

# How do we fund 30% land?

Betsy Cook, Maine State Director  
Trust for Public Land



# Getting to 30% Land Conserved

## NWL Recommendation

*Increase by 2030 the total acreage of conserved Natural and Working Lands in the state to 30%*

*Establish permanent funding for existing and new land conservation programs, including LMF*

We have 22.5% currently conserved.

To achieve the recommendation, 7.5% or 1.4 million acres must be conserved.

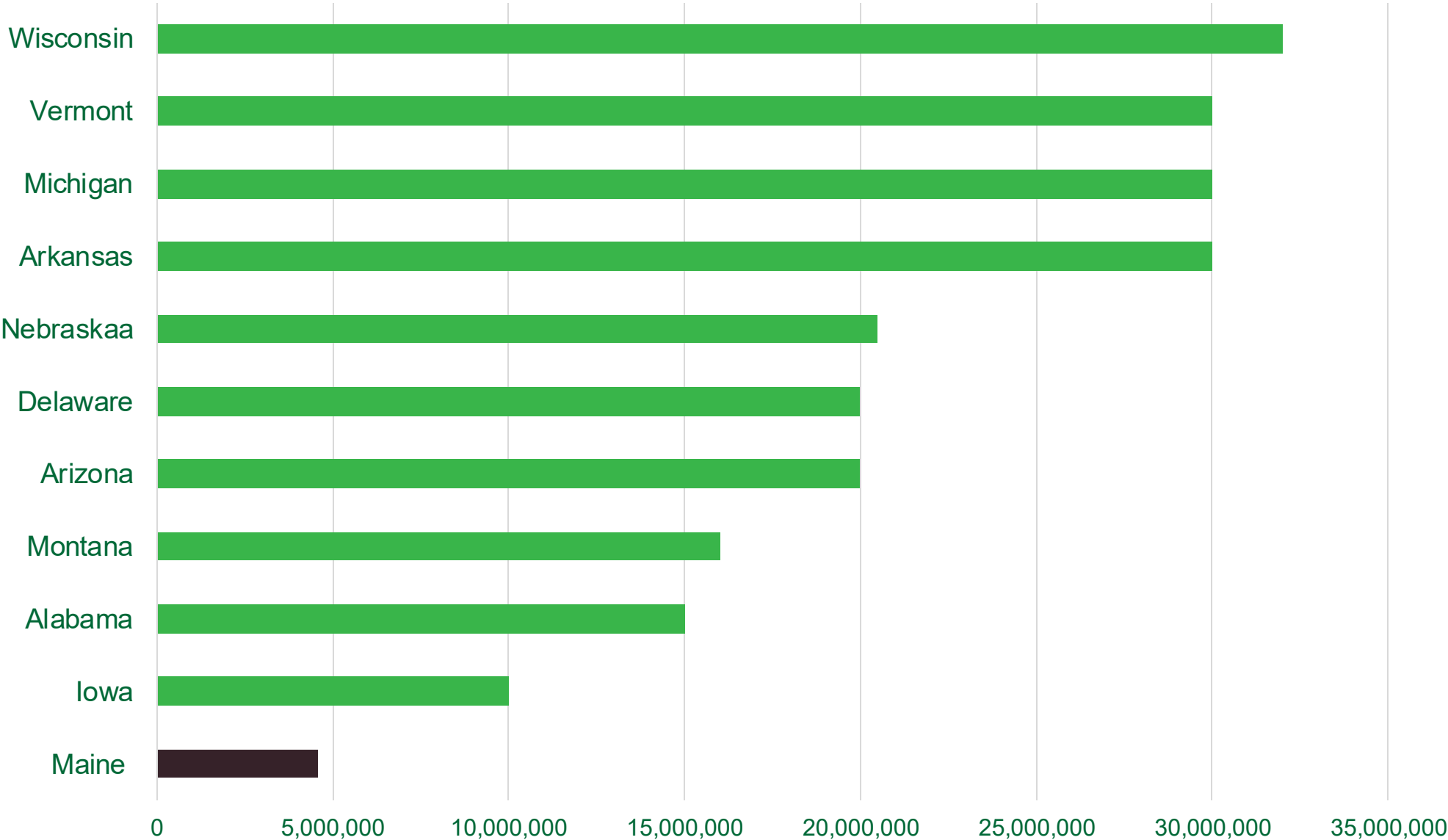
The estimated cost\* to conserve that acreage is \$700M or \$140M/year.

