

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
Recreational Trails Program
FY 2025 Funding Cycle
Program Summary

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1998 to assist in acquiring, developing, and/or improving trail and trail-related resources.

Program Information

Estimated Funds Available for RTP	Approximately \$1,600,000
Maximum Grant-Non-motorized (varies by trail type and activity)	\$200,000 - \$400,000
Maximum Grant-Motorized	\$524,937
Federal Share	80%
Allowable Matching Source	Cash, In-kind, and/or Donations
FY 2025 Application Due Date	12 Noon, Wednesday, July 31, 2024
Project Selection	Competitive

Funding Cycle

RTP applications will be accepted until **12 Noon, Wednesday, July 31, 2024**. The applications will be reviewed, rated, and ranked by Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' (ADECA) Recreation Programs staff and members of the Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board.

Eligible Applicants

All applicants must be currently registered in SAM.gov with a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). Applications from project sponsors not meeting this criterion will be deemed ineligible and will not be reviewed. Eligible applicants include:

- Local Governments
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies

Maximum Grant Size

The maximum grant amount is **\$200,000** for non-motorized, single-use trail projects; **\$400,000** for non-motorized, diverse-use trail projects; **\$524,937** for motorized, diverse-use trail projects; and **\$87,489** for educational projects which promote safety and environmental protection related to recreational trails.

Matching Requirement

The Federal share for the RTP is up to **80%** of the total eligible project costs up to the grant ceiling. The non-Federal share (at least **20%**) may come from State, local, or private sources.

Permissible Uses

Applications may be submitted for one or more of the following activities:

- The construction of new trails on state, county, municipal, or private lands, where a recreational need for such construction is shown
- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- The development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities (may include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Drainage, 2) Crossings, 3) Stabilization, 4) Parking, 5) Signage, 6) Controls, 7) Shelters, and 8) Water, Sanitary, and Access Facilities) and trail linkages for recreational trails
- The provision of features which facilitate the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities
- The acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trails corridors identified in a state trail plan
- The assessment of trail conditions for accessibility and maintenance
- The development and dissemination of publications and the operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to recreational trails

Types of Trail Projects

At least 30 percent of Alabama's RTP funds must be used for motorized trail projects, at least 30 percent for non-motorized trail projects, and at least 40 percent for diverse-use trail projects. Diverse-use motorized projects (such as ATV and motorcycle use) or diverse-use non-motorized projects (such as pedestrian and equestrian use) 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, when feasible.

- **Non-Motorized for A Single-Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit only one mode of non-motorized recreational trail use, such as pedestrian-only or equestrian-only. Projects serving various pedestrian uses (such as walking, hiking, skating, wheelchair use, running, bird watching, nature interpretation, backpacking, etc.) constitute a single use for the purposes of this category. This category also includes trailhead and trailside improvements for non-motorized, single-use trails (such as lighting).

- **Non-Motorized for Diverse-Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of non-motorized recreational trail use, such as walking, skating, and bicycling; pedestrian and equestrian use; equestrian and bicycle use; etc.

- **Motorized for Diverse-Use**

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of motorized recreational use,

such as motorcycle and ATV use; ATV and 4x4 OHV (truck) use; etc. A project may be classified in this category if the project also benefits some non-motorized uses (it is not necessary to exclude non-motorized uses), but the primary intent must be for the benefit of motorized use.

- **Educational Projects**

Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to recreational trails. Typical education projects may include:

- Development and operation of trail safety education programs
- Development and operation of trail-related environmental education programs
- Development and delivery of training on trail accessibility and sustainability
- Production of trail-related educational materials, including information displays in print, video, audio, interactive computer displays, etc.
- Development and delivery of training that promotes safety or environmental protection related to recreational trails. This includes training related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment because each of these steps can relate directly to safety and environmental protection. Note: this does not include training related to club or organizational development or grant-writing skills.
- Development or support of publications related to trail design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, because these steps relate to safety and environmental protection

The RTP and the Federal Highway Administration should be acknowledged for training and education materials, programs, publications, etc. developed with RTP funds.

NOTE: Some materials may only be partially educational. For example, the development/printing of a trail system map generally is not considered an educational project. However, if one side of the map is dedicated to trail safety and environmental protection education, then educational funds may participate in half of the development/printing cost.

Important note: Interested parties must consult with ADECA's Recreation Programs staff prior to submitting an application under this category.

Applicants should consider entering into contracts and cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps for the performance of construction and maintenance of recreational trails. Additionally, proposals to make environmental improvements to existing trail facilities are encouraged.

Technical assistance prior to application preparation is *strongly recommended*.

Only one application may be submitted per entity during a funding cycle.

Thresholds

Prospective applicants are not eligible to apply if the applicant has an open Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) or RTP grant as of July 31, 2024.

Prospective applicants may be determined ineligible to apply if the applicant:

- has unresolved compliance issues from a previous LWCF or RTP grant
- did not respond in writing to an LWCF or RTP inspection report which contained deficiencies and the entity has not obtained approval of a Corrective Action Plan for previous compliance issues

For more information, please contact:

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