

2023 Grant Program Guidance

Stewardship Local Assistance Grants
Federal Land & Water Conservation Program
Federal Recreational Trails Program



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Introduction

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is committed to providing the public with high-quality, accessible outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state. The DNR partners with communities and organizations to expand outdoor recreation via the following grant programs:

KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT SUBPROGRAMS

- Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP)
- Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR)
- Urban Green Space (UGS)
- Urban Rivers (UR)

FEDERAL RECREATION GRANT PROGRAMS

- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

This booklet contains information about each of these grant programs, application details, and criteria the DNR uses to rank applications and select projects. Up to 50% grant assistance is available to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The Recreational Trails Program can award up to 80% grant assistance to develop or maintain trails. The Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, and RTP grant programs are often very competitive. Typically, grant requests exceed available funds by 3:1.

Stewardship Local Assistance grants provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation activities where the primary focus or purpose is the appreciation or enjoyment of nature. Such activities include, but are not limited to, hiking, bicycling, wildlife or nature observation, camping, nature study, fishing, hunting, picnicking, cross-country skiing, canoeing and multi-use trail activities. Nature-based outdoor recreation is defined in Ch. NR 51.002(19), Wis. Admin. Code.

The Federal LWCF and RTP Grant Programs have unique eligibility criteria and funding priorities. For example, a broader range of outdoor recreation projects are eligible for LWCF and RTP grants relative to the nature-based outdoor recreation emphasis within the state Stewardship program. The DNR implements the LWCF and RTP grant programs in partnership with the National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration, respectively. Annual appropriations for the LWCF and RTP programs depend on the federal budget process. Availability of grants under these programs depends on the amount and timing of grant funds made available from the federal government.

Public access is fundamental to all grant programs. Reasonable public access is required for any property purchased or developed with grant funds. The DNR can help determine what constitutes appropriate and reasonable public access for grant-funded properties.

This booklet does not contain all the materials and forms needed to apply for Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grants. Applicants should visit the following DNR websites to download current application materials and forms:

- *Stewardship Local Assistance* - [Local units of government application process | Wisconsin DNR](#)
- *LWCF & RTP* - [Federal grants administered with local units of government Stewardship grants | Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program | Wisconsin DNR](#)

Contact your Regional Grant Project Manager

There are many important details to understand when applying for a Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grant. DNR Project Managers are located throughout the state and can help determine project eligibility and walk applicants through the grant process from project conception to final reimbursement.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their regional Project Manager as early as possible in the planning stages of a project, ideally within six months prior to submitting an application, for a detailed explanation of the grant programs in general, a tentative determination of eligibility, and tailored guidance to make an application as competitive as possible. Regional Project Managers are also an excellent source of information about other DNR grant and loan programs. Contact information for each regional Project Manager is provided below and on the DNR Stewardship website:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/GrantContacts>.

DNR Regional Project Managers & Counties Served

<p>KAREN BLODGETT – Northern, West Central Regions <i>Stewardship Local Assistance; LWCF</i> 1300 W. Clairemont, Eau Claire, WI 54701</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Washburn, Wood 	<p>Phone: (715) 492-1755 Email: karen.blodgett@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>KURT BYFIELD – South Central, West Central Regions <i>Motorized RTP Grants</i> 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Adams, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Juneau, La Crosse, Lafayette, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Portage, Richland, Rock, Sauk, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Wood 	<p>Phone: (608) 501-4274 Email: kurt.byfield@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>SARA DEBRUIJN – Southeast Region <i>Stewardship Local Assistance; LWCF; RTP</i> 1027 W. St. Paul Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha 	<p>Phone: (414) 897-5704 Email: sara.debruijn@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>JEREMY HOLTZ – Southeast, Northeast Regions <i>Motorized RTP Grants</i> 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago 	<p>Phone: (920) 883-7428 Email: jeremy.holtz@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>CHERYL HOUSLEY – South Central Region <i>Stewardship Local Assistance; LWCF; RTP</i> 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Grant, Green, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk 	<p>Phone: (608) 516-9560 Email: cheryl.housley@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>JEFF PENNUCCI – Northern Region <i>Stewardship Local Assistance; LWCF; RTP</i> 107 Sutliff Ave., Rhineland, WI 54501</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Florence, Forest, Iron, Langlade, Lincoln, Oneida, Price, Taylor, Vilas 	<p>Phone: (715) 499-1424 Email: jeff.pennucci@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>THEA SHOWALTER – Northern, West Central Regions <i>Non Motorized Diversified RTP Grants</i> 101 S. Webster St., Madison, WI 53703</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Adams, Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Buffalo, Burnett, Chippewa, Clark, Crawford, Douglas, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Marathon, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Portage, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Trempealeau, Vernon, Washburn, Wood 	<p>Phone: (608) 438-6162 Email: thea.showalter@wisconsin.gov</p>
<p>JESSICA TERRIEN – Northeast Region <i>Stewardship Local Assistance; LWCF; RTP</i> 2984 Shawano Ave., Green Bay, WI 54313</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counties Served: Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago 	<p>Phone: (920) 461-2680 Email: jessica.terrien@wisconsin.gov</p>

For information on program policy and statewide coordination, contact the following DNR Statewide Grant Program Managers:

Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; Stewardship Grants to Nonprofit Conservation Organizations; Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants	PAM ROOD	Phone: (608) 333-3718 Email: pamelaa.rood@wisconsin.gov
Recreational Trails Program Grants	BOBBI WINEBAR	Phone: (920) 461-2595 Email: roberta.winebar@wisconsin.gov

Application Submittal Process, Application Deadline, and Grant Award Timeframe

Complete grant applications should be submitted electronically (e.g. email, zip files) to your Regional Project Manager by 11:59 pm on **May 1, 2023**. Do not use Google Drive or Drop Box to submit your application. Contact a regional Project Manager for information regarding required application components. Note that several application components such as a local adopted Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP), local resolutions, and appraisals can take time to complete.

The time between submitting a complete application and receiving a grant contract ranges from 6 to 12 months depending on the details of each project. While we strive to make tentative grant awards as quickly as possible, applicants should keep this timeframe in mind when applying for a Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, and/or RTP grant.

Required Additional Reviews and Approvals

If a tentative Stewardship grant **exceeds \$250,000**, approval from the Joint Finance Committee of the Legislature is required (S. 23.0917(6m), Wis. Stats.). Applicants will work with a regional Project Manager and Grant Manager to obtain this approval.

If an applicant proposes acquiring a property on which hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, or cross-country skiing activities would be restricted or prohibited, the Natural Resources Board (NRB) will need to approve the requested change in nature-based activities allowed (Ch. NR 52, Wis. Admin. Code). Applicants will work with a regional Project Manager and Grant Program Manager to submit the request to the NRB.

Contact a regional Project Manager for details about additional reviews and approvals needed.

Long-term Obligations for Grant Recipients

Terms and conditions for property acquired or developed with Stewardship, LWCF, or RTP grants are outlined in the grant contract and applicable state and federal statutes and codes. It is important for potential applicants to understand long-term obligations that are associated with these grant programs, as these obligations apply in perpetuity. Details about long-term obligations for grant recipients are available from regional Project Managers. The following are several key requirements:

- **Nature-Based Outdoor Activities:** Grant recipients must ensure that any property acquired with a Stewardship grant remains open to the public for nature-based public outdoor activities (defined in Ch. NR 52.02(7), Wis. Admin. Code, as hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, and cross-country skiing), unless otherwise approved by the DNR Natural Resources Board (per the requirements of Ch. NR 52, Wis. Admin. Code).

- Ownership: Grant recipients must retain legal control and oversight of the property (via ownership or lease) and maintain facilities on property acquired or developed with a Stewardship, LWCF, or RTP grant. Transfer of ownership of property acquired or developed with a Stewardship grant requires written approval from the DNR and/or applicable federal agency (for LWCF and RTP programs).
- Public Access: Grant recipients must ensure that grant property remains open to the public for outdoor recreation, consistent with provisions of the original grant contract. Recipients may place reasonable access restrictions on grant properties (e.g. closing a park during nighttime hours).
- Income: Grant recipients may charge reasonable user fees (e.g. state park daily entrance or camping fee) to defray operation and maintenance costs. However, any income accruing from the property should be used for purposes that support the original grant contract.
- Property Legal Description: A recordable legal description is required for both development and acquisition properties. The legal description is included in the grant contract and is recorded with the Register of Deeds at the completion of a development project or after the closing of an acquisition.

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (NR 51 requirement for Stewardship and NR 50 requirement for LWCF)

Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (CORPs) are developed by local communities. CORPs typically contain an inventory of existing outdoor recreation facilities, an analysis of outdoor recreation needs, and projects that may be implemented to address unmet recreation needs. CORPs must be updated **every five years**. Projects funded with Stewardship grants need to be consistent with a local adopted CORP. Further, the project may need to be specifically identified in the CORP, depending on the Stewardship grant subprogram.

For projects supported with LWCF grants, the proposed project needs to be consistent with the CORP and the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) adopted by the DNR. For RTP grants, the proposed project needs to be consistent with the SCORP.

All applicants, even those with a current CORP, should contact a regional Project Manager early in the planning process to discuss grant program CORP requirements.

