



Copy to: Mike K.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

251 Causeway Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000

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<http://www.state.ma.us/envir>

May 23, 2003

Dear Prospective Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the FY04 Annual Grant for the Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, and federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Programs. These programs provide financial assistance to cities and towns for the purchase of conservation land, the purchase of parkland, or the renovation or development of public outdoor recreation facilities.

In anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds, I am pleased to announce that my office, through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), will conduct the annual FY04 grant round for these programs. I invite you to apply for funds by the filing deadline of **August 29, 2003**. By that time we expect to know how much state funding will be available. Due to the time it takes for you to prepare applications, I wanted to give you as much time as possible and hope that you will apply. While the amount of state bond funds to be made available is unknown at this time, we do expect approximately \$2 million to be appropriated by Congress for the stateside LWCF Program. These federal monies may be utilized either for conservation or active recreation projects.

Self-Help Program

The Self-Help Program provides funds to conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's Self-Help grant awards will be for the purchase of open space for biological conservation (including species and habitats) and protection of sensitive stream, river, lake and pond watersheds. Projects that augment existing conservation lands, or connect to existing conservation lands, and thereby help to preserve the integrity and health of the local or regional ecosystems, will receive greater consideration for funding.

Urban Self-Help Program

The Urban Self-Help Program assists cities and urban towns with the acquisition, construction and/or renovation of parks. The priorities for this year's Urban Self-Help grants will be the innovative re-use of brownfield sites and projects that provide recreational opportunities to urban populations. Projects servicing a statewide or regional population will be given special consideration.

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Prospective Applicant
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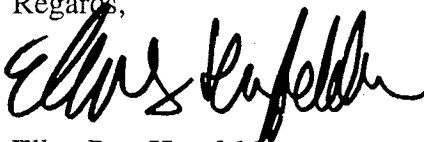
LWCF Program (Land and Water Conservation Fund)

These federal grant monies can be used for either state or local agency conservation or park projects as long as outdoor recreation is the primary use. The focus for conservation projects is identical to the Self-Help Program. Park projects should reflect the same project focus as the Urban Self-Help program. The federal funds are being announced in anticipation of a congressional appropriation for FY04. Approximately \$2 million is expected from the federal L&WCF appropriation. Applicants should apply to the Self-Help Program for conservation land acquisition projects, and to the Urban Self-Help Program for parkland acquisition, improvement, or development projects. The National Park Service, pending the federal appropriations process, will announce the total money available to the stateside LWCF Program next fall. The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) reserves the right to determine the allocation of state and federal sources of grant funds as project and budgetary conditions warrant.

The Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, and LWCF Programs each have specific eligibility requirements and are awarded on a competitive basis. Grants for state assistance range from 52-70% reimbursement based upon a community's equalized valuation per capita (EVPC) decile rank, and 50% for federal assistance. The maximum grant award for any project has been set at \$500,000, but may be reduced or increased at my discretion.

Proposals must advance watershed and ecosystem protection and Smart Growth and community preservation. Such projects should promote sustainable communities by protecting significant environmental or recreation resources, guiding development away from these resources and to appropriate development areas, and should maximize accessibility via alternative transportation modes (e.g., public transit, bicycle, walking). Proposals should involve inter-municipal and municipal-state cooperation, and multiple partners whenever possible. I encourage you to collaborate when possible with nonprofit conservation organizations such as your local land trust. EOEA and its agencies have been working with nonprofits on *The Statewide Land Conservation Plan – a Partnership*, a map of land in Massachusetts that is of interest to many conservation stakeholders. This map will be available online within the next few months. In the meantime, applicants may contact our MassGIS office at www.mass.gov/mgis to obtain a copy. I also invite you to visit the Community Preservation page of EOEA's web site at www.mass.gov/envir and click on Community Preservation, for information that can help you implement land conservation projects in the broader context of historic preservation, housing, and transportation considerations.

I encourage each and every community to take advantage of this opportunity. Please contact DCS at (617)-1011, if you wish to learn more about these grant programs and to request an application package. More information and application forms may also be found on the DCS web page at www.state.ma.us/envir/dcs. Thank you for your partnership in land conservation.

Regards,

Ellen Roy Herzfelder

Copy to J. Goldson



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 12, 2003

Joel Lerner
Division of Conservation Services
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
251 Causeway Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Self-Help Acquisition, Kessler Woods (Boston Edison), Newton, MHC #RC.33666.

Dear Mr. Lerner:

Staff of the Massachusetts Historical Commission have reviewed information submitted by the City of Newton regarding the application for a Self-Help grant to acquire the parcel of land referenced above.

Review of the MHC's *Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth* indicates that there are no known historic properties or archaeological sites recorded within the parcel. However portions of the parcel are archaeologically sensitive and likely to contain archaeological sites associated with the Native American settlement of the Charles River area. Several ancient Native American archaeological sites have been identified along Mill Brook. Review of MHC's inventory indicates that Native American archaeological sites are often found in similar environmental settings, and that proximity to known archaeological sites is a strong indication that an area is likely to contain archaeological resources.

Acquisition of the Kessler Woods parcel for conservation land would help to preserve any archaeological sites that may be located within its boundaries.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with M.G.L. Chapter 9, sections 26-27C (950 CMR 71). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Margo Muhl Davis or me at this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric S. Johnson".

Eric S. Johnson
Archaeologist/Preservation Planner
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Martha J. Aherin Horn, Senior Environmental Planner, City of Newton
Newton Historical Commission



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January 29, 2004

Michael Kruse
Director of Planning
Town Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Re: Kessler Woods,
Self-Help #16

Dear Mr. Kruse:

I regret to inform you that your Self-Help application for the Kessler Woods Acquisition was not selected for funding. Due to the tremendous demand for financial assistance and the limited funds available this year, it was not possible to fund all the projects. It is indeed unfortunate because your proposed acquisition, and the others we could not fund, were all great conservation projects.

Please continue to visit our website at www.mass.gov/envir/dcs for information on our FY 2005 upcoming grant round. I want to thank you for your interest in the Self-Help Program and trust that you will continue with your land preservation efforts.

Sincerely,

Joel A. Lerner
Director

cc: David B. Cohen, Mayor
Newton Conservation Commission