



## Funding Research Memo: Parks and Trails

Last updated: August 2018

THIS MEMO WILL BE UPDATED PERIODICALLY. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING RESOURCES, PLEASE CONTACT THE SNC FUND DEVELOPMENT TEAM: [sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov](mailto:sncfundingteam@sierranevada.ca.gov).

**CAVEAT – Grant guidelines and deadlines are subject to periodic change. Please check the program web sites for new information. The deadlines listed are projected from the last funding round and can be unreliable. Check the program’s web site!**

### FUNDING SUMMARY TABLE

(\*Hyperlinks to more complete information later in memo, including links to program web sites.)

Grant	Funding Range	Funding Focus	Estimated Deadline (most recent deadline)	Eligible Costs
<p><b>Note:</b> The passage of Prop 68 in June 2018 and the potential passage of Prop 3 in November 2018 will add funding resources to some of these grant programs and may also result in additional funding opportunities. At the time of publication many of these opportunities have not yet been released. Please check the websites of relevant California state agencies for updates. The SNC funding opportunities newsletter will also have the latest information. You can subscribe by adding yourself to the funding listserv <a href="#">here</a>.</p>				
<a href="#">CA River Parkway Grant Program</a>	No maximum or minimum. Match not required but adds to priority.	Support the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways.	September (September 27, 2018 for concept proposals)	Acquisition and development projects, including community access.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Recreational Trails Program</a>	No minimum or maximum. 12% match required.	Development of non-motorized trails.	Not until 2019/20 (November 23, 2016)	Acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; development and rehabilitation of trails, trailside, and trailhead facilities; and construction of new trails.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Grants</a>	Maximum grant depends on category of funding. 25% match required.	Planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, programs, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs.	March or April (March 5, 2018)	Very broad – all direct costs plus 15% indirect.

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<a href="#">CA Wildlife Conservation Board: Public Access Program</a>	Amount of grants varies with individual solicitations. Cost-share impacts project scoring.	Creating opportunities for meaningful wildlife-oriented recreation experiences, which will inspire Californians across the State to serve as conservation stewards.	August (June 29, 2018 for pre-applications)	Funding can be used for planning, construction, and implementation. Indirect costs cannot be funded but can be counted as cost-share.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund</a>	No grant minimum or maximum. 1:1 local or private non-state match required.	Several categories of programs, including trails and wildlife area activities.	October (October 1, 2018)	Funding is for land acquisition, trail development, interpretive and educational activities.
<a href="#">CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund</a>	Grants up to \$2 million. 1:1 match required.	Acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities.	February (February 5, 2018)	Can fund either acquisition or development projects, but not both.
<a href="#">CA Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Active Transportation Program</a>	Minimum \$250,000, no maximum. Match encouraged but not required.	Active transportation projects, particularly walking and biking.	July (July 31, 2018)	Infrastructure projects (including environmental, design, right-of-way, and construction), non-infrastructure projects (including education, encouragement, and enforcement activities), and development of community-wide bicycle, pedestrian, safe routes to school, or active transportation plans (plans only funded in disadvantaged communities.)
<a href="#">CA Natural Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement Mitigation Program</a>	Up to \$500,000 (\$1 million for acquisition). Match not required but encouraged.	Urban forestry, resource lands, or additional mitigation of transportation projects.	June or July (June 22, 2018)	Direct project-related costs (acquisition, restoration, or development) incurred during the project performance period. Indirect costs not covered.
<a href="#">Department of Water Resources Urban Stream Restoration Program</a>	No current funding information.	Reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship.	No current funding round, but additional funding was allocated in Prop 68 so an upcoming program announcement is expected.	Each PSP will describe eligible and ineligible costs associated with each fund source supporting the grants to be awarded.

