



**RHODE ISLAND GREENWAYS
ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT
GRANTS**

Application Process 2003



Grant Program Overview:

Greenways are corridors of land and water that protect and link a wide variety of natural, cultural, recreational resources and/or transportation purposes.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

Open Space Acquisition Projects:

Open space acquisition shall be limited to the purchase fee simple title to open space where such land is consistent with the "Greenways, Greenspace" element of the State Guide Plan: the document entitled A Greener Path: Greenspace and Greenways for Rhode Island's Future and will be developed and used for trail and/or bicycle purposes.

Greenway/Greenspace Development Projects:

A development project may consist of one improvement or group of related improvements designed to provide public hiking, bicycling or other similar activities within a greenway or greenspace area. In addition, reforestation, landscaping and natural resource restoration in the greenway/greenspace area are eligible.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS:

LAND TRUSTS / WATERSHED COUNCILS AND NON-PROFIT ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES, MUNICIPAL AGENCY

- as defined in the adopted "Rules & Regulations". Eligibility is based upon the adoption and maintenance of an up-to-date Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Greenways Master Plan or Watershed Management Plan which adequately assesses the current and future recreation and open space requirements and needs. The plans shall include an implementation program and schedule for actions proposed to address issues and needs expressed in the plan.

** **INELIGIBLE ENTITIES** - State Boards or Commissions, Executive Department, private commercial businesses and agencies of the federal government.

Grants shall be for 50% of approved project costs. Certification that all other necessary funds are available must be submitted prior to the release of grant funds. For more information about the Grant Program, contact Joseph G. Dias, Deputy Chief, Division of Planning & Development at (401)222-2776 ext. 4301 or email jdias@dem.state.ri.us.

RHODE ISLAND GREENWAYS, ACQUISITION & DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

The Rhode Island Greenways Council will be evaluating each application received for funding from the 1998 Greenways Bond Authorization. The primary goal of

the committee is to assist in acquiring and developing Recreational Greenways, Bikeways and Trails.

Who is eligible to apply?

- # The applicant must be a municipality of the State of Rhode Island, Land Trust or Non-Profit Environmental Agency willing to open the greenway or trails system indiscriminately to the general public.
- # A single application may include acquisition and/or development activities at **one site** within the sponsor's jurisdiction.

What conditions will the property be subject to?

- # The property must be kept available solely for public outdoor recreation on a permanent basis.
- # Project sponsors are expected to (1) take all reasonable steps to insure the burial, screening or relocation of existing overhead lines at development projects, (2) insure that all new electric wires, under 15 KV, and telephone wires are placed under ground. In no case shall recreation trail areas be located under electric wires.
- # Project sponsors are encouraged to have all development projects comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and utilize the universal design standards.
- # Suitable permanent public acknowledgment of financial assistance by the State Greenways Bond Funds at the project site is required by the State. Use of a symbol/sign is optional and we encourage its use as part of the park signage, folders and literature.

How to Apply:

- # Application forms will be available after April 1, 2003 from the DEM WEBSITE:
http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bpoladm/plandev/pdf/gw_app.pdf
- G or from:

***Rhode Island Greenways Council
Department of Environmental Management
Division of Planning and Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908-5767***

- G Complete the application form and submit an originally signed, and five copies by **June 1, 2003** to the Rhode Island Greenways Council at the address shown above. ***Applications received after the filing deadline are not considered for funding during this round and are returned to the applicant.*** Such applications may be resubmitted during a subsequent round.

Your careful attention to supplying the materials requested and to answering each question on the Application Form greatly assists the Council. Please answer, as completely as possible, all the questions on the Application Form. If more space is needed, attach additional pages and identify each response by the number preceding the question on the application form. **Please remember to sign the form. The form must be signed by the authorized local government official.** If you have any questions, please call DEM at 222-2776 extension 4301 or email jdias@dem.state.ri.us.

- # Include a description of the proposed use of the property, and specify how the grant funds are to be used to meet the objectives of the ***“Local Comprehensive Land Use Plan” or the “Local Recreation, Conservation and Open Space Plan” or the Rhode Island Greenspace 2000 Plan.***
- # The applicant must provide evidence of its governing board’s consent to make application and provide evidence of public participation for the project being submitted. Show the commitment of the governing body to abide by the representations made in the application.
- # Include a dated project boundary map which clearly delineates the area under the conversion provisions of the rules and regulations. A more accurate map than the current one on file may be submitted upon closing of the grant.

How the Decision is Made:

- # The Council realizes that it will not be able to assist all of the applicants to acquire and/or develop greenways, trails and bikeways in the state. Therefore, it utilizes an Open Project Selection Process developed as part of the 1998 Bond Authorization. Each application will be evaluated and rated on based on the scoring criteria.

After each of the applications are ranked according to score, the Council will recommend a priority list to the Director of the Department of Environmental Management for funding. The Director awards grants in the order of priority recommended by the Council. Notwithstanding the above, the Director, with the advice of the rating Council, has the authority to adjust such grant awards, so that no one community receives a

disproportionate amount of the funds available and so that a reasonable geographic distribution of funds is achieved.

All development projects are subject to review by the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission after selection. Comments received must to be addressed prior to grant approval.

Submit certification that all other necessary funds are available prior to the release of grant funds. Applicants may use the value of interests of land acquired by donation as a local match provided that the value shown as a donation is sustained by competent appraisal and the donation is part of the project application.

PROPOSED FUNDING ROUNDS FOR 2003

1998 Recreation Greenways and Recreational Bikeways Bond Authorization

- 1. Greenway Acquisition and Development**
- 2. \$ 1,850,000 Million Available**
- 3. 50% of project costs.**
- 4. Maximum Grant Award \$250,000**

Grants for Recreational Trail Acquisition and Development projects less than \$100,000 should apply for a grant from the Rhode Island Trail Improvement Program.

Application forms for Rhode Island Trail Improvement Grants will be available after April 1, 2003 from the:

Rhode Island Trails Advisory Committee
R.I. Department of Environmental Management
Division of Planning & Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02908-5767

Or from the DEM Website:

http://www.state.ri.us/dem/programs/bpoladm/plandev/pdf/tr_app.pdf

PROPOSED APPLICATION AND AWARD SCHEDULE

April 1 - June 1, 2003:	Application Period
June 1 - August 15, 2003:	Council reviews and scores application
September 15, 2003	DEM Director & Greenways Council Announce Grant Awards