

## 2016 Park & Recreation Public Funding Opportunities

Numerous state and federal programs exist to provide funding for park and recreation projects. Following is a summary of the 2016 programs and opportunities for local units of government.

### WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Programs

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2016

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of governments, tribal governments and nonprofit conservation organizations.

**Maximum Grant:** \$250,000 (without Joint Commission approval).

**Local Match Requirement:** 50%

The Stewardship Program includes the following Grants:

- Aids for the Acquisition & Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- Urban Rivers (UR)
- Urban Green Space (UGS)
- Acquisition of Development Rights and Recreation Trails

**Eligible projects:** Each of the above programs has their respective goals, priorities and criteria related to conservation and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities. Following are examples of eligible project types:

- Projects must be consistent with the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)
- Projects must be included in an adopted local Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Land acquisition that will provide opportunities for nature based recreation, water based recreation, preservation of natural areas, etc.
- Development projects meeting the above criteria including: recreation trails, boat landings, fishing piers, picnic areas and development of support facilities such as access roads, parking, restrooms, signage, utility systems and lighting.



### WDNR Federal Recreational Grant Programs Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2016

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of government, tribal governments and school districts.

**Maximum Grant:** \$250,000

**Local Match Required:** 50%

**Eligible Projects:** The LWCF program funds the following eligible projects:

- Projects must be consistent with SCORP and Local Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Land acquisition
- Development of outdoor recreation facilities including active sports and non-nature based facilities
- Eligible projects under the Stewardship Acquisition & Development of Local Parks Programs

### Recreational Trails Act (RTA)

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2016

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of government, tribal governments, school districts, state agencies or incorporated organizations

**Maximum Grant:** \$45,000

**Local Match Required:** 50%

**Eligible Projects:** The RTA program funds the following eligible projects:

- Projects must be consistent with SCORP and Local Recreation Trail Plan
- Land acquisition
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities.
- Development of new trails



## WDNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant

**Application Deadline:** Continuous Application Cycle. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission meets quarterly to review applications.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of governments and qualified lake associations

**Maximum grants:** No maximum, but \$500,000 is largest grant award.

**Local Match Required:** 60% of eligible costs. In recent years most grants are 40%.

**Eligible projects:**

- Construction projects including: navigational dredging, boat ramps, boarding docks, bulkheads and breakwaters, and support facilities such as access roads, parking lots, sanitary facilities, signage, fencing and security lighting.
- Navigational aids and markers
- Weed harvesting equipment and trash skimming equipment



## DOT Alternatives Program

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be released in late October 2015.

Application deadline is scheduled for January 29, 2016.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of government.

**Maximum Grants:** 80% of eligible project costs.

**Preferred Grant Size:** \$300,000 to \$500,000.

**Local Match Required:** 20%

**Eligible Projects:** This program was created by the new federal transportation bill (MAP 21). This program replaces the Transportation Enhancement, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program and Safe-Routes to Schools programs. 50% of the funds will be given to urban areas and 50% available for rural areas. The expectation is that the new program will continue to fund projects included in the previous programs being replaced. Typical projects include:

- Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities
- Safe Routes for Non-Drivers
- Scenic Turnouts and Overlooks
- Conversion of Abandoned Railway Corridors to Trails
- Historic Preservation & Rehab of Historic Transportation Facilities

## Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)

TIF is an important tool for municipalities to help fund infrastructure and development projects. To the extent that recreation facilities are a necessary component to achieve the goals of the TIF program, TIF can be used to fund recreational facilities. Eligible projects would need to be located within a Tax Increment District (TID) or within one-half mile of a TID. The project must be identified in the TID Project Plan to be eligible.

## Other Programs

In addition to the above programs, numerous other programs exist to fund park and recreation projects, such as:

- All Terrain Vehicle
- County Conservation Aids
- County Park & Recreation Programs
- Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration
- Snowmobile Trail Aids



*Vierbicher has been successful in securing more than \$85 million in grant funding for public projects. For additional information regarding any of these programs, or other opportunities for public funding, please contact:*

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