



Iowa Dept of Natural Resources Iowa Water Trails

Iowa Water Trails Grant Program

Enhancement Grant Application (rev.04-27-11)

(For existing water trails or water trails under development)

INTRODUCTION

The Iowa Legislature annually appropriates funds under Iowa Code section 452A.79. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Iowa DNR) Conservation and Recreation Bureau under Chapter 30 of 571 Iowa Administrative Code will target a portion of these funds toward the water trails mini-granting program. The program targets an annual total of \$50,000 to implement a water trail program. **\$32,000** is available for *enhancements* to water trail projects that either have been state designated or are on track to becoming state designated. These funds are available to local governments (city, county, school) and service organizations to create water trails on rivers, lakes, sloughs and other waterways in Iowa.

What is a water trail?

Water trails enhance recreational experiences for all water recreation enthusiasts, including but certainly not limited to canoeists and kayakers. A water trail is defined as an on-water point-to-point travel system with multiple access points, and a recommended route connecting the points. On a river or stream, this may allow for downstream travel. On a lake, a water trail might hug a shoreline and include open-water crossings at strategic points. Lake/marsh trail systems connected by portages are another possibility, as are whitewater trails that link rapids into a more adventurous journey. Improving specific attractions, such as whitewater play spots, are eligible for grants under this program.

Generally, water trails should include the following features:

- Multiple launches spaced at reasonable distances, depending on the body of water and resource management needs.
- Way-finding signage, including signs along nearby highways directing users to access points, locator signs on bridge sides visible from the waterway, warning signs for hazards, signs indicating distance to next access, and water trail signs at each access.
- Informational kiosks with maps that clarify and enrich the water experience for recreational users.
- Designated campsites or dispersed camping easily accessible from the waterway, either in remote locations or at parks.

- Depending on the character of the waterway, restroom facilities spaced reasonable distances apart may be an amenity, especially for urban areas or rivers expected to receive high traffic.
- Safety considerations, such as portages around hazards or obstacles, with removal or modification of dangerous unnatural features (i.e., low-head dams).

Important information

- Your local entity assumes maintenance of water trail facilities.
- Projects that leverage other funds score favorably.
- For funds to be disbursed, your local entity must enter into a project agreement with the Iowa DNR, which details requirements and commitments your organization will keep.
- Up to 90 percent of your award can be provided up front, if requested. The remainder is reimbursable by the Department of Natural Resources after expenditure is complete.
- Enhancement Funds must be applied to intended use within two (2) years of award. If not, an extension must be filed including adequate justification, or funds must be repaid to the Iowa DNR. Extensions can be granted under some, but not all, circumstances.
- One year after you receive an award letter, your organization must file a Midterm report on project progress to date.
- You must file a final report to receive your final percentage of funds.
- Grantees should give Iowa businesses priority, when possible, in contracting labor or purchasing materials.
- Administering organizations are required to keep all project records for three years after the final report is completed. These records are to be available for audit by the state.
- Any deviation from the project outlined in your application must be confirmed in writing in advance by the Iowa DNR Water Trails coordinator.

- For large projects, applicants should consider funding constraints for this program, and adjust requests to be supplemental to the project.

Timeline

- Applications must be postmarked by the date listed on the Iowa DNR website.
- Grant designations will be announced within 60 days of the grant deadline.
- The earliest possible disbursement date is July 1 of each fiscal year.
- Applicants need to meet the requirements for construction permits from federal, state and local authorities before constructing their projects. Receipt of state funding does not eliminate the need for appropriate construction permits.

How will grant awards be determined?

Iowa's waters are surrounded by a diverse mix of landscapes, habitats, and experiences. This program rewards projects that present what is unique about a given waterway. Examples might include natural places in urban areas, wilderness experiences, multi-day trip experiences, adventurous journeys on more challenging waterways, and so on. This grant program is intended to assist non-profit organizations and local units of government overcome barriers in creating water trails, including matching funds, design, construction, and maintenance projects. These funds are not intended to address access and safety improvements at single locations, unless it can be shown that a single project can significantly enhance an existing or planned water trail.

Applications will be scored by three Iowa DNR staff and two appointed representatives of the water recreation community. From the highest-scoring grant applications, the scoring committee will meet to select projects on the basis of available funding and positive impact anticipated for Iowa's waterways.

