

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.

INLAND FISHERIES

JAN 19 2007

RECEIVED

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. 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.
O'Sullivan's Island Peninsula Riverbank Restoration and Enhancement

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

Name: []
Title: []
Address: []
City, CT 06418
State Zip
Phone: 735-8688
Email: []

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)
Regional Planning Organization

Type of Entity

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 not, please list any other project participants. CTDEP Kellogg Environmental Center; Naugatuck Valley Health District
Does 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

Loss of fishing areas with edible fish; Loss of recreational areas, habitat and access due to development; Riverbank erosion; Creation of access for disabled people; Enhancement of educational and recreational opportunities; Enhancement of native flora species.

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

Municipality/ies:

Derby

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 73 degrees 05'02.04" W

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 41 degrees 18'50.56" N

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 325,000

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 325,000

Item 1. - Project Narrative:

O'Sullivan's Island Peninsula Riverbank Restoration and Enhancement – A proposal by the Valley Council of Governments to provide a revitalized riverbank for fishing, boating and walking recreation lost or unavailable upstream on the Housatonic River.

1. Project Goals and Objectives: This project realizes the stated goals of the CT SubCouncil in the following ways: *A. Restoration and replacement of lost natural resources and their services* – The long riverbank of the Housatonic at the O'Sullivan's Peninsula will provide extraordinary expanded fishing access under this proposal. The abundant and diverse fish here are edible. Atlantic salmon stay in these waters along with walleyed pike and striped bass. Lost upstream fishing areas would be replaced by the enhanced access here. The site is already frequented by people from the upper reaches of the Housatonic and other rivers. The project would make the site fully ADA compliant to provide equal access to disabled persons and bring more people to the River to appreciate and respect its beauty.

B. Sustainable and measurable benefits – The project will produce several dynamic, measurable and sustainable restoration and enhancement outcomes. There will be a fishing pier suitable for use by disabled persons; the modification of an existing boat ramp to improve safety and access; the installation of a fishing walkway of sustainable porous paver design; restoration of eroded riverbank fishing spots; revitalization of native plant species; installation of a non-point pollution capture swale.

C. Integrated public participation – The project will be managed by the Valley Council of Governments, which has demonstrated the capacity for building partnerships on public Brownfields projects for the last decade. The VCOG manages millions of dollars of state and federal funds for transportation and environmental projects. Volunteers from diverse groups have been a part of the more than 80 sites the VCOG has helped assess and restore. This proposal has been discussed with the directors of the CTDEP Kellogg Environmental Center and the Naugatuck Valley Health District, who are committed partners in its implementation. A number of fishing groups have been contacted by the VCOG staff to encourage their participation in the project. A press release about the application has led to newspaper articles and positive public response. The VCOG has received television as well as print coverage for other projects and would work to enhance the public involvement and appreciation for the SubCouncil's Housatonic work. Regional corporate volunteers have already participated in a cleanup of the adjacent greenway. A number of environmental firms have pledged design and technical assistance for the project, which will help maximize the use of these precious resources for implementation of the improvements.

D. Category implementation – This proposal helps compensate for natural resources and natural resource services injuries in two categories. The first of these is 3.2 Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement. Areas of riverbank erosion will be repaired and restored as well as enhanced through planting and redesign to promote use of fishing spots. Other areas will be left inaccessible to promote the sustainability of a natural bank in support of the attendant habitat for other species. The second category is 3.3 Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources. The major components of the project will provide a fishing pier for disabled persons, an enhanced boat ramp, fishing walkway of sustainable design and riverbank fishing coves. Comfortable, safe and readily accessible fishing and walking areas will be created.

E. Adverse impacts – The use of porous paving design in the fishing walkway will eliminate the potential concern for runoff. The installation of a swale at the riverside margin of the parking

area will help to mitigate non-point pollution impacts from the parked vehicles as well as helping to lower the temperature of water going into the river. The accessibility of several modes of public transportation will help to reduce any projected increase in vehicular traffic to the site.

2. Project Benefits: *A. Injured Natural Resources* – The benefit to the injured natural resources would be in the areas of elimination of invasive species to foster the growth of native species, abatement of erosion, removal of trash, reduction of non-point source pollution and restored and enhanced habitat.

