



# GREEN BUDGET

Fiscal Year 2019

*1%  
for the  
Environment*

February 2018



# GREEN BUDGET COALITION

Environmental League of Massachusetts  
Acadia Center  
All Dorchester Sports League  
American Farmland Trust  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Arborway Coalition  
Association to Preserve Cape Cod  
Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT)  
Berkshire Grown  
Berkshire Natural Resources Council  
Better Future Project  
Boston Harbor Now  
Boston Park Advocates  
Brookline GreenSpace Alliance  
Buzzards Bay Coalition  
Charles River Watershed Association  
Charlestown Waterfront Coalition  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Action Business Association (CABA)  
Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA)  
Connecticut River Watershed Council  
Conservation Law Foundation  
East Quabbin Land Trust  
Emerald Necklace Conservancy  
Environment Massachusetts  
Esplanade Association  
Essex County Greenbelt  
Franklin Land Trust  
Franklin Park Coalition  
Friends of Leo J. Martin Skiing  
Friends of Alewife Reservation  
Friends of Pontoosuc Lake  
Friends of Robinson State Park  
Friends of the Blue Hills  
Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation  
Friends of Myles Standish State Forest  
Friends of the Public Garden  
Friends of Upton State Forest  
Friends of Wompatuck State Park  
Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts  
Goldenrod Foundation  
Greater Boston Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Green Newton  
GreenRoots, Inc.  
Groundwork Lawrence  
Groundwork Somerville  
Hilltown Anti-Herbicide Coalition  
Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)  
Hoosic River Watershed Association  
Hop Brook Protection Association  
Housatonic Valley Association

Ipswich River Watershed Association  
Keep Massachusetts Beautiful  
Kestrel Land Trust  
Lakes and Ponds of Western Massachusetts  
LivableStreets Alliance  
Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust  
MA Congress of Lake and Pond Associations (MACOLAP)  
Mass Energy Consumers Alliance  
Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions  
Mass Audubon  
Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition  
Massachusetts Climate Action Network  
Massachusetts Farm to School  
Massachusetts Forest and Park Friends Network  
Massachusetts Horticultural Society  
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition  
Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists (MOSES)  
Massachusetts PipeLine Awareness Network  
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance  
Massachusetts Sierra Club  
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance  
Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals  
Massachusetts Watershed Coalition  
Merrimack River Watershed Council  
Mothers Out Front  
Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust  
Mystic River Watershed Association  
Nashua River Watershed Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Neponset River Watershed Association  
New England Mountain Bike Association  
New England Wild Flower Society  
New Marlborough Land Trust  
North and South Rivers Watershed Association  
OARS: For the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers  
Parker River Clean Water Association  
Project Green Schools  
Save The Bay—Narragansett Bay  
Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance  
SuAsCo River Stewardship Council  
Sudbury Valley Trustees  
The Charles River Conservancy  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Trust for Public Land  
The Trustees  
The Trustees Collaborative for Parks and Open Space  
Trillium Asset Management  
Wastewater Advisory Committee to the MWRA  
Western Massachusetts Public Lands Alliance

## ELM Corporate Council Endorsers

Carpenter & Co.  
Costa Fruit & Produce  
Eastern Bank  
EcoLogical Solutions

Grossman Marketing Group  
Legal Sea Foods  
Saunders Hotel Group  
Triumvirate Environmental





The Environmental League of Massachusetts is committed to combating climate change and protecting our land, water, and public health. By creating diverse alliances and building the power of the environmental community, we use our collective influence to ensure Massachusetts is a leader in environmental and economic sustainability.

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# Introduction

What makes Massachusetts home? What makes it special?



What is important to businesses that locate and stay here?



What more can we do to ensure that our children are healthy and happy?



What would it feel like if all our natural areas became developed?



What would it mean if we couldn't trust that our air and water were clean?



What can we do about the link between exposure to toxic chemicals and cancer?



The daily work of our environmental agencies touches each of these questions.

