



Massachusetts Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017

Submitted to the
National Park Service by
the Executive Office of
Energy and
Environmental Affairs

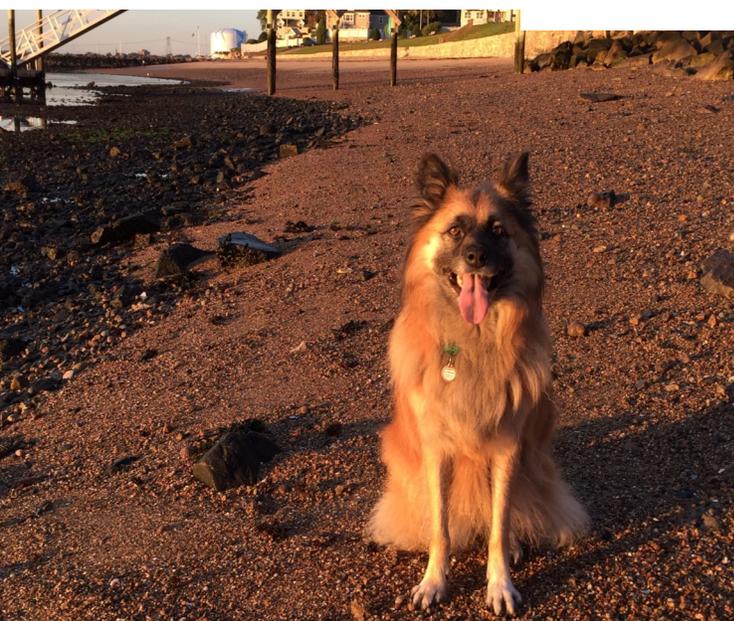


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Greening the Gateways tree planting, photo from Dave Roback, The Republican

Crane Beach, Ipswich, photo from Melissa Cryan

Hazelwood Park, New Bedford, photo from Mary Rapoza

Millers River Park, Athol, photo from Debra Blanchard

Independence Park, Beverly, photo from Christy Edwards

Ward Hill Reservation, Andover, photo from Melissa Cryan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EEA would like to extend its thanks to the SCORP Advisory Committee that provided input on the outdoor recreation needs of its constituents, whether it be through attending meetings and reviewing the draft SCORP or distributing the survey to their members. Many thanks to residents of the Commonwealth that took time out of their day to complete the online surveys. Feedback from our municipal and land trust partners was also critical to the success of the SCORP in helping to identify existing outdoor recreation supply and future needs of their user groups.

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CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 28, 2017

Residents of the Commonwealth:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Massachusetts' Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017 (SCORP). The SCORP helps guide the distribution of federal money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to state agencies and municipalities for the acquisition of open space, renovation of parks, development of new parks, and trail construction. I extend my appreciation to the Advisory Committee for their tireless work as well as all who responded to online surveys, attended public meetings, and/or participated in a phone survey. Your valuable feedback enabled the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop goals for open space and recreation spending over the next five years.

Since the last SCORP was completed in 2012, 27 LWCF projects have been awarded, including 10 trail-based projects that added three and a quarter miles to our already substantial statewide trail network, 10 projects that include water-based amenities, and 11 parks in Environmental Justice neighborhoods (including the development of a brand new park on a former brownfield site in Brockton).

The input received from our residents shows a desire to see additional trails, the expansion of water-based recreation, an increase in amenities at neighborhood parks, and improved access to our parks and conservation areas for all residents, regardless of ability, income, or age.

The Commonwealth remains a national leader in energy efficiency and environmental regulations, and the SCORP will help us guide this work over the next five years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles D. Baker".

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Chapter One — Introduction

Benefits of Outdoor Recreation and Open Space Protection

There are countless benefits for protecting land for outdoor recreation and open space. Protected open space increases the quality of life for the Commonwealth's residents. It helps to improve the economy by making the state more attractive for companies to locate. The tourism industry cites outdoor recreation as one of the main reasons that visitors come to Massachusetts. Trees help to mitigate the effects climate change by capturing carbon dioxide and reducing household energy use. Open spaces make our communities more dynamic and create a sense of place.

Without the availability of open spaces throughout the Commonwealth, residents would not have the ability to get outside to recreate, whether it be for a hike in the woods or to toss around a football. Open spaces provide a place for people to develop an appreciation of the outdoors, leading to a better understanding of how important it is to invest in its protection. Participating in these types of activities helps to create stewards and advocates for the outdoors.

To build this network, it is important to be able to provide the types of resources that outdoor recreation enthusiasts are looking for. Whether it be maintaining our current supply of outdoor recreational amenities or building new facilities that reflect the needs of a changing and growing population, outdoor recreation funding must be directed towards the needs of our residents. A thoughtful discussion is required on how to best accomplish this task.

Funding Outdoor Recreation Projects

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is fortunate to have multiple funding sources for outdoor recreation projects.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was authorized by the federal Land and Water Act in 1965 with the intention of preserving, protecting, and assuring the availability of close-to-home outdoor recreation areas and conservation land for all current and future citizens of the United States. By establishing a steady source of funding through offshore oil and gas receipts, Congress ensured continued state and federal investment in outdoor recreation. Congress distributes the funds to the states on an annual basis. Through the first 52 years of the program, \$16.7 billion had been awarded to more than 42,000 projects, protecting over three million acres of land across the country. Nearly 30,000 grants have been awarded to development/redevelopment projects, including those

that have improved accessibility for people with disabilities. Almost 11,000 grants have been awarded for land acquisition.

The LWCF program has two components – the federal program and the stateside program. The federal program funds the acquisition of land and water conservation areas by federal agencies, such as the National Park Service (NPS), the Forest Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. The funds are directly appropriated to these agencies by Congress. The stateside program funding is awarded to each state and territory by formula. States awards grants through a competitive process to communities or state agencies for the acquisition of land, the development of new parks, renovations to existing parks, and the development of trails. The LWCF grant program requires a 50% contribution from the awardee. To remain eligible for these funds, each state must complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years.

LWCF in Massachusetts

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs’ (EEA) Division of Conservation Services (DCS) administers the LWCF program on behalf of the NPS for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Secretary of EEA is appointed by the Governor to act as the State Liaison Officer for the grant program and the Director of EEA’s DCS is the Alternate State Liaison Officer. Liaison officers are authorized to represent and act for the state to the Director of NPS on all LWCF matters. Accepting and administering funds from the NPS on approved LWCF projects is also under their purview.

Any municipality in the Commonwealth with an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for LWCF grants. The Departments of Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation are also eligible applicants. Massachusetts’ two federally recognized tribes, the Mashpee Wampanoags and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head – Aquinnah, may also apply for LWCF grants. Projects are selected through the NPS-approved Open Project Selection Process, which is included in Appendix D.

Eligible projects include the acquisition of conservation or recreation land, the development of a new park, the renovation of an existing park, or the development of trails. All LWCF-funded park and conservation areas are protected from development for anything other than public outdoor recreation in perpetuity through Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act, as well as Article 97 of the Massachusetts State Constitution. Any land subject

LWCF Apportionment by Federal Fiscal Year

2007	\$617,517
2008	\$508,388
2009	\$598,743
2010	\$841,858
2011	\$812,191
2012	\$917,810
2013	\$869,752
2014	\$919,127
2015	\$906,468
2016	\$2,014,153
2017	\$2,001,040

to a LWCF grant cannot be converted to non-recreation or conservation use without the approval of the state legislature and NPS. Both NPS and EEA's own No Net Loss Policy requires that land of equal value and utility be found and dedicated to outdoor recreation use to replace any converted land. This ensures that LWCF projects will remain as a part of Massachusetts' outdoor recreation landscape for future generations.

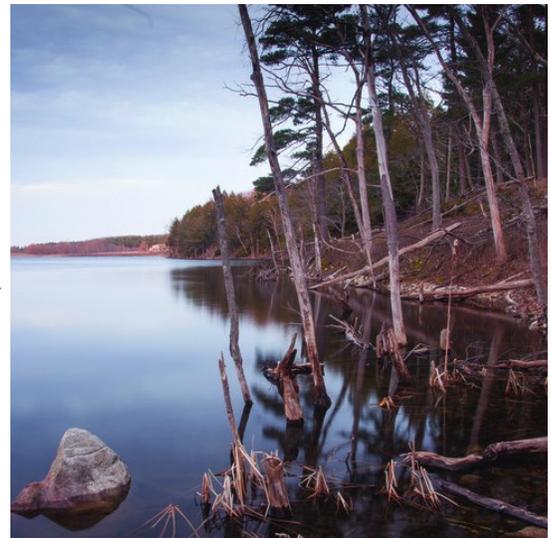
LWCF has funded 527 projects and awarded nearly \$100 million in Massachusetts since the program's inception. Some of Massachusetts' most iconic landscapes and recreation areas have been funded in part through the LWCF program. From the Appalachian Trail in the Berkshires to the Cape Cod National Seashore to the United States' first public park, the Boston Common, LWCF money has been used to protect and improve land across the state. The diversity of projects reflects the flexibility inherent to the LWCF program.

A Sample of Our 527 LWCF Projects

In 2014, the Town of Boxford received a grant for the Nason 46 Acres on Hovey's Pond project. With the assistance of the Boxford Open Land Trust, the town acquired 46 acres of land that connects to an additional 500 acres of protected open space. The town worked cooperatively with the land trust to make the site available for recreation quickly, establishing trails and a parking area.

The Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation was awarded a grant in 2013 for the development of a waterfront Braille Trail in the Town of Watertown. The work was completed along a 3,200-foot-long, crescent-shaped swath of parkland along the north bank of the Charles River between Watertown Square and the Perkins School, encompassing 12 acres. It includes a Braille Trail and Sensory Garden, with a design managed by DCR and developed with the assistance of the Perkins School, as well as improvements to the site's riverbank, pathways, and landscape. A signalized crossing at the Irving Street-Charles River Road intersection was added as well.

The City of Woburn was awarded a LWCF grant in 2010 for the acquisition of Whispering Hill Woods. The acquisition of this parcel added 74.5 acres to abutting conservation and parkland, bring the total amount of protected land to 300 acres. The site is one of the largest parks inside Route 128. Since the acquisition, the city has received state funding to develop active recreation fields onsite, as well as a kiosk that provides information on the area.



Hovey's Pond, photo from www.ecga.org

State-funded Municipal Grant Programs

Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) Grant Program

The PARC Grant Program was established in 1977. It is a municipal grant program that funds the acquisition of parkland, the renovation of existing parks, and the development of new parks. Grants are awarded through an annual competitive grant round. The grant reimburses anywhere between 52 and 70% of the total project cost up to that year's grant award maximum, which has been \$400,000 for the past number of years. Land funded through this program must be open to all residents for active recreation and remains protected in perpetuity.

Community Preservation Act

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was signed into law by Governor Cellucci on September 14, 2000 as a tool to help local smart growth efforts. The CPA funds affordable housing, historic preservation, and open space and outdoor recreation projects. Each municipality votes to approve the CPA through ballot referendum, deciding on a surcharge of not more than 3% of the tax levy against real property. To date, 172 communities (49% of the state's 351 municipalities, including Boston) have passed the CPA. CPA communities have protected 26,297 acres of open space and initiated more than 1,700 outdoor recreation projects.

The law also created a Statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, which distributes monies on an annual basis to the communities that have passed the CPA. This serves as an incentive to communities to do so. The Fund's money comes from surcharges on Registry of Deeds transactions. Each CPA community forms a Community Preservation Committee, which recommends to the local legislative body projects to fund. The ability to make decisions on open space, affordable housing, and historic preservation projects at the local level makes the program popular.



Plimpton Forest, Sturbridge, photo from www.tpl.org

Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) Grant Program

The LAND Grant Program was established in 1961. It is a municipal grant program for conservation commissions to acquire conservation land. Grants are awarded through an annual competitive grant round. The grant reimburses anywhere between 52 and 70% of the total project cost up to that year's grant award maximum, which has been \$400,000 for the past number of years. Land funded through this program must be open to all residents for appropriate passive recreational use and remains protected in perpetuity.

Gateway City Parks Grant Program

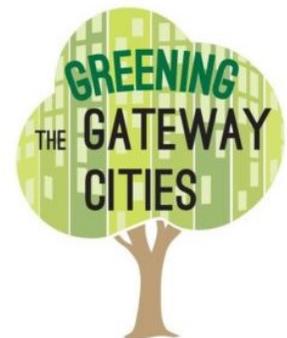
The Gateway City Parks Grant Program funds the creation or restoration of significant urban parks and trails in the 26 Gateway Cities, often projects that would otherwise be difficult to build. Gateway Cities are midsize urban centers that anchor regional economies around the state. Priority is given to projects that support broader urban revitalization efforts; are ineligible for other funding sources; address critical park infrastructure needs; have strong support from city leaders; engage local businesses, neighbors and others in park financing, programming and stewardship; or are accessible to Environmental Justice populations.

Greening the Gateways Cities Program

The Massachusetts Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP) is an environmental and energy efficiency program designed to reduce household heating and cooling energy use by increasing tree canopy cover in urban residential areas in the state's Gateway Cities. GGCP is a partnership between the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Urban & Community Forestry Program, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), along with Gateway Cities and local grassroots organizations and is currently planting trees in 13 cities. The program plants trees (ranging from six feet to 10 feet tall) with a goal of covering 5–10% of the target neighborhoods in new tree canopy cover. Trees are planted by DCR Bureau of Forestry, Urban & Community Forestry crews hired from local communities. The program has planted more than 10,000 trees in its first three years.

GGCP is based on current research, which includes on-the-ground tree and energy measurements in Worcester and other northern climate cities. These studies show that tree canopy brings the greatest benefits when established over an entire neighborhood area, by lowering wind speeds and reducing summertime air temperature, in addition to the benefits of direct shading. It is estimated that every 1% increase in tree canopy above a minimum 10% canopy cover brings a 1.9% reduction in energy needs for cooling and up to a 1.1% reduction in energy for heating. All households in a neighborhood benefit, not just the ones with trees directly adjacent.

This program targets the parts of Gateway Cities that have lower tree canopy, older housing stock, higher wind speeds, and a larger renter population. In addition, plantings are concentrated in Environmental Justice neighborhoods, to benefit those most in need. Within planted areas temperature, energy use, and other information is tracked to document the energy savings new trees provide residents over time.



Landscape Partnership Grant Program

The Landscape Partnership Grant Program protects large blocks of conservation land. Local, state, and/or federal agencies partner with non-profit groups on projects that will protect at least 500 acres of land. A 50% match is required from the grantees. Land

acquired through this grant program must allow for appropriate public access for passive recreation. The land is protected in perpetuity.

Conservation Partnership Grant Program

The Conservation Partnership Grant Program is for non-profit organizations to acquire land for conservation or recreation use. The grant can be used to acquire the fee interest in land or a conservation restriction, as well as to help fund the due diligence associated with a gift of land. The grantee must award a permanent conservation restriction to a state or local government agency or another land trust. Appropriate public access must be provided.



Muskeget Island

Drinking Water Supply Protection (DWSP) Grant Program

The DWSP Grant Program provides financial assistance to public water systems and municipal water departments for the purchase of land or interests in land for the protection of existing public drinking water supplies and the protection of planned future public drinking water supplies. The grants are awarded on an annual basis and reimburse 50% of the total project cost, up to that year's grant award maximum. Protection is permanent and appropriate public access must be provided.

