

## NORTH DAKOTA

Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAC) Meeting

*Preliminary Agenda and Notes*

April 22, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

### **FY25 General Overview**

This year (FY25), through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department received 20 eligible applications totaling approximately \$3.5 million, with approximately \$1 million available to award. This is the highest total grant request amount and ties (FY21) for the highest number of applications ever received in the RTP.

To further evaluate these applications and assist with the ranking process, the RTP Advisory Committee (RTPAC) requested that an applicant presentation meeting be established.

The RTP applicants were given the opportunity to present and share information about their project with the board on Monday, April 22, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Each applicant received 10 minutes to present virtually (via MS Teams) and answer any question the board had.

*\*Just a note:* The new manual was released in February 2024 upon the opening of the FY25 RTP application round. It was revised in collaboration with the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA). It can be found on the NDPRD Recreational Trails Program website at <https://www.parkrec.nd.gov/business/sites/www/files/documents/Grant%20Pictures/NDPRD%20RTP%20Manual%20-%207-28-2023%20revision.pdf>.

The meeting was called to order at **10:00 AM** by **Sarah Torgerson, RTPAC Applicant Presentation Lead**.

### **Board Members Present:**

#### Non-motorized

Tony Schmitt (NDRPA Representative)  
Parker Scott (At-large Representative)  
Mitch Thompson (Federal Lands Representative)

#### Motorized

Anette Behm-Caldwell (Motorized Specialist)  
Todd Thronson (Snowmobile North Dakota)

#### FHWA

Pam Todd (RTP Manager)

#### NDDOT – Ex-officio Member

Pam Wagner (TAP Program Manager)

#### NDPRD

Char Langehaug (RTP Program Manager)  
AJ Torgerson (Special Projects Officer & Meeting Facilitator)

### **Not Present:**

#### Non-motorized

Selina Lafontaine (TMBC Tribal Representative)  
Pepper Jensen (BCHM Representative)

**Total Guests Present at the Meeting: 24**

### 1. **Bottineau County – Carbury Dam Recreation Area Vault Toilet**

- **Scope of Project:** Bottineau County is looking to update two vault toilets at the Cadbury Dam recreation area along the 8.5-mile bike/hiking trail.

*Grant Request = \$30,004.20*

*Presenter: Emily Deschamp & Guest (Bottineau County)*

- Non-motorized
- 2 Single Vault Toilets
- Dirty Turtle Bike Race at Carbury Dam – They cover Bottineau County, and it is growing. They are getting a growing amount of people.
- They have 7 to 8 miles of trail, which they are trying to improve and make accessible.

### 2. **City of Napoleon – Napoleon Pedestrian Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** The proposed path would connect several community recreational sites and parks and would start at the newly built care center. Residents would have easy access to enjoy the outdoors with their caregivers or families. The path parallels the ditch that drains into McKenna Lake. This grant request covers partial funding for phase one of the project.

*Grant Request= \$249,884.60*

*Presenter: Bob Hunan & Becky Thatcher-Keller (City of Napoleon)*

- Non-motorized: There are minimal sidewalks in the city of Napoleon.
- Heavy farm traffic is a concern, and we want to improve safety by providing pedestrian paths.
- 3.2 Mile Walking Path – 4 years (Phased Project)
- Path crosses Hwy. 3 into an abundant wildlife recreation area
- Shared Use Path will provide educational signage
- Concrete Base (way less maintenance over time and longevity)
- Used for year-round activities (Winter Activities)
- First phase – Napoleon Care Center, Campground, Rodeo Grounds
- Matching funds secured
- Ability for the community to have health/wellness

### 3. **Dickinson Parks and Recreation District – Crooked Crane Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** Envisioned in 1999, the Crooked Crane Trail has undergone various improvements. Presently, the Stranski segment exists as an irregular mowed grass trail, subject to yearly alterations based on mowing patterns. These conditions pose challenges for hikers in navigation and deter cyclists due to the uneven surface. This project aims to establish a permanent alignment for the Stranski Segment of the Crooked Crane trail, incorporating two additional loop features. Spanning approximately 1.3 miles between the Nyoda and Stranski trailheads, the new alignment and loops will extend the usable trail length to 2.38 miles. By leveraging the side slope for drainage, installing culverts, and ensuring a consistent, stable surface, the trail will offer improved accessibility and durability. Furthermore, the addition of distance markers and wildlife interpretive signage will enhance the overall trail experience.

