



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2024 Casco Bay Community Grant Awards Announced

Portland, ME – Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) announces its 2024 Casco Bay Community Grants awards. The Community Grants Program supports new partnerships and innovative projects that engage communities with Casco Bay and its watershed. CBEP received ten proposals totaling over \$65,000 from schools, municipalities, and nonprofit organizations and community groups.

CBEP awarded nearly \$34,000 to ten recipients, for the following projects throughout the Casco Bay Watershed:

Cape Elizabeth Land Trust (CELT), *“Advancing Technology for Watershed Education”* CELT will purchase three high quality microscopes, as well as provide a hands-on educational experience on the topic of water quality monitoring for Cape Elizabeth Middle School 6th grade students.

Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD), *“Coastal Watershed Model and Educational Kits.”* CCSWCD will purchase Coastal Watershed Model, Stream Erosion and Deposition, and Shoreline Erosion lesson kits, which will be used in classrooms and at community outreach events around Cumberland County.

Downeast Institute (DEI), *“Continuing Clam Recruitment Monitoring Network in Casco Bay.”* DEI will work with clambers and local resource managers in Phippsburg and other sites to collect and share data on commercial shellfish recruitment through the Maine Shellfish Recruitment Monitoring Network.

Friends of Presumpscot River (FOPR), *“Knowing the Flow: Discovering the River to Which We Belong.”* Funds will allow FOPR to continue to increase the number of experiential educational programs offered to school and community partners, and program expansion to Gorham and Windham school districts.

Harpwell Heritage Land Trust (HHLT), *“Climate Resilience for the Harpswell Community.”* HHLT is organizing a series of four intergenerational programs on climate resilience themes, including an informational speaker event, an outdoor family event, an arts-based event, and a community gathering.

Kennebec Estuary Land Trust (KELT), *“Community Clam Education in Phippsburg.”* KELT will run an educational series called “SALTY” (Sea Animal Life for Tomorrow’s Youth) to Phippsburg students to enrich their understanding of marine life and to modernize the curriculum to align with new teaching standards.

Maine Island Trail Association (MITA), *“Storm Stewardship 2024.”* MITA will engage volunteers from non-profits, youth programs, workplace groups and members of the public in storm damage stewardship efforts on sites in Casco Bay.

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT), "*Alewife Migration, Education and Outreach.*" PRLT plans to develop a professional-grade video and one-page guide on alewife and their migration, and share this resource with communities via schools, public libraries, and other venues.

Quahog Bay Conservancy (QBC), "*Harpswell, ME Storm Remediation and Marine Debris Awareness.*" QBC will organize a series of volunteer-based storm clean-up events and create and distribute educational materials focused on marine debris and microplastics.

Town of Yarmouth, "*Rewild Yarmouth: Targeted Outreach to Promote Sustainable Landscaping.*" The Town of Yarmouth will produce outreach material encouraging residents to adopt sustainable landscaping practices to protect water quality of the Royal River watershed and Casco Bay.

For more information on all CBEP grant programs, go to:

<https://www.cascobayestuary.org/about-us/grant-opportunities/>

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