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<a href="#">National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding</a>	\$2,000 - \$20,000 1:1 match required	Funds trails and stewardship organizations to increase trail maintenance and reduce deferred maintenance (trail backlog) on National Forest System trails.	April (April 15, 2018)	Maintenance work on qualifying trails, including clearing, brushing, tread repair, structure repair or replacement, and installation of trail signs.
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Land Access Program (FLAP)</a>	No maximum. An 11.47% match is required.	Improvement of state or county roads and other transportation facilities that provide access to high-use federal recreational areas or economic generators.	Periodic 'Calls for Projects'. States receive funding every 2-3 years. (CA's last funding round was in May 2017. Next round is expected in 2020.)	This program does not provide funding. Instead the FLAP team will implement the project, including scoping, budgets, engineering, design, environmental review, procurement, and construction management.
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Land Transportation Program</a>	No maximum, no match.	Improve transportation facilities on public lands.	Periodic 'Calls for Projects'.	Program administration, transportation planning, research, preventive maintenance, engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of roads, parking areas, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, environmental mitigation, etc.
<a href="#">U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program</a>	Grants up to \$50,000 and loans. At least 25% match is required.	Developing essential community facilities in rural areas.	Rolling	Construction of buildings, roads, bridges, fences, or utilities, as well as other public improvements. Also acquisition of land and water rights, but only when they are necessary for the facility.
<a href="#">National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance</a>	No funding provided, technical assistance only.	Development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places.	June or July (June 30, 2018)	Will provide staff assistance in the form of planning, facilitation, design, etc.
<a href="#">National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation Fund and Forest Stewardship Fund</a>	Awards vary based on funding availability. A 50% non-federal match is required.	Results-oriented, on-the-ground projects that improve the quality, condition, and care of outdoor experiences on National Forests.	Rolling, based on funding.	On-the-ground projects that include civic engagement and volunteers. Projects must be on USFS lands.
<a href="#">Rails to Trails Conservancy: Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund</a>	\$5,000 - \$35,000 No match required	Organizations that are implementing projects to build and improve multiuse trails. Projects on rail-trails and rails-with-trails will be given preference.	January (January 31, 2018)	Capacity building, organizational support, new trail construction, trail facility and infrastructure (including trailheads and bathrooms), land acquisition, trail signage, improvements to existing trails, and significant maintenance.

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<a href="#">American Hiking Society National Trails Fund</a>	Up to \$3,000.	Hiking trail improvements.	February (February 16, 2018)	Land acquisitions, trail improvements, constituent development.
<a href="#">Polaris TRAILS grant</a>	Up to \$10,000.	Promoting safe and responsible riding, and preserving access for all-terrain vehicles.	March and September (September 1, 2018)	Funds can be used by organizations for trail development and maintenance projects, safety and education initiatives, lobbying, and other projects to increase and maintain land access.
<a href="#">Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&amp;E) Foundation</a>	Usually below \$5,000 but there are exceptions.	Programs designed to promote education and workforce development, economic and community vitality, the environment, and emergency preparedness and safety across Northern and Central California.	March through October (October 5, 2018)	No specific limitations. Applications should be at invitation of PG&E staff.
<a href="#">Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative: Guaranteeing Responsible Access to Our Nation's Trails (GRANT)</a>	Not stated, appears to be about \$5,000-\$15,000.	Promote safe, responsible use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), educate public on proper recreational land use and wildlife conservation practices, and protect access to public lands.	Quarterly	Trail development, signage, facility construction, equipment rental, mapping, educational materials, resources management, etc.
<a href="#">Hind Foundation</a>	Up to \$100,000. Preference for projects with most of the funding in place.	Ecosystem conservation and plant and wildlife protection.	Ongoing	Project implementation.
<a href="#">Community Foundations</a>	Various	Various	Various	Various



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### California River Parkways Grant

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/california-river-parkways/>

The River Parkways grant program has been refunded with Proposition 68 dollars. The purpose of this program is to support the acquisition, restoration, protection, and development of river parkways. River Parkways are defined as outdoor areas adjacent to a river or stream, set apart to conserve scenic, natural, open space or recreational values to afford public access to open space, low impact recreational activities, and/or wildlife habitat. They may encompass ecological restoration, flood management, water quality and/or urban waterfront revitalization benefits. Projects must involve natural creeks, streams, and/or rivers, even if they flow only during the rainy season, or channelized or culverted creeks, streams, and/or rivers. Projects must provide public access or be a component of a larger parkway plan that provides public access.