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Massachusetts SCORP 2017 is a planning document that discusses the available recreational resources in the Commonwealth, along with the needs of its residents, and identifies the gap between them. Over the next five years, the SCORP will be used to distribute LWCF monies, as well as state funding, to projects that will narrow this gap through a competitive application process, focused on fulfilling the state's residents' recreational needs. The SCORP is also the method through which all states fulfill multiple goals of the LWCF Act, as required by NPS. These requirements include allowing sufficient time for a thorough public participation process that fairly distributes LWCF apportionments and determining ways to advance the findings and objectives of the plan.

SCORP Planning Process

In the Spring of 2017, EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton invited members of the conservation and recreation community to participate in the SCORP Advisory Committee. The mission of the Advisory Committee was to help inform the SCORP through the members' work in conservation and recreation organizations, non-profits, and state, local,

and federal government. The members were chosen to represent the breadth of outdoor recreation providers and resources in the state, as well as the diversity of its communities.

The Committee met in April as a kick-off to the public participation process and reviewed the SCORP draft prior to its submission to the NPS for federal review and approval. The members of the Committee have discussed how the SCORP's findings are relevant to their own work. EEA intends to continue to meet with the Advisory Committee over the next five years, looking to the Committee to help implement the SCORP's findings. The hope is that the findings will impress upon the Commonwealth's residents and legislators how important outdoor recreation issues are to the public and that they will also serve as a guide for local investments.

Citizen input was sought in a number of ways. EEA attended a variety of meetings across the state convened by outside partner organizations to gather feedback on users' and providers' needs (see box). Three surveys were posted on the EEA website and announced via multi-media across the state: one for residents that use outdoor recreation facilities, one for municipal recreation providers, and one for land trusts. About ten newspapers ran articles advertising the surveys' availability. Advisory committee members promoted the surveys through their websites and listservs.

SCORP Advisory Committee Members

Invitee	Organization
Dan Sieger, Assistant Secretary of the Environ-	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental
Leo Roy, Commissioner	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Tom McCarthy, Director, Universal Access Pro-gram	Department of Conservation and Recreation
Ronald Amidon, Commissioner	Department of Fish and Game
John Lebeaux, Commissioner	Department of Agricultural Resources
Marylynn Gentry, Executive Director	Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition
John Whalen, Executive Director	Massachusetts Recreation and Park Asso.
Barbara Erickson, President & CEO	The Trustees of Reservations
Charlie Tracy, New England Trail Administrator	National Park Service
Heather McMann, Executive Director	Groundwork Lawrence
Monica Bharel, Commissioner	Department of Public Health
John Kellstrand, President	Massachusetts Sportsmen Council

EEA wanted to ensure that statistically valid and significant statewide data was used in developing the goals and objectives of the SCORP. In order to do so, Insights and Answers, Inc. of Virginia Beach, Virginia was hired to complete two surveys. The first was a phone survey, completed in the fall of 2017, which gathered information on 400 residents' feelings about open space and recreation. The second was a survey of 215 middle and high school students, which enabled a better understanding of which outdoor recreation issues are most important to the youth of Massachusetts. An executive summary of the surveys can be found in Appendix C.

Public Meetings

Organization	Meeting Date
Access Recreation Boston	July 30, 2017
Mass Land Trust Coalition Quarterly Meeting	September 15, 2017
Mass Interagency Lands Committee	Monthly meetings throughout 2017
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission	October 19, 2017
Old Colony Planning Commission	October 25, 2017
Franklin Regional Planning Board	November 2, 2017
Montachusett Regional Trail Commission	November 7, 2017
Valley Development Council	November 9, 2017
Central Mass Regional Planning Council	November 9, 2017
Central Mass Regional Planning Council Trails	November 9, 2017

Planning on a Local Level

The Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns have various ways in which they plan for their outdoor recreation needs. Any community that wants to apply for the grant programs administered by DCS must have an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). An OSRP is, more or less, a community-level SCORP. DCS reviews and approves OSRPs, which contain nine required sections. All communities must perform a thorough public participation process to ensure that residents all have an equal opportunity to provide feedback. DCS requires enhanced outreach to be performed in Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhoods. EJ neighborhoods are those Census tracts with residents of low income, minority, and/or non-English speakers above 25% of the population. An approved OSRP gives a community seven years of eligibility for DCS grant programs.

Massachusetts has thirteen regional planning agencies (RPA). The RPAs are public organizations made up of any number of municipalities. Each RPA has a regional council that works cooperatively on issues that are relevant across municipal boundaries by

coordinating efforts and facilitating communication. This can include region-wide open space and recreation planning, recognizing that many amenities are used by residents outside of their own community's borders. RPAs also act as resources for their member communities, especially for small towns without their own professional staff.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, under Executive Order 525, through its Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, in coordination with EEA and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, has had a focus on facilitating sustainable economic development on a regional scale by targeting priority development areas (PDAs). These PDAs are targeted for economic development and are supported by the region. PDAs are balanced by Priority Preservation Areas (PPAs). Grants for land conservation are not awarded in PDAs. Those that are located in PPAs are given priority for funding. Currently, five plans have been completed – the South Coast Rail Corridor Plan, Merrimack Valley Land Use Priority Plan, 495/ MetroWest Development Compact Plan, Metro North Plan, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Plan.

SCORP 2012

The four goals of the Massachusetts' 2012 SCORP were:

1. Increasing the availability of all types of trails for recreation
2. Increasing the availability of water-based recreation
3. Invest in recreation and conservation areas that are close to home for short visits
4. Invest in racially, economically, and age diverse neighborhoods given their projected increase in participation in outdoor recreation

Of the 27 LWCF projects awarded since the plan's implementation, 10 trail-based projects were awarded, increasing the availability of trails by three and a quarter miles. Ten recreation areas were funded that have water-based amenities, including the acquisition of 16.61 acres on the Mattapoisett River in Mattapoisett. Eleven parks were funded in Environmental Justice neighborhoods, including a new park in the City of Brockton. Many projects realized all four SCORP goals.



DCR Watertown Braille Trail, photo from wickedlocal.com

Chapter Two — Massachusetts Overview

History of Outdoor Recreation in Massachusetts

Massachusetts has a proud and rich history of open space protection. Boston Common was the country's first public park. In 1634, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts purchased the land that now makes up the Common from a settler to use the land for livestock grazing. In 1837, the Public Garden was built on land filled to the west of the Common. Massachusetts also boasts the nation's oldest land trust, The Trustees of Reservations, which was established by an act of the legislature in 1891. The Trustees' founder, Charles Eliot, was a landscape architect who was concerned about the rapid development of the land in and around Boston. He proposed that land be set aside for the enjoyment of urban residents so they would have a respite from the noise and crowded living conditions of the city. Due to his efforts, hundreds of land trusts are able to own and hold land for the benefit of all people.

Since the 1630s, Massachusetts has allowed public access to land, such as tidelands and great ponds, for fishing. State government did not have the authority to own land for conservation purposes and administer its use until the Metropolitan Parks District was established by the state legislature, along with The Trustees of Reservations, in 1892. Mt. Greylock State Reservation was established by the legislature in 1898. It was the first acquisition of land solely for forest preservation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1933 was important to Massachusetts parks. The CCC was a public works program that opened up the state forests and parks to Massachusetts residents by building campgrounds and picnic areas. Until then, most of the state-owned land was inaccessible. Since these beginning days of land protection in Massachusetts, the Commonwealth's public and private entities have protected over 1.3 million acres of land (25% of the Commonwealth).

In 1972, the Massachusetts legislature and electorate voted to add Article 97 to our state's Constitution. This amendment guarantees that "the people shall have the right to clean air and water, freedom from excessive and unnecessary noise, and the natural, scenic, historic, and esthetic qualities of their environment. Lands and easements taken or acquired for such purposes shall not be used for other purposes or otherwise disposed of except by laws enacted by a two-thirds vote taken by yeas and nays, of each branch of the general court." Both state- and municipal-owned land acquired for conservation or recreation purposes are protected by Article 97. In addition to the legislative two-thirds vote, municipal conservation or recreation commissions must approve the conversion, as



Boston Common, photo from expedia.com

well as the town meeting or city council. Replacement land of equal value and utility must also be found and dedicated to recreation or conservation purposes. Article 97 is very much like Section 6(f)(3) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act.

Geography

At 10,554.57 square miles, Massachusetts is the 44th largest state in the union. Even though it is small in size, it has a diverse and varied geography. From the mountains in the west, to the coasts of Cape Cod and the islands of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard in the east, residents of our state can enjoy any number of scenic landscapes and recreational opportunities. The types of opportunity vary by region. The Berkshires has a large amount of protected open space, most of it used for passive recreation, with a high concentration of state parks and forests and wildlife management areas.

The Connecticut River Valley, east of the Berkshires, is unique in that the southern part of the region is heavily urbanized, but becomes much less so as you head north along the Route 91 corridor. The Quabbin Reservoir, which serves as metropolitan Boston’s drinking water supply, is in this region. Much of the land around the Quabbin is protected to ensure the quality of the drinking water supply. The cities of Springfield, Westfield, Holyoke, and Chicopee are in the south and have a higher percentage of active recreational facilities where more field-based sports occur than the rest of the region.

Central Massachusetts has a similar dichotomy. Worcester, the second most populous city in New England, is here, along with two other drinking water supplies – the Wachusett and Sudbury Reservoirs. The manufacturing centers of Leominster and Fitchburg are in this region. While densely developed, both cities are fortunate to have large protected drinking water supply areas, which are also available for recreation. A mix of state-owned protected open space and active recreation lands are found here.

Boston and its expanding suburbs, from Essex and Middlesex Counties to the north and Norfolk, Bristol, and Plymouth Counties to the south, share a variety of open space and recreation resources. These include state- and municipally-owned land, along with non-profit conservation land. In the northeast, Essex County has a large amount of protected open space, including the federally-owned Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Moving south towards Boston, more active recreation sites have been developed. In the southeast, Bristol and Plymouth Counties have a variety of coastal amenities.

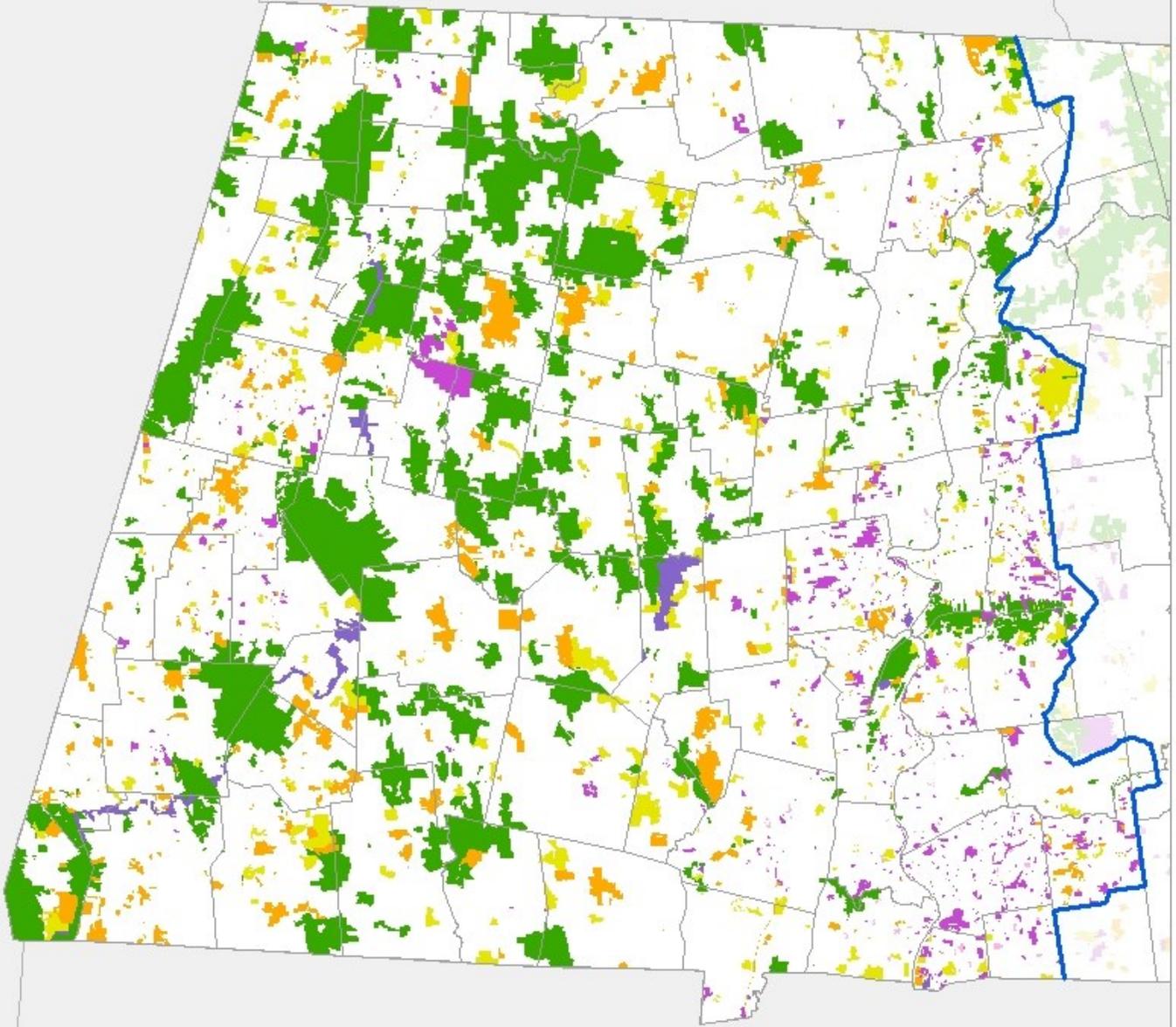
Outdoor Recreation Land with Public Access, by Owner

Owner	Acres
Federal	48,179
State	463,344
Municipal	226,708
Land Trust	78,752
Conservation Org.	1,363
Public Nonprofit	3,748
Private Nonprofit	2,599
Private	36,912
County	610
Other	1,196
Unknown	8
Total	863,417

% of Outdoor Recreation Land with Public Access, by Region

Region	Acres
North	14.6
Boston	1.4
South	26.1
Central	23.1
West	34.8
Total	100.0

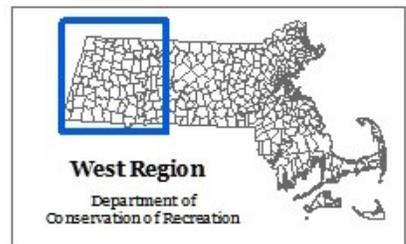
Publicly Accessible Outdoor Recreation Areas



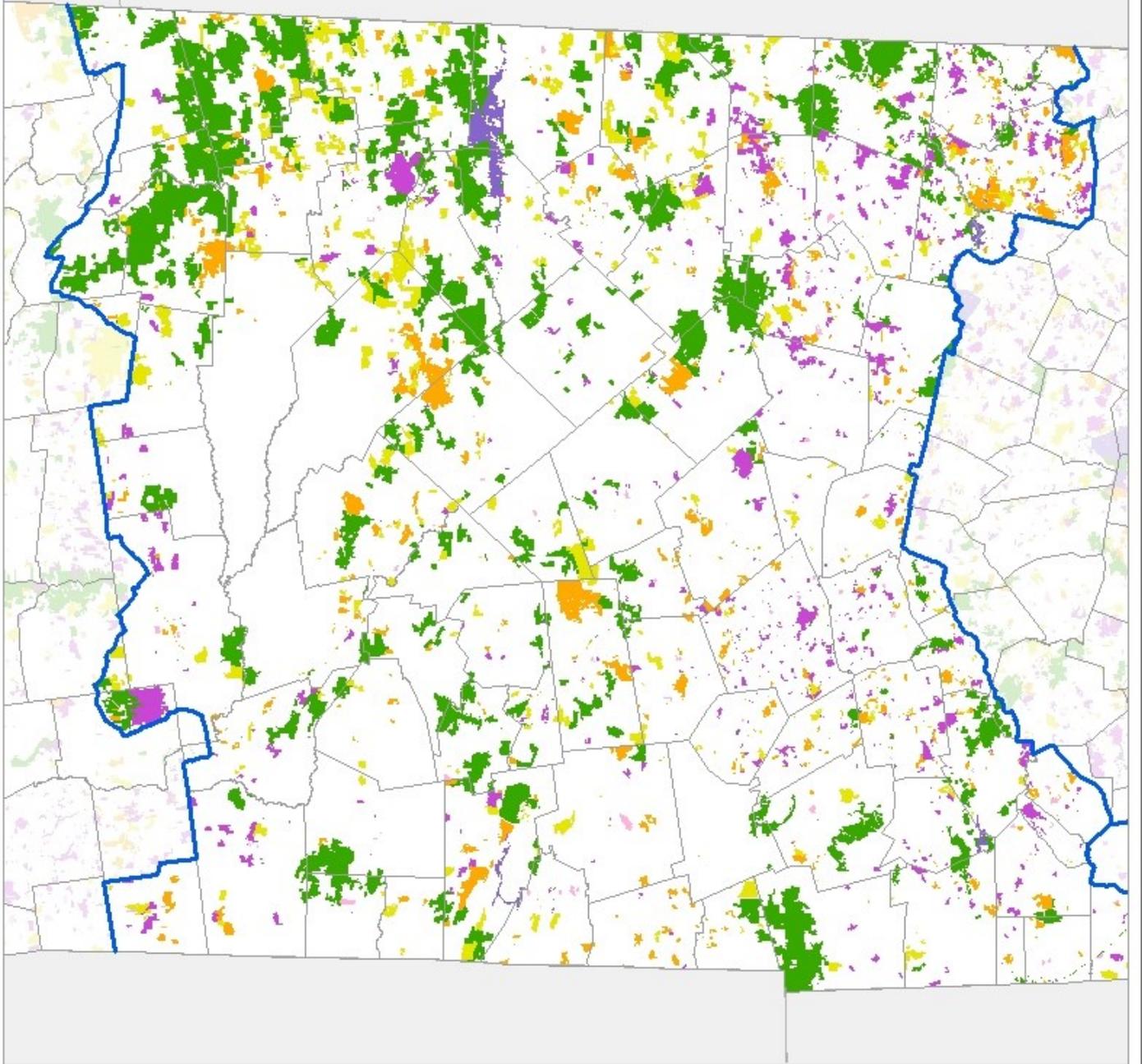
Outdoor Recreation Areas

-  Federal
-  State
-  Conservation Organization
-  Local
-  Public School District
-  Privately owned

-  Municipalities
-  DCR region boundary



Publicly Accessible Outdoor Recreation Areas

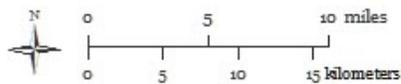


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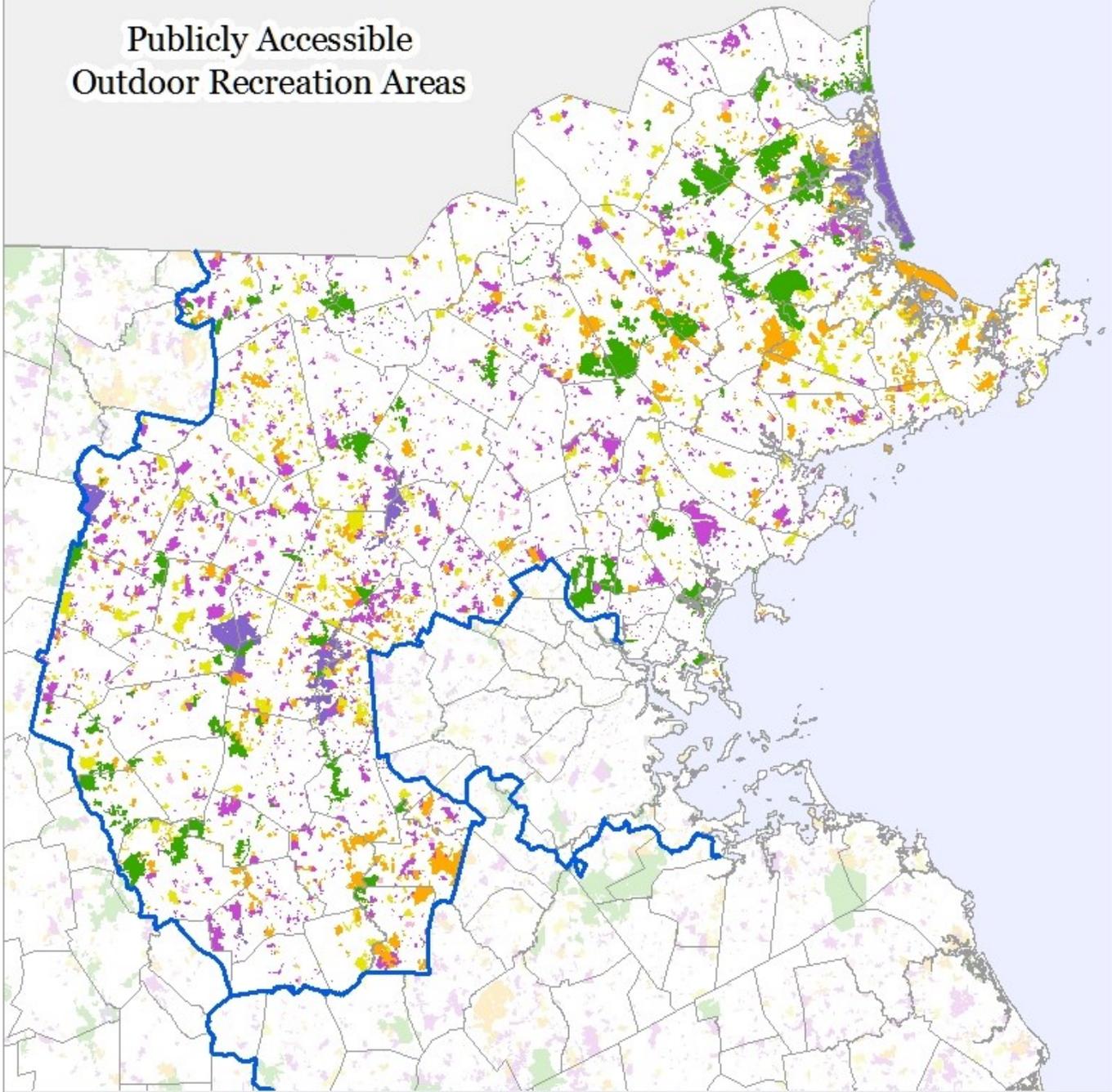
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 Municipalities

 DCR region boundary



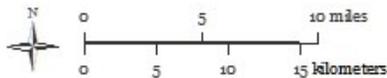
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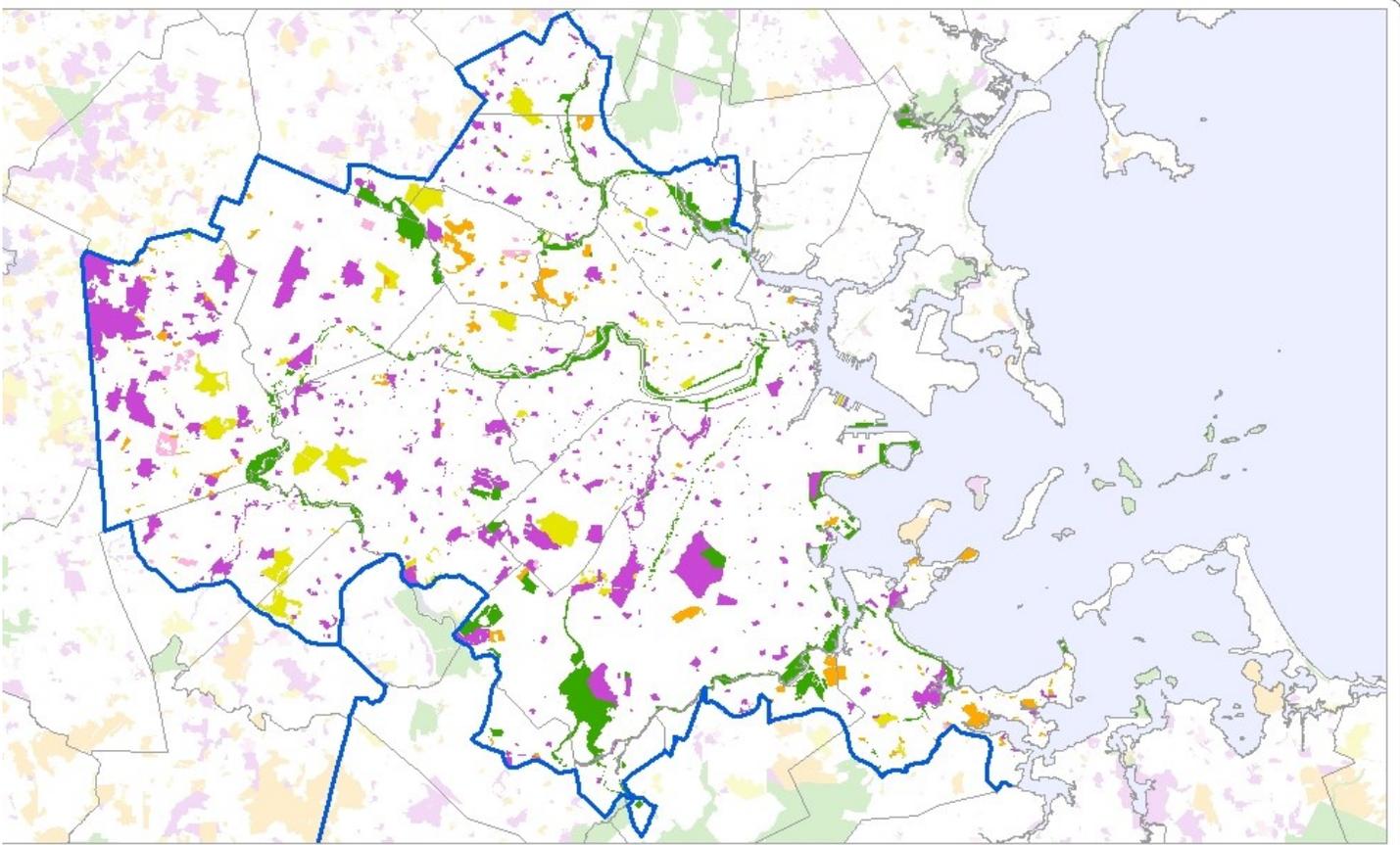


Outdoor Recreation Areas

- Federal
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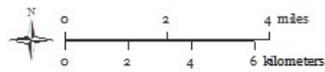


**Publicly Accessible
Outdoor
Recreation Areas**

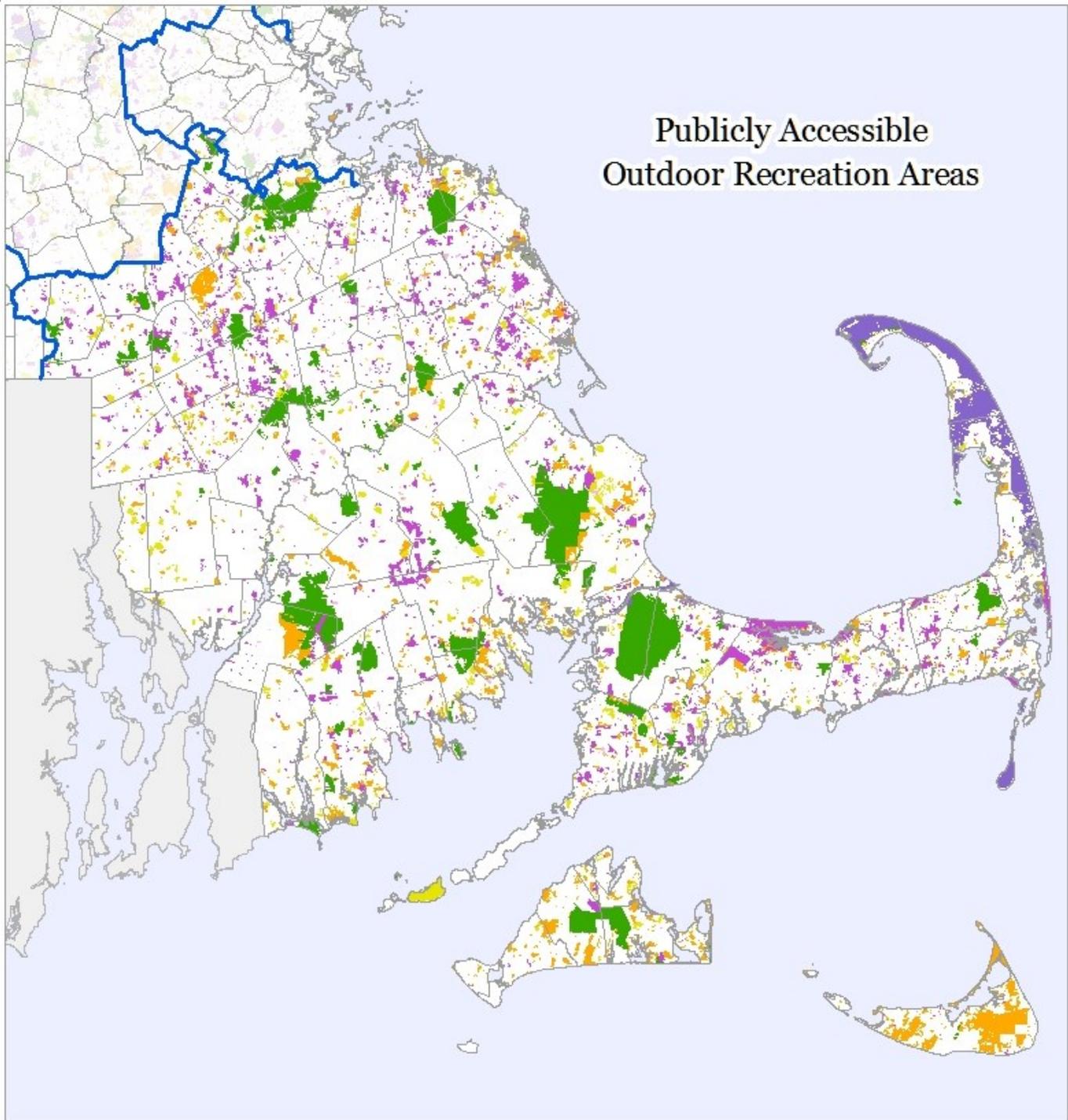
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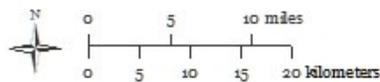


Outdoor Recreation Areas

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- Conservation Organization
- Local
- Public School District
- Privately owned

Municipalities

DCR region boundary



Cape Cod and the islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket are known by people world-wide for their abundance of coastal resources and recreational amenities. Tourism, as well as second home construction and fishing, is critical to the area’s economy. Therefore, land protection is extremely important to the region. Federal, state, and local resources are found here, including the Cape Cod National Seashore, a LWCF recipient, which was visited by 4.5 million people in 2015 alone.

Population Trends

Demographics

According to the Census Bureau, in 2016, Massachusetts had 6,811,779 residents. This is a 4.0% increase in population since the 2010 Census. With 871 people living per square mile, only Rhode Island and New Jersey are more densely populated than Massachusetts. Massachusetts’ population increase is mostly from new immigrants moving into the state. In fact, without immigration during this time period, Massachusetts would have lost population. As of 2015, there were 1,095,953 foreign born residents in the state, or 15.5% of our population. By region of birth, Latin Americans (35.8%) made up the largest percentage of foreign born residents. This is followed by Asia at 30.3%, Europe at 21.2%, Africa at 9.1%, and North America at 3.2%. The Donahue Institute at the University of Massachusetts projects that by 2030, Massachusetts will see an additional increase in its population of 4.4%.

County	Median Income
Barnstable	\$63,251
Berkshire	\$49,956
Bristol	\$56,842
Dukes	\$64,222
Essex	\$69,068
Franklin	\$55,221
Hampden	\$50,461
Hampshire	\$61,368
Middlesex	\$85,118
Nantucket	\$84,057
Norfolk	\$88,262
Plymouth	\$75,549
Suffolk	\$55,044
Worcester	\$65,313
Massachusetts	\$68,563

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Overall, 18.2% of Massachusetts residents identify as Black, American Indian, Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Hispanic or Latino, or two or more races. Comparatively, the rest of the country is 27.6% minority. The most diverse county in Massachusetts is Suffolk County, which includes Boston, with 61.9% of its population identifying as white. The least diverse county in Massachusetts is Franklin County, in western Massachusetts, where 96.2% identify as white. Norfolk and Middlesex Counties, abutting Boston, are also more diverse than the Massachusetts average.

Over the past few decades, the average age of the Massachusetts population has been increasing. There has been a slight decrease of 1.5% in

the under 18 population over the past six years. This segment now makes up 20.2% of Massachusetts' population. In contrast, there was a slight increase in the over 65 population. This segment now represents 15.8% of our population. The median age in Massachusetts is 39.4.

Massachusetts' median household income is \$68,563, compared to \$56,516 nationally. Income levels vary widely across the state. Middlesex and Norfolk Counties are both within commuting distance of Boston and have the two highest median household incomes in the state.

Statewide, 89.8% of Massachusetts residents have a high school diploma and 40.5% have a bachelor's degree or higher. Both figures are higher than the national average of 82.0% and 32.0%, respectively. The percentage of Massachusetts' residents with degrees varies widely based on region. For example, almost half of Middlesex County's residents (49.3%) have a bachelor's degree, while less than a quarter (23.8%) of Hampden County residents do.

Demographic factors must be incorporated into outdoor recreation planning. People's national origins can help determine what types of recreational pursuits they desire. The aging of our population may require a shift in recreational amenities to those that are more passive than active. Residents that do not earn as much as others may be more dependent upon public recreational amenities as they may not be able to afford private facilities or equipment.

Disability

In 2015, 11.7% of Massachusetts residents self-identified as having a disability, with the majority of them being ambulatory. The national average is 12.6%. Between 2014 and 2015, the percent of Massachusetts residents with a disability increased 1.5%. While the rate of residents with disabilities was pretty evenly split amongst genders, over 46% of persons older than 75 identified as having a disability. As referenced earlier, the average age of Massachusetts is increasing, making it more important than ever to consider recreational spaces that are suitable for those with disabilities. The phone

survey results demonstrate that households that include a member with a disability prefer more passive recreational pursuits. Attendees at the Access Recreation Boston meeting in August 2017, a group for people with disabilities, specifically mentioned that getting to facilities to recreate is quite difficult as public transit is not reliable for them. These needs should be considered when planning for funding of outdoor recreation projects.

Secretary Beaton has made it a priority of EEA to provide more recreational amenities to those with disabilities. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) runs the Universal Access Program. It is dedicated to providing outdoor recreation opportunities in Massachusetts State Parks for visitors of all abilities. Accessibility to the



Photo from DCR

parks is achieved through site improvements and providing specialized adaptive recreation equipment and accessible recreation programs. In 2016, DCR offered or supported 191 Universal Access programs that attracted 4,778 participants.

Goodwill Park

The Town of Holliston was awarded a LWCF grant in 2010 for the construction of the Goodwill Park Playground, focused on the development of a Boundless Playground and associated site amenities that would be able to be used by people with sensory issues. The reconstruction of Goodwill Park was made possible by the collaborative efforts of local organizations under the direction of Mission Possible: Holliston, whose goal is to support the development, improvement and maintenance of recreational spaces in Holliston for current and future generations of all abilities. The design of the playground included transfer stations with low platforms where those using wheelchairs can lift themselves onto playground equipment; sound-play components or outdoor devices that make sound or music, such as drums and marimbas; accessible swings with features such as high backs and harnesses to assist special-needs children; and visually-impaired play features that include Braille panels, interesting textures or fragrances.



Photo from Holliston Reporter

Development Impacts

While Massachusetts' population growth rate may not be as high as some other states, the rate of development has increased dramatically since the Great Recession. Most of the new homes being built in the state are constructed further from existing cities, which causes a greater impact on open space. According to Mass Audubon's Planning for Growth Program, between April 2005 and April 2013, approximately 38,000 acres of forest or other undeveloped land were converted to development. This is a rate of 13 acres per day. During the same timeframe, 41 acres per day were being protected from development. This totals 120,389 acres or approximately 10% of the land that has ever been protected in Massachusetts. While this three to one ratio of protection to development should be lauded, it is important to remember that this period of time includes the years of the Great Recession when land was not being developed as quickly and was more affordable to purchase for open space.

In all, 22% of Massachusetts is developed (1.1 million acres). Just over 25% of the state is protected (1.3 million acres). In conclusion, it is important to plan for the protection of open spaces that will provide the types of recreational resources that Massachusetts' residents are looking for before they are developed.

Economic Profile

Massachusetts' economic base is diverse and becoming more so. Traditionally, the state has been known for its health care and higher education sectors. The top six industries in the state are financial services, technology, medical and life sciences, manufacturing, fishing, and tourism. The quality of our higher education, as well as our elementary and secondary schools, has helped Massachusetts sustain a successful economy. The quality of life provided by our 1.3 million acres of conservation land and parks draws companies and prospective workers to the state. In fact, a 2013 study by The Trust for Public Land found that every \$1 invested in land conservation returned \$4 in natural goods and services to the Massachusetts economy.

Tourism

Tourism is the third largest employer in Massachusetts and was responsible for \$19.5 billion in spending in 2014. According to the state Office of Travel and Tourism, over 20 million tourists visit the state every year. Boston is one of the top 10 destinations in the United States. Tourism to Boston alone contributes \$1 billion worth of tax revenue to the economy. Tourism creates 132,000 jobs, with a payroll income of \$4.1 billion. Our outdoor recreational resources are cited as one of the top five reasons people visit the state. The National Seashore, a LWCF project, attracted 4.5 million visitors in 2015.

Outdoor Recreation Industry

In 2017, the Outdoor Industry Association completed a study on the economic impacts of outdoor recreation across the country. It found that the industry is one of the largest in the country, with \$887 billion spent annually, creating 7.6 million jobs. The report found that in Massachusetts, the outdoor industry created:

- \$16.2 billion in consumer spending
- 120,000 jobs
- \$5.9 billion in wages and salaries
- \$911 million in state and local tax revenue



Housatonic Flats, photo from Karen Pelto

Home Values

Home values increase when they are located near parks and other open spaces. According to the American Planning Association, in Amherst, cluster housing with dedicated open space was found to appreciate at an annual rate of 22%, compared to a similar conventional subdivision's rate of 19.5%. This translated in 1989 dollars to a difference of \$17,100. The increase in home values also helps to generate more local tax revenue. Retirees are looking to relocate to areas that are rich in outdoor recreational resources. Based on the aging population of our state, it is realistic to assume that more

open space amenities will be needed for what will be an increase in the number of retirees. The National Association of Realtors found that, when surveyed, 57% of voters would choose a home near a park or open space over one that was not. Many studies have supported the premise that parks and open spaces increased property values as far away as 2,000 feet.

Attracting Businesses

The availability of quality open space and recreation resources in the state helps to attract businesses. Many workers choose a job based on an area's quality of life, which is increased by the availability of open spaces. Furthermore, small-business decision makers rated park, recreation, and open space amenities as being the most important factor in measuring quality of life. This shows how important the investment of parks and open space is to the future economic well-being of Massachusetts.



Weir Hill Reservation, Andover

Chapter Three — Outdoor Recreation Supply

Prior to examining Massachusetts' residents' outdoor recreation needs, the current supply of outdoor recreation must be evaluated. Massachusetts residents are fortunate to have a wide variety of facilities to visit with 863,419 acres of publicly accessible outdoor recreation land. This includes lands managed by federal, state, and local agencies, including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, State Departments of Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation, local Conservation Commissions and Recreation Departments, and local, regional, and statewide land trusts and conservation organizations.

There are currently nearly 300 facilities on coastal waters, great ponds, and rivers throughout the state run by the Office of Fishing and Boating Access within DFG. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife manages 171 recreational areas, which include Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Conservation Easement Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, and River Access Areas.

DCR runs many types of recreation facilities. Statewide, they manage 55 ball field and courts, 60 playgrounds, and 3,525 campsites. They have 27 salt water ocean beaches and 38 fresh water inland beaches, as well as 46 swimming pools, wading pools, and spray decks. Two downhill ski areas, two golf courses, and four rail trails are also available to the public. For winter recreation, there are 42 ice skating rinks for the public to enjoy, as well as many parks and forests.

Local community's Open Space and Recreation Plans (OSRPs) include a chapter on the supply of outdoor recreation facilities (conservation land, ball fields, etc.), but does not include a specific list of amenities at each site. DCR and DFG include a list of facilities available at each of their properties, including trail maps, on their websites. Outdoor recreation amenities available at each land trust properties vary by land trust. Over the next five years, there will be an active effort to work with local municipalities and state agencies to develop a database that lists all of the amenities at each facility by region. This will help to determine where specific types of amenities should be built when it is evident that there are gaps in supply. The list can begin with municipal- and state-owned facilities. Over time, private and non-profit facilities may be added. This database could also be used by residents who are searching for a particular activity, to know where they can go to swim in a pool or play frisbee golf. Forty-three percent of the phone survey respondents said that they use the internet to learn about outdoor recreation facilities, resources, and activities. Therefore, the resources available on the web should be increased and more user-friendly.



Mary Jane Lee Park, Salem

Public Land

State

The Commonwealth is the largest owner of recreation and conservation land in the state. The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), agencies that are located within EEA, are the two state agencies that own and manage land for outdoor recreational purposes. DFG’s mission is to preserve the state’s natural resources and the people’s right to conservation of those resources. DFG has jurisdiction over the Commonwealth’s marine and freshwater fisheries, wildlife species, plants, and natural communities, as well as the habitats that support them. DCR works to protect, promote, and enhance the Commonwealth’s natural, cultural, and recreational resources by improving outdoor recreational opportunities and natural resource conservation and restoring and improving facilities. DFG manages 212,880 acres of land and DCR manages over 450,000 acres.

State wildlife lands are managed primarily to provide habitat for wildlife and to give people a place to relax and explore the great outdoors. For the most part, wildlife lands are open to hunting, fishing, trapping, birdwatching, and other wildlife-related recreation. Users will find unmarked trails or woods roads with simple, unpaved parking lots. These "lightly" developed areas keep wild places wild while giving people access to nature and an off the beaten path experience. These wildlife lands, found from the Berkshires to the Cape and Islands, include river corridors, wetlands, forested and grassy uplands, habitat for state-listed endangered and threatened species, and high quality parcels of other important habitat types. State wildlife lands are owned in partnership with the DFG and are managed by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife). Many of these properties are actively managed through mowing, cutting, prescribed burns, or other activities that benefit of wildlife. Regulations govern the

DCR and DFG Land with Public Access

Region	Acres
North	37,566
Boston	4,013
South	79,540
Central	124,700
West	216,428
Total	462,246

State Wildlife Action Plan

The U.S. Congress requires each state to produce a plan describing how to conserve each state’s “species of greatest conservation need.” The 2015 Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), the first update of the original 2005 Massachusetts SWAP, covers 570 species - 172 vertebrates, 115 invertebrates, and 283 plants. These 570 species are grouped into 24 habitats; each habitat is discussed in detail in the plan, with recommendations for needed inventories and surveys, land protection, habitat management, regulation, and public education. The SWAP is intended to provide guidance to all entities in Massachusetts concerned with conservation of biodiversity, not just MassWildlife. The Massachusetts SWAP can be downloaded from www.mass.gov/service-details/state-wildlife-action-plan-swap



Piping plover, photo from nps.gov

activities allowed on these lands and focus on passive recreation. Motorized vehicles, for instance, are not permitted on state wildlife lands.

Two other entities within EEA work to facilitate land protection. The Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) runs the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program, which just celebrated its 40th anniversary. The APR program is the first of its kind in the country. The program offers to pay farmland owners the difference between the appraised value of their land and the agricultural value in exchange for a permanent conservation restriction that precludes any non-agricultural use of the property. DAR holds more than 900 APRs on over 73,000 acres of farmland.

DCS oversees the approval of non-state funded Conservation Restrictions (CR), known as conservation easements in other parts of the country. CRs restrict future land development by transferring some of the land owner’s rights, such as building on the property, to a government agency or land trust for land conservation purposes. Massachusetts is the only state that requires state approval of CRs via review and signature by the secretary of the EEA to ensure land is permanently protected and in the public interest. Over 4,330 CRs have been signed since 1969, which permanently protect 116,141 acres of land. DCS also administers multiple federal- and state-funded grant programs for municipalities and land trusts for the protection of conservation and water supply land, as well as for the acquisition, development, and/or renovation of parkland.

Municipal

The 351 municipalities across the Commonwealth are the second largest owner of open space by acreage and the largest owner by number of individual properties. Conservation Commissions were created by the state legislature in 1957 to ensure resource conservation across the state. Commissions also hold land for conservation purposes. Today, municipal Conservation Commissions own almost 130,000 acres of land. Much of this land is accessible to the general public for passive outdoor recreation. Park and recreation commissions, as well as some school departments, hold land for active outdoor recreation purposes. Water departments are also major land owners, managing about 75,000 acres, but generally have restrictions on access to their sites to protect the water supply.

**Conservation Commission Land
with Public Access**

Region	Acres
North	35,373
Boston	2,706
South	56,837
Central	21,226
West	13,727
Total	129,868

Federal

The federal government owns and manages critically important conservation and recreation facilities, totaling 48,179 acres. This includes the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Parker River, Great Meadows, and Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuges, and the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Army Corps of Engineers provides

important recreational facilities at the Cape Cod Canal and several flood control impoundments. The federal government has also been a valuable partner in land conservation and management, including the Boston Harbor Island National Recreation Area. Federal facilities provide many types of outdoor recreation, such as walking and hiking trails, bike paths, and historic resources.

Private Non-Profit and For-Profit Land Owners

Massachusetts has an extremely active network of private non-profit land trusts. With more than 130 land trusts, Massachusetts has the most land trusts per capita in the nation. Land trusts own properties across the state that are open for various outdoor pursuits. Most of the land protected by land trusts is for land conservation and habitat protection purposes, restricting much of the land to passive recreation. The land trust community has a good working relationship with the state's environmental agencies. The two often work together to complete larger landscape-sized projects, especially with the advent of the Landscape Partnership Grant Program, mentioned earlier in this document. Altogether, land trusts protect over 202,000 acres, including 123,000 acres in fee and 79,000 acres in CRs. While nearly all of the fee lands are open for passive recreation, public access on CRs varies depending on the landowners' wishes.

Privately held recreation land includes golf courses, ski areas, marinas, and campgrounds. While most of the facilities charge a fee for service, they help to fill a recreational niche that many times cannot be fulfilled by municipal or state governments alone. They also serve as a value added commodity in that they provide additional space to perform a particular type of activity that is also provided by state facilities. For example, state campgrounds can be at capacity during many summer weekends, so privately run facilities add to the available supply of campsites. There are currently over 60,000 acres of privately held recreation land in the state.



Wachusett Mountain State Reservation, Princeton

Conservation Land Tax Credit Program

EEA jointly administers with the Department of Revenue (DOR) the only refundable tax credit program in the United States for land owners who donate an interest in their land to conservation. The CLTC program recognizes and rewards landowners who donate a real property interest either outright, or through a Conservation Restriction. The donation must result in permanent protection of an important natural resource that is in the public's interest. EEA certifies to DOR that the conservation land has been donated and that the instrument permanently protected the land. It also reports on the appraised value of the donation so that the amount of the tax credit can be calculated. DOR provides the credit via the donor's state income tax filing. The program is funded for up to \$2 million a year through a legislative authorization to DOR. The donor(s) are provided a refundable tax credit of 50% of the donation value, up to the \$75,000 maximum.

Certified land must include one of the following resources: drinking water supply, wildlife habitat and biological diversity, agricultural and forestry production, recreational opportunities, or land holding scenic and cultural values.

Since the program's inception in 2011 through the end of 2016, the program received just under 400 applications. 228 projects have been completed, protecting 10,397 acres of land. This represents \$46,294,158 worth of gifts in return for tax credits of \$10,689,539, a ratio of 4 to 1.



Pildis Parcel, Falmouth, photo from Tom Anderson

Chapter Four — Outdoor Recreation Demand

To have the clearest understanding of the demand for outdoor recreation in Massachusetts, as many residents as possible were surveyed on their recreation needs. Three different public participation methods were utilized: three online surveys (one for recreation users, one for municipal recreation providers, and one for land trusts), public meetings throughout the state (minutes of which are in Appendix B), and a statistically-relevant phone survey.

Outdoor Recreation Needs Survey Results

Online Survey Results for Recreation Users

At 96.4%, the vast majority of the 780 respondents to the online survey said that outdoor recreation is very important to them. However, this figure should be taken with a grain of salt as it was a self-selecting group that responded to the survey to begin with. When asked which activities a member of their household planned to participate in over the next 12 months, the top responses included: walking or jogging (on trails and greenways), hiking, and walking or jogging (on streets and sidewalks). People were generally quite happy with the quality of their community's outdoor recreation facilities, with 78.1% stating that the facilities were in excellent or good shape. State facilities did slightly worse, with 75.0% rated as excellent or good.



Ipswich River, Middleton

Respondents explained what motivates them to participate in outdoor recreation. The number one response was for physical fitness, followed closely by mental well-being and being close to nature. The nearness of an outdoor recreation facility to home was the top reason that it was visited most frequently. The enjoyment of the scenery and trees and greenery were the second and third most cited driver of visitation. Even though the majority of respondents have a park or conservation area within walking or biking distance to their residence (75.6%), the vast majority of people drive there (68.8%). This could be due to the fact that people lack time to recreate, which is the number one reason people said they do not use outdoor recreation facilities more frequently (55.5%).

Offering programming may be a good way to get more people to use parks and open spaces. Many of the municipalities that responded to the survey did not provide regular programming. When asked how important it was for more programming to be

available for senior citizens, 83.7% of respondents said that it was either a somewhat or very important priority. 88.2% said that it was either a somewhat or very important priority to them that more four to 12 year old programming be offered. Even more requested is programming for teens, with 91.2% saying that it was either a somewhat or very important priority.

The results from the online user survey may be the most important in guiding how Massachusetts' LWCF dollars be spent over the next five years. This information specifically identifies what it is that users are doing when they go outside to recreate and what amenities are lacking when they get there. When asked what three activities they participated in the most over the past 12 months, the most frequent responses can be



Oak Hill, Littleton

broken down into two categories: water-based recreation (specifically, boating [canoe/kayak/power boat], fishing, swimming at beach/lake/river, swimming in pool, paddle boarding, and tubing) and trail-based recreation (hiking, biking [on/off road], cross-country skiing, walking/jogging on trails, and mountain biking).

A question that directly gets at the heart of what types of projects respondents would like to see funded in the future mirrored what activities users are currently undertaking. The top responses fall into three categories: 1. trails (hiking, biking, paved walkways, trails with access for people with disabilities, and mountain biking), 2. playgrounds (for ages 2-5, designed for people with disabilities, for ages 6-12, and for ages 6 months to 2 years), and 3. water (swimming pool, canoe/kayak access, and fishing areas).

Municipal Employees Survey

Municipal employees were asked to provide answers to questions through an online survey regarding their current supply of open space and recreational resources, in addition to other questions. Responses were received from 58 municipalities or 16.5% of the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns. A response representing all of Berkshire County was also received. The most responses came from Conservation Commissions, at 33%. Tied for second most were Planning and Parks and Recreation Departments. Most of the respondents (43.6%) had more than eight parks in their communities, 52% had more than eight conservation areas. Sixty-nine percent had part- or full-time recreation staff, 82.3% had part- or full-time conservation staff. This demonstrates that communities are able to provide many types of outdoor recreation facilities for their residents.

The majority of respondents offer a variety of programming, with 53.3% providing more than nine programs annually. Less frequently, communities are providing programming that connects children to the outdoors with 65.1% offering 0-4 programs annually. There is also little programming available for people with disabilities. Only 15.5% of respondents offer more than four activities per year for this group.

The highest funding priorities for the respondents over the next five years include playgrounds, ballfields (soccer, lacrosse, baseball, etc.), community or regional trail systems, and improved pedestrian access to parks (sidewalks, safe road crossings, etc.). The need to invest more in trails and pedestrian access corresponds with the increase in popularity identified by the survey takers over the past five to 10 years in walking, trails, and hiking by their constituents. Respondents also identified walking, rail trails, biking, and hiking as the activities they believe will increase in popularity over the next five years. When asked what facilities are not currently available in a community, but should be, trails and bicycling facilities top the list.

Land Trusts Survey

Land trusts own and provide public access to 78,752 acres across the state. Thirty-eight responses were received, which is a 29.2% response rate. While land trusts themselves cannot apply for LWCF grants, they often partner with a local municipality. In fact, 28.9% of respondents had participated in the LWCF program in the past.

The three most popular activities on land trust properties are walking/jogging/hiking, dog walking, and nature study. Off-road vehicle use, ATV use, and fairs are the three least common activities on land trust properties. The top three issues facing land trusts are trail work, CR stewardship, and acquiring new land. The need for trails echoes that in municipalities. Invasive species are the greatest physical issue land trusts are dealing with. As to social issues, littering and dumping are encountered most frequently.

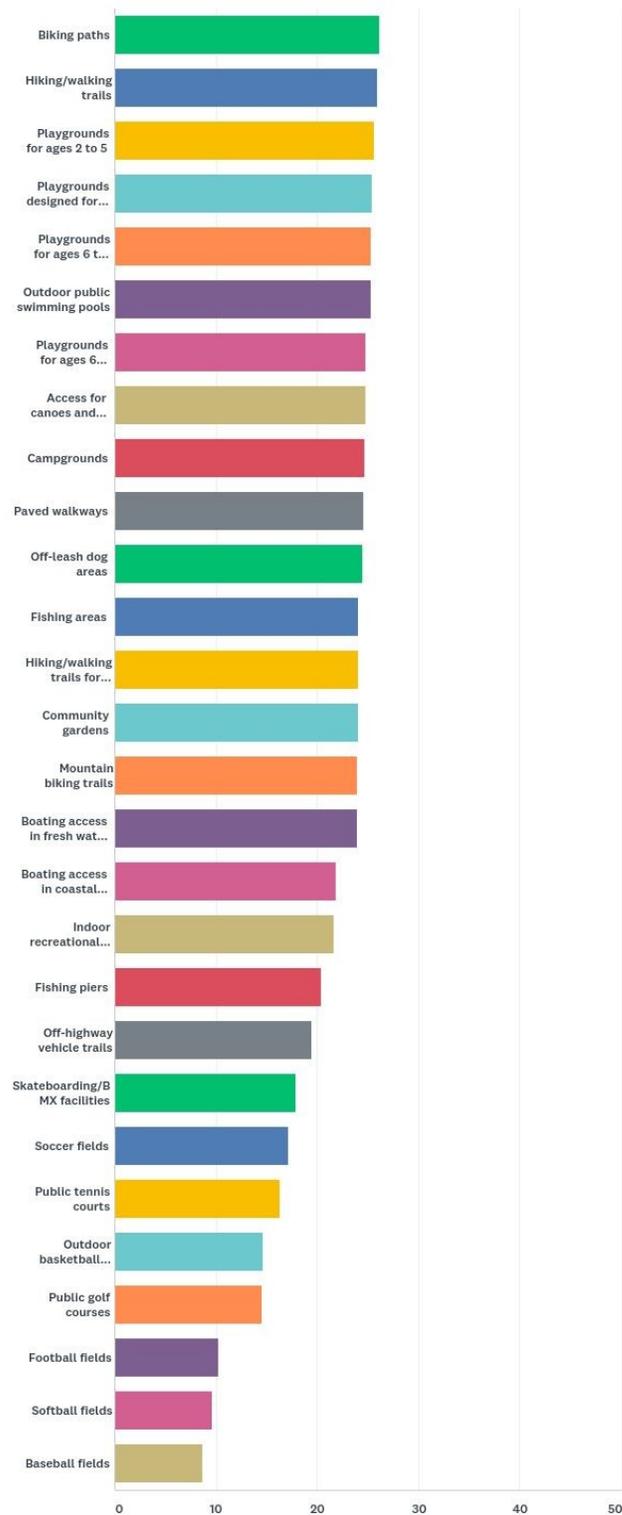
Recreation providers, whether public or private, identify as a major concern the lack of connection people have to nature. Land trusts are no different, as they cite it as the number one most important issue for the future of their organization. Connecting their land to neighborhoods and schools is the second most important issue. The first issue could be addressed if land trusts can successfully connect their land to their abutters and school children.



North Andover field

Results from the Online Survey for Recreation Users

Q5 What are the top 5 facilities would you like to see added to a park or conservation area in your community?



Phone Survey Results

While responses to online surveys and input at public meetings are important, DCS wanted a statistically relevant survey to be completed as well. A similar survey was conducted for the 2012 SCORP. Issues & Answers Network, Inc., an independent global marketing research firm from Virginia Beach, VA, was hired to conduct surveys of 400 Massachusetts residents to:

1. Understand their use of and preferences for outdoor recreation and open space opportunities
2. Identify barriers to greater use of available resources
3. Identify desired improvements in services provided by the state and by local communities
4. Assess support for spending and fees

Participants were intentionally distributed throughout the state so that there was sufficient data for regional analysis. The data were then weighted to the Census. The executive summary of the survey can be found in Appendix C.

When asked what the top five outdoor recreation activities in which the respondent or members of their household participated in over the last 12 months, the top six responses were: running, jogging, or walking; hiking; swimming in freshwater or saltwater; road biking; swimming in pools; and canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or tubing. People who run, jog, or walk do that activity much more frequently than other activities' participants. Forty percent of them run, walk, or jog multiple times per week. Most participants recreate in facilities that are less than five miles from home and drive there. Walking or jogging is the second most frequent way to get there.

While 54% of people believe that their participation in outdoor recreation will remain the same over the next five years, 35% expect to increase. White residents tend to lag behind other groups in terms of interest in increasing exercise levels. While the number of respondents to the phone survey was small, Hispanic residents are most likely to expect to increase their exercise activity in the future. Four out of five residents visit either state or local facilities at least a few times a year, with 41% visiting state lands at least monthly and 32% visiting municipal facilities weekly. Fifty-four percent of respondents believe that state facilities are in very good or excellent condition. Coincidentally, the exact same percentage believes their municipal facilities to be in very good or excellent condition.

Most relevant to the purposes of the SCORP, survey participants were asked what the top three improvements to recreational facilities they would like to see. The top five

responses can be broken into two categories: 50.3% mention some type of trail improvements (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; and unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails) and 58.4% mention some type of water-based recreation (beaches and outdoor swimming pools or spray parks). When asked the same question about municipal facilities, a slightly different response is received: 59.0% mention some type of water-based recreation (outdoor swimming pools or spray parks; beaches, fresh or saltwater swimming areas; canoeing/kayaking/rafting/tubing areas; fishing/ice fishing areas; and waterskiing/jet skiing areas), 52.0% request neighborhood park-type amenities (playgrounds, picnic areas, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens) and 48.0% mention some type of trail (hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails; off-road motorcycle or ATV trails; and snowmobiling trails).

The respondents were asked why they participate in outdoor recreation. The number one reason was physical fitness, at 26%. To be with friends and family, at 16%, was second. Close behind was relaxation at 14%. The number one reason, by far, at 53%, why people do not participate in outdoor recreation activities more often is time. The second most frequent was that other commitments get in the way, with 16% of respondents citing this.

It is interesting to note that the statistically-relevant phone survey found very similar results to the online survey. The types of facilities people are looking for, the current most popular recreational pursuits, and the barriers to spending more time recreating were all pretty much the same. This reinforces what the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should be spending resources on over the next five years.



