



## The Newsletter of the Massachusetts Land Conservation Community

November 11, 2008

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Items of interest to the Massachusetts land protection community.

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**SPECIAL ISSUE - CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS ROUND NOW OPEN!**

**FIELDS POND & THE TRUSTEES OFFERING ASSISTANCE!**

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### Grants

#### **1) CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANTS FOR LAND TRUSTS! FISCAL YEAR 2009 ROUND 2 NOW AVAILABLE**

From Bernie McHugh, Mass. Land Trust Coalition and Celia Riechel, EEA

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has announced that a second round of the Conservation Partnership grant program is now open. The program provides state funding for non-profit land conservation organizations to purchase land or conservation restrictions. It has funded some excellent projects in the past and has contributed substantially to preserving undeveloped land in the state. If you have a project that might be ready, fill out an application. ***Land conservation is a priority of both Governor Patrick and Secretary Bowles - take advantage of this opportunity now, and show that this and similar programs continue to be a good use of public funds for which there is strong support.***

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is pleased to announce the release of the FY09 Conservation Partnership grant program Request for Response (RFR). This grant program provides funding to assist not-for-profit corporations in acquiring interests in land suitable for conservation or recreation purposes.

**The maximum grant award for a single project is \$60,000. The maximum reimbursement amount available for a single project is 50% of the total project cost.** Qualified applications will be selected on a competitive basis.

**Potential projects fall into one of two categories:**

- 1.) Land or a conservation restriction purchased by an eligible Applicant**
- 2.) Land or a conservation restriction gift donated to an eligible Applicant**

Applications for these grants will be accepted from qualified IRS 501(c)(3) organizations that have been formed for one of the purposes described in Section 4 of Chapter 180 of the General Laws. An organization must have 501(c)(3) status at the time an application is submitted.

The RFR, application form, rating system, and program timeline are available on the Comm-PASS website at <http://www.comm-pass.com/>. **Application deadline is 3 p.m. February 6, 2009.**

**DIRECT LINK TO THE CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATION:**  
<https://www.ebidsourcing.com/processPublicSolSummView.do;jsessionid=JYLPPJyx8sOmXmV6IV9hscY0QWffBpthZx81kzSB0TG7GqD1TPjs!-735566992?action=soltypeCd&docStatus=OPEN&docUserId=201600&docViewType=OPEN&docId=114790&doValidateToken=false&soltypeCd=UNIVERSAL>

**(If this link is broken, follow the instructions below...)**

**To access the Conservation Partnership grant program RFR online:**

- 1.) On the Comm-Pass home page (<http://www.comm-pass.com/>) click on the "Solicitations" tab in the upper left corner of the page
- 2.) On the "Browse Solicitations" page select "Search for a Solicitation"
- 3.) In the "Search by Keyword" section at the top of the page, type "Conservation Partnership" in the "Keywords" search field
- 4.) Click on the sentence on the top of the page that says: "There are 7 Solicitation(s) found that match your search criteria"
- 5.) A list will appear, with Conservation Partnership Grant FY 09 Round 2 at the top. (It is the only one with an OPEN status). To view and print documents from it, click on the eyeglasses on the far right of the column.
- 6.) A page with a series of tabs will appear. Click on the "Specifications" tab to access the actual application document. Click the eyeglasses to view.
- 7.) Check the box and click "Download selected files" to download and fill them out.
- 8.) Click on the "Forms & Terms" tab to access the other necessary application documents (tax filing, contract forms, etc).

All forms must be printed out and submitted by mail. Applications that are emailed or faxed will not be accepted.

Celia Riechel  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor  
Boston, MA 02114  
617-626-1187  
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/dcs>

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## **2) FIELDS POND & TTOR OFFER ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The state's Conservation Partnership Grant program (CPG) is a great resource for land trusts. It is the only program which land trusts can apply to directly for reimbursement of costs of a land acquisition project (fee or CR). Last week, EEA Secretary Ian Bowles announced a new CPG round for FY09, with applications due by February 6, 2009.

However, it can be challenging and even intimidating for small resource-poor land trusts to meet the CPG requirements and this has led to a shortage of applicants in previous rounds. Among the more difficult aspects are the mapping requirements and the need to invest in an appraisal for a project that might otherwise not need one.

So, the Fields Pond Foundation and The Trustees of Reservations have once again teamed up to bring you the resources you need to take advantage of this great grant opportunity. Fields Pond will help pay for the appraisal and the Trustees will make the maps for free! ***All this whether or not your application is successful!*** Here are the details.

### **APPLICATION ASSISTANCE for Conservation Partnership Grants**

There are **NEW** resources to help you apply for EEA's Round 2 FY08 Conservation Partnership Grant (\$60k max). The Second Round Deadline: January 9, 2008

#### **1. Appraisal Costs**

Fields Pond Foundation will pay 50% of the cost of the required appraisal, to a maximum grant of \$1,500 per organization.

#### **2. Required Maps**

The Trustees of Reservations' GIS department will make you the maps required to apply for a CPG.

#### **Eligibility:**

Any 501(c)(3) Massachusetts land trust with an annual operating budget under \$250k, applying to CPG for a project that is generally eligible under CPG guidelines (i.e., a land protection project on which a CR will be granted to a state or local entity and which will be publicly accessible), whether or not the CPG application is successful.

#### **Requirements:**

- a. Contact The Trustees of Reservations with your mapping needs for a CPG application no later than January 20, 2009. ([afreeman@ttor.org](mailto:afreeman@ttor.org); 978-840-4446 x1929).
- b. Submit CPG application to EOEEA by January 9, 2008 (or such later date as the CPG deadline may be extended.)
- c. Send Fields Pond Foundation copies of your application and the invoice for the appraisal cost. Payment can be directed to appraiser or the land trust. (PO Box 540667; Waltham, MA 02454-0667; [brehrig@fieldspond.org](mailto:brehrig@fieldspond.org))

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