



# Land & Water Conservation Fund & Recreational Trails Program

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Land & Water Conservation Fund

Recreational Trails Program

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DEPARTMENT FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



# LWCF Basics

- The purpose of the LWCF is to provide funding for:
    - The development of outdoor recreational facilities
    - The acquisition of land for future outdoor recreational facilities
  - 1:1 match (50% of the total project costs). LWCF funding can be matched the following ways:
    - General Funds
    - Force Account: Labor, materials, equipment (City or County resources)
    - In-kind: Volunteer labor, donated professional services, equipment, donations
- \*Cannot be matched with other federal funds (Exception: CDBG and RTP)



# LWCF Basics

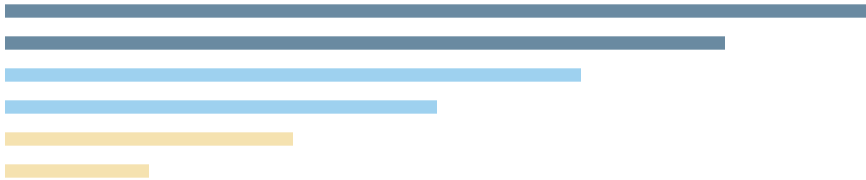
- Last year, Kentucky received 4.3 million in LWCF funds
- Before the first reimbursement request, grantees must file a deed restriction on the property. The deed restriction will apply to the entire park boundary and will mandate the park always remain open to the public.





# LWCF Eligible Projects

- Court Sports
- Playfields
- Playgrounds
- Golf Courses
- Skate Parks
- Running Tracks & Walking Trails
- Picnic Shelters
- Recreational Trails
- Pool and splash pads
- Docks & Fishing Piers
- Camping
- Outdoor Nature Exhibits
- Amphitheaters
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Landscaping



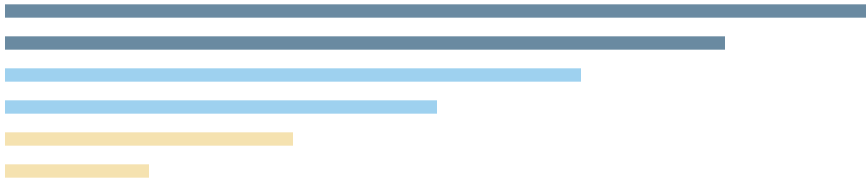
City of Florence

\$75,000

Lincoln Woods Park  
Playground Surface  
Improvement

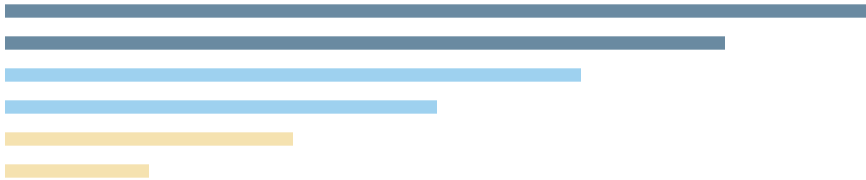


DEPARTMENT FOR  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Hickman County  
\$75,000  
Hickman County Rotary  
Park





City of Lewisport  
\$45,825  
Chapman Park Pavilion





# LWCF Application Timeline

Application Cycle  
January – May  
Year 1

Advisory Committee  
October

Notification Letters  
January – February  
Year 2

Submit to the NPS  
April - December

Notice to Proceed  
August +

- It usually takes 1.5 – 2 years from the time you apply to when the project can start construction.
- Notification letters are only Preliminary Approval.
  - LWCF is a federal grant. All projects must be submitted to and reviewed by the National Parks Service (NPS) before funding is secured. The National Parks Service conducts their own environmental and compliance review, which can take up to 3 months.
  - NPS only accepts LWCF projects in cycles. Each cycle is open for 30 – 60 days and occurs two to four times a year. Once the cycle closes, we have to wait for the window to re-open to submit more projects.





# LWCF FY25 Proposal – Coming Soon...

## 3 Separate Application Types

Legacy Project Applications – Larger projects with a regional or State impact.

- \$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000 grant awards
- Traditional Project Applications – Typical LWCF projects with impact to the community/grantee jurisdiction.
  - \$200,000 - \$1,000,000 grant awards
- Small communities Applications – Typical LWCF projects with impact to the community/grantee jurisdiction; however, applicants must have less than 3,000 persons.
  - \$50,000 - \$200,000 grant awards





# Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Mission

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.





# RTP Funding Basics

- Administered by the Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
- RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use.
- RTP funds are administered by the Kentucky Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
- Funding is available up to \$250,000
- Kentucky receives \$1,410,151 a year (Required to set aside 30% for motorized trails)
- Match 80/20



# RTP Motorized vs. Non-motorized

- Motorized – off road recreation using any motor-powered vehicle
  - ATV'S
  - Dirt Bikes
  - Off-road vehicles
- Non motorized
  - Mountain Biking
  - Equestrian
  - Pedestrian – Nature hiking trails, walking trails in park, etc.
  - Water trails – providing public access to a river to canoe/kayak
  - Rails-to-trails



# RTP Eligible Projects

- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities that serve trail users
- Purchase and lease recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment
- Acquisition of easements and property for recreational trails
- Design and engineering (Capped at 15%)
- Accessibility upgrades



