



Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSCC) Watershed Grant Program Application Guidance

The Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Coordinating Committee (ERWSCC) announces the availability of grants through its **Watershed Grant Program**. Grant amount will typically be made in the amounts of \$1,000 to \$7,500. The grants are intended to advance projects that support and enhance the protection and enjoyment of the Eightmile River Watershed's Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs). Funding for this Grant Program is through annual Cooperative Agreements between the National Park Service and ERWSCC (Lyme Land Conservation Trust, Inc. serves as ERWSCC's fiscal agent)

Background:

In 2008, the Eightmile River was the twelfth river to be designated as a Partnership Wild & Scenic River by the United States Congress. It was designated due to its six Outstanding Resource Values (ORVs), which include;

- **Watershed Hydrology**-a natural intact flow regime well below the thresholds for degradation
- **Water Quality**– biological indicators show very high water quality with few sources for degradation and a mostly intact riparian corridor
- **Geology**-locally and regionally significant geologic features
- **Unique Species and Natural Communities**-studies for rare species (regional, national and global), biodiversity and ecological communities indicate the watershed is in the top tier for the New England region
- **Intact Watershed Ecosystem**-considered to be the most outstanding characteristic of the Eightmile is the intact, high quality ecosystem present throughout the entire watershed
- **Cultural Landscape**-a rural watershed with winding scenic roads, historic settlements and a bucolic landscape

Recognizing the unanimous support for designation by the town governments, local conservation, other organizations and the public, and the important role they play in the protection of river resources, the goal of this grant program is to support activities that enhance and protect the Eightmile River Watershed. Additional information about the ORVs, threats and goals can be found in the [Watershed Management Plan](#).

Who may apply:

Eligible entities include community-based nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations such as historical societies, garden clubs, art associations, churches, local land trusts, scouts, Audubon, CT, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Districts and municipal boards and departments, including but not limited to conservation commissions, planning boards, water/wastewater departments, libraries, historical commissions, recreation departments, schools (including environmental clubs, art programs, science classes, etc.). Other groups that are not qualified non-profit organizations and individuals that are interested in applying should partner with either a town board or department or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization(s).

ERWSCC will consider applications from nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations *outside* the Eightmile Watershed Communities (Salem, East Haddam, Lyme, Colchester, and East Lyme), when the project directly benefits the Eightmile River Watershed. Project proposals must clearly explain this connection.

Previously funded entities may apply again with a different project, or one that takes previously funded work to the next level. Performance on a previous grant will be weighed in decision making, as will the applicant's ability to apply insight from previous evaluation efforts.

Priorities for Funding:

Priorities are based on Tier One Tools as outlined in the Watershed Management Plan. The Plan can be further reviewed using this link: www.eightmileriver.org/watershed-management-plan/

1. Professional workshops, field training, development and certification that address implementation of best management practices and state guidelines including but not limited to CT Erosion and Sediment Guidelines, Stormwater Manual, Low Impact Development, Climate Resiliency, Stream Crossings and Habitat Management
2. Development of municipal regulations, planning documents and ordinances that addresses resource protection, especially with regards to the Outstanding Resource Values of the Eightmile River Watershed.
3. Research studies, resource mapping, including GIS and other technical services, that results in better natural resource management of the Outstanding Resource Values including water supplies, headwater tributaries, species of concern, climate resiliency, impervious surfaces, areas of geological significance and historical and archeological sites.
4. Activities related to the protection and management of preserved lands including, but not limited to appraisals, legal fees, surveying and development and implementation of stewardship plans.
5. Preserved lands management activities such as removal of invasive species, plantings and habitat enhancement and trail marking and signage.
6. Projects that address non-point source (stormwater) water quality concerns. This could include, but is not limited to rain gardens, biofilters, riparian vegetated buffers and restoration projects, slope stabilization, increased riparian shading and installation of pervious surfaces.
7. For towns that are not currently regulated under the stormwater MS4 general permit, projects that include mapping, management and retrofit efforts that address the CT DEEP NPDES General Permit requirements.
8. Mapping, inventory and targeted outreach for conservation efforts including, but not limited to flora and fauna species, especially species and habitats that are critical to the health and diversity of the watershed or that may be threatened.
9. Projects that further identify and/or protect historical and archeological and geological resources in the watershed.
10. Public education, workshops and outreach, including development and use of social media and fine arts, about the watershed and its resources and values, for youth and/or adults.

Process, Restrictions and Timeframes:

Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact ERWSCC prior to starting the application process to confirm their eligibility and the appropriateness of the Watershed Grant Program for their project. The application is attached at the end of this document. The application must be filled out on line and emailed to pyoung@eightmileriver.org and anthonyinlyme@gmail.com.

- The Watershed Grant Application must be completed on-line and emailed to and signed by the organization's authorized representative.
- Letters of support may be submitted, but are not required.
- Grant requests can be made in the range of **\$1000** to **\$7,500**. Projects which impact the majority or entire watershed may be requested for amounts up to **\$15,000**
- Multi-year projects may be considered depending on availability of funds.
- A one to one match is encouraged and may consist of either cash or in-kind services.
- Watershed Grant Program funds are not eligible as match for other federal grant programs.

