

# Funding and Support Sources for Greenways

## Federal Funding Sources

### **The Transportation Equity Act for the 21 st Century (TEA-21)**

TEA-21 is the new federal transportation law, a massive spending program, some of which can be used for non-motorized transport, trails and greenways. Although a federal program, all Michigan money decisions are made in Lansing by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

The law's Transportation Enhancements Program has made about \$22 million per year available to Michigan over the past 12 years. The program will be coming up for reauthorization in 2003 for the next 6 years. This program is a prime source of greenway funding under one or more of the following categories:

- Building facilities for bicycles and pedestrians
- Providing safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists
- Converting abandoned railroad corridors into bicycle and pedestrian paths
- Preserving historic sites
- Acquiring scenic or historic sites
- Sponsoring scenic or historic highway programs
- Beautifying roadsides
- Rehabilitating historic buildings or facilities to serve a transportation need.
- Performing archeological research, such as excavations
- Removing outdoor advertising signs
- Mitigating water pollution caused by road runoff
- Establishing transportation museums

Eligible project applicants include all governmental entities that receive fuel tax revenues, such as city and village road agencies, road commissions, transit agencies, the state DOT and Michigan Department of Natural Resources for rail/bike path projects.

The application procedure is in the process of being revised. Local units of government will be notified of new application deadlines. The project sponsor must pay at least 20 percent of a project's cost. Project amounts have ranged from a few thousand dollars to \$1 million.

#### Contacts:

Office of Transportation, Economic Development and Enhancements  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
425 West Ottawa, P.O. Box 30050  
Lansing, MI 48909

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## National Recreational Trails Funding Program

The Recreational Trails Program provides funds for both motorized and non-motorized trail development. The Act provides for transfer from the Highway Trust Fund of Federal gasoline taxes paid on non-highway recreation fuel for off-road vehicles and camping vehicles. This program was continued in TEA-21 with annual funding beginning at \$30 million for FY 1998, \$40 million for FY 1999 and rising to \$50 million per year for the remaining years of the bill.

States can grant these funds to private individuals, organizations, city and county governments, and other government entities. Grant recipients are generally required to provide 20% of the total project cost. In Michigan, the Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) administers the program. There is no open application process and most of the money is used on DNR projects. A DNR Division can sponsor local projects. Permissible uses of the fund include:

- State administrative costs
- Environmental and safety education programs
- Development of urban trail linkages
- Maintenance of existing trails
- Restoration of areas damaged by trail use
- Trail facilities development
- Provision of access for people with disabilities
- Acquisitions of easements
- Fee simple title for property and construction of new trails.

Contact:

Ed Hagen, State Trails Coordinator  
Parks & Rec. Bureau  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30257  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-373-0367  
Fax: 517-241-0977  
E-mail: [hagene@michigan.gov](mailto:hagene@michigan.gov)

## Scenic Byways Program

TEA-21 authorizes the use of federal funds to identify and designate federal, state, and local scenic byways. These byways, typically back roads, are intended to showcase areas of great beauty and rich history. Funds may be spent on the construction of facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists along these designated highways. Twenty roads have been recognized under this program nationally, of which Michigan has six.

Contact:

Scenic America  
801 Pennsylvania Ave., Ste 300  
Washington, DC 20003  
Phone: 202-543-6200  
Fax: 202-543-9130  
E-mail: [webmaster@scenic.org](mailto:webmaster@scenic.org)  
Website: [www.scenic.org](http://www.scenic.org)

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)**

This federal program, administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, funds the planning, acquisition, and development of land for federal and non-federal (known as "state-side") outdoor recreation. This program has recently been brought back from dormancy. Funding for 2003 and beyond is expected to reach at least \$4 million per year.

State agencies and municipalities are eligible for state-side LWCF funds which can generally be used to acquire land, build or repair recreation or park facilities, provide riding and hiking trails, enhance recreational access, and provide wildlife and hunting areas. The program matches up to 50 percent of the cost of a project.

Contact:

James Wood  
Manager, Resource Protection Section  
Grants Administration Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30425  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-241-2480  
DNR website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

## **Michigan Coastal Management Program**

Michigan's Coastal Management Program, developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) 1972, is administered by the Land and Water Coastal Zone Management Division of the State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The DEQ distributes about \$800,000 per year to shoreline communities for a variety of projects.