Tools available

To assist with development of water trails, the Iowa DNR provides an online Water Trails Development Toolkit at www.iowadnr.gov/riverprograms/watertrails, which includes numerous templates. You may request a CD, which has additional tools not available online. There is substantial information here, including design guidelines for adhering to the Americans with Disabilities Act, when appropriate.

Please send six copies of your grant application to:

John Wenck
Water Trails Coordinator
Iowa DNR
Wallace State Office Building
502 E 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

Questions may be addressed to:

John Wenck
Water Trails Coordinator
515-281-8969
john.wenck@dnr.iowa.gov

Local governments (cities, counties, school districts) and service organizations with 501(c)(3) status are eligible. Service organizations lacking 501(c)(3) status can attain eligibility by involving their local government or other non-profit groups in the holding of funds. In such a case, the grant application should be made by the group or unit of government that will hold the funds, and reference the non-tax exempt group leading the effort.

For specific information concerning purchasing of tools, materials, or services, please contact the Iowa DNR Water Trails Coordinator. The Iowa DNR does not make or imply any guarantees from the information found in this application or persons contacted.

Application checklist:

- _ A. APPLICATION FORM with full contact information

- _ B. Electronic submission of completed Water Trail Planning Form (Excel Spreadsheet), or if your water trail has already been designated, the Designated Water Trail Form (excel spreadsheet). You can access the forms at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/riverprograms/watertrails.html>. For GIS files, including the DNR's river mile numbers for use at accesses and bridges, please contact John Wenck at john.wenck@dnr.iowa.gov.

- _ C. A locator MAP identifying the location of the project in Iowa, and a SKETCH-PLAN(s) or map of the trail project(s).

- _ D. NARRATIVE assessing existing conditions, outlining the concept of the proposed project. Describe the current status of your project, relating what has been accomplished, what is still outstanding and how the enhancement funds will help you achieve your overall goals.

_ E. Responses to APPLICATION RANKING CRITERIA listed below.

_ F. An ITEMIZED BREAKDOWN of the enhancement project costs and, if applicable, the portion this grant is expected to fund.

_ G. A TIME SCHEDULE for the total project development, and when funds from the enhancement grant are expected to be spent.

_ H. A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING from *each* public land manager where construction will take place and/or signs will be installed, including long-term commitments to maintain their portions of trail.

_ I. MINORITY IMPACT STATEMENT.

_ J. PROOF OF STATUS. If you are a 501(c)(3) non-profit or similar organization, attach Internal Revenue Service approval letter. If applicant is a unit of government or non-profit organization applying as responsible agent for other groups, list local groups involved.

A. IOWA WATER TRAILS PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT NAME

APPLICANT NAME

CONTACT PERSON

ADDRESS (street address required)

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE (day)

PHONE (evening)

E-MAIL

TOTAL IOWA DNR WATER TRAILS ENHANCEMENT GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$
FUNDS SECURED FROM OTHER SOURCES	\$
FUNDS NEEDED FROM OTHER SOURCES	\$
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	\$

NOTE: A MINIMUM 20-PERCENT NON-STATE COST-SHARE IS NOW REQUIRED (IN-KIND LABOR AND/OR SERVICES **DOES** COUNT TOWARD COST-SHARE)

LENGTH (IN MILES) OF EXISTING OR PROPOSED WATER TRAIL

B. Electronic submission of Water Trails Planning form or Water Trails Designation Form to john.wenck@dnr.iowa.gov.

You can access the forms at <http://www.iowadnr.gov/riverprograms/watertrails.html>.

C. Maps

A locator MAP identifying the location of the project in Iowa, and a SKETCH-PLAN(s) or map of the overall water trail project(s).

D. Narrative

Assess existing conditions and outline the concept of the proposed project. Describe the current status of your project, relating what has been accomplished, what is still outstanding and how the enhancement funds will help you achieve your overall goals.

E. Application Ranking Criteria

This application is for water trails that have already received state designation or are on track toward state designation. It is not intended as minor maintenance supplemental funding, but for upgrades, additional amenities, or major refurbishment of existing facilities, such as accesses or parking areas. Applications will be reviewed on a 100-point scoring system. Point values have been assigned to the various questions in the application as indicated below. Please be concise; limit responses to a maximum of 250 words per question.

