

Watershed Protection Grant:

\$1000 in FUNDS
PLUS
Classroom Support and curricula

TAKING CARE OF **OUR LAKE**

A lake is a magnificent water resource. The quality of its water is a reflection of what happens on the land that surrounds it. Rain and melting snow flow across fields, towns and roads, picking up pollutants along the way...

All together a typical polluted run-off adds up to **BIG PROBLEMS**

WE CAN ALL HELP:

Home Owners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install native plant buffer strips• Use lower phosphate fertilizers• Minimize pesticides• No leaf-burning in ditches• Clean up after pets	Lake Users <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Run boat engines efficiently• Observe no/low wake zones• Dispose of trash properly• Refuel away from water	Land Owners <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Control soil erosion from fields• Keep livestock out of streams• Control manure runoff• Carefully manage nutrients and pesticides
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To protect the lake we must protect the "watershed," the land that drains or sheds its water into the lake.

The Watershed Project provides funds for improving agricultural practices, stabilizing shorelines and educational activities. Each barnyard, home, street, field or boat engine may produce only a little polluted runoff, but together they all add up to a big problem for our waters.

Learning Results Guiding Principle – ***A RESPONSIBLE AND INVOLVED CITIZEN***

If you need assistance in developing your project, please contact Christine Smith at 287-7734 or christine.p.smith@maine.gov or Barb Welch at 287-7682 or barb.welch@maine.gov.

Watershed Protection Grant
\$1000 for support of a service learning project
Classroom presentations and field trip assistance by DEP staff
Curriculum materials and equipment available

Who Can Apply: Teachers or Advisors of grades 6 through 12.

How To Apply: Complete the enclosed application and return to:
Christine Smith
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

Application Deadline: Completed applications *must be post marked no later than November 1, 2007*. An initial classroom visit is required before grant can be awarded. Notification of a grant award will be made by Winter Break. Projects must be completed by the end of June 2008 except for watering and care of planted areas.

Guidelines

- **Action Project-** The activity must restore or protect a local *freshwater* resource to be named in the application. Projects must involve lake or stream watersheds; no purely coastal applications can be funded. The focus of this program is to protect water quality of a lake or stream and to educate the public about the relationship between land use and water quality. Projects should prevent soil erosion, reduce polluted stormwater or moderate temperature (streams only). A typical project would begin with a DEP person visiting the classroom to review project ideas and brainstorm the best ways to protect the water resource. With assistance from Maine DEP students will learn about polluted stormwater runoff and the chosen habitat. The culminating service learning project can be the planting of a vegetated buffer, or repairing eroded shorelines, ditches, or roads. See our web site for previous grant projects-
<http://www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/docgrant/watershed.htm>
- **Public Education-** Students will educate the public about the knowledge gained through their watershed protection project and post a sign at the project site. Some examples of education are: publishing articles by students in local newspapers, hosting a public event at the site upon completion, conducting a workshop to teach others in the community or lake association, and making a presentation to the conservation commission or other municipal group.
- **Funding-** The applicant may ask for a maximum of \$1000. Preference will be given to schools who involve community members and in-kind matches of plants or other materials. Cost sharing with landowner is highly encouraged if project is on private land. Funds can be used for materials to restore or improve the site, to transport students to the site, for a sign at the site and for expendables related to public education.

Maine Department Of Environmental Protection
Watershed Protection Grant

Application Cover Page

Project Title: _____

Applicant: School: _____

Address: _____

Number of students _____ Grade(s) of students _____

Contact Teacher: _____

Telephone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Project Waterbody or Watershed (include town): _____

Type of restoration project (circle one):

Plant a buffer repair an eroded area other (please describe):

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Other community groups who will participate or donate items: _____

Watershed Protection Grant

Teacher name:

School:

Application Questions

In an effort to make this application process easy and to allow the students to generate a project of their own, please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Be sure to ask your students for input. We do not expect you to be familiar with the details of restoration or environmental protection. If your application meets our guidelines, we will schedule an appointment to meet with your class before Christmas vacation to review possible sites and to advise your class how to develop a realistic project. Once we can agree upon a project and initial budget, then we will award the grant.

1) What is the educational goal of your proposed project? (3 sentences or less)

2) What is the environmental protection goal of your proposed project? If possible describe the type of restoration, erosion control or stream shading project you intend to complete? (3 sentences or less)

3) Please describe your experience in the past to implement service learning and/or watershed education programs.