Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Please read “RFP: Overview of Selection Process” before completing this form.

Part A must be completed using Submittal Form A.
Responses may be entered electronically using the Microsoft Word version of Part A of this form available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website (www.housaticriver.org), saved and printed. Alternatively, the responder may print the form and complete it with black ink.

An Adobe Acrobat version of the entire form (Part A and Part B) is also available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website.

Project Name  Provide a brief working name.

Halfway River Fishery Access

Responser – if there is more than one party involved in the project, please provide the information for the primary or lead party.

Herbert Rosenthal
Name

First Selectman, Town of Newtown
Title

Edmond Town Hall
Address

45 Main Street
Address

Newtown  CT  06470
City  State  Zip

203 270 4201
Phone

newtown@snet.net
Email

Type of Entity
Check the box that best describes the primary respondent.

☐ Private individual
☐ Non-profit organization
☒ Municipal government
☐ State government
☐ County government
☐ Federal government
☐ Tribal government
☐ Corporation or Business
☐ Academic Institution
☐ Other (explain)

Project Implementation
Does the responder plan to be the Project Sponsor and respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) pending approval of this Proposal?
☒ Yes  ☐ No
If yes, please list any other project participants. 

If the responder does NOT plan to be the Project Sponsor and does NOT intend to respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), is the responder interested in being a project participant and assisting a different Project Sponsor on this project?
☐ Yes  ☐ No
Request for Proposals:

Restoration Priority Funding Category  See Sec. 3 of “RFP: Overview of Selection Process” for category descriptions.

Primary Restoration Category. Check the restoration category that is the primary goal of the project.
Check one box.
☐ Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☐ Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☒ Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

Secondary Categories. Check all relevant boxes.
☒ Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☐ Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
☐ Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

List Specific Injured Natural Resources and/or Impaired Natural Resource Services to Benefit from Project
Purchase 12-acre property with more than 1200 feet of frontage along the Halfway River - a high quality tributary of the Housatonic River - to provide public access for trout fishing and passive recreational uses. The property is located upstream of Derby Dam in the Housatonic Watershed and contains a River with a Surface Water Quality Rating of A, which includes naturally-reproducing brown trout. This project will promote the recreational enjoyment of these resources by both ensuring their protection and by actively increasing fishing opportunities and other passive uses of the property.

Project Location (if known) See directions and “RFP: Overview of Selection Process” for additional materials to provide (maps, aerial photographs)

Municipality/ies:
Newtown

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 73° 11' 55" W

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 73° 11' 55" W.

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: $325,000

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: $325,000
Housatonic River Natural Resources Restoration Project
Request for Proposals

Project Title: Halfway River Fishery Access
Project Sponsor: Herbert Rosenthal, First Selectman
Edmond Town Hall
45 Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470

Part B

I. Project Narrative

1. Project Goals and Objectives
The proposed project would acquire a 12-acre parcel of land that has more than 1200 feet of
frontage along the Halfway River – a tributary of the Housatonic River located north of Derby Dam
in Newtown, CT. The acquisition would permanently protect the riparian and aquatic habitat of the
Halfway River and provide public access for recreational fishing and for other passive uses of the
streamside property.

The proposed project would satisfy the CT SubCouncil’s goals (as described in the Request for
Proposals) by acquiring riparian and aquatic habitat equivalent or superior to those damaged by
contamination of PCBs, by replacing recreational fishing opportunities lost as a result, and by
enhancing the recreational uses of the natural resources on the property. The Halfway River
contains wild populations of brown trout in a river with high surface water quality (rated A by the
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection\(^1\)). In addition the project is located upstream
of Derby Dam in the Housatonic watershed – an area prioritized for project proposals, and thus,
highly rated by the CT SubCouncil.

The project also includes plans to create an entrance to the property and parking area along the
highly traveled Route 34, and by upgrading existing trails in the riparian area that access the river.
These actions will facilitate the use and enjoyment of these important natural resources and
improve access to the myriad recreational opportunities the property provides.

2. Project Benefits
The acquisition of the subject property would ensure the permanent protection of the riparian and
aquatic habitat along this stretch of the Halfway River, which supports a high quality fishery
containing naturally-reproducing brown trout. In addition, the project proposes to enhance public
access to the fishery by creating an entrance and parking area and by improving the existing trails
in the riparian corridor.

The project would replace the resident river fish and recreational fishing injured by the release of
contaminants into the Housatonic River from the GE facility. By providing needed public access to
this important fishery, the project may also provide an opportunity for the Connecticut Department

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\(^1\) A Class A designation is defined as “Designated for habitat for fish and other aquatic life and wildlife; potential
drinking water supplies; recreation; navigation; and water supply for industry and agriculture.”
of Environmental Protection to designate the Halfway River as a Class 1 wild trout fishery. In addition, the existing trails in the riparian area will support other recreational activities, including hiking and birdwatching.

3. General Tasks
The proposed project would require that the subject property, which is already on the market, be purchased from the private landowner. This would require that the buyer (the Town of Newtown) commission a Phase I environmental assessment and any other due diligence that must be performed on the property prior to sale, contingent upon all required town approvals. Once the transaction is complete, the project would improve public access to the natural resources on the property by a) creating an entrance and parking area off of Route 34 and b) completing basic trail maintenance for trails that run alongside the river.

II. Project Location
The subject property is located in the upper Housatonic watershed, along the Halfway River in Newtown, CT. The property borders Route 34 to the north. See maps included with this application for more detail.

III. Criteria Statements (from 6.1 of RFP Overview)
1. Does the proposal contain the information identified by the CT SubCouncil as set out in the “Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Restoration Project Proposals”?

Yes, the proposal contains one original and six copies of the completed Responder and Project Summary Form, Project Narrative, Project Location (including supplemental maps), and Criteria Statements.

2. Does the Proposed Project restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources or natural resource services equivalent to those that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances from the GE facility at Pittsfield, MA?

Yes, the proposed project - the acquisition of this property along a tributary of the Housatonic River - will permanently protect the riparian and aquatic habitat of the Halfway River (rated A for surface water quality), provide public access to a wild brown trout fishery, and replace the recreational fishing and boating damaged by the release of PCBs and other hazardous substances. The natural and recreational resources at this site are equivalent or superior to those impacted by contamination in the upper Housatonic River.

3. Is the Proposed Project, or any portion of the Proposed Project, an action that is presently required under other federal, state, or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions?

No.
4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy?

No.

5. Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed?

No.
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