

Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs

DNR Community Services Specialist
1300 West Clairemont Avenue
P.O. Box 4001
Eau Claire, WI 54702-4001

Acquisition of Development Rights (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy development rights (easements) for the protection of natural, agricultural, or forestry values that would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation. Applicants compete for funds on a statewide basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Eligibility & Purpose: Helps to buy land or easements and develop or renovate local park and recreation area facilities for nature-based outdoor recreation purposes (e.g., trails, fishing access, and park support facilities). Applicants compete for funds on a regional basis. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

ATV Enhancement

Eligibility & Purpose: Annual grant to a non-profit organization that promotes the safe and wise use of ATVs, ATV riding, and ATV education.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$297,000 per year
Match Requirement: none

ATV Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in ATV enforcement efforts.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$495,000, shared with all participating patrols
Match Requirement: none

ATV Trails

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes can apply for funds to acquire, insure, develop, and maintain ATV trails, areas, and routes.
Maximum Grant Amount: none
Match Requirement: none

Boat Enforcement Patrol

Eligibility & Purpose: Issued to Wisconsin counties and municipalities that participate in boating enforcement efforts.
Maximum Grant Amount: \$1.2 million - \$1.4 million, shared with all participating patrols up to 75 percent reimbursement
Match Requirement: none

Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program

Eligibility & Purpose: Tier 1 is designated for smaller projects that add transient boating infrastructure to the area. Tier 2 is awarded to larger projects, and are competitively judged at the national level.

Maximum Grant Amount: Tier 1 – up to \$100,000 per state; Tier 2 – varies depending on national competition and other factors. Awarded projects are fully funded as long as funds are available.

Match Requirement: 25 percent

Conservation Capacity: Ice Age Trail

Eligibility & Purpose: This two-year grant is awarded to an organization that supports the development, maintenance, protection, and promotion of the Ice Age Trail.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$74,200 per year

Match Requirement: \$25,000 per year

Conservation Capacity: Urban Land Conservation

Eligibility & Purpose: This two-year grant is awarded to an organization that builds the capacity of urban conservation in the state. The grant is defined in statute to support urban forest protection, water resource enhancement, or other urban open space objectives. Eligible applicants must be 501(c)(3) organizations.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$74,200 per year

Match Requirement: \$25,000 per year

County Conservation Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: To provide counties and tribal governing bodies with financial assistance to enhance fish and wildlife programs.

Maximum Grant Amount: Allocated per county

Match Requirement: 50 percent

County Forest Acquisition (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: This program is meant to expand nature-based recreational opportunities by adding lands in the county forest system. This grant is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Friends of State Lands (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Grants from this program help improve facilities, build new recreation projects, and restore habitat on state properties. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Habitat Area (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Protects and restores important wildlife habitat in Wisconsin in order to expand opportunities for wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, bird watching, fishing, nature appreciation, and wildlife viewing. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – State Program

Eligibility & Purpose: This is a Federal program administered in all states that encourages creation and interpretation of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities. Funds received by the DNR for this program are split between DNR projects and grants to local governments for outdoor recreation activities.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Motorized Stewardship Grants

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes for new bridges on existing funded trails, major bridge reconstruction/rehabilitation and rehabilitation of funded trails.

Match Requirement: 20 percent

Recreational Boating Facilities

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants may be used by counties, towns, cities, villages, tribes, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations for recreational boating facility projects.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Recreational Trail Aids (RTA)

Eligibility & Purpose: Municipal governments and incorporated organizations are eligible to receive reimbursement for development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. Eligible sponsors may be reimbursed up to 50 percent of total project costs. This program may be used in conjunction with the state snowmobile or ATV programs and Stewardship development projects.

Maximum Grant Amount: \$45,000 (\$200,000 every third calendar year)

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Shooting Range Grant Program

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties, cities, villages, townships, other governmental agencies or units, clubs or organizations, businesses or corporations, and educational institutions can apply for assistance in outdoor shooting range construction, including: backstops and berms, target holders, shooting benches, baffles, protective fencing, signs, trenches, gun racks, platforms, restrooms, and other items considered essential for the project by the department. Indoor ranges may be eligible as well, including classroom, storage, and restroom facilities.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

Snowmobile Patrols

Eligibility & Purpose: Wisconsin county sheriff departments that participate in snowmobile enforcement efforts

Maximum Grant Amount: \$396,000, shared with all participating patrols

Match Requirement: none

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: Counties and tribes can apply for funding to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment.

