



*Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council  
c/o Nashua River Watershed Association, 592 Main Street, Groton, MA 01450*

## **Land Protection Grants Program 2022 Request for Proposals**

The Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council (Stewardship Council) announces the availability of Land Protection Grants for 2022.

The Stewardship Council has implemented a Land Protection Grants Program to support the advancement of land protection projects that protect and/or enhance the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers and their Outstandingly Remarkable Resource Values (ORRVs) as set forth in the *Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan (Stewardship Plan)*. The Land Protection Grants Program will further local conservation efforts by providing funds to support acquisition, transaction, and other due diligence costs associated with land protection.

### **Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan:**

The following is a list of land protection goals described in the *Stewardship Plan*; detailed *Stewardship Plan* information is available at:

<https://www.wildandscenicnashuarivers.org/stewardship-plan-and-appendices.html>

### Land Protection

- Encourage voluntary land conservation to protect important riverfront and watershed lands.
- Increase land protection efforts to focus on connecting existing protected greenways.
- Restore and sustain lands along all water bodies, including wetlands and their surrounding lands, as linear greenways for their natural resource values.
- Protect priority land habitat, especially along the three rivers and their tributaries.
- Protect priority headwater streams that supply coldwater downstream.
- Recognize and protect important historical and cultural landscape features related to the rivers.

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**Grant Timeline**

Applications due: May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Notifications of awards: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Project completed and funds expended by: April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

**Who may apply:**

Eligible entities include municipalities, State agencies that have land conservation as a primary function, and 501(c)(3) organizations that have land conservation as their primary function in the communities along the Wild and Scenic designated rivers (Ayer, Bolton, Brookline, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Hollis, Lancaster, Pepperell, Shirley, and Townsend). The Stewardship Council may consider applications from municipalities and organizations based outside the Wild and Scenic communities when the project will directly benefit the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers' resources and communities. These organizations are encouraged to consult with the Stewardship Council before applying to discuss their eligibility.

Previously funded entities may apply in subsequent years 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 learn from evaluation efforts.

**Eligible projects:**

The Land Protection Grants will support acquisition and transaction costs for land protection projects (fee or easement/restriction) in the Nashua River watershed. Allowable costs may include, but are not limited to surveys, appraisals and appraisal reviews, attorney's services for title searches, closing services, deed preparation and negotiation, baseline document preparation, easement and land recording, and other professional services. Funds can also be used to acquire direct real estate interests (fee or easement/restriction) in land.

Entities may apply for multiple grants, but the applications must be for discrete projects.

**Funding:**

The Stewardship Council will consider grant requests up to \$10,000. Approximately \$25,000 will be available for distribution in 2022.

Funds will be provided on a reimbursement basis upon completion of the project and receipt of the final report, receipts, and any associated products. Any distributed funding not used will be returned to the Stewardship Council.

The Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) is the fiduciary agent for the Stewardship Council.

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**Grant Application Process:**

Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Stewardship Council Chair, Lucy Wallace, at [lbwallace34@aol.com](mailto:lbwallace34@aol.com) prior to starting the application process to confirm their eligibility and the appropriateness of the Land Protection Grants for their project. Applications should be no longer than four (4) pages. Additional support materials (maps, photos, etc.) and letters of support and/or commitment are encouraged and do not count toward the four-page maximum.

All application materials should be emailed to [emma\\_lord@nps.gov](mailto:emma_lord@nps.gov). Use “N-S-N W&S Land Protection Grant Proposal 2022 – [Group Name]” in the subject line.

The Stewardship Council Executive Committee will evaluate all proposals and present acceptable proposals to the full Stewardship Council for final approval. Successful applicants will be notified via email of results of the selection process approximately one month after the close of application period. The Stewardship Council reserves the right to ask an applicant to attend a monthly Stewardship Council meeting to further explain their application and/or project before making their funding decision.

**Review Criteria:**

The merits of an individual project will be evaluated according to the following criteria (in no particular order). Projects do not need to meet all these criteria to be eligible; however, stronger proposals will be those that address many, if not all, of the following:

- Wild and Scenic ORRVs/Goals of the *Stewardship Plan*: Does the proposal address the protection, enhancement, or promotion of one or more of the rivers’ outstanding resource values or advance the goals laid out in the *Stewardship Plan*?
- Is the land identified as a priority for protection in any local, state, or regional plans?
- Does the land protection project abut already protected land or provide a linkage to already protected land?
- Does the project protect valuable water resources (designated Wild and Scenic River segments, tributaries, headwater streams, wetlands, vernal pools, etc.)?
- Will the project provide for public recreational access?

The Stewardship Council may consider applications from applicants based outside the Wild and Scenic communities, but projects from applicants within the 11 Wild and Scenic communities will be given higher priority.

**Reports and Products:**

Open communication between the grantee and the Stewardship Council is encouraged throughout the grant timeline. Grantees may be required to submit an interim report. Grantees

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will be required to submit a final written report on their projects no later than 30 days after completion and expenditure of funds.

Final reports must contain the following:

- Brief description of the project, including title, purpose, audience, procedures, & evaluation procedures
- List of accomplishments & who benefited
- Funds budgeted and how they were spent; receipts must be submitted
- Description of additional funds leveraged with Stewardship Council funding
- Associated products including reports, press releases, photos, etc.

The Stewardship Council retains copyright rights and may use any or all materials generated as it sees fit without any additional compensation. Grantees may be requested to speak or present to the full Stewardship Council when their project is completed.

Recipients of Stewardship Council funding are asked to include recognition of the Stewardship Council contribution in all promotional materials and other appropriate public documents related to the funded project and its results. The following line is an example of acknowledgement:

*“Funding is provided by the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild and Scenic Stewardship Council through the National Park Service under CFDA: 15.921 – Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Wild and Scenic River Assistance.”*