

Addison County
Regional Planning Commission



ACRPC's Monthly Newsletter

April 2024



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ACRPC UPDATE

April Full Commission Meeting 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance Program

At this month's full commission meeting, ACRPC will be hosting guests from VT Agency of Natural Resources who will share info about the new ARPA 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) Program. Madeline Russell, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) 3-Acre Stormwater Program Lead, Gianna Petito, Clean Water Initiative Grants Supervisor and Kevin Burke, Stormwater Program Manager, of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, will be joining us to present its ARPA 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) Program. This constitutes a new funding program from VT DEC for sites within the Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, or stormwater impaired basin to support sites in obtaining their Three-Acre General Permit.

The full commission will meet on April 10th at 7pm.

View the full commission agenda on our [Minutes & Agendas Page](#)



Middlebury College Lands Planning Listening & Visioning Events

ACRPC has been working with Middlebury College to develop a comprehensive plan for the 3,000 acres of non-campus College owned lands within the Champlain Valley. The planning does not include the residential or commercial structures and lots, but instead comprises land that is used both privately and by the general public for a variety of purposes, including agriculture, recreation, forest products, and nature conservation.

We invite your input and vision to help with the Middlebury College Lands Comprehensive Plan. In-person and online opportunities to participate are available.

In-person events:

April 16, Kirk Center, 317 Golf Course Road, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

April 24, Kirk Center, 317 Golf Course Road, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Online Resources/Opportunities:

[Middlebury College's College Lands Planning Page.](#)

[ACRPC's College Lands Planning Page.](#)

[Online Survey.](#)

ACRPC Small Grant Program - Update

We are excited to share that, in an unexpectedly quick turnaround, nearly all of the available funds from our Small Grant Program have been requested to support planning projects across the region. There is still a small amount remaining to support local municipal volunteers with in-state training opportunities.

Congratulations are in order for the towns below who will receive this funding to support their planning work!

Cornwall: \$10k towards their Cornwall Outdoor Recreation Area (CORA) project!

Orwell: \$10k towards updating their Zoning Regulations!

Panton & Vergennes: \$10k to each towards surveying Town boundaries!

Ripton: \$10k towards a capital improvement plan!

Monkton: \$10k towards their new Town Forest!

Ferrisburgh: \$10k towards water system capacity planning!

Flood Hazards and River Corridor Protection

May 8, 1-4pm at ACRPC office conference room (14 Seminary Street, Middlebury)

Following the regular quarterly meeting of the **Addison County Regional Emergency Management Committee** (12-1pm), ACRPC will host a workshop on flood hazards and River Corridor Protection at the conference room and via Zoom.

Flood Resilience Educator Sarah Noyes and Watershed Restoration Manager Shayne Jacquith from The Nature Conservancy will lead the workshop with a focus on river behavior, as well as risk reduction and co-benefits including wildlife habitat connectivity. Attendees will learn about the benefits of and process of working towards updated Town plan flood resilience chapters, increased zoning protections and benefits, at-risk property buyouts, and restoration of stream buffers and wetlands.

Members of the public and town officials including Planning Commissioners, Development Review Board members, Town Administrators and Managers, and Conservation Commissioners are invited, and members of the REMC are welcome to stay and attend. If you have questions or topics you would specifically like to see addressed, please reach out to Andrew L'Roe, alroe@acrpc.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Starksboro-Meeting-House image

Congratulations to Starksboro on Receiving Support from the Preservation Trust of Vermont!

The Starksboro Village Meetinghouse has received an award of **\$100,000** through the [Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant Program](#). This program supports the preservation and restoration of buildings and community gathering spaces of economic and social significance in rural communities with fewer than 7500 residents.

"The Starksboro Village Meetinghouse, constructed in 1840 in the Gothic Revival style, has a long history of serving the community. Bruhn funds will support exterior repairs, structural improvements, and the expansion of the Starksboro Cooperative Preschool, ensuring that the building continues to serve the Starksboro community, including its youngest residents". - *Preservation Trust of Vermont*

[Read More](#)

Important Updates to the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP)

The Municipal Technical Assistance Program has seen a flurry of activity in the past few months as

resources and funding have been dedicated to important rural development projects.

