

50 Years

Federal Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs: **RTP, LWCF, & ORLP Overview**



Agenda

- RTP overview
 - Program Basics
 - Eligible Projects
 - Application Overview
 - Scoring



Shelby County Clear Creek Park and Greenway

Recreational Trails Program Mission

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- 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.



City of Whitesville Community Park
Resurfacing

Project Basics

- Projects are administered by DLG in conjunction with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
- 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.
- Funding is available up to \$250,000
- Match 80/20
- Funds are paid on a reimbursement basis only

Motorized Trail Funding

- 30% of the state's RTP funding must go to motorized trail projects
- If we are unable to fund motorized trails projects, the funding will go unused
- Last year, we received ZERO motorized trail applications
- Please apply for this funding!!



*Wildcat Adventure & Off Road Park
Image source: KY Tourism Cabinet*

Eligible Projects

*Items in red are new this year!

- Maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails
- Development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities that serve trail users. Trailhead facilities are defined as signage, parking, restrooms, animal resistant garbage cans (with a sufficient maintenance plan), guide maps, benches, potable water, and entry gates to trails
- 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
- Water trails: defined as designated routes for boating. They are eligible for funding if they meet the following criteria: no less than two access points (put in/take out, dock, ramp, etc.) with a map designating the trail and access points. Eligible projects include docks, ramps, kayak launches, and guide maps.

Perpetual Trail Easement Requirement

- 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 easements must be filed:
 - Easement from Citizen to Grantee, and
 - Easement from Grantee to DLG
- Both guarantee the trail will be maintained and open to the public in perpetuity.

Application Info

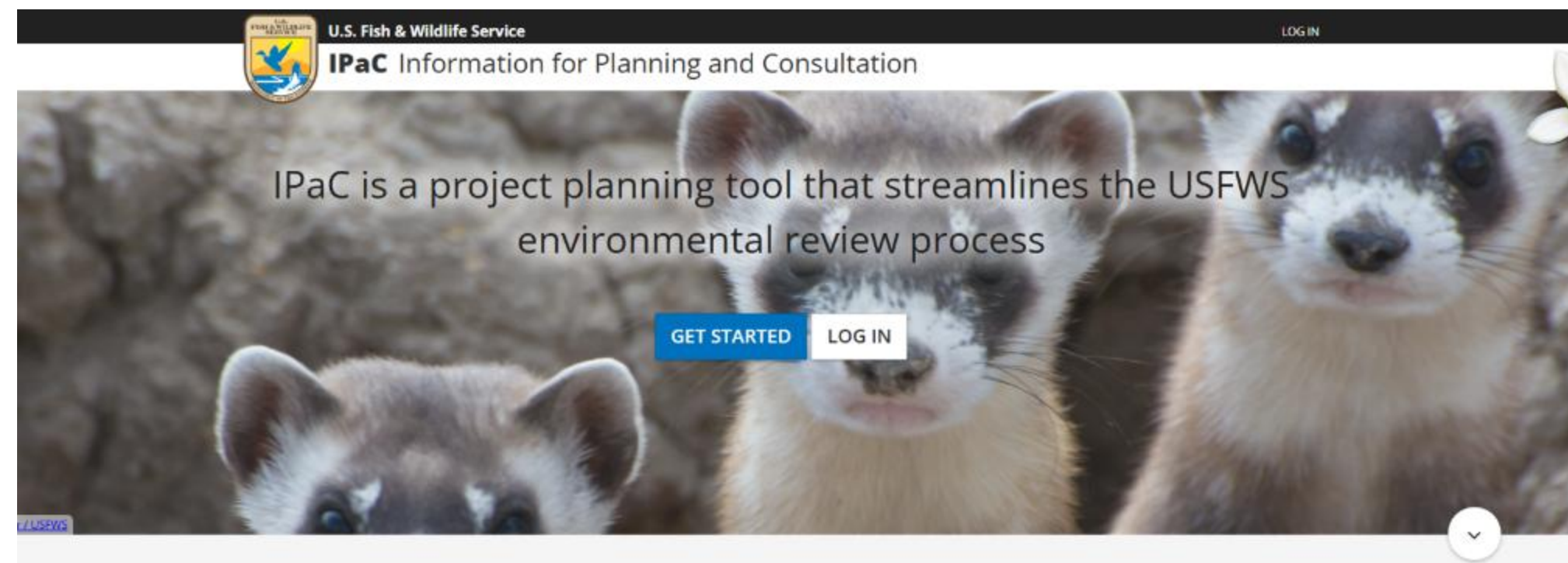
- The application window is open now through Friday, October 30th.
- It is available at DLG's website on the RTP page
- The application requires several elements that require lead time, such as:
 - Clearinghouse review
 - SHPO review
 - Public hearing



