



2015 RESOURCE GUIDE

GRANTS FOR YOUR PARK OR TRAIL

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This guide would not exist without the many dedicated professionals working on grant programs for parks and trails across Minnesota. A big thank you to the following individuals who provided information, guidance, and reviewed drafts of this guide. Their assistance in this project is greatly appreciated:

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Jay Cooke State Park
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2015 DEADLINE CALENDAR



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INTRODUCTION

Last year, over seven million dollars were granted to communities and organizations across Minnesota to acquire, develop, construct, and renovate parks and trails. And that sum only includes the funds specifically reserved for outdoor recreation in Minnesota. Many other grant opportunities exist, both nationally and within Minnesota, that are designed to help develop, market, and support public goods such as your favorite park or trail.

Applying for grants can be hard and stressful work, and often the challenge begins with not knowing what opportunities are available. Since grants are offered by a wide variety of institutions, each with different deadlines, application processes, and qualifying criteria, finding the best fit can be a daunting task. The purpose of this guide is to pull all those opportunities together in one place, provide a brief background of each, and lead interested applicants in the right direction for more information.

How can Parks & Trails Council help with your park or trail project?

Parks & Trails Council exists to acquire, protect, and enhance critical land for the public's use and benefit. Nothing makes us more excited than seeing special places



Lake Bronson State Park
© Gary Alan Nelson

protected for future generations to enjoy. That's why for over 60 years we've worked with organized groups of citizens and state and local governments to protect land that is today enjoyed by millions of Minnesotans.

You are probably reading this grant guide because you are looking for ways to fund a park or trail project in your community. We understand that acquiring critical pieces of land is urgent and time-sensitive work, and all too often public funds and grants aren't immediately available when land acquisition opportunities present themselves. As you prepare your grant application, please keep in mind that the Parks & Trails Council is uniquely positioned to help you purchase critical pieces of land and hold them in trust while public agency's work on securing necessary funding through grants or otherwise.

Please contact us if you think Parks & Trails Council can help with your park or trail project, or if you know of any grant opportunities we have missed. This guide is meant to be dynamic and will be updated at least once annually to reflect the constantly shifting world of grant funding.

Happy grant writing!



Cannon Valley Regional Trail
© Dave Simpkins

FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAIL PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
February 27, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$30,000 - \$85,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
25% - 50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To provide funds for trail activities and facilities that support a wide variety of motorized and non-motorized trail activities. Special consideration is given to projects involving urban youth worker programs, such as the Minnesota Conservation Corp.

WHO CAN APPLY? All projects must be sponsored by a unit of government. Preference is given to projects that have a local trail partner organization.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Acquisition and development for new trails; contracted maintenance on existing trails; development of permanent trailside facilities; and purchases of equipment. Priority projects for 2015 include trail linkages, trail rehabilitation, trail signs to increase safety, trail grooming equipment, and single-track mountain biking trails.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE The maximum grant is \$150,000. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 25% of the total project cost (50% for equipment purchases over \$75,000). Funding for 2015 is approximately \$1.7 million.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by a portion of federal excise taxes on off-highway recreation fuel, which is deposited into the Federal Highway Trust Fund and appropriated to each state. States are required to use 40% for diverse recreational trail use, 30% for motorized use, and 30% for non-motorized use.

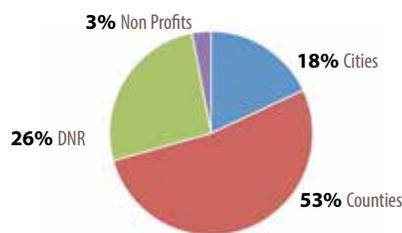
REVIEW PROCESS The Minnesota Recreation Trail Users Association reviews grant priorities, applications, and recommends projects to be funded. Selected projects are then reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Applicants are encouraged to submit draft materials by February 2, 2015 to receive comments from DNR staff.

GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010	\$2,841,368	43	\$66,241
2011	\$3,441,397	39	\$88,241
2012	\$926,427	14	\$66,173
2013	\$2,168,385	37	\$58,605
2014	\$2,256,697	34	\$66,373

2014 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
Department of Natural Resources	Resurfaced and widened 6 miles of Glacial Lakes State Trail	\$150,000
City of Northfield	Helped complete 2.6 mile trail connection	\$120,000
Goodhue County	Purchased tractor with attachments for Cannon Valley Trail	\$48,869
Superior Hiking Trail Association	Replaced bridge and boardwalk along Superior Hiking Trail	\$46,000
City of Ely	Purchased a new snowmobile for ski trail grooming	\$10,867

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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

[2015 Program Manual](#)

[Federal Hwy. Administration](#)



LOCAL TRAILS CONNECTION PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 31, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$70,000 - \$110,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
25% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To accelerate the acquisition and development of local trail connections between where people live and significant public resources (e.g., historical areas, parks, other trails). This program is not intended to create significant new trails.

