



NextLevel
TRAILS



Potential Applicant Workshop

August 9, 2019

Fort Harrison State Park Inn

Next Level Trails will invest \$90 million – the largest infusion of state trail funding in Indiana history – toward the development of regionally and locally significant trails throughout Indiana.

Next Level Trails is administered by DNR in conjunction with INDOT.



“By linking communities, we will make a serious investment in connectivity and quality of life. Next Level Trails’ strong focus on partnerships will drive collaboration among neighboring cities, towns and counties, as well as fill gaps among existing trails to create a larger network for more Hoosiers to enjoy the great outdoors.”

-Gov. Eric Holcomb





Grant Program Overview

\$90 Million: Two Paths

Regionally Significant Projects

- \$70 million in available funds
- \$250,000 minimum grant request
- \$5 million maximum per applicant

Locally Significant Projects

- \$20 million in available funds
- \$200,000 minimum grant request
- \$2 million maximum per applicant



Grant Rounds

- Next Level Trails funds will be awarded in three rounds until all funds have been allocated.
 - First Round was awarded in May.
 - Second Round will open Oct. 1 and close Nov. 1.
 - Third Round will be in 2020.
- Projects that were not awarded in an earlier round may re-apply.



Eligible Applicants

- Must be either a local unit of government or 501(c)(3) non-profit.
- If awarded, applicant will be the entity entering into a State Grant Agreement and must take responsibility for all aspects of the project through completion.
- Applicant must fulfill at least one of the following roles:
 - Own (or acquire) the trail corridor
 - Manage and maintain the trail once developed
 - Oversee and manage trail construction through completion
- Applicants acting in a fiscal pass-through capacity only are NOT eligible.



Eligible Projects & Costs

Eligible Projects: All non-motorized trail types eligible, consideration given to multi-use trails.

- All surface types eligible. Surface should meet contextual needs.
- Must be open to the public

Eligible Costs:

- Trail construction (including upgrading surface type)
- Land acquisition
- Design & engineering
- Basic trail amenities

*Eligible costs must occur within contract period.



Eligible Costs Vs. Ineligible Costs

- Required permits
 - Bridges, culverts, boardwalks, etc.
 - Directional signage
 - Bollards and safe street crossings
 - Trailheads or Nodes
 - Parking, restrooms, water fountain, etc.
 - Benches, trash/recycle bins, bike racks
 - Safety railing as needed
 - Trail counters
- Sidewalks & bike lanes
 - Playgrounds, splash pads, dog parks
 - Demolition of structures
 - Interpretive or excessive signage
 - Corridor lighting
 - Irrigation systems
 - Websites, mobile apps, brochures



Match Requirement



- All grant requests require a minimum of 20% match.
- Consideration given to projects exceeding 20% match.
- Eligible match includes:
 - Monetary contributions
 - Land value
 - In-kind donations of materials and labor
 - Previous expenses or donations directly related to the project may be credited as match, subject to DNR review.



Project Timeline

Applications Accepted

Applications Reviewed & Ranked

Awardees Announced

State Grant Agreement with DNR

Funds Provided Upfront based on Milestones

Trail Project Complete

← Up to 4 years →

- Upfront funds based on project-specific milestones to accelerate trail completion.
- Eligible projects must be completed within 4 years of award.
 - Completion date and project milestones will be project specific & outlined in State Grant Agreement.
- Trails must be open to public for at minimum 25 years, however perpetuity is preferred.
 - All deeds, easements, licensees, etc. must reflect this.



Project Selection Process

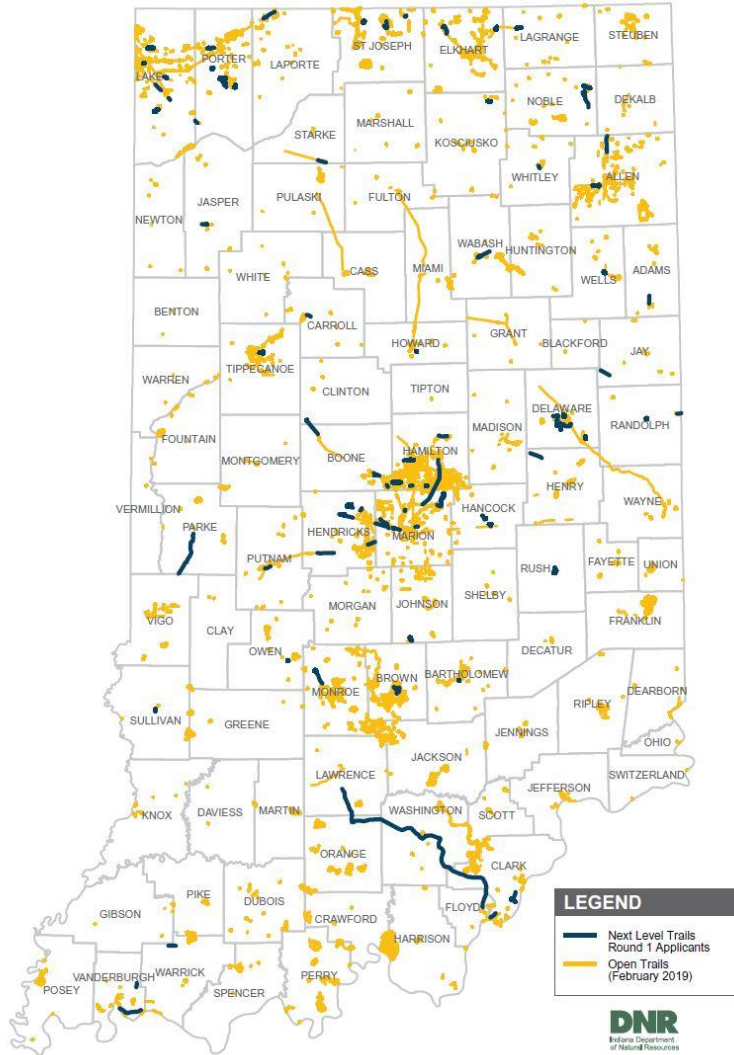
- Applications will be reviewed by DNR staff for eligibility and completeness.
 - DNR staff will contact you regarding questions or clarifications.
- Applications will then be evaluated by a rating committee staffed by multiple state agencies based on how closely they meet the program's preferences and considerations.
- Applications compete only with eligible projects within their respective round and category: Regionally or Locally Significant.





First Round Recap

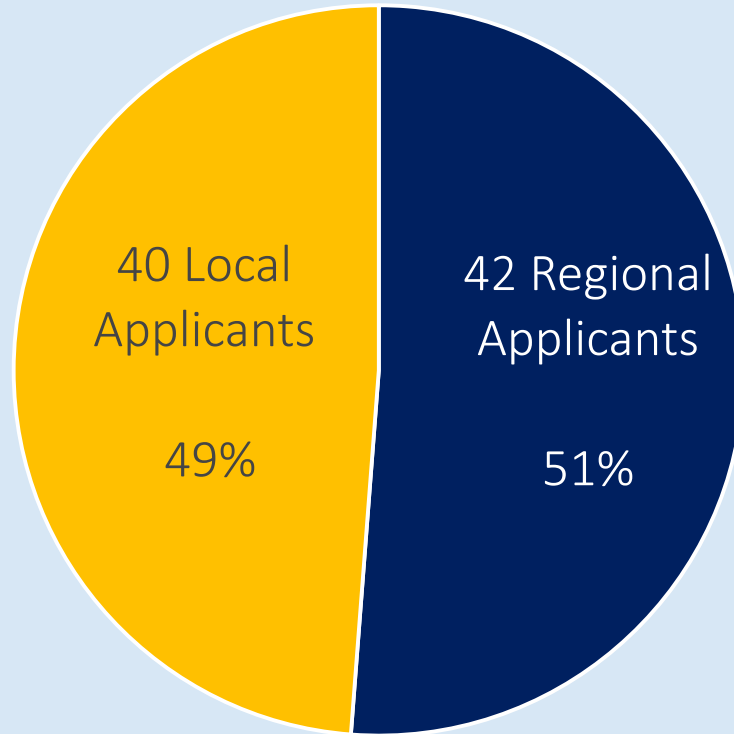
Round One Response



- 370 people reached via Round 1 Workshops
 - 185 in-person workshop attendees
 - 99 webinar attendees
 - 86 recorded webinar views
- 82 applications received by Feb 15.
 - Proposals located in 42 counties



