



Casco Bay Estuary PARTNERSHIP

Caring for our waters together

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership Awards Grants to Build Resilience

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Curtis Bohlen, Executive Director, (207) 780-4820

Portland, Maine—

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) has awarded more than \$321,000 to twelve communities and nonprofit organizations in the Casco Bay Watershed. CBEP is providing these funds through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The grants support projects that enhance climate resilience and environmental monitoring in the region. The funded initiatives will:

- Advance local planning and strengthen partnerships to prepare for extreme weather events.
- Restore and protect priority aquatic habitats to improve ecosystem resilience.
- Expand environmental monitoring infrastructure and capacity across the watershed.

"These projects empower local communities to tackle climate challenges while contributing valuable data to guide future action," said Curtis Bohlen, CBEP Executive Director.

Grantees and projects:

Bowdoin College: Establishing a long-term water quality monitoring station in Harpswell Sound at the Schiller Coastal Studies Center.

Brunswick Topsham Land Trust: Upper Middle Bay Marsh (Brunswick) resiliency project

City of Portland, Office of Economic Opportunity: Bridging cultures for climate resilience: A community needs assessment

Downeast Institute: Extending the soft-shell clam recruitment monitoring network throughout Casco Bay

Freeport Conservation Trust: Cousins River marsh restoration project

Gateway Community Services Maine: Building youth capacity for environmental monitoring and climate leadership

Island Institute: The Casco Bay Islands Resilience Collective: Strengthening Casco Bay Island collaboration for shoreline resilience and nature-based solutions

Kennebec Estuary Land Trust: Evaluating and planning for remediation of agricultural impacts in the Casco Bay marshes of Phippsburg and West Bath

Maine Audubon: Harraseeket River CoastWise Planning - Frost Gully Brook and Mill Stream Tidal Crossings

Maine Coast Heritage Trust: Monitoring Support for Casco Bay Estuary Salt Marsh Restoration

Maine Rivers: Restoring Connectivity in the Royal River Watershed: Development of an Action Plan

Peaks Island Action Team (PEAT): Peaks Island Working Group Formation

University of Southern Maine: Increasing capacity to monitor nutrients and road salts in the Casco Bay Watershed.

Voices from the Field:

"Our project will engage youth from the Greater Portland area in climate resilience actions while contributing valuable environmental data for the Casco Bay region," said Nathan Davis, Director of Programs at Gateway Community Services. "By providing youth with tools, knowledge, and firsthand experience, they will be empowered to become environmental leaders."

"With this grant, we will follow CoastWise best practices to better understand how Flying Point Road is affecting the salt marsh at Mast Landing and Frost Gully Brook and use that information to plan for marsh-friendly tidal crossings," said Sarah Haggerty, Conservation Biologist at Maine Audubon.

"This expansion will provide crucial data for understanding and managing clam populations in the region," added Dr. Brian Beal, Director of Research at the Downeast Institute.

For more information about CBEP and these grant opportunities, please visit the [CBEP website](#).

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