



Vermont Watershed Grants Application Guide

for the Project Year 2009
**Vermont Agency of
Natural Resources**

The Vermont Watershed Grants Program offers Vermonters an opportunity to carry out projects that contribute to the protection, restoration, and enjoyment of watersheds through state grant funding. Half of the proceeds derived from sales of the Vermont Conservation License Plate go to fund the Vermont Watershed Grants program, which distributes the money for local and regional water-related projects throughout the state. Projects (or portions of projects) needing \$6,000 or less, and groups new to fund-raising are especially encouraged to apply.

This Application Guide, developed for the 11th year of the program, provides general information about the Watershed Grants and information on how to prepare an application form. If you have additional questions or would like to talk about your project and the application requirements, contact the Grants office listed on the back of this Guide. You may download the application forms and find other information at the Water Quality Division website at <http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakesgrants.htm>.

Funds are available for Watershed Projects that:

- Protect or restore fish and wildlife habitats.
- Protect or restore water quality, and shorelines.
- Monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or water quality.
- Reduce phosphorus loading & sedimentation consistent with Clean and Clear Action Plan objectives.
- Enhance recreational use and enjoyment of watershed.
- Educate people about watershed resources.
- Identify and protect historic and cultural resources.

Who may apply:

Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups are eligible to receive Watershed Grants for work on public or private lands. Individuals and state and federal agencies are not eligible to receive funds directly, but may be partners of a project.

Funding Category:

Awards can be made up to an amount equal to or less than \$6,000. Grants are intended for complete projects or for discreet, identifiable portions of larger projects. Contact the Watershed Grants office for an application.

Grants can be used for all aspects of a project including materials, labor, land purchase, printing, and equipment rental. The funding of salary or administrative costs is acceptable for time spent on a specific project, or "start-up" funds of a new project. The purchase of equipment is also acceptable, if it is more cost-effective than borrowing or renting and crucial to the completion of the project.

Proposals that are directed at spread prevention of non-native aquatic nuisance species have a higher priority for grant funding over proposals aimed at the control (e.g. harvesting) of non-native aquatic nuisance species.

Proposals that are directed at continuing previously initiated water quality monitoring or waterbody assessment efforts cannot request more than \$3,750 in watershed grant funding.

Goals of Vermont Watershed Grants Program:

Goals of the Vermont Watershed Grants are to support watershed education and recreation efforts and projects that protect, restore, or enhance Vermont's watershed resources. A *watershed* is a river, stream, lake, pond, or wetland and the land and water that drains into it. The watershed approach recognizes the inter-relatedness of these resources.

People across Vermont, including farmers and other landowners, town officials, anglers, boaters, loggers, biologists, regional planners, and state and federal water resource managers have been working in partnership for cleaner rivers and lakes for the use and enjoyment of future generations. In developing plans to protect, restore, and enhance lakes, rivers and wetlands, people realize the health of our waters is a reflection of the conservation, or wise use, of lands in our watersheds. Community-oriented associations have taken up conservation work and these successful local efforts are recognized and supported through these grant funds.

Examples of Watershed Projects:

Vermont Watershed Grants are a source of funds to enable municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups to promote watershed awareness, reduce water pollution and carry out Clean and Clear Action Plan projects that may involve activities such as:

- Working with landowners to assess stream habitat in order to protect or restore streambank vegetation to manage erosion and provide better habitat for fish and other aquatic life;
- Helping landowners and municipal road officials plan and manage storm runoff from driveways, parking areas, and town roads to minimize sediments and nutrients entering a lake or stream;
- Monitoring the water quality of swimming holes in town to find out if there are health risks and then holding town forums to report results and decide on problem solutions;
- Helping your town purchase a piece of river or lake front and providing for public access with trails, picnic areas, and maintenance plans; and
- Developing an elementary school program for children to see a wetland and learn how it functions in a river or lake watershed.



A list of funded projects can be obtained at the website:

www.vtwaterquality.org/lakesgrants.htm.

The 2004 Wells River Conservation Day Camp was funded by a Watershed Grant. The White River NRCD, Newbury Schools and the Al-Hens Farm cooperated to teach local kids about the science and history of the Wells River.

Project Selection:

The number and types of projects funded each year will be determined by the amount of available funds. A Citizen Review Committee has been appointed by the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife to review and rank project proposals for the commissioner's final approval. The review committee will make recommendations on project funding based on the extent to which the project:

- A-1) (20 points) a) Protects or restores natural watershed values; or
b) Protects or enhances cultural and recreational watershed values;
- A-2) (20 points) Implements solutions or carries out actions specified in the Clean and Clear Program that are intended to reduce phosphorus loading and/or sedimentation;
- A-3) (10 points) Includes an educational or outreach component to inform people about the project, watersheds, and watershed management;
- B) (20 points) Fills a demonstrated community need (e.g. is recommended in a town or organizational plan) and makes use of a well thought out design and work plan;
- C) (15 points) Demonstrates community support, results in cooperation with other organizations, municipalities, and landowners; and
- D) (15 points) Involves a cost-effective budget that leverages other funds and in-kind services.

