

Grant Proposal for the Mohawk Trails Woodlands Partnership

COMMBUYS BID # BD-20-1042-ENV-ENV01-45719

Burnt Hill – Catamount Trail Development Project

TOWN OF HEATH

MASSACHUSETTS



Submitted by the Heath Parks & Rec Committee

Town of Heath

1 East Main Street

Heath, MA 01346

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Applicant Qualifications and Proposal Summary

The Town of Heath has been an active member in the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP) and is committed to furthering the goals of the Partnership. By creating a new public recreation trail that will connect the 350-acre Town-owned Shapiro-Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Area to the 1,338-acre Catamount State Forest via a Franklin Land Trust-held public trail easement (see Project Area map in Appendix A below), by doing so the Town of Heath will be affirmatively furthering the goals of the Woodlands Partnership. The Town of Heath (acting through its Parks and Recreation Committee) will create new natural resource-based tourism opportunities by enhancing public recreational access across the preserved woodlands of our town and region. The new trail to be known as the Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail (“BHC”) will increase economic development regionally by creating new tourist facilities and infrastructure that will enable visitors direct access to public lands and preserved private woodlands for recreational uses. The woodlands comprising the Burnt Hill-Catamount Area along the eastern border of the Town of Heath and the western border of the Town of Colrain is one of the largest uninterrupted stands of woodlands in Franklin County.

Historically, public access to this natural resource area has been hampered by a lack of public facilities and properly marked trails. The proposed Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail Project will significantly enhance public access by creating appropriate recreational facilities and infrastructure. Grant funding would be utilized in the development of a trailhead gravel parking area with a kiosk featuring a trail map, public use rules & regulations, historical information, wayfinding and educational interpretative signage along the trail. The funding will also be used to install erosion control water bars and limited culvert walkways as well as a small picnic area at “Barnes Place” an overlook area providing scenic vistas of the Eastern Deerfield River Valley below.

Proposal Summary

The Mohawk Trail Woodland Grant Implementation Grant Funds will support and significantly assist ongoing trail development initiatives of the Heath Parks & Recreation Committee on the Shapiro-Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Area. The initiatives of the Heath Parks & Recreation Committee have included using volunteer labor to clear much of the BHC trail right of way during the Fall of 2019. Tasks in this proposal include the wayfinding of the BHC trail between Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Lands in Heath to connect the BHC trail with the Franklin Land Trust trail easement across the Lively Parcel in Heath to the town line abutting the Catamount State Forest in Colrain. The combined trail would create new public access from the Town of Heath to existing state lands via a recreational trail across Town-owned conservation land. This new trail link would permit the public to the access extensive woodlands of both Town-owned lands in Heath as well as across the privately-held woodlands of the Lively Parcel which are the subject of the Franklin Land Trust public trail easement initiative. The funding would be utilized in the development of a trailhead parking area with an

educational kiosk, wayfinding and educational signage along the trail and a small picnic and outlook area at a viewing overlook at the Barnes Place on Town-owned land.

Grant activities will commence upon receipt of the grant funding and all expenditures will be completed by June 30, 2020.

Location of Project and Overview:

This proposal from the Town of Heath Parks and Rec committee is to develop a trail head/entry point and a new public trail, to be designated the “Burnt Hill – Catamount Trail” (BHC) (see Map in Appendix A below). This trail will traverse Town-owned Shapiro-Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Land terrain between Burnt Hill in Heath, and connect via the Franklin Land Trust-held trail easement across the Lively Parcel to the Catamount State Forest in Colrain where it can connect to the existing trails in the state forest, enhancing and expanding upon existing trail infrastructure.

The goal of this project is to both increase public access to the wooded areas of the highlands of Heath, and to also educate those accessing the forest on the ecological benefits of the woodlands and the history of farming and settlement in the area.

Project Implementation Timeline:

The BHC trail project will be completed in two stages through the year 2020, with both phases being completed by the end of June 2020. The Heath Parks and Rec committee intends to match to the funding by coordinating and completing the project utilizing volunteer labor, including Town DPW in-kind labor contributions.

