



Housatonic River Commission

PO Box 222

West Cornwall, CT 06796

Request for Proposals for HRC's Community Grants Program FY 25-26

The Housatonic River Commission (HRC) seeks project proposals to support land, water, and community stewardship projects within the Wild and Scenic river corridor of the Housatonic River. We are aiming to support Connecticut-based projects within the stretch of river from the Massachusetts border to Boardman Bridge in New Milford, CT.

Objectives

HRC aims to support projects that either fall within **or** impact the Wild and Scenic corridor of the Housatonic River. Eligible projects align with HRC's mission* to protect and enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)** of the Housatonic River as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River.

We wish to fund projects that may promote or relate to the following:

- River and wetland ecology, conservation, and restoration
- Protection and stewardship of land resources along the river
- Protection and stewardship of cultural and historic resources along the river
- Enhancement for native aquatic wildlife, vegetation, and organisms
- Sustainable river use and recreational access
- Water quality enhancement
- Environmental education, related to the Wild and Scenic corridor of the Housatonic River
- Environmental equity, related to the Wild and Scenic corridor of the Housatonic River
- Projects supporting youth engagement in the arts and sciences of river resources and awareness
- Invasive species education and management
- Efforts to plan and manage for climate resiliency within the Housatonic River corridor

**To learn more about HRC's mission, please visit our [website](#).*

***To learn more about ORVs and the Housatonic River as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River, please visit the National Park Service [website](#).*

Funding Opportunity

HRC anticipates funding projects costing at or below \$10,000. It is *reasonable to expect* that project proposals that exceed this threshold will be considered for a reward **up to \$10,000 only**.

One half of the total grant will be paid to the grantee upon notification of grant approval by the Housatonic River Commission. The remaining half will be paid to the grantee upon completion of the project and receipt of the final report, receipts, and any associated products. Any distributed funding not used will be returned to HRC.

The Northwest Hills Council of Governance is the fiduciary agent for HRC.

This project is being made possible by federal funding through a cooperative agreement (CA) with the National Park Service and the Housatonic River Commission. All requirements under the CA apply to the contractor – the CA will be made available as requested. The Housatonic River Commission will allocate sufficient funding to successfully complete the goals of this project as agreed upon. The Housatonic River Commission reserves the option to negotiate budget and tasks to achieve both a successful outcome and a good overall value.

Application Process

Applications for this grants program will be reviewed on a **rolling basis** through the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, projects can be submitted for review through **September 30, 2026**.

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the HRC program coordinator (info@housatonicrivercommission.org) prior to starting the application process to confirm their eligibility and the appropriateness of the Community Grants for their project. Applications consist of a completed application form with submission answers at no longer than four (4) pages total. Additional support materials (maps, photos, etc.) and letters of support and/or commitment are welcomed and do not count toward the four-page maximum. A copy of the completed application (see pages 4 and 5 of this document) can either mailed to **PO Box 222, West Cornwall, CT 06796** or emailed to info@housatonicrivercommission.org.

Review Process and Timeline

The Housatonic River Commission's appropriate subcommittees will evaluate all proposals and present acceptable proposals to the full commission for final approval. Successful applicants will be notified via email of results of the selection process approximately within one month following their submitted application. HRC reserves the right to ask an applicant to attend a commission meeting to further explain their application and/or project before making their funding decision.

Applicants are welcome to check in on the status of their application during the review process by emailing info@housatonicrivercommission.org.

Housatonic River Commission Community Grants Application

Please mail this completed application to HRC at **PO Box 222, West Cornwall, CT 06796** or email it to **Madeline Scherff, program coordinator**, at info@housatonicrivercommission.org before 09/30/2026 (to be reviewed on a rolling monthly basis until this date)

Contact info

Project Name:

Date of Application Submission:

Funding Request (\$):

Name of Municipality or Organization:

Organization Address:

Primary Contact Name:

Email:

Telephone:

501(c)(3)?

- Yes
- No (if no, please list name and contact information of eligible partner):

Please provide answers to the following questions (feel free to attach up to four additional pages)

Project Summary: Please provide a brief description of the project (1-3 sentences)

Project Location: Describe the location of this project, including address or latitude and longitude. Attach maps of locations, if applicable.

Project Description: Describe the goals, purpose, work plan, and outcome benefits of the project.

HRC and ORV Enhancement Goals: Describe the goals and objectives of this project and how they relate to the mission of HRC to protect and enhance the [Outstandingly Remarkable Values](#) of the Housatonic River.

Project Deliverables: List and summarize the anticipated products of this project (e.g. resource mapping, outreach events, educational programming, invasive plant removal, info signs, etc.)

Project Evaluation: Describe how the success of this project will be evaluated to determine if its goals have been met and that the project has had a positive impact within its community and within the Wild and Scenic stretch of the Housatonic River.

Project Partners: If applicable, list any project partners and their roles.

Permits and Permissions: List any anticipated permits or permissions required to complete the project. What is the current status of each approval (if applicable)?

Please share any other project information you would like HRC to know

Project Budget: Outline the total project budget including the following information:

- Total budget
- Amount being requested
- Estimated budget per task/line item
 - Include detailed descriptions for each line item
 - If staff or volunteer time expenses are being requested, please describe what each individual will be working on and an exact anticipation of hours
- Other sources of funding or in-kind support (if applicable)