

MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

2018 FACT SHEET

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Originating from the 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.

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.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Any of the thirty-nine municipalities in the County of Morris, New Jersey. Municipalities are limited to one application per funding cycle.

PERMISSABLE USES & PROJECTS:

1. Construction of new trails of various surface types (motorized and non-motorized).
2. Trail Enhancement (improvements of trail design and/or surface type of existing trails to accommodate increased volume and/or make the trail ADA compliant. Trail Enhancement is more than an in-kind replacement of current conditions, and is not intended to address deferred maintenance issues.

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

1. Located in Morris County
2. Owned by the municipality, in full and/or via permanent easements on which trail(s) are to be located.
3. Permanently preserved public parkland or private land with permanent easements dedicated for public trail/recreational use.

PROGRAM FUNDING: The program will operate on a reimbursement basis. 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.

MATCHING FUNDS: Applicants are required to provide a 20% match (minimum). The match can be made up of a combination of sources including:

- Direct Costs (labor, materials, equipment)
- Indirect Costs (limited to planning, engineering, and permitting costs)
- Other grant resources
- Municipal Funds (Open Space, capital, etc.)

APPLICATION PROCESS: STEP 1 - Applicants are required to submit a completed Letter of Intent. This documentation verifies property ownership and outlines preliminary project costs. STEP 2 - Applicants are required to submit a completed application, which consists of 11 sections including a detailed cost estimate and relevant design documentation.

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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 and Design
Funding
Demand

Concurrency
Connectivity
Maintenance

Diversity
Constructability
Partnership Programs and Promotion

PROGRAM ORIENTATION: All 2018 applicants are required to attend Program Orientation on April 26th from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The orientation will provide an overview of trail planning and design fundamentals.

PROGRAM UPDATE: Also on **April 26, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, program administrators will provide a summary of program changes from the previous year and outline recommendations as to what makes a good application.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS: Pre-application meetings are required for first time applicants. Pre-application meetings are typically held to review and discuss individual applications prior to the application deadline. Pre-application meetings will be scheduled 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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LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Friday June 29, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Tuesday July 31, 2018 at 4:00 P.M.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION: Tuesday October 30, 2018

AWARD NOTIFICATION DATE: December 2018

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

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:

1. Land Condemnation
2. Land Acquisition
3. Trail feasibility studies
4. Planning
5. Design
6. Sidewalks
7. Improvements or construction to roads
8. Lighting
9. Running tracks (tracks used for races involving athletes at track meets)
10. Law enforcement personnel & activities
11. Promotional materials (shirts, caps, pins)
12. Purchase of equipment
13. Deferred Maintenance
14. Administrative and grant preparation fees

Website:

<http://planning.morriscountynj.gov/divisions/prestrust/trail>