Michigan's coastal zone boundary generally extends a minimum of 1,000 feet inland, and sometimes further to include coastal lakes, river mouths and bays, floodplains, coastal wetlands, sand dunes, parks natural areas and urban areas.

CZMA Section 306 funds are used for planning activities, site design, engineering, feasibility and natural features studies, historic preservation projects, coastal education materials, developing portions of local zoning ordinances, master planning of coastal significance, and waterfront redevelopment studies. CZMA Section 306A funds are used for low-cost construction projects such as resource protection, trails, boardwalks, scenic overlooks, education and/or interpretive displays, restoration of historic coastal structures, barrier-free retrofitting.

Under both sections, grants require a local match in an amount equal to the grant. About 40 projects are approved for funding each year, ranging up to \$50,000 in size. Applications are due no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Contact:

Cathy Cunningham  
Unit Chief  
Land and Water Coastal Zone Management Unit  
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 30458  
Lansing MI 48909  
Phone: 517-335-3456  
DEQ website: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

## **Urban and Community Forestry Program**

The Forest Mineral and Fire Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers this program. The Department provides approximately \$130,000 for grants annually from this U.S. Department of Agriculture program. Applicants must be local units of government or non-profit organizations. Grants up to \$20,000 are awarded to projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources in Michigan. The application deadline is in early spring.

Project categories include:

- Local government program development
- Non-profit program development
- Demonstration projects
- Information/education projects
- Tree planting

Contact:

Cara Boucher, Urban and Community Forester  
Forest Mineral and Fire Management Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30452  
Lansing MI 48909  
Phone: 517-335-3354  
[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

## **Other Federal Funding Sources**

### **Non-point Source Pollution Control Grants**

The Surface Water Quality Division's Non-point Source Unit in the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality administers this Environmental Protection Agency Program. Grants are provided to county or local units of government, Cooperative Extension Service agencies, soil conservation districts, regional planning commissions, lake boards and water management districts.

Program priorities are established for each fiscal year. Examples of previous priorities include projects that demonstrate new or innovative technical and institutional approaches, watershed restoration activities, and groundwater protection activities. A project on the Huron River (Washtenaw County) focused on information/education activities targeted toward local governmental units, land use planners, local businesses, and large institutional landowners. Activities include expansion of the Adopt-A-Stream program and development of partnerships with local businesses and large institutional landowners.

Since 1988, when the program began, \$9.4 million dollars have been passed through to local communities to fund projects in over 35 watersheds statewide.

Contact:

Non-point Source Unit  
Water Division  
Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 30273  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-373-2867

Website: [www.michigan.gov/deq](http://www.michigan.gov/deq)

### **State Wetlands Protection Development Grant Program**

This Environmental Protection Agency Program provides grants to state and local governments for developing new or enhancing existing wetlands protection programs. Funding priority is focused on Wetland/Watershed Protection Approach Demonstration Projects and River Corridor and Wetland Restoration Projects.

#### **Contacts:**

Lori Williams, Wetlands Division  
Office of Wetlands  
Oceans and Watersheds (4502F)  
Environmental Protection Agency  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 230460  
Phone: 202-566-1376

Sue Elston  
EPA, Region V  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Phone: 312-886-6115  
Email: [elston.sue@epa.gov](mailto:elston.sue@epa.gov)  
Website: [www.epa.gov.owow/watershed/wacademy/fundwet.html](http://www.epa.gov.owow/watershed/wacademy/fundwet.html)

### **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**

The Department of Agriculture, through its Farm Service Agency provides payments to farm owners and operators to place highly erodible or environmentally sensitive cropland into a 10-15 year contract. The participant, in return for annual payments, agrees to implement a conservation plan approved by the local conservation district for converting these sensitive lands to less intensive use; i.e., cropland must be planted with a vegetated cover that reduces soil erosion, improves water quality, and enhances or establishes wildlife habitat).

Contact:  
Shannon Zezula  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3001 Coolidge Rd., Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517-324-5259  
Website: [www.mi.ncrs.usda.gov](http://www.mi.ncrs.usda.gov)

### **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

The Department of Agriculture, through its Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, provides direct payments to private landowners who agree to place sensitive wetlands under permanent or 30-year easements. This program could be used to permanently protect wetland areas as open space along a greenway corridor and will pay on a cost-share basis for restoration of a wetland.

