

Appendix 23B. Land Stewardship for Landowners & Municipalities

RESOURCE GUIDE: LAND STEWARDSHIP FOR LANDOWNERS AND MUNICIPALITIES

The following tables present a number of programs that are available to provide funding and/or technical assistance to landowners and municipalities for the long term protection of forestry, farming and open spaces. Some of these programs are available to landowners, and others are only available to municipalities or non-profits, such as land trusts. [Created by Gwendolyn R. Hilton, Consultant in Community Planning, hilton@tdstelme.net with additions from George's River Land Trust (594-5166; anet@midcoast.com)]

SECTION 1: Tax Incentives for Forestry, Agriculture and Open Space Preservation

Tax Program	Agency/Contact	Provisions: L (landowner) M (municipality)
Maine Property Tax Reductions for Forestland, Farmland and Open Space	Town Board of Assessors Property Tax Division, Maine Revenue Services, 207-624-9693, http://www.state.me.us/revenue	L: These programs can provide significant reduction in property taxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Growth Property Tax Program • Farmland and Open Space Property Tax Program
Maine Forest Management Planning Tax Credit	Maine Forest Service, 207-287-1073 or 1-800-367-0223; State Income Tax Divisions 207-626-8475	L: Available to non-industrial woodlot owners State Income Tax Credit (52 MRSA 5219-C) State income tax credit of up to \$200 every 10 years to offset cost of having a forester prepare a forest management plan
Maine Sales Tax Exemption	Sales Tax Division, Maine Revenue Services, 207-624-9693, http://www.state.me.us/revenue	L: Sales tax exemption for agricultural businesses Whole sale agricultural operations do not have to pay sales tax on many farm related purchases, including equipment, seeds, hay, feed, electricity, etc.
Municipal Property Tax, State and/or Federal Income Tax, Estate and Gift Tax Reductions	Consult your attorney and tax consultant	L/M: Considerable tax savings may be realized through the donation of land or conservation easements to a non-profit conservation organization, such as the Georges River Land Trust. Tax savings are dependent upon the size and value of the land. Tax savings can include reductions in property taxes, state/federal income taxes, and estate (inheritance) and gift taxes.

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SECTION 2: Financial and Technical Assistance for Forestry, Agriculture and Open Space Preservation		
Program	Agency/Contact	Provisions: L (landowner) M (municipality)
Service Forestry Program (Maine Forest Service)	Maine Forest Service, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333 1-800-367-0223, www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/mfshome.htm	L/M: State field foresters provide educational and technical assistance to landowners, loggers and the general public. A good first contact for forestry-related questions and concerns is you area's District Forester.
Maine Forest Stewardship Program	Maine Forest Service, 22 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333 1-800-367-0223, www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/mfshome.htm	L: Cost-share and technical assistance for developing forest management plans, and conducting woodlot stand improvements. Maine Forest Service has a list of licensed foresters, forest certification information, stumpage prices, insect and disease reports, Forest Service rules for logging, and a number of other publications.
Maine Association of Consulting Foresters	www.acf-foresters.com	L: Listing of member foresters
County Soil & Water Conservation District/U.S. Resource Conservation Service/Farm Services Agency	Natural Resources Conservation Service 967 Illinois Avenue, Suite #3 Bangor, ME 04401; 207-990-9100, Ext. 3 www.me.nrcs.usda.gov	L/M: Agriculture, forestry, water quality, lake watershed protection, wildlife habitat, etc. Cost share and technical assistance for a variety of natural resource projects – County Conservation District Committees decide on priorities for 2002 Federal USDA Farm Bill spending
Maine Cooperative Extension Service, (Community educational branch of the University of Maine system)	UMCE Office, 5741 Libby Hall, Orono, ME 04469, 1-800-287-0274 www.umext.maine.edu	L/M: Provides educational and technical assistance on a broad range of areas including, forestry and wildlife, woodlot management, pest management, master gardener training, vegetable gardening/horticulture, home based business management, farm management, livestock and forage management, water quality and lake stewardship. An extensive list of low cost/free publications on a variety of topics is available.
Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM)	SWOAM, P.O. Box 836, Augusta, ME 04332, 207-626-0005, www.swoam.com	L/M: Non-profit educational and advocacy organization, monthly newsletter, workshops and educational tours, research and policy groups

