

# Grants Funding Available!

Arizona State Parks and Trails provides funding for outdoor recreation and historic preservation projects statewide! Arizona State Parks and Trails has helped administer grant funding for **over 3,061 outdoor recreational projects** in Arizona. Have you ever wanted to add a new recreational feature to your town, city or county?

**Arizona State Parks & Trails invites non-profits; local, county, state, federal, tribal governments; schools; and law enforcement agencies to submit grant applications for a variety of funding opportunities, including:**

- **Recreational Trails Program**
- **State Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund**
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund**
- **State Lake Improvement Fund**
- **Heritage Fund**

**Eligible project activities include but are not limited to:**

- **Trail Etiquette and Education (signage, educational programs)**
- **Outdoor Recreation Facilities (restrooms, playgrounds, parking lots, fields, courts)**
- **ADA/Accessible Trails/Facility Enhancements**
- **Trail Development, Maintenance, and Improvements (For non-motorized and motorized trails)**
- **Trail Amenities**
- **Pedestrian Uses (hiking, running)**
- **Bicycling & E-bikes (bike parks, trails)**
- **Equestrian Trails**
- **Water Trails**
- **Trailhead Development**
- **Signage**
- **Planning, Masterplans, Environmental and Cultural Surveys for Motorized Use**
- **Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Law Enforcement**
- **Developing or improving facilities on lakes that allow motorized boat use.**
- **Law Enforcement on lakes allowing motorized boat use**

## Partner with Us!

To get started, reach out to one of our Grants & Trails team at [grantstaff@azstateparks.gov](mailto:grantstaff@azstateparks.gov)



## GRANT WORKSHOPS

See the Arizona State Parks & Trails Grants Workshops webpage for a list of workshop dates and previous workshop recordings. All workshops are offered in both in person and a virtual format. In addition, all workshops will be recorded and posted on the Grants Workshop webpage following each meeting.

# Understanding Match for Grants with Arizona State Parks and Trails

When applying for ASPT grants, a crucial component is understanding what qualifies as **match**.

Fund Source		Match requirement
<b>LWCF</b>	Land and Water Conservation Fund	<b>100%</b>
<b>RTP</b>	Recreational Trails Program	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>HF</b>	Heritage Fund Non-Motorized	<b>25%</b>
<b>HF EE</b>	Heritage Fund Environmental Education	<b>No Match Required</b>
<b>LRSP</b>	Heritage Fund Local Regional State Park	<b>No Match Required</b>
<b>OHV</b>	Off Highway Vehicle Fund	<b>No Match Required</b>
<b>SLIF</b>	State Lake Improvement Fund	<b>No Match Required</b>

This match demonstrates local commitment and leverages federal investment.

## Here's a breakdown of what can generally be used as match:

### Cash contributions

This is the most straightforward form of match and includes funds directly spent on eligible project costs. Examples include:

- **State or local appropriations:** Funds allocated by state legislatures, county commissions, or city councils for the project.
- **Other grants:** Funds from non-federal grant programs (e.g., private foundations, state-specific grants) that are used for eligible project expenses.
- **Donations:** Cash donations specifically earmarked for the project from individuals, organizations, or businesses.

### In-Kind Contributions

In-kind contributions represent the value of non-cash goods or services provided to the project. These contributions must be essential to the project's success and would otherwise need to be purchased with cash. Examples include:

- **Donated labor:** The value of volunteer time spent on eligible project activities (e.g., trail building, park cleanup, administrative support). This is calculated based on the prevailing wage rates for similar work in your area.
- **Donated materials/equipment:** The fair market value of materials (e.g., lumber, plants, playground equipment) or the rental value of equipment (e.g., excavators, trucks) donated for the project.
- **Donated professional services:** The value of services provided by professionals working pro bono on the project (e.g., architectural design, engineering, legal services).
- **Existing facilities/land:** In some cases, the appraised value of land or existing facilities that are directly incorporated into the project and contribute to its scope (e.g., a portion of an existing park being upgraded) may be eligible, though this often requires specific documentation and approval.

## Important Considerations for All Match

**Eligibility:** All match contributions, whether cash or in-kind, must be for expenses that would be **eligible under grant guidelines** if they were paid for with grant funds.