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)

Eligibility & Purpose: Used to construct fishing piers and motorboat access projects.

Match Requirement: 50 percent

State Trails (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: Applications for grants under this subprogram must be for properties identified as part of the State Trail system. It is possible for sponsors to nominate additional trails for the state trail designation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Green Space (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land or easements in urban areas to preserve the scenic and ecological values of natural open spaces for nature-based outdoor recreation, including non-commercial gardening. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

Urban Rivers (Stewardship)

Eligibility & Purpose: These grants help buy land on rivers flowing through urban or urbanizing areas to preserve or restore the scenic and environmental values of riverways for nature-based outdoor recreation. This grant program is part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

UTV Trail Aids

Eligibility & Purpose: This is a companion to the ATV Trail Aids. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and tribes can apply for funds for maintenance for trails, minor development, gates, and signing.

Wisconsin DOT Administered Programs

WisDOT District Bike & Ped Coordinator
1681 Second Avenue South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program

Purpose: Funds projects that construct or plan for bicycle or bicycle/pedestrian facilities.

Hazard Elimination Program

Purpose: Bicycle and pedestrian projects are now eligible for this program. This program focuses on projects intended for locations that should have a documented history of previous crashes.

Incidental Improvements

Purpose: Bicycle and pedestrian projects are broadly eligible for funding from most of the major federal-aid programs. One of the most cost-effective ways of accommodating bicycle and pedestrian accommodations is to incorporate them as part of larger

reconstruction, new construction and some repaving projects. Generally, the same source of funding can be used for the bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as is used for the larger highway improvement, if the bike/pedestrian accommodation is “incidental” in scope and cost to the overall project. Overall, most bicycle and pedestrian accommodations within the state are made as incidental improvements.

Local Transportation Enhancements (TE)

Purpose: Funds projects to increase multi-modal transportation alternatives and enhance communities and the environment. Projects include bicycle or pedestrian facilities, landscaping or streetscaping, and the preservation of historic transportation structures.

National Scenic Byways Program

Purpose: The National Scenic Byways Program provides grants to States and Indian tribes to implement projects on highways designated as National Scenic Byways, All-American Roads, America’s Byways, State scenic or Indian tribe scenic byways. Eligible activities include planning, development, or implementation of a corridor management plan, safety improvements to accommodate byway travelers, facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, rest areas, turnouts, highways shoulder improvements, overlooks, or interpretive facilities, access to recreation enhancements, resource protection, tourist information, and byway marketing.

Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks Program

Purpose: The program aims to enhance the protection of national parks and public lands and increase the enjoyment of those visiting them, by providing funds to support public transportation projects in parks and public lands. Non-motorized transportation systems such as facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, and non-motorized watercraft are also eligible.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Purpose: Safe Routes to School programs encourage children in grades K-8 to walk and bike to school by creating safer walking and biking routes. Projects must be within 2 miles of a school that has a SRTS plan, and funding requires a 20% match.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)

Purpose: These funds may be used for public transportation capital improvements, car and vanpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Purpose: The Transportation Alternatives Program allocates federal funds to transportation improvement projects that “expand travel choice, strengthen the local economy, improve the quality of life, and protect the environment.”

Federal Assistance Programs

All other federal programs are listed under Wisconsin DNR Administered Programs.

Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) – National Park Service

Purpose: The Challenge Cost Share Program supports local projects that promote conservation and recreation, environmental stewardship, education and engaging diverse youth participants. Local project partners work with National Park Service parks and programs to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. NPS administered parks and programs are eligible such as National Trails, Heritage Areas, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.,

One-third of the CCSP pot is earmarked for National Trails System Projects. Thus supporting work under the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241-51), such as: National Scenic and Historic trails, National Scenic and Historic Trails in parks, National Recreation Trails, and rail-trail projects.

For additional information about this program and the application process, please contact the CCSP Program Coordinators for Wisconsin:

Tom Gilbert, Superintendent or **Pam Schuler, Trail Manager**
tom_gilbert@nps.gov pam_schuler@nps.gov

National Park Service
700 Rayovac Dr., Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711
608-441-5610

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program – National Park Service

Purpose: The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program supports community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects across the nation. The national network of conservation and recreation planning professionals partner with community groups, nonprofits, tribes, and state and local governments to design trails and parks, conserve and improve access to rivers, protect special places, and create recreation opportunities.