Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild & Scenic River Stewardship Council

2019/2020 Community Grants Program Request for Proposals

The Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Wild and Scenic River Stewardship Council announces the availability of **SuAsCo Wild and Scenic River Community Grants**. The grants are to advance projects that protect and enhance the Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord Wild and Scenic River.

**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 municipalities of Framingham, Wayland, Sudbury, Lincoln, Concord, Carlisle, Bedford and Billerica each have a representative on the Council, as well as Sudbury Valley Trustees, OARS, 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. For more background, visit [www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org](http://www.sudbury-assabet-concord.org/) and [www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/](https://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/pwsr/) .

The intent of this program is to support municipalities, municipal groups, and local organizations, in doing small projects that protect and enhance the rivers. Grant requests ranging from $250 to $10,000 will be considered. Approximately $15,000 will be available for distribution in FY 2020.

**Timeline:** Applications for funding may be submitted from October 2019 through June 2020 for work undertaken through August 31, 2020. Work can begin as soon as the proposal is accepted, and extensions beyond August 2020 are permitted on an as needed basis, assuming prior approval by email. The first set of proposals will be reviewed beginning at the **October 29th** meeting of the River Stewardship Council. Applications are then processed on a rolling basis, and subject to funds still being available.

**Who May Apply:** Eligible entities include municipal-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 or groups that are not a 501(c)3 but are interested in applying should partner with either a municipal or nonprofit organization(s).

The RSC will consider applications from groups *outside* the 8 Wild and Scenic municipalities (listed above) when the project directly benefits the watershed and resources of the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord River. Project proposals must clearly explain this connection.

Previously funded projects will not be funded a second time. However, 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 learn from evaluation efforts. Council partners receiving other funding through the Wild and Scenic Program can compete for a community grant if the project involves supporting another smaller community entity.

**Eligible Projects**: Projects that enhance and/or protect the “outstanding resource values” of recreation, scenery, ecology, history, and/or literature, and/or increase 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, land, wildlife, riverine ecology, water quality and flow, historic, or recreational resources, along the rivers and tributaries.
* Access to, or increased, recreation to encourage people to use and protect the rivers,
* Public education about the river and its resources and values, for youth and/or adults
* Research studies contributing to increased understanding, and improved management
* Public art projects that engage the public,
* 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.

Proposals requesting funds for supplies, such as boats or monitoring equipment, must include a plan for program implementation and evaluation, and show budget commitment to implementation.

**Application Process:** Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact the RSC prior to starting the application process to discuss the appropriateness of the funding for their project. Please see the attached application for guidance 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:

Benefit:

* *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 municipalities, non-profit organizations, community groups, and/or the public to enhance local stewardship?
* *Awareness:* Does the proposed project engage communities 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?
* *Measurable Results:* Does the applicant have a plan to evaluate the effectiveness and impact (relative to the project goals)?
* *RSC Funding*: Is the RSC funding needed for project implication? Is RSC funding leveraged for other funding requests?

**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 FY 2020**

Project Name: Funding request $

Name of Primary Contact:

Email: Telephone:

Name of Municipality or Organization: 501(c)(3)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

Address:

1) Project Narrative - Please provide:

* Concise summary of proposed work and the goal(s) of the project, including detailing communities involved (maps are encouraged), and a project timeline
* Brief explanation to demonstrate how the project will meet the funding criteria described
* 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.
* In-kind support, including anticipated volunteer hours, if any.

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.