

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.

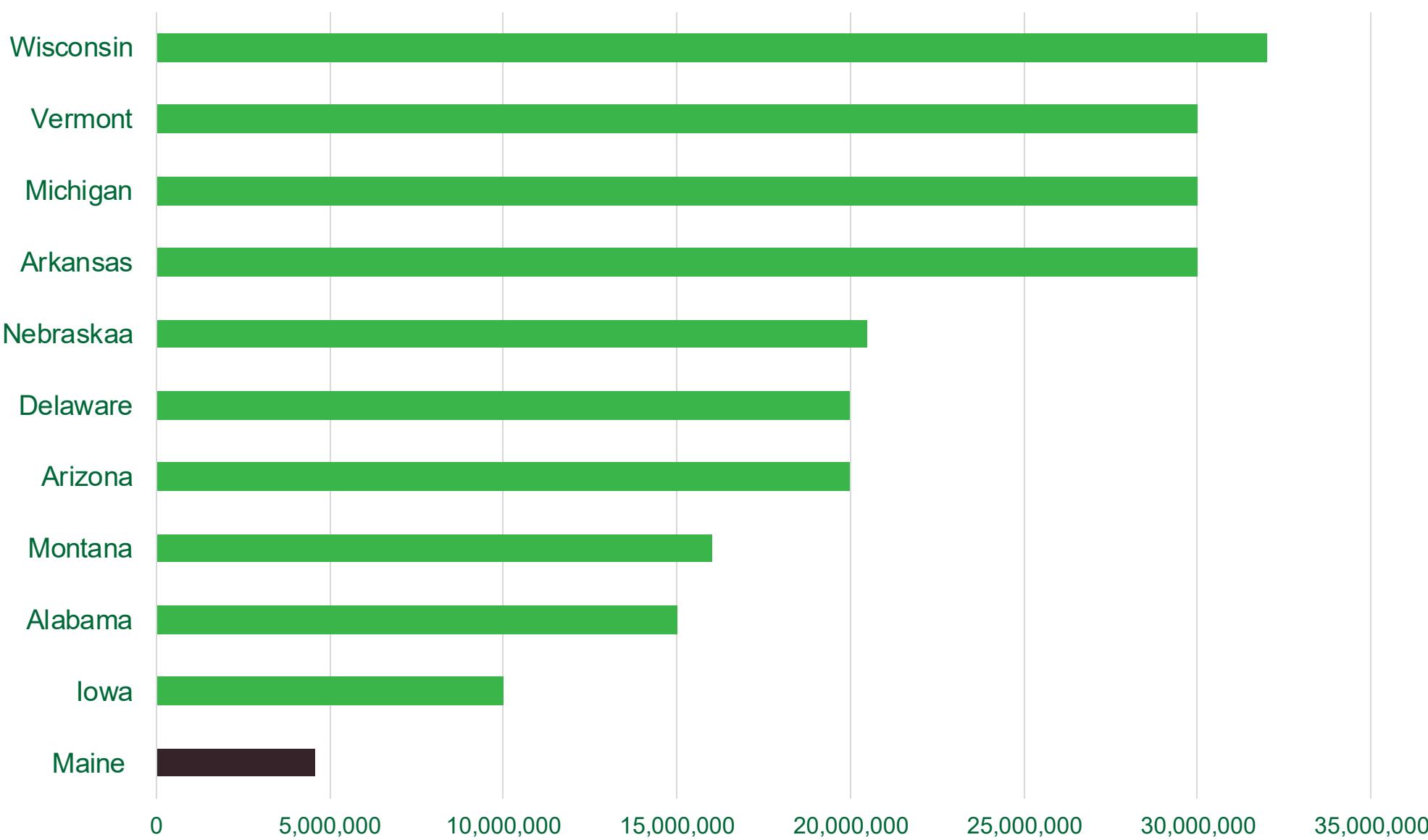
The estimated cost* to conserve that acreage is \$700M or \$140M/year.

