



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Trail Program deadlines approaching

OWENSBORO, KY — In celebration of June being **Great Outdoors Month**, the Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is spotlighting two major grant opportunities that help communities expand and improve access to outdoor recreation: the **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** and the **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)**. Both programs are accepting applications now, with a **deadline of June 15th**.

Both the LWCF and RTP have made a significant impact across the GRADD region. Since 1969, the region has benefited from **146 LWCF-funded projects**, receiving **\$6,367,683.12** in federal funding and supporting a total of **\$13,258,725.51** in project costs.

Since 1996, **54 RTP-funded projects** have been completed in the GRADD region, with **\$1,563,198.00** in federal RTP funding supporting **\$3,496,134.00** in total project costs.

"The Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Recreational Trails Program have been transformative for our counties," says Public Administration Specialist Tiffany Donahue. "These investments not only protect vital natural spaces but also expand recreational opportunities, improve public health and boost local economies. From building new trails to enhancing neighborhood parks through renovations of playgrounds, splashpads, ball fields and courts, these programs strengthen the connection between people and the outdoors, ensuring equitable access for generations to come."

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The LWCF provides **federal grant funds** to protect important natural areas, acquire land for outdoor recreation, and develop or renovate public outdoor recreation facilities.

- **Who Can Apply:** Cities, counties, state and federal agencies
- **Grant Amounts:** \$25,000 – \$1,000,000
- **Match Requirement:** 50% reimbursement
- **Eligible Projects:** Campgrounds, picnic areas, sports and playfields, swimming facilities, boating and fishing access, trails, natural areas, passive parks, and ADA-accessible outdoor recreation features (such as trails, playgrounds, and restrooms)

- **Project Examples:** Renovate existing facilities (e.g., bathrooms, concession areas), replace outdated amenities (such as upgrading old playgrounds), develop new recreational spaces (like pickleball courts), acquire land for outdoor use, or install ADA-accessible amenities (e.g., wheelchair-friendly trails, inclusive playground equipment, accessible seating and restrooms)

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

The RTP supports the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trailhead facilities for both motorized and non-motorized use. All trails that receive funding must be open to the public and maintained in perpetuity.

- **Who Can Apply:** Cities, counties, state and federal agencies (nonprofits must partner with a governmental entity)
- **Grant Amounts:** \$25,000 – \$250,000
- **Match Requirement:** 20% reimbursement
- **Eligible Projects:** Acquisition of easements, trail construction, trail maintenance, trailheads, and signage
- **Project Examples:** Build or maintain hiking, biking, equestrian, or ATV trails; install trailhead facilities such as restrooms, parking, or informational kiosks

For more information contact,
Tiffany Donahue
300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301
(270) 926-4433
tiffanydonahue@gradd.com

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) is a regional planning agency and council of governments serving the communities of Daviess, Hancock, Henderson, McLean, Ohio, Union, and Webster counties. GRADD offers assistance in the fields of aging, health, and social services; community and economic development; transportation planning; and workforce development. Our mission is to afford local governments and citizens a regional forum to identify issues and opportunities, and to provide leadership in planning and implementing programs to improve the quality of life in our district.

300 GRADD Way, Owensboro, KY 42301 | www.GRADD.com | 270.926.4433