

Buffer Options for the Bay

Funding to Support Buffer Management

A variety of public programs provide funding to support buffer conservation and restoration. The following tables offer a snapshot of funding sources in 2017; visit the program website for up-to-date information.

Federal Grant Programs		
Program	Agency	Details
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	US Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA)	Administered by the FSA, CRP is a land conservation program in which farmers agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and to plant species to improve environmental health and quality in exchange for a yearly rental payment.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	US Department of Agriculture	EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. For more information on EQIP in New Hampshire, refer to this brochure .
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to conserve agricultural lands, wetlands and related benefits. The 2014 Farm Bill replaced the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program with the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) as an enrollment option under ACEP: Wetlands Reserve Easements. WREP is a voluntary program through which NRCS signs agreements with partners to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE) component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands; eligible land includes farmed or converted wetland that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored.

Federal Grant Programs continued		
Program	Agency	Details
Partners for Wildlife Program (PWP)	US Fish and Wildlife Service	This voluntary cost-share program protects, enhances, and restores fish and wildlife habitats on private lands. In New England, habitat restoration priorities include impaired aquatic systems and terrestrial habitats for which the restoration actions would benefit trust resource fish and wildlife species, i.e. endangered or threatened species, migratory birds, and diadromous fish.
National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program	US Fish and Wildlife Service	This program annually provides grants of up to \$1 million to protect, restore, and enhance coastal wetland ecosystems and associated uplands. Funding comes from the Sport Fish Restoration Account, which is supported by excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels.
Land and Water Conservation Fund	National Parks Service	This fund invests earnings from offshore oil and gas leasing to help strengthen communities, preserve history, and protect our national endowment of lands and waters. It is used to acquire lands, waters, and interests therein necessary to achieve the natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management objectives of the National Park Service.
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office for Coastal Management	This program provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements. Land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values, such as historic features, scenic views, or recreational opportunities. Participants develop conservation plans that are used to select which projects get national funding.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grants	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	A variety of grant options can be found on the foundation's website under Conservation Programs
Partners for Wildlife Program	US Fish and Wildlife Service	This voluntary cost-share program offers a chance to regain important natural resources and build on the strength and interest of committed individuals and organizations to accomplish shared conservation goals. In New England, habitat restoration priorities for the program include impaired aquatic systems (tidal and freshwater wetlands) and terrestrial (grassland and forest) habitats for which the restoration actions would benefit trust resource fish and wildlife species, i.e. endangered or threatened species, migratory birds, and diadromous fish.

State Funding Programs		
Program	Agency	Details
NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)	The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program	This program provides matching grant funds for the conservation and preservation of the state's valuable natural, cultural, and historic resources. Land must remain undeveloped, with passive dispersed recreation, agriculture and forestry allowed. Public access is required, limits on certain activities may be acceptable.
NHDES Water Supply Land Protection Grant Program	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	This program protects community and non-transient non-community drinking water supplies by providing grant funds for the acquisition of land or conservation easements. It normally provides 25% of project costs. Match sources can include donated land or easements that lie within the source water protection area, public funds, donated transaction expenses, or private funds.
New Hampshire Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Coastal Program	This program provides matching funds to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements. Land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values. Participants develop conservation plans that are used to select projects for funding.
Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	This fund serves as a compensatory mitigation option for wetlands permit applicants. It is available after avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources has been achieved. Projects supported must consider service area goals and replace and/or protect wetlands and other aquatic resources impacted by development projects in the service area. Ideal projects provide resource restoration in the context of a land conservation proposal. Successful projects often provide connectivity to other protected resources, are in close proximity to the wetland impacts, or provide benefits to rare resources. See the ARM Fund instruction packet or on the NHDES website .
Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Program	NH's Department of Resources and Economic Development & Division of Parks and Recreation	This program provides matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. In NH, the program has supported 640 acquisition and development projects, totaling almost \$40,000,000.00 in grant assistance. Learn more: New Hampshire's LWCF Program .
Moose Plate Grant Program	NH Conservation and Heritage License Plate Program	This program supports protection of critical resources. Revenues from Moose Plate sales are distributed to state agencies to 1) preserve and conserve publicly owned historic properties, archaeological sites, natural resources, documents and artifacts; 2) conduct research and manage wildlife and native plant species, and educate the public, and expand roadside lilac and wildflower plantings.

