



2017/2018 Request for Proposals:

Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council

Community Grants Program

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council announces the availability of **Wild and Scenic River Community Grants**. The grants are intended to advance projects supporting and enhancing the protection and enjoyment of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River and its outstanding resources.

Background:

In 1999, 29 miles of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers were designated as part of the national Wild and Scenic River System based on their *outstandingly remarkable resources*: recreational opportunities, scenery, ecology, history and literature. The River Stewardship Council (RSC) was created to coordinate protection of these resources. The towns of Framingham, Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Bedford and Billerica each have a representative on the Council, as well as Sudbury Valley Trustees, OARS (watershed association), US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service. The Council, guided by the River Conservation Plan, promotes the protection of these resources through collaborative efforts and the statutory authority of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. For more background, visit www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org and <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/>.

Recognizing the important role towns and local groups play in the protection of river resources, the goal of this grant program is to support activities that enhance and protect river resources and build strong local stewardship of the rivers.

Timeline:

Applications for funding may be submitted from October 2017 through June 2018 for work undertaken through August 2018. Grant requests ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 will be considered. Funding is generally by reimbursement, upon submittal of an expense reimbursement form and a report of work accomplished. The first set of proposals will be **reviewed beginning on October 25th** for decisions to be

made at the Nov 7th meeting. Applications are then processed on a rolling basis, and subject to funds still being available.

Who may apply:

Eligible entities include town-sanctioned committees and boards, including but not limited to conservation commissions, planning boards, water/wastewater departments, libraries, historical commissions, recreation departments, schools (including environmental clubs, art programs, science classes, etc.) and community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations such as historical societies, garden clubs, art associations, churches, local land trusts and neighborhood groups. Individuals interested in applying should partner with either a town or nonprofit organization(s).

The RSC will consider applications from groups *outside* the Wild and Scenic communities (listed above), when the project directly benefits the watershed and resources of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers. Project proposals must clearly explain this connection.

Previously funded entities may apply again with a different project, 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 insight from previous evaluation efforts.

Eligible projects:

Projects that enhance the protection of the outstanding resource values of recreation, scenery, ecology, history, and/or literature, and/or increase awareness, appropriate use, and appreciation of these resource values are eligible. Possible project ideas include but are not limited to the following:

- Conservation, restoration or enhancement of fish, wildlife, riverine ecology, water quality and flow, historic, or recreational resources,
- Protection of land along the rivers and their tributaries,
- Public education about the river and its resources and values, for youth and/or adults
- Research studies contributing to increased understanding, and improved management, of the river's outstanding resources,
- Promotion of recreation to encourage people to use and protect the rivers,
- Public art projects that engage the public,

- Invasive species management,
- Use of social media, social marketing, and other communications media to raise awareness, and
- Efforts to plan and manage for climate resiliency.

Projects mandated as part of a regulatory requirement are not eligible. This may include mitigation for enforcement actions and/or permit requirements.

Application Process:

Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact the RSC prior to starting the application process to confirm their eligibility and the appropriateness of the Community Grants for their project. Please see the attached application and send proposals to Sarah_bursky@nps.gov. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions generally within 4 to 8 weeks of submittal.

Review Criteria (in no particular order): The merits of a particular project will then be reviewed according to the following criteria. Projects do not need to meet all of these criteria to be eligible; however, stronger proposals will be those that address many, if not all, of the following:

Impact:

- Wild and Scenic mission: The degree to which the proposed project protects, enhances, or promotes appreciation of one or more of the rivers' *outstandingly remarkable resources*.
- Stewardship: Does the proposed project strengthen relationships among towns, non-profit organizations, community groups, and/or the public to enhance local stewardship?
- Awareness: Does the proposed project raise public awareness about the rivers?
- Long-term benefits: Are results of the proposed project sustainable after completion of the grant? (Is it explained how?) Will future activities/decisions at the community, municipal, regional, or state level build on the results of the proposed project?

Implementation:

- Administrative capability: Can the proposed project be completed with the funding available and the timeline proposed? Is there demonstrated ability to complete similar work?
- Measurable Results: Does the applicant have a plan to evaluate the effectiveness and impact (relative to the project goals)?
- Reasonableness of cost: Do the associated cost of the project seem reasonable with regard to scope and impact?

- RSC Funding Impact: Is the RSC funding significant to project implication? Will the project happen without RSC funding? Is RSC funding leveraged for other funding requests?

Special 2017 Priorities of the River Stewardship Council:

1. In 2017, the United States will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Act. Special events or efforts that highlight the significance and impact of the Act will be specially considered.
2. Riverfest is the Council's annual collaborative event highlighting the values of the rivers. This event is June 16 & 17, 2018. Riverfest's many partner events are volunteer-led and funded. The RSC will consider funding one event up to \$2,000 for a special Riverfest event each year that 1) builds new energy and participation on the Rivers as part of the weekend's line-up, and 2) the organization must be committed to the event without further RSC funding in a following year if the event proves successful or promising.
3. Projects that build community access to the Rivers, or improve existing access points, and/or provides access and awareness of recreational opportunities.

For further information: Contact RSC Chair Anne Slugg at anne.slugg@gmail.com or Sarah Bursky, NPS Community Planner at sarah_bursky@nps.gov (617-223-5049).

**Sudbury, Assabet and Sudbury Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council
Community Grant Application 2017-2017**

Project Name: Funding request \$
Name of Primary Contact:
Email: Telephone:
Name of Town or Organization: 501(c)(3)? ___Yes ___No
Address:

1) Description of project:

- Concise summary of proposed work and the goal(s) of the project, including detailing communities involved (maps are encouraged)
- Brief explanation to demonstrate how the project will meet the RSC mission, and any other information related to how the project will meet funding criteria.
- Entity performing the work and project lead (if different) and expertise and experience in completing projects similar to that proposed for funding,
- List of project partners if any and letters of commitment from project partners confirming funding, access, and/or in-kind services ,
- List of permits or permissions required to undertake the project and the current status of each permit, permission, or approval, if applicable,
- List of any products to be produced,
- How the success of the project will be evaluated to determine if project goals have been met and that the project has had impact for the communities and resources of the Wild and Scenic River.

2) Project budget: Please include:

- Total budget of proposed project and the amount being requested through the Community Grant.
- Estimated budget by tasks, [e.g. Task #1-Speaker Series: \$500 for honorariums, \$70 for mailings, \$150 for hall rentals (in-kind donation)].

- Other sources of funding, if any.
- Expected in-kind support, including anticipated volunteer hours, if any.

3) Timeline: Please include a project timeline. Note that projects should be completed by September, 2017 but the RSC may consider extending the deadline with justification.

Your application should be no longer than four (4) pages, including narrative, budget, and timeline. Additional support materials and letters of support and/or commitment are encouraged and do not count toward the four page maximum. The RSC may need to follow-up with additional questions or requests for clarification, including asking a representative to attend an RSC monthly meeting, before making their funding decision. Please feel free to contact the RSC with questions, to receive input on a potential project, and/or eligibility.