



## **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Planning for Riparian Buffer and Supplemental BMP Strategies to Enhance Flood Resilience, Reduce Nutrient Loss, and Improve River Access at Three Rivers Park in Woodbury (CT)**

The Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) is seeking the services of a qualified consultant to develop engineering and landscape design plans that integrate streambank stability, floodplain connection, and supporting mixed land uses of agriculture, athletic fields, and passive recreation within Three Rivers Park in Woodbury, Connecticut. The project includes conducting site assessments and community outreach to inform the preliminary design plans and supporting the project permitting phase.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Nestled in the center of Woodbury, Connecticut, Three Rivers Park is a 71.31-acre parcel that is located in the floodplain area that encompasses the confluence of the Nonnewaug and Weekepeemee Rivers. The Pomperaug River begins at point where these two tributaries converge. The parcel known today at Three Rivers Park was deeded to the Town of Woodbury (CT) in 2001 by the previous landowner whose family produced row crops in rotation with hay and alfalfa for several decades. Between 1934 and 1955, the Pomperaug River was channelized and the confluence of its two main tributaries was re-aligned. This activity, in addition to the creation of an earthen berm along the south/westerly bank (right bank facing downstream) of the Weekepeemee and Pomperaug River, has led to streambed erosion, channel incision, streambank failure and trees falling into the river.

With the dynamic equilibrium disrupted, the rivers continue to become further disconnected from its floodplain, and more sediment with its corresponding nutrient load is transported downstream to the Housatonic River and Long Island Sound. The nutrient and sediment loads are not solely attributed to the active channel and bank erosion, but also to the current land use and land cover characteristics of the park which includes approximately 40 acres of agricultural fields and more than 5 acres of turf grass that are used for soccer. Both areas are also supported by gravel parking areas and roadways / pathways to provide equipment, vehicle and pedestrian access. The remaining areas consist of shrub/scrub vegetation and tree cover.

The project addresses significant erosion and sediment loading issues exacerbated by recent historical magnitude flooding events including but not limited to 2007, 2011, 2021, 2023 and 2024. In April 2007, a nor'easter delivered 8 to 10 inches of rain and the Pomperaug River swelled to result in flows that were powerful enough to wash out an estimated 15,000 tons of soil from the river bank downstream of the Judson Avenue Bridge (southern boundary of the park) to expose a septic tank that was at risk of falling into the Pomperaug River. The bank area was stabilized using NRCS Emergency Watershed Program funds (see NRCS EWP Fact Sheet for Orton Lane, Woodbury CT, 2007). Under this program, sheet piling was installed to armor the bank as it makes a sharp curve downstream of the bridge and would continue to be blasted with powerful flows constricting through the bridge at the Park's downstream parcel boundary. When Superstorms Irene and Sandy impacted Connecticut in 2011, a portion of the Nonnewaug River stream bank adjacent to the soccer field washed out along with a section of the Weekepeemee River

bank adjacent to the primary agricultural field. These areas were stabilized by the Town of Woodbury by back filling the areas washed out and placing boulders along the river banks. During this storm, a number of trees along the bank also toppled into the river as a result of the channel bed erosion further exposing the roots of the trees along the river. Closely following these events, a significant number of the trees along the banks of the Weekepeemee and Pomperaug River within the park were removed to alleviate concerns relating to them potentially falling into the river and forming a log jam behind the Judson Avenue Bridge.

In September 2021, Hurricane Ida delivered between 3 and 5 inches of precipitation in less than 12 hours which resulted in a flash flood event where a portion of the riverbank along the Pomperaug River washed out about 1000 feet downstream of the confluence of the Nonnewaug and Weekepeemee Rivers. In this same storm, State Trooper Brian Mohl lost this life after his police vehicle was swept into river by the flashing floodwaters and a culvert elsewhere in the watershed underwent a complete failure. In response to the erosion of the riverbank along the Pomperaug at Three Rivers Park, fill was again placed to help stabilize the area washed out.

During the storm event on September 29, 2023, a 100-foot-tall maple tree was dislodged from the bank of the Pomperaug River in nearly the same location that washed out in 2021. This time the washout area was approximately 130 feet long with a maximum width of 35 feet. The initial reaction from the Town was a desire to remove the tree from the river channel, fill in the washed-out area, and to armor the streambank. However, after further discussion between different municipal agencies including the Inland Wetlands Agency, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Department, Public Works, Land Use Department and office of the First Selectman and the Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition, an alternative plan was considered.

