

Request for Proposals:

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

Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

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

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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.

Salmon Creek / Housatonic River Land Protection Project

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

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)

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Name

Title

404 LeGeyt Road

Address

Address

Sheffield MA 01257

City State Zip

413-229-0232 x 226

Phone

jminer@tnc.org

Email

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

Riparian natural resources
Floodplain forest natural resources

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

Municipality/ies:

Salisbury

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 41° 57' N

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 73° 24' W

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 252,500

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 245,500

Part B
Salmon Creek/Housatonic River Land Protection Project

Project Goals and Objectives

The release of hazardous materials from the GE facility in Pittsfield, MA caused a variety of damage to natural resources in the northwest corner of Connecticut. In addition to instream damage, terrestrial, riparian, and floodplain ecosystems and wildlife dependent on these ecosystems were harmed. The goal of the Salmon Creek/Housatonic River Land Protection Project is to ameliorate harm to riparian and floodplain ecosystems in specific reaches of the Housatonic River and one prioritized tributary, Salmon Creek.

The project objective is to acquire conservation easements on 100-200 acres of riparian land in Canaan, CT, and Salisbury, CT, within the subregional watershed of the Housatonic River upstream of Derby Dam, and prepare these areas for restoration of riparian or floodplain forest communities. The Salmon Creek focal area provides a critical buffer to Salmon Creek as well as an opportunity for restoration of a floodplain forest community. The Housatonic focal area provides buffer to the Housatonic River directly, and is a continuation of floodplain forest restoration The Nature Conservancy is conducting across the border in Massachusetts. The long-term protection of these parcels will provide higher quality water in the Housatonic River, a refugia for plants and animals to repopulate the Housatonic River, and habitat for migratory corridors for wide-ranging birds and animals. This project will achieve long-term and sustainable benefits by incorporating long-term protection with management and the development of future restoration opportunities. The project will provide a high level of ecological benefit by placing these acres into long-term protection and protecting riparian communities of rare plants, animals and natural communities that are threatened by non-sustainable agricultural practices and other land development threats. The parcels will be assessed for natural resources, rare and endangered plants, animals and natural communities, presence of invasive species (including terrestrial and aquatic), and other potential threats. This assessment will be the basis for management planning and restoration activities.

Project Benefits

This project proposes to protect 100-200 acres of riparian parcels containing conditions necessary for the restoration of floodplain forest and riparian buffer. These areas have been identified as priority areas through The Nature Conservancy's ecoregional planning and conservation area planning efforts, which highlighted areas of the Housatonic as harboring relatively intact large river floodplain forest ecosystems, and areas of Housatonic tributaries, such as Salmon Creek, as critical freshwater resources.

These acquisitions provide an important opportunity to protect continuous riparian buffer and highly threatened floodplain forests. Historically these areas were the first areas to be converted to agriculture and developed into housing. Even today agriculture and other land conversion have limited the opportunities to protect and restore these ecosystems. Non-sustainable agricultural practices have and continue to marginalize the ecological integrity of riparian buffers and floodplain forests along the tributaries and the main stem of the Housatonic River.