Ward Reservation, Andover

Results from the Phone Survey

Let's start with the three you would most like to see new or improved facilities developed in state parks, forests, and recreation areas. (n = 400)

Desired Improvements	Percent mentioning
Hiking trails	19.1%
Beaches	16.0%
Paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails	16.0%
Outdoor swimming pools or spray parks.	15.3%
Unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails.	15.2%
Nature preserves or wildlife watching areas	14.2%
Playgrounds	13.0%
Picnic areas or picnic shelters	12.6%
Tennis, basketball, or volleyball courts	10.7%
Off-leash dog parks	10.2%
Fresh or saltwater swimming areas	9.2%
Overnight camping areas	8.8%
Canoeing, kayaking, rafting or tubing areas	8.6%
Historic sites	7.0%
Community gardens	6.8%
Football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey or rugby fields	6.3%
Ice hockey or skating areas	6.2%
Fishing or ice fishing areas	6.1%
Golf courses	5.4%
Nature playgrounds	5.0%
Baseball or softball fields	4.5%
Waterskiing and jet skiing areas	3.2%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails	3.2%
Off-road motorcycle and ATV trails	3.0%
Motor boating or sailing areas	2.8%
Hunting or trapping areas	1.7%
Snowmobiling or snow machining trails	1.7%
Sledding areas	1.1%
Not sure	13.4%

Results from the Phone Survey

*Now, what about new or improved facilities developed in parks and recreation areas operated by your local community?
(n = 400)*

Most important improvement	Percent mentioning
Hiking trails	18%
Playgrounds	17%
Paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails	16%
Outdoor swimming pools or spray parks.	13%
Off-leash dog parks	11%
Picnic areas or picnic shelters	11%
Beaches	10%
Unpaved, multi-use trails, such as mountain bike trails.	10%
Nature preserves or wildlife watching areas	9%
Tennis, basketball, or volleyball courts	9%
Community gardens	8%
Fresh or saltwater swimming areas	7%
Football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey or rugby fields	7%
Baseball or softball fields	7%
Canoeing, kayaking, rafting or tubing areas	6%
Nature playgrounds	5%
Historic sites	5%
Overnight camping areas	5%
Ice hockey or skating areas	4%
Fishing or ice fishing areas	4%
Golf courses	3%
Cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails	2%
Motor boating or sailing areas	2%
Off-road motorcycle and ATV trails	2%
Hunting or trapping areas	1%
Waterskiing and jet skiing areas	1%
Snowmobiling or snow machining trails	1%
Sledding areas	0%
Not sure	20%

Middle and High School Students Survey Results

In addition to the phone survey, Insights & Answers distributed and analyzed a survey specifically geared towards middle and high school students. The goal was to identify any differences, or similarities, in outdoor recreation needs for Massachusetts' younger generation. A total of 215 students responded to the survey.

The most popular outdoor activities for youth are team activities, such as soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, and rugby. Team sports are particularly of interest for boys and younger respondents. Girls also enjoy team sports, but like swimming pools in equal numbers. Teens between the ages of 15 and 18 are just as apt to mention swimming; hiking; and running, jogging, or walking as favorite activities. The three most common outdoor activities the respondents participated in during the past year were running, jogging, or walking; swimming (any type); and road biking. They would like to increase their participation in running and swimming.

When asked why they participate in outdoor activities, a vast majority of the respondents mention "for fun and enjoyment". At 80%, this is by far and away the most popular response. Fifty-eight percent of respondents participate in outdoor activities "to spend time with friends and family", which is followed closely by "to be outside" at 54%. Girls are more likely than boys to participate in activities with members of their immediate or extended family.

Like adults, students prefer to recreate nearby, or at, their homes. However, many do not have one preferred place to participate in outdoor activities. Also similar to adults, the biggest barrier the students have to participating in outdoor activities more frequently is lack of time. Weather and preferring to use the internet are also mentioned. The respondents were asked how their participation in outdoor recreation could be increased. Providing recreation areas close to home, providing equipment like sports equipment, and providing recreation spaces that are "just for kids my age" were the top three responses.

More beaches and hiking trails should be developed at the youth's local outdoor recreation facilities. The same answer was given for state facilities, with the addition of overnight camping areas. This is similar to what adults were looking for. Overall, both adults and youth in the state are looking to overcome obstacles of lack of time and want more trails and water-based facilities. This shows that, for the most part, regardless of age, outdoor recreation needs are the same.



Campagnone Common, Lawrence, photo from Susan Fink

Chapter Five — Outdoor Recreation Goals and Objectives

Throughout the SCORP public participation process, the types of outdoor recreation people were currently participating in, what types of facilities are not currently available, but respondents would like to see, and what was preventing people from recreating, fell into common themes. These answers can help determine where the next five years of LWCF and other state sources of funding should be geared towards to best provide residents with recreational amenities that they are looking for, as well as to increase their current rate of participation. The goals and objectives for the 2017 SCORP are below.

Results from the Phone Survey

Reasons for not using facilities Why do you not use outdoor recreational facilities more often than you currently do?

Barrier to use outdoor recreation	Percent mentioning
Not enough time	53%
Other commitments get in the way	16%
Too far away	8%
Facilities and areas are not well maintained	5%
Fees are too expensive	4%
Health Issues	3%
Recreation facilities don't have what I want or need	3%
Safety of facilities	3%
Inadequate parking	3%
Walking access is not attractive or safe	3%
Inadequate transportation options	2%
Lack of disabled access	2%
Recreational equipment is too expensive	1%
Other	10%
None	6%
Don't know	2%

Goal 1. Access for Underserved Populations

Underserved populations include specific groups that are not generally considered when designing local parks and conservation areas. These populations include people with disabilities, teenagers, and senior citizens. Underserved can also refer to areas of a community that are lacking in outdoor recreation facilities.

While finding the time to recreate can be difficult for anyone, people with disabilities may face a greater challenge than most if facilities are not designed with their needs in mind or programming is not accessible to them. People participate in outdoor recreation first and foremost for physical fitness. Having a disability should not prevent someone from using a park or open space to achieve their health goals. As cited above, 11.7% of Massachusetts residents report to have a disability. It is also important to note that people with disabilities are not the only ones affected by the lack of resources for this group – family and friends of people with disabilities may not be able to participate in outdoor recreation if their loved one cannot.

The online recreation user survey demonstrated a need for more programming for other groups of underserved populations as well. When asked if more outdoor recreation programs should be developed for senior citizens, 83% said that it was a very or somewhat important priority. The same question was asked in regards to teenagers and 91% requested additional programming for this group. Ninety-two percent of respondents wanted more programming for people with disabilities.

Objectives:

1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces in areas that lack existing or useable open spaces, such as Environmental Justice neighborhoods
2. Develop parks and open spaces that offer amenities that go above and beyond ADA requirements for people with disabilities
3. Consider the needs of underserved demographic groups – senior citizens and teenagers – in park and open space designs
4. Encourage establishment of programming endowments

Mass Audubon Accessible Trails Project

Mass Audubon, New England’s largest conservation organization and our largest private conservation landowner, recognizes the importance of making their facilities accessible to everyone, regardless of physical abilities. In 2010, it was awarded a grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services to add multi-sensory interpretive content on existing ADA-accessible nature trails at eight wildlife sanctuaries throughout the Commonwealth. The grant helped Mass Audubon to develop a better experience for visitors of varying vision, hearing, and mobility levels. Improvements to the facilities included audio tours, brailled texts and tactile maps, tour scripts and maps designed for high readability for visually impaired and sighted visitors, new orientation maps and information panels, improved signage along trails, rope/post guiding systems, and wider boardwalks.

The second phase of the Accessible Trails Project began in 2014 when Mass Audubon evaluated the trails and distributed informational materials in order to share with others what had been learned through the first phase of the project. An informational manual that includes best practices was developed with funding assistance from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The manual will help to facilitate collaborative



partnerships that will develop and test materials with volunteer expert users and resource professionals. It can be found online at www.massaudubon.org/get-outdoors/accessibility/accessible-projects-and-partners/accessible-trails-manual.

Goal 2. Support the Statewide Trails Initiative

Trails are important for a number of different reasons. They connect communities. They provide a non-vehicular mode of transit. They improve public health by giving people an active way to get where they are going. They can increase the value of homes and businesses by making an area a more desirable to live or work.

Studies have shown that people that recreate in parks and open spaces with trail amenities tend to participate in endeavors that require a higher level of physical activity. Also, parks and open spaces with trails, paved or unpaved, and wooded areas are seven times more likely to be used for physical activity than those that do not. This can lead to improvements in public health. As the percent of people with obesity increases in the nation, it is critical to provide affordable and fun ways to increase physical activity.

Trails are also the second most requested recreational amenity by survey respondents. The phone survey found that 50.3% of people wanted new or improved hiking trails; paved, multi-use trails, such as rail trails; unpaved, multi-use trails, such as

Massachusetts Trails Initiative

Governor Charlie Baker recognizes the importance of greenways and improved trails throughout the Commonwealth. Trails provide for improved mobility, public health, economic development, quality of life, recreation, and public safety benefits. The development of more trails (defined here as a paved multi-use path or an improved, but unpaved trail) to increase the current network of 565 miles, provides an opportunity for multiple state agencies to partner together and strategically invest state and federal resources. A large source of funding for trail projects comes from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). RTP is a federal funding source administered by DCR. It supports a wide variety of paved and unpaved trails. Since 1996, more than 230 communities have received \$11 million in RTP grants. Demonstrating his commitment to trails, Governor Baker increased the budget for the program to \$1.9 million in Fiscal Year 2018.

Cities and towns are working together with the Commonwealth's environmental, transportation, public health, aging, and economic development agencies to make trail improvements. A goal of the initiative is to look for ways to strengthen the partnership so that it is easier for communities to plan for their trail projects, including land acquisition, design, and trail funding. Communities throughout the Commonwealth recognize how important trail projects are to planning for smart growth by facilitating transportation that does not involve vehicles. The working group will develop a Shared Use Path Design Guide and State Bicycle or Motorized Plan to help improve investments in trails throughout the Commonwealth.

A good example of the economic benefit of greenway trails is along the Charles River. DCR has invested in improvements to the Upper Charles Trail, which led to economic development in Watertown and Waltham. Since 2008, 2,535 housing units worth more than \$250 million and more than 800,000 square feet of commercial space were permitted within a half mile of the river trail. Also, the Town of Wellesley has built 46 miles of biking and hiking trails with a variety of funding sources, including five cross-town trails that provide a comprehensive bicycle/pedestrian network. This includes the Fuller Brook Trail, which serves multiple purposes as a major sewer line, stormwater retention system, and an improved trail.



mountain bike trails, cross-country skiing or snowshoeing trails; and snowmobiling trails in state parks and forests. The same types of facilities were requested by 48% of respondents in their community's facilities. The community officials survey cited walking, trails, and hiking as the top three activities that have shown an increase in popularity over the past five to 10 years. The same activities were also expected to show a continuing increase in popularity over the next five years. Twenty-two percent of respondents said that trails were not currently offered in their communities, but should be.

Objectives:

1. Support the acquisition of land and development of new open spaces that can provide a trail network
2. Fill in the gaps of existing trail networks
3. Ensure that any existing or new trails are fully accessible to people with disabilities

Goal 3. Increase the Availability of Water-based Recreation

Protecting water resources serves multiple purposes. It provides people a place to recreate. It protects habitat for plant and animal species that depend on its water quality. It helps to protect our drinking water supplies. When asked what services our state and local parks and open spaces provide, other than outdoor recreation, the top three answers were: protecting wildlife, improving quality of life, and protecting drinking water supply.

Forests are the best source of treatment for public water supplies. The dense canopies and complex soils filter rainfall and non-point source pollution from developed

Connecting Fitchburg Residents to their Watersheds

In 2009, the Department of Fish and Game acquired a conservation restriction over 1,875 acres of the City of Fitchburg's drinking water supply lands to enhance the protection of these lands, support additional watershed land protection and support passive recreation on these lands. The water supply lands provide drinking water to Fitchburg, a small mill city of 40,000 residents in central Massachusetts. As part of this \$954,000 state-funded project, trails were developed on the water supply lands that connect through land trust lands to a new five-acre Gateway Park along the Nashua River in downtown Fitchburg. The funds the city received were used to leverage a \$414,000 DCS Drinking Water Supply Protection grant and a \$335,000 Northeast Biodiversity Initiative Grant from the Duke Foundation and the Open Space Institute, which protected an additional 170-acre private parcel with important tributaries that flow directly to the reservoirs. The trail network is stewarded by a local group of dedicated volunteers with the support of the Fitchburg water supply staff.



areas. A study of 27 water suppliers by the Trust for Public Land found that for every 10 percent increase in forest cover around the source area, treatment and chemical costs decreased by approximately 20% — up to a 60% reduction for a reservoir with 60% forest cover on its contributing watershed. Forest conservation was one of the key actions that was used by the metropolitan Boston water supplier to avoid the construction of filtration plants that would have cost hundreds of millions of dollars to rate payers.

Water-based recreation was the number one most requested amenity by phone survey respondents when asked what three new or improved facilities should be developed in state parks. Fifty-eight percent requested some type of water amenity, including beaches; outdoor swimming pools or spray parks; fresh or saltwater swimming areas; canoeing, kayaking, rafting, or tubing areas; fishing or ice fishing areas; waterskiing and jet skiing areas; and motor boating or sailing areas. The same types of amenities were requested 59% of the time in local facilities. Communities responding to the online municipal employee survey showed a need for an increase in boating facilities, with 15% saying that no current boating facilities were available, but should be.

Objectives:

1. Support the acquisition of land that will provide for water-based recreation
2. Support the acquisition of land that will increase drinking water supply protection
3. Develop water-based recreational facilities, including swimming areas, spray parks, boating facilities, fishing areas, etc.

Goal 4. Support the Creation and Renovation of Neighborhood Parks

To ensure the future protection and maintenance of our parks and open spaces, residents must care about them. This interest will not be developed if people aren't utilizing public spaces. Lack of time was cited by the vast majority of respondents as the reason why they are not participating more frequently in outdoor recreation (53% of respondents in the phone survey — the next highest response was other commitments getting in the way at only 16%). To get more people outside, facilities and amenities should be developed close to where people reside. This can be accomplished through the development of new, and the improvement of existing, neighborhood parks.

When asked why people participate in outdoor recreation, the second most popular response was to be with friends and family (16%). People also said that they liked to be outdoors (8%) and wanted to have fun (6%). Neighborhood parks can satisfy this need. Parks and open spaces provide places for communities to gather, whether it be a family or neighborhood get together. Even in areas of the state where people have larger yards for activities such as gardening, residents are clamoring for common spaces in which to gather.

Respondents to the phone survey were interested in improvements to neighborhood park facilities, such as dog parks, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

Playgrounds and off-leash dog parks were the second and fifth most requested improvement, respectively, in community facilities. Community gardens, nature playgrounds, and spray parks were also desired at high rates.

Objectives:

1. Promote the acquisition and development of neighborhood parks where none currently exist
2. Develop amenities supported by neighborhood parks, such as playgrounds, off-leash dog parks, and community gardens
3. Work with community development organizations to improve walking access to local parks

Farmers' Markets and Urban Agriculture

There are now 245 summer and 47 winter Farmers' Markets across the Commonwealth. This provides local growers an opportunity to sell their own fruits and vegetables to local residents. Many Farmers' Markets also have other locally-made farm products, such as baked goods, jams, maple products, honey, cheese, flowers, eggs, and more. Farmers' Market help to keep farmland as farms as farmers' profits are increased by selling directly to consumers.

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) launched the Urban Agriculture Program in the fall of 2013, one of the nation's first state-wide programs to support and promote commercial urban farming enterprises. Funding through the program targets infrastructure needs, innovative food production, zoning ordinances, technical assistance, land acquisition, and youth leadership development.

