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## Casco Bay Currents Fall 2021

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Wed, Oct 20, 2021 at 1:34 PM

*Casco Bay Currents*, an email newsletter of the Casco Bay  
Estuary Partnership



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## Welcome,

**to the Fall 2021 edition of *Casco Bay Currents*, the newsletter for Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP).**

You are receiving this quarterly email newsletter because you signed up for our newsletters in the past. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click the link at the bottom of the newsletter.



*Tiger Hill Community Forest, Sebago*

Photo: CBEP

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## Shareable Resources for Outdoor Learning





*Young naturalists using HHLT's new Pocket Natural Guide*

*Photo credit: Julia McLeod*

During the pandemic, educators have been creative in providing outdoor learning opportunities for students. Here are some resources for outdoor learning that CBEP funded through its Community Grants and Digital & Distance Learning programs over the past year. Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) has also been supporting educators with [Mini-Grants for Outdoor Learning](#) and has many other resources for educators on the [MEEA site](#).

### **Resources for outdoor learning:**

**Pocket Naturalist Guide to Seashore Life of Harpswell, Maine:** Harpswell Heritage Land Trust has created a custom guide to the common plants, animals and algae found along Harpswell's shoreline. Printed on waterproof paper, the guide is easy to stick in your back pocket and it features color illustrations to help you quickly identify 125 different species. It was published by Waterford Press and funded by Casco Bay Estuary Partnership. The guide is free for educators teaching in formal or informal settings with young people from preschool through college anywhere around Casco Bay. Please [click here](#) to request a free guide. Anyone can purchase one for \$8 [here](#).

**Lakes Environmental Association (LEA)** shifted their "Living Connections" program of bi-monthly visits to 6th grade classrooms to a hybrid format of online and outdoor learning. The final products include materials lists, lesson plans for teachers/ homeschool parents, worksheets for students, and recorded

instruction for the two lessons. The curriculum materials including videos are available for free on CBEP's [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

**Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT)** developed [shareable resources](#) to expand KELT's story book walk programs to fit the needs of families with children under 6 years old. The walks consist of a series of stations highlighting a story and a nature-based theme. KELT partnered with the Patten Free Library in Bath to produce shareable products, create reusable mounts, and pilot them in several locations. KELT also developed how-to guides for students and teachers on [clam flat research and conservation](#) and [learning to dig softshell clams](#).

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## Municipal Culvert and Stream Crossing Grant Program Open



The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is administering \$4 million dollars in a single round of grant funding to assist municipalities with stream crossing upgrades and replacements. These monies support DEP's competitive grant program that matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings to improve fish and wildlife habitats, reduce flooding, and increase community safety. Proposed projects must be located on municipal roads and involve upgrades of culverts at stream crossings to improve public safety and minimize flooding, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, and represent a cost effective and efficient investment. Eligible project applicants include local governments, municipal conservation commissions, soil and water conservation districts, and private nonprofit organizations. **Proposals are due by November 19, 2021.**

Maine DEP, in partnership with Maine Audubon, MainesDOT, U.S. Army Corps of



Engineers, and Maine Land Use Planning Commission, has produced four online guidance videos to help potential applicants understand the grant program and provide information regarding stream crossing installation and design. You can find the videos, as well as links to the RFP and additional information, [here](#).

FMI, contact John MacLaine, Non-Point Source Training Coordinator, at (207) 615-3279 or via [email](#).

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## FEMA Grant Opportunities

### **BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITIES (BRIC) *\*Nationally Competitive (portion for state set-aside) – Annual Grant Opportunity\****

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change<sup>1</sup>, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards.

**Total available for mitigation projects nationally:** \$919,000,000

**Capability & capacity building state set-aside:** \$1,000,000

**Application Deadline:** December 1, 2021

*Note: Tribal communities have been allocated a national \$25 million tribal set-aside, and should work with FEMA Region 1 directly to apply.*

### **FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE (FMA) *\*Nationally Competitive – Annual Grant Opportunity\****

FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program funds states, local communities, tribes, and territories to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive *flood damage* to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**Total available for flood mitigation projects nationally:** \$160,000,000

**Application deadline:** December 1, 2021

### **HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) *\*State Competitive – Disaster Related Funding\****

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments for mitigation projects that reduce or eliminate long-term risk from hazards. Mitigation projects must create jobs and enable communities across the county to build greater resilience in the face of rising seas, extreme weather, droughts and wildfires, which have been exacerbated by climate change.

**Total available for mitigation projects:** \$4,017,697.55

**Application deadline:** June 1, 2022

For more information on these opportunities, please contact Maine State Hazard Mitigation Officer, [Heather Dumais](#)

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## Mark Your Calendars: CBEP and Partner Events

- **October 25:** Collaborating Toward Climate Solutions, University of Maine Mitchell Center. FMI and registration [here](#).
  - **October 27:** What Casco Bay Is Telling Us: *A Casco Bay Matters Event*, Friends of Casco Bay. Info [here](#).
  - **October 28:** Community Intertidal Data Portal, Casco Bay Coastal Academy. More info below or register [here](#).
  - **December 8:** CBEP Management Committee meeting. Info [here](#).
  - **December 9:** Maine Climate Council Community Resilience, Public Health, and Emergency Management Working Group. Register [here](#). More info about all Maine Climate Council meetings [here](#).
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## Casco Bay Coastal Academy:



# COMMUNITY INTERTIDAL DATA PORTAL



*Photo: Bridie McGreavy*

**WHAT:** Join us to learn more about and try out the Community Intertidal Data Portal, an interactive resource that is being developed for anyone involved in climate change adaptation or coastal planning. Find out how municipalities can preserve the ecological, cultural, and economic character of the intertidal zone and see a demo of the new data tools. You will also have the opportunity to shape future additions to the data portal.

**WHO:** Conservation commission members, planning board members, shellfish officers, other municipal board members, municipal staff, interested citizens

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 28, 3:00-4:30 pm

**WHERE:** Via Zoom (link provided after registration. Registration link below.)

**FMI:** Contact: [victoria.boundy@maine.edu](mailto:victoria.boundy@maine.edu)



## FREE: Register Here

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