

## **New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program Grant Round 23 (2024) Awards**

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### **1. Morse Preserve Expansion, Alton**

A \$250,000 LCHIP grant will help the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forest add 385 acres of conservation land to its existing Morse Preserve in Alton, creating a 1,630-acre conservation area just west of Alton Bay. Situated along the ridgeline between Pine and Rocky Mountains, the property will provide expanded opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Lakes Region, while preserving clean, safe drinking water for users of Alton Water Works.

Media contact: Anna Berry, Director of Communications and Digital Outreach  
(O) 603-224-9945 ext. 301 or [ABerry@ForestSociety.org](mailto:ABerry@ForestSociety.org)

- Photo 1: Morse Preserve Expansion, Alton 1 PC Ryan Smith

### **2. Campbell Pond Forest Expansion, Antrim**

With help from a \$115,000 LCHIP grant, the Town of Antrim's Conservation Commission will add 112-acres of forestland to its existing Campbell Pond Town Forest. As with the existing forest, the new property will be placed under a conservation easement held by the Monadnock Conservancy. The new addition will expand opportunities for public outdoor recreation in the town, while the additional working forestland will contribute revenue from timber production.

Media contact: Peter Beblowski, Chair, Antrim Conservation Commission  
(M) 603-831-2383 or [beblowskiretep@yahoo.com](mailto:beblowskiretep@yahoo.com)

- Photo 1: Campbell Pond Forest Expansion, Antrim 1 PC LCHIP

### **3. Atkinson Center School**

The Atkinson Historical Society will use a \$54,725 LCHIP grant to restore the Town's one-room schoolhouse, the Atkinson Center School. From 1880 to 1949, generations of pupils studied in the schoolhouse, which in recent decades served as the Town's police department and a family mediation center, prompting changes to the building's interior and exterior. In 2023, the Historical Society pledged to restore the building and has since removed vinyl siding, reopened blocked windows, and removed non-historic partitions that had been added to the interior, restoring the central room to its original configuration. The LCHIP grant will assist the group in removing a 1990s addition, repairing historic clapboards, reinstalling a long-lost cupola and flagpole, and repairing the schoolroom's pressed tin ceilings. When the project is complete, the schoolhouse will serve as a community gathering space and touchstone, connecting present day residents with Atkinson's past.

Media contact: Kate Rochford, President, Atkinson Historical Society  
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- Photo 1: Atkinson Center School 1, PC Courtesy Atkinson Historical Society
- Photo 2: Atkinson Center School 2, PC Courtesy Photo

#### **4. Bartlett Union Congregational Church, Bartlett**

The Bartlett Union Congregational Church will utilize a \$14,800 LCHIP grant to rehabilitate the only church located within the village of Bartlett. Located in the heart of the white mountains, travelers entering Bartlett from Bear Notch Road are greeted by this beautiful Queen Anne-style church nestled on a large corner lot at the intersection with Route 302. Constructed in 1896, the church has been integral to community life in Bartlett for generations, and today serves as the elementary school's emergency shelter as well as a community gathering space.

Media contact: Gail Prelli, Deacon, Bartlett Union Congregational Church Deacon  
(O) 860-307-9172 or gprelli@snet.net

- Photo 1: Barlett Union Congregational Church, Bartlett 1 PC Judith Ludgate
- Photo 2: Bartlett Union Congregational Church, Barlett 2 PC Judith Ludgate

#### **5. Horizon Farm Conservation Easement, Bennington**

In October 2020, the Comeau family purchased a 70-year-old livestock farm in Bennington with a vision of returning the farm to its former agricultural glory. To accomplish that, the young family needed to reclaim fields slowly reverting to forest from disuse, repair or rebuild farm buildings, and reinstall fence lines on the 51 acres of pasture and hay fields. Four years later the property epitomizes the small, family-run farm once a common sight across rural New Hampshire. The Monadnock Conservancy will utilize a \$150,000 LCHIP award to acquire an agricultural easement on the property. Proceeds from the sale will help the family to continue making much-needed upgrades and achieve their vision, while the easement itself will ensure the land will forever remain available for farming.

