

Evaluation Summary Memorandum

Application ID: 015

Project Name: Clapp Park to Wild Acres Greenway Project

Consensus-Based Score: 237

Method used to Reach Consensus: Average of individual scores following discussion.

Review Team Members: United States Fish and Wildlife Service (1) (USFWS), Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) Department (2), and Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. (1)

Criteria Discussed:

- **Criterion A1 (Natural Recovery Period):** Unclear how proposal would provide restoration benefits to injured natural resources and/or services in advance of the “natural recovery period.” Consensus was that if the proposed land parcels are acquired, aquatic and riparian habitat would be protected from future development and further degradation. Wildlife viewing and general outdoor recreation opportunities are listed in the Restoration Project Selection Procedure as natural resource services that were damaged by the release of PCBs to the Housatonic River. Although the proposal did not create a strong nexus between the land acquisition and proposed greenway development, it was viewed that certain natural resources would potentially be enhanced by the implementation of this project.
- **Criterion A7 (Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions):** Unclear whether the applicant had explored opportunities to enhance remediation/response actions by concurrently or subsequently implementing restoration projects. It was decided that synergistic benefits could be provided by the acquisition of land, future development of a greenway and path between Clapp Park and Wild Acres, and teaming with the Berkshire Museum to create environmental education opportunities.
- **Criterion B3 (Potential for Adverse Environmental Impacts):** Adverse impact could result from creating trails in undisturbed areas.
- **Criterion B5 (Contingency Actions):** Two reviewers believed criterion not addressed well (e.g., availability of land to create final link between Clapp Park and Wild Acres).
- **Criterion C4 (Leveraging of Additional Resources):** Review Team would like elaboration on this criterion. Details such as commitment of funding for land surveying, trail construction, acquiring necessary parcels to connect the greenway, and a passageway for crossing railroad tracks among others would have provided the reviewers with more confidence that the proposed greenway would be fully developed.

Additional Comments by Review Team:

- Reviewers would have liked to have seen more detail in the project narrative and the budget concerning the linkage between Clapp Park and Wild Acres as well as details on proposed future improvements.
- Reviewers are concerned about the trail crossing the railroad and recommend acquiring a letter of support from the railroad.

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A. RELEVANCE AND APPLICABILITY OF PROJECT					
1. Natural Recovery Period	9	9	15	9	10.5
2. Location of Project	15	15	15	15	15
3. Sustainable Benefits	15	9	9	9	10.5
4. Magnitude of Ecological Benefits	9	9	9	15	10.5
5. Human Health and Safety	10	10	10	10	10
6. Benefits to Multiple Restoration Categories	6	6	10	10	8
7. Enhancement of Remediation/Response Actions	5	5	5	5	5
Subtotal (max=85)	69	63	73	73	69.5

B. TECHNICAL MERIT					
1. Technical/Technological Feasibility	15	9	15	15	13.5
2. Technical Capacity of Applicant and Project Team	9	9	15	15	12
3. Potential for Adverse Environmental Impacts	6	10	10	10	9
4. Measurable Results	6	6	10	10	8
5. Contingency Actions	6	10	10	6	8
6. Administrative Capacity of Applicant and Project Team	3	5	5	5	4.5
Subtotal (max=65)	45	49	65	61	55