The Three Rivers Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, including a representative from PRWC, was appointed in February 2024 to address the bank washout associated with the large maple tree that had fallen into the Pomperaug River in September 2023. As the Committee facilitated the planning and implementation of the desired restoration actions (repositing the tree and re-vegetating the river bank), it recognized the need for more comprehensive site assessments to guide its recommendations for future site management strategies. This need was amplified by the flash flood on August 18, 2024 delivering 7 to 10 inches of rain dropping on the Pomperaug Watershed in less than 12 hours. The U.S. Geological Survey gage in Southbury recorded this event as the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest flow on the Pomperaug River ever at 15.92 feet. The high flows did not move the fallen maple tree at Three Rivers Park, but did exacerbate existing streambank erosion and damage sections of the trail along the river. Prior to this event, the Committee recognized the beginning stages of a potential bank failure point which could have dropped two large sycamore trees into the river. The Committee recommended that the Town remove the tops of the two sycamore trees in order to preserve the root system and provide some level of bank stabilization in the near-term, which proved to be successful.

In March 2025, the plan for the 100-foot maple tree in the river and the associated wash out was implemented. Contractors repositioned and anchored the tree along the river bank before it was regraded and revegetated with native willow species, red-twig dogwood, elderberry, and speckled alder, and a conservation seed blend.

In light of the repeated flooding events between 2021 and 2024 and through the associated restoration efforts, it became clear that a more proactive and comprehensive plan was needed to move beyond short-term, reactionary fixes and address the broader underlying issues affecting all of the Park's riverbank areas, including riparian buffer loss, active channel bed and streambank erosion, and sediment and nutrient loading.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Three Rivers Park Planning Project is to develop engineering and design plans that will support stabilizing the streambanks of the Pomperaug River and its tributaries and reconnecting the rivers to their floodplain while also enhancing public access points to the river in a manner that supports mixed uses of agriculture, active recreation, and passive recreation at Three Rivers Park in Woodbury, CT.

The leading goals of the Project are to conduct site assessments and solicit community input to identify suitable and feasible strategies to:

1. Reduce river bank and channel bed erosion.
2. Support floodplain reconnection.
3. Establish a 100-foot-wide riparian buffer.
4. Provide enhanced public access to the river for fishing.
5. Retain and enhance walking paths within the parcel.
6. Support continued agricultural activities within the parcel.
7. Support active recreational uses within parcel.

The Project will begin to address the watershed-wide erosion issue by focusing on a priority reach and floodplain of the Pomperaug that has been of concern and for which there is ample information for the development of buffer designs. As a planning level project, it will involve close collaboration with the municipal leadership and solicit community input to inform the selection of the appropriate best management practices. Input from the community will seek to balance the interests of park users that include youth sports (soccer), agriculture (the tenant farmer), fisherman, walkers, runners, cyclists, and pet-owners (popular dog walking area). The process for addressing streambank erosion, flood impacts, and non-point source pollution reduction at Three Rivers Park in Woodbury will serve as an exceptional model for addressing similar issues elsewhere in the 90-square mile watershed.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

A general description of the services requested are described below and should be considered as a general scope of work and timeline for the basis of the proposal. A final scope and timeline will be negotiated with the selected consultant.

At a minimum, the Project will generate a landscaping plan for planting/establishing a 100-foot-wide riparian buffer consisting of native trees and shrubs along the western bank of the Pomperaug River downstream of the confluence of the Weekepeemee and Nonnewaug Rivers, which would extend approximately 1,650 feet or 1/3 mile.

To achieve the other desired goals and outcomes, the Project necessitates conducting site assessments including but not limited to soil and hydrologic analyses, geomorphic assessment, ground level topography survey, and an NDDB review to prepare existing conditions site map and identify potentially vulnerable areas along both the western and eastern riverbanks of the Pomperaug, Nonnewaug, and Weekepeemee Rivers within the Park.

The Consultant will also need to understand the wants and needs of the community in relation to the long-range uses of the Three Rivers Park parcel. Community input will help identify and balance the interests of various stakeholder groups including but not limited to park users (walkers, fisherman, youth sports, tenant farmer, etc.), abutting property owners, Woodbury Emergency Management, Public Works, and Woodbury taxpayers.

The Project will actively engage the Woodbury community through public listening sessions, perception surveys, and public meetings designed to solicit feedback and build consensus on elements of site design and restoration to support the desired land uses. Public listening sessions and community input surveys should be facilitated during the initial information gathering phase to help inform conceptual site plan overlays, cost projections, and pollutant load reduction estimates to illustrate potential BMPs that would be appropriate to achieve the various outcomes. These would be presented in public information meetings to facilitate consensus building on site design elements to support the communities desired land uses and conservation goals. Engineering and landscape design plans generated through this Project should be ready to move into the permitting phase in a subsequent grant cycle.

