

Public Grant Funds Available for Maine Conservation

Compiled by Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Updated September 29, 2023

Funds Administrator	Grant Program	Category	Deadline(s)	Keywords (search using Ctrl+F)	Program Summary	Match Required	Annual \$ Available	Max Award	Typical Award	Eligible Recipients	Degree of Difficulty*	RFP Location
US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	NAWCA	US Standard Grants	February, July	land protection, wetlands, restoration, migratory birds, waterfowl, habitat	Program link	1:1	\$45-100 million	\$3 million	\$1 million	Fed, State, NGO	High	Program Website
	NAWCA	US Small Grants	October	land protection, wetlands, restoration, migratory birds, waterfowl, habitat	Program link	1:1	\$3 million	\$250,000	\$ 100,000	Fed, State, NGO	Medium	Program Website
	Recovery Land Acquisition Grants		December	land protection, endangered species, Atlantic Salmon	Program link	25%	\$14 million	No max	\$300,000 to \$5.25 million	State (w/funds transferred to NGO)	High	Grants.gov
	Maine Partners for Fish and Wildlife		Rolling deadline	fish and wildlife habitat, enhancement, technical assistance, focus areas, federal trust species	Program link	None (1:1 preferred)	\$60,000	No max	\$30,000	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, for-profit	Medium	Grants.gov
	National Fish Passage Program		December	fish passage, barrier removal, connectivity, in stream	Program link	1:1 regional match (see instructions)	\$9,200,000	\$2 million	\$1 million	Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, for-profit	High	Package instructions
	National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants		June	wetlands, restoration, protection, coastal, threatened and endangered species, long term	Program link	25%	\$18-23 million	\$1 million	\$300,000 to \$1 million	MDIFW (w/funds transferred to NGO)	High	Contact MDIFW
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)	Regional Conservation Partnership Program		October	agriculture, forestry, land management, easement,	Program link	None	\$40 million	Not specified	\$3,000,000 to \$6,000,000	State, NGO, Local gov't, Tribal, Education, Farm Co-ops	High	Program Website

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	Community Forest Program		January	community forest, public access, recreation, habitat, demonstration sites, local economy, fee title only	Program link	1:1	Not specified	\$600,000	No data	NGO, Local gov't, Tribal	Medium	Regional Contacts
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Coastal Zone Mgt Habitat Protection & Restoration		August (Letter of Intent), January (full)	habitat restoration, planning, design, engineering, ecosystem conservation, CELCP	BIL link	None	\$40 million	\$6 million	\$200,000 to \$6 million	Fed pass-through to NGO, other applicants	High	Grants.gov NOFO
Inflation Reduction Act & Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act	Multiple - numerous grants related to climate action		Multiple	climate, resilience, coastal, disaster risk reduction, climate-ready infrastructure, coastal ecosystems, blue economy	Guidebook: Ocean Climate Funding for Coastal Cities	See Guidebook	\$21.7 billion	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	See Guidebook	Interactive Funding Table
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC)	Conservation & Restoration Implementation (DOI)	July	implementation, landscape conservation, restoration, public lands, tribal lands	ATBC link	10% (States), 3% (Tribal)	\$116 million (combined)	\$5,000,000	\$1 to 5 million	States, Tribal-affiliated orgs, Tribal gov't	High	ATBC RFP
		Conservation & Restoration Planning (DOI)	July	planning, collaboration, engagement, capacity building, community, partnerships	ATBC link	10% (States), 3% (Tribal)		\$2,000,000	\$200,000 to \$2 million	States, Tribal-affiliated orgs, Tribal gov't	High	ATBC RFP
		Public Land Buffers (DoD, USFS)	July	conservation buffer, military, Sentinel Landscapes, invasive species, fish passage, water quality	ATBC link	0% (DoD), 20% (USFS), 0% for Tribal quality		\$1,500,000	\$250,000 to \$1.5 million	States, Tribal, NGO	High	ATBC RFP
		National Forest Grants (USFS)	July	forest restoration, vegetation management, national forest	ATBC link	20%, 0% for Tribal		\$1,500,000	\$250,000 to \$1.5 million	States, Tribal, NGO, Local gov't	High	ATBC RFP