Governing Board Resolution Requirements

A signed resolution from the applicant's governing board is required as part of the application unless the grant program allows "individuals" as eligible applicants. A resolution provides the DNR with an official approval of the project and the governing board's commitment of funding to complete the project. The resolution must include:

1. A statement that the applicant has budgeted enough funds to complete the project or acquisition.
2. The name of an authorized representative designated (by title) to act on behalf of the applicant to:
 - a. Submit an application;
 - b. Submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 months of project completion date; and
 - c. Take necessary action to undertake, direct, and complete the approved project.
3. A statement that the applicant will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to the project and maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting, and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the DNR or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Note: Applicants are encouraged to use [Form 8700-388](#) to provide this information. This form can be found in the application materials on the grants webpage.

Eligible Applicants

The following table summarizes entities and organizations that are eligible for Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, and RTP grant awards. Additional eligibility details for each program are provided in the “Program Description” sections below. Entities that are not directly eligible for these grant programs are encouraged to consider partnering with eligible entities.

A key consideration in eligibility for Stewardship Local Assistance and LWCF grants is whether an applicant has an approved local CORP or if the project is identified in the CORP approved by a unit of government other than the applicant. Applicants that do not have a current CORP should contact their regional Project Manager for information and assistance.

	Stewardship Local Assistance Subprograms				Land and Water Cons. Fund	Rec. Trails Program
	Acq. and Dev. of Local Parks	Acq. of Dev. Rights	Urban Green Space	Urban Rivers		
Local Governments (Towns, Villages, Cities, & Counties)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Tribal Governments	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lake sanitary districts and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts ¹	N	N	Y	N	N	N
Nonprofit conservation organizations (NCOs) whose primary purpose includes acquisition of property for conservation purposes ²	Y ³	Y ³	Y ³	Y ³	N	N
Nonprofit organizations with a primary purpose of promoting, encouraging, or engaging in trail activities ⁴	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Incorporated trail organizations ⁴	N	N	N	N	N	Y
School districts	N	N	N	N	Y	Y

¹ Lake Sanitary Districts are further defined in S. 30.50(4q), Wis. Stats.

² NCOs are further defined in S. 23.0955(1), Wis. Stats., Ch. NR 51.002(21), Wis. Admin. Code, and Ch. NR 51.04, Wis. Admin. Code.

³ NCOs are eligible to receive Local Assistance Grants for land acquisition projects only. Local Assistance regulations apply.

⁴ Further defined in S. 181.0103(17), Wis. Stats.

Reimbursement

Payment of grant funds is on a reimbursement basis. For Stewardship, a 50% advance payment of the grant award may be available for development projects. Accurate and comprehensive documentation of project costs is critical. As applicable to the project and grant program, applicants will be required to submit

a DNR Grant Payment Request (Form 8700-001) and detailed documentation (e.g. proof-of purchase, proof-of-payment, force account details etc.) prior to reimbursement. Land acquisition projects and projects funded under federal grant programs have unique documentation requirements.

Costs eligible for reimbursement vary by grant program and project type. For example, pre-engineering costs for development projects are typically eligible for reimbursement in the LWCF program but are not eligible under RTP grants. Administrative costs, construction expenses or materials purchased prior to issuance of the grant agreement, costs to prepare the grant application, and costs to prepare a local CORP are not eligible for reimbursement under Stewardship grants. Contact a regional Project Manager for more information about eligible and ineligible costs for each grant program and reimbursement documentation requirements.

Prior to final reimbursement, grant recipients must also demonstrate that the affected property title does not contain any issues that impact the legal authority of the applicant to construct the proposed development project or acquire the grant-funded property. Applicants are encouraged to conduct a title search as early as possible in the project development process and discuss any issues with a regional Project Manager.

Applicant Share (i.e. Grantee Match)

Project applicants are required to provide matching funds equal to or greater than the amount of the grant award (i.e. 50% match). Eligible sources of matching funds vary depending on the grant program. All sources of match must be identified in the grant application. Common sources of matching funds include:

- Applicant funds.
- Financial donations from private organizations and individuals.
- In-kind labor, equipment, and materials provided by the applicant (i.e. "Force account" match).
- In-kind donations of labor, services, materials, and equipment from private organizations and individuals. Professional service donations (e.g. engineering services, landscape design, etc.) are valued at an hourly rate consistent with similar professionals in the same part of the state. Donations of unskilled labor are calculated at an hourly rate consistent with the state minimum wage and must be documented on Volunteer Labor Forms found on the grants webpages.
- Federal grants can typically be used as match funding for Stewardship grants and vice versa. In most cases, federal grants cannot be used to provide matching funds for other federal grants. Contact a regional Project Manager to determine which funding sources can be used for match funding.
- Donation of land from a third party. Donating property is an excellent way for private organizations and individuals to support public outdoor recreation. Up to 50% of the fair market value of property donated by a third party may be used as applicant match. The following are several key considerations regarding donated property used as match:
 - Donated property is subject to the same appraisal requirements as property acquired with grant funds. To be considered as match, the applicant must provide an appraisal deemed acceptable for grant purposes by a DNR review appraiser. This process does not apply to other sources of matching funds. Applicants are encouraged to consider potential impacts to the timing of their project when donated property is used as match.
 - Donated property must be eligible for the same grant program for which it is being proposed as match.
 - Upon completion of the project, the donated property becomes subject to the terms the of the grant contract and program for which it was provided as match.
 - Donated property must have been received by the applicant no more than three years prior to the date of the application.

- Donated property must have been in private ownership and not previously dedicated to public outdoor recreation or conservation purposes.
- For some projects, the value of match property can affect the amount of the eligible grant award.

A note about wage requirements for grant-funded development projects: “Prevailing wage” is the rate paid for any trade or occupation engaged in a public works project, including the hourly basic rate of pay, plus the hourly contribution for benefits.

Stewardship projects: Wisconsin Act 55 (2015) made significant changes to Wisconsin’s prevailing wage laws. Projects supported by a Stewardship local assistance grant are considered local projects for purposes of prevailing wage requirements.

RTP projects: For projects that receive an RTP grant, the prevailing rate of wage applies “[...] on highway projects on the Federal-Aid highways authorized under the highway laws providing for the expenditure of Federal funds upon Federal-aid highways[.]” 23 U.S.C. § 113(a). Under Title 23, all public roads are “Federal-aid highways”, except those that are functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors. The Federal Highway Administration interprets the language of § 113(a) as applying only when a Federal-aid project takes place within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway. Therefore, if an RTP project is within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, Davis-Bacon Act wage rates must be followed. If an RTP project is not within the right-of-way of a Federal-aid highway, then 23 U.S.C. § 113(a) does not apply.

Property Appraisals

Property appraisals are a key component of all acquisition projects. State law requires that Stewardship grants for land and conservation easement acquisition must be based on current fair market value of the land and further specifies that DNR must determine that value. Appraisal requirements also apply to any property proposed as match for acquisition or development projects.

For Stewardship grant projects where an appraisal is necessary, a current full narrative appraisal that meets current State guidelines is required. LWCF and RTP⁵ grant project appraisals also need to meet the most current Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (i.e. “Yellow Book”) standards. All appraisals must reflect current market value and identify DNR as an intended user. A DNR review appraiser reviews all appraisals for proposed grant awards. Appraisals must be determined acceptable for grant purposes before DNR can calculate a grant award and execute a contract. The applicant’s appraiser must have a pre-appraisal consultation with a DNR Review Appraiser prior to the start of the appraisal process.

If the property value for a proposed grant funded acquisition or land being used as match exceeds \$350,000, state law requires the DNR to consider two appraisals when calculating a grant award. The applicant must provide one appraisal, and the DNR will contract the other. Provided that both appraisals are deemed acceptable for grant purposes, the grant calculation will be based on the lower of the two acceptable appraisals.

Appraisals and DNR review can extend the timeframe between tentative grant award and contract execution. Contact a regional Project Manager to discuss appraisal requirements and obtain a current copy of the [DNR Appraisal Guidelines](#) before initiating the appraisal process.

⁵ *The RTP grant program falls under the FAST Act, so acquisition applications are not being accepted for State Fiscal Year 2024 due to the timeframe that must be met.*

Acquisition Projects

Acquisition of property that provides public outdoor park and recreation areas, open space near urban areas, or river access are typically eligible for Stewardship and LWCF land acquisition grants. Land

acquisitions for Local Assistance, LWCF, and RTP⁶ grant programs must occur in accordance with state and federal guidelines for preparation of appraisals and eligible transaction costs. Below are several highlights regarding grant funded land acquisition; please also see the [DNR Land Acquisition Guidelines](#) for more details.