**General Activities and Timeline**

<p><b><u>Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP)</u></b>          The Consultant will work with the Committee to prepare and submit a QAPP for review and approval by NFWF and EPA before any data collection activities commence.</p>	<p>April –          July 2026</p>
<p><b><u>Site Assessments &amp; Desktop Modeling</u></b>          Conduct site surveys and compile necessary environmental data including soils, hydrologic analysis, topography, NDDB, etc. to prepare existing conditions site map, identify vulnerable areas within the park, and estimate flood inundation.</p>	<p>August –          September 2026</p>
<p><b><u>Community Engagement</u></b>          Facilitate public listening sessions and perception surveys to understand the wants and needs of individuals and various stakeholder groups the community in relation to the long-range uses of the Three Rivers Park parcel.</p>	<p>August –          September 2026</p>
<p><b><u>Draft Conceptual Design Elements</u></b>          Develop site plan overlays, with cost projections, and pollutant load reduction estimates to illustrate potential BMPs that would be appropriate to achieve the desired streambank stabilization goals.</p>	<p>September –          December 2026</p>
<p><b><u>Public Information Meetings</u></b>          Present scenarios in public information meetings to solicit community input on the design.</p>	<p>January –          February 2027</p>
<p><b><u>Draft Sites Design Plans</u></b>          Finalize the selection of BMPs and integrate into the engineering design plans.</p>	<p>March –          April 2027</p>
<p><b><u>Permit Identification</u></b>          Identify permit requirements necessary to implement the selected BMPs and sequence for obtaining the same (likely to include Army Corps of Engineers, CT DEEP, and Municipal Inland Wetlands Agency).</p>	<p>April 2027</p>
<p><b><u>Draft BMP Maintenance Guidelines</u></b>          Prepare Draft Inspection and Maintenance Guidelines for the BMPs included in the final draft engineering design plans.</p>	<p>April 2027</p>
<p><b><u>Project Closeout and Reporting</u></b></p>	<p>May 2027</p>

## **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

The Consultant must demonstrate the ability to produce a high-quality finished product.

1. Completed Proposal Submission Cover Sheet
2. Qualifications of the firm and any proposed sub-consultants including name, size, and organizational structure under which the firm(s) and personnel will complete study components.
3. Qualifications (Resumes) of primary team members responsible for oversight of major tasks/roles.
4. Hourly rate schedule for the primary team members.
5. An organizational chart or listing of primary team members and respective roles showing clear lines of communication and reporting. Clearly identify the project manager who will be the day-to-day contact for the project. Describe the project manager's philosophy and method of project management, reporting, and budget tracking.
6. Technical approaches for collecting community input, conducting field assessments, and desktop modeling that will contribute to generating site specific engineering design plans.
7. A schedule with a timeline outlining anticipated subtasks, meetings, and milestones, associated with each major project activity listed in the scope of work provided.
8. A minimum of 5 similar stream restoration sample project descriptions within the last 7 years, describing the project work and project challenges. Include the cost of design phase services, construction big award value and final construction cost with all change orders (and reason for changes). Also include contractor and client reference information along with current team members that worked on the projects and their role.
9. Include experience with NFWF/LISFF grant projects. This will be important to ensure full reimbursement and possible future grant awards.
10. Compliance with all federal and state requirements.
11. Copy of Professional Registrations & Licenses
12. Copy of current Professional Liability Insurance Policy Declarations Page

## **PROJECT DURATION**

The project shall be completed no later than **May 31, 2027**.

## **INQUIRIES**

Questions should be directed to:

Carol Haskins, Executive Director

Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition

39 Sherman Hill Road, C103, Woodbury, CT 06798

[chaskins@pomperaug.com](mailto:chaskins@pomperaug.com) with "Three Rivers Park RFQ" in the email subject

## **SUBMITTAL DEADLINE**

Interested consultants must electronically submit their qualifications, technical approach, schedule of services, and hourly rate schedule by 11:59 PM on April 10, 2026 to Carol Haskins at [chaskins@pomperaug.org](mailto:chaskins@pomperaug.org) with "Three Rivers Park RFQ" in the email subject line. Responses received after the stated deadline may be rejected.

## SELECTION PROCESS

To achieve the desired outcomes, selection criteria for hiring an environmental consulting firm will include demonstrated experience in assessing stream geomorphology, conducting hydrologic analysis to estimate flood inundation and frequency, designing and implementing green infrastructure, and calculating pollutant load reductions. The selected project team should include professionals with expertise in civil engineering, agricultural best practices, landscape design and native plants, and fluvial geomorphology.

