



COASTAL COMMUNITIES GRANT PROJECTS

Stormwater Management

Town of Falmouth:

Route 1 Commercial District Stormwater Management Plan (December 2012 completion)

The Town of Falmouth, in partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, will analyze stormwater runoff from private and public properties in the study area, and develop an integrated stormwater management plan that helps improve conditions in Mussel Cove, which is currently closed for shell fishing due to pollution.

[Learn more...](#)

City of Portland:

Stormwater Outreach and Sewer Rate Changes (June 2012 completion)

The City of Portland, in partnership with the Casco Bay Estuary Project, will engage businesses, community leaders and residents in a discussion of infrastructure maintenance and improvement needs and will work to develop a funding mechanism to meet those needs. [Learn more...](#)

Bangor Area Stormwater Working Group: A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Regional Volunteer Outreach and Engagement Initiative (June 2014 completion)

BASWG will engage local citizens in volunteer outreach and education efforts designed to teach residents about stormwater pollution and personal actions that can reduce it. The project builds on prior efforts to raise interest in pollution prevention by initiating: 1) neighborhood-based storm drain stenciling programs; 2) "anytime" street and stream clean-up events; and 3) a stream bank tree-planting and stabilization project utilizing volunteers in partnership with the Penobscot County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

Stormwater Utility Workshop (completed June 2013)

SMPDC received a grant to implement four projects associated with water quality improvement recommendations from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Plan. A Stormwater Utility Workshop for the Towns of Kittery, York, South Berwick and Wells was conducted which informed key

municipal officials and other stakeholders about the potential costs associated with stormwater quality, and quantity treatment, reviewed current community approaches to funding these costs, and identified the steps necessary to implement a stormwater utility as a potential stable funding mechanism. The workshop included an overview of Regional Stormwater issues followed by work in small groups to identify local stormwater issues. All four communities elected to continue on to an additional step to assess the feasibility of implementing a stormwater utility in their community.

Water Quality

Town of Camden:

Water quality remediation for Camden Harbor and Laite Beach

(December 2012 completion)

This project is designed to address water quality issues in the Laite Beach area of Camden Harbor. The Camden Harbormaster will lead a team which includes Camden's Wastewater Department Director and Camden Development Director working in partnership with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Healthy Beaches Program and the Department of Environmental Protection to address water quality issues in the Laite Beach area of Camden Harbor. The goal of the project is to identify and mitigate water quality issues which force the closure of Laite Beach when water quality standards are exceeded.

Town of Georgetown:

Water Resources Project (December 2013 completion)

The Town of Georgetown will set up a water quality monitoring program to create a baseline of data and conduct a public education program on water resources. The public education outreach effort will provide information to the community about shellfish harvesting in Georgetown, provide information to private landowners about management of septic systems and overboard discharges (OBDs), and encourage best management practices for protecting the town's water resources. Project partners include the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Georgetown Shellfish Committee, Georgetown Conservation Committee, Georgetown Shellfish Warden and Code Enforcement Officer, Maine Department of Environmental Protection and Maine Department of Marine Resources.

Hancock County Planning Commission:

Blue Hill Bay Water Needs Assessment (June 2013 completion)

Hancock County Planning Commission will work with the Friends of Blue Hill Bay and the towns of Trenton, Ellsworth, Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Tremont, Surry, Blue Hill and Brooklin to engage communities, businesses, residents and local organizations in a program to assess the resources and threats to Blue Hill Bay. The goal of the project is to bring the partners together to develop a shared vision of the needs and potential solutions to challenges confronting the region.

[Learn more...](#)

**Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission:
Implementing a Management Plan for the Piscataqua Region Watershed**
(completed June 2013)

This grant will be used to implement water quality improvement recommendations from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Plan in Kittery, York, and South Berwick. SMPDC will work with each community on specific strategies that will support improved water quality.

**Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission
Kittery Septic System Mapping and Water Protection Project** (completed June 2013)

SMPDC received a grant to implement four projects associated with water quality improvement recommendations from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Plan. Kittery is attempting to possibly implement a septic system pump out plan within threatened watersheds or possibly on a town wide basis. This effort included an assessment of current septic system location within threatened watersheds, mapped those septic systems identified property owners and developed an outreach program.