*Grant Request= \$161,008.00*

*Presenter: Benjamin Rae (Dickinson Parks and Recreation)*

- Non-motorized

- Shovel Ready
- Goal of Project: increase useability for diverse user groups
- Primary need on the SCORP
- Secured Match
- Letters of support from the Dickinson community
- Fat-tire biking in winter
- Promote sustainability and accessibility
- Additional signage proposed
- Earthen trail and possibly bring in some gravel to support the trail
- There is parking on the east and west ends that was supported by district funds.
- Dickinson Parks and Recreation owned land
- The trail will be open to the public.
- This will support the heavy tourism due to the establishment of the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library.

#### **4. Fargo-Moorhead Trail Builders – South River Prairie Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** A new hiking and biking trail is proposed to be established from LEMKE Park on the north and the Forum Tower to the south. The trail will connect to the existing trail at the Forum Tower along the Red River all the way to Iwen Park South. The new trail will be 4 miles and provide access to 12 miles of continuous trail in South Fargo upon completion.

*Grant Request= \$61,440.00*

*Presenter: Laurens Robinson and Guest; Tim Kreig (FM Trail Builders)*

- Non-motorized
- Primary need for Region 5
- Utilize existing trail connections (trail extension project)
- Urban trails exist in Fargo, but the community wants something more challenging and unique.
- Development of single-track 12-mile trail
- Funds for equipment to buy a ride-on mower and compactor to maintain the trail.
- Public land
- Diverse use year-round: Hiking, Running, Biking Winter: Fat-tire Biking, Cross-Country & Snowshoe
- Additional 4 or 5 miles (extension)
- Fargo-Moorhead trail builders maintain
- Connect parking lot and complete to forum trailer
- Forum tower looping through the peninsula (through Lion's Conservancy Natural Area)
- Section 404 permit may be needed; Class III Cultural Survey Requested; Initial environmental clearances completed

#### **5. Fargo Park District – Lion's Conservancy Park Trailhead Facility Project**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project will construct a new trailhead facility which includes an open-air shelter, concrete parking lot, lighting, a trailhead map, and 2 miles of new crushed gravel trail from Lions Conservancy Park to Iwen Park in Fargo, ND. The intent of this project is to connect Lions and Iwen Park through public property that sits between them and create a cohesive park greenway that will allow park users to expand their recreational opportunities.

*Grant Request= \$249,900.00*

*Presenter: Sam Demarias (Fargo Park District Forester)*

- Non-motorized
- Parking trailside facility
- The trail and park lot proposal will connect to parks to provide access.
- Creating a centralized area where people can meet to gather to walk on the trail with a picnic shelter trailside amenity.
- Diverse Use
- Additional 2 miles proposed for trail connection (complete the project in one phase)
- Overmatch secured funds provided by Fargo Park District

#### **6. Grafton Parks and Recreation – Leistikow Park Community Trail Bridge**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project will remove and replace a 36 ft. trail bridge located within the Leistikow Park Trails. This bridge, which is actually a 36 ft. flatbed trailer, was placed over the coulee by a local archery club in the mid-1980s. The flatbed trailer bridge was not installed on abutments. Our project is to replace the existing bridge with a 40 ft. X 10 ft. timber frame recreation bridge with railings installed on timber crib abutments rated for 5 tons.

*Grant Request= \$180,081.23*

*Presenter: Bill Dahl (Director) and Guest; Matt Opegaurd (Finance Director) Grafton Parks and Recreation*

- Non-motorized
- Developed trails in the mid 80's
- Flatbed trailer 2012 opened the trail
- Replace the original bridge with a timber frame bridge
- Safe trail access
- Trail numbers have increased
- Candlelight hike and 5K hikes (recreational)
- Soil erosion is concerning, so this proposal will secure the bank and fix erosion issues
- 1.5 mile trail loop (heavily used)
- Corn maze sees about 500 visitors (5 Weekends – October) 10,000 users yearly overall
- 10 ft. wide utility bridge (8 ft. wide)
- Bridge will come pre-cut assembled by Wheeler.

#### **7. Hunter Arthur Joint Park Board – Northern Cass Pass Maintenance Equipment and Accessories**

- **Scope of Project:** The Hunter/Arthur JPA plans to acquire a UHV (i.e. a Bobcat Toolcat with accessories). This equipment will allow the JPA to properly maintain the six-mile paved corridor for all users. Since the multi-use trail is now fully paved, the corridor is utilized year-round, resulting in constant maintenance being an essential component of the project. Maintenance includes sweeping, snow removal, fixing surface and structural defects (i.e. cracks, holes, washouts, etc), mowing, bridge maintenance, etc.