Projects must meet at least two of the following five statutory conditions:

- Recreation: provide compatible recreational opportunities, including trails for strolling, hiking, bicycling, and equestrian uses along rivers and streams
- Habitat: protect, improve, or restore riverine or riparian habitat, including benefits to wildlife habitat and water quality
- Flood management: maintain or restore the open space character of lands along rivers and streams so that they are compatible with periodic flooding as part of a flood management plan or project
- Conversion to river parkways: convert existing, developed riverfront land into uses consistent with river parkways
- Conservation and interpretive enhancement: provide facilities to support or interpret river or stream restoration or other conservation activities

Eligible projects include:

- Creation or expansion of trails for walking, bicycling, and/or equestrian activities that are compatible with other conservation objectives
- Improvement of existing river parkways by providing amenities such as picnic and rest areas or shade ramadas
- Conversion of channelized streams or rivers to a more historical flow pattern that will promote the structure, function, and dynamics of riparian and riverine habitat
- Acquisition of land that will be managed to increase the size and quality of existing riparian habitat
- Expansion of existing river parkway by acquiring adjacent lands to accommodate periodic flooding

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- Restoration of land to natural floodplain forms, including wetland areas that will accommodate periodic flooding
- Conversion of riverfront land from industrial use into public multiuse areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, public trails, etc.
- Revitalization of urban neighborhoods by removing abandoned structures along the riverfront to provide open space river access for the public
- Construction of an overlook area for a restored wetland with interpretive signage, where the public can observe the project benefits
- Construction of a boardwalk adjacent to sensitive habitat to allow public viewing without disturbing flora or fauna

The application process is two-step, starting with a concept proposal. Priority is given to projects that leverage private, federal, local funding or produce the greatest public benefit.

### **CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Recreational Trails Program**

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24324](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24324)

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds annually for recreational trails and trails-related projects. This program channels federal transportation funding through the CA Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) [Active Transportation Program](#) (ATP). There is no maximum or minimum limit on grant request amounts for the program generally, but a maximum grant amount may be set each year by DPR.

Eligible projects include acquisition of easements and fee simple title to property for recreational trails or recreational trail corridors; development and rehabilitation of trails, trailside, and trailhead facilities; and construction of new trails.

The maximum amount of RTP funds allowed for each project is 88 percent of the total project cost. The applicant is responsible for obtaining a match amount that is at least 12 percent of the total project cost. Eligible match sources include state funds (including state grant funds), local funds (including general funds and bond funds), private funds, donated materials and services, value of donated land (for acquisition projects only), and other federal funds.

The next round of funding for this program will not be until 2019/20.

### **CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program**

[http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=1164](http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1164)

<http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/>

This program supports the planning, acquisition, development, maintenance, administration, operation, enforcement, restoration, and conservation of trails, trailheads, areas, and other facilities associated with the use of OHVs, and programs involving OHV safety or education.

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Relevant activities that can be funded include:

- Ground Operations - Maintenance and/or conservation of facilities; compliance with soil standards and Habitat Management Programs; and protection of natural and/or cultural resources
- Development - Construction of, and improvements to, facilities to sustain or enhance OHV recreational opportunities and experiences (trails, trailhead staging areas, parking, picnic and restroom facilities, etc.)
- Planning - Development of plans for future projects
- Restoration - Provide ecological restoration to habitat damaged by authorized or unauthorized OHV use
- Acquisition - Secure interests in land to sustain or expand OHV recreation access and OHV opportunities
- Law Enforcement - Provide financial assistance to local and federal agencies for protection of life and property related to OHV recreation
- Education and Safety - Provide public awareness and safety programs for responsible OHV recreation

A 25 percent match (cash or in-kind) is required. This can include volunteer services. A higher match brings in higher scores.

The proposed activity must be directly related to OHV recreation. In general, the more robust the OHV opportunities (more diverse OHV options, more developed facilities, signage, education programs, monitoring, and enforcement, etc.), the higher the application will score. The application requires detailed information about the OHV project, and the information must be well-documented by reports, statistics, plans, studies, and other records.

Eligible project costs are very broad – basically, any costs directly related to the work identified in the project description. Additionally, the applicant may receive reimbursement up to 15 percent of the requested amount for indirect costs.