#### **Contact:**

Jim Marshall

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3001 Coolidge Rd., Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517-324-5257

### **Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (Small Watershed Protection Grants)**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides funding to state and local agencies or non-profit organizations authorized to carryout, maintain, and operate watershed improvements in watersheds of less than 250,000 acres. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to eligible projects that improve watershed protection, flood prevention, sedimentation control, public water-based fish and wildlife enhancements and recreation planning. The NRCS provides a 75% local match for public recreation, fish and wildlife purposes, and flood prevention projects. Also, in-kind services may count as match to this program.

Contact:

Sean Duffey  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
3001 Coolidge Rd., Suite 250  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
Phone: 517-324-5247

For all of the Natural Resources Conservation Service programs listed above, you can also contact the local NRCS agent located in each county.

### **Brownfields Revitalization Grants**

The Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act, signed into law in early 2002, provides \$200 million nationwide for brownfields assessment and clean-up. Greenways, habitat restoration, parks and other "green activities" are eligible purposes for these grants. The program is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has an initial grant deadline of December 16, 2002. If reviewed favorably, the final grant deadline is March 5, 2003. Local governments and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

Contact:

Deborah Orr  
EPA Region 5 Brownfields Coordinator  
77 West Jackson Blvd.  
Chicago, IL 60604-3507  
Phone: 312-886-7576  
E-mail: [orr.de-@epa.gov](mailto:orr.de-@epa.gov)  
Website: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields)

### **Watershed Grants**

A new watershed initiative program has been announced by the Environmental Protection Agency for funding in 2003 (subject to the appropriations process). The program will focus on watershed coalitions and innovative collaborative efforts for assessment, clean-up and mitigation of threats to water quality. Up to 20 watersheds will be selected for this \$21 million initiative. Grants will range from \$300,000 to \$1.3 million, and a 25% non-federal match is required. Nominations must be submitted through the Governor or a tribal leader. State, local, community, and non-profit groups are eligible to apply.

Contact:

Robert Wayland, Director  
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds

Mail Code: 4501T  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20640  
Phone: 202-566-1146  
Website: [www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative](http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/initiative)

## **Michigan Funding Sources**

### **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund**

This program, administered by the Grants Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, makes some \$20 million per year available for acquisition and development of lands and facilities for outdoor recreation and environmental protection. Money for the Fund is dependent on revenue and interest accruing to the Trust Fund, in part from oil and gas exploration and sales from state land.

Applications are evaluated on established criteria such as resource protection, water access, and community recreation. At least a 25 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local applicants. Any unit of government, including school districts, or any combination of units in which authority is legally constituted to provide recreation, is eligible to apply for funding.

Applications must be postmarked not later than April 1<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> of each year with decisions usually made by the end of the year. There is no minimum or maximum limit on land acquisition grants, while development grants have a \$15,000 minimum and a \$500,000 maximum.

Contact:

Sharon Edgar, Chief  
Grants Management Section  
MI Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30425  
Lansing, MI 48909-7925  
Phone: 517-241-3100  
Fax: 517-3366813  
Website: [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

### **Recreation Improvement Fund**

This program, administered by the Forest Mineral and Fire Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, makes some \$800,000 per year available for the operation, maintenance and development of recreation trails, restoration of lands damaged by off-road vehicles, and inland lake cleanup. There is no open application process and most of the money is used on DNR projects. However, a DNR division can sponsor local projects. Projects are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Special Department initiative
- Citizen/local government support
- Contribution to economic development through tourism
- Provides linkages to parks, natural resources, communities and other major trails
- Number and variety of uses to be accommodated
- Provides year-round opportunities
- Resolves issues or conflicts

Contact:

Ed Hagen, State Trails Coordinator  
Parks and Recreation Bureau  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 30257  
Lansing, MI 48909  
Phone: 517-373-0367 Fax: 517-241-0977  
E-mail: [hagene@michigan.gov](mailto:hagene@michigan.gov)

### **Millages and bonds**

Local, county, or state millages and bond issues may be passed by voters or governing bodies. A number of Southeast Michigan communities - for example, Ann Arbor, Rochester Hills, Grosse Isle, Novi, and West Bloomfield Township - have millages for park operations, maintenance, development, and land acquisition. This can be one of the most effective approaches for funding a greenway initiative.

