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Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program

The Montana Trail Stewardship Grant Program (MTSGP) is a new state program that provides funding for the development, renovation, and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trailside facilities throughout Montana and in its communities (23-2-108 and 23-2-109, MCA). The MTSGP is administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Program Background

The MTSGP was authorized by Senate Bill 24 in the 2019 Legislative Session. Funding for the program comes from \$1.37 of Montana's \$9.00 light vehicle registration fee. Each cycle, the program targets funding 30% motorized projects, 30% non-motorized projects, and 40% diversified projects (projects serving multiuse trails).

Eligible Funding Areas

1. New trail and shared-use path construction;
2. Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and shared-use paths, including grooming of trails for motorized and nonmotorized winter recreation; and
3. Construction and maintenance of trailside and trailhead facilities, including but not limited to bridges, fencing, parking, bathrooms, latrines, picnic shelters, interpretation, trail signs, and trailside weed management.

Funding associated with the development of trail safety and education programs, equipment¹ purchases, or land acquisitions is not eligible.

Available Funding

The amount of available funding is expected to be approximately \$1.25 million. Applicants may request up to \$50,000 in grant funds.

Match Requirement

Each project must have a ratio of 90% MTSGP funds to 10% matching funds.

Eligible Applicants

Grant applicants may include federal, tribal, state, county, or municipal agencies (including school districts), and recreational associations and clubs.

Application and Project Period

The application period is open November 2, 2020 to February 1, 2021 at 3:00pm MST. Successful MTSGP projects will begin in early July 2021 and end in October 2024.

For More Information

Visit the Parks Website: <http://stateparks.mt.gov/recreation/>

Contact the Program Manager, Michelle McNamee: michelle.mcnamee@mt.gov or 406-444-7642

¹ "Equipment" is defined as an article of nonexpendable, tangible property having a useful life of more than five years and with an acquisition cost that exceeds \$1,000.