

## Funding Sources for Land Conservation

Center for Land Conservation Assistance / Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
54 Portsmouth St., Concord NH 03301  
224-9945

[www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org)  
[www.clca.forestsociety.org](http://www.clca.forestsociety.org)

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### Part I. Grant sources for purchasing conservation land and interests in land

This list includes the federal, state, local, and private sources of funds that are most commonly used in NH to purchase interests in real estate for conservation. Review the funding source's web link for up-to-date information about availability, eligibility, match requirements, grant cycles, and priorities, or contact the organization directly.

The funding sources are presented in two list formats, the first list sorted by type of land or resource (forest land, agricultural land, etc.), and the second list sorted by type of funding source (federal, state, private, other). Note that some, but not all, funding sources are listed in more than one category.

#### 1. Funding sources sorted by type of land or resource

- a. Open space conservation - general
  - i. NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).  
Contact: Executive Director Deborah Turcott, 603-224-4113.  
[www.lchip.org](http://www.lchip.org).
  - ii. Land and Water Conservation Fund. Contact: Division of Parks and Recreation, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, 603-271-3556. Available to state and local municipalities as a source of funding for local parks and recreation programs  
<http://www.nhparks.state.nh.us/community-programs/land-and-water-conservation-fund/>
  - iii. NH Dept. of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Program.  
Contact: your regional planning commission (applications are obtained from and screened by the Regional Planning Commissions) or NHDOT TE/CMAQ Coordinator, 603-271-2107.  
<http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/municipalhighways/tecmaq/index.htm>
  - iv. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Contact: Northeast Regional Office at 202-857-0166. See  
<http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Grants>
- b. Coastal land
  - i. NH Coastal Program Competitive Grants. NH Department of Environmental Services Watershed Management Bureau. Contact seacoast office, 603-431-9366.  
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/coastal/grants/index.htm>
  - ii. Gulf of Maine Council. Contact Michele Tremblay, Council Coordinator, 603-796-2615, or Eric Williams, New Hampshire Department of

Environmental Service, 603-271-2358.

<http://www.gulfofmaine.org/council/opportunities/>

- iii. Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Contact: Elaine Vaudreuil, NOAA's Ocean Service, 301-713-3155 ext. 103.

<http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/welcome.html>.

c. Forest land

- i. Forest Legacy Program. Contact: Susan Francher, NH Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands, 603-271-3456. <http://na.fs.fed.us/legacy/index.shtm>
- ii. National Forests Foundation. Contact Bruce A. Jackson, Partnership & Rural Development Coordinator, White Mountain National Forest, 603-528-9510. <http://www.natlforests.org/> or [www.nationalforests.org](http://www.nationalforests.org) Conservation Programs Associate, 406-542-2805 or Ken Crevier, Realty Specialist/Lands Program Mgr. White Mtn. National Forest 719 North Main St. Laconia, NH 03246 528-9535 [kcrevier@fs.fed.us](mailto:kcrevier@fs.fed.us)

d. Agricultural land

- i. Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Contact: US Natural Resources Conservation Service, 603-868-7581, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp/>
- ii. Grassland Reserve Program. Contact: Natural Resources Conservation Service Program Specialist: 603-868-7581. <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/GRP/>

e. Wildlife Habitat and Ecologically important land

- i. Sweet Water Trust. Contact: <http://www.sweetwatertrust.org/>
- ii. Wildlife Heritage Foundation of New Hampshire provides funds for NH Fish and Game projects. Contact: Chuck Miner at 603-271-3511 <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/foundation>.
- iii. Endangered Species Fund is a federal fund available to States for the conservation of T & E species. Contact: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/ESA/sec6.html>.
- iv. The Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund establishes a matching grants program to fund projects that promote the conservation of these birds. <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm>
- v. Open Space Institute Fund provides grants for the purchase of conservation easements and fee interest in land and grants for efforts that increase support and funding for wildlife habitat protection. [http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Places\\_NewEngland\\_More#sum](http://www.osiny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Places_NewEngland_More#sum)

f. Wetlands, waterfowl, fisheries habitat

- i. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act provides matching grants to organizations and individuals who have developed partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds and other wildlife. Administered through the federal Fish and Wildlife Service. Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Coordinator Andrew Milliken at email: [andrew\\_milliken@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_milliken@fws.gov). For more info <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/index.shtm> and <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/USstandgrants.html>
- ii. N.H. Fish and Game Department has a Small Grants Program to help landowners with a minimum of 25 acres restore or enhance habitat for wildlife. For more information, contact the Wildlife Division at (603) 271-2461, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife.htm> For the