WHO CAN APPLY? All local units of government. Trail organizations and/or user groups may apply, but only in coordination with a local unit of government.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Land acquisition from willing sellers; Trail construction and/or restoration; Permanent trailside improvements (e.g., drainage, parking, bathrooms); ADA compliance projects; Contracted maintenance; Bridge construction and restoration. Projects within state park boundaries or wilderness areas are not eligible for funding.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$5,000 to \$150,000. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 25% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded primarily by the Minnesota State Lottery. Every year, the State Lottery returns 6.5% of gross sales to the state as a payment "in lieu of" sales tax. From these proceeds, state law dictates 2.2% is spent on local trail grants. These dollars are divided between the Local Trails Connection Program and the Regional Trail Program. In some past years, state bond sales and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund have also been used to fund local trail grant programs.

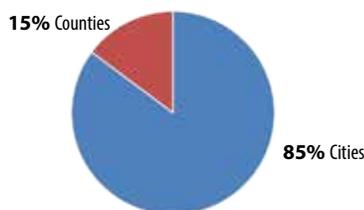
REVIEW PROCESS The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews all applications and makes final funding decisions. Priority is given to projects that provide significant connectivity, with consideration also given to trail length, amount of use, and quality of natural and cultural resources. Applicants are encouraged to submit draft materials by March 2, 2015 to receive comments from DNR staff.

GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010	\$655,000	9	\$72,778
2011	\$971,666	13	\$74,744
2012	\$1,067,505	11	\$97,045
2013	\$805,000	8	\$100,625
2014	\$770,000	7	\$110,000

2014 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
City of Luverne	Developed a 1.61 mile paved trail connecting a local park and school	\$150,000
Kandiyohi County	Connected Willmar High School with Glacial Lakes State Trail	\$113,904
City of Melrose	Trail connection between Sauk River Dam and Lake Wobegon Regional Trail	\$109,095
City of White Bear Lake	Construction of two sections of the Lake Links Trail	\$100,096
City of Chisholm	Rehabilitation and development of 2.5 miles around Longyear Lake	\$33,000

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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

[2015 Program Manual](#)



REGIONAL TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 31, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$100,000 - \$170,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
25% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To accelerate the acquisition and development of long-distance, regionally significant trails outside of the seven-county metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington).

WHO CAN APPLY? All local units of government (e.g., cities, counties, townships) outside of the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible to apply. Trail organizations and/or user groups may apply, but only in coordination with a local unit of government.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Land acquisition from willing sellers; Trail construction and/or restoration; Permanent trailside improvements (e.g., drainage, parking, bathrooms); ADA compliance projects; Contracted maintenance; Bridge construction and restoration. Projects within state park boundaries or in state trail corridors not eligible for funding.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$5,000 to \$250,000. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 25% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded primarily by the Minnesota State Lottery. Every year, the State Lottery returns 6.5% of gross sales to the state as a payment "in lieu of" sales tax. From these proceeds, state law dictates 2.2% is spent on local trail grants. These dollars are divided between the Local Trails Connection Program and the Regional Trail Program. In some past years, state bond sales and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund have also been used to fund local trail grant programs.

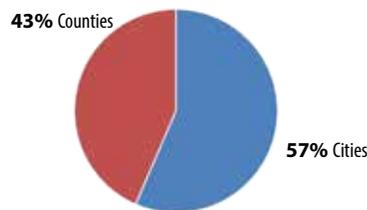
REVIEW PROCESS The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews all applications and makes final funding decisions. Priority is given to projects that develop trails of significant length, projects that are expected to have high usage, and projects that provide an unique and interesting connection to the outdoors. Applicants are encouraged to submit draft materials by March 2, 2015 to receive comments from DNR staff.

GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010	\$225,000	1	\$225,000
2011	\$500,000	2	\$250,000
2012	\$398,611	3	\$132,778
2013	\$200,000	1	\$200,000
2014	\$235,000	2	\$117,500

2012-2014 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2012-2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
City of St. Cloud	Developed 0.8 miles of Beaver Island Trail to River Bluffs Regional Park	\$200,000
Mille Lacs County	Removed and replaced failed cross culverts on the Soo Line Trail	\$200,000
Itasca County	Reconstructed and widened 6.16 miles of the Mesabi Trail	\$162,500
City of Bemidji	Paved 1.6 miles of the East-West trail along the Soo Line Corridor	\$85,000
City of Monticello	Constructed trailhead facility and segments of the Monticello Great River Trailway	\$36,111

