



MAINE CDC DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Department of Health & Human Services

286 Water Street, Augusta ME 04333
www.medwp.com • (207) 287-2070 • TTY: 711



Land Acquisition Loans

Why Land Acquisition?

The Maine Drinking Water Program (DWP) believes that ownership, easements, or other legal control of the land around a drinking water source is the most effective means of drinking water supply protection.

What is a Land Acquisition Loan?

Land Acquisition Loans are low interest loans available to community or non-profit, non-community public water systems for the purchase of land and/or conservation easements necessary for source water protection. Land Acquisition Loans are administered by the DWP and serviced through the Maine Municipal Bond Bank.



With a land acquisition loan, Bangor Water District purchased 725 acres of land around Floods Pond, the drinking water source for the communities of Bangor, Hampden, and Hermon. Photo: Bangor Water District

Who is Eligible?

Community water systems, both privately and publicly owned, and non-profit non-community water systems are eligible for a land acquisition loan. Federally-owned systems are not eligible to receive assistance.

How Much Money is Available?

There is no project limit, and funding amount is based on available funds at the time of loan application. An estimate of the land cost will be sufficient on the initial application, however, an appraisal will be needed later, as the DWP will not loan more than the appraised value.

What Land and/or Conservation Easement is Eligible?

The land and/or conservation easement to be purchased with a Land Acquisition Loan must be integral to the source water protection needs of the public water system as determined by the DWP. A determination can be based on the land being identified in a DWP approved source water protection plan or other documentation that supports its role in protecting the system's source water.

When is the Deadline to Apply?

There is no deadline for Land Acquisition Loan applications. Whenever there is land or a conservation easement available for purchase, a water system may apply for a loan. If there are multiple requests for funding, a priority ranking system will be implemented. Land Acquisition Loan applications can be found on the [DWP website](#).

More Questions? Contact **Sofia Licht** at (207) 441-3217 or sofia.licht@maine.gov.