

FY2016 Recreational Trails Program
Pre-Application Form
Deadline: Noon, Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Applicant Information

Applicant's Name (Organization)	Auburn University		
Street Address	310 Stamford Hall		
City	Auburn	State	AL
Zip Code	36849-5131		
County	Lee		
FEIN	63-6000724	DUNS Number	066470972
Project Title (maximum of six words)	Graham Farm Jackson County Trail Project		
Project Description (maximum of 25 words)	To provide public access, Graham Farm and Nature Center will develop and construct trails using The Student Conservation Association - SCA +		
Park Name	Graham Farm and Nature Center		
Park Address	420County Road, 27 Estillfork		
City	Estillfork	State	AL
Zip Code	35745		
GPS Coordinates of Project	34 degrees 53' 44.88 N 86 degrees 13'09.54W		
Congressional District	5th		
State Senate District	8	House Senate District	23
Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President	John M. Mason, Vice President, Research and Economic Development		
E-mail Address	ospadmin@auburn.edu	Phone Number	334-844-4438

Grant Administrator
E-mail Address Phone Number

General Project Information

Trail Length in Linear Feet Trail Width

Trail Surface Type

- Application Type
- Non-motorized, Single Use
 - Non-motorized, Diverse Use
 - Motorized, Diverse Use
 - Motorized, Single Use
 - Educational

- Type of Applicant
- City/Town
 - County
 - State
 - Private Organization

Total Estimated Project Cost

Grant Amount Requested

Total Local Match

Cash Match

In-Kind Match

Donation

Project Narrative

Brief Description of the Project
(350 characters or less)

To provide public access and recreation, TheGraham Farm and Nature Center will engage The Student Conservation Association (SCA) to design and construct a ten-mile loop through the farm. With educational markers installed along this new trail, this project provides multi-use activity for all ages: walking, hiking and non-motorized cycling.

1. Describe the degree to which the project's scope and feasibility meet the project area's recreational needs. (Key Consideration: Does the project appear to be feasible and incorporate a good project design with consideration given to the natural and cultural environment in which the project is located, and appropriate consideration given to needs and benefits?) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Graham Farm and Nature Center is located in a vital conservation hub for the Southeast. Nestled in a pristine valley, Graham farm has 491 acres of farm and wood lands. The farm was donated in 2012 to the Auburn University Real Estate Foundation, and is managed by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System's Jackson County Office. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) will design and build a ten-mile trail providing access to the farm, a cultural resource in the community. This ten-mile loop will enhance outdoor recreation activities in the surrounding area. A portion of the farm is protected in a Federal Easement program, and therefore, the public will always have access to this state-owned property. The farm is surrounded by The James D. Martin Skyline Wildlife Management Area which currently has limited public access. This trail loop will increase public access to this Wildlife Management Area. Educational trail markers will educate the public on natural resources.

2. Describe the ways in which the project provides for the greatest number of compatible recreational purposes. (Key Consideration: An important concern is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region. Maximum points will be given to projects with connectivity to other trails or parks, environmental education and preservation, and economic development opportunities.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

This project will be a multi-use activity trail for walking, hiking and non-motorized cycling. The Graham Farm and Nature Center is surrounded by 60,732 acres of The James D. Martin Skyline Wildlife Management Area, which has limited public access. The Forever Wild Land Trust protects 25,194 acres. This farm trail will increase visibility in the surrounding Wildlife Management Areas; and assist in encouraging economic development opportunities for citizens interested in primitive camping programs, survival series and the study of ecology and conservation for local students. The educational markers placed along the trail will teach more people about the farm's natural resources. The farm was donated to Auburn University to preserve the land and farm buildings, while creating an educational facility. The trail brings more attention and use of the farm and woodlands. This trail will enhance the agri-tourism, recreation and educational opportunities offered by the farm.