### **CA Wildlife Conservation Board: Public Access Program**

<https://wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Public-Access>

The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) carries out a program to improve public access to hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation throughout California. Financial assistance is available to State and federal agencies, cities, counties and public districts or corporations for development of public access facilities such as fishing piers or floats, access roads, boat launching ramps, trails, boardwalks, interpretive facilities, and lake or stream improvements. Support facilities such as restrooms and parking areas are also eligible for funding under this program.



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Under the Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947, it is required that the State have a proprietary interest in the land or water on which the improvements are made. Prior to approval of a project by the WCB, either a Notice of Unrecorded Grant Agreement or a lease agreement may be required between the local agency and the State to secure a proprietary interest in the project site and ensure the long-term management and maintenance of the improvements. In almost all cases this will be for a period of at least 25 years. Grants and Local Assistance awards are available to federal and state agencies, counties, cities, nonprofit organizations or public districts that manage and operate wildlife oriented public access properties or programs.

Each year specific recreational needs are identified. Funding is awarded on a competitive basis using specific priorities and evaluation criteria designed to meet the identified need contained in each solicitation.

### **CA Department of Parks and Recreation – Habitat Conservation Fund**

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page\\_id=21361](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21361)

The Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) program allocates approximately \$2 million each year for grants to cities, counties, and districts. Projects include:

- Nature interpretation and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas
- Programs which protect various plant and animal species
- Acquisition or development of wildlife corridors and trails

Eligible applicants are cities, counties, and districts (park and open space districts). There are several categories of funding, including trails and wildlife area activities. Funding can be for land acquisition, enhancement, restoration, trail development, or educational/interpretive activities, depending on the category of funding.

There is a requirement to use the CA Conservation Corps for restoration or trail-building activities if appropriate.

### **CA Department of Parks and Recreation Land and Water Conservation Fund**

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page\\_id=21360](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?Page_id=21360)

Applications may fund either acquisition or development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Priority development projects include trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, natural areas, and cultural areas for recreational use.

Eligible applicants include cities, counties, and districts authorized to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain park and recreation areas. Property acquired or developed under the program must be maintained in perpetuity for public outdoor recreation use.

Grants are up to \$2 million. A 1:1 match is required. The grant web site states that there will not be another round of competitive funding until 2020.



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### **CA Department of Transportation (CALTRANS) Active Transportation Program (ATP)**

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/>

The purpose of the Active Transportation Program (ATP) is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation such as biking and walking. The ATP consolidates previous federal and state transportation programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), into a single program. Eligible projects include:

- Safe Routes to School projects that improve the safety of children walking and bicycling to school, in accordance with Section 1404 of Public Law 109-59.
- Recreational trails and trailheads, park projects that facilitate trail linkages or connectivity to non-motorized corridors, and conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to trails.
- Development or improvement of bikeways and walkways that improve mobility, access, or safety for non-motorized users.
- Development of a community wide bike, pedestrian, safe routes to schools, or active transportation plan in a disadvantaged community.

There is no stated maximum grant. The minimum grant is \$250,000. Matching funds are encouraged but not required.

### **CA Natural Resources Agency Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program**

<http://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem/>

The Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEMP) is designed to fund projects that contribute to mitigation of the environmental effects of transportation facilities. Eligible projects must be directly or indirectly related to the environmental impact of the modification of an existing transportation facility or construction of a new transportation facility. This means that the proposed project must be in the immediate vicinity or general area of work done on a public street, highway, mass transit guideway (trains, ports, light rail lines, city streets, airports, etc.), or appurtenant features (park and ride facilities, high-occupancy vehicle lanes, transit stations, etc.). These are called 'Related Transportation Facilities' (RTF). Not all road work qualifies; see the guidelines. You can identify eligible RTFs by contacting your local transportation department, Regional Transit Agency, Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), Council of Local Governments (COG), Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), or Caltrans District Office. You will need a lot of documentation from this transportation agency, so contact it early in the process.

