



Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook WILD & SCENIC

Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee Funding Background and Guidelines

In 2019, based in part on the unanimous support of the Partner town governments, the State of Connecticut and many local organizations, the U.S. Congress designated 62.3 miles of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook as “Wild and Scenic”. The designation required at least one regional or national “outstandingly remarkable value”. Those values for the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook are geology, water quality, biological diversity, cultural landscape, and recreation. As part of the designation bill, 1.1 miles in Canton were appended to the upper 14 mile stretch of the Farmington River that was designated “Wild and Scenic” in 1994.

The 62.3 miles of designated segments of the two watercourses are called “partnership” rivers because their stewardship is based on a partnership among local, state, and federal entities and other stakeholders including Stanley, Black & Decker (owners of the Rainbow Dam), the Salmon Brook Watershed Association and the Pequabuck River Watershed Association, the Farmington River Watershed Association, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and the National Park Service.. After the designation, the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee (LFSWS) was established to promote the long-term protection of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook by:

- Bringing together on a regular and on-going basis the partners, who have the responsibility of providing advice and support for river management,
- Stimulating cooperation and coordination among those parties,
- Providing a forum for all river interests to discuss and resolve issues, and
- Coordinating implementation of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan.

Periodically, the National Park Service (NPS) will provide funding to support LFSWS activities. As part of its effort to support local river conservation endeavors, build awareness, and enhance protection of the Lower Farmington and Salmon Brook Wild & Scenic Rivers, the LFSWS will allocate its NPS funding to contract work; small grants for municipalities and nonprofits, including land protection assistance for applicable projects; and educational and outreach projects. This document addresses these funding

opportunities and will be reviewed annually for needed revisions. Please read below the different ways LFSWS can offer assistance.

Contract Work

Annually, LFSWS will propose and approve a workplan based on the federally provided funds and National Park Service requirements. The workplan will consist of one or more projects to further LFSWS's objectives, as stated above.

In general, LFSWS may utilize a pre-approved vendor list for projects budgeted under an annually specified amount determined by LFSWS. Pre-approved vendors can be for-profit or non-profit entities. If you wish to be considered for the pre-approved vendor list, please provide the LFSWS Chair at lfswschair@gmail.com and the NPS representative to LFSWS, Liz Lacy at liz_lacy@nps.gov with the information requested below. (We will make a determination based on your submission, and inform you of its decision and rationale if it is a negative decision.)

- Resume or firm profile
- Sample project List, including prices
- Method of pricing

Projects budgeted for more than the specified amount will be bid out. Vendors on the pre-approved list will be notified of any publicized Request for Proposals (RFPs) so that they also have the opportunity to bid. Multi-year and/or regularly repeated projects will be awarded to the contractor chosen initially, provided that contractor's work is satisfactory. (Note: A range of values has been suggested for the specified amount. We want to balance transparency and fairness in the bidding process with efficiency so that not every project is bid out, resulting in lengthy time delays.)

Grants

As part of its effort to support local river conservation endeavors and enhance protection of the lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook, the LFSWS will offer small grants for applicable projects when funds are available.

Project Eligibility

Projects that enhance the protection of the lower Farmington River/Salmon Brook corridors and their watersheds are eligible for consideration. The project must be consistent with the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Management Plan (This can be viewed at www.lowerfarmingtonriver.org under the heading "Stewardship"). Projects within the rivers' corridors or along its waterways may have priority. The project should directly benefit at least one of the following general areas:

- Conservation, restoration or enhancement of the geology, water quality, biological diversity, cultural landscape, and recreation resources of the watershed (with priority given to projects within the nine riverfront towns and consideration given to projects in the Pequabuck River watershed)
- Stewardship of land with high resource values, consistent with the point above
- Land Protection Assistance. For additional project guidelines, refer to the section titled “Appendix A: Land Protection Assistance Guidelines”.
- Promotion of responsible recreational use and accessibility
- Public education, workshops and outreach about the river and/or brook, their natural and cultural resources, and methods of protection
- Public involvement in river and brook related issues
- Mapping, inventory and targeted outreach pertaining to conservation efforts
- Signage and kiosks along the river and brook and their watersheds

Preferred projects will also provide opportunities to establish or broaden partnerships between LFSWS and individuals, agencies and organizations with a connection to the river and/or brook and opportunities to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The following projects/activities are not eligible for funding under the LFSWS Grants Program:

- Lobbying activities
- Commercial or for-profit businesses and activities (Note: Non-profit grant recipients may subcontract work to commercial or for-profit businesses.)
- Endowment funds
- Purchase of computers
- Reimbursement for projects already completed
- Membership fees or dues to other organizations

(NOTE: See Appendix A for Land Protection Guidelines)

Who May Apply

- Non-profit organizations, municipalities, schools and other educational institutions and cultural institutions may all submit proposals.
- Proposals submitted by private citizens may be considered provided there is clear demonstration of public good/benefit. However, preference for funding will be given to the entities mentioned above.

Application Period & Funding

There are no deadlines for applications. LFSWS accepts them on a first come, first served basis until all the funding allocated for the year has been distributed. There is no cap on the amount applicants may request. However, with an interest in funding projects for as many applicants as possible, LFSWS would prefer to fund smaller projects, for example those with a budget up to \$6,000, earlier in the fiscal year (October 1 to September 30). For an especially outstanding project, LFSWS will consider a larger amount. Some exceptional proposals may be considered for funding for more than one year.

