



MASSLAND E-NEWS

The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

For more news and information, go to <<http://www.MassLand.org>>

Please send items of interest to <Info@MassLand.org>

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"You forget that the fruits belong to all and that the land belongs to no one."

-- Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712 – 1778) philosopher, writer, and composer--

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Action Alert

1) PROGRESS ON PUBLIC LANDS PRESERVATION ACT - CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES TODAY

--From ELM Bulletin

Recently, ELM and several other organizations sent a letter to all members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in support of the Public Lands Preservation Act (PLPA - [House Bill 3438](#), aka the Article 97 no-net-loss bill). This important bill would put into place commonsense safeguards to ensure that public conservation lands, which are supposed to be protected by Article 97 of the Massachusetts Constitution, are actually protected.

The bill would require that an honest analysis of alternatives to developing public conservation land takes place before any development is possible. The bill would also require compensation when public lands are developed to help defray costs of securing replacement lands. These provisions would put a halt to frequent abuses involving development of public lands after, at best, perfunctory discussions and, at worst, blind rubber stamping of such proposals by the Legislature.

Members of the House of Representatives need to hear from their constituents on this important issue.

August is a great time to meet in person with your representative - the Legislature is in recess and members are in their districts. As always, phone calls and emails are important too.

Contact information for your legislators can be found [here](#).

To find out who your legislators are, go [here](#).

For further information, contact ELM's [Ken Pruitt](#).

MLTC News

2) RENEW YOUR MLTC MEMBERSHIP TODAY

Support MLTC's free e-news, listserves, website resources and land trust workshops, and avoid missing out on discounts to the 2012 Mass Land Conservation Conference. Renew your membership today!

If your organization is not a member, you can join now! Get a 2011-2012 membership form [here](#)

Not a Land Trust? Become a [Friend of the Coalition!](#)

Not sure if you're a member? Check the list of current members [here](#)

The MLTC membership year runs from July 2011 to June 2012.

News

3) NEW LAND PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM FOR 500-PLUS ACRE PARCELS ANNOUNCED

Strengthening the Patrick-Murray Administration's unprecedented commitment to land protection, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary (EEA) Richard K. Sullivan Jr. today announced the Landscape Partnership Program, an innovative new grant initiative that encourages non-governmental organizations already pursuing large landscape-scale land protection investments to partner with the state and local communities.

“Under the Patrick-Murray Administration, we have made outstanding progress in land conservation - with more than 75,000 acres protected - and that trend will continue with this new program,” said Secretary Sullivan. “The Landscape Partnership Program will focus on landscape-scale conservation by leveraging state funds and encouraging a collaborative approach to protecting large unfragmented forests, hillsides, lakeshores, and more.”

Through existing state capital funds already dedicated to land protection, the Landscape Partnership program will offer \$4 million in competitive grants to municipalities, non-profit land trusts and EEA agencies – the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) – for projects that permanently protect parcels of land of at least 500 acres. Applications for the new grant program are due October 28.

To qualify for grants, projects must include public access and applicants must form partnerships. For example, a state agency can partner with a non-profit or municipality, a non-profit can partner with a state agency or municipality, or municipality can partner with a state agency or non-profit. The new grant program will also encourage and fund innovative natural resource zoning initiatives for local communities to protect rural working lands, such as farms and forests, within communities that host the large land conservation projects funded through the Landscape Partnership program.

EEA launched this program to reduce the complexity and increase the success rate of large land protection projects, which historically have often involved coordination among multiple local organizations and across a variety of state programs.

Read more of this press release [here](#)

For more information on the grants or to apply, visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants>

4) MLTC URGES PARTICIPATION IN EEA OUTDOORS SURVEY

MLTC urges all land conservationists in Mass. to participate in the SCORP surveys now being compiled by the Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. It's very important that the results of these surveys underscore the need for a sustained level of land acquisition by the state for protection of natural resources and to provide recreational opportunities.

Under the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCF), states work closely with the National Park Service to analyze recreation needs, set priorities for funding, and supervise and coordinate the selection of projects. In order to remain eligible for funding from the Land & Water Conservation Fund grant program, the National Parks Service requires every state to complete a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) every five years – the SCORP is the state's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and provides regional data for the entire state.

To help inform the SCORP process and guide future use of LWCF funds, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is conducting three surveys to gather data from Commonwealth residents, land trusts, and community officials. Surveys will be available to the end of September. **Please participate in the surveys below that apply to you and forward them to others too:**

- 1) [User Survey](#) (for Commonwealth residents)
- 2) [Land Trust Survey](#) (for directors, staff, board members, etc.)
- 3) [Community Officials Survey](#) (for municipal employees, park and recreation directors, conservation agents, community planners, etc.)

