

Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens  
Conservation Restriction  
History and Commentary  
Grantor: MA Land Conservation Trust  
Grantee: City of New Bedford, Conservation Commission

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- February 2012                      The City New of Bedford contacted The Trustees of Reservations (The Trustees) to inquire if The Trustees would have an interest and ability to preserve the treasured and historic Allen Haskell Nursery, which would soon be going on the market.
- Mar – July 2012                      The Trustees vetted the Haskell property and determined that it was a great opportunity to advance its mission of preserving, for the public's use and enjoyment, properties of scenic, historical and ecological significance, particularly with the organization's recent focus on preserving special places in urban areas. The Trustees performed due diligence and The Trustees' transactional affiliate Mass Land Conservation Trust entered into purchase and sale agreement with the landowners for \$780,000.
- February 2013                      The Trustees applied to the City of New Bedford for Community Development Block Grant funds and received \$100,000 towards the project. The CDBG contract is an attachment to conservation restriction.
- April 2013                              \$500,000 Gateway Cities Urban Parks Grant and CDBG funds awarded and announced at press conference. To leverage these CDBG dollars, The Trustees worked closely with the City of New Bedford in the City's application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program for funds for the purchase of a conservation restriction. The conservation restriction was appraised at \$410,000.00 and a LWCF grant award would cover 50% of the value of the conservation restriction. The purpose of these grants was to assist in the creation of a new public park to benefit the city and the conservation restriction was intended to ensure the protection of this land as a park as well as provide for its public access in perpetuity.
- June 2013                              The Mass Land Conservation Trust acquired the property on June 25, 2013. Of the funds at closing, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs provided \$500,000 through its Gateway Cities program. The Gateway Cities contract is attachment to conservation

restriction. The Trustees raised the balance of the closing costs through private fundraising.

September 2013

Pending final National Park Service approval, the LWCF grant was awarded to the City of New Bedford for their purchase of a conservation restriction on the Haskell property for the purposes of preserving recreation on the property.

The Trustees began planning for the property's long term stewardship and held community gatherings, volunteer work days and events to raise the visibility of this property in the community.

Nov - Dec 2013

Per the terms of the LWCF grant, the New Bedford City Council approved closing on the conservation restriction for the full amount of \$410,000. After closing, the City will be reimbursed half of that amount, or \$205,000, from the LWCF grant program. The fundraising for the conservation restriction is as follows:

LWCF Grant	\$205,000
CDBG Grant from City	\$100,000
<u>TTOR Private Fundraising</u>	<u>\$105,000</u>
Appraised Value of CR	\$410,000

Feb – Aug 2014

In addition to public funding, The Trustees raised over \$1 million from private sources to support the property's long term stewardship and renovation (beginning in July 2012 and will continue to be ongoing).

The terms of conservation restriction and baseline documentation report were finalized.