



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION**

Governor Deval L. Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray  
EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr.  
DCR Commissioner, Edward M. Lambert, Jr.

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## **DCR Awards \$670,000 in Urban Youth Development Grants**

*Youth organizations working in Boston, Gardner, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Plymouth, Somerville and Worcester to receive grants*

BOSTON — Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Edward M. Lambert, Jr. today announced the award of \$670,000 in grants to support the work of four urban youth organizations at DCR properties across the Commonwealth. DCR's Urban Youth Development Grants are designed to align with Governor Deval Patrick's goals of reducing urban youth violence and closing the academic achievement gap that exists for many of the Commonwealth's urban students. The grants will enable programs to better engage and educate selected urban youth on environmental issues, programs and careers.

"We need peace in urban communities," said Governor Patrick. "These initiatives will help us work more closely with local leadership and at-risk youth, to end the cycle of violence that devastates communities."

DCR awarded the grants based on the following criteria: programs must take place on DCR property or properties; program's use of environmental education through outdoor activities; program's ability to assist underserved and minority communities that traditionally do not have access to these types of programs; has curriculum that includes programs to improve DCR facilities and programs; has curriculum that uses a project-based learning approach; and shows ability to be sustained once grant funds are exhausted.

"It is part of DCR's mission to develop the next generation of environmental stewards," said Commissioner Lambert. "Young people are our future and connecting them with our great DCR facilities can ignite a lifetime passion for their benefit and ours."

DCR selected programs that will benefit both the agency and participating individuals, giving preference to programs that reach statewide and work year round.

The four programs awarded today are:

- **Boston Youth Environmental Network (BYEN)** -- \$250,000 to expand its environmental education projects on DCR properties in Boston, Holyoke, Lawrence, Somerville and Worcester. BYEN currently works with The Trustees of the Reservation, Health Resources in Action, and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

- **The Statewide Black Clergy** -- \$250,000 to engage communities in environmental education programs at the Myles Standish State Park in Plymouth, the Cass Center in Roxbury, Otter River State Forest in Gardner, Lawrence Heritage State Park and other locations.
- **Boston Natural Areas Network** -- \$100,000 in order to expand fall and spring programming and to engage city youths in hands-on environmental improvement projects involving environmental restoration, trail building, and landscaping at Constitution Beach, Belle Isle Marsh, the Neponset River Trail, Pope John Paul II Park, and Stony Brooke Reservation.
- **LUK Inc.** -- \$70,000 to develop camps at various DCR locations in the Fitchburg area, including Leominster State Park. LUK Inc. will provide Eco-TREK, a program style that involves four core activities: environmental education and stewardship, service learning, adventure-based experiential learning and team initiatives, and youth development and peer leadership.

Governor Patrick launched the Commonwealth’s Safe and Successful Youth Initiative earlier this year as a comprehensive violence prevention strategy to reduce homicides and serious assaults among Massachusetts youth. As part of this effort, Governor Patrick issued Executive Order 534 emphasizing the Administration’s commitment to partnering with local officials to address youth violence, and filed legislation creating tougher gun laws that hold “high impact” individuals accountable.

This initiative complements the Administration's allocation of a total of \$8 million in funding to support an estimated 4,000 summer jobs for at-risk youth across the Commonwealth. The funds represent \$6 million in YouthWorks funding administered by the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development and Commonwealth Corporation, along with \$2 million in Federal Byrne Grant funding that has been directed by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to fund summer jobs. Earlier this year, Governor Patrick also launched Summer Corps 2011, an effort that brings academic support and civic engagement opportunities to approximately 900 middle school-aged youth.

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*The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Edward M. Lambert Jr., the agency’s mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).*

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