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Program	Agency/Contact	Provisions: L (landowner) M (municipality)
Maine Farms for the Future	CEI/Maine Farms Project, Unity Community Center, School Street, P.O. Box 188, Unity, ME 04988, 207-948-3336, jp@ceimaine.org , www.ceimaine.org	L: Technical and financial assistance for farming operations. Financial assistance for writing business plans and training in farm operations & economics; can include loans of up to \$25,000 to implement business plans. Professional assistance in developing logos, brochures and other promotional materials. Below market rate loans to organic farms, or farms transitioning to organic production.
Agricultural Business Development	Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 SHS, AMHI Complex, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-3491, www.state.me.us/agriculture/mpd	L: Technical assistance regarding irrigation, cranberry production, new crop development, labor, business planning and market development and promotion. Also, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Resource Directory • Business Planning assistance, necessary for loans/grants • Grants for business plans, scholarships for business planning
Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund	Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 SHS, AMHI Complex, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-7620, John.Harker@state.me.us	L: Loans for either 45% or 55% of cost of capital improvements for farm businesses
Agricultural Business Grants	Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 SHS, AMHI Complex, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-7620, John.Harker@state.me.us	L: Several grant programs available, some for individuals, others for groups of farmers. Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive grant program aimed at encouraging innovative efforts by farmers and food processors to expand markets, promote products and test new innovative equipment • Grants to potential lenders for testing new technologies • Farms for the Future Grants (see above) • Irrigation Grants for development of alternative water sources

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Hannaford/Local Purchase Project	Maine Department of Agriculture, 28 SHS, AMHI Complex, Augusta, ME 04333, 207-287-7620, John.Harker@state.me.us	L/M: Promotes the sale of local produce in supermarkets. Information on wholesaling, including quality, quantity and pricing requirements
Maine FarmLink	Maine FarmLink, PO Box 170, Unity, ME 04988, 207-568-4160/4141, smok@mofga.org , www.state.me.us/agriculture/mpd/farmlink/index.html	L: Program that connects Maine farmers who are looking to sell, but wish to see their farms remain active, with people who would like to farm. Farmers are asked to consider long-term leases and work-in options in addition to outright sales. All initial contacts are made through FarmLink and information remains confidential. Thirty farms are currently enrolled in the database.
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	MOFGA, Common Ground Country Fair, PO Box 170, Unity, ME 04988, 207-568-4142, mofga@mofga.org	L/M: Promotes sustainable, organic farming and gardening. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and technical assistance, including pest reports • Organic Certification Program • Public Policy and Consumer Awareness Program • Apprentice Program and School Garden Network
Maine Natural Areas and Beginning with Habitat Programs	Natural Areas Program, Maine Department of Conservation, 93 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-8044, www.state.me.us/doc	M: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance to towns, landowners and others regarding habitat issues, protection measures and conservation site planning • Conducts animal, plant, and natural community inventories and research, including information on rare plants and unique or exemplary natural communities

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<p>Local Area Land Trusts</p> <p>Maine Coast Heritage Trust</p>	<p>Maine Coast Heritage Trust One Main Street Bowdoin Mill Topsham, ME 04086 207-729-7366 www.mcht.org</p>	<p>Provides technical assistance on land protection to towns, private landowners, public agencies and land trusts statewide. Operates land trust network; publishes newsletter, hosts workshops, provides brochures, technical bulletins, legislatively advocates for land preservation; and has revolving fund for land acquisition. Excellent publication: <i>Conservation Options- A Guide for Maine Landowners</i> about the land conservation process and the options available; Contact Maine Coast Heritage Trust</p> <p>Local Land Trusts often do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accept donations of land or interest in land, and acquisitions of lands • Provide technical assistance on long-term land preservation/conservation options for landowners • Work in partnership with towns, hold conservation easements on common open space set-asides in rural subdivisions • Assist in Land for Maine's Future Grants
<p>Maine Farmland Trust</p>	<p>Maine Farmland Trust, P.O. Box 1597, Bucksport, ME 04416 207-469-6465 www.mltn.org/trusts/mft</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists landowners, land trusts, towns, state agencies in farmland preservation • Sponsors statewide conference • Produces educational materials and newsletter • Assists in Land for Maine's Future farmland applications
<p>Trust for Public Land</p>	<p>TPL, 245 Commercial Street, Portland, ME 04101, 207- 772-7424 www.tpl.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works in partnership with towns, community groups, local trusts to help preserve lands of recreational, educational, and cultural and historic value. • Provides assistance with real estate transactions, coalition building and financing strategies • Can act quickly to take important lands off the market until funds are available for public acquisition.