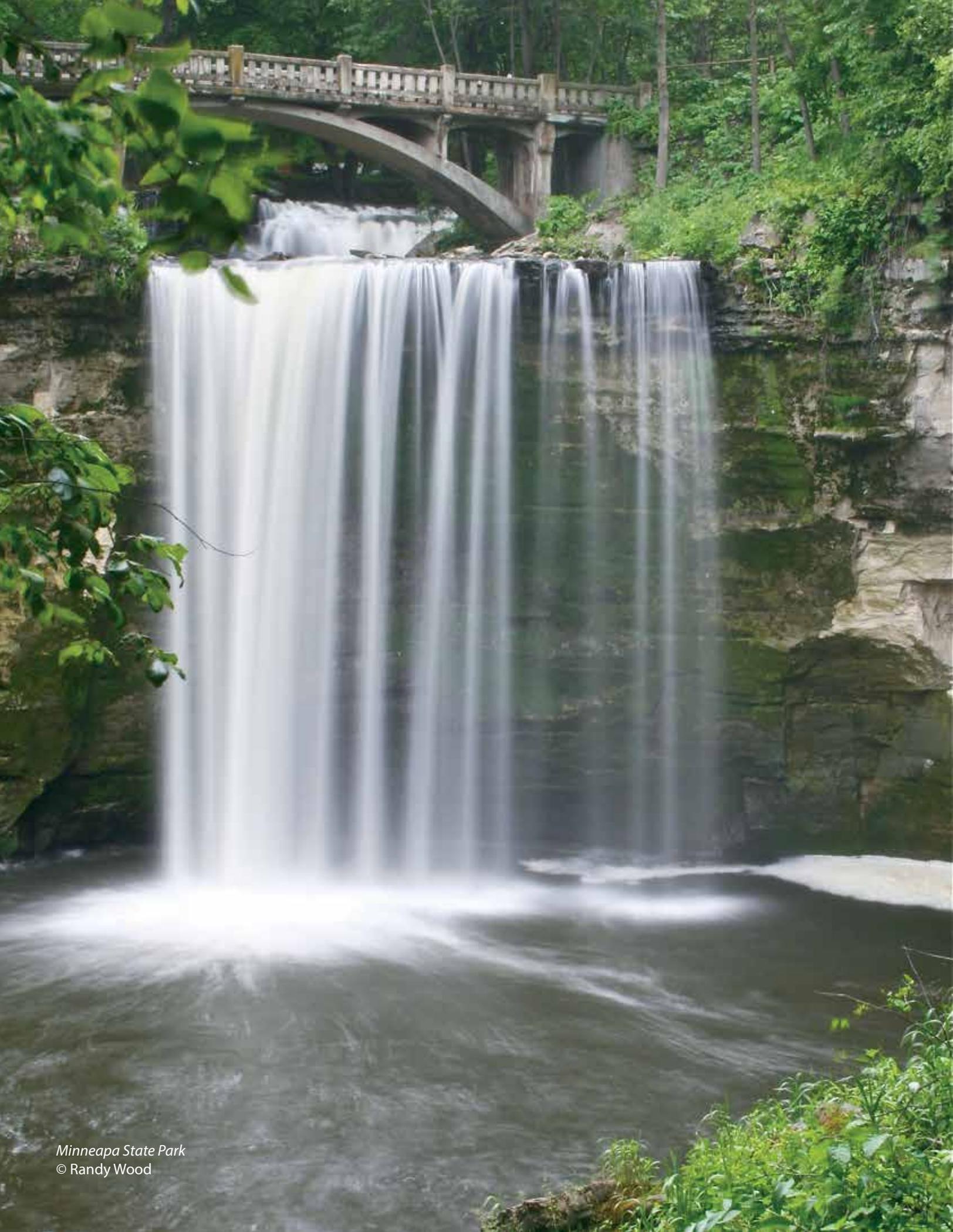
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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

[2015 Program Manual](#)

[Regionally Significant Criteria](#)



OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 31, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$35,000 - \$65,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To provide funds to local governments for acquiring parkland and developing, or redeveloping, outdoor recreation facilities.

WHO CAN APPLY? All cities, counties, townships, and recognized tribal governments are eligible. The applicant must be the current or intended owner and manager of the property to be acquired and/or developed.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Acquisition, development, redevelopment, and/or rehabilitation of outdoor recreation facilities, including but not limited to: boat/canoe access sites, campgrounds, fishing areas, skating rinks, nature areas, picnic shelters, playgrounds, sports fields and courts, swimming areas, splash parks, and non-motorized trails within a park boundary.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 50% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded with federal dollars from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON). Since 1965, LAWCON has provided matching grants to federal, state, and local governments for outdoor recreation projects. Income for LAWCON is primarily from fees paid by companies drilling for oil and gas in the Outer Continental Shelf.

REVIEW PROCESS The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews all applications and, if necessary, conducts site visits. Applications are judged based upon consistency with the strategic directions identified in the 2014-2018 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, including connecting people the outdoors, acquiring land, taking care of what we have, and coordinating among partners. Additionally, proposed projects are judged based upon the local match, project readiness, site quality, and facility design. Applicants are encouraged to submit draft materials by March 3, 2015 to receive comments from DNR staff.

