



## Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR)

### Wild & Scenic Committee

2839 VT Route 105 East Berkshire, VT 05447

Tel: (802) 933-3645 • [www.umatrvt.org](http://www.umatrvt.org)

### Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR) Wild & Scenic Committee Municipal 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 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 \$10,000 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.<sup>11</sup>

#### **Due Date:**

Applications are due by **Friday, November 1, 2024**

#### **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, 2025.

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<sup>11</sup> 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).



**Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers (UMATR)  
Wild & Scenic Committee  
Municipal Grants Program**

**Application Guidance:**

Applicants must fully complete the Application Form. **New this year**, applications may be submitted via our online Google Form, which has been developed as a way to guide and ensure complete applications. Of note: the online form will NOT save until you complete and submit it; do not close the window until you have completed and submitted the form.

A Word document application is available on our website and can be used as a draft/guide to prepare for filling out the form. If preferred, the Word application may also be submitted as the final application; email it, along with supporting documents, to [info@umatrvt.org](mailto:info@umatrvt.org). If electronic filing is a barrier to applying, please contact the Committee at 802-933-3645 to arrange an alternative.

- Eligible municipalities include Westfield, Troy, North Troy, Richford, Berkshire, Enosburgh, Enosburg Falls, and Montgomery.
- Required information for applications:
  - Latitude and Longitude coordinates of project location
  - Project Map
  - Project Type and description as appropriate (fill out appropriate section based on Project Type selected)
  - Project Budget (10% match required)
  - Project Timeline
- Recommended information: Applications that provide Before Photos of the project site will receive extra points during review (Before and After photos will be required for all projects as part of the final report, but Before photos may be submitted in advance)
- 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.
- Applicants will be notified of results of the selection process by early December 2024.
- 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.

**Restrictions and Other Details:**

- The UMATR Committee reserves the right to ask an applicant to attend 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) 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 if you have questions:**

Contact Lindsey Wight at 802-933-3645 or [info@umatrvt.org](mailto:info@umatrvt.org)

*You Matter to your local rivers!*