



September 2011

RIGHT-OF-WAY DISCOVERY GRANTS

The Maine Coastal Program wishes to assist coastal communities with protection of public access to the ocean shore. Municipalities, with help from land trusts, conservation commissions, historical societies, and others wishing to research forgotten or overlooked rights-of-way may apply to the Maine Coastal Program for a **Right-of-Way Discovery Grant** to help defray expenses.

Applicants, or their researchers, should document competence in deed and historical research, and applicants will need to demonstrate a commitment and ability to follow through as necessary to secure for the future any rediscovered public rights-of-way.

Application Submission: Sealed applications must be clearly marked with the bidder's return address and the notation: "Application Right of Way Discover Grants" and delivered to: Matthew Nixon, c/o Maine State Planning Office, Maine Coastal Program, 38 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333 no later than 2:00 PM local time on October 21st, 2011, at which time and place they will be opened. Only applications actually received at 38 State House Station prior to the stated time will be considered. The State assumes no responsibility for delays caused by any package or mail delivery service. Postmarking by the due date WILL NOT suffice. FAXED PROPOSALS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Proposals received after the 2:00 PM deadline will be rejected, without exception.

A total of \$10,000 is available this fiscal year for Right of Way grant awards. Individual grants may not exceed **\$2500.00**. Application instructions, especially project description details, are provided on the back side of this notice.

Discovery Grants are intended to help communities find and assert public rights-of-way to the Maine coast that are in danger of being lost by the passing of generations and changing land ownership patterns. The local effort to rediscover existing but uncertain, unused or forgotten legal rights of access to the shore usually involves inventorying possible access points, researching records to verify public rights, and then taking steps to assert and safeguard these public access rights. In many instances traditional rights-of-way for hunting and fishing access to the coast are being lost.

Grant awards will be announced by **November 1st, 2011**. All research funded by the grant awards must be completed by **June 30, 2012**.

The handbook "Maine Shore Access Public Access Series, Coastal ROW Rediscovery Program" can be found on line at http://www.maine.gov/spo/coastal/projects/project_summaries/right-of-way-discovery.html or for more information, please call Matt Nixon at the Maine State Planning Office (207) 624-6226) or contact him via email at Matthew.E.Nixon@Maine.gov.

Right-of-Way Discovery Grants

How to Apply

The Maine Coastal Program is pleased to offer Right-of-Way Discovery Grants. Please refer to the front side of this page for a description of the purpose of these grants. This page outlines the application process. To make your proposal as strong as possible please provide all of the information requested below.

All applications are due on or before October 21st, 2011.

1. Your project description needs to address the following questions. Two or three pages should suffice.
 - What locations do you intend to research? Please include maps, photographs, and/or other descriptive materials.
 - Why are these locations important? How is public access likely to benefit if your research is successful?
 - Have abutting and/or affected property owners been notified? Are they aware that a public right-of-way might exist? Have you posted a public notice of your application? Please include copies of letters of notification and public notices.
 - Are your researchers experienced in deed research?
 - What follow-up steps do you plan to take to secure for the future of any rights-of-way identified by your research? Do you foresee any obstacles to securing these rights-of-way?

2. Please provide a list of proposed research activities, estimated expenses and time schedule for your project.

3. Applicants who are not municipalities must include letters of endorsement from each of the municipalities where research sites are located. Additional letters from groups or individuals with a stake in the particular sites to be researched, such as fishermen or other traditional users will strengthen the application.