Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Recreation & Conservation Grants

Traci Vibo
Grant Coordinator
Division of Parks and Trails
DNR Recreational Grants

DNR Provides Funding Assistance to Local Communities Throughout Minnesota for Recreation Grants & Conservation

Park & Trail Grant Programs:
- Parks and Trails Legacy
- Regional Trail
- Local Trail Connections
- Federal Recreational Trail
- Regional Park
- Outdoor Recreation
- Natural & Scenic Area

Fish & Wildlife Grant Program:
- Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program

Bike trail is from a grant in the City of Blue Earth in Faribault County
Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program

- Grants to local units of government in Greater MN only to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.

- Maximum grant is $500,000, 25% non-state match required

- Program created in 2009, as part of Parks and Trails Legacy Fund

- $7,143,500 Available for Grants (FY12)

- Park and Trail Projects Funded Since 2009:
  - 66 Communities have received funding
  - 213 Miles of new trails funded (Bicycle, ATV, Hike, and Mt. Bike)

$14.7 Million in Grants Awarded
Trail Criteria for Regional or Statewide Significance

Trails of regional significance must meet the first two criteria described below. They should also address the other criteria, not to be understood in isolation, but in their aggregate.

1. Regionally desirable setting: Criteria include attractive, unusual, and/or representative landscapes, important destinations, or high quality natural areas.

2. High quality opportunity and use: The trail serves as a destination, providing high quality recreational opportunities, attracts a regional clientele (multiple communities), potentially may draw tourists, and generates an economic impact from outside the local area. The trail should be developed and maintained to include easy access, secure parking, access to drinking water and other necessary services, and is wide enough (minimum 10ft paved trail) or designed in such a way to avoid user conflict and provide a safe experience.

3. Adequate length: The trail provides at least an hour of outdoor recreation opportunity, or connects to other facilities that can provide at least an hour of recreation in total.

4. Connections: The trail currently or potentially will link to an existing trail of regional or statewide significance. This includes providing connections between significant trails, or connecting communities / community facilities to these trails.

5. Scarcity of Trail Resources: The trail provides a high quality recreational opportunity not otherwise available within a reasonable distance.
Parks and Trails
Legacy Grant Program

- Trail Project Examples:
  - Rochester – Connection to Douglas State Trail
  - Goodhue County – Cannon Valley Trail Improvements
  - Becker County – North Country Trail
  - Aitkin County – North-Woods Regional ATV /OHMTrail
  - Shingobee Township – Connections to the Paul Bunyan and Heartland State Trails in Walker
  - City of Duluth – Cross City Trail Connecting Munger State Trail and Duluth Lakewalk
  - Carlton County – Soo Line Trail Bridge Rehabilitation in Moose Lake
Three Rivers Park District
Elm Creek Mt. Bike Trail
(metro area no longer eligible)

Carlton County in Moose Lake
Rehab Soo-Line Trail Bridge

Alden Township
Superior Hiking Trail

Grand Rapids
TH169 Multi-Use Trail
Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program

Park Criteria for Regional or Statewide Significance

Parks of regional significance must meet the first two criteria described below. The other criteria listed below help further define parks of regional significance.

1. Natural Resource Based Settings and Range of Activities Offered: The park should provide a natural setting and offer outdoor recreation facilities and activities that are primarily natural resource based. Examples include camping, picnicking, hiking, swimming, boating, canoeing, fishing, and nature study. A related measure is the range of these activities accommodated within the park (e.g., a park with a beach, campground and boat launch facilities is more likely to attract a regional clientele than a park with only one of these facilities).

2. Use: Evidence that the park serves at least a regional clientele (multiple communities). Other related factors may include evidence that the facility currently or potentially may draw tourists and generate economic impact from outside the local area.

3. Size: The park should be significant in size. In southern Minnesota, a park of 100 acres is significant. In northern Minnesota, the acreage is generally larger. There are exceptions to this criteria based on use characteristics, special features, and other variables.

4. Special Features: Unique or unusual landscape features, historically significant sites, or parks containing characteristics of regional or statewide significance.

5. Scarcity of Recreational Resources: The park provides public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. Examples include water-based activities, such as swimming, fishing and boating; interpretive nature trails; public campgrounds; etc.
Parks and Trails
Legacy Grant Program

- Park Project Examples
  - Douglas County – Lake Brophy Park - 33.31 acre acquisition
  - Isanti County – Anderson County Park – Construct observation platform and 3 boardwalks
  - Jackson County – Loon Lake Regional Park – Develop 19 campsites
  - Meeker County – Lake Koronis Regional Park – campsite renovations, camper cabins, restroom and trail connection
  - Rochester – Quarry Hill Nature Center – Pond enhancement
  - Redwood Falls – Alexander Ramsey Park – renovate pedestrian overlook and erosion control
  - Stearns County – Quarry Park and Nature Preserve – 39.5 acre acquisition
  - Wright County – Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park – 126.7 acre acquisition that includes 4 undeveloped lakes
Park Grant Programs

- **Regional Park Grant Program**
  - Acquisition, Development/redevelopment of regional park outdoor recreation facilities meeting regional criteria with 40% match requirement – Due 9/28/2012

- **Natural and Scenic Area Grant Program**
  - Fee title acquisition and/or permanent easement acquisition of natural and scenic areas with 50% match requirement – Due 3/30/2012

- **Outdoor Recreation Grant Program**
  - Acquisition, Development/redevelopment of local outdoor facilities with 50% match requirement – Due 3/30/2012

These are all competitive grant programs. Applications are evaluated and ranked according to specific program criteria.
Regional Trail Program

- Grants to local units of government in Greater MN only, to accelerate development of long-distance recreational trails of regional or statewide significance.

