

# **FY25 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Round**

## **Grant Workshop**

# Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

- ▶ LWCF grants will be used to implement the findings of SCORP
- ▶ Four SCORP goals are to:
  1. Improve Access to Beaches and Other Water-based Recreation Facilities
  2. Support Trail Projects
  3. Create and Renovate Neighborhood Parks, Especially to Benefit the Underserved
  4. Create Opportunities, Especially for the Underserved, to Enjoy Protected Natural Areas

# LWCF Grant Information

- ▶ LWCF is a federal program that the Division of Conservation Services administers on behalf of the National Park Service
- ▶ Funded through off-shore oil lease revenue
- ▶ Eligible applicants
  - ▶ Municipalities
  - ▶ Departments of Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation
  - ▶ Federally-recognized tribes

# LWCF Grant Requirements

- ▶ Municipal applicants must have an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan (if one is already on file at DCS, don't send another)
  - ▶ It is possible to submit it at the same time as the grant application, please submit via separate email
- ▶ Acquisition projects must have an appraisal done to Yellow Book standards
- ▶ Applications are due by January 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm **via online form AND mail**

# Yellow Book Appraisals

- ▶ Applicants submitting an acquisition project must coordinate the appraisal process with Melissa by December 9, 2024 via email or phone
- ▶ Appraisals must be done to Yellow Book standards
- ▶ Review appraiser will be hired by EEA to complete a Statement of Work in coordination with the applicant's appraiser under which applicant's appraiser will complete their work
- ▶ Appraisal submittal deadline is February 27, 2025 - **email to Melissa**
- ▶ Appraisal must be no older than one year old at the time of the grant submission (dated between January 10, 2024 and January 9, 2025)
- ▶ Statement of Work is Attachment F of the BID

# Eligible Project Types

- ▶ Conservation projects:
  - ▶ Purchase land in fee simple or a conservation restriction
  - ▶ Land will be under the care and control of the Conservation Commission
- ▶ Recreation projects:
  - ▶ Purchase recreation land
  - ▶ Develop new recreational facilities
  - ▶ Renovate existing parks
  - ▶ Land must be dedicated as parkland

# Eligible Project Types

- ▶ Trails projects:
  - ▶ Development of trails on existing municipally- or state-owned conservation or recreation land
- ▶ Federal definition of trail: Trails can connect parks with communities or other parks, be within parks, or serve as stand-alone recreation features.
- ▶ Projects on state land must be submitted by DCR or DFG, not by the municipality in which they are located

# Eligible Project Costs

- ▶ For acquisition projects:
  - ▶ Reimbursement is based on purchase price or appraised value, whichever is less
  - ▶ Only acquisition cost is eligible for reimbursement
- ▶ For renovation/development projects:
  - ▶ Engineering
  - ▶ Design (grants solely for design are not eligible)
  - ▶ Construction
  - ▶ Construction supervision



# Eligible Project Costs

- ▶ For trail projects:
  - ▶ Development and marking of trails
  - ▶ Support features such as trailheads, overlooks, and turnouts
- ▶ Donations or in-kind services are ineligible for reimbursement
- ▶ 100% of total project cost must be appropriated from municipal budget (for municipalities), from state budget (for state agencies), from tribal budget (for tribes)

# Grant maximum/minimum

- ▶ Minimum grant request: \$50,000
- ▶ Maximum grant request : \$1,000,000

# Reimbursement Percentage/ Cost Estimates

- ▶ LWCF grants have a maximum 50% reimbursement rate
- ▶ The specific reimbursement rate for a successful project is based on what percent the grant award amount is of the total eligible project cost and remains the same for each reimbursement request submitted for payment during the life of the grant
- ▶ If site design includes elements that are NOT proposed to be funded with LWCF, highlight LWCF-funded elements

# Reimbursement Percentage/ Cost Estimates

- ▶ Budget/reimbursement example:
  - ▶ \$4,000,000 project with a \$1,000,000 grant award
  - ▶ \$1,000,000 is 25% of \$4,000,000
  - ▶ Grantee will be reimbursed 25% of eligible project costs for each reimbursement request submitted for payment
  - ▶ A grantee submitting \$1,000,000 worth of invoices will be reimbursed \$250,000 (25% of \$1,000,000 is \$250,000)
- ▶ Plan your project budget accordingly