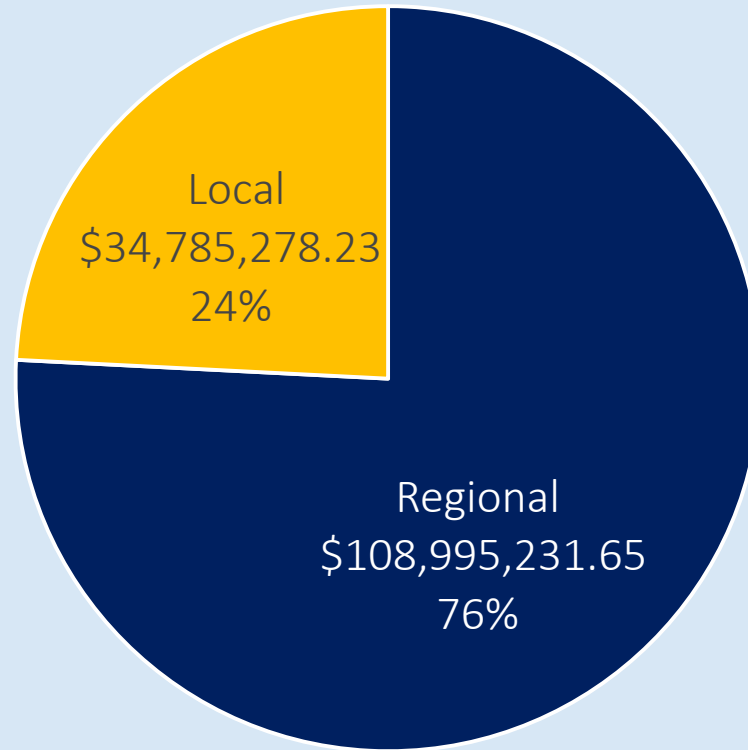
Regional / Local Applications



82 Applications Submitted



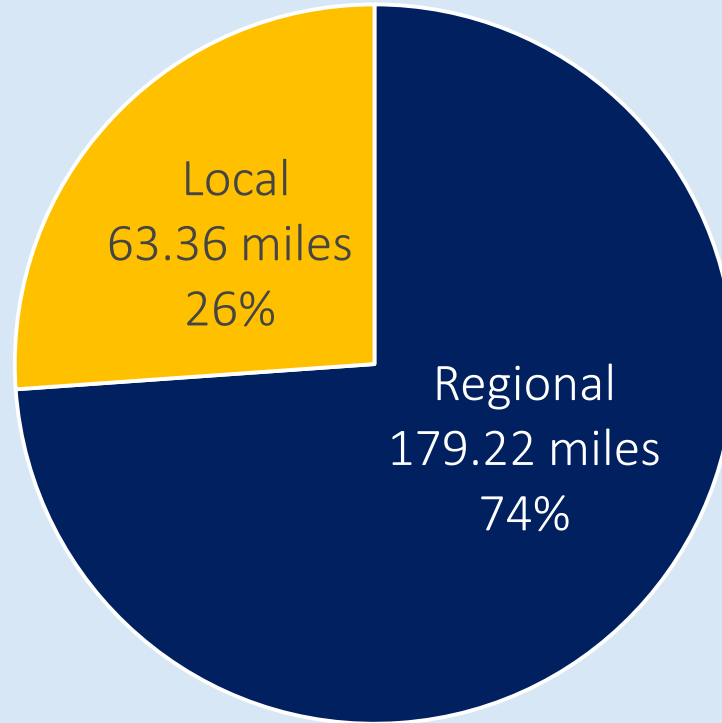
Regional / Local Fund Requests



\$143,780,509.88 Funds Requested



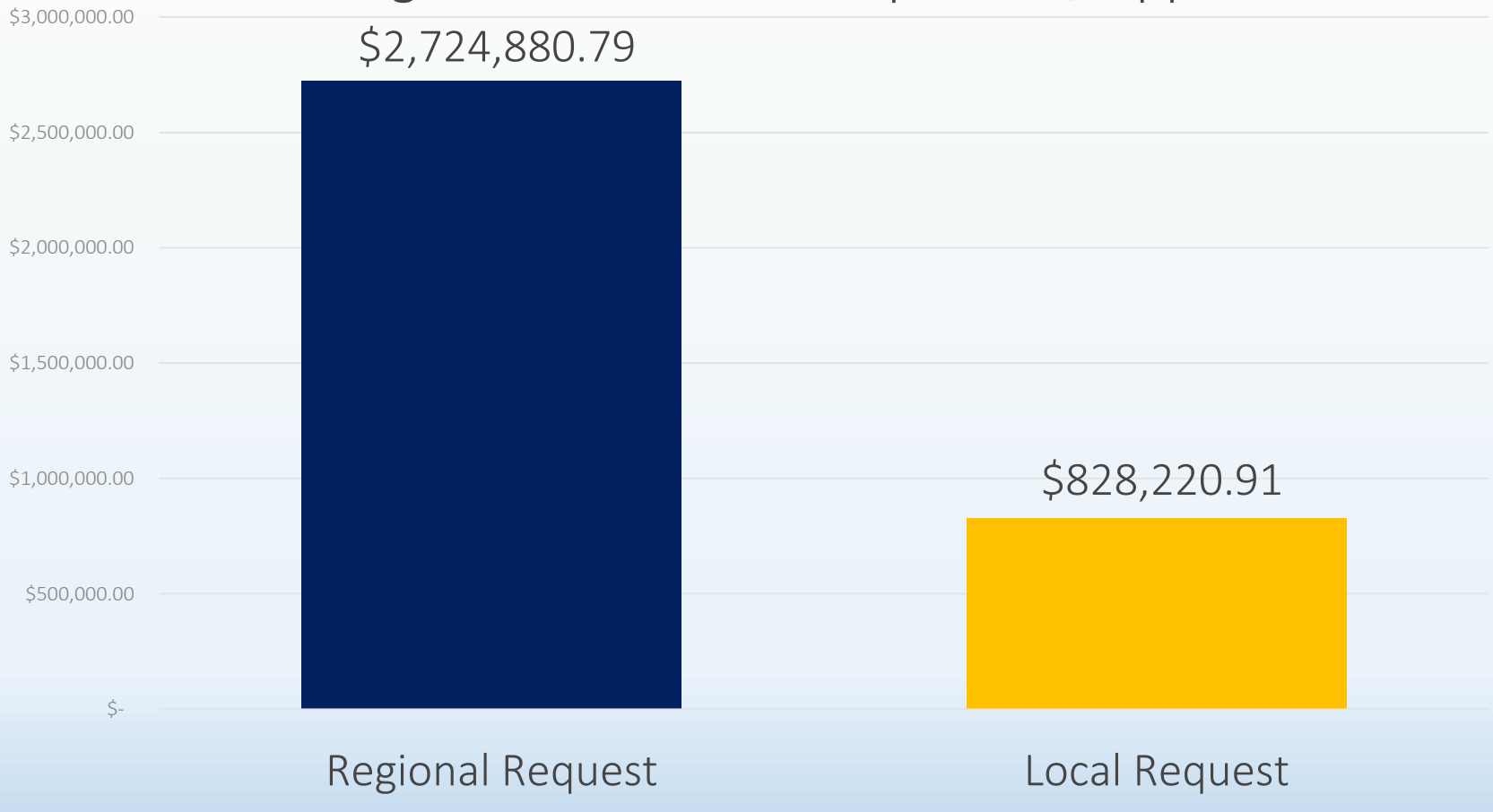
Regional / Local Proposed Miles

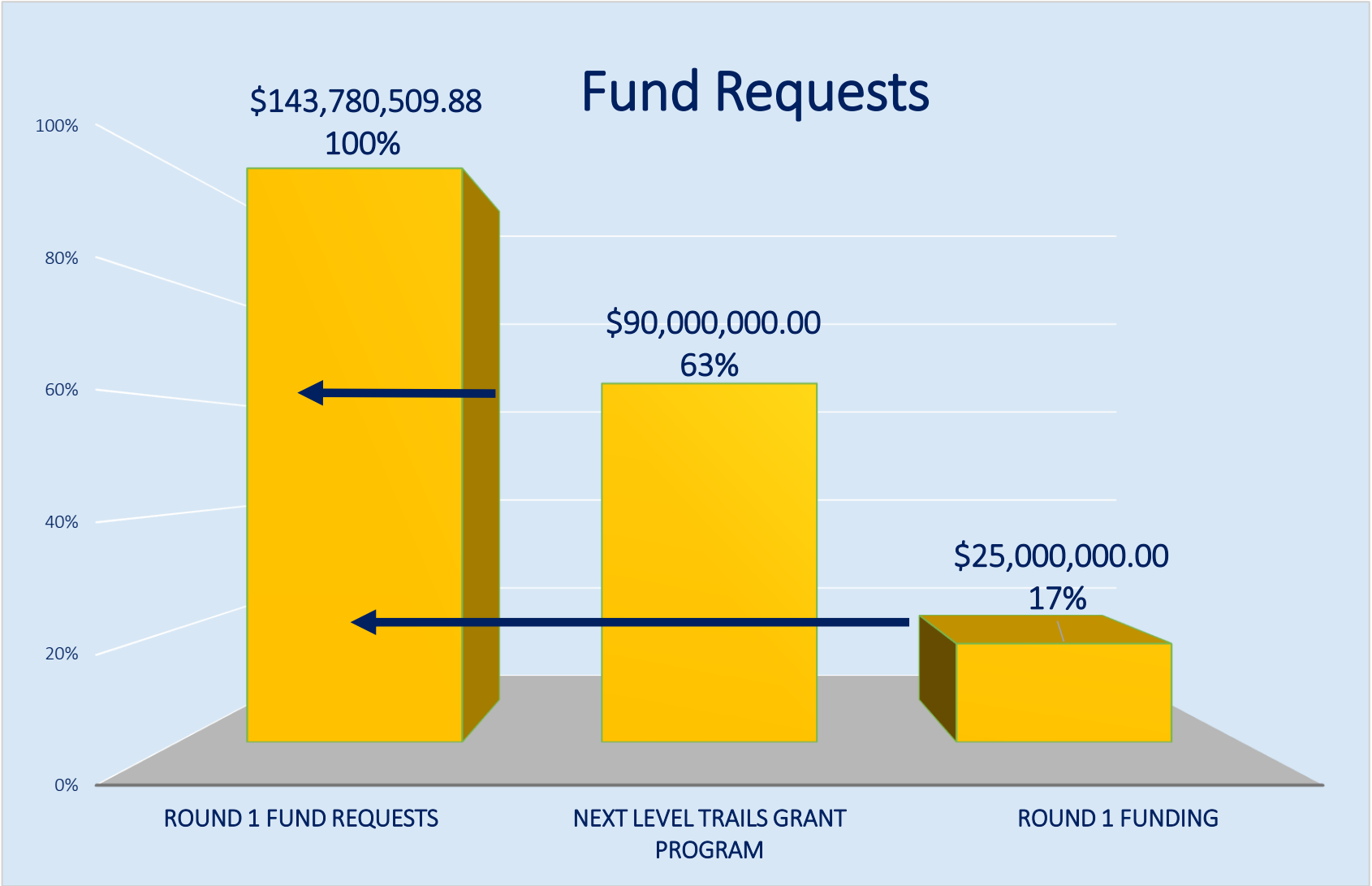


242.8 Total Proposed Miles

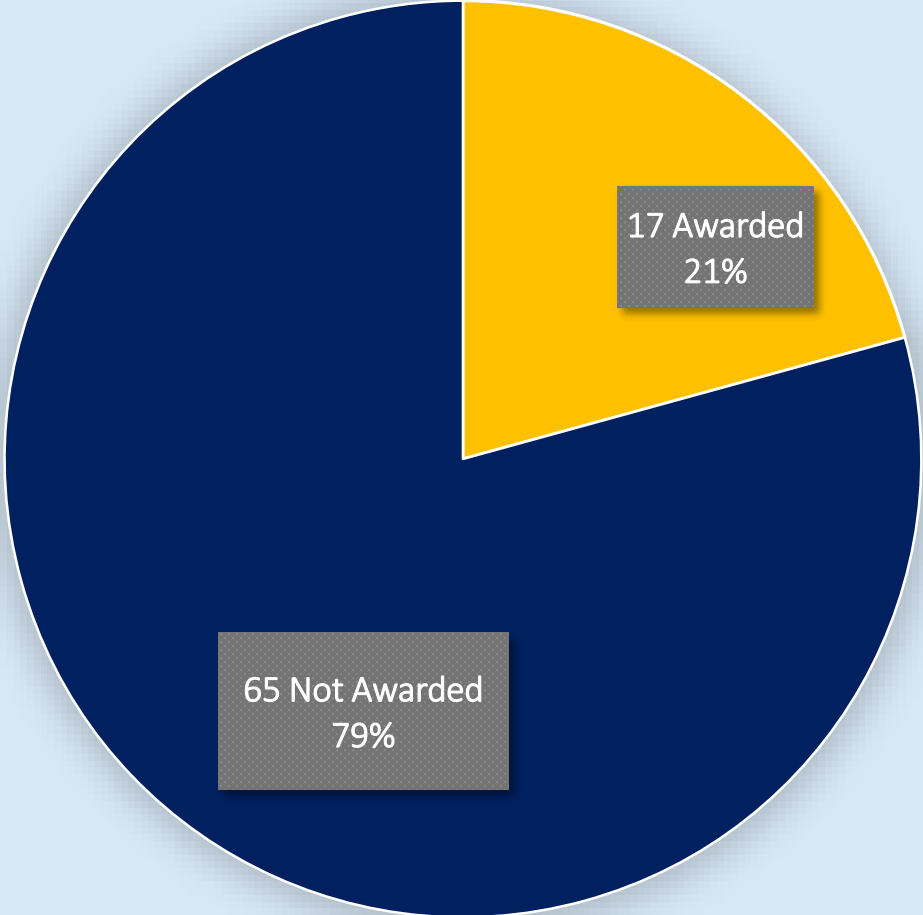


Average Round 1 Funds Requested / Applicant

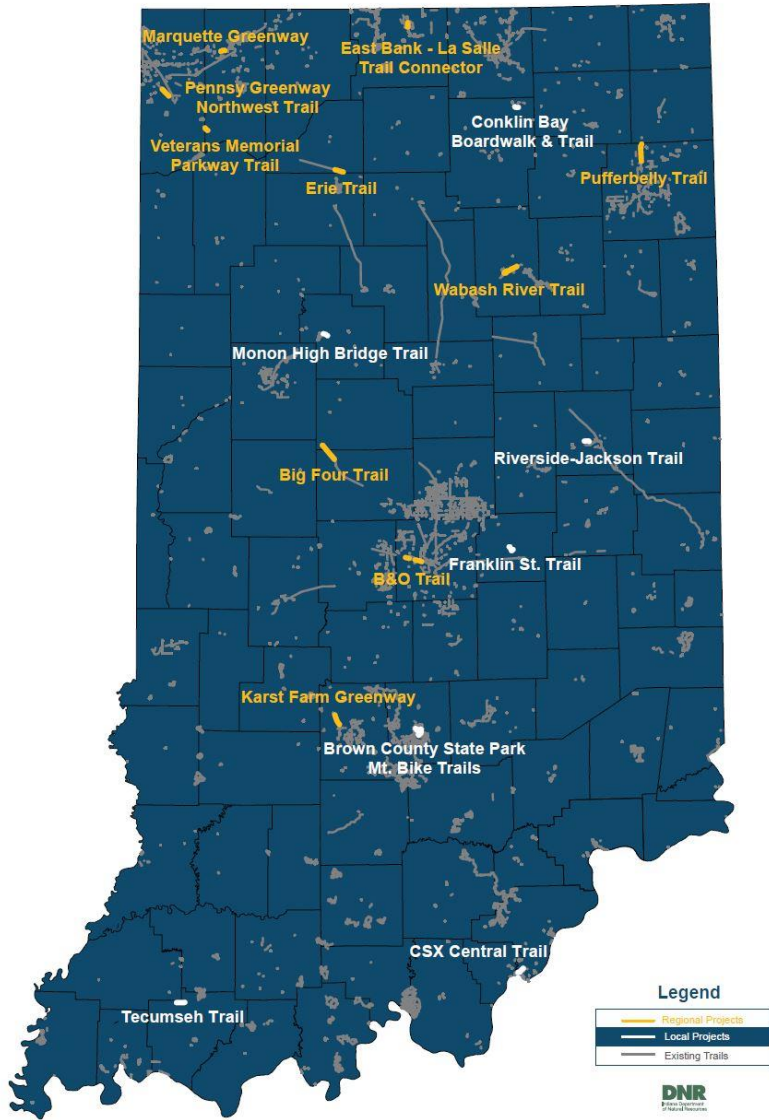




NLT Round One - 82 Applications Received Vs. Awarded



Round One Announced



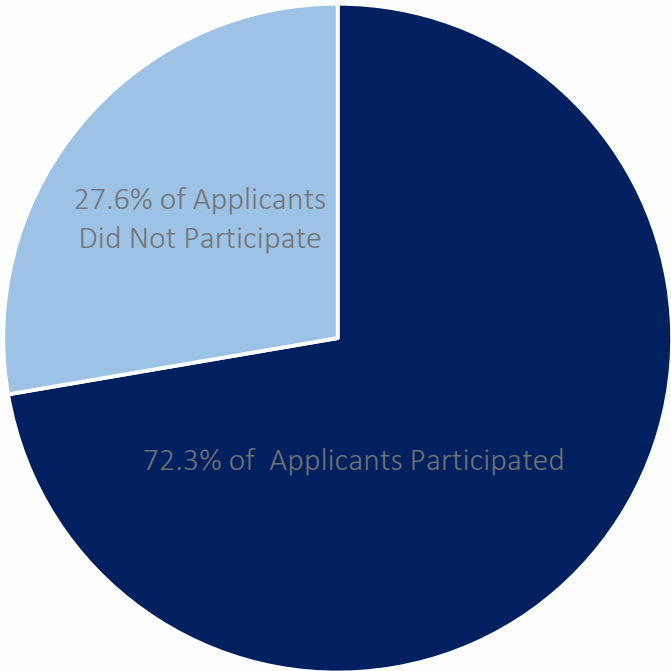
Round One Awardees

- Gov. Holcomb announced NLT Round 1 awardees on **May 2** in Speedway.
- **17** trail projects awarded.
 - **10** regionally significant projects.
 - **7** locally significant projects.
- More than **42 Miles** of trail to be developed in **17 counties**.
- More than **\$24.9 million** in Next Level Trails grant funding awarded to date.
 - **+ \$12.5 Million** in local match value
 - Total Value of **\$37.4 Million** invested in trail development.
- More info : <https://www.dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/9858.htm>



Round One Feedback Calls

Feedback Calls



■ Participated ■ Did NOT Partipate

- 47 Feedback Calls
 - 23 Regional (79.3%)
 - 24 Local (64.8%)
- 30 min. allocated per call
- 23.5 hours of feedback





Second Round Details & Changes

Second Round Details

The second round will award *up to* \$30 million:

- *Up to* \$25 million in regionally significant projects
- *Up to* \$5 million in locally significant projects

Applications or re-applications accepted from Oct. 1– Nov. 1, 2019

- Applications due by 5:00 pm ET/4:00 pm CT on Nov. 1
- Must be submitted electronically
 - E-mail applications to NextLevelTrails@dnr.IN.gov OR
 - Submit via Syncplicity. Other file share services cannot be used.



Next Level Trails Second Round Timeline

**Governor Holcomb and DNR
Announces Second Round**

July 23

Applications Accepted

- Applications and re-applications are due electronically by Nov. 1 by 5:00 pm ET/4:00 pm CT.
- Those re-applying must at minimum submit a new application form.

