



# WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

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*A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF HORSES AND HORSEMEN IN WISCONSIN*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR TRAIL FUNDING

By Karen Kroll, WSHC Trails Committee

**Columbus, WI** - Is your club interested in adopting your favorite trail and working on improvements for that trail, but you're a little short of funds? Do you know a location that has a good place for a new trail and the land manager is receptive to the idea, but there's no money in his/her budget to develop a trail? Then, you need to know that Wisconsin State Horse Council (WSHC) has a grant program specifically designed for equestrian trails or shared-use trails that include equestrians!

The WSHC Trail Grant Program, administered by the Trails Committee, has been providing financial support for equestrian trails in Wisconsin for many years by funding the work of volunteers. Currently, the program is divided into two categories: (1) new trail development with a maximum of \$4,000 per project, and (2) existing trail improvements and/or enhancements with a maximum of \$3,000 per project.

Over the years, WSHC Trail Grant money has funded rebuilding horse/rider campgrounds, upgrading trailheads with hitching posts, kiosks, and toilets, building bridges for water crossings, layout work for new trails, and many other projects too numerous to list here. Volunteers have logged thousands of hours - invaluable help in support of the trails we love to ride.

Trail and saddle clubs from around the whole state have received much needed financial help from our grant program. Any equine club or association with a current membership in WSHC is eligible to apply. Individuals are not eligible for grants. Application deadline is March 1 for grants in the same year. Approved grants are awarded by May 1. Completion or interim progress reports are due February 1 of the year following the grant award.

For more detailed information including the program guidelines, the grant application form, and volunteer log sheet, visit our website, [www.WisconsinStateHorseCouncil.org/trail\\_grants.html](http://www.WisconsinStateHorseCouncil.org/trail_grants.html) or contact our office at 920-623-0393. We look forward to hearing from you and helping your organization with your trail work.

MORE

*Wisconsin State Horse Council, celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007, is dedicated to representing and promoting all facets of the State's equine industry.*

*In addition to the Trail Grant Program, the Council offers scholarships for people who are interested in pursuing equine-related careers, maintains the WSHC Certified Judges Program, donates funds to therapeutic riding programs, offers programs to help talented riders work toward the Olympics and similar goals, and has begun a new program, the Challenge Cup Series, that will provide open horse show competitors the opportunity to compete toward a state-wide championship. The Council maintains a professional lobbyist to represent the interests of the equine industry in the state. The main fundraising activity for the WSHC is its annual Midwest Horse Fair, three days of equine-related education and entertainment, held each April in Madison.*

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