

Trans Canada Trail (Manitoba) Project Trail Development Program Guidelines

In April 2006, the Province of Manitoba provided the Manitoba Recreational Trails Association (MRTA) with a \$500,000 to continue our efforts to develop Manitoba's portion of the Trans Canada Trail (TCT).

The 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 TRANS CANADA TRAIL (MANITOBA) PROJECT?

The Trans Canada Trail (Manitoba) Project (TCT(MB) Project) is directed towards SPECIAL PROJECTS, intended to concentrate on those portions of the trail that are considered safety considerations, high use areas or extraordinary links that network two pieces of trail together.

Other TCT related projects that are not deemed "Special Projects" can still apply for Manitoba Millennium Trail Development Program (MMTDP) funding, which is designed to support the physical development of 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.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Local trail associations responsible for developing specific sections of the TCT in Manitoba are eligible to apply.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

Support through the TCT (MB) Project will not exceed 75% 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 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 when directly related to Special Projects, materials, equipment rentals, directional and regulatory signage and amenities such as washrooms.

Fees for technical services (e.g. landscape architect, engineering fees) are only eligible up to a maximum of 10% of the total budget.

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 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 TCT (MB) Project 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 go to 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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