*Grant Request= \$89,800.00*

*Presenter: Barry Johnson (Moore Engineering)*

- Non-motorized
- Maintenance equipment request
- Northern Cass Pass is a Burlington- Northern rails to trail project.
- Phased project since 2014
- Secured match

- Located in North Central Cass County
- Bobcat Toolcat (haul items, sweeper, plow, mower)
- Acquiring equipment (year-round)
- It has not been open in the winter; equipment will preserve the investment of the funding.
- No cross-country option for grooming
- Diverse-use open to pedestrians and bikers
- Quote from Bobcat (programs for municipal entity)
- Secured local match
- Community support for the trail

#### **8. Lincoln Park District – Recreation Trails Program Gravel Path Request**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project will construct a new 10 ft gravel path connecting to the existing path on the intersection of the northwest corner of Lincoln Road and 66th St, traveling north along the west side of 66th St. right of way approximately 2545 LF up to the existing crosswalk at 28th Ave SE. The project is an extension of the path system in Lincoln. The project will be in Phase I of the north extension along 66th St SE. The intended future phase is to finish the surface with asphalt and complete ADA curb ramps.

*Grant Request= \$199,411.98*

**Notes:** Not Present (Break for 5 Minutes)

#### **9. MDHTA – MDHT Restoration & Surfacing 2024**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project will restore and surface with gravel approximately 3.1 miles of trail from MP 5 to MP 6 and MP16 to MP 19 of the MDH Trail.

*Grant Request= \$124,080.00*

*Presenter: Curt Glasoe (Presenter) MDHTA President*

- Non-motorized
- MDHTA wants to restore trail erosion and fix braiding on the MDHT.
- Restore the tread and surface with gravel
- 144 miles total; 24 miles already surfaced (south of interstate to Burning Coal Vein)
- Continuation phased project
- Secured match - use a combination of local and volunteer match
- 3 miles total
- Trail users: 5,500 South-end; 7,000 users North (more because of the bike races)
- 60% of the users are hikers, the rest are bikers and equestrian users
- The Sully Creek portion that was resurfaced 3 years ago is in really good shape.
- Success with soft areas on the surfacing are filled in and repaired.

#### **10. MHA Parks & Reserve – MHA Tribal National Park Trail Development**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project includes the planning, design, fabrication, and installation of an interpretive trail system that will express the Three Affiliated Tribes' (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation's) long history of interconnectedness with the Little Missouri Badlands ecosystem in Western North Dakota. The project will develop an interpretive loop trail from the proposed Visitor Center Site and establish a connection to the Little Missouri River via a nature trail.

The developed trails will showcase the Missouri River badlands ecosystem as well as the cultural and natural resources while highlighting the tribal presence in the area by imparting the importance of traditional land use and management within the ecosystem.

*Grant Request= \$249,600.00*

*Presenter: Ethan Whitecalf (MHA Nature & Preserve Manager)*

- Non-motorized
- Nature trail with the restoration of prairie component
- Picnic shelter and vault toilet (connecting to the visitor center) trailside facility purposed.
- Still in early stages of this project
- THPO assisted request to build this trail with perpetuity in mind
- Public Trail
- Goals is to change the perspective to be a cultural and environmental resource with emphasis on being connected to the landscape.
- Trying to expand tourism in Mandiree and Killdeer
- Interpretive signage on the upper portion (primary focus).
- Bring out education groups to the visitor center and the trail.
- Similar to Little Missouri (badlands) there are plans to link into extend the NDPRD Little Missouri Campground

#### **11. City of Casselton – Governor’s Drive Shared Use Path**

- **Scope of Project:** The Governor’s Dr Shared Use Path Project consists of a 10 ft. wide, 1.1-mile long concrete path from Cottonwood Dr to 37th St SE along ND Highway 18 / Governor’s Dr, including a pedestrian bridge over Swan Creek. The path is intended to connect residential neighborhoods to the north with commercial destinations to the south and provide recreational opportunities for the City of Casselton’s residents.

