

**WILD & SCENIC RIVERS STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL –
GRANT PROPOSAL PROCESS AND APPLICATION
“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 (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 the Stewardship Council’s fiscal agent (Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association).

Priorities

The Stewardship Council is seeking grant applications 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
4. Land preservation supports these goals; therefore, the Stewardship Council will entertain funding activities related to the acquisition 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/WandSStewardshipPlan-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:

Grant applications must be located in a least one town within the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed:

RI: Charlestown, Exeter, Hopkinton, North Kingstown, Richmond, South Kingstown, Westerly, West Greenwich

CT: North Stonington, Sterling, Stonington, Voluntown

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 proposal, 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:

Deadlines for applications are December 29, 2022. For Fiscal Year 2022-23 small grants up to \$4,000 are available, and the total sum in the grants program is \$24,000.

You may email Kassi Donnelly, Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinator (wpwildrivers@wpwa.org) to connect with relevant Town Representative(s).

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 and approved or denied by the Stewardship Council

Submittal of a proposal does not guarantee funding

Restrictions and Other Details:

- If receipts are included, a simple reimbursement takes place. If the proposed deliverable(s) have yet to take place, a Memorandum of Agreement is typically agreed upon with half of the funds awarded upfront and the remaining awarded upon completion of the reporting requirements (below).
- If the grant proposal 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 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).
- Proposed deliverables that are 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.
- If proposal is for land preservation activities, it is favorable when the following is true:
 - The applicant owns the land, as shown in a deed;
 - The application includes proof of payment for the deliverables they seek reimbursement for.
- Grant proposals will not be accepted for review if any of the conditions below apply:
 - Proposed activities are not located within at least one of the 12 towns of the Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed;
 - Application is not complete;
 - Grant request is for more than the maximum grant amount (currently \$4,000);
 - Required permits have been not obtained for the deliverables of the grant proposal.

Reporting Requirements:

The final report must contain:

1. a brief description of the funded activities (including title, purpose);
2. a description of the budgeted funds and how they were spent with appended receipts;
3. and copies of any products (photos, maps, reports, digital and metadata, etc.).

WILD & SCENIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL – GRANT APPLICATION

1. Project Title:
2. Name(s): (Include those who collaborated on completing this Proposal)
 - Primary Contact
 - 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. Also, will the project likely be completed before this June?)
9. Any time-sensitive project conditions (start dates, seasonality concerns, etc).
10. Any permits needed for the project? If so, are they pending or have been obtained.
11. Does the project require municipal permission/approvals (e.g., from town council/selectmen, town commissions, fire, police, DPW)? If so, are they pending or have they been obtained.
12. 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.
13. How project success will be measured.
14. Any potential challenges to the project.
15. Which Values does the project idea address?
 - a. Wood-Pawcatuck ORV's: Scenic and Recreational, Exceptional Ecosystems, Geology and Hydrology, Cultural
 - b. Wild and Scenic River Values: free flowing condition, excellent water quality

16. List the Action Strategies found in [Chapter 6 Stewardship Plan](#) which are applicable to your grant application. Just list the Stewardship Plan page number, Action Plan title, alpha-numeric designation and title (e.g., Pg 142, Hydrology Plan, A9, Improve water quality).
17. A budget breakdown that identifies spending categories (e.g. 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)			