

Appendix A

Recreational Trails Program Consolidated Funding Application Selection Criteria

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APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA:

When award recommendations are finalized, OPRHP submits recommended projects to the Federal Highway Administration for approval. Grant awards are contingent upon Federal approval. The Grant Selection Criteria are listed below. The maximum total score is 100 points.

- A. Project provides for recreational trail corridor sharing for motorized and/or non-motorized use (Maximum 5 points).

Key Consideration: The most important concern is that two or more uses are compatible and provide a safe recreational experience for all users.

- (5) Project involves two or more trails in the same corridor that accommodate both motorized and non-motorized trail uses;
- (4) Project involves two or more trails in the same corridor that accommodate either motorized or non-motorized trail uses;
- (3) Project involves one trail with motorized and non-motorized concurrent uses;
- (2) Project involves time sharing of the trail other than on a seasonal basis;
- (1) Project involves seasonal time sharing of the trail;
- (0) Criterion is not applicable.

- B. Project provides for motorized and/or non-motorized use that will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities (Maximum 5 points).

Key Consideration: An important consideration is that this project will enhance the quality and quantity of recreational trail opportunities available in the community or region.

- (5) Project provides for both motorized and non-motorized use for both summer and winter activities;
- (4) Project provides for both motorized and non-motorized use for either summer or winter activities;
- (3) Project provides for either motorized or non-motorized use for both summer and winter activities;
- (2) Project provides either motorized or non-motorized use for either summer or winter activities.

- C. Project provides urban trail linkages (Maximum 4 points).

Key Considerations:

- (a) Project provides linkage to other trail opportunities in urban areas;
 - (b) Project provides linkage to recreational areas, residential communities, places of employment, commerce, schools, parks, or other public places in urban areas;
 - (c) Project is located in a census defined Standard Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA);
 - (d) Project demonstrates advancement of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and Strategic Community Investment.
- (4) Project meets all of the criteria above;
 - (3) Project meets only two of the criteria above;
 - (2) Project meets only one of the criteria above;
 - (0) Project does not meet any of the criteria above.

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D. Project is identified as a component of a statewide or national trail system or furthers a specific goal of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) or the Statewide Trails Plan or a local trail plan (Maximum 5 points).

Key Consideration: The degree to which the project is clearly identifiable as a priority for action, ties in with specific goals, priorities and implementation strategies, and/or complies with identified needs of the area.

- (5) Project is a component of a statewide or national trail system as identified in the SCORP or the Statewide Trails Plan (e.g., National Scenic, Historic, Heritage Area or Recreational Trails, Millennium Trails, Empire State Trail, Canalway Trail or State Snowmobile Plan);
- (4) Project furthers a specific goal of a regional trail plan referenced in the Statewide Trails Plan or the SCORP;
- (3) Project furthers a specific goal of a local trail plan referenced in regional or local planning documents.
- (0) Project does not further the goals of any trails plan.

E. Index of Need – based on the “Relative Index of Needs” table in the SCORP (Maximum 5 points).

Key Consideration: The project satisfies county recreation needs based on a statewide supply and demand assessment.

- (0 – 5) points based on the average Relative Index of Need for pertinent trail activities.

F. Documentation of community support for the project (Maximum 5 points).

Key Consideration: The major concern is that this project is responding to community-identified needs and shows evidence of community support.

- (0 - 5) Citizens or community groups where the project is located have participated in the planning of the project, demonstrated support for the project and/or will be involved in project implementation.

G. Project ties into other trails, greenways, scenic corridors, natural, cultural, historical or recreational areas (Maximum 4 points).

Key Considerations:

- (a) Project ties into the Empire State Trail, Hudson River Greenway, or another major trail
 - (b) Project ties into a designated scenic corridor of National, State or regional significance
 - (c) Project ties into other trails
 - (d) Project links natural, cultural, historic or recreation areas or resources
- (4) Project meets at least three of the above criteria
 - (3) Project meets only two of the above criteria
 - (2) Project meets only one of the above criteria
 - (0) Project does not meet any of the above criteria

H. Project planning, design and schedule demonstrate an understanding of the program requirements and an ability to progress through the necessary phases and approvals appropriately (Maximum 6 points).