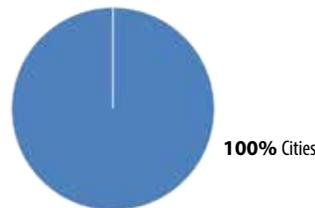
GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010 *			
2011 *			
2012	\$327,224	10	\$32,722
2013	\$369,713	1	\$369,000
2014	\$349,676	7	\$49,954

* The Outdoor Recreation Grant Program was not funded in 2010-2011

2014 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
City of Adrian	Replaced outdated and unsafe playground at Adrian Campground	\$21,800
City of Canby	Redeveloped playground and swimming pool for safety and accessibility	\$27,000
City of Monticello	Acquired 10.6 acres for recreation and athletic fields	\$100,000
City of Richfield	Constructed boat launch, fishing platforms, and walking paths at Taft Park	\$54,276
City of Rockford	Expanded camping area, developed restrooms, and improved swimming beach	\$60,400

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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

[2015 Program Manual](#)

[Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)



Elm Creek Park Reserve
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GREATER MINNESOTA LEGACY GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated June 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$250,000 - \$650,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
None Required

** Greater Minnesota Legacy grants were selected by the Minnesota DNR through 2014. Pending legislative approval, it is anticipated that the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission will assume this responsibility starting in calendar year 2015.*

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To assist in the acquisition, development, improvement, or restoration of regionally significant parks and trails outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

WHO CAN APPLY? All local units of government outside the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible to apply. Local units of government within the seven-county metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington county) should contact the Metropolitan Council.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Land acquisition for development of trails or outdoor recreation facilities; development, redevelopment or rehabilitation of existing trails or outdoor recreation facilities; and protection or restoration of natural resources within parks and trails. Projects must be within a designated regional park or trail in Greater Minnesota.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE There is no minimum or maximum request. Applicants are not required to provide a match, but projects with a non-state cash contributions will receive additional consideration. Past grants have ranged from \$20,000 to \$1.5 million.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by the "Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment," which was passed by voters in 2008. The Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax 3/8 of one percent and dedicated 14% of new revenues to a Parks & Trails Fund. A portion of the Parks & Trails Legacy Fund supports regional parks and trails in Greater Minnesota.

REVIEW PROCESS The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission receives, reviews, and evaluates all applications. Projects are selected based upon criteria in the Parks & Trails Legacy Plan, the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan and Funding Program, the availability of a non-state cash match, and the projects overall quality, readiness, and design.

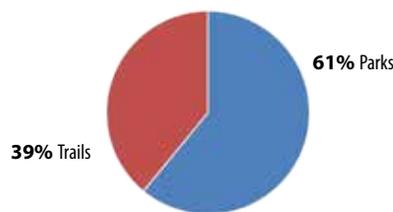
GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010	\$4,192,500	17	\$246,618
2011	\$7,143,350	28	\$255,120
2012	\$7,493,850	13	\$576,450
2013	\$3,391,680*	6	\$565,280
2014	\$3,914,880*	10	\$391,488

* Additionally, the Minnesota legislature line-itemed 15 Legacy projects in Greater Minnesota totaling \$9.3 million for 2013 and 2014.

2013-14 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
Wright County	Acquired 50 acre addition to Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park	\$1,000,000
City of St. Cloud	Acquired 16.2 acre addition to River Bluffs Regional Park	\$400,000
City of Rochester	Constructed 2.1 mile trail connecting Rochester to Chester Woods State Trail	\$400,000
Stearns County	Constructed 3.2 miles of the Lake Wobegon Trail from St. Joseph to Waite Park	\$250,000
Murray County	Replaced picnic shelter and other campground amenities at Seven Mile Lake Park	\$60,000

MORE INFORMATION:

Greater Minnesota Regional Parks & Trails Commission

GMRPTCommission@gmail.com

Online Resources:

[GMRPTC Website](#)

[GMRPTC Districts](#)

[GMRPTC Strategic Plan](#)

[Parks & Trails Legacy Plan](#)



Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
© Craig Blacklock

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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

ARCHERY RANGE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated August 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$2,500 - \$10,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To support development of new archery ranges in counties, cities, and regional public parks.

WHO CAN APPLY? Public parks and recreation agencies in Minnesota at the county, regional, or city level.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS New archery range developments, including construction of backstop berms, target holders, bow racks, protective fencing, signs, platforms, or other items considered essential for the development and operation of the range.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$2,500 to \$10,000. Costs must be incurred and paid for before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 50% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by appropriations out of the Heritage Enhancement account of the Game and Fish Fund. The Heritage Enhancement account receives revenue from the Minnesota State Lottery.

REVIEW PROCESS A three-person staff panel at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews and scores all applications. Projects are scored on a 100-point scale: Project location and need (50 points), financial need (20 points), and project feasibility (30 points).



ARCHERY RANGE REHABILITATION GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
March 27, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$1,500 - \$5,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To support rehabilitation of existing static archery ranges managed by counties, cities, or public recreation and park agencies.

WHO CAN APPLY? Public parks and recreation agencies in Minnesota at the county, regional, or city level.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Replacement or upgrading of target butts and frames; acquisition and installation of safety signage and other rule-related signage; and acquisition, materials, construction and installation of bow racks and ground quivers. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2015.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Costs must be incurred and paid before reimbursement. The grantee must cover at least 50% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by appropriations out of the Heritage Enhancement account of the Game and Fish Fund. The Heritage Enhancement account receives revenue from the Minnesota State Lottery.

REVIEW PROCESS A three-person staff panel at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews and scores all applications. Projects are scored on a 100-point scale: Project location and need (50 points), financial need (20 points), and project feasibility (30 points).

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Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)

[Grant Application Packet \(2015\)](#)



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated October 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$300,000 - \$550,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
20% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To support alternatives to automobile transit, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities, access to public transportation and enhanced mobility, community improvement activities, environmental mitigation, and safe routes to schools.