Project categories:

- Urban forestry projects designed to offset vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide

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- Resource lands projects for the acquisition or enhancement of resource lands to mitigate the loss of, or the detriment to, resource lands lying within or near the right-of-way acquired for transportation improvements
- Mitigation projects beyond the scope of the lead agency responsible for assessing the environmental impact of the proposed transportation improvement

The EEMP encourages projects that produce multiple benefits which reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase water use efficiency, reduce risks from climate change impacts, and demonstrate collaboration with local, state, and community entities. Eligible applicants are local, state, and federal governmental agencies and nonprofit organizations.

### **Department of Water Resources Urban Streams Restoration Program.**

<http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

This Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant provides funding to reduce flooding and erosion, restore or protect the natural ecological values of streams, and promote community involvement and stewardship. 'Urban' streams do NOT have to be in urbanized area. Projects must be designed for a creek, stream, or river that crosses built-up residential, commercial, or industrial property, or which crosses land where, in the near future, the land use will be residential, commercial, or industrial. Waterways may be perennial or ephemeral. The last round of funding was in 2014 and there is no current round scheduled. However, this is one of the grant programs which received funding from Proposition 68, so it will definitely be coming back. Keep your eye on the website.

### **National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding**

[http://www.wildernessalliance.org/trail\\_funding](http://www.wildernessalliance.org/trail_funding)

The National Forest System Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding (Trail Stewardship Funding) program funds trails and stewardship organizations to increase trail maintenance accomplishments and reduce deferred maintenance (trail backlog) on National Forest System trails. Funding is available for all types of terra trails (summer use trails), for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Projects can include clearing, brushing, tread repair, structure repair or replacement, and installation of trail signs. Any activity that will reduce existing trail deferred maintenance is also acceptable. Any trail work that will meet National Quality Standards and is required under the Trail Management Objectives will qualify.

Qualified applicants include any nonprofit organization (eg. 501 (c) (3), 501 (c) 7) in good standing with the IRS. Organizations should have a sponsored volunteer or other agreement with their local Forest Service office for work performed under this funding program.

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The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance is the lead manager for the program. NWSA is working collaboratively with American Trails, the American Hiking Society, the Back Country Horsemen of America, the International Mountain Biking Association, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, and the American Motorcyclist Association to review and select projects that will provide an overall benefit to the National Forest System trails network.

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Land Access Program**

<https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/>

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) provides funds for roads and other transportation facilities (bridges, trails, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, etc.) owned/maintained by the state or county that provide access to federal lands that have high recreational use or economic impact. FLAP funds cannot be used on federally owned or maintained roads; funding for those projects is provided by the Federal Lands Transportation Program (see below).

Eligible activities include work on parking areas and trailheads, provisions for pedestrians and bicycles, mitigation measures to reduce wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity, roadside rest areas, etc.

A successful application does not result in grant funding for the project. Instead the project goes on a list and is implemented by the Federal Lands Highway office, which takes care of scoping, environmental review, design, procurement, and construction administration in close partnership with the relevant agencies.

Applications are submitted by the agency responsible for maintaining the facility in question (usually the county), but local offices of the Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) often assist in completing the application materials. In any case, the project application must be supported by the appropriate FLMA, documented by a completed support form or a letter of support.

Calls for projects take place every two or three years. The next one in California is tentatively scheduled for 2020.

### **U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Land Transportation Program**

<https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/fltp/>

The Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) was established to improve transportation facilities on public lands, including national parks and Forest Service lands. The program focuses on improving federal lands transportation facilities (FLTFs) that are located on, adjacent to, or provide access to public lands. The FLTFs must be owned and maintained by the federal government and must be included in the national FLTF inventory. Funds can be used for:

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- Program administration, transportation planning, research, preventive maintenance, engineering, rehabilitation, restoration, construction, and reconstruction of FLTFs, as well as:
  - Adjacent vehicular parking areas
  - Acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
  - Provision for pedestrians and bicycles
  - Environmental mitigation in or adjacent to federal land to improve public safety and reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; and to mitigate the damage to wildlife, aquatic organism passage, habitat, and ecosystem connectivity, including the costs of constructing, maintaining, replacing, or removing culverts and bridges, as appropriate
- Construction and reconstruction of roadside rest areas, including sanitary and water facilities
- Congestion mitigation
- Other appropriate public road facilities

By statute, the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service receive annual FLTP allocations. For instance, the Forest Service is allocated \$30 million per year for the next five years. These agencies provide an application, also known as an “investment strategy,” that describes how FLTP funds will be used to advance the performance goals of the program. One of the priorities for these strategies is high-use federal recreation sites or federal economic generators.