This program is also designed to build community partnerships; the Massachusetts Urban Farming Conference is a key component to strengthening this growing network. Convened by MDAR, in partnership with the Urban Farming Institute and City Growers, this annual, full-day event brings seasoned practitioners and multi-sector experts together with beginning urban farmers and entrepreneurs. The conference addresses our urban food systems, community revitalization, land and policy issues, and best practices for the viability of urban farm enterprises. As MDAR's Urban Agriculture Program grows, urban food production will provide tangible, measurable benefits to residents in urban centers, increasing access to healthy fresh food, improved public health, entrepreneurial opportunities, job training and youth employment, and community revitalization.



Appendix A — Wetlands Component

SCORPs are required to include a wetlands priority component that is consistent with Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986. The wetlands priority component must show that the authors of the SCORP consulted with the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources, include a list of wetland types given priority status when acquiring land, and discuss outdoor recreation opportunities that utilize wetland resources.

Massachusetts is active in protecting, preserving, and restoring our wetlands. Wetlands work to reduce pollution and flooding while supporting ecosystems and providing cleaner water. Mass Audubon has estimated that fresh and salt water wetlands in Massachusetts provide \$2.3 billion in annual ecosystem service value. For example, the Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that wetlands in the Charles River Watershed prevent \$18 million in flood damage every year.

The filling of wetlands was once a significant issue in Massachusetts. Thankfully, wetlands loss has slowed over the past several decades. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the 351 local Conservation Commissions review thousands of applications annually from parties that wish to work in or near wetlands. This work has helped to protect wetlands from alterations.

The MassDEP continues to work hard to protect Massachusetts wetlands through mapping, permitting, monitoring and assessment, and outreach. In 2005, MassDEP released reliable and extensively field checked GIS-based maps of all wetlands in the Commonwealth based on aerial photography flown between 1990 and 2000. These maps have been used extensively by municipalities, state and federal agencies, non-profits, developers and the general public to plan for avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts. In the Fall of 2017, MassDEP will release the first ever update to these maps based on statewide aerial photos taken in 2005. Concurrent with the release of these maps, MassDEP will release a “Status and Trends” report that summarizes all of the natural and human caused wetland changes that occurred during the timeframe between the original and updated maps, as well as a summary of additional wetland changes and permit data through 2016. The results of the review demonstrate that although there have been individual losses, there has also been an overall net gain of wetlands due to human and natural causes.

Additionally, MassDEP has been conducting monitoring and assessment of wetland conditions in accordance with Clean Water Act Section 305(b), and has posted reports on the condition of wetlands in the Chicopee, Northeast, and Central reporting basins on the MassDEP web site (Western MA report will be available in Spring of

2018). These reports can be found under the Wetlands – Monitoring and Assessment Section of the MassDEP web site and contain the following information: 1) Identification of the primary causes of ecological stress to forested wetlands; 2) Tools to help combat sources of stress, including community specific maps identifying key areas where installation of aquatic and/or terrestrial passage structures would help to improve ecological integrity of forested wetlands; 3) Community specific important habitat maps prioritizing lands with high ecological integrity for preservation; and 4) Detailed lists of invasive plants documented during sampling and general locations where they were found for management efforts (non-invasive plant species are also documented). Additionally, the reports contain results of site assessments using plant based Indices of Biological Integrity to determine if wetland condition meets expected condition based on the surrounding landscape and documentation and assessment of physical disturbances observed in the field.

Wetland permitting remains robust, with MassDEP reviewing an average of 5,100 permit applications per year between 2012 and 2016, each requiring avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of all wetland impacts. Average acreage of wetland loss per year between 2010 and 2012 was 21.1 acres per year, a 15.9 acre per year drop from the 2005-2009 timeframe. MassDEP is currently planning for a new updated wetland loss evaluation and in doing so is evaluating new GIS based feature extraction software that will be needed, since the software used to develop the wetland loss figures through 2012 has become obsolete. However, the wetland loss data, as well as violations identified through other sources have resulted in MassDEP ordering 2.51 acres of wetland restored, and \$152,000 issued in penalties to violators between 2012 and 2016.

Massachusetts' Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), within the Department of Fish and Game, works to restore and protect the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands, and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. DER staff have extensive experience and qualifications in all aspects of river and wetland restoration planning and project management. In addition, DER frequently collaborates with other state and federal agencies that support restoration efforts, including the Division of Marine Fisheries, Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Office of Coastal Zone Management, DEP, and the state's two National Estuary Programs.

Massachusetts is able to have such a successful restoration program due to strong technical, outreach, and funding partnerships with municipalities, landowners, non-profits, private companies, academic institutions, and government agencies. On average, state investment in restoration leverages three to five times its initial value from non-state sources and delivers important social and environmental benefits to Massachusetts'

communities. Restoration funding also supports local and regional economies by generating an average employment demand of 12.5 jobs and \$1,750,000 in total economic output from each \$1 million spent on these projects.

DER has helped partners restore over 1,800 acres of wetlands and remove over 50 dams, opening up 235 river miles across Massachusetts. As of October 2017, over 100 ecological restoration projects have been completed, and over 60 projects are currently in development. Many of the completed project sites are now available for recreation by users across the Commonwealth.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and DFG, the two state agencies that acquire land for conservation and recreation use, take wetlands into consideration when determining what land to acquire. When considering what parcels to acquire, DCR identifies any wetlands on the site as a resource attribute in its analysis given that they often provide habitat for rare species. Wetlands are also a part of BioMap 2's Core Habitat and Critical Natural Landscape designations, both of which are priority protection areas for DCR. A relatively intact wetland system in a more urbanized environment is critical in maintaining certain natural communities, so is also looked at favorably by DCR land acquisition staff.

DFG has its own method of determining which parcels of land to acquire. Palustrine and estuarine natural communities are given priority status, as are those wetlands that provide habitat for rare species that are dependent upon them. Any land that falls within BioMap 2's Wetland and Aquatic Core Habitats and Wetland and Aquatic Buffers are considered to be important land for acquisition, as is land with certified and potential vernal pools. Wetlands are considered when choosing sites for fishing and boating access as well.

Appendix B — Public Participation

The Division of Conservation Services solicited public input in a variety of ways. Three online surveys were available – one for municipal conservation and recreation providers, one for land trusts, and one for recreational users. The surveys were promoted through email blasts, newspaper articles, and website postings.

DCS staff attended meetings across the Commonwealth, minutes of which are included below. The findings from these meetings, along with the online and phone surveys results, were used to identify the goals and objectives for this edition of the SCORP.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Meeting

October 19, 2017

- Rail trails – good support for them from MassDOT
- Money is needed for trail development through conservation land
- Could the LWCF money go to a Bay Circuit Trail project?
- Need to identify gap parcels for long range trails
- City of Haverhill would like to develop a marina on the Merrimack River
- Coordination of state agencies is needed when it comes to rules around trail development
- Coordination of trail maintenance rules are needed as well
- Competing jurisdictions of the river make it difficult to do work there
- Gap in services for the 12-18 year old cohort, as well as resources for seniors
- Seniors need resources close to home due to their lack of driving ability in some cases
- Aging close to home needs to be considered
- Breakheart Reservation is available for seniors and people with disabilities since there are paved paths – consider this for other areas
- Where is it possible to hike safely during hunting season?
- Town of Salisbury would like to make more of Salisbury Beach handicapped accessible
- Trail design costs as required by MassDOT and the Federal Highway Administration can be cost prohibitive

Communities in attendance:

- Boxford
- Georgetown
- Groveland
- Haverhill
- Lawrence

- Methuen
- Newbury
- Newburyport
- North Andover
- Rowley
- Salisbury
- Groundwork Lawrence (“at large” member)

Franklin Regional Planning Board Meeting

November 2, 2017

- Shelburne Open Space and Recreation Plan includes residents’ responses for what type of recreational amenities they are looking for
- Mountain bike trails that are connected through private land to parklands are desired by tourists
- Tourists would prefer to not use a car once they get to their destination, making trail connections between protected public conservation land through private land a necessity
- Mountain biking, hiking, and cross country skiing are popular, but MassDOT should do a better job of signage on roads to identify the location of DCR and DFG properties
- State parks and forests trail maps should be updated and available at trailheads
- Towns that have their trails mapped could upload the mapping data to MassGIS
- Accessible trails should be mapped
- Nonprofits may be better able to provide trail information, so the state should partner with them to do so
- RPA staff identifies recreational trails, downtown pocket parks, and swimming facilities as what the region’s communities need the most
- Existing water-based recreational facilities at DAR State Forest and in the Town of Ashfield are overused

Communities in attendance:

- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield

- Leverett
- Leyden
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Orange
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Warwick

Valley Development Council Meeting

November 9, 2017

- Mixed use trails and sidewalks are most frequently requested
- Accessibility, including trails, are needed
- Dog parks – how viable are they and who will maintain them?
- No more golf courses
- Maintenance concerns – some parks are well maintained, others are not
- Safety issues are a concern – dogs, lighting, etc.
- Park redevelopment requested
- BMX track and skate parks are needed
- Permitting can make trail development difficult due to presence of endangered species
- Canoe access for streams and the Connecticut River is needed

Communities in attendance:

- Chicopee
- Easthampton
- Holyoke
- Ludlow
- South Hadley
- Southwick
- Westfield
- Wilbraham

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Trails Meeting

November 9, 2017

- Webster Lake needs more programming
- Historical Commissions are a good resource for recreation departments that are looking to add historical/cultural signage and other amenities to a site
- Signage and kiosks can be added to interpret the site's history
- Worcester to Providence bikeway should clearly identify the existing gaps so that they can be filled in
- Existing conservation areas are having issues with adequate parking and unauthorized ATV use
- Paved multi-use paths are needed
- Existing hiking/skiing trails should be connected
- More water access
- More open space for recreational opportunities is needed
- Dudley rail trail should be constructed
- Confusion over ownership and appropriate use exists - could be solved by better signage
- Active athletic fields could be turned into playgrounds as communities' needs shift
- There needs to be a balance between artificial and regular turf for rectangular fields
- Dog parks should be distributed throughout the entire community so that one area doesn't take on all of the use
- Needs differ by neighborhood, so it is important to get the public's input
- Residents need a better way to identify where regional resources are
- Out of town residents can take up parking
- Pickleball and handball are becoming more popular

Communities in attendance:

- Dudley
- Grafton
- Leicester
- Mendon
- Millville
- Northbridge
- Uxbridge
- Webster
- Worcester

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission Meeting

November 9, 2017

- Grafton residents are looking for more handicapped-accessible playgrounds
- Bikeways that connect to existing paths should be developed
- Small boat launches are needed
- Princeton is also looking for handicapped-accessible parks and open spaces
- Trail that goes around an entire town that connects existing open spaces would be nice
- Westborough believes that communities should communicate more and identify where existing trails are in order to connect them across borders
- More accessible trails of any length are needed, including accessible boardwalks and crushed stone paths
- Small spur trails should be constructed in an environmentally friendly way
- West Brookfield is also looking to connect trails and blueways by filling in gaps

Communities in attendance:

- Auburn
- Barre
- Berlin
- Boylston
- Blackstone
- Charlton
- Dudley
- Hardwick
- Holden
- Grafton
- Leicester
- Millbury
- Northbridge
- Oxford
- Princeton
- Rutland
- Shrewsbury
- Spencer
- Westborough
- West Boylston

Appendix C — Executive Summary from Issues & Answers, Inc. Phone and Youth Surveys

Summary: Adults

Roughly 9 in 10 Massachusetts residents have some outdoor recreational activity that they enjoy doing.

- Popular activities
 - o When asked about their top five outdoor activities, more than half of Massachusetts residents mention walking, jogging or running. Collectively, that's the only activity popular with more than 50% of adults in the state.
 - o The second most popular activity is hiking, mentioned by 1/3 of consumers as a top 5 favorite.
 - o That's followed by
 - § Swimming (freshwater/saltwater), 19%
 - § Road biking, 18%
 - § Swimming in pools, 15%
 - § Gardening, 12%
 - § Canoeing/kayaking/rafting/tubing, 11%
 - § Field sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, rugby). 10%
 - § Camping, 10%
 - § And then by a very lengthy list of other activities with a lesser incidence of enthusiasts
 - o The frequency of participation depends on the activity. People who walk or jog tend to do it several times per week. Hiking and kayaking are much less frequent.
- Outdoor recreation logistics
 - o Most activities are conducted within five miles of home.
 - o Most participants drive a personal car to get to the activity. Two-thirds also walk or jog to get there. Very few make use of public transportation.

- More than 1/3 of residents expect their use of outdoor recreational activities to increase over the next five years.
- Use of state outdoor recreation facilities: Consumers most commonly report using state facilities “a few times or less a year.” Only 17% say they don’t use these facilities, while 16% say they use them at least once per week.
- Use of community facilities: 59% of consumers say they use town facilities at least once per month, and 32% use them weekly. Again, 17% say they don’t use these facilities.
- Perceived quality of state and local facilities: 54% see each as being “very good” or “excellent.” When asked about coastal recreational facilities, 51% see them as being “very good” or “excellent.”
- Desired improvements in state facilities: There’s a long list of “wants” and there is no meaningful difference in the level of interest in the top seven items:
 - o Hiking trails, 19%
 - o Beaches, 16%
 - o Paved multi-use trails, 16%
 - o Outdoor swimming pools, 15%
 - o Unpaved multi-use trails, 15%
 - o Nature preserves, 14%
 - o Playgrounds, 13%
- Desired improvements in local facilities: The priorities at the local level are slightly more clear
 - o Hiking trails
 - o Playgrounds

- o Paved multi-use trails
- o Swimming pools and spray parks

- Motivations of participating in outdoor activities: The most commonly cited reason is for physical fitness. Beyond that, people see outdoor activities as an occasion to socialize with friends and family or just to relax.

- Barriers to using outdoor recreation facilities: The major barriers are personal – not having time and having other commitments that take priority.

- Sources of information about outdoor recreational activities and facilities: Consumers in Massachusetts rely on word-of-mouth and on the Internet. More than 40% mention these sources, and the number mentioning the Internet passes 50% if separate references to Facebook are included. The next most common information source is “newspaper”, but it’s ambiguous as to whether that refers to the printed paper or to the website that all papers seem to have.

- State spending on outdoor recreation: 62% of consumers feel the state spends too little on these facilities and resources. Only 2% think the state spends too much in this area.

- Parking fees at recreational facilities: 61% say they are satisfied with the current level of fees.

- Benefits of parks and preserved spaces: Consumers see the key benefits as protecting wildlife habitats, improving quality of life, and protecting drinking water.

- Consumers are mixed regarding level of concern about the impact of climate change on outdoor resources.

Recommendations

- If one of the goals is to promote healthy lifestyles among Massachusetts residents, one should consider promoting activities that consumers would do more frequently.

Walking/jogging/running is a clear example. People who get involved in it do it multiple times per week – it becomes habitual and that reinforces behavior.

- o Other activities are clearly seasonal, and that’s a challenge for maintaining a behavior.
- Women appear to be more receptive than men to appeals about outdoor exercise.
- Appeals to promote outdoor activities should emphasize both the health and social benefits of the activities. Most of these activities can be done in groups.
- Consumers support increased spending on outdoor facilities.
- Massachusetts residents are mixed in their views of “climate change.” There is a minority who attach high importance to this issue, but most residents don’t feel that strongly about it. It may not be effective as a lever to promote use of outdoor resources, or gain support for increased spending on those resources.
- Finally, in terms of future research:
 - o The research would benefit from an increase in sample size to permit more granular analysis of the needs and wants in different regions.
 - o The survey would benefit from an oversampling among minorities, allowing us to better understand how to promote their involvement in, and support for, outdoor recreation.
 - o Finally, the survey would benefit from questions designed to allow us to prioritize desired improvements. There are several ways this could be done using the current survey format.

