



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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Kerry Healey
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Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

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March 16, 2006

Re: Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Office of Public Private Partnerships (OPPP)
FY '07 Matching Funds Initiative

Dear Past, Present and Prospective Partners:

Over the past three years, the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has successfully pursued new models of stewardship for the parks, open spaces and facilities held in trust by EOEA for the citizens of the Commonwealth. I am pleased to announce my intention to continue in Fiscal Year 2007 the cornerstone of this new stewardship model: the Office of Public Private Partnerships matching funds program.

Since 2004, OPPP has provided more than \$1.5 million leveraging matches of \$2.3 million in private and other non-state investments by more than 35 partners in 43 capital projects on 36 facilities managed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. These "Fix-it-First" projects ranged in dollar amount from \$250 to \$1.6 million and included installation of new interpretive signs, major field improvements and significant building renovations among others.

This early notice regarding the FY '07 matching funds program is provided with a view to prompting early project and fiscal planning for partnership projects. This will enable us to execute more projects of a larger scope in a more timely fashion. The fundamental operation of the matching funds program remains the same this coming year. OPPP may provide an equal match to non-state funds for capital projects on state land. Only monetary contributions (not in-kind) will be matched, and the money must be deposited with the state. Project management will be provided by the state in close consultation with the partner(s) providing funds.

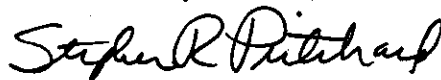
We have found that the most successful projects executed in the first two years of the matching funds program are those of shared priority to all partners. I encourage you to contact a representative of the EOEA constituent agency with whom you wish to partner at your earliest convenience to discuss project ideas. The Office of Public Private Partnerships will distribute a formal application for participation in the FY '07 matching funds program in July. By the time the application arrives, you should have had a chance to review your project ideas with agency staff, increasing the likelihood that the application you then submit will be supported by the agency and approved by OPPP.

The environmental assets of the Commonwealth are vast and precious. Their protection, enhancement, restoration and maintenance require a shared effort between those who manage them and those who enjoy and benefit from them. We have made tremendous progress thanks in large part to the assistance of many of you, but much more remains to be done. We welcome the opportunity to partner with you in this essential work.

I encourage you to contact Betsy Shure Gross, Executive Director of EOEA OPPP at (617) 626-1117 or betsy.shuregross@state.ma.us for further information. If you are interested in discussing specific matching funds project ideas with the Department of Conservation and Recreation, contact Margie Lynch, DCR Partnership Director at 617-626-1315 or margie.lynch@state.ma.us.

I look forward to working with you to improve and sustain our resources.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Pritchard
Secretary

cc: Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Douglas P. Gillespie, Commissioner, Department of Agricultural Resources
Robert W. Golledge, Jr., Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection
David M. Peters, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game