



# Trail Protection Grants Guidelines and Application

## Funding to Permanently Protect the North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country Trail Association Trail Protection Grant has been established to provide funding to permanently protect the corridor and hiking experience of the North Country National Scenic Trail. Grants may be applied toward costs associated with trail protection research, the acquisition of Trail Access Easements (TE; “Rights of Way”), and in some cases, the acquisition of Conservation Easements or land full ownership of land. The size of each grant is limited by the funds available, competing needs for such funds, NCTA land interest acquisition policy, and NCTA operating standards & procedures. NCTA’s Director of Trail Protection reviews all requests under the supervision and approval of NCTA’s Trail Protection Committee (which meets monthly) and NCTA’s Executive Director. Some requests may also require direct Committee approval and/or NCTA Board approval.

### Application

Applications may be requested and submitted by NCTA staff, NCTA Chapters, NCTA Affiliates organizations and agencies, and other partnering agencies or organizations as deemed appropriate by NCTA. In reviewing qualifying grant requests, the Director of Trail Protection, Trail Protection Committee, and NCTA Board of Directors (as the case may be) will consider the following:

- Use of Trail Protection Funds demonstrably adhere to NCTA’s adopted non-profit policies, standards, practices, and trail protection strategies;
- Trail establishment and siting will follow guidelines established by the National Park Service, to the extent possible.
- Some evidence of a need for funding has been established.

### Priority will be given to projects that:

- Protect both the trail corridor and the hiking experience surrounding it;
- Permanently protect the Trail (99 years in North Dakota) and any land interests acquired through the use of the funds;
- Are identified as high priorities within NCTA’s Trail Protection Strategy;
- Protect sections of Trail identified as within a Trail route identified in NCTA & NPS planning processes;
- Account for the long-term stewardship of the Trail corridor and/or land;
- Connect existing Trail segments;
- Protect particularly vulnerable Trail corridors;
- Protect existing but unprotected Trail sections;
- Protect high public profile Trail sections;
- Protect a section of Trail that would provide recreational access to marginalized communities;
- Have matching funding and involve partnerships with other organizations and agencies;
- Present a high likelihood of success.

As a condition of a grant from the Trail Protection fund, NCTA may, at its discretion, require performative agreements or contracts to ensure that the use of the funds is consistent with NCTA's policy goals in permanently protecting the North Country National Scenic Trail.

*Rev. 3/2023, P. Gagnon, NCTA*

**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: