



# Town of Bowdoinham

13 School St • Bowdoinham, ME 04008

Phone 666-5531 • Fax 666-5532

[www.bowdoinham.com](http://www.bowdoinham.com)

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## Memo:

**To:** Select Board,  
Nicole Briand, Town Manager      **Date:** December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**From:** Jason Lamoreau, Director of  
Recreation & Community Services      **Reference:** Maine Trails Program Grant

### **Request to Accept Grant Funding to Design and Construct Accessible Trail at Cathance Meadow**

#### **Summary**

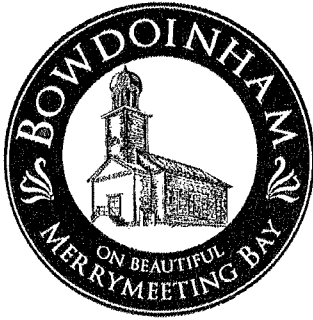
In August 2025 the Select Board unanimously approved applying for the Maine Trails Program Grant.

The Maine Trails Program (MTP) is a statewide initiative to support the design and development of trails for outdoor recreation and active transportation. Created by the Maine Legislature in 2024, the program is administered by the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. With \$30 million in state funding available through 2034, the program supports motorized, nonmotorized, and multi-use trails across Maine. Up to \$7.5 million per year may be awarded to trail projects to leverage at least \$3 million in public and private matching contributions.

The MTP grants are made on a matching basis and can fund up to 90% of eligible project costs. The balance must come from the project sponsor and can include cash and or in-kind / donated services and materials.

#### **Request**

The Recreation Department, in cooperation with Planning and Development, is proud to report that the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Trails Program application for the Cathance Meadow Trail System Improvements has **been selected to receive \$62,820.97 in funding** to be used for the design and development of an accessible trail at the new Bowdoinham Riverfront Park in the Cathance Meadow Trail system. The 0.15 mile section of trail would begin with new gate features at the entrance(s) of the trail along the railroad tracks and off of the new parking area. The trail will be constructed to be fully accessible by users of all ages and abilities by utilizing methods laid out in the 2023 Trail Assessment Report completed for the Age Friendly Committee by Community Geographics. This accessible trail



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would extend to the concrete observation platform (east of existing "blue" trail) as shown on the new waterfront park plan. Grant funding would also allow for the construction of a new platform walking surface area, safety handrails and ramp to the observation platform.

We are requesting the Select Board to approve the acceptance of this grant funding as well as the use of \$6,982 of TIF funds for the required 10% match. Implementation of this trail project will allow us to fulfil an integral part of the new waterfront park development plan vision and open up a beautiful, yet often inaccessible, portion of our community park to residents of all ages and abilities. We would appreciate your support of this successful grant application.



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION & FORESTRY  
GRANTS & COMMUNITY RECREATION  
124 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

AMANDA E. BEAL  
COMMISSIONER

November 26, 2025

Yvette Meunier  
Town of Bowdoinham  
13 School Street  
Bowdoinham, ME 04008

RE: MTP 2025 Grant Cycle

Dear Yvette Meunier,

Congratulations, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Maine Trails Program application for the **Cathance Meadow Trail System Improvements** has been selected to receive **\$62,820.97** in funding. As this is the inaugural funding cycle of the Maine Trails Program, the program is particularly pleased to support this project and begin building strong partnerships with communities and organizations across the state. Before a fully executed Project Agreement can be issued, several administrative steps must be completed. The target is to finalize the Project Agreements in time for a March 2026 project start date.

This notice does not constitute the formation of a Project Agreement between the Department and Town of Bowdoinham. Note that any costs incurred prior to receipt of a fully executed Project Agreement are not eligible for reimbursement or for use as match, nor are any volunteer efforts or in-kind services. However, bid solicitation may begin at this stage, provided all program guidelines are followed, and language is clearly inserted into any selected bid contract indicating that Town of Bowdoinham's final commitment is contingent on its receipt of the fully executed Project Agreement with the Department.

A copy of the fiscal guidance is included with this letter. Applicants are encouraged to review these materials and share them with all staff involved in managing the project. Close attention to the requirements for price quotes, bidding, and the timing of eligible costs and match will help ensure a smooth process. If you are not the designated project manager, please share this information with them and notify our staff of whom to communicate with moving forward.

All project managers are required to attend a grant management workshop to help ensure a successful and compliant project from start to finish. This workshop is expected to be scheduled for February, with further details provided once available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. We look forward to working with you on the successful, timely, and compliant completion of your project.

Sincerely,

*Adam Fisher*

Adam Fisher

ADAM C. N. FISHER, PROGRAM MANAGER  
MAINE TRAILS PROGRAM  
54 INDEPENDENCE DRIVE, AUGUSTA, ME 04333



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