

**Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources**



**Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
Citizen Advisory Committee
Grant Criteria and Priorities for Local Unit of Government
Stewardship Grants**

October 29, 2008

Grant Criteria & Priorities for Local Unit of Government Stewardship Grants

Acquisition and Development of Local Parks

Statutory (s. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.) priorities:

- Used for development of parks in accordance with priorities based on comprehensive plans

Additional Admin Code (s. NR 51.918) priorities:

- Acknowledges priority of basic facilities over more elaborate facilities
- Enhances or preserves natural beauty
- Provides for completion of a project already started or develops areas previously acquired
- Renovates existing facilities in danger of being lost for public use
- Requires sponsors have good performance on other recreational projects
- Requires sponsors are financially able to maintain and operate the facility
- Offers safe, rapid, and convenient access by all transportation types
- Provides access for the most users and opportunities for recreation in relation to costs
- Meets needs identified in SCORP or a local CORP
- Provides multiple season, multiple activity use
- Serves the recreation needs of elderly, minorities, and disabled
- Is Regional or statewide in impact and importance
- Is ready to be implemented & completed in 2 construction seasons
- Involves the use of materials utilizing Wisconsin recycled products

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Urban Greenspace

Statutory (s. 23.09(19), Wis. Stats.) priorities:

- Provides an open natural space within or in proximity to urban development
- Protects an area from development that has scenic, ecological or other natural value
- Provides land for noncommercial gardening
- Gives priority if related to brownsfield redevelopment
- Must be in a plan approved by a governmental unit

Additional Admin Code (s. NR 51.926) priorities:

- Implements a priority of the SCORP or master plans of 2 or more local governments
- Is listed on the Natural Heritage Inventory database
- Serves the greatest & most increasing populations; Accessible, where appropriate
- Has unique natural features, species, or significant ecological value
- Has linear corridors connecting open natural areas
- Has water frontage, contains or restores wetlands
- Protects sensitive wildlife habitat
- Protects an area threatened by development, with a high percentage of development
- Preserves a natural community or could be restored to a natural community
- Regional or statewide significance
- Is ready to be implemented
- Continues acquisition projects previously started

Urban Rivers

Statutory (s. 30.277(2), Wis. Stats.) priorities:

- Gives priority if related to brownsfield redevelopment
- Provides and enhances diverse recreation
- Considers the extent of preservation or restoration, under the project, of an urban riverfront
- Has high aesthetic value of the project
- Has significant potential for increasing tourism
- Has substantial community support, including financial support
- Involves 2 or more local governments
- Benefits the overall economy of the area
- Has significant historical or cultural value or is listed on the natural heritage inventory
- Improves public access to the riverfront

Additional Admin Code (s. NR 51.935) priorities:

- Given priority to shoreline enhancement and restoration projects following dam removal
- Satisfies a priority need identified in SCORP
- Supports other federal, state, or local natural resource management or pollution control
- Implements elements of water quality plans
- Continues acquisitions previously approved
- Is within a designated scenic urban waterway
- Restores, enhances or preserves natural resource values and environmental quality

Acquisition of Development Rights

Admin Code (s. NR 51.945) priorities:

- Property has water frontage
- Creates a buffer between potential or existing development
- Is within the boundaries of an established DNR, NCO, or local government acquisition project
- Is within an environmental corridor connecting 2 or more established resource protection areas
- Provides or enhances recreational opportunities
- Is in proximity to other protected land
- Has natural, scenic, geological and archaeological values
- Has high development pressure
- Is identified in a comprehensive plan, another plan that has as one of its purposes the protection of natural resources, or the Natural Heritage Inventory database

Grant Criteria & Priorities for Non-Profit Conservation Organization Stewardship Grants

Natural Areas

Statutory (ss. 23.27 and 23.29, Wis. Stat.) and *Admin Code (s. NR 51.26) priorities:*

- Sites identified by DNR State Natural Area (SNA) biologist as high priorities.
- Sites containing sustainable populations of federal and state listed species and other rare natural features as identified in the Natural Heritage Inventory

Admin Code (s. NR 51.26) criteria:

- The rarity, quality and condition of the natural value to be protected
- Scope of project plan adequately addresses the protection of the ecosystem and natural processes on which the conservation targets depend.
- Capacity of the sponsor to protect and enhance the ecological features of the site through management and monitoring.
- Viability of rare and sensitive resources to be protected
- The degree to which the natural values and the project are threatened and already protected in the state
- The value of the area for research and education

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Habitat Areas

Statutory (s. 23.092, Wis. Stat) and Admin Code (s. NR 51.43) priorities:

- Projects which protect, enhance, or restore ecologically significant plant and wildlife communities, biological diversity, unique or outstanding ecosystems or rare plant or animal communities.
- Sites which have been identified as regionally significant in comprehensive studies or plans such as *Land Legacy Report, Natural Heritage Inventory, or Wildlife Action Plans.*

Admin Code (s. NR 51.43) evaluation criteria:

- Will sustainably protect common but declining game and non-game species habitat
- Capacity of sponsor to protect and enhance the ecological capacity of the land through management
- Secures landscape scale habitat protection, linkages or wildlife corridors
- Site identified as regionally significant in a comprehensive study or plan
- Landscape scale goals shared by multiple partners working collaboratively
- Project plan is of adequate scope to sustain conservation values of site
- Likelihood of project goals to be successfully achieved

Ice Age Trail/State Trails

Statutory (s. 23.175, Wis. Stat) and Admin Code (s. NR 51.70) priorities:

- Within the Ice Age National Scenic Trail corridor plan
- Within planned corridor of a designated State Trail

Additional Admin Code (ss. NR 51.73 and 51.74) criteria:

- Provides connections between other state trails
- Is of a length sufficient to provide at least one day's recreational experience
- Provides connections to or is in close proximity to resource & recreational areas of statewide significance or areas of outstanding natural scenery
- Contributes to a geographically balanced system of trails
- Is of a width sufficient to provide the purposes for which acquired
- Provides a reasonable expectation of completion & successful management and operation
- Likely to receive significant use as determined by the SCORP, or similar study
- Can be completed and successfully managed and operated

Streambank Protection

Statutory (s. 23.094, Wis. Stat.) and Admin Code (s. NR 51.63) priorities:

- Identified by the DNR as a Priority Stream.
- Higher priority given to streams affected by a federal or state program or plan that protects water quality or fish habitat, including: Conservation Reserve Program, Erosion Control Planning program, a soil and water conservation plan, Soil and Water Resource Management Program, and Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement Grant Program

Admin Code (s. NR 51.63) criteria:

- Provides protection of endangered or threatened resources including natural communities and habitat for rare species
- Is included in or adjacent to other department projects
- Focuses on streams where the water quality and fish habitat are threatened by urban or agricultural runoff
- Focuses on streams where the threat to water quality and fish habitat can be protected through the acquisition of property