



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

MAILCODE 501-03A

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CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

BOB MARTIN
Commissioner

October 20, 2011

Dear Trails Partner:

Thanks to a partnership with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration funds are available from the Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres Program to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail facilities. I am pleased to extend an invitation to federal, state, county and local governments, and nonprofit organizations to apply for these funds.

Attached you will find a two-page grant application and a six-page summary of permissible uses and projects, program requirements, and factors used to evaluate and select the projects for funding. **The deadline for submitting applications to the Green Acres Program is February 15, 2012. Applications postmarked after February 15 will be disqualified.**

We anticipate that this program, known as the Recreational Trails Program, will receive approximately \$1 million that we will distribute Statewide for trail related projects. Due to the limited funding, we anticipate that competition for these grants will be intense. We encourage you to review the guidance documents while considering your proposed projects.

Any questions should be directed to John Flynn of the Green Acres Program at 609-984-0628 or john.flynn@dep.state.nj.us. Additional information can be found at: www.trails.nj.gov.

Sincerely,

Amy Cradic
Assistant Commissioner
Natural and Historic Resources

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
GREEN ACRES PROGRAM**

2012 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

1. Applicant:

2. Project Name:

3. Applicant Type (check all that apply):

federal state county municipal non-profit

4. Cost:

Requested (max. for non-motorized is \$25,000):

 \$

Match of other funds:

 \$

Match of fair market value of services:

 \$

Match of fair market value of supplies:

 \$

Note: Total of all matches must be a Minimum 20% of the Total project cost.

Total project cost:

 \$

5. Project Location:

Municipality

County

Tax block/lot

U.S. Congressional District

6. Land classification (check all that apply):

public private with easement/lease private anticipating easement/lease

7. Project purpose (check all that apply):

Links to other trails/urban areas Maintenance of existing trails New trail in existing park or new right-of-way
 Providing disabled access Restoration of damaged areas Development of trail-side/trail-head facilities

8. Length of trail uses: Include all uses that apply with the length of trail miles affected, to the nearest 1/2 mile. **DO NOT PUT IN "X" OR A "✓".** Disabled Mobility would be trails suitable for wheelchairs, walking aids, etc. Disabled Sensory would be trails for sight or hearing impairments.

hiking bicycling equestrian activities fitness activities skating

cross-country skiing disabled-mobility/sensory motorized recreation aquatic activity

9. Project description (describe purpose of the project, work to be performed, design and materials to be used, and ongoing maintenance of funded facilities and the trail once the project is completed Applicant must include statements on the presence of endangered and threatened species within the project area, and presence of sites on the National and State Registers of Historic Places. Use additional sheets if necessary.

10. Project budget (indicate number, basis of cost, and cost of services, supplies, equipment and labor to be funded by a grant):

11. Value of matching share (if labor, include wage rate or basis for salary; if supplies or equipment, list type and value):

12. Target dates for implementation:

construction start date

completion date

13. Permits required (list type of permit, administering agency, and if obtained, approval date):

14. Person and title having day-to-day responsibility for this application: name

address

telephone

e-mail

15. Organization's nine-digit federal employer identification number:

16. Attachments:

- a. Map and/or other illustration(s) showing location and extent of proposed project.
- b. Proof that project site is permanently protected and open for public use.
- c. For non-profit organizations, i.e. non-governmental organizations, IRS ruling/letter showing proof of non-profit status (see additional requirements).

I, _____ (name of authorized official) hereby certify that the information provided with this application for Recreational Trails Funding is complete and true, and that I have read and agree to follow the requirements of the Recreational Trails Program included with this application.

date signature of official authorized to submit application

title: _____

Return Mailing Address: Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program
Mail Code 501-01
P.O. Box 420
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Street Address: Department of Environmental Protection
Green Acres Program
501 East State St, First Floor
Trenton, NJ 08609

Telephone 609-984-0628; Fax: 609-984-0608; E-mail: john.flynn@dep.state.nj.us

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM
REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECTS FUNDED IN NEW JERSEY FOR 2012

