

# Private Grant Programs For Trail Development

Prepared by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
January 2007

## **The American Greenways Awards Program: Kodak Award**

The Kodak American Greenways Awards Program is a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, the Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society. The program was developed in response to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recommendation to establish a national network of greenways. Grants are awarded to communities to help stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.

**Awards grants of \$500-\$2,500**

**Deadline: June 1**

**Announcement: August 1**

**Match: No match**

**Website: [www.conservationfund.org/?article=2372](http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=2372)**

**Contact: Mary Mathis  
(703) 525-6300**

## **The American Hiking Society**

The American Hiking Society created the National Trails Fund to provide financial assistance to grassroots organizations. Funding from this program can be allotted to any part of your trail project from acquisition to construction to constituency building. The National Trails Fund does grant moneys to projects where modes are defined as "human powered;" however, a priority is given to trail projects where hikers are the primary users.

**Awards grants of \$500-\$10,000**

**Deadline: November 1**

**Announcement: Spring the following year**

**Match: No match**

**Website: [www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html](http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/fund.html)**

**Contact: Ivan Levine  
(301) 565-6704, ext 208  
[ilevin@americanhiking.org](mailto:ilevin@americanhiking.org)**

## **AmeriCorp's Civilian Community Corps**

The AmeriCorp has a history of providing volunteer services to build or improve recreation trails. Work may include clearing and grading or implementing ADA facilities or erosion control techniques. AmeriCorp members will also create and update trail signage.

**Awards grants: NA**

**Match: NA**

**Website: [www.americorps.org/nccc/](http://www.americorps.org/nccc/)**

**Contact: Barbara Lane, Region Director  
303-844-7438  
[bbenner@cns.gov](mailto:bbenner@cns.gov)**

## Common Recreational Trail Funding Sources

Compiled by Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Revised January 2007

Grant Name	Primary Source of Funding	Administer	Annual Deadline	Funding Announced	Funding Available	Amount Available*	Local Match				Eligible Uses						
							%	Land	Labor	Materials	Acquisition			Construction	Maintenance (not reoccurring)	Engineering	
											Purchase	Appraisal	Negotiations				
<b>Iowa Recreational Trails Fund</b>	State	Iowa DOT	1-Jul	November	November	\$2 million**	25%	X				X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Federal Recreational Trails Program</b>	Federal	Iowa DOT	1-Oct	February of the following year	October of the following year	\$3 million	20%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Statewide Enhancement Program</b>	Federal	Iowa DOT	1-Oct	February of the following year	October of the following year	\$4.5 million	30%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
<b>National Scenic Byways</b>	Federal	Iowa DOT	Varies Typically Decemer or early following year	October of the following year	October of the following year	Varies annually \$700,000	20%	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Regional Enhancement Program</b>	Federal	Local MPO/RPA	Generally late winter/early spring	No later than June	Approximately October	Varies by Location	20% - 25%				X	X	X	X			X
<b>REAP</b>	State	Iowa DNR	15-Aug	October	December	Subject to local entity	none	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
<b>Land Water Conservation Fund</b>	Federal	Iowa DNR	15-Mar	Approximately May	Approximately July	Varies yearly by availability	50%	X		X	X			X	X	X	X
<b>Community Attraction and Tourism Program</b>	State	Iowa DED	Quarterly: April 1, July 1, October 1, December 1	Quarterly: September, December, March, June	Approximately 2 months after announcement	\$12 million annually until 2010	50%	X up to 25% in-kind	X up to 25% in-kind	X up to 25% in-kind	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

ALL grant programs should be researched annually by applicants before submission. Much of the provided information changes year to year.

\*Approximate amounts

\*\*2006 only

# Events and Programs For Trail Development

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## **Programs for general funding:**

### **Change for the Better**

Engage a local retail owner to donate \$.25 into a jar on the counter for every sale he makes. Have the cashier ask each customer to match his donation. Expand this program to several retailers in all trail linked communities.

**Pikes Peak Area Trails Coalition saw approximately \$1000 each month from one store.**

### **Challenge Grant**

Don't let a big donor, whether a corporation or wealth community member, be the first to donate. Ask such entities if they will match what the community raises over a period of time with a minimum and/or donation.

**Pikes Peak Area Trails Coalition raised \$27,000 in such a challenge grant.**

### **Businesses behind Communities**

Identify a particular supportive business to donate a certain percent of each of their sale profits for one day when the customer mentions the trail project. This could be a restaurant, retail, or any other service/retail industry. Invite the community to solicit that business heavily on that day. Both the trail and the business win.

**Trips for Kids Metro DC participated in this program the Franklin's, a popular pub.**

### **Bike Sales Tax**

Ask all the local bike dealers to charge an additional \$5 per bicycle sale to raise money for the local trail project. Set a time period to collect such "temporary" tax.