*\*assumes \$500/acre*

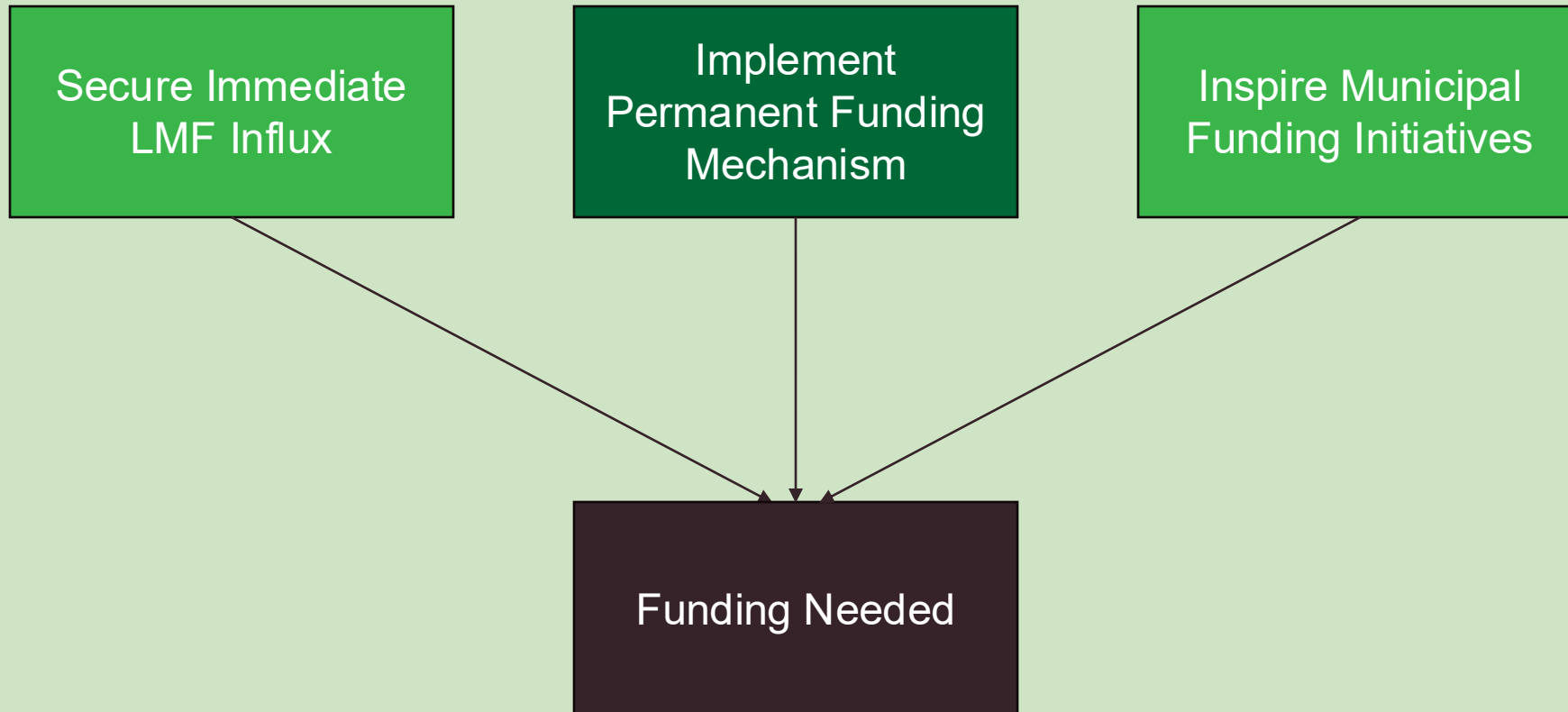
## LMF FUNDS DISBURSED/AVAILABLE FUNDS 1987-2026



