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NHACC August 2025 Enews

1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Updates and more!



NH DES Wetlands Rules

Photo by Mark Sheehan

The NHDES Wetlands Bureau shared the draft of Administrative Rule Chapter Env-Wt 400 for consideration and comment. [Read draft here.](#) Their goal continues to be revising the rules in a manner that provides a more readable, intuitive, and user-friendly document. The current Wetlands Administrative Rules discuss the classification of projects in thirty-eight different places spread throughout Rule Chapters Env-Wt 400, 500, 600, and 900. In this draft, DES has consolidated all information on the determination of project classification into one chapter. **It was not the intent to change project classifications, only to make the information easier to find.** Please read through and test the viability of this new structure. DES will gladly take input and comments on this draft and the previously released draft [Chapter Env-Wt 300](#) through the end of September 2025. In October, NH DES will use your feedback to help create the drafts for the next round of formal rulemaking. The primary contact for this project is still Wetlands Bureau Administrator, Darlene Forst, at Darlene.C.Forst@des.nh.gov.

(b) Projects shall be classified based upon the area of impact to jurisdictional resources in accordance with Table 402-1 below unless modified by a project-specific classification in Env-Wt 403.

Table 402-1: Classification Based on Size of Impact

Type of Jurisdictional Area	Minimum	Minor	Major
Watercourse or shoreline	< 50 linear feet (LF)	≥ 50 LF to < 200 LF	≥ 200 LF
Other jurisdictional areas	< 3,000 square feet (SF)	≥ 3,000 SF to < 10,000 SF	≥ 10,000 SF

CCs in the News

Francestown Conservation Commission: Ensuring Resilient Futures for NH Lakes

On Wednesday, September 24, NH Dept of Environmental Services Water Division Assistant Director Ted Diers will present Navigating the Waters: Ensuring Resilient Futures for NH's Lakes. The program, which will run from 7 to 8 PM, will be held at Francestown's Town Hall at [2 New Boston Road](#) in Francestown, NH. Diers will provide an update on the health of Francestown's and other NH lakes, an overview of some of the challenges they face, and an inspiring call to action. This program is sponsored by the Francestown Conservation Commission and the Watershed Study Subcommittee. [For more information.](#)

New London Conservation Commission Works to Restore the American Chestnut

New London conservationists are eagerly awaiting the first nuts from their crop of about 100 American chestnut trees. This initiative is focused on preserving and restoring the "redwoods of the East." [Read article HERE.](#)

The Bedford Conservation Commission Proposes Wetlands Ordinance

The Bedford Conservation Commission invited the public to learn more about wetland buffers. The session featured a presentation by Joanne Smith, a member of the commission, who shared an informative video highlighting the importance of stream buffers in maintaining water quality and supporting local wildlife. The proposed ordinance would establish a 50-foot non-disturbance buffer around named streams in Bedford. This initiative aligns with practices in surrounding towns, which enforce varying buffer distances from 25 to 100 feet. Smith articulated that stream buffers not only filter pollutants but also absorb floodwaters, stabilize stream banks, and provide essential habitats for wildlife. [Read the article HERE](#)

Education & Training Opportunities

GIS TOOLS for WETLANDS ASSESSMENT

Friday September 12 at noon - Part 1

Friday September 19 at noon - Part 2

Get ready for an interactive introduction to NHDES online GIS mapping tools. Join NHDES Mary Ann Tilton and Emma Berger as they unveil the Land Resources Management Permit Planning Tool (LRMPPT), to assist in wetland assessment. In this interactive session, you'll: Uncover the powerful features of the LRMPPT, ideal for desktop site reviews and screenings. Learn how to effectively use online tools to gather vital wetland functional assessment and values information.

[Register for Part 1](#)

[Register for Part 2](#)

WETLANDS ASSESSMENT FIELD STUDY

Friday September 26 from 1:00 to 4:30 pm

Locke Road Concord

This field study session will focus on learning how to visit a site and identify basic wetland functions and services of diverse wetland types, including forested wetlands, marsh, scrub-shrub, and riparian floodplain wetlands. The program will provide participants with the opportunity to visit a site and provide an introduction to wetlands field assessment. This session will include 4 field stations that feature wetland functions and benefits. Wetland functions demonstrated include; wildlife habitat, groundwater recharge, flood storage, sediment trapping, nutrient retention, and educational potential. Each station will be 40 minutes, and all groups will rotate through 4 field stations during the training.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

