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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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March 29, 2012

Re: FY2013 DCS Annual Grant Round

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am pleased to announce that EEA's Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is conducting the annual Fiscal Year 2013 grant round for the state LAND and PARC Grant Programs. Please note that this is **in anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds**. The filing deadline is 3:00 PM on Thursday, July 12, 2012.

LOCAL ACQUISITION FOR NATURAL DIVERSITY:

LAND Grant Program (referenced as the Self-Help Program, 301 CMR 5.00; MGL C. 132A §11)

The LAND Program provides funds to municipal conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's LAND grant round will be for large landscape conservation, protection of biodiversity, water resources, and working lands. Projects that fall under lands mapped in the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species BioMap 2, those that augment or connect to existing conservation lands, and that provide real passive recreational activities will receive greater consideration for funding.

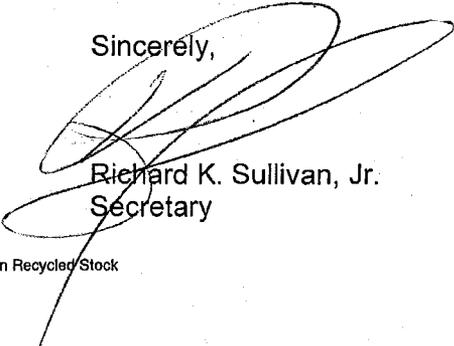
PARKLAND ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION FOR COMMUNITIES:

PARC Grant Program (referenced as the Urban Self-Help Program, 301 CMR 5.00)

The PARC Program assists communities with the acquisition of parkland, as well as construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks. The priorities for this year's PARC grants include new park development, especially on parkland recovered from brownfield site clean-up and those in environmental justice neighborhoods. Projects that will provide for park equity in a community will be given special consideration. Towns with a population less than 35,000 qualify for a grant if proposals are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or a maximum grant of \$50,000 for smaller recreational projects.

To learn more about these grant programs and to download an application package, please visit the DCS web page at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants>. The applications are also posted on the state's procurement website at www.comm-pass.com. I recommend that communities use the application package found on the DCS web page as it is in a more user-friendly format. I invite each and every community to take advantage of this opportunity, and thank you for your partnership in land conservation and public outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,


Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
Secretary

Special opportunity for small towns!

CONSERVATION APPRAISALS AND OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLANS FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES GRANT

- Who:** Towns with a resident population of 6,000 or lower in 2010.
- What:** Funding for appraisals and preparation (or update) of an Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). Up to \$4,000 per appraisal, \$15,000 for OSRP preparation.
- How:** Towns wishing to receive funds must submit an application requesting funding. Funding is awarded on a rolling, non-competitive, first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be received no later than May 30, 2012.
- Why:** This funding is offered in support of the FY 2013 LAND Grant, and is intended to make it easier to apply to the LAND grant. To receive funding, you must also apply to the FY13 round of the LAND grant (but you don't have to receive a LAND award).
- More information:** Visit the Division of Conservation Services website at www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants for more information
- Questions:** Contact Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187 or celia.riechel@state.ma.us