



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program *Unlocking the Potential of Grassroots Organizations* Evaluation Criteria

Capacity and Organizational Effectiveness Grants

Primary Evaluation Criteria

- Project has well defined metrics, goals, and objectives.
- Project is aligned with the organization's mission, goals and strategic priorities.
- Project will develop systems or practices that build organizational capacity and effectiveness and are likely to be sustained beyond the grant period.
- Project is likely to enhance the organization's ability to preserve, steward, interpret, maintain, and/or promote the public resource being served.
- Project can be accomplished within stated grant period.
- Project has a high likelihood of success but is dependent on NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program grant investment.
- Applicant demonstrates sufficient organizational capacity and commitment to complete the proposed grant-funded activities.
- Project will increase the visibility of the organization and/or stewardship, enjoyment and access to the public resource.
- Project leverages other opportunities, partnerships and funding sources.
- Project is aligned with the grants program goals.

Secondary Evaluation Criteria

- Match is greater than minimum required.
- Organization demonstrates a high level of competence, accountability, and due diligence including satisfactory completion of previously awarded Park and Trail Partnership Program grants projects and final performance reports.
- Creativity and the ability of the project to serve as a model for other groups.
- Project supports public resource master plan and/or agency priorities.
- The geographic distribution of fundable projects in any given application cycle.

Step-up Grants

Primary Evaluation Criteria

- Applicant demonstrates sufficient organizational capacity and commitment to complete the proposed grant-funded activities.
- Project leverages other opportunities, partnerships and funding sources.
- Project is aligned with the grants program goals.

Secondary Evaluation Criteria

- Match is greater than minimum required.

- Organization demonstrates a high level of competence, accountability, and due diligence including satisfactory completion of previously awarded Park and Trail Partnership Program grants projects and final performance reports.
- Project supports public resource master plan and/or agency priorities.
- The geographic distribution of fundable projects in any given application cycle.

Professional Development Grants

Primary Evaluation Criteria

- Applicant demonstrates ability to sustain the position beyond the grant period.
- Project has well defined metrics, goals, and objectives.
- Project is aligned with the organization's mission, goals and strategic priorities.
- Convincing demonstration of need for new and/or expanded staff capacity, clear description of expected outcomes, and a vision for how enhanced professional capacity will lead to a stronger organization.
- Likelihood that investment in professional capacity will achieve stated objectives.
- Extent to which project builds on existing strengths, organizational achievements, and board commitment.
- Likelihood that new and/or expanded staffing capacity will advance organizational sustainability and dramatically enhance the organization's ability to steward the public resource.
- Security of matching funds and strength of fundraising plan.

Secondary Evaluation Criteria

- Soundness of the organization's plan to provide training and professional development opportunities to new and/or expanded staff.
- Match is greater than minimum required.
- Organization demonstrates a high level of competence, accountability, and due diligence including satisfactory completion of previously awarded Park and Trail Partnership Program grants projects and final performance reports.
- Project supports public resource master plan and/or agency priorities.
- Preference but not absolute priority will be given to all-volunteer organizations.
- The geographic distribution of fundable projects in any given application cycle.

Stewardship and Public Access Capacity Grants

Primary Evaluation Criteria

- Project is in accordance with public resource master plan and priorities and operational considerations of agency.
- Project has well defined metrics, goals, and objectives.
- Project is aligned with the organization's mission, goals and strategic priorities.
- Project is likely to enhance the organization's ability to preserve, steward, interpret, maintain, and/or promote the public resource being served.
- Project can be accomplished within stated grant period.
- Project has a high likelihood of success but is dependent on NYS Park and Trail Partnership Program grants investment.
- Applicant demonstrates sufficient organizational capacity and commitment to complete the proposed grant-funded activities.
- Project will increase the capacity and visibility of the organization and access to and stewardship and enjoyment of the public resource.
- Project leverages other opportunities, partnerships and funding sources.
- Project is aligned with the grants program goals.

- Demonstrated agency, community and local government support for project as evidenced by letters of support.

Secondary Evaluation Criteria

- Match is greater than minimum required.
- Organization demonstrates a high level of competence, accountability, and due diligence including satisfactory completion of previously awarded Park and Trail Partnership Program grants projects and final performance reports.
- Creativity and the ability of the project to serve as a model for other groups.
- The geographic distribution of fundable projects in any given application cycle.