Oct. 1 -Nov. 1

Awards Announced & Contracts

- Grant recipients announced.
- First phase of funds should be available to awardees in spring.

Early 2020

Second Round Workshops

- Aug. 9, Fort Harrison State Park Inn (Indianapolis)
- Aug. 13, Spring Mill State Park (Mitchell)
- Aug. 20, Indiana Dunes State Park (Chesterton)

Application Review & Ranking

- DNR staff reviews each application packet materials for eligibility & due diligence.
- NLT rating committee evaluates and ranks projects.

Nov. & Dec.

Round 2: Up to \$25 Million in Regionally Significant and \$5 Million in Locally Significant Projects Awarded

Second Round Changes

- One application per applicant per round.
 - May choose regional OR local.
- New consideration for locally significant projects.
 - Projects that connect trail users to nature
- “Parcel Map and Table” now required for new applicants
 - Listed as #14 in the Application Packet Checklist





How To Apply or Re-Apply

How to Apply

- Applicants should review the Next Level Trails Application Handbook, especially the Application Checklist.
 - Both have been updated (see #14 for more details on new requirement)
- New application packets must be submitted electronically to NextLevelTrails@dnr.IN.gov or use Syncplicity.
 - Packets larger than 19 MB should separate into multiple e-mails or use Syncplicity, the state's free file sharing service.
 - Requests to use Syncplicity must be submitted to NextLevelTrails@dnr.IN.gov by Oct. 25.
 - The state cannot accept applications from Dropbox, Google Drive, Box, etc.
- Incomplete, paper or late applications are not eligible.




How to Re-Apply

- You must submit a new application form to NextLevelTrails@dnr.IN.gov by the application deadline.
- IF your application did not meet programmatic requirements, you must submit a new application form AND documentation necessary to meet programmatic requirements.
- You are welcome to amend or alter your application. ONLY documents showing these changes need to be included in the re-application email.
- NO NEED to re-submit your entire application unless it has undergone significant changes.



