

MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

2021 FACT SHEET

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Originating from the Morris County Preservation Trust Fund, on November 4, 2014, the voting electorate of Morris County approved the ballot question by a margin of nearly 3 to 1 to permit trail development as an allowable use under the Trust Fund.

PURPOSE OF FUNDING: The purpose of the grant program is to provide recreational trail use opportunities, which benefit the communities and enhance the quality of life for the residents of Morris County.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE: Any of the thirty-nine municipalities in the County of Morris, New Jersey. Municipalities are limited to one application per funding cycle.

PERMISSABLE USES & ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

1. Phase 1 - Design & Permitting – grant funding provided to prepare engineering documents and obtain permits necessary to prepare construction documents for trail project.
2. Phase 2 - Minor Construction – grant funding provided to construct smaller simpler types of trail projects. Specific criteria apply.
3. Phase 2 - Major Construction – grant funding provided to construct larger more complex types trail projects.

The above categories can be used for either new trail construction or trail enhancement projects. Trail enhancement projects are improvements of trail design and/or surface type of existing trails to accommodate increased capacity and/or make the trail ADA compliant. Trail Enhancement is more than an in-kind replacement of current conditions, and is not intended to address deferred maintenance issues.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS: The land on which the trail is to be funded must be:

1. Located in Morris County
2. Owned by the municipality, in full and/or via permanent easements on which trail(s) are to be located.
3. Permanently preserved public parkland or private land with permanent easements dedicated for public trail/recreational use.

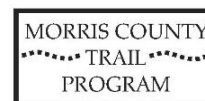
PROGRAM FUNDING: The program will operate on a reimbursement basis. The minimum grant amount is \$5,000.00 for all of the funding categories. The maximum grant award for Design & Permitting is 15% of estimated construction costs. The maximum grant award for Minor Construction is \$70,000. The Major Construction funding category limit is defined as “no one award shall receive more than 60% of the funds available during each year’s funding cycle”. However, this exception can be waived if the project is deemed to be a regionally significant project.

MATCHING FUNDS: Applicants are required to provide a 20% match (minimum). The match can be made up of a combination of sources including:

- Direct Costs (labor, materials, equipment)
- Indirect Costs (planning, engineering, and permitting) (Not Guaranteed-Subject to Committee approval)
- Other grant resources
- Municipal Funds (Open Space, capital, etc.)

Website:

<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Trail-Construction-Grant-Program>



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APPLICATION PROCESS: STEP 1 - Applicants are required to submit a completed Letter of Intent. This documentation verifies property ownership and outlines preliminary project costs. STEP 2 - Applicants are required to submit a completed application in accordance with their project type. All applications require detailed information regarding tasks, costs, and relevant support documentation. Separate applications apply to Phase 1-Design and Phase 2-Construction.

EVALUATION CRITERIA: The following evaluation criteria will be considered in the review of each application.

Access and Design
Funding
Demand

Concurrency
Connectivity
Maintenance

Diversity
Constructability
Partnership Programs and Promotion

Design Specifications

PROGRAM UPDATE: On **Thursday May 6, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**, Trail Grant Program Administrator will provide an overview of the program and summary of changes from the previous year.

PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS: Pre-application meetings are required for ALL APPLICANTS. Pre-application meetings are held to receive approval for application submission prior to the application deadline. Pre-application meetings will be scheduled on a first-come first-served basis throughout the open application cycle.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Denise Chaplick, Director Park Planning and Development
Morris County Park Commission
300 Mendham Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 326-7605 dchaplick@morrisparks.net

LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Wednesday June 30, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday July 30, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION: Wednesday October 27, 2021

AWARD NOTIFICATION DATE: December 2021

PROJECT COMPLETION: 2-years (from date of signed Grant Agreement)

NON-ELIGIBLE USES: Various aspects of project development are not eligible; they include but are not limited to:

1. Land Condemnation
2. Land Acquisition
3. Permit Fees
4. Planning
5. Sidewalks
6. Improvements or construction to roads Lighting
7. Running tracks
8. Law enforcement
9. Purchase of equipment
10. Deferred Maintenance
11. Administrative and grant preparation fees

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