- A favorite beach or park is managed by the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.
- Our Dept. of Agricultural Resources works with farmers and ensures we have access to local, nutritious food.
- The Dept. of Environmental Protection enforces our clean air and water laws, and works to reduce the use of toxic chemicals.
- The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is tackling climate change and how we can respond to its impacts.

The list goes on.

ELM knows that a healthy environment and a healthy economy are inextricably linked. For example, the fastest growing job sector in Massachusetts is the clean energy sector which now accounts for more than 109,000 jobs in the state. The industry grew by 4 percent between 2016 and 2017 and by 81 percent – or 49,000 more workers – since 2010.<sup>1</sup>

## But it's not just clean energy that is boosting our economy.

### Tourism

Supported in large part by our beautiful natural areas, brings in more than \$20 billion a year and employs 130,000 people.<sup>2</sup>

### Agriculture

Farms in MA provide employment to nearly 28,000 workers. We have 7,775 farms in the Commonwealth which produce \$492 million in agricultural products.<sup>3</sup>

### Fisheries

Fish landed in MA in 2015 were valued at \$431 million. MA is second only to Alaska in catch by dollar value and the Port of New Bedford leads the nation in value of catch.<sup>4</sup>

But with all our environment does for us,

*what are we doing for our environment?*

# NOT ENOUGH.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.masscec.com/2017-massachusetts-clean-energy-industry-report>

<sup>2</sup> <http://wwwlp.com/2017/04/06/tourism-is-the-3rd-largest-industry-in-massachusetts/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.farmflavor.com/massachusetts-agriculture/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/24/Maritime\\_Economy.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/24/Maritime_Economy.pdf)

