

# Land for Maine's Future

## Round 11


### 2023 Call for Proposals



## Land for Maine's Future Program

LMF is a public funding program established in 1987 to maintain the quality and availability of natural areas for recreation, hunting and fishing, conservation, wildlife habitat, vital ecologic functions and scenic beauty.

- Funding Categories: Conservation & Recreation (C&R), Water Access, Farmland, Working Waterfront
- Impact: >600,000 ac. with >325,000 ac. in CE available for public use.
- Bond funds (1987, 1999, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011)
- Budget Appropriations (1998, 2021)
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## Important Details Conservation & Recreation proposals **2021 Budget Allocation - \$40 Million!!**

### Round 11-A – All Conservation & Recreation projects

- **January 13, 2023 - Inquiry Forms due** no later than 5:00 p.m.
- **March 24, 2023 – Proposals due** no later than 5:00 p.m.
- **May 16 & 18, 2023 – Applicant presentations & Board selects finalists**

### Round 11-B Working Forest projects only

- **May 19, 2023 – Inquiry Forms due** no later than 5:00 p.m.
- **August 4, 2023 – Proposals due** no later than 5:00 p.m.
- **September 26, 2023 – Applicant presentations & Board selects finalists**

## Important Details Conservation & Recreation proposals

- LMF will pay up to 50% of appraised value (fee and easement) – no project costs;
- **Submit you Inquiry Form (Appendix A) early**
- Pre-acquired property/match may be eligible if acquired within last 2 years – check with DSA and LMF staff for eligibility;
- Public access, hunting, trapping and fishing (when applicable) are required
- LMF may contribute up to 5% of appraised to access improvements;
- ❖ LMF may contribute up to 5% of appraised value to stewardship endowment, to be matched by applicant;

LMF and DSA staff will use information submitted in the expanded Inquiry Form to evaluate project eligibility and appropriate DSA sponsorship.

[illegible]

# Inquiry Form Changes – NEW!!

**INQUIRY FORMS ACCEPTED BETWEEN DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup> and JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

- **Submit the Project Inquiry Form as early as possible.**
- **Review the Board Policies and Guidelines and Threshold Criteria.** You can read more about the DSA land conservation priorities in Appendix B.
- **Do not contact the Designated State Agencies(DSA) prior to submission.** LMF and DSA will evaluate for consistency with agency priorities and LMF requirements. You may indicate your DSA preference, but final decisions will be made by the DSA.
- **Submit a Pre-Acquisition Review from the Maine Natural Areas Program of all project parcels with your Inquiry Form.**
- **Applicants will be notified whether a project has been selected for sponsorship** no later than two weeks after the Project Inquiry submission deadlines. In the event that your project is not selected to submit a full proposal, you will receive feedback from the committee outlining their decision.
- **DSA may require a site visit and/or proposal review.**

# Scoring Changes

**Workbook incorporates recommendations made by Board appointed Scoring Committee and workgroups, and reflects priorities identified by the Board during previous meetings.**

Scoring Subcommittee included representatives from:

- Land Trusts (2)
- Consultants/Advocates/Other Funders (3)
- State Agencies (1)
- LMF Board (3)

# Scoring Changes

	Maximum Points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Naturalness of the Land	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use	15 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proximity to Conservation Lands and/or Larger Efforts	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Need	20 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Assets	
Multiple Land Assets	30 points
<i>or</i>	
Single Exceptional Value	30 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community and Economic Impact	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Support	<u>5 points</u>
	100 points
BONUS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Undeveloped Archaeological Sites	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Water Supply	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Accessibility	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Climate Change Adaptation	10 points
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer Wintering Area(s)	<u>10 points</u>
	50 points

**Total Possible Points: 150 points**



## Proximity to Conservation Lands and/or Larger Efforts (10)

**Divides Proximity into two sections:**

### **A. Plan Implementation (0, 1, 3, 5 points)**

- Projects are awarded points if they implement one or more conservation or recreation plans.