Stage One – Materials Acquisition: The first stage of the Project will involve the acquisition of materials for the project. Stage One will commence upon notification of the award of the grant and will involve the Town of Heath acting through the Parks and Rec Committee ordering the required materials from vendors. It is anticipated that this will occur during the winter months of 2020, with delivery of the ordered materials occurring in April and May of 2020. Project materials will be acquired from a combination of local and regional suppliers. It is anticipated that the gravel for the parking area will be supplied from Zoar Sand and Gravel located in Heath and the current material supplier for the Town’s DPW. Pressure treated lumber for kiosk construction, trail signposts, parking area signage, and vehicular access gates will be obtained from local lumber suppliers. Trail signage, interpretive displays, and other wayfinding items will be obtained from national suppliers of recreational trail signage (e.g. Voss Signs, MegaPrint, Bertnsen) after soliciting bids from suppliers.

Stage Two – Construction & Installation: Stage Two of the Project will begin in late April and early May 2020 and will involve the installation of trail infrastructure including trail signage, interpretative displays, trailhead kiosk, trail erosion control elements, picnic area furniture and the construction of the gravel trailhead parking area. The implementation of Stage Two will occur through a combination of volunteer labor provided by the Parks and Rec Committee and the Town of Heath Department of Public Works (DPW). The Town of Heath DPW will provide significant in-kind assistance to the project in the form of transportation of material from the gravel pit using DPW trucks and the spreading of the gravel on the parking area using a front-end loader and/or backhoe. The DPW will also provide assistance by digging the footings for the trailhead kiosk. The balance of the implementation of the Project (including signage installation, trail erosion controls and kiosk construction) will be conducted using volunteer labor by community members and by the Parks and Recreation Committee. It is anticipated that the activities contemplated in Stage Two of the Project will be completed by the end of May 2020.

Scope of Work:

The Scope of Work for the BHC Project will be principally comprised of three distinct phases (1) BHC Trailhead Facility Development, (2) BHC Trail Wayfinding and Trail Improvements, and (3) Barnes Place Scenic Overlook Picnic Area. In addition, to the three phases of work and given the significant amount of administrative work related to materials acquisition required, the Town of Heath would request that it be able to take a \$2,500.00 grant administration fee to cover the Town Coordinator's time processing the invoices from suppliers and managing the grant.

Phase 1: BHC Trailhead Facility Development:

Responsibility: Heath Parks & Rec Committee with In-kind Assistance from Heath DPW and community volunteers

Implementation Timeframe: Late April- May 2020

Scope of Work:

- Improve a small siding along Flagg Hill Road on the Town-owned Shapiro-Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Land to serve as a parking area for the new Burnt Hill-Catamount (BHC) Trailhead;
 - Improve with 3" bank run gravel hard pack and top with 1" crushed gravel to accommodate at least five parking spaces and one handicapped space on the eastern side of existing town roadway on Flagg Hill Road;
 - install pressure treated split rail fence along parking area perimeter;
 - install post for Handicapped parking sign;
- Construct & Install Trailhead Kiosk with Trail Map & Other Information (see sample below in Appendix A)
- install Pressure Treated Gate & Chain across trail entry to bar ATV access
- Install Trail Map & Public Use Regulations signage (see sample wayfinding signage below Appendix A)

Installation/Implementation:

- Town Volunteer Days during April, May, & June 2020;
- Town donation of DPW Equipment, labor and time for Parking Lot Installation & gravel delivery;
- Park & Rec Committee Volunteers install trail signage etc.;

Deliverable: Installation of trailhead trail map, signage, wayfinding and other trailhead infrastructure to be documented with a close-out report with photographs and written documentation of deliverables.