*assumes \$500/acre

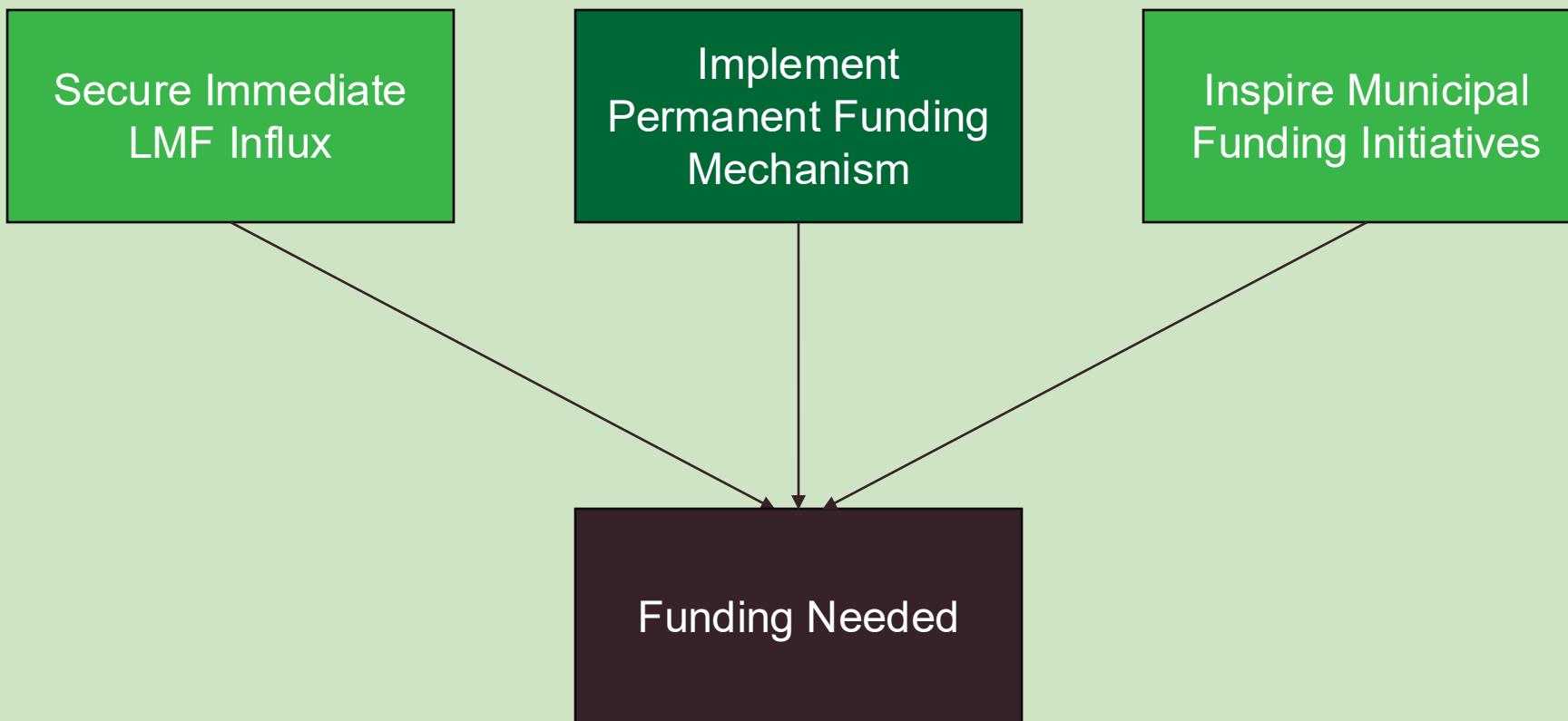
LMF FUNDS DISBURSED/AVAILABLE FUNDS 1987-2026



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 initiate 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	HOME Fund	Other Special Revenue Funds			Total All Funds
			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?

