

# National Scenic and Historic Trails Land Preservation Workshop

Tennessee Recreation Trail Program (RTP)  
Opportunities

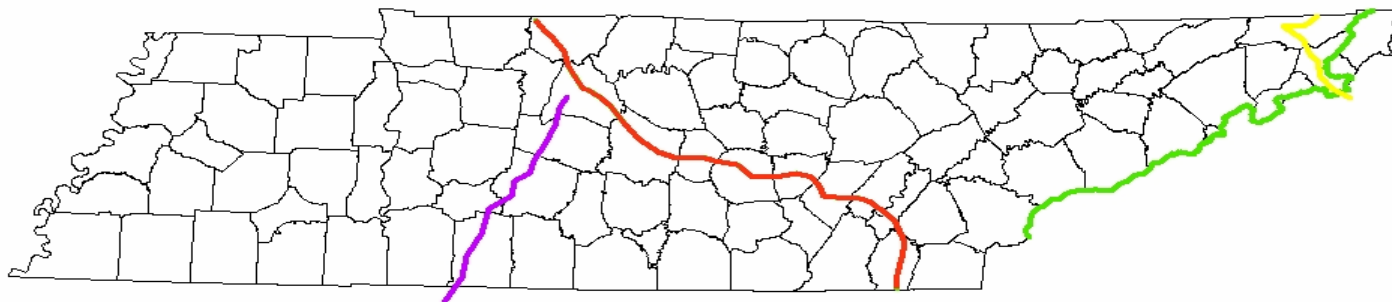
Nashville Public Library  
October 12, 2006

# Tennessee National Scenic & Historic Trails






- Appalachian NST (TN/NC state line)
- Overmountain Victory NHT (NE TN)
- Natchez Trace NST (middle N 2 S)
- Trail of Tears NHT (S East 2 N Middle)

# Tennessee National Scenic & Historic Trails

Tennessee National Scenic and  
Historic Trails



## Legend

-  Appalachian National Scenic Trail
-  State of Tennessee
-  Overmountain Victory NH Trail
-  Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
-  Natchez Trace Parkway & National Scenic Trail

# TN Greenways & Trails Planning

- 2001 TN Greenways & Trails Plan  
<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/plan/>
- 2003-08 TN State Recreation Plan(SCORP)  
<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/plan/>
- 2005 TDOT Long Range Transportation Plan  
<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/plango/library.htm#FinalDocs>

# TN Greenways & Trails Planning (cont.)

- 2006 Southern Appalachian Greenways Alliance (SAGA) Plan. Printing of plan paid for with RTP education funds.
- TDOT is setting up a new system of transportation planning areas called Rural Planning Organizations (RPO). The RPO's with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) will cover the entire state.

# TN Greenways & Trails Planning (cont.)

- **2007 - A new Greenways and Trails Plan emphasizing public input from local government agencies, regional planning organizations, TDOT RPO's and MPO's and TDEC public meetings.**
- **TDEC-RES requires each RTP grantee to hold a *public input meeting* for the grant application and on the project design *before* construction starts.**

# TN Funding Opportunities

- SAFTEA-LU Transportation Enhancements

**TDOT administers over \$15 million annually to local governments. Can fund non-motorized transportation projects for pedestrians and bicycles. (80/20 match)**  
**<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm>**

## **TN Funding Opportunities (cont.)**

### **■ Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Fund**

**Can fund land acquisition and recreational trail projects such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, motorized trails. Also funds trailhead facilities like parking areas, water sources and restrooms. (80/20 match)**

**TDEC allocates 7% for administrative purposes and 5% for education purposes.**

# TN Funding Opportunities (cont.)

## ■ Local Park and Recreation Fund (LPRF)

**TDEC administers this 50/50 matching grant program on a 2 year grant cycle for local city and county governments. Can fund land acquisition and recreational trail projects.**

**<http://state.tn.us/environment/recreation/grants.shtml>**

**NSHT programs could partner with local governments to access these funds.**

# TN Funding Opportunities (cont.)

## ■ State Lands Acquisition Fund (SLAF)

**TDEC administers this program and partnerships with other agencies and NGO's for funding consideration. Projects can leverage other funding sources.**

**Lands purchased will be state owned and managed by the TN Dept. of Agriculture or Environment and Conservation or the TN Wildlife Resources Agency.**

## ■ Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF)

**The HCTF Act was passed in 2005 with a \$10 million appropriation. In 2006, a second \$10 million appropriation was added. A HCTF Board of Directors has been appointed and the application process has been initiated. Applicants can be any public or private organization. Pre applications are due in March and September of each year.**

# TN Funding Opportunities (cont.)

## ■ Heritage Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF)

The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund was established in June, 2005, to assist the state in permanently conserving and preserving tracts of land within the state of Tennessee for the purposes of promoting tourism and recreation, including outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, equestrian activities and hiking; protecting, conserving and restoring the state's physical, cultural, archeological, historical and environmental resources; and preserving working landscapes.