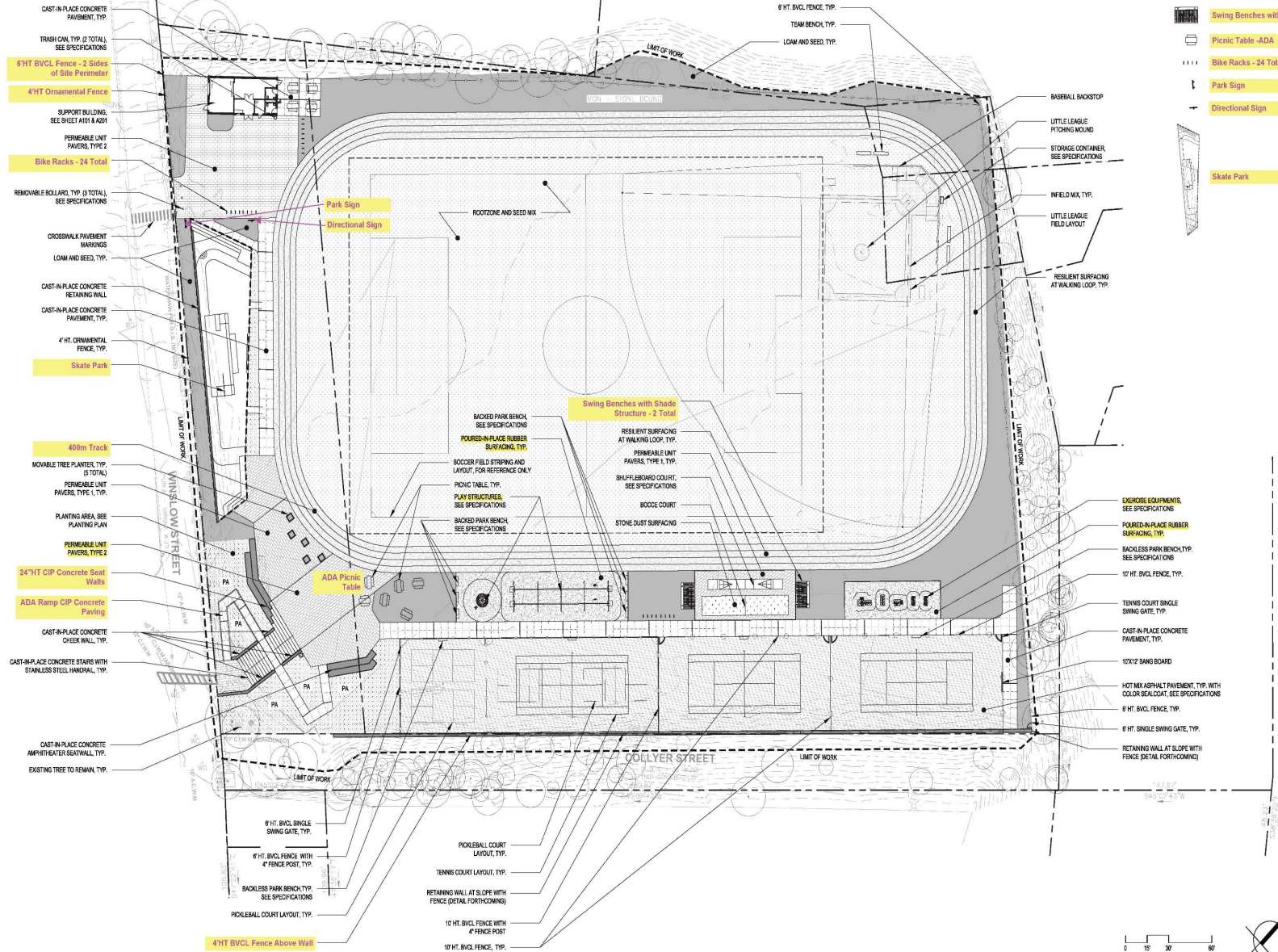
# Sample Site Design

## NOTES

1. SEE SHEET L001 FOR MATERIAL NOTES.

## LEGEND

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | 400m Track                                   |
|  | 24\"/>                                       |
|  | ADA Ramp CIP Concrete Paving                 |
|  | 6\"/>  |
|  | 4\"/>  |
|  | 4\"/>  |
|  | Swing Benches with Shade Structure - 2 Total |
|  | Picnic Table - ADA                           |
|  | Bike Racks - 24 Total                        |
|  | Park Sign                                    |
|  | Directional Sign                             |
|  | Skate Park                                   |