A draft septic pump out ordinance was developed and received a first reading in front of the Kittery Town Council. The project will ultimately lead to increased water quality within the watershed. [Learn more ...](#)

**Town of Thomaston:
St. George Estuary Water Quality Monitoring Program** (March 2013 completion)

This grant will support the St. George River Tidewater Association's environmental monitoring in the St. George Estuary. The Town of Thomason, George's River Regional Shellfish Management Organization, Georges River Land Trust, and Maine Sea Grant will work with the Tidewater Association to implement a water quality testing program to more accurately characterize dissolved oxygen, pH, and total nitrogen in the St. George Estuary. Results will be analyzed and used to develop a State of the River report. [Learn more...](#)

Coastal Habitat Restoration

**Town of Arrowsic:
Improving the Efficiency of Shellfish Growing Areas** (completed December 2012)

In partnership with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Maine Department of Marine Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Program, and the Maine Department of Transportation, the Arrowsic Conservation Commission will use grant funds to design a roadway stream crossing that will restore alewife passage at the outlet of Sewell Pond and improve the pond's water quality.

City of Augusta:

Final Design of Restoring a Historical Alewife Run of Significance to the Lower Kennebec
(completion May 2015)

In partnership with the Worumontogus Lake Association, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Maine Department of Marine Resources and the NOAA Restoration Center.

The project will re-establish alewife access to the Togus Stream lake system upstream of the Lower Togus Pond Dam. Construction of a fishway at the dam ranks as one of the highest priority fish passage projects in the Lower Kennebec Watershed. This grant will fund the engineering to position the project for construction. Work will include volunteer fish passage counts, environmental monitoring, fishway engineering designs and permitting for the construction phase of the project.

Town of Bristol:

Citizen Science and Engineering to Plan the Restoration of Pemaquid River Alewife
(completion May 2015)

In partnership with the Bristol Fish Committee, Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, Maine Department of Marine Resources and the NOAA Restoration Center.

The project will reestablish unhindered alewife access through the Bristol Mills Dam Fishway and into the Pemaquid River chain of lakes. The large amount of upstream habitat blocked by the dam makes this project one of highest priority alewife restoration efforts in Maine. This project will include volunteers engaged as citizen scientists. This grant will provide funds for engineering designs and regulatory permitting for improvements to the fishway.

Town of Brunswick:

Community Project to Remove Invasive European Green crabs from Buttermilk and Woodward Coves (completion May 2015)

In partnership with Brunswick High School Office of Service Learning and Community Outreach and Resource Access International

Municipal government, private sector scientists, commercial shellfish harvesters, and local students will partner to deploy predator fencing and traps in Buttermilk and Woodward Coves in Brunswick, with the goal of reducing the numbers of invasive European green crabs in these critical habitat areas. European green crab destruction of intertidal areas in Brunswick is impacting important wading bird and finfish/shellfish nursery habitat, as well as destroying commercially valuable native shellfish species. Economic impacts on the coastal community are imminent as a result of green crab damage. This project will help determine the feasibility of reducing green crab numbers in sheltered coves along the Maine coast.

Midcoast Council of Governments:

Improving the Efficiency of Shellfish Growing Areas (completed June 2013)

This grant funds water-quality research that could lead to the opening of currently closed clam flats in Georgetown, Arrowsic, Westport Island, Phippsburg, Woolwich, and West Bath. MCOG's project partners include the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, and the shellfish conservation committees of Woolwich, Phippsburg, West Bath, and Georgetown. [Learn more...](#)

Town of Topsham:

Identifying Fish Passage Barriers - Little River Barrier Survey (completed December 2012)

The Town of Topsham, in partnership with the Androscoggin Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, Atlantic Salmon Federation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust and Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, will complete a survey of barriers to fish passage in the Little River Watershed. This work follows the removal of a dam on the Little River, which was the first step in opening 53 square miles of upstream habitat for native anadromous fish species.

Town of Woolwich:

Nequasset Fishway Restoration Planning (completed June 2013)

In preparation for the final engineering design and construction of the fishway, the Town of Woolwich will partner with the Bath Water District, Trout Unlimited, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Chewonki Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kennebec Estuary Land Trust and others to gather public input, survey property boundaries and conduct an archaeological survey of an identified prehistoric Native American site. Restoration of the 58 year old concrete pool and weir style fish ladder will help insure access to prime spawning ground for alewife in one of the top five Maine alewife runs. [Learn more...](#)

Town of Woolwich:

Nequasset Fishway Construction Materials (completion December 2014)

In partnership with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, Woolwich Fish Commission, and Bath Water Commission

This community supported habitat restoration project is the final step to rebuild a 58 year old concrete pool and weir style fish ladder on one of the top alewife runs in Maine. Award of this proposal will close the funding gap by paying for building materials, ensuring summer 2014 construction of a new fish ladder at Nequasset Brook in Woolwich.