*Grant Request= \$250,000.00*

*Presenter: Dylan Dunn (Moore Engineering)*

- Non-motorized
- Concrete Shared- use Path (longevity and easier to maintain)
- Focus of phase II is the bridge over Swan Lake
- Checks the boxes for Mainstreet Initiative
- City of Casselton community-driven
- Health, Economic, and Scenic components
- Need grant to offset local burden taxes
- Pre-fabricated steel bridge
- Secured match
- Metro-cog Carbon Emissions Reduction Funds awarded on phase one.
- RTP scope is just the bridge
- Open year-round (cleared) for hiking, but no plans for cross-country grooming due to concrete.
- Bicycle and pedestrian uses

#### **12. North Dakota Forest Service – Turtle Mountain State Forest Trail Enhancement Project**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed project will address deferred maintenance needs along an 18-mile

non-motorized multi-use trail system. These improvements are primarily associated with water-related challenges along the trail system, including the replacement of logs, corduroy, and structures, the addition of culverts, the replacement of bridge plank structures, removing boulders, and benching trails.

*Grant Request= \$80,000.00*

*Presenter: Mike Kangas (NDFS)*

- Non-motorized
- Turtle Mountain State Forest (largest contiguous state forest land in North Dakota)
- 18-mile non-motorized use track
- Slews and wetlands
- User groups – equestrian, biking, hiking (some user-conflicts)
- Backlog of deferred maintenance
- Matching labor and materials
- Expand access and better usage
- Preserve lands and expand trails for the public
- Mini-excavator request
- Staff on hand (expand capacity for maintenance)
- Open to the public year-round (no cross-country; snowshoe)

### **13. Pembina Gorge Foundation – Frost Fire Park All Weather Trail & Trail Restoration**

- **Scope of Project:** The PGF is proposing to add a new trail to Frost Fire Park's existing downhill trail system. This will be an "All Weather Trail," which will expand users' abilities to access the trail system and allow Frost Fire Park to operate during times of adverse weather. The other project is water mitigation of the existing trail system.

*Grant Request= \$244,400.00*

**Notes:** Not Present (Break)

### **14. Stutsman County – James Valley Water Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** This grant will establish five destination kayak launch sites (trailheads) at key recreation points along the Jamestown Reservoir.

*Grant Request= \$250,000.00*

*Presenter: Henry Steinberger*

- Island to Pelican Point Resort
- 17-mile water route
- No parking lot development (dock and launch stations)
- Secured funding
- Will be ADA accessible
- On-going development habitat and motorized-use plans in the future.

### **15. North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – Pembina Gorge Armoring and Widening Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** This proposed motorized trail project aims to improve drainage and armor the Pembina Gorge trails with aggregate surface to decrease erosion issues and increase trail access at times when the trails would otherwise be closed due to wet conditions. Through the process of armoring, we plan to widen portions of the trail throughout the system to accommodate OHV's up to the 65-inch width rather than the 60-inch width allowed today.

Grant Request= \$249,977.60

Presenter Mike Duerre (Icelandic State Park Manager)

- **Note:** Only Motorized Application
- Widen trail that was originally built to 50 in. to 64 in. machines
- Pembina Gorge is a multi-use network
- Improvements will relieve congestion
- Armoring with crushed rock/gravel and reestablishing the out sloping on the trail.
- Sloughing is dangerous (need to reestablish)
- Three-sisters trail, Trapper Ridge, Beaver Pond Pass; reestablish snowmobile trail
- Less future trail closure
- 14<sup>th</sup> State Park Pembina Gorge Campground being built, which will bring tourism to area
- Erosion is a problem
- In-kind labor and equipment secured match
- Year-round recreation OHV and Snowmobile
- 14.75 miles of restoration planned for this project

#### **16. North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – Fitness Trail Improvement and Wayfinding**

- **Scope of Project:** Fort Stevenson State Park aims to enhance the visitor experience and promote healthy outdoor activities by upgrading fitness equipment and replacing wayfinding signage along the fitness trail.

Grant Request= \$61,260.56

Presenter Chad Trautman (Fort Steveson State Park Manager)

- Non-motorized
- Upgrade fitness trail and wayfinding; take down outdated equipment stations
- Fitness trail is 0.8 mile in length
- Secured cash and in-kind match
- Local school groups (support and use them)
- Year-round trail; youth classes (kicksled, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing)
- Trooper Challenge Trail
- 3 miles south of the city of Garrison
- Faded signs – can't see the trail route
- Trails are advertised in visitor centers and trailheads; maps at the guard house
- Highlight a number of events to promote the trail usage
- Maintained for all types of uses: bike, fat-tire bike, running, hiking
- 18 fitness stations set up (stretching and cooling down)
- All-ages (engagement)

#### **17. North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – Little Missouri State Park Trail Restoration**

- **Scope of Project:** Little Missouri State Park trails face urgent trail repairs, with 17.44 miles in need of attention. Limited resources and erosion have hindered comprehensive maintenance. Public concerns over deteriorating trails, inadequate signage, and safety risks are mounting. The proposed project aims to rehabilitate the trail, ensuring safety for all users, including novice equestrians and children. This project aims to preserve the park's popularity and environmental sustainability by reducing erosion and promoting trail usage. Improved conditions will deter off-trail use and mitigate damage from harsh weather, fostering a more manageable trail system.



