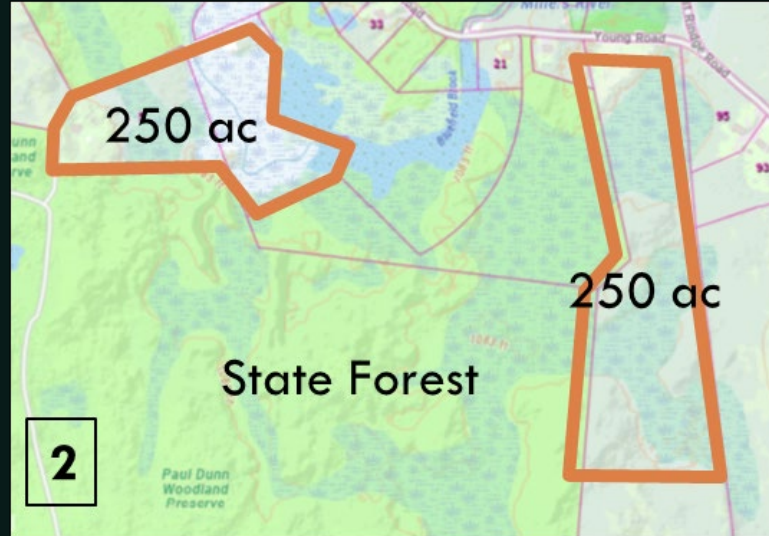
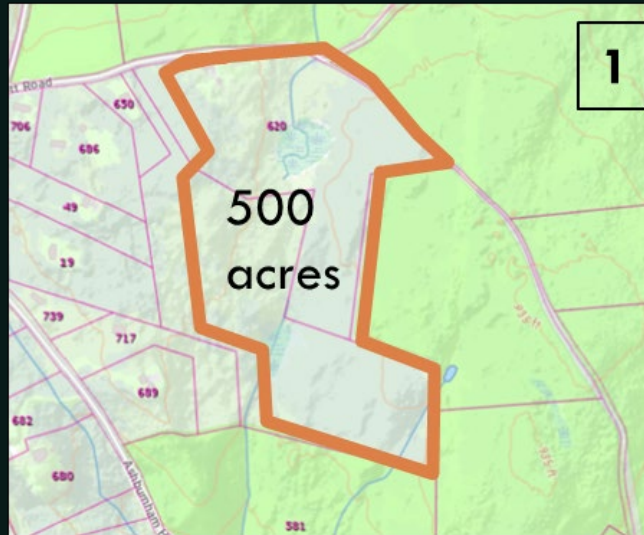
- Fee Simple
 - Fee properties acquired by a LT partner will require a CR be conveyed to another eligible entity
- Conservation Restriction (CR)
- Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR)
- Watershed Preservation Restriction (WPR)

Eligible Projects – Size

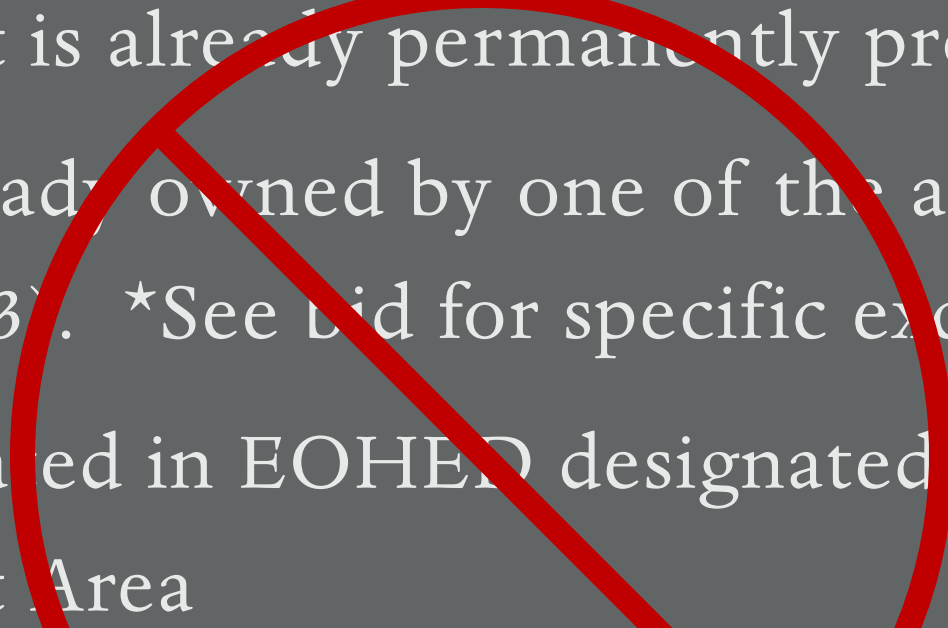
County	Minimum Project Size
Berkshire, Franklin, Worcester	500 acres
Hampden	300 acres
Bristol, Hampshire, Plymouth	250 acres
Essex	200 acres
Barnstable, Dukes, Middlesex, Nantucket, Norfolk, Suffolk	100 acres

- Projects adjacent to protected open space and/ or that are not transected by roads are prioritized.
- Parcels separated by minimally traveled roads or connected by wildlife passages will be considered at EEAs discretion.

