

Questions and Answers from LAND/PARC Grant Workshops
May 15 and 16, 2019

Question: Is playground equipment eligible for reimbursement?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Is preference given to sites that were formerly brownfields in the PARC Grant rating system?

Answer: EEA supports the redevelopment of brownfields into parks, so this type of project would do well in the project quality section of the rating system.

Question: Are appraisals eligible for reimbursement?

Answer: Since the appraisal cost would have been incurred prior to the execution of a state contract, no, they are not eligible for reimbursement.

Question: Does the title to the land need to be found before the PARC grant deadline?

Answer: No, but locating the title would be a condition of the grant award.

Question: Must a Municipal Vulnerability Program designation need to occur before the application is submitted?

Answer: In order to receive points in the rating system, a community must be designated as an MVP community before the grant rating and review occurs, which is in September.

Question: For PARC grants, is the \$400,000 grant amount split between two fiscal years?

Answer: Yes. For park development and renovation projects, PARC grant awards are for two years. The first year is for design and the second year is for construction.

Question: If a land trust and a municipality are working together on a project, can the municipality apply for a LAND grant and the land trust apply for a Conservation Partnership grant for the same parcel of land?

Answer: Yes, but with some conditions. Please contact Melissa Cryan for more information.

Question: Where can you find Census tract information?

Answer: On the US Census website at www.census.gov.

Question: Can the park design run into the second fiscal year?

Answer: In general, the park design should be completed in the first year of the PARC grant award.

Question: Is it possible to phase a PARC grant project?

Answer: Yes. Some PARC projects are phased over multiple years due to their size. However, just because one phase on a project was funded does not guarantee that future phases of a project will be.

Question: When are grant announcements made?

Answer: The grant announcements tend to come out in December or January. Please do not count on closing on a property subject to an acquisition grant by the end of calendar year 2019.

Question: What is the Massachusetts Historical Commission review process?

Answer: You can send MHC a Project Notification Form (<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.

Question: Is the baseline report eligible for reimbursement?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Does the Open Space and Recreation Plan have to be submitted before the grant deadline?

Answer: The OSRP can be submitted at the same time as the grant application. Please submit it under separate cover, however.

Question: Can the municipal vote include multiple sources of funding?

Answer: The vote must appropriate 100% of the total project cost, but this total cost can be made up of multiple different sources. For example, for a \$100,000 project, \$50,000 may be coming from donations and \$50,000 from the municipal budget. Both of these funding sources should be listed in the vote.

Question: Can a community receive a grant multiple years in a row?

Answer: Yes.

Question: When should a project close in order to meet the June 1st reimbursement deadline?

Answer: Soon enough so that a canceled check can be received from the bank and other documents can be packaged for submittal.

Question: Does a grantee have to do anything proactively to have a parcel subject to a grant award receive Article 97 protection?

Answer: No. Any land subject to a LAND or a PARC grant is automatically protected by Article 97.

Question: If there is no hunting allowed on the property, will my application lose points?

Answer: The application will not lose points, but will not gain any points in that category of the LAND grant rating system.

Question: What is the maximum grant award for a small town?

Answer: \$100,000.

Question: When a draft OSRP is submitted for review, do the review letters need to be included?

Answer: No.

Question: If the land is valued at more than \$750,000, is a second appraisal required?

Answer: A second appraisal is not required, but it is recommended.