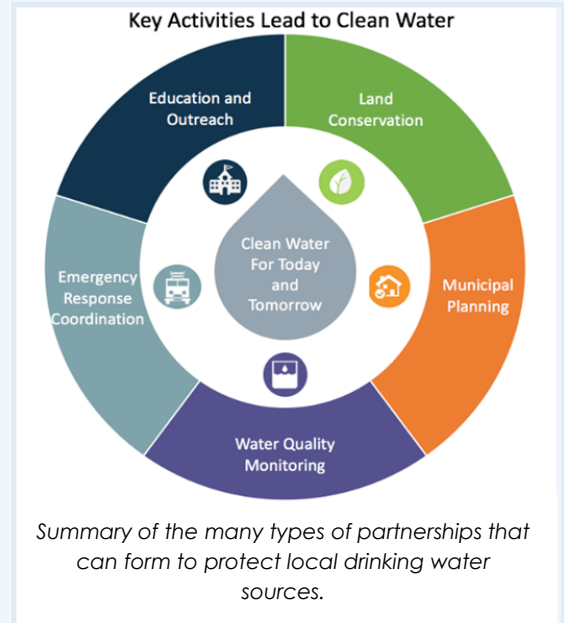


Collaboration for Clean Water, Today and Tomorrow

The principal mission of public water systems is to supply clean, safe drinking water to the public. **Protection of the land surrounding drinking water sources is an effective tool to ensure safe drinking water.** The cleaner the source, the safer the water; keeping contaminants out of water is more effective than trying to remove them from polluted water. An added benefit for water systems is the link between water quality and the cost of water treatment.

While water systems may see themselves alone in efforts to protect drinking water sources, many groups across the State are working towards similar goals. Land conservation groups, municipalities, lake associations, fire departments, schools, and other organizations also have an interest in clean water for their communities. Land trusts conserve forests—an effective clean water strategy. Lake associations monitor water quality and often have protection programs. Schools teach children and seek out community-based learning opportunities. Other organizations in the community may have practices in their work that overlap with the clean water mission of a water system. By working collaboratively towards shared goals, partners may be able to leverage their individual resources to make a bigger impact in drinking water source protection.



The Bangor Water District owns 98% of its source protection area. The District purchased 725 acres in 1998 by utilizing the Drinking Water Program's Land Acquisition Loan.

The Drinking Water Program has financial resources available for public water systems for projects that protect their source, including grants for drinking water protection and loans for the purchase of land integral to source protection. To find out what water systems are close to you, visit the Drinking Water Program's mapping website:

bit.ly/pwsmapping

There you can also turn on layers to show conservation land and land trust service areas.

Successful, collaborative relationships of diverse groups whose individual work helps to ensure clean water strengthens our drinking water source protection goals. Collaborative work results in actions that meet, and may even surpass, each group's individual goals. **Increased collaboration between water systems and other organizations will help us with our goal of keeping Maine's drinking water sources safe, today and tomorrow.**

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Maine CDC—Drinking Water Program Funding for Source Water Protection

Program	Eligibility*	Description	Examples	Funds Available
Source Water Protection Grant	Community and non-profit, non-community public water systems with surface water source	Awarded for projects that clearly demonstrate protection of a surface water source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Source Water Protection or Watershed Based Protection Plan Develop watershed based curriculum 	Up to \$5,000 per grant. Exceptional projects that demonstrate an on-going commitment to source protection may receive up to \$10,000.
Wellhead Protection Grant	Community and non-profit, non-community public water systems with groundwater source	Awarded for projects that clearly demonstrate protection of a groundwater source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delineate wellhead protection area Develop wellhead protection ordinance Install educational signs 	Up to \$5,000 per grant. Exceptional projects that demonstrate an on-going commitment to source protection may receive up to \$10,000.
Land Acquisition Loan and Grant	Community and non-profit, non-community public water systems	Low interest loans for the purchase of land integral to source protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase land in wellhead protection areas or watersheds of drinking water sources 	There is no fund limit for loans. The cost of the purchase must not exceed the appraised value of the land. Public water systems are eligible for 50% principal forgiveness on their loan, up to \$50,000.
Drinking Water Education Model Grant Program	Maine educators	Drinking water educational tools are available for Maine educators to teach students about drinking water source protection.	This program funds drinking water protection education tools for Maine students.	Funds for approximately 20 water education models are available each year.

*Who can apply for a grant or loan from the Drinking Water Program?

A **COMMUNITY** water system or a **NON-COMMUNITY** water system, as long as they are non-profit.

Example: A school that is served water from its own well can apply. A restaurant cannot apply.

COMMUNITY water systems consistently serve water to the same group of people. Towns with their own water districts are community water systems, so are apartment buildings.

NON-COMMUNITY water systems either do not serve water to the same people (restaurants or campgrounds) or they do serve the same people (schools or office buildings).

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM