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SECTION 3: Funding and Technical Assistance Available with Municipal or Agency Partners		
Program	Agency/Contact	Purpose of Program: L (landowner) M (municipality)
Land for Maine's Future Program	Maine State Planning Office 38 SHS, 184 State St., Augusta ME, 04333 87-3261, 1-800-662-4545 www.state.me.us/spo/lmf	L&M: For purchase of land and/or conservation easements of state significance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation lands and areas of scenic beauty • Prime physical features (landscapes) • Farmland or open space • Undeveloped shore lands and/or wetlands • Fragile mountain areas and areas with conservation, wilderness or recreation values • Plant and wildlife habitats or natural communities considered rare, threatened, endangered • Priority for projects with multiple outstanding resources or recreation values or a single exceptional value, provide geographic representation and add to existing holdings • Land primarily used or valued as commercial forest land <u>does not</u> qualify
Forest Legacy Program	Grants & Community Recreation Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, Department of Conservation, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-2163 mike.gallagher@state.me.us	L&M: Voluntary private land conservation program between USDA Forest Service, states, land trusts, private landowners and others. Program uses conservation easements and other acquisition types to protect and conserve environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.
Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund	Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, 67 Leighton Rd., Pownal, ME 04069, 207-688-4191 www.state.me.us/ifw/outdoorheritage	L&M: Requires partnership with a designated public agency. Grants awarded twice a year for projects in the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries, wildlife and habitat conservation projects • Acquisition and management of public lands, parks, wildlife conservation areas, public access and outdoor recreation sites and facilities • Endangered species and threatened species conservation projects • Natural resources law enforcement, including environmental education

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Maine Land and Water Conservation Fund	Grants & Community Recreation Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, Department of Conservation, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-2163, mike.gallagher@state.me.us	L&M: Provides up to 50% reimbursement for the acquisition and/or development of publicly owned outdoor recreation facilities for either active or passive public use.
Maine Recreational Trails Program	Grants & Community Recreation Bureau of Parks & Lands Maine Department of Conservation, 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-2163, mike.gallagher@state.me.us	L&M: Funds can be used for the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of trails, trailhead facilities and linkages • Acquisition of easements or fee simple title to trail corridors • Educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails
Maine Snowmobile Trail Grants; ATV Trail Grants; Boat Access Grants	Grants & Community Recreation Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands, Department of Conservation 22 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333, 207-287-2163 mike.gallagher@state.me.us	L&M: Three separate grant programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobile grants to towns and clubs trail development and maintenance (Contact: Scott Ramsay 207-287-4957) • ATV grants to towns and clubs for trail development and maintenance • Boat access grants for towns and private organizations to acquire, develop and improve local public boat facilities
Private Foundation Grants	Maine Community Foundation 245 Main St., Ellsworth, ME 04605, 207-667-9735, www.mainecef.org Maine Fund for Land Acquisition C/o Maine Community Foundation, P.O. Box 7380, Portland, ME 04112, Ann Tarte 207-761-2440, atartre@mainecf.org	L&M: Maine's only community foundation (i.e., manages a number of grants from various sources). Two grant programs of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Community Building Grant Program</u> – grants up to \$7500; available to public agencies; for projects that strengthen communities to build future challenges, etc. • <u>Maine Fund for Land Acquisition</u> – grants from \$2000-\$10,000+; only available to land trusts (town as possible partner); for land or easement acquisition and related expenses.