- Maximum Matching Grant is $250,000, with 25% non-state match required; cannot match Legacy.

- $1,471,000 Available for Regional and Local Trail Connections Grants

- Trail Projects Funded Since 2001:
  - 25 Communities Have Received Funding
  - 118.1 Miles of Regional Trail Funded
  - $3.5 Million in Grants Awarded
Regional Trail Program

- **Project Examples:**
  - Lake Wobegon Trail in Stearns County
  - Central Lakes Trail in Otter Tail County
  - Swedish Immigrant Trail in Chisago County

Lake Wobegon Trail in Stearns County
Local Trail Connections Program

- Grants to assist local units of government statewide to develop trail connections between where people live and significant public resources and/or facilities.

- Maximum Grant is $150,000, with 25% non-state match required; cannot match Legacy

- $1,471,000 Available for Regional and Local Trail Connections Grants

- Trail Projects Funded Since 2001:
  - 80 Communities Have Received Funding
  - 71.44 Miles of Trail Connections Developed
  - $5.33 Million in Grants Awarded
Local Trail Connections Program

- Project Examples:
  - Access Ramps on Midtown Greenway – Hennepin Co.
  - North Branch – Sunrise Prairie Trail Addition
  - Cambridge-Isanti Bike/Walk Trail
  - Connections to Bruce Vento Regional Trail in St. Paul
  - Two Harbors High School Trail Connection
  - Clearwater Road Trail Link in City of Baxter

Arden Hills Perry Park Trail Connection Project
Federal Recreational Trail Program

- Grants to local units of government statewide for a wide variety of trail-related project, often including partnerships with local trail organizations.

- Funded from Federal Gas Tax

- Maximum Matching Grant is $150,000 with 50% non-federal match required; Legacy, Local and Regional can be match

- $1,100,000 expected to be available for Grants

- Trail Projects Funded Since 2000:
  - 322 Trail Projects Funded
  - $16.5 Million in Grants Awarded
Federal Recreational Trail Program

- Project Examples:
  - Trailhead along Lake Wobegon Trail in Avon
  - Lowertown Connection of Bruce Vento in St. Paul
  - Agassiz Recreational Trail in Northwest Minnesota
  - Snowmobile Trail Groomers
  - Dairyland Trail in Stearns County
  - Superior Hiking Trail Maintenance
  - DNR: North Shore State Trail Bridge Replacements
  - Chisholm ATV Trail
MRTUA Serves as the Advisory Committee for the Federal Recreational Trail Program.

Members represent 10 trail user groups:
- Bicycling
- In-line Skating
- Mountain Bicycling
- Hiking
- Cross-Country Skiing
- Equestrians
- Off-Road Vehicles (Trucks)
- All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)
- Off-Highway Motorcycles (OHM)
- Snowmobilers
Grant Timelines

- **February 28, 2012** – Applications Due for:
  - Federal Recreational Trail Program
- **March 30, 2012** – Applications Due for:
  - Regional Trail Program
  - Local Trail Connections Program
- **September 28, 2012** – Applications Due for
  - Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program

Award Announcements:
- Federal, Local and Regional Grant Programs – July 2012
- Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program – Winter 2012
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL)

- Grants available for Restoring, Enhancing or Protecting all habitats in MN
  - 10% non-state funds for grants under $100,000
  - 15% non-state funds for grants over $100,000
  - Maximum grant award $400,000

- Non-profit organizations and governments are eligible to apply

- Almost $10 million has been awarded since fall of 2009
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL)

- Two rounds available for each funding cycle (spring cycle funds are still remaining)
  - Fall deadline mid-September
  - Spring deadline early February
- About 7 weeks to complete application
- About 10 weeks from deadline until awards are announced
- Grants are about 3 years in length
- Annual reporting is required
Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program (CPL)

- Currently accepting applications, deadline is February 8, 2012 at 5pm. $3.8 million available this round.
- Examples of projects include:
  - Wetland restoration
  - Wildlife habitat enhancements
  - Acquisitions and easements
  - Prairie seeding or woodland projects
- Application and program information available online:
  - [www.mndnr.gov/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html](http://www.mndnr.gov/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html)
Questions?

- Andrew Korsberg, Trail Program Coordinator
  651-259-5642 (Statewide)

- Traci Vibo, Trail Grant Coordinator
  651-259-5619 (Statewide)

- Audrey Mularie, Park Program Coordinator,
  651-259-5549 (Southern MN & East Metro)

- Joe Hiller, Park Program Coordinator,
  651-259-5538 (Northern MN & West Metro)

- Jamie Gangaware, Conservation Grants Specialist
  (CPL program), 651-259-5174

[www.mndnr.gov/grants](http://www.mndnr.gov/grants)
Select Recreation for Park and Trail grants
Select Land Conservation for the CPL program