

MRTA REFURBISHMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Program Goal: To support the maintenance, management and refurbishment activities of Manitoba TCT associations in order to maintain the TCT in a manner that provides for a safe and enjoyable experience for TCT users.

Eligible Applicants

Local trail associations responsible for maintaining the TCT in Manitoba. Sub-groups (responsible for the maintenance of trail portions within TCT association sections) may apply for assistance within their applicable TCT association application. Approved funding may be directed towards these sub-groups through the appropriate TCT association.

- Must be a member of the MRTA
- Trail associations and/or sub-groups must provide proof of insurance to be eligible for funding.

Eligible Projects

Refurbishment refers to repairing, reconstructing, replacing or restoring existing trail components that have been severely altered, damaged or destroyed either by way of severe neglect or catastrophic event(s).

Refurbishment projects will correct trail conditions/facilities that compromise user safety (Priority 1) and/or compromise the condition of the trail (Priority 2) in such a manner that the trail is impassable.

Refurbishments are intended to correct deficiencies on existing, developed trail in a cost-effective, reasonable manner that would provide for a safe level of passage.

Examples may include:

- Repair/redesign of wash-out sections
- Reconstruction of bridges, culverts and other structures
- Trail reconstruction
- Removing fallen trees and debris (ex. from a storm)

Non-Eligible Projects

The following will not be considered for either refurbishment or maintenance funding:

- Trail development (assistance may be available through the existing Trail Development Program)
- Maintenance Projects
- Marketing
- Other uses that would not relate to the permitted uses outlined above

Eligible Refurbishment Costs

- Reasonable fees for technical services such as landscape architecture and engineering (up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget)
- Wages and benefits (ex. administration costs) directly related to the refurbishment project
- Materials and equipment rentals
- Mileage (billed at the current Provincial rate) directly related to trail refurbishment

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Ineligible Refurbishment Costs

- Purchase of land, tools and equipment
- Legal fees
- Finance charges and travel costs (such as meals and hotels)
- Expenses incurred prior to the formal approval of funding for the project

Funding

MRTA refurbishment grants should be used as a one-time financial allocation to correct refurbishment issues along the TCT in Manitoba.

Support through the MRTA/TCT Refurbishment Program will not exceed 75% of the eligible refurbishment costs provided that the project is located outside city boundaries. Projects within city boundaries will be provided up to 50% of eligible project costs.

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 amount budgeted. Applicants are required to obtain all necessary approvals and permits and submit them with their application.

Payment of Refurbishment Grants

- 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 gifts-in-kind and volunteer labour.

Members of the Grants Committee may visit each project to review progress and to verify that the project has been completed as claimed in the final report. Groups not complying with refurbishment obligations may have subsequent applications withheld as determined by the Maintenance and Refurbishment Committee.

The amount approved may be less than the amount requested by the applicant.

Application Deadlines

- Applications for refurbishment projects can be submitted at any time.

Program Form: to be developed