

Federal Recreational Trail Program

(Administered by DNR and MRTUA)

The following is a summary highlighting some relevant information and only represent excerpts from the formal grant manual and information provided on the website here:

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_federal.html

For full details please review the grant manual here:

http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/recreation/federal_trail_grants/rtp_manual.pdf

Who is Eligible?

All Local units of government (typically cities, counties, and townships) are eligible to apply. Also user groups and/or trail organizations may apply, but only in coordination with a local unit of government.

Private non-profits and other trail organizations are encouraged to work with Federal, State, and local government agencies to develop applications. The goal of the State and MRTUA (Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association) is to foster cooperative efforts between these groups for long-term development, enhancement and management of recreational trails in Minnesota.

Eligible Projects

Development of permanent trailside and trailhead facilities (e.g., drainage, crossings, stabilization, parking, signage, controls, open-sided shelters, water, and sanitary facilities).

Grants are awarded for nearly any trail related project that is solely located within the state of Minnesota.

The law specifies that 30 percent of the funds must be used for motorized projects, 30 percent for non-motorized, and 40 percent for projects that can be utilized by both.

Details and Deadlines

- Funding for 2016 is approximately \$1.7 million
- All applications must be received electronically by February 29th, 2016.
- Grant awards will be announced by June 2016.
- Funds will first be available no earlier than November 1, 2016.
- All projects awarded through this grant round must be completed by June 30, 2018 and immediately available for use to the general public
- The maximum permissible request is \$150,000. The minimum is \$1,000.

- All facilities that are funded through this program also require a commitment from the applicant that the trail will be open and available for use, as well as **maintained for no less than twenty years**

Match required

These grants are 75/25 “cash match” reimbursement grants. That means the grantee must complete the project and fully pay for it, produce documentation that shows actual expenditures and then they will receive 75% of what was spent up to their grant award.

Neither this funding source, nor the match can be used for in-house labor services and/or to meet existing payroll.

Only contract services, materials, and supplies are reimbursable.

If pre-approved, in-kind match including unpaid unskilled volunteer labor at a rate of \$16.00 per hour, or materials, services, or skilled labor donated to the project at no charge are eligible. See in-kind match section of this manual.

Funding Priorities

The DNR is advised in the distribution of these funds by the state’s trail advisory board, the Minnesota Recreational Trail Users Association (MRTUA).

This year’s priorities for funding are as follows:

- Projects that accommodate both motorized and non-motorized uses, including same season access corridors.
- **Projects that involve urban youth corps workers such as Conservation Corps Minnesota will be given special consideration.**
- For all-terrain vehicle, off-highway motorcycle, off-road 4x4 vehicle, and snowmobile projects, priority will be given to trail acquisition and purchase of permanent easements, to trail development and trail linkages to existing systems over equipment purchases. Equipment grants shall not exceed \$75,000.
- For all horse, in-line skate, cross-country ski, hike, and bicycle, priority will be given to trail linkages and restoration to existing trail systems, necessary trail facilities, **trail signage to improve safety**, and trail grooming equipment.
- For mountain bicycle projects, the development of new single track trail systems, located in areas of high user demand, in partnership with city, county, and state land managers will be given priority