

## Regional Trails

The Regional Trails Grant Program provides funding to assist with design, engineering and construction of various types of new trails.

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**Eligible Applicants:** Cities, townships, counties, non-profits and tribal units of government located within the agency's service area. The applicant or collaboration partners must be the current or intended owner or control of the property. Multi-organization collaboration is welcome.

**Eligible Projects:** Examples include design, engineering, construction, fencing, signage and trail master planning. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation's grant award funds cannot exceed 10% of the total project cost for design, engineering and construction management.

**Ineligible Projects:** Examples include operational and annual maintenance costs, land acquisition, equipment and events.

**Funding:** The Regional Trails Program is funded at \$3,000,000 for FY2019. The agency requires a 1:1 cash match per project. In-kind materials and/or labor ARE NOT eligible towards the project match. Projects must begin within 6 months of grant award.

### Evaluation Criteria (100 Points):

#### 1. Job Creation (10 points)

- # of permanent full-time jobs created
- # of permanent full-time jobs retained
- # of temporary full-time jobs created
- # of temporary full-time jobs retained
- Describe how you will measure the jobs created or retained

#### 2. Economic Impact (40 points)

- Description of the type of recreational trail
- Length of trail
- The projected amount of users, both local and from outside the region (should be supported by best evidence possible)
- Impact to local businesses – please provide an economic impact study if available.

#### 3. Leverage (15 points)

- Total project investment

#### 4. Project Readiness and Timeliness (10 points)

- Financing is in place
- Date of anticipated construction

- An operation, maintenance and risk management plan is in place

**5. Community Impact and Partnerships (25 points)**

- Identify project partners and community and regional support
- If the project aligns with the community’s master plan that portion of the plan should be uploaded and highlighted
- Project site includes unique features, attractive scenery, historically significant sites or characteristics of community and region
- Connects to existing trails, amenities or communities

**Application Process and Review:**

Pre-applications will be accepted from August 13 through September 10, 2018. Full applications will be provided for eligible projects. All eligible applications received during this time period will be reviewed and scored according to the evaluation criteria. Grants will be awarded to the most competitive applications. Applications submitted after September 10, 2018 through the end of the agency’s fiscal year (June 30, 2019) will be awarded on a rolling basis subject to meeting minimum scoring criteria and subject to the availability of remaining program funds.

Applications are reviewed by a team and evaluated and scored on an individual basis.

Project funding is subject to the Commissioner’s final approval. Project must meet objectives, priorities and policies established by the Commissioner.

**Application Checklist**

- Project Narrative**
  - Narrative must address evaluation criteria
- Resolution authorizing applicant to apply for and accept funds**
- For non-profit organizations, copies of financial document(s) as indicated below:**

<u>Grant Amount Requested</u>	<u>Annual Income of Organization</u>	<u>Document to Upload with Application</u>
Under \$25,000	Any	Most recently filed IRS Form 990
\$25,000 and up	Under \$750,000	Most recently filed IRS Form 990 <i>and</i> most recent Financial Statements
\$25,000 and up	Over \$750,000	Most recently filed IRS Form 990 <i>and</i> most recent Financial Statements audited by a Certified Public Accountant

- For non-profit organizations, IRS Form W-9 – Request for Taxpayer ID Number and Certification – to be completed by applicant**
- Letter(s) of support from key stakeholders (i.e. landowners, manager and/or government)**
- Any other documentation to support the application**

## **Post Grant Award Requirements**

- **The agency reserves the right to require signage/logo acknowledging financial assistance from the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Details will be outlined in the grant agreement.**
- **Project information is subject to Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 13.**
- A progress report is required if grant period exceeds 12 months.
- A site visit will be conducted by an authorized representative of the agency.
- A final report is required before final payment including photographs of restored site, job creation/retention and matching funds.
- Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation reserves the right to award all or partial funding per application if awarded.