

Request for Proposals:

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

RECEIVED
JAN 19 2007
INLAND FISHERIES

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.

Conservation of the Frost and CL&P Riverfront Properties in Sharon, CT

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

Name

Elaine LaBella, Director of Land Protection

Title

150 Kent Road, P.O. Box 28

Address

Address

Cornwall Bridge, Connecticut 06754

City State Zip

860-672-6678

Phone

elainehva@hotmail.com

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. Sharon Land Trust

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

The project aims to acquire and protect habitat for species which were harmed by the discharge of PCBs into the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River. The Sharon Land Trust and the Housatonic Valley Association will partner to protect about 15 acres of the Frost Farm and a 4.98 parcel of Connecticut Light and Power land in Sharon, Connecticut. The project will ensure that about 2,742 feet of forested Housatonic Riverfront and more than twelve acres of uplands will be protected from development. The Frost Farm has 1,480 feet of frontage, including a 3.4-acre island. The CL&P parcel has 1,262 additional feet of frontage and abuts National Park Service land. The project will benefit the ecological health of the river by ensuring that the shoreline will continue to provide habitat and protection from pollution and sedimentation from potential development. It augments land already protected by the National Park Service, the Connecticut DEP and two private conservation organizations. The project acquires land which will also provide recreational access to the river, including fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife observation, resources that were damaged or impaired by the presence of PCBs in the river.

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

Municipality/ies:

Sharon, Connecticut

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 73 degrees 23' 13.39" W

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 41 degrees 48' 31.80" N

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 1,017,500

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 717,500

NARRATIVE PART B

Restoration Proposal from the Housatonic Valley Association and the Sharon Land Trust

Conservation of the Frost and CL&P Riverfront Properties in Sharon, CT

1. Project Goals and Objectives: Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), in partnership with the Sharon Land Trust, is seeking funds to protect approximately 20 acres of undeveloped Housatonic Riverfront land which extends for approximately 2,742 feet along the western shore adjacent to River Road in Sharon, Connecticut. The Sharon Land Trust will acquire a conservation restriction over about 15 acres of Housatonic Riverfront, a small island, and open fields with small forested ponds owned by the Frost family. Additionally, the land trust will acquire the fee interest in the adjacent 4.98-acre undeveloped riverfront parcel owned by the Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P). The properties are immediately north of the federally-protected Appalachian National Scenic Trail corridor, augmenting five miles of permanently conserved riverfront on both shores owned by the National Park Service, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), HVA the and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The properties are also within the Housatonic Trout Management Area, visited by fishermen from around the state and around the nation and are part of HVA's state-designated Housatonic RiverBelt Greenway. Canoeists and kayakers put into the river just north of the Swift's Bridge site from the CL&P and National Park Service properties. The undeveloped riverfront on both the east and west shorelines provides buffers against polluted runoff from Route 7, shades the water to the benefit of the fish habitats, provides a significant corridor for wildlife and enhances the aesthetic qualities of the river valley.

The project aims to acquire and protect habitat for species which were harmed by the discharge of hazardous substances, including PCBs, into the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River environment. On the lowest level, protecting the riverfront and upland prevents erosion and clear-cutting from potential development ensures that the river bottom will be shaded and not be silted in, allowing macroinvertebrates to thrive, maintaining the food supply upon which the entire riverine ecosystem depends. The floodplain forest and riparian habitat will also be permanently protected for wildlife and waterfowl. The adjacent fields and small forested ponds on the Frost Farm are suitable for breeding amphibians.

Additionally, this project enhances and augments recreational uses of the Housatonic River. Acquisition of the CL&P property, which is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail corridor, will secure new public access for fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife observation. In the conservation restriction over the Frost Farm the Frost family has also agreed to include creation of a minimal footpath their riverfront and they plan to use their trail as a catalyst for other neighbors to voluntarily continue the trail northward along the riverfront.