### **Parks and Recreation Budgets**

Greenway funding can come from willing agencies, which may include local and county parks and recreation departments, the HCMA, or the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division.

### **Private Funding Sources**

#### **Kodak American Greenways Awards Program**

Administered by the Conservation Fund, in partnership with Kodak, and the National Geographic Society, this program provides grants of \$500 to \$2,500 to local greenways projects. These grants can be used for activities such as mapping, conducting ecological assessments, surveying land, hosting conferences, developing brochures, producing interpretive displays and audio-visual material, incorporating land trusts, building trails and trail facilities or other creative projects. Grants cannot be used for academic research, general institutional support, lobbying or political activities. The submission period for grant applications is March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> with a final deadline of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Decisions are announced in early fall.

Contact:

Leigh Anne McDonald  
American Greenways Coordinator  
The Conservation Fund  
1800 North Kent Street, Suite 1120  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Phone: 703-525-6300  
Email: [lmcdonald@conservationfund.org](mailto:lmcdonald@conservationfund.org)

### **DALMAC Fund**

Established in 1975 to promote bicycling in Michigan, the DALMAC Fund is administered by the Tri-County Bicycle Association and supported by proceeds from the DALMAC (Dick Allen Lansing to Mackinaw) bicycle tour. The Fund has supported safety and education programs, bicycle trail development, statewide bicycle organizations and route mapping projects.

Applications must be submitted between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Grants are awarded between June and August.

Contact:

Tom Hardenbergh, Chair  
DALMAC Fund Committee  
P.O. Box 22146  
Lansing, MI 48909-2146  
Phone: 517-485-7818  
Website: [www.biketcba.org](http://www.biketcba.org)

### **Michigander/ Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Fund**

The Michigan Field Office of Rails-to-Trails Conservancy has a small grants program based on revenue from the annual Michigander Mountain Bike tour. The purpose of the program is to aid the development of a connected trail initiative throughout the State of Michigan. The program goals are to develop new projects, assist with grassroots start-up costs, and help provide leverage for additional funding. Grants are usually no more than \$5,000 and do not require local match.

Contact:

Nancy Krupiarz, Director  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Michigan Field Office  
416 S. Cedar, Suite C  
Lansing, MI 48912  
Phone: 517-485-6022  
Fax: 517-485-9181  
E-mail: [rtcncancy@transact.org](mailto:rtcncancy@transact.org)  
Website: [www.railtrails.org/MI](http://www.railtrails.org/MI)

### **Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) Environmental Grants**

REI awards these grants to organizations for protection and enhancement of natural resources for use in outdoor recreation. Grants of up to \$5,000 are offered to accomplish any of the following:

- Preservation of wildlands and open space
- Advocacy-oriented education for the general public about conservation issues
- Building a membership base of a conservation organization
- Direct citizen action (lobbying) campaigns on public land and water recreation issues
- Projects working to organize a trail constituency or to enhance the effectiveness of a trail organization' s work as a trail advocate at the state or local level.

There is more than one deadline date for the submission of grant applications.  
Grants are awarded through the local store. In Michigan, the contact information is:

Allison Washburn  
REI  
17559 Haggerty Rd.  
Northville, MI 48167  
Phone: 248-347-2100  
E-mail: [awashbu@rei.com](mailto:awashbu@rei.com)

## **Bikes Belong Coalition**

Comprised of members of the bicycle industry, this organization is dedicated to putting more people on bikes more often. Grants of up to \$10,000 each are offered to local organizations, agencies, and communities for developing bicycle facility projects. Grants are closely tied with furthering project readiness toward funding by a TEA-21 enhancement grant. (described above). Successor grants for continuing projects are considered. Applications can be submitted anytime and funding decisions are made on a rolling basis, with a 3-month waiting period.