**Documentation:** Thorough documentation is essential for all match contributions. For cash, this means invoices, receipts, and accounting records. For in-kind, it requires detailed logs of hours worked, fair market value appraisals, and clear descriptions of donated items or services.

**Non-federal source:** In general, funds from other federal programs cannot be used as match but there are some exceptions. Please plan to talk with ASPT Grant Staff about the source of matching funds so we can help determine if they are eligible.

**Federal Project Sponsors Only:** When Applying for RTP funds, 5% of the 5.7% required match must come from non-federal sources.

**Project period:** Match contributions must be incurred within the approved project period.

## Grant Funding Available

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was established by Congress in 1964 to safeguard our natural areas, water resources and cultural heritage, and to provide recreation opportunities to all Americans. Using zero taxpayer dollars, the fund helps strengthen communities, preserve our history and protect our national endowment of lands and waters.

Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars can provide grants to state and local governments, and can be used to acquire lands, waters, and interests to achieve the natural, cultural, wildlife, and recreation management objectives of federal land management agencies.

When a park or a recreational area is created or improved with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grants, it is permanently protected. This means the land must be maintained and remain open for public outdoor recreation in perpetuity—a promise for generations to come. ASPT staff will visit the area every five years to ensure land and properties remain open.

### Eligible Applicants:

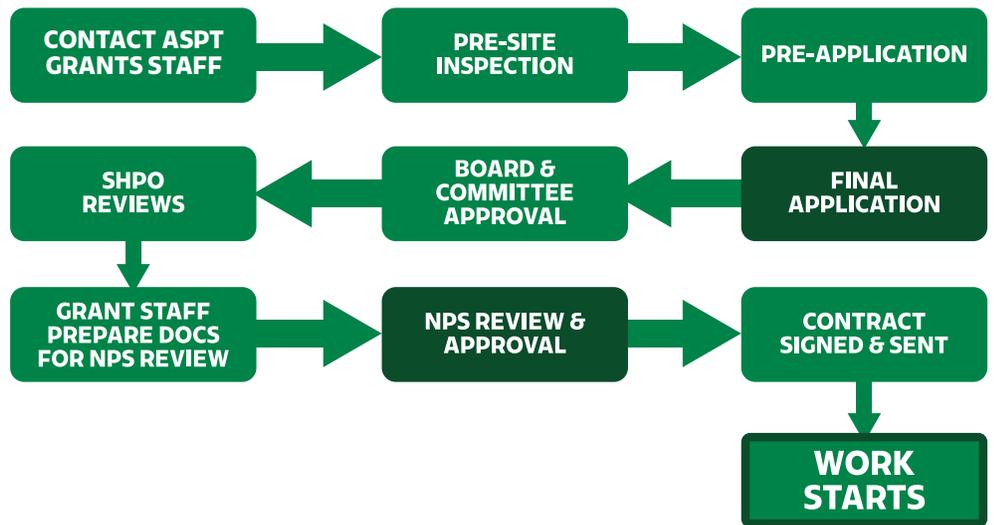
Federal, State, County, Local, and Tribal Governments; Schools and School Districts.

### Eligible Projects:

Outdoor recreation facilities; ADA/accessibility upgrades; acquisition of park lands; baseball & soccer fields, bike parks, pools, playground equipment.