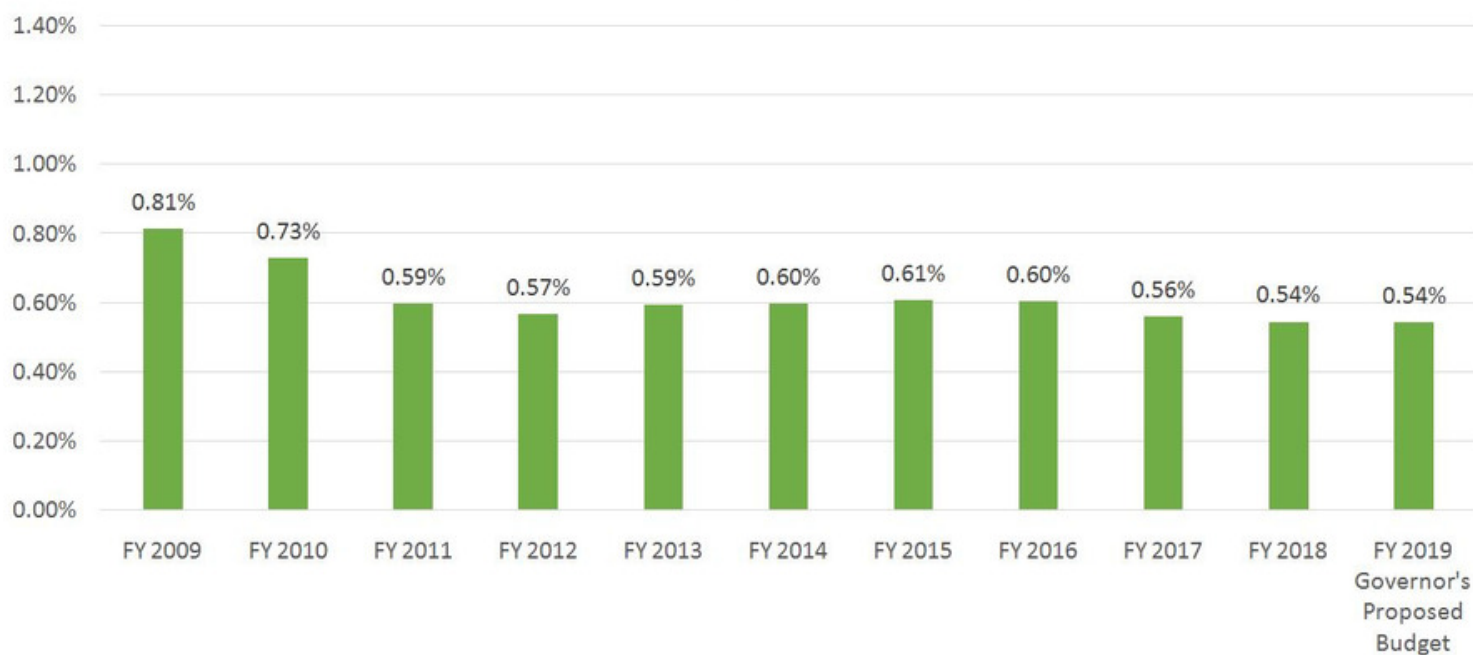


We spend only half a penny of every dollar in the state budget to support the critical work of our environmental agencies. The agencies' budgets have borne significant cuts during the past decade. We've lost hundreds of experienced staff as a result of budget cuts and early retirement buyouts. **That is why we are calling for 1% for the environment. It's the least we can do.**

Unfortunately, the Governor's budget released in January 2018 represents no progress. We urge the legislature to provide sufficient resources to our agencies so we can keep our environment, citizens and economy healthy.



## MA Environmental Operating Budget as a Share of Overall State Operating Budget



In 2009, the Division of Energy Resources merged with EOEEA. Since our comparisons go back many years and some funding for the energy agencies comes from other sources, we exclude the Division of Energy Resources and the Dept. of Public Utilities from our budget figures.



# Priority Line-items

This year the Green Budget Coalition has three top budget priorities. We include recommended funding levels for each. Collectively, these increases amount to \$10.7 million. When we look at the \$41 billion state budget as a whole, this is almost negligible. However, it begins the restoration of needed funding so our agencies can fulfill their responsibilities as environmental stewards and protectors of the public's health. We prioritize the DEP Administration and the DCR Parks line-items as they are the largest and most significant in the environmental budget. The DCR Office of Watershed Management, while much smaller in size and scope, could greatly increase its impact with a small funding increase.

## Priority 1: Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)

### Administration (Line-item 2200-0100)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$30,000,000
FY18 funding level	\$24,733,484
H. 2- Governor's proposed FY19 budget	\$24,737,344

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, managing toxics, reducing solid waste, preserving wetlands, permitting clean energy projects, and preparing the Commonwealth for climate change impacts. With anticipated federal cuts, the funding we allocate on the state level is especially crucial. Their mandate continues to grow. But their funding continues to fall – it is an unsustainable situation.

### Impacts of Budget Cuts

The current level of 660 full-time equivalent staff is one of the lowest staffing levels in the past dozen years. In 2008, staffing levels were 941. The agency has multi-year backlogs in its water quality monitoring, assessment, and reporting; development of water pollution control plans (TMDLs); and issuance of water supply permits.



### Examples of Needs

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DEP could fill critical positions including:

15 water quality monitoring and assessment staff

Five compliance and enforcement officers

Three permit writers

## Priority 2: Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)

### State Parks & Recreation (Line-item 2810-0100)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$42,500,000
FY18 funding level	\$37,163,712
H. 2- Governor's Proposed FY19 budget	\$37,970,092

DCR is responsible for the stewardship, management, and safety of our parks, beaches, forests, pools, skating rinks, and campgrounds. They manage 450,000 acres of land across over 250 properties, including nearly 2,000 miles of trail and forests that protect drinking water supplies for millions of people in the Commonwealth. The agency contributes to quality of life, public health, and the economy. State parks are often the easiest places for people of all income levels to access the natural treasures and beauty of Massachusetts.



## Impacts of Budget Cuts

The agency has lost nearly 400 full-time positions (30% of its workforce) in the last seven years. DCR currently has 839 full-time equivalent staff (FTEs), down from 1,279 in 2008. Here are some sobering facts:

- The entire state is served by only one 15-person maintenance crew
- The camping season was shortened again this year and is the shortest season in recent history
- DCR field managers are spread across more properties, leaving many facilities and lands essentially unstaffed or infrequently monitored to guard against inappropriate or illegal activities.

