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NHACC May 2025 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Updates and more!



Benefits of Protecting Nature

Nature provides so many public benefits to a community. Protecting our natural areas and working lands help make communities healthier and more resilient by protecting drinking water and preventing and controlling floodwater. Land conservation helps to boost local economies through tourism, and farms and forests create jobs and supports businesses. Providing access to nature benefits public health by reducing stress, expanding exercise options and improves air and water quality for residents. Almost everyone is interested in a healthy economy and public health so point out the connection between healthy ecosystems to healthy communities as often as you can.

[For more resources click here.](#)

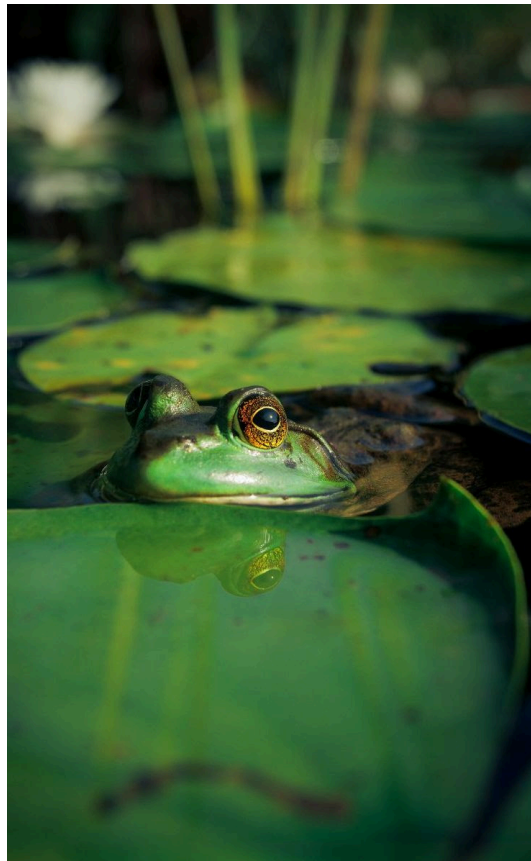


Photo by Chase Adams

CCs in the News

Concord Conservation Commission

The Concord Conservation Commission's trails subcommittee installs new signs on a trail connecting Marjorie Swope Park to Carter Hill Orchard. The trail was initially supposed to cut through a different area of the woods but ended up being right by the pond, exactly at the former site of the Concord Ski and Outing Club's Winter Recreation Area. The new trail signs feature the historical significance of the area. [Read more.](#)

Lakes Region Conservation Commissions

This year, the Sandwich Conservation Commission started a crossing brigade, a group to assist amphibians in crossing roads to their watery destinations. Laconia Conservation Commission Chair Dean Anson said there are about a dozen identified vernal pools in the city. Amphibians go to the same vernal pool year after year, and don't have a backup, so preservation is important. Runoff from vernal pools becomes groundwater, and amphibians help keep insect populations down. With so few of these pools, and their importance for amphibians, the city designates a 100-foot buffer around them to prevent development, compared to wetlands, which receive a 50-foot buffer. [Read More.](#)

Newmarket Conservation Commission

The Newmarket Conservation Commission hosted a Turtlefest to raise awareness about turtle habitats, turtle rescue and a road crossing project in Newmarket intended to protect turtles. The event featured wildlife rehabilitators from NH Turtle Rescue and biologists from NH Fish & Game. Fish & Game has been working with the town of Newmarket for a long time, and said the town has invested in protecting turtles with road crossings and public awareness. Ellen Snyder, of the town's Conservation Commission, said the idea for Turtlefest started with a discussion among town officials related to a project on Ash Swamp Road to protect turtles as they cross the road. [Read the full story here.](#)

Towns Team Up to Protect Horsepilot Farm

The [Southeast Land Trust of NH](#) has successfully conserved the [156-acre Horsepilot Farm](#), a key property spanning East Kingston, Exeter, and Kensington. The property is a mix of fields, forests, and wetlands, once home to the historic "Eno Brickyard" that supplied bricks for Phillips Exeter Academy buildings. Managed as a certified Tree Farm, the land provides essential watershed protection for the Exeter River, Exeter's drinking water source, and ranks highly in the [NH Fish & Game Wildlife Action Plan](#) as a key connection within conserved lands. The towns of Exeter, East Kingston, and Kensington contributed funds to the project. [Read more.](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

Conservation Easement Monitoring for Volunteers

Conservation easements can be difficult to read, confusing and challenging for communities to effectively manage. Join UNH Extension and the NHACC for a series of trainings designed to demystify conservation easements and improve volunteer field skills. These programs are designed for volunteer easements monitors and members of committees that steward conservation easements.