- Condemnation/Eminent Domain: Grant funded land acquisitions must be on a willing-seller willing-buyer basis. State law prohibits the expenditure of Stewardship grant funds for acquisition or development of property acquired via condemnation. Federal rules for RTP do not allow for this type of acquisition.
- Property Value: Grant awards for land acquisition (and property used as match) are based on the appraised value or the purchase price, whichever is less. Special provisions apply in cases where the current landowner has owned the grant or match property for less than three years.
- Eligible Costs: Eligible acquisition costs include the fair market value of the property or actual purchase price. For the Stewardship program, eligible costs include reasonable costs related to the purchase of the property, limited to the following: appraisal costs; land surveys; relocation payments; title evidence; recording fees; initial signage posting;⁷ attorney fees;⁷ historical, cultural, and environmental analyses as required by the DNR. If the property value exceeds \$350,000, the DNR will contract the second appraisal. See the Property Appraisals section for more information.
- Pre-grant Acquisition: No land can be acquired prior to the date of grant award unless the applicant receives a letter of retroactivity. For Stewardship grants, this letter is provided by the DNR. For LWCF grants, letters from both the DNR and NPS are required. Letters of retroactivity are not allowed in RTP. **Applicants who anticipate acquiring property prior to grant award should contact their regional Project Manager prior to submitting an application to request a state/federal letter of retroactivity.**
- Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Review: Per S. 32.035 Wis. Stats., the DATCP Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) Program reviews agricultural land acquisitions proposed by local governments, state agencies, and public utilities to determine the magnitude of potential agricultural resource impacts that may result from the acquisition. Applicants other than nonprofits are required to notify DATCP – at www.agimpact.wi.gov – of a project that acquires agricultural land. Upon notice, the AIS Program will determine if an agricultural impact statement is required for the project. Applicants are also required to submit documentation of the notice provided to DATCP with the grant application. If a copy of the DATCP agricultural impact determination is received prior to the application due date, applicants should provide a copy of the determination within the submission. All applicants considering a grant application to help purchase agricultural land are encouraged to discuss the project with DNR grant staff before applying.
- Flood Mitigation: Standard floodplain ordinance is administered at the County or local level. Standard ordinance is reflective of state and federal requirements. DNR floodplain engineers assist municipalities on technical questions & reviews (H&H) for planned changes within the floodplain. A floodplain is considered to be the channel of a river or stream plus the surrounding area which is covered by flood water during the regional flood, per Ch. NR 116.03, Wis. Admin. Code. Please see <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/floodplains/modelZoningOrdinances.html> for more information.

⁶ The RTP grant program falls under the FAST Act, so acquisition applications are not being accepted for State Fiscal Year 2024 due to the timeframe that must be met.

⁷ These costs may be capped.

- If your development is planned for property or a structure in a floodplain, please contact your [DNR floodplain engineer](#). There have been recent changes to the standard ordinance due to flood events in recent years and our technical staff can aid with compliance with the ordinance interpretation and design, as well as data modeling for flood resilience.

- DNR technical assistance for local floodplain administration is welcome and often necessary to protect consistency statewide for ordinance standards.
- Wetlands/Waterways: For projects in or near a navigable waterway or wetland, the following resources are available:
 - Surface Water Data Viewer: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/surfacewater/swdv/>
 - Wetland ID Service: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wetlands/identification.html>
 - Waterway/wetland questions hotline: (608) 267-3125 or DNRWMSPublicInquiry@wisconsin.gov
 Work with [DNR staff](#) to determine permitting and regulatory requirements as early as possible in your project development process.

Prior to scoring prospective land acquisition projects submitted by nonprofit or local government applicants, DNR will evaluate the following:

- Agricultural Resources and Potential: Agriculture contributes \$88.3 billion annually to the economy in Wisconsin and employs approximately 12% of the state’s workforce. Reflecting the importance of agriculture in Wisconsin’s economy, the DNR will evaluate a property’s agricultural resources prior to rating and ranking any proposed acquisition project. The DNR asks that applicants submit information regarding any agricultural land and uses of property prior to or with submission of grant application material.

DNR will closely consider acquisition of high-quality agricultural lands, property that is likely to remain in agricultural use, and property that is isolated from other public access or conservation lands. Applicants considering a grant application to purchase agricultural land are encouraged to discuss the project with DNR grant staff before applying.

- Ease of Public Access: Expansion and enhancement of public access to nature-based outdoor recreation is a priority for the DNR, and Stewardship funded land purchases must be open to the public pursuant to S. 23.0916, Wis. Stats. DNR staff evaluates feasibility of public access on a case-by-case basis taking into account the size, shape, topography, and/or remote location of a parcel, and practical accessibility is considered before a prospective land acquisition project undergoes scoring and ranking.

DNR will carefully consider projects that benefit a very limited population and/or are remote enough that members of the public are unlikely to visit. Applicants considering purchasing land that may have public access challenges are advised to discuss the project with DNR grant staff before applying.

Development Projects

Grant awards for development projects are based on costs associated with the development activities outlined in the grant application. Note that construction costs incurred prior to the date of the grant award

are not eligible for reimbursement. For development projects supported with Stewardship and RTP grants, applicants must own the property or have an easement or lease that provides legal access for the purposes of the project. The lease must have a minimum 25-year duration as of the date of the application pursuant to Ch. NR 51, Wis. Admin. Code.

For LWCF grants, the applicant must possess legal control of the property in order to provide reasonable assurance that they have approval authority for any changes to public access and/or recreational opportunities on the subject property.

A wide variety of project types are eligible for development grants. Development projects supported with Stewardship grants must provide nature-based recreation opportunities. Development projects funded by LWCF grants can also support active outdoor recreation facilities such as athletic fields.

The following activities are common examples of development projects, and the grant programs by which they can be supported are listed for reference:

- Trails, trailheads, and associated trail amenities (e.g. restrooms, benches, lighting, kiosks) – Stewardship; LWCF; RTP
- Canoe/kayak launches – Stewardship; LWCF; RTP (if part of a water trail system)
- Fishing piers – Stewardship; LWCF; RTP (if part of a trail system)
- Day-use picnic areas – Stewardship; LWCF
- Campgrounds – Stewardship; LWCF; RTP (on a case-by-case basis)

The following types of projects are typically not eligible for Stewardship or RTP grant funding but may be eligible for a LWCF grant:

- Splash pads
- Soccer/baseball fields
- Sport courts

The following are examples that are typically not eligible for reimbursement in the Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grant programs:

- Purchase of equipment
- Income-generating facilities (e.g. concession buildings)
- Stand-alone maintenance facilities that do not specifically serve the grant property
- Outdoor amphitheaters
- Facilities developed on property that was acquired via condemnation
- Technology such as video surveillance or Wi-Fi equipment

Grant Program Descriptions

Stewardship Local Assistance Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP) Subprogram

Statute/Code: [S. 23.09\(20\), Wis. Stats.](#); [Subch. XII of Ch. NR 51, Wis. Admin. Code.](#)

Purpose: The ADLP program helps communities and organizations acquire and develop land for public nature-based outdoor recreation and improve community recreation areas.

Allocation: Funds are allocated on a regional basis proportional to population. Projects compete against other projects from their region.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs. NCOs are only eligible for land acquisition under this program.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation are eligible for ADLP grants.

Funding Priorities: ADLP funding priorities include projects that:

- Support a local CORP;
- Support multiple uses;
- Are of regional/statewide significance;
- Result in a first-of-a-kind facility for the applicant;
- Involve two or more governmental agencies;
- Provide accessible recreation opportunities; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) Subprogram

Statute/Code: [S. 23.09\(20m\), Wis. Stats.](#); [Subch. XV of Ch. 51, Wis. Admin. Code.](#)

Purpose: The purpose of the ADR program is to protect natural, agricultural, and forest lands that provide nature-based outdoor recreation by purchasing development rights and compensating landowners for limited future development on their land.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects: ADR grants may only be used to support projects that acquire development rights to support nature-based outdoor recreation.

Funding Priorities: The following types of properties are given priority consideration for ADR grant funding:

- Land with water frontage;
- Land that provides a buffer between developed and natural areas;
- Land that connects existing natural resource protection areas; and
- Land with other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance Urban Greenspace (UGS) Subprogram

Statute/Code: [S. 23.09\(19\), Wis. Stats.](#); [Subch. XIII of Ch. NR 51, Wis. Admin. Code.](#)

Purpose: The UGS program supports acquisition of land for open natural areas and community gardens within or near urban areas.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, NCOs, sanitary districts, and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts.

Eligible Projects: Projects that acquire land within or in proximity to urban areas that provides open space, protects unique natural features, and/or provides opportunities for community gardening are eligible to apply for UGS grants. Development projects are not eligible for UGS grants.

Funding Priorities: UGS funding priorities include acquisition of land that:

- Preserves land on the natural heritage inventory database;
- Implements elements of approved water quality plans or initiatives;
- Has unique natural features;
- Provides a linear corridor connecting open natural areas;
- Has water frontage;
- Is of regional or statewide significance;
- Provides area for community gardens; and
- Has other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Stewardship Local Assistance Urban Rivers (UR) Subprogram

Statute/Code: [S. 30.277, Wis. Stats.](#); [Subch. XIV of Ch. NR 51, Wis. Admin. Code.](#)

Purpose: The UR program helps restore and preserve the character of urban river corridors through the acquisition and development of land adjacent to rivers.

Allocation: Projects compete statewide. No applicant can receive more than 20% of the UR funds allocated in any fiscal year.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and NCOs.

Eligible Projects: Land acquisition and development projects that provide opportunities for nature-based outdoor recreation are eligible for UR grants.

Funding Priorities: UR program funding priorities include projects that:

- Restore river corridors following dam removal;
- Support redevelopment of brownfields;
- Acquire land with unique natural or aesthetic values;
- Acquire land that connects with previous land acquisitions;
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities for diverse urban populations;
- Provide new or expanded access to urban waterways;
- Support local/regional plans; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in statute/code.

Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Statute/Code: Land and Water Conservation Act ([Pub. L. No. 88-578](#)); [Ch. NR 50.06 Wis. Admin. Code](#); [LWCF Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Vol. 71](#).

Purpose: The federal LWCF program supports land acquisition and development of high-quality outdoor recreation amenities in local communities.

Allocation: IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2023 – Funds are allocated on a regional basis proportional to population. Projects compete against other projects from their region.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governments, and school districts. NCOs are not eligible to receive LWCF grants.