1. Application Form

 **APPLICATION FOR NEXT LEVEL TRAILS GRANT**
State Form 56616 (01 / 12-18)
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name of organization: City of Hoosierburg
Type of organization: Unit of Government Non-Profit
Address of organization (number and street, city, state, and ZIP code): 1234 Indiana St., Hoosierburg, IN 46000
Name of primary contact person: Jane Doe
Title of primary contact person: City Planner
Telephone number: (812) 555-5555
E-mail address: jdoe@hoosierburg.in.gov

PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of project: Hoosierburg Trail - Hoosier County Greenway Connector
Significance: Local Regional
Brief description of project: This project will acquire 5 acres and develop 4 miles of multi-use trail and trailhead with basic amenities. This 4-mile extension of the Hoosierburg Trail will connect with a 3-mile extension of the Hoosier County Greenway, which is being submitted in collaboration with Hoosier County's application.
Project Location: County (Courtship): Hoosier City/town/ship (if rural): Hoosierburg Is this project part of an existing trail or regional plan? Yes No
Name(s) of trail(s) (if any) this project will connect to, or extend: Hoosierburg Trail, Hoosier County Greenway
Is project offered in collaboration with another Next Level Trails applicant? Yes No If yes, name of Collaborative applicant: Hoosier County
Project Summary: Total miles this project will develop: 4 Type of trail use (check all that apply): Hiking / Pedestrian Bikes Equestrian Other
Type of trail surface (check all that apply): Pavement type: asphalt ADA Compliant Crushed Stone Natural Other
Land acquisition? (check one): Yes No Trail corridor real estate rights held by applicant (check all that apply): Owned fee simple Easement Estimated completion date (month, year): October 2020

FUNDING

Cost Estimate	Type	Estimate
Design and Engineering (if applicable)		\$ 50,000.00
Land Value (if applicable)		
Fee Simple		\$ 200,000.00
Easement		
Trail Construction		\$ 750,000.00
Total Project Cost		\$ 1,000,000.00

Match	Type	Value	Name of Partner (if applicable)
3 miles of trail corridor (provided by applicant - owned fee simple)		\$ 150,000.00	
Appropriations (provided by applicant)		\$ 25,000.00	
Cash donation		\$ 20,000.00	Hoosier County Community Foundation
Donation of labor		\$ 5,000.00	Hoosierburg Trails Coalition
Total Match Value		\$ 200,000.00	
Percentage Match (Must meet program minimum of 20% match.)		20.0%	

GRANT AMOUNT REQUESTED \$ 800,000.00

To the best of my knowledge, information in this application is true and correct. The applicant will comply with all conditions of the program if funding is approved.
Signature of authorized representative: _____ Date (month, day, year): 2/1/2019

- Application Form (#56616) is fillable PDF.
- All new applications and re-applications must submit this to be eligible for a round.
- Application form should reflect the project you are requesting NLT grant funds for.
- Be accurate and detailed.



2. Cost Breakdown

	COSTS	MATCH
DESIGN AND ENGINEERING		
Trail Design	\$ 40,000	
Environmental Review/Permitting	\$ 5,000	
LAND		
3 Miles of Corridor (provided by applicant-owned fee simple)	\$ 150,000	\$ (150,000)
1 Mile of Corridor (to be acquired fee simple)	\$ 50,000	
TRAIL CONSTRUCTION		
Construction of Trail (approx. 4 miles @ approx. 10' wide)		
Construction Engineering/Inspection/Management	\$ 25,000	
Corridor Clearing- Donated Labor	\$ 5,000	\$ (5,000)
Grading and Drainage	\$ 75,000	
6" commercial #53 limestone base	\$ 200,000	
2.5" HMA intermediate asphalt with 1.5" HMA surfacing	\$ 400,000	
Seeding/Mulching	\$ 20,000	
Basic Trail Amenities		
Trailhead/Parking	\$ 20,000	
Bike racks (2)	\$ 2,000	
Benches (2)	\$ 2,000	
Pavement markings and signage	\$ 4,500	
Bollards	\$ 1,500	
MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS		
City of Hoosierberg		\$ (25,000)
Hoosier County Community Foundation		\$ (20,000)
TOTAL	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (200,000)
GRANT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000	

- Cost breakdowns must include:
 - Total Project Cost
 - Total Match Value
 - Grant Amount Requested
 - All numbers should match the Application Form
- Costs should be broken down by category.
- Only include eligible costs and/or match.
- Breakdown should be detailed and accurate. Ballpark or unsupported estimates will NOT be accepted.



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TOTAL	\$ 1,000,000	\$ (200,000)
GRANT AMOUNT	\$ 800,000	

- Costs should reflect state or locally funded projects; NOT federally funded projects.
- Costs should be kept lean and contingences kept to a minimum.
- All match NOT specifically associated with a certain cost (ex. previously completed design work, acquired land value, donated labor, etc.) should be shown as monetary contributions.
- Projects are NOT evaluated by cost per mile.



3. Match Documentation

Funds Provided by the Applicant:

- Provide a statement from a fiscal agent certifying the availability and source of funds.

Land Value:

- Provide an appraisal or alternative evidence of value acceptable to DNR. Must be reflective of type of control, such as in fee or easement.

Monetary Contributions & Donations of Materials / Labor:

- Provide a commitment letter (on letterhead) or affidavit from each partner detailing its level of commitment.
- Commitment letters can be contingent on NLT award.
- Grant awards from other sources may be eligible as match, but applicant must show award letter. Pending applications do NOT qualify as match.



4. Project Narrative

a) Detailed Project Description

- Trail Mileage
- Trail Width
- Trail Surface
- Trail Uses
- Accessibility
- Acreage
- Status of Corridor
- Special restrictions

b) Project Timeline

- Estimated start and completion date (just month and year) based on grant round timeline.
- Estimated timeline of major project milestones.
- Note and document any previously completed work that affects timeline.

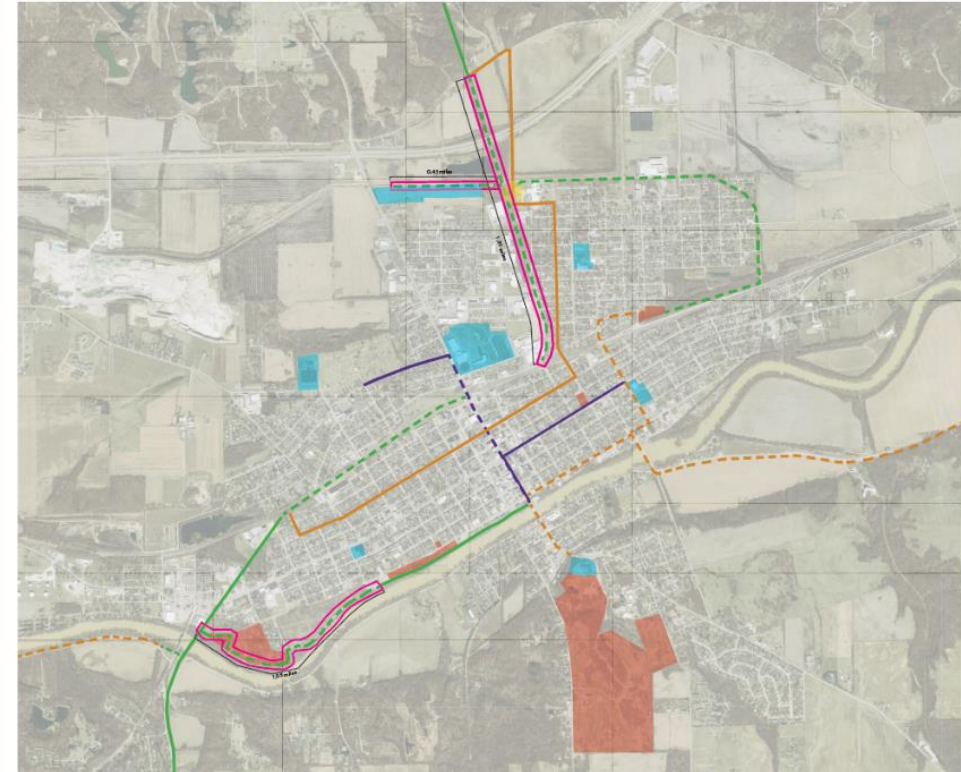


4. Project Narrative

c) Connectivity Narrative

- Cities, towns or counties
- Existing trails
- State Visionary Trail System
- Schools, parks, neighborhoods, commercial centers or local attractions

Show connectivity where applicable on map.



LEGEND

 Park	 Trail	 Shared Lane	 Bike Lane	 Proposed Harrison Street Trailhead
 School	 Proposed Trail	 Proposed Shared Lane	 Bike Lane	 2017 RTP Grant Trail Revised Alignment



4. Project Narrative

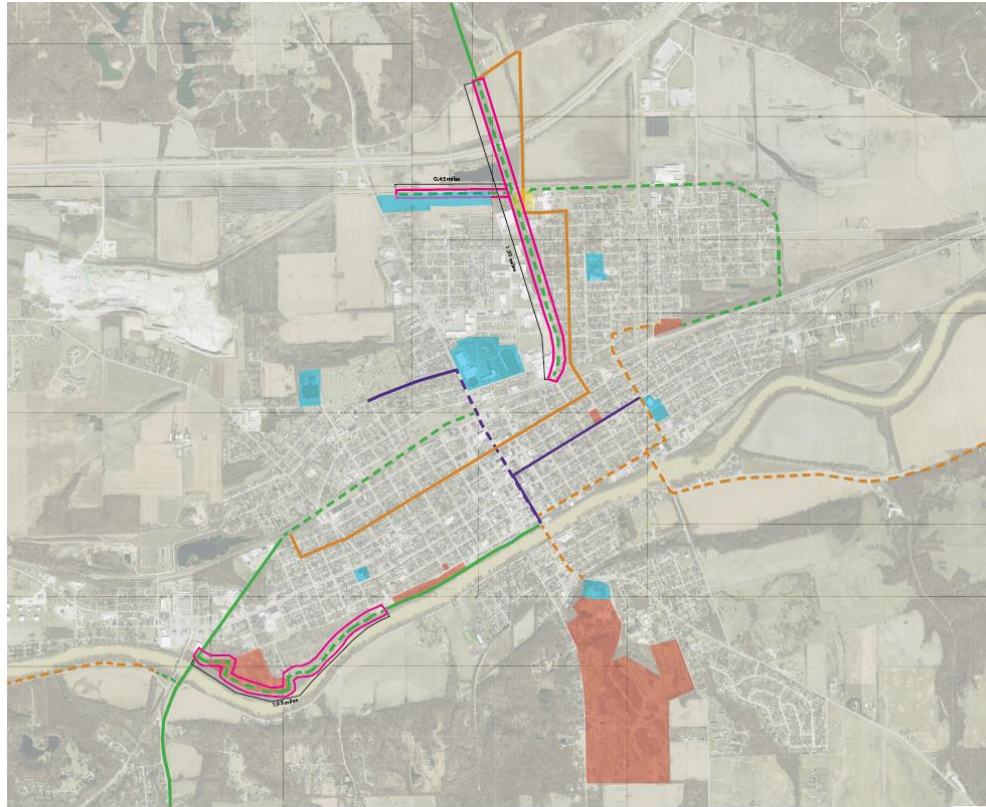
e) Environmental and Cultural Resource Impact

- Describe the effect on any applicable environmental or cultural resources.
- Note any clearances or permits that might be needed for project.
- Submit copy of DNR Early Coordination Letter in Application Packet or documentation of necessary permit if already acquired.
- NEPA and other federal funding requirements do NOT apply, but applicants must comply with all applicable state and federal laws.