WHO CAN APPLY? Local governments; regional transportation authorities; transit agencies; natural resource and public land agencies; school districts, local education agencies, or schools; and tribal governments are all eligible to apply. Applicants within the Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area should contact and apply through the Metropolitan Council.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Construction, planning, and design of on-road and off-road trail facilities for non-motorized forms of transportation, including: sidewalks, bicycle infrastructure, pedestrian and bicycle signals, traffic calming techniques, light and other safety-related infrastructure, ADA compliance, and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into trails. Per Minnesota rules, engineering activities and the purchase of right-of-ways are not eligible.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants are recommended to range from \$100,000 to \$1 million. The grantee must cover at least 20% of the projects total cost. Approximately \$13 million is expected to be available annually.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by the Highway Account of the Highway Trust Fund for Federal-aid highways, of which 2% is reserved for transportation alternatives and appropriated to each state. The Minnesota Department of Transportation allocates Minnesota's share of these federal funds to each of the eight Area Transportation Partnerships based upon population.

REVIEW PROCESS Applicants must first submit a Letter of Intent to their regional Area Transportation Partnership. The letter of intent process coaches the applicant through the grant process, helps the applicant balance effort with the likelihood of receiving funds, and ensures the full requirements of federal funding are understood. Following the Letter of Intent, full applications are received, evaluated, and selected by each Area Transportation Partnership's committee. Projects are evaluated on their connection to statewide and regional plans, their connection to safe routes to school, their transportation purpose, and the feasibility of being completed on schedule.

Selected examples of grants awarded in 2013-2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
Dakota County.....	Constructed 4.3 miles of the Mississippi River Regional Trail in Rosemount.....	\$1,040,000
Three Rivers Park District.....	Constructed "on ramps" along the regional trail system.....	\$1,040,000
Stearns County Parks.....	Constructed 3.2 miles along the Lake Wobegon Trail.....	\$922,678
Minnesota DNR.....	Constructed 1 mile of the Gitchi Gami State Trail near Tofte.....	\$600,000
City of Olivia.....	Constructed 3 miles along the Prairie View Regional Trail.....	\$600,000
City of Rochester.....	Constructed 2.1 miles connecting the city's trails to the DNR state trail system.....	\$531,520
Watonwan County.....	Constructed final 4 miles of the Watline Trail between St. James and Ormsby.....	\$400,000
Wabasha County.....	Resurfaced existing trail and paved existing shoulders along Hwy. 30.....	\$322,505
City of Bemidji.....	Installed a safer pedestrian crossing near the entrance of Paul Bunyan Park.....	\$196,000
City of Barnesville.....	Trail-connection between a campground, athletic fields, and a commercial area.....	\$146,873

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Baxter (MnDOT District 3)
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Detroit Lakes (MnDOT District 4)
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Roseville (MnDOT District 5)
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Rochester (MnDOT District 6)
(507) 286-7500

Mankato (MnDOT District 7)
(507) 304-6100

Willmar (MnDOT District 8)
(320) 231-5195

Online Resources:

[Minnesota Department of Transportation](#)

[Application Guidebook \(2014\)](#)

[Federal Highway Administration](#)



MRPF NEW INITIATIVE GRANT PROGRAM



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated November 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$1,000 - \$1,500

LOCAL COST SHARE:
50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To spur innovation in parks and recreation services at a local, regional, or state-wide level that ultimately could have state-wide impact. The program is intended to allow agencies to try new programs that may not be in their budget allocations.

WHO CAN APPLY? All applicants must have a sponsoring government agency or non-profit organization. Either the applicant or sponsoring agency must be a member of the Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation. Annual memberships start at \$25.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Programs and services that demonstrate innovation in parks and recreation services and have future applicability for other agencies at a local, regional, or state-wide level. Ineligible projects include capital improvements, funding for existing programs and services, full-time personnel, and on-going expenses.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE The maximum grant request is \$2,000. The grantee must cover at least 50% of the project's total cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by charitable contributions to the Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS A panel of Minnesota Recreation and Park Foundation board members and/or contributing members reviews the applications and makes final funding decisions. Applications are evaluated on their innovative approach, community need and support, feasibility of the program being used by other agencies throughout Minnesota, how the program will be assessed, and the project's overall budget.

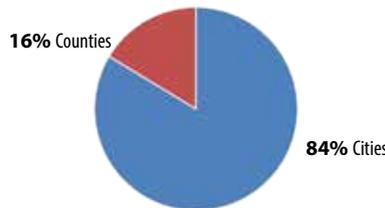
GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010 *			
2011 *			
2012 ...	\$4,000	5	\$800
2013 ...	\$3,000	2	\$1,500
2014 ...	\$4,000	3	\$1,333

* Numbers for 2010-11 are not currently available

2012-14 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2013-2014

Grantee	Project Title	Awarded
City of Inver Grove Heights	Foot Golf	\$1,500
City of Forest Lake	Pop up Parks	\$1,500
Ramsey County	Playgrounds for Parents	\$1,000
Minneapolis Park Board	Mobile Pollination Education Station	\$1,500
City of Chaska, City of Victoria, and Carver County	Bike Konnect Event	\$1,500

