

Baker-Polito Administration Awards Partnerships Matching Funds Program Grants

Boston – January 13, 2016 - Today, the Baker-Polito Administration announced 16 Massachusetts communities and non-profit organizations have been awarded \$776,479 in Partnerships Matching Funds Program (PMFP) grants. The Partnerships Matching Funds Program, which is administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is a state capital program that funds projects proposed by park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, non-state government partners, and individuals with an interest in improving the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

"Through the support of our dedicated partners, the people of Massachusetts will continue to enjoy and benefit from a world class park system," said Governor Charlie Baker. "This Administration remains committed in fostering such partnerships that advocate, promote, and assist with projects that the public will ultimately benefit from."

"The Partnership Matching Funds Program allows interested parties – from cities and towns to local friends groups – to directly invest in the betterment of their local communities," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "These projects represent a vital local buy-in from our community partners for the future of our state park system."

DCR considers applications that will provide a match of non-state funds for capital projects in DCR parks and facilities. The agency manages all selected projects, expends all funds, and assigns a project manager to oversee the implementation of the project in close consultation with contributing partners.

"Public-private partnerships allow our state agencies to leverage tax dollars with private funds to maximize the impacts of projects across the Commonwealth," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. "These awards have the potential to make a long-lasting impact on generations of people."

"The Partnerships Matching Funds Program is a unique way to incentivize private investment in our state's resources for the good of the community," said DCR Commissioner Leo Roy. "These projects will provide the public with a more enjoyable outdoor recreational experience as they visit many of the Commonwealth's parks, forests, and reservations."

The grant program has received hundreds of applications over the past several years. Past projects have included improvements to historic buildings in Cambridge, design work to improve Greater Boston's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, flood mitigation work in Waltham, landscape enhancements to Borderland State Park in Sharon, and trail improvements to the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail in West Boylston.

"I am very appreciative of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for assisting in preserving this unique monument in my district. People travel from across the country and world to Massachusetts to appreciate and understand the history of our nation," said State Senator Vinny deMacedo (R-Plymouth). "This monument clearly commemorates the lives of our Pilgrim ancestors who now have millions of descendants around the world."

"This is a wonderful step in drawing more people to gather at the mystic river, these matching funds will be instrumental in the ongoing process to introduce connectivity and access to constituents and visitors alike," said State Senator Patricia Jehlen (D-Somerville).

DCR matches partner contributions of up to and including \$25,000 at 2:1, and 1:1 for contributions above \$25,000. In certain circumstances, DCR will consider a 2:1 match for contributions above \$25,000, for example multi-phase projects with the same partner. Partner matches are donated to the Commonwealth's Conservation Trust.

"This is great news, we are very grateful to the Baker-Polito administration and to all that made this grant possible, Maudslay is a wonderful park that so many people in our district enjoy every day," said State Representative Jim

Kelcourse (R-Amesbury).

“I am absolutely ecstatic that the grant has been forthcoming, we are now giving the association the tools they need to clean up the invasive species provide relief to this multi-year effort,” said Second Assistant Majority Leader Paul Donato (D-Medford).

The following proposals were awarded DCR Partnerships Matching Funds Program grants:

Applicant: Cambridge Plant & Garden Club and the City of Cambridge

Total Cost Estimate: \$180,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$90,000

Partner Contribution: \$90,000

Proposal Summary: For the repair of historic brick walls and pillars at Lowell Memorial Park in Cambridge.

Applicant: Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA) and the Citizens Alliance for NOxious weed Eradication (CANOE)

Total Cost Estimate: \$75,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Partner Contribution: \$25,000

Proposal Summary: For hand and mechanical harvesting of invasive weeds in the Charles River Lakes District. This project is a continuation of a multi-year effort which will protect DCR's prior investment in the watershed.

Applicant: Emerald Necklace Conservancy

Total Cost Estimate: \$75,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Partner Contribution: \$25,000

Proposal Summary: Plant and care for 45 new trees along Emerald Necklace parkways.

