

Land and Freshwater Conservation and Restoration Funding Opportunities

As of June 24th, 2023

Deadline Calendar (Programs are listed by first deadline. This may be letter of intent, pre-proposal, or full proposal. See program description for more details)

Rolling

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Ag. Land Easements (USDA-NRCS)
- Wellborn Ecology Fund- School-based Project Grants (NH Charitable Foundation)

March

- Agricultural Innovation Center Program (USDA-Rural Dev.)
- Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (NRCS)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS)
- Urban and Community Conservation Grants (National Association of Conservation Districts)

April

- America The Beautiful Challenge (NFWF)
- Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreements (NRCS)
- National Coastal Resilience Fund (NFWF)
- Northern Border Regional Commission

May

- Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (NH-Dept. of Environmental Services)
- Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership
- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
- Long Island Sound Futures Fund (NFWF)

June

- Bring Back the Native Fish (NFWF)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (NH State Parks)
- Source Water Protection Grant Program (NH-DES)

July

- Composting and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project (NRCS)
- Northeast Forest and Rivers Fund (NFWF)

August

- Outreach and Technical Assistance Grants (NACD)

September

- SCC Conservation Grant Program (NH State Conservation Committee)
- Environmental Science, Education, and Outreach Grant Program (Merrimack Conservation Partnership)
- Land Conservation Grant Program (Merrimack Conservation Partnership)

November

- Local Source Water Protection Grants (NH-Dept. of Environmental Services)

December

- Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (NH Charitable Foundation)

Program Descriptions

Agricultural Innovation Center Program (USDA-Rural Development)

Keywords: Agriculture, Business

Max Request: \$1m

Program Total: \$8m

Match Required 33%

Deadline: Early March

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/agriculture-innovation-center-program>

“The purpose of this program is to establish and operate Agriculture Innovation Centers (Centers) that provide technical and business development assistance to Agricultural Producers seeking to engage in developing and marketing of Value-Added Agricultural Products.” (USDA-RD website)

Agricultural Conservation Easements Program- Ag. Land Easements (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Keywords: Agriculture, Easements

Max Request:

Program Total: Varies but \$1m

Match Required 50%

Deadline: Rolling, but will announce batching deadline (late fall 2023).

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/acep-agricultural-conservation-easement-program>

“The Agricultural Land Easements component of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program protects the long-term viability of the nation’s food supply by preventing conversion of productive working lands to non-agricultural uses. Land protected by agricultural land easements provides additional public benefits, including environmental quality, historic preservation, wildlife habitat and protection of open space. Additionally, Agricultural Land Easements leverage local partnerships to match NRCS funding and local partners are responsible for the long-term stewardship of the easement” (NRCS website).

America the Beautiful Challenge (National Fish and Wildlife Foundation)

Keywords:

Max Request: \$1m-\$5m for implementation, \$200k-\$2m for planning grants

Program Total: \$116m (2023)

Match Required: None-50% depending on applicant status and which funding category

Deadline: Required pre-proposal due mid April (2023)

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge>

2023 RFP: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/america-beautiful-challenge/america-beautiful-challenge-2023-request-proposals>

“Intended to streamline grant funding opportunities for new conservation and restoration projects around the U.S., the America the Beautiful Challenge consolidates funding from multiple federal

agencies and the private sector to enable applicants to conceive and develop large-scale projects that address shared funder priorities and span public and private lands” (NFWF website).

Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund (NH-Dept. of Environmental Services)

Keywords: Water

Max Request: Varies by year and geographic area

Program Total: Varies

Match Required: None

Deadline: May

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/inline-documents/2023-02/arm-fund-2023-pre-proposal-guidance.pdf>

Bring Back the Native Fish (NFWF)

Keywords: Water, Fish

Max Request: \$50k-\$100k

Program Total: \$510,000 (2022)

Match Required: 50% (1:1)

Deadline: Required pre-proposal due early June (2022)

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/bring-back-native-fish>

2022 RFP: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/bring-back-native-fish/bring-back-native-fish-2022-request-proposals>

“Bring Back the Native Fish invests in conservation activities that restore, protect and enhance native populations of sensitive or listed fish species across the United States, especially in areas on or adjacent to federal agency lands. The program emphasizes coordination between private landowners and federal agencies, tribes, corporations and states to improve the ecosystem functions and health of watersheds.” (NFWF website)

Notes: Focuses on “Native fish of eastern US rivers, especially depleted anadromous species such as river herring and American shad” (NFWF-RFP website).

Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Pilot Project (NRCS)

Keywords: Food waste

Max Request: \$55k-\$400k

Program Total: \$9.5m (2023)

Match Required: 20%

Deadline: July 15, 2023

Area: Statewide

2023 Info: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=compost>

“The purpose of the CFWR program is to enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans. Proposed projects can be located in all community types including rural, urban and suburban” (NRCS NFO).

Environmental Science, Education, and Outreach Grant Program (Merrimack Conservation Partnership)

Keywords: Education, Outreach

Max Request: Varies

Program Total: \$15,000 (2023)

Match Required: Unknown

Deadline: September 15th, 2023

Area: Merrimack River Watershed

Website: <https://merrimackconservationpartnership.org/grants/>

“...provides funding for environmental science, education and outreach activities related directly to the Merrimack River or its watershed. Funds can be used for activities such as youth or public environmental educational activities, development of outreach and educational materials, river clean ups, water quality testing and monitoring activities, and other related activities” (MCP website).

Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Agreements (USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service)

Keywords: Outreach

Max Request: \$100k-\$1m

Program Total: \$70m (2023)

Match Required: None

Deadline: Late April (2023)

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/partner-with-us/outreach-and-partnerships/equity-conservation-agreements>

2023 Fact Sheet:

“The primary goal of this outreach opportunity is for NRCS, in collaboration with partners, to expand conservation assistance to historically underserved producers and underserved communities and to provide opportunities for students to pursue careers in agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences” (NRCS Fact Sheet).

Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership

Keywords: Conservation, Water

Max Request: \$4,000 for site appraisals, \$25,000 for transaction fees.

Program Total: Unknown

Match Required: 50% for appraisals, and not required, but recommended, for transaction costs

Deadline: May 5th, 2023

Area: Great Bay watershed

Website: <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org/>

2023 Application Instructions: <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/LPTGP-Application-Instructions-Spring-2023.pdf>

“The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership offers the Land Protection Transaction Grant Program. The grants program assists with the costs for permanent land protection projects (donation and/or acquisition of full fee and conservation easements) within the New Hampshire Great Bay Watershed. Eligible applicants include qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations and units of government. Since 2014, the Partnership has provided 100 transaction grants to land trusts and municipalities working to conserve over significant conservation land in coastal watershed communities, leveraging over \$1 million in other funds.

The Partnership’s funding for the Land Protection Transaction Grant Program is provided by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, Great Bay 2030 Initiative. The Nature Conservancy serves as the fiscal and administrative agent for the Partnership” (GBRPP website).

Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

Keywords: Easements

Max Request: \$10,000-\$500,000

Program Total: \$3.5m-\$5m

Match Required: 50%

Deadline: Letter of Intent due May 17 (2023)

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://lchip.org/index.php/for-applicants/general-overview-schedule-eligibility-and-application-process>

Natural Resource Conservation Self-Assessment:

<https://lchip.org/images/Natural%20Resource%20Acquisition%20Grant%20Eligibility%20Self-Assessment%20Checklist.pdf>

“Since 2001, LCHIP has proudly worked with community groups across New Hampshire to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. LCHIP offers financial assistance grants to the following program areas:...Natural Resource Acquisition Grants support the permanent protection of ecologically significant lands through acquisition of property or easement interests” (LCHIP website).

Land Conservation Grant Program (Merrimack Conservation Partnership)

Keywords: Conservation, Easements

Max Request: Varies

Program Total: \$75,000 (2023)

Match Required: Unknown

Deadline: September 15th, 2023

Area: Merrimack River Watershed

Website: <https://merrimackconservationpartnership.org/grants/>

“...funds transaction-related expenses on land conservation projects in the lower Merrimack Valley watershed of southern New Hampshire and northern Massachusetts. The program underwrites transaction costs—appraisals, surveys, title research, staff time, etc.—on conservation transactions that protect land identified as a priority in the Merrimack Valley Regional Conservation Plan (2014)” (MCP website).

Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant (NH State Parks)

Keywords: Conservation, Easements, Recreation, Water, Forests

Max Request: \$50,000-\$500,000

Program Total: Varies, but usually around \$4m-\$5m

Match Required: 50%

Deadline: Letter of Intent due June 2nd, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nhstateparks.org/about-us/community-recreation/land-water-conservation-fund-grant>

“LWCF is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of quality public outdoor recreational resources as well as to stimulate non-federal investments in the establishment, enhancement, and stewardship of these highly valued public outdoor recreational areas. Property acquired or developed with LWCF assistance shall be retained and used for public outdoor recreation. Any property acquired or developed shall not be wholly or partly converted to other than public outdoor recreation uses without the approval of NPS pursuant to the LWCF Act (54 U.S.C. § 200305(f)(3)) and conversion requirements outlined in regulations (36 C.F.R. § 59.3)” (NHSP website).

Local Source Water Protection Grants (NH-Dept. of Environmental Services)

Keywords: Water

Max Request: \$25,000

Program Total:

Match Required: None

Deadline: November 1st (2022)

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/drinking-water>
“Since 1997, NHDES has made small grants to water suppliers, municipalities and other local organizations for the purpose of protecting drinking water sources. Protection projects funded through this program have included delineation of wellhead protection areas, inventorying potential contamination sources, development of local protection ordinances, groundwater reclassification, shoreline surveys, drinking water education and outreach activities, and controlling access to sources” (NH-DES website).

Long Island Sound Futures Fund (NFWF)

Keywords: Agriculture, Water, Nitrogen

Max Request: \$50,000-\$1.5m for implementation; \$50,000-\$500,000 for design and planning

Program Total: \$10m

Match Required: 25%

Deadline: May

Area: Connecticut River Valley (Cheshire, Sullivan, Grafton, Coos)

Website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/long-island-sound-futures-fund?activeTab=tab-1>

2023 RFP: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/lisff-2023-rfp.pdf>

“The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long Island Sound Futures Fund supports projects to fully restore the health and living resources of Long Island Sound. It operates within a partnership of federal and state agencies, foundations, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, user groups, and individuals dedicated to restoring and protecting the Sound” (NFWF website).

Notes: Only for nitrogen reduction projects in NH

National Coastal Resilience Fund (NFWF)

Keywords: Conservation, Habitat, Water

Max Request: None

Program Total: \$140m (2023)

Match Required: None required, but encouraged

Deadline: Required pre-proposal due mid-April

Area: East and coastal areas of NH (border is roughly Rt. 93, through the interlakes area, eastern White Mountains to Berlin).

Website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/national-coastal-resilience-fund>

2023 RFP: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/2023-ncrf-rfp.pdf>

“The National Coastal Resilience Fund restores, increases and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities while also enhancing habitats for fish and wildlife. Established in 2018, the National Coastal Resilience Fund invests in conservation projects that restore or expand natural features such as coastal marshes and wetlands, dune and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, forests, coastal rivers and floodplains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and other naturally occurring events on nearby communities” (NFWF website).

NH Forest Legacy Program (NH-DNCR Div. of Forests and Lands)

Keywords: Habitat, Forest, Easements

Max Request:

Program Total:

Match Required:

Deadline:

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/land-conservation/nh-forest-legacy-program.htm>

“To help maintain the integrity and traditional uses of private forest lands, the Forest Legacy Program promotes the use of conservation easements, legally binding agreements transferring a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another. Participation in the program is entirely voluntary” (Div. of Forest and Lands website).

