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1 message

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Conservation Commission Activities, Legislative Updates and more!



Join us for our Annual Meeting
& Conference



Don't Miss the NHACC Conference on Saturday, November 7.

This year's keynote presentation is ***The Little Brook That Changed the World: How Hubbard Brook Transformed Our Understanding of Forests, Water, and Environmental Change.*** Established by the U.S. Forest Service in 1955 in New Hampshire's White Mountains, the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest brings together scientists from federal agencies and more than 25 universities and research institutions. Together, they explore the intricate relationships among forests, wildlife, air, water, and soils. You can attend 3 [workshops](#) of your choice to enhance your learning experience. Sign up before October 24 to get the early bird rate of \$70 for members and \$80 for non-members. Workshops fill up fast and have limited space. Register now to get your first choice of workshops.

[Register Now](#)

CCs Outreach Programs

Franconia Presents: Invasive Plants Walk Talk

Saturday, September 19

Lafayette Regional School parking lot in Franconia at 10am

Please join the Franconia Conservation Commission on a guided walk to learn about invasive plant species in our area and how to control them. This 90-minute walk will help build your knowledge of invasive species and protect NH's biodiversity. [See Poster](#) for more details.

Rindge Presents: Our Natural Heritage

Sept. 24, 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of the Pines

Rindge Conservation Commission is excited to sponsor a free talk by Rindge resident, well-known author, and documentary filmmaker Dayton Duncan. His topic, "Our Natural Heritage: Stories of Everyday People Who Made a Difference", will highlight ordinary citizens who had a vision and took action to preserve our natural world for future generations. From saving the American buffalo to creating national parks, people like you and your neighbors made it happen. Click [here for the Event Flyer](#).

Protecting Land: A Conservation Easement Panel & Q&A

Wednesday, Oct. 21 – 5pm–6:30pm

East Kingston Public Library, 47 Maplevale Rd., East Kingston, NH

The East Kingston Conservation Commission is hosting a Protecting Land panel on Wednesday, Oct. 21st to discuss how conservation easements can preserve and protect land. The panel discussion will include conservation easement owners and an expert:

- Chris & Jill Rider permanently protected 156 acres in East Kingston, Exeter and Kensington from future development with a conservation easement in 2025.
- Kaitlin Deyo is Conservation Project Manager at SELT (Southeast Land Trust).

The panel and Q&A is free; no registration is required. See [Conservation Panel Flyer](#) for info.

Education & Training Opportunities



Lunch & Learn Zoom Series

GranitView Basics: Using Online Mapping Programs for Wildlife Protection

Wednesday, October 14, at 12 noon on Zoom

Join us to learn how online mappers can be used to optimize your work to identify, protect, and manage wildlife habitats and other natural resources. We have a wealth of recent natural resources science available to us, and much of that is just a short click away from you! You can access a lot of information via the Statewide GRANITView mapper. We will review some prepared examples, and then there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion – be sure to bring your questions.

REGISTER HERE

Creating a Town Land Conservation Inventory

Wednesday, October 28, at 12 noon on Zoom

Do you know where all the conservation and public lands are in your town? A comprehensive up-to-date list and map of conservation lands is integral to understanding your town's monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement responsibilities. The location and distribution of conserved lands can also be used by conservation commissions, land use planners, and conservation organizations to inform future land protection. Get ready to research! This program is an overview of where to find, identify, and locate conservation lands and how to submit that information to GRANIT. (Note: This program builds off the previous program on using GRANITView and assumes basic understanding of navigating the online mapper).

REGISTER HERE

Grant Opportunities

Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

The Forest Service is requesting applications for the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (hereafter, "Community Forest Program"), authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill. The Community Forest Program is a competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to federally recognized Indian Tribes, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to establish community forests through the fee simple acquisition of private forest land. Deadline for eligible applicants to submit applications: 11:59PM Eastern Time on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Notes: ■ Applicants must submit applications to their State Forester or equivalent Tribal official. (See [here for State Forester contact information](#).)

You can find the full details, eligibility criteria, and documents on the official Community Forest Program website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private->

[land/community-forest](#)

NH DES LOCAL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION GRANT

2026 Local Source Water Protection Grant Applications Due November 1st!

Grants are available from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to develop and implement programs to protect local sources of drinking water. Public water suppliers, municipalities, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts, and watershed associations are eligible to receive funding. Grant projects must protect surface or groundwater actively used or that will be used in the future by public water systems as sources of drinking water. Applicants can receive up to **\$30,000** for a source protection project that addresses climate/weather-related challenges – flooding, drought, cyanobacteria blooms, stormwater pollution, erosion, and sedimentation. This funding is offered to help public water systems and communities become more resilient, sustainable and save money in the long-term.

Examples of source water protection projects:

- Development and adoption of municipal groundwater and surface water protection regulations similar to NHDES' or other state models
- Source security enhancements such as fencing, gates, or cameras
- Developing, updating and implementation of local source water protection plans and ordinances with the integration of climate-related goals
- Certain transactional costs associated with land conservation to protect drinking water sources
- Implementation of stormwater best management practices
- Completing state Groundwater Reclassification for community well(s)
- High-risk residential heating oil tank replacement
- Education and outreach campaigns
- Projects which prepare first responders to protect public water supplies

For more information, visit [Local Source Water Protection Grant | NH Department of Environmental Services](#) or contact Melissa Lang, Source Protection Coordinator if you have questions or wish to discuss your project. Melissa.E.Lang@des.nh.gov

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