

**NORTH DAKOTA**

Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAC) Meeting  
July 15, 2020

PRESENT:

- **RTPAC Members:**
  - *Non-Motorized*
    - Simon Pryor
    - Dave Mayer
    - Dave Bietz
    - Glee Mayer
    - Andy Banta
  - *Motorized*
    - Dale Heglund
    - Nick Lippert
- **NDPRD:**
  - Jolene Rieck
  - Char Binstock
- **FHWA:**
  - Pam Todd
- **NDDOT:**
  - Pam Wenger

ABSENT:

- Keri Vammer

**Applicants Present:**

- Curt Glasoe; Roger Ashley – Maah Daah Hey Trail Association
- Bobby Koeplin; Matthew Davis (NCT) – Barnes County Park Board
- Brian Knudson – City of Bottineau Park District
- Lisa Herbel; Rich Gimble – Bottineau County
- Dave Mayer – Bismarck Parks and Recreation District
- Karen Norby – City of Harvey
- Jonathan Lowry – City of Hillsboro
- Matt Lower – City of Horace
- Emma Lavachek – City of Velva
- Tyler Kirchner – Fargo Park District
- Barry Johnson - Hunter Arthur JPA Park Board
- Tony Hillig; Todd Thronson (SND) – ND Parks and Recreation Department
- Katie Ogden – Lewis and Clark State Park

- Patrick Samson – City of New Town
- Joslyn Tooz – Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation
- Rob Schilling - USDA Forest Service
- Josh Mathern - West Fargo Park District

**ND Parks & Recreation Department Grants Coordinator, Char Binstock, NDPRD**

Char welcomed everyone to the virtual presentation and thanked everyone for sending their presentations. This year, there were 20 applications totaling \$2.4 million with approximately \$1 million available to award.

This is the first year the applicants have been given the opportunity to present and share information with the board about their projects. Each applicant will get 10 minutes to present and answer any questions the board has.

**1. Maah Daah Hey Trail Association - Coal Creek and Trail Restoration Surfacing:** This project is the restoration and surfacing of the Coal Creek Camp access trail and a portion of the MDH trail north and south of the Coal creek access trail. The total project will cover about 2.5 miles of trail.

*Total Project Costs= \$77,000 Grant Request= \$61,600*

**2. Maah Daah Hey Trail Association - Sully Restoration Surfacing:** This project is the second phase and continuation of our 2019 RTP project to finish the restoration and surfacing from where the 2019 project ends and continue to the Bully Pulpit trailhead on the MDH Trail. It also includes about ½ mile on FS lands, going west of the 2019 project. The total project will cover about 2.5 miles of trail.

*Total Project Costs= \$68,000 Grant Request= \$54,400*

**3. Barnes County Park Board – Riding Brush Mower:** The Barnes County Park Board is respectfully requesting \$11,952.94 in funding through the Recreational Trails Program to support the purchase of an Orec 4-wheel drive riding brush mower and a trailer with which to haul it.

*Total Project Costs= \$14,941.17 Grant Request= \$11,952.94*

**4. City of Bottineau Park District – Forestry Park Trail:** The Bottineau Park District is requesting support from the RTP to complete Phase 4 of the Forestry Park Trail, which will be an extension of the existing hiking/biking and nature trail. Phase 4 of the multi-use trail will be a total of approximately 2,553 feet in length and will follow a winding route through the northern reaches of Forestry Park. The path itself will be primarily an eight-foot-wide concrete surface along with an additional 30' Boardwalk through a wetland area. Trail Signage will also be installed at the Trailhead to provide Trail location maps, distances, trail markers and other amenities. With the completion of this last Phase, Forestry Park will have about 1 ½ miles of developed trail.

*Total Project Costs= \$245,000 Grant Request= \$196,000*

**5. Bottineau County – Metigoshe Multi-Use Trail Oak Creek Crossing:** The proposed project would realign the existing shared use path. The path currently parallels an existing service road for about 1,200 feet and then transitions over to the other side of this road as it crosses a bridge at Oak Creek. The goal of the project is to eliminate this crossover and provide a safer environment for the path's users.

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*Total Project Costs= \$137,651 Grant Request= \$110,121*

**6. Bismarck Parks and Recreation District - Ash Coulee Trail Extension:** The proposed project includes a trail extension of the well-utilized Ash Coulee Trail. Ash Coulee Trail is currently a safe route to Horizon Middle school and also a recreational trail connection to the North Washington Trail. The extension trail would be a 10' shared use asphalt trail that will begin where the existing trail ends at Golden Eagle Lane and go west to Tyler Parkway, approximate 1,886.9 LF.

*Total Project Costs= \$258,468 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**7. City of Abercrombie – City Park Trail:** We plan to create handicap trail throughout the city park. This trail will be 568 ft long that will go to bathrooms, playground equipment, splash pad, entrance, and parking lot. The trail will be made from asphalt.

