



TOWN of BEACON FALLS
Connecticut

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

INLAND FISHERIES

JAN 19 2007

RECEIVED

January 16, 2007

Mr. Michael J. Powers
CTDEP- Inland Fisheries Division
Housatonic River Natural Resources Restoration Project
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Mr. Powers

On behalf of the Town of Beacon Falls, I am pleased to submit this application to fund the Beacon Falls Riverfront Park System for funding as part of the Housatonic River Natural Resources Restoration Project.

As you can see, this application calls for the creation of two (2) riverfront parks along the Naugatuck River. We see this as an important component of our overall riverfront access program, which is an important focus of our Community Conversation efforts.

We appreciate the opportunity to be considered for this program. Please do not hesitate to call me at 203-729-4340, or Brian Miller, our Planning Consultant at 203-271-2458.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Cable
First Selectman

**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.

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.

Beacon Falls Riverfront Park System

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

Susan A. Cable

Name

First Selectman

Title

Town Hall

Address

10 Maple Avenue

Address

Beacon Falls, CT 06403

City

State

Zip

203-729-4340

Phone

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)

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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

Fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and other river-based recreational activities.

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

Municipality/ies:

Beacon Falls

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 73*04'08.06"W

Latitude for approximate center of project area: 41*25'46.16"N

Project Budget Estimate (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 200,000

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 180,000

Item 1. - Project Narrative

Background The Town of Beacon Falls is in the process of formulating a comprehensive program to enhance public access to the Naugatuck River. The Naugatuck River runs through the center of the community, and was its traditional focus. The Town has started the effort of reclaiming the access to the Naugatuck River. The upgrade of the City of Waterbury Water Pollution Control Plant has resulted in cleaner water within the Naugatuck River. This has increased the attractiveness of the Naugatuck River as a community revitalization tool. The Town of Beacon Falls has begun the process of increasing access to the River through several actions, including (1) the establishment of the walkway behind the Beacon Falls Fire Station and Senior Center down to the Naugatuck River; (2) The creation of Veterans Memorial Park at the corner of Depot Street and Main Street created an important focus for the center of the Town, with direct access to the Naugatuck River.; (3) the establishment of a walkway below the O & G plant along the west bank of the river; and (4) the restoration of the O & G pond along the river.

Description of Project This project includes two separate but related projects; the Depot Road River Park and the Riverbend Park. Either could be implemented separately, but both are a component of the overall Naugatuck River recapture program within the Town of Beacon Falls.

Depot Road River Park The Town is proposing to convert an unused property along the west bank of the Naugatuck River, into a public park. The property consists of approximately 1.5 acres and is owned by the State. It is currently unused, located just north of the Depot Street Bridge, between Railroad Avenue and the Naugatuck River. Fishermen use the property now, but it has been neglected, and as with many used properties, has become somewhat of an area for trash dumping. We are proposing to convert in into a riverfront park, with enhanced accessibility for fishing. The park will be handicapped accessible, to broaden the recreational opportunities for all residents. Parking will not be necessary, as the parking for the railroad station is just across the street. Benches, a walking trail and other passive recreational amenities may be included as well. As the property is just across the Depot Street Bridge from downtown Beacon Falls, its development as a park amenity will also enhance revitalization efforts of downtown Beacon Falls, and will be an important component of the trail along the west bank of the river, which will eventually be extended up from the O & G Trail.

Riverbend Park The Town of Beacon Falls owns two vacant lots on the north side of Nancy Avenue, abutting the Naugatuck River, just upstream of the Pines Bridge Road Bridge. The O& G Corporation owns a vacant lot immediately to the west of the two town parcels. In addition, the lot to the east is in the process of being transferred to the Town of Beacon Falls. Together, these three parcels total approximately 1.3 acres.

Preliminary plans for a park at the site have been formulated. The preliminary plan shows a pervious parking area, walkways to a riverfront viewing or fishing area, patio areas,

benches and a canoe/kayak access driveway to the river. The refinement of the plans will also include some neighborhood amenities to serve the residents of the immediate neighborhood, as small neighborhood of approximately 20 homes sandwiched between Route 42 and the Naugatuck River.

Project Goals and Objectives

Goal – Restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources and their services that were injured or lost as a result of the release of hazardous substances, including PCB's, into the Connecticut portion of the Housatonic River environment.

. The proposed project would replace the opportunities for public access and use of the river that were lost through PCB contamination of the Housatonic River.

Goal – Provide for sustainable and measurable benefits to injured natural resources and services with emphasis on implementation actual physical restoration projects rather than “study only” projects. Both projects emphasize the physical improvement of the parcels. Both will include stabilization and all appropriate environmental controls.

Goal - Integrate public participation in the restoration process. The Riverbend Park component has been discussed for several years. It was initiated by the local chapter of Trout Unlimited. The actual design of both projects will be subject to a substantial public input process, with a committee formed to work with a landscape architect in the design of the projects. The process will include at least one public hearing.

Goal – Implement a suite of projects of various types across the three restoration project categories identified in Section 3.0 This project will fulfill Category 3.3, Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational use of Natural Resources.

Goal – void or mitigate adverse impacts associated with proposed restoration projects. This project will not have any adverse impacts upon the river's environment. Design of both components will be done to avoid any adverse impacts, and enhance the environmental quality of the riverbank.

General Tasks

1. Additional discussions with O & G Corporation for acquisition of Nancy Avenue Parcel. There have been initial discussions.
2. Discussion with state agencies concerning Depot Street Bridge parcel.
3. Formation of Advisory Committee consisting of members of Conservation Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission and interested citizens.
4. Formulation of RFQ for design of both parks for both parcels.
5. Short listing of firms based upon RFQ. Invitation for proposals.
6. Selection of firm for design.
7. Initial public discussion of design of parks.
8. Design of parks by consulting firm and Advisory Committee.
9. Presentation of design to public hearing.
10. Acceptance of design by Committee and Board of Selectmen.
11. Finalization of design, including construction documents.
12. Creation and distribution of RFP for construction services.
13. Selection of contractor for construction services.
14. Construction of Park

Item 3. – Criteria Statements

1. *Does the proposal contain the information identified by the CT SubCouncil as set out in the “Instructions the Preparation and Submission of the Restoration Project Proposals?”*

Yes. We have used these instructions in the preparation of this proposal, and believe that we are supplying the information necessary for the Trustees to consider this proposal within the second round.

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

Yes. The proposed project would (1) acquire some land along the banks of the Naugatuck River, as a replacement for the loss of enjoyment of riverfront access that resulted from the contamination, and (2) replacement for injured natural resource services. Specifically, the acquisition and development of the Riverfront Parks would provide additional river boating, fishing and hiking opportunities. One or both of the park developments will include a canoe and kayak launch site.

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

No. There are not requirements from any governmental agency that the proposed project be implemented.

4. *Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state, or local law or policy?*

No. Policy of the Town of Beacon Falls, the Council of Governments of the Central Naugatuck Valley, and the State of Connecticut all encourage increase public access and opportunities for water based recreation. The specific design of the parks will need to be reviewed by the Town of Beacon Falls Inland Wetlands Commission.

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

No. No remedial actions are needed at either of the sites.

Item 2. – Project Location



- 1: Depot Road Park
- 2: Riverbend Park



Site of Proposed Depot Road River Park



Site of Proposed Riverbend Park