

DATE: February 10, 2010

FILE REF: 8700

TO: Local Units of Government in Southeastern Wisconsin

FROM: Tom Blotz, Southeast Regional Government Outreach Team Supervisor

SUBJECT: **Stewardship Local Park Grant Applications due May 3**  
*Current Grant Eligibility List Attached*

If your community is planning to acquire recreational land, develop outdoor recreation facilities, or update existing facilities to ensure accessibility, for an Outdoor Recreation Grant Application Booklet, please link to an on-line version on the WDNR Web Site, including fillable application forms, at [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/Forms/forms.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/Forms/forms.html) or contact me to request a copy of the booklet.

A prerequisite for applying for federal LWCF or state Stewardship outdoor recreation grant funds is to have a current local comprehensive outdoor recreation plan that has been adopted by your local unit of government and submitted to WDNR for review and eligibility approval. Your local plan must include a specific reference to the project(s) for which you will be seeking matching grant assistance. Attached is a **current grants eligibility list** for the Southeast Region. If you plan to apply for grant assistance in 2010 but do not have current eligibility, please contact us as soon as possible to review your outdoor recreation planning needs and status.

If you intend to apply for grant assistance to acquire land or an easement, please contact us as soon as possible! Land and easement acquisition projects take more advance time because appraisal and land and easement acquisition requirements that must be met for your project to be eligible for grant assistance.

If your park development project involves both passive and active recreation items, you must submit two cost-estimate worksheets: one for the passive, "nature-based" Stewardship-eligible amenities and a separate one for active LWCF-eligible recreation items.

The Stewardship local assistance funding level increases this year up to \$11.5 Million (minus a one time \$1 million enumeration for the Hank Aaron State Trail). This is an increase of \$2.5 Million over previous years funding for the local assistance programs of Urban Green Space, Urban Rivers, Acquisition and Development of Local Parks, and Acquisition of Development Rights. As you may be aware, **all land acquisition project applications** must now be reviewed to determine if the project will provide public access for "nature based outdoor activities" (NBOA, defined as hunting, trapping, fishing, hiking, and cross country skiing). One or more of the NBOA activities may be prohibited or restricted if necessary to protect public safety, protect unique plant and animal communities or to accommodate usership patterns. Because of this new policy, if you are planning on submitting an application for a land acquisition project it is very important that you contact us as soon as possible.

There may be a slight increase in the L&WCF and reduction in the Recreation Trail Act (RTA), at this time unknown, in the amount of federal funding available through the L&WCF and RTA programs. Even under the severe budget challenges facing all local units of government public demand for outdoor recreation and preservation of natural resource areas continues to grow. We encourage you to consider applying for matching grant assistance in 2010 and look forward to our ongoing partnership to provide quality outdoor recreation opportunities in Wisconsin. This may be a great opportunity for you to address a local priority outdoor recreation need at a reduced cost to your local residents.



**Please Remember:** This year's application deadline is Monday, May 3, 2010. If you have questions or need assistance, do not hesitate to contact me about potential grant projects me at (414) 263-8610 or e-mail me at [tom.blotz@wisconsin.gov](mailto:tom.blotz@wisconsin.gov) or contact Dan Kaemmerer at (414) 263-8704 ([daniel.kaemmerer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:daniel.kaemmerer@wisconsin.gov)), prior to the application deadline. If you are interested in other available grant programs administered by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, please access our Community Financial Assistance web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa). We look forward to hearing from you!

**NOTE:** Mail your application to:

**Tom Blotz  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources – Southeast Region Office  
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53212**