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Funding in New Jersey is available to:
 - a) Public agencies at the federal, state, county, and municipal level
 - b) Nonprofit organizations qualifying under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service code.
 - c) Friends of a Park group recognized by a governmental agency as a volunteer organization.
2. The maximum grant award for a non-motorized trail project is \$25,000. The grant award for a motorized trail project is based on the number of viable motorized project applications and the amount of motorized grant funding available (at least 30% of the overall funding must be for motorized trail projects).
3. The trail proposal must be located on land that is either:
 - a) Publicly owned; or
 - b) Privately owned with a governmental agency holding an easement for public access. Land subject to the Green Acres Tax Exemption Program or a limited term access covenant under the Open Lands Management Program does not qualify as an easement under this requirement. For motorized projects, a minimum 10-year lease agreement is permitted. The trail or trail facilities must be available to the general public. Approval for funding may be allowed for property in which an easement/lease is in the process of being obtained. However, no financial reimbursements will be made until the easement/lease is secured.
4. All applicants applying for non-motorized trail grants will be notified by September 2012 whether or not their application was selected for Recreational Trails Program funding. Because there are only a few motorized trail grant applications submitted each year and an application may have to be acted upon quickly for the project to become viable, motorized trail grant applications may be submitted throughout the year. The application will be kept on file and reviewed at the next scheduled New Jersey Trails Council meeting following receipt of the application. Subsequent to all of the necessary reviews, the applicant will be notified whether or not its application was selected for funding.

Permissible Uses and Projects:

1. Permissible uses include:
 - a) Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
 - b) Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails
 - c) Purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment
 - d) Construction of new recreational trails in existing parks or in new rights-of-way
 - e) For motorized use only, acquisition of easement and fee simple title to property for recreational trails. Land acquisition will only be considered if trails to be constructed will total five miles or more.
 - 1) All requests for funding to acquire land for motorized use must comply with requirements of the Federal Highway Administration regarding appraisals, environmental impacts, public involvement and settlement. These requirements are included in the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended. Implementing regulations are found in 49 CFR Part 24; <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/realestate/ua/index.htm>
 - 2) A permanent easement held by a governmental agency, allowing recreational use, must be placed on all lands acquired with Recreational Trails Program funding.
 - 3) All acquisitions of any kind of interest in property must be from a willing landowner or seller. Condemnation is prohibited under the federal legislation.
 - 4) Eligible acquisition costs include those for appraisals, surveys and land value.
 - 5) A plan of the site must be prepared before development funds are expended. The plan

must include information on the number, use, and location of trails, location and type of trailside and trailhead facilities, sensitive resource protection measures, management of the site and enforcement of uses and activities.

2. Trailside, trailhead facilities may include parking, signage, shelters and water, sanitary, and disabled access facilities.
3. According to the Federal Highway Administration, a recreational trail is defined as a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes such as: pedestrian activities, including wheelchair use; skating or skateboarding; equestrian activities, including carriage driving; non-motorized snow trail activities, including skiing; bicycling or use of other human-powered vehicles; aquatic or water activities; and motorized vehicular activities, including all-terrain vehicle riding, motorcycling, snowmobiling, use of off-road light trucks, or use of other off-road motorized vehicles. The term thoroughfare or track excludes roads generally accessible by low clearance passenger vehicles, but includes high-clearance primitive roads. Any one of these uses, or combination of uses is eligible for funding.
4. Planning studies, environmental assessments, engineering studies, and costs of permit applications are eligible expenses if they are part of a proposal that is primarily for trail construction or restoration, or development of trailside/trail head facilities. No more than 15% of the total project cost can be funded for planning and trail feasibility study expenses.
5. Equipment may be purchased with grant funds, and if approved, must be adequately safeguarded and used solely for authorized purposes. Records must be maintained that include a description of the property, a serial number or other identification number, the source of property, who holds title, the acquisition date and cost of the property, location, use, and condition of the property, and any ultimate disposition date including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

Uses and Projects Not Eligible For Funding:

1. The Recreational Trails Program legislation prohibits using RTP funds for condemnation of any kind of interest in property. Also, it is not permissible to use the value of condemned land toward the match requirement.
2. Trail feasibility studies alone are not permitted on a project.
3. Funding will not be provided for law enforcement personnel or activities.
4. Projects will not be approved on railroad rights-of-way on which the railroad tracks are in place, if trail users will traverse on or between the railroad tracks, except for providing a railroad crossing in coordination with the railroad owners, operator, and Department of Transportation. However, projects may be located within a railroad right-of-way if trail users will not travel on or between the tracks and if adequate safety measures are implemented in coordination with the railroad owner, operator, and Department of Transportation.
5. Conversion of non-motorized trails to motorized use, or to facilitate motorized use will not be considered for funding.
6. Projects that include improvements to roads, road shoulders, or sidewalks are not eligible for funding.
7. The purchase of caps, t-shirts, sweat-shirts, jackets, patches, pins, pens, stickers, license plates, flashlights, and other such items for the purpose of promotion is not eligible for funding. Such items cannot be used for meeting the required 20% match.