Media contact: Martin Royle, Communications and Marketing Director, Monadnock Conservancy  
(O) 603-357-0600 ext. 111 or martin@monadnockconservancy.org

- Photo 1: Horizon Farm Conservation Easement, Bennington 1 PC Jennifer Comeau
- Photo 2: Horizon Farm Conservation Easement, Bennington 2 PC LCHIP

#### **6. Campton Bog**

A \$197,000 LCHIP grant will help the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests conserve 743 +/- acres in and around the Campton Bog in Rumney and Campton. Campton Bog is a 360-acre high-quality peat wetland complex of regional significance. Peatland habitats like this are unusual in the state, but important for carbon sequestration, can contain over 550 different plants, and provide extraordinary wildlife habitat for numerous species. Campton Bog, well-known as a birding hot spot, is also used by hunters and is a popular kayaking destination offering stunning views of the surrounding White Mountain National Forest. The LCHIP grant will help the Forest Society acquire a conservation easement on the 454-acre Green Acre Woodlands' property, one of three to be conserved.

Media contact: Anna Berry, Director of Communications and Digital Outreach, Forest Society  
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- Photo 1: Campton Bog, Campton 1 PC Peter Bloch, EarthAerial Productions
- Photo 2: Campton Bog, Campton 2 PC Brian Hotz

## **7. Canaan Meetinghouse**

Overlooking picturesque Canaan Street Lake, the 1794 Canaan Meetinghouse anchors the Canaan Street Historic District. Originally constructed in 1793, the Federal style building has served its community for well over two hundred years. This local landmark plays host to a variety of social events including the popular author series hosted by the Canaan Library. A \$74,000 LCHIP award will help the Town to improve drainage around the building, stabilize the structure of the tower, and repair its windows.

Media contact: Susan Nero, Publicity, Canaan Meeting House Preservation Committee  
(M) 860-841-5341 or s.nero01@hotmail.com

- Photo 1: Meetinghouse, Canaan 1 PC Andrew Cushing
- Photo 2: Meetinghouse, Canaan 2 PC Courtesy Photo

## **8. Trinity Episcopal Church, Claremont**

The Trinity Episcopal Church is a noted icon in downtown Claremont. Built in 1853 by New York City architects Wills & Dudley. This unique stick-style wood-framed church with its vibrant and welcoming red doors is a sharp contrast to the brick and stone buildings that also frame the town common. The strong vertical emphasis, tall windows and complex roof lines of Trinity Church are classic elements of the stick-style of architecture. A \$10,000 LCHIP award will stabilize and repair two chimneys and fund further study which will guide future preservation work.

Media contact: Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Reverend, Trinity Episcopal Church  
(O) 603-224-1914 ext. 126; (M) 603-667-3296 or kss@nhepiscopal.org

- Photo 1: Trinity Episcopal Church, Claremont 1 PC Kelly Sundberg Seaman
- Photo 2: Trinity Episcopal Church, Claremont 2 PC Courtesy Photo

## **9. Danville Meetinghouse**

The oldest, unaltered meeting house in New Hampshire, Danville's remarkable 1755 Meeting House will benefit from a \$54,519 LCHIP grant to improve drainage around the site, repair deteriorated exterior wood, add a new access ramp and paint the exterior. The Town has owned and maintained the building since its construction, assisted by the Old Meeting House Association. The venerable structure, which displays exceptional historic integrity, hosts tours, weddings, memorial services, school field trips, Old Home Day services, and annual select board meetings. Already a landmark redolent of another era, it will be better poised to last well into the future when the LCHIP funded-work is complete.

Media contact: Chris Stafford, President, Olde Meeting House Association of Danville  
(M) 603-490-3860 or Cnstafford@icloud.com

- Photo 1: Danville Meeting House 1, PC Courtesy Photo

## **10. Ladd-Gilman House, Exeter**

LCHIP is pleased to award a \$170,590 grant to the American Independence Museum to support rehabilitation of the Ladd-Gilman House in Exeter. Built over three hundred years ago, the Ladd-Gilman House served as NH's state treasury during the Revolutionary War. In more recent decades, an original printed version of the Declaration of Independence was discovered within the building and is now the centerpiece of the museum's collection. LCHIP funds will be used to repair windows, replace storm

windows, and repair and paint clapboards and trim. Completion of the project is expected to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution.

Media contact: Jennifer Carr, Interim Executive Director, American Independence Museum  
(O) 603-772-2622 or [director@independencemuseum.org](mailto:director@independencemuseum.org)

- Photo 1: Ladd-Gilman House, Exeter 1 PC Courtesy Photo

### **11. Hampstead Congregational Church**

The Hampstead Congregational Church, an Italianate-style building constructed in 1861, will benefit from a \$20,000 LCHIP grant to help repair its distinctive translucent rolled glass windows created using a nineteenth-century technique abstract patterns into thick sheets of glass to create a stunning visual effect. LCHIP funds will help repair the windowpanes and the wood sashes in which they are mounted.