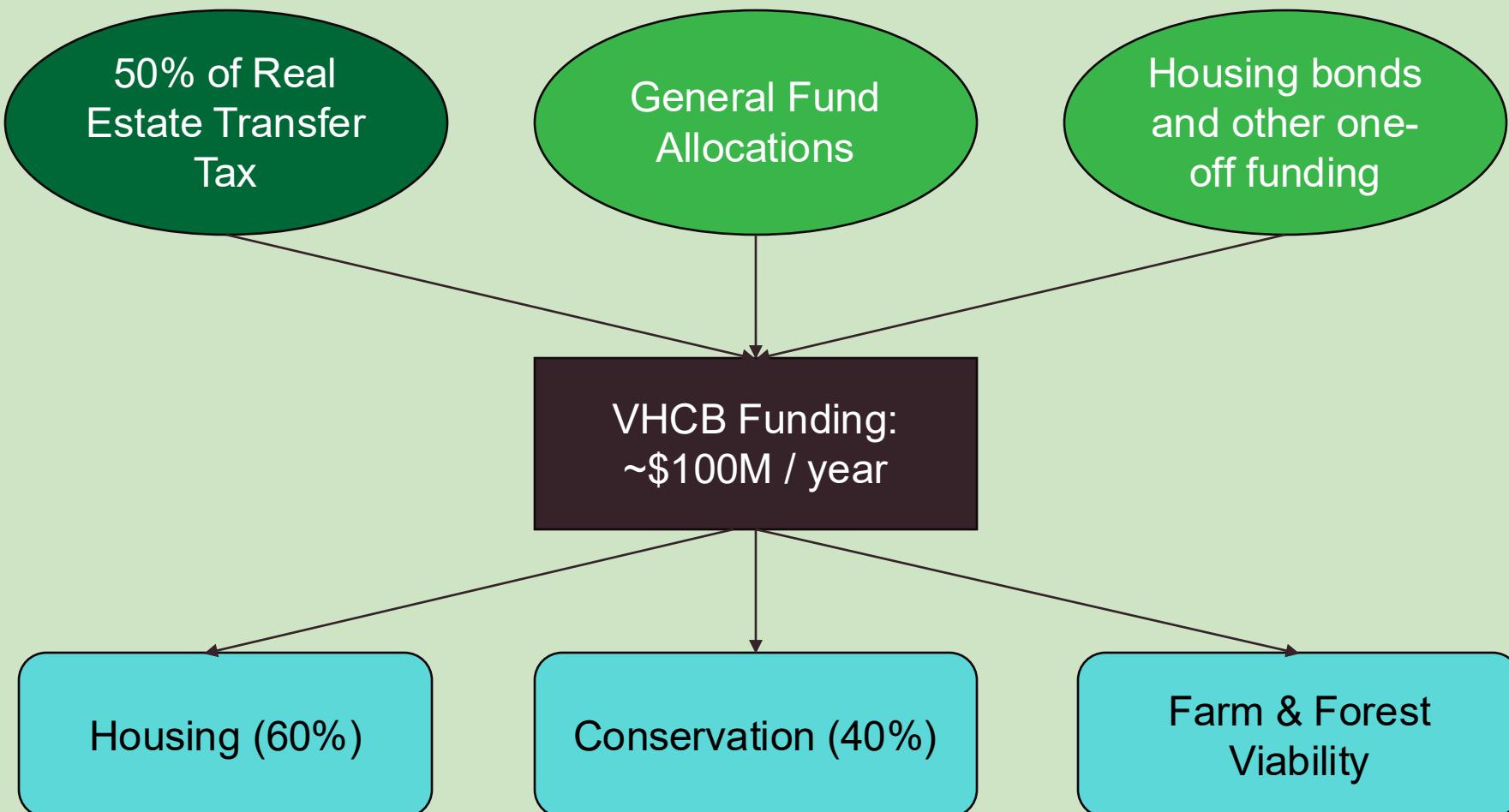
Breaking down the traditional silos of housing, economic development, and land conservation allows VHCB to help Vermont communities tackle issues of chronic poverty, job losses, affordability, and fraying infrastructure.

Dual-Goal Mission

VHCB invests in the construction of affordable housing and conservation strategies that work together to ensure equity, resilience, and vitality for Vermont communities in perpetuity.