3. Describe the ways in which the project provides a new, unique, or more effective means for making trail opportunities available to the public. (Key Consideration: This criterion includes projects of national, regional, and local demonstration value. The most important concern is whether the grant recipient is committed to trying an approach that is new at the local level. Additional points are awarded for nationwide applicability and statewide or regional value. The applicant must commit to documenting the results of the demonstration.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Graham Farm is an innovative educational facility that is based at a former working farm. This facility will act as a model for agriculturally-based programs including conservation of resources such as farm land, woodlands and recreational trails. Through agri-tourism and environmental education programs. Having perpetual public access through the use of trails provides physical activity, enjoyment of nature and education about the agricultural working landscape. Trail users will learn about farming, conservation and historic preservation. Not only local residents will be able to access the farm and the trails. The farm will become part of a network of regional, state and national projects which are preserving farms, while providing agri-tourism, conservation and agricultural programming. SCA will document the trail work, and Graham Farm is committed to monitoring how the trail increases the farm's economic development.

4. Describe the ways in which the project facilitates the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities, older citizens, economically disadvantaged, and other special populations or groups. (Key Consideration: Whether this project will expand recreation opportunities for special populations with recreation deficiencies.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

This trail will benefit older citizens. Comprising 18.5% of the population of Jackson County, this group has increased 2.1% in four years, and is expected to continue to increase. Graham Farm is within 45 miles of Huntsville, a major metropolitan area of about 333,000 people. About 24% are of African American descent and 11% other races. There is a significant under-served urban audience for whom this trail will make the farm accessible for nature-based recreation. In addition, the Redstone Arsenal in nearby Madison County will connect Veterans to the trail. Veterans disabled by PTSD will experience the therapeutic effect of nature by walking the trail. Moreover, Alabama ranks fifth in the nation for adult obesity at a rate of 33.5% and children at 21.7%. These rates go hand in hand with poverty. Research shows that adding non-motorized trails to communities and creating easy access for youth reduces obesity rates. This trail will provide access to healthy exercise options.

5. Describe the ways in which the project creates opportunities for new partnerships between trail users, private interests, and public agencies within the project area. (Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is a component of an integrated effort to enhance economic revitalization and community conservation. Maximum points will be given to applicants providing evidence of cooperative efforts with trail user groups and/or multiple public meetings.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Extension System has a 4-H program in every county of the state, and it will have access to hundreds of volunteers for helping to maintain this trail and future trails. In addition, there are four paid Extension staff members that are on-site for maintenance needs of the trail. The students at Auburn and Alabama A&M Universities will assist in classroom and research programs. Currently, Alabama A&M School of Forestry has their Capstone and Ecology classes at Graham Farm. Other supporters are the Jackson County Board of Education, The Nature Conservancy, the State of Alabama, Jackson County Economic Development Authority. Supporting Entities include Jackson County Commission and the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. Also, there are several birding groups and herbal societies using the farm, so the trail provides increased environmental educational opportunities. Middle Tennessee State University is currently doing an historical farm project on the Graham Farm homestead.

6. Describe the ways in which the project uses the grant funds to leverage other public or private investments (in the form of services and materials as well as dollars). (Key Consideration: The major concern is whether actual leveraging is assured or the potential for leveraging is good, outside of any funds committed for the initial grant match. Maximum points will be given for applicants committing double the minimum local match or higher.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

Request: SCA Sub-awardee: \$89,979.59: trail design intern (\$13,727.69), 2 trail teams (\$76,251.90); Auburn University: \$9,430.45: educational trail markers (\$2,500), equipment/rentals (\$6,930.45). SCA will provide 2,560 hours of volunteer service. SCA In-kind value is \$26,577.49. The Nature Conservancy will provide housing for SCA volunteer trail teams for two field seasons, for a total of approximately 2 months per field season valued at \$500/month for a total of \$2,000. The Limestone and Madison County 4-H Programs have committed to providing 400 hours of maintenance of the trail during and after the trail is completed. This in-kind volunteer value is valued at \$8,488 based on \$21.22/hour. Auburn University is providing 10% of the salaries and fringe of three full-time staff members for a total of \$16,675.56 as in-kind, and A&M University students will provide 360 volunteer hours worth \$7,639.20 in-kind. Total Request: \$99,410.04 Total in-kind match: \$61,380.25 (62%)

