

Request for Proposals:

HOUSATONIC RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES RESTORATION PROJECT  
CONNECTICUT SUBCOUNCIL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Part A: RESPONDER AND PROJECT SUMMARY FORM

Please read "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" before completing this form.

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2007

INLAND FISHERIES

Part A must be completed using Submittal Form A.

Responses may be entered electronically using the Microsoft Word version of Part A of this form available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website (www.housatonicrestoration.org), saved and printed. Alternatively, the responder may print the form and complete it with black ink.

An Adobe Acrobat version of the entire form (Part A and Part B) is also available on the Housatonic River Basin Natural Resource Restoration Project in Connecticut website.

**Project Name** Provide a brief working name.

Ball Pond & Shortwoods Brooks Water Quality Improvement and Pedestrian Access

**Responder** – if there is more than one party involved in the project, please provide the information for the primary or lead party.

Ron Oliveri

Name

Selectman

Title

Town of New Fairfield

Address

4 Brush Hill Road

Address

New Fairfield CT 06812

City State Zip

203-312-5600

Phone

RonOliveri@aol.com

Email

**Type of Entity**

Check the box that best describes the primary respondent.

Private individual

Non-profit organization

Municipal government

State government

County government

Federal government

Tribal government

Corporation or Business

Academic Institution

Other (explain)

**Project Implementation**

Does the responder plan to be the Project Sponsor and respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI) pending approval of this Proposal?

Yes  No

If yes, please list any other project participants. \_\_\_\_\_

If the responder does **NOT** plan to be the Project Sponsor and does **NOT** intend to respond to the Request for Supplemental Information (RSI), is the responder interested in being a project participant and assisting a different Project Sponsor on this project?

Yes  No

**Request for Proposals:**

**Restoration Priority Funding Category** See Sec. 3 of "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for category descriptions.

**Primary Restoration Category.** Check the restoration category that is the primary goal of the project.  
Check one box.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

**Secondary Categories.** Check all relevant boxes.

- Aquatic Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Riparian & Floodplain Natural Resources Restoration/Enhancement
- Restoration/Enhancement of Recreational Uses of Natural Resources

**List Specific Injured Natural Resources and/or Impaired Natural Resource Services to Benefit from Project**

Candlewood Lake: Shortwoods and Ball Pond Brooks are Candlewood Lake's two main "natural" tributaries, providing a large amount of clean water to the lake. As such, the restorative nature of the brooks will provide for the continued maintenance of water quality entering the lake. As well, it is vital that these two brooks be rehabilitated and preserved to protect water quality and provide area residents with clean and naturally vibrant recreational areas.

**Project Location** (if known) See directions and "RFP: Overview of Selection Process" for additional materials to provide (maps, aerial photographs)

Municipality/ies: New Fairfield, CT

Longitude for approximate center of project area: 41.46 (41° 27')

Latitude for approximate center of project area: -73.4 (-73° 29')

**Project Budget Estimate** (if known)

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$ 750,000

Housatonic River NRD Fund Estimate: \$ 650,000

Ron Oliveri  
Ron Oliveri, Selectman, Town of New Fairfield

1/9/07  
Date



**Project Title:**

*“Ball Pond Brook & Short Woods Brook Water Quality Improvement & Pedestrian Access”*

**Project Goals and Objectives:**

The goal is to maintain the quality of water of these two largest tributaries to Candlewood Lake. At the same time, to create new water based recreational and environmental educational opportunities along these tributaries through the reclamation of embankments and small ponds, the removal of invasive species, and the creation of natural pathways. Such trails, while providing healthful water-based recreation will also be used as an educational tool for our citizens to learn about the environmental importance of protecting these brooks, their wetlands, and the various types of flora and wildlife habitats. This project results in the implementation of actual physical restoration of the project boundaries and the riparian habitat of various waterfowl, land creatures, and flora. Public participation during and after the completion of the project is a cornerstone of this proposal and we anticipate individual and group involvement.

**The Importance of the Benefits of This Project:**

Candlewood Lake is the largest lake in the State of Connecticut. It is imperative to remember that it is manmade, created by pumping water from the Housatonic River. Every year, the water is drawn down and then replenished in the springtime - - again from waters from the Housatonic River. Pollution from the General Electric plant has directly impacted this man made wonder. It is therefore critical that the two largest tributaries feeding this lake are protected and their overall environment improved to the greatest extent possible. The benefit of the education of the citizenry as to the environmental importance of these tributaries and their adjacent wetlands and wildlife will be evident and incalculable.

