



Application & Selection Process: Local Parks Grant Programs

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Overview

- Natural and Scenic Area Grants Program Overview
- Outdoor Recreation Grants Program Overview
- Overview of Info Required & Why
- Overview of Review & Selection Process
- Inspections

Natural and Scenic Area Grants Program

- Increase, protect and enhance natural and scenic areas
- Matching grants to local units of government and school districts up to 50% of the cost of acquisition
- Minimal betterment activities are eligible
- High levels of development or active use are not appropriate

Natural and Scenic Area Grants Program

- Passive outdoor recreation activities
 - Nature observation
 - Bird watching
 - Walking / hiking
 - Cross country skiing / snow shoeing
 - Canoeing

- Amenities Limited to:
 - Trails
 - Overlooks
 - Interpretive displays
 - Benches
 - Informational & boundary signage
 - Protective fencing
 - Parking

Natural and Scenic Area Grants Program

- Selection Priorities
 - Natural Resources Qualities (approx. 45%)
 - Endangered, threatened or special concern species / communities
 - High quality terrestrial or aquatic ecosystems
 - Outstanding geological or physiographic features
 - Protection of water quality / shore land along rivers, lakes or streams, restoration efforts
 - Scenic Qualities (approx. 25%)
 - Bluff lands or other elevated terrain (viewing opportunities)
 - Other Review Components (approx. 30%)
 - Educational & scientific values, open space & historical/cultural values

Outdoor Recreation Grants Program

- Increase and enhance outdoor recreation facilities in local and community parks throughout Minnesota
- Matching grants to local units of government up to 50% of cost of acquisition, development and/or redevelopment of local parks and recreation areas
- Multiple sources of funding (State & Federal), including LCCMR
- Review/selection focuses on priorities set in State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) & project specific criteria
- Application components incorporate required information for federal funding

Outdoor Recreation (OR) Grants Program

- Selected FY24 projects funded by LCCMR include:
 - Kayak launch
 - Shore fishing / fishing pier
 - Boardwalk / trails / river access
 - Nature observation areas
 - Camping facilities
 - Restrooms / storm shelters
 - Picnic shelters
 - Parking
 - Native plantings

Application Requirements (OR): SCORP

- Minnesota's SCORP
 - Required under federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act
 - Updated every 5 years
 - Review applications for the following 3 strategic directions in SCORP (60%):
 - How does this connect people to the outdoors?
 - Does the project acquire land and/or create opportunities?
 - Does the project take care of what we have?

Application Requirements (OR): Project Specific Criteria

- Additional non-SCORP review components (40%)
 - Application/project quality & local match
 - Park & facility design
 - Health & safety
 - Appropriate design standards
 - Environmental intrusions

Application Requirements (OR): Environmental

- US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) Report
 - Provides list of species & other resources known or expected to be in/near the project area
 - Required for federal funding
- Descriptions of Environment & Environmental Impact
 - SHPO Data Request (required) / recommended resources include IPaC, Minnesota's List of Endangered and Threatened Animal Species, National Wetlands Inventory
- Environmental Screening Form (ESF)
 - Required for federal funding

Application Requirements (OR): ESF

Site Name:

	How will the project affect the following resources?	+	-	?	n/a
1	Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Circulation and transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Climate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Contamination or hazardous materials even if remediated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Endangered species: (listed or proposed threatened or endangered) including associated habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Environmental justice: minority and low-income populations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Geological resources: soils, bedrock, slopes, streambeds, landforms, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Historic or cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Invasive species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	Land use plans or policies from other agencies including tribes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Lightscares, especially night sky	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Migratory birds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Recreation resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Socioeconomics: changes to tax base or competition with private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Sound (noise impacts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Unique ecosystems, such as biosphere reserves, World Heritage sites, old growth forests, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	Water quality and/or quantity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Water: coastal barrier resources or coastal zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19	Water: marine and/or estuarine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20	Water: stream flow characteristics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21	Water: wetlands and floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22	Other important resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Explain:				

Application Requirements (OR): ESF

- Provide any previous environmental documents related to project and/or site
- Explain any negative or unknown impacts from table
- Explain how information in table was derived and sources of data used
- Provide details of who completed the table (name, title, agency & qualifications)
- List all federal, state & local permits/approvals needed for project including purpose & status

Application Requirements (OR): Public Participation

- Who was involved?
 - State, local & federal agency professionals
 - Subject matter experts
 - Tribes
 - Members of the public
- What information was made available / opportunity to be involved in planning & developing
- Ability to review completed proposal?
- Public meetings and/or formal public comment periods (including dates & length of time)
 - Were comments received and were written responses provided?

Application Requirements (OR): Accessibility

- Must meet current ADA standards
- Critical components:
 - Accessible parking spaces serving each area of the park
 - Restrooms (if provided)
 - Drinking water (if provided)
 - Access routes to all recreation facilities

Application Requirements (OR): Accessibility

- Under SCORP questions also look at how park is accessed
- Ask for information on types of transportation used to access park from the community (e.g., trail, car, public transportation)

Selection Process (OR): Review & Scoring

- Reviewed by grant management team for program
- Scoring range includes (where applicable) guidance on what different points within range mean
 - Example: “Both – 4 points, One – 2 points”
 - Example: “4 pts – has several amenities, 2 pts – has a couple of amenities, 1 pt – has one amenity”

Selection Process (OR): Review & Scoring

- Project Quality includes:

- Complete application
- Detailed budget
- Enough detail to clearly understand project
- Compatibility with project site
- Boundary & site plan maps

- Match includes:

- 20% from own resources
- Committed v. anticipated

Selection Process (OR): Review & Scoring

- Park Facility Design includes:

- Use of available space
- Conflict among facilities / adjacent uses

- Health and Safety includes:

- Traffic flow
- Trail / walkway crossings
- Older play equipment removal

- Final inspections

- On-site inspection required for every grant under the program
- Confirm project completed as proposed, ADA critical components met & funding sign posted

- Post-completion compliance

- On-site post-completion inspections required every 5 years for federally funded grants
- Every 5 years send reminders of post-completion compliance for State funded grants
 - Try to visit in-person as much as possible

Thank You!

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