



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.

Press Release Contacts: Mary-Leah Assad — 617-626-1809 or mary-leah.assad@state.ma.us

PATRICK ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES OPEN SPACE, PARK, RECREATION INVESTMENTS TO CREATE GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY IN SOUTHEAST REGION

FOXBOROUGH – Monday, December 30, 2013 – Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rick Sullivan today announced more than \$1.3 million in investments for parks, open space and recreation in six southeast region communities. Secretary Sullivan made the announcements in Foxborough where a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant will fund road, parking and field improvements to Payson Road Recreation Area.

“The Patrick Administration is committed to improving our parks and open spaces across the Commonwealth,” said Secretary Sullivan. “In addition to preserving open space, improving recreational opportunities and protecting the Commonwealth’s natural resources, these investments will create economic growth across the region.”

In addition to Foxborough, Fall River received a PARC grant for its Maplewood Park Acquisition Project, to acquire three parcels of land. The PARC Program (formerly the Urban Self-Help Program) was established in 1977 to assist cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes. Any community with an up-to-date Open Space and Recreation Plan is eligible to apply for the program.

Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grants totaling more than nearly \$1 million were awarded to Attleboro, Hanson, Mendon, and Norton. Since 1961, LAND grants have helped cities and towns acquire land for conservation and outdoor recreational uses. To qualify for the reimbursement grants, communities must fund projects upfront and the protected open space must be open to the public.

For a complete list of projects and their descriptions by community, see attached.

Strengthening the Patrick Administration’s commitment to urban park investments, Secretary Sullivan announced a new grant program aimed at building a playground or spray park in each of the Commonwealth’s 54 cities. The Our Common Backyards grant program will help cities create or renovate parks in the neighborhoods that need them most. Each city is eligible to receive up to \$200,000 in grant assistance. The Our Common Backyards grant application will be available on Comm-pass and the EEA website soon. The following Southeast communities are eligible for this new program: Attleboro, Braintree, Brockton, Fall River, Franklin, New Bedford, Quincy, Randolph, Taunton and Weymouth.

Since taking office, Governor Deval Patrick has made a historic investment of more than \$300 million in land conservation focused on three goals: investing in urban parks, preserving working farms and forests and protecting large natural landscapes for habitat. This investment has resulted in the permanent protection of more than 110,000 acres of land and the renovation or creation of more than 170 parks. The new parks and open space created are within a ten minute walk of 1.5 million residents – about a quarter of the Commonwealth’s residents.

###

- Follow Secretary Sullivan on Twitter.....twitter.com/massEEA
- View videos on You Tube.....www.youtube.com/MassEEA
- View downloadable photographs on Flickr:.....www.flickr.com/photos/masseea/sets/
- Visit the Energy Smarts blog:www.mass.gov/blog/energy
- Visit The Great Outdoors blog:.....www.mass.gov/blog/environment
- Visit our website:.....www.mass.gov/eea

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114-2119 — (617) 626-1000 office / (617) 626 1181 (fax)

MUNICIPALITY	GRANT PROGRAM	TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	PROJECT NAME
Attleboro	LAND	\$ 340,000	Handy Street. Two parcels of vacant land located just to the southeast of downtown. Adjacent to approximately 400 acres of protected open space. BioMap2 Core habitat. Primarily forested, with stream and wetlands. Extensive network of ATV trails, some of which will be remediated and some retained as walking paths. Will demolish an existing dilapidated home and build small gravel parking area. Owners have agreed to sell at a significant bargain.
Fall River	PARC	\$ 122,500	Maplewood Park Acquisition Project. The project will include the acquisition of three parcels of land.
Foxborough	PARC	\$ 232,000	Payson Road Recreation Area. The project will include paving access roads and handicapped parking spaces in two parking lots, building handicapped accessible paths to the recreation area, and grading, clearing, loaming, and seeding two areas for undirected recreation.
Hanson	LAND	\$ 82,880	Poor Meadow Brook Confluence. Southwest Hanson property contains forested upland, wetland, and extensive riparian corridors along the Shumatuscancant River, Brett's Brook, and Poor Meadow River. Located within town drinking water supply protection Zone II. Will provide public access off West Washington St. for water recreation such as canoeing and fishing, and trails. In cooperation with the Wildlands Trust. Sale price is significant bargain.

Mendon	LAND	\$ 315,630	Meadow Brook Uplands Gannet Parcel. Oak and white pine forested property contains an unusual upland wetland, swamp and the second largest heron rookery in MA. BioMap2 Core habitat, 2,300 feet of frontage on Meadow Brook and 2,000 feet of frontage on additional streams. Over two miles of existing cart roads and paths. Abuts additional conservation land as well as Southwick Zoo. In cooperation with The Trustees of Reservations, Metacomet Land Trust, the Boy Scouts, and the Bay State Trail Riders Association.
Norton	LAND	\$ 259,200	Crane Farm. Property contains over one mile of frontage on the Three Mile River. Includes sandy forested upland, floodplain, and existing horse trails. Entire property is classified as BioMap2 Core, and a portion is Zone II drinking water supply area. In cooperation with the Land Preservation Society of Norton and The Nature Conservancy. End arrangement is to have LPS own the fee and Town hold CR. Simultaneous with this proposal, the seller is applying for an APR on an additional 40 acres.
Norton	LAND	\$ 146,272	Erikson. Reapplication from FY13. Fee acquisition connecting the Hockomock Swamp WMA to historic Bay Road. Identified as a Priority Preservation Area in the South Coast Rail Development Plan. Forested wetland and upland. To be used for hiking, biking, camping, hunting, approved forestry management.