- Note significant natural areas
- Describe how trail users may engage with nature.



5. Site / Conceptual Map



- Show the trail route in local context.
- Depict location of proposed trail amenities or necessary infrastructure.
- Show any existing constructed features.
- Depict applicable boundaries (city, town, county, park, etc.)
- Key photos in Section 6 to map.

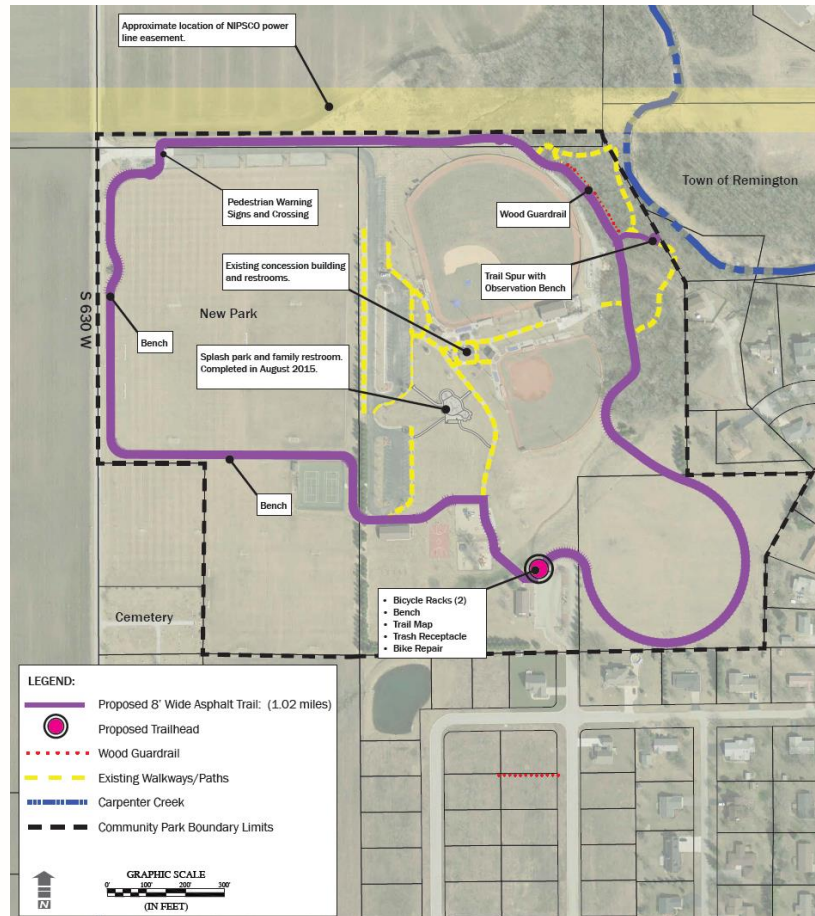


LEGEND

- | | | | | |
|--------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Park | Trail | Shared Lane | Bike Lane | Proposed Harrison Street Trailhead |
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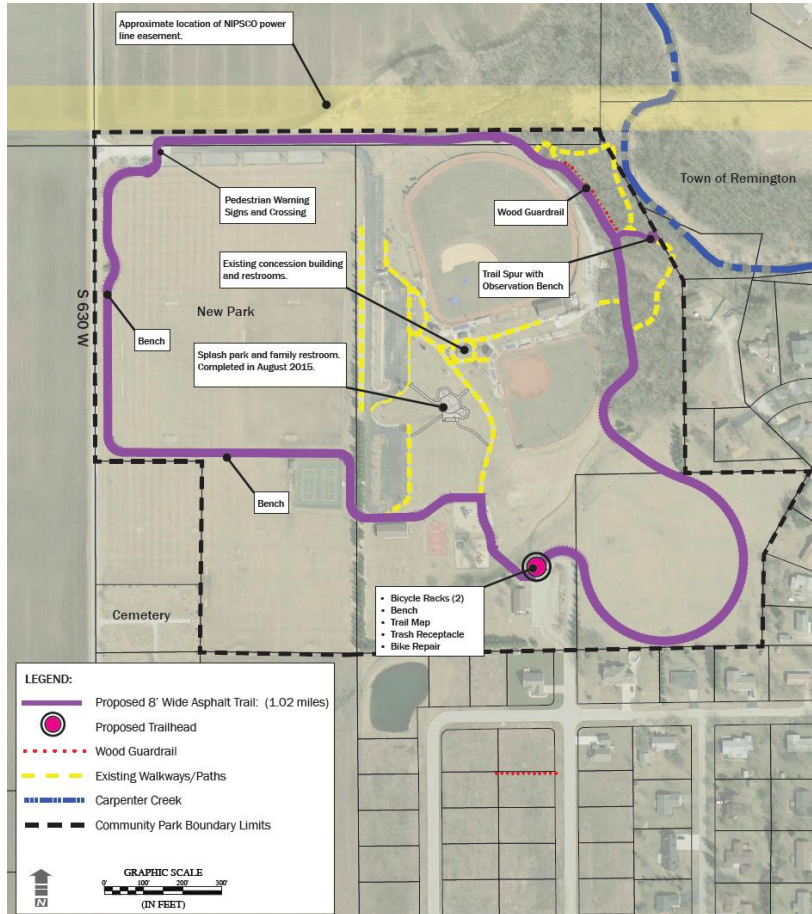


Show any applicable connections to:

- Other cities, towns, or counties;
 - Existing trails;
 - Schools, parks, neighborhoods, commercial centers, or local or regional amenities on or near corridor;
 - Natural areas on or near corridor.
- Label any potential impacts to natural and/or cultural resources.
 - Planned trails, sidewalks, or bike lanes may be shown.
 - Parcels are optional on this map, but must be shown on Parcel Map.



Site / Conceptual Map Tips



- Include title, legend/key, scale and north arrow.
- Satellite imagery is recommended.
- Utilize different colors, line patterns and line weights to clearly identify your project.
- Label major streets for reference.
- You may submit multiple maps.

The rating committee will be using your map to better understand your project.



6. Site Photographs



- Local projects may use photos to show how their project connects trails users to nature.
- Photos keyed to map are especially helpful.



7. Design & Engineering Plans

- If complete, please provide a copy of plans with the application.
- All plans will be reviewed by DNR staff prior to bidding and construction.
- *Note that some projects may not require full design & engineering.*
- Grantees are not required to hire consultants under the NLT program. However, **any professional services that are hired and compensated with Next Level Trails funds must be performed by an entity that is INDOT pre-qualified.**
- Plans do NOT have to meet INDOT specifications.



8. Regional, Local, or Comprehensive Plan

If applicable, provide:

- Name of plan
- Date of plan
- Copy of the page(s) relevant to the proposed project
- Link and applicable page number(s) if available online

Project may be a part of multiple plans.

Include as many plans as possible to show support for and value of project.

Examples of applicable plans:

- Regional Cities plan
- Comprehensive county or city plan
- Parks & rec. master plan
- Bike & pedestrian plan
- Active transportation plan
- MPO, county, or city trails plan
- Specific trail or corridor plan



9. Summary Management and Maintenance Plan

- In one page or less, explain how the applicant will **manage and maintain** the project over the course of its useful life.
- Applicant should articulate anticipated costs and funding sources.



10. Jurisdictional Approval Letter and Letters of Support

- Applicants must provide letters of support from the jurisdictional authority (county, city, town, etc.) relevant to the location of the proposed project.
- Applicants may provide additional letters of support from key stakeholders or the community to demonstrate the breadth of community support for the project. Please limit within reason.
- Letters of support do not constitute partnerships.



11. Project Contact List

Provide a list of individuals / groups that will be directly involved in the development of the project and their contact information. Examples:

- Project manager
- Contract signatory
- Fiscal manager
- Project engineer

Contact information should include **address, phone number and email address.**



12 & 13. Current Easements & Deeds

- Provide a copy of the recorded deed, lease or easement for each property currently controlled by the applicant and intended for development through the NLT program.
- Include any existing easements, such as utilities or access drives, pertaining to the property to be developed.
- If the project is in right-of-way (ROW), applicant must show they have control of ROW for trail use OR have an official letter from agency who controls ROW stating they are willing to work with applicant on trail.
 - Those in INDOT ROW should contact their district office.





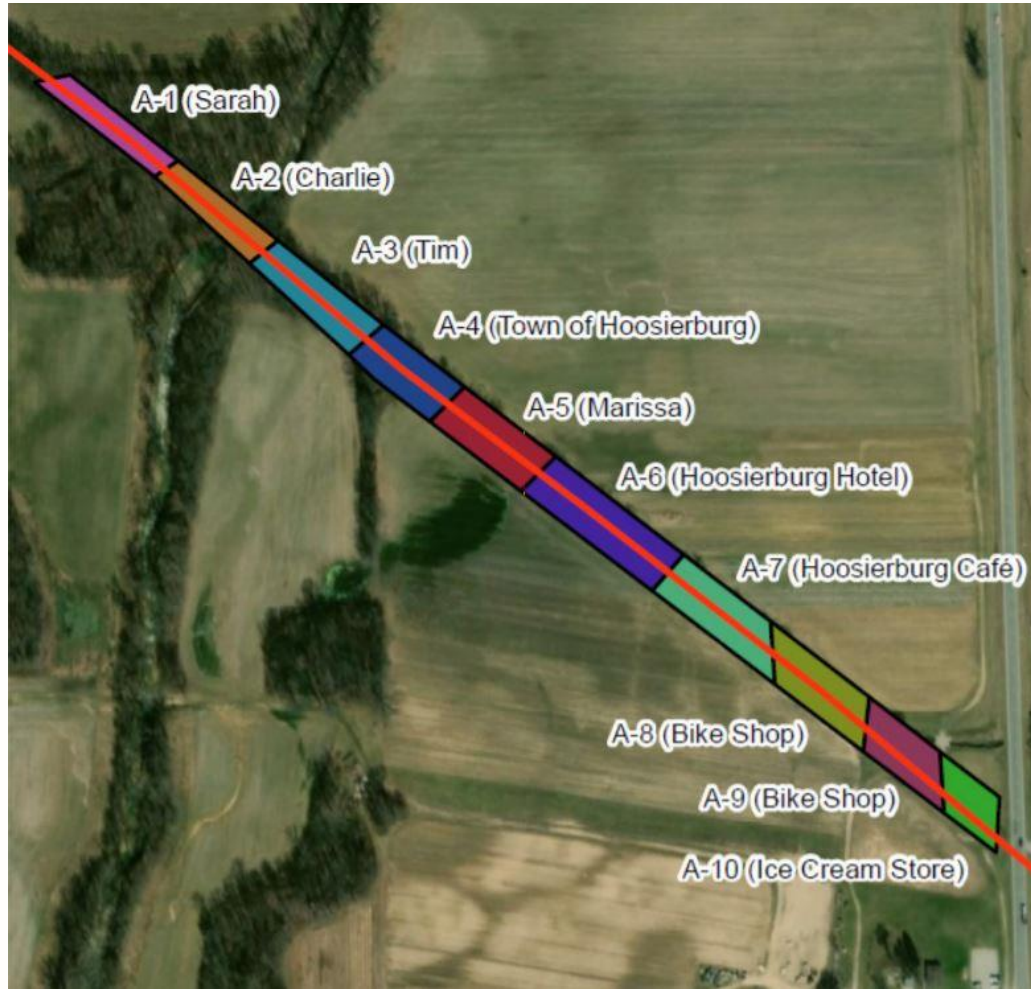
Projects with Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition

- Land acquired / donated in fee simple must remain in public outdoor recreation use in perpetuity, via deed restriction.
- Land acquired by easement must remain in public trail use for the term of the easement, no less than 25 years.
 - Easements in perpetuity are preferred.
- Licenses might be in acceptable in limited circumstance with DNR approval.



