



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Grant Opportunities and Funding Options

Mission: "to manage, protect and sustain Illinois' natural and cultural resources; provide resource-compatible recreational opportunities and to promote natural resource-related issues for the public's safety and education."

Grants for Watershed Restoration and Protection

Division of Ecosystems and Environment

Division of Ecosystems and Environment

Partners for Conservation Program

Mission: To monitor, maintain, enhance and restore the biodiversity and ecological conditions of Illinois' landscapes through local partnerships.



Partners for Conservation Ecosystems Program

Grant funding provided for:

- Habitat Restoration
- Land Acquisition and Conservation Easements
 - Watershed Planning
 - Research
- Outreach and Education
- Resource Economics

Technical Assistance for:

- Development of Watershed Plans
- Provide Project Coordination

Partners for Conservation Ecosystems Program- Details

- No Maximum or minimum request; average grant is \$55,000.
- Maximum of 2 year project.
- No match requirement, although match may help you get a higher score.
- Up to 40% advance payment.
Remaining balance reimbursed.
- Currently, not accepting applications.
- Project must be in an Ecosystem Partnership Area.



Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation

LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Illinois Department of Transportation

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Field Foundation of Illinois

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Grand Victoria Foundation
Supporting efforts to strengthen education, improve the environment, and expand economic opportunities.



Natural Resource Grant Opportunities in Illinois

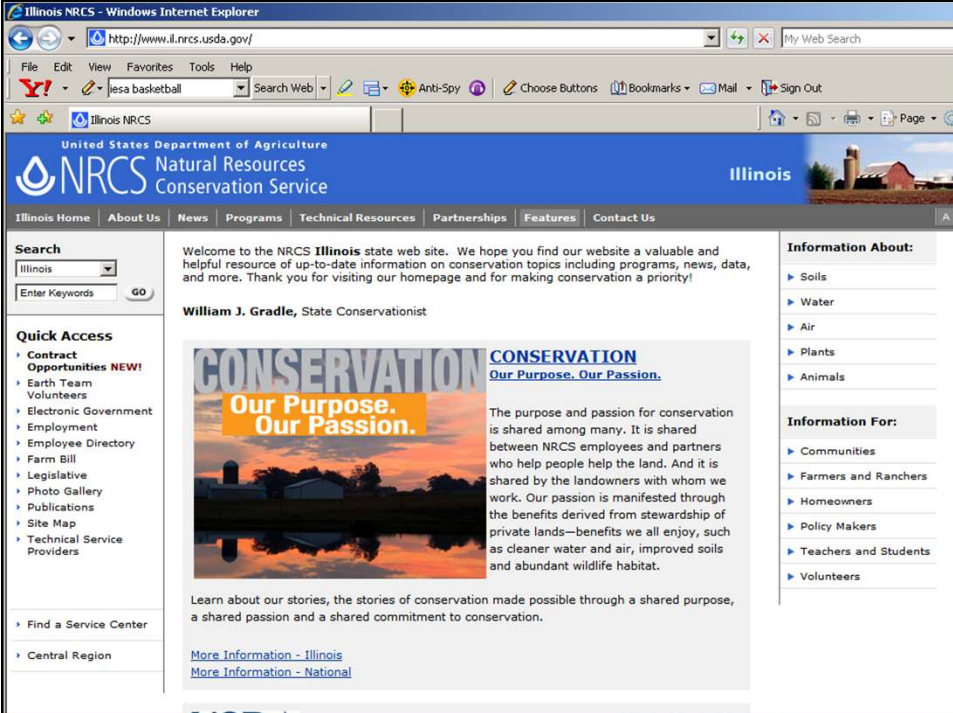
<http://dnr.state.il.us/orep/pfc/grants>



- ❑ **Straight Forward User Interface**
- ❑ **Variety of Search Parameters**
 - Optional key word input
 - Ecological terms
 - Grant categories
 - Organization types
 - Customized search
 - Alphabetize Sort
 - Retrieve abstract or detailed information



