

**WILD & SCENIC RIVERS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL –
PROJECT PROPOSAL PROCESS AND SUBMITTAL FORM**

“Wild & Scenic Community Grants”



Background

The Dingell Act, signed into US law in March of 2019, designated the Wood-Pawcatuck watershed as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Wild & Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council is charged with protecting and enhancing the watershed’s resources and values as identified in its Stewardship Plan. The Stewardship Plan has been endorsed by 12 Connecticut and Rhode Island watershed towns, supported by town boards and commissions, and various local and regional non-profits. The Stewardship Plan identifies the outstandingly remarkable values of the watershed, and the current ordinances and laws which protect those resources. The Stewardship Plan employs a watershed-wide approach to unify ecological and multi-jurisdictional human needs to ensure watershed resources survive and thrive. Funding for this Grant Program is through annual Cooperative Agreements between the National Park Service and WPWA (Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association serves as the Stewardship Council’s fiscal agent.)

Priorities

The Stewardship Council is seeking ideas for projects to address watershed needs, which are to preserve and enhance:

1. Free Flowing Condition – Rivers natural flowing condition, with as few obstructions as possible.
2. Water Quality – Retain and improve water to be of highest quality possible.
3. Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed:
 - Hydrology / Geology
 - Exceptional Ecosystems
 - Cultural
 - Scenic / Recreation

Land preservation supports these goals; therefore, the Stewardship Council will entertain funding activities related to the protection and management of preserved lands including, but not limited to appraisals, legal fees, surveying and development and implementation of stewardship plans.

Resources to Assist with Grant Application:

Stewardship Plan – www.wpwildrivers.org

Stewardship Plan – Chapter 6 - <https://wpwildrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/WandSSStewardshipPlan-CH-6.pdf>

Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Flood Resiliency Management Plan, Appendix F: Town Summary

Sheets <https://wpwa.org/documents/Flood%20Plan/Appendix%20F%20-%20Town%20Summary%20Sheets.pdf>

Eligible Applicants:

Non-profit organizations, municipalities, land trusts, individual educators, schools and other educational institutions and individual citizens may all submit proposals. Individuals should apply with a town or non-profit.

Previously funded entities may apply again with a different project, or one that takes previously funded work to the next level. Performance on a previous grant will be weighed in decision making, as will the applicant’s ability to apply insights from previous evaluation efforts.

Application Period:

There are no deadlines for applications. The Stewardship Council accepts them on a first come, first serve basis until all the funding allocated for the year has been distributed. For Fiscal Year 2021-22 there are small grants up to \$4,000. Please allow a 60-day turn-around time for response to your proposal.

Before applying, please email Kassi Donnelly, Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator (wpwilddrivers@wpwa.org) to connect with Town Representative(s) and discuss the current availability of funds in the grant program.

Process:

The Stewardship Council will accept project proposals at any time throughout the year and in two ways.

1. Project ideas may be submitted to the Stewardship Council via the [Council Coordinator](#). The Council Coordinator will then contact the appropriate Stewardship Council member(s) so they may engage the applicant in a series of conversations with a purpose of developing the Proposal. Then, applicant will submit the Proposal to the Stewardship Council Coordinator and Projects Committee Chair.
2. Stewardship Council members may also directly submit a Project Proposal. However, Council members are encouraged to meet with town councils, boards of selectmen, boards, commissions, organizations and agencies to discuss ideas for projects prior to submittal to ensure appropriate local project buy-in.

Upon receipt proposal will be:

- a. Logged in by the Stewardship Council Coordinator and sent to the Projects Committee Chair
- b. Acknowledged to the participating parties via email within 2-5 business days
- c. Reviewed by the Projects Committee in terms of the Stewardship Plan and Decision Rubric
- d. Reviewed with participating parties as needed to clarify
- e. Reviewed and potentially approved by the Stewardship Council

Submittal of a proposal does not guarantee funding

Allow a 60-day turn-around time for response to your proposal.

Restrictions and Other Details:

- If the proposed project is one where human health or safety is a concern, the applicant may be required to provide proof of insurance.
- To combat the spread of invasive species, all equipment used on projects must be free of plant material and soil before entering the work area. Similarly, all material used (i.e. straw mulch, gravel) and any materials disposed of (i.e. soil) must also be clean.
- Funding may not be used for federally mandated activities or to address violation enforcement requirements or mitigation. Funding may also not be used for entertainment, lobbying, illegal activities or any other restrictions associated with federal fund use (reference NPS).
- Projects mandated as part of a regulatory requirement are not eligible. This may include mitigation for enforcement actions and/or permit requirements.
- Wild & Scenic Community Grant funds are not eligible as match for other federal grant programs.