Eligible Projects: Generally, all acquisition and development projects that are eligible under the ADLP, UGS, and UR Stewardship subprograms are also eligible for LWCF grants. In addition, projects that provide outdoor recreation facilities that are not exclusively nature-based, such as active sports facilities, are eligible for LWCF grants. Some exceptions apply, such as cases where the applicant intends to meet their match requirement with federal funds. Contact a regional Project Manager for details.

Funding Priorities: LWCF funding priorities include projects that:

- Meet the needs of urban areas;
- Provide recreation opportunities for diverse populations;
- Acquire land in areas with limited outdoor recreation facilities;
- Provide multi-use and multi-season facilities;
- Enhance or preserve natural beauty;
- Are proposed by applicants which have sufficient financial resources to adequately maintain and operate the project; and
- Have other priority characteristics specified in law/statute/code or the LWCF Federal Financial Assistance Manual, Vol. 71.

LWCF Agreement Requirements:

Build America, Buy America: As required by S. 70914 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Pub. L. No. 117-58, on or after May 14, 2022, none of the funds under a federal award that are part of a federal financial assistance program for infrastructure may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States, unless subject to an approved waiver. Contact your regional Project Manager and review information on this website: <https://doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica>.

Minority Business Enterprise Development: Pursuant to Executive Order No. 12432, it is national policy to award a fair share of contracts to small and minority firms. NPS is strongly committed to the objectives of this policy and encourages all recipients of its Cooperative Agreements to take affirmative steps to ensure such fairness by ensuring procurement procedures are carried out in accordance with the Executive Order.

Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Statute/Code: [23 U.S.C. § 133\(h\)](#); [23 U.S.C. § 206](#); [Ch. NR 50.21, Wis. Admin. Code](#).

Purpose: The RTP program provides funds to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized recreational trail uses. RTP grants are to be used on trail projects that further a specific goal or are included in the State Comprehensive Recreation Plan (SCORP) or a local plan referenced in the SCORP.

Allocation: RTP grant awards may not exceed \$100,000 for individual projects submitted in the Federal Fiscal Year 2023-2024 application cycle. Projects compete statewide within three project categories:

Nonmotorized/Nonmotorized Diversified (30%): Projects designed to benefit nonmotorized recreational trail use where motorized use would not be allowed.

Motorized/Motorized Diversified (30%): Projects designed to benefit motorized recreational use; projects may also benefit some nonmotorized uses as long as motorized use is the primary intent.

Diversified (40%): Projects designed to benefit multiple uses; includes projects where motorized use would be permitted (i.e. seasonally) but where motorized use is not the predominant beneficiary. Diversified projects are not required to have motorized use.

Once an RTP project is approved for a particular use (motorized, nonmotorized, or mixed), it is expected to remain that way unless exceptional circumstances exist that need to be brought to the attention of FHWA, WisDOT, and DNR for consideration. This includes upgrading, expanding, or otherwise facilitating motorized use or access to recreational trails predominantly used by nonmotorized recreational trail users and on which, as of May 1, 1991, motorized use was prohibited or had not occurred.

Eligible Applicants: Towns, villages, cities, counties, tribal governing bodies, school districts, state agencies, federal agencies, or incorporated organizations are eligible to apply for funds. Incorporated organizations are those that are incorporated under Ch. 181, Wis. Stats., whose primary purpose is promoting, encouraging, or engaging in outdoor recreation trails activities.

Eligible Projects: RTP funds may only be used on trails which have been identified in or which further a specific goal of a local, county, or state trail plan included or referenced in the SCORP. These include traditional trails as well as water trails recognized by the DNR (see <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/watertrails/> for more information about water trails). Eligible RTP projects, in order of priority, are:

- Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing trails and trailhead facilities;
- Development of new trails, trail linkages and trailhead facilities (some restrictions apply on federal lands); and
- Acquisition of property for trails in areas with limited trail opportunities. **Note:** applications for acquisition projects are not being accepted for State Fiscal Year 2024.

Pre-award expenses are not eligible for reimbursement under RTP grants. Examples of pre-award expenses include pre-engineering and design, and any expenses incurred before a grant agreement is received.

The Recreational Trails Program promotes the use of the following:

- Youth Conservation Corps or Service Corps (<https://corpsnetwork.org>)

Recreational Trails Program E-bikes Guidance:

- Under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), 23 U.S.C. § 206(a), electric bikes, electric scooters, and personal mobility devices (such as a Segway) are considered motorized uses. See the

American Trails website for more information: <https://www.americantrails.org/resources/basic-facts-on-department-of-justice-rule-on-power-driven-mobility-devices-for-accessibility>.

- Motorized recreation is different for RTP: it includes any motorized vehicle except for motorized wheelchairs.
- A trail that allows both bicycles and electric bicycles is considered a diverse trail and not a nonmotorized trail or a motorized trail for funding category purposes.
- If a trail is built as a nonmotorized trail, e-bikes should be prohibited.
- Some state laws don't match with Federal law in this respect.

RTP Scoring Category Definitions:

Rehabilitation

- Restoration of trails, trailheads, and trailhead facilities that have been damaged/worn to their former condition
- Culvert replacement
- Trail re-route that extends outside of the original footprint by less than one acre
- Resurfacing trail with new material (i.e. was gravel, now pavement; adding new gravel to a trail segment that is damaged due to heavy use)
- Repairing/updating trailhead or trailhead facilities (replacement of items, i.e. roof, parts of wood structure, lights)
- Project within original footprint
- Replacing something that is already there
- Bridge replacement or total deck and rail replacement

Maintenance

Maintaining or preserving; keeping trails, trailheads, and trailhead facilities in good condition.

- Brushing
- Grooming
- Mowing
- Minor miscellaneous (replacing parts of a railing or a few boards on a bridge; adding gravel to small area(s) of a trail; adding riprap to a bridge abutment)
- Resurfacing with same material in short sections of the trail
- Minor repairs of trailhead or trailhead facilities (signs; painting and filling holes of parking lots; replacing lightbulbs or plexiglass/acrylic, etc.)
- Project within original footprint
- Fixing or maintaining what is already there

Development

Growth, expansion, or development of new trails, trailheads, and trailhead facilities.

- Constructing new trailhead or trailhead facility (restrooms, kiosks)
- Construction of new trails, trail linkages (segments)
- Major trail re-routes (due to loss of easement, ground washout/sinkhole, unsafe bridge, etc.)
- Project extends outside of original footprint by more than 1 acre

Acquisition (**NOTE:** applications for acquisition projects are not being accepted for State Fiscal Year 2024.)

Bought or obtained; gaining possession of land to construct trails, trailheads, and trailhead facilities.

- Fee simple

- Easements

RTP Agreement Requirements:

For information on the following RTP agreement requirements, please check the RTP webpage:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/RTP.html>.

- Americans with Disabilities Act – projects involving development or modification of facilities must comply with 2010 Americans with Disabilities Act requirements to the greatest extent practicable. DNR guidance is available at:
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Aid/grants/CF0031.pdf>
- Buy America laws apply to manufactured materials, construction materials, steel, and iron permanently incorporated into a project funded by RTP when the total value of the materials exceeds \$2,500. This provision requires that these materials be melted and manufactured domestically and that documentation is obtained to verify Buy America compliance. These provisions apply to all materials permanently incorporated into the project, regardless of whether the items are acquired and paid for with matching funds or donated to the Project Sponsor as part of the RTP match. For more information, see <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/cqit/buyam.cfm>.
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program: see <https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/doing-bus/civil-rights/dbe/default.aspx> for information.
- Davis-Bacon Act: see page 7 for information regarding prevailing wage requirements.

Application Materials

The following documents are required as part of a complete grant application, with requirements for the type of project (acquisition or development) indicated in the corresponding column. Please contact a regional Project Manager for information about required documents, documentation examples, or to obtain hard

copies of application materials. Electronic application materials, forms, and example documents are available online:

- Stewardship Local Assistance – <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/ApplyLUG.html>
- LWCF & RTP – <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Stewardship/Grants/FederalLUG.html>

Applicants should submit all application documents electronically to their regional Project Manager. **Please note that narrative responses to ranking criteria in Sections A, B, C, and D below should be provided on form 8700-338.**

ACQ. PROJECT	DEV. PROJECT	REQUIRED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Grant Application (Form 8700-191) – Must be Signed by Project Applicant
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Response to Ranking Questions & Criteria (Form 8700-338) and required documentation
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Project Resolution from Grant Applicant (Form 8700-388 or something similar)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Project Location Map
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Project Boundary Map
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	USGS TopoQuad Map of project area
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Recordable Legal Description and GPS Coordinates
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Environmental Hazards Assessment Form (Form 1800-001)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	Cost Estimate Worksheet (Form 8700-014)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10	Estimated Construction/Acquisition Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11	Site Plan (<i>for Development Projects: show facilities to be constructed with grant assistance; for Acquisition Projects: identify planned trails or facilities</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12	Remediation Plan and (if available) signed DNR Final Close-out Letter (<i>applicable only to projects with brownfields</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13	Copy of related Grant Application and/or Grant Agreement (<i>applicable only if applicant is proposing a grant as all or part of their local match</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14	Public Access & Acceptable Uses Form (Form 8700-322)
<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	15	Appraisal (<i>applicable to all acquisition projects and development projects that propose land donations as match</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>		16	Offer to Purchase (<i>if available</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>		17	Relocation Plan (<i>if applicable</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>		18	Copy of Seller's Deed (<i>applicable only if seller has owned property for less than three years</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/>		19	If acquisition is located outside of the applicant's jurisdiction, a resolution is required from the jurisdiction where the property is located
<input type="checkbox"/>		20	Land Management Plan
<input type="checkbox"/>		21	Agricultural Resource Impact Determination document from DATCP (<i>applicable only to acquisition projects with agricultural activity on the property</i>)
N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	22	Copy of Warranty Deed, Draft or Final Easement, Land Use Agreement, or Lease Document
	<input type="checkbox"/>	23	Required permits, if available
N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>	24	Map showing the proposed project relative to the related larger trail system (<i>for RTP trail projects only; map should identify roads and bridges</i>)

Ranking Criteria

Below are the criteria DNR uses to score, rank, and select projects for Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, and RTP grant awards. Criteria reflect program eligibility and priorities outlined in public law, statute, code, and policy. Upon receipt of an application, DNR staff review information submitted and score the

application relative to the criteria outlined below and program eligibility. Note that these criteria have been updated relative to previous years. Public comments on the revised criteria were solicited, including review by the Stewardship Advisory Committee.

