



# Watershed Planning & Implementation Grants

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NPS Program Coordinator

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

*Protecting Maine's Air, Land and Water*

# Maine's Water Quality

## Clean Water Act Goals



# Maine's Water Quality

## Water Quality Standards

### Attaining Standards



### Non Attaining/Impaired

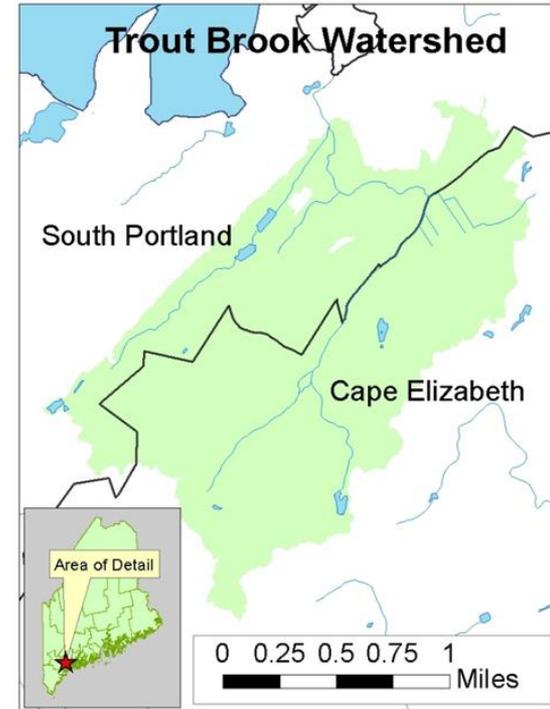
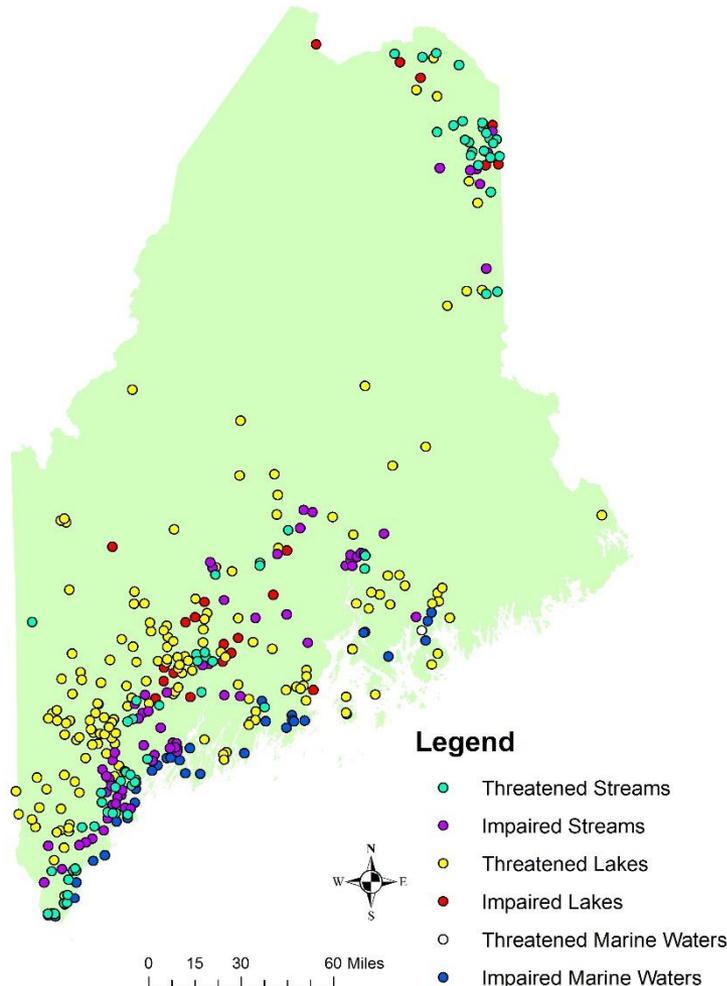


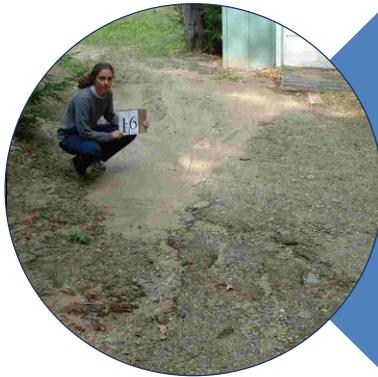
# Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution



# NPS Priority Watersheds

[https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/nps\\_priority\\_list/index.html](https://www.maine.gov/dep/land/watershed/nps_priority_list/index.html)





## Watershed Planning Grants

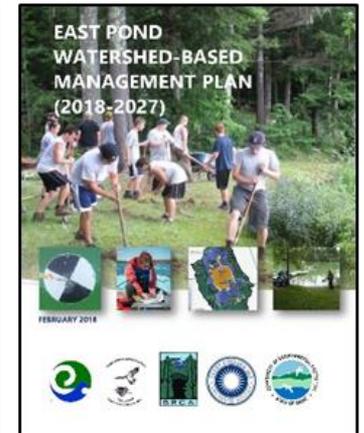


## Watershed Implementation Grants

# Watershed Planning Grants

## Purpose

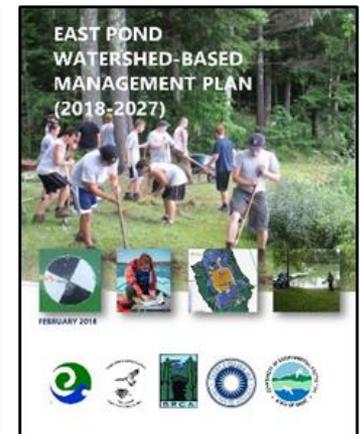
- Develop a plan to guide restoration and protection.
- Plan required to apply for implementation grants.
- EPA funding through CWA Section 604b.



