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## State awards more than \$1m to aid 27 park projects across Mass.

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 3, 2012 03:42 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The state has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to aid 27 public-private improvement projects at state parks and other public properties across Massachusetts, officials said.

The grants, eight of which will benefit projects in metro Boston, were doled out through an initiative run by Department of Conservation and Recreation Department.

The Partnerships Matching Funds program accepts applications for capital projects from potential partners including friends groups and other park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, businesses and individuals, according to the department.

Grant recipients must provide a match of non-state funds for projects, officials said. For contributions up to \$25,000, the state provides a two-to-one match. On contributions above \$25,000, the state gives a one-to-one match.

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For each approved project, the state conservation and recreation department assigns a project manager to help oversee the endeavor and consult with the partners co-funding the effort, according to an announcement from state officials.

Now in its seventh year, projects completed within the program have added more than \$10-million in non-state funded improvements to properties managed by the conservation and recreation department

“DCR has an on-going commitment to improving and enriching the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities available to state park users,” said a statement from Department of Conservation and Recreation Commissioner Ed Lambert, who announced the grant recipients last month. “The grants enable projects that enrich the visitor experience and improve quality of life for residents of Massachusetts.”

In a statement, Governor Deval Patrick said: “Partnerships are vital to the future of our parks and beaches. These projects ensure that we are working together to build a better Commonwealth for the next generation.”

The following are the Partnership Matching Fund Grants for this year:

Within metro Boston:

- Back Bay and Beacon Hill

Boston/Charles River Reservation –The Esplanade Association

Partner: \$200,000

DCR Match: \$150,000

This grant will be used to revitalize the landscape around the Eliot Memorial on the Charles River Esplanade. Continuation of design work created under FY 11 Matching Funds program.

- Back Bay and Roxbury

Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Partner: \$15,600

DCR Match: \$31,200

This grant will be used to support “Linking the Corridors” project to link two green spaces: the Southwest Corridor (at Ruggles) to the Emerald Necklace (at

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Back Bay Fens) by complementing Boston Transportation Department conceptual designs.

- Back Bay, Downtown, Dorchester, Fenway, Jamaica Plain, and Roxbury Parkway Trees Project

Partner: \$24,739

DCR Match: \$49,479

This grant will be to replace older or missing Red Oak Trees along Emerald Necklace Parkways

- Boston Harbor Islands

Boston Harbor Island Alliance

Partner: N/A

DCR Match: \$200,000

This grant will be used for water transportation to Boston Harbor Islands.

- Dorchester

Neponset River Reservation

Partner: \$4,445

DCR Match: \$8,890

This grant will be used to purchase trees and planting materials for 30 trees to be planted along the Neponset Greenway and in Neponset Park.

- Dorchester

Wahlberg Foundation – McMorrow Park

Partner: \$7,000

DCR Match: \$11,801

This grant will be used for the purchase and installation of a batting cage.

- Fenway

Fenway Civic Association

Partner: \$25,000

DCR Match: \$50,000

The grant will be used to improve accessibility for Agassiz Road; to improve drainage; to make the parkway more pedestrian and bike friendly; to restore the historic character of the parkway and to preserve parkland and prevent vehicular parking in the park.

- Jamaica Plain

Arborway Coalition

Partner: \$7,154

DCR Match: \$14,306

This grant will be used to continue implementation of two aspects of the "Gateway to the Arborway" project: traffic calming, tree planting and tree work, as planned with DCR and the community in 2008.

Outside of metro Boston:

- Arlington, Everett, Chelsea, Medford, Somerville, and Winchester  
Mystic River Watershed Association – Mystic River State Reservation

Partner: \$15,000

DCR Match: \$45,000

This grant will be used to eradicate water chestnuts from the Mystic River system.

- Barre and Oakham

Wachusett Earthday – Mass Central Rail Trail

Partner: \$115,000

DCR Match: \$100,000

The grant will be used to construct the Mass Central Rail Trail, 1.3 miles from Coldbrook Road, Oakham to the Ware River crossing, Barre.