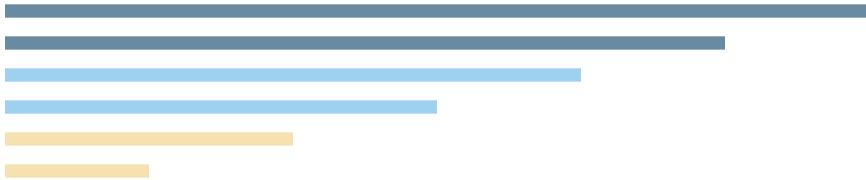
# Applicants

- Qualified Local Government Agencies
- State Agencies
- Federal Government Agencies
- Non-profit Organizations (must partner with a governmental entity)



# RTP Perpetual Trail Easement

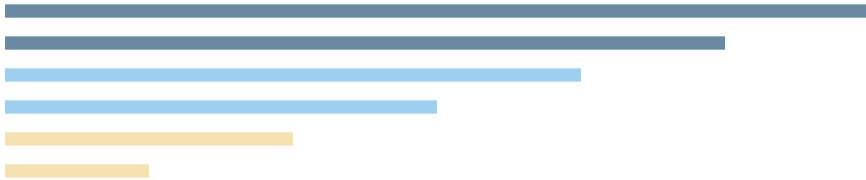
- If the land is publicly owned, grantees can file either a:
  - Perpetual Trail Easement, or
  - Deed Restriction
- If the land is not publicly owned, both easement must be filed:
  - Easement from citizen to grantee, and
  - Easement from grantee to DLG
- Both guarantee that the trail will be maintained and open to the public perpetuity.



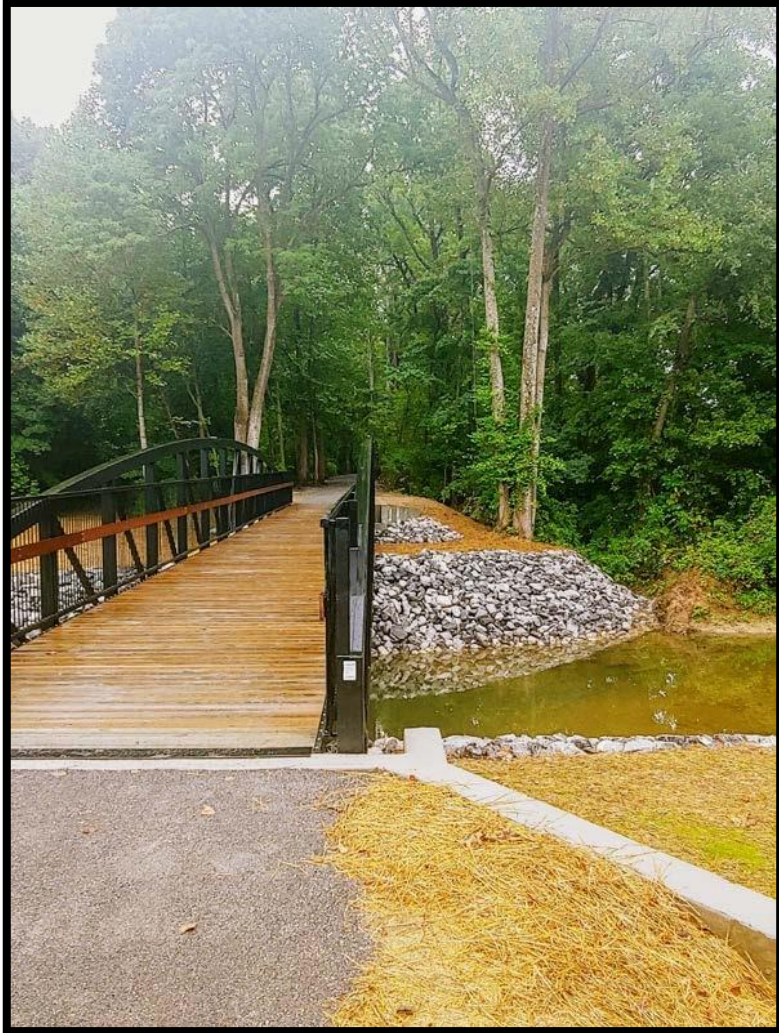
City of Owensboro  
\$15,896  
Joe Ford Nature Center Trail  
Enhancement







City of Paducah  
\$100,000  
Perkins Creek Pedestrian Bridge





Shelby County  
\$100,000  
Clear Creek Greenway  
Phase III



# RTP Application Timeline

Application Cycle  
January – May  
Year 1

Advisory Committee  
September

Notification Letters  
January  
Year 2

Submit to the  
KYTC & FHWA  
February - March

Notice to Proceed  
March - April

- It usually takes a year from the time you apply to when the project can begin.
- Notification letters are only Preliminary Approval
  - All projects must be reviewed by the KYTC and FHWA before funding is secured.
- There are no application cycles for RTP; however, projects must be ready to start construction and able to submit a reimbursement request 6 months after grant approval. Failure to do so will put the project on the federal inactive list.



A copy of this presentation is available at  
[DLG.ky.gov](http://DLG.ky.gov)

# Questions?