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*House of Representatives*  
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## **Representative Smola Announces Grants for Local Trails**

**BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means)** is pleased to announce that Sturbridge has been awarded \$200,000 in grants for local trail improvements. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation awarded \$4 million in MassTrails Grants to 55 local trail projects throughout the Commonwealth this week.

From the Sturbridge grants, \$150,000 will go towards the completion of the last three quarters of a mile of the Westville section of the Grand Trunk Trail. The remaining \$50,000 will go to the Sturbridge Trails Committee. The Trails Committee plans to extend its trail offerings to include 2.1 miles of mountain bike trails off the main Grand Trunk Trail being constructed on the Riverlands property.

“I want to congratulate Sturbridge for being awarded these grants and I’m excited for everyone who enjoys the Grand Trunk Trail system,” said Representative Smola. “The MassTrails Program provides critical funding for improving and supporting our public trails, which have proven to be an invaluable resource in recent months.”

MassTrails Grants focus on the improvement of existing trails, the construction of new trails, and the maintenance of the statewide trail system. Supporting the state’s vast network of trails with projects dedicated to the construction, maintenance, and improvements for a variety of public trails, including hiking trails, bikeways, and shared-use paths. This year’s projects include:

- \* The installation of trail facilities and amenities and facility landscaping;
- \* The completion of trail design and engineering plans;
- \* The installation and maintenance of directional and interpretive trail signage;
- \* The purchasing of trail maintenance equipment; and,
- \* The upgrading of existing trails to accessible trail standards.

Funding for MassTrails Grants comes from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) capital budget, and from the motor fuel excise tax on off-road vehicles including ATV's and snowmobiles, which is provided by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Surface Transportation Act.

Additionally, each recipient matches awarded grants with a minimum of twenty percent in funding or in-kind services for the designated project. In order to meet their funding obligation, an organization is able to utilize a variety of methods to fund at least twenty percent of the project's total cost to receive the grant. Methods include in-kind labor and professional services, material donations, use of equipment, or a cash match. Funding is made available to registered non-profits and municipal, state, and federal agencies.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at [Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov](mailto:Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov) or (617)722-2100.

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