Perry County Park Trail Development Project

Environmental Requirements

1. Fill in the **Preliminary Environmental Assessment** form included in the application packet. This can be completed by anyone with knowledge of the project.
2. **Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act:** a Federal agency must ensure that any action (i.e., project) it authorizes, funds, or carries out is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species. For federal grants, this responsibility may fall to the applicant.



Changes to RTP Scoring

- Trail and Resource Stewardship Education: This question now includes points for online trail information. This could include trail maps, hours, location, rules, etc.
- Application Completeness: Points are awarded to applicants that have no missing items in their application
- Long term maintenance planning/staff: Points are given to those that have staffing or volunteers for trail maintenance
- Project design, feasibility, and readiness: Points are awarded to projects that have appear ready to go based on the completeness of the design/budget as well as other application components such as letters of support or the scope of work.

If awarded:

- You must follow all federal and state procurement guidelines
- If there are any changes or delays to your project, reach out to DLG as soon as you can
- Make sure you have your deed restriction or perpetual easement completed
- Submit reimbursement requests once you've used at least 25% of the grant funds
- Note that reimbursement will only be given for the percentage of costs equivalent to the percentage of federal match you applied for (i.e. 80% of funds will be reimbursed if you submitted with an 80/20 match).

Agenda

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- LWCF Overview
- Perpetuity Requirement
- Post-Completion Compliance
- Application Information
 - Scoring
 - Timeline
 - Changes this year
 - Common mistakes



LWCF Overview

- The program was created in 1964 by the LWCF Act
- Primary Funding Source: Oil and Gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf
- Administered via Department of Interior (National Parks Service)
- Starting in 2020, LWCF permanently funds \$900 Million a year
- Funding is available from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000
- A 50/50 match is required
 - The match can consist of funding or in-kind contributions such as labor or materials
- Funds are paid on a reimbursement basis only
- LWCF funding can only be used for public outdoor recreation
- Land must be owned by a government agency. If a different agency other than the applicant owns the land, a lease of no less than 25 years at the time of submission to NPS is required.

Project Types

- **Acquisition** of lands, wetlands, and waters for public outdoor recreation
- **Development:** improvement or a group of related improvements designed to provide basic facilities for outdoor recreation, including facilities for access, safety, security, health, and protection of the area, as well as those required for the outdoor recreation use of the area
- **Examples of Projects:**
 - Sports and playfields
 - Picnic facilities
 - Trails
 - Swimming facilities
 - Boating facilities
 - Fishing/Hunting facilities
 - Camping facilities
 - Community gardens
 - Supporting facilities such as roads, parking, restrooms, etc.
 - Operation and Maintenance facilities in support of outdoor recreation

Deed Restrictions

- They are required for all LWCF projects and contain limitations regarding specific usage and changes to the land
- Applies to the entirety of the park, not just the area where the LWCF are spent
- Ensures the land within the boundary continues to be used as the LWCF Act intends for perpetuity
 - Used for outdoor recreation forever



Compliance and Post-Completion Inspections

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- Per the LWCF Act, you are required to have a LWCF sign at the park forever
- Inspections happen every 5 years on the project
- You are inspected on:
 - Retention and Use
 - Appearance
 - Maintenance
 - Management
 - Availability
 - Signage
 - Interim Use



SCORP & Project Scoring

- SCORP refers to the Kentucky Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- LWCF projects are required to be in line with the goals of the SCORP
- Project scoring includes a question on number of SCORP goals the project aligns with (up to 30 points)
- SCORP can be found on the DLG LWCF webpage. The Goals are on page 79.



Woodford County Park Tennis Courts

Application Timeline

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Changes to the application process for 2026

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- The application has been streamlined to better align with the documents required for submission to the National Park Service
- The purpose to reduce the turnaround time in between the state selection of projects and the submission of the projects to the National Park Service
- This has resulted in the removal of questions from the DLG application form and the addition of NPS required forms:
 - A&R form
 - DNF form
 - New Budget template
- The Endangered Species Act review has also been added

New Budget Template

424Cs are now automated!

