

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

Applicant Information

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|----------------|
| Applicant's Name (Organization) | Town of Section | | |
| Street Address | 6221 Tammy Little Drive - P.O. Box 310 | | |
| City | Section | State | AL |
| Zip Code | 35771 | | |
| County | Jackson | | |
| FEIN | 630669998 | DUNS Number | 001483874 |
| Project Title (maximum of six words) | Weathington Park | | |
| Project Description (maximum of 25 words) | Base, Paving and Drainage for Existing .33 Mile Gravel Walking Trail | | |
| Park Name | Weathington Park | | |
| Park Address | 6221 Tammy Little Drive | | |
| City | Section | State | AL |
| Zip Code | 35771 | | |
| GPS Coordinates of Project | Lat: 34d 35' 29.8568 N Long: 85d 59' 56.9938" W | | |
| Congressional District | 5 | | |
| State Senate District | 8 | House Senate District | 23 |
| Applicant's Chief Elected Official, Director, or President | Mayor Ron Fossett | | |
| E-mail Address | sectional@farmerstel.com | Phone Number | (256) 228-3280 |

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)

Regrade existing .33 mile gravel walking trail, provide drainage, compacted base and paving.

I. 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

Further development of this project appears to be highly feasible and will meet recreational needs for the park. Park is open to the public for systematic walking as well as a beautiful view overlooking the Tennessee River. The existing trail path is well situated in the park with easy access, however the trail is uneven with some ruts and needs proper drainage.

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 certainly enhance the quality of the park. The paving will provide much easier walking conditions and will allow wheel chair and infant stroller use.

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 park is visible and easily accessible from Alabama Highway 35, which is a main thoroughfare between Huntsville and Atlanta. Many participants come by the park to enjoy the view of the River and Valley, others use the open walking trail for recreation.

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

One of the primary goals by the Town is to make the park assessable to all the public.

The park presently has a paved access drive and relatively level parking. A short paved path can easily connect the parking lot to the walking trail. This project will lend itself to older citizens, economically disadvantaged and persons with disabilities.

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

Once the existing walking trail is paved 8' wide with easy access it should attract senior groups, special education group field trips, etc. A subsequent grant assisted project to provide trail head/restroom facilities will further enhance the trail utilization.

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

The potential for leveraging is good for this park. Since the beneficiaries go outside the Town limits, it is possible that the County Commission would contribute toward restroom facilities or an overlook.

The absence of restrooms at present time likely hampers the number of daily participants.

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 Town maintenance crew presently takes care of the park facilities and will continue conservation of any added facilities. The beautiful park overlooks the stunning Tennessee River on one side and Chisenhall Spring Cove on one side. The citizens of the community are very involved in the future development of the park by placing GEO caches inside the park to help lure venturous people to visit the park. With the Town's enthusiasm and commitment of weekly maintenance, the park should stay beautiful for many years.

(See Photos)

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 13.5 acres of property was donated to the Town approximately five (5) years ago with the understanding that it would be used from that point on for a public park. Based on citizens identified needs the Mayor and Council elected to provide a Community Walking Trail. A paved trail was over the budget. However, with some local citizen and business participation the Town was able to provide gravel trail.

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

The entire park is managed and maintained by the Town and will be patrolled regularly by their Police Department. Park will be open daily during daylight hours. A curfew will be enforced for night use.

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

The service area for the Weathington Park covers the entire Town limits of Section (Population 763+), plus 5 - 7 miles out into the County on three (3) sides including, Northeast State Jr. College. There are no known trails adjoining the park with exception of an access road down the mountainside on the west side of the park leading to a water treatment plant near the shoreline of the Tennessee River.

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 13.5 acre tract of property was donated/deeded to the Town with the understanding that it would be used for a public park. The Town has full intensions to further develop and maintain the improvements in perpetuity. The park is open to the public all day daily and patrolled by police frequently.

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.