Media contact: Brad Robie, Communications Liaison, Hampstead Congregational Church  
(M) 603-290-4930 or [bradrobie@comcast.net](mailto:bradrobie@comcast.net)

- Photo 1: Hampstead Congregational Church 1, PC Brad Robie

### **12. Hebron Grange & Chapel**

The Town of Hebron and the Hebron Library Trustees will receive a \$100,000 LCHIP grant to be used to rehabilitate the Town's 1915 Grange Hall and adjoining Memorial Chapel built. Located on the northeast corner of the Hebron Town common, these buildings are classic examples of rural early 20th-century vernacular and Classical Revival architecture, respectively. This comprehensive rehabilitation effort will restore historic features including pressed tin ceilings and wooden flooring, while addressing accessibility needs, providing much-needed space for the library, and converting the 1909 Chapel now vacant into useable space.

Media contact : Donna Luti, Assistant Librarian, Town of Hebron  
603-481-2169 or [skyeking1@verizon.net](mailto:skyeking1@verizon.net)

- Photo 1: Chapel and Grange, Hebron 1 PC Bill Luti

### **13. Jackson Town Hall**

For 145 years the Jackson Town Hall has stood as the centerpiece of the historic village center. Constructed in 1879, today the Town Hall is home to the Jackson Historical Society and the Museum of White Mountain Art at Jackson. Wedged between the Wildcat River and Black Mountain Road, the Town Hall is vulnerable to flooding and erosion of the riverbank. Damage to the Town Hall from recent storms made it clear. The building cannot remain in its present location. The Jackson Historical Society will apply its \$225,000 LCHIP award towards the cost of relocating the Town Hall away from the damaging effects of river flooding.

Media Contact: Leslie Schomaker, President, Jackson Historical Society  
603-383-9922 or [info@jacksonhistory.org](mailto:info@jacksonhistory.org)

- Photo 1: Town Hall, Jackson 1 PC Leslie Schomaker
- Photo 2: Town Hall, Jackson 2 PC Leslie Schomaker

#### **14. Grassy Brook Headwaters, Marlow and Alstead**

The Conservation Fund will use a \$225,000 LCHIP grant to permanently protect 1,353 acres of exceptional wildlife habitat in Marlow and Alstead. For 40 years, management of the property has prioritized habitat improvements for upland bird through small patch cuts and understory removal. Today, the land is a mosaic of habitat diversity of age class and forest type that benefits species reliant on mixed age forests. The property boasts an impressive variety of wetlands, fens, marsh, and sedge meadows, complemented by diverse forestlands.

Media contact: Josh Lynch, Senior Communications Manager, The Conservation Fund  
(O) 703-908-5809 or [jlynch@conservationfund.org](mailto:jlynch@conservationfund.org)

- Photo 1: Grassy Brook Headwaters, Marlow 1 PC Swift Corwin
- Photo 2: Grassy Brook Headwaters, Marlow 2 PC Swift Corwin

#### **15. St. John's on the Lake, Meredith**

The St. John's-on-the-Lake Association will receive a \$79,823 LCHIP grant to support the rehabilitation of the St. John's-on-the-Lake Chapel, located on Lake Winnepesaukee's Bear Island in Meredith. Work will include foundation and tower repairs, and installation of perimeter drainage and much-needed lighting protection. The tower was originally constructed in 1898 as a personal observation tower and was later incorporated into the chapel, built in 1927. A trail network crisscrossing the island's conservation land, and the expansive open area surrounding the chapel draw visitors who access the island via a free boat-taxi departing from two public docks (by reservation).

Media contact: Ripley Forbes, St. John's-on-the-Lake Association  
(M) 703-628-6002 or [rforbes@aol.com](mailto:rforbes@aol.com)

- Photo 1: St. John's-on-Lake, Meredith 1 PC Fred Forbes

#### **16. Mont Vernon Town Hall**

Mont Vernon's venerable Town Hall – originally built across the street in the late 18th century as the meetinghouse – will benefit from a \$182,933 LCHIP grant funding a broad swath of much-needed rehabilitation work. Since 1837 this stately building has stood on its current site at the crest of a hill in historic Mont Vernon center. While the tower and windows have benefited from recent work, much remains to be done, especially where the building meets the ground: rotten sills and joists will be replaced; the crawlspace will be insulated; and clapboards will be repaired and painted. The work represents a significant reinvestment in a landmark building that helps define the community.