7. Describe the degree of commitment to continue operation and maintenance of the project. Include an operation and maintenance plan detailing the amount of money needed to operate and maintain the trail after it is completed and identify who will be responsible for the work. (Key Consideration: Whether the grant recipient is willing to commit to continue the maintenance and operation of the project and whether the applicant provides a realistic operation and maintenance plan/budget. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating innovative funding measures for trail maintenance.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Graham Farm has access to three full-time staff members and one part-time staffer on site to maintain the trails and development programs. In addition, the Extension System has a connection to a network of 4-H youth and parent volunteers throughout the state. The Extension Service agencies from the counties of Limestone and Madison have 4-H volunteers who will assist The Student Conservation Association (SCA) Trail Intern and Trail Teams during the design and construction phases over the next two field seasons. Each 4-H Program will provide initially provide approximately 200 volunteer hours, for a total of 400 hours. These 4-H volunteers will set up an on-going maintenance schedule to keep the trail markers in good condition, keep the trail clear for safe hiking, and to alert Graham Farm of any washouts or other maintenance issues. 4-H volunteers from other counties throughout the state will also use and care for this trail in years to come while providing youth recreation.

8. The degree to which community involvement is addressed: i.e., (A) Project idea originated with trail users or a community group that has substantial knowledge, and (B) The private sector (including individual citizens, community groups, or local business enterprises) has participated in the development of the proposed idea and has made commitments of labor, money, or materials to support proposed implementation. (Key Consideration: The objective is to determine if the project is responding to citizen-identified needs. The priority of the project to users is evidenced by citizen support for the idea. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating that the project concept was originally proposed at the grassroots level and, especially, for extensive citizen or private organization involvement in project development and support in project implementation. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants demonstrating extensive involvement and participation from citizens and interest groups during all phases of application development and commitments beyond.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Graham Farm has a series of logging roads mapped out its property deed. With the help of SCA trail expertise and volunteers, the farm will develop this initial ten-mile loop as an important first step in developing public access. Starting the process of trail development throughout the farm, will increase economic development around this historic community resource. Graham Farm and SCA will be assisted by students from the Alabama A & M School of Forestry and Ecology in the development of the trail. In addition, the 4-H Program volunteers of Madison and Limestone County will be assisting with the trail, especially maintenance as the volunteers will have access to the trail as part of the outdoor recreation assets of two surrounding county communities. Other county 4-H volunteers will use and care for the trail over time. The Nature Conservancy supports the role of this trail to enhance local education and recreation opportunities for all ages to connect with nature.

9. Describe in detail how the trail will be managed. Include discussion on season length, hours of operation, limitations on use, enforcement provisions, and scheduling. 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

This proposed trail for The Graham Farm and Nature Center will be managed by the Jackson County Extension System of Auburn University. The trail will be limited to the environmentally low-impact uses of walking, hiking and non-motorized biking. The trail will be open to the public at no charge, The trail will be accessible to the public during normal working hours from 9:00 a.m. Monday through 5:00 p.m. Friday. It will also be open to the public on the weekends from sunrise to sunset. Trail patrons will be monitored by Master Gardener volunteers, who will help assess potential hazards, illegal activities and preserve the ecological integrity of the property. The trail and grounds will be monitored and maintained three times weekly by the three full-time Extension staff and one part-time Extension staff, with additional volunteers who will be on site daily. The Extension staff will post rules, regulations and hours so that it will be clear to the public.

