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DCR Seeks Applicants for its Partnership Matching Funds Program *Projects to Benefit the State's Park System*

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is now accepting applications for the FY'17 Partnerships Matching Funds Program. The grant program, which DCR will allocate up to \$1.5 million in matching funds, assists in financing capital projects proposed by park advocacy groups, civic and community organizations, institutions, businesses, municipal governments, and dedicated individuals with an interest in improving the Commonwealth's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

“The Partnership Matching Funds Program, is a terrific resource for local communities,” said Representative Smola. “I want to thank the Department of Conservation and Recreation for their commitment to increasing recreational opportunities for all people to enjoy.”

This fiscal year, [the Baker-Polito Administration awarded \\$776,479](#) in Partnerships Matching Funds Program grants to 16 projects throughout the Commonwealth. Past projects have included:

- the design and construction of new playgrounds;
- the clearing of invasive plant species from waterways;
- the installation of interpretive signage;
- the construction of trail and path enhancements; and

- the planting of trees and other landscape improvements.

DCR's Partnerships Matching Funds Program provides a dollar-for-dollar match to successful applicants (select projects will be considered for a two-to-one dollar match), and the agency will consider projects that may require more than one year to plan and complete. Importantly, over the last decade the Partnerships Matching Funds Program has fostered a combined investment by the Commonwealth and public and private partners of more than \$10 million throughout the state's parks system.

Conceptual applications are due by March 19, 2016. [Project Concept Forms can be completed online](#) and applicants may attach documents to the online application. For additional information please contact Lisa Barstow at (617) 626-4954 or Lisa.Barstow@state.ma.us.

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