Media contact: Becci Schwarz, Grants Manager, Town of Mont Vernon  
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- Photo 1: Mont Vernon Town Hall 1, PC Courtesy Photo

#### **17. Great Meadow (Follansbee) Conservation Area, New Boston**

The Piscataquog Land Conservancy will utilize a \$250,000 LCHIP grant to acquire 294 acres surrounding the Great Meadow in New Boston. The property comprises the entire remaining unprotected shoreline of the impressive wetland complex, including two miles of riparian frontage on the Middle Branch of the

Piscataquog River & Buxton Brook, 23 confirmed vernal pools, and forested uplands providing critical buffer to the Meadow. The project will permanently protect prime wetlands, wildlife habitat, forest and agricultural soils while securing public access to an existing trail system that connects this property with nearby town-owned conservation land.

Media contact: Christopher Wells, President/Executive Director, Piscataquog Land Conservancy  
(M) 603-496-9246 or cwells@plcnh.org

- Photo 1: Great Meadow – Follansbee, New Boston 1 PC Jonathan Beck
- Photo 2: Great Meadow – Follansbee, New Boston 2 PC Jonathan Beck

### **18. Piscassic River Greenway, Mitchell Addition, Newmarket**

25 years in the making! The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is poised to add 132 acres to its Piscassic River Greenway. A \$250,000 grant from LCHIP will be used to acquire the 71-acre Mitchell property, a critical link in the larger Pawtuckaway to Great Bay Greenway that connects SELT's Burley Farms to the Piscassic Greenway. The property includes wildlife habitat critical to supporting endangered species, is vital to maintaining clean, safe drinking water for users of the UNH/Durham drinking water supply system and has been well-managed under the same family since the early 1700s. A conservation easement on the property held by New Hampshire Fish and Game will further strengthen protection of this important area.

Media contact: Dave Johnson, Senior Communications Advisor, Southeast Land Trust of NH  
(O) 603-658-9713; (M) 603-276-2418 or dave@seltnh.org

- Photo 1: Mitchell Addition, Newmarket 1 PC Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography

### **19. Northwood Ridge Water District Expansion**

Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, in partnership with the Northwood Ridge Water District (NRWD), will utilize a \$70,000 LCHIP grant to conserve a 30-acre property comprising two NH DES-designated wellhead protection areas. The property overlies a vital aquifer that provides clean, safe drinking water for the Town of Northwood, and is adjacent to 129 acres of existing conservation land, further safeguarding the region's water quality. Phase two of a three-phase project, the land, along with an adjoining 25-acre NRWD-owned parcel, will be owned by NRWD and secured by a conservation easement held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways.

Media contact: Krystal Balanoff, Executive Director, Bear Paw Regional Greenways  
(O) 603-463-9400 or k.balanoff@bear-paw.org

- Photo 1: Northwood Ridge Water District Expansion, Northwood 1 PC Wini Young

### **20. Moffatt-Ladd Counting House, Portsmouth**

What did an office building look like two centuries ago? Not much different from a small house! Next to the Moffatt-Ladd House, one of Portsmouth's grand historic mansions, stands a modest one-story, wood-frame counting house. But its humble appearance belies its key function: In such small buildings, large fortunes were made. Now serving as a museum shop and ticketing area, it is crowned by a hip roof covered with aging cedar shingles. A \$24,700 LCHIP grant will help repair the roof, add gutters, and repair windows,

work that will keep water out and support the stewardship provided by the property's long-term owner, the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the State of New Hampshire.

Media contact: Mikaela Reisman, Nat'l Soc'ty of Colonial Dames of America, in the State of NH  
(M) 603-685-4167, outreach@moffatladd.org

- Photo 1: Moffatt-Ladd Counting House, Portsmouth 1, PC Mikaela Reisman

### **21. Wentworth-Gardner House, Portsmouth**

Even ornate and showy masterpieces of American architecture, like the Georgian-style Wentworth-Gardner House, have unglamorous and hidden preservation needs, including the need for essential repairs to keep water out. Such is the task before the Wentworth-Gardner Historic House Association, which is receiving a \$28,602 LCHIP grant to repair two of this house's chimneys – inside and out. Merchant Mark Wentworth built the structure in 1760. Then, in 1916, antiquarian Wallace Nutting acquired and restored the building, which has been open to the public ever since.