10. Identify and describe the service area of the project. Approximately how many people do you propose to serve with this project? Identify other trail resources in the service area by trail type (motorized, non-motorized, multi-use), distance, location in relation to the proposed trail, and ownership. (Key Consideration: The RTP was created to address trail needs in the urban and rural areas of the state. In order to assess the need for additional trails it is first necessary to identify the quantity and location of existing resources within the service area. It is also necessary to establish a service area – either population or resource based. For example, a population based service area could be a neighborhood, school district, or political jurisdiction whereas, a resource based service area might be defined along a linear greenway, water course, or unique natural/cultural area. However, in both instances, an estimate of the number of beneficiaries should be provided.) 10 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

With 320 acres of pristine forest land, the Graham Farm is located within 45 minutes from the city of Huntsville with a population of over 330,000. With the highest income in Alabama, that community has more spendable resources for recreational activities. In 2016, Huntsville was name the top destination for getting "psyched for hiking" and would bring hundreds of hikers to the trail. With 8 colleges in this area, the trail will be used by hundreds of students. The Walls of Jericho, a trail connecting Alabama and Tennessee, is located about 10 miles away and visited by thousands of hikers annually. This farm trail will add to the attraction for hiking in the area, bringing hikers from the cities of Nashville, Chattanooga, Atlanta and beyond. A significant portion of the Paint Rock River Watershed meanders through the farm attracting bird watching clubs. Alabama state 4-H program has over 137,000 members who will all have access to the trail upon completion.

11. Identify the length of time the trail will be maintained and open and available to the public and identify the method to be used to ensure this commitment (deed covenant, deed restriction, etc.). (Key Consideration: The objective is to utilize RTP funds to the greatest extent possible by ensuring the improvements are maintained and available for public trail use as long as possible. Points will only be awarded to applicants exceeding the minimum required timeframe for a trail development project to remain open to the public. Maximum points will be awarded to applicants electing to maintain the improvements in perpetuity.) 15 Points Available

Limit 1,000 Characters

The Graham Farm and Nature Center was donated to Auburn University and administered by the Jackson County Extension System. Trails have been mapped as part of the deed of ownership. This ten-mile trail loop is intended to be designed, built and maintained in perpetuity for the benefit of the public. The trail hours will be set up for the safety and well-being of the public. Hours and days will be as open-ended as possible for the security of the public. These will be clearly posted at a trailhead. The trail will be accessible during normal working hours Monday through Friday and open to the public on the weekends from sunrise to sunset. Trail patrons will be monitored by Master Gardener volunteers and will help assess potential hazards, illegal activities and preserve the ecology integrity of the property. The grounds will be monitored and maintain three times weekly by the full, part-time and volunteer staff that will be on site daily.

Note: Property acquired with RTP funds must remain open to the public in perpetuity. Should the property cease to be open to the public for trail use, the applicant must repay the RTP 80% of the fair market value of the property at the time of the change in use. If the project is located on an easement or on leased land, the minimum timeframe for the easement or lease is 25 years. The project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended during that time. For development projects on applicant owned property, the project must remain open for public access for the use for which the RTP funds were intended for a minimum of 25 years.

Total Project Cost

Total Funds Requested

Important Note: The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education projects.

Signature, Chief Elected Official,
Director, or President

Date

Typed Name and Title

Program Information

Introduction

History and Purpose

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federal grant program authorized by Congress for the purpose of providing states, local governments, and private sector organizations with funds to acquire lands and develop and/or improve trail and trail-related resources.

Allocation of Funds for the 2016 Funding Cycle

The RTP funds are appropriated by Congress to the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and FHWA allocates the funds through state agencies as a grants program to sub-grantees. Alabama's allocation to sub-grantees in the 2016 funding cycle will be approximately \$1,609,000.

Division of Available Funds

The maximum grant amount by trail type is \$35,000 for non-motorized, single-use trails; \$100,000 for non-motorized, diverse-use trails; \$524,936 for motorized trails, or \$87,489 for education.

