

Request for Proposals:

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT
CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Please read "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" before completing this form.

Part A must be completed using Submittal Form A.

Responses may be entered electronically using the Microsoft Word version of Part A of this form available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website (www.housatonicrestoration.org), saved and printed. Alternatively, the responder may print the form and complete it with black ink.

An Adobe Acrobat version of the entire form (Part A and Part B) is also available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website

Project Name Provide a brief working name.

Upper Housatonic Riparian Vegetation, Shoreline and Recreational Access Improvements

Responder – if there is more than one party involved in the project, please provide the information for the primary or lead party.

Housatonic Valley Association, Inc. (HVA), Caprice G. Shaw

Name

Water Protection Director

Title

PO Box 28

Address

150 Kent Road

Address

Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut 06754

City

State

Zip

(860) 672-6678

Phone

cshaw@hvatoday.org

Email

Type of Entity

Check the box that best describes the primary respondent.

☐ Private individual

☒ Non-profit organization

☐ Municipal government

☐ State government

☐ County government

☐ Federal government

☐ Tribal government

☐ Corporation or Business

☐ Academic Institution

☐ Other (explain)

Project Implementation

Does the responder plan to be the Project Sponsor and respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) pending approval of this Proposal?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please list any other project participants. HVA and the Housatonic River Fly Fisherman's Association (HFFA) will administer these projects and obtain necessary permits, review designs, conduct outreach, and provide implementation assistance. The CT DEP will participate as a partner in the Garbage Hole project. HVA and HFFA are working with Kleinschmidt Associates (a consulting firm with offices in CT and ME) to identify conceptual design approaches and associated costs.

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WILAND FISHERIES

Request for Proposals:

If the responder does **NOT** plan to be the Project Sponsor and does **NOT** intend to respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), is the responder interested in being a project participant and assisting a different Project Sponsor on this project?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Request for Proposals:

Restoration Priority Funding Category See Sec. 3 of "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for category descriptions.

Primary Restoration Category. Check the restoration category that is the primary goal of the project.

Check one box.

- ☒ Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☐ Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☐ Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

Secondary Categories. Check all relevant boxes.

- ☐ Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☒ Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☒ Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

List Specific Injured Natural Resources and/or Impaired Natural Resource Services to Benefit from Project

This project would reduce sediment and pollutant inputs to the main stem of the Housatonic, thereby benefitting aquatic macroinvertebrate and fish habitat. Riparian plant and wildlife communities would also benefit from native plantings and stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP). Natural resource services to benefit include recreation (e.g., fishing, boating) both directly (through access improvements) as well as indirectly (through enhanced fish and wildlife habitat).

Project Location (if known) See directions and "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for additional materials to provide (maps, aerial photographs)

Municipality/ies:

Cornwall, West Cornwall

Longitude for approximate center of project area: Garbage Hole= 73 degrees 21' 48.22"W, Push 'Em Up= 73o 21.466',
The Abutments= 73 degrees 21.595'W

Latitude for approximate center of project area: Garbage Hole=41 degrees 52'07.81"N, Push' Em Up=41 degrees 53.323'N,
The Abutments=41 degrees 53.165'N

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ \$400,000 (\$25,000/site multiply 3 project sites for design/bidding, \$17,000/site multiply 3 project sites for administration/outreach/permitting, \$75,000/site multiply 3 project sites for implementation, \$2,500/site multiply 3 project sites for legal fees plus \$40,000 for handicap ramp)

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ \$400,000. Importantly, we intend to pursue matching funds and we intend to provide significant volunteer labor for tasks such as planting. To the extent we receive additional funding partners we will increase the scope (do more sites and/or more measures on the priority sites.) HFFA has already secured more than \$3,000. Both HVA and HFFA have pledged to use their memberships and the public for volunteer labor. We would explore additional funding options including NRCS, grants, etc.

Part B, Item 1, Project Narrative

Project Goals and Objectives: Project goals and objectives are to enhance in-stream aquatic habitat through shoreline stabilization and stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in key areas of concentrated access with ongoing erosion/stabilization issues along the mainstem of the Housatonic River. Secondary goals are to enhance public access to in-stream (*e.g.*, fishery) and riparian resources (*e.g.*, shoreline plant and wildlife).

