

**Woodstock Economic Development Commission
Application for Community Project Grant 2020**

Name of Project: Woodstock Riverwalk (WR)

Brief Description: The Woodstock Riverwalk is to be a 3.5-mile river orientated, family friendly walking trail that will provide our community with abundant opportunities for exercise, river access and a totally new exposure to Woodstock's beauty. The majority of the trail is to be a low impact grass trail on the edge of the fields on the Woodstock Corporation's property with some of the return loop located on the old railroad bed.

Grant Request: \$45,465

Total Project Budget: \$73,163

Applicant Information

Name of Applicant/Organization: Tom Weschler, Woodstock Riverwalk; Grant funding should be made to Woodstock/Billings Park Commission.

Mailing Address: 6936 North Bridgewater Road, Woodstock, VT 05091

Project Coordinator: Tom Weschler, WR Team

Contact's Email Address: thomasweschler@gmail.com

Organizational Description/Mission: The WR Team is a group of more than 15 Woodstock residents committed to creating a public trail along the Ottauquechee River, which utilizes the East End Park as a trailhead. The group's mission is twofold: (1) to update the 2001 TRORC Riverwalk Trail plan (2) to get a trail built something now is better than perfect later.

WR Organizational Budget: \$0

Project Information

Project Goals: Construct the Woodstock Riverwalk in 2020. Included in this effort is securing project funding, gaining permission from landowners, securing regulatory approvals and creating public awareness.

Project Timeline: See attached Work Plan. We are hoping the WR will be completed by mid-August 2020.

Project Champion: The WR Team (see attached) who are very active community members and who believe that the Woodstock Riverwalk is very beneficial for Woodstock (both economically and to enhance outdoor access).

What will success look? How will you know you've achieved project goals?

Once the Woodstock Riverwalk has been incorporated into the daily life of our community, then this project should be viewed as a success. This will include residents going to the trail for a walk/run/snowshoe or taking their visitors to the trail to see something new Woodstock has to offer. Success will also be inclusion in the Walk Woodstock trail map with the addition of the Woodstock Riverwalk as a "flat" walking trail asset. But, success of this project does include a trade-off of trail quality versus trail usage....the more people using the trail, the more impact there will be on the grass trail.

Project Budget Narrative:

There are three phases to the Woodstock Riverwalk budget:

Planning/Preparation—This phase includes the efforts required to gain permission to build the trail including easements from landowners, permits/approvals from regulatory agencies, and agreement by the Town of Woodstock and Billings Park Commission to "own" Woodstock Riverwalk. In addition, this phase includes the production of an updated version of the 2001 River Trail Study done by TRORC.

Construction—Once the approvals and permits have been received, construction will begin. We are anticipating that the majority of construction will be done by the Upper Valley Trails Alliance (UVTA). They will be utilizing their high school In addition, we will be requesting help from Woodstock organizations/people to aid in the construction effort. Included in this phase is a 20% construction contingency on the UVTA portion of the construction budget.

Maintenance—Once the WR is built, there is money in the budget for one year's worth of maintenance. For trail maintenance requirements in future years, the WR team will conduct fundraising efforts to cover this expense.

The payment of this grant should be in three phases:

Planning/Preparation—The legal and engineering requirements of Woodstock Riverwalk total \$5,000, which is 11% of the funding request. This money should be released soon after grant approval.

Construction/Amenities—The \$36,465 (80% of funding request) required to construct and outfit the WR should be released by the EDC only after the WR team has secured all the necessary permissions and approvals required.

Maintenance—The WR team has estimated annual maintenance to be \$4,000 and this should only be released by the EDC once the trail construction has been completed.

The WR team has included additional funding of \$27,698 in the budget. The majority of this money came by securing a Municipal Planning Grant of \$21,000 to update the 2001 TRORC study, which is combined with an additional \$2,500 from previous EDC funding. In addition, we anticipate active support from the Woodstock community to help construct WR. We have valued this effort at \$4,198.