The program provides 100 percent of project costs.

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Facilities Direct Loan and Grant Program**

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. Essential community facilities are defined as ‘public improvements requisite to the beneficial and orderly development of a community that is operated on a nonprofit basis’. Eligible facilities include those providing community, social, or cultural services. It is possible that funding could be used for development of park or trailhead facilities.

This program provides low-interest loans and some grants. The percentage of the project which can be provided as a grant depends on the size of the community and its income levels. In no case can grant awards be greater than \$50,000.

### **National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program**

<http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

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This program does not provide funding, but rather National Park Service staff provide free, on-location facilitation and planning expertise for projects related to development of parks, trails, access to rivers, and other special places. They can help guide a project from conception to completion. Some of the ways they can help:

- Define project vision and goals
- Inventory and map community resources
- Identify and analyze key issues and opportunities
- Engage collaborative partners and stakeholders
- Design community outreach and participation strategies
- Develop concept plans for trails, parks, and natural areas
- Set priorities and build consensus
- Identify funding sources
- Develop a sustainable organizational framework to support the project

It is a good idea to contact the staff several weeks in advance of the deadline to discuss your project.

### **National Forest Foundation (NFF): Forest Stewardship Fund (FSF)**

<https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/stewardship-funds>

This grant supports results-oriented, on-the-ground, projects that improve the quality, condition, and care of Outdoor Experiences on National Forests by:

- Improving, or maintaining recreation resource connectivity including trail maintenance, bridge and crossing construction or repair, and installation of trail drainage structures
- Engaging youth, volunteers, or diverse, underserved or under-engaged populations in hands-on stewardship activities
- Employing youth and/or veterans crews to implement on-the-ground conservation, stewardship and/or restoration work

Projects should generate tangible conservation outcomes or enhance high quality recreational experiences for the users of the National Forest System. Funds cannot support improvements of hardened facilities including, and similar to: campgrounds, parking lots, restrooms, visitor centers, and major signage.

Projects must be completed within one year. A 1:1 non-federal match is required.

### **Rails to Trails Conservancy: Doppelt Family Trail Development Fund**

<https://www.railstotrails.org/our-work/doppelt-family-trail-development-fund/>

The purpose of this program is to support organizations that are implementing projects to build and improve multiuse trails. Projects on rail-trails and rails-with-trails will be given preference; however, rail-trail designation is not a requirement. Projects must take

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place on trails that serve or plan to serve multiple user types, such as bicycling, walking, and hiking, and must be considered a trail, greenway, multiuse trail, or shared-use path. Projects must advance trail development, help establish corridor connections, or improve current conditions on the trail.

Applicants may apply for one of the following award types:

- Community support awards: These are capacity-building awards that are intended to help groups that need critical funding to help get trail development or improvement efforts off the ground. Eligible projects may include promoting a local trail project in the local media, conducting feasibility studies, or adding personnel or volunteer coordination capacity.
- Project transformation awards: Awards are designed to have a substantial impact on an organization's ability to complete a significant trail development or improvement project. Funds should serve as a catalyst to start such projects and could be used to leverage other funding sources through matching opportunities. Eligible projects may include new trail construction, trail facility and infrastructure (including trailheads and bathrooms), land acquisition, trail signage, improvements to existing trails, and significant maintenance.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, state, regional, or local government agencies, tribal government agencies, and other organizations.

### **American Hiking Society National Trail Fund**

<http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-fund/>

Grants are for members of the American Hiking Society Alliance and range from \$500 to \$3,000. Only 501(c)(3) nonprofits are eligible to receive funding. Projects considered are:

- Projects that have hikers as the primary constituency, though multi-purpose human-powered trail uses are eligible
- Projects that will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage
- Projects that promote constituency building surrounding specific trail projects – including volunteer recruitment and support

Higher preference is often given to projects with volunteer labor. Projects should be completed within one year.

### **Polaris T.R.A.I.L.S. grant**

<http://www.polaris.com/en-us/rider-support/trails-application>

The T.R.A.I.L.S. grant program was launched in January 2006 for all-terrain vehicle (ATV) clubs, associations, and grassroots groups. The purpose of the program is to promote safe and responsible riding and preserve access for ATV vehicles. Funds can

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be used by organizations for trail development and maintenance projects, safety and education initiatives, lobbying, and other projects to increase and maintain land access.

Grant funding is limited to a maximum of \$10,000 per request. Organizations can apply for either monetary awards or product as long as the value does not exceed \$10,000, and may apply for two grants per year. All organizations must be 501(c)(3), 501(c)(7), government, or nonprofit organizations. There are two deadlines per year, in March and September.

### **Pacific Gas & Electric Foundation**

<http://www.pge.com/en/about/community/grants/index.page?>

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) gives small grants in three areas, one of which is 'environment'. It appears this is very broadly defined. There is a preference for low-income and underserved communities. Grants applications are invited by PG&E employees, so the best idea is to contact your local PG&E public affairs staff. Once invited to submit a grant, the application process is done online.

Grants are small, usually under \$5,000. The corporation gives out a lot of grants, so if you just need a few thousand dollars for an event, equipment, etc., this might be worth pursuing. The funding process is open for a period of about six months every year, but this period changes year to year.

### **Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative: Guaranteeing Responsible Access to Our Nation's Trails (GRANT)**

<http://www.yamahaoai.com/online-application/>

The purpose of this program is to support efforts that promote safe, responsible use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs), educate the public on proper recreational land use and wildlife conservation practices, and protect appropriate and sustainable access to public lands.

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Trail development, restoration, and/or maintenance, including purchasing materials, hiring contractors, renting equipment, and purchasing tools and safety gear
- Trail signage, including purchasing signs, equipment, or installation tools for
- Stage area renovation or facilities, including renting equipment, purchasing materials, or hiring contractors
- Protecting environmentally sensitive areas from illegal or inadvertent OHV use through fencing, bridges, or hardscape
- Adopt-a-Trail activities, such as renting equipment, purchasing tools and safety gear, or volunteer coordination



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- Trail mapping or map production, including GPS equipment purchase, production, and printing
- Promoting safety and education, including educational materials, signage, safety gear, or events
- Wildlife and habitat maintenance and management
- Land management projects that increase the diversity of use of agricultural land
- Establishing, increasing, and/or maintain access to land for outdoor recreation

Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, including 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(7) organizations, government agencies, and law enforcement agencies, including emergency responders and forest field staff.

Applicants must obtain a letter of endorsement from a local Yamaha dealership.

Dealership locations can be found online at

[www.yamahamotorsports.com/motorsports/locations/dealers](http://www.yamahamotorsports.com/motorsports/locations/dealers).

U.S. Forest Service applicants must partner with a local off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding group or state OHV riding association. Priority will be given to partnerships codified by a volunteer service contract or memorandum of understanding.

### **Hind Foundation: Standard Grants**

<http://www.hindfoundation.org/>

The Hind Foundation has several category of funding. The most relevant is 'Land Conservation' - projects that protect and manage land with scenic, agricultural, or cultural values, such as parks, streams, and botanical gardens. This category of funding has been used for trail restoration and signage.

Grants seem to be in the range of \$100,000. There is an on-line application process. Applicants must be 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organizations, must receive the majority of their funding support from our local community, must hold or sponsor at least one fundraising event annually, and must have been in operation for more than one year. The foundation prefers to fund organizations that have raised most of the funding needed to complete the project.

This grant has no deadline; the foundation accepts applications July 1 – June 30 until it runs out of funds.

### **Community Foundations**

<https://lccf.org/find-your-local-community-foundation/>

If you have a community foundation that serves your area, look at their web site (or call them– some of these foundations are very small and don't have a web presence) and ask if they have grant programs that would be appropriate for your project. The link

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above leads to the League of California Community Foundations web site, which maintains a list of these foundations.

Most community foundations offer several different types of programs, each of which has a different annual deadline. Grants are usually small. Local, visible projects are often favored.