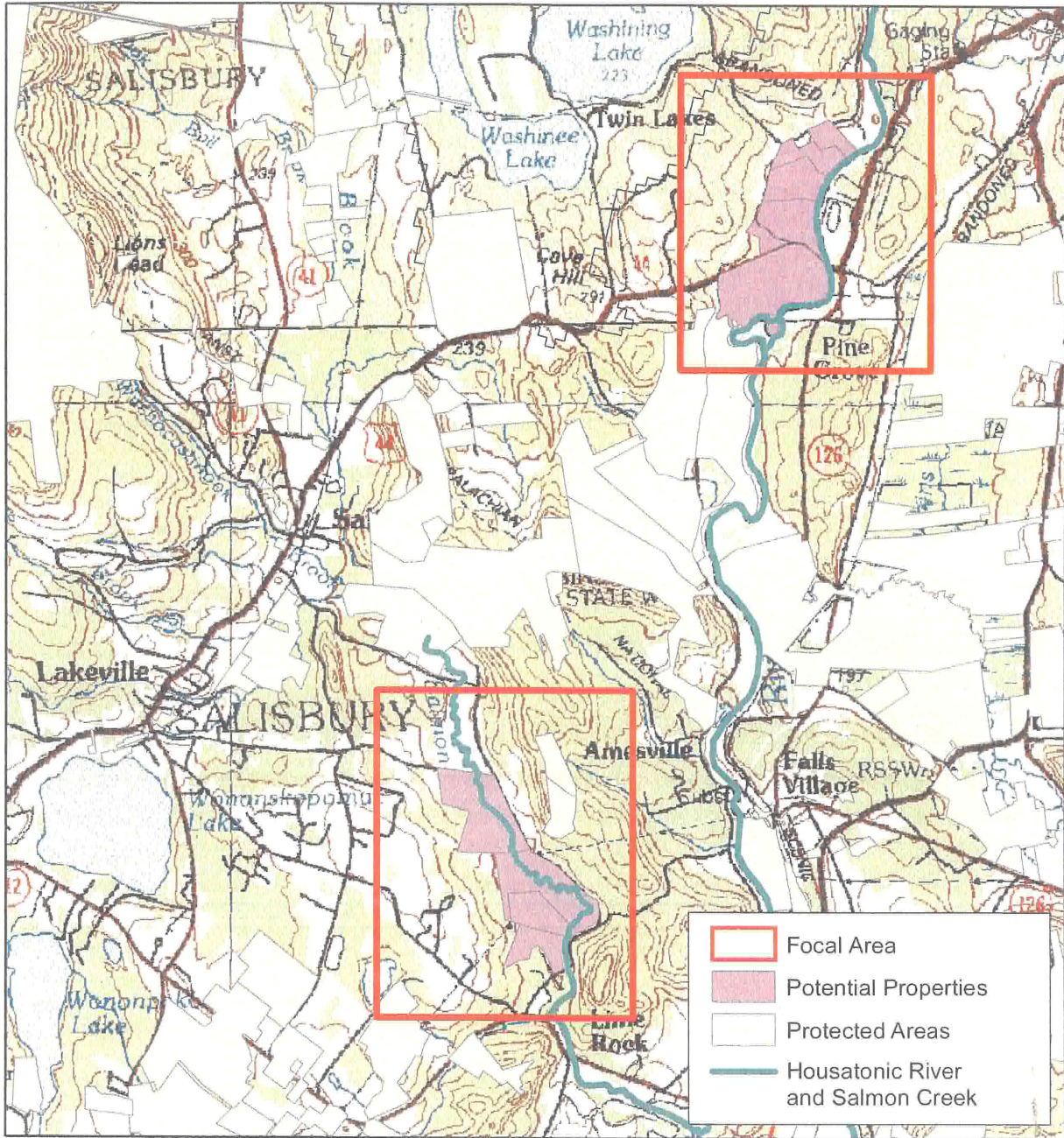
This project demonstrates a significant benefit to the natural resources for a reasonable cost. As the costs of acquiring land increase over time in this area, the possibility for long-term protection decreases. The opportunity to acquire long-term protective status over these acres may only be currently available at market values that are affordable. Land protection is the first step in securing the long-term restoration of these critical habitats. The restoration of these habitats will provide higher water quality, protect stream bank stabilization, improve flood storage capacity, increase migration through the riparian corridors, and maintain acceptable water temperature through shading.

By initiating this project, TNC hopes to build momentum for floodplain forest and riparian restoration with partners in this area. Through the efforts of contacting potential landowners, The Nature Conservancy will provide interested landowners information on best management practices for riparian buffers and floodplain forests. The Nature Conservancy may partner with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to distribute to farmers information about the various Farm Bill Programs (CREP, WRP, WHIP) which help fund the implementation of BMPs in riparian areas.

Beside the ecological benefits, there is a positive social benefit of protecting the natural resources on these acres by increasing the wildlife and natural resources for neighboring properties, by providing job opportunities to surveyors and natural resource professionals, and by protecting and enhancing the water quality and natural resources of this tributary of the Housatonic River. The Nature Conservancy will commit matching funds and in-kind services to leverage NRD funds to further increase the natural resource benefits.

General Tasks

- Project Management
- Legal Preparation
- Natural Resource and Aquatic Assessment
- Purchase of easements
- Management and Restoration Planning

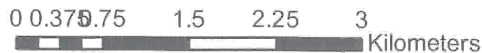
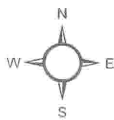


Salmon Creek-Housatonic River Land Protection Project

The Nature Conservancy

NRD RFP

Data Sources:
 USGS Topo 1:25,000
 US EPA Basins 1999
 Parcel data by HVA
 Managed Areas data by CTFO
 Map by J. Toro
 TNC copyright 2007



Criteria Statements

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 Nature Conservancy has provided one original copy and six additional copies of the submittal package, including the completed responder and project summary form, the project narrative, project location and criteria statement and supporting documentation.
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 in Pittsfield, MA? Yes. The project proposes to acquire riparian and floodplain forests habitat along the Salmon Brook and the Housatonic River through conservation easements. These easements will protect existing floodplain forests along the Housatonic River that have been contaminated through flooding of water containing hazardous material. Exposure to the hazardous material can cause mortality in plants and animals or cause stress and lower viability in natural communities. The easements along Salmon Creek will protect existing floodplain forests and riparian areas. These areas may be used for repopulating the floodplain forests areas along the main stem of the Housatonic River, may provide necessary habitat for species that no longer is adequate along the Housatonic River, and may increase the water quality flowing to the 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. There is no federal, state or local law requiring land acquisition by The Nature Conservancy in the Housatonic River watershed.
4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy? No. The proposed project is consistent with all federal, state and local laws and policies.
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. The proposed project is not inconsistent with any ongoing and anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River Watershed.