Thirty percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail uses, 30 percent for non-motorized trail uses, and 40 percent for diverse trail uses. Diverse motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle) or diverse non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian) may satisfy two of these categories at the same time. The State encourages applicants to consider projects that benefit both motorized and non-motorized users, such as common trailhead facilities.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include incorporated municipalities, counties, legally constituted recreation authorities and commissions, and private sector organizations that can demonstrate an ability to adequately manage Federal grant funds. **No application will be reviewed from an applicant not currently registered in sam.gov under its own name and Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number.**

Applications

Pre-applications

The Alabama State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2013-2018 is the guiding document for funding projects from the RTP. This document is available on the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' (ADECA) website at www.adeca.alabama.gov. Statewide issues were gathered and new criterion were developed to evaluate projects. These criterion make up the pre-application. City, county, or private sector applicants may submit only one application for its highest priority outdoor recreation project. State agencies may submit multiple applications. Funds will be allocated to the highest-ranking projects based on scores derived from the evaluation criterion.

Applicants are required to adhere to the grant ceilings listed.

Formal Applications

Applicants receiving the highest-ranking scores on their pre-applications will be asked to submit formal applications. A formal application will be mailed and the Recreation and Conservation Programs staff will be available to answer any questions. Note: An environmental review and/or assessment will be required for all projects selected to proceed in the formal application process.

Target Timeline for the 2016 Funding Cycle

February 2016

Funding cycle for 2016 RTP grants and Application Workshop is announced to all municipalities, counties, regional commissions, and grant administrators via e-mail and/or direct mail and website announcement.

May 3, 2016

Pre-applications (1 original and 1 digital copy (we will not accept e-mailed copies)) are due to ADECA.

Each pre-application must include:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead.
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Verification of sam.gov registration

May 2016

Recreation and Conservation Programs staff and the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board review pre-applications for priority rankings based on evaluation criterion, make recommendations for funding to the ADECA Director, complete site inspections, invite the respective local applicants receiving the highest-ranking scores to submit formal applications, and forward copies of the selected pre-applications to the FHWA.

TBA

Formal applications mailed to applicants.

TBA

Formal applications are due to ADECA. Recreation and Conservation Programs staff will coordinate and correspond as appropriate with each successful applicant to determine if additional documents are needed to complete the formal application process.

TBA

Official notification of award sent to successful applicants.

Minimum Requirements

These are requirements that an applicant must meet in order to be considered for a RTP grant. There are no points attached to these requirements. Only one of two situations may occur: (1) Yes, the applicant meets all minimum requirements and is therefore eligible for consideration of funding based on how the proposed project scores under the evaluation criterion; or (2) No, the applicant does not meet the minimum requirements and is therefore ineligible for funding under the RTP.

Any questions concerning the minimum requirements should be addressed to the Recreation and Conservation Programs staff.

Equal Opportunity:

Applicants must comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended; and all other State and Federal laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. This means that no person shall be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age or disability for recreation programs and facilities sponsored by applicants.

Legally Constituted Entity

The applicant must be a legally constituted entity. This includes a municipality, county or a legally constituted recreation board, commission or authority with legislative sanction, or private sector corporation. All applicants must be currently registered in sam.gov with their own DUNS number.

State and Federal Laws / Regulations

Applicants must comply with existing laws and regulations for receiving and expending State and Federal grant money including, but not limited to, public notices, bidding and purchasing requirements, Uniform Relocation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), Energy Standards, laws and regulations regarding Historic Preservation and archaeological concerns, National Environmental Policies Act, and related environmental rules and regulations. Applicants must not have been debarred, suspended, or otherwise ruled ineligible to participate in Federal programs by any Federal department or agency.

Important note: An environmental review and/or assessment will be required for all projects selected to proceed in the formal application process.

Operation and Maintenance

Applicants must have a satisfactory record of accomplishment for operation and maintenance of public recreation areas and facilities or must have a formal written agreement with an entity with a satisfactory record of accomplishment for operation and maintenance of public recreation areas and facilities in order to apply.

