

NHACC February 2021 Enews

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



State of the Birds

Birds are a critical component of NH's ecology and they are often one of the first species to decline under environmental impacts. By tracking species data we can identify problems and take measures to protect our birds here in NH. Many of NH's bird species have been threatened by habitat loss, predation, pesticides, and human disturbance, causing species decline and concern for their survival. NH Audubon produced "*The State of New Hampshire's Birds: A Conservation Guide*" to help identify trends and recommend actions to slow these declines. It includes information on how our state's birds are doing, threats to their populations, and conservation strategies for each group of birds. To download this report and learn more go to the [NH Audubon's Website](#).

Keep an eye on your mailbox; NH Audubon is sending out a copy of this report to NH's Conservation Commissions soon.



Photo by Pamela Hunt

Grants

Grants for Planting Trees with Children

If your commission would like to partner with local schools and improve habitat on conservation land, grants are available to schools and non-profits from the Arbola Foundation. It's mission is to engage 10 million children to plant one million trees. Check out the Arbola Foundation [website for more information](#).

The Access Fund's Climbing Conservation Grants

This grant program supports projects that preserve or enhance climbing opportunities and conserve the climbing environment throughout the United States. The focus is on projects that demonstrate local climber support, collaboration with land managers, and a commitment to long-term change. Requests are accepted from local climbing groups, governmental agencies, conservation organizations, and land trusts, as well as individuals who wish to sponsor a local project. The application deadlines are March 1 and August 1, annually. Visit the [Access Fund's website](#) to review the grant guidelines and download the application form.

Federal Funding Wetland Conservation Supported

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Standard Grants Program offers matching grants to support public-private partnerships carrying out projects that further the goals of the Act. Projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, enhancement, or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds. Applications are due February 26 and July 9, 2021. For more information go to [Fish and Wildlife Service website](#).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment

The Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) requests proposals from municipalities and partnering organizations within the Piscataqua Region watershed for projects resulting in achievement or significant progress toward achievement of one or more of the proposed actions for their community identified in the 2020 Piscataqua Region Environmental Planning Assessment (PREPA) or an action related to climate vulnerability, adaptation, and/or preparedness. **Eligible applicants may submit a proposal for up to \$10,000 of PREP funds.** A total of \$45,000 is available for projects for 2021-2022. For more information go to [PREPA](#).

Training & Education Opportunities

Free Webinar: Available Funding for Outdoor Recreation Projects

February 23rd, from 5pm - 7pm

Do you have an outdoor recreation project in mind that you would like to see in your community? Join a free webinar and learn about federal funding opportunities that are available to help your outdoor recreation project. Join us to learn how to apply for both the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Register [Here](#).

State Funding for Conservation

NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)

The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program is an independent state authority that makes matching grants to NH communities and non-profits to conserve and preserve New Hampshire's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. Through this investment program, every \$1 in resources brings back more than four times local, private, federal funds, and helps to secure NH's greatest business advantage: The quality of life and traditional values of our state. [Learn more.](#)

Source Water Protection Grants

The Department of Environmental Services administers these grants, whose purpose is to provide funds to municipal or water suppliers to acquire land to protect water supplies. The land must be within a source water protection area as shown on GRANIT's water supply coverage layer. DES website has more information on [Drinking Water-Related Grants](#).

NH DES Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) fund

The Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program aims to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in New Hampshire through protection, enhancement and restoration of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from development and other impacts. When wetland functions and values will be lost due to development, funds may be placed into the ARM fund. Fees collected by ARM are pooled within the same major watershed and then distributed as competitive grants so that the money collected is going back to the areas affected by the project. For more information go to the [DES website](#).

Drinking-Water and Groundwater Trust Fund

This Fund, established under RSA 485-F, is intended to provide for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the drinking water and groundwater resources of the state. In establishing the Fund, the legislature recognized the need to invest in the State's drinking water infrastructure requires a comprehensive strategy designed to ensure the continued availability of safe drinking water for all New Hampshire citizens. Eligible projects for funding include the permanent protection of undeveloped water supply land, including wellhead protection areas, hydrologic areas of concern, and land that is likely to benefit future public water supply sources. For more information go to the [Drinking and Ground Water Trust Fund website](#)

Mooseplate Grants

The State Conservation Committee's Conservation Grant Program supports and promotes programs and partnerships that protect, restore and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. The Conservation Grant Program's six focus areas include restoring water quality, creating or restoring wildlife habitat, soil conservation, best management practices for agriculture, stormwater or forestry, conservation planning, and land conservation projects. For more information go to the [NH Dept. of Agriculture website](#).

Resources & Links

UNH is looking for participants for a research project

Researchers from the University of New Hampshire's Department of Education are

seeking research participants for a study about environmental stewardship and natural resources management throughout New Hampshire. This research will focus on adults (18 years old or older) who engage with nature through property management, involvement in local organizations/government, or outdoor recreation. Potential participants should have taken part in any of these previously mentioned activities in New Hampshire for at least one year. This research is intended to provide benefit for adult environmental education programming and stewardship efforts throughout the state. If you are interested in participating, you should contact Ian Hanley at ipj2@wildcats.unh.edu.

Visit our Website

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