Trails Bond Program: Fact Sheet

* Missoula County Parks and Trails Bond was passed in November 2014; $3 million was allocated for new trail construction and maintenance of existing trails
* The Trails Bond Program is the means of distributing the funding
* Anyone—group or individual—can propose projects and apply for funding
* All trail types are eligible so long as they are within Missoula County and open to public
* In addition to recreation facilities, Communities should consider the multiple benefits that trails offer such as health & wellness, safe routes for pedestrians/cyclists, tourism infrastructure and increased property values.
* Program seeks a match amount of $5 for every $1 of program funding. This is based on several complementary transportation funding programs such as the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and the Transportation Alternatives Grant (TA) Programs
* Access and Connectivity within communities is the primary goal for funding new trails
* Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until funding has been allocated

**FAQs**

Q: Are motorized trails eligible for Trails Bond Program Funding?  
A: Yes, the program does not restrict among trail types.

Q: What does a 5:1 match mean and how was it established?  
A: For every one dollar put forth by the Trails Bond Program, it will be matched with five dollars from other funding sources.

Q: Is a 5:1 match an absolute requirement for a project to be considered?  
A: A 5:1 match is the ideal funding ratio sought by the program to maximize the amount of project outcomes. Depending on a project’s unique circumstances and total costs, smaller match amounts may be considered.

Q: How can I acquire funds for a match?  
A: Applying for other grants and transportation funding programs is the most likely option. Seeking private donations and sponsorships is another way to gather funds.

Q: What project expenses are eligible for bond funding?  
A: Any cost related to construction and associated fees for design, engineering and materials.  
  
Q: Can Trails Bond Program funds be used to cover ongoing maintenance following the completion of the trail?   
A: Per the terms of the bond, funds cannot be used for maintenance costs of new trail projects.

Q: By what criteria will projects be evaluated?  
A: There are five main criteria: Access & Connectivity (25 pts.), Community Support (20 pts.), Project Readiness (15 pts.), Design (10 pts.), and Maintenance Plan (10 pts.).

Q: How do I get an application?  
A: Additional information and applications are available online at: www.missoulacounty.us/trails-bond.

**Program Contact**

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