MORE INFORMATION:

Lisa Abernathy
(952) 924-2539
labernathy@stlouispark.org

Minnesota Recreation & Park Foundation
200 Charles Street NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Online Resources:

[Minnesota Recreation & Park Foundation Website](#)

[Application Brochure \(2014\)](#)



Nerstrand Big Woods State Park
© Matt Kaiser

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact your Explore Minnesota Tourism regional representative:

Southern Minnesota:
Dave Vogel • 507-389-2683
dave.vogel@state.mn.us

Northeast Minnesota:
Tim Campbell • 218-302-6378
tim.campbell@state.mn.us

Northwest Minnesota:
David Bergman • 218-681-0997
david.bergman@state.mn.us

Central Minnesota:
Carol Altepeter • 218-828-2334
carol.altepeter@state.mn.us

Minneapolis-St. Paul Metro:
Gayle Junnila • 651-757-1852
gayle.junnila@state.mn.us

Online Resources:
[Explore Minnesota Tourism](#)

EXPLORE MINNESOTA GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated October 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$250 - \$\$8,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
50% - 66% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To help communities promote their area of the state to potential out-of-state travelers. The program is not specifically aimed at promoting parks and/or trails, but parks and/or trails may be a central component of a community's promotional campaign. Grants are intended to increase the number of travelers to Minnesota and develop industry partnerships to expand marketing reach.

WHO CAN APPLY? Non-profit organizations formed for the primary purpose of tourism promotion or having tourism marketing as a major component of their programming, including statewide organizations representing a single facet of the travel industry or a local organization representing all facets of a community's tourism industry.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Advertising costs associated with a wide variety of mediums, including broadcast, print, freestanding inserts, Internet, television and radio, and direct mailings to potential consumers. At least 50% of the total grant awarded must be used for marketing outside Minnesota.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$250 to \$8,000. Applicants with organizational budgets less than \$100,000 are required to match grant funds 1:1. Applicants with organizational budgets greater than \$100,000 must provide a 2:1 match.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature.

REVIEW PROCESS Explore Minnesota staff review all applications for compliance and accuracy. Funds are awarded based upon availability and organization eligibility.



STATE PARK ROAD ACCOUNT PROGRAM

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

Anticipated November 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:

\$150,000 - \$600,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:

None Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To help local governments improve access to public recreation facilities by providing assistance to improve county state-aid, county, township, and city roads which provide access to outdoor recreation units.

WHO CAN APPLY? All county, township, and city governments are eligible to apply.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Projects that establish, locate, relocate, construct, reconstruct, and/or improve public roads that provide access to state parks, state trails, state scientific and natural areas, state wilderness areas, state forests, state wildlife management areas, or state water access sites.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE There is no minimum or maximum request amount. Project costs for construction and right-of-way acquisition are reimbursable for up to 100% of the eligible costs. Matching funds are encouraged but not required. Awards in 2014 ranged from \$30,000 to \$1.25 million; Approximately \$3 million is expected to be available in 2015.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by the County State-Aid Highway fund, which receives a portion of taxes on motor fuels, vehicle registrations, vehicle sales, and vehicle leases. A small portion of the County State-Aid Highway fund is reserved for the State Park Road Account Program.

REVIEW PROCESS The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reviews and ranks all applications and makes final funding decisions. Approved projects are then forwarded to the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Projects are scored based on safety improvements, enhanced access to recreation sites, amount of traffic, and local cost share.

MORE INFORMATION:

David B. Sobania
Principal Engineer
(218) 828-2620
dave.sobania@state.mn.us
Minnesota DNR
Management Resources
1601 Minnesota Drive
Brainerd, MN 56401

Online Resources:
[Minnesota DNR](#)



Minneapa State Park
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HISTORICAL & CULTURAL HERITAGE GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

< \$10,000: Rolling
> \$10,000: July 31, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:

\$5,000 - \$30,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:

None Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To support history programs and projects, and to preserve significant historic and cultural resources. While not specifically intended for park and trail projects, the Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grants Program is applicable to parks and trails that preserve and/or promote historic and cultural resources.

WHO CAN APPLY? Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, government units, Native American tribes, and educational organizations and institutions are eligible to apply.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Care and management of historical collections; interpretive programs and public education; museum archives; oral history projects; heritage tourism; historic building planning and preservation; and new National Register designations. Applicants should check with the Minnesota Historical Society to see if their park or trail project is eligible before completing an application.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Small grants for under \$10,000 are awarded four times a year and are intended to fund projects that can be completed within 12 months. Grants above \$10,000 are awarded once per year. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by the "Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment," which was passed by voters in 2008. The Legacy Amendment increased the state sales tax 3/8 of one percent and dedicated 19.75% of the new revenue to a Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund to support the arts and preserve Minnesota's history and cultural heritage. A portion of the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund is used to fund the Minnesota Historical & Cultural Heritage Grants Program.

