

Recreational Trails Program

Terry Maxwell

Maryland Scenic Byways / Recreational Trails Program Manager

Office of Environmental Design

State Highway Administration

Recreational Trails Program

- RTP authorized by Federal Transportation Funding Act: MAP-21
- Section of Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
- SHA Administered
- Development of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails
- For pedestrian uses, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, kayaking, cross-country skiing, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving



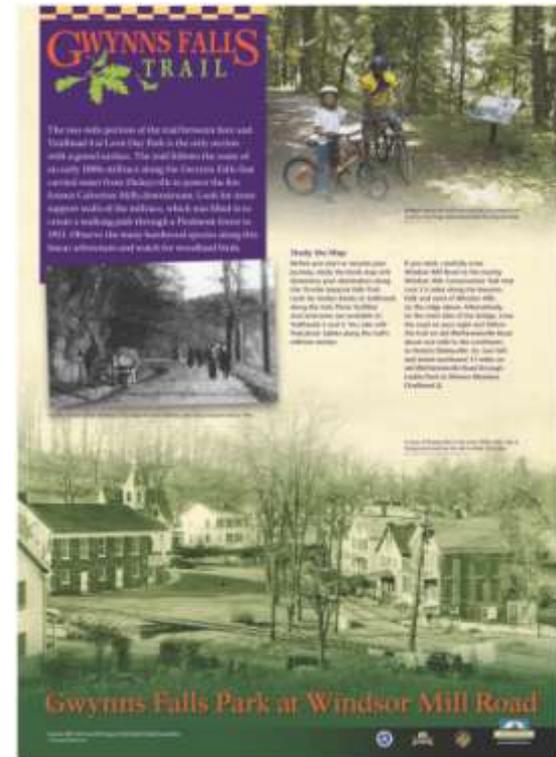
Maryland Recreational Trail Opportunities

- Economic development
 - Enhances visitor experience
 - Supports local businesses
 - Improving access to our natural, recreational and cultural attractions
- Expands travel options
- Supports active lifestyles
- Improves livability/smart growth



How Much?

- MD is apportioned approximately **\$1 million annually**
- Presently capped at \$30,000 per project for non-construction and \$40,000 for construction projects
- 80% federal funds to be matched 20% in-kind or cash
- Federal mandated procurement process
- Reimbursement based
- Can be sponsored by a government, or non-profit



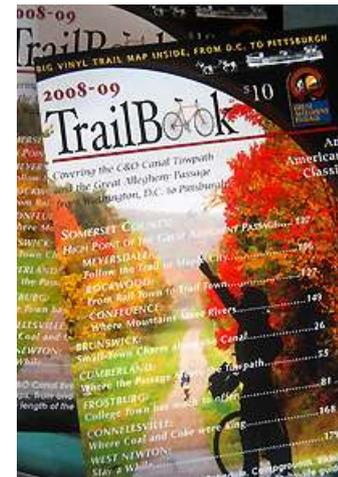
Eligible Trail Project Activities

- Construction, maintenance and restoration of land or water-based trails
- Development of trail-side facilities
- Purchase and lease of trail construction or maintenance equipment
- Interpretive/educational programs
- Acquisition of easements for trail development
- *Will not cover planning/design/feasibility studies*



Preference to projects that...

- Provide **linkages** or completes existing transportation trails
- Provide **access** between trails and towns
- Provide **access** between community/school and natural, recreational, historic or cultural area
- Enhance **heritage, nature, eco-tourism opportunities**. Is it along a designated byway, water trail, heritage area, Chesapeake Gateway, etc...?



Project Requirements

- Memorandum of Understandings (MOU)
- Environmental Approvals
- Federal Procurement Requirements
- Requests for Reimbursement
- Project Completion and Verifications



Tips to successfully move a RTP project

Environmental Approvals

- Start Environmental Approval (EA) process early (notice of award)
- Be sure that your scope and limit of work is clear to obtain EA
- Be sure to understand what is “non construction vs. construction” to obtain EA
- Project sponsors are responsible for determining whether wetland, waterway, or floodplain permits are needed and they need to contact MDE directly to secure the permit.
- Follow up quickly to resource agency’s comments



Tips to successfully move a RTP project

Federal Procurement Requirements

- Follow small procurement process:
 - Request for Bids
 - Bid submittal sheet,
 - List of potential bidders
 - Independent cost estimate
 - Environmental Certification
 - Right of Way Certification
- Need SHA approval to **Solicit for Bids** and **Award Contract**
- Agencies with ongoing contracts must do separate procurement package(s) for this program



Tips to successfully move a RTP project

Requests for Reimbursement

- Match can be leveraged by State funded grant such as Bikeways or MD Heritage Areas
- In-kind Match requires names, dates, hours and certification
- Vendor/contractor Invoices and cancelled checks should only be for those vendors/contractors that were approved by SHA within the procurement package(s)



Tips to successfully move a RTP project



RTP and Accessibility

Accessibility Guidelines for outdoor developed areas apply to **Trails Used as Transportation Facilities (Shared Use Paths) (and all trailheads when feasible).**

Conditions that permit **departures** from technical provisions (*get it in writing*):

1. Compliance causes substantial **harm to cultural, historic, religious, or significant natural features**;
2. Compliance substantially **alters the nature of the setting** or the purpose of the facility;
3. Compliance requires **construction methods** or materials that are prohibited by Federal, State, or local regulations or statutes;
4. Compliance is **not feasible due to terrain** or the prevailing construction practices.



Featured Recreational Trail Program Projects

Canal Towns Wayside Signs, C&O Canal

Installation of informational wayside signs on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal towpath at Brunswick. Sponsored by Frederick County Office of Tourism and the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Signs were installed at each of the Canal Town locations in order to help hikers and cyclists learn more about the history of the towns along the Canal.



Featured Recreational Trail Program Projects



The Lewis Road Kayak Launch On Ayres Creek, Ocean City

The 37-acre site, with approximately 450 ft. of shoreline, previously used as a municipal landfill.



Featured Recreational Trail Program Projects

Rockburn Skills Park, Elkridge

Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (M.O.R.E), Howard County Recreation and Parks, and International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) have created a private-public partnership to build a skills area in Rockburn Branch Park, a 450 acre park located in Elkridge



Featured Recreational Trail Program Projects



Cross Island Trail, Kent Island

The Cross Island trail was initiated in 1996 and completed in September 2001. It spans Kent Island. The trail has a ten-foot wide asphalt paved surface, extending six miles. Several towns, senior centers, schools, shopping centers and a library are linked by the trail.



Contact Information:



Terry Maxwell
Office of Environmental Design
State Highway Administration
707 North Calvert Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-545-8637
tmaxwell@sha.state.md.us