Grants Administration

Applicants must have a satisfactory record of administering Federal grant funds or must have a formal written agreement with an entity with a satisfactory record of administering Federal grant funds. Grant administration professionals may be acceptable substitutes for some institutional capacity upon approval from ADECA.

Twenty Percent Match

Applicants must document the availability of the required minimum twenty percent (20%) match for each application. This requires that each applicant submit a resolution passed by its governing authority that, if a grant were awarded, the required match would be forthcoming. Applicants should be advised that this is a reimbursement program. Funds must be available to expend. Once expenditures are made, reimbursements can be requested. The reimbursement process can take up to 90 days.

User Fees

Applicants must agree that any and all user fees, either resulting from this application or as part of the applicant's system of public parks and recreation areas, cannot be so large as to be exclusionary.

Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if:

- Entity has an open Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or RTP grant as of May 3, 2016.
- Entity has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant.
- Entity did not respond in writing to a LWCF or RTP inspection report that contained deficiencies.
- Entity has not completed and received approval of a Corrective Action Plan for previous compliance issues.

Submission Instructions

Please submit an original and a digital copy (an emailed copy will not be accepted) of your application. Be sure each application includes:

- A cover letter on entity letterhead
- A signed Pre-application Form to include a response to each of the evaluation criterion
- A resolution adopted by the legal entity of the applicant authorizing the application and committing all matching funds required to complete the proposed project
- A narrative description of the proposed project
- Estimate of cost
- Preliminary site plan
- Plat and/or legal description of the property proposed for purchase and/or development
- Location map
- Verification of sam.gov registration

Please submit your application with a single binder clip. Please do not staple, spiral bind, or book bind your application. Please submit applications to:

By Mail

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Community and Economic Development Programs Division
Attention: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager
Post Office Box 5690
Montgomery AL 36103-5690

By Courier

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Community and Economic Development Programs Division
Attention: Crystal Davis, Recreation and Conservation Programs Manager
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 524
Montgomery, AL 36104

All applications must be received by Recreation and Conservation Programs staff by 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

For more information please contact: Crystal Davis at (334) 353-2630, or crystal.davis@adeca.alabama.gov.

AU Budget

	<u>Request Amount</u>	<u>Match Amount</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
Salaries		\$ 12,633.00	10% effort for 3 full-time employees
Fringe benefits (32%)		\$ 4,042.56	
Educational trail markers	\$ 2,500.00		
equipment/rentals	\$ 6,930.45		
Subk - SCA	\$ 89,979.59	\$ 26,577.49	2,560/hrs volunteer time
The Nature Conservance		\$ 2,000.00	providing housing at a value of \$500/month
Limestone/Madison County		\$ 8,488.00	400 hours of in-kind x \$21.22/hr
AAMU		\$ 7,639.20	360 hrs volunteer time
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$ 99,410.04	\$ 61,380.25	

SCA Budget

trail design (intern)	\$ 13,727.69		
2 trail teams	\$ 76,251.90		
2,560/hrs volunteer time		\$ 26,577.49	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
	\$ 89,979.59	\$ 26,577.49	

Total Project Cost \$ 160,790.29



Business Office
119 Duncan Hall
Auburn University, AL 36849-5613
(334) 844-5535 phone
(334) 844-5530 fax
winegjm@auburn.edu

April 28, 2016

Crystal Davis
Recreation and Conservation Program Manager
Alabama Dept of Economic and Community Affairs

RE: "Graham Farm Jackson County Trail Project"
AU CES 16-984

The programmatic and administrative personnel at Auburn University are in support of the proposed collaboration between Auburn University and Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Themika Sims, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, will serve as the principal investigator for our institution. The total award budget, as reflected on the attached proposal, is in the amount of \$99,410.04 , and a cost-share commitment of \$61,380.25 for the period from October 1, 2016 through March 30, 2018. We agree to establish the necessary agreements to participate in the project if the proposal is awarded funding.

Auburn University is a state-supported institution of higher education, EIN # 63-6000724.

