



WISCONSIN STATE HORSE COUNCIL, INC.

121 S Ludington St, PO Box 72, Columbus, Wisconsin 53925

Phone: 920-623-0393

Fax: 920-623-0583

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

TRAIL GRANT PROGRAM - 2009

DESCRIPTION:

Wisconsin State Horse Council (WSHC) trail grants are intended only for public trails open to equestrians for riding and/or driving.

The grants are awarded in two distinct categories: (1) new trail development and (2) trail improvements, enhancements, or repairs.

1. NEW TRAIL DEVELOPMENT:

The operative word is "new"; once a trail is open for riding, it is no longer considered a "new" trail.

Maximum amount per grant is \$4,000

Grants can be used for: (examples)

- Trail head
- Shelter
- Bathrooms
- Well
- Parking lot
- Campsites
- Rental fees on equipment plus fuel

2. TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS, ENHANCEMENTS, OR REPAIRS

Maximum amount per grant is \$3,000

Grants can be used for: (examples)

- Kiosk
- Signage
- Mounting blocks
- Picnic tables
- Hitching posts
- Linking trails
- Culverts
- Gravel/footing
- Rental fees on equipment plus fuel
- Trail or structure repairs due to erosion, storm damage, or vandalism

Trail grant money cannot be used for routine trail maintenance, administrative or operating expenses, trails on private property (unless the trails are open for public use), non-equestrian trails, food for work days, thank-you gifts or rewards, or liability insurance for volunteers. Grant money will not be awarded for landscaping materials unless they fulfill a specific trail structure need, such as a tree line to act as a buffer with adjoining properties of the trail or parallel trends of a shared-use trail.

Grant money cannot be stock-piled from year to year in order to cover the total costs of a project.

A letter of approval for the project from the land manager for the trail or the area of work must be included with your application. This letter must acknowledge that he/she is aware of your proposed trail work and will permit your group to do the project.

REQUIREMENTS:

Application must originate with an equestrian organization. That organization must be a current member of Wisconsin State Horse Council. An exception of the membership requirement is made for government entities; however, the trail work must benefit equestrian trail riders. Grants are not awarded to individuals.

The trail(s) must be open to the public and equestrians.

A letter from the land manager for the trail or the area of work must be included with your application, indicating that he/she is aware of your proposed trail work and your project meets with his/her approval and your group will be permitted to do the project

Grant application deadline is March 1 for funding within the same year. Approved grants will be awarded by May 1. Applicants are encouraged to apply early, so that WSHC has time to fully consider each proposal and obtain additional information or clarification, if needed. Please be sure to complete all parts of the grant application.

No more than two grants per year will be awarded to the same property and each grant must be used for different trails/projects if for the same property.

Grants are 50% matching from the applicant organization, allowing the value of donated labor, equipment, materials, and other non-grant monies as part of or the entire share of applicant.

A map of the proposed trail/project with a clear description and location of the property and trail must be included with the application.

A log sheet of volunteers and hours worked on the proposed project/trail must be kept and submitted with the completion report.

COMPLETION REPORTS:

Completion reports are due by February 1 of the year following the grant award. The grant recipient is responsible for preparing a completion report and submitting it to WSHC. Items to include with the report are:

- Photographs of work in progress or completed
- Copies of receipts for materials or equipment
- Copies of any press coverage or other publicity that the work received
- Copies of any letters of recognition from the land managers
- Copies of volunteer log sheets.

If it is not possible to complete the project within the grant year, you should prepare an interim report describing the components of the project completed to date and the expected completion date. A final report is required at the completion of the project.

Completion reports, along with the other items, are a crucial part of our grant program. They provide vital information on the trail work done by equestrians, which is information that can be used when meeting with various local, county, and state land managers. In addition, this information may be used to write articles highlighting your efforts, as well as the WSHC trail grant program. We all know how critical it is that equestrians receive more recognition for our trail work and land conservation ethics.

Wisconsin State Horse Council reserves the right to make an on-site inspection of the trail project.

rev. 10/07