

Appendix B - Funding Mechanisms and Programs

Purpose	Program/ Method	Sponsorin g Agency	Funding Amounts	Applicant	Program Description	Priority for pursuing	Chances of success
Improve-ments	Agricultural Environ-mental Enhance-ment Program (AEEP)	DAR	Estimated \$550,000 for FY12. Average grant size \$13,000	Farmers in commercial agricultural production	For the purchase of materials to implement agricultural conservation practices that improve water quality, conserve water, reduce greenhouse gas emissions or conserve energy.		Average number of grants 30.
Non-acquisition programs	Agricultural Preser-vation Restrictions (APR)	DAR	An estimated \$13,000,000 available for FY12. Grant amounts vary.	Farmers, Land Owners, Municipalities	The APR Program is a voluntary program which offers a non-development alternative to farmers and other owners of prime and "state important" agricultural land who are faced with a decision regarding future use and disposition of their farms. Towards this end, the program offers to pay farmers the difference between the "fair market value" and the "agricultural value" of their farmland in exchange for a permanent deed restriction which precludes any use of the property that will have a negative impact on its agricultural viability.	High	Depends on property owner

Non-acquisition programs	Assessment Act (MGL Chapters 61, 61A and 61B)	DCR, DAR, DOR	No public funds available.	Private landowners	These programs work by making available special property tax assessments to owners who agree to restrict their land to a particular use. Chapter 61 applies to lands actively devoted to forestry use, 61A applies to active agricultural lands, and 61B applies to public recreational lands like wildlife sanctuaries and golf courses. Generally properties are assessed at their current use value rather than their highest use. This usually translates into a substantial property tax savings for owners. The program also requires a right-of-first-refusal option to the town when property owners look to sell their land.	Moderate	Depends on property owner.
Property Acquisition	Conservation Partnership	EOEEA	Estimated FY12 spending \$1,500,000. Average grant size \$75,000.	Non-profits	To assist not-for-profit corporations in acquiring land and interests in lands suitable for conservation or recreation.		Average number of grants 8.
Non-acquisition programs	Conservation Restrictions (CRs)	DCS	Only technical support available.		Conservation restrictions (CRs) are legal, enforceable agreements, authorized by the state, which are made between a landowner and a charitable organization, or a town. They are used primarily to keep land in a "natural or scenic open condition". Restrictions can be written so that certain uses are permitted and others prohibited, e.g. the current owner may continue to occupy an existing house on the land, but may restrict the construction of any additional houses. Grantors of restrictions may also be able to benefit by reductions in various taxes including property, estate and income.	High.	Depends on property owner
Property Acquisition	Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program	DEP	Estimated FY12 spending \$,800,000. Average grant size upto \$290,500.	Public water systems and municipalities	Provides grants to assist public water systems and municipalities in acquiring land to protect the quality of public drinking water supplies.		Low to moderate. Average number of grants is 6.

Property Acquisition	Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund	EOEEA	Estimated FY12 funding amounts to be determined. Average grant size \$424,000	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts with current OSRP.	This program provides up to 50% reimbursement towards the cost of acquisition, development or renovation of recreation land, including the development of active recreation facilities.	Moderate	Moderate. Average number of grants typically 5.
Improvements	Forest Viability Program	DCR	Estimated funding for FY12 to be determined. Grant sizes \$19,700 to \$25,000	Non-industrial, private landowners that are engaged in forest based business under Chap. 61.	This program provides technical assistance and financial support to forest landowners for the purpose of improving the ecological integrity and economic viability of the state's 2.4 million acres of private forestland.		Average number of grants is 7. Low to moderate.
Management	Forestry Stewardship Program	DCR	Estimated funding for FY12 to be determined. Grant size \$1,230 to \$6,600.	Municipalities and private landowners.	Encourages landowners to practice long-term guardianship through the development of a management plan for their woodlands.		Average number of grants 200.
Studies and Construction/Maintenance	SAFETEA-LU Regional Transportation Improvement Program	MHD, CMMPO	No maximum.		Funds are available for transportation related open space improvements. A bike path that connects dense areas of housing with employment or shopping centers would clearly fit the criteria. However, the state and the MPO have been relatively flexible about definitions and projects that are slightly less directly related to transportation may be eligible e.g., an open space parcel adjacent to a road programmed for repairs; the parcel provides a roadway rest area and access to walking trails.	Moderate with an appropriate project	Low

