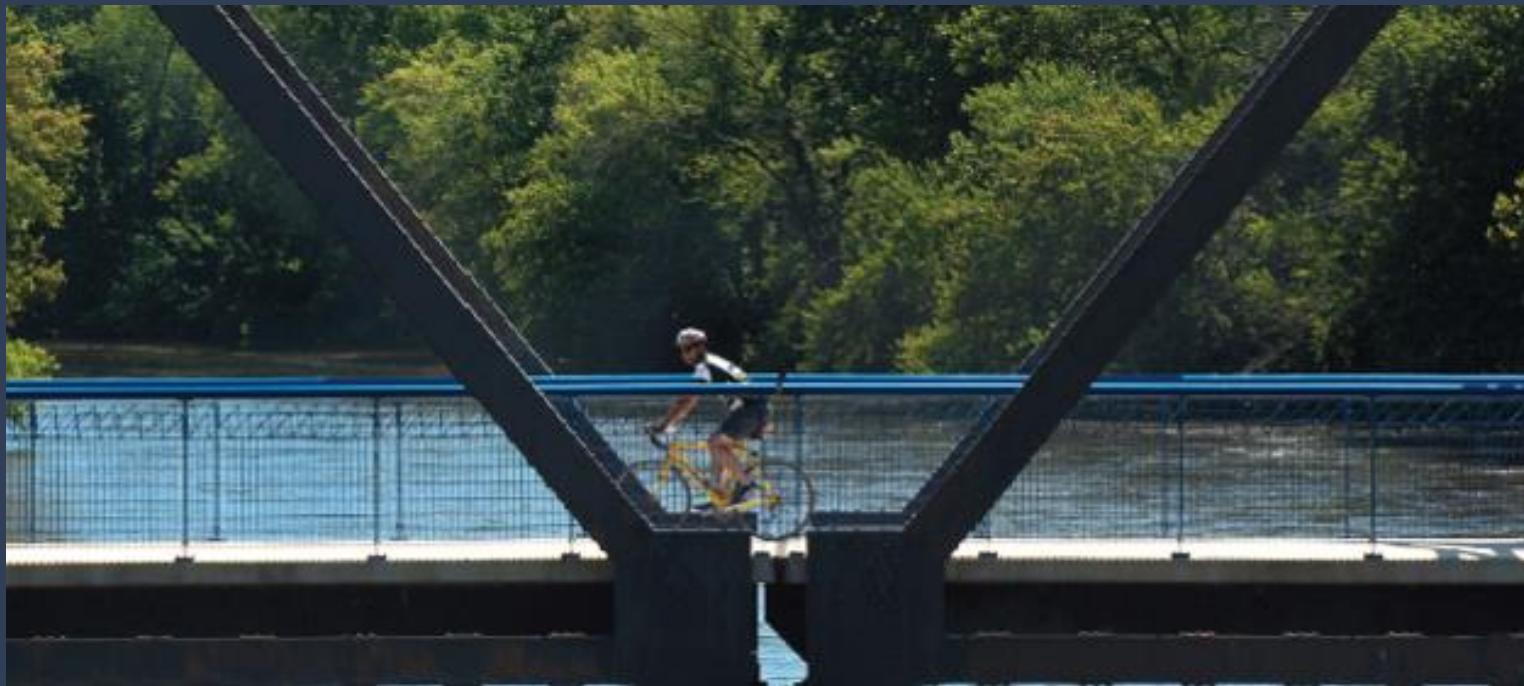


# NextLevel TRAILS



“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 rounds until all funds have been allocated.
- Projects deemed eligible that are not awarded will be considered for future rounds.
  - Applicants may choose to submit an improved or amended application.



