



GRANT GUIDELINES - WHO AND WHAT WE FUND

The Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation (MSTPF) partners with entities on projects and efforts that expand and enhance the valley's trail network and parks. The foundation considers applications for financial assistance on a competitive basis twice per year as funding availability allows. Before submitting an application, potential partners are encouraged to learn more about our priorities by reviewing the foundation's "Master Plan" or contact staff directly to discuss their project.

New Grant Program Opportunity:

New grant category for Field Training/Education ~ Up to \$2,000: Organizations wishing to conduct on-site classes/field course training for sustainable trail design and construction may apply. Grantees may seek multiple awards throughout year after they have completed their workshop. These grants are not intended as sponsorships for conferences. Applicants should contact MSTPF staff to ensure eligibility.

New for 2017 ~ The MSTPF Trails and Parks Grants will now provide the opportunity for eligible organizations to apply for grants up to \$50,000.00. There will however be new requirements that applications will be evaluated on as outlined below.

Please note the **new match requirements**. While match is not required at all levels we highly encourage match, whereas match improves the applications overall ranking. Where match is required for grants above \$30,000.00 applications that do not meet this requirement will not be reviewed.

- A. \$10,000 and below. ~ No match required, however, match is encouraged.
- B. \$10,001 - \$30,000 ~ **Minimum Match of 2:1 highly encouraged**. Cash or In-kind (i.e., \$2 grant dollars for every dollar of cash or in-kind match. In-kind grantee volunteer hours limited to \$26 per hour. Contractors willing to donate time not associated with the grantee may do so at the rate they would normally charge.)
- C. \$30,000 - \$50,000 ~ **Minimum Match of 1:1 required**. Cash and In-kind match accepted. In-kind match should not exceed 50% of total match. Same in-kind terms as above. Projects in this category will **only** be considered for trail connector projects.

Who We Fund:

Prospective grantees must be legal entities, provide services or benefits to Mat-Su area residents and have a tax identification number (EIN) to qualify for grants:

- Non-profits
- Alaska Native Non-Profit Organization
- Federally Recognized Tribe
- Government Entity or Community Council
- Religious Organization
- Service organization

Who We Do Not Fund:

- Individuals
- For-profit organizations
- Private foundations
- Organizations with a major purpose of influencing legislation or supporting candidates for political or appointed office
- Organizations that discriminate by reason of race, religion, gender, national origin, or political orientation

Multiple Open Grants:

An applicant may not apply for funding for a project that is currently under a grant agreement with MSTPF for the next phase of the same project. However, an applicant who is currently receiving grant funds may apply for a different project not related to the currently funded project. Applications will only be considered from eligible entities whose existing projects are on schedule, current with their reporting, and within the 18-month project timeline. Any deviations or extenuating circumstances must be documented in writing for board review prior to submitting a letter of intent or application.

An applicant may apply for funds for a previously funded project (i.e., Phase II) once the existing grant has been closed.

The applicant can request a variance from this policy, however, consideration of such a request is at the sole discretion of the Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation Board of Directors.

Who Receives Priority:

MSTPF supports organizations and collaborative efforts that advance quality trails and parks in the Mat-Su Borough. The MSTPF is particularly interested in supporting organizations that:

- Have track records of project and grant performance
- Demonstrate a high degree of organizational capacity
- Have a strong and engaged board, staff and/or volunteer leadership

What Types of Projects We Fund:

- New trails and parks
- Physical improvements or development of trails and trailheads
- Trail, park and playground amenities, equipment and signage
- Planning and surveying

What Types of Projects We Do Not Fund:

- Private trails or parks
- Projects on private property without legal easement
- Loans
- Endowments
- Fundraising events or tournaments
- Reimbursement for items in a completed project or items already purchased
- Ongoing operations or program funding
- Indirect rates or costs not associated with the proposed project

What Receives Priority:

- Projects that enhance connectivity within the Mat-Su area trail and park system
- Projects that fit criteria of MSTPF's Master Plan or other community or council plan
- Proposals that include a plan for maintenance
- Proposals providing direct and in-kind match
- Opportunities to leverage resources amongst organizations and user groups
- Urgent need or importance identified by community stakeholders

How to Apply

Eligible organizations should submit a full application on or before the deadline. An organization may only have one grant awarded during a specific grant cycle. Only one project from each organization may move forward to during the grant process within each funding cycle.

If you have a question about the eligibility of your organization or other granting guidelines, and to request a Letter of Interest form, please contact us at info@matsutrails.org or 907-746-8757

- See more at: www.matsutrails.org