**Program implemented in Ketchum, Idaho.**

## **Events for general funding:**

### **Eating, Drinking and Merriment for the Trail**

Pull together local wineries, breweries, bakeries, or other specialty shops to host a tasting event. Encourage the businesses to donate their goods. After all, they will be the ones benefiting when a trail comes through the neighborhood. Advertise a targeted donation amount (\$15 a person) with unlimited tasting and fun. All proceeds go to trail development. Again, both the trail and the business win.

**Successfully implemented by the Trails and Open Spaces of Colorado Springs.**

### **Woodstock Reincarnated (well... a little less)**

Invite local musicians to perform an outdoor day long concert with food and beverage sales. Advertise that all or a percentage of the proceeds will go to trail development purposes. Target your larger audience. Remember, people will travel to use your trail when completed. Utilize their support now.

**Successes were seen for this event in Belfast, Pennsylvania.**

### **Dinner with an Auction**

Solicit unique and desirable auction items for local crafters and merchants. Sell tickets to the dinner with a key note speaker or presentation on the trail development. Funding will come via the dinner tickets and auction items.

**Trails 2000 in Durango, Colorado raised \$30,000 from such an event.**

### **Share the Trail Triathlon**

Remember that bicycles aren't the only ones pounding the trails. Host a triathlon on the trail, trail right-of-way, or other designated area where bicyclists, equestrians, and runners compete in a race. Charge an entrance fee that can be divided among the winner and trail program or however else designated. Expand the event by enlisting a local restaurant or pub to offer a special on an item where the proceeds go to trail development.

**This event was successfully held by the San Juan Mountains Association.**

## **Legacy donations for construction funding:**

### **Paving the Way**

Invite individuals to purchase or make a requested donation for specific items need for the construction of your community trail. Such examples could be a trail (concrete) segment or boards for bridges. Emboss or engrave community members' names if desired for more significance. Once materials are purchase it is easier to secure a volunteer group or city department to provide labor.

**Legacy program implemented for Millbrook Marsh boardwalk in Pennsylvania.**

See "Funding for Trail Extras"

## **Incentives for volunteer labor:**

### **Volunteer for a Bike**

Engage a bicycle shop to donate a bike or other appealing prize for a drawing. Each time an individual volunteers a certain amount of time on the trail they are given the chance to enter their name into the drawing. Run the program for a season, host a celebration, and award the selected volunteer.

**The Hub Bike Shop of Aspen Colorado participated in this program for its community trail development.**

**Funding for trail "extras"**

**Plantings**

- Local utility companies will often provide trees at a low cost or no cost. These can be obtained by trail groups and planted by volunteers along the trail.

**Maintenance**

- Adopt a Trail program runs with the same principal as Adopt a Highway. Divide your community trail into segments with signs that indicate who is in charge for that health of that area.

**Amenities**

- Create a “gift catalog” where individuals and families can shop for their donations. They can purchase anything from a water foundation, trail bench, interpretative signs, trees, wildflowers, or kiosks. Suggest that they can also buy a foot of the trail for \$100, a ½ mile for \$1,500, or a bridge for \$5,000. You may not be able to completely cover the cost of the items, but they will leverage the additional funds needed.

### **Bikes Belong**

Bikes Belong is a membership organization comprised of folks from the bicycle industry. Their mission is to encourage and support more bicycles in our communities. Funding from the Bikes Belong grant program is targeted to projects that will generate the most impact in their area. Eligible activities include bicycle trails and other bicycle facility construction.

**Awards grants up to \$10,000**

**Deadline: Quarterly** (Feb 26, May 30, Aug 27, Nov 26)

**Announced: April 30, July 31, Oct 31, Jan. 31**

**Match: No Match**

**Website: [www.bikesbelong.org](http://www.bikesbelong.org)**

**Contact: Elizabeth Train, Grants & Research Director  
(303) 449-4893**

### **Hamburger Helper, My Hometown Helper**

Hamburger Helper awards grant funding to nonprofit organizations with a goal to improve their community. Funding for trail development or maintenance is eligible. Selection is based on the merit of the project, its impact on the community, and support committed to the project by the community.

**Awards grants of \$1,000-\$15,000**

**Deadline: The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, ends May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Match: No match**

**Website: [www.hamburgerhelper.com](http://www.hamburgerhelper.com)**

### **Trees Forever Visioning**

The Trees Forever Visioning program provides towns with planning and landscape design assistance. Eligible communities must be smaller than 10,000. Trees Forever Staff and volunteers hold community design workshops and meet regularly with citizens to convey their citywide landscape vision to a series of display boards, conceptual drawings, and an implementation strategy. Greenways and trails can be included in this program

**Awards grants: NA**

**Deadline: October 15**

**Announced: November**

**Match: \$1000**

**Website: [www.treesforever.org/content.asp?ID=2133](http://www.treesforever.org/content.asp?ID=2133)**

**Contact: Pam Helfer**

**(800) 369-1269**

**[phelfer@treesforever.org](mailto:phelfer@treesforever.org)**

Information on all funding programs was gathered on provided websites. Please be sure to contact specific programs before applying. Details may change each funding cycle.