Key Consideration: The major concern is that the project is planned and designed in compliance with State and Federal requirements and will proceed efficiently through the necessary steps upon receiving Federal authorization for the applicable phases. There is no statutory limit on the number of grants one

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property or one applicant may receive, but in the interest of equity and fairness and in consideration of applicant capacity, applicants that have three or more open grants with OPRHP should not receive additional awards.

(3 – 6 points) Project schedule is clear, well planned and logical. Applicant has clearly demonstrated an understanding of the program requirements and an approach to implement the project in a timely, efficient and effective manner.

(0 – 3 points) Project planning and schedule is unclear, under-developed or unrealistic, either overly ambitious or under-achieving, based upon the information provided. Applicant demonstrates a lack of understanding of the program requirements.

- I. Project will utilize existing corridors, such as existing trail corridors, railroad right-of-way, canal towpath, utility lines, publicly owned river valleys or highland ridges, parkways, etc. (Maximum 4 points).

Key Consideration: The major concern is to maximize the use and maintain the integrity of existing corridors.

- (4) The project will utilize *only* existing corridors;
- (2) The project will utilize an existing corridor but requires additional right-of-way;
- (0) The project will not utilize an existing corridor.

- J. Project will improve the continuity of a trail system (Maximum 4 points).

Key Consideration: The concern is to encourage the expansion and integration of trails.

NON-MOTORIZED USE (Non-Motorized and Diverse Categories):

- (4) Project is part of a trail system over 10 miles in length.
- (3) Project is part of a trail system 5-10 miles in length.
- (2) Project is part of a trail system less than 5 miles in length.

MOTORIZED USE (Motorized and Diverse Categories):

- (4) Project is part of a trail system over 50 miles in length.
- (3) Project is part of a trail system 5-50 miles in length.
- (2) Project is part of a trail system less than 5 miles in length.

- K. Project budget is reasonable, justified and cost-effective (Maximum 15 points).

Key Consideration: Points are determined by assessing the completeness of the project budget, the eligibility, necessity and cost-effectiveness of the cost items, and the availability of matching share.

(10 - 15 points) A detailed budget has been provided which contains only eligible and necessary costs. Estimates are justified, cost-effective and based on sound principles and experience.

Matching share is identified and will be available for the project term.

(5 - 10 points) A complete budget has been provided but the basis for cost estimates is unclear or not cost-effective. Matching share is identified and will be available for the project term.

(0 - 5 points) A budget has been provided but contains ineligible costs or lacks the necessary details to determine eligibility, cost-effectiveness or matching share requirements.

- L. Project addresses State and Federal program initiatives (2 points *each*, Maximum 8 points).

- (2) Project utilizes Youth Conservation or Service Corps.
- (2) Project specifically provides enhanced recreational access for persons with disabilities.

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(2) Project provides for the redesign, reconstruction, nonroutine maintenance, or relocation of recreational trails to benefit the natural environment or to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment.

(2) Project will address communities currently lacking recreational opportunities.

M. Regional Economic Development Council Assessment (Maximum 20 points)

N. Statewide Assessment Factors (Maximum 10 points)

The Commissioner may award up to ten (10) points for any of the following factors. All applications will be reviewed for their relevance to these factors:

- **Geographic Distribution.** Consideration may be given to projects in areas that have or have not received funding in recent cycles or where funding is not commensurate with the population of the area. This will be based on the proximity to other funded sites and the diversity of projects being funded on a regional and local basis, as well as the service area of the developed or planned facilities.
- **Maximize Use and Accessibility.** Consideration may be given to projects where funding will allow underutilized facilities to be accessed or to develop underutilized resources for public use. This will be based on the resources offered by the facility, the use of those resources and whether the proposed project will help the facility expand and enhance its public use.
- **Special Engineering, Environmental, Preservation Benefits.** Consideration may be given to develop particularly significant resources and facilities or to develop innovative approaches to preserve valuable resources. This will be based on the type of resource being developed or rehabilitated; its rarity on a local, regional, statewide and national basis; the ability of an innovative technology to address an emergency or mitigate future problems; how well a technology can be “exported” for use on other properties and resources; and how/if the project will allow public access that would not otherwise be available.
- **Past Performance.** Consideration may be given to how timely an applicant completed previous projects, including its reporting requirements; how successful it was in outreach, especially to minority- and woman-owned businesses; the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of the property; and its cooperation in allowing OPRHP to complete inspections and other follow-up activities.