

# Town of Underhill

## ARPA Funds Use Proposal – PHASE 1

**Committee/Group/Individual Requesting Funding: Val Stori, Chair, Natural Resources Inventory and Mapping Committee (NRIMC)**

**Contact Name: Val Stori**

**Phone Number: (802) 522-0017**

**Email: valstori@yahoo.com**

**Date: 14 Nov. 2022**

**Proposal Name/Brief Description: Phase II Underhill Natural Resources Inventory and Mapping.** The NRIMC respectfully requests that the ARPA committee appropriate ARPA funds for the completion of Underhill’s Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) so that the Planning Commission and Town may move forward with revisions to the Town land use map and land use zones. A natural resource inventory (NRI) will provide Underhill’s Planning Commission with the data it needs to create a future land use planning map that balances growth with the need to protect significant natural resources.

For the last 2.5 years, the Natural Resource Inventory and Mapping Committee has been searching unsuccessfully for grants and funding sources both within and outside town government to complete our detailed work documenting local natural resources as directed to by our 2021 Town Plan. A natural resources inventory is an imperative and necessary first step for meeting the vision and goals laid out in the Plan as well as for meeting Act 171 goals. Many of the goals and action items in the plan rely on updated maps that clearly show high priority forest blocks and wildlife habitat corridors; without this critical information in hand, we cannot move forward on adjusting zoning district boundaries or implementing renewable energy siting guidelines or suggesting where affordable housing development would be most appropriate in Underhill.

As Underhill plans for future land uses, including renewable energy siting, affordable and multi-family housing, and general housing demand, the Planning Commission and the NRIMC recognize both the imperative and opportunity to protect the town’s natural resources, including its significant forest and habitat blocks and its water resources.

Underhill’s Town Plan directs the town to responsibly steward and sustainably use Underhill’s natural resources in a manner that protects and enhances the town’s environmental well-being for future generations. It also calls for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in renewable energy production to help attain the state goal of 90% renewable consumption by 2050. Lastly, it calls for the preservation of Underhill’s rural character, scenic landscape, working farms, managed forestlands, and cultural heritage.

The NRIMC requested full funding for the NRI, but only received sufficient funds from the Selectboard to cover Phase I (desktop research) of the NRI. The NRIMC requests additional funding to complete Phase II (field research and validation). As the NRI consultant Arrowwood Consulting has only recently begun work on the project, combining the two phases will save the

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town approximately \$2000 in administrative costs (reduced accounting paperwork and reporting by Arrowwood).

**Estimated Cost/Description of Estimate Process** (use the space here and attach additional pages and any supporting documents): We request \$17, 165.00 for Phase II of the NRI. Please see the attached budget estimate and scope. Note that the minimum amount for completing Phase II is \$ 12,557.50 and maximum is \$ 17,165.00.

Thank you for your consideration for this important project, which will help Underhill move forward and implement its Town Plan.

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Please Answer the following questions by marking the answer in the space provided.

### Benefit to Town of Underhill

Does this proposal	YES	NO	Not Sure
Invest in the town without creating a need for additional or ongoing revenue or expenses? Is this a one-time expense?			
Benefit a population that was disproportionately impacted by the pandemic?			
Benefit a population underserved prior to the pandemic?			
Mitigate and/or help the Town adapt to the effects of climate change?			
Improve or create infrastructure for Underhill? Ex. Natural resources, pedestrian access, transportation but not limited to			
Align with or impact the goals and priorities of the Town Plan? <a href="#">LINK</a>			

Comments:

### Feasibility of Project

Can this proposal	YES	NO	Not Sure
Be fully planned, estimated and obligated to the Town by December 31, 2024?			
Be fully completed and paid for by the end of 2026?			
Be used to leverage or match other grants, funds or projects?			

***Please attach estimates, quotes, drawings, or supporting documents or elaborate in any way you would like. Please note that the ARPA Advisory Committee only recommends projects to the Selectboard and the Selectboard has the ultimate authority to allocate the funds. [17 V.S.A. § 2664](#)***

#### Links and More Information:

**Final Rule – Overview** at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>

**Final Rule – FAQ’s** at <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-FAQ.pdf>

**Specific Information for Town of Underhill** at [https://www.underhillvt.gov/vertical/sites/%7B4E962BB9-B4BB-4504-A3EE-ED54521A1BCE%7D/uploads/Coronavirus\\_Local\\_Fiscal\\_Recovery\\_Fund\\_Overview\\_Presentation\\_06092022.pdf](https://www.underhillvt.gov/vertical/sites/%7B4E962BB9-B4BB-4504-A3EE-ED54521A1BCE%7D/uploads/Coronavirus_Local_Fiscal_Recovery_Fund_Overview_Presentation_06092022.pdf)



**Town of Underhill  
Phase II Natural Resources Inventory Cost Estimate**

Tasks	Budget Range	
	Min	Max
<b>Task 1</b>		
<i>Remote Wildlife Habitat Element Mapping</i>	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 2,625.00
<b>Task 2</b>		
<i>Wildlife Rapid Road Tracking</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Wetland Field Evaluation</i>	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
<i>Wildlife Field Evaluations</i>	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 7,500.00
<i>Data Integration</i>	\$ 937.50	\$ 1,500.00
<i>Task 2 Subtotal</i>	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,750.00
<b>Task 3</b>		
<i>Data Analysis/Report Writing</i>	\$ 1,875.00	\$ 1,875.00
<b>Admin and Expenses</b>		
<i>Project Administration</i>	\$ 825.00	\$ 825.00
<i>Mileage Expenses</i>	\$ 295.00	\$ 590.00
	\$ 12,557.50	\$ 17,165.00

An existing contract for a Phase I natural resources inventory has been executed between Arrowwood Environmental and the Town of Underhill. The above cost estimate was developed based on discussion with the Underhill town officials when the possibility of additional funding arose. The above cost estimate is based on adding the Phase II inventory components to the existing Phase I inventory project.

The budget has been designed to be as flexible as possible based on the availability of funding. The "Min" column represents a minimum amount of field work and associated costs to support and report on that data. The "Max" column represents a more robust field effort and associated costs. As can be seen from the Task 2 subtotal line, the field work represents the majority of the additional costs. If only a small amount of funding is available, Task 2 can be eliminated and Task 1 can be conducted (this option would exclude most of the Admin and Expenses costs as well).