Project Budget: Please see the attached Woodstock Riverwalk Budget.

Income Category	Total	Applicant	EDC	Other	In-Kind
Total Income					
Expense Category	Total	Applicant	EDC	Other	In-Kind

Community Value: Please see the attached EDC project rubric.

Tell us how your project enhances the beauty or improves the quality of life for Woodstock residents and visitors.

Woodstock is a community located on the Ottauquechee River but has limited public access to this beautiful resource. The WR will provide approximately 2 miles of trail along the river with six to nine designated river access points.

Woodstock already affords residents and visitors with many opportunities to enjoy nature. The WR will enhance these important community assets. The Woodstock Riverwalk will be Woodstock's only "flat" trail and its location provides all with a unique and beautiful view of our town and the surrounding countryside.

80% of Americans consider having trails and places to walk one of their top priorities when deciding where to live (National Association of Realtors' Community Preference Survey).

In what way will the proposed project contribute to Woodstock's economic vitality?

Will the proposed project attract new residents to Woodstock? If yes, explain how.

In a study of recreational opportunities for Mt. Ascutney, the planners found that when moving to Vermont, many people choose a home based on its proximity to natural features and recreational opportunities.

The Woodstock Riverwalk would not only add to the recreational opportunities in greater Woodstock but would specifically provide enhancements to Woodstock's East End. This area of town is currently lacking in any meaningful options. The East End has been a development priority for the EDC and should be able to provide additional housing options. The WR would help to make the East End more marketable.

Tell us about existing community support for this project. How have community members been engaged in decision-making regarding this idea or project.

Does the project have adequate funding for now and future years?

Submitted by: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Woodstock Riverwalk Trail Budget

	Budget Elements	Cost Estimates	Section Total	Estimate Strength	Notes
Planning	Municipal Planning Grant	\$21,000		Funded	MPG purpose is to update the 2000 River Trail Study done by TRORC. The Woodstock Riverwalk represents Phase One of a possible multi-year/phase project. Key to WR is the regulatory actions funded by the MPG.
	EDC Grant for MPG	\$2,500		Funded	
	Subtotal		\$23,500		
Preparation	Legal	\$2,500		Low	Landowner agreements 11% of funding request
	Engineering	\$2,500		Low	
	Subtotal		\$5,000		
Construction	"Green trail" construction	\$6,824		High	UVTA w/ student interns
	"Connector trail" construction	\$7,855		High	UVTA w/ student interns
	Accessible Ramp extra	\$2,680		High	Could be delayed until we're sure we need it
	UVTA contingency (20%)	\$3,630		High	
	Volunteer Labor Value	\$4,198		Low	We hope to utilize Woodstock volunteers to aid in WR construction
	Subtotal		\$25,187		
Amenities	RLT Information Kiosk	\$2,400		High	Could be delayed until we're certain of content and look 12 benches @ \$350; 6 picnic tables @ \$500; 2 trash cans @ \$400; Contingency @ \$2,000
	Trail Signage	\$1,076		High	
	Informational Signage	\$2,000		Medium	
	Benches/tables/trash cans	\$10,000		Medium	
	Subtotal		\$15,476		
Annual Maint.	Yearly cleanup	\$1,000		High	Assumes 6 months of weekly mowing and weed wacking at \$125/week
	Weekly expense	\$3,000		Medium	
	Subtotal		\$4,000		
Total Funding			\$73,163		
EDC Funding Request			\$45,465		
EDC Fund Request as % of total			62%		