Studies and Construction/Maintenance	SAFETEA-LU Enhancement Program	MHD, CMMPO	None, but a \$100,000 minimum is requested by MHD.		Money is provided to a variety of transportation “enhancement” projects. Among those eligible are bikeways, walking paths and rail trails. This is a special dedicated fund that amounts to 10% of statewide spending from SAFETEA-LU monies.	Moderate	Low
Studies and Construction / Maintenance	Lake and Pond Grants	DCR	\$10,000.00		This program is the successor program to DEP’s Clean Lakes Program (Chapter 628). Eligible activities include lake management analysis and planning, public education, and watershed and in-lake management techniques. The program requires a 50% cash match. Applications are due in November of each year.	Moderate	Moderate

Property Acquisition	LAND: Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity Program (Formerly Self-Help Program)	EOEEA	Estimated FY12 \$5,000,000. Average grant size \$345,000.	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts with current OSRP.	The LAND program was established in 1961 to assist municipal conservation commissions acquiring land for natural resource and passive outdoor recreation purposes. Lands acquired may include wildlife, habitat, trails, unique natural, historic or cultural resources, water resources, forest, and farm land. Compatible passive outdoor recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing, bird observation and the like are encouraged. Access by the general public including people with disabilities is required. This state program pays for the acquisition of land, or a partial interest (such as a conservation restriction), and associated acquisition costs such as appraisal reports and closing costs. A reimbursement program requiring the applicant to raise, borrow or appropriate the total project cost, and then be reimbursed a portion of that cost by the grant; Program requires a local investment and therefore only reimburses on a sliding scale to each municipality, from 52% to 70% of the total project cost up to a maximum grant limit set by the Secretary;	High	Moderate. Will depend on quality of town's application and level of competition. Average number of grants 20.
Improvements	Landowner Incentive Program	DFG	Estimated FY12 spending \$700,000. Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000	Private land-owners, sports-men's clubs, land trusts, and non-profits.	The purpose of this program is to restore or create wildlife habitats for the benefit of species-at-risk on private lands in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The grants are intended to establish partnerships between the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and private landowners.		Average number of grants 35.

Education	Mass Environmental Trust	EOEEA	Estimated FY12 spending \$950,000. Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000	Schools, municipalities, non-profits.	The Trust's mission is to develop, coordinate, and fund projects that encourage cooperative efforts to raise environmental awareness and enable innovative approaches that can restore, protect, and improve water and water related resources of the Commonwealth.		Average number of grants varies
Property Acquisition	MHD Open Space Program	EOTPW	None, but program receives only \$1M/year to be spread around the State.		This program acquires scenic areas adjacent to roadways. Funds are not available for recreation projects, though MHD has worked cooperatively with other state agencies and municipalities to assist in adjoining recreation projects. Scenic views and environmental protection are the two areas of program focus.	Low	Low, unless a great scenic resource is involved.
Property Acquisition	Municipal purchase	Municipality	Dependent on Town Meeting		This tool is probably the most direct and effective way for a town to achieve the acquisition objectives of its open space plan. Towns may either issue bonds to cover purchases or in some cases include a purchase item in the general budget. Bond issues are quite common and provide communities with the flexibility to negotiate with property owners, knowing that money has already been authorized to complete the acquisition. In practice, towns generally ask for authorization to float a bond to cover open space acquisition, and then once a deal has been negotiated return to town meeting for the actual appropriation.	High	Moderate. Will depend on a vigorous public outreach campaign prior to town meeting and the general referendum