Project Benefits: This project would reduce sediment and pollutant inputs to the main stem Housatonic through stormwater management improvements and shoreline stabilization. Reduced sediment/pollutant loads will benefit aquatic resources that are sensitive to pollutant loading, turbidity and embedment, such as aquatic macroinvertebrates and fish. Riparian plant and wildlife communities would also benefit from native plantings and stormwater BMPs. Natural resource services to benefit include recreation (*e.g.*, fishing, boating) as a result of access improvements and enhanced fish and wildlife habitat.

General Tasks: The Housatonic Valley Association (HVA) will function as the project responder and sponsor. HVA will manage budget and schedule, and will assist with permitting, public outreach, landowner issues, volunteer coordination and components (*e.g.*, plantings) of implementation. The Housatonic River Fly Fisherman's Association (HFFA), as a full project partner, will assist HVA in project development and implementation. HFFA has important site-specific knowledge and will provide volunteer labor during implementation and input to project design elements. The Department of Environmental Protection Inland Fisheries Division (IFD) will also be a partner for the Garbage Hole site. The project partners will use the technical expertise of a qualified consultant, Kleinschmidt Associates (Kleinschmidt), to complete project design. Project locations are in northwest Connecticut in the general vicinity of West Cornwall, within a few miles up and downstream from the Rt 128/Rt 7 intersection. Three primary locations are proposed, with three back-ups listed that would be used as necessary in the event of unforeseen issues affecting project viability.

Primary	Back-Up
Garbage Hole	Monument Hole
Abutments	Cellar Hole
Push em' Up	Two Car Hole

Each site would benefit from the implementation of BMPs, bank stabilization/revegetation, and improved access in locations where concentrated stormwater runoff from parking areas, roads, and de-vegetated access points has resulted in erosion and bank destabilization. It is anticipated that a phased approach to the work would be used, as follows (along with approximate schedule):

- HVA will identify property owners and consult with them to seek permission for potential enhancements and formalized public access. (2007)
- Site visit by an engineer and a biologist from Kleinschmidt familiar with functional objectives and stormwater management BMPs to identify causes of erosion, effective ways to address runoff/erosion problems, and any site constraints (*e.g.*, access, soil depth, regulatory issues such as wetlands or rare species, slope, etc). (fall 2008)

- Topographic survey to obtain 1-ft contour base maps of those sites where it is needed for the design. (fall 2008)
- Preliminary conceptual design completed by Kleinschmidt. Agency consultation will ensure all parties are on the same page prior to completion of the final design and submission of environmental permit applications. (winter 2008-2009)
- HVA and HFFA to facilitate public meeting to present conceptual design ideas to public prior to final design work and environmental permitting. (spring 2009)
- Final design and environmental permit applications completed. (summer 2009)
- Receive permits and complete any design modifications necessary to meet permit conditions. (fall 2009)
- Prepare bid documents, put work out to bid, and select contractor. (fall 2009)
- Implementation. (2009-2010).

Project components that would be pursued, as suitable on a site-by-site basis, are listed below. Additional tasks may be incorporated after detailed site work. Note that some tasks will not be needed at all sites but most will be needed for at least one site.

- Reshaping to encourage diffuse runoff and infiltration, and to discourage concentrated runoff patterns. This might include features along contours to prevent concentrated flow-through, encourage infiltration, and (for large storms) act as a level spreader.
- Construction of winding paths with appropriately spaced water diversions to direct runoff into adjacent vegetated riparian buffers. Paths may be mulched, and designed to provide non-motorized access to shoreline or wading anglers, hand-carry canoe/kayak users, and others. Handicapped access (*e.g.*, wheelchair-ramps) is proposed for Garbage Hole.
- Hillside/shoreline stabilization using a broad combination of tools including but not limited to: reshaping, mulching and seeding, riparian buffer plantings (see below), water diversions, and use of biostabilization (*e.g.*, willow), coir logs and/or coir matting on steep slopes.
- Sediment traps/infiltration basins to accommodate runoff from parking areas. These features would trap sediment (and associated sediment-bound nutrients like phosphorous), and encourage infiltration (and discourage concentrated overland flows), thereby protecting in-stream water quality and adjacent slopes from potential erosion.
- Riparian buffer plantings would be used to: stabilize hillsides/shorelines and protect in-stream water quality, enhance riparian habitat for wildlife, enhance instream habitat quality for fish and macroinvertebrates (by providing shade, coarse woody debris and organic inputs), restore native vegetation, and enhance aesthetic and recreational services. The initial site visit would be utilized to develop planting plans.
- Investigate measure(s) to manage discharge from two culvert pipes discharging into Garbage Hole, including perched pipes on steep slopes.
- Temporary erosion control measures to ensure that sedimentation during project implementation does not occur. These would include measures such as mulching and seeding, silt fence, staked straw bales, and temporary stormwater management measures like sediment traps.

