

2017 Casco Bay Community Grant Awards Announced

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP) has announced its 2017 Casco Bay Community Grants awards. Six awards were made, for a total of \$10,000, for projects in Brunswick, Chebeague Island, Harpswell, Phippsburg, and Portland.

Through the Casco Bay Community Grants Program, CBEP seeks to encourage new partnerships and innovative projects that engage communities with Casco Bay and its watershed, and that are tied in with the 2016 Casco Bay Plan. The following 2017 Casco Bay Community Grant awards were made:

- Brunswick Junior High School, “Connect Casco Bay”: The seventh grade Jewell Island Team will engage in a four-week community-based, expeditionary learning unit to help students understand the fragility of Casco Bay and their duty to care for it.
- Chebeague Island Community Association, “Chebeague Island Aquaculture Festival”: A one-day festival on the island will educate community members about aquaculture farms in the community, as well as raise awareness of the importance of water quality to these operations.
- Friends School of Portland, “Inter-generational Investigation of the Casco Bay Watershed”: Students will learn about and test water quality, and interview seniors about their connection to Casco Bay.
- Harpswell Heritage Land Trust, “Engaging Youth with a Junior Ranger Program”: An initiative to engage local youth and families with Harpswell’s coastal environment through a junior ranger program.
- Kennebec Estuary Land Trust, “Community Conservation of a Phippsburg Clam Flat”: The project will bring together community partners to educate Phippsburg youth about the town’s important natural resources and actions they can take to improve these resources.
- Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association, “Climate Change through the Eyes of Shellfish Harvesters”: A video will explore how environmental changes have impacted the Harpswell shellfishing industry.

2016 Projects

- Chebeague & Cumberland Land Trust/Horseshoe Crabs Come Ashore in Broad Cove
- Friends of Casco Bay/Nitrogen Nabbing: Mobilizing Volunteers to Protect our Coastal Waters
- Harpswell Coastal Academy/Speaking Lands: Revealing the Stories of Unexamined Casco Bay Watershed Sites
- Harpswell Heritage Land Trust/Short Course on Harpswell’s Coastal Habitats
- Royal River Alliance/Celebrate our Royal River on World Fish Migration Day
- South Portland Conservation Commission, City of South Portland/From Brook to Bay: Protecting South Portland Watersheds
- Waterfront Alliance/Working Waterfront Stories

A total of \$10,000 was awarded to seven organizations. Grant awards ranged from \$500 to \$2,500.