# **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: <u>Conservation & Recreation (C&R)</u>, <u>Water Access</u>, 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)

# 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;

## Inquiry Form Changes – NEW!!

Changes expand the Project Inquiry Form (see Appendix A) and adjust the proposal process.

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

Land for Maine's Future Workbook Appendix A		Land for Maine's Future Workbook Appendix A		
POTENTIAL PROJECT INFORMATION:				
Lead Applicant: Project Name:		PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Flease provide an in-depth description of the property to be acquired and the overall project design		
Inquiry Contact Person: (please list full name and mailing addr Name:			bility for public acquisition, the primary conservation values the property to be protected and how that protection will be public lands.	
Mailing Address:T (Tel#)(E-Mail)	oun & State:			
Property Location: Municipality	County:			
Project Size (Total acres) with Shore				
Type of Project: Acquisition in Fee Conservat				
Potential Partners (list any other emission short will play an managing the property after acquisition)	Land for Maine's Fr PROJECT READINESS: 1. Flease explain your projected timeline to proj	uture Workbook Appendix A		
Designated State Agency (Jjou believe your project is a agency you would like to work with you may indicate it here. F	<ol> <li>Indicate whether any parcels have been par- awarded. Pre-acquisitions may be allowed but</li> </ol>	equired or will be acquired before LMF funds are are not encouraged.	the property and identify any other entity sharing	
Land Assets: (Please check all of the land catgories that op Recreation Land Water Access Land - Inland Coasta Areas of Scenic Interest and Prime Physical Featur Lands Supporting Vital Ecological of Conservation	<ol> <li>Frovide the status and expected completion title commitment, and boundary survey.</li> </ol>	dates for key due diligence including an appraisal,	roperty including any existing or needed parking or ties accessed by water.	
Rate, Threatened or Endangered Natural Commun     Copen Space     Ecological Preserve     Nivers or Trail System     Island or Underveloped Coastline	<ol> <li>If known, describe any encroachments, retai explain how these will be addressed prior to o</li> </ol>	ined tights, or encumbrances on the property and losing.	by the public and any planned development of ing recreational infrastructure will be used.	
☐ Significant Mountain Single Exceptional Value 15 as an examined rating rating rating rating rating rating rating rating rating the property and ception is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is Maine. (Note: two if you plane in such rating compliant is an interval in the property above so project)	BUDGET SUMMARY Extension of the second secon		natural resources on the property.	
46 Back to T	other infrastructure Topographic map of the property GIS Snapefile (via ennil) Maine Natural Areas Program pre-acquisiti https://www.maine.gov/def/mang/assist take up to serveral weeks to complete this re MANAF in a timely manner.	ning existing and planned trails, parking areas, and on series: <u>mose/recognition html</u> . Note that MDAP may refers policiants are seeponable for contacting mment outline/conservation plan that describes a	47 47 1 In C captures above.	
	high-level view of the easement objectives a be retained by the landowner. Mapping assistance may be available from the Mai	and how they will be accomplished and the rights to ne Natural Areas Program. Contact information		

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#### 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 <u>Appendix B</u>.
- 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

	Ν	Maximum Points
🗵 Naturalness of the Land		10 points
I Accessibility of the Land for its Intended Use		15 points
Proximity to Conservation Lands and/or Larger Efforts		10 points
I Project Need		20 points
🗵 Land Assets		
Multiple Land Assets		30 points
or		
Single Exceptional Value		30 points
Community and Economic Impact		10 points
🗵 Municipal Support		<u>5 points</u>
		100 points
BONUS		
🗵 Significant Undeveloped Archaeological Sites		10 points
☑ Public Water Supply		10 points
I Community Accessibility		10 points
Imate Change Adaptation		10 points
Deer Wintering Area(s)		10 points
		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 <u>relative rarity of natural or recreational resources</u> on the property on a local, regional, or statewide level, <u>the threat that the resources will be lost</u> if not protected, and/or the fact that <u>resources on the property are underrepresented on conserved</u> <u>lands in Maine</u>, 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 <u>OR</u>Single Exceptional Value.

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

## Community & Economic Impact (10)

## Changed from Community and Economic <u>Benefit</u> to Community and Economic <u>Impact</u>, 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 <u>Maine Climate Council's Equity Subcommittee's Initial Report</u>, 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 <u>Section IV Now that You've</u> <u>Been Selected</u>...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!)