



**MassConn Sustainable Forest  
Partnership**

c/o Norcross Wildlife Foundation  
P.O. Box 269, Wales MA 01081

## **The MassConn Regional Conservation Fund**

**The MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership is a Regional Conservation Partnership serving 39 towns in southern-central Massachusetts and northeastern Connecticut, is pleased to announce a grant program to assist with the transactional costs of donated land or donated conservation easements.**

Using a \$100,000 grant from the *Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust Donated Land and Easement Program* to encourage the permanent conservation of ecologically significant land, the MassConn Regional Conservation Fund will provide funding for the following types of transactional expenses, through a competitive grant program: surveys, baseline documentation reports, appraisals, legal review (including title search/certification, closing costs) and associated attorney/legal fees.

Grants will be up to \$20,000, though most will be smaller, with final grant funding allocation determined by the number of qualified applications. One project per organization per grant round will be allowed. Grant funding for accepted projects will be provided on a reimbursable basis (see *Terms and Conditions*).

**Eligible projects / ranking criteria:** Projects must be within the 39 town MassConn Service area [<https://www.mymassconnwoods.org/>] and must be for the donation of at least 50% or more of the fee interest, or 100% of the conservation easement, being donated from private ownership to a qualified conservation organization or municipality with provisions for permanent conservation. Projects will be ranked based on the amount of acreage they contain that are within the “Conservation Focus” categories of the [MassConn Mapper GIS](#) – the top two fifths (top 40%) of priority for conservation. The MassConn steering committee will evaluate all applications based on these criteria, and others at its discretion, to award and distribute funding to as many applicants as possible, in two rounds of grant applications.

- **To Download an Application:** [[link](#)]  
Note: there is a PDF version for reference, and a Word version that you can download and fill-in directly (do not modify the text of the application or the order of the questions).
- **For *Terms and Conditions* of the MassConn Regional Conservation fund:** [[link](#)]

**Applications for Round 3 of the grant program are due on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021.**

For more information, contact Ed Hood, MassConn Coordinator, at [ehood@norcrosswildlifefoundation.org](mailto:ehood@norcrosswildlifefoundation.org) (please include “MassConn Regional Conservation Fund” in the subject line).

### **MassConn Regional Conservation Fund Application – Round 3**

**MassConn Regional Conservation Fund, Round 3, Application**

*You can download a Word version of this document and write directly into it if you wish.*

**Applicant Name (project coordinator and organization(s)):**

**Contact Information (address, phone, email):**

**Attachment 1:** Please provide documentation that applicant organization is a qualified conservation organization or municipality with authorization to pursue this conservation project (see *Terms and Conditions* for further information). If the applicant is not the final holder of the fee title or conservation easement, please identify the final recipient of the conservation title or easement and evidence that they are a qualified organization to do so.

**Project Name and Location** (State, Town and other important geographic/location information):

**Attachment 2 (at least two maps):** 1. Please attach a locational map that clearly shows the parcel location with town, water, roadway or other regional landmarks, and 2. A parcel map clearly showing boundaries.

**Current Property Ownership Structure:** (e.g. individual private landowner, family trust, LLC, etc., including legal address and contact information).

**Provide a detailed description of the project.**

*This section should be answered on a separate page, with the heading "Detailed Project Description".*

Provide information about the parcel, its current owner(s) and their goals / needs for conservation. Describe the parcel and how much of it will be conserved, and by what methods.

How will this conservation project be structured? What are the source(s) and status of funding for the project?

What are the characteristics of this property that make it suitable for conservation?

What will be the final status of the property (i.e. public conservation land managed by a Land Trust? A private property with a permanent conservation easement held and monitored by whom, etc....).

**When Is the project anticipated to close?** Discuss issues that will impact the progress of the project and provide a timeline of key steps with anticipated dates.

**Transaction Cost Funding Request:** Please list the costs you expect to submit invoices for, and the estimated cost of each. If the estimated cost represents a discounted cost or leveraging of other funding sources, please detail that here.

**Project eligibility and ranking data:**

- **Is the property within the [MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership service area](#)?**  
\_\_\_ Yes. \_\_\_ No. (projects outside of the MassConn service area are not eligible for his grant program).
- **Acres to be conserved with this funding: Fee \_\_\_\_\_ Easement \_\_\_\_\_**
- **Transaction Type: 100% donation  or Bargain Sale**  (must be <50% of fair market value; attach documentation)
- **What is the total acreage to be conserved that is in the top 40% MassConn Mapper Conservation Focus Areas (please refer to [MassConn Mapper Conservation Priorities](#))? \_\_\_\_\_**
- **How much dedicated stewardship funding will be set aside to provide for monitoring and long-term protection of this property? What will be the source / means of acquiring it?** See “Terms and Conditions” for more information on required and recommended stewardship reserve funding.

**Attachment 3:** Please provide a map showing your property overlain with the MassConn Mapper Conservation Priority Focus layer.

**Project readiness:**

- **Existing Contractual Arrangements and Completed Due Diligence:**
  - Please provide explanation and/or evidence showing that this land conservation project will progress towards a successful conclusion. (E.g. existing letter of engagement or a filed application for conservation tax credit; funding in hand to cover the capital costs not being donated by landowner; partial due diligence already completed; other evidence you feel may be compelling, such as previous projects completed with the same landowner, etc.).

**Additional information:**

- **Is there anything else you would like the ranking committee to consider?**

**Funding Allocation Process:**

Decisions about the MassConn Regional Conservation Fund will be made by the MassConn Steering Committee, at their discretion, following the ranking system and criteria identified in this application and in the “Terms and Conditions” document. Round 3 Grant awards will be determined and notified in mid-August, 2021.

The maximum grant awards will be \$20,000, with as many smaller awards as possible to be made. The goal of the MassConn RCF is to distribute funds to as many projects, with reasonable regional and organizational equity, as possible. Small grants in the \$2,500 to \$5,000 range are encouraged (see “Terms and Conditions” for project size and ranking guidelines), and the Steering Committee reserves the right to prioritize some smaller projects that meet minimum conservation priority criteria, and provide partial funding to larger projects.

All decisions by the MassConn Steering Committee regarding the Regional Conservation Fund will be final.

**Contact information and deadlines:**

Please send all applications to, and for further information please contact, Ed Hood, at [ehood@norcrosswildlife.org](mailto:ehood@norcrosswildlife.org), or by mail to Ed Hood, MassConn, c/o Norcross Wildlife Sanctuary, P.O. Box 269, Wales, MA 01081.

First round applications will be accepted through end of business June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

The second round of grant applications will be announced in mid-August, 2021.