

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

National Trails System & National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

Deadline: Applications are due no later than **COB Friday, August 4th, 2023**

Overview:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, national rivers and trails across the U.S experienced significant setbacks ranging from event and program cancelations to decreased volunteer engagement. In response, in 2021 the National Park Foundation (NPF) allocated emergency funds to support specific NPS priorities in the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The funding was successful in quickly deploying philanthropic dollars to priority projects that uplifted NPS-related rivers, trails, and their respective partners.

In honor of the upcoming 55th anniversaries of the National Trails System and National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, NPF is seeking additional requests for proposals (RFP) that further the goals of NPS and its partners for these two systems. This RFP is being shared with NPS entities that administer and/or manage national scenic trails, national historical trails, national recreation trails (including national water trails), and wild and scenic rivers. Eligible project submissions must connect to NPS and are encouraged to involve and engage partners. Applications can include projects benefiting:

- NPS administered national scenic or national historic trails.
- Non-NPS administered national scenic or national historic trails through work or products on or for NPS managed or administered areas.
- National recreation trails that are within the boundaries of, pass through, or connect to NPS managed or administered areas.
- Wild and scenic rivers that are affiliated with the NPS, including wild and scenic rivers in park units or partnership wild and scenic rivers.

Funding may be granted to a partner organization at NPS' request, but the projects should only be submitted by NPS staff. Multiple submissions per river/trail are acceptable. Grant requests should be up to \$50,000, with possible exceptions. Matching capital funds are encouraged, but not required. Priority project/program themes include:

- Land protection and conservation, including planning and training
- System-wide improvements (ex: for National Trails System, or National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a whole)
- Developing partnerships
- Enhancing public access
- Corridor connectivity
- Climate change and resiliency
- Indigenous community connections or collaboration
- Workforce development

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and/or Accessibility
- Visitor experience
- Infrastructure (ex: boat ramps, treadway, signage)
- Volunteer capacity building
- Resource management

Applications should be submitted by COB on Friday, August 4th, 2023. NPF and NPS will review applications jointly. Funding decisions will be made by mid-August, with a goal of granting funds by the end of September 2023. All grantees selected to receive funding will be required to submit a letter of support from the NPS superintendent, trail/river administrator, and/or trail/river manager through the NPF grants portal.

Please note that grantees selected to receive funding will be required to register in the NPF grants portal, Fluxx. It's advised that all applicants save their application responses internally before submitting any materials to Microsoft Forms.

Please contact corita_waters@nps.gov, john_cannella@nps.gov or Jenny Katz (JKatz@nationalparks.org) for more information.

Informational Call: An optional informational call to discuss this RFP and the application process will be held on July 18 at 11am EST on Zoom (<https://nationalparks-org.zoom.us/j/81255911348>)

Application Questions *(please fill out these questions in Microsoft Forms [here](#)):*

1. **NPS Contact:**

- Name of applicant (NPS staff)
- Applicant position title
- Primary contact email
- Primary contact phone number
- I certify that the NPS superintendent, trail/river administrator, and/or trail/river manager supports this submission in conjunction with any other existing plans the partnering NPS unit or office has in place

2. **Project Partners** (if grant will be managed by a partner on NPS's behalf):

- Partner organization, if applicable
- Partner contact name, if applicable
- Partner contact phone number, if applicable
- Partner contact email, if applicable

3. **Project Information:**

- Name of trail or river
- Affiliated national historic trail, national scenic trail, national recreation trail, or wild and scenic river.
- State(s)
- Project title:
- Project abstract *(2-3 sentences)*

- Project summary
 - Timeline, including start date and end date
4. Project Budget:
- Total project/program cost estimate
 - Funds requested
 - If selected to receive funding, grant will be made payable to
 - Have you received NPF funding for this project/program in the past?
 - Partner matching funds? If so, please list capital and in-kind support.
5. Project Criteria:
- Is this a new or existing project/program?
 - Describe your ability to implement this project/program. What strengths or resources do you have that will help leverage this project/program? (i.e. number of staff, pre-existing frameworks, volunteer capacity, etc.)
 - Additional partners involved?
 - Is project/program a priority for the NPS, Department of Interior, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, or river/trail existing plans? Please explain.
6. Project/Program Theme:
- **Primary** theme (*choose one*)
 - Land protection and conservation, including planning and training
 - System-wide improvements (ex: for National Trails System, or National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a whole)
 - Developing partnerships
 - Enhancing public access
 - Corridor connectivity
 - Climate change and resiliency
 - Indigenous community connections or collaboration
 - Workforce development
 - Diversity, equity, inclusion, or accessibility
 - Visitor experience
 - Infrastructure (ex: boat ramps, treadway, signage)
 - Volunteer capacity building
 - Resource management
 - **Additional** themes (*optional, can choose multiple*)
 - Land protection and conservation, including planning and training
 - System-wide improvements (ex: for National Trails System, or National Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a whole)
 - Developing partnerships
 - Enhancing public access
 - Corridor connectivity
 - Climate change and resiliency
 - Indigenous community connection or collaboration
 - Workforce development

- Diversity, equity, inclusion, or accessibility
- Visitor experience
- Infrastructure (ex: boat ramps, treadway, signage)
- Volunteer capacity building
- Resource management

7. Program Goals and Outcomes:

- Who will directly benefit from the project/program if it is funded? (i.e. specific federal agencies, communities, landowners, number of visitors annually, number of volunteers engaged, number of school children who will participate, etc.)
- How do you plan to track success and evaluate impacts?