*Grant Request= \$148,800.00*

*Presenter Micaela Shell (Little Missouri State Park Manager)*

- Non-motorized
- Shovel-ready
- Mainstreet Initiatives in the application
- The majority of Little Missouri State Park trails
- Wayfinding needed
- Hard to locate the trail and heavy erosion
- Resources are limited with staff, time, and equipment which is why this grant is needed
- Safety aspect for first responders
- High demand for hiker and equestrian usage
- Secured match
- Open to the public since 1972
- Influx of hiker and equestrian usage (summer 500 people)
- 17.44 miles (45 miles total)
- Not open year-round; No winter access
- Wider trails for emergency response (side-by-side usage authorization)

#### **18. North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – Garrison Connection Trail**

- **Scope of Project:** NDPRD proposes to construct an approximately 3.9-mile non-motorized multi-use gravel surfaced trail connecting the community of Garrison to Fort Stevenson State Park. Additionally, purchase trail maintenance implements for future maintenance of the trail.

*Grant Request= \$191,451.90*

*Presenter: Tony Hillig*

- Non-motorized
- Gravel surface trail with puncheons; increased access for the public
- Designed with ADA components in mind; motorized tracked wheelchair can be rented out at the connecting location of Fort Stevenson State Park
- Connect the city of Garrison and Fort Stevenson State Park
- Boat and Camper Club Permission and Support
- City of Garrison Support
- Fort Stevenson State Park Support
- Public Request
- Repurpose some of the abandoned surface mines – retaining walls and safety
- Support Mainstreet Initiatives
- Support tourism influx for Garrison
- Establish trail with protection of the environment in mind; sought USFWS and Natural Resources guidance
- Increase health and wellness
- Chose the gravel for cost and feasibility also as an addition to environmental protection and lessen impact to surface.
- NDPRD will maintain this trail
- Secured in-kind and cash match
- Year-round Trail featuring fat-tire biking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing (no motorized use)

After the presentations, Sarah Torgerson thanked all of the applicants for presenting. She also thanked the board for their time and effort in assessing the applications. She reminded the board that the scores are due on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 5:00 PM.

Char Langehaug (RTP Program Manager) additionally thanked the board and applicants for their time and reminded everyone of the impact that the Recreational Trails Program has on the state of North Dakota. She reviewed the total amount of applications (20) in addition to the comprehensive grant requests of \$3.5 million dollars. She explained how each board member is essential to the program and gives a voice to trails statewide in assisting the program with their knowledge and expertise.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01 PM by Sarah Torgerson.

*Notes provided by Char Langehaug (RTP Program Manager) on 04/23/2024.*

**Recreational Trails Program Manager:** Char Langehaug – [clangehaug@nd.gov](mailto:clangehaug@nd.gov)

**Recreational Trails Program Advisory Board Lead** – Sarah Torgerson - [smtorgerson@nd.gov](mailto:smtorgerson@nd.gov)

**Recreational Trails Program Website** –  
<https://www.parkrec.nd.gov/business/grants/recreational-trails-program>

**Web Grants Assistance** – AJ Torgerson - [ajtorgerson@nd.gov](mailto:ajtorgerson@nd.gov)

**Web Grants Website** - <https://grants.nd.gov/index.do>

\*Please feel free to see our past RTP projects on the *Miles and Moments* Video Series on YouTube at [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZqrANkX6sukO3Wus7BZpKEa1zcVDpL6C&si=PAX\\_O-5sNddIly6B](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZqrANkX6sukO3Wus7BZpKEa1zcVDpL6C&si=PAX_O-5sNddIly6B).

*\*Please have the scoresheets ranked in Web Grants no later than Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. If you have any questions about the scoring process, please feel free to contact me at [clangehaug@nd.gov](mailto:clangehaug@nd.gov) or (701) 328-5364.*

604 East Boulevard Avenue Dept. 750 | Bismarck, ND 58505

PHONE: 701-328-5357 | FAX: 701-328-5363 | EMAIL: [parkrec@nd.gov](mailto:parkrec@nd.gov) | WEBSITE: [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)