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Governor Healey Announces Nearly \$10 Million for Parks and Open Spaces Across Massachusetts

Grants will help communities improve neighborhood parks, expand outdoor recreation, and protect natural resources

BOSTON – Governor Healey today announced nearly \$10 million in grants to improve parks, expand outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect natural resources across Massachusetts. The funding will support 14 projects through the [Land and Water Conservation Fund \(LWCF\) Grant Program](#), helping communities create and improve public spaces.

The grants are administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) on behalf of the National Park Service. The grants will support projects in Boston, Chicopee, Easthampton, Fitchburg, Halifax, Lee, Lynn, Provincetown, Quincy, Somerville, Southborough, Springfield, Williamstown, and Worcester. Since the start of the program, more than \$150 million has been committed to Massachusetts parks and open spaces.

“Massachusetts is the best place to live because of the communities we build and the places that bring us together,” said **Governor Maura Healey**. “Our parks, playgrounds, and open spaces are where we make memories and connect. These investments will help more communities create and protect those spaces, so everyone has a place to enjoy the outdoors.”

“As a former mayor, I know how much work goes into maintaining parks, improving playgrounds, and making sure every neighborhood has places where people can gather,” said **Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll**. “Municipalities know what their residents need, but finding the resources to make improvements can be challenging. These grants give local leaders the funding to turn community priorities into a reality.”

The LWCF Grant Program was established by Congress in 1964 to protect the country’s natural areas, water resources, cultural heritage, and to provide recreational

opportunities to all Americans. The fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve local history, and protect the national endowment of lands and waters without using taxpayer dollars. Any municipality with an approved Open Space and Recreation Plan, as well as the Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Fish and Game, and Massachusetts federally recognized tribes, are eligible to apply for this program.

“Access to parks and open spaces is essential to our well-being, giving residents places to play, gather, and enjoy the outdoors,” **said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper**. “We’re committed to improving these important spaces while protecting Massachusetts’ natural resources and building resilience to climate change.”

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund provides up to 50% of the total project cost for the acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, and conservation areas. The LWCF grant awardees are:

Grantee	Project Name	Project Description	Total Grant Request
Boston	Barry Playground	This park will be redesigned and constructed to retain and upgrade the softball field while adding shade trees, cooling features, and seating areas for viewing and community play. The project will increase accessible walking surfaces, including a fully accessible 1,500-foot walking loop around the field, elevating the existing Harborwalk. It will also add spray play and misting structures; provide multi-generational fitness; add gathering spaces like terraced seating and a small plaza with game tables; increase shade and canopy; and create a small food forest.	\$1,000,000

Chicopee	Frank J. Szot Memorial Park	This project will result in the implementation of Phase I improvements to Szot Park including formalization and reconstruction of paths, construction of a new splash pad, construction of new accessible restrooms, improvements to the oak/picnic grove, reconstruction of the park entrance and parking facility, green infrastructure for stormwater management, installation of park amenities, and enhancement of the park's natural areas through new plantings. All facilities have been designed with universal design standards and full accessibility as priorities.	\$1,000,000
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Morse Brothers, Inc.	The project involves the acquisition of 305 acres of permanent open space, connecting to nearly 3000 acres of already protected land in Halifax.	\$1,000,000
Easthampton	Parsons Park	This project will renovate a small neighborhood park that is located in an urban heat island in a low- and moderate-income neighborhood. The project will add several shade trees, a shade structure, rain gardens, a small play area, and three benches, along with a lawn area for neighborhood gatherings. The park design will create a public greenspace adapted to a changing climate, providing amenities for a broader group of residents, and offer a cooling environment in the midst of a sparsely vegetated residential area.	\$191,500
Fitchburg	Riverfront Park Stage	Funding will be used to build a permanent performance stage at Riverfront Park, a 1.6 acre reclaimed brownfields site along the shore of the North Nashua River in downtown Fitchburg.	\$260,000

Lee	Longcope Trails	The Longcope Trail project enhances and expands an existing trail system through strategic rerouting, new trail construction, trail upgrades, and bridge replacement. 2,680 linear feet of new trail spurs that connect existing trails will be constructed, resulting in a total of 5,146 linear feet of high-quality trails.	\$150,000
Lynn	Lynn Woods and Keaney Parks Splash Pads	Splash pads will be built at two city parks - Lynn Woods Park and Keaney Park - and offer fun, accessible water play for children and families to cool off during warm weather without the need for swimming pools.	\$590,500
Provincetown	Josephine Del Deo Memorial Woodlands	The project involves the acquisition of a 0.64-acre woodland abutting 61+ acres of permanently protected land, plus a 300-foot-wide road layout owned by Mass Wildlife used as a state refuge, adding to the protected natural area of the Provincetown Greenway, expanding the associated trail system, helping to preserve water quality, and improving public access to this property and abutting trail systems.	\$425,000
Quincy	The Park @ Cleverly Court	This project will construct a new neighborhood park, converting a former industrial parcel into a public park focused on accessible design, climate-resilient green infrastructure, and neighborhood-scale recreational amenities.	\$1,000,000
Somerville	ArtFarm	The grant will construct ArtFarm, a new 1.33-acre park in an area dominated by asphalt-covered industrial land uses with the highest heat indexes in the city. ArtFarm will include shade trees, native plantings, a community garden, a storage shed, open lawn for events or flexible daily use, a picnic grove, a fitness walking loop, benches and tables for gathering, bike racks, water fountains, and park signage.	\$1,000,000

Southborough	Fayville Park	This project includes the conversion of an underutilized baseball field into a splash pad, picnic area, and small dog park; the construction of a perimeter walking trail; and the addition of an ADA-compliant walkway to enhance accessibility.	\$631,350
Springfield	Five Mile Pond Park	The project at Five Mile Pond Park includes improvements to the park entrance, beach access, parking lot, picnic area, playground, restrooms/changing rooms and landscaping. All improvements will be universally designed for people of all abilities.	\$1,000,000
Williamstown	Broad Brook Park	The project will rehabilitate and update Broad Brook Park to include an inclusive playground, basketball / multi-sport court, paths, seating, lighting, trees, plantings, and rain gardens for stormwater treatment.	\$500,000
Worcester	Indian Lake Beach	This grant will fund Phase I renovations of Indian Lake Beach including an accessible restroom & lifeguard building and access to the Lake; parking; walkways to the restroom facility; benches with available companion seating; improved vistas of Indian Lake; picnic areas; pedestrian lighting; wood guardrail and fencing; tree trimming; and new tree plantings.	\$1,000,000

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