REVIEW PROCESS For grants under \$10,000, Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) staff review all applications and either return constructive feedback or recommend the project to the MHS Executive Committee. Grantees seeking larger grants must pre-apply and incorporate feedback from MHS staff. Final applications are then submitted to the Historic Resources Advisory Committee for consideration at a public meeting.

Selected examples of Historical & Cultural Grants awarded to parks and/or trails

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
Three Rivers Park District.....	Acquired professional services to prepare a Historic Structures Report for planning at Schmid Farmstead Ruins in Lake Minnetonka Regional Park.....	\$28,900
Dakota County.....	Acquired professional services to prepare an interpretive plan for public access to history and cultural heritage along the Mississippi River Trail.....	\$77,500
Rochester Park & Rec. Dept.....	Conducted 4 interviews with Dakota elders on the cultural history of Indian Heights Park.....	\$3,800
Nobles County Historical Society ...	Hired a qualified historian to evaluate the Worthington Chautauqua Park for possible inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places	\$6,500
Preston Historical Society.....	Contracted with a qualified professional to prepare construction documents for the reconstruction of missing historic features on the Milwaukee Elevator, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and used as a trail head facility.....	\$25,103

MORE INFORMATION:

Minnesota Historical Society
Grants Office
345 W. Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul MN, 55102
651-259-3467
grants@mnhs.org

Online Resources:

[Minnesota Historical Society
Program Manual](#)



NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 11, 2015 &
June 24, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:

\$25,000 - \$35,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:

50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To help nonprofit organizations engage in on-the-ground conservation initiatives that benefit National Forests and Grasslands. Current programmatic emphasis areas include wildlife habitat improvement, recreation, watershed health and restoration, and community-based forestry.

WHO CAN APPLY? 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, including community based and national organizations, Native American Tribes, and universities doing on-the-ground conservation work.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS On-the-ground stewardship and citizen-based monitoring projects that address forest stewardship, watershed health and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, or recreation in or adjacent to a National Forest or Grassland.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$500 to over \$100,000, with a mean of \$30,000 and a median of \$25,000. A 1:1 cash match of non-federal funds is required. First-time applicants are encouraged to keep their proposal to a moderate sum.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded through the National Forest Foundation's partnership with the National Forest Service.

REVIEW PROCESS The National Forest Foundation reviews all applications and makes decisions based upon the program's major strategic initiatives and the current priorities of the U.S. Forest Service. Priority is given to action-oriented projects that have significant community involvement or civic engagement in the pre-implementation, implementation, or post-implementation phases.

MORE INFORMATION:

Adam Liljebblad
(406) 830-3357
aliljebblad@nationalforests.org
National Forest Foundation
Building 27, Suite 3,
Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Online Resources:

[National Forest Foundation](#)





PEOPLE-FOR-BIKES COMMUNITY GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:

January 30, 2015 &
July 31, 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:

\$4,500 - \$8,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:

50% Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To support bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted advocacy initiatives that make bicycling easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities.

WHO CAN APPLY? Non-profit organizations, city or county agencies and departments, and state or federal agencies working on a local project are eligible to apply.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Bike paths, lanes, trails, and bridges; Mountain bike facilities; Bike parks and pump tracks; BMX facilities; End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks or storage; Programs that transform city streets; and initiatives designed to increase ridership or infrastructure investment.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE The maximum grant request is \$10,000. The grantee must cover at least 50% of the total project cost.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by members of the U.S. bicycle industry who participate in the Employee Pro Purchase Program. Bicycle industry partners include Fuji, Giant, Shimano, Specialized, State Bicycle Company, and Trek.

REVIEW PROCESS Applicants must first submit a letter of interest. PeopleForBikes then requests a full project application from a short list of qualified applicants. Applicants are evaluated based upon project quality, benefits to the community, measurement and evaluation, community support and partnerships, role of grant funding, and project diversity.

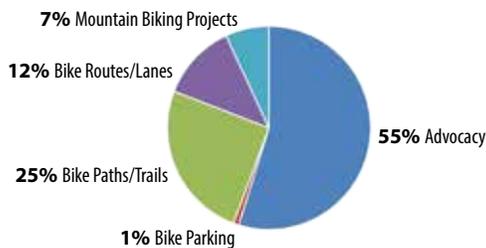
GRANT STATISTICS

Five year funding history:

Year	Funds Awarded	# Projects	Avg. Award
2010	\$237,250	26	\$9,125
2011	\$152,000	18	\$8,444
2012	\$115,000	14	\$8,214
2013	\$237,750	17	\$13,985
2014	\$50,263*	8	\$6,263

* Does not include 2nd round of grants for 2014

2013-14 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description	Awarded
Platteville Community Arboretum (WI)	Upgraded and extended Roundtree Branch Recreational Trail	\$10,000
Friends of the Lafitte Corridor (LA)	Installed destination and wayfinding signs on a cross-town bike trail	\$5,600
Transit Columbus (OH)	Hosted the city's inaugural open streets day to promote bicycling	\$5,000
City of Brownsville (TX)	Added bike racks at popular destinations throughout the city	\$2,500
FreeWheel for Kids (KS)	Worked with middle-school students to build an off-road bike path	\$1,500

MORE INFORMATION:

Zoe Kircos
(303) 449-4893
zoe@peopleforbikes.org
PeopleForBikes
P.O. Box 2359
Boulder, CO 80306

Online Resources:

[PeopleForBikes](http://PeopleForBikes.org)



NATIONAL TRAILS FUND



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Anticipated December 2015

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$500 - \$5,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
None Required

MORE INFORMATION:

American Hiking Society
(800) 972-8606
www.americanhiking.org
1422 Fenwick Lane
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Online Resources:
[American Hiking Society](http://www.americanhiking.org)

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To build and protect hiking trails, improve trail access and safety, and help response the growing backlog of maintenance along America’s hiking trails.