- Funding may not be used for federally mandated activities or to address violation enforcement requirements or mitigation. Funding may also not be used for entertainment, lobbying, illegal activities or any other restrictions associated with federal fund use (reference NPS).
- Funding is generally by reimbursement upon submittal of an expense reimbursement form and report of work accomplished. Advance funding may be requested for the purchase of equipment or supplies.
- Applications will be accepted two weeks ahead of a scheduled bimonthly meeting (the Board typically meets every other month on the fourth Monday of the month. Please check website www.eightmileriver.org or call 860.345.8700 for meeting dates). Applicants may be asked to attend a meeting for further explanation and/or be asked to supply additional information.
- Decisions will generally be made within 30 days after the meeting or upon receipt of additional requested information. Applicants will be notified by email.
- Decisions to fund a project will be based on how well the project meets the **Review Criteria** (listed below) and **Priorities for Funding** (see above) and on available funds. ERWSCC reserves the right to offer partial funding.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed by both parties (applicant and ERWSCC) prior to project initiation and dispersing of funds.
- ERWSCC may consider reimbursements for projects and or services that have already been completed within 2 months prior to application due to third party time frames. (i.e., appraisal services for land acquisition grants)

Decision Review Criteria (in no particular order):

The merits of a particular project will then be reviewed according to the following criteria. Projects do not need to meet all of these criteria to be eligible; however, stronger proposals will be those that address many, if not all, of the following: For this section “project” also includes programs, outreach, reports and professional training.

Impact:

- Wild and Scenic mission: The degree to which the proposed project protects, enhances, or promotes appreciation of one or more of the rivers’ *Outstanding Resource Values*.
- Stewardship: Does the proposed project strengthen relationships among towns, non-profit organizations, community groups, and/or the public to enhance local stewardship?
- Awareness: Does the proposed project raise public awareness about the rivers or watershed resources?
- Long-term benefits: Are results of the proposed project sustainable after completion of the grant? (Is it explained how?) Will future activities/decisions at the community, municipal, regional, or state level build on the results of the proposed project?

Implementation:

- Administrative capability: Can the proposed project be completed with the funding available and the timeline proposed? Is there demonstrated ability to complete similar work?
- Measurable Results: Does the applicant have a plan to evaluate the effectiveness and impact (relative to the project goals)?
- Reasonableness of cost: Do the associated costs of the project seem reasonable with regard to scope and impact?
- ERWSCC Funding Impact: Is the ERWSCC funding significant to project implementation? Will the project happen without ERWSCC funding? Is ERWSCC funding leveraged for other funding requests?

Guidance for Application Questions 1-11

1. Project Location: If the request involves a project on or for a property(ies), please include address or GPS coordinates (latitude, longitude) (if no address). Please attach a map of location(s). If project is for a program, please include name and location. If project/program involves whole town or watershed, please state that.

2. Project Description: Please include a short description (1-2 paragraphs) of the project/program, including purpose and benefits or goals.

3. Project Deliverables: Please list and describe anticipated project deliverables (some examples: informational signs along trail, professional training for land-use board members, streamside revegetation, targeted outreach to specific audiences and resource mapping)

4. Addressing Funding Priorities: Refer to pg. 2 in this document, *Priorities for Funding*

5. Amount Requested: Please include the amount of funds being requested under this grant. If the funds will cover more than one item (for example, mapping and signage), please an amount for each. This will be helpful in the event that partial funding needs to be considered.

6. Cost Breakdown: Insert a table with details including amount requested and match. See sample below. For match, please include both cash (for example, paid staff time, paid consultants, room rental or other purchases that are part of the project paid from other sources) and in-kind match (for example, value of volunteer hours, room or equipment time donation, reduced professional rates and donated supplies) If other funds have been applied for or donations will be sought, please include in no. 7.

Item/Task/Organization or Partner Contribution	Total Amount (funds requested + match)	Funds Request	Match Provided
Native Plants, pollinator and wetland friendly, \$10 each x 45	\$450.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
Other materials, straw, stakes, cement	\$50.00	0	\$50.00
Graphic Design of Informational sign	\$350.00	\$350.00	0
18" x 24" Exterior Laminated Sign and Pedestal	\$500.00	\$150.00	\$350.00
Outreach materials including a poster board (\$50) and 250 informational flyers for use at events (\$1.20 each)	\$350.00	\$350.00	0
On-Site Planting and Installation 10 volunteers X 5 hrs avg each X \$29.29* (Master Gardeners and Watershed Volunteers)	\$1,464.50	0	\$1,464.50
Project Coordination-Watershed Coordinator 10hrs x \$34.00/hr	\$340.00	0	\$340.00
Totals	\$3,504.50	\$1,000.00	\$2,504.50

***2016 Independent Sector Rate for volunteer in CT**

7. Other Funding Sources: List any other funds being applied for or sought as part of this project.

8. Meeting Review Criteria: Refer to pg. 3 of this document, *Decision Review Criteria*

9. Beginning and Ending Project Dates: Please include project beginning date and when project is anticipated to be completed.

10. Other Groups Participating and Anticipated Numbers of Participants: Please include if applicable, other groups that are participating and projected numbers of participants.

11. Anything Else: Please include up to 1-2 paragraphs of any additional information that may be helpful to explain the project if applicable.

Applicants are encouraged to contact ERWSCC to discuss the proposal ahead of filing an application:

Primary Contact

Patricia Young, Program Director
pyoung@eightmileriver.org

Secondary Contact

Anthony Irving, Chairman
anthonyinlyme@gmail.com