Budget Phase 1: BHC Trailhead Facility Development		
Item	Quantity	Price
3" of Bank Run Gravel (hard pack) for parking area	14 yards	\$ 3,500.00
1" Crushed Gravel (top cover) for parking area	10 yards	\$ 2,500.00
<u>Kiosk & Parking Area Signage/Posts Materials</u>		-
Pressure Treated (PT) 6'x6'x12'	4	\$ 144.00
PT 6'x6'x8'	3	\$ 66.00
PT 2'x6'x8'	10	\$ 65.00
PT 4'x4'x8' (signage posts)	30	\$ 240.00
PT 2'x4'x8	10	\$ 40.00
Simpson Post Base Fastner & Hardware	2	\$ 175.00
Concrete 80 lbs bag	14	\$ 112.00
Timber Lock Fasteners	1	\$ 56.00
Other 3" & 3.5" Fastners	1	\$ 120.00
PT ¾" Plywood	1	\$ 57.00
Green Metal Roofing 10' sections	2	\$ 66.00
Metal Roofing Ridge Cap 10' length	1	\$ 34.00
Sonotube 12"	2	\$ 35.00
28' Gate Chain (anti-vehicular)	1	\$ 180.00
PT Split Rail Fence Post	3	\$ 46.00
PT Split Rails	9	\$ 126.00
Trail Map Sign 24"x48" Omega Print (Durable)	1	\$ 196.00
Trail Map Sign 12"x18" Omega Print (Durable)	10	\$ 250.00
Trail Sign Arrow (Trailite Metal Reflective)	100	\$ 150.00
Trail Sign Blaze/Hiker Markers	200	\$ 250.00
Assorted 12"x12" Trail Use/Restriction Signs	20	\$ 300.00
Land Use Regulation Signage 12X18" (durable)	2	\$ 40.00
Interpretative/Educational Sign 24x36	4	\$ 320.00
Tick Habitat Warning Signs 12"x18"	4	\$ 90.00
BHC Trail Signs 6"x8"	10	\$ 165.58
Phase I Cost Contingency 10% of Hard Costs	1	\$ 921.96
Concrete Mixer Rental & Fuel Expense	1	\$ 400.00
Kiosk Carpenter Labor	1	\$ 850.00
	TOTAL	\$ 11,495.54

Note: Above budget includes certain trail signage to be used in Phase 2 activities.

Phase 2: BHC Trail Wayfinding and Trail Improvements:

Responsibility: Heath Parks & Rec Committee and Community Volunteers

Implementation Timeframe: March – June 2020

Scope of Work:

- Install Trail Signage (including usage parameters & trailblazing signage) along BHC trail;
- Trail construction improvements including installation of pressure treated water bars combat increased erosion due to climate change, installation signage & trail blazes (including trail signposts);
- Installation of footbridges over washed out culverts & boardwalks over vernal flow areas;
- Signage and physical trail connection with existing Franklin Land Trust trail project to Catamount State Forest;
- Installation of Interpretative/Educational Signs along trail (see Appendix B for examples);
- Install park bench along trail;

Deliverable: Phase 2 report with photographs and written documentation of final project status

Budget Phase 2: BHC Trail Wayfinding and Trail Improvements		
Item	Quantity	Price
PT 4x4X8 Signposts	10	\$ 80.00
PT 4x6x8 Posts (vernal bridge)	10	\$ 260.00
PT 5/4"x6x8" Decking	40	\$ 360.00
TimberLoc Fastners	1	\$ 56.00
Other Fastners 3", 3.5", 2.5" deck screws	1	\$ 157.00
PT 2"x4"x8"	20	\$ 80.00
PT 4"x4x8"	10	\$ 80.00
PT 2"x4"x8"	20	\$ 80.00
PT 4x6x8 Posts (Water Bars)	15	\$ 360.00
1/2" x 24" Rebar (water bar foundation)	30	\$ 76.50
Channel Park Bench - Using Aluminum	1	\$ 346.00
Concrete 80 lbs bag	6	\$ 48.00
	TOTAL	\$ 1,983.50

Phase 3: Barnes Place Scenic Overlook Picnic Area:

Responsibility: Heath Parks & Rec Committee and Community Volunteers

Implementation Timeframe: March – June 2020

Scope of Work:

- Develop a small clearing on the site of the old Barnes Homestead to facilitate a view corridor of the eastern Deerfield River Valley;
- Using Volunteer labor clear a small area of brush and small growth not to exceed 1/2 an acre, while maintaining mature trees;
- Install Pressure Treated Picnic Tables & Benches facing overlook
- Install Interpretative Signage highlighting both area geological and historical features including foundations and cellar holes of old Barnes place;

Deliverable: Phase 3 report with photographs and written documentation of final project status

Budget Phase 3: Barnes Place Scenic Overlook Picnic Area		
Item	Quantity	Price
PT 4x4X8 Signposts	10	\$ 80.00
PT 4x6x8 Posts (platform)	4	\$ 104.00
Pressure Treated Picnic Table	3	\$ 960.00
Historical Interpretive Sign 24x36	2	\$ 160.00
Channel Park Bench - Using Aluminum	1	\$ 346.00
Platform Decking 5/4 x6" x8'	8	\$ 72.00
Concrete 80 lbs bag	6	\$ 48.00
Wayfinding Signage 12'x18"	2	\$ 45.00
Land Use Regulation Signage 12X18" (durable)	2	\$ 40.00
BHC Trail Signs 6"x8"	10	\$ 165.58
Phase 3 Contingency 10% of Hard Costs	1	\$ 205.00
Equipment Rental & Fuel Expense	1	\$ 400.00
Trail Sign Mics	1	\$ 345.00
Other Materials Contingency (fastners)	1	\$ 400.00
	TOTAL	\$ 3,370.58

Summary of Proposed BHC Project Budget:

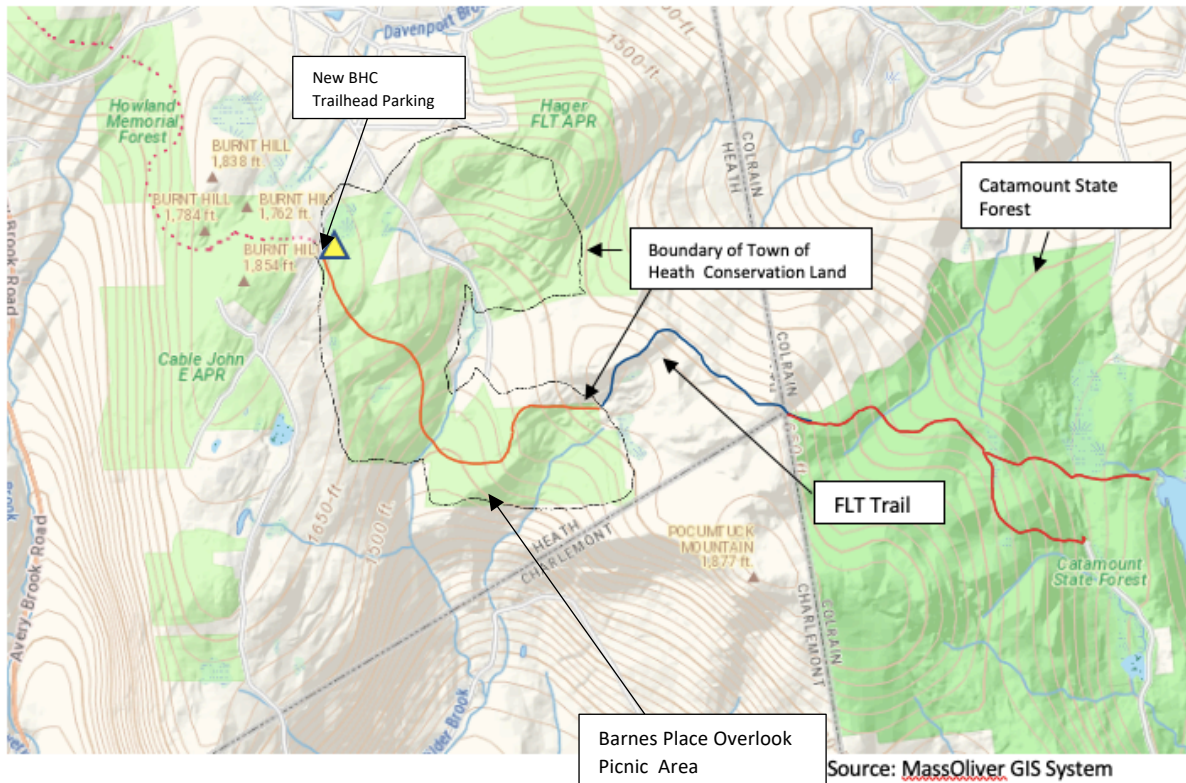
TOTAL PROPOSED BHC PROJECT BUDGET				
Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Admin Fee	TOTAL
\$ 11,495.54	\$ 1,983.50	\$ 3,370.58	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 19,349.62