Applicants should provide a response to each question below on Form 8700-338. Form 8700-338 and any required supporting documentation should be submitted with the application package. Responses without supporting documentation will not be awarded points.

The ranking questions are split into four sections, relative to program eligibility. Regional Project Managers can answer any questions you may have about program eligibility.

Section A: All applicants should provide a response to questions in Section A.

Section B: Applicants with a project that is eligible for a Stewardship Local Assistance or LWCF grant should provide a response to questions in Section B. Applicants with a project that is only eligible for an RTP grant should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

Section C: In addition to Section A, applicants with a project that is eligible for an RTP grant should provide a response to questions in Section C. Applicants with a project that is not eligible for an RTP grant should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

Section D: In addition to Sections A and B, applicants with a project that is eligible for an LWCF grant should provide an answer to questions in Section D. Applicants with a project that is not eligible for an LWCF grant should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

SECTION A: All Applicants

All applicants should provide responses to questions in this section. **APPLICANTS MUST HAVE #1 AND EITHER #2 (FOR AN ACQUISITION PROJECT) OR #3 (FOR A DEVELOPMENT PROJECT) TO BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE.**

Ranking Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
1	<p>COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (CORP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the project identified in a Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan approved by the applicant or the County where the applicant resides? Does the project support a goal identified in an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan? Does the project support a goal identified in the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)? (<i>RTP only</i>) 	N/A	<p>Provide plan name, copy of cover page, and page number/chapter reference.</p> <p>For projects that support a goal of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, please identify the specific goal(s) supported by the proposed project.</p> <p>LWCF projects must be specified in a CORP; Stewardship projects must be consistent with CORP goals.</p> <p>A CORP must be updated every five years. It may be referred to as a Parks and Open Space Plan. The CORP is not the same as the Comprehensive Plan, which refers to plans developed and adopted per requirements of S. 66.1001, Wis. Stats.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP UGS UR LWCF RTP
2	<p>LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN (Acquisition Projects Only):</p> <p>The applicant has a plan for long-term management of the property that preserves and enhances its conservation and/or recreational value.</p>	N/A	<p>Submit copy of land management plan. For local governments, this information may be included in the CORP, parks management plan, or other document.</p> <p>NCOs are required to submit a Land Management Plan if they intend to keep the property long-term.</p> <p>For Stewardship and LWCF acquisition projects, sponsors must adhere to the program requirements in perpetuity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP UGS UR LWCF
3	<p>LEGAL RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT (Development Projects Only):</p> <p>The applicant has the legal right to construct the proposed project and meet post-grant compliance requirements.</p>	N/A	<p>Submit copy of deed, lease, easement, memorandum of understanding, or other documentation. Draft lease or easement documents are acceptable if negotiation of key components (e.g. legal description, compensation) have been deemed acceptable to all parties.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP ADR UGS UR LWCF
Tie-breaker Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
4	<p>GREEN TIER:</p> <p>The applicant is a designated Green Tier Legacy community or part of another Green Tier Charter. (0.1 pt.)</p>	0.1	<p>See the Green Tier website for eligible Legacy Communities for this tie-breaker point. Clear Waters Initiative Communities are eligible for this tie-breaker if the proposed project will benefit water resources.</p> <p>https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreenTier/Participants/CharterPages/LegacyCommunities.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP ADR UGS UR LWCF

SECTION A, cont.

SECTION A, cont.				
Tie-breaker Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
5	<p>RAILROAD CORRIDOR: The project will acquire or develop an abandoned rail corridor for outdoor recreation. (0.1 pt.)</p>	0.1	This tiebreaker is only awarded for the acquisition or initial development of a property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF • RTP
6	<p>RURAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE: The project is located in a rural non-metro designated county. (0.1 pt.)</p>	0.1	See the map on pg. 33 of counties designated as metro and non-metro to qualify for this point.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF • RTP
7	<p>SAFE ACCESS: Users have an existing opportunity for safe and legal parking and access to the project site or the proposed project will significantly improve safe and legal access to the site. (0.1 pt.)</p>	0.1	Projects that provide access only via roadside parking would not receive points for this question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF • RTP
Ranking Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
8	<p>PROJECT ADDRESSED IN PLANS OTHER THAN A CORP OR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: The project is referenced in or supports other applicable plans, such as a local green space plan, integrated resource management plan, riverfront restoration plan, water quality plan, or other applicable plan approved by a governmental unit (including DNR Master Plans or State Trail Plans). (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Provide copies of the plan cover page and page(s) that describe the subject project.</p> <p>The SCORP is not considered an additional plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADR • UGS • UR • RTP
9	<p>INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION: The project is being developed in close cooperation between two separate governmental entities. (2 pts.)</p> <p>Note: Nonprofits are not eligible for these points.</p> <p>The project will fulfill goals for two separate entities.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The project is being developed in a joint effort between two or more governmental entities.</p>	2	<p>Provide plan name, copy of cover page, and page number/chapter reference, if applicable.</p> <p>The partner jurisdiction must have a joint role in the project, such as voluntary contribution of matching funds or force account services. Letters of support are not sufficient to receive these points.</p> <p>Projects supported by a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district will receive full credit for this question. Regional projects that are being developed cooperatively by multiple governmental entities also will receive credit for this question. Land owned by one government entity and developed by a separate government entity would be eligible for these points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGS • UR • RTP

SECTION A, cont.

	Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
10	<p>PREVIOUS GRANT COMPLETION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has successfully completed and closed all previous Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grants. (1 pt.) • Applicant did not receive a Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grant in application years 2018-2022 (Fiscal Years 2019-2023). (1 pt.) 	2	<p>Applicants should provide a list of applicable grants.</p> <p>Stewardship Local Assistance, LWCF, or RTP grants executed in application year 2022 (Fiscal Year 2023) and RTP <i>maintenance</i> grants (all years) are not considered when evaluating eligibility to receive these points.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UGS • UR • LWCF • RTP
11	<p>SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY:</p> <p>Project will use sustainable and green infrastructure practices and products. Applicant will take steps to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce Contributors to Climate Change Examples: reduce heat island effect, cool/green roofs, canopy improvement, use of renewable/zero emissions energy sources, etc. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Water Quality Examples: stormwater retention and/or filtering (bio basins for site), eliminate impervious surfaces, use of pervious pavements, protection and restoration of wetlands, provide public a source for contaminate-free drinking water. (1 pt.) 	1	<p>Applicant should describe the way materials, design, and other project elements promote and reduce contributors to climate change, improve water quality or similar sustainability principles.</p> <p>Applicants should provide documentation regarding the extent to which proposed practices or products are above-and-beyond traditional construction.</p> <p>Installation of solar lighting will qualify for the point. Use of LED lighting is standard practice and will not result in receiving the point.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF • RTP
12	<p>ACCESS TO OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES:</p> <p>The proposed project provides access to other existing developed facilities, such as campground, fishing pier, local park, etc. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Provide documentation that shows the relationship between the proposed project and the existing facility/facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UGS • LWCF • RTP

SECTION B: Stewardship Local Assistance & LWCF Eligible Projects

Applicants with a project that is eligible for Stewardship Local Assistance or LWCF grants should provide a response to questions in Section B. Applicants with a project that is eligible only for RTP grants should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
<p>13 FINANCIAL SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has identified outside funding sources of at least 50% of the applicant’s proposed matching funds. (1 pt.) • Applicant has an existing agreement with a nonprofit, service, or similar organization that decreases the applicant’s costs for ongoing operation and maintenance. (1 pt.) 	2	<p>Applicants must provide letters of commitment from local contributors, proof of budget approval, or similar documentation of financial support.</p> <p>For the ongoing operation and maintenance point, applicants must provide a copy of a Memorandum of Understanding or similar agreement executed with the partner organization.</p> <p>Note: Tax Increment Funding (TIF) district funds are considered applicant funds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UR
<p>14 PROJECT IMPACT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project is the first-of-its-kind for the applicant. (1 pt.) • The project is adjacent to and supports a recreational resource that draws visitors from the region. Data must be provided to receive these points. (2 pts.) 	3	<p>“First-of-its-kind” means the applicant has never done this type of project at any sites within their jurisdiction.</p> <p>To receive full points for this question, applicants must provide suitable documentation that supports the regional nature of the recreational resource (e.g. tourism or seasonal increase in population statistics).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR
<p>15 NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY (NHI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition: Proposed acquisition includes property that is on the NHI list or otherwise formally recognized. (1 pt.) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development: Development plans that identify the NHI resource and how the applicant will enhance and protect these features on the property. (1 pt.) 	1	<p>Provide documentation that the property is included on the DNR Natural Heritage Inventory and/or narrative description of the location of NHI resources relative to proposed site development plan.</p> <p>Describe what measures will be taken to preserve, enhance, and protect NHI features.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF
<p>16 UNIQUE NATURAL FEATURES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition: The proposed project includes acquisition of land with unique aesthetic/scenic value, natural value, ecological value, unique natural features. (1 pt.) <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development: The proposed project includes development of recreational opportunities that support unique natural features and/or scenic highways. (1 pt.) 	1	<p>Applicant should submit documentation that describes the specific natural features being protected or enhanced by the proposed project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF

SECTION B, cont.