*Total Project Costs= \$26762.50 Grant Request= \$21,410*

**8. City of Grafton – Shared-use Trail Overlay:** The proposed project would consist of a 6,745 foot-long 1.5" overlay on an existing shared-use trail shown on the attached map. Segment 2 of the trail is currently 8' wide and Segments 1 & 3 are 10' wide. Segment 1 was constructed in 1995, Segment 2 in 2003, and Segment 3 in 2006; they are all in need of a maintenance overlay. These trails lead to Fair Oaks Golf Course and Chandler Field (a baseball complex) which are popular destinations during the summer months. Detectable warning panels will also be installed at 11 locations to make the trail safer for the public. No additional right-of-way will be required for this project.

*Total Project Costs= \$193,914.50 Grant Request= \$155,131.60*

**9. City of Harvey – Pedestrian Pathway:** This proposed project follows on activity that began in 1997 with the emergence of the first designs for a new park that would ultimately reach from Harvey's Highway #52 bypass on the city's west side all the way to Harvey's southeast corner at the Harvey Dam that created Sheyenne River Reservoir. Named Centennial Nature Park, it consists of an east unit (now largely completed) and a west unit, both of which anchor on Centennial Nature Brook and its associated wetlands. The proposed project consists of construction of a 10' wide x 1385' long concrete pathway with retaining walls and handrails for use by pedestrians, runners, bikers (including K-12 students and downtown shoppers), and cross-country skiers. This pathway will be located within Centennial Park West which is the newest addition to Harvey's Centennial Park and is presently undeveloped, except for wetland/brook maintenance, grass maintenance/cutting and brush removal/tree trimming. The

wide pathway will contain slopes of less than 5 degrees and will undulate along and through the south wooded side of the park.

*Total Project Costs= \$265,000 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**10. City of Hillsboro – Riverwalk Trail System:** The objective of the Riverwalk Trail System is to provide a scenic natural multi-use path along the Goose River for all public to enjoy, and to help provide connection for the Riverwalk Parks to existing City of Hillsboro park and trails.

*Total Project Costs= \$200,586.59 Grant Request= 160,000*

**11. City of Horace – County Road 17 Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Phase II:** The Project is the planned construction of a 10' wide, 5" thick concrete trail with ADA compliant ramps at intersections adjacent to County Road 17, in Horace. The Project runs North/South for approximately 2000ft, connecting with the County Road 17 trail (a project funded by the RTP Grant) at 81st Ave S with the existing concrete path at 76th Ave S (which in turn links users to the 63rd Ave Shared-Use Path, creating the potential 2.0 mile recreational trail network).

*Total Project Costs= \$316,965 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**12. City of Velva – Shared Use Path to Velva Golf Course:** The City of Velva is proposing to construct a shared use path approximately 2,600 linear feet in length from the Highway 41 bridge to the Star City Golf Course as part of a multi-phase project. The proposed shared use path will be 10-foot-wide asphalt path meeting ADA standards. The 10-foot-wide shared use path from the bridge to the golf course is considered as Phase 3. Currently, the City of Velva is only asking for financial assistance for Phase 3. Phase 1 is approximately 935 linear feet of 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk on the west side of Main Street N/Highway 41. Phase 2 is a shared use path that will be included on a new Hwy 41 bridge that crosses the Mouse River. All of the three proposed phases will greatly enhance the non-motorized accessibility for all residents of the City of Velva.

*Total Project Costs= \$334,640 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**13. Fargo Park District – Bison Village Trail:** Fargo Parks is seeking to construct a 10' wide, concrete multi-use trail from 32nd Avenue North to 36th Avenue North. The multi-use trail will serve as an alternative transportation route for many walkers, cyclists, rollerbladers, etc. The project will help bridge an off-street trail gap between the north residential homes with NDSU, business, and other residences.

*Total Project Costs= \$270,000 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**14. Hunter Arthur JPA Park Board – Northern Cass Pass:** The Northern Cass Pass is a six mile abandoned railway corridor that connects Hunter and Arthur, ND and was purchased, in 2013, by the Hunter Arthur JPA as part of the Rails to Trails Program. Due to the extent of the project limits, coupled with the rural nature of the communities, this application is for the final phase of a multi-phased project. Ultimately, it is the vision of the JPA Park Board to develop this rails to trails project between the two communities with a paved surface and trail amenities. The six-mile trail corridor will be hard surfaced, suitable for non-motorized diverse use (walking,

running, biking, roller blading, and the occasional equestrian use). Previous phases have included 1) the inspection and rehabilitation of the existing three bridges 2) the grading and compaction of the existing railroad ballast to produce a usable, stable base for subsequent paving operations, and the addition of natural tree groves along the trail to provide wildlife and pedestrian sanctuaries as well as educational opportunities on the project, 3) 2016 ND RTP aggregate surfacing project that utilized bituminous and concrete millings along the entire corridor and 4) the 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 ND RTP bituminous surfacing projects will have paved approximately 5.4 miles of the 6 mile corridor. The remaining mainline paving and central trailhead is proposed with this RTP application.

