



Questions? Concerns?

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Learn More

[www.townofvinalhaven.org/](http://www.townofvinalhaven.org/government/pages/downtown-project)

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Vinalhaven Downtown Project

What is the Downtown Project?

For years now, the condition and lack of sidewalks and dangerous corners and crosswalks on Main Street have been an issue for the community as has inadequate drainage. Additionally, the 1908 cast iron water main is ready to be replaced, and nuisance flooding due to sea level rise and more intense and frequent storms is becoming an increasing challenge.

To address these issues, the Town of Vinalhaven has launched a **Downtown Infrastructure Project**, a series of coordinated capital improvements in and along the .6 mile long corridor of Main Street spanning from the ferry terminal to Water Street. The Downtown Project is based on recommendations from the **2019 Downtown Master Plan**, which lists prioritized capital projects designed to meet community values and infrastructure needs for the next 20 to 30 years.

The Master Plan recommendations are founded on numerous studies and reports, the ideas and concerns of over 95 Main Street business and property owners, as well as community groups and organizations. The Master Planning Process was overseen by a board appointed nine-member Downtown Committee responsible for drafting the Master Plan.

The Downtown Project is funded through town reserves, a contribution from the Vinalhaven Water District, and state and federal grants. See the following page for **components of the Downtown Project** listed by funder.

Whether or not we work or live on Main Street, we all use and access the services provided there. The infrastructure improvements included in the Downtown Project are designed to benefit all of Vinalhaven by providing what we need to stay safe, make a living, and make a life here on the island.

How much will the project cost and who is paying for it?

The Town has been successful in securing both state and federal grants to help fund the Downtown Project. These grants, along with a significant contribution from the Vinalhaven Water District plus monies from the Town's general fund, reserve accounts, and in-kind labor, will enable the Phases of this project to move forward without the need to borrow additional funds.

Project Budget

ESTIMATED Total Project Cost: \$7,529,816

Total Grants, Contributions, Reserves, General Fund, and In-kind Match*: \$7,529,816

**Detail of Grants, Contributions, Reserves, and In-kind Match*

Total State Grants (Maine Department of Transportation, Community Resilience Partnership): \$925,000

Total Federal Grants (Economic Development Administration, Northern Borders Regional Commission, FY22

Congressionally Directed Spending: \$4,325,316

Total Water District Contribution: \$500,000

Town Reserve Fund Allocation (Road, Sidewalk, and Harbor Reserves) and General Fund Allocation: \$1,717,000

Town In-kind Match (staff wages and consultant fees): \$62,500

When is the Downtown Project going to happen?

Construction for Phase 1 of the project is expected to begin fall of 2024. Phase 2 and 3 construction is expected to begin spring 2025. No significant construction will occur during the summer months.

Vinalhaven Downtown Project

Project Phases and Components by Funder



1 Phase 1: Funded by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), Vinalhaven Water District, and the Town of Vinalhaven

- a** *Upgrading Stormwater Infrastructure*
Constructing and renovating the drainage system along Main Street to reduce flooding of businesses, street, and parking areas.
- b** *Replacing Public Sewer and Water Utilities*
Renovating and improving critical components of the sewer system along Main Street as recommended by the Sewer Climate Adaptation Plan. Replacing the 1908 Cast iron water main along Main Street.
- c** *Improving Main Street*
Reconstructing Main Street to accommodate new sidewalks and a drainage system to prevent flooding and reduce the impact to business owners. Sidewalk construction, crosswalk indicators, ADA improvements, pavement markings and traffic calming elements to aid in pedestrian movements and sea level rise issues along Main Street. Reconstructing critical intersections at Clam Shell Alley and Water Street to improve safety and resiliency.

2 Phase 2: Funded by Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC), MDOT, the Community Resilience Partnership, and the Town of Vinalhaven

- d** *Upgrade Downtown Parking Lot and Improve Boat Launch*
Reconstructing downtown parking lot to reduce flooding. Improving the downtown boat launch. Repairing/replacing bulkheads along downtown parking lot.
- e** *Prepare Net Factory Site for Eventual Repurposing*
Relocating Water District Offices and renovating existing structure for project support needs.
- f** *Improve Working Waterfront*
Improving Fish Plant commercial boat launch. Repairing/replacing bulkheads along Fish Plant parking lot.

3 Phase 3: Funded by FY22 Congressionally Directed Spending and the Town of Vinalhaven

- g** *Increase Coastal Resilience*
Constructing storm water catchment, detention, and treatment components adjacent to Main Street which will enhance overall storm water management being constructed along Main Street and will improve storm water quality and mitigate coastal flooding impacts caused by sea level rise and increased precipitation. Storm water system improvements will include improvements to the High St/Main St intersection to capture flows that currently dump onto Main Street and mitigate street flows so that the system can best function.
- h** *Enhance Public Wastewater Infrastructure*
Addressing critical upgrades and resilience adaptations to the wastewater treatment system; extend the sewer line to allow for additional connections within the downtown service area.