



Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR)

Wild & Scenic Committee

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Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee Town Infrastructure Grants

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee (UMATR Committee) is pleased to announce the availability of funds to directly assist our Wild & Scenic municipalities in implementing river-friendly infrastructure projects. These funds are specifically earmarked by the UMATR Committee for the municipalities through which our designated Rivers flow (Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery).

Grant awards of up to \$5,000 will be made to municipalities for roadway and infrastructure improvements that will benefit our rivers as well as the communities they flow through. Successful projects will address the protection and enhancement of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Wild and Scenic Rivers and their outstanding resources, with a specific emphasis on water quality.¹

Due Date:

Applications are due by **Wednesday, December 1, 2021**

Background:

In 2014, 46.1 miles of the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers were designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System based on their Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), which include:

- **Scenic and Recreational** - swimming holes, paddling, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, biking/hiking/skiing/snowmobiling, covered bridges
- **Water Quality** - water quality in Vermont and the Missisquoi and Trout watersheds, biological assessments of water quality, resources contributing to water quality
- **Historic and Cultural** – prehistoric and archeological resources, Native American culture and history, European settler culture and history, covered bridges, contributing community heritage (i.e. agriculture)
- **Natural Resources** - geology (including gorges and waterfalls), rare, threatened, and endangered species/natural communities, significant ecological areas, critical wildlife habitats

The Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers Wild & Scenic Committee recognizes the important role that towns play in our rivers' health and vitality, as well as the financial burden that water quality improvement projects can bring. The goal of this grant program is to enable our towns to not only complete projects, but also to implement the best practices available for water quality. Projects must be completed by September 30, 2022.

¹ Funding for this grant program is through Cooperative Agreements between the National Park Service and the Committee under Federal Assistance Listing #15.962 (the Missisquoi River Basin Association serves as the UMATR Committee's fiscal agent but does not influence the decisions of the UMATR Committee nor the River Community Grants program).



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Wild & Scenic Committee
River Community Grants Program**

Application Process:

Applicants must fully complete the **Application Form** and **Checklist** (both are attached at the end of this document). Completed forms should be sent by email to **info@vtwsr.org**. If electronic filing is a barrier to applying, please contact the Committee at 802-393-0076 to arrange an alternative.

- Eligible municipalities include Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery.
- Project proposals must address how the project will improve, enhance, or protect the rivers and their outstanding resources (scenic and recreational, water quality, historic and cultural, and natural resources).
- Include detailed pictures of the project site, including its connection to a stream or river.
- Include location information – a detailed map and/or GPS coordinates of the project site.
- Proposals must address how the project will improve and protect water quality and flood resilience for future storms; projects such as culverts must meet VTrans Hydraulics standards.
- Applicants will be notified of results of the selection process by early January 2022.
- Fifty percent of the award amount will be provided up front; the remainder will be received after the project has been completed and a final report has been submitted.
- Match of 10% (in kind or cash) is required.
- Decisions to fund a project will be based on how well the project meets the Review Criteria (see Checklist at the end of the application) and on available funds. The UMATR Committee reserves the right to offer partial funding, or to reject all proposals.

Proposals must include:

- Overall cost, broken down by category (i.e. labor, equipment rental, materials, sub-contractor fees, lodging, per diem, and any other costs associated with the project).
- Timeline in which the project will be completed, including predicted start date and how long the project is expected to take.
- A description of the project approach, including methods that will likely be employed and a detailed description of the repairs that will likely be implemented, type of equipment to be used, and anything that might set this proposal apart in terms of improving water quality or enhancing wildlife passage.



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Restrictions and Other Details:

- The UMATR Committee reserves the right to ask an applicant to attend (in-person or electronically) a monthly Committee meeting to further explain their proposal and/or project.
- If the proposed project is one where human health or safety is a concern, the applicant may be required to provide proof of insurance.
- To combat the spread of invasive species, all equipment used on projects must be free of plant material and soil before entering the work area. Similarly, all material used (i.e. straw mulch, gravel) and any materials disposed of (i.e. soil) must also be clean.
- 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).
- UMATR Committee funds are not eligible as match for other federal grant programs.
- Projects mandated as part of a regulatory requirement are not eligible. This may include mitigation for enforcement actions and/or permit requirements.

For further information, or to obtain this application in a different format (PDF or printed):

Contact Lindsey Wight at 802-393-0076 or info@vtwsr.org

You Matter to your local rivers!



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Budget Narrative:

Use this narrative to justify your budget. Here you can add details about each item in your budget. Also include details about the match that you will provide.

Example - Personnel: Foreman will work 20 hours on the project at \$20/hour; 1 crew member will work 20 hours at \$15/hr. Travel - Staff will travel 30 miles to the project site; \$0.575/mile. Match will be provided through use of Town equipment; \$55/hour.

4. Project Timeline:**

Please use the following table to write in your project milestones and the estimated dates by which they will be accomplished. Add more rows as needed.

	Title or description of milestone	Date accomplished
<i>Example</i>	<i>Permits acquired</i>	<i>Mid-June 2022</i>
<i>Example</i>	<i>Project work begun</i>	<i>July 2022</i>
<i>Example</i>	<i>Final report submitted</i>	<i>September 30, 2022</i>
Milestone 1		
Milestone 2		
Milestone 3		
Milestone 4		
Milestone 5		

Optional narrative: add timeline explanation below if doing so would be helpful, or if your project's timeline will extend beyond September 30, 2022^{2**}.

Explain your project timeline here.

^{2**} The UMATR Committee is aware that timelines may be hard to predict and subject to change due to concerns/regulations around COVID-19. Please propose your best estimate; we will be flexible with timelines if required.



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Checklist – check off the criteria that are addressed by your application.

The checkboxes below are intended to assist you in submitting a fully completed application. These checkboxes align with our review criteria; the strongest proposals will be those that address all of the following:

- Proposal addresses improving water quality or natural resources within town jurisdiction (both riverside and other surface waters that connect to the rivers). Suggested projects include (but are not limited to) roadway, infrastructure, or riverside improvements that will benefit our rivers as well as the communities they flow through such as culvert improvements, riparian buffers, bank stabilization, ditching and erosion control.
- Proposal addresses the improvement, protection, or enhancement of our Wild and Scenic rivers.

Please indicate which of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) your project addresses (select all that apply), and be sure that your project description outlines how your project addresses the ORV(s) selected:

- Scenic and Recreational (i.e. swimming holes, covered bridges, paddling, fishing, biking/hiking/skiing/snowmobiling, hunting, wildlife viewing)
- Water Quality (i.e. water quality in Vermont and the Missisquoi and Trout watersheds, biological assessments of water quality, resources contributing to water quality)
- Historic and Cultural (i.e. Native American/prehistoric/archeologic, European settlers/historic/covered bridges, contributing community heritage (i.e. agriculture))
- Natural Resources (i.e. geology (including gorges and waterfalls), rare, threatened, and endangered species/natural communities, significant ecological areas, critical wildlife habitats)
- Project will improve water quality and/or flood resilience (i.e. reduction of phosphorus loading into the river or improvement to floodplain), and meets or exceeds all State standards (i.e. VTrans Hydraulics standards).
- Project plan is thorough and includes location information and site photos that show the compelling need for this project; path to success is outlined in the proposal details.
- Thorough project details are provided, including a full project budget and timeline.
- Proposal includes information about how the required 10% match will be met.