Reporting Requirements:

The final report must contain:

1. a brief description of the project (including title, purpose, audience, project procedures, and procedures for evaluating the success of the project);
2. a list of the accomplishments of the project and how they benefited the rivers or river communities;
3. a description of the budgeted funds and how they were spent; and copies of any products (photos, maps, reports, digital and metadata, etc.).

Decision Rubric:

Project title:												Total Rating	
												____ / 80	
Factors	Weighted Decision Criteria											Estimated Rating	
	Negative				Neutral			Positive					
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1. Fits with our current funding priorities and addresses our ORVs or advances goals laid out in the Stewardship Plan (SP)	Not aligned with current funding priorities; does not address ORVs or advance our SP goals.				Somewhat aligned with current funding priorities; tangentially addresses ORVs or SP goals.			Aligns well with current funding priorities; clearly addresses at least one ORV or advances at least one SP goal.					
2. Applicant's thoroughness of planning and likelihood of success	Minimal plans outlined; does not have a clear timeline and/or budget; some possible impediments to success.				Steps to success outlined, if with some holes; reasonable plans submitted, along with timeline and budget.			Strong, clear plans provided; thorough timeline and budget provided; high chance of successful outcome.					
3. Measureable outcome	Possible outcome hard to measure; deliverables hard to determine.				Outcome only somewhat or anecdotally measurable; deliverables unclear.			Outcome measurable; applicant clearly outlines deliverables.					
4. Need and support within the community	Minimal or only anecdotal information.				Some data to document need and support, not enough compelling information.			Strong evidence of support: multiple sources, or compelling qualitative and quantitative data.					
5. Partnership	Does not create any new partnerships nor strengthen existing ones.				Only minimally creates or strengthens partnerships.			Creates new or strengthens existing partnerships within our communities.					
6. Other funding sources	Wholly dependent up on W&S, and not realistically.				Some ability to leverage other funding sources, if only minimally.			Demonstrable ability to leverage other funding sources.					
7. Background experience / available expertise	Applicant has low experience in area with little or no demonstrated expertise among partners.				Applicant has some experience in this area or has committed partners with experience.			Applicant or committed partners have experience sufficient to show expertise in this area.					
8. Longevity / sustainability	Weak or no plan for longevity or sustainability of project.				Some thought given to longevity / sustainability, but no clear plan.			Clear, demonstrated plan for sustainability of project.					

WILD & SCENIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL – PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL FORM

1. Project Title:
2. Name(s): (Include those who collaborated on completing this Proposal)
Stewardship Council Member:
Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
Affiliation: _____
Additional Contributors to the Proposal:
Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____
Affiliation: _____
3. Provide a brief one to two-page MS Word formatted narrative describing the project.
4. Attach any supporting documents, blue prints, plans and/or photos. Use a MS Word format
5. Provide data or evidence showing there is a need for and support of this project.
6. Project Location(s). List cities or towns.
7. Potential project lead(s) and organization/agency. If multiple leads, identify responsibilities of each
8. Expected project duration: (months, 1 year, 2 years, etc.)
9. Any time-sensitive project conditions (start dates, seasonality concerns, etc).
10. Any permitting approvals that may be needed, are pending, or have been obtained for this project.
11. Required collaboration with partners outside of the Stewardship Council? (Property Owners, RI DEM, CT DEEP, land trust, vendors). List names and contact information for each.
12. How project success will be measured.
13. Any potential challenges to the project.
14. A budget breakdown that identifies spending categories (equipment over \$5,000, supplies under \$5,000, hired experts, printing, fees, construction, insurance, etc.) Budget breakdown must also show match, if applicable. Match is not required but would be favorable to the project. Letters of commitment from any organizations or businesses providing in-kind support may accompany the application.

Sample Budget Table

Budget Items by Object Class Categories	Grant Fund \$	Match \$	Source of Match
a. Personnel			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
b. Fringe Benefits			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
d. Equipment			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
e. Supplies			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
f. Contractual			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
g. Construction			
<i>[Specific Budget Item]</i>			
h. Other			
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of a-h)			
j. Indirect Charges			
k. Totals (i + j)			

This section to be completed by the Stewardship Council Member:

NAME:

1. Which ORV(s) does the project idea address?
2. List the applicable Action Strategies – Chapter 6 Stewardship Plan.
3. Identify the potential role for the Wild and Scenic Council and committees.
4. List any additional supporting information.
5. Submit the form via Email to the Council Coordinator at wpwilddrivers@wpwa.org

For W&S Coordinator Use Only:

1. Date/Time Received by W&S Council Coordinator
2. Date/Time Submitted to Projects Committee Chair and committee
3. Date/Time Received by Projects Committee Chair