

GRANT CRITERIA – RESPONSE FORMS

Recreational Trail Program (non-motorized portion) project grants are awarded to projects that best meet the needs identified in the “Arizona Trails 2010 State Motorized and Non-motorized Trails Plan”. This plan is updated every five years based on input from trail users and land managing agencies in Arizona.

Projects are scored and prioritized based on the non-motorized priorities identified in the 2010 Trails Plan. Available funds are awarded on the basis of (1) Meeting High Priority Needs and (2) Good Use of the Funds. To give a proposed project the best opportunity to score points, the project sponsor must understand what elements (scope of work) should be included in the project to satisfy specific priorities in the Trails Plan. *An appropriate response specifically addresses the criterion or question being asked and includes the requested documentation.*

On the score sheet the project sponsor must provide a written description of the proposed scope items and explain how each scope item meets the intent of a specific criterion. A scope item must be designed to meet the requirements of a specific criterion. Therefore, scope items cannot be submitted for more than one criterion.

NOTE: The raters will award the appropriate points under the correct criterion for a response that has been submitted under a criterion that does not apply. They will not award points under any criterion or bonus section if an appropriate response has not been submitted.

REQUIRED – PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT (COPY FROM APPLICATION FORM).

Project Sponsor: City of Flagstaff

Project Description: This project will encompass many improvements to the trail system at the Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve. Funds will be used to maintain approximately 3 miles of the Tom Moody Trail by utilizing conservation corps and volunteers. Once maintained, the trail will provide recreation opportunities for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Many closed roads throughout the Preserve will be naturalized via hydroseeding. A gate will be installed to mitigate damage. Invasive weeds throughout the Preserve will be mapped and treated. Trail signs, interpretive signs, and kiosks will display trail information, safety precautions, and environmental messages. A secondary trailhead will be completed using asphalt millings. A highway sign will be installed along Townsend Winona Road to direct visitors to the Preserve. A trail will be constructed to concentrate use and mitigate damage at one of the petroglyph panels in partnership with the National Park Service.

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1. First Level Priority Components

12 POINTS

A. Renovation and Maintenance of Existing Trails.

NOTE: NOTE: To score points under this criterion a project must take an action to maintain and/or renovate existing trails. This can be accomplished by staff labor, contracted labor, or coordinated volunteer efforts. Time needed to coordinate and train volunteers to provide trail maintenance is an eligible project cost. Costs to educate the public about littering should be included in the Education criterion.

The Tom Moody Trail travels along abandoned roads through the Preserve. It is currently deteriorated due to natural causes and lack of regular maintenance. Visitors are often confused about its status as a trail due to its current state. These funds will be used to convert the 3 miles of road into a single track trail utilizing contracted labor (Arizona Conservation Corps) and coordinated volunteer efforts during National Trails Day in June 2015. Activities will focus on using a SWECO to remove portions of road, seeding areas disturbed by the SWECO, clearing brush from the trail side, and maintaining trail tread. Working with Arizona Conservation Corps will ensure the renovation will incorporate a sustainable trail design and reduce the need for future renovations or intense maintenance.

Additional trail maintenance projects include utilizing volunteer efforts to remove portions of unnecessary fence and abandoned tires along the trail.

1. First Level Priority Components

12 POINTS

B. Protect Access to Trails / Acquire Land for Public Access.

NOTE: A project must acquire title or permanent easement to qualify for points under this criterion.

N/A

2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

A. Mitigate and Restore Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails, Routes, and Areas

NOTE: A project must include components specifically designated to accomplish the suggested actions. Installing signage that promotes environmental protection must be done in addition to on-the-ground actions. Costs of signage must be included under signage scope item.

Prior to the City of Flagstaff's acquisition of Picture Canyon, the area was commonly used for off-roading. Subsequently, there are many illegal roads traversing the Preserve, confusing visitors about the status and location of the designated trail system as well as significantly damaging vegetation throughout

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the Preserve. Illegal roads and closed trails will be naturalized via reseeding efforts. Additionally, a gas pipeline travels through the Preserve which requires an access road. Kinder Morgan has approved the installation of a gate at the entrance to their access road as a means of restricting vehicular travel and mitigating damage to the Preserve.

The Preserve has experienced an increase in invasive species along trails. This project will fund invasive weed treatment focusing on yellow star thistle and scotch thistle. Chemical treatments and manual removal methods will be used. Contract and volunteer labor will be utilized to inventory and map invasive species throughout the Preserve as a means of establishing a baseline for future efforts.

A 100 foot loop trail will be constructed along the Tom Moody Trail to connect the trail to a large panel of petroglyphs known as “Locus D”. Due to high visitation, the site is being damaged significantly and adjacent vegetation has been trampled. This trail will concentrate use to a single-track trail, allowing visitors to safely view the petroglyphs without damaging the resource. Additionally, the trampled hillside will be reseeded with native plant seeds in order to mitigate and restore damage.

