

## 2021 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 2021 programs and opportunities for local units of government.

### WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2021.

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



### Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF)

**Application Deadline:** May 1, 2021.

**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, 2021.

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

**Maximum Grant:** \$200,000 for 2021 grant cycle.

**Local Match Required:** 50%.

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

- Projects must further a specific goal, are included in the SCORP or a local Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- Land acquisition or easements.
- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails.
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside, trailhead facilities and trail linkages.
- Development of new trails.
- Assessment of trail conditions.



## WDNR Recreational Boating Facilities Grant

**Application Deadline:** November 1, 2020, February 1, 2021, and June 1, 2021. The Wisconsin Waterways Commission meets quarterly to review applications and/or discuss policy issues.

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of government and qualified lake associations.

**Maximum grants:** 50% of eligible costs, up to 80% if deemed regional or statewide significance.

**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 Transportation Alternatives Program

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be released in summer of 2024. Application deadline is scheduled for January 2022.

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

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

**Local Match Required:** 20%.

**Eligible Projects:** This program was created by the new federal transportation bill (FAST Act). 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% will be 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 over \$100 million in grant funding and created/amended over 200 tax increment districts. For additional information regarding public funding programs, please contact:*

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