

Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Program

Program Guidelines

The new Millennium is an opportunity for learning, sharing and celebrating the “spirit” of being a Manitoban and the common threads that link our lives together from the past, to the present and into the future.

Recreational Trails provide Manitobans with an enhanced range of opportunities for healthy active living available to them through such core activities as walking, cycling, horseback riding, cross country skiing and snowmobiling.

The Trans Canada Trail (TCT) is a shared-use recreation trail linking the three oceans that border Canada. The Trail represents the third national dream, following the Trans Canada Railway and the Trans Canada Highway. The TCT spans 1300 kilometres in Manitoba, and in recognition of its significance, has been declared an official project commemorating the Millennium in Manitoba.

WHAT IS THE MANITOBA MILLENNIUM TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM?

The Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Program (MMTDP) is designed to support the physical development of recreational trails, including the TCT, in Manitoba. Included in the definition of physical development are: surface preparation, construction or upgrading of bridges and other physical support structures. The shared-use of recreational trails by the core activities listed above is an important consideration in developing trails, although it is recognized that not all activities may be appropriate in all areas.

The priority of the TCT component of the program is the completion of the TCT to a basic level that ensures safe usage in all seasons. Once the TCT is completed to the basic level in Manitoba, applications for enhanced TCT trail development may be considered, pending the availability of program funds.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Local trail associations responsible for developing specific sections of the TCT in Manitoba are eligible to apply to the TCT component. Funds for non-TCT trails have been depleted.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Support through the MMTDP will provide up to 75% of eligible project costs, provided the project is located outside the city boundaries. Projects within city boundaries will be provided up to 50% of eligible project costs unless they are classified as a medium-high or high degree of difficulty, in which case they may also qualify for up to 75% of eligible project costs. Cities located on the TCT route include Winnipeg and Selkirk.

Projects may include other provincial government funding sources and gifts in kind, but these are not eligible for cost sharing under the Program. The contributions of Crown Corporations, such as Manitoba Hydro, are eligible for matching.

The value of donated materials, loaned equipment and machinery and volunteer labour can be calculated into the applicant's share of the project costs, provided that a written estimate from an outside source substantiates the amounts budgeted. Applicants are required to obtain all necessary approvals and permits and submit them with their application form.

Eligible project costs include reasonable fees for technical services such as landscape architecture and engineering,

wages and benefits, materials, equipment rentals and directional and regulatory signage.

Ineligible costs include expenditures for the purchase of land, tools and equipment, legal fees, consultant's fees, finance charges, meals and travel costs. Expenses incurred prior to the formal approval of funding for the project are not eligible.

Funding applications, including detailed cost estimates, must be submitted to the Manitoba Recreation Trails Association (MRTA) for their review, assessment and approval. An MRTA Grants Committee will review funding applications and provide recommendations to the MRTA Board of Directors.

HOW ARE THE APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS PAID?

Successful projects will receive 50% of approved funds upon approval. The remaining 50% will be based upon project completion and a completed financial activity report, including cancelled cheques, receipts and verification of gifts-in-kind and volunteer labour. Members of the MRTA Grants Committee may visit each project to review progress and to verify that the project has been completed as claimed in the final report.

The amount approved under the MMTDP **may be less than the amount requested by the applicant, subject to assessment of the project**, application of the Program's formula, eligibility of expenditures for which support is requested and the availability of funds within the Program.

HOW TO APPLY?

Contact the MRTA office or visit our website for an application form. Eligible project sponsors are to consult with the MRTA about their trail development project prior to submitting a funding application.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Prescribed application deadlines (January 31, May 31 & October 31) will be used in administering the program.

To be considered, your grant application and supporting documentation must be received by the MRTA prior to one of the deadlines. Project work, which has begun prior to the formal approval of the project's funding, will be ineligible.

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Approved projects must be completed within 12 months of the approval date. Extensions will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Projects not started within one year of approval are considered to have expired. If a project is not completed within the allotted time frame, applicants are expected to return funds advanced by the Program. Funds awarded are to be used only for the purpose specified in the approved funding proposal unless written permission from the MRTA has been obtained.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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