

DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND



LOCAL ASSISTANCE SET-ASIDE FUNDING

State Program:

Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program

Assistance Recipient:

Portland Water District

Project Name:

Conservation Easement



Project Description

The Portland Water District is Maine's largest drinking water utility. Its source, Sebago Lake, is a multi-use lake with excellent water quality. The greatest challenge to the long-term protection of lake water quality is potential development pressure in the mostly privately-owned watershed. In response, the District developed a Watershed Land Conservation Program, which provides funding toward forest conservation. **In 2019, the District approved the purchase of a \$345,000 conservation easement on a 1,417-acre property known as the Tiger Hill Community Forest, which is home to a network of wetlands located within two miles of the drinking water source.** Conservation will not only ensure that the wetlands of this forest are protected but will ensure that the land remains forested in perpetuity, protecting both the wetlands and the drinking water source. **The District used the Maine DWSRF's land acquisition loan program under the 15% Local Assistance Source Water Protection set-aside, which offers a low interest rate and up to \$50,000 principal forgiveness, reducing the amount owed on the loan.**



**DWSRF Assistance
Provided
\$345,000**



**Principal
Forgiveness
\$50,000**

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Click here to learn more about the [Maine Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program](#).

This case study comes from the [SRF Resource Guide for Wetland Applications](#).