Northeast Forest and Rivers Fund (NFWF)

Keywords: Habitat, Water

Max Request: \$50,000-\$500,000 for design and planning

Program Total: \$2m (2023)

Match Required: 50%

Deadline: July 13th, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/new-england-forests-and-rivers-fund?activeTab=tab-2>

2022 RFP: <https://www.nfwf.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/nefrf-2022-rfp.pdf>

“The New England Forests and Rivers Fund is dedicated to restoring and sustaining healthy forests and rivers that provide habitat for diverse native bird and freshwater fish populations in New England. The program annually awards competitive grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 each” (NFWF website).

Northern Border Regional Commission

Keywords: Habitat, Water

Max Request: \$500,000 for non-infrastructure projects, and \$1m for infrastructure projects.

Program Total: \$40m

Match Required: Unknown

Deadline: Letter of Intent due on April

Area: Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan

Website: <https://nbrc.gov/content/Catalyst>

2023 Overview:

<https://nbrc.gov/userfiles/files/'23%20Catalyst%20Program/NBRC%20Catalyst%20Program%20Overview.pdf>

“Program funding will be used to support non-infrastructure projects including assistance in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development. Non-infrastructure projects may also include improving basic health care, enhancing nutrition and food security, particularly on issues of equity, access and disparities, and other public services, as well as the promotion of resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space consistent with economic development goals. Infrastructure-IIJA funding will be used to support the economic revitalization of Northern Border communities within member states by investing in projects that modernize public infrastructure. With this historic investment, the Catalyst Program has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to address the region’s infrastructure needs and priorities. The infrastructure funding is a component of the core Catalyst Program and will complement the available economic development project funding” (NBRC Overview).

Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production (NRCS)

Keywords: Urban

Max Request: \$50k-\$250k for planning projects, \$75k-\$350k for implementation projects

Program Total: \$7.5m (2023)

Match Required: None

Deadline: March 27, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.usda.gov/topics/urban/grants#resources>

2023 Information: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=345615>

“UAIP grants support projects designed to improve access to local foods in areas where access to fresh, healthy food is limited or unavailable through urban and/or innovative agricultural practices, including, but not limited to, community gardens, urban farms, rooftop farms, urban agroforest, food forests, orchards, outdoor vertical production, green walls, indoor farms, greenhouses, high-tech vertical technology farms, and hydroponic, aeroponic, and aquaponic farm facilities” (NRCS).

Outreach and Technical Assistance Grants (NACD)

Keywords: Outreach, Technical Assistance

Max Request:

Program Total: \$15m (2023)

Match Required: 20%

Deadline: August 6th, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nacdnet.org/technical-assistance-grants/2023-technical-assistance-grants/>

2023 Information: <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/TA2023-RFA.pdf>

“Effective and equitable outreach, conservation education, technical assistance, and land stewardship have never been more important. Through historic federal investments such as the Inflation Reduction Act, NRCS will invest over \$20 billion in working lands conservation over five years. In order to achieve its climate and conservation goals, NRCS must enroll new and

underserved producers into its conservation programs. Conservation Districts, their respective state/territory associations and agencies, Resource Conservation & Development Councils, and Tribal organizations help provide the outreach, education, mentoring and technical assistance that helps farmers, ranchers, and forest stewards make informed decisions on their lands to enhance its sustainability. NACD and NRCS share the goals of impacting individual producers and communities, as well as equitably increasing civic engagement to strengthen the locally led conservation delivery system.” NACD website

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (NRCS)

Keywords: Conservation

Max Request:

Program Total: \$197m awarded (2022)

Match Required: 50%

Deadline: March

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/rcpp-regional-conservation-partnership-program>

“By leveraging collective resources and collaborating on common goals, RCPP demonstrates the power of public-private partnerships in delivering results for agriculture and conservation. RCPP projects fall under two different categories: **RCPP Classic** and **RCPP Grants**. RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS contracts and easements with producers, landowners and communities, in collaboration with project partners. Through RCPP Grants, the lead partner must work directly with agricultural producers to support the development of new conservation structures and approaches that would not otherwise be available under RCPP Classic” (NRCS website).

