

Request for Proposals:

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT  
CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

**Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM**

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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.housatonicrestoration.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.

The Housatonic Valley River Trail

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

King's Mark Resource Conseration & Development (RC&D) Area, Inc., attention: Mark Cummings

Name

RC&D Coordinator

Title

900 Northrup Road

Address

Suite A

Address

Wallingford, Connecticut 06492-1900

City State Zip

203-284-3663, extension 3

Phone

mark.cummings@ct.usda.gov

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. Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials, Towns: Brookfield & New Milford

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**

The Still River and the Housatonic River at the outlet of the Still River in New Milford, CT.

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

Municipality/ies:

Danbury, Brookfield, New Milford

Longitude for approximate center of project area: -73degrees 24'55.116 east

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 41 degrees 30' 12.02 north

**Project Budget Estimate** (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 800,000.00

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 87,000.00

## **SECTION I: Project Mission, Goals, Benefits and Summary of General Tasks.**

The Housatonic Valley River Trail (HVRT) is a canoe/kayak water trail on the Still and Housatonic Rivers for canoeing and kayaking, watching wildlife and enjoying the beauty of the regions rivers and lakes. The access and egress points offer access for people wishing to fish or just enjoy the quiet beauty of the Still and Housatonic Rivers. The location on the HVRT where this project is planned, henceforth referred to as the “project area”, is illustrated on page 3 of this pre-application.

The **Mission of this project** is to provide the missing link on the Still River section of the River Trail. This project will connect the existing Still River section of the HVRT to the existing access and egress ramps, portages and points of interest such as hiking trails, lodging, restaurants, and historic sites on the Housatonic River.

This overall mission has several **Goals and Objectives:**

- To provide access and parking for HVRT paddlers at the New Milford Animal Shelter
- To have warning signs made and installed before the HarryBrooke Rapids
- To provide a canoe/kayak portage around the HarryBrooke Rapids
- To clear river blockages that prevents safe paddling on the Still River in the project area.
- To provide locator/points of interest signs along the Brookfield and New Milford sections of the HVRT from the Danbury City Line to the River Trail terminus.
- To provide access to the environmental education experiences, environmental research stations and/or passive self-guided walking tours as referenced on the Still River Greenway. This includes locations to educate the users of the HVRT as to the history of human interaction with the River.

This final missing link of the HVRT on the Still River is the culmination of 30 years of industrial and public works engineering and construction to restore the water quality of the Still River and ten years of work developing the current portions of the HVRT open for paddlers.

To date, King’s Mark has assisted in completing: two (2) handicapped accessible ramps; access to the Still River Bird Sanctuary in Danbury as an Eagle Scout project; installed locator/ points of interest signs on the Still River in Danbury; installed warning/take out signs and take-out steps before the Brookfield Center rapids and dams; a portage around the Bleachery Dam; installed signs directing paddlers to the portage around the Shepaug and Stevenson Dams; removed 15 major blockages prior to the HVRT opening in 2001; continued blockage removal to maintain safe passage. Over 250 volunteers have worked on the development of the HVRT and the two (2) annual Still River clean ups. Donated machine and engineering time has amounted to over 200 hours.

Please see the HVRT brochure maps as permitted supporting material as the last pages of this pre-application. It will show you how much we need this missing link for the HVRT. Also please see [www.hvceo.org/rivertrail.php](http://www.hvceo.org/rivertrail.php)

### **Sustainability:**

We have received a commitment from the City of Danbury to maintain clear passage for the River Trail from Eagle Rd. to the Brookfield town line. We are currently negotiating a commitment from Brookfield Park & Recreation Department to maintain clear passage of the River Trail from the City of Danbury Town Line to the existing take-out steps at Brookfield Center.

### **Planned for 2007**

- The third annual Still River Clean-up will be on 5/19/07.
- Installation of a handicap accessible ramp with dedicated parking at 901 Federal Road, Brookfield in June 2007.
- Canoe/kayak take-out (to include designated parking) at Aldridge Rd in New Milford. This will be the end of the HVRT on the Still River until this project is completed.
- Install a canoe/kayak launch at Boardman Bridge, New Milford on the Housatonic River.