Applicants should contact Bikes Belong before submitting an application:

Tim Baldwin  
Grants Program Administrator  
Phone: 617-734-2111  
E-mail: [tim@bikesbelong.org](mailto:tim@bikesbelong.org)

## **Michigan Economic and Environmental Roundtable (MEER)**

The MEER grant was started 6 years ago by Public Sector Consultants, a governmental consulting and research firm in Lansing. The Roundtable is a partnership comprised of Michigan Environmental Council, National Wildlife Federation, Dow Chemical Company, the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, and Public Sector Consultants. The conjecture of environmental and economic issues, especially land use, is the main focus of the program. The small grant program focuses on funding organizations working on land use issues from a collaborative perspective, involving the business and non-profit and governmental sectors. Total funding per year is up to \$20 million and the maximum grant allowed is \$4,000. Applications are due in the spring and grant decisions are made within one month of the deadline.

Contact:

Conan Smith  
Michigan Environmental Council  
119 Pere Marquette, Suite 2A  
Lansing, MI 48933  
Phone: 517-487-9539  
Fax: 517-487-9541  
E-mail: [conanmec@voyager.net](mailto:conanmec@voyager.net)

## **People and Land (PAL) Grants**

PAL Grants have been funded by the People and Land group since 2001. The focus of these grants is to increase the public's understanding of land use management and its impact on the state's environmental condition, economy, and overall quality of life, to develop successful land use planning models and to aid in the development of effective state and local land use policies. In 2002, 10 projects were awarded grants totaling one million dollars. Grants are awarded only to projects which are multi-jurisdictional, consist of multiple stakeholders with diverse interests and promote collaboration. Non-profit groups, educational institutions, and local governments are eligible to apply.

Contact:

Julie Metty Bennett  
PAL Assistant Program Manager  
600 W. St. Joseph  
Lansing, MI 48933  
(517) 371-7467  
Website: [www.pal@peopleandland.org](http://www.pal@peopleandland.org)

## **Other Private Funding Sources**

### **Land Trusts**

National, state, regional, county, and local private land trusts (or conservancies) can purchase land for resale to public agencies, buy options to protect land temporarily, receive land donations, put together land deals, and provide technical assistance. As private entities, land trusts can often act more quickly than public agencies.

### **Foundations**

Private foundations are nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations having a principal fund of its own managed by its own trustees and directors, and established to maintain or aid charitable, educational, religious, or other activities serving the public good, primarily by making grants to other nonprofit organizations. The overwhelming majority of foundation grants are awarded to nonprofit organizations that qualify for "public charity" status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Directories of Foundation Funding Sources**

This guide lists information about selected foundations that may have interest in greenway projects.

*Michigan Foundation Directory.* Prepared by Council of Michigan Foundations and Michigan League for Human Services. Available from libraries and the Council of Michigan Foundations (616-842-7080).

[www.cmif.org](http://www.cmif.org)

This directory gives information about the programs of hundreds of Michigan foundations and numerous corporations, and is updated biennially.

*The Foundation Directory, & The Foundation Directory Part 2.* Prepared by the Foundation Center. Available from libraries and the Foundation Center (212) 620-4230 in New York).

[www.fdncenter.org](http://www.fdncenter.org)

These directories describe the programs of thousands of large foundations throughout the U.S., and are updated annually.

*The Foundation Grants Index.* Prepared by the Foundation Center. Available from libraries and the Foundation Center (212) 620-4230.

This index lists recent foundation grants, and is updated annually.

### **Businesses**

Most towns have public-spirited companies. These firms have a history of helping worthy projects by providing meeting rooms in a company building, giving small grants, donating copying or renting services, or giving free or reduced-fee use of the company' s special services. For example, a law firm might provide "pro bono" (free) legal advice or an accounting firm might donate staff time to assist in developing a simple bookkeeping system.

### **Friends Groups**

We all need friends, and this holds true for greenway projects as well. In fact, the long-term success of a project can well depend on the formation of an ongoing private "Friends of the Trail" organization. Friends groups can provide a

number of services including physical labor through "Adopt-a-Trail" maintenance or construction activities, fundraising, user education, promotion, and actual surveillance of the facility. These groups are important in all project phases: planning, acquisition, development, and operation.

### **Other Organizations**

Civic groups and school groups can play an important role in support of a greenway project. They might help with trail development and maintenance, funding, promotion, and through the hosting of events. These activities can be separate from, or in conjunction with, a friends group.

### **Individuals**

Willing individuals can donate money, land, easements, and services. The vast majority of money donated in this country comes from individuals. In numerous cases across the country, the financial contribution of a single individual has meant the success of a trail or greenway project.