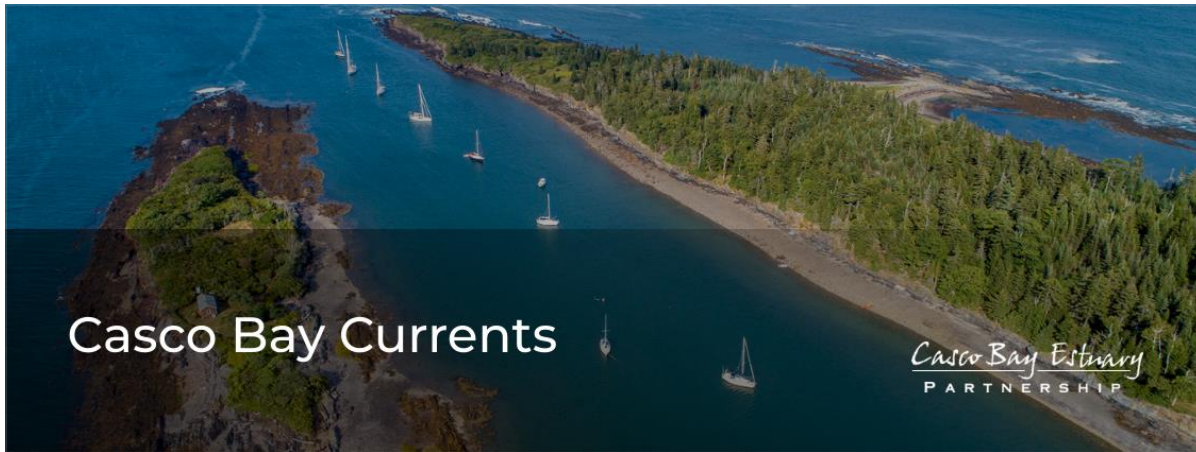


Casco Bay Currents Fall 2022

September 23, 2022

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



Welcome,

to the Fall 2022 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.



Salt marsh along Harraseeket River, Freeport.

@Jerry and Marcy Monkman/[EcoPhotography](#)

Sebago Clean Waters Partners Improve Fish Passage in Burgess Brook, Naples



On September 14, Lakes Environmental Association (LEA) joined with Trout Unlimited volunteers, Sebago Clean Waters, Hancock Lumber Company, and CBEP to remove a remnant stone, earthen, and timber dam on Burgess Brook in Naples. The Crooked River and its tributaries support a wild brook trout population and provide nearly all of the spawning habitat for landlocked Atlantic salmon in the Sebago Lake watershed.

The Jugtown Forest, where the work took place, is owned by Hancock Lumber, a key partner in the project, and consists of 5,000 acres of privately owned working forest open to the public for hiking, horseback riding, ATV use, snowmobiling, and hunting.

The stone dam was removed by hand to limit the amount of disturbance to the surrounding ecosystem. Next year, the team plans to remove a damaged and undersized culvert directly downstream and replace it with an open-bottom structure that will allow fish, amphibians, and other aquatic species to easily move upstream. Removing these two barriers will allow access to nearly two miles of priority brook trout and landlocked salmon habitat.

This work is part of a larger project to correct stream crossings that are negatively impacting fish habitat and pose flooding risks in the Sebago Lake watershed. Over the next five years, LEA hopes to work with landowners to open many miles of stream habitat for native brook trout by upgrading failing culverts as part of its collaborative work with Sebago Clean Waters and CBEP.

Photos clockwise from top left: The project began with removal of dozens of large stones on the dam's surface; Lauren Pickford managed the project for Lakes Environmental Association; Alex Abbott, stream restoration specialist, periodically checked stream bed elevations; Trout Unlimited volunteers addressing a timber crib unearthed at the base of the dam. Photo credits: Stacey Cramp, Sebago Clean Waters

Sebago Clean Waters is a collaborative of nine organizations and a regional water utility (the Portland Water District) combining our resources, expertise, and experience to increase the pace of forest conservation in the Sebago Lake watershed.

Grants & Other Resources

Coastal Community Grant Program: The Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Municipal Planning Assistance Program (MPAP) is seeking applications for a new round of Coastal Community Grants (CCG). CCG applications are due Friday, October 14, 2022, by 5:00 pm. Open to counties, municipalities, unorganized territories, tribal governments, and Regional Planning Organizations in Maine's **coastal zone**, CCG competitive grants include projects in Maine's coastal zone with a focus on the following priority coastal issues, as identified by the **Maine Coastal Program** and the Maine Climate Council's **Maine Won't Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action**.