Please contact Juanita Winegar at (334) 844-5535 or via email at winegjm@auburn.edu if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Taylor".

for:
John M. Mason
Vice President for Research
And Economic Development



April 29, 2016

Mr. Themika Sims, Jackson County Extension Coordinator
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Jackson County Extension Office
P.O. Box 906
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Re: Alabama DEDCA Recreation Trail Grant Request for Graham Farm and Nature Center Trails

Dear Mr. Sims,

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is very excited to collaborate with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System of Auburn University, and provide volunteers to develop and construct a ten mile trail at Graham Farm and Nature Center.

SCA Project Director, Tobias Bokum-Fauth will be the principal investigator for our organization during this project. As a sub-awardee of Auburn University's Recreational Trail Grant, SCA will request **\$89,979.59** to support a Trail Design Intern and two Trail Corps teams for 2016 and 2017 respectively. SCA will provide a non-federal in-kind match in the form of volunteer time of 2,560 hours valued at **\$26,577.49**. We agree to establish the necessary agreements to participate in this project if the proposal is awarded funding. SCA is a non-profit organization with an EIN # 910880684.

SCA's mission "to build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land", is a perfect match to the work that will be accomplished through this trail project.

Thank you for this opportunity to partner with you to develop this trail for Graham Farm.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gonzalez-McIntosh
Chief Counsel



April 28, 2016

Mr. Themika Sims, Jackson County Extension Coordinator
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Jackson County Extension Office
P.O. Box 906
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Re: Alabama DEDCA Recreation Trail Grant Request for Graham Farm and Nature Center Trails

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Thank you for this opportunity to partner with you to develop this trail for Graham Farm.

Sincerely,

Jaime Berman Maytas, President and CEO



Protecting nature. Preserving life.®

The Nature Conservancy in Alabama
2100 First Avenue North, Suite 500
Birmingham, AL 35203

Tel (205) 251-1155
Fax (205) 251-4444

nature.org/alabama

Themika Sims
County Extension Coordinator
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
27115 John T. Reid Parkway
Scottsboro, Alabama 35769

Dear Mr. Sims:

The Nature Conservancy will be happy to allow your SCA volunteers to use the house located at 1481 U.S. Highway 72, Gurley, Alabama during their fall 2016 6- 7 week trail building schedule and during the 6-7 week spring 2017 schedule.

We continue to support your efforts to establish an education and research facility at the Graham Farm and engage SCA student volunteers.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Northcutt", written over the typed name.

Steve Northcutt
Director of Protection
The Nature Conservancy



Limestone County Extension Office
1109 W. Market Street
Suite A
Athens, AL 35611

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Crystal Davis, Rec & Conservation Program Manager
401 Adams Avenue
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103
April 25, 2016

Grant Review Board,

The Limestone County 4-H Program is pleased to support Graham Farm and Nature Center's efforts in pursuing a Recreational Trails Program Grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Limestone County 4-H Junior/Senior Council will be assisting the Graham Farm with developing, cleaning and maintaining trails as part of this grant. The members of the Limestone County 4-H Council have committed to provide assistance on 5 separate occasions with approximately 5 members each visit. Work will be scheduled according to Graham Farm's schedule and will total approximately 200 hours of volunteer service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CB', written over the printed name.

Chris Becker
Limestone County Extension Coordinator



Department of Biological
and Environmental
Sciences

College of Agricultural,
Life and Natural Sciences

P. O. Box 1208

Normal, Alabama 35762

(256) 372-4214 Office

(256) 372-5905 Fax

Themika L. Sims
County Extension Coordinator – Jackson
27115 John T Reid Parkway #2,
Scottsboro, AL 35768

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Re: Letter of Support for Trail Development proposal on Graham Farm

Dear Mr. Sims,

Alabama A&M University has a three-pronged mission of teaching, research, and service. We have reviewed your proposal "Trail development through ADECA". We feel that the collaborators that you have assembled represent a very strong group. We are very excited about your proposal and being part of your team. Thus, based on my personal knowledge of the expertise, level of commitment, and dedication of the your effort, I am confident you will effectively implement the project.