Ranking Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
17	<p>DAM REMOVAL: The project was identified in or supports goals of a DNR-approved dam abandonment plan. (2 pts.)</p>	2	<p>Provide plan name, copy of cover page, and page number/chapter reference, if applicable.</p> <p>If the dam abandonment plan is more than five years old, the applicant should provide documentation demonstrating that the plan is still viable and current.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UR
18	<p>URBAN POPULATIONS: The project includes acquisition or development of a property in a designated urban/urbanized area or property that is located outside of, but which serves, a designated urban/urbanized area. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>See the Community and Population Information at the end of this guidance document for a list of qualifying urban/urbanized areas.</p> <p>If applicant is not on the list of qualifying urban/urbanized areas, but serves a transient population, the applicant should provide documentation regarding recreational needs of transient populations that would be met by the proposed project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF
19	<p>DIVERSITY OF INTENDED USERS: The project is intended to serve diverse populations (e.g. elderly, minority, disabled, low-income) with regard to either the design or location. (1 pt. ADLP, UR; 2 pts. LWCF)</p>	1-2	<p>Describe how the project serves diverse populations. Provide documentation showing who the intended users are and who is benefitting from this project.</p> <p>Note: Serving nearby schools is not sufficient to qualify for this point.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UR • LWCF
20	<p>WATER ACCESS: The project will significantly improve or expand existing water access for water-based outdoor recreation within the applicant's jurisdiction. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Water access includes frontage on rivers, streams, lakes, estuaries, reservoirs, and flowages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR
21	<p>BROWNFIELDS: The project involves brownfield redevelopment, as the term is defined in S. 23.09(19)(a)1., Wis. Stats. (2 pts.)</p>	2	<p>Provide documentation showing that the site meets definition per Wis. Stat. § 23.09(19)(a)1. and applicant is allowed to acquire or develop the site (i.e. site closure letter, environmental reporting, blight district, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGS • UR
22	<p>NATURE-BASED OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (Acquisition Projects Only): After acquisition, the public will be able to conduct all five designated nature-based outdoor activities on the project property. (2 pts.)</p>	2	<p>This question applies to acquisition projects only. Applicants submitting a development project application should answer "N/A" to this question.</p> <p>Nature-based outdoor activities include hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, and cross-country skiing (as defined in Ch. NR 52, Wis. Admin. Code).</p> <p>For acquisition of properties with no water access, applicants should consider fishing as an available activity for purposes of this question.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR

SECTION B, cont.

Ranking Questions		Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
23	<p>COMMUNITY GARDENS (Acquisition Projects Only): The project will provide land for non-commercial gardening activities within or serving residents of urban areas. (1 pt.)</p>	1	This question applies to acquisition projects only. Applicants submitting a development project application should answer "N/A" to this question.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UGS
24	<p>PROJECT CONTINUITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition: Applicant has already acquired some of the land for the project. (1 pt.) • Development: Applicant has already acquired or developed some eligible facilities for the project without grant assistance. (1 pt.) 	1	Provide narrative description of acquisition and/or facilities being developed, including type of funding used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF
25	<p>PRODUCTS: Project will use products made in Wisconsin from recycled materials. (1 pt.)</p>	1	Provide documentation showing products to be used and anticipated vendors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UR
26	<p>PROJECT READINESS:</p> <p>Acquisition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land can be acquired within one year. (1 pt.) • The property appraisal is complete. (1 pt.) • Applicant has a signed offer-to-purchase or option. (1 pt.) <p>Development: The project can be completed within the next two calendar years. (1 pt.)</p>	3-1	Applicants are highly encouraged to contact DNR prior to executing an appraisal contract for grant purposes. Similarly, contact DNR Wetlands/Waterways and/or DNR Stormwater staff if permitting is needed for proposed project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR • LWCF
27	<p>RIVERWAY ACQUISITION (Acquisition Projects Only): For land acquisition projects, the proposed acquisition will contribute significantly to the overall success of an urban river project or comprehensive riverway or lake management plan. (1 pt.)</p>	1	Applicants should describe how the proposed acquisition contributes to the success of the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • UGS • UR
28	<p>COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applicant has or is developing a comprehensive plan for their local jurisdiction (as defined in S. 66.1001, Wis. Stats.) with provisions that support intergovernmental cooperation. (1 pt.) • The proposed project is supported by or included in the applicant's comprehensive plan. (1 pt.) 	2	<p>Provide copies of the cover page and page(s) that describe the subject project. Provide the language in the plan addressing intergovernmental cooperation.</p> <p>"Comprehensive Plan" refers to plans developed and adopted per requirements of Wis. Stat. § 66.1001. This plan is not the same as the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP).</p> <p>See https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Comprehensive-Planning.aspx for more details.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADLP • ADR • UGS • UR

SECTION B, cont.

	Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
29	<p>RESTORATION OR RENOVATION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (Development Only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project will specifically provide for the renovation or replacement of outdoor recreation facilities that are in danger of being lost for public use or updating the existing facilities to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. (2 pts.) The project was previously funded with LWCF funding. (1 pt.) (2 pts. ADLP, UR; 3 pts. LWCF) 	2-3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP UR LWCF
30	<p>BASIC FACILITIES: Explain how your project facility will be more basic in attributes than elaborate. (1 pt.)</p>	1	Basic facilities are defined as the minimum necessary to enable people to enjoy and make use of recreation sites with minimum maintenance that are self-sustaining.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP LWCF
31	<p>OPEN NATURAL CORRIDORS (Acquisition Only): The applicant will acquire land that provides open natural linear corridors connecting open natural areas, city parks, or similar outdoor recreation amenities or serves as a buffer between outdoor recreation property and land with potential for urban development. (2 pts.)</p>	2	<p>Provide a narrative description of the relationship between the proposed project and the linear corridor.</p> <p>Applicants should include a map that highlights the location of the proposed project relative to the corridor/trail.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADR UGS
32	<p>ELIGIBLE RECREATIONAL USES: Explain the number of eligible recreational uses for facilities within the project scope of work (development projects) <i>OR</i> planned uses for new land acquisition property (acquisition projects).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature Based Outdoor Recreation: examples include picnic facilities; trails; water access; pedestrian, bike, and cross-country ski access; camping; habitat restoration; community gardens. (1 pt.) Active Recreation Use (facility-based; LWCF ONLY): examples include: sports and playfields; swimming pools; splash pads; skating/hockey rinks; downhill ski facilities. (1 pt.) Multiple Season Use: explain use of project facility/facilities in winter <i>AND</i> summer seasons, if applicable. (1 pt.) (2 pts. ADLP; 3 pts. LWCF) 	2-3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADLP LWCF

SECTION C: RTP Eligible Projects

Applicants with a project that is eligible for RTP grants should provide a response to questions in Section C. All other applicants should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
<p>33 RTP PROJECT TYPE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and/or Maintenance (8 pts.) • Development (3 pts.) <p>Note: See pg. 16 for RTP Category Definitions for Scoring.</p>	8	Projects that include more than one activity type will be reviewed to determine which category is appropriate.	• RTP
<p>34 YEAR-ROUND USE: Project area is open for year-round use. (1 pt.)</p>	1		• RTP
<p>35 NUMBER OF COMPATIBLE USES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized Activities: 1 pt. if any of the following are allowed on the trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ATV/UTVs - Off-highway motorcycles - Snowmobiles - E-bikes - E-scooters - Segways • Pedestrian Activities: 1 pt. if any of the following are allowed on the trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross-country skiing (ungroomed) - Hiking/walking/jogging/running - In-line skating - Photography - Snowshoeing - Wildlife observation/bird watching • Other Activities: 1 pt. if any of the following are allowed on the trail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biking - Canoe/kayak access - Cross-country skiing (groomed) - Horses 	3	Compatible uses can include a mix of motorized and nonmotorized uses (e.g. hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles). All uses must share the same project (trail) area to be counted. Points can also be given for trailhead and restroom projects.	• RTP
<p>36 RESOLVES CONFLICTS BETWEEN USERS: Proposed trail project will provide for increased safety of recreational users by resolving conflicts of use on a shared corridor, i.e. separating motorized use from nonmotorized or establishing trail segments to resolve pedestrian conflicts. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Typically, user conflicts are resolved via development or acquisition projects, not rehabilitation or maintenance.</p> <p>Resolution may occur through trail design, timing of allowable uses, development of separate trails for different use types, etc. Applicants must provide documentation regarding historical user conflicts on the existing trail.</p>	• RTP
<p>37 TRAIL SAFETY: The applicant has the ability to ensure enforcement and safety for trail users, either directly or through cooperative agreements with non-governmental organizations or other governmental units. (2 pts.)</p>	2	Applicants may receive points for this question if the applicant patrols the trail or if the applicant has a written trail patrol agreement with another non-state entity. An email or letter from the local police or similar enforcement entity stating how often they check the trail is sufficient.	• RTP

SECTION C, cont.

	Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
38	<p>SAFE TRAIL DESIGN: Proposed project does not cross or use any motorized vehicular roads unless the road is closed for maintenance seasonally or is a maintenance-only road. Trailhead-only projects receive this point and water trails can receive this point if there are no portages that cross vehicular roads. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Applicants should provide a map showing the proposed project relative to the overall trail system, roads, and bridges.</p> <p>For full credit on this question (1 pt.), the project needs to be located completely off the road surface with no at-grade crossings. The only exception are roads that are closed to motorized vehicles seasonally (when trail use is in effect), or roads that are used for maintenance-only access to a property.</p> <p>If a driveway crosses the trail, the applicant may not receive this point.</p>	• RTP
39	<p>LOCAL DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will include donations of labor materials, and/or equipment from sources other than the applicant unless the applicant is a non-governmental entity. (1 pt.) • Donations comprise 20% or more of the total project cost. (1 pt.) 	2	Letters of support are not sufficient to receive points for this question. Applicants must provide letters of commitment from local contributors, proof of budget approval, or similar documentation of financial support.	• RTP
40	<p>DURATION: Trail project is located on an easement or on leased land where the applicant holds a 25-year or greater easement or lease as of the date of application. (2 pts.)</p>	2	Applicants should provide a copy of the easement or lease documentation.	• RTP
41	<p>QUALIFIED YCC OR SERVICE CORPS: Applicant has entered into a contract or service agreement with a state youth conservation or service corps to perform construction or maintenance on the project. (1 pt.)</p>	1	<p>Applicants should provide a copy of the contract or service agreement.</p> <p>Corps Network: https://corpsnetwork.org</p>	• RTP
42	<p>INNOVATIVE TRAIL RENOVATION OR NEW DEVELOPMENT: Trail renovation or new development includes innovative or unique design to accommodate or appeal to persons with disabilities and/or other diverse populations. (1 pt.)</p>	1	Applicants should provide documentation demonstrating how the trail will appeal to persons with disabilities and/or diverse populations.	• RTP
43	<p>TRAIL CONNECTIVITY (Development Only): The applicant will develop a new segment of a linear corridor that connects one or more segments of an already established trail. (2 pts.)</p>	2	<p>Provide a narrative description of the relationship between the proposed project and the linear corridor. This does not apply to trails leading into campgrounds, parks, etc. unless directly connecting to another trail.</p> <p>Applicants should include a map that shows the trail connectivity.</p>	• RTP

SECTION D: LWCF Eligible (Active Recreation) Projects

Applicants with a project that is eligible for LWCF grants should provide a response to questions in Section D. All other applicants should answer “N/A” to questions in this section.

Ranking Questions	Max. Points	Question Details and Documentation Notes	Grant Programs
<p>44 WISCONSIN’S STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP): Wisconsin’s SCORP has identified five goals for outdoor recreation. Explain how your project application supports one or more of these priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boost participation in outdoor recreation. 2. Grow partnerships. 3. Provide high-quality experiences. 4. Improve data to enhance visitor experiences and benefits. 5. Enhance funding and financial stability. 	N/A	Provide an explanation or documentation of how the project meets one or more of the SCORP priorities.	• LWCF
<p>45 PROXIMITY OF RECREATION OPPORTUNITY: Explain how the project provides recreation land where a scarcity of recreation opportunities exists. (1 pt. development; 2 pts. acquisition)</p>	1-2	Explain where the nearest recreational opportunity exists. Provide a map showing other recreational facilities.	• LWCF
<p>46 PROJECT ACCESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The property will be accessible by an off-road trail. (1 pt.) • The property is on a mass public transportation route (e.g. bus, train). (1 pt.) 	2	Explain how users will access the property.	• LWCF
<p>47 IMMEDIATE NEED FOR THE PROJECT: Please explain any threats to losing recreational use of the property if not immediately acquired or developed. (1 pt. development; 2 pts. acquisition)</p>	1-2	Is there a possibility that this property will require a conversion of use within the next three years?	• LWCF

Community and Population Information

Urban/Urbanized Areas - Counties		
Brown	Kenosha	St. Croix
Calumet	La Crosse	Sauk
Chippewa	Manitowoc	Sheboygan
Columbia	Marathon	Walworth
Dane	Milwaukee	Washington
Dodge	Outagamie	Waukesha
Eau Claire	Ozaukee	Waupaca
Fond du Lac	Portage	Winnebago
Grant	Racine	Wood
Jefferson	Rock	

Counties with Above-Average Population Growth (2020-2022)		
Brown	Green	Portage
Calumet	Iowa	St. Croix
Chippewa	La Crosse	Sauk
Dane	Outagamie	Washington
Eau Claire	Ozaukee	Waupaca

Urban/Urbanized Areas – Cities, Towns, & Villages		
Addison	Ashwaubenon	Bloomer
Alden	Baldwin	Bloomfield
Algoma (C, Kewaunee Co.)	Baraboo	Boscobel
Algoma (T, Winnebago Co.)	Barron	Brillion
Allouez	Barton	Bristol (T; Dane Co.)
Altoona	Bass Lake	Bristol (V.; Kenosha Co.)
Amery	Bayside	Brockway
Antigo	Beaver Dam	Brodhead
Appleton	Belleville	Brookfield
Arbor Vitae	Bellevue	Brown Deer
Arcadia	Beloit	Buchanan
Ashippun	Berlin	Burke
Ashland	Black River Falls	Burlington

Urban/Urbanized Areas – Cities, Towns, & Villages, cont.

Caledonia	Evansville	Horicon
Campbell	Farmington (T; Wash. Co.)	Hortonville
Cedarburg	Farmington (T; Waupaca Co.)	Howard
Center	Fennimore	Howards Grove
Chase	Fitchburg	Hudson
Chilton	Fond du Lac	Hull
Chippewa Falls	Fontana-on-Geneva Lake	Ixonia
Clayton	Fort Atkinson	Jackson
Clintonville	Fox Crossing	Janesville
Columbus	Fox Point	Jefferson
Combined Locks	Franklin	Johnson Creek
Cottage Grove	Freedom	Juneau
Cross Plains	Friendship	Kaukauna
Cudahy	Fulton	Kenosha
Dale	Genesee	Kewaskum
Dayton	Geneva	Kewaunee
Deerfield	Genoa City	Kiel
DeForest	Germantown	Kimberly
Dekorra	Glendale	Koshkonong
Delafield	Grafton	Kronenwetter
Delavan	Grand Chute	Lac du Flambeau
De Pere	Grand Rapids	La Crosse
Dodgeville	Green Bay	Ladysmith
Dover	Greendale	Lafayette
Dunn	Greenfield	Lake Delton
Eagle	Greenville	Lake Geneva
Eagle Point	Hales Corners	Lake Hallie
East Troy	Hammond	Lake Mills
Eau Claire	Harmony	Lancaster
Edgerton	Harrison	Lawrence
Elkhorn	Hartford	Ledgeview
Ellington	Hartland	Lima
Ellsworth	Hayward	Lincoln
Elm Grove	Hobart	Linn
Empire	Holland	Lisbon
Erin	Holmen	Little Chute

Urban/Urbanized Areas – Cities, Towns, & Villages, cont.

Little Suamico	Neenah	Polk
Lodi	New Berlin	Portage
Lomira	Newbold	Port Washington
Luxemburg	New Holstein	Poynette
Lyons	New Lisbon	Prairie du Chien
McFarland	New London	Prairie du Sac
Madison	New Richmond	Prescott
Maine	North Fond du Lac	Pulaski
Manitowoc	North Hudson	Racine
Marinette	Norway	Randall
Marshall	Oak Creek	Raymond
Marshfield	Oakland	Reedsburg
Mauston	Oconomowoc	Rhineland
Mayville	Oconto	Rib Mountain
Medford	Oconto Falls	Rice Lake
Menasha	Omro	Richfield
Menominee	Onalaska	Richland Center
Menomonee Falls	Oneida	Richmond
Menomonie	Oostburg	Ripon
Mequon	Oregon	River Falls
Merrill	Osceola	Rochester
Merton	Oshkosh	Rock
Middleton	Ottawa	Rome
Milton	Pacific	Rothschild
Milwaukee	Paddock Lake	St. Francis
Mineral Point	Pelican	St. Joseph
Minocqua	Peshtigo	Salem Lakes
Mondovi	Pewaukee	Saratoga
Monona	Pine Lake	Sauk City
Monroe	Pittsfield	Saukville
Mosinee	Platteville	Scott
Mount Horeb	Pleasant Prairie	Sevastopol
Mount Pleasant	Pleasant Springs	Seymour (T; Eau Claire Co.)
Mukwa	Pleasant Valley	Seymour (C; Outagamie Co.)
Mukwonago	Plover	Shawano
Muskego	Plymouth	Sheboygan