Media contact: Karen Bouffard, Chair, Building Comm., Wentworth-Gardner Historic House Assn  
(M) 603-969-4311 or kbouf@aol.com

- Photo 1: Wentworth-Gardner House, Portsmouth 1 PC Courtesy Photo

### **22. Portsmouth's 100-acre Woods**

In response to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, LCHIP has awarded the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire \$350,000 to support its acquisition of a conservation easement on 100 acres within Portsmouth city limits. The conservation effort is also supported by a \$1,000,000 commitment from the City of Portsmouth, and over \$500,000 in private giving. The property is a critical link between the State's 182-acre Urban Forestry Center and a 215-acre block of conservation land in Rye that includes the Rye Elementary School. Long a high conservation priority identified in numerous regional and state-wide conservation plans, the property provides important green infrastructure benefits that could contribute to mitigating climate change impacts.

Media contact: Dave Johnson, Senior Communications Advisor, SELT  
(O) 603-658-9713; (M) 603-276-2418 or dave@seltnh.org

- Photo 1: Portsmouth's 100-acre Woods, Portsmouth 1 PC Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography
- Photo 2: Portsmouth's 100-acre Woods, Portsmouth 2 PC Jerry Monkman, EcoPhotography

### **23. Red Hill Pond/Handford Conservation, Sandwich**

Between Top of the World Road and Red Hill Pond in Sandwich lies a nearly 96-acre property with significant value for wildlife habitat, water quality protection, forest resources, scenic qualities, and recreation and education opportunities. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust will apply a \$90,000 LCHIP award to acquire the property, adding to the 821 acres surrounding Red Hill Pond conserved through the Land Conservation Investment Program (including the abutting Henry Easement). The area surrounding Red Hill Pond, south to Garland and Lee's Ponds are critical to preserving ecosystem functions within the region. To date, nearly 2,250 acres of land here has been conserved by the Towns of Sandwich and Moultonborough, The Nature Conservancy, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Media contact: Don Berry, President, Lakes Region Conservation Trust  
(O) 603-253-3301 or [dberry@lrct.org](mailto:dberry@lrct.org)

- Photo 1: Red Hill Pond – Handford, Sandwich 1 PC Don Berry

#### **24. Amey Conservation Area, Stewartstown**

The Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust has received \$150,000 to support creation of the 248-acre Amey Conservation Area (ACA) in Stewartstown. Forests on this remote property have stood relatively untouched since the 1930's. As a result, many areas, including an exemplary sugar maple community, are approaching "old growth" status. Somewhat rare in the northeast, old-growth forests are some of the most valuable ecosystems in the world, providing wide-ranging benefits including carbon storage, and serving as critical reservoirs of critical biological diversity. Under ACT's careful management, in 50 to 100 years the ACA forest will develop the full range of old-growth characteristics, creating an extremely dynamic and wildlife habitat.

Media contact: Rosalind Page, Executive Director, Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust  
(O) 603-823-7777 or [rpage@act-nh.org](mailto:rpage@act-nh.org)

- Photo 1: Amey Conservation Area, Stewartstown 1 PC Jesse Mohr

#### **25. Hraba Forest, Wakefield**

Moose Mountains Regional Greenways will use a \$120,000 LCHIP award to acquire 129 acres of high-priority forest and wildlife habitat along Brackett Road, near Lovell Lake in Wakefield. The property's forested uplands will help to buffer Lovell Lake, reducing the potential for negative impacts to water quality. A new trail system and small parking area will be created along Brackett Road, allowing the Forest to be accessed for recreation, as well as public recreation and educational events.

Media contact: Jill Eldredge, Executive Director, Moose Mountains Regional Greenways  
(O) 603-473-2020 ext. 1 or [jill@mmergnh.org](mailto:jill@mmergnh.org)

- Photo 1: Hraba Forest, Wakefield 1 PC John Gisis Photography

#### **26. Park Hill Meetinghouse, Westmoreland**

A \$22,933 LCHIP grant will help the Westmoreland Historical Society repair chipped and flaking calcimine ceilings in the first-floor meeting rooms of Westmoreland's lovely Park Hill Meetinghouse. Calcimine is an inexpensive coating comprised of chalk, glue, and water commonly used in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that can be very challenging to repaint. But the Society's efforts will pay off when these meeting spaces reopen once again, allowing residents to use and appreciate this local landmark.

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- Photo 1: Park Hill Meetinghouse, Westmoreland 1, PC 2011 Fitzgerald