- ❑ **Search Results Contain**
 - Grant name
 - Web address
 - Grant objective
 - Grant requirements
 - Grant amount
 - Organization information
 - Contact information



The screenshot shows the Illinois NRCS website. The browser title is "Illinois NRCS - Windows Internet Explorer" and the address bar shows "http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/". The website header includes the NRCS logo and "Natural Resources Conservation Service Illinois". A navigation menu contains links for Home, About Us, News, Programs, Technical Resources, Partnerships, Features, and Contact Us. A search box is present on the left. The main content area features a welcome message from William J. Gradle, State Conservationist, and a section titled "CONSERVATION Our Purpose. Our Passion." with a sunset image. A sidebar on the right lists "Information About:" (Soils, Water, Air, Plants, Animals) and "Information For:" (Communities, Farmers and Ranchers, Homeowners, Policy Makers, Teachers and Students, Volunteers).

Grants for Public Outdoor Recreation Areas and Facilities

Division of Grant Administration

Division of Grant Administration Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs

- **Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development (OSLAD)**
- **Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**
- **Bicycle Path Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**
- **Boat Access Area Development (BAAD)**
- **Snowmobile Local Government**
- **Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF)**
- **Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)**

Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development Grant Program



OSLAD Grant Program Details

- ✓ Up to 50% reimbursement for the acquisition and development of lands for public parks & open space
- ✓ Eligible grant applicants are: units of local government
- ✓ Maximum acquisition grant = \$750,000
- ✓ Maximum development grant = \$400,000
- ✓ For the last several years, \$20 million dollars has been available annually for grants

OSLAD Grant Program Details

- ✔ Annual application cycle: May 1 – July 1
- ✔ Application deadline is 12:00 Noon on July 1, or the first business day in July
- ✔ Agencies are limited to a maximum of 1 acquisition and 1 development grant application annually
- ✔ Grants are generally announced in the winter, typically in January, but have been announced as early as November and as late as April

Current OSLAD Priority Projects Include:

- ➔ Protection or enhancement of significant natural areas
- ➔ Protection or enhancement of threatened and endangered species habitat
- ➔ Protection or enhancement of significant wildlife areas
- ➔ Protection or enhancement of natural wetland areas
- ➔ Promoting conservation education opportunities
- ➔ Promoting recreational use of surface waters

Eligible OSLAD Development Projects May Include:

- Campgrounds
- Interpretive Facilities
- Nature Trails
- Observation Areas
- Native Plantings
- Restroom Buildings, Interior Roadways, Parking Areas, Etc.



OSLAD *Application Evaluation Criteria*

Applications should have:

1. A project consistent with a master parks & recreation plan or strategic or capital plan.
2. Documentation of public involvement in the project's planning.
3. Diverse facilities of "high need" (in comparison to "IRFI").
4. An accurate and detailed site development plan.
5. Low site infrastructure costs.
6. Proposed facilities that are accessible to the disabled.

Division of Grant Administration Land and Water Grant Program



LWCF Grant Program Details

- ✔ Grant Application is exactly the same as OSLAD with the same application deadline of July 1
- ✔ This program is federally-funded as opposed to OSLAD which is state-funded
- ✔ Currently, only acquisition projects are funded through LWCF, not development projects
- ✔ Funding level is uncertain for this year



Bike Path Grant Program Details

- ✓ Up to 50% reimbursement for the acquisition and development of bicycle paths
- ✓ Eligible grant applicants are: units of local government
- ✓ Maximum acquisition grant = No maximum
- ✓ Maximum development grant = \$200,000

Bike Path Grant Program Details

- ✓ **Annual application cycle: January 1 – March 1**
- ✓ **Application deadline is 12:00 Noon March 1**
- ✓ **There will be no limit on the number of applications that an agency may submit each year**
- ✓ **Paths developed through the program **MUST** be a minimum of 8 feet wide and **CANNOT** be circular paths within a park**
- ✓ **Grants are generally announced in the fall**