More information **here**.

Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrade Grant Program: The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is administering \$3 Million to assist municipalities with stream crossing upgrades and replacements. 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. Submissions are due November 10. More information **here**.

Maine Initiatives' 2022 Grants for Change program is Live: **Maine Initiatives** is launching a new, three-year, \$1.5 million round of Grants for Change grantmaking to Black, Wabanaki, and People of Color-led and -serving (BIPOC-led and -serving) organizations

advancing racial justice work and strengthening community building efforts statewide. This fall, their community will select and fund a cohort of twelve (12) BIPOC-led organizations advancing racial justice work and strengthening community building efforts across the state. The organizations selected for the 2022 Grants for Change cohort will receive general operating grants of \$45,000 paid out over three years, \$15,000 annually. More information and links [here](#).

Testing Living Shorelines on Maine's Coast: A Storymap



NOAA funded a two-year Regional Resilience grant for several states in New England to permit, design, and install small, low cost, transferable living shoreline demonstration treatments that beneficially reuse naturally occurring materials. Maine Geological Survey and Maine Coastal Program led the charge, and there were many partners, including CBEP.

CBEP's GPCOG 2021 and 2022 Resilience Fellows Madeline Tripp and Josee Stetich produced a storymap about this groundbreaking project to test Living Shorelines methods on the Maine coast. [Here](#) is the storymap.

Photo: Greater Portland Council of Governments

Outdoor Learning Resources for Educators



Photo: Students from Long Island School Learn about Climate Change. Photo by Marci Train.

Mini Grants for Outdoor Learning

The 2022-2023 Mini-Grants for Outdoor Learning Application is now open! Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) is accepting applications through October 3rd. Funding can be used for any project that advances outdoor learning in your classroom or school in the 2022-23 school year. Most commonly, this funding is used to buy gear and/or supplies needed to support outdoor learning activities. This funding can also be used for professional learning to advance your outdoor learning teaching skills, a collaboration with a community partner organization on a nature-based project or experience, or adaptive gear that supports access to outdoor learning in your school.

For more information and to apply go [here](#).

Contribute to the Community-Based Environmental Learning Census

This research can help support and build a larger movement to improve and advance Community-Based Outdoor and Environmental Learning and its networks. By filling out this survey, you are supporting Community Based Environmental Learning in Maine and beyond. Whether you are doing a lot of this type of education, or not much at all, your responses to this survey will provide us with valuable information about where Community-Based Outdoor and Environmental Learning work is happening, or not happening, which can allow those gaps to be addressed.

Plus, if you fill it out by September 30, you can enter for a chance to win two day passes and climbing gear rental to EVO Rock + Fitness in Portland! Learn more and find a link to the survey [here](#).



CBEP invites proposals to provide facilitation services in support of a National Science Foundation funded project to develop approaches for using a high-resolution urban ocean circulation model to enhance climate resilience and address other community needs in Portland Harbor. For a copy of the Request for Proposals contact [Marti Blair](#) at CBEP.

Photo: Jerry and Marcy Monkman/[EcoPhotography](#)

CBEP and Partner Events

- October 17, 3-4, p.m., **The Biden-Harris Agenda for Climate and Justice**: Huge Challenges, Endless Opportunities. Speaker: David Cash, Regional Administrator, EPA New England. The Mitchell Center, University of Maine. Free and in-person or virtual. Register [here](#).
 - October 19, 6-8 p.m., **An Evening for the Environment**. A Celebration to Benefit Maine Conservation Voters and Maine Conservation Alliance. UNE's Innovation Hall, Portland. More information and registration link [here](#).
 - November 1-2, **Maine Stormwater Conference**: The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District's Maine Stormwater Conference in Portland, Maine will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with two days of presentations showcasing innovation and embracing challenges from the past 50 years. Learn more and [register](#).
 - November 12, 3-6 p.m., **Cinematic Celebration for Casco Bay**. Film festival to support Friends of Casco Bay's mission to improve and protect the health of Casco Bay. Learn more and [register](#).
 - December 14, **CBEP Management Committee** quarterly meeting. More information [here](#).
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