# Eligibility

**Eligible Applicants:** Local units of government or 501(c)(3) non-profits

- \$5 million maximum total grant request per applicant

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

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

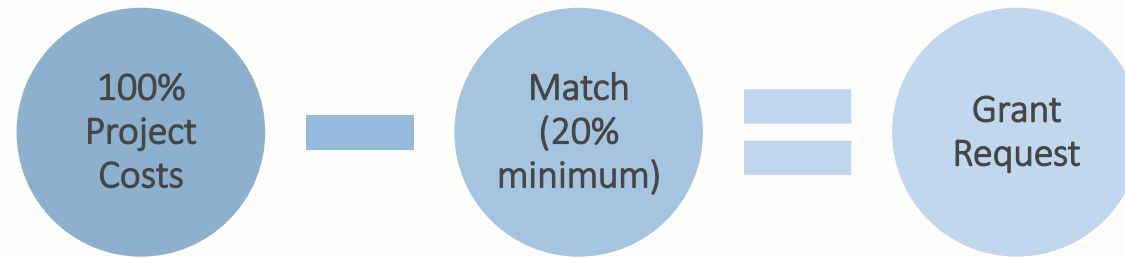
**Eligible Costs:**

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

\*Eligible costs must occur within contract period.



# Match Requirement



All grant requests require a minimum of 20% match.

Eligible match includes:

- Monetary contributions
- Land value
- In-kind donations of materials and labor

Consideration given to projects exceeding 20% match.



# Funds Awarded Upfront

Grant recipients will be awarded funds upfront based on project-specific milestones. Examples:

- Design and engineering
- Land acquisition
- Construction

Recipients will sign a contract with DNR; projects to be completed within 4 years.





# Project Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by DNR staff for eligibility and completeness.

Applications will then be evaluated by a review committee staffed by multiple state agencies based on how closely they meet the following program objectives:



# 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

- Projects that are part of national or multi-state trail system
- Projects in counties considered deficient in trail miles per capita
- Projects offered in collaboration with another NLT applicant
- Projects that exceed 20% match
- Projects that provide access to a population not currently within a 5-mile radius of a trail
- Statewide distribution of NLT funds
- Projects that develop the most miles of trail and accommodate multiple types of trail uses



# Next Level Trails Initial Round Timeline

**Governor Holcomb Launched  
Next Level Trails Program**

Dec. 6

Dec. and Jan.

Jan.1-Feb. 15

Feb.-March

April-May

## Applications Accepted

- Round 1 applications are due by Feb. 15.
- Complete application packet must be submitted electronically to [NextLevelTrails@dnr.in.gov](mailto:NextLevelTrails@dnr.in.gov)

## Awards Announced & Contracts

- Grant recipients announced.
- DNR will work with grant recipients to get a contract in place by summer.

## Next Level Trails Workshops

- Dec. 12, Fort Harrison State Park Inn (Indianapolis)
- Dec. 19, Potato Creek State Park (North Liberty)
- Jan. 9, Falls of the Ohio State Park (Clarksville)

## Applicant Review & Ranking

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

Round 1: Up to \$20 Million in Regionally Significant and \$5 Million in Locally Significant Projects Awarded