As a result, the State has set the deadline of **April 30** for submitting Statements of Work to request for funding. Submissions received up to that deadline will be reviewed on a rolling basis and will be ranked and funded based on the following criteria.

1. [Municipality's Vermont Community Index \(VCI\) Ranking](#).
2. Grant Funding Pursued (private, state, or federal funding anticipated applied for/awarded, not including MTAP funding).
3. Community Impact.
4. Potential Alternative Funding (could this work be funded by another source- ex. MPG for Town Plan update).



Important Reminders about Local ARPA Funds

- It's that time again! The next required reporting for local ARPA funds is due by **April 30, 2024** for All ARPA expenditures from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024. Even if your municipality reported last year that all ARPA Funds were obligated and/or expended, you still must complete and submit the 2024 Project and Expenditure report.
- Now is also the time to think about obligating your local ARPA Funds if they haven't already been obligated. **ALL LOCAL APRA FUNDS MUST BE OBLIGATED BY DECEMBER 31, 2024.** This means placing an order for goods or services or entering into a contract, subaward, or similar transaction that requires payment. If your town is using ARPA funds to pay staff salaries or other internal costs, this needs to be documented with a resolution by the Selectboard.

Check out [VLCT's ARPA Webpage](#) for more info and guidance.



Contractors!
If you do residential construction projects valued at \$10,000 or more, you must register with the OPR!



Homeowners!
You can locate registered contractors near you, and find additional resources here!



Registration fees increase on March 31, 2024 - register today!



<https://sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors>

Did you know? Residential Contractors need to register with the Office of Professional Regulation!

Vermont passed a law in 2022 ([Act 182](#)) that requires residential contractors who perform residential construction (not commercial) where the estimated value is \$10,000 or more (inclusive of labor and materials) to register with the Office of Professional Regulation (OPR).

The OPR is a public protection agency, so a key function of Act 182 is ensuring homeowners have protection against fraudulent contractors. Homeowners can search our directory to find residential contractors near them who are registered and in good standing.

Registration fees for contractors increase on March 31, 2024 – learn more at <https://sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors/>.

Frequently Asked Questions: <https://sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors/residential-contractor-faqs/>

Homeowner Resources: <https://sos.vermont.gov/residential-contractors/homeowner-resources/>

GRANT & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Community

Community Heart & Soul Grant Program

The Community Heart & Soul Seed Grant Program is uniquely designed for small cities and towns (population 2,500-30,000). Successful applicants will receive \$10,000 grants to match funding from a participating municipality or a partnering organization. Awards are made on a **rolling basis**.

[Learn More](#)

Better Places Grants

Is your community thinking about expanding parks and green spaces, enhancing a lively main street, initiating public art projects, or establishing community gardens? If yes, consider applying for a Better Places Grant, supported by the VT Department of Housing & Community Development, VT Department of Health, and VT Community Foundation. This statewide grant program welcomes project submissions on a **rolling basis**.

[Learn More](#)

Energy

Electrify Your Fleet Program

The VTrans has launched their Electrify Your Fleet program, offering organizations the opportunity to apply for up to twenty \$2,500 incentives. The Electrify Your Fleet program aims to transition from fossil-fueled transportation, addressing carbon emissions and promoting cleaner options. Priority is given to historically underserved communities. Eligible vehicles include electric, hybrid, bicycles, motorcycles, and snowmobiles. Participants must hold the vehicles for 24 months and demonstrate emission reduction. Learn more here and apply here!

Due: Jun 2024

[Learn More](#)

Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP)

The Weatherization Repayment Assistance Program (WRAP) may be able to help you. WRAP is intended to assist both homeowners and renters in Vermont in pursuing home weatherization projects by allowing them to pay for the costs over time through a low-interest monthly charge on their utility bill.

WRAP assists with projects like insulation and air sealing as well as heat pumps, electric water heaters and advanced wood heating systems.