Summary: Youth

The Youth survey was conducted among 12 to 18 year-olds. Among this group, almost everyone is involved in some form of outdoor activity, often more than one.

- Favorite activities, especially among the 12-14 age group, are team sports (football, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, field hockey).
- While team sports remain popular with older teens (15-to-18 age group), there is equal interest in swimming (freshwater/saltwater), hiking and running/jogging/walking.
- Adolescents participate in outdoor activities primarily for fun.
 - o Additional benefits include spending time with friends and family and simply being outdoors.
 - o Females are more likely to participate in outdoor activities with members of their immediate or extended family.
 - o Males are more likely to participate with teammates or friends.
- Roughly half of adolescents participate in outdoor activities using their own yard, a friend's yard, a school facility or a nearby park. Another 20% report using multiple facilities. Roughly 1/3 use other facilities including college and church grounds.
 - o *Comment: Those using multiple locations tend to do their outdoor activity where their team is playing or near where friends and family live, if they are sharing the activity.*
- The most common outdoor activities in the past year were
 - o Running, jogging or walking
 - o Swimming (any type) and
 - o Road biking
- The activities that adolescents want to do more of in the next year are
 - o Running/jogging/walking
 - o Camping
 - o Swimming in pools
 - o Hiking

Camping appeals in particular to older teens, while hiking appeals to both older teens and females.

There is no single activity that as many as 10% of adolescents want to do more of in the next year. Their interests are fragmented.

There are four issues that can impact the ability of half or more of adolescents to participate in outdoor activities. These are (Figure 46):

- o Being too busy
- o Weather
- o Prefer to use the Internet
- o The location of the activity being outside of bicycle range

Older teens (15-18 years of age) say they are busy with other activities. Among younger adolescents (12-14), outdoor activities compete with the Internet and video games.

The top ways to increase participation in outdoor activities are to --

- o Provide more recreation areas close to home (requested by 60% of adolescents responding to the survey)
- o Providing equipment like sports equipment
- o Providing recreation spaces that are "just for kids my age"

There are two requests that are specific to younger teens and females:

- o Almost half (49%) of those in the 12-14 age group want safer recreation spaces. This is much less of an issue for those in the 15-18 age group.
- o Some 44% of females want instructions or lessons. This is double the percentage of males who want training in activities.

Among adolescents overall, the top priorities for expanded or new facilities in their local community are

- o Beaches
- o Hiking trails

- The top priorities for new or expanded facilities elsewhere in the state are
 - o Beaches,
 - o Hiking trails
 - o Overnight camping facilities

Appendix D — Massachusetts Open Project Selection Process

Introduction

Per the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Manual, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has developed an Open Project Selection Process (OPSP) in order to, “better assure equal opportunity for all eligible project sponsors and all sectors of the general public to participate in the benefits of the LWCF State Assistance Program.” In essence, the OPSP is the method through which the public findings from the SCORP development are implemented at the local level by awarding funds to our highest priority needs.

The OPSP enables Massachusetts to educate the public about the availability of LWCF funding, as well as how to apply for, and receive, LWCF grants. The goal is to award grants to projects that directly implement our SCORP goals and objectives. Most importantly, the OPSP should ensure that LWCF grants are distributed in a fair and equitable manner to minority, elderly, disabled, and other underserved populations. Massachusetts accomplishes this goal through its fair and open grant selection process, part of which includes posting the project rating system by which grants are selected.

Public Participation Process

In the Spring of 2017, EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton invited members of the conservation and recreation community to participate in the SCORP Advisory Committee. The mission of the Advisory Committee was to help inform the SCORP through the members’ work in conservation and recreation organizations, non-profits, and state, local, and federal government. The members were chosen to represent the breadth of outdoor recreation providers and resources in the state, as well as the diversity of its communities.

The Committee met in April as a kick-off to the public participation process and reviewed the SCORP draft prior to its submission to the NPS for federal review and approval. The members of the Committee have discussed how the SCORP’s findings are relevant to their own work. EEA intends to continue to meet with the Advisory Committee over the next five years, looking to the Committee to help implement the SCORP’s findings.

Citizen input was sought in a number of ways. EEA attended a variety of meetings across the state convened by partnering outside organizations to gather feedback on users’ and providers’ needs. Three surveys were posted on the EEA website and announced via multi-media across the state: one for residents that use outdoor recreation facilities, one for municipal recreation providers, and one for land trusts. About ten newspapers ran articles advertising the surveys’ availability. Advisory committee members promoted the surveys through their websites and listservs.

EEA wanted to ensure that statistically valid and significant statewide data was used in developing the goals and objectives of the SCORP. In order to do so, Insights and Answers, Inc. of Virginia Beach, Virginia was hired to complete two surveys. The first was a phone survey, completed in the fall of 2017, which gathered information on 400 residents' feelings towards open space and recreation. The second was a survey of 215 middle and high school students, which enabled a better understanding of which outdoor recreation issues are most important to the youth of Massachusetts.

The results from the various public participation methods were analyzed. Many of the responses fell into similar categories. The most frequently heard responses formed the backbone of the SCORP's goals and objectives, which are prioritized in the grant's rating system. The rating system will guide how Massachusetts' LWCF apportionments will be distributed over the next five years.

Eligible Applicants and Projects

Any municipality in the Commonwealth with an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for LWCF grants. The Departments of Fish and Game and Conservation and Recreation are also eligible applicants. Massachusetts' two federally recognized tribes, the Mashpee Wampanoags and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head - Aquinnah, may also apply for LWCF grants.

Grant Application Process

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that grants are announced through its state procurement system at www.commbuys.com. The Division of Conservation Services, which administers the LWCF grant program on behalf of the National Park Service for the Commonwealth, also posts the grant announcement on its website (www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants). The availability of funding is promoted through multiple listservs, including the Massachusetts Recreation and Park Association and the Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition, and email blasts from sister state agencies, including the Division of Ecological Restoration and Coastal Zone Management.

Grant applications in Massachusetts are in the form of a BID document, which contains a description of eligible project types and the project rating system through which projects are selected. BIDs are posted for a minimum of 60 days to provide sufficient time for application development and completion. The LWCF Stateside Coordinator hosts two grant workshops, one in eastern Massachusetts and one in western Massachusetts, where the grant requirements are discussed. Potential applicants are also welcome to ask questions about the grant program and, more specifically, their project. The PowerPoint presentation and questions and answers from the workshops are posted on our website and on [commbuys](http://commbuys.com). All applicants, especially first-time applicants, are encouraged to attend one of the workshops.

In Massachusetts, the LWCF grant is offered annually or biennially, depending on funding availability.

The typical funding schedule is as follows:

December	Grant announcement posted on DCS website, public informed through method described above
January	Grant workshops held
March	Grant application deadline
March/April	Site inspections; project applications reviewed and rated by staff
May	Project selection/grant approval meeting with State Liaison Officer, applicants informed of grant decisions (both selected and unselected project applicants)
May-July	Selected projects submitted to NPS for review and approval, entered into grants.gov

Rating System

All eligible project applications are reviewed and rated according to the LWCF project rating system on the basis of the information provided in the application and at the site inspection. All applications will receive a total point score and be ranked from highest to lowest score. The total apportionment amount available will determine which grants are recommended for funding.

The SCORP project rating system includes the following criteria (rating sheet with point breakdown follows):

Relevance to Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – how well does the project fit into the four goals of the SCORP? Points awarded on the number of goals met by the proposed project.

Relevance to Open Space and Recreation Plan (for municipalities) – how well does the project fit into the goals and objectives of the community’s OSRP. Points awarded on the specificity of project reference in the plan.

Relevance to agency’s land acquisition or recreation capital plan (for state agencies) – how well does the project fit into the agency’s land acquisition plan.

Environmental Justice – does the project provide access to Environmental Justice populations?

Increasing availability of recreational opportunities – does the project expand the number of recreational opportunities available to residents? Points awarded based on how well the project will increase access to recreational amenities.

Access for people with disabilities – does the project provide access for people with disabilities? Points awarded based on how creative access plans are for people with disabilities.

Environmental education – does the project provide environmental education on site? Points awarded based on the thoughtfulness of the plan.

Climate resiliency – how well is the park equipped to deal with climate change (for recreation projects)? How much of the project is located in a site mapped as critical for climate change adaptation and resiliency (for conservation land acquisition projects)?

Stewardship – does the applicant have a proven record of stewardship of its properties? Points awarded based on number of staff dedicated to maintenance, LWCF inspection reports completed, sample maintenance plan for park provided, etc. (for recreation projects), points awarded based on the number stewardship activities demonstrated, such as baseline management reports, cooperative agreements for maintenance, monitoring reports, etc. (for conservation land acquisition projects).

Trails – does the project increase the trail network in the community and/or region? Points awarded based on the amount available trails are increased in the community.

Water access – does the project provide access to or protect a water resource?

Alternative transportation options – is the project accessible by modes of transportation other than a car? Points awarded based on the number of non-automobile transit options users have.

Wildlife management and recreation – does the project allow for wildlife viewing, hunting, or fishing?

Application quality – how thorough is the application? Points awarded based on how well organized and complete the BID response is.

Project quality – how well does the proposed project meet the goals of the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

Please note that any changes to the state's LWCF Rating System will have public awareness and be included the LWCF funding announcement and in the grant's BID document.

Massachusetts LWCF Rating System

Conservation Projects		Recreation Projects	
Relevance to Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – how well does the project fit into the four goals of the SCORP? Points awarded on the number of goals met by the proposed project.	8 for 4 goals 6 for 3 goals 4 for 2 goals 2 for 1 goal (partial points may be awarded)	Relevance to Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – how well does the project fit into the four goals of the SCORP? Points awarded on the number of goals met by the proposed project.	8 for 4 goals 6 for 3 goals 4 for 2 goals 2 for 1 goal (partial points may be awarded)
Relevance to Open Space and Recreation Plan (for municipalities only) – how well does the project fit into the goals and objectives of the community’s OSRP. Points awarded on the specificity of project ref-	5 for specific reference to project 2 for indirect reference to project	Relevance to Open Space and Recreation Plan (for municipalities) – how well does the project fit into the goals and objectives of the community’s OSRP. Points awarded on the specificity of project ref-	5 for specific reference to project 2 for indirect reference to project
Relevance to agency’s land acquisition or recreation capital plan (for state agencies only) – how well does the project fit into the agen-	5 for specific reference to project 2 for indirect reference to project	Relevance to agency’s land acquisition or recreation capital plan (for state agencies) – how well does the project fit into the agency’s land	5 for specific reference to project 2 for indirect reference to project
Environmental Justice – does the project provide access to Environmental Justice populations? (9 points maximum)	3 points per EJ criteria within project location’s Census block group	Environmental Justice – does the project provide access to Environmental Justice populations? (9 points maximum)	3 points per EJ criteria within project location’s Census block group
Increasing availability of recreational opportunities – does the project expand the number of recreational opportunities available to residents? Points awarded based on how well the project will increase access to recreational amenities.	5 points for significant increase in recreational opportunities available locally 3 points for expansion of opportunities currently available 3 points for providing programming that will expand opportunities	Increasing availability of recreational opportunities – does the project expand the number of recreational opportunities available to residents? Points awarded based on how well the project will increase access to recreational amenities.	5 points for significant increase in recreational opportunities available locally 3 points for expansion of opportunities currently available 3 points for providing programming that will expand opportunities
Access for people with disabilities – does the project provide access for people with disabilities? Points awarded based on how creative access plans are for people with disabilities.	Up to 10 points for plans that go above and beyond ADA requirements (ie, Braille trails)	Access for people with disabilities – does the project provide access for people with disabilities? Points awarded based on how creative access plans are for people with disabilities.	Up to 10 points for plans that go above and beyond ADA requirements (ie, Boundless Playgrounds)
Environmental education – does the project provide environmental education on site? Points awarded based on the thoughtfulness of the plan. (9 points maximum)	5 points for multiple signs, kiosks 3 points for camps using site 1 point for single events	Environmental education – does the project provide environmental education on site? Points awarded based on the thoughtfulness of the plan. (9 points maximum)	5 points for multiple signs, kiosks 3 points for camps using site 1 point for single events
Climate resiliency – how much of the project is located in a site mapped as critical for climate change adaptation and resiliency?	7 points for 76-100% of land mapped 5 points for 51-75% of land mapped 3 points for 26-50% of land mapped 1 point for 1-25% of land mapped	Climate resiliency – how well is the park equipped to deal with climate change?	Up to 7 points for design that incorporates resiliency, such as tree planting, solar trash cans, permeable surfaces, rain gardens, etc.

Stewardship – does the applicant have a proven record of stewardship of its properties? Points awarded based on the number stewardship activities demonstrated, such as baseline management reports, cooperative agreements for maintenance, monitoring reports, etc.	Up to 7 points	Stewardship – does the applicant have a proven record of stewardship of its properties? Points awarded based on number of staff dedicated to maintenance, LWCF inspection reports completed, sample maintenance plan for park provided, etc.	Up to 7 points
Trails – does the project increase the trail network in the community and/or region? Points awarded based on the amount available trails are increased in the community.	6 points for land acquisition that will connect existing trail networks 3 points for land acquisition that will contain an isolated trail	Trails – does the project increase the trail network in the community and/or region? Points awarded based on the amount available trails are increased in the community.	6 points for trail development on land previously purchased 3 points for trail on newly purchased land
Water access – does the project provide access to or protect a water resource? (5 points maximum)	5 points for the ability to recreate in the water 3 points for shore fishing opportunities 2 points for viewing water resource	Water access – does the project provide access to a water resource? (5 points maximum)	5 points for the ability to recreate in the water 3 points for shore fishing opportunities 2 points for viewing water resource
Alternative transportation options – is the project accessible by modes of transportation other than a car? Points awarded based on the number of non-automobile transit options users have. (6 points maximum)	2 points for each of the following: public transit within a ½ mile, walking facilitated by sidewalks, and/or cycling facilitated by bike lanes and bike racks	Alternative transportation options – is the project accessible by modes of transportation other than a car? Points awarded based on the number of non-automobile transit options users have. (6 points maximum)	2 points for each of the following: public transit within a ½ mile, walking facilitated by sidewalks, and/or cycling facilitated by bike lanes and bike racks
Wildlife management and recreation – does the project allow for wildlife viewing, hunting, or fishing?	5 points for hunting and fishing 2 points for wildlife viewing	Wildlife management and recreation – does the project allow for wildlife viewing?	5 points for wildlife viewing 2 points for signage about wildlife habitat
Application quality – how thorough is the application? Points awarded based on how well organized and complete the BID response is.	3 points for organization 2 points for thoroughness (partial points may be awarded)	Application quality – how thorough is the application? Points awarded based on how well organized and complete the BID response is.	3 points for organization 2 points for thoroughness (partial points may be awarded)
Project quality – how well does the proposed project meet the goals of the Land and Water Conservation Fund?	Up to 13 points	Project quality – how well does the proposed project meet the goals of the Land and Water Conservation Fund?	Up to 13 points