How your budget will be evaluated:

- Allowable - necessary and reasonable for the performance of the federal award, and consistent with regulation/policy.
 - Allocable - incurred specifically for the federal award and not for items that do not directly support the approved scope of work.
 - Reasonable - meets the "prudent person" standard for estimated costs at a market rate.
 - Eligible for funding per the LWCF Manual.
 - Correctly Calculated - the numbers add up.

Your budget must provide enough detail to show that the proposed elements meet these requirements. In some cases, the LWCF Program may require additional information and justification for proposed costs.

Budget FAQs

Budget Detail: List key work items and deliverables.

Pre-Award Costs: Eligible planning, design, and environmental costs incurred before award.

Common examples include engineering/design, environmental compliance, and planning.

Non-Federal Share: Cash or eligible in-kind contributions used for the required match.

Such as donated labor, equipment, or supplies.

Federal Funds: Generally, cannot be used toward the non-federal share unless an exception applies and is documented.

Roles: Recipient = federal award; Subrecipient = subaward; Contractor = goods/services.

Boundary Map Requirements

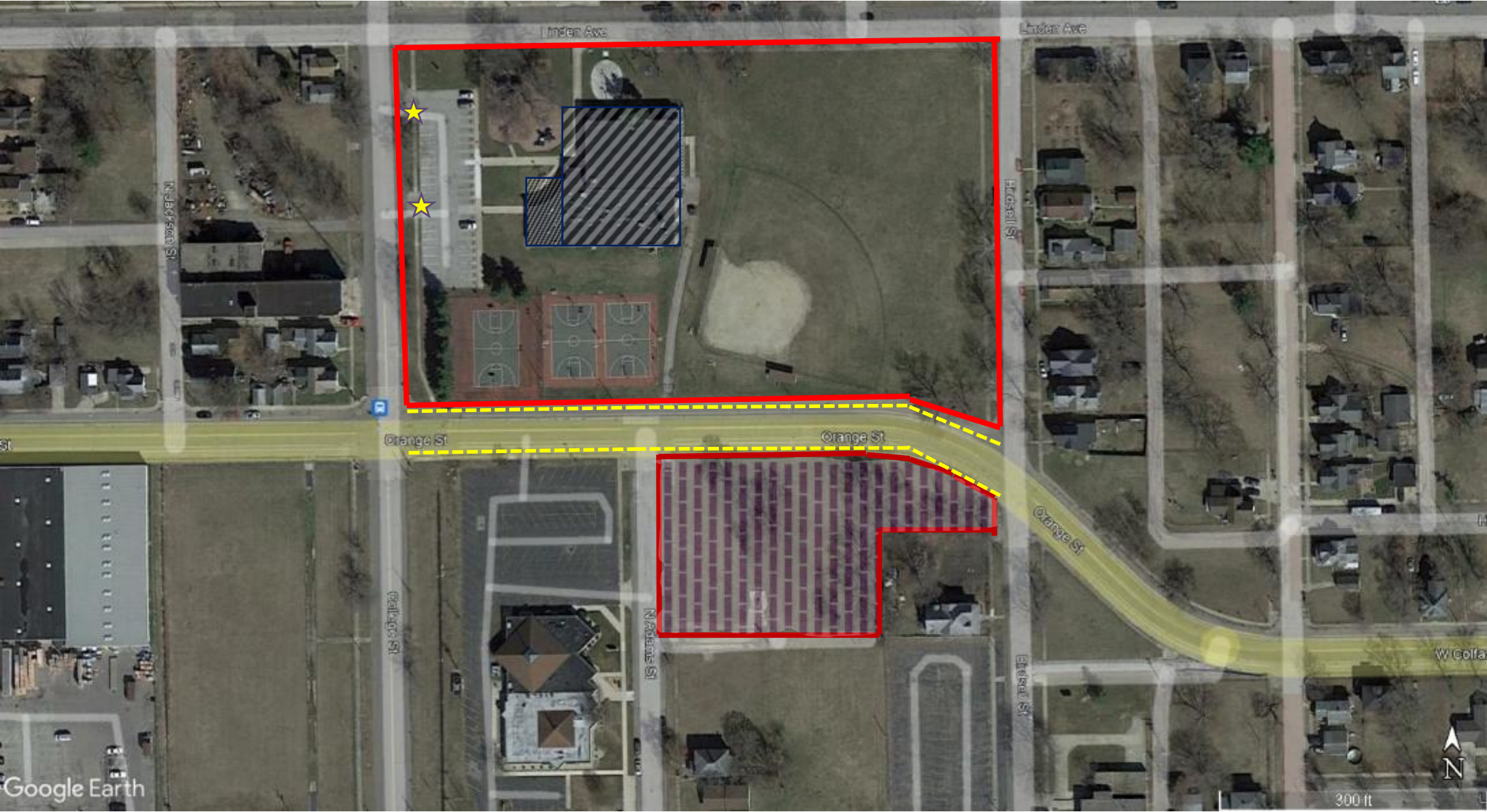
Purpose: to define the LWCF protected area