### **B. Connectivity (0, 3, 5 points)**

- The project builds upon or connects existing conservation holdings.

## Project Need (20)

**Removes Major Land Asset and Additional Land Assets criteria and replaces with two criteria:**

### **Project Need (Max Points = 20)**

- The need to protect the property and the land assets identified in the proposal due to the relative rarity of natural or recreational resources on the property on a local, regional, or statewide level, the threat that the resources will be lost if not protected, and/or the fact that resources on the property are underrepresented on conserved lands in Maine, as substantiated by published reports, databases, or credible testimony.

# Land Assets (30)

## Land Assets (Max Points = 30)

- Applicants are asked to determine whether their project qualifies for Multiple Land Assets **OR** Single Exceptional Value.

Recreation lands	2	4	6
Water Access Lands	2	4	6
Lands Supporting Vital Ecological Functions and Values	2	4	6
Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Plants, Natural Communities, Wildlife and their habitat	2	4	6
Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Features	2	4	6
Open Space	2	4	6
Ecological Preserve	2	4	6
River or Trail System	2	4	6
Island or Undeveloped Coastline	2	4	6
Significant Mountain	2	4	6

# Community & Economic Impact (10)

**Changed from Community and Economic Benefit to Community and Economic Impact, and includes new criteria:**

- Demonstrates a positive impact on economic development through letters of support from relevant groups such as businesses, business trade organizations, legislators, and/or community partners that describe how the proposal supports the economy. (2-4)
- **Demonstrates inclusion of low income or otherwise disadvantaged communities via narrative, letters of support from relevant groups or documentation of initiatives that demonstrate involvement in the project. (2)**
- Demonstrates community health and wellness impact via narrative and letters of support from relevant groups such as community health, recreational, educational, or civic organizations that describe such impacts. (2)
- **Provides greenspace or outdoor recreational opportunities in areas where outdoor recreation may be limited and/or increases connections between conserved lands and population centers. (2)**

In this workbook, disadvantaged communities are defined as those who have experienced historical and ongoing systemic discrimination, restricted power, and underrepresentation in state policy making. This definition was borrowed from the MCC Equity Subcommittee, and per [Maine Climate Council's Equity Subcommittee's Initial Report](#), is inclusive of communities of color and indigenous communities, low income Mainers, rural and otherwise geographically isolated communities, older adults, LGBTQ+ people, differently abled populations, immigrants, seasonal workers, impacted industries, and other differently impacted communities.



# Municipal Support

**Changed from Project Structure to Municipal Support and removes easement preference.**

- The Board will give preference to projects that demonstrate municipal support. Projects in multiple municipalities are eligible for points when evidence of support is demonstrated by at least one municipality in which the project is located. The Board requests that projects in the Unorganized areas of Maine demonstrate support from County Commissioners.

# Bonus Points

## **All bonus criteria now eligible for 10 pts.**

- Public Water Supply – Criteria broadened to include more options
- Climate Change – Includes Climate Resilience (5 pts.) and Underrepresented Settings (5 pts.)
- Community Accessibility – New Criteria  
Projects that improve the connection between population centers and provide increased access to open space and outdoor recreation will receive up to 10 bonus points

## Make Sure You...

- Understand the legal access to the property and any known ROWs or encumbrances (also important for your appraisal);
- Tell us about the source of your matching funds so we can help determine if they are a good fit with LMF (MNRCP, CFP, LWCF)
- Have a clear vision of 1) what you are protecting and 2) how the property will be used and managed once protected;
- Describe any buildings on the property and intended use or disposal plans (buildings not generally allowed);
- Communicate your project timeline and expectations for closing so we can determine if LMF is a good fit;
- Read **Section IV Now that You've Been Selected**...and get in touch if you have questions;
- Describe your stewardship, management and monitoring plan and associated costs;
- Know we are happy to help you think about your project design and answer questions (before the deadline!)