

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Financial Assistance Programs

Financial Assistance Programs Administered Through the Department of Natural Resources.

All programs are administered by the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance unless otherwise noted.

Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Funds are available to assist local communities acquiring and developing public outdoor recreation areas as per s. 23.09 (20), Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages and Indian Tribes with an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan are eligible to apply by May 1 of each year on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Awards are granted on a competitive basis. Acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas are eligible projects. Priority is given to the acquisition of land where a scarcity of outdoor recreation land exists. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)

Funds are available to provide funds to accommodate all-terrain vehicles through the acquiring, insuring, developing and maintaining of all-terrain vehicle trails and areas, including routes as per s. 23.33, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply by April 15 on forms provided by the Department. Up to 100% of costs up to \$125 per mile if ATV trail is available for spring, summer and fall riding. Up to 100% of costs up to \$60 per mile if the trail is available for winter riding opportunity. Up to 50% of the approved eligible costs for maintaining an all-terrain vehicle area. Up to 100% of the approved eligible costs to develop ATV trails and areas. Assistance is provided for the following, in priority order: 1) maintenance of existing approved trails and areas, including routes; 2) purchase of liability insurance; 3) acquisition of easements; 4) major rehabilitation of bridge structures or trails; and 5) acquisition of land in fee and development of new trails and areas. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Enforcement Patrol

Funds are available as per s.23.22(9), Wis. Stats. and NR 64.15, Wis. Adm. Code. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before September 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Notice of Intent to Patrol and Claim forms are provided by the Department Bureau of Law Enforcement. Counties may receive up to 100% of their net costs for the enforcement of ch. 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of Chapter NR 23.33, Wis. Adm. Code, at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable. Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 12% annually on all equipment over \$100 except ATV's, which is figured at the rate of 20% annually. Contact Thomas N. Thoresen at (608) 266-7820.

County Conservation Aids

Funds are available to carry out program of fish or wildlife management projects as per s.23.09 (12), Wis. Stats. and NR 50, Wis. Adm. Code. Counties and recognized Indian Tribes are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match. Projects related to providing improved fish or wildlife habitat or projects related to hunter/angler facilities are eligible. Projects which enhance fish and wildlife habitat or fishing and hunting facilities have priority. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

County Forest Acreage Payments

Aids are paid to towns in lieu of taxes of 30 cents per acre of lands enrolled under the County Forest Law per year as per s. 20.370(5)(bv) and 28.11(8)(a), Wis. Stats. Towns in counties having lands enrolled under the County Forest Law are eligible to receive payments from the Bureau of Forestry. Towns receive payment based on acreage in the town enrolled under the County Forest Law. Each town determines how payment will be used. Payments are made as soon as possible after April 20 of each year. Contact Robert J. Mather at (608) 266-7662.

County Snowmobile Enforcement Patrols

Funds are available to encourage county snowmobile patrols to function as a law enforcement unit for the enforcement of State Statute 350 as per s. 350.12(4)(a)(4), Wis. Stats. and NR 50.12, 20.370(4)(ft), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Law Enforcement. A county must file a Notice of Intent to Patrol form with the Department on or before July 1 of each year. Claim forms shall be filed with the Department on or before June 1 of the year following the 12-month period for which the claim is made. Salaries of officers engaged in the enforcement of ch. 350, Wis. Stats., at a rate no more than the regular straight-time rate are eligible. Fringe benefits cannot exceed 29% of the gross salary. Travel, materials and supplies are reimbursable.

Depreciation is calculated at a rate of 20% annually on all equipment over \$1,000. Contact Thomas N. Thoresen at (608) 266-7820.

Dam Maintenance Repair, Modification, Abandonment, and Removal

Funds are available to municipalities and public inland lake districts to conduct dam maintenance, repair, modification, abandonment and removal as per s. 31.385, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages and public inland lake protection districts that have received an order under s. 31.19(5), Wis. Stats., to repair or abandon a dam are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. Dam repair, reconstruction, modification or abandonment and removal are eligible projects. Funding priority is determined by the dam's size, hazard rating, downstream zoning, repair costs and the municipality's financial need. A local match of 50% is required, with a maximum grant award of \$200,000 per project. Completed applications must be received by the Department by April 1 of each year. Contact Janet F. Libby.