Urban/Urbanized Areas – Cities, Towns, & Villages, cont.		
Sheboygan Falls	Superior	Waunakee
Shelby	Sussex	Waupaca
Sherwood	Tainter	Waupun
Shorewood	Taycheedah	Wausau
Slinger	Thiensville	Wauwatosa
Somers	Tomah	Wescott
Somerset	Tomahawk	West Allis
South Milwaukee	Trenton	West Bend
Sparta	Troy	West Milwaukee
Springfield	Twin Lakes	Weston
Stanley	Two Rivers	Westport
Star Prairie	Union	West Salem
Stephenson	Union Grove	Wheatland
Stettin	Vernon	Whitefish Bay
Stevens Point	Verona	Whitewater
Stockton	Viroqua	Williams Bay
Stoughton	Wales	Wilson
Sturgeon Bay	Walworth	Windsor
Sturtevant	Washington	Winneconne
Suamico	Waterford	Wisconsin Dells
Sugar Creek	Waterloo	Wisconsin Rapids
Summit	Watertown	Wrightstown
Sun Prairie	Waukesha	Yorkville

Definitions:

- “Counties with Above Average Population Growth” are defined as counties with a 2020-2022 growth rate that exceeded the state average for the same time period (0.94%), based on population data from the Wisconsin Department of Administration.
- “Urban/Urbanized Areas” include 2021 U.S. Census Bureau “Urban Clusters” (densely developed areas with at least 2,500 people but less than 50,000 people), U.S. Census Bureau “Urbanized Areas” (densely developed areas with 50,000 or more people), and all incorporated cities.
Note: While cities, towns, and villages are included, townships are assumed to be of insufficient density to be considered “Urban/Urbanized” and have therefore been excluded from this list.
- “Urban/Urbanized Areas – Counties” include counties with a population of 50,000 people or more.

Data Sources:

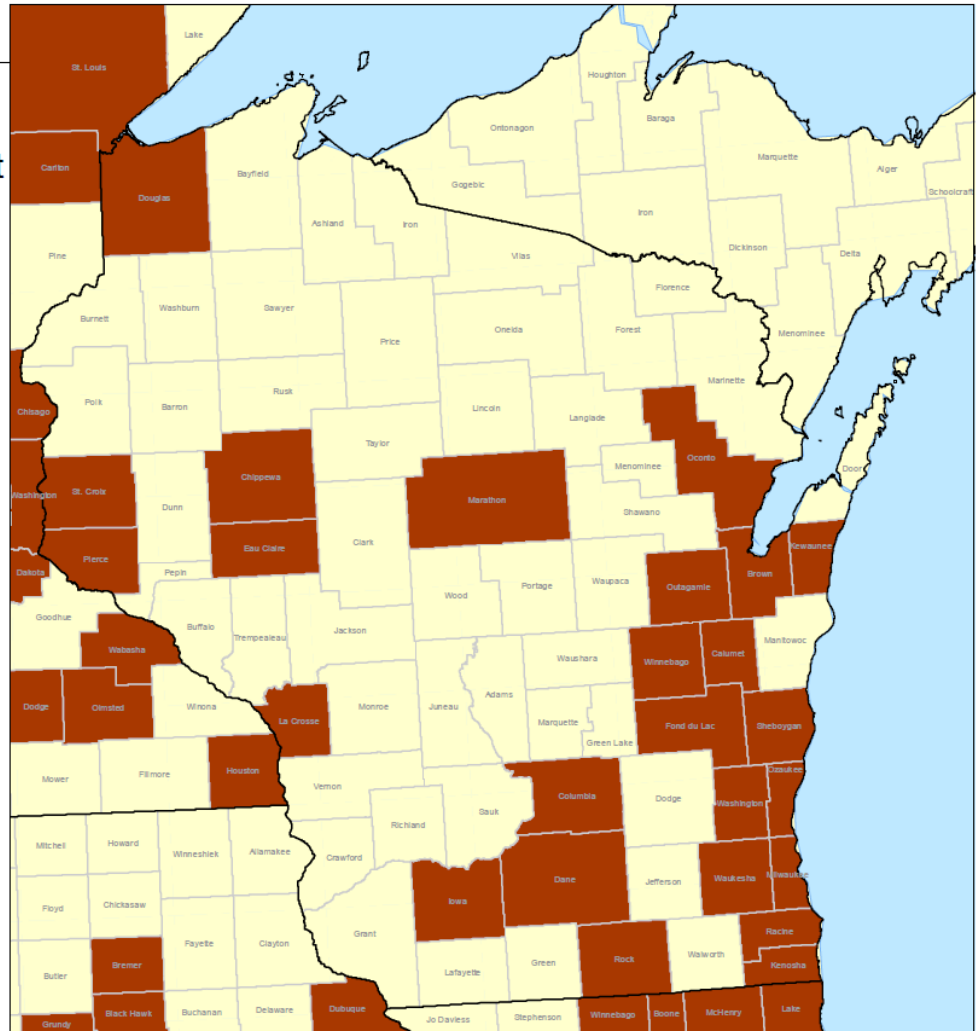
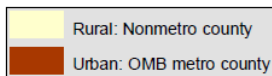
- U.S. Census Bureau Reference Library: <https://www.census.gov>
- Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Demographic Services Center. 2022. Official Final Estimates, 1/1/2022, Wisconsin Counties, with Comparison to Census 2020. https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/Final_Ests_Co_2022.pdf
- Wisconsin Dept. of Administration, Demographic Services Center. 2022. Official Final Estimates, 1/1/2022, Wisconsin Municipalities, with Comparison to Census 2020. https://doa.wi.gov/DIR/Final_Ests_Muni_2022.pdf

Rural Counties Information

The map below indicates which of Wisconsin's counties are considered to be "rural" or "metro" according to the definition of "metropolitan statistical areas" ("metro areas") identified by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The OMB defines metro areas as those including "[...] one or more counties containing a core urban area of 50,000 or more people, together with any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the urban core." Micropolitan statistical areas (urban areas containing between 10,000 and 50,000 people) are considered to be rural for the purposes of this definition.

Wisconsin

Rural definition based on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) metro counties



APPENDIX A

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grants,
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

2023 APPLICATION MATERIALS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for your interest in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants. Please make yourself familiar with the process, project eligibility requirements and the terms and conditions of these grants – all available on the DNR website linked below and from [regional Project Managers](#).

All application materials are located at: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Stewardship/ApplyLUG>

If you cannot open the application forms, or you are getting an error message rather than a grant application form, it's likely due to an incompatibility issue between your web browser and the PDF format. Troubleshooting tips are available here: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/site/pdf>.

Application deadlines – DNR will rank and evaluate complete applications received by **11:59 pm on May 1, 2023**.

Application materials – All required application forms are available on the DNR's website on the "Application materials" tab. An application checklist is included in the program guidance document.

Timing of grant evaluation and award – If your project is selected for funding, you will be notified of a *tentative* award approximately 4 months after the application deadline. Final award and payment will be subject to several additional required reviews, including, in some cases, approval of the Natural Resources Board and the Joint Committee on Finance. The time between submitting a complete application and receiving a grant contract ranges from six to twelve months. While we strive to make review as efficient as possible, **we advise applicants to factor this into their timelines**.

From the Stewardship, LWCF, and RTP grant staff, thank you!

What's new?

Please read this, even if you're a seasoned applicant...

Some important and new notes about 2023 project evaluation

- 1. PLEASE CONTACT US BEFORE APPLYING:** It is helpful for staff to know what applications will be forthcoming. Please contact your regional Project Manager to alert us to new applications and to discuss your project before applying. That is especially true in the following circumstances:
 - **Grants exceeding \$250,000** – Projects slated to receive funding require approval of the Legislature's Joint Committee on Finance. The Committee's review adds both time and a degree of uncertainty to the end of the evaluation and approval process. Ample planning time can benefit such projects.
 - **Projects proposing the value of another property as match** – Please review guidance about eligibility and discuss property to be used as match with your regional Project Manager before you contract an appraiser.
- 2. RANKING CRITERIA REVISIONS:** Repeat applicants will notice that questions have been revised and new questions have been added. Please read through the ranking questions carefully.
- 3. CHANGES TO THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF) PROGRAM:**
 - LWCF funds are distributed regionally based on population. Thirty percent of the LWCF allocation will be equally distributed to the five DNR grant regions. The remaining 70% will be distributed to the regions based on population. This change distributes the LWCF funding more equally across the state.
 - LWCF-specific criteria were added to Section D of the program guidance. All LWCF applications will be ranked against projects within each region and no longer statewide.
 - Applications will no longer be reviewed as "LWCF Only" projects. The addition of Section D will distinguish those projects more specifically suited for LWCF funding.
- 4. CHANGES TO THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP):**
 - A question was added to the RTP eligible Section C to address trail renovation or new development that includes innovative or unique design to accommodate or appeal to persons with disabilities and/or other diverse populations.
 - The RTP grant program falls under the FAST Act, so acquisition applications are not being accepted for State Fiscal Year 2024 due to the timeframe that must be met.
- 5. CHANGES TO THE STEWARDSHIP LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM:**

New criteria based on subprogram priorities have been added to the ranking questions:

 1. Riverway acquisition contributions to riverway or lake management plans
 2. Design of basic facilities
 3. Open and natural corridors
- 6. PLEASE SUBMIT ELECTRONIC FILES FOR EACH DOCUMENT** rather than one large file of the whole application package. Grant staff do not have the software to break apart big files.
- 7. APPRAISALS:** Please contact Greg Hicks, DNR Appraisal Reviewer, prior to hiring an appraiser. Greg can be reached at 608-640-7241 or gregory.hicks@wisconsin.gov.