**General Tasks of the Project:**

The project will primarily improve and protect the two major brooks that flow into Candlewood Lake, reclaim embankments, remove invasive species and replace with species native to the local environment, which is currently home to a diverse spectrum of wildlife and plants, and provide for the educational water based recreation of the public. The project will facilitate the unification of Town Center, Senior Center Property, and Museum District with the pathways along the stream banks and neighboring wetlands. The project will also include at least two footbridges over Ball Pond Brook and Short Woods Brook, the reclamation of embankments, and possible dredging of a small pond to bring it back to near original condition that existed 30 years ago when it provided natural wildlife habitats and ice-skating recreation for our citizens. Continuing from the newly created Museum district, pathways and shoreline reclamation will continue east along Ball Pond Brook across Route 39 through wetlands surrounding Dunham Pond and continue to the convergence with Short Woods Brook. We would then create trails and clean up and stabilize the embankment along Short Woods Brook north to the trails that exist in the Pootatuck State Forest and Squantz Pond. From the convergence, we would proceed south to the actual mouth of the brook as it enters Candlewood Lake. Through the use of a combination of bark chip paths, elevated wooden walkways (to be ADA compliant), and informative kiosks throughout, it is the intent to connect many open space Land Trust areas along these brooks for the benefit of the environment, the health and education of our citizens, and the continuation of a long history in New Fairfield of preserving and reclaiming our water sources and their wetlands. Funding for several easements may be necessary. However, because of the low impact on private property and the minor incursion onto the wetlands on such property, we anticipate the high probability of donations of the



easements. Only a small percentage of the entire project would require easements. There will be no adverse environmental or social impact caused by this project.

### **Qualifications and Experience of New Fairfield:**

New Fairfield has a long proud history of success in the planning for and achievement of the protection of our natural environment. It is estimated that the boundaries of New Fairfield contain 17% of non-contiguous conservation lands, parks, and dedicated open space. New Fairfield also took a lead role in procuring a conservation restriction on the land under the waters of Candlewood Lake. Including this conservation easement, 30% of the geographic area of our Town is protected for the use of future generations of our citizens. A goal is to increase this by another 10% over the next ten years. Our Inland/Wetlands conservation regulations are among the strictest in the area. We have reclaimed and maintain an area of wetlands called *Hidden Valley* that is considered a jewel of our Town. We are the first to have cooperated with the State of Connecticut in the *Grass Carp Program* for our largest pond, *Ball Pond* (the origin of Ball Pond Brook) to control the spread of milfoil weeds. Our positive results of this program is closely monitored and supported by the DEP of the State of Connecticut and is considered a resounding success. New Fairfield has taken the lead role in the preservation of *Vaughn's Neck*, the last remaining large open space on *Candlewood Lake*. This preservation, and the support that our taxpayers give to the *Candlewood Lake Authority* is of great importance to us as New Fairfield borders on 60+% of the shoreline around this man-made wonder. The local independent *Land Trust* received its first donation of open space from New Fairfield, and continues to be the beneficiary of land donations from our Town. This same trust holds a conservation easement on *Hidden Valley* to protect it evermore for the benefit of future New Fairfield generations. We are proud of our history of success. We have the individuals knowledgeable in overseeing such environmental projects. We have the Town Boards, private organizations, and volunteers necessary for the success of this project.

### **Environmental Considerations:**

Naturally vegetated streambanks are the best possible use of land when it comes to water quality, land and water recreation, and wildlife habitat. Labeled demonstration gardens of native trees, shrubs and herbaceous species for public education will be developed. Buffers are especially valuable in providing green screen along waterways and provide recreational opportunities such as hiking. Using vegetated buffers also protects against erosion and flooding. Stream bank stabilization and reclamation are key components of this proposed project. Encouraging passive use of land for recreation and nature appreciation will help maintain our Brooks, ponds, and their wetlands - - while insuring the maximum water quality flowing from these tributaries into Candlewood Lake.

### **Closing Statement and Summary:**

We ask for your consideration of this project for the following important reasons:

- 1) Candlewood Lake, which is fed by the Housatonic River, has been directly impacted by the GE pollution of the Housatonic River,
- 2) Improving and maintaining the water quality of other sources feeding the Lake is critical to offsetting the ill effects of any pollution pumped from the Housatonic.
- 3) The equally important advantage of passive recreation and educational opportunities enhances the long-term benefits of our proposal.
- 4) We believe that our experience and commitment to improving and safeguarding our environment is second to none and speaks well to a successful conclusion of this project.





### Location of Project

Using the intersection of Routes 37 and 39 (●) as a location point, the project begins 1/8th mile west at *Memorial Field*, (●) a town park. Proceeding N less than 1/8<sup>th</sup> mile to Ball Pond Brook (●) NW less than 1/2 mile to a small pond (●) on the Senior Center/Museum property. Paths and reclamation will encircle this pond and follow the flow of Ball Pond Brook E across Route 39 to Dunham Pond (●) and the convergence with Short Woods Brook (●). From this convergence point, the project will follow Short Woods Brook N approximately 4 miles, and follow Ball Pond Brook SE approximately 2 miles to its entry point (●) into Candlewood Lake. Reclamation, stabilization, and paths are proposed along entire project route.

