



Recreational Trails Program 2020 Application Review and Scoring

Application Review Process

Preliminary Review: Internal Review Panel members perform a technical review of each application and score each application based on the Scoring Criteria. Applications determined not to meet the following technical review criteria may not move forward for consideration.

1. The application is complete.
2. The project is an eligible use of RTP funds.
3. The project is ready to proceed.
4. The match requirement has been met.
5. The environmental review requirement has been met.
6. The application includes:
 - a. Adequate landowner permission to allow for continuous public use/access.
 - b. Approval of the project from the applicant organization's leadership (if a private entity).
7. The applicant's current RTP grants are compliant with RTP requirements (if applicable).

State Trails Advisory Committee Review: State Trails Advisory Committee members review all applications passing Preliminary Review. Committee members give each application an overall project score based on the Scoring Criteria.

Funding Decision Meeting: State Trails Advisory Committee members and advisors meet to consider application scores, discuss project merit, and reach consensus on funding recommendations.

Scoring Criteria

Internal Review Panel members will give each criterion a base score of 0-10 (10 being "Excellent or Very Strongly Agree"). The base score is then multiplied by the criterion weight, which yields the score for that criterion. The total project score is the average of all criteria scores (out of 10). State Trails Advisory Committee members give one overall score based on the Scoring Criteria.

- 1. Access and Connectivity (x1)**

The RTP project is accessible by the public and improves the public's connection to existing trails and/or natural, cultural, historical, and recreational areas.
- 2. Recreational Opportunity (x2)**

The RTP project provides expanded recreational opportunity(s) for a variety of user groups. Additional consideration will be given to projects providing increased recreational access for nontraditional trail users (e.g. persons with disabilities, senior citizens, etc.).

3. Need for RTP Project (x2)

The application shows a clear need/demand for the RTP project. Need/demand may be demonstrated with planning documents, formal agreements, research/data, letters of support, etc.

4. Benefits of RTP Project (x2)

The application identifies and justifies unique benefits of the RTP project. Such benefits may include:

- a. Protection and enhancement of natural resources.
- b. Cultural or natural resource interpretation, ethics, safety, education, etc.
- c. Development of partnerships to carry out the RTP project, future project maintenance.

5. Short- and Long-term Maintenance (x1)

The application demonstrates a commitment to short-term and long-term maintenance of the RTP project. The application describes a maintenance plan and identifies the party(s) responsible.

6. Application Quality/Clarity (x1)

The application provides a clear and complete overview of the RTP project, budget, and timeline. Responses are specific to the RTP project, grammar/spelling errors are minimal, and the budget is detailed and justified.

Additional Considerations

Other considerations that may affect the State Trails Advisory Committee's final funding decision:

- The amount of RTP funding available.
- The applicant's recent performance as a RTP grantee (if applicable).
- The amount of RTP funding from previous grant years the applicant has left to expend (if applicable).