Projects that involve partnerships, extensive leveraging of funds and those that enhance or connect to existing conservation lands will receive greater consideration for funding.

<http://state.tn.us/environment/trustfund/>

# Unique TN RTP Eligible Matches

- The appraised value of a land acquisition or permanent conservation easement acquired by the grantee no earlier than the first day of the grant term.
- The appraised value of donated real property. The land must be donated by a third party to be eligible for match. The acquisition and/or donation must be made no earlier than the first day of the grant term.

## 2006 TN RTP Grants

- ✓ The 2006 RTP grant round had 38 applications requesting \$3.2 million in trail projects with \$2.0 million awarded in August, 2006. Minimum grant is \$10,00, Maximum grant is \$100,000.
- ✓ Grantees were federal, state and local government agencies.
- ✓ NGO's can partner with any government agency.

# TN RTP Grant Process

- ✓ Each 2 year cycle the grant application manual is reviewed by TDEC staff and the Commissioner's Council on Greenways and Trails (RTP advisory board).
- ✓ Regional grant workshops are held to instruct interested groups on the grant application process.
- ✓ Next grant application period will be in 2008.

# TN RTP Scoring Criteria

- ✓ The TN RTP grant application is scored through a 200 point scoring system.
- ✓ **PROJECT SUMMARY - Provide a one-page project summary of the proposed project. This summary should describe the scope of the project and justify the need and demand for the project. Any special issues or significant features of the project should be included. Try to “sell” your project in this one-page summary.**
- ✓ (50 points possible)

# TN PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

- ✓ Explain how the RTP project meets the following project selection criteria A-H. Use one page per lettered item.
- ✓ Application must provide information on all the items listed below in order to receive the maximum score.

## A. Partnerships

- ✓ Describe the degree to which the trail project involves interagency cooperation and public/private partnering between trail user organizations and public agencies.  
Provide copies of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOA).
- ✓ (0-20 points)

## B. Connections

- ✓ Describe the degree to which project provides linkages to other trails, greenways, scenic corridors, schools, parks or recreation areas. List areas linked together.
- ✓ (0-20 points)

## C. Planning Process

- ✓ Describe the planning process for the project.

Include documentation of public involvement and support for the proposed project.

- ✓ (0-15 points)

## **D. Volunteerism**

- ✓ Provide information about volunteer services and donated materials that will be used to accomplish this project.
- ✓ Include information about youth conservation corps, AmeriCorps or other volunteer service organization involvement. TN is in the first year startup process for creating a Conservation Corp.
- ✓ (0-15 points)

## **E. Trail Sharing**

- ✓ Describe how the trail project can accommodate a variety of non-motorized recreation activities (hiking, equestrian, fitness, interpretive, paddle sport, multi-use, mountain bicycling, accessible trails).
- ✓ (0-10 points)

## **F. Environmental Mitigation**

- ✓ Describe how the project provides for the design, construction, redesign/reconstruction, or relocation of the trail or trailhead in order to mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment making for a sustainable project.
- ✓ (0-10 points)

## **G. Maintenance Commitment**

- ✓ Describe the degree of commitment (such as on-going funding or trail adoption) to continue operation and maintenance after project is complete.
- ✓ (0-10 points)

## H. Bonus Points

- ✓ Bonus points will be considered for the projects that emphasize trail projects providing for mountain bike use, equestrian trail use, water trail use and backcountry hiking use (or any combination of these).
- ✓ Land acquisition for greenways and/or trails , identified through public input, in the 2001 Tennessee Greenways and Trails Plan or in the 2003-08 Tennessee Recreation Plan.

## H. Bonus Points (cont.)

- ✓ That provide for non-motorized transportation such as bicycle or pedestrian trails,.
- ✓ That make Connections between destinations i.e., neighborhoods to parks or schools.
- ✓ (50 points possible)

# TN RTP Grant Application Process

- ✓ 2006 application deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Grants are scored by TDEC-RES staff in house first.
- ✓ On site visits are made to each grant application site.
- ✓ Final approval of grants by TDEC Commissioner's and Governor's office.

# For more Information on Greenways and Trails in TN

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