



Vermont Watershed Grants Application Guide

for the Project Year 2012
**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 waters through state grant funding. Half of the proceeds derived from sales of the Vermont Conservation License Plate 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 \$15,000 or less, and groups new to fund-raising are especially encouraged to apply.

This Application Guide, developed for the 14th 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.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/html/lp_watershedgrants.htm.

Funds are available for Watershed Projects that:

- Protect or restore fish & wildlife habitats.
- Protect or restore water quality & shorelines.
- Monitor fish & wildlife populations and/or water quality.
- Reduce phosphorus loading & sedimentation.
- Enhance recreational use & enjoyment of a watershed.
- Educate people about watershed resources.
- Identify & protect historic and cultural resources.

Who may apply:

Municipalities, local or regional governmental agencies, nonprofit organizations, and citizen groups are eligible to receive watershed grant dollars 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.

New for 2012 and Points of Emphasis:

In the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene, ANR has considerable interest in increasing education and practical outreach concerning watershed flood resiliency and implementing measures to protect or restore stream/river corridor habitat. The total maximum grant amount is \$15,000 (total amount of grant funds available is \$120,000). Land purchases and associated costs such as appraisals are not eligible nor are projects involving the control or inventorying the presence of nuisance plants. Other state grant programs are available (refer to <http://www.lcbp.org/grantrfp.htm> or http://www.vtwaterquality.org/lakes/html/lp_grantinaid.htm) to fund control activities. Nuisance plant projects focused on education and outreach, greeter programs, new or experimental demonstration control efforts and boat wash stations continue to be eligible. In addition to submitting nine (9) paper copies of the complete grant application, applicants must also "register" their application online. Applicants must affirm that they understand the insurance requirements for grant recipients and have the required insurance or will purchase it if awarded a grant. Applicants will be given a grant number during the online registration process, and this number must be written on the first page of each paper copy of the application. The advance payment to successful applicants will generally be 80% of the grant amount.

Funding Category:

Awards can be made up to an amount equal to or less than \$15,000. 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, 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 continuing previously initiated water quality monitoring or waterbody assessment efforts cannot request more than \$3,500 in watershed grant funding.

Goals of Vermont Watershed Grants Program:

Goals of the Program are to support watershed education and recreation efforts and eligible 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 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;
- Constructing a rain garden to control stormwater runoff; and
- Developing an elementary school program for children to see a wetland and learn how it functions in a river or lake watershed.



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

A list of funded projects can be obtained at the website:
http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/waterq/lakes/html/lp_watershedgrants.htm.

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 nature, quality, cost effectiveness and priority of the work being proposed. The review committee will evaluate project applications on a 100-point basis, using the following criteria:

A. Value & Benefits to Result from the Project (40 points)

- A-1) (15 points) Protects or restores natural or cultural or recreational values in the watershed; on-the-ground implementation;
- A-2) (10 points) Protects or improves water quality; reduces phosphorus loading or sedimentation;
- A-3) (15 points) Education and outreach component or project that is participatory; audience clearly defined; provides a long-lasting impact.

B. Management & Design Considerations (15 points)

Project design & work plan well organized; highly likely to achieve outcomes.

C. Public Support & Involvement (10 points)

Local government or citizens contributing funding, equipment, or labor; local government has provided a letter of endorsement; project part of local planning; other evidence of community support.

D. Cost Effectiveness (15 points)

Project leverages other funds, volunteers or other resources to get a lot done for the money. High cost:benefit ratio.

E. Irene Related Stream Corridor Habitat Protection & Restoration; Flood Resiliency (20 points)

- E-1) (10 points) Project will protect or restore in-stream or river corridor fish and wildlife habitat within an area affected by Tropical Storm Irene (provide evidence of being storm affected area).
- E-2) (10 points) Project involves education and outreach regarding stream habitat protection, restoration, flood resiliency or related Irene impact topics.

F. Special or Other Considerations (-5 to +5 points)

Other considerations, including application quality.

The application document also includes a 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.

Grant Timetable:

December 9, 2011 - Applications due to the VT Watershed Grants office (or postmarked by this date).

February, 2012 - Citizen Review Committee meets and completes ranking.

February, 2012 - Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife approves selected projects. Applicants notified.

April-May, 2012 - Projects initiated with signed grant agreements.

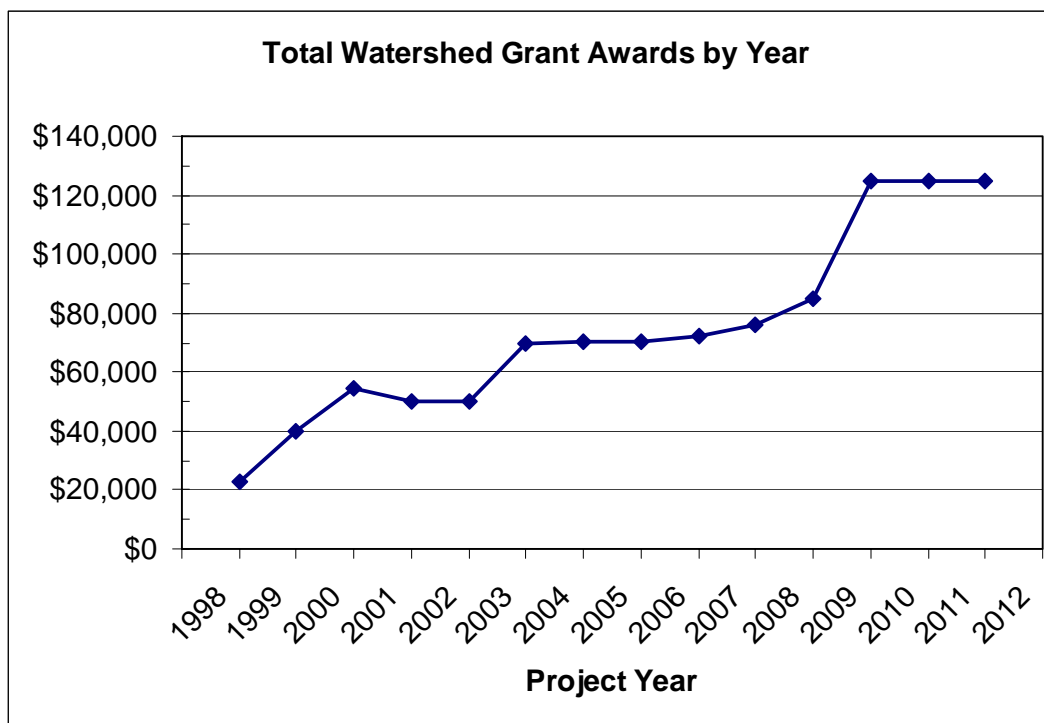
Projects should be ready to begin before August 2012 otherwise grant funds should be applied for during a successive year.

January 31, 2013 - 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 applicants 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.



Application due date:

Grant applications must be received by the Watershed Grants office OR be postmarked by December 9, 2011. Applications submitted by e-mail or fax will not be accepted. Late applications will not be accepted. Applicants must register their application online and then write their assigned grant number on page 1 of each application copy.

To receive an application or to answer questions, contact:

Vermont Watershed Grants office contacts:

Rod Wentworth: (802) 654-8949

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

or

Rick Hopkins: (802) 338-4878

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

Mail completed application materials to:

Vermont Watershed Grants (VSAC)

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Bldg 10 South

103 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05671-0401

Website (to download application forms and other information and to register your application):

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

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