Applicant: Friends of Chestnut Hill Reservation

Proposal Title: Trees and Social Equity in Greenfield

Total Cost Estimate: \$35,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Partner Contribution: \$25,000

Proposal Summary: For the purchase and installation of Bigbelly trash barrels and a new water fountain.

Applicant: Friends of Lynn - Nahant Beach

Total Cost Estimate: \$25,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$16,665

Partner Contribution: \$8,335

Proposal Summary: For the refabrication and installation of existing interpretive signs damaged due to the harsh 2015 winter; and to commence a longer term plan to design, fabricate, and install [up to] four new educational, interpretive signs.

Applicant: Friends of Upton State Forest

Total Cost Estimate: \$6,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$4,000

Partner Contribution: \$2,000

Proposal Summary: For the replacement of damaged siding at the historic Civilian Conservation Corp. headquarters.

Applicant: Maudslay State Park Association

Total Cost Estimate: \$132,222

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$88,148

Partner Contribution: \$44,074

Proposal Summary: For the restoration of Flowering Pond at Maudslay State Park, which is the final phase of a multi-year restoration project that involves the dredging of the pond.

Applicant: Mystic River Watershed Association

Total Cost Estimate: \$75,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$50,000

Partner Contribution: \$25,000

Proposal Summary: For hand and mechanical harvesting of invasive weeds in the Charles River Lakes District. This project is a continuation of a multi-year effort which will protect DCR's prior investment in the watershed.

Applicant: Revere Beautification Committee

Total Cost Estimate: \$7,500

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$5,000

Partner Contribution: \$2,500

Proposal Summary: For a multi-year trash barrel conversion project located along the Revere Beach Reservation.

Applicant: City of Cambridge & Solomon Foundation

Total Cost Estimate: \$200,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$90,000

Partner Contribution: \$110,000

Proposal Summary: For the construction of a new recreation path and for improved access and site lines along the Charles River in Watertown and Cambridge in an area known as "Hell's Half Acre". Path improvements will be added onto an existing contract for the Greenough Blvd. reconstruction project.

Applicant: Friends of Scusset State Beach Reservation

Total Cost Estimate: \$15,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Partner Contribution: \$5,000

Proposal Summary: For the implementation of Phase III of an ongoing playground improvement project that includes benches, plantings, and other landscaping features.

Applicant: City of Malden

Total Cost Estimate: \$20,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Partner Contribution: \$10,000

Proposal Summary: For a traffic study to be conducted at an intersection located at Fellsway East and Highland Ave. in partnership with local officials. The intersection has been the location of numerous, including fatal, car accidents.

Applicant: City of Cambridge

Total Cost Estimate: \$200,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$100,000

Partner Contribution: \$100,000

Proposal Summary: For exterior lighting at the Lynch Family Skate Park in North Point Park.

Applicant: Mystic River Watershed Association

Total Cost Estimate: \$300,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$150,000

Partner Contribution: \$150,000

Proposal Summary: For the restoration of an overlook platform located along the Mystic River at Torbert MacDonald Park in Medford, and to study/design better paths, crossings, landscape features, etc. to improve visitor connectivity.

Applicant: General Society of Mayflower Descendants

Total Cost Estimate: \$54,000

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$36,000

Partner Contribution: \$18,000

Proposal Summary: For the exterior restoration of historic pilgrim monument at Pilgrim Memorial State Park.

Applicant: Friends of Leo J. Martin Skiing

Total Cost Estimate: \$24,999

PMFP Amount Awarded: \$16,666

Partner Contribution: \$8,333

Proposal Summary: For the design services for locker room renovations.

Additionally, the application period for Fiscal Year 2017 PMFP has commenced. Conceptual applications are due to DCR by Tuesday, February 19, 2016. [Project Concept Forms can be completed online](#) and applicants may attach documents to the online application. In FY 17, DCR will allocate \$1.5 million in matching funds to finance capital projects at parks, beaches, and other locations.

The 16 projects awarded PMFP grants have leveraged \$776,479 in public funds with \$648,242 in partner contributions for a total monetary value of \$1,424,721.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Leo Roy, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us.

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