B. Natural Resource Services – There would be multiple benefits. Disabled people would have an easily accessible fishing pier, which would be unique to the region. The boat ramp modification would increase the safety and ease of use. The walkway would make new and old fishing spots safely and attractively accessible. The fishing walkway would also incorporate ADA design requirements for accessibility and add new vistas for birdwatchers. Students visiting the Kellogg Center would be able to see the riverfront up close and see the value of the social compact with nature as expressed through the overall Housatonic River project. This site has edible fish species in abundance not available upstream.

C. Need for the Project – Along the length of the River, this site may be unique in that it so broadly combines the virtues and capacity in meeting the objectives of the SubCouncil. It can clearly fill the need to produce tangible replacements for the assets lost further upstream. There are already people fishing and boating in the area. There are enormous urban revitalization projects underway on both sides of the River adjacent to the site. The installation of the non-point pollution capture swale will serve to mitigate impacts from these adjacent developments. As well, the need to restore this riverside amenity matches the return to the river that people desire and need for that natural part of a satisfactory quality of life. For other less fortunate folks, it would provide safe and attractive access to the basic need that the fish provide in their daily sustenance. The outcome of the stocking program here serves a vital need of life in addition to sport.

3. General Tasks: The tasks required would be as follows: review and signing of a fiduciary and project agreement; invasive species identification and removal; replanting; preparation and issue of RFP for all contractor services; design and engineering of walkway, fishing pier, boat ramp and parking area modifications; permitting; regulatory review; implementation of construction; ongoing coordination and administrative tasks including periodic reporting and joint press releases with the CT SubCouncil; coordination of volunteers; photographic documentation of the project; opening ceremonies. The preliminary discussions with engineers and staff at DEP and at the Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) helped with the development of a preliminary budget. The major components of the budget are as follows: disabled access fishing pier \$70,000; parking area and boat ramp modifications \$15,000; sustainable design fishing walkway \$150,000; fishing spot enhancement and related erosion repair \$25,000; plantings, benches and signs including installation \$20,000; design, engineering, permitting \$25,000; administration including legal document review, RFP legal advertising, reporting, project supervision, fiduciary obligations and coordination \$20,000. Preliminary Project Budget is \$325,000.

Ten years ago, the peninsula was voted the priority site of the Regional Brownfields Partnership. Progress through assessment, demolition and clean up has been hard earned. This project would be the culmination of the vision and dedication of many people who have worked to reverse the legacy of the site. The restoration and enhancement resources requested for the region is not available from any other source. Thank you for your consideration.

Item 3. Criteria Statements:

1. Required Information – Yes – All the required information is contained in the submission. Enclosed are the Forms and Items required in Parts A and B. There is one original and six copies. Also included are aerial photographs, site photographs, project illustrations and other supporting materials. A copy of the Valley Council of Governments' (VCOG) resolution and authorization to apply for this project is also enclosed. The VCOG hosts the Regional Brownfields Partnership of West Central Connecticut and has demonstrated effective management capacity in environmental projects through a decade of EPA Brownfields grant administration involving about 80 sites. Associations with other groups formed in those projects have resulted in the endorsement and voluntary participation of people across the region. A number of these folks have stepped forward again to help with this project. VCOG staff has also contacted several DEP staff members seeking advice on developing this proposal, which led to contacts with new groups. Staff has been invited to address the Fishing Advisory Council at DEP regarding this proposal at their March meeting.

2. Resource restoration/resource services restoration – Yes – The project contributes significantly and clearly in both categories while enhancing an emerging and great fishing area on the River.

First: Resource Restoration – The resource of the river bank will be both restored and enhanced. The present conditions include heavy brambles and non-native flora species, which block access to the river's edge. These will be removed after a survey and identification conducted by staff from the DEP attached to the Kellogg Environmental Center also located in Derby. There will be replacement planting of indigenous species. Areas of erosion will be mended and stabilized. There is also blight due to the presence of miscellaneous materials from rogue dumping. These materials include metal parts, demolition debris and assorted trash. These materials will be removed and disposed of appropriately as part of this project. Without the intervention of this project, the restoration will not occur naturally.