Must include:

- Park name
- Clear outline of entire park boundary labeled “LWCF Boundary.” Note: this boundary is the area to be permanently restricted for outdoor recreation use
- GPS coordinates
- Park address
- Acreage
- North arrow
- All streets labeled
- LWCF project number (will not have until initial submission to NPS)
- All known outstanding rights and interests in the area held by others (leases, easements, etc.)

Example Boundary Map

- LWCF Boundary
- New Acquisition Boundary
- ROW – Exclusion*
- Private/Excluded Property**
- Park Entrance Areas



*(Add ROW exclusion lines with a note on width and length of the ROW being excluded)

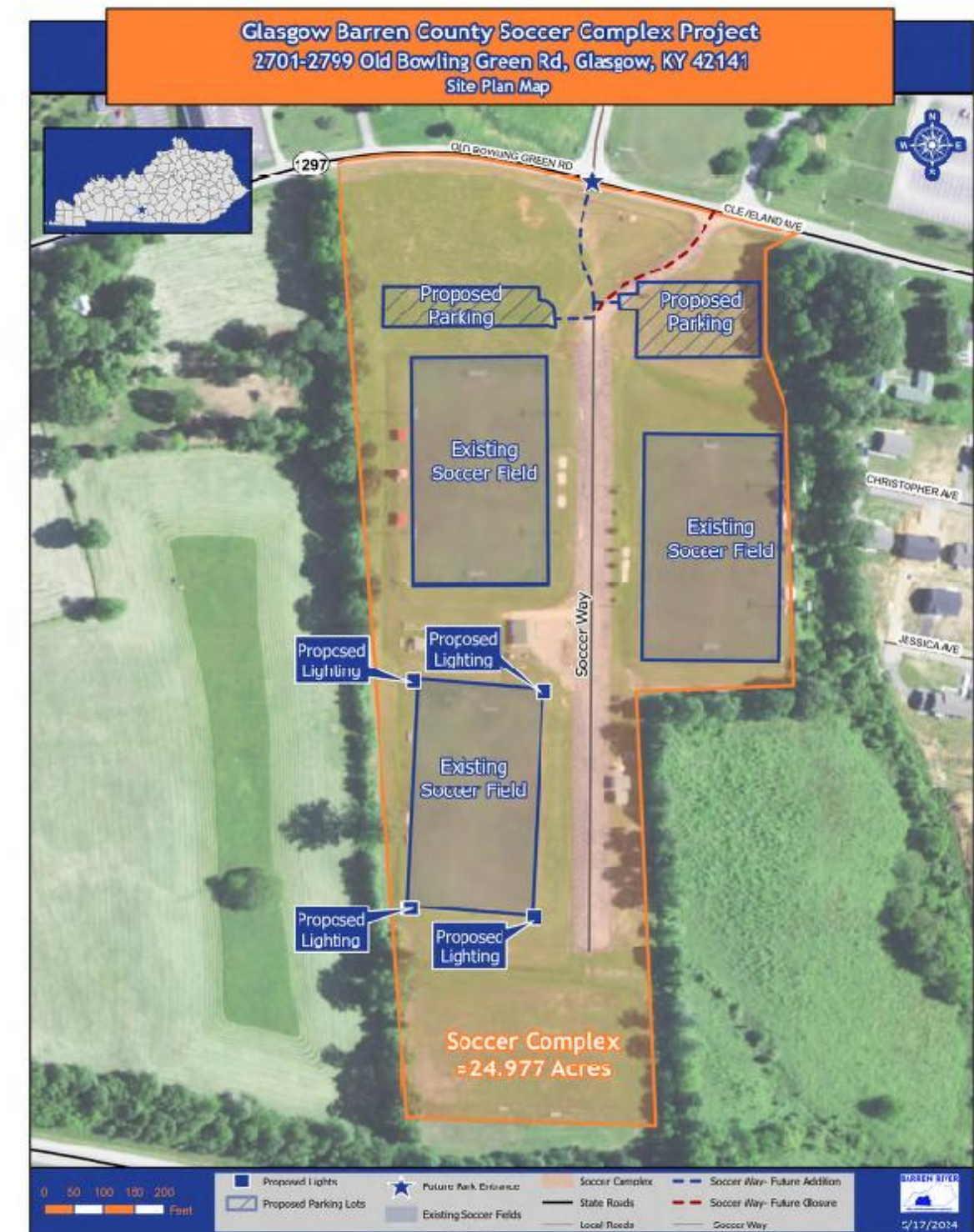
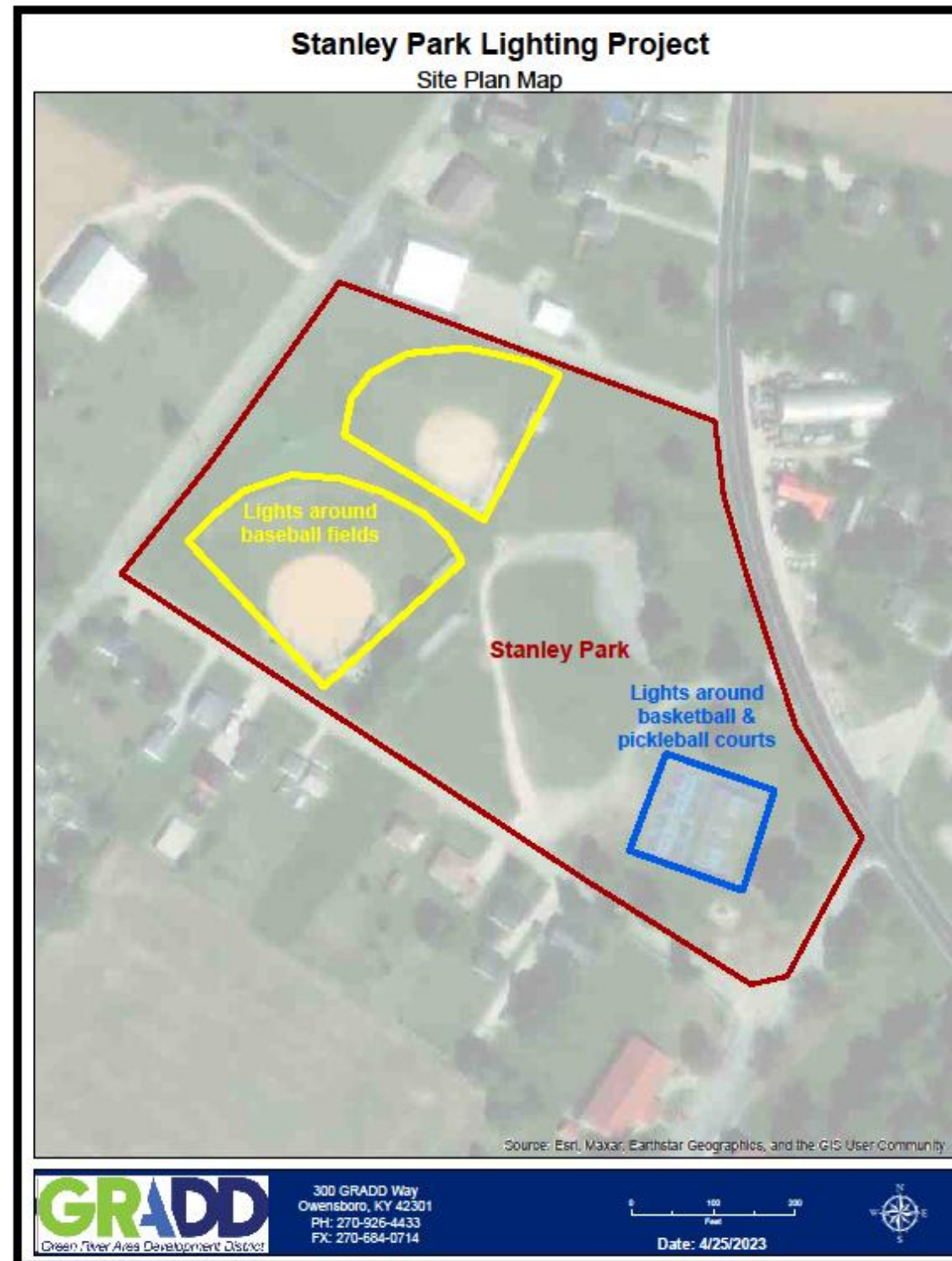
**(Add a note/label about these parcels – who owns it – why excluded – do they have a ROW to access?)

