

Massachusetts State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grants Program has played an important role in the conservation of Massachusetts' wildlife. The following are some of the projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Birdwatchers, Photo Courtesy of Massachusetts DFW

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife Burrage Pond Wildlife Area

Communities are growing in Massachusetts, especially in the southeastern part of the state. To help fulfill our responsibility to conserve wildlife and the places they live for future generations, State Wildlife Grant funds were used to create the Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area. This area provides wildlife with a place to live and recreational users with a great opportunity to reconnect to the natural places that bring peace and relaxation to our busy daily lives and view the over 200 species of birds which have been seen at the site. Restoration projects for the area will benefit both the health of wildlife and people by maintaining a clean wetland area.



Pike, Photo Courtesy of Massachusetts DFW

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action Clean Water, Healthy Fish

Fish need clean flowing water to live in. Some of the streams and rivers where fish live have been impacted by excessive water withdrawals, backwaters from dams and other habitat alterations. State Wildlife Grants are helping develop a new way to determine the optimum number of fish in healthy rivers called "Target Fish Community." This approach will help set measurable goals and allow biologists to prioritize their work. Because the health of fish is often an early indicator of pollution, this is a cost-effective way of protecting clean water, allowing us to identify and prevent problems before they threaten wildlife and affect humans.



Burrage Pond Wildlife Management Area, Map Courtesy of Massachusetts DFW

Management: Proactive Measures that Benefit Wildlife and People BioMap: Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity

State Wildlife Grants are helping to develop a powerful new tool that will help conserve wildlife and vital natural areas in Massachusetts for generations to come. Called the Biomap, this project identifies those areas of the state most in need of conservation and lays out a strategic plan for action which can be shared with other state agencies, regional planners and conservation organizations. In addition to protecting the biodiversity of Massachusetts, watersheds and water supplies will be protected, recreational and aesthetic opportunities will be enhanced, and our obligation to future generations to conserve the breadth and depth of wildlife and natural places will be fulfilled.

Congress has appropriated \$5.6 million in State Wildlife Grants to Massachusetts since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$2.2 million state and partner dollars.