# **“Ball Pond Brook & Short Woods Brook Water Quality Improvement And Pedestrian Access”**

**Town of New Fairfield**

## **Eligibility Criteria**

1. Does the Proposal contain information identified by the Connecticut SubCouncil as set out in the “Instructions for the Preparation and Submission of Restoration Project Proposals?”

**Yes.** One original and six additional hard copies are enclosed. Enclosures are as follows:

- Completed Responder and Project Summary Form
- Project Narrative, Project Location and Criteria Statements
- Supporting materials including:
  - Map
  - Photographs

2. Does the Proposed Project restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire natural resources or natural resource services equivalent to those that were injured by the release of PCBs or other hazardous substances from the GE facility in Pittsfield, MA?

**Yes.** Located in the Housatonic Watershed, Candlewood Lake will be supported and enhanced by the restoration and improvements made to the two major tributaries, Ball Pond and Shortwoods Brooks. The following is anticipated:

- Restoration of equivalent resources by improving the quality of the water that enters Candlewood lake
- Reclamation of embankments and wetlands that feed Candlewood Lake
- Educational and recreational opportunities for area residents

3. Is the Proposed Project, or any portion of the Proposed Project, an action that is presently required under other federal, state or local law, including, but not limited to, enforcement actions?

**No.**

4. Is the Proposed Project inconsistent with any federal, state or local law or policy?

**No.** The project is in complete compliance with local strict inland/wetland conservation regulations and the Town of New Fairfield’s Ten Year Development Plan.

5. Will the Proposed Project, or any portion of the Proposed Project, be inconsistent with any ongoing or anticipated remedial actions in the Housatonic River watershed?

No. The project is consistent with the actions of the Candlewood Lake Authority to preserve and improve the environmental health of Candlewood Lake and the surrounding watershed.

I, Ron Oliveri, Selectman of the Town of New Fairfield, certify that the preceding statements are, to the best of my knowledge, factual and correct.

Ron Oliveri  
Ron Oliveri

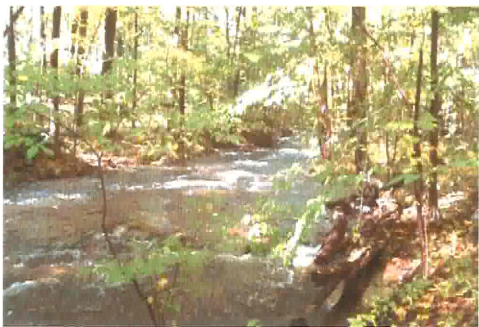
1/9/07  
Date

Anthony J. Longo, Notary Public  
Notary Public

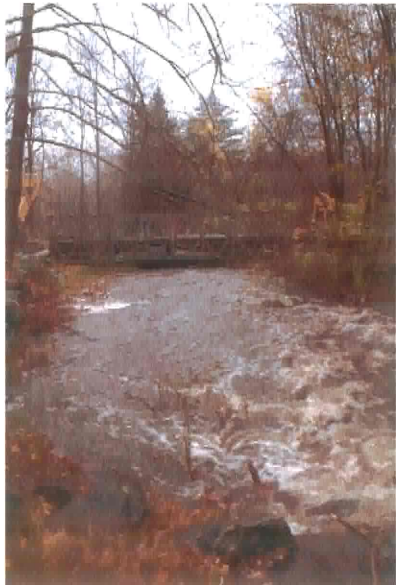
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Date



Ball Pond and Shortwoods Brooks Water Quality Improvement and Pedestrian Access  
Town of New Fairfield



Shortwoods Brook along the Shortwoods Aquifer



Ball Pond Brook: stream banks require repairs to prevent erosion and degradation





Ball Pond Brook: stream banks in need of restoration



39 Route 37, New Fairfield Senior Center and Museum District Pond  
(fed by Ball Pond Brook)



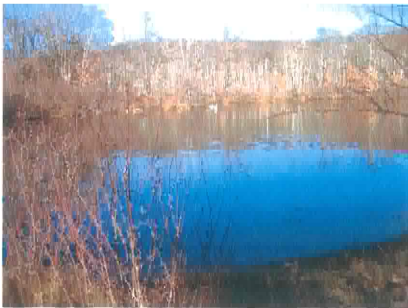
Ball Pond Brook at 39 Route 37: further examples of banks needing restoration



Ball Pond Brook nearing the convergence of Shortwoods Brook at Dunham Pond



Ball Pond Brook: non-native and invasive plants require removal and replanting with native plant species.



Dunham Pond: species to be removed from the area include multiflora rose, bittersweet, honeysuckle and phragmites. The area is host to a multitude of wildlife, including many species of waterfowl.



Ball Pond Brook nearing Dunham Pond: Water quality and clarity is evident and restoration efforts are meant to protect and further enhance it.

Dunham Pond: invasive species of plants that require removal and replanting with native species.