5) BOTTLE BILL HEADING TO THE BALLOT

--From Mass Audubon Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup 8/5/2011

After 14 years before the state legislature, it looks like the updated bottle bill is headed for the ballot in November 2012. The deadline for filing ballot initiatives was this week, and bottle bill supporters submitted the paperwork to begin the process. Going to the ballot would mean the public would decide whether to expand the container deposit system to include non-carbonated beverages, water, iced tea, juice, and sports drinks. For more on the bottle bill visit [here](#).

Updating the bottle bill ([H.890](#), [S.1650](#)) remains one of Mass Audubon's legislative priorities, and they are continuing to work with other organizations to get it passed in the legislature.

You can see all the ballot questions filed this week [here](#).

6) MANAGEMENT OF YOUR PUBLIC LANDS

--From Mass Audubon's Beacon Hill Weekly Roundup - 8/5/2011

[Comment](#) by August 26, 2011 on the management of over 300,000 acres of land owned by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Under DCR's [Forest Futures Vision Process](#), the state is preparing to designate these lands among three categories: Parklands, Reserves, and Woodlands. Mass Audubon [supports](#) this process and will be submitting comments requesting some clarifications to the draft designations to protect ecological values. DCR is the single most important landowner for biodiversity conservation in the Commonwealth, supporting 291 rare species in 67 different natural community types. DCR faces a challenge in balancing the many uses of this land, including a wide range of recreational opportunities and sustainable production of timber while protecting biodiversity.

Read more of Mass Audubon's article [here](#)

7) LARGE LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION - NEW PUBLICATION FROM LINCOLN INSTITUTE

--From Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

For two days in May, leaders of 19 large landscape conservation initiatives joined 10 resource professionals and nine members of the Lincoln Institute's executive committee on large landscape conservation to explore creating a network of practitioners working at the large landscape scale. The large landscape conservation initiatives represented at the meeting reflect the growing number and diversity of such efforts across North America, varying in geographic scale and distribution, the age of the initiative, focus on urban, suburban, or rural lands, and governance structure. At the same time, each initiative exhibited the hallmarks of large landscape conservation: a multi-jurisdictional, multi-sector, and multi-issue approach to addressing conservation challenges and opportunities.

Large landscape conservation leaders shared the experiences and lessons learned as well as future aspirations and needs of their initiatives, including Chicago Wilderness, Sierra Business Council, Cascade Agenda, Roundtable on the Crown of the Continent, Ozark Partnership, Yellowstone to Yukon, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, and Wildlands to Woodlands, among others. They also examined several existing networks, including the Land Trust Alliance, National Alliance of Heritage Areas, CAMNet, and the National Network of Forest Practitioners, and extracted relevant lessons from those networks.

At the end of the workshop, these leaders decided to create a new Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation and organized themselves into a coordinating committee and several working groups focused on capacity building, public policy, and networking. The group selected Lynn Scarlett, former acting secretary of the Interior and current fellow at Resources for the Future, and Bob Bendick, director of U.S. government relations for The Nature Conservancy, as co-chairs of coordinating committee, which has developed a draft charter and draft work plan to guide the network moving forward. Additionally, the network is finalizing a working paper that analyzes how the upcoming farm bill reauthorization may present opportunities to assist large landscape conservation initiatives in meeting their objectives.

Read more of this article [here](#)

For more information on the Practitioners' Network for Large Landscape Conservation, contact Shawn Johnson at the Center for Natural Resources & Environmental Policy (shawn@cnrep.org). More information is also available in the Lincoln Institute's Policy Focus Report, [Large Landscape Conservation: A Strategic](#)

[Framework for Policy and Action](#), and a paper by Jamie Williams, [Large Landscape Conservation: A View from the Field](#).

8) STATE OFFICIALS TO LEAD 11 PUBLIC TOURS OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE LANDS

Focus on State Forestry and Habitat Management Practices

Professional foresters and wildlife biologists from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will host a series of 11 tours this summer and fall to discuss state forestry and wildlife habitat management practices. DFG's Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) will host eight public tours on the Commonwealth's Wildlife Management Areas (WMA). DCR will host three public tours.

The MassWildlife tours will occur across the entire state and will focus on abandoned agricultural lands that have been reclaimed into shrubland and grassland habitat to support both rare species and other native wildlife species of conservation concern.

"Both grassland and shrubland habitats have declined dramatically throughout the Commonwealth over the past century, and native plants and animals associated with these open habitats have declined as well, sometimes at alarming rates," said DFG Commissioner Mary Griffin. "We encourage people to attend one or more of these events to learn how active habitat management bolsters native wildlife populations."

Two DCR tours will take participants through forested areas harvested for the purposes of watershed management, timber production as well as forest and wildlife habitat diversity. A third DCR tour will feature a small sawmill that produces rough lumber for local home and agricultural uses.

