

The Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Wild & Scenic Stewardship Council is pleased to announce \$20,000 in grant funding awarded in the first year of our Community Grants Program. The Council received many excellent applications and selected six projects that demonstrate strong commitment towards protecting the rivers' resources and building local stewardship of the rivers in accordance with the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Rivers Stewardship Plan.

The following projects received funding:

Ayer Conservation Commission - \$4,800 for Public Education: Signage for Ayer's Waterways and Ponds. This project will place attractive and informative signs along roads and on bridges to help residents and visitors see and appreciate the ponds and streams of Ayer.

Bolton Conservation Commission - \$2,550 for the Forbush Mill Still River Trail. This project will connect a newly acquired 43-acre property to an existing sports field and parking area by creating a trail along Forbush Mill Road and the Still River.

Brookline Conservation Commission - \$3,300 for the Nissitissit River Tree Project. Funding will be used to plant maple trees along a section of the Nissitissit River to enhance the tree canopy and help maintain the cold water fishery.

Pepperell Select Board - \$4,000 for the Pepperell Invasive Plant Advisory Committee (IPAC) Start-up. Funding will support the newly appointed committee's goal of enhancing and preserving lands along our rivers from invasive plant species that overwhelm our native plants populations.

Town of Townsend - \$3,850 for Adams Dam. This project will protect the Squannacook River by restricting motor vehicle access along the river bank and encouraging pedestrian access from a public parking lot at Jefts St.

Townsend Historical Society - \$1,500 for Spaulding Cooperage Preservation and Revitalization. Funding will support restoration of this historical and cultural landmark that fosters public appreciation of the Squannacook River and its significance in the town's heritage.

Grant funding is provided by the Stewardship Council through the National Park Service under CFDA: 15.962 – National Wild & Scenic Rivers System.

We congratulate the grantees and extend best wishes for the success of their projects.