## Match Requirement:

Dollar for dollar match required



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## Grant Funding Available

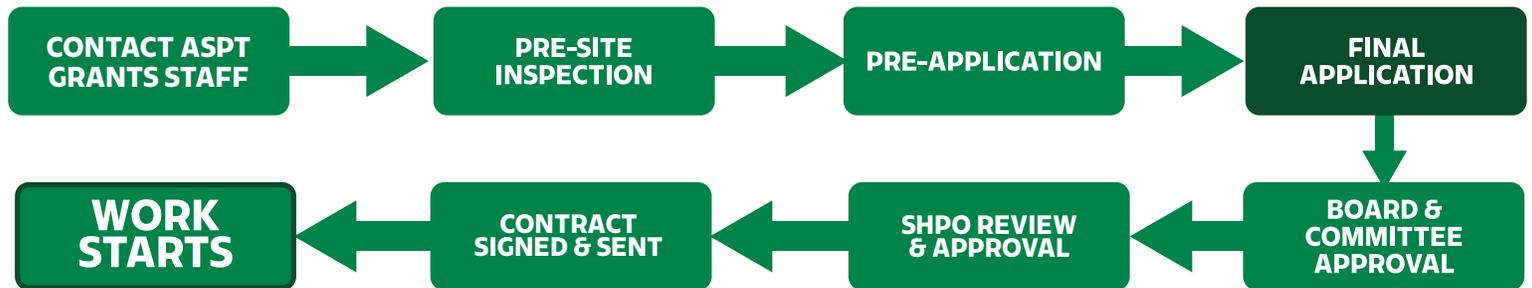
The OHV Recreation Fund was established in 1991 and provides funding for large and small-scale grant projects across the state. Approximately \$2 million is available annually through Arizona State Parks for OHV projects. All vehicles weighing less than 2,500 pounds and designed primarily for travel over unimproved terrain are required to display a sticker distributed through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

### Eligible Applicants:

Governmental entities (cities, towns, counties, tribal governments, state and federal agencies), Non-profits and clubs.

### Eligible Projects:

Developing and maintaining existing trails, acquiring land to develop new trails, trail design and engineering, developing support facilities, cultural and environmental clearances, education, and law enforcement. Trail damages caused by vandalism, fire, and weather occurrences when expedited grant dispersal is necessary to fix an unsafe condition. Trash removal and dust mitigation projects are also available. Expenses related to Off-Highway Vehicle specific law enforcement efforts including OHV equipment, PPE, electrical equipment (cameras, radios, traffic controllers etc.) salary and overtime. Search and rescue, narcotics related, and border patrol projects need not apply. Purchasing and/or installing trail marker posts, trail marker decals, trail signs, and informational kiosks.



RIVER ISLAND OHV TRAILHEAD  
JUNE 2025



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## Grant Funding Available

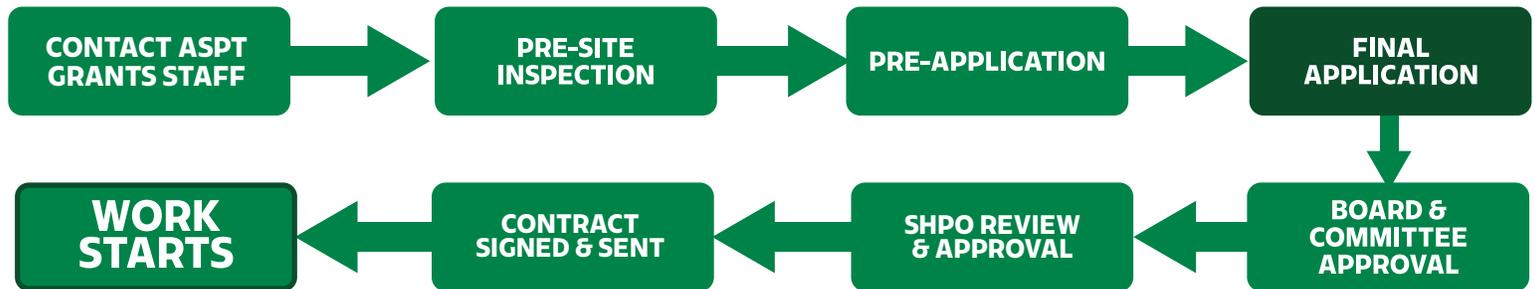
Arizona's State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) program was established in 1960 by the Arizona State Legislature (A.R.S. §5-382) to assist state and local units of government to fund projects on waters where gasoline powered boats are permitted. This program is administered by the Arizona State Parks Board with guidance from the agency's Grants and Trails Team.

### Eligible Applicants:

Arizona Game and Fish Department, Board of supervisors of any county, governing body or city/town.

### Eligible Projects:

Eligible projects must be directly related to bodies of water that allow motorized boat use. Projects could include development of new boat launches, support facilities on the body of water, marking buoys, watercraft, trailers, radios, lights and first aid.



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## Grant Funding Available

The Heritage Fund provides grant opportunities for trail projects, outdoor environmental education programs, local, regional, and state parks, as well as historic preservation projects through legislatively appropriated funds.

