Financial Assistance Criteria for TRSC Community Grants

For Projects Exceeding Five Hundred ($500.00) Dollars *

As originally drafted in 2002 by the Taunton River Wild & Scenic River Study Committee, and revised in 2013 and 2023 by the Taunton River Stewardship Council (TRSC), the following funding criteria are provided as guidance for submitting grant requests to the TRSC. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and grant support is contingent upon availability of funds. All funding requests should be presented to the TRSC by Council delegates on behalf of their organizations, communities, or community/regional partners, at a regularly scheduled Council meeting.

TRSC grant awards typically range from $500, up to a maximum of $25,000. The Council will also consider awarding partial or match grants, based upon project profile and need. ** Although a match is not required, those applicants providing cash or in-kind match, in any amount, will receive stronger consideration. The maximum amount awarded to any grantee, including multiple grant awards, **shall not** exceed $25,000 in any given fiscal year.

Proposals should be no longer than three (3) pages in length and **must include:**

1. A description of the project, the community or region of the Taunton River Watershed in which it is located, and demonstrated consistency with one or more of the six (6) outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) of the Wild & Scenic Taunton River, as initially described in the 2005 Taunton River Stewardship Plan (see attached);
2. Narrative and budget indicating any project partners, additional sources of revenue, in-kind, desired outcomes/results;
3. Timeline and budget (Note: all contractors/non-profits/vendors must provide a signed W-9 Form to TRWA in order to convey funds for projects). Timelines and budgets will be strictly adhered to unless an extension is sought from, and granted by, the Council.

Proposals may also be sent to the TRSC, care of the Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA), by email or by standard post at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which you would like the proposal to be considered. The TRSC meets six (6) times per year and will vote on funding proposals at its regularly scheduled meetings. Meeting dates are posted on the TRSC website at www.tauntonriver.org.

Send proposals to:
Taunton River Watershed Alliance
P.O. Box 1116
Taunton, MA 02780
ATTN: Gloria Bancroft
Or email: gbancroft@savethetaunton.org

*Project requests of under $500.00 may be considered and awarded by the Executive Committee as voted by the Wild & Scenic River Study Committee on 9/25/02.

** The Council may waive, by majority vote, the maximum award given if a project or opportunity is deemed to be unique or exceptional by the Council.

TAUNTON RIVER WILD & SCENIC STEWARDSHIP OBJECTIVES and OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Taunton River Stewardship Objectives

The Stewardship Objectives developed by the Council in 2011-2012 were in direct response to the needs assessments outlined in the 2005 Stewardship Plan and, the ongoing work of Council members, watershed communities, and local, state, regional, and national partners. Each one of the categories below corresponds with the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for which the Taunton River was originally nominated for federal Wild & Scenic River designation. The Council also considered a response to climate change and the need for greater resiliency (social, economic, and environmental) to be built into our objectives/actions going forward.

Ecology and Biological Diversity

1. Increase Public Awareness of the biological diversity and intact ecology of the Taunton River Ecosystem
2. Protect Water Quality and Natural Flow regimes critical to health and long-term viability of aquatic biodiversity
3. Prevent Fragmentation of riparian systems, floodplains, and contiguous upland habitat blocks; retain our intact natural "green infrastructure"
4. Prevent Invasive Species from displacing native communities of plants and animals

Estuary

1. Promote a Bi-State Narragansett Bay Vision that recognizes the Taunton River as the largest and most ecologically intact contributor to Narragansett Bay
2. Protect Intact Estuary Habitats of the Taunton River and Mt. Hope Bay, including freshwater tidal marshes, salt marshes, and riparian· habitats
3. Restore Degraded Habitats and Species Communities including eelgrass beds, shellfish and riparian areas

4. Promote Recreational Access and Waterfront Revitalization in concert with community goals and habitat suitability; connect communities to the river and its tributaries

Fisheries

1. Ensure Water Quality and Natural Flow Regimes that will allow resident and anadromous fish species to thrive
2. Restore Anadromous Fish Populations in tributary areas currently blocked to fish migration through stream continuity assessments and projects
3. Protect Rare Coldwater Habitats on mainstem and tributary areas; work with our partners to get these areas mapped and certified by the state
4. Protect and Restore Rare Species Populations such as Rainbow Smelt and Atlantic Sturgeon

Agriculture

1. Protect Agricultural landscapes and Working Farms, including retention of agriculturally significant soils
2. Promote and Support Local Farms and Their Markets
3. Promote Ecologically Sensitive Agricultural Practices

Recreation and Scenery

1. Preserve the Scenic Beauty of the Taunton River and its Tributaries
2. Ensure Stream Flow and Water Quality sufficient to support fishing, swimming, boating and related recreational opportunities
3. Protect Connected Open Spaces in the Taunton River corridor as an opportunity for diverse recreational activities
4. Provide Quality Access to the Taunton River and related tributary and corridor resources

Culture and History

1. Promote the documentation, protection, and preservation of the cultural and historical assets of the Wild & Scenic River and its tributaries
2. Increase awareness of the Heritage landscape inventories prepared for the mainstem Taunton River communities and link them to local, state, and federal preservation planning in the watershed
3. Support the cultural and historic planning and preservation efforts of the Native Peoples in the watershed

Water Quality and Stream Flow

1. Increase Public Awareness of the critical importance of stream flow and water quality to the continued enjoyment of the Taunton River as an outstanding resource of regional, state, and national significance
2. Ensure Sufficient Water Quality and Stream Flow to protect and enhance the long-term viability of the Outstanding Resources of the Taunton River and Narragansett Bay, including support of the ongoing statewide stream continuity program and assessments
3. Support local Planning in the ten Taunton River communities to avoid point and non-point pollution problems, including water quality monitoring programs