



NORTH DAKOTA

Recreational Trails Program Advisory Committee (RTPAC) Meeting

Preliminary Agenda and Notes

April 23, 2025 @ 11:00AM

ND Parks & Recreation Department Grants Coordinator, Char Langehaug, NDPRD

Char welcomed everyone to the virtual presentation and thank everyone for their applications. This year there were 20 applications totaling approximately \$3.88 million with approximately \$1 million available to award. This is the highest amount of funding requests in the history of the program.

To further evaluate these applications and assist with the ranking process, the RTP Advisory Committee (RTPAC) requests 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 Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 11:00 AM. Each applicant received 10 minutes to present virtually (via MS Teams) and answered board questions.

*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-%20207-28-2023%20revision.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at **11:00AM** by **Sarah Torgerson, RTPAC Applicant Presentation Lead.**

Board Members Present:

Non-motorized

Parker Scott (At-Large Representative)

Mitch Thompson (USDA Forest Service Representative)

Alex Manard (Federal Lands Representative)

Ex-officio Members

Alayna Jirava (TA Program Manager, NDDOT)

Pamela Todd (FHWA ND Division)

Sandra Kramer (FHWA ND Division)

Motorized

Todd Thronson (Snowmobile North Dakota)

Tony Schmitt (NDRPA Representative)

NDPRD

Char Langehaug (Grants Coordinator)

AJ Torgerson (Special Projects Officer)

Grace Anguiano (Grants Administrative Assistant;
Meeting Recorder)

Tribal Liaison

Kenneth Graywater Jr. (Spirit Lake Nation, THPO)

Not Present:

Pepper Jenson (Backcountry Horseman Representative)

Steve Pletan (Motorized Specialist)

1. Bismarck Parks and Recreation District – Cottonwood Park South Trail Connections: The proposed project includes 5,901 linear feet of 10' wide shared use trail that needs to be rehabilitated including 176 linear feet of trail that needs to be removed and replaced. The proposed project includes asphalt pavement needing to be rehabilitated that provides accessible routes to the ADA fishing pier at the Cottonwood Pond, Connection to Hidden Star Park, and neighborhoods to the west of the park, and links to sports fields, playgrounds, and spectator areas.

Grant request= \$245,212.65

Presenter: Dave Mayer, BPRD Operations Director

- Non-Motorized: Existing 5,725 linear feet of trail in need of repair and replacement
- Multi-use trail (walking, running, biking, skating, etc.)
- Originally installed in 2007-2008
- 34,000 users in June 2024
- 2 inches of overlay including tapering topsoil to avoid trip hazards on edges
- Location of Bismarck Marathon
- Matching funds secured
- Improvement to accessibility and community connections

2. Brightwood Township – Lake Elsie Park Road Preservation: This project involves seal coating the existing road and bike path to preserve access to Lake Elsie for walkers, bikers, and vehicles. Morris Seal Coat will be contracted for the work, and the township will maintain the trail and road upon completion. Given the high usage of these paths, preserving them is essential to ensuring safe and accessible travel. Local support includes efforts by Brightwood Township to secure grants, and the project is designed to minimize adverse impacts, with only temporary disruptions to travel during construction. Without this maintenance, the pavement will deteriorate, making preservation critical for long-term usability.

Grant Request= \$57,600.00

Presenter: Lowell Bladow (Brightwood Township)

- Non-motorized
- Motor vehicle road contains painted line pedestrian lane
- Water on both sides of road prevents separation of road and trail
- Originally paved 20 years ago
- Connections to the City of Hankinson Park and Veterans Memorial Park
- Not a county funding available road

3. Central Dakota Cyclists – Pump Track at Sunset Park in Mandan. ND: This application hopes to enhance recreation options at Sunset Park in Mandan, North Dakota, by constructing an asphalt pump track as the first phase of a three-phase initiative, with future phases for a skills trail and jump line, all physically interconnected. The pump track will provide a safer space for cyclists of all skill levels to develop their abilities, alleviating congestion at the skate park, which has experienced increased use by both skateboarders and cyclists.