Open Space Planning

Bar Harbor Conservation Commission: Open Space Plan (completion June 2014)

This grant will fund the development of an Open Space Plan for the Town of Bar Harbor. The plan will address recreational lands (including water access sites), cultural and historic sites, scenic resources, working/agricultural lands, natural areas/wildlife habitat, and lands vital to the protection of water resources. It will assess the status of these lands, identify unmet needs and suggest strategies to meet these needs. The planning effort will include a public participation component that includes school children. Project partners include: Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Farmland Trust, Acadia National Park, and the College of the Atlantic. [Learn more...](#)

Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission South Berwick Open Space and Conservation Plan (completed June 2013)

SMPDC received a grant to implement four projects associated with water quality improvement recommendations from the Piscataqua Region Estuary Plan. An Open Space and Conservation Plan was developed for the Town of South Berwick. Working with the Committee, SMPDC identified protection priorities and implementation strategies that incorporate information received through the public and stakeholder input process. [Learn more](#)

Public Access

City of Belfast: 'Passy' Rail Trail Project (completed June 2013)

This grant to the City of Belfast is for a conceptual design and engineering plan and feasibility assessment for construction of 2.15 miles of a multi-use path within the railroad right-of-way located along the Passagassawakeag River.

Town of Camden: River to Harbor Walk Study (completed December 2013)

This study will include conceptual designs and a feasibility assessment for a new 2.25 mile multi-use pedestrian pathway along the Megunticook River linking Shirrtail Point Park, downtown and Camden Harbor's Public Landing. The proposed River-to-Harbor Walk will improve access from residential areas to the downtown and coastline, and offer an added attraction for visitors, employees and businesses. Project partners include the Camden/Rockport Pathways Commission, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Camden Downtown Business Group, Camden Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee and Camden Parks & Recreation. The award of a separate Shore and Harbor Planning Grant for the conceptual design, engineering and management plan for the Camden Harbor Public Landing complements the River to Harbor Walk Study. [Learn more...](#)

Town of Yarmouth:**Reconnecting Yarmouth Village to the Working Waterfront** (completed December 2012)

Several decades ago, the construction of Interstate 295 through Yarmouth severed its historic downtown and surrounding neighborhoods from its harbor. With this grant, the Town of Yarmouth will undertake a feasibility study to identify opportunities for reestablishing pedestrian connections between Main Street, Town Landing and the marinas. [Learn more...](#)

Harbor and Water Access Planning

Town of Cutler:**Public Pier Feasibility Study** (completed April 2013)

This grant allows the Town of Cutler to analyze the potential for expanding existing facilities for public access to Cutler Harbor. The study will include a public outreach element to insure that the community's input, concerns and ideas are part of the final outcome. Cutler also received a Small Harbor Improvement Program ([SHIP](#)) grant from MaineDOT for improvements to Cutler Harbor.

Town of Wells:**Harbor Bridge Study** (completed June 2013)

The Town of Wells will undertake a feasibility study, obtain public input, and create a conceptual design for a pedestrian bridge to connect the east and west sides of the Wells Harbor and Wells Beach. This work responds to the 2005 Wells Comprehensive Plan, which calls for an updated harbor plan and development of programs and facilities to enhance the town's eco-tourism economy.

Coastal Hazards Resiliency

Town of Damariscotta:**Downtown Damariscotta Coastal Hazards Preliminary Engineering Study**

(completion May 2015)

In partnership with Lincoln County and the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission.

The Town of Damariscotta, in cooperation with the Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission (LCRPC) will retain an engineering consultant to evaluate options for protecting the downtown from flooding, storm surges and rising seas. The LCRPC and the Maine Geological Survey (MGS) completed a Coastal Hazards-Sea Level Rise impact study of Lincoln County's 450 miles of tidal shoreline in 2013 utilizing funding from the Coastal Communities grant program. The results of this study indicated that Damariscotta is the most significantly impacted coastal village in the Lincoln County.

**Lincoln County Regional Planning Commission:
Sea-Level Rise - Coastal Hazards Study** (completed June 2013)

LCRPC will partner with the Maine Geologic Survey, Lincoln County and its sixteen municipalities to study and evaluate the risks to infrastructure and the natural environment posed by increasingly severe and frequent coastal storms. [Learn more...](#)

Washington County Council of Governments:

Working Waterfronts Preparing for Climate Change (completion May 2015)

In partnership with the University of Maine Machias GIS Service Center and Laboratory and the Towns of Milbridge, Jonesport, Machiasport, Cutler, Lubec and Eastport.

This project will add working waterfront wharves and piers as a specific asset to climate vulnerability assessments in six Washington County towns. These communities are the most significant working harbors in Washington County, in terms of numbers of boats, infrastructure, and population dependent on waterfronts to make a living. This project will give municipal leaders and those dependent on working waterfront infrastructure information required to assess the vulnerability of that infrastructure to rising sea levels as well as higher frequency of and intensity storm events.

**For further information about the Coastal Communities Grant Program,
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