



Housatonic River Commission

PO Box 222

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Request for Proposals for the Housatonic River Commission'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 aim to support Connecticut-based projects within the stretch of the 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 climate resiliency within the Housatonic River corridor

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

***Please visit the National Park Service website to learn more about ORVs and the Housatonic River as a Partnership Wild and Scenic River.*

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 of **up to \$10,000**.

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 complete the goals of this project as agreed upon. The Housatonic River Commission reserves the option to negotiate budgets and tasks to achieve both a successful outcome and a good overall value.

Application Process

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

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the HRC program coordinator before starting the application process to confirm their eligibility and the appropriateness of the Community Grants for their project.

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 the results of the selection process 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.