
NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

**OUTDOOR
RECREATION TRAILS+
GRANT**

2022 Program Guide

Introduction

The Outdoor Recreation Division works to ensure that all New Mexicans gain from the public health, environmental, and economic benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation.

In 2020, despite headwinds caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the outdoor recreation industry contributed \$1.9 billion to New Mexico gross domestic product and employed more than 25,000 state workers.

It is our job at the Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD), housed within the Economic Development Department, to grow this economic powerhouse in a sustainable way that benefits all New Mexicans. That starts with access to the outdoors, from the Organ Mountains to the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness.

To grow outdoor access for both residents and visitors, as well as preserve these wild places within our state, the legislature, through the ORD, has created the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant (formerly known as the Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure Fund).

This grant invests in conservation-minded shovel-ready projects that are open to the public, increase access to outdoor opportunities, and demonstrate a clear economic benefit to the community through improved quality of life, better public health outcomes, and/or increased tourism.

This program guide is intended as a tool for applicants to apply to the 2022 Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant. There have been some major changes to the grant, starting with \$7 million in federal stimulus funding. This new investment will enable Trails+ to increase both the number and scope of the awarded projects. Read on for more details.

This guide outlines specific requirements and provides examples of eligible projects. To find more information about ORD, [visit our website](#).



What's new for 2022?



Two tiers of grant award (Tier 1 Local and Tier 2 Regional)



Larger award amounts (up to \$99,999 for Tier 1 and \$500,000 for Tier 2)



Applications accepted on a rolling basis starting March 1, 2022



Nonprofits only eligible for Tier 1 Local awards



2:1 match offered to rural applicants (ORD will match every \$1 with \$2)



"Rural" defined as any part of the state other than: Los Alamos County; Albuquerque; Rio Rancho; Farmington; Las Cruces; Roswell; Santa Fe; and a 10-mile radius around those cities.

GRANT OVERVIEW:

NEW Tier 1 Local Projects

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligible Applicants:** Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Nonprofits; Public preschools/schools/districts; Colleges/Universities; Soil and water conservation districts; Acequia and land grant associations.
- **Economic Impact:** Project must show demonstrable benefit to the local community, either by attracting and retaining residents or attracting visitors.
- **Recreation Access:** The project must be open for public use. Note: Projects on tribal lands are eligible and do not have to be open to the general public, but should be open to tribal members.

2022 GRANT CYCLE

Grant opens March 1, 2022. Applications accepted on a rolling basis through December 2022 or until fund is spent.

DEADLINE

March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. Applicants are highly encouraged to submit early.

AWARD RANGE

\$25,000 to \$99,999

MATCH REQUIREMENT

1:1 match for urban applicants; 2:1 for applicants in rural regions. In-kind and/or cash accepted.

CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Project must be completed within 24 months of the signed contract date.
- Grant money will be awarded in full at the time of the contract signing.
- Applicant must submit (1) progress report halfway through the grant period and (1) final report after the completion of the project.
- Applicant must submit photos and be willing to participate in marketing and promotional efforts.
- Grants will be split between tribal, rural, acequia/land grant, and urban communities.

GRANT OVERVIEW:

New Tier 2 Regional Projects

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligible Applicants:** Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Public preschools/schools/districts; Colleges/Universities; Soil and water conservation districts; Acequia and land grant associations. Nonprofits are not eligible.
- **Economic Impact:** Project must show demonstrable benefit to the whole region, either by attracting and retaining residents or attracting visitors.
- **Recreation Access:** The project must be open for public use. It must demonstrate a proven value to the region as a whole. Multi-Tribal, -county, and -municipal projects will score highest.

2022 GRANT CYCLE

Grant opens March 1, 2022. Applications accepted on a rolling basis through December 2022 or until fund is spent.

DEADLINE

March 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022. Applicants are highly encouraged to submit early.

AWARD RANGE

\$100,000 to \$500,000

MATCH REQUIREMENTS

1:1 match for urban applicants; 2:1 for applicants in rural regions. In-kind and/or cash accepted.

CONTRACT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must make virtual or in-person presentation to review committee before awarding.
- Grant money will be awarded in full at the time of the contract signing.
- Project must be completed within 24 months of the signed contract date.
- Applicant must submit (1) progress report halfway through the grant period and (1) final report after the completion of the project.
- Successful completion of the project contingent on an in-person site visit.
- Applicant must submit photos and be willing to participate in marketing and promotional efforts.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

What type of infrastructure projects can you apply for?

