

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release, Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2009

For more information contact: Michelle Vetter, 701-328-5364

NDPRD seeks Outdoor Recreation Grant applications

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department is seeking applications for two federal grant programs for outdoor recreation projects within the state.

The Recreational Trail Program assists local communities and trail groups in the development, maintenance or rehabilitation of recreational trails. These trails may be motorized, non-motorized, multiple-use or compatible-use trails. The application deadline for this program is April 1, 2009.

The department anticipates funding for the fiscal year 2009 for Land and Water Conservation Fund grants. **The Land and Water Conservation Fund** provides 50/50 matching grants to political subdivisions for resource land acquisition and the development and renovation of outdoor recreation facilities.

“These funds have long been a source of assistance in improving the outdoor recreation opportunities in North Dakota” Doug Prchal, director of North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department, said. “A majority of the playgrounds, campsites, picnic areas, sports fields and other recreation facilities have been built with the help of these funds.”

The Land and Water Conservation Fund was created by Congress in 1964 to provide federal funds for matching grants for state and community open space and recreation projects. Funds for the program are derived from offshore oil and gas drilling royalties under a simple premise: revenues derived from the extraction of the nation's non-renewable oil and gas resources should be reinvested in the protection and restoration of renewable natural resources. To date, the Land & Water Conservation Fund has provided more than \$34 million in matching grants to North Dakota, resulting in over 1,283 projects statewide.

Land and Water Conservation Fund grant applications are due May 1, 2009.

Applications and information regarding both programs are available for completion on-line at the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department web site at www.ndparks.com.