

Grants Funding Available!

Arizona State Parks and Trails provides funding for outdoor recreation statewide! Arizona State Parks and Trails has helped administer grant funding for **over 2,200 outdoor recreational projects** totalling nearly **\$600 million** in Arizona. Have you ever wanted to add a new recreational feature to your town, city or county?

Home Owners Associations (HOAs) are not eligible for any funding opportunities. Arizona State Parks & Trails invites non-profits (C3 and C7 only); 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**
- **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership**
- **Readiness and Recreation Initiative**

Eligible project activities include but are not limited to:

- **Trail Etiquette, Safety and Education (signage, educational programs)**
- **Outdoor Recreation Facilities (restrooms, playgrounds, parking lots, fields, courts)**
- **ADA/Accessible Trails/Facility Enhancements**
- **Trail Development, Non-routine Maintenance, and Improvements (For non-motorized and motorized trails)**
- **Trail Amenities**
- **Pedestrian Uses (hiking, running)**
- **Bicycling & Mountain Biking (bike parks, trails)**
- **Equestrian Trails**
- **Water Trails**
- **Signage**
- **Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Law Enforcement**
- **improving lakes and lake related facilities**
- **Law Enforcement on lakes allowing motorized boat use**

Partner with Us!

To get more information about any of our grant programs, reach out to our Chief of Grants and Trails, Nina Lindsey, at nlindsey@azstateparks.gov or by calling (602) 568-8845



GRANT WORKSHOPS

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

Understanding Match for Grants

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

Fund Source		Match requirement
LWCF	Land and Water Conservation Fund	100%
ORLP	Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership	100%
RARI	Recreation and Readiness Initiative	100%
RTP	Recreational Trails Program	5.7%
HF	Heritage Fund Non-Motorized	Match Varies
HF EE	Heritage Fund Environmental Education	Match Varies
HF LRSP	Heritage Fund Local Regional State Park	Match Varies
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle Fund	Match Varies
SLIF	State Lake Improvement Fund	Match Varies

To calculate RTP match amount: take the grant request, divide by .943 and multiply for .057.

EXAMPLE
Request \$100/.943 = 106.05
* 0.057 = \$6.05 match required. Always round up to the nearest penny.

This match demonstrates local commitment and leverages 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 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:

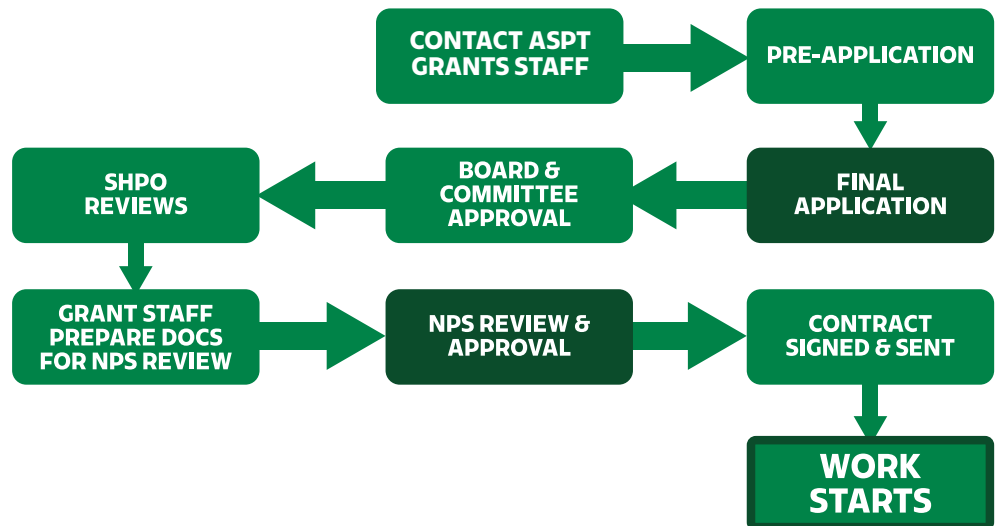
State, County, Local, and Tribal Governments; Schools and School Districts.

Eligible Projects:

Acquisition of park lands, development and maintenance of park amenities, including, but not limited to; sports and playfields, playgrounds, picnic and camping facilities, trails, swimming and boating facilities, and support facilities including roads, parking areas, and restroom buildings.

Match Requirement:

Dollar for dollar match required



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To get more information about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reach out to our LWCF Grants Manager, Jeff Schmidt, at jschmidt@azstateparks.gov or by calling (602) 524-7124

Grant Funding Available

The Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund is generated by resident and non-resident OHV decal sales and a portion of the state's fuel tax. Arizona State Parks and Trails utilizes 60% of the funds (approximately \$5 million annually) to administer grants that support the state's diverse riding community and improve OHV opportunities.

Eligible Applicants:

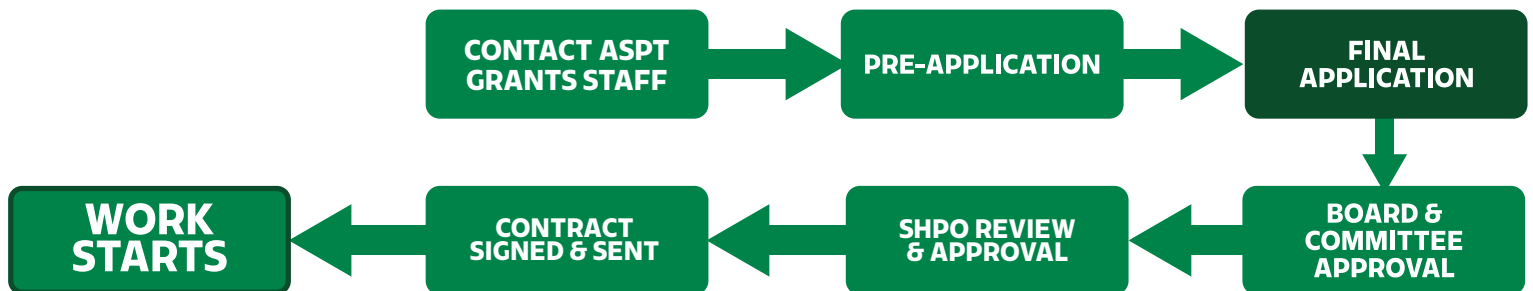
Governmental entities (cities, towns, counties, tribal governments, state and federal agencies), Non-profits

Eligible Projects:

Funds can be used for a variety of OHV needs, including but not limited to the following: Design and Engineering (trails, trailheads, support facilities, etc.), Trail Maintenance and Mitigation Efforts (Emergencies and Routine/Standard situations), OHV Education Program, OHV Law Enforcement, Trail Signage (kiosks, fiberglass markers, decals/stickers, directional, educational, etc.), OHV Equipment, Cultural and Wildlife Protection

Ineligible Projects:

Search and Rescue, Food and Beverage, Administrative/Overhead Costs, Routine Maintenance for Trails, Equipment Maintenance Costs incurred prior to PROJECT APPROVAL



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To get more information about the Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund, reach out to our State OHV Coordinator, Matt Eberhart, at meberhart@azstateparks.gov or by calling (480) 695-2628

Grant Funding Available

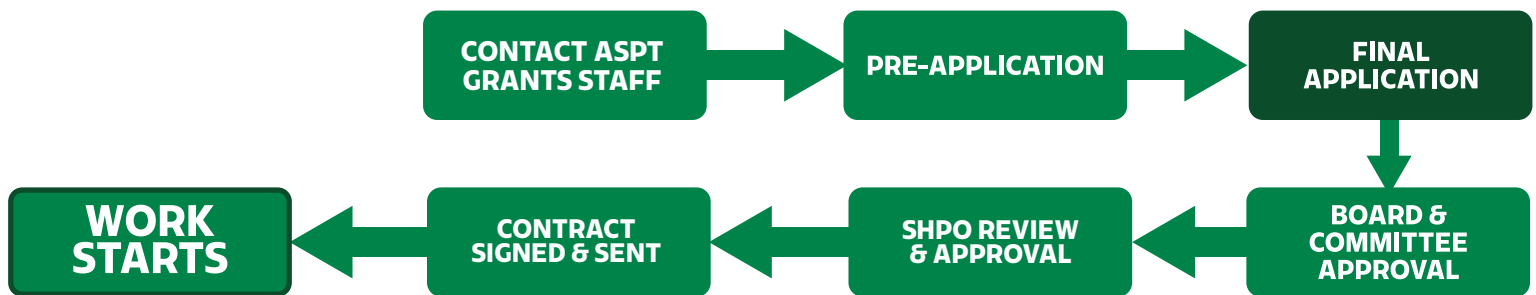
Arizona's State Lake Improvement Fund (SLIF) program was established in 1960 by the Arizona State Legislature (A.R.S. §5-382) to assist state and local units of government to fund projects on waters where gasoline powered boats are permitted. This program is administered by the Arizona State Parks Board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

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. Federal sponsors or projects on Federal lands are not eligible for the State Lake Improvement Fund.



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To get more information about the State Lake Improvement Fund, reach out to our Heritage and SLIF Grant Coordinator, Juan Colorado-Alvarez, at jcolorado-alvarez@azstateparks.gov or by calling (480) 714-3337

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 agencies.

Eligible Projects:

Trail projects, outdoor environmental education programs, local, regional, and state parks, as well as historic preservation projects through legislatively appropriated funds. Federal sponsors or projects on Federal lands are not eligible for any Heritage program 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.



Partner with Us!

To get more information about Heritage Funds, reach out to our Heritage and SLIF Grant Coordinator, Juan Colorado-Alvarez, at jcolorado-alvarez@azstateparks.gov or by calling (480) 714-3337

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.

Motorized

Eligible Projects:

Development and/or maintenance of motorized trails including trailheads and trail facilities. Signage, fencing, accessibility enhancements, acquisition projects. Projects can also contain a trail related safety and environmental education component.

Non-Motorized

Eligible Projects:

Development and/or maintenance of non-motorized trails including trailheads and trail facilities. Signage, fencing, accessibility enhancements, acquisition projects. Projects can also contain a trail related safety and environmental education component.

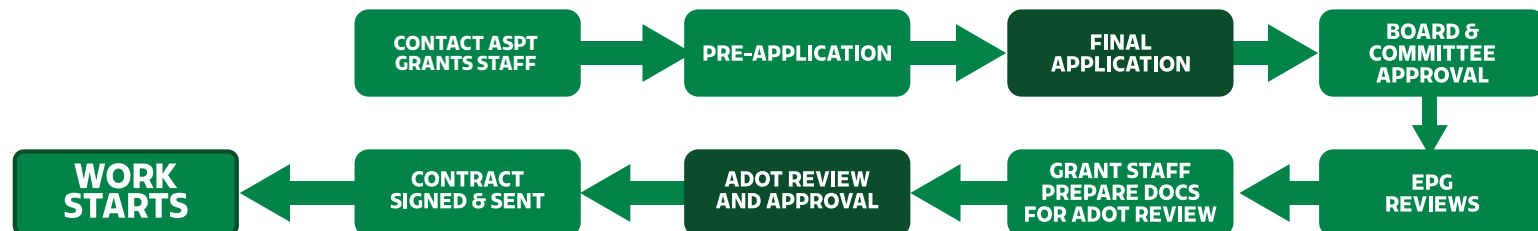
Safety and Environment Education

Eligible Projects:

Development and operation of trail related safety and/or environmental education programs. Production of education materials (electronic, video, audi, interactive displays, brochures, pamphlets, etc.), Interpretive panels, trail and trail facilities accessibility information for public access.

Match Requirement:

5.7% match required



Partner with Us!

To get more information about the Recreational Trails Program, reach out to our RTP Grant Administrator, Alec Wilcox, at awilcox@azstateparks.gov or by calling (480) 640-5821

Grant Funding Available

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released by the National Park Service (NPS) on June 8th. ORLP provides funding to acquire land and water for parks and other outdoor recreation purposes, and to develop new or renovate existing outdoor recreation facilities that provide outdoor recreation opportunities to the public.

Grant Cycle:

ORLP grants are opened by National Park Service once per year, typically in June and closing in October. Applicants will apply to Arizona State Parks and Trails who will then in turn submit applications to the National Park Service for review. For the FY27 Grant Cycle, we anticipate the application to be open in Webgrants beginning 7/9/2026 and will close on 10/01/2026. This allows Arizona State Parks and Trails 30 days to assemble documentation and submit final applications to National Park Service. Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Governments and Urban Indian Organizations are not required to submit applications to Arizona State Parks and Trails; they are eligible to apply directly through www.grants.gov. The Arizona State Parks and Trails grant team is happy to assist with tribal applications.

Eligibility:

Political subdivision of a State or Territory, including cities and counties, or special purpose districts that manage open space, such as a park district; Native Hawaiian communities or organizations. In order to be eligible, projects must take place within an urban area that has a population of 25,000 or more in the most recent census, or 2 or more adjacent urban areas with a combined population of 25,000 or more; or an area administered by a federally recognized Indian Tribe or an Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian community organization. The Trust for Public Land will be hosting several technical assistance webinars. Please visit <https://www.tpl.org/resource/orlp> for more information and to sign up.

Eligible Projects:

Funding can be used for outdoor recreation facilities; ADA/accessibility upgrades; acquisition of park lands; baseball & soccer fields, bike parks, pools, playground equipment. Additional Tribal eligibility exists in the following areas: Pow wow grounds, Tribal lake and water access, trails, cultural gathering space, native plant gardens, community gardens, and traditional game spaces.

Available Funds & Match Requirement

Requires a 50%, dollar for dollar match. Projects may apply for a minimum of \$300,000 to a maximum of \$15,000,000.



Partner with Us!

To get more information about the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership, reach out to our ORLP Grants Manager, Jeff Schmidt, at jschmidt@azstateparks.gov or by calling (602) 524-7124

Grant Funding Available

The Readiness and Recreation Initiative (RARI) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released by the National Park Service (NPS) on June 8th. The purpose of the program is to: 1) provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and 2) promote or support compatible land uses and avoid incompatible development in areas in the vicinity of, or ecologically related to, a military installation or military airspace, and/or to maintain or enhance disaster resilience.

Eligibility:

State agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, Local units of governments and special purpose districts (must be an entity created by a legislative authority vested sovereignty and with a stated mission that includes acquiring, developing, owning and managing recreation areas, and be able to demonstrate it can meet the perpetual protection requirement of the LWCF program). To be eligible, proposed projects must: Include a land acquisition component, be in a Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Partnership Opportunity Area or Sentinel Landscape and have a Letter of Support from a Military Installation or Range commander.

Eligible Projects:

Eligible project types include acquisition of lands, wetlands, and waters for public outdoor recreation, including new areas or additions to existing parks, forests, wildlife management areas, beaches, and other similar areas dedicated to public outdoor recreation, as well as physical connections among them (e.g. trails, waterways, land between recreation areas, wildlife habitat corridors). In addition, a project for acquisition may include the development of outdoor recreation resources. Development should encompass essential public outdoor recreation activities and the necessary support facilities for public use. Projects could involve a combination of land acquisition and site development. These projects can cater to a diverse range of public outdoor recreation activities and facilities required to enhance the use and enjoyment for the public.

Available Funds & Match Requirement

Requires a 50%, dollar for dollar match. Projects may apply for a minimum of \$250,000 with a maximum request of \$3,000,000.



Partner with Us!

To get more information about the Readiness and Recreation Initiative, reach out to our RARI Grants Manager, Jeff Schmidt, at jschmidt@azstateparks.gov or by calling (602) 524-7124

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

TOTAL

100

High Level Scoring Criteria (SLIF)

Points

Law Enforcement and Safety

20

Is the project focused on law enforcement and/or safety?

Project Specific Planning Efforts

15

Why is this project needed?

Public Involvement

10

How has your organization involved the public in decision-making?

Comprehensive Statewide Plan

10

How does the plan provide comprehensive, long-term and sustainable solutions?

Community Support

10

Letters of Support

Project Location

10

What county is your project located in?

Project Type

10

What type of project will you be doing? Renovation, acquisition, combination?

Community Partnerships

5

What new partnerships will be formed?

Matching Funds

5

Will you be providing any matching funds for this project?

Grant Award History

5

Have you worked with us before?

TOTAL

100

High Level Scoring Criteria (Motorized and Non-Motorized, State and Federal)	Points
Connection to Associated Planning Document How well does the project align with State Trails Plan and other planning documents?	50
Comprehensive Budget Does the budget have enough detail to understand costs but allow for flexibility?	20
Timeline / Planning Is the project shovel ready? Is the timeline reasonable?	10
Application Quality Are all required elements provided by the sponsor?	10
Special Considerations Letters of support, matching funds, first-time applicants, and diversity of trail uses	10
TOTAL	100