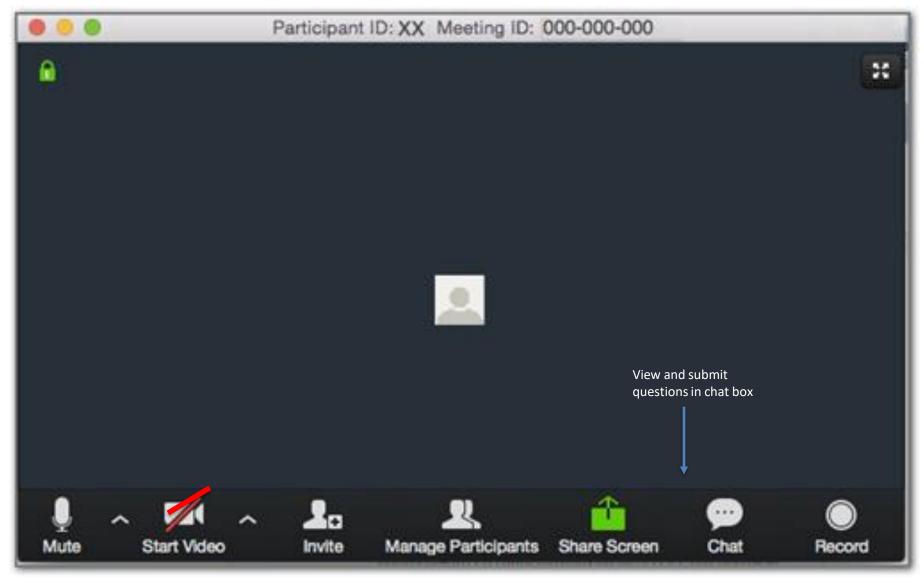




Building Connections: How Communities Can Use Federal Funds to Connect People to Place, Opportunity, and Each Other

October 18, 2022





SESSION IS BEING RECORDED & WILL BE SHARED ONLINE
PLEASE ASK QUESTIONS AS THEY COME UP





Agenda

- Introductions
- Framing the Conversation: Investing in making communities, parks, and green space more connected, accessible, and equitable
- Funding Opportunities
 - Grants for Arts Projects
 - Our Town Grant Program
 - Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund
 - Carbon Reduction Program
 - Community Development Block Grant
 - Transportation Alternatives
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Recreational Trails
- Q & A



TODAY'S PRESENTERS



Marisa Jones
Policy & Partnerships Director
Safe Routes Partnership



Carolyn Berndt
Legislative Director, Sustainability
National League of Cities





Stephanie Flynn
Federal Grants Manager
Trust for Public Land



Melanie Robinson Program Manager, Children & Nature National League of Cities

Q & A MODERATOR





Poll:
What sector
do you
represent?





SAFE ACCESS TO PARKS IS A RIGHT & A NECESSITY FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.



© 2021 Safe Routes Partnership

Parks offer abundant physical, social, and mental health benefits to people playing, exercising, and spending time in them.

IMPROVE PARK ACCESS. IMPROVE COMMUNITIES.



Advocate for Safe Routes to Parks in communities that have had the least investment in high-quality parks and connections to those spaces. Learn more at saferoutespartnership.org

The Economic Case For Investing In The Arts

Our work to create strong, equitable, thriving communities is interconnected

'Once-in-a-generation' \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill heads to Biden's desk

Published Nov. 8, 2021

The Climate Crisis – A Race We Can Win

CPSTF Recommends Park, Trail, and Greenway Infrastructure Interventions to Increase Physical Activity



Our work to create strong, equitable, thriving communities recognizes the co-benefits our interconnectivity







Trust for Public Land



Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SUPPORTERS:

WE'VE COMPLETED OVER

5,000 projects parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places



GENERATED OVER

\$84B in public funding for parks and access to lands and waters



AND CREATED ACCESS TO OVER

3.7 million acres of public land









National Endowment for the Arts

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



National Endowment for the Arts

Grants for Arts Projects

Benefits:

- Community Engagement
- Equity
- Health

What it Funds:

- Community Engagement (i.e. events)
- Activities dependent on discipline
 - Visual Arts (creation of murals, sculptures)
 - Design (of public spaces)
- Priority: funding artists

Who is eligible to apply?

- Nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 US organizations
- Units of state or local government
- Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes







Grants for Arts Projects - Visual Arts

New Freedom Park - Denver, CO

National Endowment for the Arts

Our Town Grant Program

Benefits:

- Community Engagement
- Equity
- Health

What it Funds:

- Community Engagement (i.e. events)
- Creative placemaking activities
- Priority: funding artists

Who is eligible to apply?

- Nonprofit, tax exempt 501(c)3 US organizations
- Units of state or local government
- Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes









Our Town - Creative Placemaking

Chiloquin Schoolyard - Chiloquin, OR

NEA Grant Programs: Helpful Links & Resources

Grants for Arts Projects:

- https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects
- Awards range from \$10,000 \$100,000
- Grant period: 1-2 years

Our Town Grants:

- https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town
- Awards range from \$25,000 \$150,000
- Grant period: 1-2 years

Other Resources and Helpful Links:

- The Toolkit for Health, Arts, Parks and Equity
 - https://www.tpl.org/the-toolkit-for-health-arts-parks-and-equity
- Field Guide for Creative Placemaking and Parks
 - https://www.tpl.org/resource/field-guide-creative-placemaking-and-parks







Land and Water Conservation Fund State
Assistance Programs
Midway Peace Park – St. Paul, MN



Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program

Benefits:

- Climate Resilience
- Community Engagement
- Equity
- Health

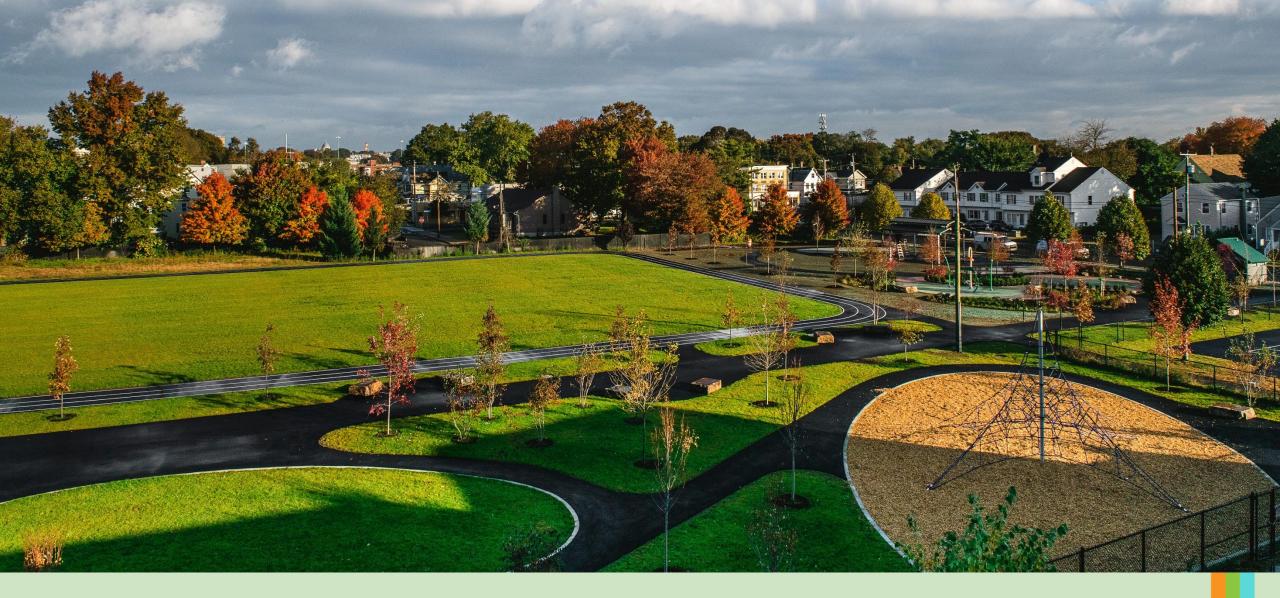
What it Funds:

Acquisition and/or development of land for public, outdoor recreation

Who is eligible to apply?

- State Lead Agencies for LWCF are applicants
- Project sponsors must be a local or state government agency or federally recognized tribe
- Project sponsors must be, or represent, an incorporated city or town of 30k+







Johnson Oak Park Bridgeport, CT



ORLP FUNDING Federal FY14-FY20







ORLP FUNDING Federal FY14 - FY22



ORLP Program: Helpful Links & Resources

ORLP Notice of Funding Opportunity on grants.gov

- https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=342812
- Awards range from \$300,000 \$10,000,000
- Application due dates are: January 31, 2023 and May 31, 2023
- Grant period: 1-3 years

TPL's ORLP Grant Application Toolkit

https://www.tpl.org/resource/orlp-grant-toolkit

National Park Service's ORLP Website

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/outdoor-recreation-legacy-partnership-grants-program.htm

City Parks Alliance's 9/13 ORLP Technical Support Webinar Recording with the National Park Service

https://cityparksalliance.org/event/outdoor-recreation-legacy-partnership-program-technical-assistance/



State and Local Assistance Program

"LWCF Stateside"

Benefits:

- Climate Resilience
- Health
- Mobility
- Equity

What it Funds:

 Acquisition and/or development or renovation of land for outdoor recreation purposes

Who is eligible to apply?

 Local units of government participate in the program as subrecipients of the state, which bears primary grant responsibility









Shur View Natural Area & Open Space Park Greeley / Windsor, CO

LWCF Stateside Program: Helpful Links & Resources

TPL Map of All Past LWCF Stateside Projects (and all other LWCF Programs & Projects)

https://lwcf.tplgis.org/mappast/

LWCF Coalition Stateside website

https://lwcfcoalition.org/state-and-local-assistance

LWCF Stateside FY22 Total Apportionment

 https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/department-interior-announces-279-million-support-public-parks-expandoutdoor

National Park Service's Stateside Website

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/stateside.htm

LWCF State Assistance Program Manual

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/upload/LWCF-FA-Manual-Vol-71-3-11-2021-final.pdf



LWCF Stateside v. ORLP (1 of 3)

LWCF Stateside Formula

Project Sponsor

Local gov't or federally recognized Tribe

Poverty Level of Community Served

No federally-imposed requirements

Project Location

No federally-imposed requirements

ORLP

Project Sponsor

- Local gov't or federally recognized Tribe, and
- Must be, or represent, a city of 30k+

Poverty Level of Community Served

Census Tract poverty level of 20%+ (or 10 percentage points more than city, county, state)

Project Location

- Within 10-minute (.5 mile) walk of target community
- In, or abutting, city of 30k+



LWCF Stateside v. ORLP (2 of 3)

LWCF Stateside Formula

Park Desert Focus

None

Funding Max/Min

Determined by State based on their annual apportionment

Community Involvement/ Partnerships

No federal requirements

ORLP

Park Desert Focus

 Must be in an area that has no, or almost no, publicly-accessible outdoor recreational facilities

Funding Max/Min

- \$10,000,000 maximum grant award
- 300,000 minimum grant award

Community Involvement/ Partnerships

 Integral from initial planning through implementation



LWCF Stateside v. ORLP (3 of 3)

LWCF Stateside Formula

Matching Share

1:1 match required

Limit on Number of Grants

No limit

Priorities Beyond SCORP

None required

Competition

State competition

ORLP

Matching Share

- 1:1 match required
- Projects with non-public contributions prioritized

Limit on Number of Grants

2 ORLP grants per site/park

Priorities Beyond SCORP

- Competition priorities
- Priorities of additional state, county, or local plans (beyond SCORP)

Competition

National competition





Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national nonprofit that works to connect everyone to the benefits and joys of the outdoors. As a leader in equitable access to the outdoors, TPL works with communities to create parks and protect public land where it is needed most.

Since 1972, TPL has protected more than 3 million acres of public land, created more than 5,000 parks, trails, schoolyards, and iconic outdoor places, raised \$84 billion in public funding for parks and public lands, and connected more than 9 million people to the outdoors.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™

Stephanie Flynn

Federal Grants Manager stephanie.flynn@tpl.org 202-330-4716

Thank you!

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October 18, 2022



WHO WE ARE

The National League of Cities (NLC) is the voice of America's cities, towns and villages, representing more than 200 million people across the country.

