

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

TIMOTHY J. TOOMEY, JR.
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Chairman
Committee on Public Safety
ROOM 39, STATE HOUSE

April 21, 1999

Honorable Cambridge City Council
Cambridge City Hall
795 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

RE: FY 2000 Grants to Municipalities for Open Space Preservation

Dear Honorable Council Members:

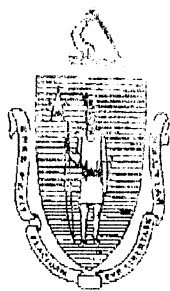
My office recently received a notice from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs that may be of interest to the Council. I have enclosed a copy of the notice for your further review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have questions or need any further information, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.

encl.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202*

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
GOVERNOR

JANE SWIFT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

BOR DURAND
SECRETARY

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April 8, 1999

Dear Prospective Applicants:

I am pleased to announce that the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), through the Division of Conservation Services, will conduct a fiscal year 2000 grant round for the Self-Help Program. This program provides state financial assistance to cities and towns for the purchase of conservation land. Properties assisted with state funds become permanently protected open space ensuring that they will remain in conservation use for generations to come. **The filing deadline for the Fiscal Year 2000 Grant Round is June 1, 1999.**

The focus of this year's grant round is strictly the purchase of open space for biological conservation (including species and habitats) and protection of sensitive stream, river, lake and pond watersheds. This is in direct response to Governor Cellucci's goal of protecting 200,000 additional acres of open space across the Commonwealth by 2010. Due to the need to emphasize land preservation and to eliminate a large backlog of previous park construction project obligations, there will be no Urban Self-Help grant round this year.

Proposals from urban, suburban and rural communities that foster protection of ecosystems (including contiguous land, water, and wildlife habitat) and advance the Watershed Initiative through inter-municipal and municipal-state cooperation are strongly encouraged. Innovative land acquisition proposals that utilize zoning overlay districts, conservation restrictions, and other creative tools that will help stretch limited public dollars and maximize contiguous land protection are also strongly encouraged. I will be asking you to copy your application to my Watershed liaison, the "Watershed Team Leader", in your watershed. Please refer to the enclosed description of the state Watershed Initiative, and the list of Watershed Team Leaders.

Self-Help funds have specific eligibility requirements and are awarded on a competitive basis. Grants range from 52-70% reimbursement based upon your community's equalized valuation per capita (EVPC) decile rank. The grants will be a maximum of \$500,000 per applicant community, at the discretion of the Secretary.



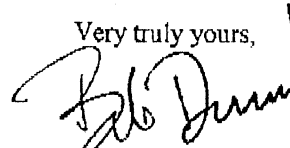
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Be advised that a state approved Open Space and Recreation Plan is a prerequisite to your community's participation in this grant round. There is still time to begin the planning process if your plan has expired and you wish to participate in the grant round. Information on the status of your plan, a list of sites in your community which have received this funding in the past and are therefore permanently protected, and your EVPC decile rank is available from the Division of Conservation Services.

This is a perfect opportunity to realize new and innovative biological conservation and ecosystem protection projects. Please contact the Division of Conservation Services at 617/727-1552 if you wish to receive an application package, and mark your calendars for the June 1, 1999 deadline.

Very truly yours,



Bob Durand

Comm. & Rpts. City Officers
#3

67 [initials]

A communication was received from
Councillor Timothy Toomey, Jr.,
transmitting a notice from the
Mass. Exec. Office of Environmental
Affairs regarding FY2000 Grants
to Municipalities for Open Space
Preservation.

In City Council April 26, 1999

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