

FY16 Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Round

How-to Grant Workshop

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (light green and white) extending from the right side of the slide.

SCORP

- LWCF grants will be used to implement the findings of SCORP
- Four SCORP goals are:
 1. Increase the availability of all types of trails for recreation
 2. Increase 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

LWCF Funding

- Program was reauthorized in December
- Budgeted at \$450 million for FFY16
- Massachusetts does not have its apportionment letter as of yet
- This BID will spend previous apportionment letters, as well as any additional FFY16 money

Requirements for All Projects

- Municipal applicants must have a current Open Space and Recreation Plan (if one is already on file at DCS, don't send another)
 - It is possible to submit it at the same time as the grant application
- Acquisition projects must have an appraisal done to Yellow Book standards
- Applications are due by February 11, 2016 at 3:00 pm at our Boston office
- Reimbursement rate is 50% for all communities with a maximum grant award of \$250,000

Eligible Project Types

- Conservation projects:
 - Purchase land in fee simple or conservation restriction
 - Land will be under the care and control of the Conservation Commission
- Recreation projects:
 - Purchase recreation land
 - Develop new recreational facilities
 - Renovate existing parks
 - Land must be dedicated as parkland
- Trails projects:
 - Development of trails on existing municipally- or state-owned conservation or recreation land

Eligible Project Costs

- For acquisition projects:
 - Reimbursement is based on purchase price or approved appraised value, whichever is less
 - Other items, such as title searches, legal fees, and survey may also be eligible
- For renovation/development projects:
 - Engineering
 - Design (grants solely for design are not eligible)
 - Construction
 - Construction supervision
- For trail projects:
 - Development and marking of trails
- We cannot reimburse for donations or in-kind services
- Must have 100% appropriated from municipal budget (for municipalities), 100% from state budget (for state agencies)

Selection Process

- All projects are visited by DCS staff, then rated and ranked (rating system is included in the application package)
- Recommendations are approved by EEA
- Recommendations are approved by the National Park Service
- Anticipated state grant decision announcement date is Summer 2016 (this is an estimate)
- Anticipated federal grant award announcement date is Spring 2017 (this is an estimate)
- Project completion date will be June 2018 for acquisition projects, June 2019 for construction projects

Municipal Votes

- All projects must have a town meeting or city council vote
- The vote will:
 - Authorize grant application
 - Approve appropriation of 100% of the total project cost
 - Dedicate the land to recreation (Chapter 45, Section 3 or 14) or conservation purposes (Chapter 40, Section 8C)
- Sample vote language is in application package
- **Send all draft vote language to me for approval**
- Vote can occur after application deadline, but must occur before end of the calendar year, potentially before NPS approval

Project Description

- Become familiar with the rating system and make sure that your project description hits on all areas where the project could receive points
 - Relevance to statewide and local plans
 - Public participation
 - Accessibility – not just handicapped, also how many user groups will access the site at what times of year, and in what numbers
 - Expansion of recreational resources, including hunting and wildlife viewing
 - Alternative transportation options

Post-completion Responsibilities

- All sites that receive LWCF funding are protected by both Article 97 and Section 6(f)(3) of the LWCF Act, which means the land must remain as conservation or recreation land in perpetuity
- Site must be open to all – this includes both non-residents and the handicapped
- Fair fee policy
- Sign requirements

Important Things to Remember

- LWCF is funded through the National Park Service and is subject to its approval, as well as federal rules and regulations
- Division of Conservation Services administers the program for NPS
- Make sure to use the **Land and Water Conservation Fund application package** (it is the fourth grant referenced on the “Grant Programs offered by Division of Conservation Services” webpage), not the LAND or PARC applications

Other Things to Remember

- Please use binder clips to fasten applications together – no binders, folders, plastic sleeves, etc.
- We require one original and two copies – make it clear which are the copies
- Double-sided copies please
- Clearly mark all attachments and use the application form as an attachment checklist
- Maintain the format of the application form – this isn't the time to use your favorite font
- Focus on the big picture – if one thing is filled in incorrectly, the application will (most likely) still be eligible

Contact Information

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**Remember – open question period ends on
January 29, 2016**