- Bellingham and Franklin

Bay State Trail Riders Association/Franklin Bellingham Trail Committee – Southern New England Trunkline Trail (SNETT)

Partners: \$9,400.83

DCR Match: \$18,801.67

This grant will be used for a project designed to improve a section of trail on the SNETT.

- Cambridge

Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association – Charles River Reservation

Partner: \$25,000

DCR Match: \$50,000

This grant will be used to prepare an historic structure report to inform all subsequent initiatives for the Powder House, including preservation, repair, installation of interpretive markers, and adaptive reuse.

- Cambridge

City of Cambridge – Charles River Reservation, Memorial Drive

Partner: \$15,000

DCR Match: \$30,000

This grant will be used to install comfort-enhancing modifications to benches along Charles River.

- Easton and Sharon

Friends of Borderland – Borderland State Park

Partner: \$5,000

DCR Match: \$10,000

This grant will be used for the restoration and rehabilitation of Ames mansion's historic rock garden. The plan includes removing overgrown vegetation, removing stone dust from the garden path and returning the path to grass, widening the path, and replacing plantings with low-maintenance species.

- Fall River

Friends of Fall River Heritage State Park – Fall River Heritage State Park

Partner: \$3,000

DCR Match: \$6,000

This grant will be used for the installation of camera system in the visitors' center.

- Lenox and Pittsfield

Pittsfield State Forest – Berkshire Scenic Railway

Partner: \$16,100

DCR Match: \$16,100

This grant will be used to repair a 100-year-old DCR-owned rail coach.

- Milton

Mass Audubon – Bluehills Trailside Museum

Partner: N/A

DCR Match: \$175,000

This grant will be used to provide environmental education programs and materials for school groups, summer camp participants, and general park visitors.

- Natick

Cochituate State Park, Middle Pond

Partner: \$15,000

DCR Match: \$27,500

DCR Match: \$2,300

- Needham and Newton

Friends of Hemlock Gorge – Hemlock Gorge

Partner: \$2,162

DCR Match: \$4,323

This grant will be used for the installation of two windows and a door in the historic stone barn. Windows were purchased through prior matching funds program year and are already on-site.

- New Bedford

Schooner Ernestina Morrissey Association – Schooner Ernestina

Partner: \$23,500

DCR Match: \$47,000

This grant will be used for the replacement of foremast and repairs to mainmast, re-stepping of masts and completion of rigging repair and maintenance.

- Northbridge and Uxbridge

Blackstone River Watershed Association – Blackstone River Heritage State Park

Partner: \$7,800

DCR Match: \$15,500

This grant will be used for Water Chestnut removal.

- Revere

Revere Beach Beautification Committee – Revere Beach

Partner: \$2,500

DCR Match: \$7,500

This grant will be used to purchase 20 trash receptacles with covers to replace existing cans.

- Sandwich

Friends of Scusset – Scusset Beach State Reservation

Partner: \$1,534

DCR Match: \$3,068

This grant will be used to fund improvements to beach comfort and maintenance complex.

- Upton

Upton State Forest – Friends of Upton State Forest

Partner: \$3,200

DCR Match: \$6,400

This grant will be used for the preservation of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) documents found at Lake Cochituate relative to the state forest and the CCC Camp.

- Ware

National Garden Club – Quabbin Park Cemetery

Partner: \$3,380

DCR Match: \$6,761

This grant will be used to replace damaged trees within cemetery with trees that will improve landscape.

- Wayland

Wayland Surface Water Quality Committee – Cochituate State Park, North Pond

Partner: \$8,000

DCR Match: \$16,000

These grants will be used to hire a Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boat company to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil from approximately 5.0 acres in Lake Cochituate.

- West Boylston

Wachusett Earthday – Wachusett Watershed

Partner: \$130,000

DCR Match: \$130,000

This grant will be complete the construction of the building for recycling and reuse at the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center.

For more information on the Partnerships Matching Funds Program, and to receive an application for fiscal year 2013, call 617-626-4964, or e-mail [conrad.crawford@state.ma.us](mailto:conrad.crawford@state.ma.us). Information and applications also are available at [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr).

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