Participants can attend any or all of the workshops below, click on each one for more information. View the training series schedule on the [UNH website here](#).

Beyond Prime Wetlands - Protecting Wetlands & Streams for your Community

Saturday, June 21 from 10 am to 3 pm

Bow High School, Falcon Way, Bow NH

NHACC will host a training workshop on prime wetlands for Conservation Commissioners, especially for those that live in towns with prime wetlands or towns considering designating prime wetlands. NH Department of Environmental Services will assist in the presentation by discussing the history of the law and rules. Also covered during the program will be the technical parameters to consider when addressing permits associated with prime wetlands, and options for Commissioners when updating their prime wetland maps. Certified Wetland Scientists will bring a practitioners view to the discussion, as well as to present alternatives for protecting high value wetlands on a local level.

Presenters include: Professional Wetlands Scientists Mary Ann Tilton and Sandy Crystall; Certified Wetland Scientists Mark West and Rick Van de Poll; and Barbara Richter from NHACC.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Grant Opportunities

2025 DWGTF Source Water Protection Grant Round is Open

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund has allocated \$2 million for this year's grant round. NHDES is currently accepting pre-applications for **Source Water Protection** projects. Grants are available to cover up to 50% of total project costs and are capped at \$500,000 per project. To be eligible for consideration, a project must permanently protect an area containing "high-priority water supply lands," defined as land that falls within either: a wellhead protection area, hydrological area of concern or a high-yield stratified drift aquifer classified as GA2. Eligible lands can be viewed in the **[Source Water Protection Eligible Lands Mapper](#)**. **Pre-applications** are due May 21, 2025; and if eligible, applicants are invited to submit a funding application due June 25, 2025.

Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program

Application deadline: Applications are reviewed monthly.

Geographic scope: U.S. cities and towns with populations under 30,000

Community Heart & Soul is a resident-driven process that engages the entire population of a town in identifying what they love most about their community, what future they want for it, and how to achieve it. The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program provides \$10,000 in funding for resident-driven groups in small cities and towns with populations under 30,000 throughout the United States to start the Community Heart & Soul program. Community Heart & Soul efforts must be planned and led by at least five residents who are directly affiliated with and reside in the community, and must have a lead organization that is a local government, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, or an informal resident-led group with a 501(c)(3) fiscal sponsor. Funding requires a \$10,000 cash match. [Go to the website for more information](#).

Waste Management Grant Program

The WM Charitable Giving Program , is committed to making communities safer, stronger, and more sustainable. Support is provided to nonprofit organizations in communities in which the company operates. (A map of company locations is available on the [WM website](#).) The funding areas of interest include the following:

- environmental stewardship, including organizations whose programs preserve and enhance renewable resources and empower environmental stewards;
- environmental justice;
- sustainability education, including equipping individuals with knowledge needed to enhance their communities through programs that support clean, resilient, and sustainable places to live;
- workforce skills and development;
- community vitality, including supporting programs that work to ensure that neighborhoods and communities are safe and sustainable; and,
- supplier diversity.

For more information and to apply go to the [Waste Management website](#).

NHACC Membership Benefits

NHACC now has a **listserv** (email distribution list) to distribute timely information to the conservation community. The electronic listserv provides an efficient way for conservation commissions to reach out to others to seek advice, to ask questions, and share information. Check out our listserv **NHACC Exchange** and ask your questions to other commissioners who may have answers. [Sign up here](#) to join the NHACC Exchange.

NHACC sends out a **monthly Enews** with information on grants, training opportunities and updates from conservation commissions here in NH. If you know someone who would like to sign up for our Enews send them [this link](#).

NHACC Handbooks are still available at discounted rate of \$20 for NHACC members. This handbook serves as an introduction for new members to the powers, responsibilities and possibilities of conservation commissions and as a reference for more experienced commissioners. To order a Municipal Conservation Commission Handbook, please email Linda at: admin@NHACC.org.

Visit the [NHACC website](#) for guidance documents and educational material. We expanded and enhanced our members resource library section to provide easy access to the most critical information that commissions need. This resource library is packed with information both created and curated by NHACC.

Remember, the benefits of membership also include:

- Discounted rate at our Annual Conference to be on November 1;
- Representation in the state legislature and on state-wide commissions;
- Online Lunch & Learn programs free to our members;
- Access to technical assistance and guidance;

- Access to our updated website;
- Educational opportunities focused on wetland permit review;
- Networking opportunities including roundtables, hikes, and potlucks;
- Up-to-date publications from our E-news and Legislative Updates.

Visit our Website

NHACC.org

Our mailing address is:

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