OUR MISSION

To strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)



- Community Benefits green infrastructure
- Eligible Uses
 - Construction of publicly owned treatment works
 - Nonpoint source
 - National estuary program projects
 - Decentralized wastewater treatment systems
 - Stormwater
 - Water conservation, efficiency & reuse
 - Watershed pilot projects
 - Energy efficiency
 - Water reuse
 - Security measures at publicly owned treatment works
 - Technical assistance

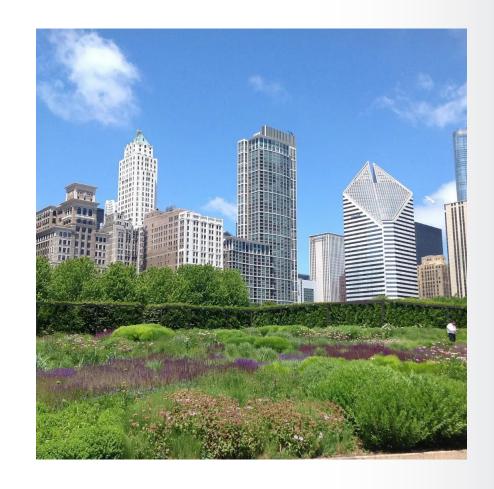
Who + How to Apply

- Local governments, water utilities apply to thei state
- State Project Priority List
- State Intended Use Plan
- BIL: 49% principal forgiveness, 51% grants
- State Affordability Criteria

Clean Water SRF Project Examples



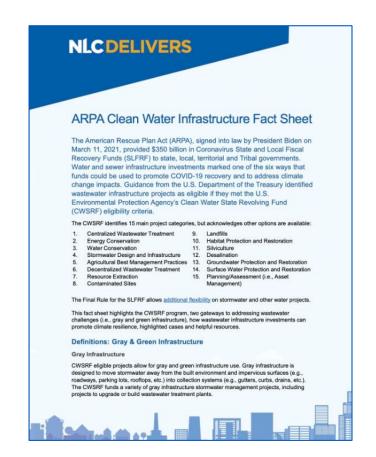
- City of Wilmington, DE \$15M CWSRF loan to address flooding by replacing their combined sewer system with separate sanitary and stormwater collection systems. Created opportunity for permanent conservation of wetlands.
- City of Griffin, GA \$4M CWSRF loan for stormwater improvements at city's Veteran's Memorial Park and Golf Course.
- Providence, RI \$2.7M CWSRF loan for stormwater improvements at Charlotte Hope Plaza and creation of 15,000 square feet of publicly accessible green space.



Clean Water SRF Resources



- EPA Overview of Clean Water SRF Eligibilities
- EPA SRF Memorandum to States
- NLC Clean Water Infrastructure Fact Sheet
- State CWSRF Program Contacts
- Environmental Benefits of CWSRF
 Green Infrastructure Projects





Initial Guidance on Using American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Bring Nature's Benefits to Children

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which includes \$65 billion in direct aid to cities, towns, and villages via a State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, offers an unprecedented funding opportunity to increase children's regular connections to nature and promote healthy child development. <u>Suidance from the U.S. Treasury</u> places emphasis on "serving the hardest-hit communities and families," including to "address educational disparities" and "promote healthy childhood environments." It also notes "investments in parks, public plazas, and other public outdoor recreation spaces may be responsive to the needs of disproportionately impacted communities by promoting healthier living environments and outdoor recreation and socialization to mitidate the spread of COVID-19."

In line with this guidance, the <u>Cities Connecting Children to Nature</u> (CCCN) partnership of the <u>National League of Cities</u> and Children & Nature Network recommends local leaders consider the below uses of ARPA funds that can bring nature's benefits to children in their local neighborhoods where they live, study, and play.

Getting More Young Children Outdoors, More Often

ARPA makes funds available to connect young children to nature, directly through Head Start and also via child care block grants. Cities that administer, or have partners hosting, Head Start programs can use Head Start funds (§t billion) to support <u>early childhood outdoor learning and nature play.</u> The <u>ARPA guidance</u> from the Office of Head Start describes uses of funds as follows: "Purchasing or enhancing outdoor learning spaces, including nature-based learning and outdoor classrooms. Creating play areas and landscape features that promote exploration and discovery in a natural environment, such as plantings, gardens, and "loose parts" (i.e., materials for construction and pretend play), rather than traditional play structures or playgrounds."

Another approach involves showing how outdoor learning environments and nature-based programming will contribute to the \$24 billion ARPA-funded effort to stabilize the child care industry. City leaders can connect with state Child Care and Development Fund administrators to suggest prioritizing outdoor learning, highlighting the research on how nature-based approaches fulfill two key ARPA goals: providing safe and healthy learning environments, and mental health support for children and educators. In addition, focusing on the maternal and child health benefits of time in nature may help make the necessary connections to join projects under the \$150 million ARPA-funded expansion of the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program.