SCC Conservation Grant Program (NH State Conservation Committee)

Keywords: Agriculture, BMPs, Conservation, Easements, Planning, Soil, Water, Wildlife

Max Request: \$30,000

Program Total: Varies, but around \$500,000 (2023)

Match Required: None, but strongly encouraged

Deadline: September 15th, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/scc/grant-program.htm>

“The Conservation Grant Program's six focus areas include:

- Water Quality and Quantity: Restore, enhance, maintain or protect.
- Wildlife Habitat: Create, restore, enhance, manage or protect.
- Soil Conservation and Flooding: Reduce or prevent erosion or improve soils.
- Best Management Practices: Plan and implement for agriculture, storm or forestry.
- Conservation Planning: Accomplish a conservation project or outcome that includes a public involvement component.
- Land Conservation: Permanent land protection through conservation easement or fee acquisition and/or associated transaction and stewardship costs.” (SCC Website)

Source Water Protection Grant Program (NH-DES)

Keywords: Easements, Water

Max Request: \$500,000

Program Total: Unknown

Match Required: 50%

Deadline: Eligibility Application due late June

Area: Statewide, but must be within designated “hydrologic areas of concern” (see website)

Website: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-dwg-trust/?page_id=98

“The DWGTF Source Water Protection (SWP) Grant Program offers funding to permanently conserve our water supply lands through land acquisition and conservation easements. Grants cover up to 50% of eligible project costs with a maximum grant award of \$500,000. Eligible project costs are pro-rated to the percent of eligible source water lands that overlap the project property” (NH-DES website).

Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (NH Charitable Foundation)

Keywords: Water, Riparian, Easements

Max Request: Varies

Program Total: Unknown

Match Required:

Deadline: Concept paper due early December

Area: Connecticut River Valley

Website: <https://www.nhcf.org/how-can-we-help-you/apply-for-a-grant/upper-connecticut-river-mitigation-and-enhancement-fund/>

“The Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund supports restoration, protection, and enhancement of the river, wetlands, and shore lands within the Connecticut River watershed upstream of the confluence of the White River and the Connecticut River at White River Junction, VT and West Lebanon, NH. This fund was created as part of the settlement agreement between the parties involved in the federal process to award a new operating license for three hydroelectric dams on the Connecticut River at Fifteen Mile Falls near Littleton, NH and Ryegate, VT” (NHCF website).

Urban and Community Conservation Grants (National Association of Conservation Districts)

Keywords: Urban, Agriculture, Community

Max Request: \$10,000 for planning, \$60,000 for implementation

Program Total: \$1.35m

Match Required: 25% non-federal

Deadline: March 13th, 2023

Area: Statewide

Website: <https://www.nacdnet.org/about-nacd/what-we-do/urban-and-community/>

2023 RFP: <https://www.nacdnet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/UAC-FY2023-Request-For-Proposals-1.pdf>

“The NACD Urban and Community Conservation (UAC) Grant Initiative is designed to enhance districts’ urban agriculture conservation technical assistance activities in developed and developing areas of both urban and rural communities. Since 2016, NACD and NRCS have awarded \$6.5 million to conservation districts for 153 different projects. Through these grants, conservation districts increased their capacity related to urban technical assistance and small-

scale conservation, while addressing community needs in both rural and urban contexts. Grantees have successfully partnered with a multitude of organizations to support community farming and gardening programs, expanded outreach capacities to current and underrepresented clients, planned operations to extend growing seasons using hoop houses and other practices, remediated poor-yielding agricultural sites, and contributed to many other natural resource conservation efforts” (NACD website).

Wellborn Ecology Fund- School-based Project Grants (NH Charitable Foundation)

Keywords: Schools, Environmental Education

Max Request: \$5000

Program Total: Unknown

Match Required:

Deadline: Rolling but by December annually

Area: Western Sullivan and Grafton counties

Website: <https://www.nhcf.org/how-can-we-help-you/apply-for-a-grant/wellborn/>

“The Wellborn Ecology Fund is dedicated to using “the power of place” to increase environmental and ecological science knowledge in the Upper Valley. Since 2013, the Foundation has been focusing Wellborn resources to increase access to place-based ecology education for children and youth, with particular emphasis on K-12 and early childhood education centers in underserved communities” (NHCF website).