



NOTICE OF AVAILABLE FUNDS

CONNECTICUT
INVASIVE PLANTS
COUNCIL

Grants To Municipalities for the Control Of Invasive Plants

October 21st, 2008

The Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to announce the availability of funding through the Invasive Plants Council for invasive plant control projects on publicly accessible land and waters. Invasive species can directly harm the state's terrestrial and aquatic natural resources, and decrease the recreational, aesthetic and economic values of those resources. The goal of this program is to conserve the state's resources by providing additional opportunities for the control of and/or preventing the establishment of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant species.

- PROPOSAL DEADLINE: MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2008, AT 4:00 PM.
 - AN ORIGINAL AND COMPLETE APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED AND DATE STAMPED AT THE DEP, BUREAU OF NATURAL RESOURCES – INLAND FISHERIES DIVISION, LOCATED AT 79 ELM STREET, HARTFORD CONNECTICUT BY THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE. FAXED AND E-MAILED PROPOSALS OR LETTERS OF SUPPORT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
 - Applicants will be notified no later than February 15th, 2009 as to whether or not their proposals have been selected for funding.
 - MAIL ORIGINAL AND **8** COPIES OF PROPOSALS TO:

attention: Bill Foreman, *Environmental Analyst*
Department of Environmental Protection
BNR- Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127
 - FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Bill Foreman, Environmental Analyst at (860) 424-3868
Or E-mail us at: william.foreman@ct.gov
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PROGRAM PURPOSE

The introduction and spread of invasive plants in Connecticut poses a serious threat to the biodiversity of native ecosystems, and can affect the ecological, recreational, and economic interests of the state. Nonindigenous invasive plants have the potential to establish and spread rapidly due to a lack of physical and biological constraints in the habitats to which they have been introduced. In 2003, the Connecticut General Assembly established the Invasive Plant Council (IPC) (Public Act 03-136) to develop strategies regarding public education, control methods, prevention, and related activities to begin addressing the adverse consequences of invasive plants. The IPC currently has a total of up to \$175,000 to provide to Connecticut municipalities in FY 2008/2009 to fund projects controlling or eradicating invasive plants on publically accessible lands and waters.

Who may apply: Only municipalities are eligible to receive grants through this program. Not-For-Profit conservation organizations (with 501(c)(3) status) and local interest organizations such as unincorporated lake associations can develop project proposals in collaboration with municipalities but only the municipality in which the project site is located can apply for funding. If the property or water body is located in more than one municipality, two or more municipalities may apply jointly. The property or water body must be located in Connecticut.

What types of projects are eligible for funding: Eligible project proposals should be for the control/eradication of non-native invasive plant species. Preferred projects will target new infestations (first observed at the property or water body within the last three years) or a recently-arrived invasive species with only a limited number of populations in the state. Eligible target species will be those plant species listed in the Connecticut Invasive Plant List in accordance with Sections 22a-381a and 22a-381b, or listed in Section 22a-381d of the Connecticut General Statutes (see Appendix E). Target properties and water bodies may be either publicly or privately owned and must be open to public access and use. Project proposals targeting native species, or for routine, periodic “maintenance” of invasive species are not eligible for funding.

Below are a few examples of eligible and ineligible projects (reasoning in parenthesis following each example):

Eligible projects-

The removal/eradication of mile-a-minute vine by hand pulling and herbicide application on land trust property open to full public access. (invasive species, full public access, also limited distribution of plant in CT).

Herbicide treatment to eradicate parrotfeather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) infestation in a lake with a state boat launch. (invasive species, full public access, also new infestation in CT)

Eradication of yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*) by dredging and hand pulling from a town-owned pond open to the public. (invasive plant, publicly accessible)

Eradication (herbicides, mowing prior to seed set) of Japanese stilt grass patches along hiking trail protected by permanent easement on otherwise private property. (*highly invasive species,*

although on “private property”, trail is publicly accessible and trail corridor is protected through easement)

Ineligible projects-

Roadside spraying of poison ivy and other “weeds” along highway guardrails. (routine maintenance, native species)

Annual use of a mechanical harvester to clear boat lanes of Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in a lake with public access. (routine maintenance).

Herbicide treatment of unusually dense growths of common bladderwort (*Utricularia vulgaris*) on a lake with a state boat launch. (native species).

AWARD PROCESS

Proposals will first be reviewed for completeness and eligibility, and then rated by DEP staff. Only complete applications will be reviewed further for eligibility (see Appendix F for an application checklist), and only projects determined to be eligible will be rated.