The **Project Benefits** are diverse and will be described in more detail, if this pre-proposal is deemed eligible. In brief, the major benefits are:

- Increase the use of a natural resource base for active and passive recreation.
- Increase safe, legal access to the Still River and thereby the Housatonic River where there is currently none.
- Provide an environmental experience, which integrates water-based recreation with nature education and an aesthetic appreciation of the scenic Still and Housatonic Rivers.
- Provide a catalyst for integration of all non-completed sections of the Project corridor
- Create a regional collaborative effort that involves broad involvement of the community. It is our intent to use this grant to enhance the public's overall appreciation of human relationship and respect for our water resources.
- Decrease trash flowing into the Housatonic River from the Still River
- Decrease incident flooding by removing blockages.
- Create a model for the "community involvement" in restoration and rehabilitation projects that are selected for other areas of the Housatonic River watershed.
- Improve the quality of life in the region

The **General Tasks** needed to complete the work include permitting, design work, acquisition/easement agreements, construction, sign production and installation, and blockage removal and long-term maintenance agreements.

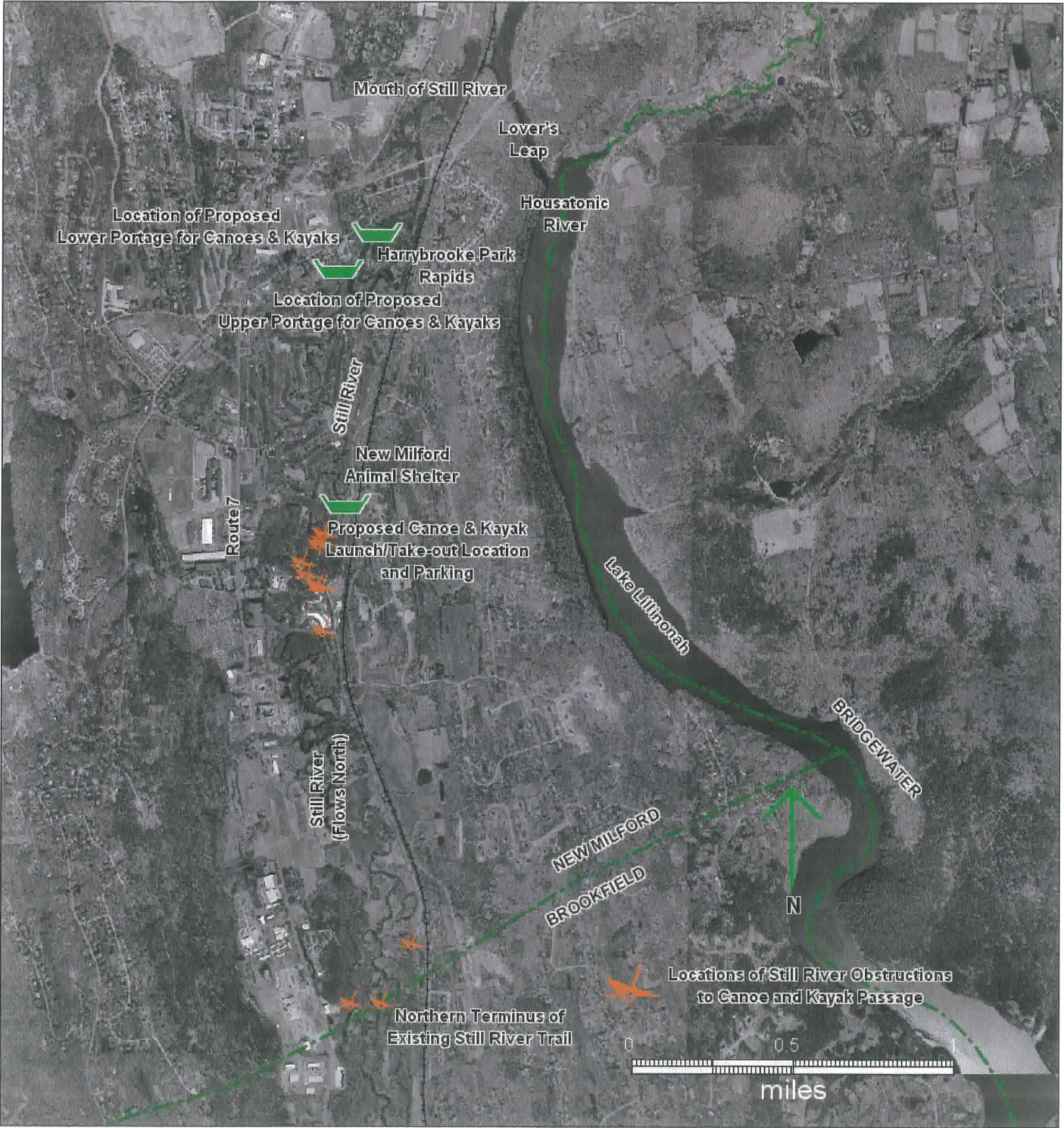
- To provide access and parking for HVRT paddlers at the New Milford Animal Shelter
- To have warning signs made and installed before the HarryBrooke Rapids
- To provide a canoe/kayak take-out for a portage around the HarryBrooke Rapids
- Obtain a six (6) foot wide conservation easement for the portage trail.
- Clear brush, install steps as necessary for the portage trail
- To provide a canoe/kayak put-in at the base of the HarryBrooke Rapids and hence reach the Housatonic River
- To clear river blockages that prevent safe paddling on the Still River