Federal Clean Vessel Act

Funds are available to construct pump-out and dump stations to dispose of sewage from recreational boaters as per Section 5604 of the Clean Vessel Act of 1992. An agency of the State designated by the Governor (WDNR) is available to apply. Contracts and use agreements may be negotiated with local units of government and private marinas. To receive funds, an applicant sends a letter of application including 1) description of the project; 2) explanation of why the project is needed; 3) a detailed cost breakdown; 4) a proposed timetable for completion of the project; and 5) a site map and location map of the project. There is a 25% local match required. Priority is given to projects located on the Great Lakes or ocean shores. Eligible projects include education/information materials and construction, renovation, operation and maintenance of pump out and dump stations, including floating restrooms, not connected to land or structures connected to land or structures connected to the land, used solely by boaters. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Forest Stewardship Grant

Funds are available to encourage the long-term stewardship of non-industrial private forest lands by assisting owners of such lands to more actively manage their forest and related resources utilizing existing State, Federal, and private sector resource management expertise and assistance programs as per U.S. Public Law 101-624, Title XII, and NR 47, Wis. Adm. Code. Natural resource agencies, organizations, and others interested in promoting the stewardship management of private non-industrial forest lands are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Bureau of Forestry. A 50% local match is preferred, but not necessary to qualify. Applications are due November 1 each year. Projects that are directed toward one or more of the following are eligible (this is not a priority ranking): 1) providing direct technical resource management assistance to landowners; 2) developing information and educational materials and programs on multi-resource stewardship for the general public and especially landowners; and 3) providing training and education materials to resource professionals that assist private landowners. Eligible types of projects include landowner workshops, management plan writing, field days, training sessions, direct landowner assistance and research. Contact Linda DePaul at (608) 266-2388.

Forest Stewardship Incentives (SIP)

Funds are available to private forest landowners to implement practices that protect, maintain, and enhance forest resources including wetlands, lakes and streams as per U.S. Public Law 101-624, Title XII, and NR 47, Wis. Adm. Code. Private non-industrial forest owners of at least ten acres, but not more than 1,000 acres who have an approved forest stewardship management plan are eligible to apply. Eligible landowners include: individuals, foreign owners, joint owners, American Indian Tribes or other native American groups, groups and associations, corporations without publicly traded stock and other private legal entities. There is a local match of up to 35% of the project costs with a maximum level stipulated in each specific practice. Application may be made at any time but are subject to a two month batching period for prioritization and funding of the highest priorities. Applications are available either from the Consolidated Farm Services Agency Office serving their county or the local DNR Forester's Office. Priorities are set by local DNR offices. The available practices are: 1) preparation of landowner Forest Stewardship plans; 2) tree planting; 3) forest stand improvement; 4) windbreak and shelterbelt planting; 5) soil and water protection and improvement; 6) riparian and wetland protection and improvement; 7) fisheries habitat improvement; and 8) wildlife habitat enhancement. Contact your county DNR Forester, or Linda DePaul at (608) 266-2388.

Ice Age Trail Maintenance

Funds are available for maintenance of the Ice Age Trail as per s. 20.370(1)(kb), Wis. Stats. and NR 51.74(6), Wis. Adm. Code. Counties, towns, cities, villages, and private non-profit groups are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Priorities include projects that provide for significant

public use, protect the resource or public safety or comfort, or portions of the trail owned by a local government or nonprofit conservation organization.

Eligible activities include brush clearing, mowing, signs, bridge and boardwalk replacement and repairs, surface repairs, winter grooming, etc. on Ice Age Trail segments owned or managed by the DNR, dedicated to the DNR and managed under contract with DNR or recognized by DNR and certified by the National Park Service. Funds are for maintenance and development of the trail. Matching funds of up to 50% for purchase or lease of equipment and materials are available. Labor is not an eligible expense and in-kind contributions are not eligible for match. Contact Janet Beach Hanson.

Lake Planning Grant

Funds are available to collect and analyze information needed to protect and restore lakes and their watersheds as per s. 281.68, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, non-profit groups and qualified lake associations, as defined in s.30.92(1)(br) and public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% up to a maximum of \$10,000 per grant. Applications due in region offices by February 1 and August 1 of each year. Types of projects include physical, chemical, biological, and sociological data collection, water quality assessment, and watershed evaluation including county-wide or regional initiatives. Contact your Regional Lakes Program Coordinator.

Lake Protection Grant

Funds are available to protect and improve the water quality of lakes and their ecosystems as per s. 281.69, Wis. Stats. Grants are available for purchasing land or easements, restoration of wetlands, development of local regulations to protect water quality, lake improvement activities called for in a Department approved plan, and countywide lake classification. Counties, towns, cities, villages, public authorities and qualified lake associations as defined in s. 30.92(1)(br), Wis. Stats., public inland lake districts, non-profit groups, and other local governmental units established for lake management are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. The state cost shares up to 75% of project costs not to exceed \$200,000. Applications are due in the Regional offices by May 1 of each year.

Priorities are set on a statewide basis (see ch. NR 191.08, Wis. Adm. Code) and consider the following factors: 1) lakes which have not previously received a lake protection grant; 2) the degree to which the project provides for the protection or improvement of water quality; 3) the degree to which the project provides for protection or improvement of other aspects of the natural ecosystem such as fish, wildlife or natural beauty; 4) the availability of public access to, and public use of the lakes; 5) the degree to which the proposed project complements other lake and watershed management efforts; 6) the level of support for the project from other affected management units; and 7) the level of financial support provided by the sponsor. Contact your Regional Lakes Program Coordinator.

Motorcycle Outdoor Recreation

Funds are available to provide trails, intensive use areas and related facilities for off-road motorcycles as per s. 23.09(25), Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There are different local matching requirements for different eligible components. Eligible types of projects include acquisition, development, insurance, maintenance of trails, intensive use areas and related facilities. Applications are due in the Department's central office by March 15 of each year. Contact Larry Freidig.

Recreational Boating Facilities

Funds are available for the construction of capital improvements to provide safe recreational boating facilities and for feasibility studies related to the development of safe recreational facilities as per s. 30.92, Wis. Stats. Counties, towns, cities, villages, sanitary districts, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation districts, and qualified lake associations are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. Cost sharing is provided up to 50% for feasibility studies, construction costs, and certain types of acquisition costs. An additional 10% may be available if a municipality conducts a boating safety enforcement and education program approved by the Department. Eligible projects include: 1) Facilities such as ramps and service docks required to gain access to the water; 2) structures such as bulkheads and breakwaters necessary to provide safe water conditions for boaters; 3) activities such as dredging to provide safe water depths for recreational boating. (Dredging is an eligible project only when it is associated with project development at the project site; maintenance dredging is not eligible.); 4) support facilities limited to parking lots, sanitary facilities and security lighting; 5) acquisition of equipment to cut and remove aquatic plants; 6) acquisition of equipment to collect and remove floating trash and debris from a waterway; 7) dredging of channels in waterways for recreational boating purposes (not more than once in ten years)(inland

waters); and 8) acquisition of aids to navigation and regulatory markers. These factors are considered in establishing priorities - distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities, demand for safe boating facilities, existing facilities, projects underway, commitment of funds, location of proposed project within the region identified in s. 25.29(7), Wis. Stats. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to local units of government through the transfer of federal gas excise taxes paid on fuel used in off-highway vehicles. Eligible sponsors may receive a grant for up to 80% of the total project costs of a recreational trail project. Eligible projects include maintenance and restoration of existing trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages, construction of new trails (with certain restrictions on Federal lands), and acquisition of easement or property for trails. Application forms are available from the Department. Funding priorities for motorized, non-motorized or compatible/multiple use trails is (in order of descending priority): rehabilitation of existing trails, trail maintenance, trail development, and trail acquisition. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Club Signs

Funds are available to provide free cardboard trail signs and reflective material to snowmobile clubs agreeing to open their trails to public use as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Funds are limited to no more than \$15,000 per year for the purchase of signs and reflective material. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Route Signs

Funds are available to provide costs for initial signing of snowmobile routes and trail crossing warning signs as per s. 23.09(26) and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Towns, cities, and villages are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. No local match is required, but state funding is limited to no more than \$30,000 per year for the route sign program. Applications are due in the Region offices by April 15 of each year for the following season. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Snowmobile Trail Aids

Funds are available to provide a statewide system of well-signed and well-groomed snowmobile trails for public use and enjoyment as per s. 23.09(26), and Chapter 350, Wis. Stats. Counties are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. 100% cost sharing is provided with limits on maintenance costs of \$250, and development costs of \$500 per mile. Applications are due in the appropriate Region Office by April 15 of each year. Eligible projects include maintenance of trails, which includes signing, brushing, and grooming of snowmobile trails, purchase of liability insurance and acquisition of short term easements, development of trails which may include general trail construction, bridges, gates and signs, major rehabilitation of existing snowmobile bridges and rehabilitation of existing trail segments. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Urban Green Space

Funds are available to provide open natural space in proximity to urban development, to protect from development land with scenic, ecological or natural values in urban areas, and to provide land for noncommercial gardening in urban areas as per s. 23.09(19) Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, lake districts, Indian tribes and nonprofit conservation organizations under s. 23.096 Wis. Stats. are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the appropriate Region office by May 1 of each year. Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

Urban Rivers Grant

Funds are available to improve outdoor recreation opportunities by increasing access to urban rivers for a variety of public uses, economic revitalization through the improvement of the environmental quality in urban river corridors, and preserving and revitalizing historical, cultural, or natural areas as per s. 30.277, Wis. Stats. Counties, Towns, Cities, Villages, and Tribal units of government are eligible to apply on forms provided by the Department. There is a 50% local match required. Applications are due in the Region office by May 1 of each year. Eligible projects include acquisition of urban riverfront land that is part of an outdoor recreation plan adopted by the local unit of government. Land which is specifically identified in a river corridor plan for economic revitalization and outdoor recreation.

Contact your Regional Community Services Specialist.

STATE PRIORITY RATINGS

The following is a summary of outdoor recreational priorities, which are taken from the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 2000-2005. Of the strategies discussed in this comprehensive plan, some require renewed efforts to establish partnerships and cooperation. Others require new ways of problem solving and increased research. Some strategies involve granting funds to local recreation providers to encourage them to address the issues discussed in this plan in a timely fashion. These funding actions should yield the greatest response for the dollar amount spent.

Issue I: Multiple Recreational Activities Competing For The Same Limited Recreation Resources

§ Prioritize funding to reward projects that provide recreation resources for new or emerging activities, especially in places where the proposed project might prevent user conflict.

§ Through the DNR's master planning process, evaluate the concept of leaving portions of properties undeveloped to provide more "wild" recreation opportunities.

§ Prioritize acquisition and development funding to favor those projects that alleviate an existing recreation use conflict. For example, a community may find that a stretch of trail is so popular with walkers, runners and in-line skaters that user safety is at risk. Funding for trail widening or development of parallel trails where such conflicts emerge may be preferred over creating entirely new trails.

Issue II: Changing Land Uses, Ownership And Regulations Are Reducing Recreational Opportunities And Diminishing Resource Quality.

§ In grant ranking systems, give priority to development and renovation projects that meet the needs and deficiencies defined in the SCORP, or in a locally adopted park and open space plan, or projects identified in the "Utilities and Community Facilities," or the "Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources" element of a local comprehensive plan (Wisconsin Act 9, Smart Growth Law, 66.0295(2)(d) and (2)(e), 1999). Award a lower grant percentage to those projects that are not included in a local comprehensive plan.

§ Prioritize funding to favor land purchases that protect those resources most threatened by land use changes. Land that offer the greatest potential for providing recreation should be preserved now, especially those near urban centers, before land values escalate even higher. Waterfront parcels throughout the state are under pressure for second-home development and should also be a high priority in acquisition plans. For example, DNR's Northern Initiative Lakes and Shorelands Report (DNR, January 1999) identifies the lakes, rivers and streams with the highest ecological significance in Wisconsin's 20 northern counties that should be protected through voluntary conservation actions. These parcels should have priority for grants to local units of government and purchase by the DNR.

Issue III: Financial Resources Are Increasingly Strained To Meet The Cost Of Operating And Maintaining Recreation Resources

§ Favor development spending on innovative building and landscape designs that reduce expenses, such as xeriscaping, which involves planting low-maintenance vegetation that requires little water; life-cycle engineering, which involves purchasing low-maintenance building products, such as stone and brick, that might be initially more expensive, but cost less to maintain; and sustainable energy systems, such as solar and wind power. The life span of the product and cost of maintenance should be considered in addition to the purchase price. Projects that protect water quality by integrating best-management practices such as storm water detention basins or stream bank buffers should also be given preference.

§ Award funding to projects that fully recognize needed maintenance and operation costs and include plans for funding such costs.

\$ Prioritize development and acquisition funding to reward projects that draw upon nearby resources and cooperation to minimize future operation and maintenance spending. For instance, a proposal to build a community park would be more desirable if volunteer efforts, such as contributions of labor for maintenance, were incorporated into the proposal.

Issue IV: Overall, People Lack Outdoor Skills And Ethics And Knowledge Of Available Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

\$ Prioritize acquisition and development funding to reward those projects that provide “outdoor classroom” type spaces for learning outdoor skills, ethics and resource stewardship. Projects that highlight mentoring programs for outdoor recreation activities should also be given priority.

Issue V: DNR Should Provide Leadership In Planning For Outdoor Recreation Activities

\$ Give priority to creative recreational projects that protect natural resources by virtue of their design.

\$ Encourage the restoration of environmentally degraded areas for recreational activities.

\$ Prioritize development and acquisition funding to reward projects that are based in partnerships. For example, the National Resource Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Program has partnered with local units of government to purchase land. The NRCS might also partner with a unit of government to keep erosion-prone lands in vegetative cover. A municipality might form a partnership with the DNR to complete a trail project, or a civic group might provide labor to a local governmental unit for a community project.

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