



RHODE ISLAND

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

235 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908-5767 TDD 401-222-4462

Formatted: Top: 0.7", Bottom: 0.7"

Trail Grant Fact Sheet

The Recreation Trails Grant Program is sponsored by DOT Federal Highway Administration to provide funds to further goals identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities. More information about the Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trail Program can be found at:
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/>

The program receives its funding from a portion of federal gas taxes paid on fuel used in non-highway recreational vehicles such as snowmobiles, ATV's, and off road motorcycles. The Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and Rhode Island Department of Transportation administer the Fund in Rhode Island in cooperation with an Advisory Council composed of representatives of trail user groups active in Rhode Island.

The purpose of the program is to provide funding for recreational trail projects such as:

- Maintenance and restoration of existing trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages
- Purchase and/or lease of trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Construction of new trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands)
- Acquisition of easements or property for trails
- Assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance
- Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails

Ineligible activities include projects on trails not open to the general public, research and planning projects, and landscaping.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Sites must be open to the general public at regularly scheduled and posted days and times.

Projects require resource analysis to assure that construction activities do not impact cultural (archeological) and natural (endangered species and wetland) resources prior to construction.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include:

- Government agencies (state, local, and federal)
- Other governmental bodies created under State law (e.g. land trusts, watershed councils or public school districts),
- Federal land managers
- Federally recognized native American tribes
- Not for profit organizations (must be incorporated with the Rhode Island Secretary of State or have 501 C3 status.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application forms are available from the DEM Website:
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bpoladm/plandev/grants.htm#bikepath>.

The Rhode Island Trails Advisory Committee (the Committee) evaluates each application received for the Recreation Trails Program to insure it meets all requirements and is consistent with the goals of the Program. The Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of alternate months (six times per year). Applicants are encouraged to attend meetings to explain grant requests and answer questions.

Successful applicants receive an award letter that outlines the terms of the grant agreement. No work can be done on the proposed project until the Committee has reviewed and approved the grant application.

PAYMENT

Funding provided by this program is on **reimbursement** basis; grantees must initiate projects with their own funds and be reimbursed after projects are complete. The State will reimburse the grantee 80 percent of approved costs, up to \$3000.00, provided:

- Only eligible activities as outlined in the grant proposal and approved by the Committee are submitted for reimbursement.
- The grantee supplies detailed documentation of project costs, including donated labor and materials that fully supports and certifies that the expenditures have been incurred on the referenced project.
- The value of donated labor and materials is equal to or exceeds 20 percent of total project costs.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Projects selected for funding must comply with all Federal Highway Administration Requirements and be in accordance with all state and federal laws, and executive orders. This includes undergoing cultural and environmental resource review prior to undertaking the project and/or obtaining permits for the projects. If a site has not previously undergone natural and cultural resource survey, it is recommended time and money be allocated for this as part of the project.

MORE INFORMATION

Gregg J. Cassidy
RI DEM, Office of Planning and Development
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 222-2776, extension 4310
gregg.cassidy@dem.ri.gov