### Eligible Applicants:

Non-profits, governmental entities: cities, towns, counties, tribal governments, and state and federal agencies. Organizations and clubs may enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible applicant, (e.g. forest land manager).

### Eligible Projects:

Trail projects, outdoor environmental education programs, local, regional, and state parks, as well as historic preservation projects through legislatively appropriated funds.

## Outdoor Environmental Education

### Eligible Projects:

Promote outdoor and environmental protection programs related to outdoor recreation.

## Non-Motorized Trail Program

### Eligible Projects:

Developing and maintaining trails and trail-related facilities for non-motorized trail uses.

## Local, Regional, and State Parks (LRSP)

### Eligible Projects:

Construction, maintenance and development of public outdoor recreation facilities.



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## Grant Funding Available

The program provides funds for all kinds of recreational trail uses, such as pedestrian uses (hiking, running, wheelchair use), bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

### Eligible Applicants:

Non-profits, governmental entities: cities, towns, counties, tribal governments, state and federal agencies. Organizations and clubs may enter into a cooperative agreement with an eligible applicant, (forest land manager).

## Motorized

### Eligible Projects:

Trail development, trail maintenance, pedestrian uses (hiking, running, ADA-accessibility improvements-trails, signs, education), bicycling, equestrian, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, water trails, or using other off-road motorized vehicles.

## Non-Motorized

### Eligible Projects:

New trail development, routine maintenance on existing trails, tread maintenance, clearing of pathways, drainage improvements, replacing existing fencing, minor reroutes to make trail more sustainable.

## Safety and Environment Education

### Eligible Projects:

Trailhead kiosks, emergency markers, trail related training, signage, maps, educational programs, trail guides.

## Match Requirement:

**5.7% match required**



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# 2026 Grant Approval Schedule

## FEB/MAR

**FEB 26**

**ASCOT** 10 A.M. - 11 A.M.  
**OHVAG** 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

**MAR 11**

**AORCC** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**MAR 19**

**BOARD** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

## AUG/SEP

**AUG 27**

**ASCOT** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.  
**OHVAG** 1 P.M. - 3 P.M.

**SEP 9**

**AORCC** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**SEP 17**

**BOARD** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

## MAY/JUNE

**MAY 27**

**ASCOT** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**MAY 28**

**OHVAG** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**JUNE 10**

**AORCC** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**JUNE 18**

**BOARD** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

## DECEMBER

**DEC 1**

**ASCOT** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**DEC 3**

**OHVAG** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**DEC 9**

**AORCC** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

**DEC 17**

**BOARD** 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.

## COMMITTEES

**AORCC** Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission  
**ASCOT** Arizona State Committee on Trails  
**BOARD** Arizona State Parks & Trails Board  
**OHVAG** Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group

\*\* Dates subject to change due to quorum

Learn More at [AZStateParks.com/advisory-committees](https://AZStateParks.com/advisory-committees)

## Scoring Criteria

Points

### Project Need

10

Inclusion	4
Type of Project	3
Impact on Recreational Opportunities	3

### Project Quality

19

Project Readiness	3
Partnerships	3
Public Involvement	3
Innovation and Best Practices	3
Detailed Budget	4
Connectivity	3

### Conservation and Environmental Stewardship

15

### Sustainable Outdoor Recreation

15

### Connection, Community, and Economic Vitality

15

### Pathways to Health and Wellness

15

### Project Management

11

Grant History	3
Maintenance Capacity	3
Grant Compliance	3
Workshop Attendance	2

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**TOTAL**

**100**

High Level Scoring Criteria (SLIF)	Points
<b>Law Enforcement and Safety</b> Is the project focused on law enforcement and/or safety?	20
<b>Project Specific Planning Efforts</b> Why is this project needed?	15
<b>Public Involvement</b> How has your organization involved the public in decision-making?	10
<b>Comprehensive Statewide Plan</b> How does the plan provide comprehensive, long-term and sustainable solutions?	10
<b>Community Support</b> Letters of Support	10
<b>Project Location</b> What county is your project located in?	10
<b>Project Type</b> What type of project will you be doing? Renovation, acquisition, combination?	10
<b>Community Partnerships</b> What new partnerships will be formed?	5
<b>Matching Funds</b> Will you be providing any matching funds for this project?	5
<b>Grant Award History</b> Have you worked with us before?	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**High Level Scoring Criteria (Motorized and Non-Motorized, State and Federal)      Points**

**Connection to Associated Planning Document** **50**

How well does the project align with State Trails Plan and other planning documents?