SCALE: 1"=30'



# Selection Process

- ▶ All projects are visited by DCS staff, then rated and ranked (rating system is included in the application package)
- ▶ Recommendations are approved by EEA
- ▶ Recommendations are approved by the National Park Service
- ▶ Anticipated state grant decision announcement date is late spring 2025 (this is an estimate)
- ▶ Anticipated federal grant award announcement date is fall 2025
- ▶ Project completion date is December 2027

# Municipal Votes

- ▶ All municipal projects must have a town meeting or city council vote
- ▶ The vote will:
  - ▶ Authorize the submission of the grant application
  - ▶ Approve appropriation of 100% of the total project cost
  - ▶ Dedicate the land to recreation (Chapter 45, Section 3 or 14) or conservation purposes (Chapter 40, Section 8C)
- ▶ Sample vote language is in application package
- ▶ **Send all draft vote language to me for approval**
- ▶ Vote can occur after application deadline, but must occur before the contract is signed with the grantee



# Project Description

- ▶ Use the rating system as your guide and include a description of what the funding will go towards (2 pages max, 11 pt font, ¾” margins)
  - ▶ Environmental Justice
  - ▶ Access for people with disabilities
  - ▶ Water-based recreation
  - ▶ Climate resiliency
  - ▶ Relevance to statewide and local plans, including SCORP
  - ▶ Access to open space
  - ▶ Trails
  - ▶ Stewardship



# Climate Resilient Parks Ideas

- ▶ Climate resiliency should be incorporated into park design and site selection
- ▶ Some ideas:
  - ▶ Redeveloping vacant lots into community gardens and urban forests
  - ▶ Dramatically increasing tree canopy in any park design
  - ▶ Removing significant amounts of pavement
  - ▶ Installing pergolas as shade structures
  - ▶ Incorporating water spray parks into design as cooling feature

# Post-completion Responsibilities

- ▶ Article 97 of the Amendments to Massachusetts Constitution and Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act protection - land must remain as conservation or recreation land in perpetuity
- ▶ Site must be open to all - this includes both non-residents and people with disabilities
- ▶ Fair fee policy
- ▶ Sign requirements

# Important Things to Remember

- ▶ LWCF is funded through the National Park Service and is subject to its approval, as well as federal rules and regulations
- ▶ Division of Conservation Services administers the program for NPS
- ▶ Any work completed prior to receiving a signed state contract is ineligible for reimbursement
- ▶ Clearly mark all attachments and use the application form as an attachment checklist

# Other Things to Remember

- ▶ Mass Historic Commission and Natural Heritage review letters must be submitted (see page 18 of the BID)
- ▶ **Use the online application form**
- ▶ Mail one hard copy (double-sided, if possible)
- ▶ Submit application form as a part of the hard copy - fillable pdf on the website
- ▶ Don't stress... But plan in advance and focus on details

# Buy America Requirements

- ▶ Projects must comply with Build America, Buy America
  - ▶ Affirms, consistent with E.O. 14005 (Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers), the priority is to maximize the use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States.
  - ▶ Increase domestic supply chains
  - ▶ Make domestic supply chains more resilient
  - ▶ Provide demand to domestic producers

(OMB Memorandum M-22-11)

# Contact Information

Melissa Cryan

100 Cambridge Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor

Boston, MA 02114

(857) 274-7173

[melissa.cryan@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.cryan@mass.gov)

[www.mass.gov/grant-programs-offered-by-the-division-of-conservation-services](http://www.mass.gov/grant-programs-offered-by-the-division-of-conservation-services)

[www.nps.gov/lwcf](http://www.nps.gov/lwcf)