Grant applications will be evaluated with the above criteria. The application package includes a more detailed list of questions to answer about the criteria, as well as a proposed budget table.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the application is complete and clear. An incomplete application will not be forwarded to the Citizen Review Committee. Please see the checklist included as part of the application package.

Grant Timetable:

November 14, 2008 - Applications due to the VT Watershed Grants office (or postmarked by this date).

February, 2009 - Citizen Review Committee meets and completes ranking.

February, 2009 - Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife approves selected projects. Applicants notified.

April, 2009 - Projects initiated with signed grant agreements.

Projects should be ready to begin no later than June 2009, or the funds should be applied for during a successive year.

January 31, 2010 - Submission and approval of final report and financial information for most projects.
Allowances can be made for projects with a longer time-table.

Payment Process:

Project sponsors will enter into a grant agreement with the Agency of Natural Resources that includes a work plan and payment schedule. Watershed grants usually will be divided into two payments; at least half upon signing of the grant agreement, and the remaining funds upon receipt and approval of the final project report by the Vermont Watershed Grants office. Applicants are advised that the receipt of grant funds is contingent upon obtaining certain insurance coverage. If you are not familiar with these requirements please learn about them BEFORE applying by contacting the Watershed Grants office.

Past Grant Amounts:

Project Year	Mini-grants awards (total)	Average mini-grant amount	Grants amount (total)	Average Grant amount
1998	(n=12) \$7,450	\$ 620	(n=4) \$15,550	\$3,887
1999	(n=8) \$6,992	\$ 874	(n=11) \$33,050	\$ 3,004
2000	(n=7) \$5,126	\$ 732	(n=12) \$49,251	\$ 4,104
2001	(n=5) \$3,001	\$ 600	(n=16) \$47,246	\$ 2,953
2002	(n=4) \$3,247	\$ 812	(n=13) \$46,798	\$3,600
2003	(n=10) \$7,666	\$ 766	(n=19) \$62,317	\$ 3,279
2004	(n=8) \$7,750	\$ 968	(n=17) \$62,497	\$ 3,676
2005	(n=5) \$3,785	\$ 757	(n=17) \$66,221	\$ 3,895
2006	(n=1) \$ 680	\$ 680	(n=18) \$71,645	\$ 3,980
2007	(n=3) \$2,625	\$ 875	(n=18) \$73,462	\$ 4,081
2008	(n = 1) \$1,000	\$1,000	(n= 21) \$83,871	\$3,994

Application due date:

Grant applications must be received by the Watershed Grants office OR be postmarked by November 14, 2008. Applications submitted by fax or e-mail will not be accepted. Applications postmarked late will not be accepted.

To receive an application or to answer questions, contact:

Vermont Watershed Grants office contacts:

Rod Wentworth: (802) 241-3709

E-mail: rod.wentworth@state.vt.us

or

Rick Hopkins: (802) 241-3769

E-mail: rick.hopkins@state.vt.us

Mail completed application materials to:

Vermont Watershed Grants

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bldg10 South

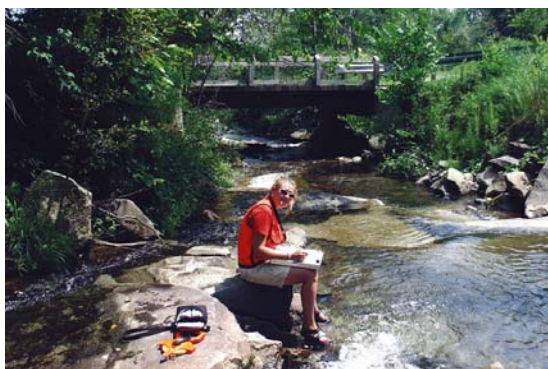
103 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05671-0408

attn: Gloria Murphy

Website (to download application forms and other information):

http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/htm/lp_watershedgrants.htm



Northeastern Vermont Development Association and Lyndon State College used a 2004 Watershed Grant to conduct a Bridge and Culvert Survey of the Stevens River watershed. The information is used to identify undersized or improperly placed structures that limit fish and wildlife movement and are flood hazards.

Vermont Watershed Grants are administered by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. For information about grants and the application process, contact the persons shown above. The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity agency and offers all persons the benefits of participating in each of its programs and competing in all areas of employment regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual preference, or other non-merit factors. This document is available upon request in large print, Braille or audiocassette.

VT Relay Service for the Hearing Impaired 1-800-253-0191 TDD>Voice - 1-800-253-0195 Voice>TDD