Note: This map was generated using only Google Earth and MS PowerPoint.

LWCF Boundary Map		Project Name: <u>Example City Park Expansion</u>	
Park/Site Name <u>Example City Park</u>		County, State: <u>American County, Example State</u>	
Site Location: <u>1234 Linden Ave, Somewhere, ES</u>		Lat/Long: <u>41°67'78.78"N, 86°27'45.1"W</u>	
LWCF Project #: <u>00-00002</u>		Other/Previous Park Names: <u>Example Small Town Park</u>	
Total Acres Encumbered: <u>7.5 Acres</u>		Parcel/Deed Reference Number: _____	
Map Date: xx/xx/xxxx <u>03/13/2023</u>		Past LWCF Grant(s) #: <u>00-00001</u>	
Signature (A)SLO: <u>Bartleby Scrivener,</u>		Previously Encumbered Acres: <u>5 Acres (00-00001)</u>	
<u>Bartleby Scrivener</u>		Newly Encumbered Acres (Project #): <u>2.5 Acres (00-00002)</u>	

Site Plan Map

- Must clearly label any where ground disturbance is occurring



SHPO and Clearinghouse reviews

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Complete section 106 review on
Kentucky Heritage Council's [website](#)



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

JACQUELINE COLEMAN
LT. GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
410 HIGH STREET
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
(502) 564-7005
www.heritage.ky.gov
May 21, 2025

LINDY CASEBIER
SECRETARY

CRAIG A. POTTS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

John Smith
Judge
P.O. Box 1234
Smithtown, KY 41234

RE: NPS, ABC County Fiscal Court, Park Inclusive Playground Equipment
Revitalization Project in ABC County, Kentucky

Dear Judge Roberts:

Our review indicates that the proposed project will not impact any properties or sites that are listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed project should not require cultural resource survey. We would concur with a finding of *No Historic Properties Affected*.

In the unlikely event that human remains are found during construction for this project, work should cease immediately, and the county coroner and the Kentucky Heritage Council should be contacted. Should project plans change or there be any future concerns or questions regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of this project area, please do not hesitate to contact Nicole Konkol via email at nicole.konkol@ky.gov.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Potts,
Executive Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer



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Submit a project with the e-
Clearinghouse on the [DLG Website](#)



Andy Beshear
Governor

Dennis Keene
Commissioner

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
100 AIRPORT ROAD, THIRD FLOOR
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601
PHONE (502) 573-2382
FAX (502) 227-8881
www.kydlgweb.ky.gov

May 31, 2024

Judge John Smith
ABC County Fiscal Court
PO Box 1234
Smithtown, KY 41234

RE: Park Playground Revitalization
SAI# KY
CFDA# 15.916

Dear Judge Smith:

The Kentucky State e-Clearinghouse is the official designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the Commonwealth pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, and supported by Kentucky Statutes KRS 45.031. The primary function of the SPOC is to streamline the review aforementioned process for the applicant and the funding agency. This process helps in vocalizing the statutory and regulatory requirements. Information in the form of comments, if any, will be attached to this correspondence.

This proposal has been reviewed by the appropriate state agencies in the e-Clearinghouse for conflicts with state or local plans, goals and objectives. After receiving this letter, you should make it available to the funding agency and continue with the funding agencies application process. This e-Clearinghouse SPOC letter signifies only that the project has followed the state reviewing requirements, and is neither a commitment of funds from this agency or any other state or federal agency. Please remember if any federal reviews are required the applicant must follow through with those federal agencies.