WHO CAN APPLY? Only 501(c)(3) member organizations of the American Hiking Society are eligible to apply. Organizational memberships start at \$100 annually.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Securing trail lands through acquisition or conservation easements, improving trail access and safety, protecting environmental resources, and constituency building. Projects must have hikers as their primary constituency, though multi-purpose human-powered trails are eligible.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants range from \$500 to \$5,000. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by donations from L.L. Bean and other private donors, including organization membership dues.

REVIEW PROCESS Each application is evaluated individually by American Hiking Society staff, Board of Directors, and others. Projects are evaluated based on protection of natural resources, improving outdoor recreation experiences, utilizing volunteer support, landowner permission, and budget justification.

GRANT STATISTICS

** The American Hiking Society does not disclose dollar amounts*

Five year funding history:

Year	# Projects Funded
2010	10
2011	9
2012	11
2013	8
2014	10

2014 Distribution:



Selected examples of grants awarded in 2014

Grantee	Project Description
Arizona Trail Association (AZ).....	Installed steel gates along the Arizona Trail to restrict illegal OHV activity
Arroyos & Foothill Conservancy (CA)	Developed a trail entry to the historic Rubio Rail Trail
Cuyuga Trails Club (NY).....	Helped manage and maintain a parking area, trail head, and kiosk
Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes (MI)	Constructed a new 4-mile trail, including interpretive signs and distributable maps
Friends of Woodland Park (TX)	Installed steps, bridges, and signage to enhance trail access in Woodland Park



Banning State Park
© Gary Alan Nelson

ADVOCACY ADVANCE GRANTS



APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Rolling

AVERAGE GRANT:
\$1,000 - \$10,000

LOCAL COST SHARE:
None Required

PROGRAM GOALS & PRIORITIES To help state and local advocacy organizations win, increase, or preserve public funding for biking and walking programs and infrastructure.

WHO CAN APPLY? Recipients must be a 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organization and be a member of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS Campaigns to raise additional funds for biking and walking, including efforts to win federal, state or local funding for facility maintenance or health initiatives; the collection of data to be used in advocacy; and campaigns to reform agencies to favor biking and walking projects its funding allocations. Projects should have an immediate and specific time frame.

LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE Grants intended to help with opportunistic, short-term campaigns range from \$1,000 to \$3,000. A small number of "Big Idea" grants up to \$10,000 are also available. Grants are non-restrictive and can be used to support lobbying efforts and staff-time. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

SOURCE OF FUNDS Grants are funded by contributions from the SCRAM Cycling Fund and REI.

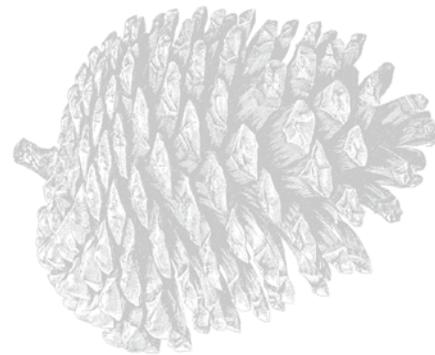
REVIEW PROCESS Proposals are reviewed by staff representatives of the Alliance for Biking & Walking and the League of American Bicyclists.

MORE INFORMATION:

Brigid O'Keane
(202) 621-5442
Brigid@AdvocacyAdvance.org
Advocacy Advance
www.AdvocacyAdvance.org

Online Resources:

[Advocacy Advance](#)
[Grant Outline](#)





ABOUT THE PARKS & TRAILS COUNCIL OF MINNESOTA

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota (P&TC) is a 3,400+ membership organization dedicated to acquiring, protecting, and enhancing critical land for the public's use and benefit. Since 1954, P&TC has been working on behalf of Minnesotans who treasure these special places, protecting land and water to promote conservation, outdoor recreation, tourism, and healthy lifestyles. This work is accomplished by acquiring threatened and critical parcels of land, being an independent and forthright voice at the Minnesota Capitol, boosting the capacity of Friends Groups to help care and promote parks and trails, and engaging in public policy research. Over the past 60 years, P&TC has added more than 10,600 acres, valued at more than \$33 million, to Minnesota's park and trail network.

For more information about how you can help acquire, protect, and enhance Minnesota's special places, please contact us.



Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota
www.parksandtrails.org

275 East 4th Street, Suite 250
Saint Paul, MN 55101

 (651) 726-2457
(800) 944-0707

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Nerstrand Big Woods State Park
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Parks & Trails
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