Carbon Reduction Program



 Community Benefits – Transportation Alternative Infrastructure

Eligible Uses

- Public transportation projects (bus rapid transit etc.)
- Transportation Alternative projects (planning, design, construction)
- Traffic mitigation and control projects
- Alternative fuel vehicles
- Reduce emissions at port facilities
- Reduce environmental impacts of freight movement
- Diesel engine retrofits
- Replace street lighting and traffic control devices with energy-efficient alternative

Who + How to Apply

- Formula to States 65% utilized in urbanized areas of various population levels
- Develop Carbon Reduction Program
 Strategy by Nov. 2023 in consultation with MPOs
- Combine with other federal programs or funding that reduce emissions from transportation, such as zero emission vehicles, charging infrastructure, congestion pricing

Carbon Reduction Program Project Examples



Cedar Rapids, IA

- Create 15 minute neighborhoods to reduce sprawl
- Enhance transit & shared transportation options in under-resourced communities – golf carts
- EVs + charging infrastructure

Mercer Island, WA

- Pilot program for electric-assist rental bikes
- Improve bicycle route signage
- EVs + charging infrastructure

Houston, TX

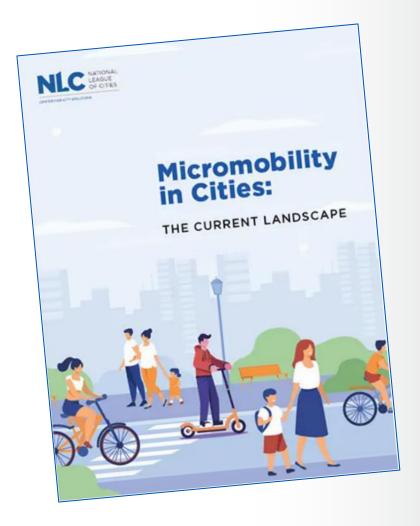
 Decrease VMT – multimodal transportation + Transit Oriented Development



Carbon Reduction Program Resources



- FHWA Carbon Reduction Program Implementation Guidance
- FHWA Carbon Reduction Program Fact Sheet
- Cutting Transportation Emissions with New Carbon Reduction Program
- Congestion Pricing in Cities
- Micromobility in Cities
- <u>Driving Down Emissions: Transportation, Land Use and Climate Change</u>



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)



 Community Benefits – Community Improvements and Economic Supports for Low- & Moderate-Income People

Eligible Uses

- Flexible funding supports a host of activities including:
 - Affordable Housing
 - Infrastructure and Public Facility
 Improvements
 - Economic Development
 - Social Services

Who + How to Apply

- Metro Cities and Urban Counties are entitled to receive annual CDBG grants.
 - Metro Cities populations are 50,000 and above
 - Urban Counties populations are 200,000 and above
 - 70% of annual CDBG funds are allocated to metro cities and urban counties
- Small Cities and Counties are eligible to receive CDBG funds from their states.
 - States receive 30% of annual CDBG funds
 - States reallocate their CDBG funds to local governments that do not receive annual CDBG funding directly.
 - States generally award annual CDBG funds on a competitive basis.

CDBG Project Examples



Lexington, KY

- Charles Young Park Playground
- Addresses long-standing inequities in Lexington's East End neighborhood
- Support numerous programs and community events for adjacent neighborhoods

Fitchburg, MA

- Sam Pawlak Community Playground
- Only inclusive playground for children with disabilities in a 20-mile radius
- CDBG funded the purchase of inclusive play structures.



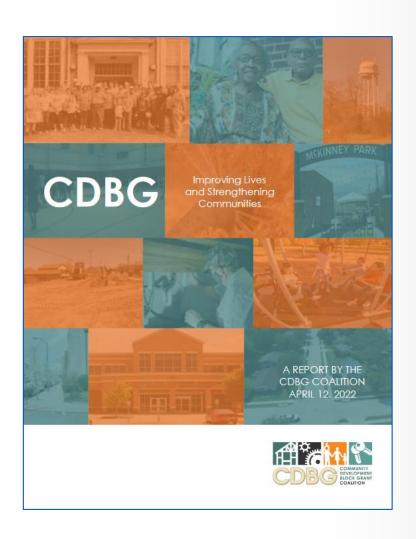
Detroit, MI

- Ella Fitzgerald Greenway
- Transforming publicly owned vacant land and buildings into community assets
- Converted approximately 30 vacant lots into the Ella Fitzgerald Greenway
- Adult exercise equipment also installed

CDBG Resources



- CDBG Coalition Report 2022: Improving Lives and Strengthening Communities
- HUD: Explore CDBG Programs
- CDBG and HOME: Essential Grants for Mid-Sized Cities





QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH.