Fisheries Habitat Conservation Program contact [John Magee](mailto:John.Magee@wildlife.nh.gov)  
Fish Habitat Biologist [john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov)

- iii. Wetlands mitigation funds. (funds which permitting authorities (NH Dept. of Environmental Services, US Army Corps of Engineers) may require developers to provide for land conservation as mitigation for loss of wetland values resulting from proposed development) Contact municipal planning officials or the developer for details about specific projects.
  - iv. NH Department of Environmental Services established the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund to compensate for loss of wetlands. Contact: Lori Sommer at (603) 271-4059 or [lori.sommer@des.nh.gov](mailto:lori.sommer@des.nh.gov)  
<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/wet/documents/wb-17.pdf>
  - v. Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. Grants available for projects protecting, restoring or enhancing river shore lands or wetlands. Contact Kevin Peterson at the NH Charitable Foundation, Upper Valley Region, at (603) 653-0387 or [kp@nhcf.org](mailto:kp@nhcf.org).
  - vi. Ducks Unlimited. Contact: [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org). State contact: Ed Robinson, NH Fish & Game Department, 603-271-2462.
  - vii. Trout Unlimited Contact: the Vice President for Eastern Conservation Programs, Elizabeth Maclin: [emaclin@tu.org](mailto:emaclin@tu.org). For local projects involving a component of stream habitat restoration or improvement, there is the Embrace-A-Stream grant program that is available through state councils and local chapters of TU. The TU council or chapter must be the applicant for the funds. Go to <http://www.tu.org/site/c.kkLRJ7MSKtH/b.3198137/k.9DD6/EmbraceAStream.htm> for more information about the EAS program.
  - viii. Watershed Action Grants. The Conservation Fund, Contact: Nancy Bell, Vermont Representative <http://www.conservationfund.org/>
- g. Water supply land
- i. NH Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program. Contact: Sarah Pillsbury, 603-271-1168.  
[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land\\_acquisition/index.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land_acquisition/index.htm)
- h. Scenic land
- i. NH Dept. of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Program. Contact: your regional planning commission (applications are obtained from and screened by the Regional Planning Commissions) or NHDOT TE/CMAQ Coordinator at 603-271-2107.  
<http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/municipalhighways/tecmaq/index.htm>
  - ii. National Scenic Byways Program. Contact: Bill Watson at NH DOT at 271-3344. <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>;
  - iii. Recreation land NH Recreational Trails Program. Contact: Bill Carpenter, N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development, <http://www.nhtrails.org/grants-and-programs/recreational-trails-program/>  
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recretrails> 271-3456  
[bcarpenter@dred.state.nh.us](mailto:bcarpenter@dred.state.nh.us)
  - iv. NH Dept. of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Program. Contact: your regional planning commission (applications are obtained from and screened by the Regional Planning Commissions) or NHDOT TE/CMAQ Coordinator at 603-271-2107.  
<http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/municipalhighways/tecmaq/index.htm>

- v. The Access Fund, Contact: Robert Parish, Regional Coordinator  
603.978.5928 <http://www.accessfund.org/index.php>
- i. Additions to existing federally protected lands
  - i. Lamprey River corridor, Lamprey River Advisory Committee. Contact:  
[http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/lamprey\\_pwsr\\_sub.html](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/lamprey_pwsr_sub.html)
  - ii. White Mountain National Forest, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/white/>
  - iii. Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge,  
<http://northeast.fws.gov/nh/lku.htm>
  - iv. Silvio O Conte National Wildlife Refuge, [www.fws.gov/r5soc](http://www.fws.gov/r5soc)
  - v. Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve,  
<http://www.greatbay.org/>
  - vi. Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Contact Dea Brickner Wood at  
Great Bay Partnership <http://www.greatbaypartnership.org/contact.html>
- j. Additions to existed state protected lands
  - i. State Parks. Contact: NH Division of Parks and Recreation,  
603-271-3556, <http://www.nhstateparks.org/>
  - ii. State Forests. Contact: NH Division of Forests and Lands,  
603-271-2214, <http://www.nhdf.org/>
  - iii. State Wildlife Management Areas. Contact: NH Fish and Game  
Department, <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/index.htm>
  - iv. State Historic Sites. Contact: NH Division of Historical Resources  
<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/>
- k. Geographic Restricted Funds
  - i. Lamprey River corridor, Lamprey River Advisory Committee. See  
website: [http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/lamprey\\_pwsr\\_sub.html](http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/lamprey_pwsr_sub.html)
  - ii. Connecticut River Join Commissions of NH and VT. See Partnership  
Program grants at <http://www.crjc.org/partnership.htm>
  - iii. White Mountain National Forest, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/white/>
  - iv. Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation  
See website for contact: <http://www.russellfound.org/>
  - v. NH Charitable Foundation Regional Funds contact regional offices at  
<http://www.nhcf.org/page17075.cfm>