Eligible Projects - Configuration



Ineligible Projects

- Property that is already permanently protected
 - Property already owned by one of the applicants (or another 501c3). *See bid for specific exceptions.
 - Property located in EOHED designated Priority Development Area
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This is not a comprehensive list – always call or email if you aren't sure

Eligible Costs

- Fee, CR/ APR/ WPR purchase
- Title research & certification
- Recording fees
- Survey or plan of land
- Forest Management Plan
- Appraisal (if completed during the contract period)
- Baseline Documentation Report (up to \$1,500 per BDR)



Eligible Match

- Municipal funding (e.g., Open Space Fund, CPA, or drinking water accounts)
- Non-profit contributions
- State agency acquisition funds (DFW, DFG)
- Property donations including negotiated bargain sale value
- Private or federal grants
- Other non-state funds approved by EEA



Grant Requirements



- A portion of the Project must be publicly accessible
- *Parcels acquired in fee must have public access.*
- Projects are encouraged to include working lands (active farming or forestry)
- Donated parcels where the value is counted toward match (“match parcels”) – must close in FY reflected in budget)

Application Requirements

- Application –a PDF copy via email
- Appraisal(s) – as required and/or available.
- Project narrative
- Budget – see template
- Maps
- MHC and NHESP letters (or request for letters)
- Letters authorizing grant application
- Required municipal vote(s) –include a draft if pending.
- Documentation of project quality as needed
- Draft CR/APR/WPR (as applicable)

Appraisals

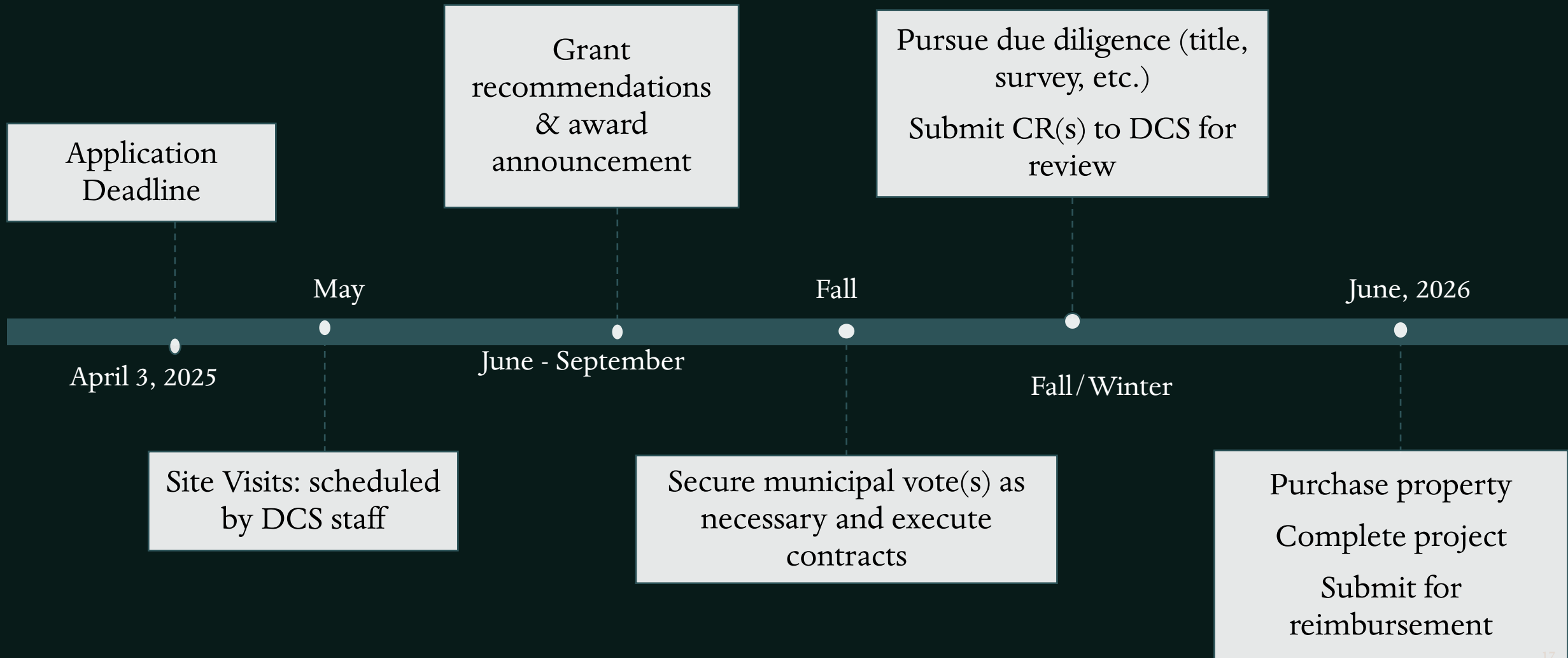
- A Self-contained Full Narrative Appraisal is required for all parcels with estimated value >\$72,000
\$28,000 – \$72,000 – A Restricted Use Appraisal is acceptable, and for <\$28,000 a Contracted Market Analysis is allowed
- Appraisals must clearly break out the property value (e.g. fee or CR) to be purchased by each project partner (or contributed as match).
- Valuations (appraisals) are REQUIRED for ALL project parcels – purchased and parcels intended as “match”.
- Appraisals may not be older than 1 year at the time of the grant deadline.

Terms for Reimbursement

- Project components must close in the FY reflected in the budget.
- Grantees must document payment from eligible accounts (e.g. canceled check or wire transfer statement) or provide a Treasurers Statement.
- All acquired property must have certified clear title.
- A recorded survey is required of all parcels.
- Accommodations for public access must be complete



Grant Project Timeline (FY26 Award)



Questions?

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