*Total Project Costs= \$160,000 Grant Request= \$128,000*

#### **15. North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department – Motorized Recreation Trail**

**Equipment:** The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department offers over 2800 miles of groomed snowmobile trails for upwards of 8,000 registered state snowmobile enthusiasts, numerous out-of-state users and over 30 district snowmobile clubs who enjoy the riding opportunities within North Dakota. Paramount to providing these opportunities is a readily available, reliable and a modern fleet of equipment, supplements and material that provide our users a memorable, safe and exciting experience while exploring our state from a snowmobile. In order to sustain these operations, it is necessary to supplement our fleet of grooming equipment and provide distinct signing paraphernalia to provide the best experience possible that allows our generations to connect through experiences shared together.

*Total Project Costs= \$257,000 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**16. Lewis and Clark State Park – Prairie Nature Trail Reconstruction:** The project is to reconstruct the existing Prairie Nature Trail at Lewis and Clark State Park. Reconstruction of the existing trail will include the renovation of two sets of staircases along with the replacement of rotting steps, leveling out elevation changes, re-establishing a section of trail that has been absorbed by wetland, and building a new boardwalk to go over a portion of currently inaccessible wetlands. Additional educational signage will be added to extend the length of the preexisting interpretive path located on the Prairie Nature Trail.

*Total Project Costs= \$123,741.78 Grant Request= \$98,993.38*

**17. City of New Town – Lake Access Path and Dock:** The Edgewater Country Club in the City of New Town is proposing the construction of a pathway and dock. The intent of the project is to allow recreational boaters access to both the clubhouse and golf course. The proposed pathway will extend west from the south side of the clubhouse to Spanish Bay on Lake Sakakawea. The proposed path will be a 10' wide concrete path meeting ADA standards by a combination of path and ramp sections. In total, the pathway will be 1,300 linear feet and traverse approximately 68 vertical feet. An additional benefit is recreational access to the lake for City residents. As a part of the clubhouse relocation and construction of the truck reliver route, the existing shared use path located along ND 23 was extended to the new clubhouse parking lot. Additionally, with the golf course being owned by the City, residents can park at the clubhouse and access the lake via the proposed path.

*Total Project Costs= \$280,000 Grant Request= \$200,000*

**18. Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation – Point to Point Park Trails (Phase II):** The proposed project is to establish and develop hiking trails that extend Point to Point Park to the "Schafer Point" overlook just above Medora. Currently, people "free climb" all over this butte, the purpose of this trail system is to provide a safe hiking experience to a unique vantage point that overlooks Medora, while protecting the natural areas. It will be a desirable free activity for those who visit the Badlands in the spring, summer, and fall seasons. We also want to present the connection to history, that the hiking trails really reinforce Teddy Roosevelt's spirited game, "Point to Point".

*Total Project Costs= \$164,582 Grant Request= \$131,665*

**19. USDA Forest Service – Maah Daah Hey Trail Pioneer Gulch Reroute:** This project is titled the Pioneer Gulch Reroute. This reroute of the Maah Daah Hey (MDH) National Recreation Trail is needed to circumvent a damaged section of trail. In November of 2019 the MDH Trail was closed from mile 67.75 to 72.25 due to the damaged section of trail, which is unrepairable. This reroute is approximately 1.5 miles long and will feature switchbacks, rolling dips, and grade reversals built into the trail design. The reroute has a balanced amount of different landscapes including; creek bottoms, wooded areas, and prairie hillsides. This is a one phase project.

*Total Project Costs= \$23,104.08 Grant Request= \$18,400*

**20. West Fargo Park District – Winter Trail Grooming Equipment:** The West Fargo Park District wishes to procure cross-country trail grooming equipment.

*Total Project Costs= \$48,899 Grant Request= \$39,119*

### **Discussions & Questions**

Dale asked the board to provide clarification on the difference of a trail and a sidewalk. Char explained that the most standard answer is that a sidewalk is under 6' in width whereas a path is usual 6 to 10'. Jolene posted that

**Sidewalks** - RTP funds should not be used to provide paths or sidewalks along or adjacent to public roads or streets, unless:

[https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/guidance/rtp9908\\_pt2.cfm#rtp14](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/guidance/rtp9908_pt2.cfm#rtp14)

- the path or sidewalk is needed to complete a missing link between other recreational trails, or
- the State Recreational Trail Advisory Committee approves allowing RTP funds to be used for paths or sidewalks along or adjacent to public roads or streets.

Some of the projects seemed to fit in a gray area because the application submitted had a project that looked like it could fit in into the RTP but was under 6'. It is up to the members of the board to make that determination when ranking.

Char reminded the board to submit their ranked applications by Friday, July 31, 2020. The board will meet again on August 5, 2020 at 1:00PM via MS Teams Live to discuss the final rankings.

This worked for all of the board members. Char called to adjourn the meeting. Dave motioned to adjourn. Glee second the motion.