## Examples of Needs

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DCR could:

Hire 30 FTEs to staff unstaffed parks

Ensure that every property has a Resource Management Plan

Retain long-term seasonal staff to provide consistency and retain knowledge

Return to longer camping seasons as in years past

Provide 25 staff for the Park Support Operations crew

Have an adequate number of engineers to plan and build capital improvement projects



## Priority 3: Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)

### Watershed management (Line-item 2800-0101)

FY19 recommended funding level	\$1,100,000
FY18 funding level	\$962,526
H. 2- Governor's Proposed FY19 budget	\$919,803

The Watershed Management Office, housed within DCR, conducts and helps fund critical research on water resources in Massachusetts. This Office protects the drinking water supply for approximately 2.5 million residents in the Commonwealth. It provides technical assistance to municipalities, working with 336 communities, including ensuring compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. The Office also works to enhance the health and ecological integrity of DCR's 300 lakes and expand recreational opportunities at 51 freshwater swimming beaches. This Office staffs the Water Resources Commission and provides support to the state's Drought Management Task Force.

## Impacts of Budget Cuts

This line-item has been cut by 55% since Fiscal Year 2009. Meanwhile, the Commonwealth has suffered an historic drought.

## Examples of Needs

With the funding we recommend for this line-item, DCR could fill two critical coordinator positions the agency has lost over the past decade of budget cuts. As we experience the impacts of climate change, including more extreme floods and droughts, and new invasive species, filling these positions is extremely important:

Invasive Species Management for Lakes & Ponds

Flood Hazard & Drought Management Response



This year, ELM and our partners carried out a Parks Campaign to bring attention to the Commonwealth's amazing state parks and demonstrate how beloved they are by Massachusetts residents. Here are just a few of the dozens of stories we collected during the campaign. They highlight that our parks are places to slow down, learn, refresh, and reflect.

*"A variety of trails, a beautiful road, scenic views, sunsets, sunrises, the moon and stars, owls, white-throated sparrows, the scent of balsam, a place to exercise, a place to rest, where I remember who I am and what's important to me."*



Mount Greylock State Reservation  
Christopher Goldthwaite

*"As a girl I grew up biking and horseback riding through Borderland with my parents. I participated as a Junior Ranger and fished. As a teen and college student, I would return for hikes with my friends up the French Trail or Split Rock Trail. Now as a mom, I love sharing the history, the trails, and scenery with my daughters. We frequent often and know the rangers and naturalist on a first name basis. Paul, Buck, and Eleanor are fantastic. We fish. We hike to our favorite spots. We climb trees. We sled. We share all the things I did as a child."*

Borderland State Park  
Christine Wilbur







*"Our son loves spending time in nature. For us, the Blue Hills Reservation is a close-to-home place where we can bring him to escape the city and go exploring among the logs, rocks, leaves, and paths. We treasure this state park and look forward to many more adventures there together. As a Dorchester/Roxbury native who honestly never ventured into these woods as a child, I am especially glad that he feels so at home in them."*

Blue Hills Reservation  
Susan Lenn Johnson

*"We live right near Hopkinton State Park. It is a treasure. I love kayaking there with friends and grandchildren. The staff is so friendly and helpful. I wish you could see the delight in my grandson's eyes when he comes to visit and we are at the park. He loves to kayak to the islands and watch the fish swim near his feet. My granddaughters love to dig in the sand and paddle about in the water. My friends and I also like to take long walks in the park and enjoy its beauty."*



Hopkinton State Park  
Pat Lally

*"Massasoit is the only freshwater lake park in southeastern MA that is accessible and safe for people of all ages. People come there to bike, canoe, hike and picnic along with their families and friends. The park was starting to decay but citizens came forward to help and the park is getting attention and care from the DCR. Massasoit is a peaceful, beautiful place. Stepping into the pine forest can take away a week's worth of stress. More and more people are seeking out Massasoit as a way to destress and connect with nature. Personally, my connection with nature kept me away from the drugs my friends were using when I was a teenager and I think, for that reason, parks are more important than ever today."*

Massasoit State Park  
Lori Bradley



