

MORRIS COUNTY TRAIL CONSTRUCTION GRANT PROGRAM

2024 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.

PERMISSIBLE USES & ELIGIBLE PROJECTS:

1. **Design & Permitting** – grant funding provided to prepare bid ready construction documents including Final Design Plans, Specifications, Permits, and Engineer’s Cost Estimate.
2. **Minor Construction** – grant funding provided to construct small simplistic types of trail projects. Specific criteria apply.
3. **Major Construction** – grant funding provided to construct larger types of 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 intended to be 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.
4. License Agreements will be considered for projects that are officially adopted as part of the municipal Recreation and Open Space Inventory (ROSI) or are located on County owned property. Prior approvals by the County are required.

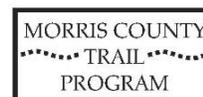
PROGRAM FUNDING: The program will operate on a reimbursement basis. The minimum grant amount is \$10,000.00 for all of the funding categories. The maximum grant award for Design & Permitting is 15% of estimated construction costs. The maximum grant award for Minor Construction is \$70,000. The Major 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 early project costs. **STEP 2** - Applicants are required to submit a completed application in accordance with their project type. All applications require detailed information regarding project specifics, outline of tasks, costs, and relevant documentation. Separate applications apply and submission requirements vary for Design and Phase 2-Construction.

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: Karl Klingener, Manager Special Projects - Administration
Morris County Park Commission
300 Mendham Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
(862) 325-7739 MCTrailGrantProgram@Morrisparks.net

DESIGN TO CONSTRUCTION DEADLINES: If you currently have a Design Grant and are thinking of applying for a Construction Grant, you must have reviews and final approvals of bid documents completed as follows in order to be eligible to apply:

May 31, 2024 – 60% documents delivered to program staff for review and comment.
June 28, 2024 – 100% documents delivered to program staff and received final approvals.

LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Friday June 28, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Wednesday July 31, 2024 at 4:00 P.M.

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. Legal Fees/Title Work
3. Boundary Survey
4. Planning
5. Land Acquisition
6. Permit Fees
7. Sidewalks
8. Improvements or construction of roads
9. Lighting
10. Running tracks
11. Law enforcement
12. Purchase of equipment
13. Deferred Maintenance
14. Administrative and grant preparation fees
15. Grant Management
16. Parking Areas or Trail Heads above 5,000SF

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