Eligible Bike Path Development Projects May Include:

- ➔ **Path Construction or Renovation, Including: Clearing, Grading, Drainage, and Surfacing**
- ➔ **Bridging**
- ➔ **Fencing**
- ➔ **Regulatory/Informational Signs**
- ➔ **Restroom Buildings, Drinking Fountains, Parking Areas**



Bike Path Application Evaluation **Criteria** *(Project Priorities)*

- Population Served (the greater the #, the better)
- Trail Significance (Statewide – Regional – Local)
- First Trail in the Area
- Major Expansion to an Existing Trail
- Important Link to Existing Trails
- Trail Length (the longer, the better)
- Local Planning Involved
- Environmental Factors/Trail Attributes
- Multiple Trail Users Allowed (equestrians, snowmobilers, etc.)
- Include support facilities (restrooms, parking, shade)

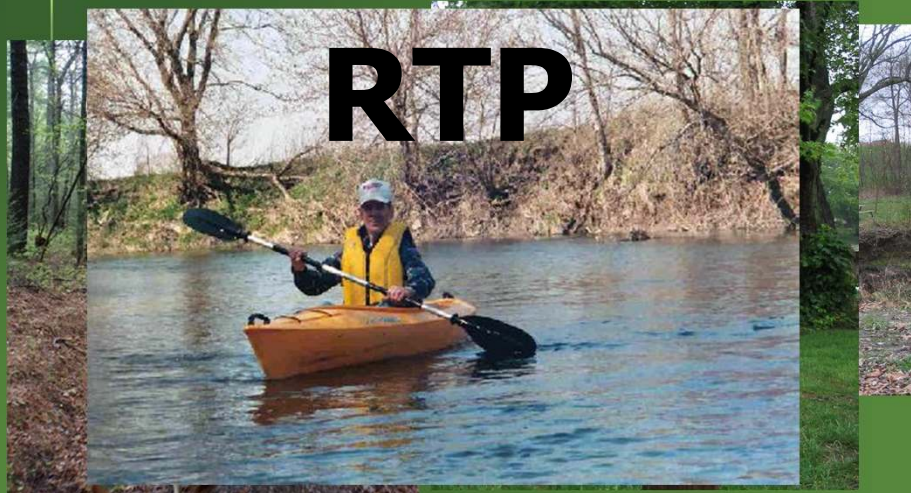
Recreational Trails Program **(Motorized Trails & Facilities)**



Motorized Trail Projects Eligible for RTP Grant Funding Include:

- **Snowmobile Trails:**
Trail construction, Signs, Bridges, Parking Areas, Warming Shelters, Restroom Buildings, etc.
- **ATV/Off-road Motorcycle Trails:**
Trail construction, Signs, Fencing, Check-in Buildings, Restroom Buildings, Parking Areas, etc.
- **Snowmobile Trail Equipment:**
Trail Groomers and Drags
- **OHV Trail Equipment:**
Utility ATV's, Small Tractors With Various Attachments

Recreational Trails Program (Non-Motorized Trails & Facilities)



Non-motorized Trail Projects Eligible for RTP Grant Funding Include:

- Equestrian Trails
- Mountain Biking Trails
- Nature/Interpretive Trails
- Water Trails (2 or more canoe launches within a reasonable distance on the same river)
- Regulatory/Informational Signs
- Restroom Buildings, Drinking Fountains, Parking Areas
- Restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized use (OHV's, Equestrians, Mountain Bikes)



RTP Grant Program Details

- ✓ 80% reimbursement for the acquisition, development, and renovation of both motorized and non-motorized recreational trails
- ✓ Eligible grant applicants are: units of local government *and* not-for-profit organizations
- ✓ Maximum acquisition grant = No maximum cap
- ✓ Maximum development grant = No maximum cap