# Annual Land Conservation Funding by State



# How do we fill the big gap?



# Secure Immediate LMF Influx

*Available pathways this session*

- Budget Allocation
- Bond
- Interest from Maine Budget Stabilization Fund
- Others

## LMF FUNDS DISBURSED/AVAILABLE FUNDS 1987-2026





# Permanent Mechanism Option: Sporting Goods Sales Tax Allocation

- A dedication of an existing tax and not a new tax or increase
- Equals about \$20M / year
- Overwhelmingly approved by voters in Georgia (83%) and Texas (88%) for conservation
- Current initiative in Massachusetts underway



# Permanent Mechanism Option: Real Estate Transfer Tax

- A dedication of an existing tax or could contemplate an increase in rate as Maine has lowest rate in New England
- Could equal about **\$20M / year to conservation** of total \$60M /year generated
- Could complement funding need for housing as \$30M/year or \$60M/year generated goes to HOME
- 72% of RETT ballot measures approved nationwide, 15 states utilize this mechanism for conservation funding

# Permanent Mechanism Option: Real Estate Transfer Tax

Real Estate Transfer Tax					
Fiscal Year	General Fund	Other Special Revenue Funds			Total All Funds
		HOME Fund	Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection	Energy Housing and Economic Recovery Fund	
2013	\$11,667,284	\$5,858,149	\$607,035	\$4,316,212	\$22,448,680
2014	\$10,695,215	\$9,122,961	\$639,265	\$4,319,197	\$24,776,638
2015	\$13,836,648	\$7,749,944	\$774,624	\$4,316,356	\$26,677,572
2016	\$15,394,715	\$8,031,483	\$578,795	\$4,319,391	\$28,324,383
2017	\$17,059,116	\$10,363,737	\$444,896	\$4,319,813	\$32,187,561
2018	\$15,927,432	\$14,619,082	\$377,471	\$4,317,712	\$35,241,698
2019	\$19,105,924	\$12,971,654	\$373,323	\$4,316,237	\$36,767,139
2020	\$16,501,776	\$20,379,012	\$328,441	\$4,316,000	\$41,525,229
2021	\$22,091,539	\$25,654,795	\$123,901	\$4,315,700	\$52,185,935
2022	\$27,375,823	\$30,043,901	\$120,189	\$4,319,400	\$61,859,313