Additionally, your proposal is consistent with our mission here at AAMU "To employ the resident knowledge and expertise in various disciplines in science and technology in the University for improving the lives of people in Alabama, the nation and the world by incorporating international dimensions into teaching, discovery and scholarship, outreach or public service programs." In an effort to assist with the Farm's educational outreach we are committing 6 Capstone students for a period of 10 weeks totaling 360 volunteer hours.

The University, and our College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences (CALNS) in particular, recognizes the importance of Agriculture need for exposing our students to international perspectives and opportunities. Our Forestry, Ecology and Wildlife Program (FEWP), a Program within the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences (BES), has and continues to play a leading role in CALNS's international education efforts.

In my capacity as Chair of BES I strongly endorse this Project. I pledge the full support of my office for the project, within the constraints of available resources. As you know your proposal will greatly benefit our students and class activity that is currently operating on Graham Farm. If you have any questions or concerns please contact me directly.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony S. Overton'.

Warmest regards,

DR. ANTHONY S OVERTON
Professor & Chair
Alabama A&M University
Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
Carver Complex-Thomas Wing
P.O. Box 1208
Normal, AL 35762
Tele 256-372-4219 Fax 256-372-4264
Email:Anthony.Overton@aamu.edu



Walter Harris
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Madison County
819 Cook Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
walterharris@auburn.edu
(256)532-1578; FAX: (256)532-1581
www.aces.edu/madison

April 25, 2016

Crystal Davis
Recreation & Conservation Program Manager
ADECA
P.O. Box 5690
Montgomery, AL 36103

Grant Review Board:

The Madison County 4-H Program supports the Graham Farm and Nature Center's efforts in pursuing a 'Recreational Trails Program' Grant from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. Madison County 4-H'ers will assist the Graham Farm with developing, cleaning and maintaining trails as part of this grant. To assist in accomplishing the goals of the grant, Madison County 4-H Council members will develop and carry out a schedule congruent with the Graham Farm's schedule. Approximately 200 hours of volunteer service will be planned for this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter Harris".

Walter Harris
County Extension Coordinator
Madison County

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Auburn University 107 Samford Hall
 DUNS: 066470972 CAGE Code: 8H404 Auburn, AL, 36849-0001 ,
 Status: Active UNITED STATES

Expiration Date: 03/10/2017
 Purpose of Registration: All Awards

Entity Overview

Entity Information

Name: Auburn University
Business Type: Business or Organization
POC Name: Martha Taylor
Registration Status: Active
Activation Date: 03/10/2016
Expiration Date: 03/10/2017

Exclusions

Active Exclusion Records? No

SAM | System for Award Management 1.0

IBM v1.P.46.20160226-1435

WWW6



Note to all Users: This is a Federal Government computer system. Use of this system constitutes consent to monitoring at all times.

Amendment 1

Graham Property Description Estillfork, Alabama

All that part of the West half of Southeast quarter of section 16, which is Southeast of the main public road or highway which crosses said 80 running in a Northeast and Southwest direction and which is North of Paint Rock River, and also all that part of the Northwest quarter of the Southeast quarter which is Northwest from said main public road or highway and West of Larking Fork Creek; also the North half of the Southwest quarter and the South half of the Northwest quarter then (10) acres evenly off the South side of the North half of the Northwest quarter, all in Section 16. Also 15 acres evenly off of the South side of the Northeast quarter of the Northeast quarter, the South half of the Northeast quarter, the North half of the Southeast quarter, the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter; and the Northeast quarter of the Southwest quarter and all being in section 17, and all of said land being in Township 2 South of Range 4 East, Jackson County Alabama.

Containing in all 486, more or less

Source of Title: Deed Book 193 at Page 599

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT TRACT



Approximate subject boundaries outlined in yellow