"The Patrick-Murray Administration is interested in engaging the public on issues related to forests and welcomes people to share their thoughts, questions and concerns while enjoying a walk in the woods," said DCR Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

The state lands tours will be conducted rain or shine. Participants should wear sturdy footwear and bring bug repellent. Directions to meeting places and descriptions of each site are listed below.

Tuesday, August 16, 6:00 p.m.

DCR Quabbin Reservoir, Belchertown

Thursday, August 18, 6:30 p.m.

Dunstable Brook WMA, Tyngsborough

Tuesday, August 23, 6:00 p.m.

DCR Lawton State Forest, Athol

Thursday, August 25, 6:30 p.m.

Leyden WMA, Leyden

Tuesday, August 30, 6:00 p.m.

DCR Rough Cut Lumber Tour, New Salem

More events in September and October. More information and the rest of this press release available [here](#)

Training

9) FREE LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINING

Monday, August 15th

6 to 8 PM at REI

Landmark Center, 401 Park Dr, Boston

This will be an evening of fun, learning and discussion centered around Leave No Trace. Beginners, seasoned trainers and everyone in-between are encouraged to attend.

Trainers from the Center for Outdoor Ethics in Boulder, Colorado will lead the session, joined by local educators, volunteers and fellow community members. Come learn, network and collaborate!

Refreshments provided. Kid Friendly. Please register at www.rei.com/event/27551/session/33943

For more information, contact Dane Tullock, dtulloc@rei.com, 781-740-9430

Events

10) 3RD ANNUAL 5K FOR FARMLAND - REGISTER TODAY

Sunday, October 23, 10am

5K Road Race or 2 Mile Walk

Hadley's Common Past Scenic Farmland

New This Year: Farmer's Market Festival!

Register Today [Online](#) or Go to the [Website](#) to Download the Registration Form.

First 300 Registrants Receive Farmer's Market Tote Bag with Locally Made Jam.

Proceeds To Benefit Kestrel Land Trust.

Sponsored by Northampton Cooperative Bank and Whole Foods Market. Organized by Sugarloaf Mountain Athletic Club.

For More Information contact kari@kestreltrust.org

Resources

11) NEW FROM TECHSOUP

Good News! Updates to the Microsoft Software Donation Program

Organizations now have more flexibility regarding when they can request Microsoft software donations and in the product donations available.

[Here's how the changes affect your nonprofit or public library.](#)

Hundreds of organizations request Microsoft product donations every day, but many don't take full advantage of everything the program has to offer.

[Understand Microsoft's donation limits and maximize your benefit.](#)

Requests for Proposals

12) 2013 FOREST LEGACY RFP NOW AVAILABLE

The MA Forest Legacy Program FY 2013 Request for Proposals announcement is posted at:

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/other/>

Forest Legacy proposals must be received no later than 5:00PM on September 14, 2011.

Important: all project proposals must be entered into the "Forest Legacy Information System" (FLIS) by September 16, 2011 for project proposals to be considered complete and eligible for ranking by the Forest Legacy Committee. Project proponents should work with the appropriate Forest Legacy Area Sponsor to complete the data entry into FLIS.

For additional information or questions please contact:

Michael J. Fleming

Department of Conservation and Recreation

355 West Boylston Street

Clinton, MA 01510

phone: 978-368-0126 x114

fax: 978-368-0217

e-mail: mike.fleming@state.ma.us

web: <http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/index.htm>

13) MACC 2012 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Call for Workshop Topics and Speakers

Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions

2012 Annual Environmental Conference

March 3 - College of the Holy Cross • Worcester

MACC is now accepting workshop proposals for MACC's 2012 Annual Environmental Conference. With almost 1,000 attendees, this daylong event has been held for over 30 years and includes about 30 workshops, 50 exhibits and presentation of MACC's Annual Environmental Service Awards. We invite you to be an important part of the largest environmental conference in New England by suggesting a well thought-out idea for a workshop or by proposing your own workshop. The topic should enhance the knowledge and expertise of our region's environmental stewards.

More information on submitting a workshop topic or presentation available [here](#)

Grants

14) NEW! LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

See Press Release Above!

EEA is pleased to introduce a new grant opportunity for FY2012 called the Landscape Partnership Program. This program will offer competitive grants to municipalities, non-profit organizations and EEA agencies to help fund partnership projects that permanently protect a minimum of 500 acres of land. The Landscape Partnership Program seeks to preserve large, unfragmented, high value conservation landscapes, including working forests and farms, expand state-municipal-private partnerships, increase leveraging of state dollars, enhance stewardship of conservation land, and provide public access opportunities. The program will also fund the development of Natural Resource Protection Zoning in partner municipalities. Project partners must apply together, in a single application.