## 2. Funding sources sorted by type of source

- a. Public sources
  - i. State and Federal sources
    - 1. Forest Legacy Program. NH Dept. of Resources and Economic  
Development, Division of Forests and Lands, 603-271-3456.  
<http://na.fs.fed.us/legacy/index.shtm>
    - 2. Land and Water Conservation Fund. Contact: Office of  
Recreation Services, Division of Parks and Recreation, NH Dept.  
of Resources and Economic Development, 603-271-3556.  
<http://www.nps.gov/phso/sp/lwcf.htm>
    - 3. Farm and Ranch Protection Program. Natural Resources  
Conservation Service, 603-868-7581.  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>
    - 4. North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

5. Contact Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Coordinator Andrew Milliken at email: [andrew\\_milliken@fws.gov](mailto:andrew_milliken@fws.gov).  
<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/USstandgrants.html>
6. National Scenic Byways Program. Contact: Bill Watson at NH DOT at 271-3344. <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>;
7. NH Land and Community Heritage Program. Contact: Deborah Turcott, Executive Director, 603-224-4113. [www.lchip.org](http://www.lchip.org).
8. NH Dept. of Transportation, Transportation Enhancement Program. Contact: your regional planning commission or NHDOT TE/CMAQ Coordinator at 603-271-2107.  
<http://webster.state.nh.us/dot/municipalhighways/tecmag/index.htm>
9. NH Coastal Program Competitive Grants. NH Department of Environmental Services Watershed Management Bureau. Contact David Murphy, seacoast office, 603-431-9366.
10. NH Fish & Game Dept. For more information, contact the Wildlife Division at (603) 271-2461,  
<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife.htm>  
For the Fisheries Habitat Conservation Program contact John Magee Fish Habitat Biologist [john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:john.a.magee@wildlife.nh.gov)  
<http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/XVIII/214/214-1-g.htm>  
Also see <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/index.htm>
11. NH Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program (unfounded as of late 2004). Contact: Sarah Pillsbury, 603-271-1168.  
[http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land\\_acqui/index.htm](http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/land_acqui/index.htm)
12. NH Recreational Trails Program. Contact: Chris Gamache, program coordinator, N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Trails, 603-271-3254. <http://www.nhtrails.org/grants-and-programs/recreational-trails-program/>

ii. Local

See *Saving Special Places: Community Funding for Land Conservation*, by Brian Hart and Dorothy Tripp Taylor, December 2002. Available in print from Center for Land Conservation Assistance (a program of the Forest Society) and downloadable off the web at [www.forestsociety.org](http://www.forestsociety.org). Includes information on Land Use Change Tax, conservation funds, general fund appropriations, capital reserve funds, bonding, and other municipal sources.

b. Private sources

- i. NH Charitable Foundation. (NHCF has six regional divisions located around the state and manages multiple funds for conservation and other charitable activities). Contact your regional office for further information or main office at 37 Pleasant St., Concord NH 03301, 603-225-6641.  
<http://www.nhcf.org>
- ii. Ducks Unlimited. Contact: [www.ducks.org](http://www.ducks.org) State contact: Ed Robinson, NH Fish & Game Department, 603-271-2462.
- iii. Trout Unlimited. Contact: [www.tu.org](http://www.tu.org) (contact nearest local chapter)
- iv. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Contact: Northeast Regional Office at 202-857-0166.
- v. Sweet Water Trust. Contact: <http://www.sweetwatertrust.org/>

- vi. See *The Foundation Resource Collection* available at the Concord Public Library (603-225-8676) and the Plymouth State College Library (603-535-2258).
- vii. See *The Directory of Charitable Funds in New Hampshire* at the NH Dept. of Justice, Division of Charities 603-271-3591.  
<http://www.doj.nh.gov/publications/directory-main.html>

## **Part II: Funding sources for land conservation transaction costs**

These sources can assist land trusts, municipalities, public agencies, and landowners in paying for survey, appraisal, legal fees and certain other costs of land conservation transactions.

