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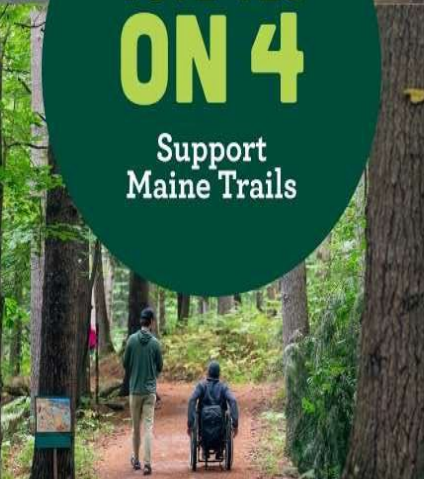


Maine Trails Program
Workshops
Spring 2025



Eastern Trail
East Coast Greenway
John R. Andrews Bridge

**VOTE YES
ON 4**
Support
Maine Trails

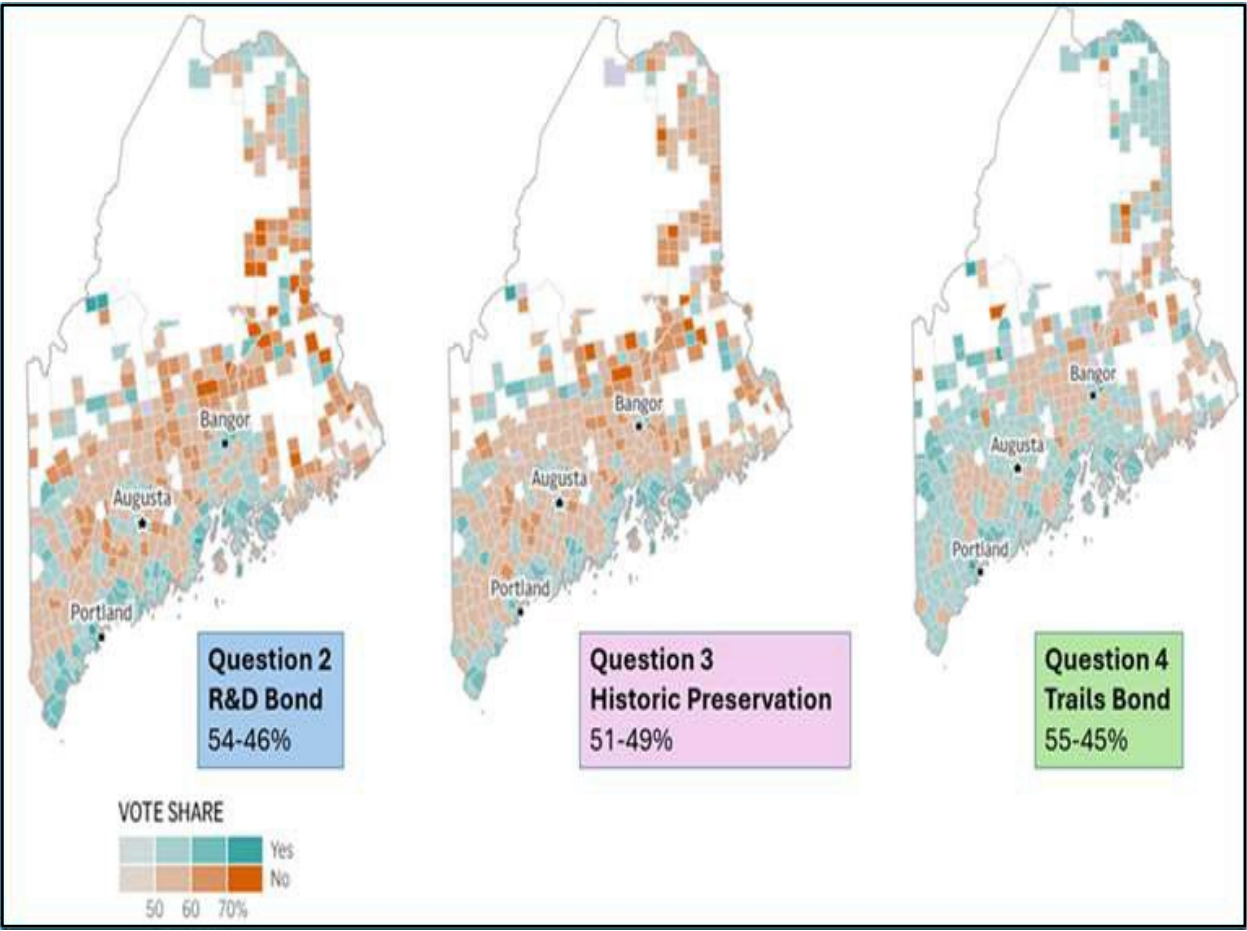


Trail Bond Basics

- \$30 million dollars for trail maintenance, renovation, development and acquisition.
- \$7.5 million each of 4 grant cycles
- Funding not allocated in any year rolls forward until all funding is committed – up to ten years.
- Funding included up to 3% for program administration and up to 1% for trail planning grants.
- Managed by Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands – Grants & Community Recreation Program which already manages the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund

It Passed !

- The Trails Bond was approved with 55% of the vote. Notably, the Trails Bond received more votes in more towns than either of the other two bonds on the ballot (Question 2 – R&D Bond, and Question 3 – Historic Preservation Bond).
- The Trails Bond won in 14 of Maine's 16 counties and was the only bond to win in Aroostook, Oxford, Somerset, and Washington Counties. Question 2 won in nine counties and Question 3 won in eight counties. Androscoggin and Piscataquis Counties voted against all three bonds, although the Trails Bond was the best performing bond in both counties
- In 112 towns, the Maine Trails Bond was the only bond that was approved. The trail coalition's digital ad campaign included target voters in each one of these 112 towns where the Trails Bond won, and the other two bonds lost.