Maximum grant award: \$4 million

Funding: 50% of eligible costs

Application deadline: **October 28, 2011**

Contact: Celia Riechel, 617-626-1187, celia.riechel@state.ma.us

15) MASS ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST RELEASES FY2013 GENERAL GRANTS RFR

The Massachusetts Environmental Trust FY2013 General Grants RFR is now open. The Request for Proposals is now posted to the state RFR site, <http://www.comm-pass.com/>. Letters of inquiry for this round are due on October 14, 2011 for projects that will begin in July 2012.

To access the RFR directly,

1. Go to <http://www.comm-pass.com>
2. Select the "Solicitation Search" link
3. Enter **EEA 12 MET 01** in the Document Number field
4. Select the Search button
5. Click on the search result
6. Select the View icon for the matching record to access all current information

If you prefer a copy of the RFR e-mailed directly to you, please feel free to contact me directly. **Please note that Letters of Inquiry must be received on or before October 14.**

William W. Hinkley

Massachusetts Environmental Trust

100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor

Boston, MA 02114

617.626.1177

william.hinkley@state.ma.us

16) RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANTS PROGRAM

Deadline: October 1

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) accepts applications for Recreational Trails Grants on an annual basis, with a deadline of October 1.

The Recreational Trails Program provides grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 on a reimbursement basis for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. It is part of the national Recreational Trails Program, which is funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds are disbursed to each state to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. In Massachusetts, funds are administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

More information available [here](#)

Jobs & Internships

17) REGIONAL CONSERVATION INTERNSHIPS - Highstead, CT

Apply now! Deadline is Sept 1

Highstead's Regional Conservation interns provide project-based support to conservationists from across New England working to achieve elements of the [Wildlands and Woodlands Vision](#). Interns will work with groups of conservationists to develop regional greenway plans and conservation assessments, track and communicate conservation success, support New England policy efforts, and assist in the coordination of regional partnership events and trainings.

Recent college graduates are encouraged to apply for this exciting, 12-week hands-on experiential educational program. A generous stipend and furnished housing are included. Applications are due by September 1.

More information available [here](#)

18) WILDLANDS AND WOODLANDS CAMPAIGN MANAGER - NEW ENGLAND FORESTRY FOUNDATION

Deadline: September 31, 2011

Position: The Wildlands and Woodlands Campaign Manager will manage all aspects of fundraising and administrative support involved in completing this exciting and innovative land conservation pilot project. This position would be based in the Amherst/Orange area.

Responsibilities: Develop and execute the Wildlands and Woodlands Western Mass Campaign plan; Establish and support the Campaign Cabinet; Partner closely with staff and board members of participating land trusts Conduct research, prospecting, and application to multiple donor sources including individuals, foundations and corporations; Develop and nurture relationships with potential donors; Coordinate and manage campaign related special events; Develop and track proposals and reports for all foundation and corporate fundraising; Manage data entry and gift processing; Other administrative duties as required

Qualifications: BA (required); 3 plus years experience in development; Demonstrated excellence in organizational, managerial, and communication skills; Knowledge of Microsoft Office applications and Common Ground or similar fundraising software; Passion for conservation and the natural environment a definite plus

Send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to: Lynn Lyford, Executive Director, New England Forestry Foundation at llyford@newenglandforestry.org.

19) LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM COORDINATOR - ESSEX COUNTY GREENBELT ASSOCIATION

The Essex County Greenbelt Association seeks a full-time (40 hrs/week) land conservation program assistant to support our land conservation program. The individual will:

- Implement Greenbelt's Landowner Outreach Initiative;
- Plan events, generate mailings, and other items related to the landowner outreach effort;
- Update and manage our land conservation outreach database;
- Use GIS software for map creation, property research and resource analysis;
- Work closely with Greenbelt's Director of Land Conservation and Land Conservation Project Manager on project research tasks, internal project approval processes, including preparing agendas for Acquisition Committee and Board of Director meetings, and on landowner cultivation and follow-up, pre-closing due diligence, preparation of conservation restriction documents, including state and local submittals;
- Solicit proposals and manage relationships with outside service providers, including attorneys, appraisers, environmental consultants and other contractors;
- Solicit and supervise volunteers, as needed;
- Represent Greenbelt at evening and weekend events, meetings and other forums;
- The program assistant will also have extensive interaction with Greenbelt's Land Stewardship staff and GIS Manager, as well as development and administrative staff.

Qualifications: BA/BS, 2-3 years experience in land conservation or related field (volunteer experience considered), real estate/planning/legal experience also valued, strong technological skills (MS Office, GIS required, File Maker Pro desirable), excellent organizational, project management and written and verbal communications skills. **Please submit resume and cover letter electronically (pdf format preferred) to dts@ecga.org by September 9.**

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Prepared by Lindsey Sarquilla & Kathy McGrath, Editors

Enews@MassLand.org

Tel: 978-443-2233

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