

**From:** [Brown, Sam](#)  
**To:** [Anthony Ward](#)  
**Cc:** [Courtneywalsh83@gmail.com](#); [omdevi@icloud.com](#); [m\\_bolk@hotmail.com](#); [Jim Arsham](#); [Brown, Sam](#); [Amy Brown \(pickleattheshire@gmail.com\)](#)  
**Subject:** CORA GRANT Details  
**Date:** Thursday, June 19, 2025 7:23:56 AM

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Tony – see here for CORA Grant Details: we'd like to see this funding used for Berry Property, Mayberry Hill and/or the 70-acre wood.

### **CORA Grant**

- **Main outcomes of the project:**

- Identify and address physical and informational barriers that prevent more people from accessing and enjoying trails and outdoor spaces. Specific focus on the many small, quick changes and improvements that can be made right away to eliminate and minimize barriers and increase the usability of trails and outdoor spaces.
- Create outdoor recreation and transportation opportunities that are informed by visitors and Mainers living with disabilities.

- **Services this opportunity provides:**

- A review of your communications materials about outdoor recreation opportunities
- One day of visiting and assessing your trails, water access and/or green spaces. (May-August)
- Assistance in creating your own community Equity Action Plan
- A report of our findings and suggestions for infrastructure and communications improvements to help you prioritize your next steps.

- **What is needed from the COSC:**

- Recommendations of a couple outdoor spaces you would like to have assessed (trails, parks, town-owned properties)
- Any materials that talk about trails or other open spaces in town that could be assessed (maps, online materials, print)
- Coordinate endorsement by town staff (Tony, Beth) and elected officials

- **[Application is located here](#) - apply ASAP!**

Will this get you what you need? Thanks!

~ Sam

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**From:** Anthony Ward <award@cascomaine.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 2:03 PM  
**To:** Brown, Sam <SBrown@PineStateTrading.com>  
**Cc:** Courtneywalsh83@gmail.com; omdevi@icloud.com; m\_bolk@hotmail.com; Jim Arsham <j.arsham@verizon.net>  
**Subject:** RE: Open Space Update: CORA GRANT information & Other Business

Sam and the Open Space Committee,

Thank you for the updates on last evening's meeting. I can share my perspective on the bullet points.

- CORA Grant- this can be added to the July 1<sup>st</sup> Selectboard agenda. I will need additional information about this grant to provide the sufficient background to the Selectboard.
- Open Space Playbook-Also could be added to the July 1<sup>st</sup> Selectboard meeting
- Funding Request-There are funds immediately available in this year's budget for these requests. The purchases would need to occur before June 30, 2025.
- Your representative on the Berry property stakeholder group was received.

Tony

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**From:** Brown, Sam <[SBrown@PineStateTrading.com](mailto:SBrown@PineStateTrading.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 17, 2025 7:09 AM  
**To:** Anthony Ward <[award@cascomaine.org](mailto:award@cascomaine.org)>  
**Cc:** Brown, Sam <[SBrown@PineStateTrading.com](mailto:SBrown@PineStateTrading.com)>; [Courtneywalsh83@gmail.com](mailto:Courtneywalsh83@gmail.com); [omdevi@icloud.com](mailto:omdevi@icloud.com); [m\\_bolk@hotmail.com](mailto:m_bolk@hotmail.com); Jim Arsham <[j.arsham@verizon.net](mailto:j.arsham@verizon.net)>  
**Subject:** Open Space Update: CORA GRANT information & Other Business

Hi Tony,

We had a full, productive meeting yesterday. We wanted to provide you with an update and ask for your direction on some business.

Here you are:

- CORA Grant information below:
  - Funding available for assessing & improving our *Open Space for accessibility*.
    - We learned about this through Loon Echo and would like to

have the support of the Select Board to apply for funding.

- Timing: *immediate*.
- Open Space Playbook (current draft attached)
  - We want to share with the community via the Select Board the current draft of our Playbook, derived from the Comprehensive Plan in preparation for work with the Planner on the Casco Bay Estuaries Grant.
- Funding Requests
  - Open Space *Photo Contest*
    - \$400 for gift cards to area businesses for top 4 prizes.
    - Cost of printing QR Codes on business card format to distribute in the community.
  - Open Space *Welcome Gift* to New Gas Station at Pike's Corner
    - \$250 for a tree to plant in their landscape.
- Berry Property *Stakeholder Representative*
  - The Commission elected *Eric Dibner* to represent us.

We welcome your guidance on moving forward with these tasks. I look forward to seeing you at the Select Board meeting this evening.

Thanks, Tony.