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-Ottauquechee 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

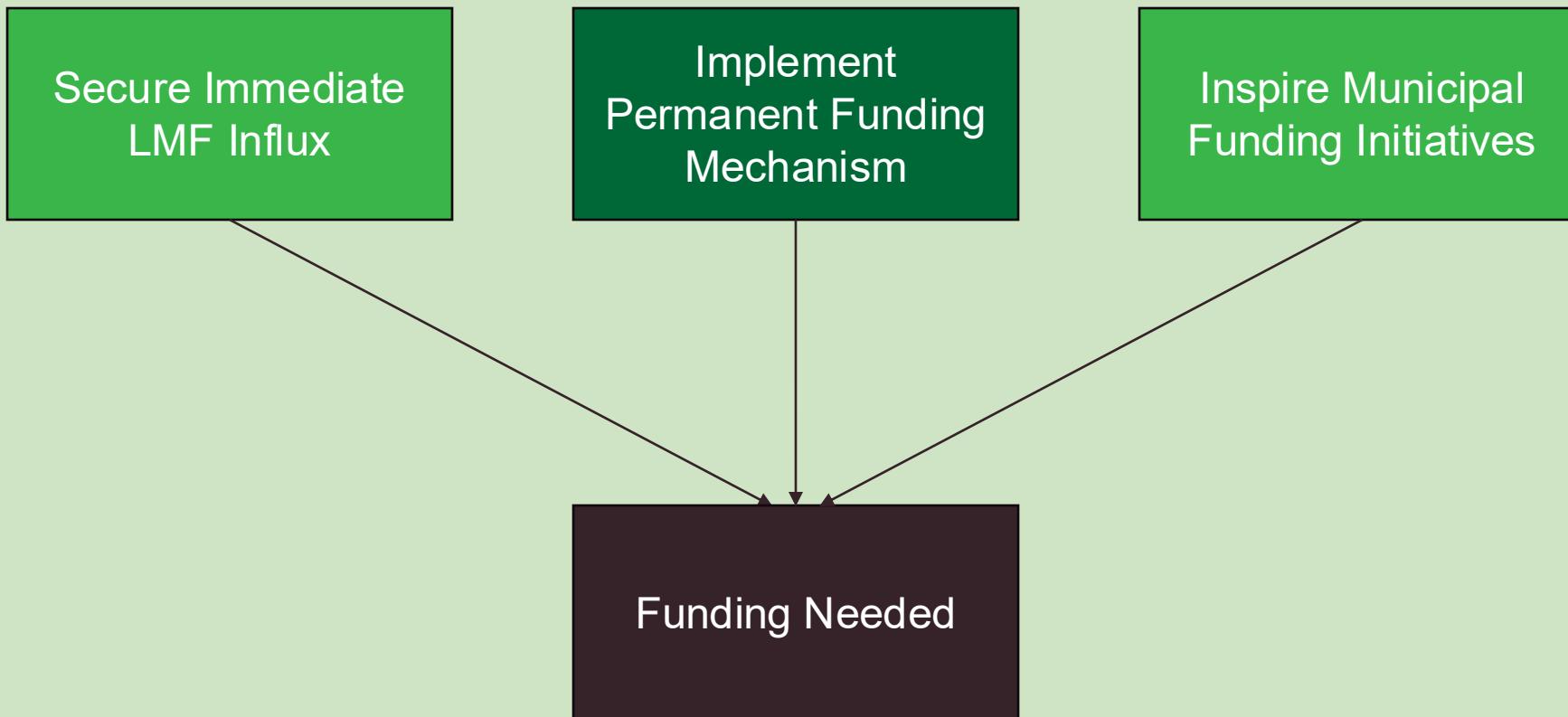
The screenshot shows the header of the Portland Press Herald website. The header includes links for Sections, 23° Forecast, Newsletters, ePapers, and Newspaper Archives, along with a My Account link. A black bar labeled "SCARBOROUGH LEADER" is visible. The main headline reads: "Scarborough voters consider \$6M land bond question".

Sections 23° Forecast Newsletters 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.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

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