**Comprehensive Budget** **20**

Does the budget have enough detail to understand costs but allow for flexibility?

**Timeline / Planning** **10**

Is the project shovel ready? Is the timeline reasonable?

**Application Quality** **10**

Are all required elements provided by the sponsor?

**Special Considerations** **10**

Letters of support, matching funds, first-time applicants, and diversity of trail uses

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**TOTAL** **100**

# Understanding Grants with Arizona State Parks & Trails

Program	Purpose	Applicants	Funding	Match Req.	Timeframe / Key Notes
<b>Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) State Assistance</b>	Acquisition and/or development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities; ADA/accessibility upgrades.	State, County, Local, and Tribal Governments; Schools and School Districts	Up to \$1,500,000	100% (dollar-for-dollar) cash and/or in-kind contributions	3 years from National Park Service award date. Design and engineering costs incurred within 3 years of NPS award with prior approval.
<b>LWCF – Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program</b>	Acquire/develop public lands for outdoor recreation in Urbanized Areas (pop. 30,000) Serving economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.	State, County, Local, and Tribal Governments; Schools and School Districts that serve an eligible jurisdiction within a designated urbanized area	Up to \$1,500,000	100% (dollar-for-dollar) cash and/or in-kind contributions	3 years from National Park Service award date. LWCF does allow some pre-award costs if specified in the agreement.
<b>Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation Fund Grants</b>	Develop, maintain, and manage OHV recreation opportunities and mitigate related impacts. Includes competitive law enforcement, maintenance/mitigation, and signage sub-programs.	Federal, State, Local, County, and Tribal Governments; Non-Profits	Up to \$750,000	No match required.	Cultural/environmental/archaeological assessments & P,D,E costs eligible only with prior approval. Law Enforcement: For OHV-specific enforcement/education on public land; excludes search/rescue & fire departments. Maint/Mitigation: For existing motorized trail maintenance; must be shovel-ready & use ASPT contracted crews; 1-year completion. Emergency circumstances may allow expedited approval/no match. Signage: For OHV navigation/info/safety signs in designated OHV areas; 6-month completion.
<b>Recreational Trails Program (RTP)</b>	Develop and maintain recreational trails and facilities for motorized and non-motorized uses; promote safety and environmental protection.	Federal, State, Local, County, and Tribal Governments; Non-Profits.	<p><b>Non-Motorized:</b> Up to \$150,000</p> <p><b>Motorized:</b> Up to \$750,000</p> <p><b>Safety &amp; Env. Education:</b> Up to \$25,000</p>	5.7% (cash or in-kind)	Jointly administered by FHWA, AZDOT, and ASPT. Projects must be initiated within 6 months (180 days) of FHWA obligation. Grants must be completed by end of state fiscal year (June 30). <b>Non-Motorized:</b> For hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian, cross-country skiing, acquisition, development/maintenance, equipment. SEE: Promote safety/environmental protection related to trails; education programs. <b>Trail Maintenance:</b> For existing non-motorized trails; shovel-ready, use ASPT contracted crews; 1-year completion.
<b>State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF)</b>	Fund projects on bodies of water where gasoline-powered boats are permitted, improving boating access and safety.	Arizona Game and Fish Department, Board of Supervisors of any county, Governing body of city/town.	Up to \$750,000	No match required.	Project must be initiated within six months of award.
<b>Heritage Funds (HF)</b>	To preserve, restore, and interpret Arizona's historic and archaeological resources.	State, Local, County, and Tribal Governments; Non-Profits.	<p><b>Heritage LRSP</b> Up to \$100,000</p> <p><b>Heritage Environmental Education</b> Up to \$25,000</p> <p><b>Heritage Non-Motorized</b> Up to \$50,000</p>	No match required.	