

MEMORANDUM

TO: WATER TRAILS PRESENTATION
FM: DMAC

Re: Georgia Recreational Trails Program

1. The Georgia Recreational Trails Program is a federal grant program administered by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The Grant Coordinator is **Bryan Alexander** – Tel 404-656-6536 - email Bryan.alexander@dnr.state.ga.us - web site [www://gastateparks.org/grants/](http://gastateparks.org/grants/)
2. I am a relatively new member of the Trails Advisory Committee and have been through only one grant cycle. If my presentation makes you interested, you need to follow up with Bryan.
3. Next year's grant cycle may be the last. Congress is reviewing and has not reauthorized. There was \$3MM in the pot this year with 80 plus applicants. This year there was \$1M for motorized trails; \$2M for non-motorized.
4. Minimum grant is \$25,000; Maximum - \$100,000.
 - 4.1. If not all of the project is eligible for a grant, the application must detail costs for the portion that is eligible
 - 4.2. Motor boat launches are not eligible
5. This is a reimbursement program. The program pays after project is completed. The grantee must provide at least a 20% of the project cost. That can be in kind
6. What is eligible
 - 6.1. Trail
 - 6.1.1. Trailhead
 - 6.1.2. Restrooms
 - 6.1.3. Picnic areas
 - 6.1.4. Benches
 - 6.1.5. Trash bins
 - 6.2. Land acquisition
 - 6.3. Assessment
 - 6.3.1. Erosion
 - 6.3.2. Handicapped access

7. Maintenance (non-routine)
 - 7.1. Heavy equipment
 - 7.2. Tree control

8. Eligible Sponsors – Governmental Entities only
 - 8.1. Authorities
 - 8.2. Cities
 - 8.3. Counties
 - 8.4. Must be officially adopted
 - 8.5. Adopting entity must have an overall Plan

9. Selection Criteria
 - 9.1. Importance for trail connectivity
 - 9.1.1. In greenway; 50 pts for greenway corridor or green space relationship, e.g.: riverbank, wetland or river is a greenway corridor.
 - 9.1.2. connects to greenway
 - 9.1.3. in active area

 - 9.2. Maintaining environment for existing trail.
 - 9.2.1.1. Non-Routine Maintenance
 - 9.2.1.2. Rerouting
 - 9.2.1.3. Assessment
 - 9.2.1.4. Trees

 - 9.3. Disabled access beyond legal requirements. Federal law is not clear on what accessibility means in a trail context but good things are:
 - 9.3.1. Ramps rather than steps
 - 9.3.2. Does not mean only wheel chair accessible
 - 9.3.3. Mountain bike and equestrian trails are exempt
 - 9.3.4. Assessments get points

 - 9.4. Land acquisition
 - 9.4.1. Lease must be long term to count.

 - 9.5. New trail opportunities where none or few exist. Pts for new trail in greenway where no other trail exists.
 - 9.5.1. Requires inventory of existing resources.
 - 9.5.2. 10 pts for new trailhead.

 - 9.6. Part of comprehensive planning process

 - 9.7. Partnerships between grantee and others.
 - 9.7.1. Must have a commitment letter from partner.
 - 9.7.2. Committing to something specific in cost estimate preferably on letterhead and you must be specific.

9.8. Going beyond minimum match (20%)

9.8.1. Match can be met by in-kind donation of material and/or labor. Must include all costs.

9.9. Linking to other resources.

9.9.1. Direct connection

9.9.2. Historic

9.9.3. Cultural

9.9.4. Botanical

9.9.5. Recreational

9.9.6. Scenic – picture

9.9.7. Commercial

9.9.8. Transportation

9.9.9. Must show on map.

9.10. Multiple uses

10. Application Process

10.1. Available early October on website.

10.2. Due November 30th.

10.3. Do not use last years application.

10.4. December/January score and rank.

10.5. February Advisory Committee.

10.6. March selection.

10.7. Environmental review.

10.8. Fed Hwy Administration review.

11. Fund in late summer.

12. Cost estimate must be detailed and reflect match and partnerships.

13. Match must be detailed – including source.

14. Must have resolution for applying for grant from applying jurisdiction.

15. Explain status of acquiring land, assessment, planning etc.

16. Matches.

17. Funds

18. Services at FMV

19. Land/right of way

20. Materials

21. Labor

21.1. Timesheets

21.2. Proof of payment

21.3. Rate of Pay

22. Application must be complete.

23. Design is very important

23.1. Sustainability

24. Reimbursement can be done in stages.

25. Land acquisition must follow federal procedures.

25.1. Appraisal – even for donated land.

25.2. No condemnation allowed or threatened.

26. Attachments:

26.1 Exhibit A is the official DNR Rule relating to the Recreational Trails Program. This has been adopted by the Board of Natural Resources and filed with the Secretary of State

26.2 Exhibit B is the grant application instructions for the 2011 grant cycle that is now concluded. There will likely be changes for 2012, but this will give you a pretty good idea how 2012 will work.

26.3 Exhibit C is the actual 2011 grant application. There will likely be changes for 2012, but this will give you a pretty good idea of what the 2012 application will look like. The final 2012 application and instruction will not be available until October 1, 2011.