~ Sam

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**From:** Maggie Lynn <[maggie@lelt.org](mailto:maggie@lelt.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 3, 2025 1:30 PM

**To:** Brown, Sam <[SBrown@PineStateTrading.com](mailto:SBrown@PineStateTrading.com)>

**Cc:** Matt Markot <[matt@lelt.org](mailto:matt@lelt.org)>

**Subject:** Fwd: MRPA CEU opportunity and updated CORA GRANT information!

Hi Sam,

You may be aware of this, but just in case you aren't, I thought Casco might be interested in this opportunity to have your outdoor spaces and communications about them assessed for accessibility and help developing an equity action plan!

The application is pretty straightforward. Let me know if this is something you think the conservation commission/town would have capacity for! I'm planning to reach out to

see if it makes sense to also apply as LELT, or if it is possible to include LELT trails within the town's assessment.

Best,  
Maggie

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Executive Director** <[executivedirector@merpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@merpa.org)>

Date: Wed, May 28, 2025 at 3:03 PM

Subject: MRPA CEU opportunity and updated CORA GRANT information!

To: Executive Director <[executivedirector@merpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@merpa.org)>

Hello, MRPA,

What a beautiful spring day, I hope that you are enjoying it!

I am re-sending the CORA GRANT information as a reminder that there is still time to apply AND to let you know that we have opened up the applications to partner organizations who manage outdoor spaces in your community, think Conservation Commissions and Land Trusts. I invite you to share this information with any group or organization who you think may benefit from an outdoor spaces or communications assessment.

**CEU opportunity!** In lieu of the all-day workshop that was scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, Community Geo will be offering THREE ONE-HOUR WEBINARS in June. See below for topics, dates, and times. These sessions are each eligible for .1 CEU!

### **CORA GRANT INFORMATION AND APPLICATION:**

What does it look like to create trails and outdoor spaces that are more inviting, inclusive, and supportive of people living with different disabilities? How can we rethink outdoor spaces and how we communicate about them to welcome people who have historically been marginalized in conservation and the outdoors?

Maine Recreation and Park Association has been awarded a \$100,000.00 CORA Grant to help you **INCREASE ACCESS TO YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES!**

The Community Recreation Assistance Recovery (CORA) Program is funded through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation State Grant. MRPA has partnered with Community Geographics to create a more equitable, sustainable and resilient outdoor

industry.

The focus of our grant is:

- Physical and informational barriers that prevent more people from accessing and enjoying trails and outdoor spaces.
- The many small, quick changes and improvements that can be made right away to eliminate and minimize barriers and increase the usability of trails.
- Outdoor recreation and transportation opportunities for tourists and Mainers living with disabilities whose experiences and needs have informed the creation of outdoor recreation resources, maintenance, and communication.

Between now and August 31st, MRPA and Community GEO will undertake the following activities as part of this grant:

- We will work with 10-12 Maine organizations/communities to assess their trail infrastructure and communications for accessibility. This will include the development of an Equity Action Plan.
- Communities will be chosen through an application process. Got outdoor spaces?  
**YOU ARE INVITED TO APPLY [HERE!](#)**
- Offer learning opportunities that help organizations make their outdoor spaces more inviting, inclusive and accessible.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS!

MRPA, together with Community Geo. is pleased to offer three (3) webinars designed to share the experiences, needs, and challenges of individuals living with disabilities, and provide concrete suggestions for how to minimize infrastructure and informational barriers that prevent wider access to, and use of, trails and lands.

- Addressing Communications Barriers to Trail Access & Inclusion - Friday, June 6 10 am-noon
- Writing Effective, Inclusive Trail Descriptions -Tuesday, June 17 10 am -11am
- Addressing Physical Barriers to Trail Access & Inclusion - Monday, June 23

2:00pm - 3:30 pm

You can register HERE for any, or all three, of the webinars:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4L\\_JwZtVVmFz1H6c\\_fTNcAPm1rwoc7bWBkNMkbpvZmCKNnw/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=102219727938518811778](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4L_JwZtVVmFz1H6c_fTNcAPm1rwoc7bWBkNMkbpvZmCKNnw/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=102219727938518811778)

*Please note that these workshops are not designed to advise participants on how to build or modify trails to make them fully compliant with federal legislation; rather, instruction focuses on making immediate, attainable shifts to trails, infrastructure, and communications that begin to welcome and accommodate a greater number of people looking to be active outdoors.*

For more information or questions contact me or Kara Wooldrik, Outdoor Inclusion Specialist, Community Geographics, [kara@communitygeo.com](mailto:kara@communitygeo.com).

**Robin Cogger**

**Maine Recreation and Park Association**

[executivedirector@merpa.org](mailto:executivedirector@merpa.org)

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I work a flexible work schedule and my work day may look different from yours.  
I don't expect you to respond to my email outside of your work hours.