The following criteria and associated weighting of importance will be used by the Selection Committee as a guide for the purposes of evaluating the submissions and for making a final selection:

Criteria	Comment	Weighting
Organization's experience	Demonstrated experience in assessing stream geomorphology, conducting hydrologic analysis to estimate flood inundation and frequency, designing and implementing green infrastructure, and calculating pollutant load reductions. Experience with/understanding of state, federal, and local government processes and functions. Experience with community engagement. Experience with NFWF / LISFF grant projects.	25%
Principal participants' experience	Specifies who will be working on the project along with the individual experience and education.	20%
Scope of Work	Project approach including subtasks and milestones demonstrates realistic understanding of the desired goals and outcomes. Subtasks and milestones align with the goals and outcomes.	35%
Budget competitiveness	Based on hourly rates of primary team members.	15%
Quality of Submission	Overall presentation and organization of submission	5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

## SELECTION SCHEDULE

The consultant selection committee will review the response and select consultants for interviews. All consultants will be notified whether they were chosen for an interview once the selection committee makes this selected. Interviews will be arranged shortly after notification. It is anticipated that a consultant will be selected for the study by April 24, 2026 at which time they will be requested to submit to PRWC a schedule that includes fees associated with the scope of work.

PRWC reserves the right to reject any or all responses to the RFQ. Submissions received after the date and time listed above will not be considered.

## **CONSULTANT SELECTION & APPROVAL**

A contract will be executed between PRWC and the selected consultant dependent on the successful negotiation of a scope of work and budget, approval of the Town of Woodbury and NFWF, and the execution of a contract between PRWC and the Town of Woodbury.

## **FEES**

The fee will be on a per task basis. Payment will be monthly, based on the percentage completion of each task, subject to a 5% retainage.

## **FUNDING**

The project is primarily being funded through a \$160,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Grant Program; the award supporting this specific project originates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The overall budget available for the consultant is \$185,000. The grant period runs through June 2027.

## **CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The contract to be awarded is subject to contract compliance requirements mandated by NFWF, EPA, and U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

## **ADDENDA & SUPPLEMENTS**

In the event that it becomes necessary to revise any part of these instructions, a supplement to the instructions will be provide to each firm who has notified PRWC of their intent to respond. It will also be posted on the PRWC website at [www.pomperaug.org](http://www.pomperaug.org)

## **About Pomperaug River Watershed Coalition**

PRWC is serving as Project Manager and Fiscal Conduit for the Town of Woodbury, CT to facilitate the above-named Project made possible through a Long Island Sound Futures Fund (LISFF) Grant administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

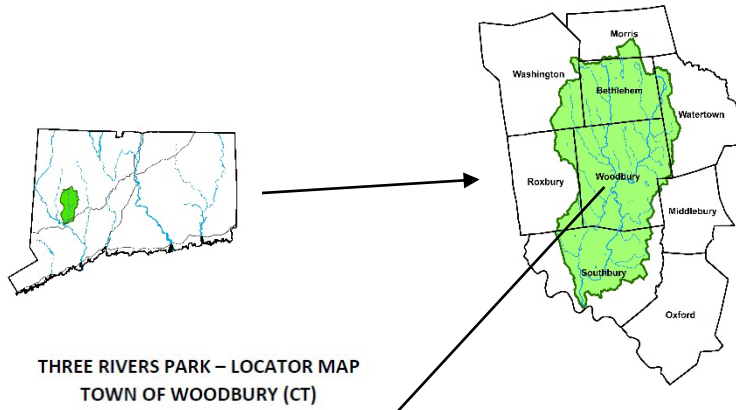
PRWC is a 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1999 in response to increasing land development pressures threatening local water resources. Since then, PRWC has evolved into a nationally recognized model for scientific investigation, municipal assistance, stakeholder collaboration, community education, and volunteer engagement. Today, PRWC's mission is to protect, sustain, and restore the water resources of the Pomperaug Watershed through community engagement, education, advocacy, and science-based action. More information can be found at [www.pomperaug.org](http://www.pomperaug.org).

**Planning Riparian Buffer and Supplemental BMP Strategies  
for Three Rivers Park in Woodbury, Connecticut  
Proposal Submission Cover Sheet**

<b>1. Proposer's Information</b>			
Legal Name of Proposer:			
FEIN/SSN:			
States in which company is authorized to work:	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporation	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship	
Business Location:			
Mailing Address:			
<b>2. Authorized Representative:</b>			
Name:			
Title:			
Address:			
Phone:	Fax:		
E-mail Address:			
Work Hours:			
<b>3. Alternate Representative:</b>			
Name:			
Title:			
Address:			
Phone:	Fax:		
E-mail Address:			
Work Hours:			
<b>4. Duration of Proposed Project:</b>			
<b>5. Total Cost of Project:</b>			
<b>6. Summary of Proposed Project:</b>			
<b>7. See Attachments for:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Qualifications Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed Budget w/ itemized cost list	<input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Intent	
<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed Scope of Work	<input type="checkbox"/> References	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

**Attachment A:**

**POMPERAUG WATERSHED & PROJECT SITE LOCATION MAPS**



**THREE RIVERS PARK – LOCATOR MAP  
TOWN OF WOODBURY (CT)**