14. Parcel Map and Table



LETTERS OF INTENT AND PROPERTY INVENTORY							
Map ID	Parcel ID	Property Owner	Letter of Intent	Existing Easements (utility, access, etc.)	Acquisition	Size of Easement	Value*
A-1	55-55-0111	Sarah	✓	None	Acquisition (fee)	25' x 125'	\$3,000
A-2	55-55-0112	Charlie	✓	Unknown	Acquisition (easement)	25' x 125'	\$1,000
A-3	55-55-0113	Tim	✓	None	Acquisition (fee)	25' x 125'	\$3,000
A-4	55-55-0114	Town of Hoosierburg	N/A	None	Owned	20' x 150'	\$150,000
A-5	55-55-0115	Marissa	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	20' x 150'	\$5,000
A-6	55-55-0116	Hoosierburg Hotel	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	20' x 150'	\$5,000
A-7	55-55-0117	Hoosierburg Café	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-8	55-55-0118	Bike Shop	✓	None	Donation	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-9	55-55-0119	Bike Shop	✓	None	Donation	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-10	55-55-0120	Ice Cream Store	✓	None	Acquisition (easement)	25' x 200'	\$3,000

**Not indicative of actual property values*



14. Parcel Map and Table

- Map should be keyed with table.
- Delineate individual parcels that are part of the project area.
- Table should include:
 - Owners name
 - Acreage and/or linear foot and width
 - Acquisition type
 - Status
 - Value

LETTERS OF INTENT AND PROPERTY INVENTORY							
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A-3	55-55-0113	Tim	✓	None	Acquisition (fee)	25' x 125'	\$3,000
A-4	55-55-0114	Town of Hoosierburg	N/A	None	Owned	20' x 150'	\$150,000
A-5	55-55-0115	Marissa	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	20' x 150'	\$5,000
A-6	55-55-0116	Hoosierburg Hotel	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	20' x 150'	\$5,000
A-7	55-55-0117	Hoosierburg Café	✓	40' Utility Easement	Acquisition (fee)	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-8	55-55-0118	Bike Shop	✓	None	Donation	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-9	55-55-0119	Bike Shop	✓	None	Donation	50' x 160'	\$10,000
A-10	55-55-0120	Ice Cream Store	✓	None	Acquisition (easement)	25' x 200'	\$3,000

**Not indicative of actual property values*



15. Evidence of Value

For each acquisition that will occur during the project:

- Provide an appraisal or alternative evidence of value acceptable to DNR.
- Value must be reflective of acquisition type, such as in fee or easement.
- Subject to review by DNR Land Acquisition staff.



16. Letters of Intent

For each acquisition of real estate that will occur within the project, **applicant must provide either a:**

- Letter of Intent,
- Signed Option,
- Executed Purchase Agreement, or
- Commitment Letter demonstrating willingness to exercise eminent domain if needed

Land acquisition resources can be found at: <https://www.dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/9855.htm>



16. Letters of Intent

Willing Seller: Applicant must at minimum provide a signed letter of intent demonstrating the seller's willingness to transfer the land to the applicant.

- If donation or bargain sale, letter should clearly state the seller's intention to donate or sell the land below market value.
- Projects with land acquisition under option or contract will be viewed favorably.
- Sample cover letter and letter of intent available on website.



16. Alternative to Letters of Intent

For any parcels for which the applicant cannot provide a letter of intent signed by a willing seller:

- Provide a commitment letter demonstrating the appropriate local unit of government's willingness to exercise its right of eminent domain, if necessary.

See Eminent Domain Memorandum on website for more information on what should be included in a commitment letter.

The right of eminent domain should only be used when all other options have been exhausted.





Other Required Items

17 & 18. W-9 and Direct Deposit Form

- Grant recipients are viewed as “vendors” within the State accounting system.
- In order to be eligible to receive grant funding, applicants must submit a:
 - W-9
 - Direct Deposit Form
- These forms will NOT be a part of the application packet, but will instead must be submitted to DNRVendorForms@dnr.IN.gov before round deadline.
- These documents are available at: <https://www.dnr.IN.gov/outdoor/9855.htm>



18. State Bidder Registration Documentation

- All grant recipients will need to electronically sign state grant agreement with the DNR.
- Registering as a “bidder” with the Indiana Department of Administration (IDOA) is required to electronically sign the contract.
- Registering and/or updating a IDOA “bidder” profile can be done online at: <https://www.IN.gov/idoa/2464.htm>.
- A screenshot of your bidder profile showing your bidder ID or just reference of your bidder ID # will suffice as adequate documentation for the application packet.



19. 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations Only

- To be considered an eligible applicant for Next Level Trails, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations must show proof of their non-profit status.
- An IRS Letter of Determination is the simplest way to prove non-profit status.
- A copy of this or other sufficient documentation should be included in the application packet.



19. 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organizations Only

Additionally, all non-profits must be registered with the Indiana Secretary of State Office to be eligible for NLT.

Please note, any non-profits receiving a NLT grant, which is considered government financial assistance, will need to submit an Entity Annual Report (Form E1) to the Indiana State Board of Accounts annually for oversight.





Evaluation Criteria

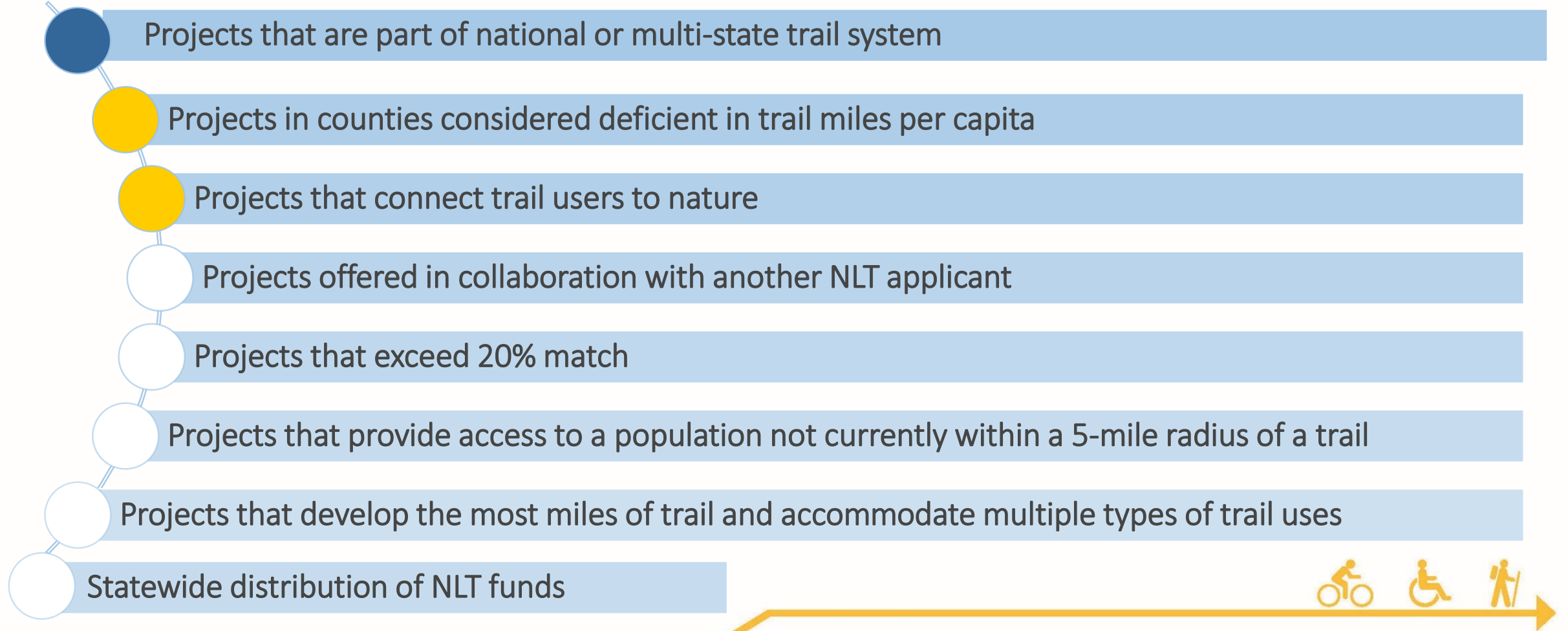
Project Evaluation: Preferences

- Projects that further the completion of the State Visionary Trail System
- Projects that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, commercial centers, or local attractions
- Projects that connect multiple cities, towns, or counties
- Projects that connect or extend existing trails
- Projects that are a part of an existing regional or comprehensive plan
- Projects that maximize partnerships*
- Projects on an accelerated timeline

