



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

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Re: FY2007 DCS Annual Grant Round

Dear Prospective Applicant:

On behalf of Governor Romney and Lieutenant Governor Healey, I am pleased to announce that my office, through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), **in anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds,** will conduct the annual Fiscal Year 2007 grant round for the Self-Help and Urban Self-Help Programs. The filing deadline is 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Self-Help Program

The Self-Help Program provides funds to municipal conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's Self-Help grant round will be for the protection of coastal and estuarine property; sensitive stream, river, lake and pond watersheds; and biological conservation (especially rare species habitats). Projects which fall under lands mapped in the Statewide Land Conservation Plan, and those that augment or connect to existing conservation lands, and thereby help to preserve the integrity and health of the local or regional ecosystems, will receive greater consideration for funding.

Urban Self-Help Program

The Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and urban towns with the acquisition of parkland, as well as construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks. The priorities for this year's Urban Self-Help grants include new park development on land reclaimed by dam removal or brownfield site clean-up, and projects that provide recreational opportunities to urban populations. Projects that serve to stabilize neighborhoods or are part of urban center revitalization efforts will be given special consideration as will those that demonstrate innovative stormwater control systems. Small towns may qualify for these grants where projects are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or up to a maximum grant of \$50,000 for smaller recreational projects.

In order to encourage municipalities to implement Smart Growth consistent land use practices, the Romney Administration has launched an incentive policy known as Commonwealth Capital. Discretionary grant programs include a Commonwealth Capital Score in their rating systems, and each applicant should apply directly to the Office for Commonwealth Development to receive its score. For questions on Commonwealth Capital, visit the website at <http://www.mass.gov/ocd/comcap.html>; or email commcap@massmail.state.ma.us or call (617) 626-4949.

Please contact DCS at (617) 626-1011, if you wish to learn more about these grant programs and to request an application package. More information and application forms may also be found on the DCS web page at www.mass.gov/envir/dcs. 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,

Stephen Pritchard