# Next Level Trails Interest

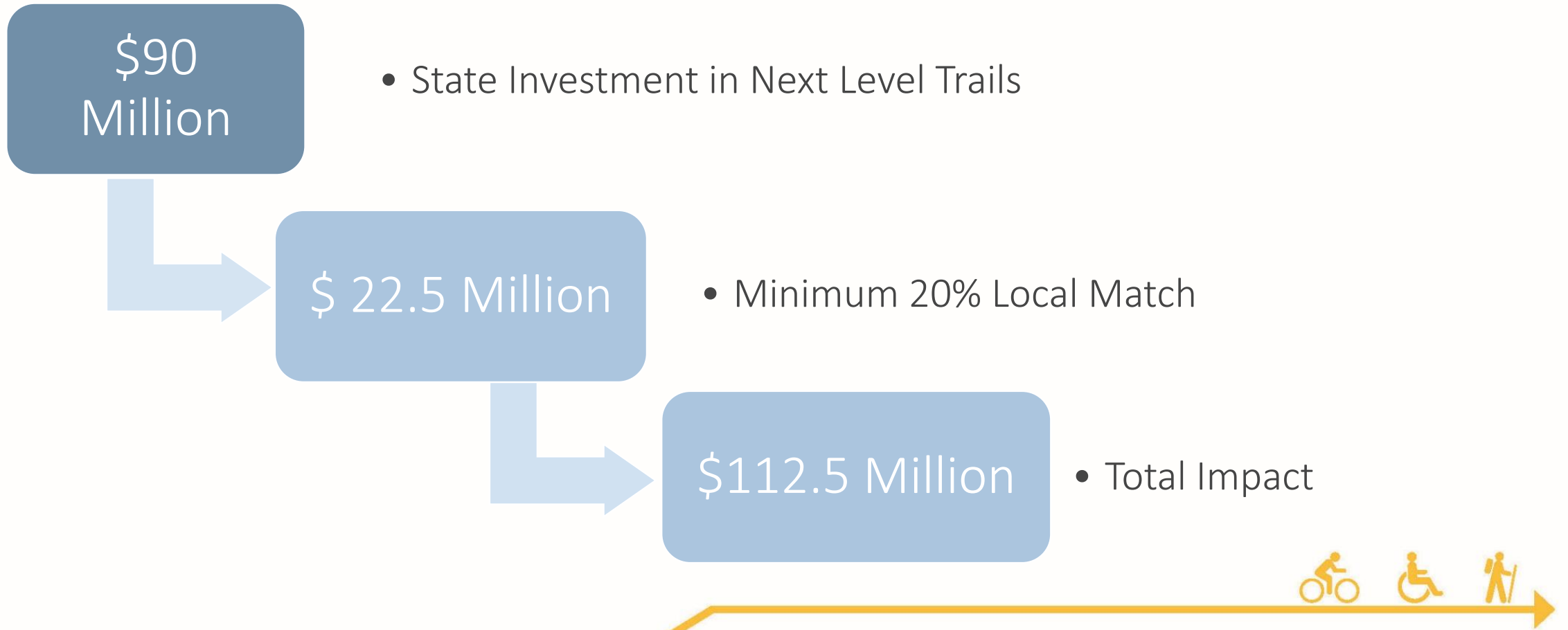
Outreach Method	Attendance
Central Potential Applicant Workshop (Dec. 12)	85
Live Webinar (Dec. 12)	99
North Potential Applicant Workshop (Dec. 19)	69
South Potential Applicant Workshop (Jan. 9)	31
Recorded Webinar Views	86
Total Number Reached	370





# Partnership Opportunities

# Leveraging State Funds



# Next Level Trails Awards

## Round One Awardees

- 17 trail projects, including 10 regionally significant and 7 locally significant projects.
- More than \$24.9 million in Next Level Trails grant funding, combined with \$12.5 million in local match value, will invest a total of more than \$37.4 million.
- More than 42 miles of trail to be developed in 17 Indiana counties.





# The Benefits of Trails

## Recreation Opportunities

Improved Health & Wellness

Environmental Benefits

Quality of Life

Economic Benefits

Alternative Transportation



# The Economic Benefits of Trails

## Local Business

- Boosts sales and attracts new business
- Trails appeal to both costumers and employees

## Tourism

- Attracts destination and special event tourists
- Trail tourists spend money on food, beverages, lodging, etc.

## Health Care

- Affordable fitness opportunities improves health & wellness
- Reduces health care costs in region