The Invasive Plants Council will then review the rated applications and submit recommendations to DEP concerning project selection. Subsequently, applicants will receive written notification from DEP of the decision on their application. Decisions may include suggested and/or mandatory modifications of the project and funding of the project in an amount that differs from the proposal.

Following approval of the project application, a contract will be drafted and mailed out for signature by the grant recipient and returned for subsequent state contract approval. Project work to be funded by the grant cannot begin until the execution date of the contract, and project funding cannot be released until a fully executed contract is in effect.

FUNDING GUIDELINES

In order to be deemed eligible for funding, applicants must meet eligibility requirements and review criteria (See Attachment A), follow application instructions (Attachment B), complete and submit a project proposal cover page (Attachment C), complete and submit a budget summary page (Attachment D), and submit all other materials as indicated in the application instructions.

Proposed projects must be completed within approximately **one** year from the contract execution date. All seasonal constraints that may prolong the project duration must be specifically discussed in the proposal. Proposals which demonstrate a commitment to maintain and continue the project beyond the initial year in which it is implemented, without DEP support, are encouraged and will receive additional consideration.

Awards will be provided for both terrestrial and aquatic projects (unless sufficient and suitable proposals are not submitted for one of the two categories). **The upper limit for a project is \$50,000 and lower limit is \$2,500.** Requests for larger grants (up to \$75,000) may be considered, but only for exceptional and well-justified proposals. Matching funds are required for at least 25% of project costs (the State will provide up to 75% of the cost). **Indirect costs are**

not eligible for funding through the grant, but may be used as part of applicant's match. At project completion, the awardee must submit a final report. This report must include a detailed financial summary. This financial summary must show full project costs and clearly identify direct grant costs as well as matching and in-kind costs. *As post-treatment monitoring is an important aspect of invasive species control and management, please ensure that these reports are provided to DEP. They will be useful in determining which actions are most effective, and just as important, identify those actions that are not successful.*

A maximum of two (2) proposals may be submitted for consideration by an individual applicant.

COMMUNICATIONS NOTICE:

All applications/materials must be submitted to and communications shall be with:

Bill Foreman, *Environmental Analyst*
Department of Environmental Protection
BNR- Inland Fisheries Division
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Phone: 860-424-3868

Fax: 860-424-4070

Email: William.foreman@ct.gov

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION:

Applicants are advised not to include in their proposals any proprietary information. The Connecticut Freedom of Information Act generally requires the disclosure of documents in the possession of the State upon request of any citizen, unless the content of the document falls within certain categories of exemption. An example of an exemption is a "trade secret," as defined by statute (C.G.S. § 1-19(b)(5)). If the information is not readily available to the public from other sources and the applicant submitting the information requests confidentiality, then the information generally is considered to be "given in confidence." Confidential information must be isolated from other material in the proposal and labeled **CONFIDENTIAL**.

STYLE REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must conform to the following requirements: (1) be word processed or typewritten, (2) use Times New Roman font type and font size of not less than 10 and not more than 12 points, (3) be on 8.5" x 11" paper except for the maps and other attachments which may be no larger than 11" x 17", (4) have margins of not less than 1" on the top, bottom, and sides of all pages, (5) be not more than 20 pages in length (*not including maps and other attachments such deeds, letters of consent, etc.*), (6) display the applicant's name on the header of each page, and (7) display page numbers at the bottom of each page.

MULTIPLE SUBMISSIONS

An applicant may submit a maximum of two (2) proposals in response to this RFP.

CONTRACT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS: (required for any application exceeding \$4,000.00)

See [CHRO website](#) for specific Contract Compliance forms. The following table will assist in determining which forms are required. **Note that CHRO has issued a temporary exemption from the requirements for contracts with municipalities. This exemption expires on 12/31/2008 and it is unknown whether it will be extended.**

Contract amount	<i>Bidder Contract Compliance Monitoring Report Required – Affidavit for Certification of Subcontractors as Minority business Enterprises (MBE’s), as applicable..</i>	<i>Affirmative Action Plan Required</i>	<i>CHRO Requires <u>Pre Approval</u> of Affirmative Action Plan</i>
\$0-\$4,000.00	No paperwork required.		
\$4,000.01 - \$9,999.99	No	No	n/a
Non Public Works Contract			
\$10,000 - \$249,999.99	Yes	No	n/a
\$250,000 or more	Yes	Yes	No
Public Works Contract			
\$10,000 - \$50,000.00	Yes	No	n/a
\$50,000.01 - \$500,000	Yes	Yes	No
\$500,000.01 or more	Yes	Yes	Yes