

RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM FACT SHEET

PURPOSE OF FUNDING: To provide financial assistance for developing and maintaining trails and trail facilities. Trails can be for non-motorized, multi-use and motorized purposes.

PERMISSABLE USES AND PROJECTS: Construction of new trails in existing parks or in new right of way; maintenance and restoration of existing trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for trails (e.g., parking, signage, shelters, sanitary facilities); purchase and lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment; for motorized use only: acquisition of easement and fee simple title to property for trails.

NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING: Land condemnation; trail feasibility studies; law enforcement personnel or activities; road and sidewalk improvements; purchase of promotional materials (e.g., t-shirts, caps, pins); projects on land with railroad tracks; conversion of non-motorized trails to motorized use.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Projects are funded on an 80% federal share and 20% matching share basis. In 2015, approximately \$1,000,000 was available for projects. At the federal level the program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Government Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR CONSIDERATION: Land on which trail facility is to be funded must be public land or private land with an easement for public recreational use.

GRANT LIMITATIONS: Maximum grant award is \$24,000 for non-motorized projects.

TIME TO COMPLETE PROJECT: Two years after notification of award.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES: A current application must be completed in Microsoft Word format and emailed to trails@dep.nj.gov, along with a PDF containing a project map, budget, and all other supporting documents.

FACTORS USED TO EVALUATE APPLICATIONS: Trail links to other trails, population centers or other community destinations; length of trail or trail system affected; project is a partnership; proposal includes a new trail; trail is part of the NJ Trails System; trail will benefit more than one use; project is located in an urbanized area; project links with significant natural, cultural or historic features; trail provides disabled access; proposal is critical for erosion control; trail did not receive a grant in previous year; project will restore trail; Negative factors: application is incomplete or received negative determinations for impacts on cultural or natural features; applicant's past performance on previous grants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications are available at www.trails.nj.gov in March, with a mid- May deadline.

NOTIFICATION DATE: December of the following year.

FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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