The results of this review are valid for one year from the date of this letter. If the project is not submitted to the funding agency or not approved within one year after the completion of this review, the applicant can request an extension by email to Lee.Nalley@ky.gov. If the project changes in any way after the review, the applicant must reapply through the e-Clearinghouse for a new review. There are no exceptions.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the review process please contact the e-Clearinghouse office at 502-892-3462.

Sincerely,



Billie R. Johnson,
Executive Director, Office of Federal Grants
Kentucky State Clearinghouse

Attachment



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USFW IPaC Take Aways

- **Federal projects** must consider impacts to threatened/endangered species.
- Use **IPaC** to define the Action Area and obtain an Official Species List.
- Evaluate **species/habitat** and complete applicable Determination Keys.
- Determine **NE, NLAA, or LAA** for each listed species/critical habitat.
- **Submit to USFWS only if further review is required.**
- Always include the **IPaC project code**.

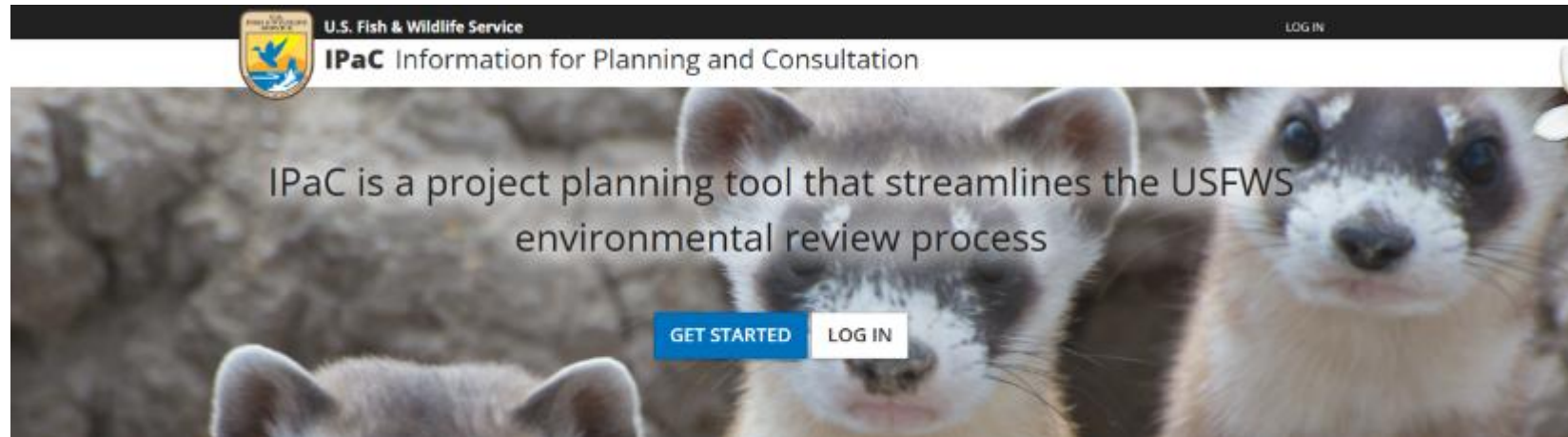
Process:

**IPaC → Species List → Habitat Review → Dkeys → Determination → USFWS
(if needed)**

Endangered Species Act – Section 7



Indiana Bat
(Found in every county in
Kentucky)



ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov



Short's Bladderpod



Pink Mucket

Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program (ORLP)

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- ORLP is a separate LWCF program for outdoor recreation projects in or adjacent to Urban Areas
- Grants are available from \$300,000 to \$15,000,000
- A 50/50 match is required
- Cities and Counties are eligible applicants, but must apply through the state (in our case, DLG)
- Applications are due to Pamela.Jordan@ky.gov by October 16, 2026.
- The Trust for Public Land is providing application support.



Eligible Project Locations

- Projects must be located within or directly adjacent to an Urban Area with a population of 25,000 or greater
- Urban Areas are defined with census data and can be viewed using TIGERWeb:
<https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb>