2. Project Benefits:

Statement of Need: Litchfield County loses an estimated 45-acres of land each day to development. There are large parts of Connecticut that will never again see bobcat or bear. Now the Housatonic Riverfront is being nibbled away. *Our water quality, our wildlife habitat and our unique recreation and scenic assets are in immediate jeopardy.* Development is far outpacing

the best conservation efforts of land trusts and communities. Saving the Housatonic River valley from inappropriate and intrusive development is the best way to maintain the overall health of the river. Our communities have a very small window of opportunity, 20 years or less, to take action to preserve the Housatonic Riverfront before the long contiguous stretches of forest are cut into isolated patches of green which can no longer protect aquatic habitats, provide habitat for birds and amphibians and buffer pollution. We must act now to conserve these properties and enhance the protected corridor extending more than five miles along the Housatonic River

Benefits: The project will ensure that about 2,742 feet of forested Housatonic Riverfront and more than twelve acres of uplands will be protected from development. The Frost Farm has 1,480 feet of frontage, including a 3.4-acre island. The CL&P parcel has 1,262 additional feet of frontage and abuts National Park Service land. The project will benefit the ecological health of the river by ensuring that the shoreline will continue to provide habitat and protection from pollution and sedimentation from potential development. It augments land already protected by the National Park Service, the Connecticut DEP and two private conservation organizations.

The project acquires land which will also provide recreational access to the river, including fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife observation, resources that were damaged or impaired by the presence of PCBs in the river.

3. General Tasks:

- a) The Sharon Land Trust will get full appraisals for properties.
- b) The Sharon Land Trust and HVA will commission a study of the bird and amphibian habitats on the properties.
- c) The Sharon Land Trust will be the holder of the Frost easement and the owner of the CL&P property and will move the acquisition process through with the landowners.
- d) The land trust will launch a fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 toward the acquisition cost.
- e) HVA will facilitate negotiations between the land trust and CL&P and provide assistance with any Department of Public Utility Control approvals.
- f) The land trust will develop a trail maintenance and stewardship plan for both properties. The plans will ensure that the trail will not adversely impact the river edge and that the public will be directed away from any sensitive aquatic or terrestrial habitats.
- g) HVA will provide assistance to the land trust and the Frost family to locate and cut the shoreline trail on the two properties and coordinate the land trust's trail development with the Trails Committee of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, which is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and the 7,000 acres of Trail corridor land in Connecticut through a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service.
- h) The land trust will close the transactions and implement the trail and stewardship plans.

Item 2. - Project Location (if known) The project is located on River Road, Sharon, Connecticut. An orthophotograph and a Recreational Resources map showing the project location are attached.

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 Proposals?"

The proposal includes:

- a) One Part A: Responder and Project Summary Form
- b) One two-page Part B Narrative
- c) One 8.5 by 11-inch aerial photograph showing specific location of the project. The orthophoto includes pertinent topographic and geographic, and landowner information, a scale, and north arrow.
- d) One 8.5 by 11-inch map showing the local recreational resources with the project location circled.
- e) This document addressing each of the Eligibility Criteria.

2. Does the Proposed Project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources or natural resource services equivalent to those that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances from the GE facility at Pittsfield, MA?

- a) The project aims to acquire and protect habitat for species which were harmed by the discharge of PCBs into the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River environment.
- b) Acquisition of the CL&P property, which is adjacent to the Appalachian Trail corridor, will secure new public access for fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife observation. The project acquires land which will provide recreational access to the river, including fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife observation.

3. Is the Proposed Project, or any portion of the Proposed Project, an action that is presently required under other federal, state, or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions? No

