

# Appendix D

## Funding Mechanisms and Programs

### Property Acquisition

#### 1) Program/Method:

#### **Municipal purchase**

Sponsoring Agency:

City of Gardner Approximate Funding

Maximum:

Dependent on Mayor/City Council Approval

Program Description:

This tool is probably the most direct and effective way for a City to achieve the acquisition objectives of its open space plan. Municipalities may either issue bonds to cover purchases or in some cases include a purchase item in the general budget. Bond issues are quite common and provide communities with the flexibility to negotiate with property owners, knowing that money has already been authorized to complete the acquisition.

Priority for pursuing:

High.

Chances of success:

Moderate - will depend on a vigorous public outreach campaign prior to City meeting and the general referendum.

#### 2) Program/Method:

#### **Land & PARC Program**

Sponsoring Agency:

Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Conservation Services (DCS)

Approximate Funding Maximum:

\$250,000.

Program Description:

The Program provides a percentage (typically 70%) of reimbursement for the purchase of land for conservation and passive recreation purposes. This program can provide funding for “regional” projects, whereby several communities can combine their funding to cover a larger land purchase.

Priority for pursuing:

High.