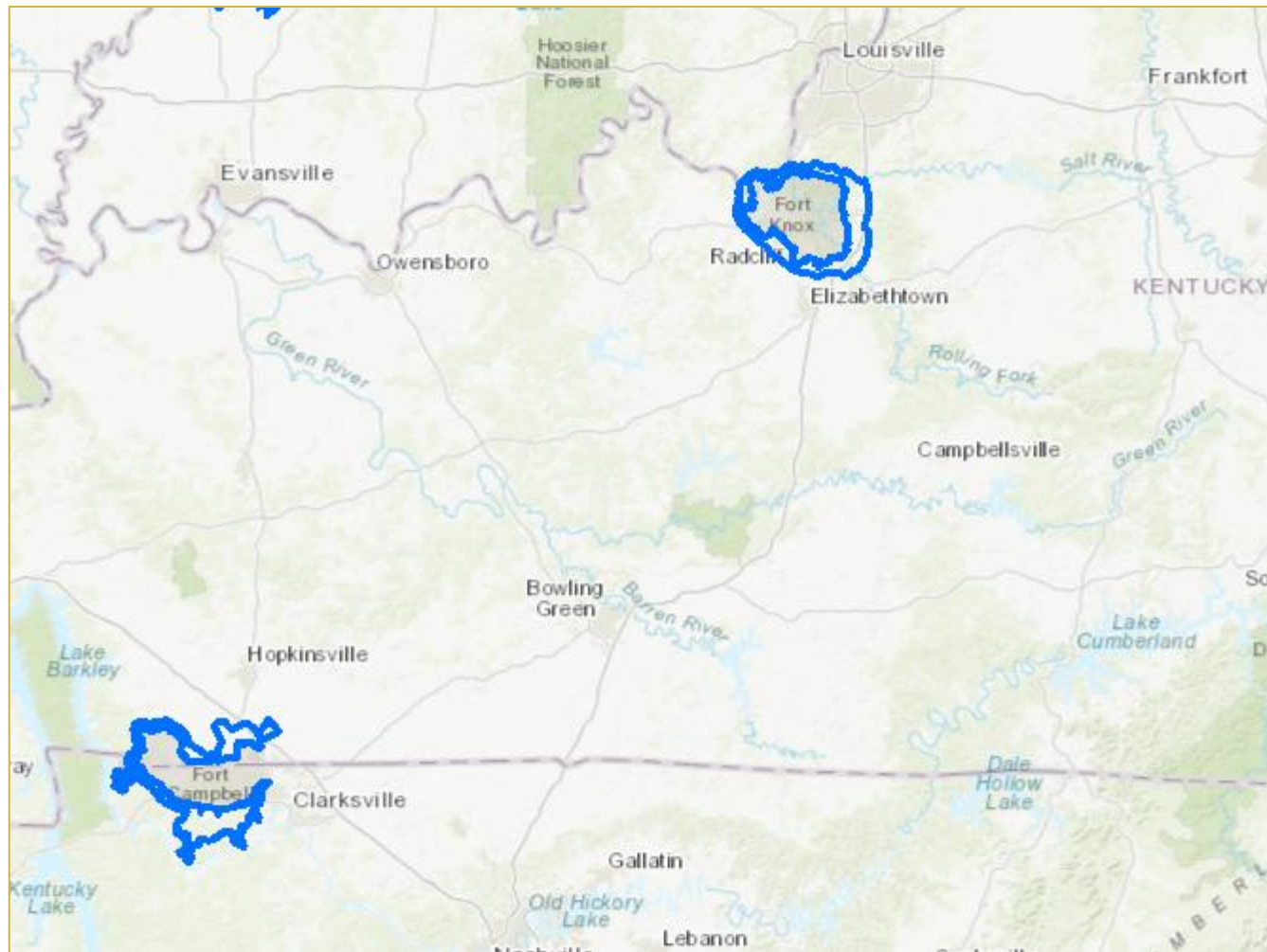
Purple area is the Louisville Urban Area

Project Selection Criteria and Process

- Applications will be scored up to five points on each of the categories below:
 1. Increase Access to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
 2. Align with Community Needs
 3. Leverage Resources in Support of Recreation
 4. Promote Conservation and Ecological Benefits
 5. Demonstrate Feasibility
- An independent board will review and score all projects that meet minimum requirements and complete all required application elements.
- Award decisions will be made in May 2027.
- This program will run 5 application cycles with the same timing annually.

Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI)

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The blue areas represent the RARI eligible areas in Kentucky.

- RARI is another nationally competitive program from NPS, but is focused on projects adjacent to military installations
- RARI's goals are to preserve the environment, boost disaster resilience for military installations and communities, and provide public outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Funding is available from \$250,000 to \$3,000,000 and requires a 50/50 match.
- Projects must include land acquisition.