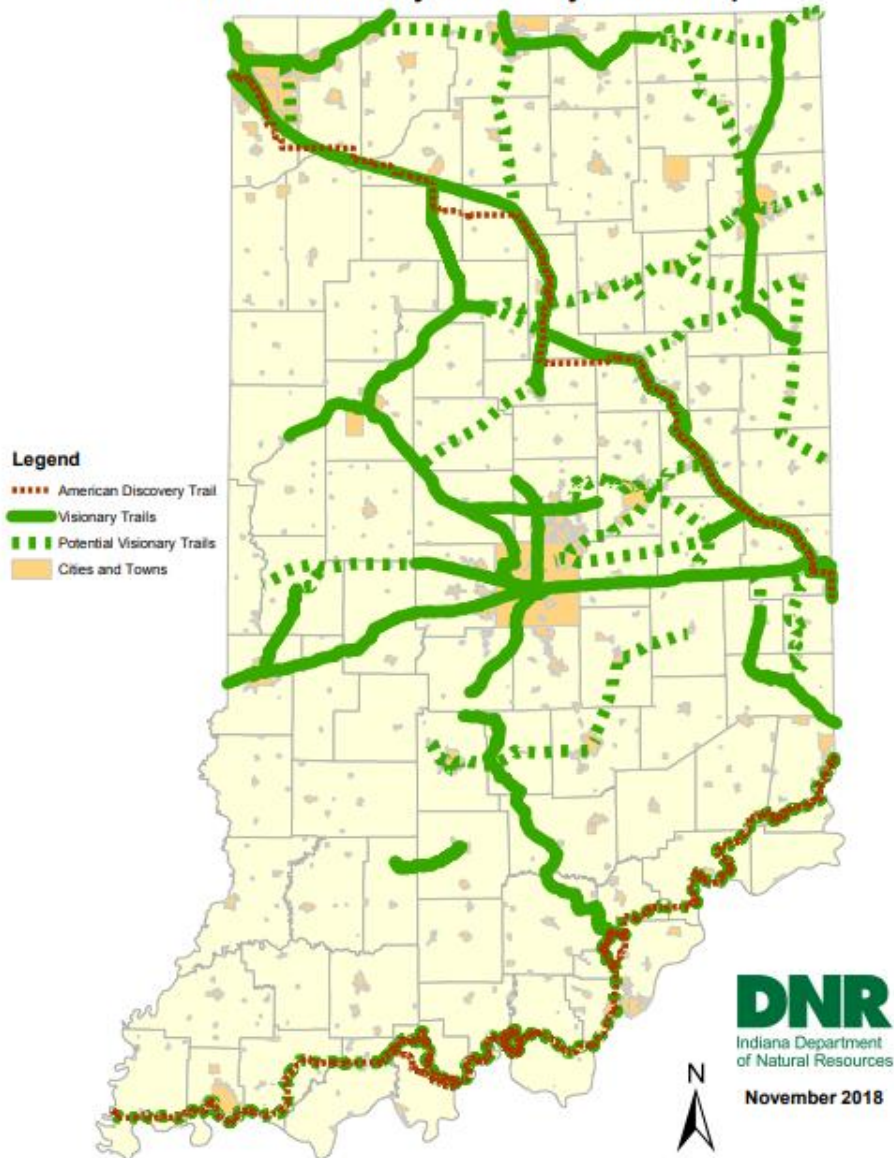
*Partners contribute significant financial or other valuable resources



Project Evaluation: Considerations



2016 Visionary Trails System Map



Preference for Regional Projects

Preference given to projects that further the completion of the State Visionary Trail System

- Both visionary and potential visionary trails are eligible for this preference.
- Based on the project's significance toward completion of the System.



Preference for Local Projects

Preference given to projects that connect schools, parks, neighborhoods, commercial centers or local attractions.

- *Based on the number, significance, and quality of connections*
- Use map and connectivity narrative to highlight these connections.



Preferences for All Projects

Preference given to projects that connect multiple cities, towns, or counties.

- Based on the number, significance, and quality of connections.
- Show jurisdiction lines on map.
- Include in application form and connectivity narrative.

Preference given to projects that connect or extend existing trails

- Especially those that close gaps or make critical connections.
- Can make multiple connections or extend an existing trail on two ends.
- Highlight on map, application form and connectivity narrative.



Preferences for All Projects

Preference given to projects that maximize partnerships.

- Based on number of partners providing substantial valuable resources.
- Partners may include: landowners, local businesses, community foundations, non-profits, hospitals, individuals, etc.
- Indicate partnerships on application form and fiscal partner narrative.
- Match documentation must be provided for every partner.

Preference given to projects on an accelerated timeline.

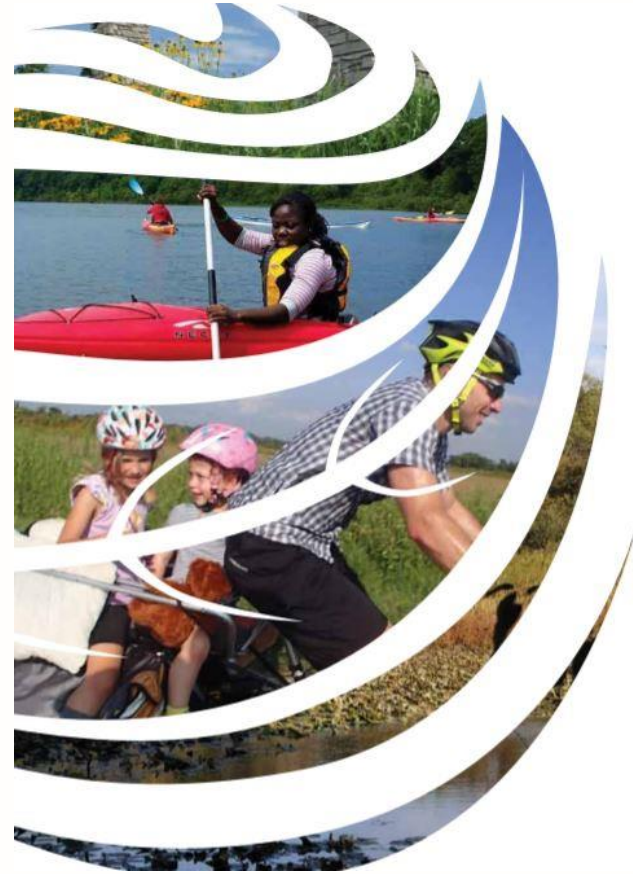
- Based on realistic completion date with upfront funds.
- 4-year maximum
- Show estimated completion date on application form.
- Detail accelerated timeline in the timeline section of the project narrative.



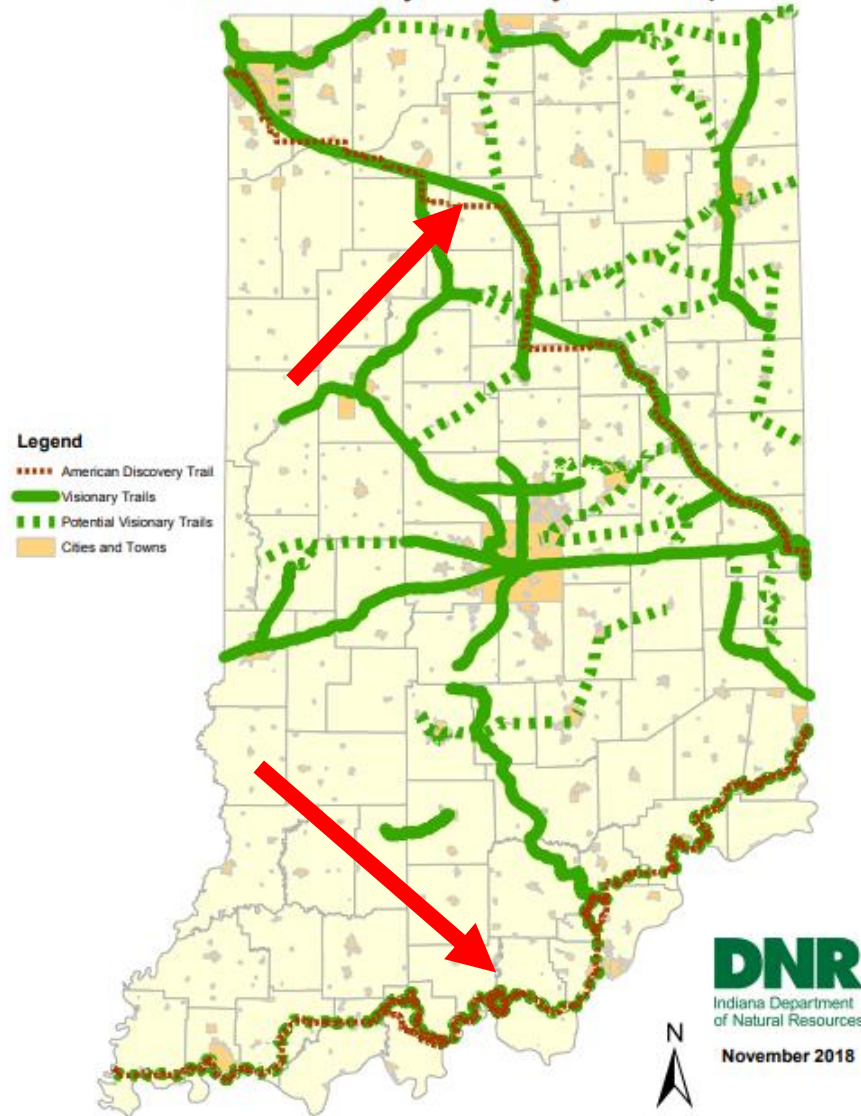
Preferences for All Projects

Preference given to projects that are part of an existing regional, local, or comprehensive plan.

- Based on number, significance, and quality of plan(s).
- Preference given to long-planned projects.
- Include multiple plans if applicable.