Grant Request=\$158,400.00

Presenter: Jamie Wetsch (Central Dakota Cyclists), Cole Haglin (Mandan PRD), and Tyler Huber (Guest)

- Non-Motorized
- First phase of three-phase initiative
- Wide range of users (bicycles, roller skates, skateboard, hand cycles, strider bikes, scooters, etc.)
- MPRD have agreed to maintain and repair
- No major environmental impacts
- Next to congested skate park, will reduce chances of collision and injury
- Opportunity for future events
- Connected by surrounding trails

4. City of Flasher – Flasher Historical and Recreational Trail Project: This project will construct a 4,045-foot, unpaved, multi-use trail on the south side of the City of Flasher. The 8-foot wide, gravel trail will be constructed on City-owned property, with much of the route following the elevated grade from the old railroad. This new recreational trail will provide direct connections to existing outdoor recreation areas like the Louse Creek Golf Course and the City baseball fields. The trail will also be readily accessible from the city park and the Flasher Centennial Campground. This semi-modern/multi-use trail will be open for year-round use, thus providing opportunities to snowshoe and cross-country ski in the winter. Importantly, the trail will include at least 8 interpretive and educational signs that commemorate the City of Flasher's unique and rich history. These tributes will give particular attention to the Bismarck-Deadwood Stage Trail, the City's Russian German heritage, and the centrality of agriculture to the region's economic development.

Grant Request= \$219, 070.00

Presenter: Scherry Schmidt (President of Commission), AJ Tuck (Lead Engineer)

- Non-motorized
- Number 1 residential ask in Flasher
- Land has been sitting since 1980's without any development
- No sidewalks in Flasher, pedestrians use streets currently
- Match Secured
- Maintenance by City of Flasher has been budgeted
- Connections to baseball diamonds, parks, golf course (ranked one of top 10 in ND)
- Future recreation development in surrounding area is full of possibilities
- Plan in place to avoid any environmental concerns

5. City of Grand Forks – River Edge Fishing and Recreation Plan: This project aims to extend the existing paved trail south from 47th Avenue South to a well-used riverbank fishing site, enhancing accessibility for anglers and other trail users. Plans include installing benches, trash cans, and an informational kiosk to improve the user experience. The work will be completed in a single phase to minimize disruption to the surrounding area and neighborhoods, though its remote location has contributed to increased construction time and costs. The primary goals are to improve public access to public land, provide a safe and inclusive space along the riverbank, and ensure accessibility for law enforcement and emergency responders.

Grant Request: \$249,926.80

Presenter: Kim Greendahl (Greenway Specialist, City of Grand Forks)

- Non-motorized
- 0.4 miles of 10" wide asphalt trail, will connect to surrounding 60 miles of trail

- Current fishing area is primitive with limited access
- Will allow accessibility to popular fishing spot for all
- Will allow emergency responder and maintenance staff access
- Match secured
- MPO approved

6. Grand Forks Park District – Ryan Lake Prairie Trail and Outdoor Classroom: This application's objective is to enhance community wellness, outdoor education, and environmental awareness by restoring native prairie habitat and constructing a 0.5-mile, 6' wide ADA-accessible concrete trail around Ryan Lake. This trail will connect existing fishing docks, benches, and perimeter trails, providing equitable access to nature while fostering appreciation for local biodiversity. The project will serve recreational, educational, and ecological purposes, supporting local schools, bird watchers, fishermen, and other community members. Additionally, the trail will integrate an outdoor classroom with educational signage, creating a valuable space for environmental learning. The park, trails, and outdoor classroom will be free for public use, ensuring accessibility and engagement for all.