2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

B. Enforce Existing Rules and Regulation

NOTE: RTP Guidance does not allow use of funds for “law enforcement”. You do not need to include a scope item or request funds to receive points, however, you must describe an existing program that your agency has in place to deter inappropriate behavior on trails, educate trail users, and promote trail etiquette. If law enforcement officers participate in the program, you must provide statistics showing the number of successful prosecutions for cited offences.

This project will install four informational kiosks; one at each of the two trailheads and one at the entrance/exit points of the Arizona Trail. These kiosks will include Preserve rules, trail use regulations, shared use trail etiquette, and enforcement contacts.

Picture Canyon is included as a site within the Arizona State Parks Site Stewards Program. Volunteers monitor and record instances of inappropriate behavior on trails, especially focusing on damage to archaeological resources present along trails.

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2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

C. Provide and Install Trail Signage

NOTE: The cost for signs that identify routes or provide trail related information such as distances, directions, obstacles, etc. are eligible under this criterion. Time and materials needed to coordinate and train volunteers to monitor, install or replace signs is an eligible project cost. Regulatory signs are limited to safe trail use and environmental protection.

Kiosks are a support facility and informational signage and/or maps may be installed on a kiosk.

The sign development in this project will be comprehensive. A trail system basemap will be designed and included on each of the four kiosks, including trail length, accessibility, and obstacles. Wayfinding route markers will be designed and installed along trails throughout the Preserve. All information developed for the trail system regarding access and difficulty will be available in print and online.

Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve is rich in cultural and historic resources. Subsequently, an extensive interpretive signage system will be developed to help visitors appreciate the need for protection of natural areas and cultural sites and educate visitors about why regulations should be followed. Interpretive themes include cultural resources, vegetation communities, wildlife, birds, geology, hydrology, and adjacent industrial uses. In total, 20 interpretive panels will be installed throughout the Preserve.

2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

D. Develop Support Facilities

NOTE: For RTP purposes support facilities include trailheads and access road, restrooms, kiosks, protective fencing, water for humans and/or stock, hitching rails, and bike racks are eligible. Camping and picnic sites, wildlife viewing features, and obstacle/challenge facilities are not eligible. Lighting for trailhead areas is eligible, but not for trails. (Urban trails that require lighting for safety purposes should apply for Transportation Alternative funding through the Arizona Department of Transportation.)

This project will complete a parking area accessible from Townsend Winona Road using asphalt millings. A highway sign will be installed along the access road to increase convenience, accessibility, and visitation.

Four kiosks will be installed throughout the Preserve. One at each of the two trailheads and one at the entrance/exit points of the Arizona Trail. These kiosks will include Preserve rules, trail information, map, regulations, shared use trail etiquette, and enforcement contacts.

Three stone benches will be placed along trails throughout the Preserve to provide resting areas for visitors as a means of increasing visitor experience and satisfaction.

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2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

E. Construct New Trails

NOTE: The proposed project must include construction of multiuse or specialized trail on a previously unused or unauthorized alignment. Trail realignment outside of fifteen feet of the existing corridor is considered new trail. However, to score points in this category the estimated cost for the new trail construction must be at least 50% of the total cost for the new trail and any trail maintenance / renovations included in the proposed project.

This project will develop approximately 100 feet of a new, specialized, single-track trail within the Picture Canyon Natural and Cultural Preserve. This trail will provide an opportunity for visitors to safely visit a large panel of petroglyphs known as “Locus D”, which is currently experiencing high levels of visitation, resulting in significant damage to the cultural site and adjacent areas. This trail will be constructed using a sustainable design to reduce future impacts due to the high visitation the area receives. Additionally, large boulders will be removed from the planned route to improve accessibility and reduce obstacles.

This trail is being constructed in partnership with the National Park Service, a partnership that was developed through the Picture Canyon Working Group. The National Park Service is donating \$32,000 to construct the trail using their trail crew.

2. Second Level Priority Components

10 POINTS

F. Promote Coordinated Volunteerism

NOTE: Agency staff time and materials needed to coordinate and train volunteers to assist in any component of a project is eligible for reimbursement or as match. The agency staff time and value of donated volunteer time must be included in the scope item cost of a component.

All projects that include a volunteer component will receive the nine points available under this criterion. It must be clear in the scope item cost breakdown what work the volunteers will be doing.

This project will utilize volunteers during the annual National Trails Day event. In Flagstaff, this event garners the support of over 200 volunteers each year to complete trail development projects and other goals, such as weed pulls during the event. Primarily, we will be utilizing volunteers to maintain portions of the Tom Moody Trail. Activities will focus on seeding areas adjacent to the trail, clearing brush from the trail side, and maintaining trail tread. This event will be hosted by the City of Flagstaff, but Regional Trails Committee participants provide substantial support, including Coconino County, U.S. Forest Service, and Flagstaff Biking Organization.

