

WHY PARTICIPATE ?

In the Southeastern MA Farmland Protection Initiative municipalities can collaborate directly with project partners to utilize farmland protection tools and navigate land acquisition to meet local agricultural protection goals.

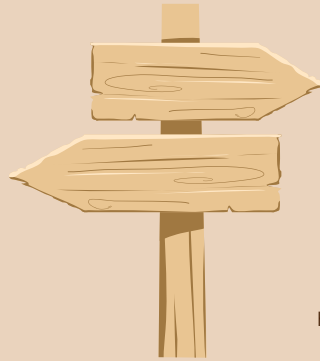
Together we can collectively **move the needle** on protection of Chapter 61A lands in SE MA and increase our regional capacity to respond quickly to Right of First Refusal opportunities.

PROJECT OFFERINGS

- **Webinars** farmland protection mechanisms for municipalities
- **Municipal training** on Chapter 61A and preparedness for land acquisition
- **Education** on zoning and planning tools that reduce farmland loss
- **Using Community Preservation Act** funds to set up an Agricultural Preservation Funds for Chapter 61A lands

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

Sign up for our mailing list!

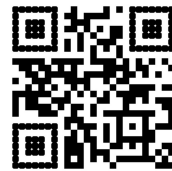


<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/iTMhj8x/munifarmprotect>

Receive updates on upcoming project offerings!

WEBPAGE RESOURCES

To learn more about Chapter 61A farmland protection in Massachusetts visit the Resources Section of our project webpage:



<https://srpedd.org/environmental/regional-agricultural-planning/>

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Farmland Protection Tools for Municipalities

Southeastern MA Farmland Protection Initiative

Join SRPEDD, OCPC, and Wildlands Trust in a regional initiative to support municipalities in protecting Chapter 61A farmlands in Southeastern Massachusetts.



Supported by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) Farmland Partnership Program (FPP).

FARMLAND PROTECTION TOOLS

Permanent Farmland Protection

There are three basic types of permanent protection options for agricultural lands in MA:

Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Program

- Restriction on protected land is held by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
- Land kept in permanent agricultural production

Private Agricultural Preservation Restriction (Private APR),

- Protection is held by a restriction-holding entity, approved through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)
- Land kept in permanent agricultural production

Ag-friendly Conservation Restriction (CR)

- Protection is held by a restriction-holding entity and approved through the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EEA)
- Land permanently protected in a way compatible with farming

Temporary Farmland Protection

Agricultural Covenants

- Limits the use of, and improvements to, farmland exclusively to agricultural purposes for a set number of years.

Chapter 61A (M.G.L. c. 61A)

- Reduces tax burden on agricultural landowners, allowing the land to stay in agriculture longer by reducing financial pressure of land ownership.
- Temporarily protects agricultural lands by requiring back-taxes if removed from program before minimum time frame.
- Gives municipalities the Right of First Refusal upon sale + change in use.

Municipal Planning and Zoning Tools for Farmland Protection

Open Space and Recreation Plans

- A planning tool for municipal management of natural resources

Conservation Subdivision Bylaws with Agricultural as Open Space

- A subdivision design type that serves agricultural protection and housing production goals

Municipal Guidelines for Exercising the Right of First Refusal on Chapter Lands

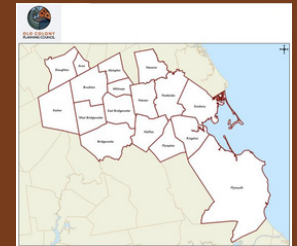
- Outlines municipal procedures for responding to a purchase & sale notice

Municipal Farmland Protection Plans

- Municipal plans that focus on farmland protection

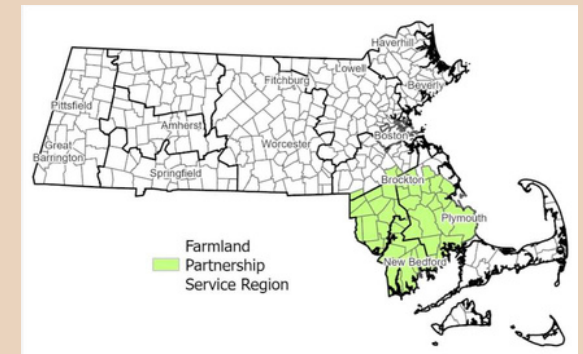
Project Background

This unique collaboration allows the two regional planning agencies of SRPEDD and OCPC to work with a regional land trust alongside municipalities to tackle farmland loss - an issue persistent beyond municipal boundaries.



SRPEDD (27) + OCPC (17) = 44

44 Municipalities in the SRPEDD + OCPC Project Service Region



Wildlands Trust serves this entire region + more (currently a total of 60 municipalities).

More information on our
project webpage →

