

MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

FACT SHEET

PROGRAM OVERVIEW: The Morris County Trail Construction Grant Program will award grants for the construction of trails to municipalities. All trail construction must occur on public lands held by the municipality, or easements. Only trail construction grants will be considered through this program.

The program will operate on a reimbursement basis only. Applicants are limited to one application per funding cycle.

The program will rely upon local municipalities to provide planning and design and 20% matching funds to make the trail projects a reality.

PURPOSE OF FUNDING: The purpose of the grant program is to provide recreational trail use opportunities which benefit the communities and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Morris County.

PERMISSABLE USES & PROJECTS:

1. Construction of new trails of various types (motorized and non-motorized)
2. Rehabilitation and restoration of existing trails damaged by significant acts of nature
3. Construction and installation of trailside and trailhead facilities (only as part of new construction)

NON-ELIGIBLE USES: Various aspects of project development are not eligible for funding as part of this grant program; they include but are not limited to the following:

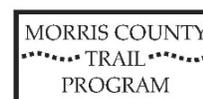
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| 1. Land Condemnation | 7. Improvements or construction to roads |
| 2. Land Acquisition | 8. Lighting |
| 3. Trail feasibility studies | 9. Running tracks (tracks used for races involving athletes at track meets) |
| 4. Planning | 10. Law enforcement personnel & activities |
| 5. Design | 11. Promotional materials (shirts, caps, pins) |
| 6. Sidewalks | |

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Morris County Preservation Trust Fund. On November 4, 2014, the voting electorate of Morris County approved the ballot question by a margin of nearly 3 to 1 to permit trail development as an allowable use under the Trust Fund.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Any of the thirty-nine municipalities in the County of Morris, New Jersey.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: The land on which the trail is to be funded must be:

1. Located in Morris County
2. Owned by the municipality
3. Permanently preserved public parkland or private land with easements for public recreational use
4. On land with a permanent easement for public trail/recreational provided to the municipality
5. In full control of all land and/or easements on which trail(s) are to be funded



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GRANT LIMITS: The minimum grant amount is \$5,000.00. The maximum grant award limit is defined as “no one award shall receive more than 60% of the funds available during each year’s funding cycle”. However, this exception can be waived if the pool of applicants is limited and/or the project is deemed to be a regionally significant project.

APPLICATION PROCESS: Applicants are required to submit a completed Letter of Intent which verifies property ownership, estimates costs, and approves pursuit of grant. Applicants are also required to submit a completed application which consists of 9 sections including:

1. Contact Information
2. Project Summary
3. Verification of Ownership
 - a. Deeds & Easements
4. Project Justification
5. Project Map
6. Environmental Verification
7. Design Verification
 - a. Certified Plans & Specifications
 - b. Schedule
 - c. Governing Body Resolution
 - d. Partnership Agreement
 - e. Agency Authorization
8. Engineering Cost Estimate
9. Project Signature Page

LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Friday July 29, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Thursday September 1, 2016 at 4:00 PM.

NOTIFICATION DATE: Late December 2016 to early January 2017.

PROJECT COMPLETION: 3-years (as defined in grant agreement)

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The following evaluation criteria will be considered in the review of each application. Additional considerations may also include the amount and type of use, as well as the quality of natural, cultural and recreational resources.

Access
Diversity
Connectivity
Demand
Concurrency

Funding
Constructability
Maintenance
Partnership
Programs and Promotion

PROGRAM ASSISTANCE: Applicants will have an opportunity to attend Community Workshops scheduled for May 18th and June 6th to learn more about the program. Additionally, applicants can schedule pre-application meetings to review and discuss individual applications prior to the deadline. Pre-application meetings will be held on a first-come first-served basis throughout the open application cycle.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Denise Chaplick, Director Park Planning and Development
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