[Learn More](#)

Emergency Management

Rural Fire Protection Grant Program

The installation of new dry hydrants and other types of rural water supplies is still the program priority, but eligible projects may include repair/upgrade, replacement, or relocation of existing rural water supplies (whether previously grant funded or not), and drafting site development.

Learn More

Flood Resilient Communities Fund (FRCF)

This is a voluntary program that will prioritize projects in communities and/or for homeowners with greatest economic need and projects that mitigate repetitive loss among low-income and marginalized portions of the population. **Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis.** Priority will be given to buyout projects following the July 2023 flooding in Vermont.

Learn More

Questions about Updating Your Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) form the foundation for a municipality's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, restoration, and repeated damage. Having an approved and current LHMP is often the final step for gaining a 12.5% state ERAF reimbursement rate (in addition to 75% of cost reimbursement from FEMA) as well as qualifying for many VEM and FEMA-funded hazard mitigation grants.

The state of Vermont annually applies for funding from the FEMA BRIC program and reaches out to Municipalities with soon-to-expire LHMP's. If the Municipality accepts the funding (it requires a 25% match of cash or time), they can hire a consultant that facilitates the creation or update of the LHMP and submits it to the state and FEMA for approval. LHMP's are valid for 5-years after FEMA approval.

Learn More

Transportation

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program

The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Over \$3 billion is still available for future funding rounds. The SS4A program provides funding for two types of grants: **Planning and Demonstration Grants** and **Implementation Grants**.

Planning and Demonstration Grants provide Federal funds to develop, complete, or supplement an Action Plan. The goal of an Action Plan is to develop a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway fatalities and serious injuries in a

Natural Resources

WUV Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant

Watersheds United Vermont (WUV) is pleased to announce the release of the WUV Clean Water Workforce Capacity Development (CWWCD) Block Grant funded through the Department of Environmental Conservation's Clean Water Initiative Program (CWIP).

The purpose of the CWWCD Block Grant is to support and invest in the capacity of clean water partners in Vermont, both current and potential, in an equitable and inclusive way to address unmet capacity needs and ensure a strong partnership network that continues to efficiently

locality, Tribal area, or region. Planning and Demonstration Grants also fund supplemental planning activities in support of an Action Plan and demonstration activities in support of an Action Plan.

Implementation Grants provide Federal funds to implement projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan to address a roadway safety problem. Eligible projects and strategies can be infrastructural, behavioral, and/or operational activities. Implementation Grants may also include supplemental planning and demonstration activities to inform an existing Action Plan, and project-level planning, design, and development activities. Applicants must have an eligible comprehensive safety action plan (referred to as an “Action Plan”) to apply for an Implementation Grant.

The FY 2024 NOFO has multiple deadlines, depending on the grant type:

April 4, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #1 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

May 16, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Sole deadline for Implementation Grants. Deadline #2 for Planning and Demonstration Grants.

August 29, 2024, 5 p.m. (EDT): Deadline #3 for Planning and Demonstration Grants. NOFO closes.

[Learn More](#)

deliver high quality and high priority clean water projects.

Applications Due: May 9, 2024

Capacity Webinar: April 10.
Register [here](#).

[Learn More](#)

VT Urban & Community Forestry - Community Tree Planting Grant Program

The Community Tree Planting Grant (CTPG) program goal is to support the planting of 2,000 trees statewide. The CTPG will hold two rounds of competitive grant applications to help fund tree planting projects in high priority areas across Vermont. These community projects will help increase urban tree canopy and improve water quality and public health by controlling stormwater.

Individual awards between **\$5,000-\$75,000** will support tree planting to advance placemaking, climate resilience, and health equity in urban areas across the state.

Applications for the first round of funding due: **May 17, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) Program

The ARPA 3-Acre Permit Obtainment Assistance (POA) Program constitutes a new funding program from VT DEC for sites within the Lake Champlain, Lake Memphremagog, or stormwater impaired basin to support sites in obtaining their Three-Acre General Permit. To learn more visit the [3-Acre Funding Program Webpage](#). Please email madeline.russell@vermont.gov with questions.

Want to get in touch or ask us a question?

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Addison County Regional Planning Commission | 14 Seminary St, Middlebury, VT 05753
(802).388.3141

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