



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR STEVEN A. BADDOUR

FIRST ESSEX DISTRICT
ROOM 208

TEL. (617) 722-1604

FAX. (617) 722-1999

E-Mail: Steven.Baddour@state.ma.us

CHAIRMAN:

TRANSPORTATION

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

THE JUDICIARY

MEMBER:

WAYS AND MEANS
POST AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT
MUNICIPALITIES AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT

Contact:

Jeevan Ramapriya

Office of Senator Baddour

617-722-1604

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Senator Baddour Votes for Protection and Enhancement of State Recreational Land

\$1.7 billion authorized for land conservation and state park infrastructure

(Boston, MA) – The Senate approved legislation to advance the conservation and acquisition of recreational land and make improvements to state park facilities and properties operated by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and other state environmental agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The bill authorizes \$1.7 billion in bonds to fund efforts for the next five years.

Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen) said the environmental bond bill is a valuable investment in recreational land that is important to residents across the Commonwealth.

“No matter where you live, people always know how to get to the parks, beaches and recreational areas,” Senator Baddour said. “It’s a quality of life issue that is important to everyone, and we need to make sure that our open space and recreational facilities maintain their appeal and functionality.”

The bond bill includes \$1.4 billion for land protection and acquisition, and another \$325 million to enhance public parks and rebuild infrastructure, including the repair and construction of DCR bridges and state-run campgrounds, hiking trails, swimming pools, beaches and skating rinks.

“Authorizing this bond money is only the first step, and we look forward to the administration taking the next step to implement critical projects – especially in the Merrimack Valley,” continued Senator Baddour.

Specifically, local items earmarked in Senator Baddour’s district include:

- \$250,000 for the Lower Millyard small boat launch on the Powwow and Back Rivers in the town of Amesbury;
- \$400,000 for a fish pier at Deer Island Park in the town of Amesbury;
- \$500,000 for a Heritage Park in the lower Millyard in the town of Amesbury;
- \$300,000 for the purchase of rail corridor east of the Basiliere Bridge and the redevelopment of a boat park on the Merrimack River by the public boat ramps in the town of Haverhill;
- \$500,000 for improvements to the Winnekenni Castle Park in the city of Haverhill;
- \$270,000 to permanently close to vehicular traffic a section of River Road in the town of Merrimac and assist in the creation of pedestrian and bicycle trails in said road section;
- \$500,000 for drainage improvements on Frye Road in the City of Methuen
- \$100,000 for drainage for a culvert on Old Ferry Road to mitigate years of flooding on Frye road in town of Methuen
- \$200,000 for the design and construction of a walking path connecting the upper part of the city of Methuen to the Lower portion near Searle's Estate in the city of Methuen;
- \$300,000 for the rehabilitation, improvement and enhancement of city parks in Methuen;
- \$400,000 for an infiltration elimination program in Methuen;
- \$1,800,000 to further the economic development of the Port of Newburyport and may include, commercial fishing improvements, marine transportation improvements, marine educational facilities, a fresh produce and fish market, and other improvements related to tourism, public recreation and other economic development within the city of Newburyport.
- \$1,000,000 for the new Waterfront Park in the city of Newburyport;
- \$2,800,000 for the boardwalk area in the city of Newburyport
- \$150,000 s for the enhancement and rebuilding of the Cashman Park Boat Launch in the city of Newburyport;
- \$40,000 for the rebuilding of the Joppa Flats Boat Launch in the city of Newburyport;
- \$1,000,000 for air quality monitoring and odor mitigation of the Crow Lane Landfill in the city of Newburyport;
- \$100,000 for improvements to Thomson Field in the town of North Andover;
- \$9,000 for the installation of drainage on the pathway leading from the Frankliin School to the Berkeley Road neighborhood in the Town of North Andover;
- \$100,000 for improvements to McEvoy Park in town of North Andover;
- \$150,000 for renovations to Hayes Stadium in the town of North Andover;
- \$190,000 for the design and development of a riverfront park and boat ramp along the Merrimack River on Riverview Street in the town of North Andover;
- \$350,000 for Town Creek Marsh Restoration and Flood Control in the vicinity of MBTA railroad line and Route 1 in the town of Salisbury;

- \$1,600,000 for the Salisbury Beach Boardwalk area;
- \$75,000 for a canoe/kayak launch on the Merrimack River at the Harbormaster's Station next the Railroad Bridge in the town of Salisbury;
- \$1,200,000 for jetty repairs, dredging work and associated improvements to the Merrimack River;

The bill also provides for the design and construction of urban parks in neighborhoods where there is a lack of recreational space, and it includes authorization for new programs to address climate change, wildlife protection and deteriorating water supply infrastructure.

The bill is now before the Governor for his approval.

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