This project will utilize volunteers for work days dedicated to treating invasive weeds throughout the Preserve. Natural Channel Design, a local contractor, will provide expertise and work with volunteer crews to ensure safe working

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environments and techniques. Traditionally, Northern Arizona Native Plant Society volunteers for these events.

3. Third Level Priority Components

7 POINTS

A. Education and Trail Etiquette

NOTE: Due to limited funding education and workshop coordination are not eligible for funding.

NO RESPONSE IS NECESSARY

3. Third Level Priority Components

7 POINTS

B. Provide Maps and Trails Information

NOTE: Reprinting trail or trail system maps is not eligible for RTP funding. Maps that are included with new trail construction projects that are part of a trail safety and environmental protection brochure are eligible. You must provide an example of the proposed layout with the application and the final draft must be reviewed and approved before printing.

This project will develop a multi-functional trail map for print and online use from regional to specific trail information that includes accessibility, difficulty, and GPS coordinates. Information about trailheads and trail condition will also be included.

This project will develop brochures for print and online use that will include map and trail information, including unique facts about the Preserve.

3. Third Level Priority Components

2 POINTS

C. Promote Regional Planning and Interagency Coordination

NOTE: Planning is not an eligible cost under the RTP Guidance. Any project that identifies cooperation between two or more agencies as key to the completion of a scope item will receive the two points available under this criterion. The project sponsor must identify what the other agency brings to the project to allow it to move forward.

City of Flagstaff is a participant of the Regional Trails Coordination Group, which includes the U.S. Forest Service, Coconino County, and Flagstaff Biking Organization, through an existing Memorandum of Understanding and Supplemental Work Agreement. This agreement ensures that we work to plan for interconnectivity of our respective trail systems during quarterly meetings where we develop plans and outreach to implement trail development schedules and the inclusion of volunteers in all of our efforts. This project will incorporate our shared planning, goals and objectives during trail development to provide for future trail linkages between the Flagstaff Loop Trail and Flagstaff Urban Trail System through the Preserve. Additionally, this group provides support for the

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annual National Trails Day event, which will be hosted at Picture Canyon in June 2015.

City of Flagstaff is a participant in the Arizona Watchable Wildlife Experience Planning Committee, which includes the U.S. Forest Service, Coconino County, and Arizona Wildlife Federation. Picture Canyon is included as one of 30 Watchable Wildlife sites in the Flagstaff area. The group works to plan improvement projects during bimonthly meetings where we develop plans and outreach techniques to improve the watchable wildlife experience at our respective sites, including interpretive signage, advertising, and events. This project will incorporate our shared planning, goals and objectives by developing interpretive signage and drafting language for signs at the wildlife site near the deep wetland habitat.

City of Flagstaff is a participant in the Picture Canyon Working Group, which includes representatives from Coconino County, Northern Arizona University, U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service (NPS), and Museum of Northern Arizona. The group works as a networking group that connects resources for the shared vision for the Picture Canyon Preserve. This project will incorporate that shared vision by developing subgroups to draft language and key components of the interpretive signage system at the Preserve. Additionally, this group brought about the partnership between the NPS and the City of Flagstaff to construct the “Locus D” using significant NPS funds as match.

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PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA

SECTION I. - POINTS BASED ON PROJECT SCOPE

NON-MOTORIZED PRIORITIES	POINTS AVAILABLE
<u>First Level Priority Components:</u>	
A. Renovation and Maintenance of Existing Trails	12
B. Protect Access to Trails / Acquire Land for Public Access	12
<u>Second Level Priority Components:</u>	
A. Mitigate and Restore Damage to Areas Surrounding Trails	10
B. Enforce Existing Rules and Regulations	10
C. Provide and Install Trail Signs	10
D. Develop Support Facilities	10
E. Construct New Trails	10
F. Promote Coordinated Volunteerism	10
<u>Third Level Priority Components:</u>	
A. Provide Educational Programs	7 *
B. Provide Maps and Trail Information	7 *
C. Promote Regional Planning & Interagency Coordination	2 *

* See notes in the Criteria Response Forms.

TOTAL 100

BONUS – Trail Is Included In The State Trail System 10

To receive the State Trail System bonus, the trail must be clearly identified in the “Project Description” portion of the Certified Grant Application Form as a State Trail System Trail. More than 50% of the total project cost must be for improvements to some portion of the trail or adjacent facilities.

BONUS – Project Includes Matching Funds Of At Least 10% 5

Costs associated with scope items that accomplish these components must represent a significant portion (10%) of the total project cost to receive all points.