- To provide locator/points of interest signs along the Brookfield and New Milford sections of the HVRT
- To provide access to the environmental education experiences, environmental research stations and/or passive self-guided walking tours as referenced on the Still River Greenway. This includes locations to educate the users of the HVRT as to the history of human interaction with the River.

**SECTION II: A. Project focus area** *Project Location of the proposed canoe/kayak launch and take out steps and parking for paddlers at the New Milford Animal Shelter and the portage around the HarryBrooke Rapids.*



**IIB. Supporting Material - Additional Map showing full Project Corridor**



**SECTION III: Table 1- Criteria Statement for project eligibility**

Criterion	Response	Eligibility Justification for Response
<p>1. Does the proposal contain the information identified by the Connecticut sub-Council as set out in the “Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Restoration Project Proposals?”</p>	<p><b><u>YES.</u></b></p>	<p>A. The Responder and Project Information Form is attached;</p> <p>B. The Project Narrative (Section I) identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Project Goals and Objectives</li> <li>2 Project Benefits</li> <li>3 General Tasks</li> </ul> <p>C. The Project Location is identified in Section II.</p> <p>D. The Criteria Statements are addressed in this Table</p>
<p>2. Does the Proposed Project restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire natural resource services equivalent to those that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances from the GE facility?</p>	<p><b><u>YES.</u></b></p>	<p>The proposed project area is a major tributary to the Housatonic River. The terminus of this project is at the outlet on the Housatonic River, at the mouth of the Still River. The proposed project will satisfy this criterion in the following way:</p> <p>The River Trail provides direct increased public access to the Housatonic River for public enjoyment and education. This can provide compensatory replacement for irretrievable damage to these resources that were damaged by historical discharges from the GE facility in Pittsfield, MA.</p>

Table 1 is continued on the next page

**Table 1:** Criteria Statement (Continued)

Criterion	Response	Eligibility Justification for Response
<p>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</p>	<p><b><u>NO</u></b></p>	<p>To the best knowledge of the Applicant, the proposed project location is NOT subject to local, state or federal enforcement actions.</p> <p>Permitting for the New Milford Animal Shelter canoe/kayak access and parking and the HarryBrooke Rapids Portage will include a verification that these sites are not subject to environmental actions by any agency. It should be noted that the overall Project corridor is broad enough to allow some shifting of specific project sites if such actions are identified in the Environmental Impact Statement.</p>
<p>4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state or local policy?</p>	<p><b><u>NO</u></b></p>	<p>The Proposed Project is, in fact, very consistent with local, state and federal policies in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It will provide safe and environmentally correct access and egress locations on the Still and Housatonic Rivers for canoe and kayak paddlers.</li> <li>➤ It will provide long term maintenance of blockages on the Still River that can cause flooding.</li> <li>➤ It will provide annual HVRT volunteer clean-up days and prevent trash from entering the Housatonic River</li> <li>➤ It will provide educational opportunities to the public to protect the regions waterways.</li> <li>➤ It will fulfill a long-standing state policy to create a Greenway (waterway) that parallels Route 7;</li> </ul>
<p>5. Will the proposed project, or any portion of the proposed project, be inconsistent with any on going or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed?</p>	<p><b><u>NO.</u></b></p>	<p>By providing access for annual volunteer river clean-up activities, trash entering the Still River will be removed prior to its being washed into the Housatonic River.</p>