

THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM



The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a federally funded grant program created through the National Recreational Trail Fund Act as a part of the Federal Transportation Bill. The RTP provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. These federal transportation funds benefit recreational uses including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or use of other off-road motorized vehicles. By law, 30% of each state's RTP funding must be earmarked for motorized trail projects, 30% for non-motorized trail projects and the remaining 40% for multi-use (diversified) motorized and non-motorized trails or a combination of either.

In Massachusetts, RTP is administered through the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). RTP is a reimbursement program in which grantees are awarded 80% of the total project value in federal funds and required to provide 20% in local matching funds or in-kind contributions.

Massachusetts has participated in the RTP since 1993, receiving over \$6 million in federal funding and awarding approximately 263 grant projects to date. Each year, the state will receive anywhere from \$600,000 to \$1 million in total federal funding and will distribute approximately 20 to 40 grant awards within the range of \$2,000 to \$50,000.

For more information on the Recreational Trails Program, contact Amanda Lewis at 413-586-8706 ext. 19 or email at Amanda.lewis@state.ma.us.