Part B, Item 2, Project Locations

Please see attached map for project locations.

Part B, Item 3, Criteria Statements

1. Does the proposal contain the information identified by the CT SubCouncil as set out in the "instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Restoration Project Proposal"?

Yes. Please find cover sheet, narrative, budget, map and photos in format requested.

2. Does the proposed project benefit the natural resources that were injured?

The proposed project consists of riparian vegetation and shoreline improvements at three sites that would directly benefit aquatic resources that have been injured by the release of pollutants from the GE facility located upstream. Specifically, the project will improve stormwater management, and stabilize and re-vegetate shorelines in areas of concentrated use and active erosion, benefiting aquatic resources that require clean, clear water. Salmonids (trout and salmon) and other fish, and the aquatic macroinvertebrates they depend on, cannot tolerate sediment or pollutant loading without suffering reduced habitat quality. Salmonids, for example, hunt by sight and use coarse-textured/clean substrate for spawning. As such any measure that reduces sediment inputs will benefit this species guild. Aquatic macroinvertebrates will also benefit from the enhancements.

Secondary species guilds that would benefit from improved water quality and riparian vegetation enhancements include wading birds and waterfowl, riparian wildlife such as mink and otter, herptiles such as wood turtle, and passerines such as northern water thrush. Many riparian species forage on small fish and other prey items in the river and have therefore been subject to some accumulation of contaminants as a result of historic discharges.

Lastly, improved access is a secondary project goal that will help address certain impacts to natural resource services such as fishing that have resulted from impaired water quality and fish contamination.

3. Is the proposed project an action that is presently required as an enforcement action?

The project sites and proposed restoration activities will not be used as mitigation or for any enforcement action required under federal, state or local law by the respondent, the project partners or anyone else. There is no connection to environmental permitting requirements other than the immediate purpose of addressing impacts from the upstream GE facility in Massachusetts. HVA and HFFA are interested in pursuing these projects purely for the benefit of the ecological integrity and associated enjoyment of the river.

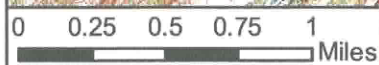
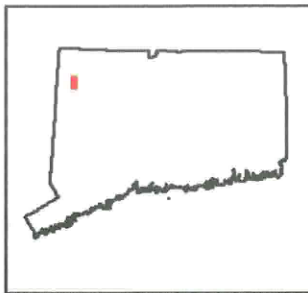
4. Is the proposed inconsistent with federal, state, and local laws or policy?

No, to the best of our knowledge it is not inconsistent with government laws at any level. During the conceptual design phase, each site will be assessed relative to potential permitting issues. For example, regulated wetlands and any rare, threatened or endangered species issues will be considered during the design and permitting phases. Although none is expected at this time, any site that appears to have a significant permitting issue will be replaced with a back-up

site. At this time we are not aware of any laws that would be violated by the proposed projects that cannot be addressed during the permitting process. The responder and all project partners intend to abide by all applicable laws.

5. Will the proposed project be inconsistent with any ongoing remedial actions?

The HVA and HFFA are not aware of any ongoing remedial actions or other activities that the proposed projects would conflict with.



Scale:	AS SHOWN
Project No:	1314-002
Filename:	Proposal_Quad.mxd
Drawn By:	KPN
Date Drawn:	1-3-2007

Housatonic Valley Authority Connecticut	
Housatonic River Riparian Restoration	
Site Locus Map	
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