Property Acquisition and improvements	PARC: Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities	EOEEA	Estimated FY09 spending \$8,000,000. Grant size \$50,000 to \$500,000.	Municipal conservation commissions, park depts with current OSRP.	Provides grant assistance to cities and towns to acquire parkland, develop new parks, or renovate existing outdoor public recreation facilities (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program). Any town with a population of 35,000 or more year-round residents, or any city regardless of size, that has an authorized park /recreation commission and conservation commission, is eligible to participate in the program. Communities that do not meet the population criteria listed above may still qualify under the "small town," "regional," or "statewide" project provisions of the program. Municipalities must have a current open space and recreation plan to apply, and the land must be open to the general public.	Average number of grants 21-25.
Development and Maintenance	Recreational Trails Program	DCR	Estimated funding for FY09 to be determined. Grant size \$2,000-\$50,000 (statewide projects).	Municipalities, government agencies, and non-profits	Provides funding support for a variety of motorized and non-motorized trail development and trail maintenance projects.	Average number of grants varies

Improvements	River and Harbors Grant Program	DCR	Estimated FY09 to be determined. Average grant size varies	Federal Cost share, municipalities and non-profits	Grants requiring matching funds for studies, surveys, design & engineering, environmental permitting and construction that addresses problems on coastal & inland waterways, lakes, ponds and great ponds. Grants are awarded in the following categories: 1) Coastal Waterways - for commercial and recreational navigation safety & to improve coastal habitat by improving tidal interchange; 2) Inland Waterways - to improve recreational use, water quality & wildlife habitats; 3) Erosion Control - to protect public facilities and reduce downstream sedimentation; 4) Flood Control - to reduce flood potentials.	Average number of grants varies
Restoration	Riverways Program Grants for River Restoration and Revitalization Priority Projects	DFG	Estimated FY09 to be determined. Average grant size \$5,000 to \$50,000.	Public agencies, non-profits including land trusts, watershed organizations for work on priority projects.	Program helps to restore the ecological integrity of rivers and streams throughout MA working in partnership with federal, state, and municipal governments, watershed associations and other organizations. Supports sustainable river restoration projects that restore natural processes, remove ecosystem stressors, increase the resilience of the ecosystem; support riverine habitat, promote passage of fish and wildlife through dam and other barrier removal. Support is also provided for urban stream revitalization projects that improve the interconnection between water quality, aquatic ecology, physical river structure and land use, taking into consideration the social, cultural and economic landscape.	Average number of grants varies

Restoration	Riverway's Stream Team Implementation Awards	DFG	Estimated FY09 to be determined. Grant size \$1,500-\$10,000.	Non-profits and municipal entities (conservation commissions, planning depts, etc) with associated Stream Teams.	Stream Team implementation awards are intended to restore ecological integrity of rivers by providing seed money for local projects that are identified by assessment, priority setting and action planning at the local level through the work of local Stream Teams (composed of municipal officials, residents, non-profit and business representatives), as well as providing for new assessments leading directly to implementation of river protection. Stream Teams are encouraged to work in partnership with watershed associations, land trusts, Conservation Commissions and other town boards.		Average number of grants varies
Studies and Construction/Maintenance	The National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA)	DCR	\$30,000		Part of the federal SAFETEA-LU, NRTA provides funds for trail projects. Eligible projects include: trail construction, land/easement acquisition, handicapped accessibility, interpretative areas/facilities, and education. Trails must be recreational, e.g. intra-city, on-road bikeways would probably not be eligible. There is no limit on grant funds, but a 50% local match is required (matching funds can be "non-cash"). Motorized and non-motorized trail use must be included in the grant with at least thirty percent of funds going to each activity.	Moderate	High with a good proposal
Protection and Management	Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants	DCR	Estimated FY09 spending \$200,000. Average grant size up to \$30,000.	Municipalities and non-profits	Assists in building support for the long term protection and management of community trees and forests; This program is a merger of 3 former separate grant programs: Heritage Tree Care, Mass Re-leaf, and Urban Forest Planning and Education.		Average number of grants varies.
CMMPO = Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)							
DAR = Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)							
DCR = Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation							

DCS = Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services		
DEP = Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection		
DFG = Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game		
DOR = Massachusetts Department of Revenue		
EOEEA = Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs		
EOTPW = Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works		
MHD = Massachusetts Highway Department		
SAFETEA-LU = Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users		