

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

OUTDOOR RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM

June 24, 2024



The Missouri Department of Conservation's (MDC) Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure is a **reimbursement**-based grant program for enhancing public access and opportunities for citizen engagement in conservation-related outdoor recreation through the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure. Funding will be based on available funds, viability of the proposal, and the extent to which the project advances MDC's goal to connect people to nature through conservation-related activities. Projects submitted will be scored using the attached "Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Grant - Project Scoring Sheet" and will be further evaluated and ranked by Department staff.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS AND PROJECT TYPES

This grant can be used by nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service or organized under Chapter 355 of the Missouri Nonprofit Corporation Act, counties, municipalities, cities, towns, and townships, school districts, agencies or instrumentalities of local governments and special districts established under Missouri law. Best management practices will be required to minimize impacts to habitats and to control sedimentation/erosion.

Applicants will be asked to identify their project with one of the following:

❖ **Planning and Design**

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 of MDC reimbursement to share at least 50% of the cost of planning and design of infrastructure projects. Additional funds could be available for higher cost share depending on geographic locations and approval from MDC.

❖ **Light Infrastructure Project**

Applicants can apply for up to \$100,000 of MDC reimbursement to share at least 50% of the cost of infrastructure projects that, due to their nature, would not require a licensed design professional (RSMo 327) to design. Additional funds could be available for higher cost share depending on geographic locations and approval from MDC. Examples of such projects could be installation of a natural or aggregate surface trail, trail maintenance, installation of small items like benches or tables, or other projects that do not include concrete or other heavy construction work. MDC staff can assist in consulting with partners to determine if their project qualifies as a Light Infrastructure Project.

❖ **Heavy Infrastructure Project**

Applicants can apply for up to \$300,000 of MDC reimbursement to share at least 50% of the cost of infrastructure projects that, due to their nature, would require a licensed design professional (RSMo 327) to design. Additional funds could be available for higher cost share depending on geographic locations and approval from MDC. Examples of such projects could include construction of a pavilion, installation of a boat ramp, creating a concrete trail, or other projects that include concrete or other heavy construction work. Successful applicants will be required to show verification of work by the Missouri-licensed engineer for the project before reimbursement will be issued.

FUNDING LEVELS

Successful applicants are expected to provide at least 50% (1:1) match (in-kind match is allowed for non-maintenance activities) for the entire scope of the proposal. The Missouri Department of Conservation has established Community Conservation Tiers to help prioritize underserved areas of the state. Find the tiers [HERE: https://tinyurl.com/pzvmctad](https://tinyurl.com/pzvmctad) Depending on the location of the project, funding levels could change:

- For projects within a **Tier 2** community, applicants could receive up to **75%** reimbursement.
- For projects within a **Tier 1** community, applicants could receive up to **90%** reimbursement and receive up-front funding as opposed to reimbursement with demonstrated need.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Applications shall specify a projected timeline and budget which will detail deliverables, projected completion date, and funding needs at each stage.
- Any opinion of probable cost must include a cost contingency.
- Proof of property ownership or a tentative agreement with the controlling party will be required.
- Applications should include a maintenance plan for any new infrastructure.
- Applicants will be required to explain ADA compliance in their project or provide the ADA exemption or reason why the ADA is not applicable to the project.

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT

WHAT IT IS....

- For projects that are focused on providing opportunities for people to connect to nature through conservation-related outdoor recreation.
- For projects that will remain open to the general public
- Possible projects could include, but are not limited to, an outdoor community archery range, a community trail system that connects urban residents to natural habitats, an outdoor pavilion, or a public fishing dock.
- Projects must meet all federal, state, and local laws including the ADA where applicable.

WHAT IT IS NOT....

- Proposals to acquire land or conservation easements should instead be directed to MDC's Land Acquisition Program or Conservation Easement Assistance Program.
- Habitat enhancements that are not connected with outdoor recreation should be directed to MDC's Landowner and Community Assistance Program.
- For projects that wish to use asphalt, concrete will be required.
- Establishing electrical, sewer, or water services to the project site will not be eligible for reimbursement.

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

- Successful applicants will be assigned a local point of contact to develop an agreement with MDC. Work completed before the agreement is signed will not be eligible for reimbursement.
- Projects shall include signage provided by the department indicating that the project was made possible, in part, through assistance from the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Partners will be expected to maintain public access and maintain goods and infrastructure for a minimum of 15 years, unless otherwise negotiated.

For any questions about this grant, please contact the Recreational Use Specialist for the region covering the location of the proposed project:



Region	Specialist	Contact
Northwest Kansas City	Alek Lanter	816-525-0300 x1229 Alek.Lanter@mdc.mo.gov
Northeast Central	Tyler Blake	660-785-2420 x6508 Tyler.Blake@mdc.mo.gov
St. Louis	Lafe Schweissguth	636-441-4554 x4177 Lafe.Schweissguth@mdc.mo.gov
Southeast	Bridget Jackson	573-290-5730 x4490 Bridget.Jackson@mdc.mo.gov
Ozark	Cody McKee	417-256-7161 x4760 Cody.Mckee@mdc.mo.gov
Southwest	Phillip Stearns	417-895-6881 x1622 Phillip.Stearns@mdc.mo.gov

**Please submit application (attached) to:
Jake.Buxton@mdc.mo.gov**

Application must be complete and received by August 9, 2024, to be considered for this RFP.