Woodstock Riverwalk Trail--Work Plan

		December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Meetings														
	Village Trustees	XX												
	Town Selectboard	XX		"Ask"										
	EDC	XX	XX											
	Conservation Commission			XX	XX									
	Billings Park Commission	XX	XX	"Ask"										
	Public Trail Walk/Meetings			XX	XX									
	Conservation Commission													
	Land Owners													
	Abutters													
East End Park Group														
Public														
East End Park Group		XX												
Flag Trail		XX												
Permits/Act 250														
	VT ANR				XX	XX								
	VT DEC				XX	XX								
	Army Corps ?				XX	XX								
	Other				XX	XX								
Engage Legal														
	Review Documents		XX	XX	XX									
Easements														
	Town of Woodstock				XX	XX								
	Woodstock Corporation				XX	XX								
	Sunset Farms				XX	XX								
	JBW				XX	XX								
Abutter Issues														
	Contact/Keep Updated	XX		XX	XX	XX	XX							
	Who owns railbed?		XX											
		XX												
Town of Woodstock "Ownership"														
	Billings Park Commission Agreement			XX										
	Town insurance				XX									
	Select Board			XX										
EDC														
	Pre-application	XX												
	Grant request		XX											
	Work Plan													
	Budget													
	Rubric													
	Trail Map													
Funding Stages			11% Preparation				89% Construction & Amenities							

Trail Construction



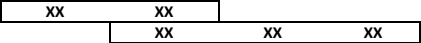
Trail Equipment

- Benches
- Picnic Tables
- Trash Cans



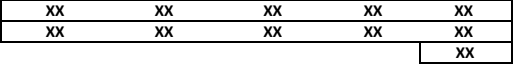
Trail Signage

- Basic Trail Signage
- History/Conservation

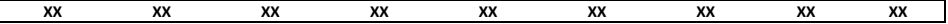


Trail Maintenance

- Contract for Mowing
- Trail Oversight
- End of Season Clean-Up

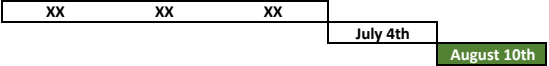


Marketing/Communications



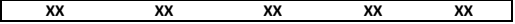
Trail Launch

- Planning
- Pre-Launch Opening
- Opening



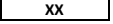
Trail Coordination/Management

- Scheduling of Events

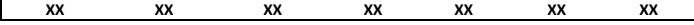


2000 TRORC Trail Plan Update

- Phase II Trail



Fund Raise Efforts



**Ottauquechee River Trail
Release of Approved Funds
August 27, 2020**

The Ottauquechee River Trail (ORT) is requesting the release of an additional \$7,500 from the \$45,465 grant approved by Woodstock's Economic Development Commission in January 2020. To date ORT has received \$15,000 in funding. With the approval of this additional funding request, ORT will have received a total of \$22,500 in 2020, which leaves a balance of \$22,965.

Here are the specifics supporting this request:

1. The Ottauquechee River Trail (formally known as Woodstock Riverwalk) grant request for \$45,465 was approved by the Economic Development Commission in January 2020.
2. This funding was also approved in its entirety by the Selectboard.
3. The funding was frozen in March 2020 in response to the uncertain requirements for EDC's help to the community in light of the pandemic.
4. ORT requested and was approved for a \$15,000 release of funds in May 2020 to support trail construction. Outdoor recreation is a key priority for the community.
5. All approvals/permits (state and local) have been obtained. The Village/Town of Woodstock has agreed to provide property owners with umbrella insurance. Licenses to use the property where the trail is located have been granted from the four property owners.
6. Construction of ORT is well underway, and the trail is planned to be open on Labor Day Monday.
7. Given the realities of construction, some changes in the project plan have become apparent and a redistribution of the funding has occurred. In addition to this redistribution, it has become clear that \$7,500 of additional funds are needed to provide the basic requirements needed for ORT to be successful and contain the basics needed for a walking trail. The specific areas requiring additional funding are:
 - a. Purchase of a trail kiosk that is consistent with other Billings Park Commission trailhead kiosks. Cost \$2,800.
 - b. Construction of both a ramp and stairs at the trailhead. This will enable at least a portion of ORT to be more accessible to strollers and, possibly, wheelchairs. Cost \$3,000.
 - c. Trail signage is required along the trail as well as to protect property owners. Cost \$1,200.
 - d. Printing of trail maps. Cost \$500.