Grant Request= \$250,000.00

Presenter: Leif Larson (Senior Accountant), Katy Cavanaugh (Horticulturist & Landscaping Specialist)

- Non-motorized
- 4.5 acres of natural prairie restoration
- No similar facilities in the area
- Outdoor Classroom would be directly behind local middle school
- Large educational want and need
- Pond is stocked yearly by Game and Fish and hosts kids' events
- The Forestry Department has agreed to match grant funds if awarded
- Area is currently a recreational desert

7. City of Napoleon – Napoleon Pedestrian Trail: The City of Napoleon's pedestrian trail runs from Highway #3 to the West Lake Complex boat ramp, providing a safe and accessible route for residents to reach local recreational facilities while enjoying nature. Spanning one mile and beginning with a concrete parking lot, the trail follows a flood diversion canal rich in wildlife, featuring educational signs to enhance learning without disturbing the habitat. Since Lake Avenue lacks sidewalks, the trail offers a much safer option for pedestrians and cyclists. This grant request seeks partial funding to install lighting along the trail and parking lot, ensuring 24-hour accessibility and increased safety for all users, including individuals with disabilities, youth traveling to parks, and those looking to engage in outdoor recreation and education.

Grant Request= \$250,000.00

Presenter: Bob Humann (President of Napoleon City Council)

- Non-motorized
- 8" wide concrete trail currently connects city park, museum, rodeo grounds, and boat dock
- Installation of five educational signs are currently being installed along the trail
- From the city park to the lake there is no lighting
- Important to have lighting for 24 hour access
- Many long hour laborers in area who wish to get activity at odd hours on trail
- Will improve safety and accessibility

- Trail is used year-round

8. City of Wahpeton – Park Shared Use Path Reconstruct: This project involves reconstructing approximately 1,500 linear feet of shared-use path atop the flood protection levy in Wahpeton, replacing the deteriorating bituminous pavement with a 4-inch-thick reinforced concrete surface. The new path, maintaining its original location and width of 9', will enhance accessibility and durability while preventing heavy bituminous trucks from impacting the levy. Running through the golf course and connecting to Chahinkapa Park and Zoo, the pathway is a vital part of the city's extensive trail system, providing safe walking and biking access. The reconstruction will improve transportation alternatives, support public health, and offer scenic views along the river, fostering a more vibrant and active community. Minor restoration work, including topsoil spreading and grass seeding, will follow the concrete pouring to ensure environmental integration.

Grant Request= \$249,999.50

Presenter: Kyle Rogahn (Project Engineer City of Wahpeton)

- Non-motorized
- Original path was placed in 1998 on top of a flood levy
- Path is disintegrating beyond further repair
- Concrete trail is ideal to keep heavy repair trucks off the levy
- Heavy use by golfers, parks and zoo goers
- Hosts Amazing Race and annual 5k during Chalk Fest
- Does see some golf cart traffic
- Match Secured

9. City of Fargo - Fargo Park District Southwest Pond Regional Recreation Area Trail Project: The Southwest Pond Regional Recreation Area (SWPRRA) is a 160-acre storm water pond that began construction in 2019. The storm water infrastructure project will be completed in 2026. The Fargo Park District has partnered with the City of Fargo to manage the area for recreational use. This project will be phase 1 of 4 to construct a new 1-mile-long concrete trail that will connect trail users to this new recreation area from existing trails and paths in a rapidly growing area of Fargo, ND. The subsequent phases will include 1.8 miles of concrete trail. The recreation area will also have gravel hiking trails, native prairie seeding, benches and interpretive signage. The addition of these features is currently being planned and designed as well. The goal is to create a diverse outdoor recreation area and connect people to this area by constructing this new concrete trail as main trail leading to the recreation area from the surrounding residential and commercial neighborhoods.

Grant Request= \$250,000.00

Presenter: Sam DeMarais (Forester, Fargo Park District)

- Non-Motorized
- Phase 1 of 4
- Area services 23,000 plus acre area
- 10" wide, 4-inch-thick concrete trail
- Creates access to current recreational area
- Will connect to current trail on 52nd Ave and future trails on west side
- Includes 80 acres of natural prairie seeding

- Match not currently secured, but if grant awarded it will be

10. Horace Park District – Independence Park Multi-Use Trail: The proposed project will develop a 0.4-mile, 8-foot-wide paved multi-use trail and a trailhead plaza within Independence Park in Horace, providing a safe and accessible route for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized users. Designed to improve connectivity between neighborhoods and the park, the trail will support both recreation and active transportation, while the trailhead plaza will serve as a welcoming entrance and gathering space. By enhancing walkability, outdoor engagement, and accessibility, the project will promote public health, environmental sustainability, and urban livability, making Independence Park a vibrant destination for residents and visitors of all ages.

