



Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission
Connecting People to the Outdoors Small Grant Fund
Deadline: May 31, 2022

Purpose: Inspiring creative and innovative ideas to make Greater Minnesota parks and trails more accessible and welcoming to all.

Release Date: February 1, 2022

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Program Goals:

- I. Foster creative thinking for Connecting People to the Outdoors projects or programs
- II. Encourage partnerships, both within and outside the Greater Minnesota regional system (see sample projects below)

Fund Availability:

Approximately \$212,000 total statewide; each of the 6 GMRPTC districts will have a targeted distribution of \$35,300 for projects in that district. This is a special one-time only opportunity.

Eligibility: Only Greater Minnesota regionally designated facilities are eligible to apply. Partnerships among designated facilities are encouraged but not required.

Match: Encouraged, but not required.

Allowable Activities: All project funds must be used for programming or outreach activities, such as programming staff or contract workers, transportation, accessibility enhancements, or recreation equipment. At least a portion of each project activity must be provided on a free-to-access basis. Applicants must meet the Commission's regular project eligibility guidelines as well as its Policy for Non-Infrastructure Projects:

https://www.gmrptcommission.org/uploads/5/1/2/9/51294637/project_mgmt_policy_2021_final.pdf

Application: A written application form is attached to this information sheet and on the GMRPTC website. This application is not available through the Commission's online Data Management System. Complete applications, including an official resolution (see template) from the governing body, must be submitted by 5:00pm May 31, 2022 to coordinator@gmrptcommission.org.

Project Timeline: Successful applicants will be notified by July 1, 2022. Contract will be finalized upon completion of a detailed project plan. Grant and matching funds must be spent by June 30, 2025.

Sample Project Ideas

Partner with a school or non-profit to provide outdoor education; Create a focus group or advisory committee for a new or underserved group; Hold arts or playhouse activities; Teach kids lifelong recreation skills; Form a partnership project with a relevant group or organization such as a tribe or advocacy organization; Purchase outdoor recreation rental equipment (with free use opportunities) and train on its use across multiple regional facilities; Whatever is needed to build access for all

Selection: The Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission is responsible for awarding project applications with input from each District's Commissioners. Project selection will be based on each applicant's ability to meet Program Goals.

Questions? Please contact GMRPTC System Plan Coordinator Joe Czapiewski at coordinator@gmrptcommission.org or Executive Director Renee Mattson at renee.mattson@gmrptcommission.org.