ELIGIBLE

- Structures and other infrastructure that enhance public nature-based outdoor recreation;
- Design, survey and engineering plans;
- Materials and equipment;
- Trail or other wayfinding signage;
- Maintenance and improvement to existing outdoor infrastructure;
- Billed labor.

Examples

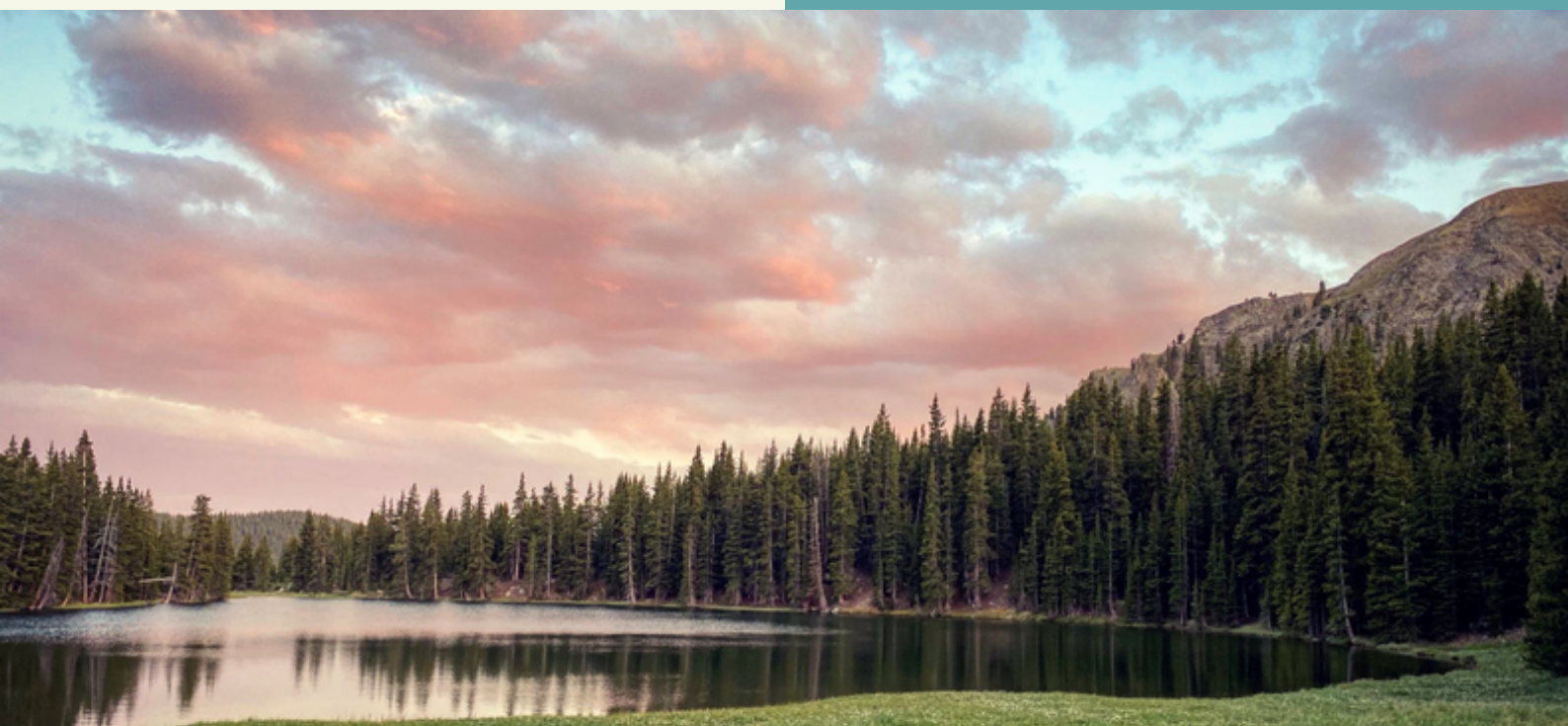
- Trail creation or enhancements, signage, river access, whitewater amenities, outdoor classroom infrastructure, trailhead improvements, picnic shelters, wildlife viewing.

INELIGIBLE

- Land acquisition;
- Outdoor swimming pools or water parks;
- Recreational facilities such as golf courses and soccer fields;
- Infrastructure owned by a for-profit entity.

Examples

- Indoor recreation amenities; structures owned by a private business or entity that are not open for public use; developing or enhancing baseball fields.



Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

This fund invests in projects that enhance outdoor recreation. How we define outdoor recreation: Any activity that takes place outside, in a natural environment.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:



Adaptive outdoor recreation of all types



Trail activities: hiking, backpacking, trail running, horseback riding, hunting etc.