Financial Requirements:

1. Applicants are reimbursed for expenses incurred. Partial reimbursements can be made with submission of proof of expenditure. The minimum partial reimbursement amount is \$500 for non-state agency grant recipients. Several receipts can be combined to meet the \$500 minimum. If planning and design studies are to be funded as part of the grant, reimbursement for studies will not be made until the entire project is completed.
2. Funding cannot be used to reimburse expenses for projects started before final approval is received from DEP and the Federal Highway Administration. However, planning and environmental assessment costs (up to 15% of the total project cost) incurred less than 18 months prior to project approval may be counted toward the non-Federal (matching) share.
3. Grantees will use their own procurement procedures that reflect applicable state and local laws and regulations; the Buy America program will apply to steel and iron used in a construction project. Records on procurement will include, but not necessarily be limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price.
4. All grantees must maintain records that adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for projects. Accounting records must be supported by such source documentation as canceled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract and sub-grant award documents, etc. All required records must be retained for three years after grantees receive final payments and all other pending matters are closed.
5. Any grantee funded by the federal government is subject to the single-audit provisions of the Single Audit Act of 1984, P.L. 98-502. Pursuant to State Circular Letter 04-04-OMB, www.nj.gov/infobank/circular/cir0404b.htm the State of New Jersey has adopted by reference the standards and provisions of the Audit Act and the federal OMB Circulars. If the grantee expends a total of \$500,000 or more in federal or state financial assistance in the grantee's fiscal year, the grantee must have a single audit performed. Grantees that expend less than \$500,000, but expend \$100,000 or more in state and/or federal financial assistance within their fiscal year, must have either a financial statement audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book) or a program-specific audit performed in accordance with the Audit Act, Amendments, OMB Circular A-133 Revised and State policy.
6. General requirements for matching funds:
 - a) Applicants must provide a minimum 20% match of the total project cost. A grant would be a maximum of 80% of the total project cost. For example, if the maximum grant award of \$25,000 is being requested, the 20% match would equal \$6,250 for a total project cost of \$31,250. The match can be in the form of cash or the fair market value of labor or materials.
 - b) Labor can be contributed by volunteers, staff salaries, or the value of contracted labor, including the value of labor contracted to develop site plans and apply for permits.
 - c) For in-kind services of labor or materials, the applicant will be required to provide documentation on the value of those services, such as copies of bills, receipts or invoices, for the project funded, and how that value was derived.
 - d) Volunteer services will be valued at wage rates consistent with those ordinarily paid for similar work in the grantees' organizations, or for similar work in the same labor market. A reasonable amount for fringe benefits may be included in the valuation. To the extent feasible, volunteer services will be supported by the same methods that the grantee uses to support the allocation of regular personnel costs.
 - e) Donated supplies will be valued at the market value of the supplies at the time of donation.
 - f) The value of land within a previously established park (land trust, preserve, etc.) may not be used as credit for the match. Also, a public agency may not use the value of land transferred from the administration of one agency to another agency to meet the minimum match.
7. Match using other federal funds:

- a) Federal agency project sponsor. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a federal agency that sponsors a project may contribute additional federal funds toward the cost of a project, except that:
 - 1) the share attributable to the trails grant may not exceed 80 percent of the cost of a project; and
 - 2) the share attributable to the trail project and the federal agency may not exceed 95% of the cost of a project.
- b) Any funds or the fair market value of any materials or services may be provided by a federal project sponsor and shall be credited to the federal agency's share.
- c) Use of funds from federal programs to provide non-federal share. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the non-federal share of the cost of the project may include amounts made available by the federal government under any federal program that are
 - 1) expended in accordance with the requirements of the federal program relating to activities funded and populations served; and
 - 2) expended on a project eligible for assistance under the Recreational Trails Program.

