



North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership

Working together to identify, protect and enhance strategic ecological, cultural and historic open space within the rural landscape of the greater North Quabbin region.

Small Grants Program

The North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership is a voluntary association whose members represent town boards, state and federal agencies, regional planning organizations, land conservation groups, and landowners working together to protect strategic open space within the rural landscape of twenty-six towns in the greater North Quabbin region.

The Partnership Small Grants Program is designed to jump start gifts of land, gifts of conservation restrictions and other significant land protection projects. The grants provide funding for land protection transaction fees, including title reviews, appraisals, legal fees and other closing costs, registry fees, surveys, baseline reports, land protection estate planning, municipal circuit grant writers, and other related fees.

Who is eligible?

Public or private organizations, such as town boards and land conservation non-profits, can apply. Projects must be located within the twenty-six towns of the greater North Quabbin region: Athol, Ashburnham, Barre, Bernardston, Erving, Gardner, Gill, Greenfield, Hardwick, Hubbardston, Leverett, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Shutesbury, Templeton, Warwick, Wendell, Westminster and Winchendon.

What types of projects will be funded?

Projects **must involve at least three** North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partner organizations. All organizations, municipalities and agencies are welcome to join the Partnership.

In addition, the Partnership Executive Committee uses the following criteria to assess land conservation projects for grant funding:

- Demonstrated **community support** for land conservation.
- **Connectivity** to or between existing protected lands.
- **Ecological significance:** important habitats, ecosystems, water resources, uncommon natural communities, critical soils, unique geology and landforms.
- **Cultural significance:** historic value, scenic value, working land value, and recreational use or potential.
- **Feasibility** of implementation: available resources, and consistency with objectives of other Partnership groups.

What size grants will be made?

Projects approved for funding can receive up to \$4000 per grant cycle.

What is the application process?

Applicants must use the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership *Project Application Form*, available at www.nqpartnership.org.

Applicants may attend an information session Thursday May 1st, at 6:30 p.m., at the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust office, 1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA. Please call 978-248-2118 or email info@nqpartnership.org if you plan to attend.

Application deadline is Friday, May 30th, 2008. Applicants may either email or mail in the application form. Applications must be received by 5 p.m.

Applicants will be notified by Friday, June 13th, 2008.

Applicants may apply for reimbursement for land protection costs already spent for currently active land projects.

A one-page project report and the receipt(s) for the award are due by December 1st 2008.

The project summary should answer the following questions:

- 1) How did the grant benefit your land conservation effort? Did the grant help you initiate a new project? Were you involved with the North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership prior to applying for a grant?
- 2) What is the status of the project? If the project is not completed, what are the next steps? What is the expected project end date?