

2022 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 2022 programs and opportunities for local units of government.

WDNR Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program

Application Deadline: May 1, 2022.

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, 2022.

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, 2022.

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

Maximum Grant: \$200,000 for 2022 grant cycle.

Local Match Required: 50%.

Eligible Projects: The RTA 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, 2021, February 1, 2022, and June 1, 2022. 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 \$120 million in grant funding and created/amended over 235 tax increment districts. For additional information regarding public funding programs, please contact:

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