

2022 Grants for Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrades

Maine Department of Environmental Protection's ('Maine DEP') Municipal Stream Crossing Grants Program has awarded over \$19 Million to Maine communities to assist with the upgrade of road stream crossings since 2015. Crossings funded by the program involve the upgrade of culverts that are under-sized, in disrepair, unsafe, block fish passage, and require frequent maintenance with new crossings to allow for passage of larger storm flows, improve water quality and fish and wildlife habitat, reduce maintenance, and enhance public safety.



Available Funding

\$3 Million available from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan approved by the Maine Legislature in July 2021

Maximum Award

Currently \$125,000 per project (amount may change), maximum of 2 awards per municipality/applicant.

Applicability

Proposed projects must:

- Be for the upgrade of an existing culvert carrying a stream through on a municipal road, not a state (including state-aid) or private road
- Include other non-state funds as a portion of the overall project funding (cannot be 100% grant funded)
- Involve upgrades of culverts to meet Maine Stream Smart design criteria <https://maineaudubon.org/projects/stream-smart/>

Eligible project applicants include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and private nonprofit organizations

Applying for a Municipal Stream Crossing Grant

- Maine DEP will publish a Request for Applications (RFA) in late Summer 2022 and applications will be due in the fall. Specific dates TBD
- Application materials will be posted on the following website: <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/grants> under Maine DEP Grants for Stream Crossing Public Infrastructure Improvements. Previous applications and scoring materials from earlier rounds are available on that page for guidance.
- Updates will also be posted on the Program's website: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/grants/stream-crossing-upgrade.html>

Scoring and Award Information on the next page...



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IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2022!

During the upcoming 2022 round, please be advised that stream crossing plans will not be reviewed or scored during the grant application stage. This change is aimed at reducing upfront costs to be competitive, speed up grant scoring review time, and ensure the project results in a Stream Smart crossing. Plans and other in-depth field work will be submitted and reviewed after award. Applicants will be asked to perform limited field work for preliminary sizing of structures and to identify performance objectives to be met for the crossing design.

Scoring and Grants Award Selection

Proposal scoring will be based on a 100-point scale using the group consensus scoring method and will measure the degree to which each proposal meets the evaluation criteria and considerations in each section below. Additional resources are available here: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/grants/resources.html>

1. Public Infrastructure Information, Safety, & Community Impact (25% of Total Score)

- Scoring will consider the extent to which the proposed project allows communities to more effectively prepare for storm and flood events.
- Review and scoring will take into account the degree of urgency of the proposed project based on the culvert's age, location within a watershed or reach, or severe flood history.
- Scoring will consider the project's contribution to stormwater and flooding management, reduction in frequency or severity of flooding for upstream and downstream communities, and the new crossing's ability to meet or exceed the Department of Transportation's 100-year flood standard.

2. Project Represents a Cost Effective & Efficient Investment (25% of Total Score)

- Scoring for this section includes the extent to which the proposed project represents an efficient and cost-effective investment, including the proportion of total project funding that will be provided from other sources and the potential avoided costs associated with the proposed project. Grant funds may not be used to cover all of the costs associated with a proposed project.

3. Fish & Wildlife Habitat Improvement (50% of Total Score)

- Scoring for this section will consider the extent to which the proposed project advances the goals of restoring habitat for fish (including sea-run fish and native brook trout) and wildlife, including the priority status of the culvert to be upgraded or replaced for native brook trout and sea-run fish restoration. This status is based upon available stream survey data, statewide prioritization for aquatic connectivity, and presence in priority watersheds of salmon, alewives and other diadromous fishes.
- Scoring will also consider the extent to which the proposed project meets design standard of 1.2 times the stream's bankfull width, with a natural stream bottom (or embedded and backfilled structure) with bed material closely resembling the material found in the natural stream bed.
- Scoring will consider the level of water quality improvements resulting from each project, such as including providing a more natural flow regime to reduce stream modification/erosion, elimination of erosion or soil pollution sources

Award notifications will be made following group consensus scoring; successful applicants will enter into a contract with Maine DEP for partial project funding. Due to regulatory constraints, in-water work is limited to being performed July 15-October 1; projects funded in this round must be completed by December 31, 2024—no extensions will be permitted due to funding limitations. Applicants are responsible for all aspects of design, permitting, and installation.

Contact

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<https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/grants/stream-crossing-upgrade.html>

