



**Announcement of Funding Availability:  
Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic Rivers  
2016/2017 Community Grants Program**

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council announces the availability of **Wild and Scenic River Community Grants for up to \$10,000**. The grants are intended to advance projects supporting and enhancing the protection and enjoyment of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic Rivers and its outstanding resources.

Applications for funding may be submitted from August, 2016 through June, 2017 for work undertaken through September, 2017. The first set of proposals will be **reviewed beginning on November 11<sup>th</sup>** for decisions to be made at the Nov 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. Applications are then processed on a rolling basis, and subject to funds still being available.

**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 work in partnership with the National Park Service to protect these resources. Each of the shoreline communities is a member of the RSC, as well as three non-governmental organizations, the state and federal governments.

The RSC, guided by the River Conservation Plan, promotes the protection of these resources through collaborative efforts, educational programs, and the statutory authority of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. By working in partnership with other interested parties, the RSC encourages cooperation and coordination on river issues. Using authority in the Wild and Scenic River Act, the RSC with the National Park Service evaluates federal actions on the rivers to ensure their impacts are minimized. For more background, visit [www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org) and <https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/>.

**Community Grant Program:**

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.

**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 municipal, nonprofit and community groups located outside the Wild and Scenic communities (listed above), when the project directly benefits the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers, their resources and communities. Project proposals must clearly explain this connection and demonstrate how the proposed activity will benefit the rivers' outstanding resources as described above.

**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, historic, or recreational resources,
- Protection of land along the rivers and their tributaries,
- Public education about the river and its resources and values,
- Research studies contributing to increased understanding, and improved management, of the rivers outstanding resources,
- Promotion of recreation to encourage people to use and protect the rivers,

- Public art projects that engage the public,
- Invasive species management,
- Water conservation education and implementation,
- Protection of natural river flow regimes,
- Projects engaging youth in the arts and sciences related to river resources,
- Use of social media, social marketing, and other communications media to raise awareness, and
- Efforts to plan and manage for climate resiliency.

The program has been expanded to include arts projects promoting and/or celebrating the outstanding resources of the Rivers. Artists are encouraged to work with a partner organization to design a project that will heighten awareness and appreciation for the river and its resources and engages the public. Projects mandated as part of a regulatory requirement are not eligible. This may include mitigation for enforcement actions and/or permit requirements.

**Funding:**

Grant requests ranging from \$500 to \$10,000 will be considered. Up to \$24,620 will be distributed in this grant cycle. Funding may be used for work completed by September 2017, though the RSC will consider projects extending beyond this date (applicants should explain the need for an extended timeline). Funding is generally by reimbursement, upon submittal of an expense reimbursement form and a report of work accomplished.

**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. Interested parties are asked to complete the application form found on the next page.

Please send proposals to [Sarah\\_bursky@nps.gov](mailto:Sarah_bursky@nps.gov). If electronic filing is a barrier to applying, please contact the RSC at the contact number below to arrange an alternative to electronic filing. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions generally within 4 to 8 weeks of submittal, with the first round of decisions to be made November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The RSC reserves the option to ask an applicant to attend a monthly RSC meeting to further explain their application and/or project.

**Review Criteria** (in no particular order): The merits of a particular project will 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:

- *Wild and Scenic Outstanding Resources*: Does the proposed project protect, enhance, or promote 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 protect river resources?
- *Awareness*: Does the proposed project engage a broad and diverse range of partners and/or raise public awareness about the rivers?
- *Resources needed for implementation*: Can the proposed project be completed with the funding available and the timeline proposed?
- *Long-term benefits*: Will future activities/decisions at the community, municipal, regional, or state level build on the results of the proposed project?
- *Sustainability of Benefits*: Are results of the proposed project sustainable after completion of the grant? Is there a plan for ongoing maintenance or work (if relevant)?
- *Leveraging of Additional Resources*: Are there matching funds or in-kind contributions to the project? These are encouraged but not required.
- *Measurable Results*: Does the applicant have a plan to evaluate the effectiveness and impact (relative to the project goals)?
- *Administrative Capability*: Is there demonstrated capability to complete similar projects?
- *If the organization applying for funding has received other funding through the RSC*: Does the project leverage other resources and partnerships? Is the project likely to receive funding from other sources? Does the group demonstrate an effort to evaluate (learn and improve) upon previously funded work?

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



**Sudbury, Assabet and Sudbury Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council**  
**Community Grant Application 2016-2017**

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 funding criteria described above,
- 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.

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.
- 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.