1. Monadnock Region Land Protection Assistance Fund. Contact: Tom Howe, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 603-224-9945.
2. Pequawket Foundation Land Protection Assistance Fund (for Mt. Washington Valley area). Contact: Tom Howe, Society for the Protection of NH Forests, 603-224-9945.
3. Monadnock Community Foundation Conservation Assistance Fund. Contact:  
<http://www.nhcf.org/page17079.cfm>
4. NH Charitable Foundation Regional Divisions. Contact: 225-6641.  
<http://www.nhcf.org/page17075.cfm>
5. See also Center for Land Conservation Assistance for information on other sources as may be available from time to time. Contact: [clca@forestsociety.org](mailto:clca@forestsociety.org).

## **Part III: Funding sources for land conservation planning**

These sources may help land trusts, municipalities, and other conservation groups with costs of mapping, planning, community outreach, and other activities involved in developing land conservation strategies.

1. New Hampshire Estuaries Project. (for communities in the NHEP area) Contact:  
<http://www.state.nh.us/nhep/programs/grant-programs.htm>
2. New England Grassroots Environment Fund supports community-based environmental initiatives. Contact 802-223-4622; [www.grassrootsfund.org](http://www.grassrootsfund.org).
3. NH Charitable Foundation Regional Divisions. Contact: 603-225-6641.  
<http://www.nhcf.org>
4. NH Conservation License Plate Program. See  
[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Moose\\_plates/moose\\_plates.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Moose_plates/moose_plates.htm)

## **Part IV: Funding sources for land stewardship**

These sources may help land trusts, municipalities, public agencies, and private landowners pay for certain management costs on conserved land. These are only a few of the most common sources; contact your county Cooperative Extension Office or Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional information.

1. NH Fish and Game Small Grants Program. Contact Charlie Bridges, 603-271-2461. See <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/index.htm>



2. Forest Land Enhancement Program (FLEP). Contact your County Forester for further information. <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/programs/loa/flep.shtml>
3. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) See these and other cost-sharing programs for land management and restoration at <http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

## **Part V: Additional information, contacts and funding source lists**

1. Organizations that act as partners in land conservation projects
  - a. Trust for Public Land. This non-profit organization works with a variety of funding sources and partners to protect land. Contact: Julie Iffland at the Northern New England Field office at 802-223-1373 or Carol Hall at the NH office at 603-224-0103. [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).
  - b. Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership. This is a multi-organization group that works with a variety of funding sources to protect ecologically sensitive lands around Great Bay. Contact: Dea Brickner-Wood, coordinator at 603-868-6112 or The Nature Conservancy at 603-224-5853.  
National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.  
Rivers & Trails staff work with community groups and local and State governments to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. NH contact: Lelia Mellen 802-457-3368 x 14  
[Lelia\\_Mellen@nps.gov](mailto:Lelia_Mellen@nps.gov)
2. Further information and lists of funding sources
  - c. NH Natural Resource Conservation Service. Programs for Riparian Conservation (list of grant sources).  
<http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov/features/Buffers/riparianquickguide.html>.
  - d. Northern Forest Center. Catalog of Federal Funding for the Northern Forest.  
<http://www.northernforest.org/>
  - e. Partnership for Effective Nonprofits. Focused on southeastern NH and southern ME. Source for information about finding funding.  
<http://www.partnershipforeffectivenonprofits.org/>
  - f. US Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA maintains a Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection at the EPA website. This is a searchable database of financial assistance sources available to fund a variety of watershed protection projects. See <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding.html>.
  - g. US Fish and Wildlife Service. The US Fish and Wildlife Service administers a variety of natural resource assistance grants to governmental, public, and private organizations including grants that may be applied to habitat protection. See further information at <http://grants.fws.gov/>
  - h. US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The US NOAA administers the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), which provides matching grants to states for land acquisition, education, facilities development and research. See <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/welcome.html> and [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding\\_opportunities/funding.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/funding_opportunities/funding.html)

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