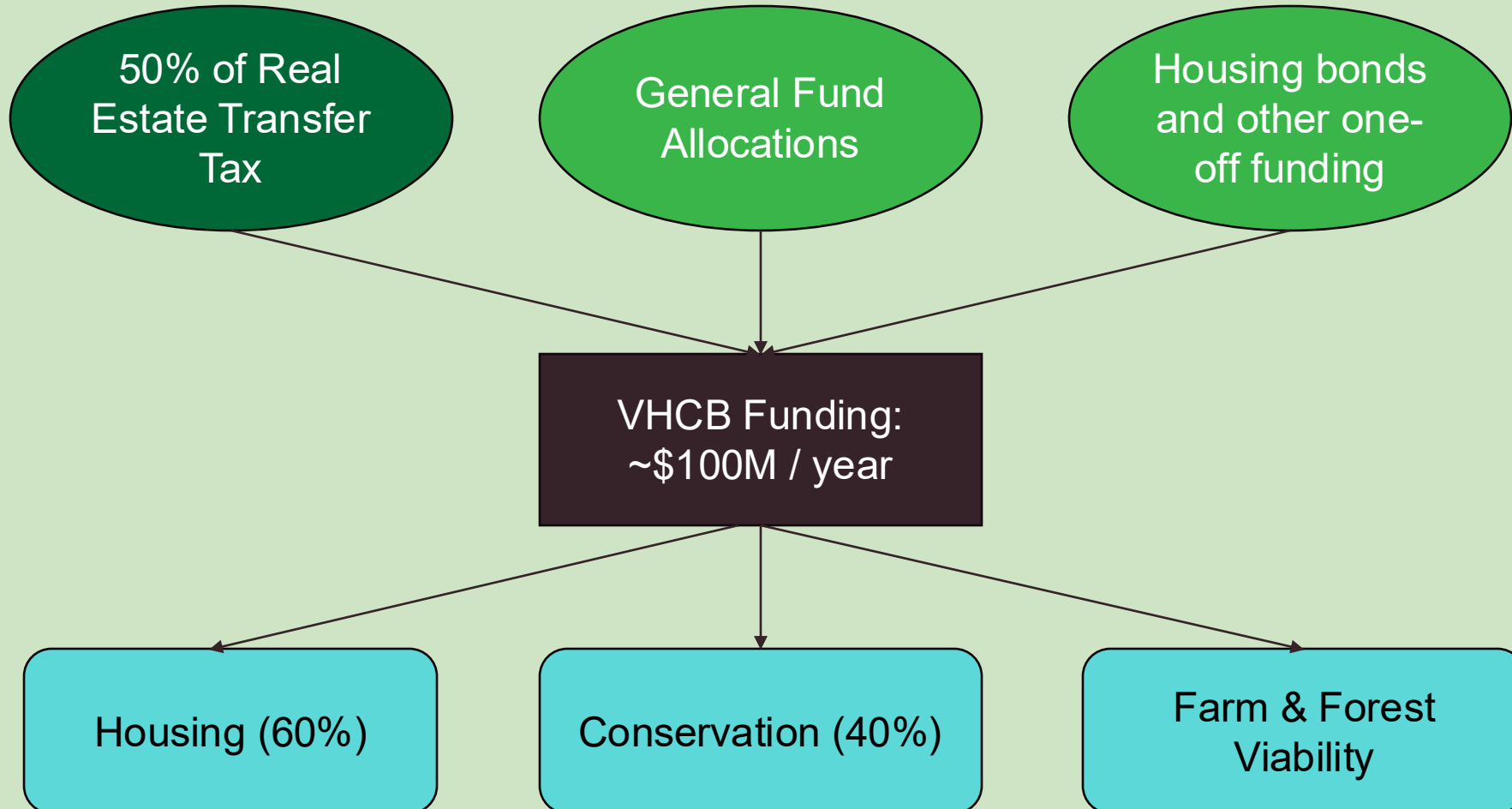
# The Vermont Model

## Why Housing & Conservation?

Breaking down the traditional silos of housing, economic development, and land conservation allows VHCB to help Vermont communities tackle issues of chronic poverty, job losses, affordability, and fraying infrastructure.



# The Vermont Model



# It takes a coalition...



**VERMONT HOUSING and  
CONSERVATION COALITION**

Addison Housing Works  
Audubon Vermont  
Barre Housing Authority  
Capstone Community Action  
Catamount Trail Association  
Cathedral Square Corporation  
Champlain Housing Trust  
Charlotte Land Trust  
Chittenden County Regional Planning  
Cornerstone Housing Partners  
Cross Vermont Trail  
Downstreet Housing & Community Development  
Evernorth  
Green Mountain Club  
Highgate Non-Profit  
Hinesburg Land Trust  
HomeShare Vermont  
Intervale Center  
Lake Champlain Land Trust  
Middlebury Area Land Trust  
Nature Conservancy, The  
Northgate Residents' Ownership Corp.  
Preservation Trust of Vermont  
Putney Mountain Association  
Randolph Area Community Devel. Corp.  
Richmond Land Trust  
RuralEdge  
South Hero Land Trust  
Springfield Housing Authority  
Stowe Land Trust  
Twin Pines Housing Trust  
Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission  
Trust for Public Land  
Upper Valley Land Trust  
Vermont Natural Resources Council  
Vermont Land Trust  
VT Community Loan Fund  
Windham & Windsor Housing Trust  
Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association

# Inspire municipal funding

Voters in Maine municipalities have supported all but two local conservation finance measures, creating \$18 million in municipal funding for local conservation