Surprising Discoveries

- The Maine State Constitution prohibits bond funding from being used for anything but capital improvement projects.

Meaning:

- We would not be able to use the 3% of funding to increase our capacity to manage the program.
- We would not be able to use the 1% of funding for planning grants.
- We would not be able to use the funding for trail maintenance.

Improvise – Adapt – Overcome

- Executive branch and DACF administration found and allocated enough funding to support one position to help run the program.
- This is a limited term position that will need to be supported after the first two years of the program.
- Program guidance has been developed and posted.
- At 3:30pm on 3/30 this \$30 million dollar trail program was launched!

Maine Trail Program Basics – First Grant Cycle

- \$7.5 million available
 - 25% \$1,875,000 for Motorized
 - 25% \$1,875,000 for Non-Motor
 - 50% \$3,750,000 for Multi-Use
 - Maximum award \$250,000
 - No minimum, but...
 - Funds up to 90% of eligible costs
- Reimbursement based
 - Up to 25% of award in advance
- Application deadline Friday, September 26, 2025, 5:00pm
- Target notice of award made by November 1, 2025
- Project agreements executed by end of year.
- Project periods will extend for two construction seasons at a minimum.

Who can apply and for what?

Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Other qualified subdivisions of State Government, including executive branch departments and agencies
- Non-profit organizations

Eligible Projects

- Development of new trails, trailheads, trailside amenities and support facilities
- Renovation of existing trails, trailheads, trailside amenities and support facilities
- Accessibility improvements
- Acquisition of lands for trails

Ineligible Projects

- Routine Maintenance
- Roads, sidewalks, park infrastructure, landscaping.
- Outdoor Recreation Access Routes (park paths)
- Work within a public right of way
- Staff (unless directly managing a trail project)
- Feasibility studies
- Law enforcement
- Condemnation of land

The Application – more than one file

Folder #	Application Element
1	Completed 10pg application Completed Budget
2	Land Tenure & Control documents
3	Environmental Clearance documents MHPC / MIFW / MNAP
4	Project maps
5	Planning process (if applicable)
6	Trail plan designer qualifications (if applicable)
7	Evidence of future maintenance capacity
8	Any other supporting documentation

Submitting the Application

It is preferred that applications are submitted electronically via a link to a shared folder.

- Create a cloud-based folder on any of the various available storage services such as DropBox, Google Drive, iCloud, One Drive, etc. We don't care which one as long as we will be able to access the completed documents. Within the parent folder, develop sub folders for the respective application components and support documentation as below.

Accommodations will be made for those who need to submit a paper version.

In either case, late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

Applications will be reviewed and scored by members of the Maine Recreational Trails Advisory Committee

MAINE RTP ADVISORY COMMITTEE					
2025					
REGULAR MEMBERS					
Name	Office	Term thru 12/31 of	Trail Interest Representation	Organization / Agency Name	
Cathy Small	Member	2025	Equestrian Trails	Maine Trail Riders Association	
Richard (Dick) Howlett	Member	2025	At Large - Aroostook County	Star City ATV club	
Liz Thibault	Member	2025	Non Govt Org Trails	Maine Audubon	
Jedediah Talbot	Member	2025	Professional Trail Builders	Off the Beaten Path LLC	
Gabe Perkins	Member	2025	Interurban Multi-Use Trails	Maine Trail Coalition	
Deborah Bowker	Member	2026	Mountain Bike Trails	Carrabasset Valley Recreation Department	
John Raymond	Member	2026	ATV trails	ATV Maine	
Dan Bassett	Member	2026	Paved Bicycling Trails	Bicycle Coalition of Maine	
Robin Kerr	Member	2026	Municipal Trails	Maine Recreation and Parks Association	
Tom Gorrill	Member	2026	Back country trails	Maine Appalachian Trail Club	
Mike Grass Jr.	Member	2027	Snowmobile Trails	Maine Snowmobile Association	
Brian Macaurelle	Member	2027	Water Trails	Maine Island Trails Association	
Matt Polstein	Member	2027	At Large - Central Me	New England Outdoor Center	
Dan Baumert	Member	2027	Nordic Ski Trails	Maine Nordic Interests	
EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS					
Taylor Deely	Ex Officio		Maine Conservation Corps	Bureau of Parks & Lands	
Candace Pinkham	Ex Officio		Off Road Vehicle	Bureau of Parks & Lands	
Niki Lazure	Ex Officio		Outdoor Recreation Specialist	Bureau of Parks & Lands	
Julie Isbill	Ex Officio		NPS Rivers & Trails	National Parks Service	
Enock Glidden	Ex Officio		Accessibility	Community Geographics / Maine Trailfinder	
Jeff McCabe	Ex Officio		Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation	Department of Economic & Community Development	
Dakota Hewlett	Ex Officio		Bike/Ped Program Manager	DOT Multi Modal Planning	
Emily Brown	Ex Officio		RTP Specialist	Bureau of Parks & Lands	
Doug Beck	Ex Officio		State Trail Administrator	Bureau of Parks & Lands	

A person wearing a white bucket hat, a blue jacket, and dark pants is riding a bicycle on a wooden boardwalk trail. The trail is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by a wooded area with trees and fallen leaves. The person is riding away from the camera.

Questions?

These in person meetings are taking place from now until June 3rd across the state. Additional workshops may be held by various statewide trail interest groups.

Until we have filled the senior planner position, you may contact Doug Beck at doug.beck@maine.gov for more information.