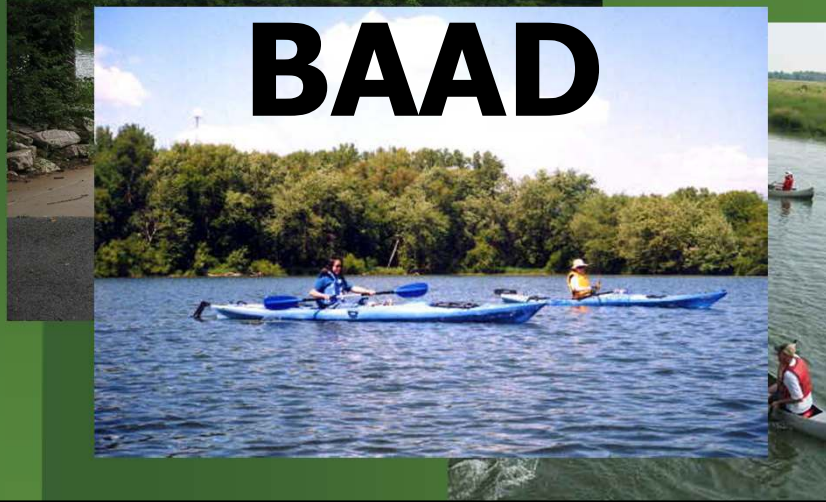
RTP Grant Program Details

- ✓ Annual application cycle: January 1 – March 1
- ✓ Application deadline is 12:00pm - Noon March 1
- ✓ May submit more than one application
- ✓ Unfortunately, grant announcements are often 1 year or more after grant application submittal

Boat Access Area Development Grant Program (Motorized Facilities)



Boat Access Area Development Grant Program (Non-Motorized/Canoe Facilities)



Boat Access Grant Program Details

- ✓ 100% reimbursement for the development of boat/canoe launches and associated facilities
- ✓ 90% reimbursement for the acquisition of land to be developed for a boat/canoe launch.
- ✓ Eligible grant applicants are units of local gov't
- ✓ Maximum boat (motorized) grant = \$200,000
- ✓ Maximum canoe (non-motorized) grant = \$80,000
- ✓ For the last several years, the Boat Access grant program has had \$725,000 available for grants

Current Boat Access Priority Projects Include:

- **Development of new launches**
- **Projects that create or improve a water trail**
- **Projects located in counties with high numbers of registered watercraft**
- **Sites that have high projected facility use**
- **Projects that have documented public planning and citizen input**
- **Suitable location**
- **Project sponsor financial cooperation**
- **Project sponsor's ability to maintain the site**
- **No facility user fees**

**Questions about any of these
grant programs, please call the**

**Division of Grant
Administration at:**

217/ 782-7481

Or, send an e-mail at: dnr.grants@illinois.gov

Grants for Boating

Office of Resource Conservation - *Federal Aid Program*

Clean Vessel Act Grant Program

- **Purpose:** To build or upgrade marine sewage disposal systems and renovate pump out stations used by recreational boaters.
- **Deadline:** none, apply throughout the year.
- **Match Requirements:** Applicant is reimburse up to 75%.
- **Eligibility:** Local government, operators of private marinas, boat yards and yacht clubs.
- **Maximum:** cannot exceed federal cost-share of \$50,000.

Boating Infrastructure Grant Program

- **Purpose:** to enhance boating for transient, non-trailerable recreational boats, those longer than 26ft.
- **Deadline:** Fall, date yet to be determined.
- **Match Requirements:** Applicant is reimburse up to 75%.
- **Eligibility:** Local government, operators of private marinas and boat yards.
- **Maximum:** Tier 1 projects cannot exceed federal cost-share of \$50,000. Tier 2 projects compete nationwide and there is no limit on funding.

How to access grant application information and forms on the Internet

- Go to www.dnr.state.il.us
- Click on "Grant Info" (left side)
- Click on the grant program of your choice



Helpful Links:

- Grant Writing Tips:

<http://fws.gov/midwest/FederalAid/guidelines.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/seahome/grants.html>

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

Thank You!

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