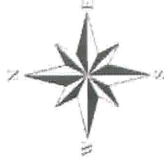
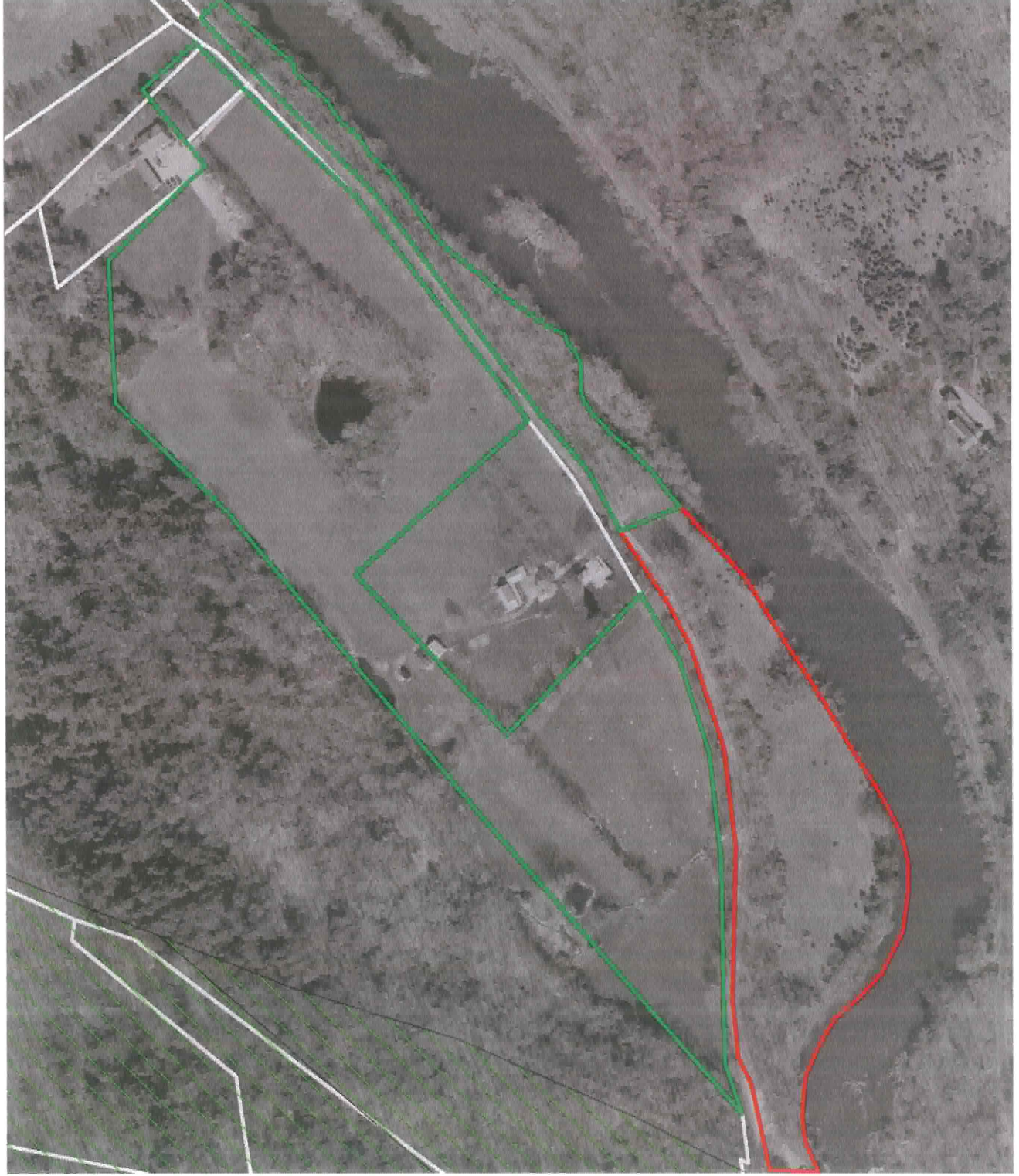
4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy? No

5. Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed?

We are not aware of any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River at the project location. The project is complimentary to ongoing improvements in water quality, temoerature and flow enhancements.

Frost Farm and CL & P River Protection Project

Sponsored By HVA and Sharon Land Trust



Legend

Sharon Parcels

AT Corridor

Proposed Project

Easement

Fee Simple

1 inch equals 300 feet

Recreational Resources Map

Housatonic River Management Plan

Prepared for: Housatonic River Commission (HRC), 17 Sackett Hill Road,
Warren, Connecticut 06757

Prepared by: Dodson Associates, Ltd., Landscape Architects and Planners,
463 Main Street, Ashfield, Massachusetts 01330

Funded in part by the CT DEP through a US EPA Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Grant

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 15,000 20,000 Feet

Map 2 of 3

10/21/05 (Revised Sept 2006)

SOURCES: Housatonic River Commission for River Protection Corridor; Housatonic Valley Association for recreation sites, trails, rafting and greenways data; Connecticut Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC) for other data

