

Funding Sources for Land Conservation and Restoration

This table provides a list of federal, state and local funding sources for land conservation and restoration. Note that the amount of funding and deadlines vary by year, and some funding sources are not available in each year. Be sure to visit the website for a specific funding source to get up to date information on funding amount, availability, and deadlines.

Grant Program	Contact information	Funding priorities	Eligible applicants
New Hampshire			
Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Program	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service Local contact: Ian Rodgers, Ian. Rodgers@usda.gov, 603-868-9931 x104	Projects focused on protecting agricultural uses and related conservation values of private land. Priorities include cropland/pastureland and prime, local, and statewide important soils	Local and state government, NGOs
Wetland Reserve Easements	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service Local contact: Brooke Stubbs, brooke.stubbs@usda.gov, 603-868-9931 x106	Projects that help landowners to protect, restore, enhance, and manage for wetland functions and values, including for example, wildlife habitat, water quality improvement, flood water retention, groundwater recharge, open space, aesthetic values, and environmental education	Private landowners
Community Forest and Open Space Program	U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Local contact: Neal Bungard, neal.bungard@usda.gov 603-833-3287	Projects that protect private forest land threatened by conversion to non-forest use. Projects must provide public recreational use. Prioritize projects that protect community benefits, including protection of water supplies and wildlife habitat, serve as demonstration sites for private forest landowners, and provide economic benefits from timber and non-timber products.	Municipalities, 501c3 organizations
Land & Water Conservation Fund Program	National Park Service (via NewHampshire State Parks) Local contact: Eric Feldbaum, lwcf@dncr.nh.gov 603-271-3556	Acquisition of land or easements. Projects must be in direct support of public outdoor recreational uses of related properties and/or facilities.	Counties, municipalities, and sub-units of local government
Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Contact: Lori Sommer, LORI.L.SOMMER@des.nh.gov 603-271-4059	Projects that protect aquatic resources and upland buffers, Wildlife Action Plan habitats, threatened and endangered species, aquatic organism passage in streams, and connections to existing conservation lands.	Municipalities or other subdivisions of the State or 501c organizations.
New Hampshire Drinking Water & Ground Water Trust Fund	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Contact: WSLP@des.nh.gov	Projects that help protect New Hampshire's water supplies through land conservation	Municipalities, other subdivisions of the state; individuals or nonprofit owners of nontransient non-community water system, land trusts, and other nonprofits. focused on land conservation

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America the Beautiful Challenge	National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Contacts: Rachel M. Dawson, Rachel. Dawson@nfwf.org 202-595-2643 Syd Godbey, Sydney.Godbey@nfwf.org 202-595-2612	Projects that implement voluntary large-scale, on-the-ground conservation activities or otherwise lead to on-the-ground implementation through capacity building, community engagement, planning, and project design	State government agencies, non-profit 501(c) organizations, local governments, municipal governments, and educational institutions
LCHIP - Natural Resource Acquisition Grants	New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Contact: Ben Engel, bengel@lchip.org 603-224-4113	Generally, projects that focus on agriculture, working forests, wildlife habitat, wetlands, recreation/education, and scenic/aesthetic values	Municipalities, other subdivisions of the state, and 501c3 organizations
SCC- Conservation Moose Plate Grant Program	State Conservation Committee Contact: Dea Brickner-Wood, NH-Conservation-Committee@nh.gov 603-868-6112	Land Conservation projects focused on agriculture, forests, water resources, wildlife habitat, and ecological resources	County conservation districts; municipalities, including agencies and commissions engaged in conservation; qualified NGOs engaged in conservation; public and private Schools (K-Grade 12); scout groups; county Cooperative Extension Natural Resource Programs.
Land Protection Transaction Grant Program	Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership Contact: Dea Brickner-Wood, bluesky24@comcast.net 603-868-6112	Focused on New Hampshire Coastal Watershed Conservation Plan priorities, i.e., conservation focus areas, agricultural resources, and tidal shorelines	NGOs (qualified nonprofit conservation organizations) and municipalities (units of government)
Merrimack Conservation Partnership Land Conservation Transaction Grants	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests Contact: Brian Hotz, bhotz@forestsociety.org 603-224-9945 x316	Projects must protect land that has been identified as “Tier 1 Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs)” and/or “Tier 2 Conservation Focus Areas (CFAs)” in the Merrimack Conservation Plan. Funds transaction-related expenses on land conservation projects in the Merrimack Valley Watershed region of New Hampshire and Massachusetts	Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and state agencies with land conservation as a primary function and local governments. Eligible communities in the New Hampshire Coastal Watershed include: Candia, Danville, Hampstead, Kensington, Kingston, Northwood, Sandown, Seabrook, South Hampton, and Strafford
Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment Grants	Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership Contact: Abigail Lyon, Abigail.Lyon@unh.edu	Projects should address one or more of the recommended actions from the most recent PREPA report . These address gaps or inconsistencies in water quality and natural resource protections within the region. Community specific recommendations can be found by searching for each municipality’s individual page on the 2020 PREPA report page .	Municipalities in New Hampshire’s Coastal Watershed

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Coastal Resilience Grants	<p>New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program</p> <p>Contact: Kirsten Howard, Kirsten.B.Howard@des.nh.gov</p>	<p>To help communities prepare for current and future coastal hazards, this program provides competitive funding for coastal community and habitat resilience projects.</p>	<p>Coastal municipalities, quasi-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and state agencies. Projects must take place within one or more of the Coastal Zone communities: Dover, Durham, Exeter, Greenland, Hampton, Hampton Falls, Madbury, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Portsmouth, Rollinsford, Rye, Seabrook, and Stratham.</p>
<p>Maine</p>			
Land for Maine's Future	<p>Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry</p> <p>Contact: Sarah Demers, LMF Director, sarah.demers@maine.gov 207-287-7576</p>	<p>Emphasizes community conservation over four funding areas: conservation and recreation, water access, working waterfront access protection, and working farmland access protection.</p>	<p>Requires sponsorship from a suitable Maine state agency. Funds usually assist land trusts, municipal conservation commissions, local governments, private nonprofit charitable organizations, state agencies, and private foundations.</p>
Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program	<p>The Nature Conservancy-Maine</p> <p>Contact: Bryan Emerson, bryan.emerson@tnc.org 207-607-4821</p>	<p>Focuses on projects that restore and protect high priority aquatic resources in Maine.</p>	<p>Public agencies, non-profit conservation organizations, tribes, and municipalities are encouraged to apply.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">connect.protect.org</p>			