

# Recreational Trails Program Application

## 19. ELIGIBLE PROJECT CATEGORIES

The following is a list of the types of projects which may be funded with Recreational Trails Program funds. Check all categories that apply to the application.

\_\_\_\_\_ **New trail construction** – List and describe type(s) of trail to be constructed, proposed trail use, width and length.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Environmental mitigation/enhancement** - measures that provide design, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance, or relocation of trails in order to mitigate and minimize impact on the natural environment.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Development of trailhead and trailside facilities -**

1. ADA Accessibility Infrastructure
2. Water and Sanitary Facilities
3. Trail and Trailhead Signage
4. Trail/Road Crossings
5. Drainage/Stabilization
6. Small trailhead parking areas

\_\_\_\_\_ **Restoration of areas damaged by usage** - (includes installation of erosion control measures, repair of damages due to over-use, and/or impacts by non-permitted trail users, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Acquisition of land** - (must be a willing seller and the Uniform Act must be followed)

1. Fee Simple (preferred)
2. Permanent public use easement purchased by (donated to) Agency.

## 2010 RTP Scoring Criteria

**20. The four items(A-D) listed below are MANDATORY and will not receive points toward the score of the RTP grant application.**

**A. PROJECT SUMMARY - Provide a maximum one-page summary of the project.**

This summary should describe the scope of the project and briefly justify the need and demand for the project. Applicant should address how the proposed project meets the “intent” of the RTP eligible project criteria as described in the application. Any special issues or significant features of the project should be included. **Try to “sell” your project in this one-page summary.**

**B. PLANNING PROCESS – Document the planning process (public involvement and support) for the project.**

Is this trail project part of a Comprehensive Trail System Master Plan?

**1. RTP Pre-Application was complete (attach RES letter)**

***5 Bonus points for successful RTP Pre-Application!***

Planning component, project description, management system (operations/maintenance) in place, **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMPLETE with Categorical Exclusion Request complete and signed.**

**2. Identified as having the highest demand (through local public input).**

Applicant can use the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities, Threats, (SWOT) assessment process to identify the need for the trail project or the project can be identified in a comprehensive local Park and Recreation Master Plan or a comprehensive local Greenways and Trails Plan. Plan should be no more than 5 years old.

**3. Identified in the 2003-08 Tennessee State Recreation Plan (TSRP). See Proposal 9, pages 47-51 of the TSRP. Go to: <http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/plan>**

**4. Identified as a benefit in the 2008 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan (TGTP). See the website listed above to view a copy of the 2008 TGTP.**

**C. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION/MITIGATION/SUSTAINABILITY – This includes a completed Categorical Exclusion request packet with all letters received from the Environmental Review Agencies and the concerns in the letters addressed in CE under the appropriate section.**

Describe how the project provides for the redesign, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or relocation of the trail or trailhead in order to minimize the impact of the trail project on the natural environment resulting in a sustainable project. Example is building a boardwalk over a wetland area, constructing grade reversal dips into an existing trail to stop erosion, filling low places with gravel to harden the surface, armoring the trail surface with rocks, etc.

**D. MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS - Provide a detailed management overview illustrating who will manage the project during construction and who will provide operations and maintenance after completion. Include written documentation on operations and maintenance staff, budget, safety and security (rules of operation) and programming.**

## Project Selection Criteria

- 21. PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA** – Explain how the project meets the following project selection criteria. Application must provide information on all the items listed below in order to receive the maximum score. Use a maximum of one page for each lettered item.
- A. CONNECTIONS** – Describe how the trail project provides links to other trails, greenways, scenic corridors, schools, neighborhoods, commercial areas and parks. *(0-30 points)*
- Is the trail project part of a phased trail system?  
Does the trail project link two existing sections of trail?  
Does the trail project connect a park with a school or to a neighborhood?  
How is the trail used for a personal/public health connection?  
How is the trail used to provide environmental education connections.
- B. PARTNERSHIPS** – Document support for the trail project and public/private partnerships between public agencies and trail user groups. *(0-20 points)*
- Include letters of intent from volunteer groups committing donations of labor, materials, or equipment for the trail project.  
Is there a written Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in place and is it working?
- C. VOLUNTEERISM** – Provide written details (letters about donated materials and services) from volunteer organizations (Friends Groups, Trail Use clubs, Environmental or Civic Clubs) that will be used to construct, operate or maintain this project. Include information on Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), AmeriCorps or other volunteer organizations. *(0-20 points)*
- D. DIVERSE USE Trails** – List the different types of use of the trail project showing it can accommodate more than ONE variety of non-motorized (hiking, equestrian, fitness, interpretive, paddle sport, multi-use, mountain bicycling, accessible trails) **OR** motorized recreation activities (motorcycle, ATV, 4-wheel drive). *(0-15 points)*
- E. ON SITE INSPECTION** – will be grant project focused *and may* include other parks or trails operated and maintained by the grant applicant. *(0-15 points)*

**MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS (Items A – E) ARE 105!**