BEYOND BOUNDARIES; Collaborative Large Scale Land Management

Wednesday, September 17 at 12 noon

Join NHACC, UNH Extension, and Distant Hill Gardens and Nature Trail to learn more about the benefits of managing land across property boundaries to benefit wildlife and your community. UNH Extension Forester, Steven Roberge will explain the advantage of landscape-scale management and how to protect natural resources by expanding the scope of stewardship beyond boundaries. Michael Nerrie from Distant Hill Gardens will highlight different examples of what can happen when a community works together. This program will also provide an opportunity to brainstorm ways your community could develop a collaborative land management strategy!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

TRAIL SKILLS for Conservation Commissioners

FRIDAY, October 3 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

This hands on workshop will focus on trail analysis to help trail builders and maintainers develop a "trail eye" and empower them to make real time decisions to prioritize trail issues. Join the AMC Trail Department staff in this workshop dedicated to sharing experiences and highlighting common strategies to minimize the overuse of recreational sites. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Lunch & Learn Webinars

Join us for our Lunch & Learn webinars to learn more about options to reduce waste in NH. NHACC designed the lunchtime programs to make it easy for volunteer conservation commission members to keep up with trends and learn new skills to help you achieve your conservation goals.

Recycling 101: The What, Where, Why and How Behind Recycling in New Hampshire

September 23 at noon on Zoom

[REGISTER Here.](#)

Foam Recycling Reimagined: A Regional Collaboration

October 8 at noon on Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Clothing Waste, Conservation & Community

October 22 at noon on Zoom

[REGISTER HERE](#)

ZERO Waste & Reuse Strategies That Work

November 5, at noon on Zoom

[REGISTER HERE.](#)

Grant Opportunities

Moose Plate Grant Applications Are Due in September

Grant applications are due on September 12, 2025.

The New Hampshire State Conservation Committee (SCC) announces the opening of the fiscal year 2026 Conservation Moose Plate Grants. Grant application information and program requirements are available on the SCC website [SCC.nh.gov](https://www.scc.nh.gov). Grant funds are available for projects that support and promote programs and partnerships that protect, restore, and enhance the state's valuable natural resources. Awards will be announced in December 2025, and funding will be available to successful applicants in July 2026. Eligible applicants include municipalities, County Conservation Districts, qualified nonprofit organizations engaged in conservation programs, schools, County Cooperative Extension natural resource programs, and scout groups. For SCC grant program inquiries, contact the State Conservation Committee Grant Administrator nh-conservation-committee@agr.nh.gov. The 2026 Conservation Grant Application Instructions and Application Form may be downloaded from the [SCC website](#).

GRANTS FOR STEWARDSHIP COSTS in the COASTAL WATERSHED

The Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership announces Stewardship Grant Program Fall 2025. Grant applications are available for the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership's Fall 2025 Stewardship Grant Program. The grants program assists with land stewardship costs for the permanently protected conservation lands in the Coastal Watershed area of New Hampshire and Maine. Stewardship activities supported by this grant program include habitat management, existing trail maintenance, property/project planning, and natural resource inventory projects. Projects that involve resource sharing or collaboration with partners/abutters on stewardship

actions across property boundaries are encouraged. Eligible applicants include the fee owner or conservation easement holder of an eligible conservation property, including qualified nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) conservation organizations, municipalities and units of government. Applications must be submitted by October 15, 2025. Grant instructions and the application form are available on the [GBRPP website](#). For questions about the grant program contact: Dea Brickner-Wood info@greatbaypartnership.org

New England Grassroots Fund

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund grant programs aim to energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe, and environmentally sustainable communities throughout the six New England states. The Grassroots Fund is currently accepting applications for Seed grants, designed to support new (often less than one year old) environmental projects, and Grow grants, for initiatives that look to deepen their work or broaden participation. Grants focus on groups doing local, grassroots work, with priority on community groups that have an approximate annual operating budget under \$100,000, represent a broad range of voices in their community, and are not being reached by other funders. [For more information.](#)

Save the Date

Saturday, November 1, 2025
Pembroke Academy

Don't miss the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions (NHACC) 55th Annual Meeting and Conference, featuring Ethan Tapper, a forester, digital creator, and the bestselling author of *How to Love a Forest: The Bittersweet Work of Tending a Changing World*. The NHACC Annual Meeting and Conference is the only State-wide conference dedicated to municipal conservation commission members.



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NHACC.org

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