Grant Request= \$250,000.00

Presenter: Paige Schockman (Vice President Horace Park District)

- Non-motorized
- One of the oldest parks in Horace
- Centrally situated in the city to encourage connectivity
- Large engagement from the community on project
- New playground being installed from separate funding
- Current trail in barely visible/usable
- New trail will fill existing connectivity gaps
- Match Secured
- No maintenance plan exists as there is no full-time staff, the city is currently under a strategic change to address this

11. Hunter Arthur Joint Park Board – Northern Cass Pass Maintenance Equipment: This project involves acquiring a UHV, such as a Bobcat Toolcat with necessary attachments, to ensure year-round maintenance of a six-mile paved multi-use trail. As the corridor is now fully paved and widely used, regular upkeep—including sweeping, snow removal, surface repairs, mowing, and bridge maintenance—is essential to provide a safe, accessible, and well-maintained path. The equipment will help keep the trail free of debris, trip hazards, and environmental wear, benefiting all users, including cyclists, wheelchair users, runners, and walkers. By enabling efficient maintenance, this acquisition will support long-term usability and safety for the community.

Grant Request= \$95,680.00

Presenter: Barry Johnson (Moore Engineering)

- Non-motorized
- Help needed to keep up maintenance on trail investment
- Currently depend heavily on city road crews for trail maintenance due to lack of equipment
- Regional attraction with year-round use
- Used by local schools for cross country/track practice
- Match secured

12. Lincoln Park District- Pathway 66th Street South: This project aims to construct a 10-foot-wide gravel pathway along the west side of 66th St. SE, connecting Santee Dr. to the southern city limits, where no pedestrian or bicycle facilities currently exist. The pathway will provide safe off-road access for walking, jogging, cycling, and mountain biking,

enhancing recreation and connectivity within the community. Crossing two city roadways, it will improve accessibility while incorporating ADA-compliant features, such as concrete panels and truncated domes at crossings. The project includes earthwork, excavation, and a 6-inch gravel base, with the potential for paving if funding allows. By offering a dedicated, safe route away from road traffic, this trail will promote active lifestyles while improving the aesthetics and usability of the City of Lincoln's outdoor spaces.

Grant Request= \$103,845.60

Presenter: Nicholas Couture (President Lincoln Park District)

- Non-motorized
- Phase II of current trail project
- Current trail in dirt wear from pedestrian and ATV use
- Connects to other trails and in future to Bismarck and Mandan trail systems
- Will get pedestrians safely off of road
- Multiple User groups (young families, strollers, elderly, dog-walkers)
- Park District will maintain
- Trail signs, bush and tree planting to prevent ATV use
- No current plans for another OHV trail, but possible in future

13. Watford City Park District – Multi-Use Trail: This project involves an adaptive single-track trail next to the McKenzie County Athletic Park, designed for year-round use by hikers, bikers, runners, cross-country skiers, and more. The trail will feature a flowing layout with gentle grades and switchbacks, making it accessible for all abilities while blending seamlessly into the landscape. Optional skill-building tracks will provide beginners a space to develop confidence and outdoor skills. Built with sustainable materials and erosion control in mind, the trail will offer a durable, low-maintenance surface for four-season enjoyment. Located near the athletic park, it will connect to existing amenities like parking and restrooms, enhancing accessibility. This project seeks to foster a love for nature, promote physical activity, and create a community hub where families and individuals can exercise, develop skills, and build resilience, all while enjoying the beauty of McKenzie County's outdoors.

