

The Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN) builds and sustains the quality and effectiveness of Maine land trusts, as well as other organizations engaged in land conservation, drawing upon our collective expertise and resources to ensure responsible and successful conservation. Established in 1995, MLTN strengthens the land conservation community by serving as a central hub of information. It brings conservationists together to facilitate information exchange and collaboration. Additionally, the Network provides a broad array of programs, services, and resources that build the capacity and sustainability of land conservation organizations throughout the state.

Here are some updates about our programming and grants for 2025.

### **L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grants**

#### **Applications due Friday, September 26**

L.L.Bean has been a key partner of Maine land trusts for years, both as a Leading Conference Sponsor making this event possible but also helping Maine Coast Heritage Trust create and continue the L.L.Bean Maine Land Trust Grant Program. In 2023, L.L.Bean stepped up with a major increase in funding for the program that allowed us to more than double the program's support for stewardship, preserve management, and programming at local land conservation organizations across the state. Join us in thanking L.L.Bean for matching that support again in 2025! More information at [MLTN.org/resources/funding](https://MLTN.org/resources/funding).

### **Update on Status of the Climate Resiliency Conservation Fund**

Last year, the State of Maine was awarded a \$69 million climate resilience grant from NOAA to protect Maine's communities, environment, and working waterfronts from extreme storms, flooding, and rising sea levels. As part of these efforts, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and the Maine Land Trust Network will administer a new Climate Resiliency Conservation Fund (CRCF) to address ecological gaps on protected lands, alleviate conservation funding gaps, and leverage significant gains in protecting resilient and biodiverse landscapes. The fund will award \$4.15 million over three years, with the first call for proposals expected to be in the fall of 2025. We have engaged Jennifer Melville as the fund manager and over the coming weeks and months, we will be working closely with our state and federal partners to establish funding criteria, award guidelines, timelines, and processes. We are excited to help create a new funding opportunity for land acquisition that will help protect susceptible lands that are critical to keeping Maine safe, healthy, and resilient. MLTN will keep you in the loop as details and developments unfold.

## **MCHT Land Trust Collaboration & Merger Assistance Fund**

Maine Coast Heritage Trust has established a fund to assist land trusts seeking stronger organizational health and effectiveness through advanced collaboration, structural realignment, or merger with other organizations. The program offers up to \$25,000 for the exploration phase, up to \$25,000 for the implementation phase, and up to \$25,000 per year for the first two years after merger to assist with increased costs related to integrating the organizations post-merger. Applications are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis.

Contact Angela Twitchell ([atwitchell@mcht.org](mailto:atwitchell@mcht.org)) with questions.

[MLTN.org/resources/funding](https://MLTN.org/resources/funding)

## **Resources and Help**

MLTN provides help, resources, and networking opportunities, as well as news and information on issues and activities relevant to land conservation, data and contacts for Maine's local land trusts, and land trust job postings. MLTN.org also provides sample policies and documents, consultant lists, videos, funding sources, land conservation publications, and a member forum to "converse" with peers on land trust issues.

**Publications and Documents:** On our Publications and Documents page, you can find sample policies and documents currently in use by other land conservation organizations, as well as helpful links to other sources and our own publications. This includes the recently updated **Land Trusts Work for Maine report**, and the **2024 Maine Land Trust Census report** will be posted very soon. [MLTN.org/resources/publications](https://MLTN.org/resources/publications).

**Infoline:** Our weekly electronic newsletter keeps you abreast of meetings, trainings, funding opportunities, policy updates, and resources that can help you achieve your conservation goals. Subscribe at [MLTN.org/about/newsletter](https://MLTN.org/about/newsletter)

**MLTN Member Forum:** We host an online forum where members can post questions, raise issues, and float ideas with their peers who work and volunteer protecting and caring for Maine's special places. Sign up at [MLTN.org/about/forum](https://MLTN.org/about/forum).

**Call us!** MCHT Land Trust Program is here to help. If you have a sticky issue or burning question that you'd like to talk to someone about, give us a call at 207-729-7366. We'll do our best to help and if we don't have the answer, we'll help you find someone who does.

## **Maine Land Trust Regional Meetings This Fall!**

We hope to see you this fall when we host meetings for land trust staff, board members, volunteers, and other partners in five regions around the state. Dates will be announced in late summer and will be announced in Infoline, on the MLTN Member Forum, and on our website.