

Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOUSATONIC HERITAGE ANNOUNCES 2009 HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

JUNE 1, 2009 (Great Barrington, MA) . . . The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (Housatonic Heritage) has announced the 2009 Heritage Partnership Grant Program. The grant program will provide up to \$50,000 in matching funds for projects that create or enhance in-town historic walking tours. Open to non-profit organizations, municipalities and government agencies within the Heritage Area, grant awards range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 per project. Grant applications must be postmarked no later than June 30, 2009, and may be used for projects that are implemented in the 29-town heritage area.

Grant guidelines and application can be downloaded from the Housatonic Heritage website at www.HousatonicHeritage.org. Eligible projects include brochures, maps, websites and other electronic way-finding such as podcasts and cell phone tours. Grant funds must be matched with a minimum 1:1 with other funding sources, and can include donated time, services and other non-cash contributions. Applicants are encouraged to create partnerships with other individuals and organizations, and to either further an existing project, or begin a new project. All grant projects must be completed within one year.

In its second year, the Housatonic Heritage Partnership Grant Program has provided grants for local projects that illuminate the rich historical, natural and cultural heritage of the Upper Housatonic Valley region. Additional information about the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area and the grant program can be found on the website www.HousatonicHeritage.org, by emailing info@HousatonicHeritage.org, or by calling (860) 435-9505.

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About the Housatonic Heritage Partnership Grant Program

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area (Housatonic Heritage) Partnership Grant Program is a matching grant program created to foster collaboration between organizations, municipalities and individuals that share Housatonic Heritage's mission to preserve and celebrate the historic, cultural and natural resources in the region.

The Heritage Partnership Grant Program was first created and implemented in June 2008, and is targeted to different heritage disciplines for each grant round.

About the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area

The Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area is a non-profit organization that has been designated by the U.S. Congress to heighten appreciation of the region, preserve its cultural, natural and historical resources, and improve the quality of life and economy of the area. The Heritage Area serves a 29-town region in Berkshire County, MA and Litchfield County, CT.

The goal of Heritage Area is to provide a management framework to foster a close working relationship with all levels of government, the private sector, and the local communities in the upper Housatonic Valley region to conserve the region's heritage while continuing to pursue compatible economic opportunities.

To that end, the Heritage Area will assist communities, organizations, and citizens in the State of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in identifying, preserving, interpreting, and developing the historical, cultural, scenic, and natural resources of the region for the educational and inspirational benefit of current and future generations.

For more information, contact the Heritage Area at (860) 435-9505 or visit their website at www.housatonicheritage.org.



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