Grant Request= \$235,008.00

Presenter: Phil Helfrich (President of Save the Maah Daah Hey), Robin Arndt (Watford Park District)

- Non-motorized
- Connects baseball diamonds to the Maah Daah Hey
- Athletic Park connection provides restrooms and parking for trail goers
- Trail to be no wider than 36 inches
- Year-round use with cross country skiing grooming
- Create exposure to the more difficult Maah Daah Hey and develop skills

14. MHA Parks and Reserve – East Side Trail Improvement and Little Missouri State Park Connectivity Project: This project will expand and enhance the recreational trail system on the east side of the Three Affiliated Tribes National Park, creating approximately 3.51 miles of hiking trails that improve connectivity to the Little Missouri State Park and provide backcountry exploration opportunities. It includes a 1.51-mile loop, redevelopment of the former CT Trail, and identification of future connections, along with the installation of a trailhead sign featuring interpretive information about the Three Affiliated Tribes' deep connection to the Little Missouri Badlands ecosystem. The project also involves

the construction of a vault toilet at the trailhead, ensuring accessibility and convenience for visitors. By preserving cultural heritage and fostering recreation, the project allows the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people to reconnect with their homeland while offering the public an educational and immersive outdoor experience.

Grant Request= \$215,840.00

Presenter: Ethan White Calfe (MHA Parks and Reserve, Tribal Park Superintendent)

- Non-motorized
- Trail will build a bridge between the public and tribe
- At this time, trail will be for hiking use only
- Educational signs for youth groups and all to learn about rich culture
- Has been approved with Tribal Resolution in place
- Open year-round for snowshoeing
- Park currently does not have any infrastructure
- Will allow accessibility and excitement for recreation
- Match secured

15. MDHTA – Maah Daah Hey Trail Restoration: This project involves restoration of 3.4 miles in various locations within a 15-mile segment starting at mile marker 7 to mile marker 22 and locations within a segment starting at mile marker 30 to mile marker 33. The areas of the trail between mm 7 and mm 32 are heavily used and have had significant impacts from record rain events in recent years. The areas identified within these mile markers were identified as needing repair by USFS staff in 2024 and again in 2025 by USFS Recreation Trails manager Jeff Davis and MDHTA president Curt Glasoe. Included in the project is constructing approximately 4,000 feet of single-track trail leading east and west from the new Crying Butte trail head, gravel surfacing and reclamation and reseeding approximately 2,300 feet of abandoned trail in the same location. The trail scheduled to be abandoned and reclaimed was built in a non-sustainable fashion from the Crying Butte TH to the MDHT. The proposed new trail project will be sustainable grades.

Grant Request= \$129,075.20

Presenter: Curt Glasoe (President of MDHTA)

- Non-motorized
- Will allow access from Crying Butte trailhead for safe parking
- Repairs needed due to significant rain events
- Original trail was built in non-sustainable grades
- 4,000 linear feet of single-track trail
- Gravel Surfacing, reclamation, and reseeding of 2,300 feet of abandoned trail in same location

16. NDRPD – Fitness Trail Improvement and Wayfinding Upgrades: Fort Stevenson State Park plans to enhance visitor experience and promote outdoor recreation by upgrading fitness equipment and improving wayfinding signage along the Trooper Challenge trail. The project involves removing outdated fitness components, preparing the site with landscape fabric and tree planting, installing modern low-maintenance equipment, and placing new signage across 10 miles of trails to improve accessibility and navigation. By providing safe and attractive fitness amenities, the project encourages physical activity, supports health and wellness, and benefits park visitors, the local community, and school physical education programs. Routine inspections will ensure long-term effectiveness, reinforcing the park as a destination for recreation and fitness.

Grant Request= \$61,260.56

Notes: Not Present (Break for 10 Minutes)

17. NDPRD – Little Missouri State Park Reimagined: This project will restore, sustain, and secure access to the trail system at Little Missouri State Park, ensuring safe, reliable, and enjoyable access for visitors. The trails have not been maintained in over a decade, resulting in severe erosion, overgrowth, and hazardous conditions that have rendered much of the network unusable. Funding will support critical rehabilitation efforts, including erosion control, surface improvements, and structural repairs to drainage features. Additionally, this project will help secure long-term access to key trail segments, ensuring the park's trail system remains viable for future generations. By revitalizing these trails, we will increase park utilization, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect the natural landscape from further degradation.

Grant Request= \$249,027.00

Presenter: Micaela Shell (Park Manager)

- Non-motorized
- Phase 1 of trail restoration
- 12 miles of current trails in need of restoration
- Will improve wayfinding at key intersections
- Helps to sustain visitation and strengthen lease relationships
- Improve emergency response and reduce risks
- Park's current needs surpass State funding
- Match secured by In-kind donations from State Employees and Volunteers

18. NDPRD – Snowmobile North Dakota Trail Grooming: This project supports the grooming of North Dakota's 2,700-mile snowmobile trail system, ensuring safe, accessible, and high-quality riding conditions for over 8,000 riders while boosting tourism and local economies. Grooming involves frequent maintenance, including cutting, leveling, and compacting snow to eliminate hazards such as ice buildup and rough terrain. The program extends the winter recreation season, enhances the state's reputation as a premier destination, and provides economic stability for rural communities reliant on seasonal tourism. Additionally, continued investment in grooming strengthens local snowmobile clubs and volunteer engagement, ensuring long-term sustainability for the trail system.

Grant Request= \$250,000.00

Presenter: Tony Hillig (NDPRD Recreation Chief)

- Motorized
- Winter corridors connect towns and cities
- Replacement parts and 10-year-old Tucker replacement needed
- Program heavily relies on volunteer operators to clear over 2,700 miles of snowmobile trails
- 14 trail networks across ND
- Supports training, safety education, and increases revenue for small businesses
- Cash match secured

19. NDPRD – Summer Trail Maintenance Equipment 2025: The project entails both purchasing and trading in mowers, ranging from 9 to 15 years old, vital for trail maintenance, safety, and aesthetics. This equipment plays a crucial role in upkeep over 88 miles of trails, particularly those serving as the final stretch in connecting different recreational areas. This equipment is pivotal in ensuring the trails remain safe, accessible, and visually appealing. By investing in updated machinery, the project aims to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in trail management, ultimately enriching the overall outdoor experience for users across diverse recreational regions.

Grant Request= \$159,912.00

Notes: Not Present

20. NDPRD – Winter Trail Maintenance Equipment 2025: This project focuses on acquiring and trading winter-tracked trail grooming equipment aged 10 to 17 years old. Vital for maintaining nearly 50 miles of winter groomed safe and visually appealing trails, this machinery connects various recreational areas, enhancing outdoor experiences. Upgrading this equipment aims to boost efficiency in trail management, optimizing conditions for winter activities like skiing and snowshoeing. By modernizing the grooming fleet, the project seeks to improve trail accessibility and safety, promoting outdoor engagement across diverse regions.

Grant Request= \$206,393.60

Notes: Not Present

Following the presentations, Sarah Torgerson expressed her gratitude to all the applicants for their efforts and participation. She also extended her thanks to the board members for their dedication in evaluating the applications, reminding them that the scores must be submitted by Wednesday, April 30, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

Char Langehaug, RTP Program Manager, added her appreciation to both the applicants and the board members for their time and contributions. She emphasized the significant impact of the Recreational Trails Program on North Dakota and provided an overview of the applications received—a total of 20—with grant requests amounting to \$3.88 million. Char highlighted the importance of each board member's role in shaping the program, underscoring how their expertise and advocacy help elevate the voice of trails across the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM by Sarah Torgerson.

Notes provided by Grace Anguiano (Grants Administrative Assistant) on 04/24/2025.

Recreations Trails Program Manager: Char Langehaug – clangehaug@nd.gov

Recreational Trail Programs Advisory Board Lead: Sarah Torgerson – smtorgerson@nd.gov

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

Web Grants Assistance: AJ Torgerson – ajtorgerson@nd.gov

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

General Grant Assistance and Information: Grace Anguiano – granguiano@nd.gov

*Please feel free to see our past RTP project on the *Miles and Moments* Video Series on Youtube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZqrANkX6sukO3Wus7BZpKEa1zcVDpL6C>