Carolyn Berndt

Legislative Director, Sustainability National League of Cities

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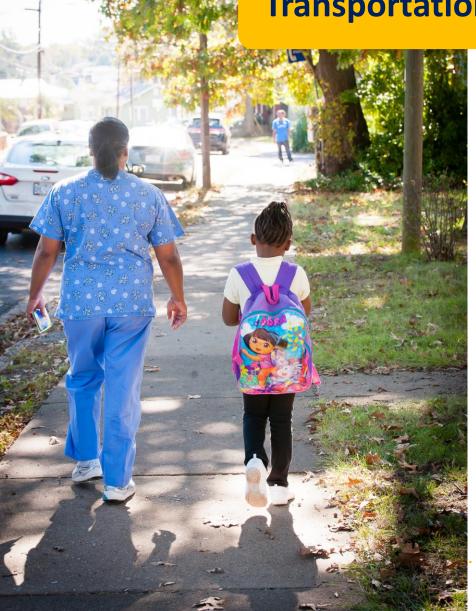












Benefits: mobility, safety, health

What it funds: <u>The</u> major federal source of transportation funding for bicycling, walking, and Safe Routes to School

- Nonprofits
- Local governments, including schools
- Agencies/organizations responsible for transportation (see next slide)



Transportation Alternatives Program Eligibility - Projects & Sponsors

TAP Funding Supports:

- Sidewalks, crosswalks, and other pedestrian infrastructure
- Bike lanes and other bicycle infrastructure
- Safe Routes to School infrastructure and noninfrastructure
- Recreational trails
- Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas,
- Community improvement activities (outdoor advertising, historic transportation facilities, vegetation management, transportation-related archaeological activities
- Environmental mitigation (stormwater management, wildlife connectivity)
- Converting highways/interstate routes to boulevards

- Local governments
- Regional transportation authorities
- Transit agencies
- State and local parks/public lands agencies
- Schools and school districts
- Tribal governments
- Nonprofits
- Small MPOs
- Other local/regional agencies that administer transportation or trails
- State DOTs may receive funds if requested by local government







- One year after a pop-up demonstration project to connect the Arkansas Children's Library, Little Rock Zoo, and War Memorial Park, the City of Little Rock received \$1 million in TAP funding to install permanent walking and biking lanes at that site.
- This project connects these essential community assets to nearby neighborhoods that live close to the park and library but are separated from them by Interstate 630.

Safe biking, walking project aim

Lanes open to connect library, War Memorial Park by Rachel Herzog | September 20, 2020 at 4:35 a.m.







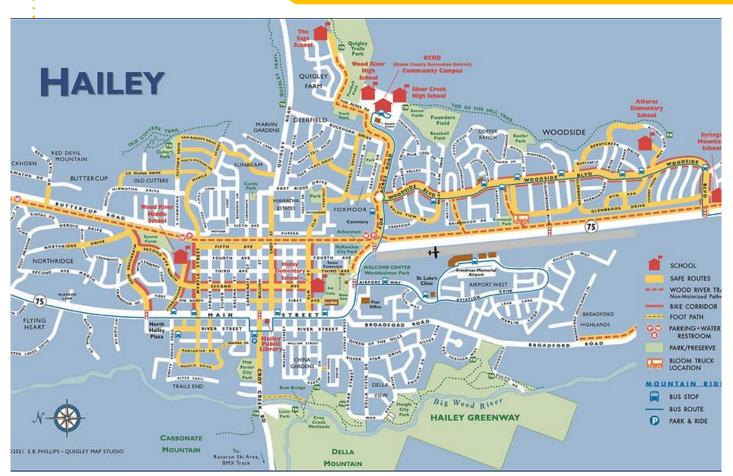
Benefits: health, quality of life, improved academic performance, access to community facilities

What it funds: Planning and construction of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure within 2 miles of a K-12 school and education, encouragement events and programming

- Nonprofits
- Schools and school districts
- Local governments (all TAP eligible entities)