2016 Visionary Trails System Map



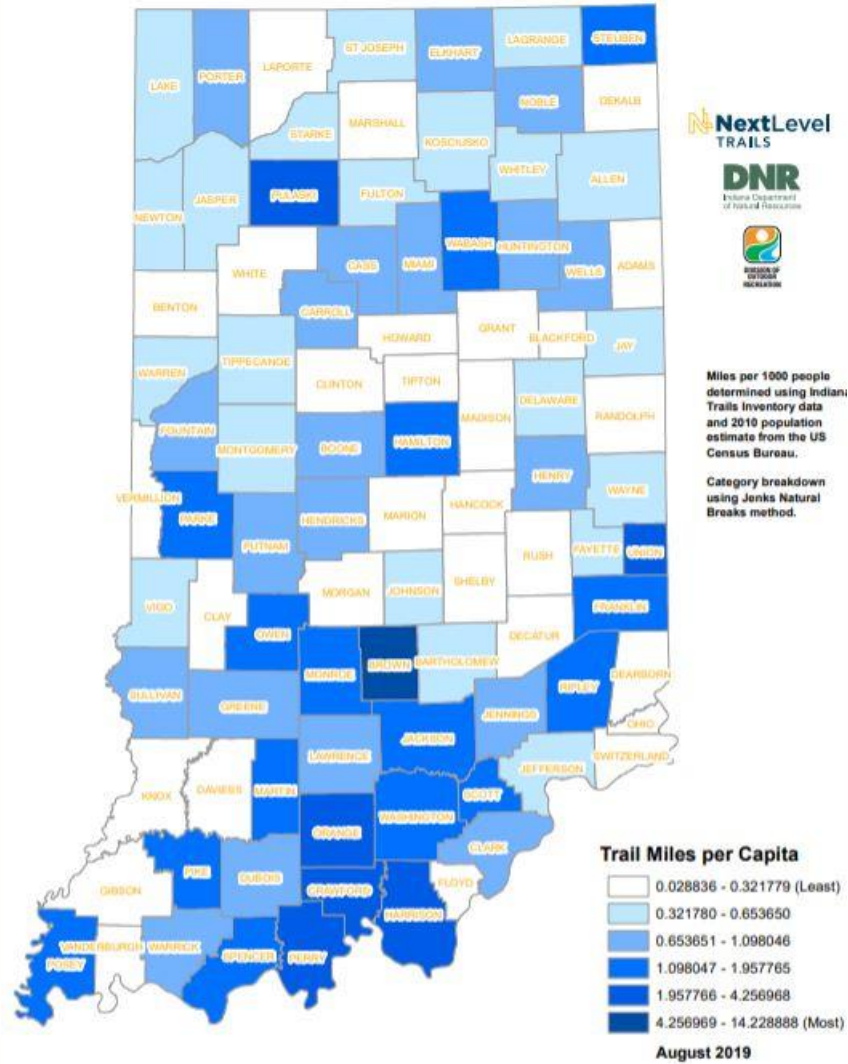
Consideration for Regional Projects

Consideration given to projects that are part of a national or multi-state trail system.

- Examples: American Discovery Trail, Great American Rail-Trail (national trail systems), Ohio River Greenway, Marquette Greenway, National Road Heritage Trail, IN-MI River Valley (multi-state trail systems)
- Use map and connectivity narrative to highlight these connections.



Indiana Trail Miles Per Capita



Consideration for Local Projects

Consideration given to projects in counties considered deficient in trail miles per capita.

- Based on *Indiana Trails Inventory and 2010 U.S. Census data.*



Consideration for Local Projects



Consideration given to projects that connect trail users to nature.

- Awarded subjectively based on substantial and meaningful connections to nature.
- Use the map, photos, and environmental section of the project narrative to highlight natural areas on or near trail. Examples include: forests, riparian corridors, wetlands, unique geologic features, nature preserves, etc.



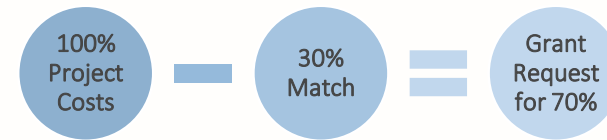
Consideration for All Projects

Consideration given to projects offered in collaboration with another Next Level Trails applicant.

- Project must be submitted as one of two or more directly connecting NLT proposals
- Should note this on application form.

Consideration given to projects that exceed the minimum 20% match.

• Ex.



- Evaluation based on field of applicants.
- Should note match % on application form.
- Prove match % in cost breakdown and match documentation.



Consideration for All Projects

Consideration given to projects that develop the most miles of trail.

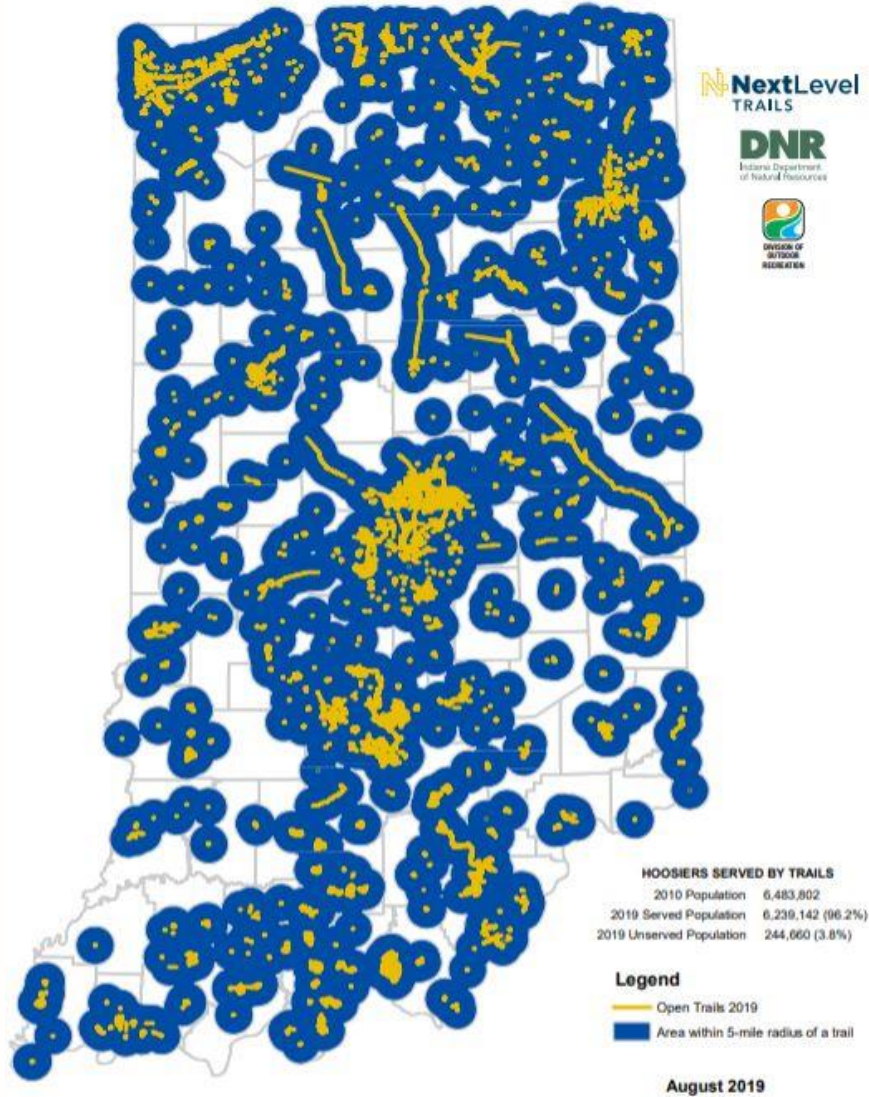
- Evaluation based on field of applicants.
- Should note this on application form and show in map.
- Do NOT include mileage of larger project, existing miles of trail or sidewalk/bike lanes.
- DNR will verify mileage w/ ArcGIS.

Consideration given to projects that accommodate multiple types of trail uses.

- Evaluation based on field of applicants.
- Please note allowed uses and surface type on application form and in project narrative.



Population Within a 5-mile Radius of a Trail (2019)



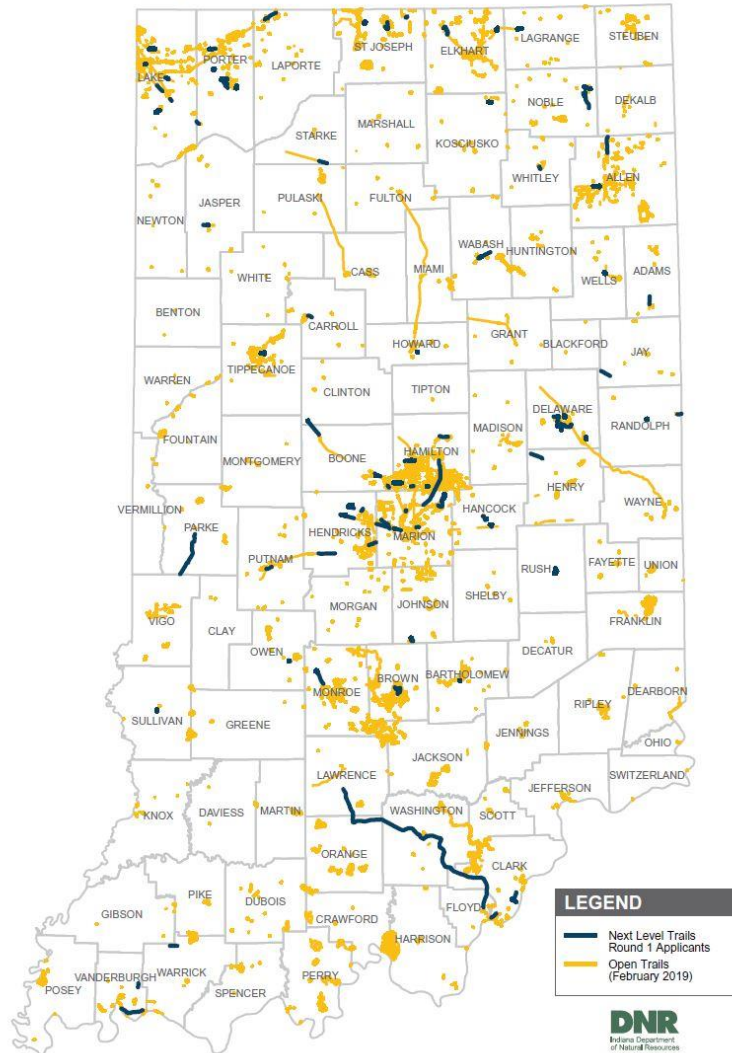
Considerations for All Projects

Consideration given to projects that provide access to a population not currently within a 5-mile radius of a trail.

- *Based on Indiana Trails Inventory and 2010 U.S. Census data.*



Considerations for All Projects



Consideration given for statewide distribution of funds.

- Evaluation based on field of applicants.



Resources

Resources for NLT Applicants

- Applicant Handbook
 - Application Checklist
 - Application Form
- Doing Business with State of Indiana
 - DNR Vendor & Bidder Registration Information
 - W-9
 - Direct Deposit Form
 - Bidder Registration Instructions
- Real Estate Handbook
 - Sample Cover Letter
 - Sample Letter of Intent
 - Eminent Domain Memorandum
- Grantee Handbook

*All available on 'Grant Process' section of NLT website





General Questions