 Sections

 23° Forecast

 Newsletters

**Portland Press Herald**

 ePapers

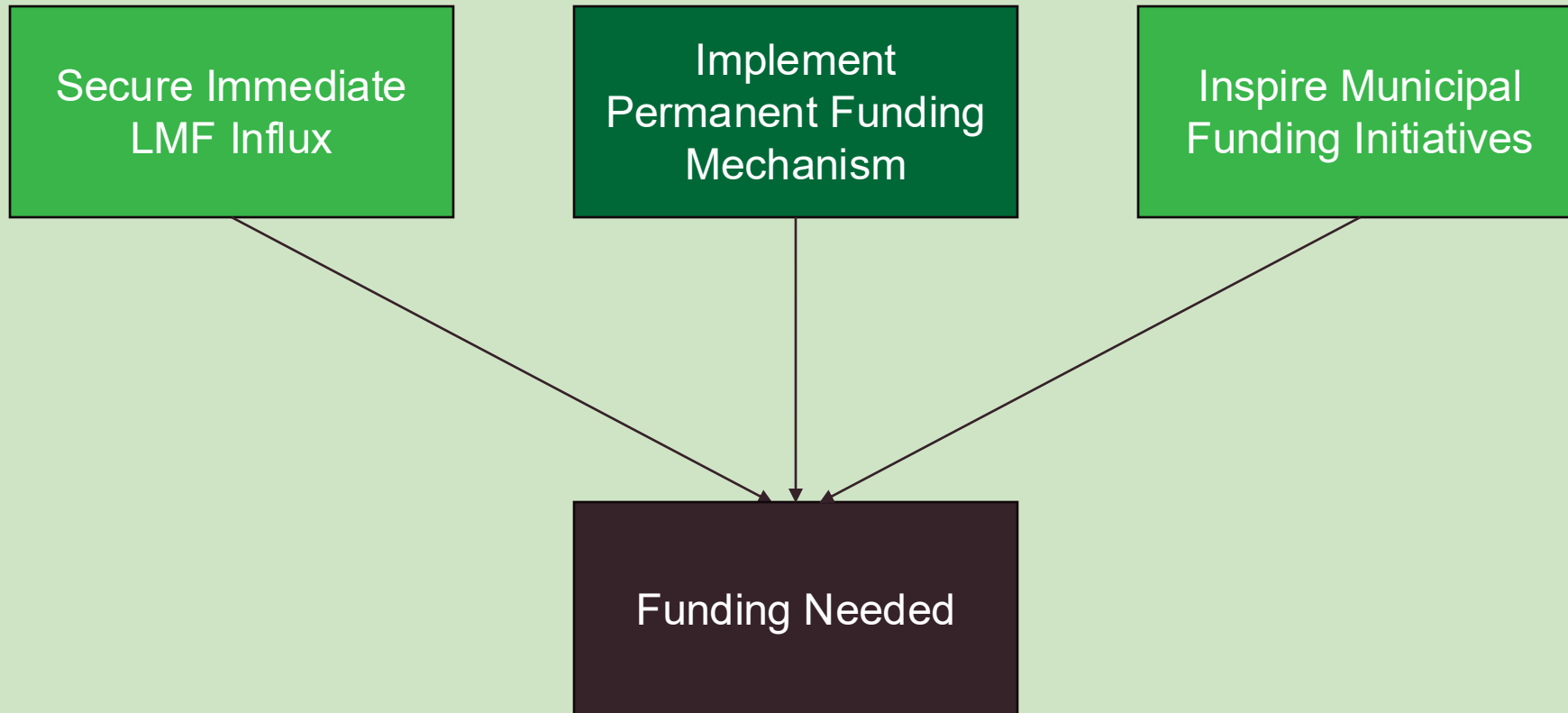
 Newspaper Archives

 My Account

**SCARBOROUGH LEADER**

## Scarborough voters consider \$6M land bond question

# How do we fill the big gap?







Since 1972, TPL has protected 4 million acres of public land; created 5,364 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places; raised \$93 billion in public funding for parks and public lands; and connected nearly 9.4 million people to the outdoors.

To learn more, visit [tpl.org](https://www.tpl.org).

**Connecting everyone to the outdoors™**

Betsy Cook  
207.317.2085  
[Betsy.cook@tpl.org](mailto:Betsy.cook@tpl.org)