General Program Requirements:

1. Approved projects must begin within two years of the approval date. A project may be considered to begin with pre-construction work such as obtaining permits, and performing planning and engineering studies, as well as construction work. If a project is not completed within one year of notification of funding, grantees will be expected to complete project status reports. Specific status report forms for the Recreational Trails Program will be forwarded to grantees. **Projects must be completed by August 31, 2015.**
2. Grantees may be permitted to make changes in the approved project to meet unanticipated requirements. **Changes to the project must receive prior approval from DEP.**
3. If for any reason the recipient of funding must terminate the project, the recipient must notify DEP in writing, explaining the reason for termination. If partial funding has been given for a project before termination, the grant recipient will be required to reimburse DEP for the amount of funding received.
4. An application to construct a new trail on land that is not in an existing park or privately owned land already available for public use requires a resolution from the governing body stating that it supports such a proposal and that the governing body will abide by the requirements of the program.
5. Grantees may charge fees for use of project areas as long as the fee is used to meet the operating costs of the project. For-profit activities may not receive funding.
6. Trailhead and interpretive signs, printed brochures, guides or booklets funded through this grant program must give recognition that the project was funded by the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program, through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
7. All permits required for construction or use will be obtained prior to construction. **Copies of approved permits must be sent to the Green Acres Program before construction begins.**
8. A project may be denied if it is found to negatively impact an endangered and threatened species habitat. Therefore, applicants should determine and state in their application whether protected status species have been documented within the project area, and what measures will be taken to avoid adverse impact.
9. A project may be denied if the applicant has not completed previously awarded grants by the specified project completion date or by an extended date approved by the Green Acres Program.
10. Before submitting an application, applicants must determine if the project site is on, in or next to a site on the National or State Registers of Historic Places. Information on listed sites is available from county Cultural and Heritage Commissions, county historical societies, and the New Jersey Historic

Preservation Office (HPO). If your project is selected for funding and is on, in or next to a registered site, the project will be subject to review by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. **Any construction cannot begin until receiving authorization from the HPO. Copies of the authorization must be supplied to the Green Acres Program.**

11. If the applicant is not the owner of the land, then the applicant shall provide DEP with written assurances from the owner that the owner of the property will cooperate with the applicant and DEP and participate as necessary in the activities to be conducted.
12. Under the Recreational Trails Program legislation, use of Youth Corps participants is encouraged. These programs provide low cost labor for various types of work projects, while providing youth with job skills. In New Jersey, contact:
New Jersey Youth Corps
1 John Fitch Plaza
P.O. Box 055
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0055
609-292-2060
13. All grantees must comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, handicap, or age. Failure to comply with these laws may result in the termination of the grant as the DEP deems appropriate.
14. In general, standards for construction of bicycle paths included in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 1999 are recommended for construction of new facilities (see below). However, these may not necessarily apply to mountain bike or multiuse trails. Maximum path width in wetlands or wetland buffers must comply with rules of the New Jersey Land Use Regulation Program, which may require a narrower maximum width.

Factors for Evaluating and Selecting Projects for Funding:

The following factors are listed in order of importance for evaluating Recreational Trails Program applications. Please note that the last two factors can only have a negative evaluation.

- Trail provides links to other trails, a link in an existing trail, or to population centers and other community destinations.
- Length of trail or trail system affected: Trails from 3 to 5 miles or longer are given preference.
- Project is a partnership between different agencies, organizations, multiple users or volunteers.
- Proposal includes a new trail or an existing, but undesignated and unmarked trail.
- Designation to the New Jersey Trails System or is listed as an eligible trail, potential route or connects to a trail in the Trails System.
- Trail proposal will benefit more than one use.
- Municipality in which the project is located is an urbanized area or an urban aid community.
- Project area links with significant natural, cultural or historic features or is in a significant viewshed.
- Trail provides disabled access.
- Proposal is innovative in its design, development or use.
- Proposal is a critical necessity for erosion control, maintenance, or endangered or threatened

species habitat protection.

- Trail did not receive a Recreational Trails Program grant in 2011.
- Trail proposal provides for restoration of an existing trail.
- Project is compatible with the landscape, surrounding land use and trail use.
- A negative evaluation is given based on the applicant's past performance on previous RTP grants.
- A negative evaluation is given if the application is incomplete, or the applicant has not yet obtained permits, performed environmental reviews, or received determination of negative impact on historic resources.