



Shore and Harbor Planning Grants

Town of Vinalhaven

Vinalhaven Harbor Management Plan (Fiscal Year 2020, project awarded 2019)

“The Shore and Harbor Planning grant allowed Vinalhaven to access technical resources to prepare a Harbor Management Plan. This plan helps us visualize all of the improvements we can make, ranging from ordinance updates to infrastructure improvements. The community will be able to effectively work these recommendations into work plans for the benefit of the harbor users.” – Andrew Dorr, Vinalhaven Town Manager

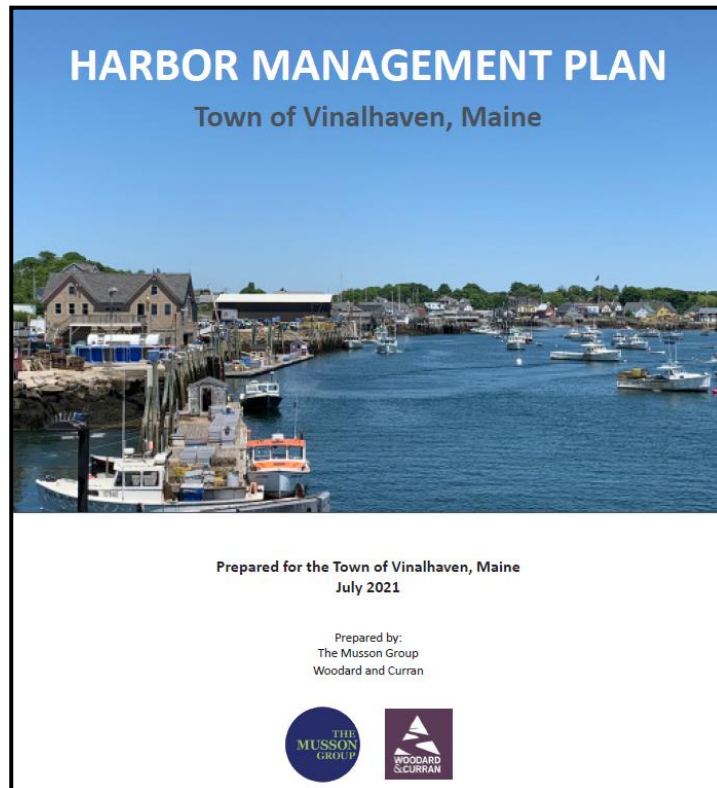


Photo: Andrew Dorr

Project Description

Vinalhaven prepared a Harbor Management Plan to help the town identify and manage their marine resources, which are important to the local economy. Use of the harbor is increasing and the town wanted to be able to manage those uses while planning for the future, including larger storms, flooding, erosion, and sea level rise. Vinalhaven did not have an existing Harbor Management Plan and establishing one will help the town manage use and prioritize Town resources for harbor-related projects. Vinalhaven partnered with the Musson Group and Woodard and Curran for the creation of the Harbor Management Plan.

Project results

The Harbor Management Plan was completed, allowing the town to organize their plans and investments for improving use of the harbor. The harbor has over 200 boats with some competing interests, and the plan helped the town prioritize near- and long-term actions. The results of the Harbor Management Plan were shared with the community at a Select Board meeting and through the town website. The Town views the plan as a living document and will revisit it in the future to assist with additional projects in the harbor.

Project follow-up

The Town is currently applying for a Maine DOT Small Harbor Improvement (SHIP) grant to fund improvements to their working waterfront infrastructure. Specifically, two boat launches and two public wharves will be updated. The Town is also reviewing and updating its Harbor Ordinance and is budgeting for other additional improvements. Vinalhaven was also awarded another Shore and Harbor Planning Grant in 2021 (FY2022) to improve culverts and reduce flooding on a low-lying and important road in the Town.

Lessons Learned

The project started during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made communication and community engagement difficult. Town Manager Andrew Dorr noted that while this was initially challenging, the Town and community members have gotten significantly better at engaging online over the course of the pandemic.

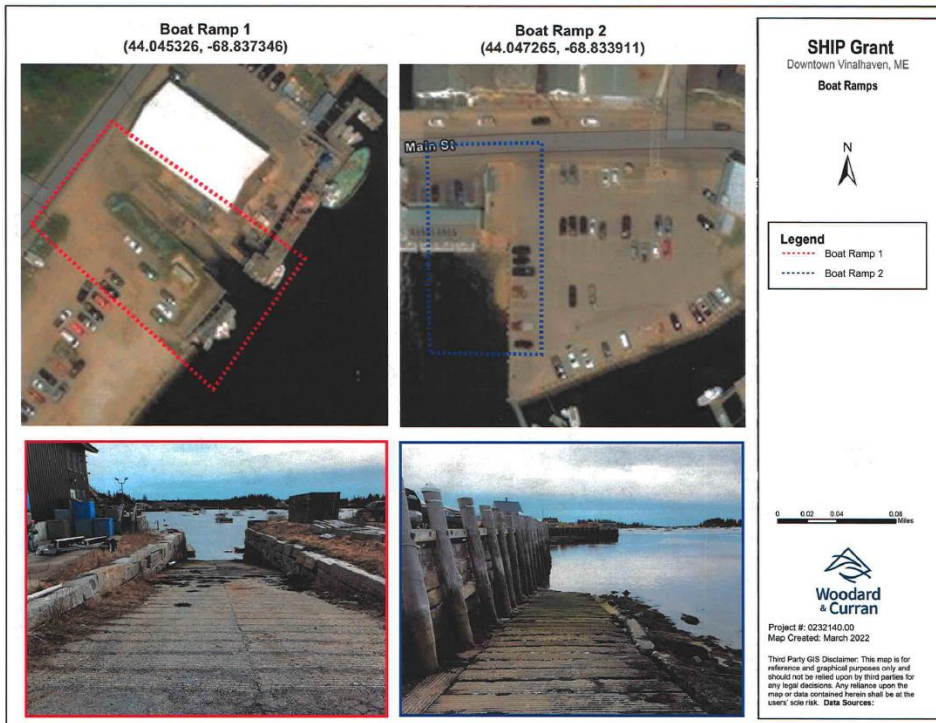


Photo: Andrew Dorr

Thank you to Andrew Dorr for his time and assistance preparing this document.