Safe Routes to School Program Blaine County, Idaho





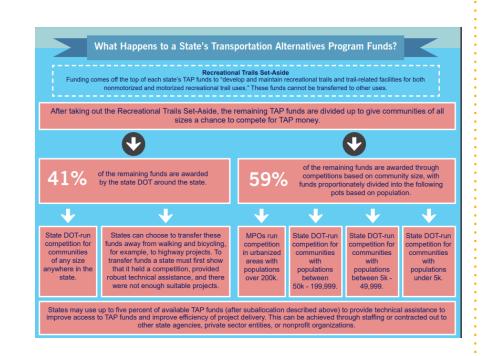
- This Safe Routes to School program, run by the local transit agency, Mountain Rides, spans four communities in the Wood River Valley of Idaho.
- This map shows how they make use of a 20 mile multi-use, nonmotorized trail that connects the four towns, with bike corridors and foot paths that connect kids to schools and people of all ages to this greenway, park and green space, transit connections, and other essential community destinations.

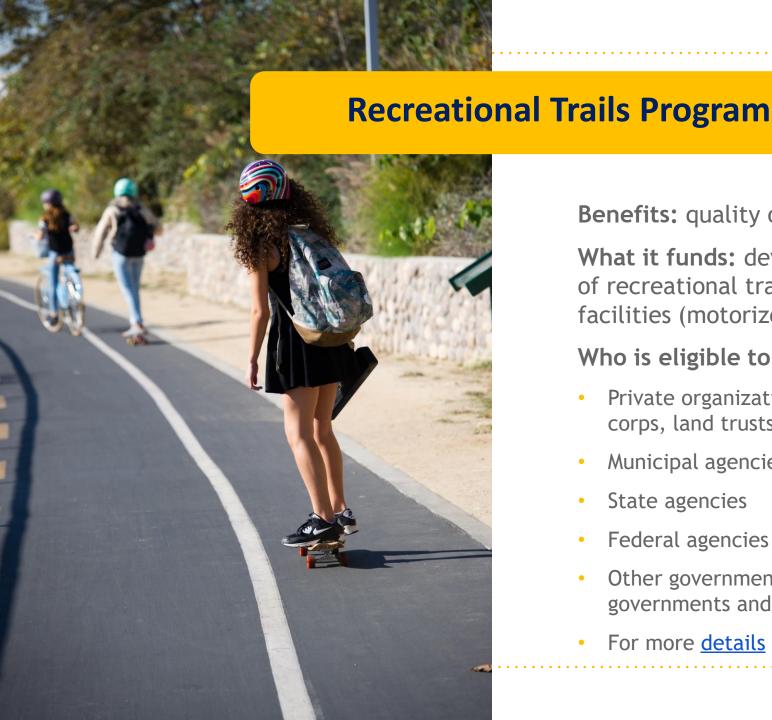
Photo Credit: Safe Routes Wood River Valley https://www.saferouteswoodrivervalley.com/

Helpful Links & Resources for Transportation Alternatives Program



- Every state receives funding, and there is funding setaside for communities of all sizes.
- Administered by state departments of transportation and in urbanized areas, metropolitan planning organizations
- Infographic on how money gets from federal government to communities
 - https://saferoutespartnership.org/sites/default/files/tap_funding_infographic _updated_final.pdf
- State-specific fact sheets with how much funding your state has and when competitions are next held:
 - tinyurl.com/stateTAP
- For more information: https://saferoutespartnership.org/healthy-communities/policy-change/federal/BIL-background-resources







Benefits: quality of life, connectivity, health

What it funds: development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities (motorized and non-motorized)

- Private organizations (conservation or service corps, land trusts, trail orgs., etc.)
- Municipal agencies
- State agencies
- Federal agencies
- Other government agencies, such as tribal governments and transit operators
- For more details

Photo Credit: https://www.caledonianrecord.com/news/local/public-boardwalk-completed-at-moose-bog-for-wildlife-viewing/article f7dce2d9-a9db-554a-8e77-ece5cf953e2f.html

Recreational Trails Program Essex County, Vermont



- Funding from the Recreational Trails
 Program enabled the development and construction of one of the state's longest ADA accessible trails in Vermont.
- This mile-long wildlife observation trail offers opportunities for birding and observation of local flora.

Helpful Links & Resources for Recreational Trails Program





- Every state receives funding, but a state may opt-out.
- Administered by state departments of natural resources.
- State profiles and database of projects funded by Recreational Trails Program
 - https://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/
- Information from Federal Highway Administration
 - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails

Questions?

Safe Routes PARTNERSHIP

We're here to help!





Marisa@saferoutespartnership.org



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS