

grants outlook 2008

Grant Program Updates and Facility Trends in OSLAD Projects

by the staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Division of Grant Administration

Starting in January 2008, local park, recreation and conservation agencies will have the ability to complete and submit applications to IDNR electronically using the online process for all grant programs under the Division of Grant Administration. The most recent programs added are all the Illinois Trails Grant Programs, which include the Bike Path Program, Local Government Snowmobile Program, Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF), Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) and the federal Recreational Trails (RTP) Program.

Your agency can apply for funding assistance on the following department Web site: <http://dnr.state.il.us/ocd/gaoutnew.htm>.

Help Update the Illinois Recreation Facilities Inventory

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has recently contracted with the University of Illinois' Office of Recreation and Park Resources (ORPR) to update the Illinois Recreation Facilities Inventory (IRFI). To ensure statewide recreation equity, the IRFI provides valuable information that compares community facility needs to state per capita averages.

As a reminder, please respond to any communications from the ORPR regarding the assessment of your agency's outdoor recreation facilities in a timely manner. IDNR intends to include this new information as part of our evaluation tool for the upcoming OSLAD application round (July 1, 2008 deadline).

Facility Trends as Gleaned from OSLAD Grant Program Requests

The Division of Grant Administration has recently conducted research that identifies some interesting facility trends over the last five years in Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant program applications.

As you know, the OSLAD program has experienced tremendous growth in funding ability and agency participation in recent years, and, during each funding cycle, the staff has observed an increase in innovation and creative designs for project components. Projects submitted continue to offer a dynamic diversity of elements that include a variety of physical, mental and social play opportunities for recreation facility users.

All of the following facilities are eligible for funding, but remember that proposing multiple recreation elements in an OSLAD application will be more competitive.

Wetland Education Facilities

Within the last two years, the OSLAD program has seen a definite increase in the number of facilities that promote environmental and wetland studies, such as interpretive trails, wildlife observation stations, wetland enhancements and prairie restorations.

Multi-Use Trails

Multi-use trails show up at the top of every agency's recreational use survey, and rightfully so because of their popularity with all age groups. Since 2005, applicants have increased their requests for funding bike trail connectors in parks, walking and jogging paths and city-wide multi-use trails.

There has been a 66 percent increase in the development of fitness and exercise stations along these trails over the last three funding cycles. The wooden structures that were once popular in the 1970s have been replaced with protected and coated metal materials and innovative designs to provide a variety of cardio exercise activities developed especially for senior citizens.

Spray Play Areas

Whether you label them spray grounds, water playgrounds or splash pads, these water play areas with interactive play features have become a great investment for many communities because of the low cost-to-benefit ratio. The OSLAD program has funded more than forty of these facilities since 2003.

Lawn Game Areas

Requests for developing pitches for lawn games (bocce ball in particular) have increased dramatically since 2005. Other activities, such as shuffle board, bag-o, croquet and horseshoe pits, have been

incorporated into many park designs as senior activity areas that provide opportunities for participation in lifelong leisure activities.

Dog Parks

In closing, the staff would be remiss if we did not include the somewhat controversial facility included in recent applications – dog parks. Yes, we have funded those facilities, but have limited IDNR's cost share for funding dog parks.

Research tells us that locally there are a few important questions to consider. In what park do you locate the facility: a neighborhood park or community park? Are there health risks? What about maintenance of these facilities? Who will monitor the park and enforce local rules and permitting? What about resident verses non-resident use?

Weigh the pros and cons. We're sure you'll make the right decision. Good luck!

The table on pages 18-19 outlines the facts associated with all IDNR grant programs.

Major Grant Programs - Fiscal Year 2008

	Available Funds	Requested	Funded
OSLAD / LWCF	\$	\$34,900,000	(1)
Bike Path	\$3,000,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,000,000
Boat Access	\$725,000	\$1,642,900	(1)

Note (1) Application review still underway at press time

FISCAL YEAR 2009 STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

Program Title	Boat Access Area Development	Boating Infrastructure	Clean Vessel	Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program	Illinois Bicycle Path Grant	Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund
Acronym/ Nickname	BAAD	BIGP	CVA	C2000	BIKE PATH	_____
Purpose	Acquire and develop public boat access areas	Develop and maintain facilities for transient, non-trailerable recreation boats	Construct and renovate pump-out and dump stations at boat access areas	Provide financial and technical assistance for Ecosystem Partnerships	Acquire and develop local areas for public non-motorized bike paths	Management; site inventories; or education related to stewardship of land, water, plants and animals
Administrative Agency	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division	Division of Grant Administration	Federal Aid/ Special Funds	Federal Aid/ Special Funds	Office of Realty & Environmental Planning	Division of Grant Administration	Division of Natural Heritage
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Funding Formula and Source	Up to 90% Acq. Up to 100% Dev. State Funding	Up to 75% Federal Funding	Up to 75% Federal Funding	Up to 100% State Funding	Up to 50% State Funding	Up to 100% State Funding
Max	\$200,000 motorized \$80,000 non-motorized	Tier 1: \$50,000 Tier 2: Not yet determined	\$50,000	None	Acq. None Dev. \$200,000	\$2,000
Annual Application Deadline	September 1 Noon	October 15	N/A	Last Business Day of February	March 1 Noon	April 1 5:00 p.m.
Payment Method	Reimbursement of approved and accrued costs	Reimbursement	Reimbursement	Varies	Reimbursement after project completed	Reimbursement
Eligibility	Local units of government	Local units of government and others	Local units of government and others	Individuals, units of government, organizations, corporations residing within an Ecosystems Partnership area	Local units of government	Individuals, organizations, corporations, schools, local government
Available Funds FY08	\$725,000	Tier 1: \$100,000 (state allocation) Tier 2: Compete Nationally	\$100,000	To be announced fall 2008	\$3,000,000	\$40,000

* 1 Unknown at this time

FOR PARKS, RECREATION, CONSERVATION LANDS & FACILITIES

Land and Water Conservation Fund	Local Government Snowmobile	Off-highway Vehicle Recreation Trails Program	Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development	Recreational Trails Program	Urban & Community Forestry Grants/ Inner City Funds
LWCF	SNOW	OHV	OSLAD	RTP	UCFG/ICE RFP
Acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas	Acquire, develop and rehabilitate, operate and maintain public areas for snowmobiling	Acquire, develop, operate and maintain off-highway vehicle parks and trails	Acquire and develop outdoor recreation areas	Develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related projects	Assist local units of government to create or enhance local forestry programs
Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Grant Administration	Division of Grant Administration	Division of Grant Administration	Division of Grant Administration	Division of Grant Administration	Division of Forest Resources
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Up to 50% Federal Funds	Up to 100% Dev. Up to 90% Acq. State Funding	Up to 100% State Funding	Up to 50% State Funding	Up to 80% Federal Funding	Up to 50% State Funding
Acq. \$750,000	None	None	Acq. \$750,000, Dev. \$400,000	None	No more than 5% of total available funds
July 1 Noon	May 1 Noon	March 1 Noon	July 1 Noon	March 1 Noon	to be announced see: http://dnr.state.il.us/conservation/forestry/Urban/grantoppor.htm
Reimbursement after project completed	Reimbursement after project completed	Reimbursement after project completed	Reimbursement after project completed	Reimbursement	Reimbursement after project completed
State and local units of government	Local units of government	Local units of government, private organizations, individuals	Local units of government	Federal, state and local government, private organizations	Units of government with forestry ordinances
(*1) _____	\$120,000	\$600,000	(*1) _____	\$1,400,000	\$75,000-\$100,000 (Approximate Total)