Camping: tent, RV, yurts, etc.



Off-road motorized activities: UTV, ATV, off-road motorcycles, etc.



Nature enjoyment: wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, birdwatching, nature walks, plant identification, etc.



Water activities: canoeing, kayaking, rafting, stand-up paddle boarding, fishing, etc.



Bicycling: road, mountain, gravel, bikepacking, etc.



Snow activities: snowboarding, all skiing types, snowshoeing, etc.

For more examples of eligible projects, read about the 2021 grant recipients [here](#).



Are privately owned businesses or state agencies eligible to apply?

No. Neither privately owned businesses nor state agencies are eligible. We encourage partnerships with state agencies and private businesses on these projects, but the application must come from one of the following entities: Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations; Municipalities; Counties; Nonprofits; Public preschools/schools/districts; Colleges/Universities; Soil and water conservation districts; Acequia and land grant associations. Note that nonprofits are not eligible for Tier 2 Regional awards.

Can my organization submit more than one application?

No. Only one submission per entity is allowed. We ask that you not submit multiple applications from different partners for the same project (in an attempt to increase the odds of it being funded). Please submit one application for the project and include letters of support from your partners.

Do in-kind donations and services qualify as match?

Yes. The match component can be any combination of cash or in-kind (i.e. volunteer hours, prior work, purchase of the land, permitting costs, professional staff services, annual maintenance, donated equipment, services, and/or materials). Other grants, both state and federal, can also be used as a match.

How are awardees selected?

1. A three-person review committee will individually score applications on a rolling basis, as they are submitted.
2. An internal meeting will be held to discuss each top scoring applications and make final decisions on awardees.
3. All applicants will receive a notification if they were awarded or declined funding within three months of submitting their applications.
4. Awardees will receive an official letter of the grant award.

What is required of a strong application?

Projects will be scored based on five main categories:

1. Recreation value;
2. Contribution to equitable outdoor access;
3. Environmental and cultural impacts;
4. Economic value;
5. Projects with robust, demonstrable community support (in the form of letters of support, resolutions, MOUs, etc.) will score highest.

Tier 2 Regional applicants will be required to make a formal presentation to the scoring committee before being awarded funding.

FAQs

Is the match requirement the same for urban and rural applicants?

No. There is a 1:1 match required from all urban applicants. (See state definition of "urban" on page 3 of this program guide). For rural applicants, the match is 2:1. i.e. If an applicant contributes \$50,000 (in-kind and/or cash) the Trails+ award would match up to \$100,000. The state will match every \$1 from a rural applicant with \$2.

When will I be awarded the grant?

Both Tier 1 Local and Tier 2 Regional projects will be awarded 100% of the grant award at the time of contract signing.

When will grant announcements be made?

Awards will be announced on a rolling basis starting after March 1, 2022. Applicants are highly encouraged to apply early, as the grant will remain open through December or until the fund is spent.

Can I phase my project?

Yes. ORD encourages phasing. Applicants may apply for Trails+ funds for one phase of a project, then reapply for a second phase once the first is complete.

When can I expect to hear back about my application?

You will receive an email from the ORD team within three months of submitting your application informing you whether your project was awarded funding. Both those awarded and declined funding will be notified.

What are the requirements if I receive a grant?

Projects must be completed within 24 months of the signed contract date. The applicant, adhering to a template created by ORD, must submit one progress report halfway through the grant period and a final report after the completion of the project. The applicant must submit photos and be willing to participate in marketing and promotional efforts, including inclusion of ORD logo in project materials. Tier 2 Regional applicants will be expected to host an in-person site visit before successful completion of the project.

Application Tips

- For more information and to access the application, visit the **New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division website**.
- Be mindful of the **listed word limit for each question**. You will be prevented from submitting if any question is over this limit.
- Double-check the **award amount, budget, and match** to ensure they are accurate.
- Confirm the account the application is submitted from is the **primary contact**. The ORD will send all grant updates to this contact.
- Save your work in the online application frequently. Connection errors can lead to a loss of data that is not recoverable. **Do not rely on autosave.**
- Take **advantage of the "Collaboration" option** in the online application. This allows organizations to select multiple users to work on a submission. This will appear after you log in to your account, in the top right-hand corner of the application page.
- To avoid technical difficulties, **submit early**. If you do run into technical issues with login, your application, or submission, contact Submittable at the bottom of this [page](#).
- Stay up to date on grant updates, webinars, and deadlines by **signing up for our newsletter**.





APPLY NOW

GRANT OPENS MARCH 1, 2022

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

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