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		Forest, Range & Farmland Outreach (NRCS)	July	outreach, engagement, private landowners, voluntary conservation, Working Lands for Wildlife	ATBC link	0% for Tribal, 50% other applicant		\$500,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	States, Tribal, NGO	High	ATBC RFP
	Acres for America		April (pre-proposal), July (full)	land protection, habitat, national significance, public-private, Walmart, community, local economy	Program link	5:1 (includes federal match)	\$4 million	Not specified	No data	State, NGO, Education, Tribal, Local gov't	High	Program RFP
	Bring Back the Native Fish (USFWS & USFS)		June (pre-proposal), August (full)	native fish, rivers, anadromous species, American shad, river herring, aquatic ecosystem protection, connectivity, habitat restoration	Program link	1:1	\$510,000	\$100,000+	\$50,000 to \$100,000	Fed, State, Tribal, NGO, Local gov't	High	Program RFP
	New England Forests & Rivers Fund (USFWS, USFS, USDA)		July	habitat, freshwater fish, native birds, fish passage, connectivity, riparian, instream, restoration, forest blocks, aquatic ecosystems, agriculture	Program link	1:1	\$2.3 million	Not specified	\$50,000 to \$200,000	State, NGO, Tribal, Education, Local gov't	Medium	Program RFP
	National Coastal Resilience Fund (NOAA)		April (pre-proposal), June (full)	resilience, nature-based, restoration, coastal communities, coastal habitat, planning, design, coastal watersheds	Program link	None	\$140 million	No max	Varies widely from \$100,000 to \$10 million	Fed, State, Tribal, NGO, Education, Local gov't, For-profit	Medium	Program RFP
ME Dept of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry (DACF)	Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program	Conservation & Recreation Land	Nov, Dec, April (LOI); Dec, April, July (full)	public access, traditional use, hunting, trapping, fishing, habitat, land protection	Program link	1:1	\$30 million (multiple years)	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$500,000 to \$600,000	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	Program Website

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		Public Access to Maine Waters Fund	Rolling deadline	water access, small parcels, boating, fishing, hand carry, swimming, clamming	Program link	1:1	\$2 million (multiple years)	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$100,000 to \$200,000	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	Program Website
		Working Waterfront Access Protection	February (Letter of Interest), June (full)	working waterfront, coastal facilities, commercial fishing, marine access, clamming, worming	Program link	1:1	\$4 million (multiple years)	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	\$100,000 to \$200,000	Business, Local gov't, NGO, Other	Medium	Program Website
		Working Farmland Access Protection	July	easement, productive farmland, agriculture, local economy, new farmers, underserved community, multiple benefits	Program link	1:1	\$4 million (multiple years)	Up to 50% appraised val. of conservation interest	No data	State, NGO, Local gov't, Foundations (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	Program Website
		Land & Water Conservation Fund	June	outdoor recreation facilities, facility development, public access, government, land acquisition	Program link	1:1	Not specified	\$500,000	\$200,000 to \$500,000	State, County & local gov't	High	Program Website
		Recreational Trails Program	September	trails, motorized, non-motorized, multiple use, recreation, maintenance, restoration, construction	Program link	20%	Not specified	\$120,000	~\$50,000	Fed, State, NGO, Local gov't, Education	Low	Program Guidance Doc
		Boating Facilities Fund	April (site inspection), July (full)	boating, recreation, public access improvements, motorized, non-motorized, development, renovation	Program link	25%	Not specified	\$150,000	No data	State, Tribal, NGO, Local gov't, Community, Private	Medium	Maine BPL Website
		Forest Legacy Program	May (initial contact), October (full)	land protection, private forestlands, conservation easement, partnership, public access, habitat, working forest	Program link	25%	\$90 million	\$20 million	\$5 million to \$20 million	State (partnership w/landowners & NGO)	High	Maine BPL Website

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Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP)	Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program		June (pre-proposal), August (full)	mitigation, aquatic habitat, wetlands, land protection, restoration, enhancement, creation	Program link	None	\$6.9 million	Not specified	\$200,000 to \$500,000	NGO, Local gov't, Tribal, Public agency	Medium	Program Website
	Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrade		November	connectivity, culvert, stream crossing, habitat improvement, flood mitigation	Program link	No min. but some req'd	\$3 million	\$150,000	\$100,000 to \$150,000	NGO, Local gov't, Soil & water cons. districts	Low	State Grants Link
Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP)		Rolling deadline	public water access, tidal communities, economic development, commercial fishing, infrastructure	Program link	1:1	Not specified	\$250,000	No data	Municipalities (may partner w/NGO, others)	Low	Program Website
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Maine Office	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)		November	agricultural land easement, wetland reserve easement, farm	Program link	1:1	\$1.4 billion over 4 years	50% of easement appraised value	No data	Private landowners (partner with easement Holder)	Low	Program Website
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW)	Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund		Jan & July (LOI), Feb & Aug (full)	habitat conservation, land acquisition, threatened and endangered species, public access	Program link	33%	Not specified	Not specified	\$15,000 to \$20,000	NGO, Local gov't, Other (State sponsor req'd)	Medium	Program Website

*Degree of difficulty based on proposal complexity, recipient eligibility requirements, geographic constraints, competitiveness, required match and other factors