# Watershed Planning Grants

## Common Elements

- Water Quality Monitoring
- Watershed/Stream Surveys
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Plan Writing
- Must Consider Climate Impacts



# Watershed Planning Grants

- **Eligible Applicants**

Public planning agencies (towns, SWCDs, RPCs)

Not 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations

- **Funding and Match**

\$50,000 available

Typically 1-3 grants ranging from \$10,000-\$50,000

25% match requirement



# Watershed Planning Grants

- **Annual Timeline**

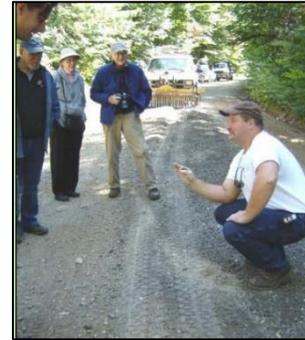
|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>RFA Release</b>      | March      |
| <b>Proposals Due</b>    | April      |
| <b>Award Decision</b>   | Early June |
| <b>Project Start Up</b> | October    |
| <b>Duration</b>         | Two years  |



# Watershed Implementation Grants

## Purpose

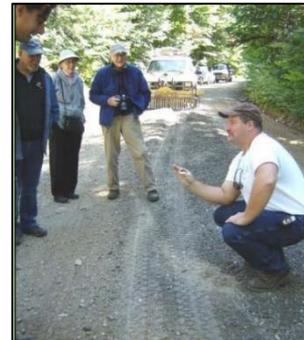
- Implement activities called for in watershed plan.
- Can be carried out in multiple phases.



# Watershed Implementation Grants

## Common Elements

- BMP Construction & Design
- Technical Assistance
- Ordinance Development
- Outreach
- Project Management



# Watershed Implementation Grants

- **Eligible Applicants**

Public organizations (towns, counties, SWCDs)

Incorporated nonprofits with 501c3 status

- **Funding and Match**

\$900,000 available

Typically 8-10 grants ranging from \$50k - \$120k

40% match requirement



# Watershed Implementation Grants

- **Annual Timeline**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| <b>RFA Release</b>      | April     |
| <b>Proposals Due</b>    | May       |
| <b>Award Decision</b>   | July      |
| <b>Project Start Up</b> | January   |
| <b>Duration</b>         | Two years |



# Developing a Successful Proposal

- **Scoring Criteria**
  - Applicant Qualifications
  - Value of the Waterbody
  - Water Quality Problem
  - Extent of NPS Problems
  - Feasibility for Success
  - Cost Effectiveness

- **Resources**

[NPS Grants Webpage](#)  
[NPS Program Annual Reports](#)  
[DEP Staff](#)

Maine Department of Environmental Protection *NPS Management Program 2016 Annual Report*

### Cape Neddick River Watershed Restoration Project, Phase I #2017RT02

Waterbody Name: Cape Neddick River  
Location: Town of York – York County  
Waterbody Status: NPS Priority Watershed, Total Period Impaired  
Project Grantee: Town of York  
Project Duration: April 2017 – December 2018  
319 Grant Amount: \$20,340  
Local Match: \$17,950



**PROBLEM:**  
The Cape Neddick River is a Class D stream and Class SD estuary, whose watershed is entirely in the Town of York. The watershed is approximately nine square miles, starting in the foothills of Mt. Agassiz and including Chase's Pond, the public water supply for the Town of York. The river flows under Interstate 95 and becomes tidal just east of Route 1. The Cape Neddick River is a significant estuarine resource and supports a diverse array of recreational water-based activities, including swimming at the popular Cape Neddick Beach.

The estuary portion of the river is listed as impaired (Categorical Impairment Loc. TNDL, Completed) in the MDEP 2016-18 Science & Watershed Report (2016). The Cape Neddick identified that septic systems and stormwater runoff are significant sources of pollution to the river.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**  
The goal of this project was to reduce bacteria inputs, garner support for future bacteria reduction efforts in the three plantings to deter guests at specific sites where green regarding septic system maintenance, and proper pet waste. We'll Restore and an active stakeholder committee. It was also to Cape Neddick River Estuary partners report the impact and preference of species for riparian areas, and opportunity for grant funds. This landowners had not yet received preliminary design and planting plan, and these had buffers installed through the grant. Direct mail regarding proper septic system maintenance and dog waste disposal were conducted throughout the watershed. Pet waste and trash was collected during the 2018 Fall Day Clean-up Event. The Town hopes to continue supporting installation of green-element buffers and community volunteer events.

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Maine Department of Environmental Protection *NPS Management Program 2016 Annual Report*

### PROJECT OUTCOME:

- Volunteers installed 250 native plants along 490 feet of riparian land on the Cape Neddick River, creating buffers and deterring guests at three hotspot locations.
- Project success includes landowners reporting a 60-100% decrease in Canada Geese after the native plants were planted and a reduction of pet waste found at the Mount Agassiz Conservation area.
- Direct mailings were sent to watershed residents regarding deleterious effects of pet waste, wildlife waste, and failing septic systems. The project involved an Earth Day Clean Up Event at three locations, information about proper pet waste disposal was distributed at each site.
- The project prevented an estimated 0.7 metric ton (1,540 pounds) of phosphorus and 13.7 pounds of nitrogen from entering the river each year (Region 2 Method). This doesn't include the likely reduction of bacteria and nutrients from lower guests on residential lots.



These streamer buffer plantings on two residential properties along Cape Neddick River Estuary.

**PROJECT PARTNERS:**  
Cape Neddick River Association  
York National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Maine Healthy Beaches  
York Land Trust  
York Water District

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