

2018 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 2018 programs and opportunities for local units of government.

WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program

Application Deadline: May 1, 2018

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

Maximum Grant: No maximum (additional review requirements exist for grants that exceed \$250,000)

Local Match Requirement: 50%

The Stewardship Program includes the following subprograms:

- 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 subprograms 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 included in or support the goals of 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, 2018

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

Maximum Grant: No maximum

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 nature-based and active sports facilities

Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Application Deadline: May 1, 2018

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

Maximum Grant: \$200,000 (for 2018-2019 grant cycle)

Local Match Required: 50%

Eligible Projects: The RTP program funds the following eligible projects:

- Projects must further a specific goal or are included in the SCORP or a local plan referenced in SCORE
- Land acquisition
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities.
- Development of new trails
- Land acquisition



WDNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant

Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2018, June 1, 2018 and Nov. 1, 2018. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission meets quarterly to review applications and/or discuss policy issues.

Eligible Applicants: Local units of governments and qualified lake associations

Maximum grants: No maximum. \$800,000 is largest grant in recent years.

Maximum grant = 50% of eligible costs.

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 were released in late October 2017.

Application deadline is scheduled for January 29, 2018.

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

*Vierbicher has secured nearly \$100 million in grant funding and created over 125 tax increment districts.
For additional information regarding public funding programs, please contact:*

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