Proposal Conformance with Evaluation Criteria:

An award of Mohawk Trail Woodlands Grant Implementation Grant Funds will greatly support and ongoing trail development initiatives in the Town of Heath which will significantly increase natural resource-based economic development through the promotion of new tourism opportunities for the general public. The Shapiro-Burnt Hill Woodlands Conservation Area is a unique public asset which to date has not been properly positioned to afford access to the general public. The BHC Project will create new economic development activities through the creation of new tourism facilities for public use that will greatly enhance recreational opportunities on existing public lands in a member Town of the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership. The BHC Project proposal utilizes public lands in an efficient manner which will promote new recreational opportunities by connecting Town-owned lands with existing state forest resources. Trail infrastructure will be improved to build resilience to climate change through the inclusion of many erosion mitigation structures. The BHC Project is the outgrowth of a significant community outreach process that has drawn together stakeholders to collaborate to improve recreational opportunities as well as to incorporate historic and other educational elements into the Project. The BHC Project will draw upon local resources including the Heath Historical Society as well as augment ongoing open space access efforts of the Franklin Land Trust. The BHC Project will be undertaken with almost exclusively volunteer labor from the Heath Parks and Recreation Committee and community volunteers, with contributed assistance from the Town of Heath Department of Public Works. The contribution by the Town of Heath's DPW in the form of in-kind labor and resources represents an efficient collaboration between municipal government and the wider outdoor recreation community. The BHC Project will no doubt be a worthy contribution to the ongoing efforts of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Mohawk Woodlands Partnership, the member communities thereof, and the public at large.

Appendix A: Project Area Map & Locus Map

Project Area Detail:



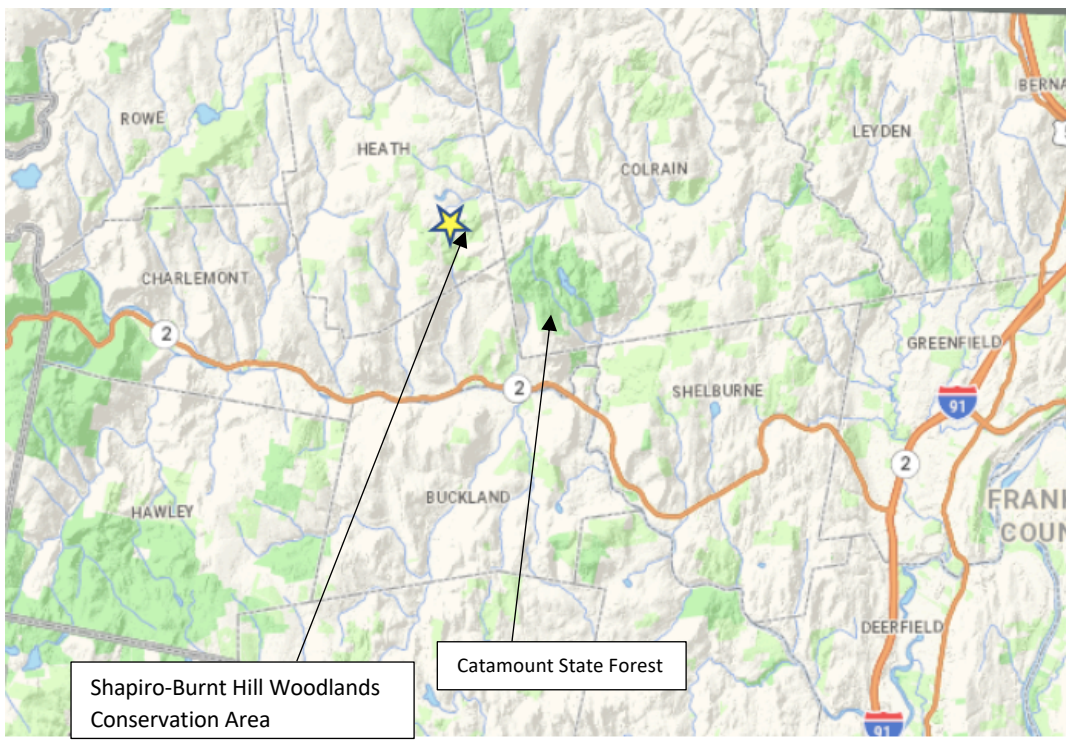
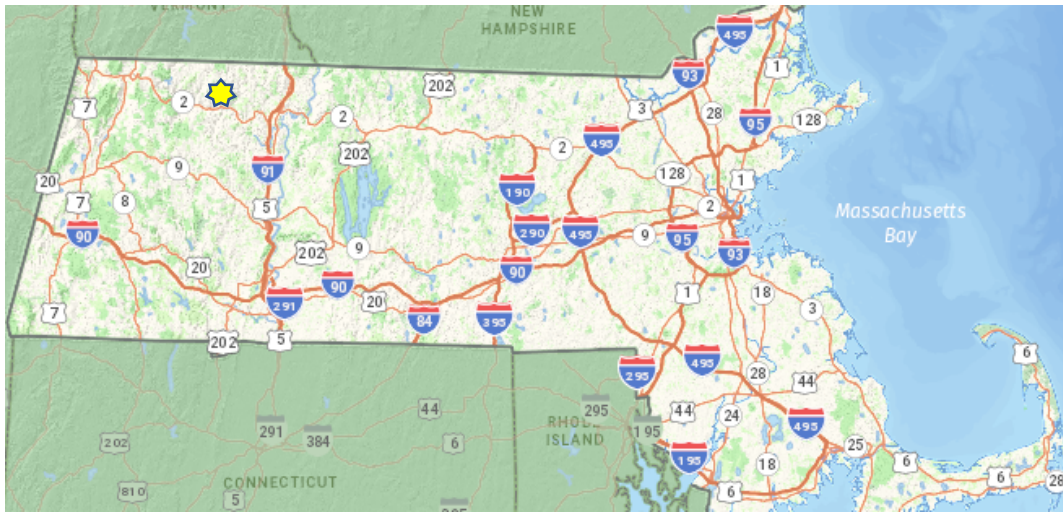
Legend:

- = New Burnt Hill-Catamount Trail (subject area of Grant Funds expenditure)
- = Newly Created Franklin Land Trust (FLT) Public Trail Easement (to be built by others)
- = Existing Catamount State Forest Trails
- - - - = Potential Future Public Trail Expansion Route (to be built by others)
- ▲ = BHC Trailhead & Parking Area on Flagg Hill Road

BHC Trailhead Parking Detail



Project Locus Map



Appendix B:

Representative Examples of Wayfinding, Trail Signage, Trailhead Kiosk, Educational Displays, & Other Illustrative Project Elements



Sample Trailhead Kiosk with Trail Map & Land Use Regulations Sample Trail Map Mounted on Post



A Sample of Trail Directional/ Wayfinding Signage



Sample of Interpretative Educational Signage to be posted along trailside