- 1) How will enhancements assist transition to new water trails roadside signage? (10 points)
- 2) How will enhancements assist transition to new low-head dam warning signage system? (20 points)
- 3) How will the project lead toward more sustainable infrastructure (access, parking, signage, other) or more efficient maintenance? (20 points)
- 4) Describe your management goals for the various segments of water trail (gateway, recreation, challenge, or wilderness). How will the project enhance management goals and implementation of the water trail? (10 points)
- 5) Is your water trail state-designated? (20 points)
- 6) Is the primary purpose of this project to enhance safety or correct a safety problem on your water trail? Describe how safety will be enhanced. (20 points)

F. Itemized Breakdown of Total Project Costs

If applicable, list the portion of expenses this grant is expected to fund.

G. Time Schedule

List expected project milestones for total project development, and when funds from this grant program are expected to be spent.

H. Memorandums of Understanding

For each public land management unit that is not the applicant, but controls a portion of the water trail, attach a Memorandum of Understanding outlining construction that will take place, signage that will be installed, and long-term commitments to maintain respective portions of trail (launches, landings, portages, signage, amenities) by each entity.

I. Minority Impact Statement

Pursuant to 2008 Iowa Acts, HF 2393, Iowa Code Section 8.11, all grant applications submitted to the State of Iowa which are due beginning January 1, 2009 shall include a Minority Impact Statement. This is the state's mechanism to require grant applicants to consider the potential impact of the grant project's proposed programs or policies on minority groups.

Please choose the statement(s) that pertains to this grant application. Complete all the information requested for the chosen statement(s).

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **positive** impact on minority persons.

Describe the positive impact expected from this project

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women
- Persons with a Disability
- Blacks
- Latinos
- Asians
- Pacific Islanders
- American Indians
- Alaskan Native Americans
- Other

- The proposed grant project programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique **negative** impact on minority persons.

Describe the negative impact expected from this project

Present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.

Provide evidence of consultation of representatives of the minority groups impacted.

Indicate which group is impacted:

- Women
- Persons with a Disability
- Blacks
- Latinos
- Asians
- Pacific Islanders
- American Indians
- Alaskan Native Americans
- Other

- The proposed grant project programs or policies are **not expected to have** a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

Present the rationale for determining no impact.

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge: Name: _____

Title: _____

Definitions

“Minority Persons”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, mean individuals who are women, persons with a disability, Blacks, Latinos, Asians or Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaskan Native Americans.

“Disability”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 15.102, subsection 5, paragraph “b”, subparagraph (1):
b. As used in this subsection:

(1) *“Disability”* means, with respect to an individual, a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, a record of physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual, or being regarded as an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of the individual.

“Disability” does not include any of the following:

- (a) Homosexuality or bisexuality.
- (b) Transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments or other sexual behavior disorders.
- (c) Compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania.
- (d) Psychoactive substance abuse disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

“State Agency”, as defined in Iowa Code Section 8.11, means a department, board, bureau, commission, or other agency or authority of the State of Iowa.

K. Proof of Status

If you are a 501(c)3 non-profit or similar organization, attach Internal Revenue Service approval letter. If applicant is a unit of government or non-profit organization applying as responsible agent for other groups, list all groups involved. _____

Attachment A

<p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES MIDTERM PROJECT REPORT</p>
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For Programs: LWCF REAP WRAC ATV Snowmobile REAP Ed **Water Trails** Low-head Dam Safety

If you have questions, please contact the Budget & Finance Bureau at 515-281-3013. Make additional copies as needed.

This form is due _____ and is required for all projects NOT filing a final report before that date.

Grant Recipient:

Grant #:

Project Title:

Billing #: _____

Do you still plan to complete this project?

Are there any unexpected problems with your project are being encountered? Please describe.

Are there delays due to waiting for additional funds from other sources or using these funds to help match another grant program? Please describe.

What is your timeline for completing this project?

I certify that this statement is correct and that the work and services are in accord with the approved grant.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Fed ID#: _____