Second: Services - At present most of the riverbank is inaccessible to fishing due to the conditions described above. The enclosed pictures illustrate the wonderful potential of the proposed fishing walkway. The whole site already has some of the basic components of a recreational service area. There is a boat ramp and parking area. These assets will be improved. The boat ramp angle will be modified to reduce the slope for increased safety and ease of use. The existing parking lot margin at the riverbank will be bordered by a swale to capture the non-point source pollution from vehicles before it enters the river. The site is controlled by the City and State. Almost all the budget will be allocated to the creation of visible improvements.

A fishing pier parallel to the river is proposed to provide a singular recreational asset for disabled persons. The site is adjacent to the parking lot for extraordinary ease of access. The proposed design will not intrude into the watercourse.

A walkway of sustainable design is proposed to meander along the riverbank of the peninsula for approximately 1600 feet. It will skirt significant trees and reflect the gentle topography rather than further disrupt the land. It will provide access to the fishing spots as well as be a continuation of the enormously popular Naugatuck River Greenway. The site is near the entry of the Naugatuck River with many species of birds observed during seasonal migrations, which will provide good viewing for birders. The returns on investment for the public will be readily seen and appreciated.

There will also be areas created with ease of access to encourage use as fishing spots. These will primarily be in areas with a naturally occurring gentle slope to the water. Rocks and native

species plantings will be placed in locations for comfort and aesthetic considerations. By making these areas attractive and readily accessible, it is hoped that other areas will be less impacted by human traffic to foster habitat for other species including restored native vegetation. There is an important socioeconomic benefit to this project. The fish in this area are plentiful and edible. A number of the people who fish in the area have indicated to staff that the fish are an important and affordable part of their family's diet. This is a significant consideration under the services criteria in addition to the affordable and wholesome recreational experiences that will be supported. There is readily accessible multi-modal public transportation to the site. A short walk down the greenway is the train station and bus depot with connections to Bridgeport and New Haven and the entire lower valley. There is also on demand van service for seniors and people who require special assistance.

The site will also serve as an expanded living classroom for the students who currently come to the Kellogg Center from many communities. It will be a working example of sustainable development and low impact recreational opportunities with exposure to the River.

3. Required Action – No – The proposed enhancements to the area are not part of any required action. There are historic issues of environmental abuse and resultant contamination on parts of the peninsula. The VCOG has previously arranged for EPA grants to assess the soil and ground water conditions. The Areas of Concern have been identified. Almost all of the project area is not impacted by those conditions. What impacts there are will be mitigated through other VCOG activities. Staff will continue to work with DEP and EPA to design and implement a cleanup plan. Staff will continue to meet with Congressional staff in the development of an appropriation for the cleanup. At a minimum, the few areas of low levels of contaminated soil would be relocated and consolidated elsewhere on the peninsula prior to resolution. The remaining areas of concern will be isolated from the enhanced area and secured by barriers. The VCOG is currently managing a project to demolish the former regional fire training facility on the peninsula. The project includes recycling as much of the concrete debris as is possible as a sub base for the proposed fishing walkway. If the project is undertaken in 2009, the adjacent remediation will likely have already started and may have had the removal activity concluded. The project can go forward without significant other concerns.

4. Project Regulatory Inconsistency – No – The project is an enhancement of the current site uses as a greenway and boat ramp. The fishing pier for disabled people will not intrude into the river but will be subject to the appropriate review and permitting processes. The ultimate design will reflect other permitted facilities. The walkway will incorporate ADA design requirements and allow precipitation to infiltrate the ground rather than add to the volume and temperature of the runoff. It enhances a destination accessible to public transportation with the potential attendant reduction in pollution sources. It may be that the project, when realized, will serve as a replicable demonstration of the value of the waterfront recapture and revitalization within regulatory requirements.

5. Project Inconsistency with Remedial Actions – No – The project will not intrude on any current or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River. There are no PCB related activities in the River at this site. Instead the project is complimentary to the long term objectives of sustainable development and erosion control. The ongoing restoration of the balance of the peninsula will not impact the access to or the use of the proposed enhancements. The proposed signage will in part describe the relationship of those activities and the ongoing overall river restoration objectives of which this is a part.

Close-up View of Project Area



Aerial view of the O'Sullivan's Island Peninsula Region



Close-up View of Project Area