Applicant Match

The applicant shall provide matching funds of at least 25% of the amount requested. The applicant match can be monetary or “in-kind” (services, facilities, equipment, materials) and must be clearly documented. Letters of commitment from any organizations or businesses providing in-kind support must accompany the application.

Before Applying

Please contact the LFSWS National Park Service representative, Liz Lacy at liz_lacy@nps.gov and the LFSWS Chair lfswschair@gmail.com to set up a time to discuss your project proposal and the current availability of funds in the grant program. All projects are contingent on LFSWS receipt of the necessary funding.

Application Process

Written proposals following the format specified in the proposal guidelines below will be reviewed by the appropriate LFSWS subcommittee (Education and Outreach Subcommittee or Resource Protection Subcommittee). Recommended proposals will then be brought to the full committee for final approval. Applicants may be asked to present their proposal and answer questions at the monthly LFSWS meeting after the subcommittee has recommended the application. Successful applicants will be required to provide periodic progress reports and a final completion report.

Application Instructions for LFSWS Grants and Land Protection Assistance

(See Appendix A for Land Protection Assistance Program Proposal Guidelines)

Please be concise. The written proposal should not exceed 3 pages, excluding cover sheet, budget and attachments.

Project Goal(s) & Action Steps

Please provide a description of the goal(s) for your project and the specific steps you will take to achieve the goals. Include the timeline for the completion of each step. If necessary, detailed information (designs, maps, graphics, etc.) should be provided in an attachment.

Deliverables & Measures of Success

Describe the products (i.e. inventory reports, brochures, etc.) that will be delivered as a result of the project. Also, clearly define what measurements will be used to determine if the project is successful.

Budget Summary

As a separate attachment, provide a project budget that includes total costs, sources and amounts of funding, and sources and estimated value of any in-kind matching support. For non-profit organizations, please enclose a copy of an IRS letter confirming section 501(c) (3) status. For groups without 501(c) (3) status, please provide your sponsoring organization's documentation.

Benefits of Project

Please describe how your project meets the project eligibility requirements by explaining how it benefits any of the following:

- The conservation, restoration or enhancement of the fish, wildlife, water quality, geologic, historic, cultural or recreational resources of the lower Farmington River Watershed, Salmon Brook Watershed and/or the Pequabuck River Watershed.
- Stewardship of land with high resource values, consistent with the point above
- The promotion of responsible recreational use
- Increased accessibility and opportunities to foster diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Public education about the river and/or brook, its resources, and methods of protection
- Public involvement in river-related issues

Partnerships/local support/participation

Please provide any expressions of support, or interest in, this project expressed by other members of the community (i.e. local community leaders, land use commissions, local river advocacy groups, recreational groups, historical and cultural organizations, and conservation organizations, or state agencies). Include letters of support as attachments. Teachers should provide a letter of support from their school.

The complete written application should include the following:

1. Cover sheet including
 - Applicant name, address, phone, email and name/title of key contact person
 - Project title
 - One sentence project description
 - Amount of funding requested from LFSWS
2. Proposal (1-3 pages).
3. Attachments including budget, letters of support, and other detailed information as needed.

Please email the completed application materials to: lfswschair@gmail.com and Liz_Lacy@nps.gov.

Questions? Please contact the LFSWS Chair at lfswschair@gmail.com and the National Park Service representative, Liz_Lacy@nps.gov.

Appendix A

Land Protection Assistance Guidelines

The following policies and criteria are guidelines for the LFSWS in working with land trusts, other entities, and towns to conserve land that furthers the goals of the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Management Plan. Please use the following as a “checklist” to evaluate the likelihood of LFSWS’s interest in assisting your project:

1) LFSWS will not own land itself but will assist others in land purchases to be held in permanent conservation by a land trust, town or other appropriate entity. Due to limited funds, LFSWS will typically focus its funding on the costs associated with land acquisition (wildlife and plant surveys, title and legal fees, signage, etc.).

2) LFSWS will focus its support on land that:

- is located in wild and scenic towns (Avon, Bloomfield, Burlington, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, Simsbury, and Windsor) and the Pequabuck River Watershed
- is threatened by development
- has landowners willing to conserve their properties
- protects river or brook frontage
- has particular features that are important to Wild & Scenic/Outstanding Resource Values (wildlife habitat, water quality, recreational access, historic/cultural, geologic features such as ridgelines, scenic landscapes)
- has high quality native species communities (plant or wildlife)
- is currently unprotected
- connects to larger parcels of protected land
- will increase vegetated buffer between development and the river
- has water features – tributary to Farmington River or Salmon Brook, ponds, wetlands

The more of the above criteria that your project meets, the higher the likelihood that LFSWS will support your project.

3) The following are examples of circumstances that may lead to LFSWS's decision not to pursue or be involved in a proposed land protection project. (This list is not intended to be all inclusive.)

- The property is small, and there is little likelihood of adjacent properties being protected.
- The landowner insists on provisions in a conservation easement that the LFSWS believes would seriously diminish the property's primary conservation values.

- The proposed open space is part of a development proposal which overall is likely to have significant adverse impacts on conservation resources.
- The proposal does not fall within the purposes of LFSWS's mission.

Budget:

LFSWS funding is limited, so large projects cannot be supported. However, in exceptional cases, the LFSWS can work with you to request funding through the National Park Service. Although it may take more than a year for funding to be provided through this mechanism, it is an option. Anyone who would like to discuss the possibility of LFSWS helping in a land conservation project, please call Liz Lacy at 860-379-0282 or e-mail the LFSWS Chair at lfswschair@gmail.com. For land transaction related grants, please allow a 60-day turn-around time for response to your proposal.