## Property Values

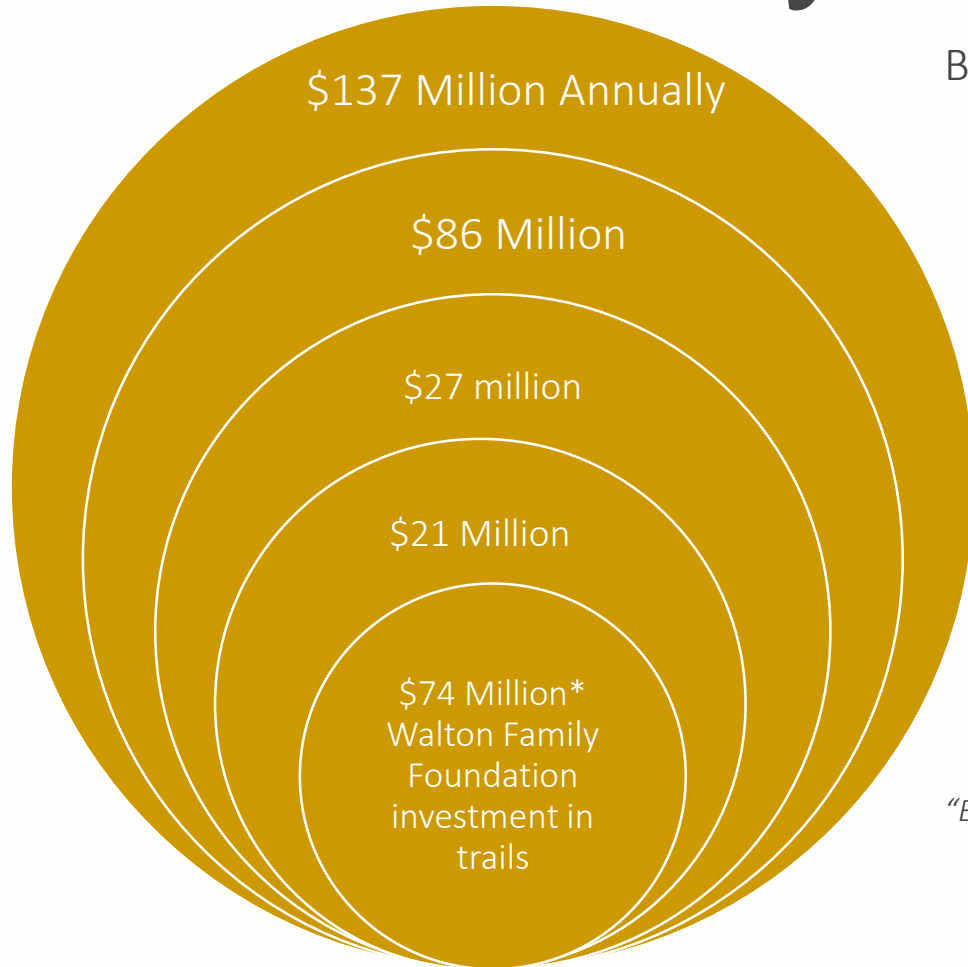
- Studies show increased property values near trails
- Stabilize or revitalize neighborhoods

## Quality of Life

- Bikeable/walkable communities grow at a faster rate
- Attract and retain talent



# Case Study: NW Arkansas Trails



Bicycling provided a **\$137 Million** annual economic benefit to NW Arkansas.

- **\$86 Million** in health care-related benefits
- **\$27 Million** in tourism spending by 90,000+ bike tourists
- **\$21 Million** in local spending on sporting goods & events

The Walton Family Foundation's gift of **\$74 Million** helped to develop **163 miles** of paved & natural surface trails in NW Arkansas over the past 10 years.

*"Economic and Health Benefits of Bicycling in Northwest Arkansas," March 2018*



NEARLY **1/3** OF NORTHWEST  
**ARKANSAS  
RESIDENTS**

CONSIDER THE AVAILABILITY OF PAVED BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE  
**IMPORTANT IN DECIDING WHERE TO LIVE**



Source: Economic and Health Benefits of Bicycling in Northwest Arkansas



# Economic Benefits of Indiana Trails

## Property Values

- Property values within a block of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail increased by **\$1 billion** and went up an average **148%** after the completion of the trail
- **11%** price premium on real estate near the Monon Trail in 1999
- **66%** of adjacent property owners in 2017 Indiana Trail Study feel the trail has increased their property value

## Trail Use Spending

- Trail users asked in 2017 Indiana Trails Study reported spending **\$3,564** on trail related expenses
- The average Indianapolis Cultural Trail user expenditure was **\$53**
- Over half of businesses owners on the Cultural Trail saw an increase in costumers and **48%** saw in increase in revenue



# Contact Information

## Next Level Trails

Mark Becker

[mbecker@dnr.in.gov](mailto:mbecker@dnr.in.gov)

Amy Marisavljevic

[amarisavljevic@dnr.in.gov](mailto:amarisavljevic@dnr.in.gov)

## Natural Resources Foundation

Jody Kress

[jkress@dnr.in.gov](mailto:jkress@dnr.in.gov)

