



# Trail Protection Grants Guidelines and Application

Funding to Permanently Protect the Corridor of the  
North Country National Scenic Trail

## Overview

The North Country Trail Association Trail Protection Grant has been established to provide funding to permanently protect the corridor of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Grants may be applied toward the purchase of Rights of Way including Trail Access Easements (TAE) and related costs and in some cases, the acquisition of conservation easements or land in fee. The size of each grant is limited only by the funds available and by competing needs for such funds. The Trail Protection Committee meets 3 times per year to review grant requests. In special cases, emergency grant requests also may be reviewed by the committee between normal grant cycles. To the extent possible, the North Country Trail Association will provide technical assistance, but the awarding of a Trail Protection Grant carries with it the assumption that local volunteers will play a significant role in the acquisition/protection process.

## Application

Applications may be submitted by Staff, Chapters, Affiliates and Partners of the North Country Trail Association. In reviewing qualifying grant requests, the Trail Protection Committee will consider the following:

- Corridors and trail design and construction must follow guidelines established by the National Park Service, to the extent possible.
- Some evidence of a need for funding must be established.
- Priority will be given to projects that:
  - Have matching funding,
  - Connect existing segments,
  - Protect particularly vulnerable corridors,
  - Protect existing Trail,
  - Limits use to foot travel only,
  - Protects a minimum of a 10' corridor,
  - Is approved as official route of the NCT by the NPS and fits the requirements laid out by the NPS,
  - Have an active chapter or partner to carry out and monitor the project.
  - Protect trail for 99 years or perpetuity

It is important to note that, while the North Country Trail Association provides funding for acquisitions, the NCTA cannot be the title holder so other partners willing to hold the land must be on the application.

Upon completion of easement acquisition, a Trail Protection Grant Report will be completed citing any issues that arose in the process, suggestions to the Committee to facilitate the process and including a copy of the easement.

**1) Applicant Information**

Name\*:  Date:   
Email:  Phone:   
Chapter/Affiliate/Partner:

Signature of Chair/President\*:

*\*Two representatives of your organization must sign off on this application. If obtaining an actual signature is a problem, an email or letter communicating knowledge and support of the application is acceptable.*

**2) Landowner Information** *(if multiple landowners, please attach information for all)*

Name:   
Email:  Phone:   
Mailing address:

**3) Type of Project (check one or more)**

- Trail Access Easement
- Conservation Easement purchase
- Fee Title Land Purchase
- Cost associated with land donation
- Costs associated with easement donation
- Other Costs. Please Explain:

**4) Project Information**

**Property Information** *(if multiple properties, please attach information for all. Please attach a map of EACH property and agreed upon corridor for the Trail)*

Address:

City/State/Zip:

County:

Township and section:

Legal identifier (Tax map, parcel tax id#, Plat map, etc.):

Amount Requested:

Brief Description:

Details: Please describe the details below in the space provided.

a) Length and width of the easement or dimensions of the property:

b) Length of the NCT that will be affected:

c) Will this protect existing trail or needed for new trail construction.  
If existing, is it certified:

If new trail, what is the expected timeline for construction:

d) Explain the importance of this segment to adjacent segments and to entire trail (Include recreational, cultural, scenic and historic attributes and terrain characteristics):

e) Has there been a survey (include all costs in budget below)?

f) Has there been an appraisal (include all costs in budget below)?

g) Is there expiration on easement or is it in perpetuity?

h) Is the easement assignable to another party in the future?

i) Who will hold deed or easement?

j) Is the landowner asking for any restrictions on use? If so, please explain.

**5) Budget and Budget Narrative**

a) Fill out the budget below. Include all costs of the project and estimated volunteer hours:

<b>Type of Expense</b> Describe each briefly	<b>Grant Request</b>	<b>Regular Chapter Funds</b> Not required	<b>Other Funds or Donations</b> Not required	<b>Totals</b>
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Required Volunteer Hours (Use \$21.36/hr.)				\$
<b>Totals for each column:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$

- b) What efforts have you made to acquire matching or alternate funding? Why is funding from the NCTA necessary for the success of this project?

**6) Please describe your plans for the design, construction and maintenance of the resulting trail in the box below. Attach additional Information if needed.**

- a) What is the general design (i.e. dirt path, crushed lime, paved, bridges or other facilities, etc.)
- b) How will the trail and associated facilities be constructed?
- c) How do you propose to cover the costs of this construction?
- d) How will the trail be maintained?
- e) Who will monitor the easement and maintain the relationship with the landowner?
- f) Are there any permits or studies required to build trail on this land? Please explain and attach approved permits (Wetlands, Archaeology, Construction, Endangered Species)

**7) What is Timeline for concluding/closing easement?**

Activity:	Who is responsible?	Completed by: